

REGIONAL REPORTS

The Autumn Migration August 1 - November 30, 1990

ATLANTIC PROVINCES REGION

Bruce Mactavish

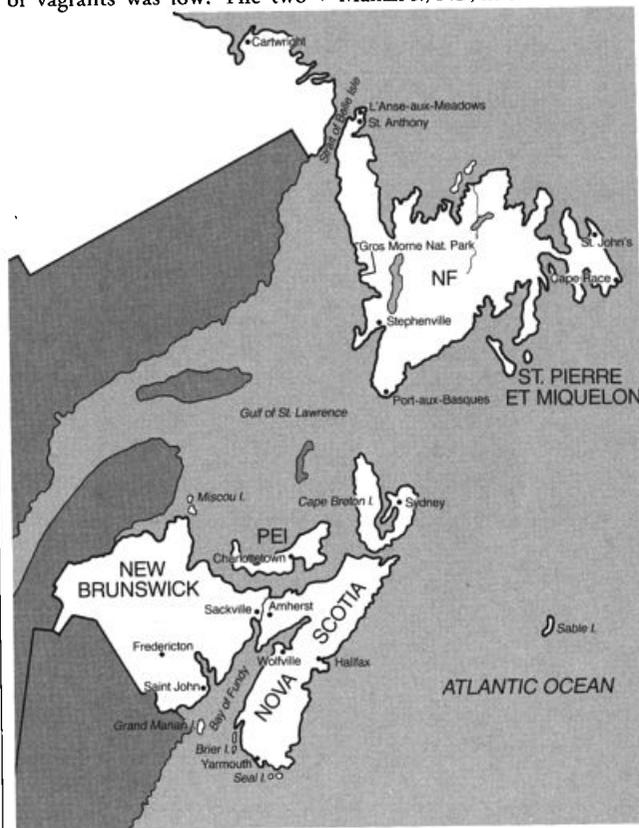
The entire four-month season was warm with a prevalence of southwest winds. October and November were unseasonably mild. It was a season of few abnormalities or extremes. Despite seemingly ideal weather for carrying off-course birds to the Region, the number and "quality" of vagrants was low. The two

major exceptions to this were both first for the Region: a Broad-billed Sandpiper in Nova Scotia and a Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher in New Brunswick. Reporting coverage was very good from all areas except Prince Edward Island.

Abbreviations: F.N.C. (*Fredericton Nature Club*); G.M.I. (*Grand Manan Island, NB*); S.P.M. (*the French islands of Saint Pierre et Miquelon*).

LOONS TO IBISES

Some 175 Com. Loons migrating SW past the s. tip of Grand Manan I., NB, in one hour Oct.



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10 made an exceptional count (ST). Three Pied-billed Grebes reached St. John's, NF, an average fall total for this vagrant (RB *et al.*). An early or summering Red-necked Grebe was found in early August at Maces Bay, NB (OB). On Sept. 9 at Tidnish Dock, NS, 150 Red-necked Grebes made a notable number, especially for the early date (ST *et al.*).

Best counts of Manx Shearwater were of 10 Aug. 10 near Machias Seal I., NB (ST), plus 30 Aug. 26, 30 Sept. 29, and one Oct. 19 around S.P.M. (RE *et al.*). Strong north winds Oct. 27 brought Leach's Storm-Petrels in to shore with 15 at She-diac Bay, NB (ST, YC), and 50 at Holyrood, NF (JW). The latest report was Nov. 8 at Corner Brook, NF (BR).

An American White Pelican hung around Stovehaven for several days in August, the 4th in n.e. New Brunswick since 1979 (*vide* DSC). A Least Bittern Sept. 7 in the lower Grand Codroy R., NF, provided one of few provincial records (DK). Little Blue Herons were one Aug. 4-14 at Castalia Marsh, G.M.I. (PPe *et al.*), one Aug. 27 at Saint John, NB (CJ *et al.*), and one Aug. 31-Sept. 1 at Blaketown, NF (RB). A Green-backed Heron Oct. 28-Nov. 3 at St. John's, NF, was a rarity, and late (RB *et al.*). Single Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in s.w. Newfoundland at Rose Blanche (*vide* WAM) and Ramea (RN) were found Aug. 2, following passage of the remnants of Hurricane *Bertha*. An ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was photographed on electrical wires(!) at Miquelon, S.P.M., Sept. 23 (*vide* RE). More regular as spring overshoots, two fall Glossy Ibises were recorded from n. parts of the Region: one Sept. 24 & 25 at Miquelon, S.P.M. (*vide* RE), and one Sept. 29 at LeGoulet in n.e. New Brunswick (*vide* DSC).

WATERFOWL

A first-winter Greater White-fronted Goose with an orange bill, typical of the Greenland race *A. a. flavirostris*, arrived Oct. 18 at a golf course on the outskirts of St. John's, NF. To the amusement of both golfers and birders, this tame bird grazed voraciously on the lush grass while following golfers

S.A.

Recent buildup of an urban waterfowl population in St. John's, NF, is providing new insights into the occurrence of Eurasian ducks in the Region. The 200-300 tame but feral waterfowl on the city's ponds, mainly Am. Black Ducks with small numbers of Mallards and N. Pintail, act as living decoys on an otherwise duck-poor coast.

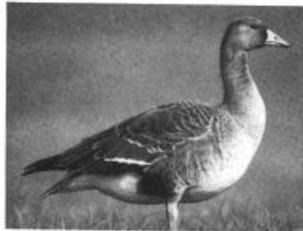
Eurasian Wigeon is the most regular Eurasian duck with two to five per fall. Most arrive Sept. 20-Oct. 31 and often stay until December or longer. The enlightening news is that all have been in ♀-type plumage. Birds with barbecue-orange heads are probably males. The bottom line is that *none* were classic adult males in breeding plumage—the plumage of the vast majority of Eur. Wigeons identified elsewhere in e. North America. Presumably ♀-plumaged Eur. Wigeon are being overlooked elsewhere in the Region.

Eurasian Green-winged Teal are probably inseparable from North American birds until males have molted into alternate plumage in November. Usually one per November is found in St. John's, but others are likely missed in October during peak Green-winged Teal migration.

Autumn 1990 in St. John's produced two Eur. Wigeon: one ad. male in full eclipse Oct. 4-8 (KK) and one female Oct. 29 into December (RB *et al.*); one Eur. Green-winged Teal, a male Nov. 2 into December (RB *et al.*); and most exciting, two ♀ Tufted Ducks, Nov. 3 into December (BMt *et al.*). The latter were the 4th and 5th to occur in the Region and on the Avalon Pen., NF. All have occurred between early November and early January, and have been obscure, practically tuftless females.

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around the course. It would even fly short distances to keep up with fast-walking golfers. It was present until Oct. 31 when local authorities, fearing for its safety, captured it and put it in a



Greater White-fronted Goose at St. John's, Newfoundland, on October 24, 1990. Photograph/Bruce Mactavish.

comfortable barn for the winter—probably assuring it will never see Greenland again. The 2 other White-fronteds in the Region this season were individuals shot Oct. 25 at Cavendish and Oct. 29 at New Glasgow, PEI (*vide* GH).

The setting was ideal: an isolated rocky headland in easternmost Newfoundland; but the mid-August date and extreme tameness of a Barnacle Goose raised caution flags. Research into its origin revealed that it had escaped from a small-time aviculturalist just 8 miles away! Two Brant at St.

John's, NF, Nov. 10 (JW) were probably the same two seen 50 mi farther south at Cape Race a week later (BMt). Brant are rare east of the Bay of Fundy. Four Snow Geese Nov. 13 at St. Pierre, S.P.M., were locally unprecedented (RE). The few other reports were all from New Brunswick, the largest count seven Oct. 8 on White Head I. (ST).

Sixty N. Shovelers at Sackville, NB, Sept. 23 possibly made a Regional high count (ST). An impressive 1600 Com. Goldeneye and 800 Greater Scaup were counted between Cocagne and Cocagne I., NB, Nov. 4 (ST, YC). Knowledge and patience turned up a total of 69 Lesser Scaup in e. New Brunswick Oct. 18-31 with 29 Oct. 22 at the Cape Brule sewage lagoons being the largest concentration (ST). One Lesser Scaup Oct. 25-Nov. 30 at St. John's, NF, was not unexpected (BMt *et al.*). Early Harlequin Ducks were an ad. male Sept. 14-Oct. 6 at G.M.I. (F.N.C., ST) and one Oct. 2 at Ingonish, NS (*vide* PPa). Five Ruddy Ducks, two in New Brunswick and three in Nova Scotia, represented a poor showing of this erratic duck.

RAPTORS, CRANES

Most interesting among the several Turkey Vulture reports from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia were one far north on Miscou I., NB, Aug. 10 (*vide* DSC), and three at a Bald Eagle feeder (!) on Deer I., NB, in late November (*vide* ST). A N. Harrier Nov. 29 at St. Pierre, S.P.M., extended the latest recorded date for the French islands by a month (RE). Rough-legged Hawk numbers were thought to be low in New Brunswick (ST) and in Newfoundland (BMt). A report of two juv. Cooper's Hawks in late August at Curriesburg, NB, suggested a rare breeding occurrence in the Region (RI).

The magnitude of Peregrine Falcon migration cannot be accurately assessed from the haphazard methods of birding and reporting, but no one is complaining about seeing fewer of them. Highest one-day counts reported were five Sept. 28 on G.M.I. (ST) and five Oct. 6 on Seal I., NS (BMy). An imm. Peregrine landed on a fishing trawler 220 mi east of St. John's, NF, Oct. 10 and was later released ashore. An early Gyrfalcon was eating a juv. Ring-billed Gull Oct. 21 at St. John's, NF (BMt). Finally, a use for those urban crybabies!

Sandhill Crane sightings were July 21-Aug. 15 at Inkerman, NB (JR), Sept. 5 at Taymouth, NB (PdM), and the summering individual at Miquelon, S.P.M., which was shot Sept. 1 (*vide* RE).

SHOREBIRDS

No significant numbers of Lesser Golden-Plovers were reported. In s.e. Newfoundland this was attributed to the sparse crowberry crop. A massive concentration of 1200 Semipalmated Plovers was at Bon Portage I., NS, Aug. 10 (DAC *et al.*). An ad. Piping Plover Aug. 13 at Bellevue Beach, NF, was away from the handful of traditional locations for the species in the province (SF, PL). A Willet was far east at Grand Barachois, S.P.M., Aug. 11 (AD). The only Upland Sandpiper was at Hartlen Pt., NS, Sept. 14 (FL).

A white-rumped Whimbrel was reported Aug. 25 from Conrad's Beach, NS (FL), and a late

Hudsonian Godwit was there Nov. 16 (BH). The very rare Marbled Godwit was reported twice: one Aug. 3 at DeSable, PEI (SM, DS) and one Aug. 16 at Castalia, G.M.I. (SS). One hundred Red Knots Aug. 29 at Grand Barachois, S.P.M., was the largest concentration noted, although this is east of the main migration route (RE).

The number of Semipalmated Sandpipers at the main roosting beach at Mary's Pt., NB, was lower than usual Aug. 10, at 90,000, perhaps owing to hunting Peregrine Falcons (MM). Reports of W. Sandpiper were one Aug. 19 at Covehead Harbour, PEI (DS), single juveniles Sept. 6 & 12 at Mary's Pt., NB (DSC), and one Oct. 21 at Taylor's Bay, NF (RB). Although it is a very common migrant, 3500 Least Sandpipers Aug. 18 at Bon Portage I., NS, made a remarkable concentration (DAC *et al.*). A major wave of White-rumped Sandpipers occurred Aug. 24 when high totals of 650 at Conrad's Beach, NS (FL), and 990 at St. Paul's, NF (RB), were recorded. A total of eight Baird's Sandpipers Regionwide indicated a fair flight year. Less than annual in the Region, a Curlew Sandpiper at Economy, NS, Oct. 14 was later than the majority of records (FS).

Conrad's Beach, NS, had most of the Stilt Sandpipers with six Aug. 1 (FL), eight as late as Sept. 20, and two Oct. 14 (IM). One Aug. 16 at Eddie's Cove E., NF (BMy), and a very late one Nov. 3 at Deer I., NB (JWi *et al.*), were the only others reported. The only Buff-breasted Sandpipers were two Sept. 4-9 on Brier I., NS (EM).

Late Short-billed Dowitchers were one Oct. 9 at Castalia, G.M.I. (ST), one Oct. 15 at Bellevue Beach, NF (ST), and one Oct. 27 at Conrad's Beach, NS (FL). Long-billed Dowitchers were attracted to the Sackville Waterfowl Park, NB, on a grand scale with up to 14 juveniles Sept. 23-Oct. 31 (ST). The other sightings were of four Sept. 26 and two Oct. 16 at Waterside, NB (ST, DSC), and one Oct. 14 at Cherry Hill, NS (SC). Wilson's Phalarope was represented in all 4 provinces and S.P.M. with a total of 11 individuals Aug. 18-Oct. 4. A concentration of 20,000 Red-necked and 1000 Red phala-

ropes Aug. 15 was 10 mi s.w. of Brier I., NS (ST).

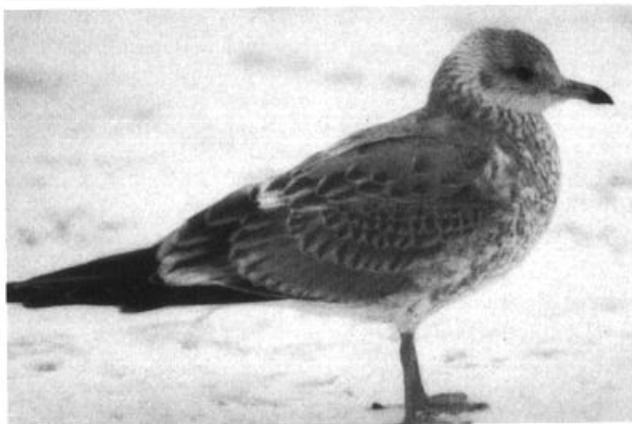
An apparent **Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus* was seen Sept. 9 at Hartlen Pt., NS (IM, BMy). Observed for a total of only 3 minutes, it was critically scrutinized from as close as 25 feet. The description, including unique bill shape, fits that of a basic plumaged Broad-billed Sandpiper. This Eurasian shorebird is unprecedented in North America outside of Alaska.

SKUAS TO ALCIDS

Identification of skuas in the Region is often a personal or group persuasion achieved through the interpretation of dark color tones and variable markings seen on a flying bird, at a range where 100 ft is called a close look. Gaining experience with N. Atlantic skuas is difficult because of their low population density and highly pelagic nature. There is still an aura of uncertainty accompanying many skua identifications. No decisive details were received for any of the following: two to four probable Great Skuas Sept. 2 from the Bluenose Ferry between Bar Harbor, ME, and Yarmouth, NS (RM, SS); two probable Great Skuas Sept. 13, 6 mi east of Quirpon, NF (BO *et al.*); three Great, two S. Polar, and two unidentified skuas Sept. 29 and one Great Skua and one unidentified skua Oct. 28, 30 mi south of Halifax, NS (BMy *et al.*).

There were several reports of one to six Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers in August and September. More significant were 50 Pomarine, seven Parasitic, and 40 unidentified jaegers Sept. 14 ten mi east of Belle Isle, NF (BMT *et al.*) and five Pomarine Jaegers and 11 unidentified Jaegers on the late date of Oct. 28, during a gale at Kelligrews, NF (KK, BMT).

Newfoundland (as usual, but for reasons unclear) had a monopoly on Laughing Gulls with all 3 sightings: one Aug. 2-16 at L'Anse-aux-Meadows (BMT, BMy), one Aug. 30 at St. Brides (RT), and one Oct. 23 at Bellevue Beach (RB). Almost annual in Newfoundland, the 2nd Franklin's Gull of the year was an adult Aug. 2-5 at L'Anse-aux-Meadows (BMT). Little



First-winter Mew Gull of the European race [*L. c. canus*] at St. John's, Newfoundland, October 25, 1990. This young bird had been banded in Iceland a few months before. Among other differences from first-winter Ring-billed Gull, notice that the dark centers of the wing coverts are rounded at the tip. Photograph/Bruce Mactavish.

Gulls were better represented than usual this fall with 3 provinces reporting them: one Aug. 2 at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, NF (BMT), one Aug. 17 at Summerside, PEI (DS), and one Oct. 20 and four to six Nov. 30 at Deer I., NB (ST). Ross' Gull hunters beware: a first-winter Little Gull on the latter date had a "very pink" body.

Seven Com. Black-headed Gulls Aug. 17 at Stephenville Crossing included two juveniles begging for food, showing that the local small breeding population survives (SF, PL). The fall influx of Com. Black-headed Gulls is best measured at St. John's, NF, where the peak was 120 Nov. 8, 20% below last year but still the 3rd-highest ever (BMT). Bonaparte's Gulls in the Region are common only in the w. Gulf of St. Lawrence and the New Brunswick shore of the Bay of Fundy. There were reports of several hundred in late August in Prince Edward Island (PL, BD), and counts of up to 2000 were had Oct. 11 at the Whistle, G.M.I., and Oct. 20 and Nov. 30 at Deer I., NB (ST).

Mew Gulls (*L. c. canus*) continue in the Region with an adult on the unseasonal date of Aug. 20 at Rustico I., PEI (SF, PL); one adult and two first-winters at St. John's, NF, with arrival dates Oct. 15 & 20 and Nov. 25 respectively, each remaining into December (BMT *et al.*); and one adult Nov. 26 at Dartmouth, NS (FL). The Oct. 20 first-winter Mew Gull in St. John's had an Icelandic band on its leg. Iceland is the

closest part of its breeding range to the Region. A regional total of nine Lesser Black-backed Gulls, most in September and October, included three recognizable individuals returning to last year's wintering grounds.

Very local in the Region, a new post-breeding staging area for Caspian Tern was discovered at Piccadilly Beach, NF, with 24 Sept. 8 (BR *et al.*). A late October storm produced more Dovekies in the s. edge of the Region than normal. Inland sightings were one Oct. 28 at Sussex, NB, and one Nov. 11 at Hampton (*vide* JWi). Some 380 were seen flying north of Halifax, NS, perhaps correcting their position after being displaced by a NE gale Oct. 26 & 27 (BMy *et al.*). One thousand flew past Cape St. Francis, NF, during a gale Oct. 28, not an unexpected count (BMT).

CUCKOOS TO FLYCATCHERS

Seven Yellow-billed Cuckoos Aug. 31-Oct. 21 Regionwide was a fair number for recent autumns. Snowy Owls were all but absent with an early individual Oct. 16-18 at Minto, NB, the only report (LG). A Boreal Owl roosted by day in the same tree in downtown St. John's, NF, Nov. 3 & 17 (BMT *et al.*). Common Nighthawks n.e. of the breeding range were single birds found dead Sept. 18 & 26 on S.P.M. and one alive but unusually tame Sept. 30 at St. John's, NF (MP).

An ad. ♂ **Rufous Hummingbird** spent several days around Aug. 7 at a garden in Lockeporte,



Boreal Owl roosting in downtown St. John's, Newfoundland, November 17, 1990. Photograph/Bruce Mactavish.

NS (m.ob.). It was photographed, confirming this as the 4th provincial and 6th Regional record; all have been males in August. A noteworthy movement of Red-headed Woodpeckers to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia took place in October with about five seen in each province. Red-bellied Woodpeckers have become regular fall vagrants in the last 10 years. This fall there were singles Oct. 6 at Quispamsis, NB (*vide* JW*i*), Oct. 20 into November at Clarendon, NB (*vide* ST) and Nov. 12 at New Salem, NS (JM).

A wave of migrant passerines Aug. 20 on Brier I., NS, included 12 Olive-sided, 20 Alder, and 125 Least flycatchers (ST). An extremely late *Empidonax* flycatcher Nov. 14 at Halifax, NS, was with care identified as a Least Flycatcher (DAC). Somewhat less than annual in the Region, New Brunswick's first *Say's Phoebe* was photographed Sept. 29 at Miscou I. (GB *et al.*).

S.A.

One of the most outstanding vagrants ever to appear in the Region was a **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** Oct. 14 & 15 at Waterside, NB (DSC, m.ob.). It was photographed, studied, and all similar species of flycatcher were clearly eliminated. This Tropical American species has previously strayed to n.e. North America twice: Nov. 12 & 13, 1983, at Nantucket I., MA, and Sept. 28–Oct. 1, 1986, at Presqu'île P.P., Ontario.

It was a good fall for W. Kingbirds with a total of 15 reported, most in October. A breakdown of locations is seven in New Brunswick, three in Nova Scotia, two in Newfoundland, and three on S.P.M.

SWALLOWS TO VIREOS

A large flock of swallows thought to have been blown northward Sept. 23 at Sackville, NB, consisted of eight Purple Martins and four Tree, two Bank, one Cliff, and 30 Barn swallows (ST). At the same place, 90 Purple Martins in late August made an encouraging number after the late May die-off (ST). A late Cliff Swallow was at Blackhead, NF, Oct. 12 (ST).

Still rare in the Region, a Carolina Wren Sept. 17 at White Head I., NB, was a good find (JW*i*). A few House Wrens were noted Oct. 6–8 on the vagrant trap islands off s. Nova Scotia and s. New Brunswick. Newfoundland's 3rd **House Wren** was a late individual Nov. 6–18 at St. John's (BM*t et al.*). Red-breasted Nuthatches were abundant at migrant traps in Nova Scotia with 200 Sept. 4 at Brier I. (EM), 70 Sept. 26 at Sober I. (BMy), and 50 Oct. 6–8 at Seal I. (IM). Golden-crowned Kinglets were common in Nova Scotia but scarce in Newfoundland.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, among the most regular vagrants from just south of the Region, totalled seven this fall Sept. 4 to Nov. 30: three in New Brunswick, one in Nova Scotia, one in Prince Edward Island, and three in Newfoundland. This autumn's N. Wheatears were one at Pt. La-Haye, NF, on the late date of Nov. 8 (JC) and one Sept. 10 in St. Pierre, S.P.M. (BL). A **Townsend's Solitaire** Nov. 30 at Herring Cove, NS, furnished at least the 4th provincial record (BS). Rarely encountered in fall, a very late Wood Thrush Nov. 12–26 was at Halifax, NS (JR *et al.*).

The makings of a Bohemian Waxwing winter started with an early one Sept. 30 at G.M.I. (ST), followed by 35 Oct. 28 at Paster Rock, NB (EL), and 60 Nov. 10–13 at Buchans, NF (DB). There was widespread agreement over an excellent flight of N. Shrikes, with first arrival dates Oct. 12–16 across the Region. Adults made up the ma-

majority of early sightings, in contrast to most falls, when birds of the year arrive first.

For the 2nd consecutive fall there were well above average numbers of White-eyed Vireos with a Regional total of five: different singles Sept. 18 and Oct. 6 & 7 on G.M.I. (ST), one Oct. 8 on White Head I., NB (ST), and one Oct. 27 at Hartlen's Pt., NS (DAC *et al.*). The two Yellow-throated Vireos were about average for the season: one Sept. 13 at Lakeside, NS (DS), and one Sept. 16 at North Head, G.M.I. (ST, CJ). A surprising four Warbling Vireos were in e. Newfoundland: Sept. 19 at Cape Spear, Sept. 24 and Oct. 1 at St. John's, and Oct. 13 at Bear Cove Pt. (BM*t*). Fifty Red-eyed and three Philadelphia vireos Sept. 18 on G.M.I., NB, made a nice wave of migrants (ST). Twenty Red-eyed Vireos Sept. 9–Oct. 6 on the eastern Avalon Pen., NF, where it is a vagrant, represented a fair fall total.

WARBLERS

Six Blue-winged Warblers made a high seasonal total: one Aug. 17 at Eel Lake, G.M.I. (PPE), one Sept. 18 at Castalia, G.M.I. (ST), different singles Sept. 13 (BS) & 19 (*vide* BMy) at Hartlen Pt., NS, and different singles Sept. 23 and Oct. 13 at Bear Cove Pt., NF (BM*t*). Newfoundland's 2nd and 3rd **Golden-winged Warblers** were both stunning males: Sept. 27 at Blackhead and Sept. 29 at Bear Cove Pt. (BM*t*). Fifteen Orange-crowned Warblers Regionwide included a single locality high of four Oct. 13 at Bear Cove Pt., NF (ST). Two fledgling Nashville Warblers being fed by an adult Aug. 18 at Upper Ferry, NF, represented a 2nd provincial breeding record (SF, PL). A ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler Oct. 6 was a genuine rarity as far east as Blackhead, NF (RB). The e. Avalon Pen., NF, had totals of three N. Parulas, one Cape May and one Canada Warbler, all several hundred mi east of the known breeding range. Pine Warbler totals of three in New Brunswick and eight in Nova Scotia were average, as were Prairie Warblers: two in New Brunswick, six in Nova Scotia, and two in Newfoundland, most in September. One of the rarest "southern warbler" vagrants, a

Cerulean Warbler, was at Hartlen Pt., NS, Sept. 9 (BMy). A ♀ **Hooded Warbler** Oct. 7 & 8 at Ingall's Head, G.M.I., was just the 3rd for New Brunswick (ST, YC). Five of the Region's seven Yellow-breasted Chats were found in November, probably more of an indication of the mild late fall than a November influx.

November warblers were surprisingly fewer than in recent years considering the exceptionally warm weather. St. John's, NF, had a Nashville Warbler Nov. 8; Yellow Warbler Nov. 3–17; two Black-and-white Warblers to the end of the month; Wilson's Warbler, two Nov. 11 and two others to the end of the month (BM*t et al.*). The other center of "November warbler madness," Halifax, NS, had a Black-and-white Warbler Nov. 17 and a Wilson's Warbler Nov. 13–25 (*vide* BMy).

CARDINALS TO FINCHES

Northern Cardinal reports included a family group at North Head, G.M.I., Sept. 17 (ST). It was a "normal" Blue Grosbeak fall with singles Sept. 17 at White Head I., NB (ST *et al.*), Oct. 4 at Bedford, NS (BS), Oct. 9 at Brier I., NS (*vide* DAC), and Nov. 4 at Lower Sackville, NS (SC). There was a moderate flight of Indigo Buntings with at least 26 reported, most Oct. 6–10, all from southern coast lines including six as far east as the Avalon Pen., NF. It was a fair fall for Dickcissel with eight in New Brunswick and four in Nova Scotia. A Rufous-sided Towhee described Oct. 21 at Ramea I., NF, had white spots in the upper back, identifying it as one of the western races, possibly a first for the Region (RN).

The only Clay-colored Sparrows reported were Oct. 7–8 from islands off s.w. Nova Scotia: one on Bon Portage I. (BS *et al.*) and two on Seal I. (BMy *et al.*). Just six Field Sparrows were reported from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia; five were in October. Lark Sparrow numbers were below recent fall totals with four reported: one Aug. 19 at Brier I., NS (ST), one Oct. 4 and another Nov. 7–30 at Harvey Bank, NB (RW), and one Oct. 3 at St. John's, NF (BM*t*)

Surprisingly, the only Grasshopper Sparrow was in easternmost Newfoundland at Renew's Nov. 10 (BMt, KK). A well-described **Le Conte's Sparrow** Oct. 11 at Hartlen Pt., NS, represented the 3rd provincial and Regional record (BS); all have occurred in the first half of October. Rare but probably overlooked, a Seaside Sparrow was found Nov. 10 at G.M.I., NB (BD).

Single Yellow-headed Blackbirds were Sept. 16 at McNab's I., NS (BD), Oct. 6 at Bon Portage I., NS (BS *et al.*), and Oct. 8-11 at Harvey Bank, NB (RW *et al.*). The number of N. Orioles seen during the fall is somewhat of a measure of the number of other vagrants seen. On the Avalon Pen., NF, a total of ten (despite good coverage) was low.

Most finches were in neutral. White-winged Crossbills were very scarce everywhere. Large numbers of Evening Grosbeaks appeared in e. Newfoundland from mid-November on. House Finches are using the land route to spread into the Maritimes. Locally common in New Brunswick, they are still almost rare in s. Nova Scotia.

Observers: (subregional editors in boldface) Gerard Benoit, Orland Brown, **Roger Burrows**, Dave Burton, John Chardine, **David S. Christie**, **David A. Currie**, **Shirley Cohrs**, Yves Cormier, **Brian Dalzell**, Alain Desbrosse, Jim Edsall, **Roger Etcheberry**, Shawneen Finnegan, Lionel Girouard, Barbara Hinds, **Geoff Hogan**, Roger Ince, Cecil Johnston, Don Kimball, Erin Landauer, Fulton Lavender, Paul Linegar, Robert Machover, **Bruce Mactavish** (BMt), Scott Makepeace, Mary Majka, Peter de Marsh, **Blake Maybank** (BMy), **Ian McLaren**, Eric Mills, Jack Moorehouse, William A. Montevecchi, Richard Northcott, Bob Odear, Mike Parmenter, Peter Payzant, Peter Pearce, Barbara Roberts, Joe Robertson, Jean-Guy Rubichaud, Dwayne Sabine, Starr Saphir, Shirley Sloat, **Francis Spalding**, **Stuart Tingley**, Rohan van Twest, Rob Walker, John Wells, Jim Wilson.—**BRUCE MACTAVISH, 37 Waterford Bridge Road, St. John's, NF A1E 1C5**

QUEBEC REGION

*Michel Gosselin,
Richard Yank,
and Yves Aubry*

Fall weather was generally wet. August offered above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation throughout most of the Region; exceptions were southwestern Quebec, the Gaspé Peninsula, and the Lower North Shore where several precipitation records were broken. Temperatures averaged below normal over most of the province during September, when rainfall was above average as a result of a series of cold fronts. October continued overcast and wet, with southern Quebec receiving one and one-half times normal precipitation levels. Although October was cool across most of the province, areas along the St. Lawrence were warmer than usual. November ended the season with near average temperatures and few cold periods, but with precipitation again heavier than normal.

SHEARWATERS TO WATERFOWL

Only three shearwaters were reported in the St. Lawrence Estuary this fall: a Greater Aug. 10 (MAB) and a Manx on Aug. 24 (CA), both seen from the Matane ferry, and a 2nd Manx off Mingan Sept. 22 (SP). A sin-



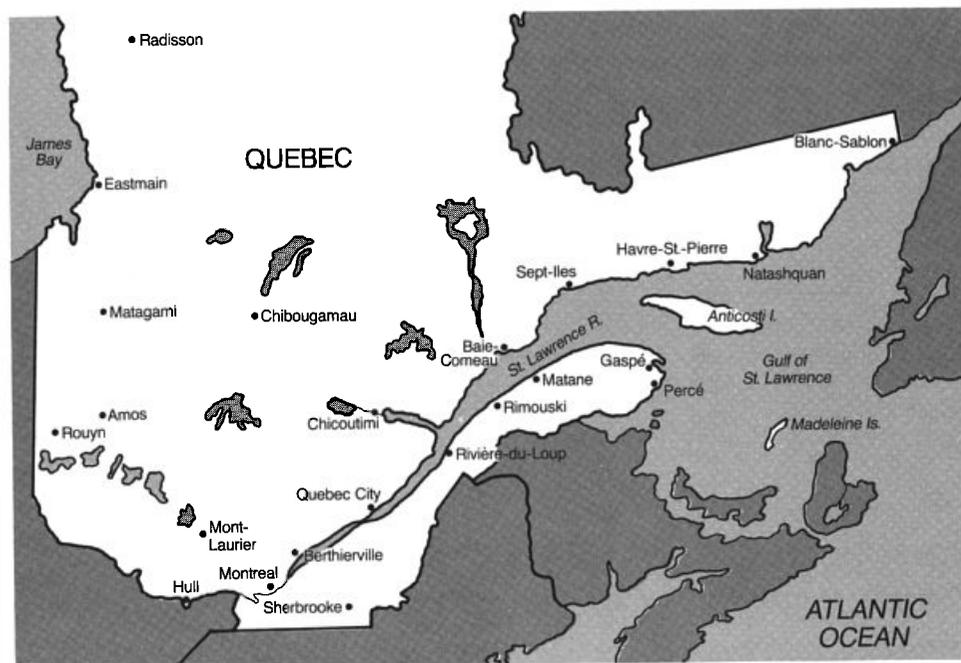
A flock of Greater Snow Geese at Cap-Tourmente, Quebec, on October 14, 1990, included this Greater White-fronted Goose and apparent hybrid Snow X Ross' Goose. Photograph/Jean Audet.

gle Wilson's Storm-Petrel was also encountered off Matane Aug. 24 (CA). The remnants of hurricane *Bertha* drove 200 Leach's Storm-Petrels into the lagoons on the Magdalen Is. Aug. 2 (FS, RS). On the other hand, a Leach's Storm-Petrel reached Quebec City Sept. 30 (JH) where the species occurs annually, but one inland on L. Magog Oct. 9 (PBo) was rather surprising. Similarly, a Great Cormorant appeared inland on L. William near Saint-Ferdinand Nov. 17 (ACt, CT).

Southern waders were scarce this fall. Great Egrets were limited to s.w. Quebec where they are now regular, and while Cattle Egrets were more in evidence they were also limited to the s.w. corner of the province: one to two immatures were reported

along L. Saint-Pierre in August and September. (GD, LL), at Victoriaville Nov. 3 (MGr, ACt), and at Saint-Barnabé Nov. 4 (PBA, MBe, DD).

Exceptionally early was an ad. Tundra Swan, presumably a migrant, on L. Renaud, *Témiscamingue*, in August (LBe, RS). The bird of the season was the Region's 2nd **Pink-footed Goose** picked out of a small flock of Canada Geese at Vaudreuil Nov. 3-6 (MM, BB). A total of six Greater White-fronted Geese was above average for the fall, but the increase in reports in recent years has been particularly noticeable in spring. A family group of geese photographed at Cap-Tourmente Oct. 14 (YA, PBr, HP) comprised an ad. Lesser Snow Goose paired with a Snow X Ross' hy-



brid and accompanied by their juvenile. Two ad. Ross' Geese also staged at Cap-Tourmente Oct. 3-17 (AR *et al.*), while another lingered at Portneuf Oct. 28 (RDi, FD, PO). A belated report was submitted of a ♀ Canada Goose with brood at Compton-Station this summer (LA).

Slightly w. of their normal overland migration route were 10 Com. Eiders on L. Magog Oct. 9 (PBo) and another at Sherbrooke Oct. 16-19 (SDh), while an imm. King Eider turned up inland at Vaudreuil Nov. 23-26 (MM, BB). The precarious condition of the Harlequin Duck population in e. Canada has prompted more comprehensive surveys by wild-fowl biologists. Summer surveys located 3 pairs and 2 family groups within Gaspésie P.P. (*vide* JPL), as well as 10 more family groups and a lone female along several rivers elsewhere on the Gaspé Peninsula (*vide* ABt). A tally of 54 birds was made along the coast between Port-Daniel and Newport Aug. 27 (MC). In addition, a notable concentration of 80 Harlequin Ducks was sighted at Anticosti I. Oct. 23 (ACs).

VULTURES TO SHOREBIRDS

Diligent hawkwatchers were rewarded by a **Black Vulture** passing overhead at Senneville Sept. 11 (BB, MM, RGo). The total of 7446 raptors at this Montreal station was the 2nd highest total in its history (see Table 1). Single Cooper's Hawks were identified at Maniwaki Aug. 1 and Sept. 16 (GB); the species has been slowly regaining its former numbers and former range. In the 1970s and 1980s the decline of Cooper's Hawk showed a striking parallel to that of Peregrine Falcon—the recovery of Cooper's Hawk has so far been much less expensive, however!

An unusual reverse migration of raptors was observed at Tadoussac Sept. 2 (ME). Between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., 195 accipiters and falcons were counted as they approached from Baie-Sainte-Catherine to the southwest and proceeded to cross the mouth of the Saguenay R., making landfall at Tadoussac. The strategic

Table 1. Hawk totals at Montreal (Senneville) Station, Autumn 1990, compared with annual average.

	1990	1980-1989 avg.
Black Vulture	1	—
Turkey Vulture	28*	3
Osprey	88	52
Bald Eagle	4	1
Northern Harrier	95	58
Sharp-shinned Hawk	742*	428
Cooper's Hawk	20*	10
Northern Goshawk	8	8
Red-shouldered Hawk	139*	32
Broad-winged Hawk	3717	2873
Red-tailed Hawk	2309*	896
Rough-legged Hawk	129	63
Golden Eagle	11*	4
American Kestrel	117	84
Merlin	3	3
Peregrine Falcon	1	2
Unidentified	34	83
TOTALS	7446	4600
Hours of observation	480	353

*record high count

importance of this site is further demonstrated by the 389 migrating raptors counted there during 1.5 hours of observation Oct. 20, which involved 350 Red-tailed, 20 Sharp-shinned, and 16 Rough-legged hawks, and three Merlins (YD). It is unfortunate that this site has never been monitored, since it could very well prove to be the most productive hawkwatching station in the Region. The first Gyrfalcon seen in the South this fall was a very early dark-morph adult at Saint-Germain, *Kamouraska*, Aug. 10 (JMG, RDe).

A group of seven Gray Partridge was found just e. of Quebec City Nov. 18 (LV, JLC). A Yellow Rail studied at Sainte-Croix Sept. 23 (PL) was an expected migrant, while an enfeebled imm. **Purple Gallinule** picked up at Grande-Rivière Oct. 3 (JC) was only the 8th recorded in the Region, all but one in fall. During July and August two Am. Coots were present off Mingan (SA); coots are being noted with increased regularity along the North Shore in recent years. Increasingly seen e. of their usual migration route, lone Sandhill Cranes passed at Beaconsfield (AT), Pointe-aux-Boisvert (DG, SO), Pointe-aux-Outardes (CF, MJ), Pointe-Label (CF, MJ), and Charles-

bourg (JMG) in September and October.

An Am. Avocet remained (from summer) at Bergeronnes until Sept. 11 (ABd), while another appeared at Havre-aux-Basques Sept. 19-23 (GV, RO, PF). Other Regionally rare shorebirds were single Marbled Godwits at Kamouraska Aug. 20-Sept. 3 (JMG, RDe) and Chandler Aug. 21-Sept. 8 (PP), a juv. Western Sandpiper on I. du Moine Aug. 25 (FBl *et al.*), and single Ruffs at Fatima Aug. 21-22 (GCa) and Sainte-Vallier Sept. 15-16 (LV, JLC *et al.*). Six Buff-breasted Sandpipers Sept. 8-23 were about average, but more numerous than usual were up to three juv. Long-billed Dowitchers at both Longueuil Sept. 4-15 (DD, PBa) and Saint-Vallier Sept. 15-16 (JLC *et al.*), and another at Pike-River Sept. 13 (JGP). Still a rare visitor to the N. Shore, a Wilson's Phalarope was found at Sault-au-Mouton Sept. 3 (RGt).

JAEGERS TO TERNS

Lone Parasitic Jaegers appeared inland at the Beauharnois dam Aug. 26 (RY), Hull Sept. 16 (BLa), L. Saint-Pierre Sept. 25 (DJ), and Quebec City Oct. 6 (GL *et al.*) — none especially surprising. A juv. Little Gull was seen from

shore at Blanc-Sablon Aug. 13-24 (PJ, MBe, CS), as were an ad. and a juv. Com. Black-headed Gull Aug. 2 (PJ).

An exceptional concentration of gulls occurred in the Montreal area Sept. 22-25. On Sept. 22, 1000 or more Bonaparte's Gulls were tallied on L. Champlain (PM *et al.*), and a juv. Sabine's Gull was spotted among the several hundred Bonaparte's at Côte-Sainte-Catherine (PBa). During the next several days, up to four juv. and one ad. Sabine's Gulls were found at the latter site, along with an ad. Com. Black-headed Gull Sept. 24 (DD). Sabine's Gulls were found in unprecedented numbers on the Upper St. Lawrence; in addition to those already mentioned, singles visited Quebec City Aug. 25 (CVa), I. aux Fermiers Sept. 16 (GD *et al.*), Beauharnois Sept. 16-17 (PBa, JM), Saint-Antoine-de-Tilly Sept. 24-26 (LR, LMo *et al.*), and Côte-Sainte-Catherine Oct. 15 (JGP).

Seven Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported this fall; the species is now considered a regular visitor to s.w. Quebec. Locally rare were two Caspian Terns at Aylmer Aug. 21 (RLD), two more at Longueuil Aug. 28 (*vide* PBa), and a winter-plumaged Forster's Tern at the Beauharnois dam Sept. 8 (PBa), while an Arctic Tern identified at Portneuf Oct. 28 (RDi, FD, PO) was record late by 8 days.

OWLS TO WAXWINGS

Northern Hawk Owls staged a noticeable southward movement in November, with about 12 reported in s. Quebec. Red-bellied Woodpeckers have indicated a growing propensity for long-range vagrancy in the past several years. While the Gaspé Pen. hosted its 2nd Red-bellied, at Gaspé throughout November (FM), the Magdalen Is. received their first, videotaped at a feeder in Grande-Entrée Oct. 16 (AP, CVi). The following day an ad. Red-headed Woodpecker came to a feeder in nearby Havre-Aubert (LBo, PF, BLE), for only the 2nd record for the archipelago.

An ad. E. Wood-Pewee was still feeding a fledgling at Saint-

Eusébe on the remarkably late date of Sept. 19 (MBa), while Quebec's 10th **Say's Phoebe** was studied at leisure at Saint-Gabriel-de-Brandon Sept. 9 (JLm, CDu). An impressive movement of Purple Martins and Tree Swallows was witnessed along the St. Lawrence R. at LaSalle Sept. 22-24 (PBa). On the latter date, an estimated 4000 martins passed by the observer during a one-hour period. Unprecedented numbers of Tufted Titmice invaded feeders in extreme s. Quebec with no fewer than nine reported from 7 different localities; mounting evidence suggests that this species may be establishing itself as a resident in the Region.

Carolina Wrens made an above-average showing with 10 birds appearing, including one Oct. 20-Dec. 3 as far north as Sainte-Foy, where the species is still extremely rare (RGs, AG *et al.*). Four single N. Wheatears at Quebec City (RB, m.ob.), Desbiens (SDm), Havre-aux-Maisons (PF, FG, CR), and Mingan (PNP) during the period Sept. 15-28 were exceptional, as we are usually lucky to find one per year. Northern Mockingbirds are still very rare on the Magdalen Is., so one near Bassin Sept. 22 (JGt, CC, SR) was worthy of mention. Few Bohemian Waxwings have ever reached that archipelago, but several have turned up during the past 2 winters; this year lone birds more were identified at Havre-aux-Maisons Oct. 28 (PF) and Grande-Entrée Nov. 18 (CVi, AP). The species went unreported elsewhere, except for a flock of 1000 at Havre-Saint-Pierre in late October (*vide* SP).

WARBLERS TO ICTERINES

Noteworthy warblers included Maniwaki's first Golden-winged Warbler Aug. 1 (GB) and a very late N. Parula at Sainte-Hedwige Oct. 30 (NB). To the delight of local birders, a cooperative **Yellow-throated Warbler**, apparently of the inland race *albiflora*, frequented a feeder at Buckingham Nov. 20-Dec. 8 (RC, m.ob., ph.), providing only Quebec's 3rd record, all in late



Yellow-throated Warbler (apparently of the inland race *albiflora*) at Buckingham, Quebec, November 30, 1990. Third provincial record. The relative lack of black on the crown suggests that this bird is a first-winter female. Photograph/ Gilbert Bouchard.

fall. Elsewhere, a Pine Warbler, rarely encountered on the Gaspé Pen., was present at Chandler Nov. 10-18 (JRL), while Maniwaki was enlivened by a Yellow-breasted Chat Sept. 3 (GB).

North of its established range was a ♀ N. Cardinal present at Jonquière Nov. 6-9 (JGn *et al.*). A pattern of northeastward displacement, in late fall, is developing for Indigo Buntings; this season individuals reached Grande-Entrée Oct. 11-25 (PF *et al.*), Pabos Nov. 7 (PP), and Chandler Nov. 8-12 (CK). Two Dickcissels reached Quebec this season, at Kamouraska Oct. 15-20 (JMG *et al.*) and Chicoutimi Nov. 9 (CGi). Rufous-sided Towhees scattered widely and in good numbers this fall, with singles at Saint-David, Lévis, Oct. 12 (GL), Cap-aux-Meules Oct. 27-28 (AM), Chicoutimi Nov. 16-30 (JB, FT), La Pocatière Nov. 20 (CA), and Rimouski Nov. 29 (JRP)—no birds of western races were reported. On the

other hand, western vagrants did include a ♀ **Lark Bunting** at Berthier-sur-Mer Oct. 28 (CDE), furnishing only the 2nd fall report for the Region, and two ♀ N. "Bullock's" Orioles studied at Saint-Emile Oct. 13 (SSO, JT) and Pointe-au-Père Nov. 7 (DC). Another N. Oriole, this one unspecified, was displaced and very late at Amqui Nov. 27 (MBo). A Yellow-headed Blackbird was reported from Saint-Gabriel-de-Brandon Sept. 9 (JLm, CDu).

EXOTICS

A Greylag Goose was observed at La Prairie Oct. 1 (YR, GD); some Greylags show a dark cap (like this bird) or a knobby bill, a sure sign of past introgression with domestic Swan Geese (*Anser cygnoides*). Three Ringed Turtle-Doves were noted at Sherbrooke in September (JD), a Monk Parakeet visited an Aylmer feeder Nov. 10 and Dec. 9 (GT), and a Red-crested Cardinal brightened a Laval

feeder for several weeks in September (CGr).

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NEW ENGLAND REGION

Charles D. Duncan

New England's autumn weather continued summer's pattern of "average" temperatures. August, October, and November were warmer than normal, but September was cooler, except on the immediate coast. On Sept. 19, Lewiston, Maine, was the coldest spot in the 48 states, at 29°F. Precipitation followed the same pattern. August (except on the immediate coast from Massachusetts north), October, and November were quite wet, with 200% of normal precipitation in many areas, but September was quite dry.

Tropical Storm *Lili* passed off the coast Oct. 13 and 14 but no other tropical weather affected the Region. Nonetheless, marine biologists reported several species well north of usual range throughout the season. Examples from Maine included a thresher shark caught by fishermen, Sargassum weed on a beach, and salps (barrel-shaped, planktonic animals) just offshore. All are warm-water organisms.

Reportage this fall was erratic. Excellent material was received from Connecticut, Maine, western Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Rhode Island's typically fine coverage was received only for the first two months of the season. Eastern Massachusetts sightings are mentionable at all only through the graces of two individual reporters plus a last-minute fax of highlights from the "Voice of Audubon" tape from Simon Perkins. With some exceptions, data from hawkwatchers—which, next to banding data, are the most thorough, consistent, and intensely gathered of any during migration—were not received.

When most of New England (and all of Atlantic Canada) was included in the Northeast Maritime Region, the fall report was like a review of events within a few miles of salt water. Everything happened at the coast. This season's report seems not to have that flavor. The paucity of eastern Massachusetts reports amplifies this impression. Even

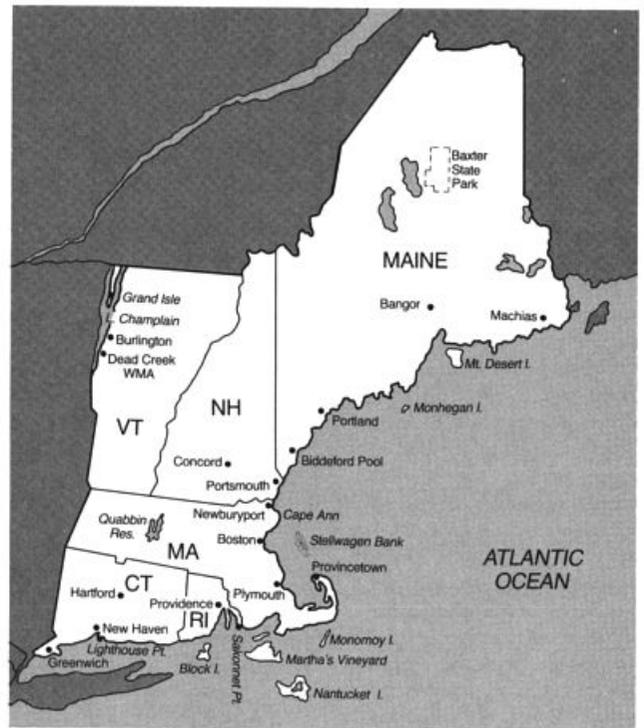
more, perhaps, does the addition of Vermont, with huge waterfowl migrations, Lake Champlain, and well-organized birding community. But aside from these factors, birds themselves seem to have avoided the coast this season. We have long known that migrants are most seen on days with northwest winds, after passage of autumn cold fronts. This year such fronts were scarce, and the winds they brought were light. Songbird migration was widely regarded as "poor," or worse. If weather were the only factor, this would be only academic. Sobering, however, is Bob Fox's observation from 23 years of late-September weekends at Block Island, Rhode Island. The number of species he has recorded "has declined at an average of 1.30 species per year. This is equivalent to a compound loss rate of 1% species per year, and does not take into account the loss in the number of birds."

Are there bright spots? Certainly. Exciting pelagics were found coastally and at Lake Champlain. Enough western vagrants showed up to keep birders' attentions. Quite a number of species lingered into November. At least ten species were unusual enough for boldfaced print. Perhaps as interesting, there are a dozen species in this report which at one time in the last 15 years would have earned boldfaced type, but no longer warrant that distinction: birds which have either become genuinely more common, or which we now understand to be rare-but-regular. On balance, then, there is real cause for concern about decreasing numbers of birds moving through the Region, but birders should not forget that they tend to get jaded. "Yesterday's life bird is today's...."

Abbreviations: Dead Creek (*Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, VT*); V.I.N.S. (*Vermont Institute of Natural Science*).

LOONS TO IBISES

A Red-throated Loon at Georgetown, ME, Sept. 8 (EG) was the first of 3 September sightings, 2 months before the normal peak. Inland records totalled 5 in Vermont (*vide JN*) and 8 in w. Mas-



sachusetts (*vide SKe*). Pied-billed Grebes did a little better this year, with a summer total of 20 at Missisquoi N.W.R., VT, but were considered in very poor numbers (10 in 4 reports) elsewhere in Vermont (JN). Two Red-necked Grebes were found inland—one remarkably early Aug. 2 in New London, NH (KE), and another at Litchfield, CT, Oct. 18 (BD *et al.*). The Eared Grebe first seen June 20 in East Gloucester, MA, was there to at least Aug. 4 (JB).

Reports of seven N. Fulmars were received—a little higher than the last couple of years, but a fraction of the species' abundance in the 1970s. In contrast, the peak count of 405 Cory's Shearwaters s.s.e. of Block I., RI, Sept. 27 (D. Emerson) was the highest in the Region in a decade, and 30 mi s. of Nantucket, MA, 350 were seen Aug. 17 (*vide SPe*). Cory's is, of course, associated with warm Gulf Stream waters in our Region. Counts of the (cooler water) Greater Shearwater were unexceptional. A count of 2386 Wilson's Storm-Petrels from a Bluenose roundtrip crossing Aug. 23 was a robust total, but overshadowed by a single **White-faced Storm-Petrel** found with the tuna fleet 40 mi s.s.e. of Block I., RI, Sept. 10 (RC). Noteworthy also were the three Leach's Storm-Petrels found with 50 Wilson's as part

of this aggregation.

Northern Gannets generally migrate in late October and early November, but this year, 30,000 were estimated moving past Chatham, MA, Nov. 23–30 (*vide SPe*). A fly-over Am. White Pelican at Eastham, Cape Cod, MA, Oct. 6 was well-described (KJ). Undoubtedly reflecting their general increase, Great Cormorants were found both early—appearing Sept. 7 at Wilimantic, CT (KK), and Sept. 9 at Plum I., MA (LBe)—and inland, with eight in w. Massachusetts (*vide SKe*) and one at L. Memphremagog, VT (DCa).

American Bittern reports were few, totalling 42, 25 of these from Missisquoi N.W.R., VT (JG). None was received from Maine; birders likely see no need to report sightings there, as the species is a known breeder across most of the state. Except for 10 censused at Missisquoi, only two Least Bitterns were found, flushed from a flooded marsh in S. Windsor, CT, Aug. 11 (SKo).

At their traditional roost at Plum I., MA, Great Egrets were down to 20 in early September (JB); the comparison to last year's peak of 170 is surprising. But in w. Massachusetts, 12 reports of 20 birds total (*vide SKe*) was above average, and the total of 26 in Vermont (*vide JN*) made a substantial increase from recent years. Late sightings were

of one Oct. 17 in Portland, ME (REa), and one Nov. 12 in New Haven, CT (REn). Snowy Egrets did well on Stratton I., ME, with 132 Aug. 21, a 5-year high (JSk). They were reduced in number at the Plum I. roost, but well-recorded inland with 12 in w. Massachusetts (*vide* SKe). One lingered to Nov. 11 at Ipswich, MA (JB). Cattle Egrets were strong in Rhode Island, with 52 at Tiverton Aug. 29 (DE). Four at Hadley, MA, Aug. 14 (David Ziomek), made only the 3rd August record for w. Massachusetts. The species was, however, scarce in the usual s. Maine localities, at the Plum I. roost, and in Ipswich, MA, where 17 on Sept. 3 compares with 50–60 there in the early 1980s (JB). There is evidence that the species is retreating from the northern edge of its breeding range. Some would say “hurray!” Glossy Ibis set a 5-year high at the colony on Stratton I., with 129 nests (JSk), but were surmised to have suffered nesting failure in Rhode Island (*vide* SKe). De Luca felt that the numbers of this species were “definitely up in New Hampshire’s coastal marshes.”

WATERFOWL

A Fulvous Whistling-Duck legally shot at Missisquoi N.W.R., VT, Oct. 13 (*vide* JG, MSt, JL) was a surprise. On average, the species has been found every one to 3 years somewhere in the Region. Nine Tundra Swans were rare in Vermont: an adult Oct. 26 at Herrick’s Cove (LBn, PH), an immature Oct. 28 at Bellows Falls (DC), and seven Nov. 30 at Shrewsbury (CY, SJ, LC). Five Greater White-fronted Goose sightings was apparently a new (though given the increase in sightings throughout the northeast, hardly unanticipated) record for the Region. Most of New England’s visitors have been identified as the *flavirostris*, or Greenland, race. Where determined, this season’s were all thought to be Greenlanders: one at Addison, VT, Oct. 11 (CF), the 6th state record if accepted; an adult at Hollis, NH, Oct. 20 (JB, TB, RH); an immature in virtually the same field 3 days later (MSu); and an immature at Old Orchard Beach, ME, about Oct. 22 (*vide* Maine Audubon) to at least Nov. 9 (SPo). One of

unstated race in Granby, CT, Oct. 21 was seen by many (*vide* BK). Clustering of arrival dates across only 11 days likely implies a common origin.

Staggering numbers of Snow Geese were found in Vermont with 15,000 Oct. 10 at Dead Creek (*vide* JN), 19,000 censused by refuge personnel at Missisquoi N.W.R. Oct. 25 (JG), and 7500 still at Dead Creek Nov. 5 (FP). A few turned up in outlying areas: one at Easton’s Pond, RI, Sept. 30 (DM), 34 at Turner, ME, Oct. 3 (JD), an adult at Clinton, ME, much of the season (WS), and another at Scarborough, ME, Oct. 12 (LBr). More exciting was the appearance of **Ross’ Goose** in Vermont. Reports came in like snowflakes and were equally hard to count. Apparently rock-solid was a description of an immature found Oct. 27 at Dead Creek (WE, NM). If accepted by the Vermont Bird Records Committee, it is a state first. Reliable observers then reported two adults and one immature in this same area, and others later claimed two immatures. The last report was of an immature Nov. 24 (BP).

Missisquoi N.W.R. hosted 150 N. Pintail by Oct. 9 (where 85 would be average), as well as 300 Blue-winged Teal Sept. 14, also high (JG). The state total elsewhere of 64 Blue-wingeds in 6 reports was less favorable (*vide* JN). Many of the ducks moving through w. Massachusetts were found in reduced numbers: Am. Wigeon (21 birds total), Canvasback (one), Redhead (unreported), Ring-necked Duck (346), Greater Scaup (15), and Hooded Merganser (131) (all *vide* SKe). In contrast, Ring-necked Ducks in Vermont reached 12,620 by Oct. 25 at Missisquoi N.W.R. (JG). Again in w. Massachusetts, Gadwall (20), Lesser Scaup (36), Oldsquaw (78), and Bufflehead (237) were in better than average numbers (*vide* SKe).

A Com. Eider in Fairfield, CT, Sept. 29 was early and very rare in that state (LBe, FP). The only King Eider reported was at Cape Elizabeth, ME, Nov. 18 into December (LBr, AS). A Harlequin Duck at Tiverton, RI, Aug. 11 (DE) was one of the earliest ever for the Region. Two Oldsquaw arrived early in

Maine Sept. 2 at Biddeford Pool (WS, BSu), and five inland at Andover, CT, Nov. 22 (KK) were unusual. Six Black Scoters were inland at Clinton/Fairfield, ME, Oct. 13, with one Surf and 20 White-winged scoters (WS, BSu). Perhaps these were associated with the passage of Tropical Storm *Lili*. Other inland reports were of one Black at Columbia L., CT, Oct. 22 (LBe), and six White-winged at Sabbatus Pond, ME, Oct. 19 (JD). Ten White-winged were at Missisquoi N.W.R. Oct. 30. The 160 Ruddy Ducks at West Newbury, MA, Nov. 12 were thought to be the highest number ever there (JB), but 33 at Sabbatus Pond, ME, Nov. 1 were well below last year’s 64 (JD).

VULTURES TO CRANES

Black Vultures continue to be seen with increasing frequency. One was at Middleboro, MA, Sept. 4 (*vide* SPe). One flew over Cromwell, CT, Nov. 14 (JMc), and another (or the same) was at the New Haven, CT, dump Nov. 21 (PH). Turkey Vultures continued expansion to the north and east, with 58+ in New Hampshire (*vide* DD) and 86 from Maine (*vide* JD). In 1977, the entire Region’s total was 82.

The season’s total of 3708 Osprey at Lighthouse Point, New Haven (*vide* BK), was 2nd only to last year’s 4036. In Rhode Island, it was considered the best nesting season for the species in 40 years (*vide* DE). Bald Eagles were in good numbers (49) in w. Massachusetts. At L. Umbagog, NH, a pair bred successfully; one of the young was later seen at Cannonville Res., NY (*vide* DD). While the count of 168 N. Harriers in w. Massachusetts was high, a census in New Hampshire led to the conclusion that numbers were “down in the north country” (DD). The count of 10,834 Sharp-shinned Hawks at Lighthouse Point, New Haven, was a strong showing, and 2997 at the w. Massachusetts hawkwatches set a record there, contrasting with declines in Sharp-shinned at hawkwatches in the Hudson-Delaware Region (*vide* Clay Sutton *et al.*). Eighty-five Cooper’s Hawks were seen at hawkwatches and 38 away from them

in w. Massachusetts, healthy numbers. Northern Goshawks did not reach s. New England, but 22 in w. Massachusetts were more than average.

Broad-winged Hawks were low at the w. Massachusetts watches. The season’s total was only 8918 despite good early flights in September (*vide* SKe). Numbers were closer to average in Connecticut, where 25,000 Broad-wingeds passed through Sept. 16 & 17. The one-day peak was of 11,600 at Greenwich Sept. 17. The previous day, some 17,000 were counted from hawkwatches at Mt. Wachusett and Lancaster, MA, though there may be substantial re-counting. There was a time (see *AB* 33:155, 1979) when it was thought that only extraordinary weather could lead to such numbers; they are the rule now, not the exception. An ad. light-morph Swainson’s Hawk, rare but regular in New England, was unique at Mt. Wachusett Sept. 27 (*vide* SPe). A few Rough-legged Hawks arrived early enough—Oct. 7 at Truro, Cape Cod, MA (KJ), and Oct. 30 at New Haven (REn)—to raise hopes for a good winter invasion. One reported at York, ME, Aug. 28 (LP), however, was incredibly early. It was with good reason that a previous editor once declared himself a “September-skeptic” about Rough-leggeds.

Merlins apparently bred at 2 to 4 sites in Maine, only the 2nd known breeding in New England. Five together at Eustis, ME, Aug. 4 & 5 (DR, PR) were almost certainly two adults and three young. Two juveniles Aug. 13 at Cutler, where the first New England breeding was proven in 1988, likely hatched there (CD, WP *et al.*). A report was received of a nesting at Lily Bay, Moosehead (*vide* WT), about 7 mi from a nest discovered in 1988. One at Lubec Aug. 6 (LBr) may have nested, as nestlings were also found on nearby Campobello I., NB, in 1988. As migrants, 33 Merlins in w. Massachusetts set a record high (*vide* SKe). Peregrine Falcons broke records: 14 in Rhode Island (*vide* DE); 26 in New Hampshire, away from the unreported hawkwatches (*vide* DD); 32 in w. Massachusetts (*vide* SKe), and 95 at Lighthouse Point, CT, where the previous

high was 47 (*fide* BK). A Gyrfalcon was right on schedule at Chatham, MA, Nov. 18, and for a week thereafter (*fide* SPe).

An imm. Purple Gallinule was at Fresh Pond, Cambridge, MA, Sept. 26–29. The species is a famous wanderer, but occurs in New England less than once each fall, on average. Two Com. Moorhens Nov. 4 at Edgemont, MA (*fide* SKe), were late. Grati-fyingly, after I expressed concern last year, Am. Coots were widely reported. High counts were of 26 at West Newbury, MA, Nov. 12 (*fide* SKe), 32 at Sabbattus, ME, Oct. 22 (JD), 35 at Chick-asaukie L., ME, Nov. 3 (MP), 100 at Litchfield, CT, Nov. 11 (m.ob., *fide* BK), and 150 at Missisquoi N.W.R., VT, Oct. 25 (JG). Western Massachusetts reports totalled 68, very low (SKe). Six reports of 11 birds in Vermont, away from Mis-sisquoi, was also low (JN). Only 2 reports, totalling 12 individuals, were received from New Hampshire (SMi, RBA).

Sandhill Cranes pulled out all stops this season. An adult was at Ipswich, MA, Sept. 9, the 3rd consecutive September in the same marsh. It was considered not the individual frequenting a marsh 10 mi north for the past 2 years nor the immature found in July at Plum I. (JB). A fly-over at Winhall, VT, Sept. 16 (WN) was accepted by the Vermont Records Committee. One was seen Oct. 9–11 at Deer Isle, ME, and the same or another was farther e. at Bucks Harbor, ME, Oct. 18 (*fide* WT). The 2nd ever for w. Massachusetts was at Belchertown Oct. 20 (*fide* SKe), suspect for its tameness (*fide* SPe). One was at New Haven Oct. 26 (m.ob., *fide* BK).

SHOREBIRDS

American Oystercatchers have been increasing in New England. In 1976, 14 was the high count in the Region. This season, 41 were at Napatree Point, RI, Aug. 29 (CRa). American Avocets are rare n. of southern New England. One was seen, starting Aug. 20, at Scarborough, ME, by many observers, and two were at S. Thomaston, ME, at least Sept. 14–30 (DR *et al.*). Another lingered to Oct. 6 at Newburyport (JB). Not surprisingly, Greater Yellowlegs lingered to mid-November,

S.A.

Chance favors the prepared mind, and nowhere is this truer than in bird-discovery. Simon Perkins had taken the opportunity in Eurasian travels to learn the callnote of **Common Ringed Plover**, convinced that the species could occur as an undetected vagrant in e. North America. While on N. Monomoy I., MA, Sept. 5, Perkins and companions heard a “soft, rather mellow ‘po-ee’ (rhymes with towhee)” from the direction of a group of plovers. The offending bird was found, observed carefully, and photographed. The photos will be published with additional details later. Suffice it to say that all features—by direct comparison with nearby birds—fit known characters separating Common Ringed from Semipalmated Plover: broader, more irregular breast band, slightly longer bill, slightly greater size and heavier build, slightly grayer back, complete absence of an eyering, and, of course, callnote. Potentially helpful was the observation that the unfamiliar bird had more conspicuous subterminal marks on the feathers of the back, scapulars, and coverts than did juv. Semipalmated Plovers.

with 34 at Eastham, MA, on the 11th (KJ), and one at Sorrento, ME, Nov. 12 (WT). The **Spotted Redshank** found at Wellfleet, MA, in July was present to at least Aug. 18. A count of 68 Whimbrel at Stratton I., ME, Aug. 11 (JSk) was unusually large for a locality n. of Cape Cod. One at Whately, MA, Oct. 3 (BSo) was the 13th in fall for w. Massachusetts, and latest ever there. Stratton I. was also the site of one of the larger flocks of Hudsonian Godwits with 20 on Aug. 18. Perhaps if more of Maine’s offshore islands were censused, our impressions of this long-distance migrant, usually considered a Massachusetts specialty, might be modified. Lingers Nov. 4 & 16 at Scarborough Marsh, ME (WS, LBr), and Nov. 14 at Newburyport, MA (JB), were unusual, as was one inland at Norwich, VT, Oct. 29 (LBn). A Marbled Godwit was seen by many at Milford Pt., CT, Sept



The Spotted Redshank found at Wellfleet, Massachusetts, in July stayed until mid-August; this portrait was taken August 14, 1990. Photograph/Mike Cooper.

1–20 (*fide* BK). Another was briefly at Seabrook, NH, Aug. 18 (RQ, BW).

Counts of 225 Red Knots at Stratton I., ME, Aug. 15 (JSk), and 200 at Petit Manan N.W.R., Steuben, ME (RW), were exceptional as this is another shorebird scarce n. of Cape Cod. A single Red Knot at Longmeadow Aug. 6 (BBl) was the 6th for w. Massachusetts. The total of 32 Baird’s Sandpipers from Maine, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire was unimpressive. An additional two were recorded from Cape Cod, but surely more occurred in Massachusetts and were not reported. Overall, there were probably marginally more Baird’s in the Region than in the past several years. Stilt Sandpipers seemed to be reported in better than average numbers. One at Stratton I., ME, Aug. 11, was the first there (JSk); 52 at Briggs Marsh, RI, the same day (JO *et al.*) made a good count; 23 were at Wellfleet, MA, Sept. 11 (KJ). Unusual inland sightings were of one at Bolton, CT, Sept. 6 (KK), and two at Hadley Sept. 14 (PY), for the 7th w. Massachusetts record. Somewhat low were the 18 Buff-breasted Sandpiper reports received, but perhaps their true abundance was masked by the absence of e. Massachusetts reports. Twelve Wilson’s Phalaropes were reported, the maxi-

mum being four at Scarborough Marsh, ME, Aug. 19 (WS). Higher than for many recent years, that total is but half of counts from the mid 1970s.

The huge flocks of Red-necked Phalaropes failed to appear off Lubec, ME, for the 3rd straight year, being totally absent there this season. Canadian workers at nearby Deer Island, NB, found the zooplankton food for these birds greatly reduced from studies of a decade ago (*fide* R.G.B. Brown). Oddly, the same waters were thick with plankton over huge areas in October this year (*fide* M.G. Kraus, Capt. B. Huntley), 2 months after phalaropes would have passed through. The maximum of 124 reported off Mt. Desert Rock, ME, in mid-August (PS) or even the 3000 rumored there, would make no difference in the overall disappearance. The species did show up as a rarity, with one at Milford Pt, CT, Sept. 3 (SF), and a late one along the Connecticut R. at Lebanon, NH, Oct. 13 (PH). Two Red Phalaropes were found in Vermont, one at Quechee Oct. 11 (WE) and one at Charlotte Oct. 27 (WE, NM, RL), and two were seen at Pt. Judith, RI, Sept. 10 (RC).

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

An amazing 56 Pomarine Jaegers were found 40 mi s.s.e. of Block I., RI, Sept. 27 (DE), probably a record total in New England waters. Only six were found there the next day, emphasizing the ephemeral nature of pelagic events. A single ad. Long-tailed Jaeger was in this area Sept. 10 (RC). There were 5 Great Skua reports, all from the M.V. Bluenose between Aug. 23 and Oct. 17. One S. Polar Skua was seen and well-described from the same vessel Sept. 5, only 20–30 minutes after a Great (PH). The only other S. Polars were three off Rhode Island between Aug. 28 and Sept. 10 (DF, RC). These observations fit the emerging pattern: either species can fly by anytime from late August to mid-October well-offshore in New England waters, and both are most likely in early September.

Laughing Gulls at Burlington, VT, Aug. 9 (CS, EG) and Quabbin, MA, Oct. 13 (SSU)

represented rare events, as did a well-described ad. Franklin's Gull at Petit Manan N.W.R., ME, Sept. 16 (RW). Five Little Gulls along L. Champlain in September continued that species' increasing visibility in Vermont. Three were in Maine at 3 localities. Nine Common Black-headed Gulls reported, including Rhode Island's 3rd and 4th for summer, were only half the number seen 10 years previously. The highest count of Bonaparte's Gull was of 6480 at Grand Isle, VT, Aug. 21 (RL). One at Coventry, CT, Oct. 22 (WB) was unusual at that inland locale, as was a first-winter Iceland Gull at Storrs, CT, Nov. 29 (MSz). Lesser Black-backed Gulls inland, where not yet routine, were at Grand Isle, VT, Sept. 20, and Hadley, MA, Oct. 5-24, and 45 mi away at Coventry, CT, Oct. 28 (LBe, WB). A Glaucous Gull at Cape Elizabeth, ME, Sept. 9 (KG *et al.*), staying well over a month, was early. Black-legged Kittiwakes have been regular in Vermont for the past 3 years. This year two juveniles, superbly photographed, were at South Hero, Aug. 20 (RL, WE, NM). The Regional total of three Sabine's Gulls in 2 sightings was lower than average. An adult was at Stellwagen Bank, MA, Sept. 6 (KJ) and two, one an adult, were seen with the tuna fleet s.s.e. of Block I., RI, Sept. 10 (RC).

In Maine, the post-breeding concentration of endangered Roseate Terns reached a record 175 at Stratton I. Aug. 17 (JSk), and 85 were at Scarborough Sept. 4 (LBr *et al.*). Two Com. Terns were very late at Wellfleet, MA, Nov. 18 (KJ). Forster's Terns often disperse northward after the breeding season. Five to 10 were at 3 localities in s. Maine Aug. 19-Oct. 17 (*vide* JD).

Dovekies were found more often than in recent years. The first was an injured bird in Machias, ME, Oct. 19. Highest counts were in Massachusetts, with 59 from Rockport, Wellfleet, and Provincetown Nov. 18-20. Atlantic Puffins disperse seaward in mid-to-late August, apparently not forming winter concentrations. Two were on Stellwagen Bank Nov. 23 (DW) where rare but regular.

PIGEONS TO WOODPECKERS

A well-described **Band-tailed**

Pigeon was scrutinized on Monhegan I., ME, Sept. 19 (LBN). The only previous Maine record was late April-early May, 1980, only 15 mi w. of Monhegan. Though the A.O.U. Check-list (1983) suggests that some or all of the e. coast records may pertain to escaped captives, the possibility seems inconsequentially small. The sole Snowy Owl report was one at Hampton Beach, NH, Nov. 19 (PH). Based on statistical review of Christmas Bird Count data, Paul Kerlinger and co-workers at Cape May Bird Observatory have demonstrated that the species is irruptive, but not cyclical in its incursions. In any event, it has been 15 years since so few have been reported in New England.

This year's peak migration of Com. Nighthawk clustered tightly into only 4 days: Aug. 25-29. Maxima of 496 at Northampton, MA, Aug. 26 and 502 at Southwick, MA, Aug. 28 were both considered poor (*vide* SKe). In Vermont, the species has been granted "Special Concern" status; 102 was the peak count, at White River Jct. Aug. 26 (WE, NM). The Connecticut maximum of 500 at Bristol Aug. 25 (BD) was typical. At Plum I., MA, 60 were considered "an uncommon spectacle" Sept. 2 (JB), as the species' route generally avoids the coast once it leaves Maine. Similarly, 413 were counted Aug. 27 at Chester, NH (about 25 mi inland), the first time these observers had seen any nighthawk migration there (ABD). Given concerns for the species and the ease of observing the migration, an organized "nighthawk migration census" across the Region would be a productive undertaking. A nighthawk above Yale Bowl, New Haven, CT, on the astounding date of Nov. 3 (FM) makes one wonder just what species was involved. Also in the "unidentified" bin was the *Selasphorus hummingbird*, Rufous or Allen's, that arrived in Surry, ME, Oct. 14 (m.ob.). After staying outdoors for a week, the bird moved into one of several large heated greenhouses on the property. Seldom has a bird so far out of range chosen conditions so ideal for continued survival. It was still present in December

Without precedent in these pages was the passage of 1500+ Chimney Swifts past Lighthouse Pt., New Haven, CT, Sept. 30 (JMc, JMn). The 27 Red-headed Woodpeckers seen as migrants at Lighthouse Pt. (*vide* LBe), and 10 elsewhere in New England, made an above average total. Single Red-bellied Woodpeckers were at 3 Maine locales during October, and one was at Bristol, NH, Nov. 13 (VW). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were judged to be more common than usual in w. Massachusetts (*vide* SKe) and at Chester, NH, where four were seen at a residence over a month's time (ABD). Curiously, only one was seen during a week in late September at Monhegan I. (BN) when 50-100+ are sometimes found. Perhaps they avoided the coastal route. The total of 46 Pileated Woodpeckers in w. Massachusetts was more than usual, and one was at Hopkinton, RI, Sept. 22 (DHR). The species has been found here several years, despite being rare along the Connecticut/Rhode Island coast.

FLYCATCHERS TO GNATCATCHERS

Banding totals for "Traill's" Flycatchers numbered 25 at Appledore I., ME, quite low, but a record 33 were caught at V.I.N.S. Also low was the total of 32 Least Flycatchers at Appledore. These numbers offer crude support for the hypothesis that the absence of significant cold fronts with NW winds encourages migration away from coastal areas. Pleasing was the care taken to identify Connecticut's first **Tropical Kingbird**, at Lighthouse Pt., New Haven, present for several days beginning Nov. 11 (REn, m.ob.). The bird was photographed and, more importantly, tape-recorded, establishing the bird as this species and not Couch's (*vide* LBe). There is an October 1915 specimen of Tropical Kingbird in Maine, as well as a Massachusetts record which might be of Couch's or Tropical. The Regional total of W. Kingbirds was only 11 but none was reported from e. Massachusetts where surely some occurred. The latest was at Belchertown, Nov. 9-12, the 17th for w. Massachusetts (*vide* SKe) A **Fork-tailed Flycatcher**

was seen Oct. 14 at Cambridge, MA (*vide* SpE). The species is virtually annual somewhere in New England or the Maritimes. Late swallows included a Bank Sept. 22 at Provincetown, MA (KJ), four Cliffs at Napatree Pt., RI, Sept. 29 (CRa), and a Barn at Scarborough, ME, Nov. 11 (SPo). Not a year has gone by since the early 1980s without a November Barn Swallow.

Fish Crows are rare breeders inland; 2 adults and 3 fledglings were seen Aug. 1-Sept. 15, at Watertown, CT (RN). Red-breasted Nuthatches moved into only the w. portions of the Region this fall. Connecticut observers reported "no southward movement in the Storrs area, but very good numbers in the n.w. portion of the state" (*vide* BK). Similarly, 446 from w. Massachusetts made a high count (*vide* SKe), but 21 at Appledore I., ME, was low (DHm) as were state totals of eight for New Hampshire (*vide* DD), and 11 in September for Rhode Island (*vide* DE). Carolina Wrens, expanding north, reached as far as Canaan, ME (WS), almost to the 45th parallel. Sedge Wrens have slowly been re-establishing themselves in the Region. Five were reported this fall, one in Connecticut and four across Massachusetts. Curiously, all occurred Oct. 9-14. Golden-crowned Kinglets were thought to be low in w. Massachusetts where 150 were reported. Nonetheless, 23 banded at V.I.N.S., VT, was a record high there, as were the 83 Ruby-crowned Kinglets banded. Five of these were in November, the latest being Nov. 8 (CRi). Four Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were found in Maine, just beyond the n. edge of the species' normal breeding range (*vide* JD).

THRUSHES TO VIREOS

The last few years have seen a marginal increase in the appearance of **Northern Wheatears** in New England. This season's singles were at Bristol, NH, Sept. 7 (VW, JW), Chatham, MA, Sept. 15 (KJ), Nantucket, MA, Sept. 18-27 (IG), and Madison, CT, Sept. 20 (SF). Eastern Bluebird may have the highest ratio of reportage-to-occurrence of any regularly occurring bird. New Hampshire's 150 was double its 1988 total. Western

Massachusetts' 347 was equal to last year's, but both years were well above longer-term averages.

There has been great concern about numbers of breeding thrushes in the northeast. Migration counts are a less accurate means of monitoring than systematic Breeding Bird Surveys, but Veeries were low at Appledore I., ME, where only one was seen (Aug. 30) and none banded (DHm), and also at Woodstock, VT, where 10 banded by V.I.N.S. workers was below the 4-year average of 17. Gray-cheeked Thrushes, much the rarer in New England, were found in somewhat better than usual numbers: four seen in w. Massachusetts (*vide* Ske), three banded at V.I.N.S. (CRi), and one late Nov. 3 at Kittery, ME (LP). Similarly, Swainson's Thrushes were up to 20 in w. Massachusetts, better than last year and virtually up to longer-term averages; 50 were banded at V.I.N.S. where 32 was the previous maximum; and in Maine, long-time observer Townsend felt the species had made a "small but notable comeback." Brown Thrashers seem to be quietly disappearing from New England. Only two were reported from New Hampshire. In Connecticut, Kotchko recalls them as previously visible and abundant, but has not seen one since September 1988.

In sharp contrast to last year's early arrival of Bohemian Waxwings, they were reported only from the University of Maine, Orono, their most reliable locale in New England, with 120 Nov. 22 (KJ). Northern Shrikes arrived in a big way beginning late October, with well over 40 reported through November. A measure of their abundance was the total of 23 in w. Massachusetts where one or two would be typical (*vide* Ske). Connecticut saw two in November. Loggerhead Shrike reports in September were of one in Old Lyme (TH, JH) and one at Guilford, CT (NP). The species occurs from zero to 3 or 4 times each fall in New England.

Two White-eyed Vireos reached Maine in October: Portland Oct. 7 (WS) and Biddeford Pool Oct. 8 (TM). Solitary Vireos followed the pattern, mentioned above for several other migrants, of staying away from the coast. None was seen at

Appledore I. (DHm), but 51 in w. Massachusetts was a high total there (*vide* Ske). One at Lighthouse Pt., New Haven, Nov. 24 was the latest ever for Connecticut. In Maine, Appledore I. workers banded one Yellow-throated Vireo Aug. 29 and saw another Sept. 12 (DHm); one was at Portland Sept. 4 (REa). Red-eyed Vireos were banded in record numbers at V.I.N.S., Woodstock, VT. This season's 61 eclipsed the previous record of 45, and was nearly twice the 4-year mean (CRi). One very late at Biddeford Pool, ME, Nov. 4, was close to the ground, hunting large slugs (GCa). The presence of both the bird and its prey speaks volumes about Maine's fall weather this year.

WARBLERS

No one considered this a better than average season for warbler migration. David Holmes, banding at Appledore I., caught only a fraction of the warblers expected based on number of "net-hours." Banding in Vermont, Rimmer found numbers of those warblers that winter in the tropics "low, although none alarmingly so." In w. Massachusetts, Kellogg spoke of "perhaps the worst warbler flight ever," with these species (followed by the number of reports) as low or very low: Tennessee (51), Nashville (20), N. Parula (16), Magnolia (45), Cape May (13), Black-throated Blue (15), Blackburnian (10), Bay-breasted (27, half of typical), Blackpoll (48, half of typical), Wilson's (four), and Canada (nine, one-fourth of typical). Blue-winged Warblers were banded in normal numbers (26) at Appledore I., but elsewhere in Maine only four were reported. In contrast to these low figures, a few species were recorded in more than average numbers: Orange-crowned Warblers in w. Massachusetts (five), Magnolia Warblers—in contrast to the w. Massachusetts data—at Woodstock, VT (37, twice the typical), Yellow-rumped Warblers in Connecticut, w. Massachusetts, and Vermont (but absent entirely from Appledore I.), Palm Warbler in w. Massachusetts (82), and Yellow-breasted Chat at Appledore I. (eight). A "Lawrence's" Warbler was seen at Blackstone R. Canal, RI, Aug. 21 (LS), apparently only the 2nd fall migration sighting in New England in

at least the last 16 years. Amazingly, another was banded Sept. 10 at Kingston, RI (DK). Rare parulids included two Orange-crowned Warblers in Vermont in October (WE, CRi *et al.*), two Connecticut Warblers in w. Massachusetts in early September (*vide* Ske), one at Kingston, RI, Sept. 10 (DK), and six in Connecticut Sept. 13–Oct. 20 (*vide* BK). Rarest of all was a **MacGillivray's Warbler**, a 4th state record, at Peabody, MA, Oct. 12–14 (m.ob., *vide* SPE). "Southern warblers" north of usual range included Yellow-throated Warbler at Marblehead, MA, Oct. 6 (*vide* SPE) and Hooded Warblers at Kingston, RI, Aug. 29, with another there Sept. 3 (DK), Wellfleet, MA, Sept. 12 (KJ), and Marblehead, MA, Oct. 6, (*vide* SPE). A host of lingering warblers included Black-throated Blue at Westport, CT, Nov. 8 (RS); Blackpoll Warbler and Am. Redstart at New Haven, CT, Nov. 18 (FM, ES), N. Waterthrush at Enfield, NH, Oct. 7 (P. Hunt); and Blackpolls at South Windsor (SKo) and Southport (CB), CT, both Oct. 21.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

Scarlet Tanagers were banded in highest numbers (44) since 1981 at V.I.N.S. Lingers were at Storrs, CT, Oct. 7 (GCI) and Northeast Harbor, ME, Oct. 20 (EM). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Storrs Oct. 31 (GCI). Only four Blue Grosbeaks were reported. An Indigo Bunting at a feeder in Ferrisburg, VT, Nov. 28–29 (LBt) was one of the latest ever. The Region's eight Dickcissel reports were sharply down from last year's 39.

Nine Clay-colored Sparrows made an average count, given the absence of e. Massachusetts reports. Four at Monhegan I., ME, Oct. 8 (WH, PL) were more than normal, even at that most reliable locality. In contrast, only three Lark Sparrows were reported in the Region, and the species was missed for the first time since 1985 at Appledore (DHm). Among the rarest but still regular western vagrants is **Lark Bunting**. A ♀-plumaged bird was at Plum I., MA, Oct. 28–31 (*vide* SPE). Other rare sparrows were Henslow's at Guilford, CT, Oct. 30 (NP); Le Conte's at Peabody, MA, Oct.

13 & 14 (*vide* SPE); four Sharp-taileds in w. Massachusetts: three at Northampton Oct. 6 (BBI), and one at Pittsfield Oct. 18 (BG); and three different forms of vagrant Dark-eyed Juncos. An "Oregon" Junco was at Turner, ME, Oct. 8 (JD), a "Pink-sided" Junco was reported from Hollis, NH, Oct. 20 (JB), and a "White-winged" Junco was seen at Norwich, VT, Nov. 15 (ETJ).

Both Fox and White-crowned sparrows are "boom-or-bust" migrants. This year they were both "bust." Swamp Sparrows were thought to be more numerous than usual. Thirty-five were at Ipswich, MA, Oct. 20 (JB). A Lapland Longspur arrived early at Fairfield, CT, Sept. 18 (CB). Snow Buntings were numerous with 633 for w. Massachusetts, and 1000 at Boston's Logan Airport Nov. 1.

The total of six Yellow-headed Blackbirds seemed slightly below average. It was not an invasion year for winter finches (although Purple Finches were up in a few locales). Inexplicably, Pine Grosbeaks, five in 2 groups, showed up in Connecticut in late October and mid-November (*vide* BK), but were apparently absent else-



Lark Bunting at Plum Island, Massachusetts, October 1990. Photograph: Peter Hunt.

where in New England. The largest, and almost only, flock of Com. Redpolls was of 50 at Hadley, MA, Nov. 5 (*vide* Ske). Pine Siskins were likewise in short supply, absent at Monhegan I., ME, for instance, in late September, when 1000 were seen last year (BN). Evening Grosbeaks were scarce, as for the last few years.

Corrigendum: The Am. White Pelican report mentioned in last autumn's report should be deleted.

Subregional compilers (bold-face) and cited observers: Richard Balerviez (RBA), Charles Barnardt, Ray Belding (RBe), Jim Berry, Louis Bevier (LBe), Bob Bleda (BBI), Andrew Brand, L.

Brinker (LBr), Joseph Broyles, Then Broyles, Paul Buckley, Lloyd Bunten (LBn), Lillian Burkett (LBt), Winnie Burkett, Byron Butler (BBu), Dwight Cargill (DCa), Gloria Carson (GCa), Larry Carrara, Don Clark (DCI), George Clark (GCI), Robert Conway, Alan & Barbara DeLorey (ABD), **Diane De Luca**, **Jody Despres**, Buzz Devine, Charles Duncan, Richard Eakin (REa), Walter Ellison, Kimball Elkins, **David Emerson**, Richard English (REn), Daniel Finizia, Shawneen Finnegan, C. J. Frankiewicz, Sam Fried, John Gallegos, Edwin Gamble, Kay Gammons, Ida Giriunas, Bob Goodrich, George Hall, Jay Hand (JHa), Ted Henderson, Jim Hinds (JHi), David Hoag (DHg), David Holmes (DHm), Wendy Howes, Peter Hunt, Richard Husk, Kyle Jones, Sally Jones, Edwin & Tish Johnson (ETJ), Jay Kaplan, **Seth Kellogg**, **Betty Kleiner**, Ken Koper, Steve Kotchko (SKo), Douglas Kraus, Richard Lavallee, Patricia Ledlie, Jerry Longcore, Flo McBride, John McDonald (JMc), Elizabeth Madeira, D. Mairs, T. Maloney, Frank Mantlick, Judy Markowsky (JMr), Nancy Martin, John Maynard (JMn), Steve Mayo (SMa), Steve Mirick (SMi), Russ Naylor, **Julie Nicholson**, Blair Nikula, William Norse, Jim Osborne, **Simon Perkins**, Wayne Petersen, Brian Pfeiffer, Leon Phinney, Margery Plymire, Steve Pollack (SPo), Frederick Pratt, Noble Proctor, F. Purnell, Robert Quinn, Chris Raithel (CRa), Don Reimer, Paulette Reimer, David & Hope Rider (DHR), Chris Rimmer (CRi), Betty Rist, Starr Saphir (SSa), Craig Scharf, Ed Shove, Jerry Skinner (JSk), Richard Soffer, Bruce Sorrie (BSo), Jeff Spendlow (JSp), George Sprague, A. Stackhouse, Michael Stenta (MSt), P. Stevick, Becky Sumner (BSu), Wally Sumner, Mark Suomala (MSu), Scott Sumner, Lewis Symynkiewicz, Mark Szantyr (MSz), **William Townsend**, Dave Tripp, **Vermont Institute of Natural Science**, Peter Vickery, Barry Wicklow, Ralph Widrig, D. Wiley, James Wright, Vera Wright, Peter Yeskie, Connie Youngstrom, Dave Ziomek.—**CHARLES D. DUNCAN**, Institute for Field Ornithology, Univ. of Maine at Machias, 9 O'Brien Avenue, Machias, ME 04654.

HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

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

The Region had one of its mildest falls on record. After a close to normal August and September, average temperatures soared in October (4° above normal in Rochester and New York City, 5° in Philadelphia) and again in November, despite some cold periods (up nearly 2° in Rochester, 3° in New York City, nearly 4° in Philadelphia). It is harder to generalize about rainfall. While the season was dry in Philadelphia and southern New Jersey, August and October were wet in northeast Pennsylvania, New York City, and upstate. August rainfall in New York City was the highest on record (12.36").

A prolonged northeaster with rain and fog August 20–25 grounded good shorebirds inland, but starved swifts and swallows at Cape May (PS). Thereafter no huge cold fronts or major storms grounded divers inland or produced the hoped-for migration rushes.

Once again migration was more exciting in October than in September, as the declines in earlier, insectivorous, tropical-wintering migrants become more obvious each fall. October 2 produced a spectacular passage of falcons and accipiters along the beaches and down the ridges. Hurricane *Lili* passed far offshore October 13, bringing shearwaters close to Montauk Point. A massive front October 26 triggered great flights of loons, Snow Geese, Oldsquaws, Red-tailed Hawks, and other late migrants, perceptible throughout the Region.

Brady witnessed an extraordinary nocturnal landbird migration at sea on October 15. Between 2:30 and 4:30 a.m., about 75 miles off Barnegat, New Jersey, he estimated about 10,000 birds passing WSW through the light cast by his boat. Most seemed to be Blackpoll Warblers (three were found



dead on board), along with Green-backed Herons (35 seen, many heard), both yellowlegs, Long-billed Dowitchers, and flocks of small shorebirds. Larger herons and shorebirds called incessantly. Curiously, no Blackpoll Warbler landfall was apparent that day at Cape May (although October 15 was indeed a big sparrow day at Cape May), or in Florida or Bermuda, as Brady ascertained from John Miller, P.W. Smith, and David Wingate. Brady's birds may have continued offshore despite their low altitude.

The very mild fall permitted many birds to linger late. Northern raptors were scarce and winter finches almost nonexistent, although there was a middling irruption of Red-breasted Nuthatches and Black-capped Chickadees. Among many rarities, Wood Sandpiper was truly historic.

Abbreviations: Bombay Hook (*Bombay Hook Nat'l Wildlife Ref.*, near Smyrna, DE); Brig (*Brigantine Unit, Edward P. Forsythe Nat'l Wildlife Ref.*, NJ); Conejohela Flats (*Susquehanna R. at Washington Boro, Lancaster Co., PA*); Derby Hill (*hawk watch at s.e. corner L. Ontario, Oswego Co., NY*); Green Lane (*Green Lane Reservoir, Montgomery Co., PA*); Hawk Mt. (*Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, near Kempton, PA*); Hook Mt. (*hawk watch n.*

of Nyack, NY); J.B.W.R. (*Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York City*); Little Creek (*Little Creek Wildlife Area, near Dover, DE*); Montclair (*hawk watch on the first Watchung ridge, Upper Montclair, NJ*); Montezuma (*Montezuma Nat'l Wildlife Ref., at the n. end of L. Cayuga, NY*); Raccoon Ridge (*Kittatinny ridge near Millbrook, NJ*). Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO PELICANS

An above-average 25,836 Red-throated Loons passed the seawatch at Avalon, *Cape May, NJ*, during the season (DWa), but only a few were downed in interior New Jersey and Pennsylvania (RMS, GHa, J. Shoemaker, J. Hoyson). By contrast, Com. Loons are abundant overland migrants. The inland hawk watch totals we learned of (e.g., 210 at Hawk Mt.) were exceeded in the 1970s by single-day counts, so it would be interesting to have long-term comparisons. The only Eared Grebe was at Fort Niagara S.P. Nov. 18–23 (RA, WD'A *et al.*).

The unpredictability of shearwater numbers on any one day offshore was illustrated by trips out of Montauk, L.I., aboard the "Okeanos," where 190 Cory's Shearwaters were seen Aug. 18, but only two the following day. One hundred Greater Shearwaters were

counted September 10, but only two Sept. 14. Tubenoses are rarely seen from shore in fall, but 100+ Cory's, three Greater, and three Manx Shearwaters at Montauk Pt., L.I., Oct. 13 reflected the passage of Hurricane *Lili* far offshore (RJK, AJL, ABa). The most remarkable pelagic reports of the season came from Carteret Canyon, 80 mi off New Jersey, aboard the "Miss Barnegat Light" Sept. 10, where, among a normal 45 Cory's and 75 Greater shearwaters, Brady found an exceptional seven Audubon's Shearwaters, and photographed a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel in a warm blue-water Gulf Stream eddy (over 73°). Documentation by this photo would provide a New Jersey first.

The first **Brown Booby** observations in 10 years were at Sandy Hook, NJ, Sept. 26 (†M. Kuhnen) and at Jones Beach S.P., L.I., Oct. 4 (ML), perhaps the same bird. At least two N. Gannets were in L. Ontario in November (KCG, RP, W. Listman), where they are less than annual. Coastally, they were abundant closer to shore than usual. At least 5000 were in easy view at Montauk Pt., L.I., in mid-November, and 18 penetrated as far west in Long Island Sound as *Westchester*, NY, Nov. 10–11 (TWB). Ward counted 21,581 passing Avalon, NJ, during the season, with nearly 8000 Nov. 19–20 (DWA).

An **American White Pelican** remained at Montezuma Sept. 28–Oct. 3 (G. Hartenstein, m.ob.). Summer's Brown Pelicans petered out early with the final six at Moriches Bay, L.I., Aug. 13 (ABa), and similar groups in New Jersey and Delaware diminishing to a final three at Barnegat, NJ, Oct. 28 (RD).

CORMORANTS TO WATERFOWL

Great Cormorants are highly maritime, but may be beginning to follow the Double-crested Cormorant explosion inland. One at Little Swartwood L. and up to four through November at Swartwood L. (J. Lesko, FT, J. Zamos) were firsts for *Sussex*, NJ. Nearer the coast, several were at lakes in *Middlesex*, NJ, the maximum being three at Johnson Park Oct. 8 (TBa). Of course careful identification is needed for the variable imma-

tures. For Double-crested Cormorants, sporadic inland a decade ago, we received a dozen reports of 100+ per day at several concentration points on L. Ontario, and in migration along the ridges and down the Susquehanna. Ward's seawatch at Avalon tallied 73,792 during the season (DWA).

A totally unexpected **Magnificent Frigatebird** over Derby Hill Sept. 23 (S. Adair, R. Knight, B. Purcell, MRu, † to NYSARC) would provide the first upstate New York record. Only two imm. White Ibises were reported this fall. One at Wildwood Crest, *Cape May*, NJ, Aug. 7 (PHo) was normal, but one was remarkable in N. Collins Twp., *Erie*, NY, on the very late date of Nov. 6–7 (L. Holmes, RA, WD'A *et al.*). Small groups of *Plegadis*, some certainly Glossy Ibises and the others believed so, lingered late on the Great Lakes, three at Buffalo Nov. 10–19 (J. Wojewodski, m.ob.), and three to six into December at Beatty Pt., *Monroe*.

A single Fulvous Whistling-Duck at Pelham Bay Park after Nov. 12 was found dead Nov. 16 (ph. PR). As is now normal, a Ross' Goose or two could be found among the Snows at Brig (J. & D. Clark, RD) and Bombay Hook (APE) in November.

Only a few Eur. Wigeon were reported from the coast, perhaps because they are now taken for granted. Four inland, however, were above normal: in New York at Buffalo (Roberson), Saratoga L. (M. & S. Zink), and Coeymans, *Albany* (RG), and in s. *Lancaster*, PA (RMS), all singles.

Culver's L., *Sussex*, NJ, draws its traditional sea ducks even in the absence of major storm groundings. Fifty Oldsquaw there Nov. 13 set a state inland record (FT), and 80 Black Scoters there Oct. 31 (FT), far below historic peaks, was nevertheless the biggest inland concentration of the Region. Ward counted 151,532 scoters passing Avalon, NJ, during the season: 60.9% Surf, 37.2% Black, and 1.9% White-winged (most of which winter farther north). The biggest day was Oct. 21, with 30,000.

RAPTORS

(Data from Cape May were furnished by Brett Ewald; Fire Is-

land and Hook Mt. by Drew Panko; Hawk Mt. by Laurie Goodrich; Militia Hill, Philadelphia, by Marylea Klaunder; Montclair by Else Greenstone; and Raccoon Ridge by Tom Laura.)

Black Vultures explored no farther than Jones Beach S.P., L.I., Sept. 3 (AW), and Rye, NY, Nov. 3 (L. Brinker). The twos and threes reported in *Orange* (*vide* JPT) are now normal. The seasonal total of 30 at Hawk Mt. was about double the 10-year average. Osprey revival was more apparent inland than on the coast, perhaps because the migration was dispersed in calm weather. They broke their all-time record at Hawk Mt. with 873 for the season, and 820 rated 3rd highest at Montclair.

Eagles and falcons stood out this fall. Record numbers of Bald Eagles passed the hawk watches at Raccoon Ridge (103) and Cape May (61), while Montclair's 27 tied the record set in 1987 (EG). By contrast, N. Harrier numbers crashed at all hawk watches.

Red-shouldered Hawk figures were faintly encouraging. Raccoon's 291 constituted a record seasonal total, while 105 at Montclair Oct. 27 set a one-day record. Calm weather dispersed the Broad-winged Hawk migration once again, over the period Sept. 11–22. On Sept. 17, a cold front concentrated kettles along the n. shore of Long Island Sound. About 15,000 Broad-winged Hawks passed over Rye and Pelham Bay that day (PR), as well as 8232 over Montclair. This same movement seems to have reached Militia Hill (on the outskirts of Philadelphia) Sept. 20, when 3415 Broad-wingeds passed over, a record day at that new hawk watch. Kettles were still in Delaware as late as Sept. 25 (E. & S. Speck).

More Swainson's Hawks were reported than usual. The photo of one of two at Second Mountain, *Lebanon*, PA, is under study by the state records committee. Sight records without details were of one dark-morph at Hawk Mt. Sept. 12; a light-morph from Emmaus, *Lehigh*, PA, Sept. 21 (J. Horn); one at Heislerville, *Cumberland*, NJ, Nov. 9 (CS); but only one at Cape May, Oct. 24–25. The biggest Red-tailed Hawk passage

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Sharp-shinned Hawk passage, as measured at the hawk watches, held about steady at the levels of the past several years—that is, well below the surge of the late 1970s and early 1980s, especially on the coast. Ridge counts have dropped much less than coastal counts, however, substantially altering the ratio. Coastal hawk watch totals in the boom years were two to five times the ridge totals; now they are more nearly equal (8127 this year at Hawk Mt., about 30% below the 1977 peak, and 12,487 at Cape May, nearly 80% below the 1987 peak). Although the absence of cold fronts may explain why the Long Island beach counts were the lowest in 6 years, a real decline has occurred, and not merely a redeployment of migration inland. Nevertheless the 1395 that passed the Cape May hawk watch on Oct. 2—a big day for falcons as well—was exciting enough. Cooper's Hawks set records at Mt. Peter, *Orange*, NY (118), and at Montclair (90), and Raccoon's 517 were impressive. Northern Goshawks were slightly above average, but there was no invasion.

in many places this season came Oct. 26. That day 361 passed Hawk Mt., and an amazing 710 passed the I-84 overlook above Port Jervis, NY (N. Curry). Rough-legged Hawks were generally scarce except in far upstate New York.

Golden Eagles were too widespread to enumerate. Big ridge passages came Oct. 26, with eight at Hawk Mt. (well below Regional records); seasonal totals of 72 at Raccoon and 21 at Cape May were the highest ever.

American Kestrels, which have been declining as coastal migrants, did well on the ridges (930 at Hook Mt. and 887 at Raccoon were all-time records). After building up massively for the last decade, Merlin numbers exploded along the n.w. Jersey and Pennsylvania ridges. This fall they set all-time records at Mt. Peter, *Orange*, NY (30) and Montclair (152, nearly 3 times the previous record, set in 1989), and Raccoon (202), and came close to last year's record at Hawk Mt. with 144. Coastal

passage was slightly down. Nevertheless, the great flight of Oct. 2 brought a single-day record 224 past Fire Island and 159 to Cape May. One roosted on building ledges in downtown Syracuse, NY, in late November. Is yet another falcon adapting to urban cliffs?

Peregrine Falcons had a banner fall. On Oct. 2, an amazing 104 Peregrines passed Cape May, and 49 exceeded the one-day record at Fire Island Light. Cape May's 818 and Raccoon's 50 were seasonal records, while Montclair's 52 was more than three times the previous total. The only **Gyrfalcon**, a dark gray immature, came down Raccoon Ridge Oct. 6.

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS

A Yellow Rail was convincingly described from Cedar Beach Oct. 27 during a storm tide (†R. Grover). A King Rail was rare at Octoraro Res., Lancaster, Nov. 2 (NT), and a Sora good at Beltsville L., Carbon, Oct. 6 (RZ). Two Purple Gallinules in New Jersey were surprising, since most arrive in late spring. An immature was at Sandy Hook, Monmouth, Sept. 30–Oct. 13 (D. Branford *et al.*), and one found disoriented in Wayne, Passaic, was released in proper habitat Oct. 17 (G. Schultze).

Two Sandhill Cranes passed over Ballston Spa, Saratoga, NY, Oct. 11 (RG), while singles were at the Cape May hawk watch Oct. 16 (m.ob.) & 26–27 (BE, A. Humann).

Late August rains drowned shorebirding at inland lakes like Green Lane, but brought spectacular numbers to flooded fields and rain pools. The Susquehanna was low at the Conejohela Flats, which had 24 species of shorebird during the season. August 25–26 was particularly good there after a week of rain and fog, coinciding with the peak of adult shorebird movement, grounded such species unusual inland as a Ruddy Turnstone and five Sanderlings. The best shorebirding sites elsewhere were managed wetlands whose managers lowered the water level, such as Montezuma, Raymond Pool at Bombay Hook, and the east pond at J.B.W.R. When L. Struble, Chester, PA, was lowered, 20 spe-

S.A.

Burke displayed first-class field skills when he observed a puzzling *Tringa* at Rye, NY, Oct. 31. Determining by plumage and calls that it was a **Wood Sandpiper**, he spread the word at once on the NYRBA, producing a stampede of twitchers and a front-page article in the *New York Times*. The only previous North American record outside Alaska makes an even stranger story. The specimen, collected Oct. 10, 1907, at Gaines, Orleans, NY, lay mislabeled as a Solitary Sandpiper in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at Berkeley until the error was detected in 1980 (AB 34:231). Another was taken in Barbados in October 1955, and there is a possible Louisiana record (AB 31:139). Since Wood Sandpipers occur regularly in w. Alaska and have even bred there, they may reach us from the west more often than these records indicate, overlooked because of their superficial resemblance to Solitary Sandpiper. The Rye bird was last seen Nov. 5.

cies of shorebirds touched down, including Lesser Golden-Plover, Sanderling, and Baird's Sandpiper (JPa).

Brig was superb at long last because, after 15 years of high water for ducks, the ponds were drained to kill botulism. It was best Aug. 20, battered by northeast wind and rain that forced migrants in off the ocean, when Brady counted 26 Hudsonian Godwits and 700+ Stilt Sandpipers among many other shorebirds, as well as rails and sparrows forced out of the marsh by high tides. "Most birds I've ever seen there" (ABr).

Careful census of age classes at J.B.W.R. showed that adults peaked above average on the east pond Aug. 10, at 5400+, but juveniles were below average after 2 big years (AM, D. Mizrahi).

Lesser Golden-Plovers reached only modest numbers along the coast, perhaps because few coastal storms interrupted these long-distance migrants. The maximum Long Island count was a meager 70 Sept. 12 at Cutchogue (AD, PG), but they were scarce in coastal New Jersey and Delaware. Some must follow the Susquehanna and Delaware river systems, for they built up to 60 on

the Conejohela Flats by Sept. 29, and to 30 in the Mannington marsh area, Salem, NJ, in late August and early September (WD, F. Windfelder). The best Great Lakes count was of 40 at Tyre, Monroe, NY, Sept. 23 (CC, W. Miller).

Black-necked Stilts reached their highest number yet at Bombay Hook: 157 Aug. 1 (NH). They were not reported elsewhere. American Avocets peaked there at 441 Aug. 24 (NH), and wandered only sparingly: one s. to Broadkill Beach, DE, Oct. 9–11, Frech's first there, and other singles n. to Brig Oct. 5 (P. Plage), and Long Island (Cedar Beach Aug. 12 [ML] and Jones Beach S.P. Nov. 8 [J. Fritz]).

Hudsonian Godwits had a banner season on the coast, especially at Bombay Hook where they were present virtually daily Aug. 2–Oct. 14, with a maximum of 33 Aug. 21 (NH). A few lingered as late as Nov. 18 (APE). Two were at Montezuma, NY, our only inland report. Marbled Godwits remain far below their 1970s level. The only multiple counts came from Long Island: two in Shinnecock Inlet on widely scattered dates (PG, JJR), and four at J.B.W.R. in late August (NYRBA).

White-rumped Sandpipers reached record numbers on Long Island in late August. Lauro estimated 1000+ along Jones Beach Aug. 30 (AJL), especially in the Cedar Beach rain pools. Another exceptional count was of 294 at Brig Aug. 21 (PHo). They were comparatively scarce, curiously, at Bombay Hook (NH). Baird's Sandpipers did not match last fall's record numbers at Cedar Beach, but a few were widely reported throughout the Region. The best counts, this time, came from the vicinity of the Great Lakes: at least five at Montezuma in late September (CM, JW, CC) and four at Charlotte, Monroe, NY, Aug. 24 (CC).

Three single Curlew Sandpipers were along the coast from Long Island to Bombay Hook, with three more in the Little Creek area Aug. 12 (E. Boyle, J. Stasi). In addition to the Stilt Sandpipers at Brig mentioned above, 800 were at Bombay Hook Aug. 9 (NH), possibly a Regional record. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were in low numbers once again. The Cutchogue sod

farms, L.I., had a peak of 11 Sept. 25 (AD, PG). That was the only double-digit count, although handfuls were at the Warren turf farms, Orange, NY, Sept. 8 (JPT), the Columbus sod farms, NJ, Aug. 25–26 (E. Bruder), and Mannington Marsh, Salem, NJ, Sept. 5 (JKM, SF, WD), and a few singles along the Great Lakes (WW, Rising, PdeB). Ruffs went unreported, for the first fall in recent years.

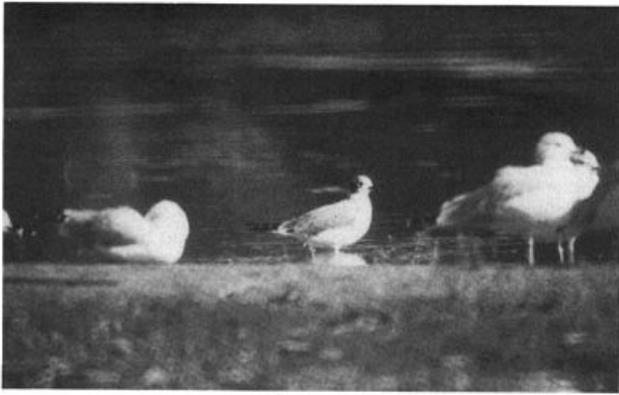
Returning ad. dowitchers are numerous in August. A sharp difference of opinion has arisen in our Region between those who find up to several hundred Long-billed Dowitchers among them, and others who find only Short-billeds in August, including pink-bellied *hendersoni* that might be taken for Long-billed. We invite comment (see an August photo, AB 43:73).

The Wilson's Phalarope bonanza at Bombay Hook continued until Oct. 8, with peak counts of 35 Aug. 4 (MO'B) and 39 Aug. 7 (NH). Inland, singles were at Green Lane Sept. 2–4 (GLF, KCr) and Lumberton, Burlington, NJ, Aug. 16 & 27 (WD), and a good seven were at Montezuma Sept. 23 (CM). The best place for Red-necked Phalaropes ashore was Montezuma, where several in September peaked at six to eight Sept. 18 (CC, MR). There were no large groundings of Red Phalaropes, only a couple of straggling singles: Boonton Res., Morris, NJ, for a week after Sept. 1 (T. Halliwell), and Holtwood Dam Oct. 24 (JB, RMS, B. Haas *et al.*), for the 3rd Lancaster, PA, record.

GULLS, TERNS

The best gull of the season was the first-winter Franklin's Gull studied and photographed at the Conejohela Flats Oct. 6–7 (T. Garner, †ph. EW *et al.*). It may have been the same one seen briefly Sept. 15 (JB, RMS). This makes the 2nd (and perhaps 3rd) Lancaster record. Up to four Franklin's Gulls were on the Niagara R. in November, and an adult at Sandy Pond, Oswego, Oct. 6 (MRu) was the first in that area for 3 years.

It was a good gull season on the Niagara. Twelve species were found there Nov. 25, including Franklin's, Little, Com.



First-winter Franklin's Gull at the Conejohela Flats, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, on October 7, 1990. Photograph/Eric Witmer.

Black-headed, Iceland, Thayer's, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous gulls, and Black-legged Kittiwake (WD'A *et al.*).

Up to seven Little Gulls were in the Niagara R. Nov. 1 (RP), and we know of at least seven more along L. Ontario and the St. Lawrence R., but only a few were found down the coast. Common Black-headed Gulls were reported from Brig, Cape May, and two in Delaware (APE). The Bonaparte's Gull concentration in the Niagara R. was estimated Nov. 17 at 30,000 (JW). Lesser Black-backed Gulls are being taken for granted on the coast, so our half-dozen reports there are certainly incomplete. Inland reports increase steadily. This season brought a half dozen from interior New Jersey (Johnson Park, Cooper R., Dayton), and five from upstate New York (two at Saratoga L., Nov. 24–27 [F. Murphy], two at Stewart Park, Ithaca, in September [JW], and one or possibly two at Montezuma through the season). One was also at Irondequoit Bay Sept. 30 (†M.A. Sunderlin), in addition to several in the Niagara R.

Something scattered Sabine's Gulls all over this Region. In addition to the few expected in the Buffalo/Niagara region from Oct. 2 on, single immatures were at Dunkirk Harbor Oct. 28 (T. Mahoney *et al.*), the 2nd for *Chautauqua*, NY; Irondequoit Bay, *Monroe*, NY, Sept. 14–15 (MR, †W. Klockner, RGS, m.ob.); Derby Hill Sept. 15; the St. Lawrence R. at the Robert Moses Dam Oct. 23 (B. Di-Labio); a 2nd-year bird at Avon-by-the-Sea, *Monmouth*, NJ, on the remarkable date of Aug. 1 (ph P. Misseldine); and Avalon,

Cape May, NJ, Oct. 31 (DWA). An adult and an immature were in w. Long Island Sound off Rye in a storm Sept. 22 (TWB, B. Weissman, S. Lincoln).

Arctic Terns were reported only far at sea: two 31 mi off New Jersey Aug. 27 (RK), and three at Carteret Canyon, off Barnegat, NJ, Sept. 10 (ABr). Six Forster's Terns on the upper Susquehanna at W. Pittston, *Luzerne*, PA, Oct. 18–19 (P. Sidari, WR) were unprecedented in 40 years' experience; we presume they came from the Great Lakes population. Never have Black Terns been so scarce. It is true that many move south far at sea, but we learned of no count larger than three.

This fall's reports offered no hint of the great alcid winter to come, except one Dovekie convincingly described by duck-hunting guides at Dunkirk Harbor on L. Ontario, where rare, Nov. 8 (M. & D. Rosing, *vide* TDM).

OWLS TO WOODPECKERS

Only a few Snowy Owls appeared in upstate New York and as far south as e. Long Island and Barnegat Light, NJ, Nov. 15 (B. Wargo). The owl banders at Cape May set a one-night record of 34 N. Saw-whet Owls Oct. 24, and then surpassed it with 47 on Nov. 8 (K. Duffy). A Saw-whet in rhododendrons at Mt. Cuba, *New Castle*, DE, Nov. 28 (W. Wayne) was a classy find.

A flight of 1500 Com. Night-hawks over Butler Sanctuary, *Westchester*, NY, Aug. 22 was almost like the good old days. We received a half-dozen other reports of 100+ migrant flocks, the largest being 250, late, over

Montclair, NJ, Sept. 27. A record late ♀ Whip-poor-will was banded at Alfred, *Allegany*, NY, Oct. 19–21 (EB), and another was picked up Oct. 22 in *Chester*, PA, and turned over to Tristate Bird Rescue and Research in Newark, DE (R. West).

Only 55 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were counted passing Hawk Mt. (LG), about half of recent totals. Red-headed Woodpecker reports were up in a way that defies pattern. More came down the coast than last fall, with six at Fire Island Oct. 2 (RJK) and four there Oct. 7 (KF); 21 passed Hawk Mt., the best count in years (LG). Red-bellied Woodpeckers are also becoming beach migrants on Long Island (*e.g.*, Oct. 31, Jones Beach—KF) as their range expands northward.

FLYCATCHERS TO SHRIKES

A *Say's Phoebe* at Island Beach S.P., NJ, Oct. 14 (G. Wenzelburger) was the first in New Jersey since 1977, and about the 8th ever, all in fall. Western Kingbirds reached Long Island in modest numbers (half dozen or so) and Cape May in good numbers (around 20, maximum five Nov. 6). Increasing inland reports suggest they may straggle across the continent instead of following the coast NE in fall. Singles turned up this fall at Mt. Peter, NY, Oct. 15 (Mearns Bird Club); Rye, NY, Nov. 3 (S. Lincoln); Seemsville, *Northampton*, PA, Sept. 14 (R. Wiltraut), a first for the Allentown area; Nottingham Park, *Chester*, PA, Sept. 13 (W. Barber); and Tinicum N.R.A., near Philadelphia, Sept. 15 (†S. Sherman). The season's only Scissor-tailed Flycatcher appeared briefly at Medford, *Burlington*, NJ, Oct. 17 (WD).

Twenty Purple Martins were found dead at Cape May Aug. 23, after being starved by a northeaster. Two Purple Martins Oct. 11 at Island Cottage, *Monroe*, NY (P. Spindler), were record late. Six thousand Purple Martins gathered at the Niagara R. Sept. 23 (WW). Belying our summer reports of nesting failures, Tree Swallows staged their "best migration in 15 years" on L.I., where 15,000 were at Cedar Beach Sept. 20 (KF) A

S.A.

For the 2nd fall in a row, this Region had a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher**. An adult, probably of the race breeding in s. South America, was found in Hamlin, *Monroe*, NY, near the Lake Erie shore, Oct. 7 (RMT), although local residents had noticed it days before. It was last seen Oct. 16, after drawing multitudes. This was the 5th state record (about the 14th Regionally), and the first away from the coast. It followed the historic pattern by occurring in fall, but the vast majority of previous records have been coastal.

count of 6000–7000 at Buck Pond, *Monroe*, NY, Sept. 18 (F. Dobson) was considered a bit low (RGS). "Sensational numbers" of Bank Swallows, estimated at over 5000, were at the Conejohela Flats Aug. 25 (T. Garner, EWi), and 10,000 were at the -traditional Bainbridge, *Lancaster*, PA, area Sept. 6 (L. Coble).

A frayed, possibly-captive, **Black-billed Magpie** was found dead at JFK airport, New York City, Nov. 6 (S. Chevalier), and another, apparently wild, was at Montauk Point S.P., L.I., from Nov. 17 into December (R. Stanford *et al.*). It fed on a deer carcass. Black-capped Chickadees staged a fair-sized invasion all the way to the outer beaches of Long Island (ROP), Philadelphia (J. Ginaven), and Delaware (APE). Brooks banded 112 at Kaiser-Manitou, *Monroe*, NY, in October, with a maximum of 62 on Oct. 30 (EB), and 45 were at Green Lane Oct. 27 (GLF). A 2nd weak Red-breasted Nuthatch invasion in a row reached all the way to Delaware. Brown-headed Nuthatches are now "all over the Rehoboth-Bethany area" of Delaware, and are visiting feeders in Ocean View (APE).

Carolina Wrens are now "ubiquitous" in *Orange*, NY, after a 5-year upswing (JPT) and "all over" *Dutchess*, NY (RTWBC). Two at Canton, *St. Lawrence*, in late November (B. Kirby) were near their northern limit. Up to five Sedge Wrens occupied wild millet at Sheariness Pool, Bombay Hook, in August (NH, ph. MO'B, APE, m ob), and singles were in up-



This Sedge Wren was photographed August 4, 1990, at Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Delaware, where several individuals were present in August. Photograph/Michael O'Brien.

state New York near Rochester (RGS) and near Ithaca, (†JW, †CM) and in New Jersey at Rifle Camp Park, *Passaic*, Oct. 11 (P. Borh). Several, as is now annual, were around Cape May. The Rochester bird was recorded late on Oct. 14.

The only **Northern Wheat-ear** was at North River, *Warren*, NY, on the upper Hudson, Sept. 24 (RMt, *fide* L. Meade). All thrushes were very scarce, especially Swainson's Thrush. A ♂ **Mountain Bluebird** delighted a New York Audubon field trip to Jones Beach S.P., L.I., Oct. 20 (†R. Machover, S. Saphir), for the 2nd New York



Sage Thrasher at Spring Lake, New Jersey, on October 30, 1990. Second state record. Photograph/Jerry Golub.

record this year. A **Sage Thrasher**, New Jersey's 2nd and the first in this Region since 1985, was at Spring L., *Monmouth*, Oct. 30 (ph. J. Golub).

A few **Bohemian Waxwings** were near L. Ontario in *Oswego*, NY, after mid-September, but none elsewhere. Northern Shrikes began an invasion. There were 10 reports in the Buffalo area (*fide* RA), and good numbers around Rochester after late October (*fide* RGS). Records thinned out farther south, but a half dozen singles reached coastal New York and n. New Jersey in late November, the southernmost in *Mercer* Nov. 25 (J. Bickel). Loggerhead Shrikes were scarcer. We heard of only seven, typically concentrated near the coast in late August and early September. Not fitting that pattern were one inland near Goshen, NY, Aug. 31 (JPT) and one late at Cedar Beach, L.I., Nov. 3 (TWB, L. Bevier, L. Brinker).

VIREOS, WARBLERS

A Red-eyed Vireo was found more than 2 weeks after the previous late record near Allentown, PA, Nov. 6 (S. Farbotnik). The "dismaying scarcity" (NT) of warblers is perhaps best summed up by the situation at Cape May: "a bad day in August and September once featured a dozen warblers. That is now a good day, with bad days having warblers nonexistent" (PBa).

A few successful species seem to be making up more of the warbler total. A thousand Yellow-rumped Warblers per minute, totalling 100,000, were estimated crossing the dyke at Higbee's Beach, Cape May, after a front Oct. 16 (F. Mears). At a banding station in Alfred, *Allegany*, NY, Yellow-rumped Warblers made up only 9% of the total; 21% were Yellowthroats, and a surprising 26% were Magnolia Warblers (EB). Other successful species, reflected by counts Aug. 15 (PHo, PK) at Higbee's Beach, Cape May: Yellow Warblers (100), N. Waterthrush (25 waterthrushes of both species) and Am. Redstart (250). Some other striking concentrations occurred in rem-nant tracts surrounded by urban development Thirty Black-throated

Green Warblers were in a favored tract of riverside willows at Palmyra, *Burlington*, NJ, Sept. 16 (SF), and 100 N. Parulas—surprisingly, for a species thought to be doing badly—at Cooper R., *Camden*, NJ, Sept. 23 (T. Wilson).

Among rarities, a "Lawrence's" Warbler was at Higbee's Aug. 18 (B. & S. Master). An **Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler** was at Greece, *Monroe*, NY, Oct. 3 (F. Dobson); this form is not quite annual in this Region. A **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was studied at the Cape May hawk watch Oct. 16 (†BE, E. Mitchell), and another reported at Tuckerton, NJ, Sept. 30 (†B. Conn). New Jersey records now approach 20.

Among southerly species, Yellow-throated Warblers were beyond breeding range at Heathcote Park, *Middlesex*, NJ, Aug. 31 (T. Ostrand) and at Jones Beach S.P., L.I., Sept. 8-9 (AJL). A Prothonotary Warbler was remarkably far north at Pt. Gratiot, *Chautauqua*, NY, Aug. 14 (WD'A). Among many lingerers, a Worm-eating Warbler Nov. 28 at Cape May (DSi) and a Wilson's Warbler Nov. 7 at Colonie, *Albany*, NY (RG), were outstanding.

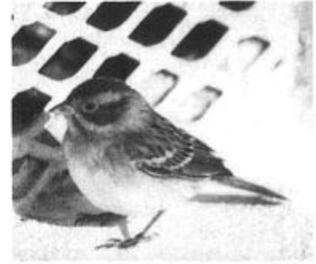
TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A flurry of **Western Tanagers** included one at the same Russian Olive grove as 2 years ago at Robert Moses S.P., L.I., Nov.



Western Tanager at Robert Moses State Park, New York, on November 11, 1990. Photograph/Ken Feustel.

9-12 (ph. K. Fuestal, m.ob.), a male that lived on sap in Central Park, N.Y.C., after Nov. 25 (P. Mora) and was eventually found dead (*A M N H), and



Alan Brady's popular boat trips off New Jersey have turned up many a rare seabird, but more unexpected was a rare landbird: this Clay-colored Sparrow came aboard some 78 miles offshore on October 15, 1990. Photograph/Alan Brady.

another at Barnegat Light, NJ, Nov. 26 (M. Hannissian).

Only about eight Dickcissels were noted over the hawk watch at Cape May. Clay-colored Sparrows were below par on the coast (only about six at Cape May), but one at Mad Horse W.M.A., *Salem*, Nov. 23 (WD, TBa) was a first for s.w. New Jersey. One was 80 mi off Barnegat, NJ, Oct. 15 (ph. ABr).

There was a huge sparrow migration along the s. shore of L. Ontario near Rochester in October (RGS), and some waves at Cape May, as on Oct. 15, but little on Long Island. Over 300 Savannah Sparrows were in soybean fields in *Salem*, NJ, Oct. 13 (JKM, WD, SF). Up to six Sharp-tailed Sparrows Oct. 6-7 set a record at the now regular Beatty Pt. site near Rochester (M. Davids, KCG, RGS, CC *et al.*). A **Harris' Sparrow** delighted numerous observers at Jones Beach S.P., L.I., Oct. 30 (M. Bayer). An ad. Dark-eyed Junco of the Gray-headed race was very carefully described at Hamlin Beach S.P., *Monroe*, NY, Nov. 24 (†D. Sheron).

The only Yellow-headed Blackbirds reported were one near Riverhead, L.I., Oct. 31 (ABa), two singles briefly at Cape May, and two ad. males in *Salem*, NJ, Nov. 28 (JKM, WD, E. Manners, J. Danzenbaker). Three Brewer's Blackbirds were reported from Easton, PA, Nov. 14 (A. Koch), and one from Cape May Nov. 29 (JDo).

Once again it was not a winter finch year. A few White-winged Crossbills were in the Adirondacks in November (VP, GHu), and there were curious pockets of Red Crossbills on e. Long Island (PG, RJK) and along the shore of L. Ontario between Buffalo and Rochester (Chilton,

M. Lanzone). Pine Siskins moved in fair numbers as far as Delaware, but Evening Grosbeaks remained very scarce again.

EXOTICS

Monk Parakeets were nesting in Brooklyn, New York City (AJL) and hung around Liberty S.P., Jersey City, NJ (G. Wald), as did a Budgerigar in September. A Black-hooded Parakeet was at Irondequoit Bay, near Rochester, Sept. 14. A Eur. Goldfinch was at Lyons, *Somerset*, NY Aug. 5 (SSo).

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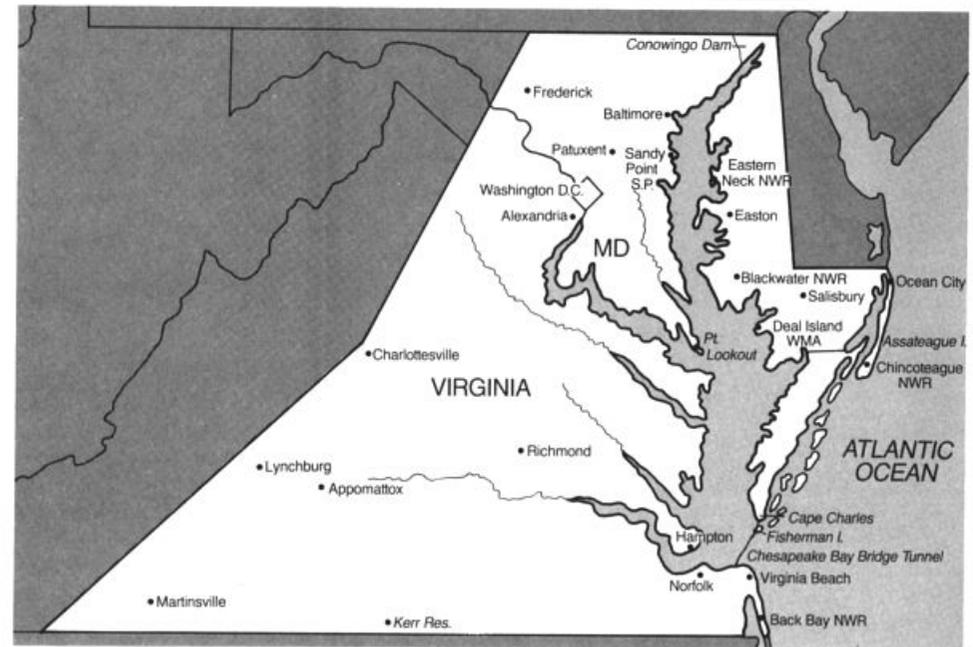
bethtown, NY 12932), Vivian Pitzrick, R. Planck, Betsy Potter, **William Reid** (n.e. PA: 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702), Martha Reinhardt, Rochester Birding Association, Paul Rodewald, J.J. Ruscia, Margaret Rusk (MRu), Steve Santner, **Sy Schiff** (Long Island: 603 Mead Terrace, S. Hempstead, NY 11550), R.M. Schutsky, **R.G. Spahn** (Genesee Ornithological Society), Keith Seager, Dave Sibley (DSi), Steve Sobocinski (SSo), Clay & Pat Sutton, J.F. Swertinski, Fred Tetlow, Neal Thorpe, **J.P. Tramontano** (*Orange and Sullivan*, NY: Orange Co. Community College, Middletown, NY 10940), Ed Treacy, Dave Ward (DWa), R.T. Waterman Bird Club, *Dutchess*, NY), William Watson, Jeff Wells, Eric Wimmer, **Al Wollin** (Long Island: 4 Meadow Lane, Rockville Center, NY 11570), Richard ZainEldeen.—**ROBERT O. PAXTON**, 460 Riverside Dr., Apt. 72, New York, NY 10027, **WILLIAM J. BOYLE, JR.**, 12 Glenwood Road, Denville, NJ 07834, and **DAVID A. CUTLER**, 1110 Rock Creek Dr., Wyncote, PA 19095.

MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

Henry T. Armistead

This was a very mild fall, resulting in a somewhat higher number of lingering birds. In spite of the immense problems waterfowl face, this Region continued to furnish some remarkable totals. A lack of strong cold fronts made the passerine migration disappointing. Observer coverage was excellent with several active major banding stations, continued intensive activity in Washington, and increased field work on Assateague Island. A total of 381 pages of reports were received and 315 species seen in the Region this season.

Abbreviations: Adventure (*Adventure Sanctuary, Potomac, 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 (*banding site at Tolch-*



ester Beach, MD); D.C. (*Washington, D.C.*); E.S.V.N.W.R. (*Eastern Shore of Virginia Nat'l Wildlife Ref.*); Fish. I. (*Fisherman Island Nat'l Wildlife Ref., VA*); Hart (*Hart & Miller islands, in the Bay e. of Baltimore*); Kiptopeke (*banding and observation point in Cape Charles area, VA*); S.P.S.P. (*Sandy Point State Park, near Annapolis, MD*). Place names in *italics* are counties; dates in *italics* indicate birds were banded.

LOONS TO IBISES

Optimal counts of loons included 4000 Red-throats at Assateague I./Ocean City Nov. 27 (MO, GG) and 913 at Chinc, Nov. 23 (DC). Spitzer's investigations of cooperative feeding of "fish-divers" yielded impressive totals of Com. Loons in tidal areas of the Bay, such as 1032 in Eastern Bay, MD, Nov. 7, 776 on the lower Choptank R., MD, Nov. 15 (with one flock of 700+, his

largest ever), 1093 on the lower Potomac R., MD, Nov. 16, from Piney Pt. to St. Clements I. (with a flock of 600+), 1107 on the Bay off New Pt. Comfort, VA, Dec. 2, and in the same area 1000+ Dec. 7. These counts were conducted from small boats in periods of 3 hours or less.

Pied-billed Grebe maxima were 51 at their Regional stronghold at Deal I. W.M.A., MD, Aug. 15 by Dyke with 50 there Oct. 31, 51 in D.C. Oct. 13 in Potomac areas with

the exotic water plant *Hydrilla* (DC), and 29 at Loch Raven Res. n. of Baltimore Nov. 22 (SWS). Horned Grebes continued to be alarmingly scarce with no totals received any higher than Hoffman's 21 at Assateague I. Oct. 27! This season's fancy grebe was an Eared seen by many at Chinc. Sept. 30–Oct. 24 (SHD, EMW, C & MH).

Some 45 Cory's Shearwaters were off Ocean City as late as Oct. 6 (MO, HLW). Best N. Gannet figures were 2500 off Ocean City / Assateague I. Nov. 27 (MO, GG) with two there as early as Sept. 16 (MO). An Am. White Pelican was at Chinc. throughout the period (JMA, JFF, TB, EMW, m.ob.). It has been exceptional *not* to see one there during most of the 1980s, but this could change any time. Brown Pelicans continued to manifest a robust presence following successful breeding, with near record counts of 150 at Assateague I., MD, Sept. 16 (MO, EB), 125 at Ocean City Aug. 11 (MO, LMD), 560 at Wallops I., VA, Sept. 21 (CRV), 330 at Kiptopeke Sept. 2 (GLA, HTA) and 125 at Fish. I. Oct. 6 (HTA). Small numbers lingered in both states to the end of the period. However, they are still remarkable anywhere in the Bay n. of the MD/VA border, especially one as far up as Baltimore Aug. 11 (J & KF). At C.B.B.T., seven Great Cormorants were seen as early as Sept. 29 (SHD).

Best bitterns were four Americans at Deal I. Nov. 17 (C & ES) and six Least at Hog I. on the upper Choptank R., MD, Sept. 12 (MO). Interesting heron records included highs of 94 Great Blues in D.C. Oct. 13 (DC), 43 Great Egrets far in the Piedmont interior at Staunton River S.P. Aug. 26 (JCB), and 200 Cattle Egrets at Kiptopeke Sept. 2 (HTA, GLA) plus a late one at Blackwater Nov. 11 (NM), and 85 Black-crowned Night-Herons at Deal I. Nov. 26 (MO, GG) in company with six late Glossy Ibises. The only White Ibises were singles at Chinc. Aug. 12–19 (SHD) and at Summit Hall Tuft Farm, MD, Sept. 8 (EBR). Exotic was a Greater Flamingo seen over *Gloucesteras* well as at Rigby I. in *Mathews*, VA, Nov. 19–23 (MH).

WATERFOWL

Even though the growth of *Hydrilla* was quite good in the waters of the greater D.C. area, waterfowl there were late and in low supply (VK, DC). In Maryland (except at Hart) most waterfowl were likewise (RFR). However, Mute Swans continued to mass in the Hooper's I., MD, area

with a record state count of 610 there Aug. 12 (HTA, GLA). Three Snow and two Blue geese were in as early as Sept. 18 at Remington Farms, *Kent*, MD (J & PG), and as many as 30,000 Snows were at Ruthsberg Nov. 17 (J & PG). A Ross' Goose turned up again at Blackwater Nov. 22 (DC) where a Brant, unusual away from open tidal waters, was present Oct. 29–Nov. 25 (DC, ph.) as was a "Hutchins" Canada Goose Nov. 4 (HTA).

Best Wood Duck totals were of 500 at Hog I., MD, Sept. 6 (MO) and 185 at Stumpy L., Virginia Beach, Oct. 7 (PWS). Hart had some exceptional duck maxima such as 150 Blue-winged Teal Sept. 2, 2000 Mallards Sept. 16, 3000 N. Pintails and 1000 N. Shovelers Oct. 14, and 2000 Green-winged Teal with 1000 Ruddy Ducks Nov. 3 (HK, RFR, BD *et al.*), the shoveler total a state record. Four early Green-winged Teal were at Easton, MD, Aug. 1 (MO). Washington continued to have intensive coverage with 320 Am. Black Ducks Nov. 19 (DC), 1100 Mallards, 380 N. Pintail, and 50 N. Shovelers Nov. 17 (OJ), 110 Blue-winged Teal Sept. 8 (DC), 400 Ring-necked Ducks Oct. 29 (DC), 1820 Lesser Scaup Nov. 19 (DC), 336 Buffleheads Nov. 17 (DC), and 3500 Ruddy Ducks Nov. 10 (DC), many of these totals largely of birds seen from D.C. but in Maryland waters. At Craney up to 500 N. Shovelers were present Oct. 11 (SR). Unique was a Eur. Wigeon seen by many at Chinc. Oct. 24–Nov. 24 (EMW, JFF, DC). Deal I. has been the Region's best wigeon site for many years and 5000 Am. Wigeon were estimated there Oct. 24 with 7000 Nov. 26 (MO, GG). Another superlative Hart count was of 10,000 scaup sp. Nov. 3 (BD). Hart is an impounded spoil area in the Bay e. of Baltimore which must be reached by boat. As is typical of such areas, conditions for waterfowl and shorebirds vary greatly. Until the 1980s no one visited this site at all. Let's hope it will continue to be so good for waterbirds and will not fall into neglect or become overgrown with *Phragmites* as so many such places do.

Four Com. Eiders at S.P.S.P. Oct. 10 were a new species for *Anne Arundel* (LMD, HLW) and very rare anywhere on the Bay. Five were reported from Chinc. Nov. 23 (DC), including two ad. males. "Jetty ducks" are rarely seen at Chinc. Two King Eiders were at Ocean City Nov. 22 (GM) and up to seven were at C B B T during November (DM) One to three Harlequin Ducks were

at C.B.B.T. from Sept. 26 on (DM, HTA, SR, DSb, TG) but two at Wallops I. Nov. 7 were more unexpected (CRV). Among the surprises of this fall were very high numbers of Black Scoters: 1040 Oct. 21 at Assateague I. (MLH), 800 at Chinc. Oct. 24 (EMW), 2030 at Chinc. Nov. 23 (DC), and 3600 at Ocean City/Assateague I. Nov. 27 (MO). At Bellevue, MD, 600 Buffleheads on the Choptank R. Nov. 3 made a high total for so early in the season (HTA). The best Hooded Merganser total was of 138 at Ft. Eustis, VA, in Newport News (SR).

RAPTORS TO RAILS

As usual much raptor watching took place in the greater Cape Charles, VA, area at Kiptopeke (BW *et al.*), where a hawk watch was conducted, at Wise Pt. south of there where Lukei *et al.* banded 752 hawks, and at Fish. I., just s. from Wise Pt., where Baker also banded raptors. At Kiptopeke the watch recorded 11,610 raptors in 470.45 hrs on 63 days Sept. 1–Nov. 28. This average of 24.7 birds per hour continues to slip from last year's 27, 30.2 in 1988, 27.4 in 1987 and averages of 40–96 during the period 1982–1986. Species maxima included 88 Ospreys Oct. 3, seven Bald Eagles and 24 N. Harriers Oct. 28, 335 Sharp-shinned Hawks Oct. 6, 82 Cooper's Hawks Oct. 12, 271 Am. Kestrels Oct. 2, 165 Merlins Oct. 3, and 60 Peregrine Falcons Oct. 4. Most of these are well below record totals here, the Sharp-shinned Hawk high being especially anemic. October 3 was the best day overall with 740 raptors. The Cooper's Hawk and Peregrine flights were excellent. Interesting off-peak counts were 11 Sharp-shinned as early as Sept. 6, 202 Am. Kestrels Sept. 8, 59 Cooper's Hawks Oct. 17, 43 Peregrines Oct. 6, 44 Ospreys and 12 Peregrines as late as Oct. 25, and 133 Sharp-shinned as late as Nov. 9. Single Golden Eagles were seen Oct. 17 & 20 and a Rough-legged Hawk was here Nov. 19, but no N. Goshawks were detected although one was seen at E.S.V.N.W.R. Oct. 14 (JFF).

Owing to development this will probably be the last year for the Kiptopeke watch, but good places for an alternative one exist 3 mi to the south, where Lukei captures raptors at Wise Point. Here 771 were banded including new highs for Peregrine (35) and Cooper's Hawk (150), a new low for Merlins (81) and so-so numbers of Am. Kestrel (26) and Sharp-shinned Hawk (433) This site achieves great results through the efforts of only 2 or

3 banders each year, and it is hoped that its operation will continue for many years. Just s. of here on Fish. I., Baker captured 75 raptors, including 36 Cooper's and 12 Red-tailed Hawks plus five peregrines, a signal accomplishment for a one-man operation conducted by a gentleman well into his eighties!

Up the coast at Assateague I., MD/VA, Ward and Yates banded 248 Peregrines and saw 659, their sightings of 12.9 per 10 man hours the best ever in the 21 years of that operation, save for 14 in 1979 and 13.5 in 1989. The 248 banded made the highest number ever. Elsewhere, a Peregrine at Pt. Lookout S.P., MD, was seen to capture and eat an Am. Kestrel Oct. 13 (EMW).

Single Ospreys were reported from 4 Maryland localities past mid-November (MI, FLP, CRV, DC), a higher than usual number. In the Conowingo Dam area along the lower Susquehanna R., Bald Eagle numbers increased from seven in September to 32 by the end of November (RMS, BY), with a Golden Eagle also present. Up to 20 were at Blackwater during November with two Golden also (MO, GG), on the Potomac s. of D.C., 20 Balds were seen Nov. 17 (JB, GK). In late summer Byrd counted as many as 130 in a roosting area on the James R., VA.

The best Broad-winged Hawk flights were of 1200 at Baltimore Sept. 16 (BY) and 470 in *Howard*, MD, the same day (RG). Eight Rough-legged Hawks were at Deal I. Nov. 26 (MO, GG), possibly the southernmost spot on the east coast where they may be seen in numbers. Unexpected spots for single Golden Eagles were Arlington, VA, Oct. 8 (RAA), Nokesville, VA, Oct. 21 (KHB), and Urville, MD, Nov. 11 (J & PG).

Representative rail totals were nine Kings at Hog I., MD, Sept. 12 with 13 Virginias there Aug. 8, and 10 Virginias at Deal I. Nov. 26 (MO, GG), while 24 Com. Moorhens were at Deal I. Sept. 8 (SHD). Up to 570 Am. Coots were in the *Hydrilla* in the D.C. area Nov. 10 (DC) and 560 at Loch Raven Nov. 30 (SWS). The Poolesville, MD, Sandhill Crane, a fixture for over 2 years, was present at least through Sept. 22 (MO).

SHOREBIRDS

Some of the best shorebirding was at Hart. Certain of these counts there would have seemed incredible in the upper Bay, or anywhere in the Region, prior to the start of regular coverage of this site during the 1980s

On Aug. 5, 345 Semipalmated Plovers, 1700 Semipalmated and 114 Stilt Sandpipers (HK); Aug. 12, five Hudsonian Godwits, 500 W. Sandpipers (RFR); Aug. 19, two Am. Avocets, 125 Greater and 850 Lesser yellowlegs, two Marbled Godwits, 37 Ruddy Turnstones (EB); Aug. 26, one Piping Plover, two Marbled Godwits, 420 Least and 370 White-rumped sandpipers (BD); Sept. 2, 50 Red Knots, eight Baird's and four Buff-breasted sandpipers, 10 Wilson's and two Red-necked Phalaropes (HK); Sept. 16, a Whimbrel, 50 Sanderlings, 200 Pectoral Sandpipers, 40 Lesser Golden-Plovers (RFR); two Marbled Godwits reappeared Oct. 14 (RFR); a Hudsonian Godwit was there Nov. 3 (BD); from four to one Buff-breasted Sandpipers were here Sept. 2–Oct. 15.

Very late was a Lesser Golden-Plover at New Design Rd., Frederick, MD, Nov. 20 (MO, GG). At Chinc., five Black-necked Stilts, 12 Hudsonian and two Marbled godwits were found Aug. 24–25 (CPW *et al.*). Dyke saw an adult and two full-grown young stilts at Deal I. Aug. 15, indicating breeding here again, at the only known site in Maryland. Four Am. Avocets in D.C. Aug. 26 (DC, RH) provided the first well-documented record for the District. A Lesser Yellowlegs in Culpeper, VA, well in the interior of the Region Nov. 25 was late (SEF, WRP). Up to 150 were at the Easton sewage ponds, MD, Sept. 6 (MO), a site that provided good waterfowl and shorebirding for much of the fall, albeit in a less than bucolic setting. These ponds were birded more intensely this year than ever before and provided records of two Baird's Sandpipers Sept. 11 (MO), 150 Pectoral Sandpipers Aug. 9 (HLW, MO), three Wilson's Phalaropes Sept. 5–11 (MO), and a Red-necked Phalarope Sept. 4 (RLK). Fifteen Marbled Godwits at Oyster, VA, Oct. 20 made the highest total (SR), and one to three were in the Ocean City area mid-August to late November (LMD, HLW, MO, GG).

At Cobb I., VA, Rottenborn found 1322 Sanderlings and 400 Red Knots Aug. 14. A knot at Blackwater Nov. 24 was not only out of place but also very late (MO, RFR, GG, ph.). Sanderlings were noted in high numbers at Hog I. on the Virginia E. Shore with 1785 Aug. 13 (SR), on Assateague I. with 1000 Aug. 18 (MO), and in the Back Bay / False Cape S.P. area where Schwab continued his regular surveys of beach birds: 4543 Aug. 8; 5531 Aug. 28;

3901 Oct. 6; 3780 Oct. 17; 691 Nov. 18. Seven White-rumped Sandpipers were seen as late as Nov. 3 at Hart (BD) and the best tally from Chinc. was 55 Sept. 1 (DC). Baird's Sandpipers were seen at 7 localities including one in D.C. Aug. 25 (RH), one at Lilypons, MD, Sept. 9–10 (SWb), and one at False Cape S.P., VA, Sept. 23 (SR). M. O'Brien found 100 Pectoral Sandpipers at Assateague I. Aug. 18 plus a breeding-plumaged Dunlin appearing to be of the Greenland race (MO, HLW, LMD, DB).

Interesting records from the s.w. Virginia Piedmont, whence we receive few reports, were a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Darville Aug. 7, two Sanderlings at Hogan's Pond Aug. 20, five Sanderlings at Staunton River S.P. Sept. 8, and two Lesser Golden-Plovers at Danville Oct. 3 (JCB). Czaplak had the best count of Buff-breasted Sandpiper, seven at Chinc. Sept. 23. Two early Com. Snipe were at Hog I., MD, Aug. 8 (MO). Single Red-necked Phalaropes were at Belle Haven, VA, Sept. 20–23 (JFF, VK) and near Frederick, MD, Sept. 22–23 (SM, BS), while three (plus two Red Phalaropes) were seen off Ocean City Oct. 6 (MO, HLW).

At Ft. Eustis, VA, a 43-acre dredge disposal site produced these waders of note: 300 Semipalmated and 38 White-rumped sandpipers Sept. 10; a Baird's Sandpiper Sept. 29; 800 W. Sandpipers Oct. 1; a Red-necked Phalarope Sept. 24–Oct. 4 (RLA, RLAK). Some of these areas are only good for waders for a few years and we all need to be on the lookout for new ones, to glom onto them fast and check them out while they are good.

JAEGERS TO SKIMMERS

Jaeger sightings were of a Pomarine off Virginia Beach Aug. 26 (BP, BW, BT), a Parasitic at Ocean City Sept. 16 (MO, EB) and four there Nov. 27 (MO, GG), an imm. jaeger sp. in the lower Bay off New Pt. Comfort, VA, Dec. 2 (PRS), and a possible juv. Long-tailed off Ocean City Oct. 6 (PO, HLW).

Of interest is the impressive increase of Laughing Gulls in the Region's Piedmont areas, such as Nokesville, VA, counts of 639 on Sept. 2, 4500 Oct. 13, and 200 as late as Nov. 11 (KHB, DFA, ph.). In landlocked Howard, MD, 1500 were at Green Manor Turf Farm Sept. 9 (NM, JF). Farther inland and north Ringler found 25 at Piney Run in Carroll, MD, Sept. 2, and one as late as Nov. 22. A Franklin's Gull was at Craney



Adult Common Black-headed Gull at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Virginia, September 24, 1990. A relatively early date for this uncommon straggler. Photograph/ David Czaplak.

Oct. 11–13 (NB, SR, RLA, DH).

Singles of the rarer gulls were a Little Gull at Ocean City Nov. 24 (MO, PO), a Com. Black-headed at Back Bay/False Cape Nov. 18 (DSb), another Chinc. Aug. 24–Oct. 28 (CRV, DC, CPW), a California Gull at S.P.S.P. Oct. 29 (EB, MO, ph.), and Black-legged Kittiwakes at Assateague I. Oct. 7 (MLH, ph.), C.B.B.T. Oct. 29 (BL), and Chinc. Nov. 22–23 (DC, GM). A bird identified as a yellow-legged Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus cachinnans*) was at S.P.S.P., MD, Sept. 13 (MO, ph.). This form, which may be a full species, has been identified only a couple of times previously in North America. An apparent Ring-billed X Laughing Gull hybrid was at Ocean City Nov. 27 (MO, GG). Lesser Black-backed Gulls continue to increase with nine at C.B.B.T. Oct. 27 (BT), three at S.P.S.P. Oct. 11 (MO), four at Ocean City (MO, PO), two at Tilghman I., MD, Oct. 28 (DC) and singles on numerous dates at at least 6 other localities. The only Iceland Gull sighting was of an immature at Hart Sept. 16 (RFR). A Great Black-backed Gull was seen to kill a Mallard at Chinc. Oct. 21 (C & MH).

Southern terns lingered later than ever before with a Gull-billed at Ocean City Oct. 7 (MI) & 13 (MO) and a Sandwich at Chinc. Oct. 14 (JFF) plus nine at Back Bay/False Cape Oct. 17 (DSb, TG). Fall tern counts are always impressive and this year was no exception with top tallies of 280 Caspians at Hart Aug. 19 along with 1400 Forster's (EB), 58 Caspians in D.C. Aug. 11 (DC), 1075 Commons at Kiptopeke Sept. 1 (HTA) and 6000 at Pt. Lookout S.P., MD, Sept. 19 (MO), and 900 Forster's at Ocean City as late as Nov. 27 (MO, GG). Seven Sandwich Terns at Assateague Aug. 18 made an excellent total for Maryland (LMD). Out from Virginia Beach, two Bridled Terns were found Aug. 12, 70 mi offshore (DFA *et al.*) and three were seen Aug. 26 (BP, BW, BT). The high count of Black Skimmers was of only 500 at Ocean City Sept. 16 (MO, EB)

DOVES TO SHRIKES

At Rockville, MD, 600 Rock and 1700 Mourning doves were seen going to a roost Aug. 3 (MO). A late Yellow-billed Cuckoo was in D.C. Oct. 20 (RH, DC). In the Nokesville, VA, area Bass found 4 (second) Barn Owl broods this fall including one nest with 3 fresh eggs Oct. 30, three of these broods fledging before the end of October. Of the scarcer owls a Long-eared was at Assateague I. Nov. 27 (MO, GG) and a N. Saw-whet was there Nov. 12 (MLH) while another was a Salisbury, MD, Oct. 29–30 (C & ES). Ten Short-eared Owls were an excellent count from Deal I. Nov. 26 (MO, GG) and they were seen at 6 other Maryland localities (*vide* RFR). The best Com. Nighthawk tally was of 264 at Lynchburg, VA, Sept. 10 (C & MH) and the latest report was of one at Kiptopeke Oct. 13 (BW).

A huge Chimney Swift roost at Baltimore was estimated at 4000–5000 during September (BY, PB). A *Selasphorus* sp. hummingbird was at Piney Pt., St. Marys, MD, Nov. 29 (AB). Most unusual was a woodpecker migration at Tilghman I., MD, Oct. 7 when Reese saw 12 Red-headed, 21 Red-bellied, seven Downies, and a Hairy in passage there. Five Red-headed were in migration Oct. 9 at Elk Neck S.P., MD, farther n. on the E. Shore (BY), and 150 N. Flickers were at Tilghman I. Oct. 14 (FLP).

Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen at only 5 sites, including two at Tilghman I. Sept. 8 (RLK). Empidonax totals were mostly modest with highs at Darnsite of four Yellow-bellied Sept. 4, seven "Traill's" Aug. 30, and four Least Sept. 4 (JP). Early W. Kingbird singles were at Huntley Meadows County Park, Fairfax, VA, Aug. 4 (KH) and at Pennyfield, n. of D.C., Aug. 21 (LB) others were at Assateague I. Oct. 13 and Nov. 3 (MLH, LMD, HLW), Chinc. Sept. 16 (JMA), and E.S.V.N.W.R. Oct. 14–Nov. 23 (same bird the whole time?; DH, GM, C & DB). The huge flights of E. Kingbirds often seen at Kiptopeke did not materialize this fall, the high there a paltry 160 Sept. 9 (BW).

Four very late N. Rough-winged Swallows were at Lilypons, MD, Nov. 12 (SM), and two were in D.C. Oct. 30 (DC). Rough-wingeds can be notoriously late, but a Bank Swallow at S.P.S.P. Nov. 17 (HLW *et al.*) represented an unheard of date for this species. Also late was a Barn Swallow at Assateague I. Nov. 3 (LMD, HLW) Top swallow tallies included

11,600 Trees at Assateague Sept. 23 (MLH), 250 N. Rough-wingeds at Seneca, MD, Aug. 1 (MO), 2000 Banks at Easton, MD, Sept. 4 (RLK), and 4000 Barns at Cobb I., VA, Aug. 14 (SR).

A highlight of the fall was the tremendous flight of Blue Jays, especially along the coast. At Kiptopeke thousands passed each day for several weeks late September to mid-October, with 8000+ seen Oct. 14, 5482 Oct. 13, 3263 Oct. 6, 2285 Sept. 30 (BW), 5790 Oct. 8 (HTA, LMD, HLW), and 72 banded Oct. 15 (WPS). In Maryland, impressive flights were of 1100 at Elk Neck S.P. Oct. 9 (BY), 1150 at Rockville Sept. 26 (MO,PO), and 2868 at Eastern Neck N.W.R. Oct. 13 (J & PG). A "very minor invasion, first since '83" (RFR) of Black-capped Chickadees took place with three at Harford Glen, MD, Nov. 1 & 20 (BB) and several at Piney Run Park, Carroll, during November (RFR). The influx of Red-breasted Nuthatches was mediocre (v.o.).

Good wren counts were of 21 Winters at Assateague I. Oct. 20 (HLH) and seven Sedges at Deal I. Nov. 26 (MO, GG). Many observers remarked on the fine flight this year of the kinglets, especially in late October with 170 Golden-crowns on Assateague I. Oct. 20 (MLH), 39 plus 69 Ruby-crowns at Damsite Oct. 21 (JP), 350 Ruby-crowns Oct. 27 and 207 Oct. 20 at



Northern Wheatear at Hog Island Marsh, Maryland, September 12, 1990. First state record. Photograph/Michael O'Brien.

Eastern Neck N.W.R. (J & PG), and an extremely early Ruby-crowned was in D.C. Aug. 30 (RH).

Outstanding was the first **Northern Wheatear** for Maryland, seen by several dozen on a dike in Hog I. Marsh, *Caroline*, Sept. 11-13 (MO *et al.*, ph.). Just as exceptional was Virginia's 2nd **Rock Wren**, which became a fixture at Craney Nov. 4 into January (TA, DFA, VK, m.ob., ph.). Once again the thrush flight was



Rock Wren at Craney Island Disposal Area, Portsmouth, Virginia, November 14, 1990. Second state record. Photograph/David F. Abbott.

unimpressive, although 69 Gray-cheekeds were at Adventure Sept. 12-Oct. 18 with seven there Oct. 8 (MD) and hundreds of Swainson's were over Rockville at night Sept. 28 (MO) and a late one was at S.P.S.P. Nov. 16 (MO). Reese found 250 E. Bluebirds in migration at Tilghman I. Nov. 4 and 19 N. Mockingbirds, also migrating, Oct. 21. Notable highs were of 111 Gray Catbirds at Assateague I. Sept. 23 plus 26 Brown Thrashers there Sept. 14 (MLH) and 235 Cedar Waxwings at Kiptopeke on the early date of Sept. 8 (BW). Loggerhead Shrike is still showing a precarious presence Regionally with birds reported only from Lilypons (v.o.), Nokesville, VA (KHB), and Lucketts, VA (VK, EMW).

VIREOS, WARBLERS

For these birds this fall was a poor one with low numbers and few good flight days, except for Sept. 16. Representative sour remarks reneged from "The passerine migration was the worst I have ever experienced" (RFR) to "Birds per 1000 net hours lowest ever for August and September" from bander Ross. However, the excellent level of observing did result in a higher than usual number of records of late birds, thanks to the very mild fall, such as these: late Solitary Vireos at Salisbury Oct. 31 (C & DB), Loch Raven Res. Nov. 18 (JWh), D.C. Nov. 12 (DC), a Red-eyed Vireo in *Baltimore* Oct. 25 (BR), a Nashville Warbler in D.C. Nov. 4 (RH, DC), a Magnolia Warbler at Ellicott City, MD, Oct. 24 (BO), a Black-throated Blue Warbler in *Baltimore* Nov. 1 (BR), Black-throated Green Warblers at Loch Raven Res. Oct. 24 (JWh) and E.S.V.N.W.R. Nov. 18 (C & DB), a Prairie Warbler at Assateague I. Nov. 3 (LMD, HLW, WK), a Black-and-white Warbler in Salisbury Nov. 9 & 25 (C & DB, CRV), and an Ovenbird at Fruitland, MD, Nov. 2-11 (C & ES). As late as Oct. 13 Brinkley found two Nashville, three Cape May, and

three Blackpoll warblers plus 35 Com. Yellowthroats at Craney.

There were *some* good warbler waves this fall such as 30 Tennessees and 25 Chestnut-sideds at Elk Neck S.P. Sept. 16 (BY), 11 Chestnut-sideds and 18 Black-throated Greens at Triadelphia Res., MD, Sept. 20 (SA), 20 Cape Mays at Damsite as early as Aug. 29 (JP), and 26 Black-throated Greens at Tilghman Island Sept. 16 (JGR). In D.C. Czaplak found these birds on Sept. 16: 10 Red-eyed Vireos, two Blue-winged, four Nashville, four N. Parula, 10 Magnolia, 11 Blackpoll, eight Black-and-white, and three Canada warblers, all best totals for him this fall in the District. Ten Connecticut Warblers were at Adventure Sept. 9-25 with two on Sept. 15 (MD) and six were in *Anne Arundel*, MD, Sept. 16-Oct. 7 (P &



Male Prothonotary Warbler at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Maryland, still on territory on the late date of August 12, 1990. Photograph/George L. Armistead.

BM). At Pt. Lookout S.P. a Hooded Warbler Oct. 13 was late (EMW, RLH).

At Kiptopeke, in its 28th year of major mist-netting, 87 species were banded on 49 days Sept. 1-Oct. 20 comprising 2669 birds in 8080 net hours (WPS, JHB, DSb, KT, JWD), including 28 warbler species. This rather low total was owing to habitat destruction by the developer who owns the area around the banding site. Next year it is hoped this operation can relocate nearby. The station at Damsite captured 1642 birds in 6797 net hours Aug. 1-Oct. 28 on 28 days for a total of 88 species, 26 of them warblers (JP *et al.*). At Adventure, 2425 birds of 89 species were banded Aug. 15-Nov. 1, including 24 species of warblers (MD).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A late Scarlet Tanager was at Tilghman Island Oct. 21 (JGR). There were some optimal counts of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks this fall such as 48 (plus 32 Scarlet Tanagers) at Elk Neck S.P. Sept. 16 (BY) and 30 at Tilghman Island the same day (JGR)

Late birds were a Blue Grosbeak at Blackwater Oct. 27 (GLA, HTA), an Indigo Bunting on Assateague I. Nov. 3 (RH) and two in D.C. Oct. 27 (DC). Only three Dickcissels were reported, singles at Chinc. Sept. 1 (DC), Assateague I. Oct. 5 (MLH), and *Howard*, MD, Oct. 14 (SA).

There were a number of reports of Clay-colored Sparrows with ones at Assateague I. Sept. 16, 23, & 28 (MLH, MO, EB), one at E.S.V.N.W.R. Nov. 3 (SR), and singles at Kiptopeke Sept. 23 and Oct. 4 (JHB, JWD). Lark Sparrows were on Assateague Oct. 7 (GM) & 19 (MLH). A Grasshopper Sparrow was at Adventure Oct. 16 (MD) and one was on C.B.B.T. Nov. 4 (SR). Always noteworthy inland, a Sharp-tailed Sparrow was in *Frederick*, MD, Sept. 30 (SM). No outstanding numbers of Lincoln's Sparrows were captured at the banding stations, but five were at Schooley Mill Park, *Howard*, MD, Oct. 6 (NLM) and three were there Oct. 7 (GC). October 20-21 saw a big influx of sparrows, especially Songs and Swamps (v.o.).

First arrivals detected this fall were a Lapland Longspur at Hart Oct. 15 (HK, MO) and a Snow Bunting at Assateague I. Oct. 21 (MLH). A late Bobolink was at Assateague I. Oct. 19 (MLH) and up to 5000 were at Chestertown, MD, Sept. 3 (J & PG) and 2000 at Kings Creek on the upper Choptank R., MD, Aug. 31 (MO). Two Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported, one at Assateague I. Sept. 19 (JC) and one at Chinc. Sept. 29-31 (RD). At Reston, VA, a Brewer's Blackbird was seen Nov. 10 (DFA). Unusual up the Bay and up the Choptank R. was a Boat-tailed Grackle at Easton, MD, Aug. 1 (MO).

Reese had as many as 500 House Finches in migration at Tilghman I. Nov. 4, and 1167 were at Chestertown Oct. 5 (J & PG). American Goldfinches with two dependent young were seen at Crofton, MD, on the extremely late date of Oct. 20 (EJ), and 336 were at Easton Neck N.W.R., MD, Nov. 1 (J & PG). Two extremely early Evening Grosbeaks were in *Howard*, MD, Oct. 16 (JS) but once again a flight of northern finches never developed and the numbers of this species and Pine Siskin were very poor. When this Region finally does get a strong influx of northern finches it will be most well-received.

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derson, G.L. Armistead, Tom Armour, Scott Atkinson, Paul Baker, K.H. Bass, C.E. Beyna, Barbara Bilsborough, John Bjerke, J.C. Blalock, Eirik Blom, Peggy Bohanan, Larry Bonham, Ann Breslauer, David Brinker, Ned Brinkley, Carol & Don Broderick, Ed Bruce (EBr), J.H. Buckalew, George Chase, Martha Chestem, Jeff Chynoweth, **David Czaplak** (D.C. area), L.M. Davidson, Robert Davis, J.W. Dillard, Bob Dixon, **Margaret Donnal** (Adventure), S.H. Dyke, Stephen Eccles, Ethel Engle, Frederick Fallon, Jane Farrell, **A.J. Fletcher** (Caroline, MD), R.B. Fletcher, Jim & Katie Fox, S.E. Frye, J.J. Fulton, Mark Garland, Ralph Geuder, Greg Gough, **Jim & Pat Gruber** (Kent, MD, including Damsite), Tom Gwynn, Charles & Melva Hansrote, M.W. Hewitt, Mary Hickman, Robert Hilton, **M.L. Hoffman** (Assateague I.), R.L. Homan, Ken Howard, David Hughes, Marshall Liff, Ottavio Janni, George Jett, Emily Joyce, Hank Kaestner, **Teta Kain** (C.B.B.T.), Greg Kearns, Dennis Kirkwood, Valerie Kitchens, Marylea Klauder, R.L. Kleen, Wayne Klockner, Bev Leeuwenberg, **Reese Lukai** (Wise Pt. Raptor Banding Station), Gail MacKierman, Nancy Magnusson, Paul McQuarry, Pat & Bob Melville, M. Miller, Stauffer Miller, Dorothy Mitchell, Marianna Nuttle, Michael O'Brien, Paul O'Brien, Bonnie Ott, F.L. Parks, Jared Parks (Damsite), Brian Patteson, Elizabeth Peacock, W.R. Peterson, **E.L. Pitney** (lower E. Shore of MD), Mary Pulley, Kyle Rambo, **J.G. Reese** (Talbot, MD), Sue Ricciardi, S.E. Ridd, **R.F. Ringle** (entire state of MD), Barbara Ross, Stephen Rottenborn, R.M. Schutsky, Davis Schoch, Don Schwab (DSb), C. Scudder, W. Scudder, L.T. Short, Dot Silsby (DSy), S.W. Simon, Chris & Eddie Slaughter, **W.P. Smith** (Kiptopeke Banding Station), **Jo Solem** (Howard, MD), P.R. Spitzer, Randy Stadler, Barbara Stephens, P.W. Sykes, Brian Taber, Karen Terwilliger, C.R. Vaughn, David Walbeck, Prescott Ward, Pete Webb (PWb), Dave Weesner (DWr), Steve Westre, Joy Wheeler (JWh), Steve Whitcomb (SWb), H.L. Wierenga, C.P. Wilds, Jim Wiley, **Bill Williams** (Kiptopeke hawk watch), George Wilmot, **E.M. Wilson** (greater D.C. area), Mike Yates, Ben Yokel.—**HENRY T. ARMISTEAD**, 523 E. Durham St., Philadelphia, PA 19119.

SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

(SUMMER 1990 REPORT)

Harry E. LeGrand Jr.

Weather during the summer was seasonable, with temperatures and rainfall near normal. In late July, Hurricane *Bertha* passed, well off the North Carolina Outer Banks; the storm did manage to destroy some gull/tern/skimmer colonies.

South Carolina biologists began assessment of breeding birds in the damaged and destroyed forests in the path of Hurricane *Hugo*. For some species, like Bald Eagle, the damage was not as bad as expected. Information on Red-cockaded Woodpecker and all forest-dwelling songbirds is sketchy or lacking, but most of these species had 1989 territories badly damaged by *Hugo* over a large area.

GREBES TO FRIGATEBIRDS

Practically unheard-of in summer inland were two Horned Grebes at L. Lanier, GA, June 11 and Aug. 1 (JP). No massive die-off of Greater Shearwaters was reported, unlike in former summers, but single dead birds were found June 28 at Cape Lookout, NC (PSa), and July 7 at Ocracoke I., NC (MO). Only one organized pelagic trip was taken off North Carolina, on July 14. Trips

in that month can be dull, but Dumont, O'Brien, and party were rewarded with views of a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel and an ad. White-tailed Tropicbird well off Oregon Inlet. No longer exciting along the North Carolina coast, an Am. White Pelican was at Ocracoke Inlet June 23 (WF). However, perhaps a record Regional number spent the summer at Andrews I., GA. Several were present June 26, but the flock had built to 66 birds July 8 and 69 July 28 (MC, D & DC *et al.*). The timing of such numbers is even more unusual, because normal occurrence in Georgia, where rare at any season, is October to spring, with just a handful of previous summer records.

Great Cormorants continued to make news. Two imm. Greats were still at Cape Lookout, NC, June 11 (JF). Even more unusual was the 2nd inland record of **Great Cormorant** for that state—an adult May 19 at Jordan L. (HLi, DS). **Double-crested Cormorant** was finally found nesting in Georgia; surprisingly, the first nest for that state came from the Atlanta area, at Blalock L., Clayton, where a pair built a nest in June (*vide* TM). In late June young were seen in the nest, but by early July the nest and birds were gone; the pair tried to rebuild but soon abandoned their effort. At this same lake, an Anhinga was a rare visitor July 21 (PB).

Always noteworthy in the Region, single Magnificent Frigatebirds were seen over Beaufort Inlet, NC, June 30 (NL, JF) and 30 mi

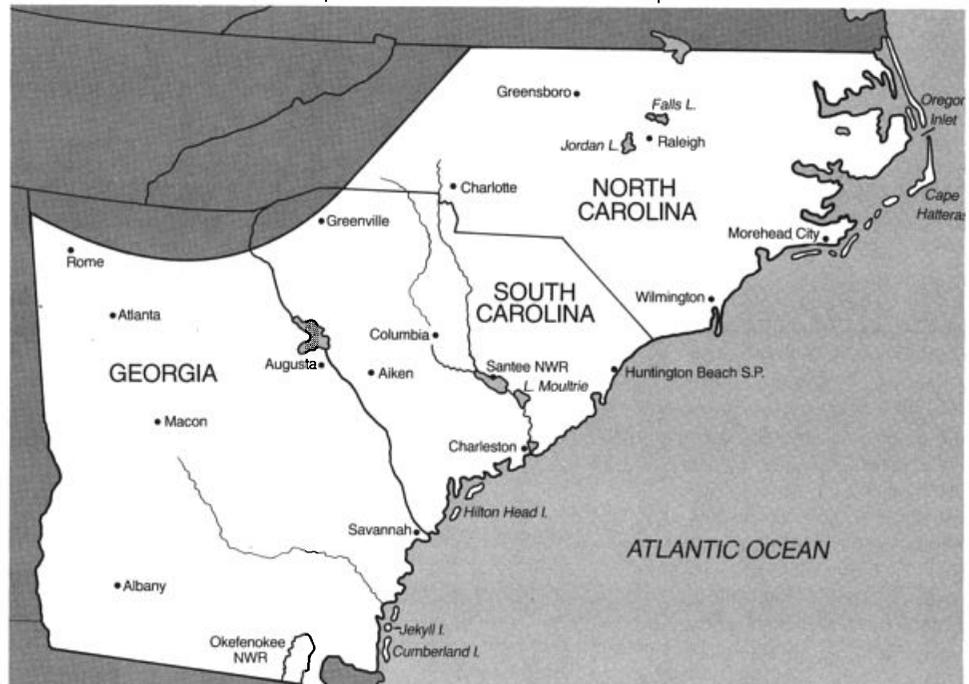
off Charleston, SC, July 1 (TK, RCl, RM). In our Region, offshore reports of this somewhat pelagic species can be counted on one hand.

WADERS

Poorly known as a breeder in the Region, an Am. Bittern was seen at the Catfish L. impoundment, Jones, NC, July 8 (JF). Least Bittern breeds in tidewater marshes in moderate numbers, but inland it has a spotty distribution; one July 8 near Lucknow, Lee, SC (TK), was of interest. Continuing the bizarre string of inland "Great White" Herons, one seen at Conyers, GA, in May was last noted June 9 (FM). A different bird, an immature, was at Clayton, GA, July 7–31 (DB, PB, PM, TM).

The large and growing heronry at Dunahoe Bay, Robeson, NC, contained a Great Egret nest, as well as several hundred Cattle Egrets nesting; one or 2 pairs of Little Blue Herons were also believed to have nested there (HL, PSa). This is the only known inland breeding site for Cattle Egrets in the state, and the Little Blue, once locally common, has not been known to nest inland in North Carolina for decades. A few Reddish Egrets, as expected, were reported along the coast: an immature at Sunset Beach, NC, July 15 (ED) and two of undescribed age at Sapelo I., GA, in late July (Trj, EM).

White Ibis continues to shift breeding locations dramatically in the Carolinas. Once flourishing



colonies at Drum I. and Pumpkinseed I. in South Carolina and Battery I. in North Carolina have disappeared or been severely reduced by predators and storm damage, but the birds have shifted to somewhat more inland sites. This might be better in the long run, as it was "scary" that 90–100% of White Ibises in a state were nesting at just one or 2 coastal sites. There were 5 reports of White Ibis for n. Georgia, but the best count of these post-breeders was of just four, at L. Oconee July 26 (JG *et al.*). Two Glossy Ibises appeared inland at Goldsboro, NC, July 17 (ED), the only ones reported away from the coast. Somewhat regular as post-breeders in Georgia, Roseate Spoonbills were at Andrews I. near Brunswick, with an excellent seven there June 7 (D & DC).

There was great news on the Wood Stork front. The three colonies in South Carolina contained 536 pairs, fledging 1289 young birds; 10 years ago, there were just 11 nests in the state (*vide* JEC). The stork colony at Birdsville, GA, contained 259 nests, fledging about 2.5 young per nest (*vide* AW, MCo).

WATERFOWL

This was a remarkable summer for lingering waterfowl. Were some of these birds suffering from injuries or disease caused by the unseasonably cold weather and ice of the past December? For the record, two imm. Mute Swans were present at L. Lanier, GA, during the summer, last noted July 26 (JP), and another immature was at Pungo N.W.R., NC, July 30 (LG, KC).

Seldom seen in summer were two Brant in Oregon Inlet, NC, July 14 (MO). Straggling puddle ducks included an Am. Black Duck at Clayton, GA, until June 2 (PB), a N. Pintail there until July 8 (PM, TM, PB), and another pintail on Ocracoke I., NC, July 4 (MO). A Redhead was noted June 17 (JF) & 28 (PSa) at Davis, NC. A few Ring-necked Ducks remain in the South each summer, and this season's reports were from Georgia—two at Clayton until July 7 and one there the next day (PB *et al.*) and one in Greene June 9 & 16 (PS, PY). Two Lesser Scaup were at Andrews I., GA, July 8 (MC, D & DC), and another was near Lexington, SC, June 17 (KC). Quite a surprise was a ♂ Bufflehead July 7 at L. Murray, SC (KC, KG, DSm), believed to

provide the first summer record for the state.

Completely out of season were two imm. or ♀ **Common Mergansers**, in heavy molt of the flight feathers, at Jordan L., NC, July 28 into August (TH, MCr *et al.*). There was speculation that the birds might have been young fledged at the lake, as abundant dead trees/cavities are present, and as there is a previous breeding record for North Carolina. This lake is heavily birded in spring and summer, however, and no adults were reported before July to suggest local breeding. One Ruddy Duck near Aurora, NC, July 5 was believed to have been a non-breeder (SC).

OSPREY TO COOTS

Ospreys continued to nest inland at known locations, with few or no reports of expansion to new sites in the past 2 or 3 years. One was present all summer in the foothills at L. Adger, Polk, NC (ST), with no evidence of nesting. Hurricane *Hugo* destroyed much Am. Swallow-tailed Kite nesting habitat in Francis Marion N.F. Surveys of birds early in the season were comparable to those in 1989 (pre-*Hugo*), with 55 birds tallied; however, alarm call surveys late in the season were way below 1989's (13 versus 37), suggesting poor reproduction (*vide* JEC). Two Am. Swallow-taileds were notable at Silver Bluff Audubon Sanctuary, Aiken, SC, July 21 & 28 (RC, C.A.S.). There has been no effort in North Carolina to search for nesting Mississippi Kites, which have been suspected nesting in the state for over 10 years. An adult at Dunahoe Bay near St. Pauls, NC, June 2 (HL), and another was seen at Rum Creek W.M.A., GA, May 14 (E & NA), both new sites. At Hamburg S.P., GA, near the n. limit of the breeding range, one Mississippi was noted July 7 (JG).

The S.C. Wildlife and Marine Resources Dept. reported good news about Bald Eagles. Hurricane *Hugo* destroyed 25 of the 54 known active eagle nests last fall. Amazingly, 22 of the 25 affected pairs rebuilt nests, fledging 28 young; there were 26 additional breeding pairs (outside the storm damage area) counted in the state in 1990. A new Bald Eagle nest in North Carolina was found n. of Albemarle Sound (The), giving the state about 6 breeding pairs for 1990—a disappointing total compared to neigh-

boring states, but a major improvement over a decade ago, when eagles were absent as nesters.

Fussell was able to spend parts of 2 days at Piney I., NC, a military target area not previously birded; he noted at least four N. Harriers, including an ad. male June 25–26. This is a suspected nesting area for harriers, as is adjacent Cedar Island N.W.R. There were several tantalizing records of Sharp-shinned Hawks; breeding in the Region is rarely proven. Hart *et al.* had several records at Raven Rock S.P., NC, in late summer, including an immature giving an apparent begging call. Worthington had a pair in downtown Greenville, SC, during the summer; Glover noted an adult June 2 and an immature July 13 near Camden, SC; and Thompson saw a female carrying food in *Lincoln*, NC, June 21. Thompson also noted an adult near Ellenboro, NC, June 12.

Cooper's Hawks are about as rare as Sharp-shinned Hawks in summer, although Cooper's is more likely to breed in the Coastal Plain. There were Cooper's reports from at least 6 North Carolina locales, plus one each in South Carolina and Georgia; none involved positive nesting, but an imm. female with down feathers on its back and wings was seen in s. *Cleveland*, NC, June 6 (ST). Nesting by Am. Kestrels still seems mostly limited to urban areas, except in the lower Coastal Plain of South Carolina and Georgia, where the s.e. race nests in savannas, flatwoods, and prairies. Conclusive nesting was reported at Athens, GA (PS), and in s. *Cleveland*, NC (ST), and presumed breeding pairs were reported at a handful of other sites. Peregrine Falcons are now breeding in the mountains of the Carolinas, and two adults spent the summer at Pilot Mountain S.P., NC, in the w. Piedmont; no nesting was found (*vide* AB). At Chimney Rock Park, NC, along the Blue Ridge front, a pair fledged three young (ST, AB *et al.*).

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS

Fussell's work at Piney I., NC, June 25–26 showed that Black Rails were common (at least seven calling in a limited area); frequent fires caused by exploding shells have created a diverse brackish marsh. At least five Blacks were calling at several sites at Bear Island W.M.A., SC, July 14–31 (TK *et al.*); the species is probably not rare in other brackish

marshes in that state. A King Rail was inland at Pendergrass, GA, July 29 (JP); reports away from tidewater marshes are now quite scarce. Fussell heard 13 Virginia Rails June 25–26 at Piney I., showing how common this formerly overlooked breeder can be in brackish marshes in North Carolina. A Purple Gallinule was seen in suitable breeding habitat at Dunahoe Bay near St. Pauls, NC, June 2 (HL), and another, presumably a migrant, was noted May 15 at Rum Creek W.M.A., GA (TJ, E & NA). At long last, Com. Moorhens nested at Augusta, GA; 2 pairs produced nine young (AW, VW). An Am. Coot was with the moorhens all summer, but with no evidence of nesting (AW).

Fussell's survey of the North Carolina coast for Piping Plovers revealed 52 pairs, an all-time high. However, this survey provided no details on reproductive success, what reports did reach me of reproductive success were all negative. A total of 200+ Black-necked Stilts at Andrews I. July 29 (PB, TMi) was excellent for Georgia; and two were apparently breeding at Piney I., NC, June 25–26 (JF), a new site. Quite early for the southbound migration was a Lesser Yellowlegs at Covington, GA, June 30 (PR), and also in that state a good inland count (for the Atlanta area) of W. Sandpiper was of nine in Clayton July 21 (PB). The only report of Baird's Sandpiper was of one inland at Goldsboro, NC, on the early date of July 10 (ED). A belated report was of a very late Pectoral Sandpiper at Rum Creek W.M.A. May 19 (TJ, NA). Following the multiple reports from South Pond, Pea I., NC, last summer, Curlew Sandpipers again appeared there in 1990, with a peak of three birds July 15 into August (PD, HL, ML, m.ob.).

The early fall movement of Short-billed Dowitchers was bland, with the best inland total being of six at Goldsboro July 10 (ED). A Com. Snipe was unusual June 2 at Clayton, GA (PB), but this paled in comparison to the Red-necked Phalarope at L. Oconee, GA, June 1 (DD).

GULLS, TERNS

A first-summer **Franklin's Gull** was well-described at Pea I., NC, July 7 (MO) for about the 7th state record. Herring Gulls continue to increase as breeders along the North Carolina coast, not a good

scenario for plovers, terns, and other species with helpless chicks near the gull colonies. Parnell noted 2 pairs June 1 at Sand Bag I. near Cape Lookout, the apparent s. limit of breeding, for now! Glaucous Gulls have a penchant for lingering well into spring, but an immature seen almost daily in June (to June 24) at New R. Inlet, NC (GG, HHa), was quite a surprise. Another concern is the rise in Great Black-backed Gull breeding numbers in that state. There are now one or 2 dozen pairs nesting, including 10 at Hatteras Inlet and 2 in Ocracoke Inlet (JFP), the current s. limit of breeding. The species is now regular as a non-breeder in summer along the Georgia coast, as evidenced by three at St. Simons I. July 28 (PB, TMi).

Parnell's survey of coastal bird colonies in North Carolina revealed surprising numbers of nesting Caspian Terns, with 14 pairs in Oregon Inlet and another in Ocracoke Inlet. Inland and non-breeding Caspians included four at Jordan L., NC, July 8 (ML) and two at Clayton, GA, June 2 (JB). Roseate Terns were again found along the North Carolina coast, but as usual there were no signs of nesting; two different birds, one with a leg band, were at Cape Lookout June 11 (JF, JC, JM) & 15 (JC), and one was again at Cape Hatteras point June 26 (FW, PaM). Two Forster's Terns were present at Greensboro, NC, June 23 and again July 16 (same birds?) (HH), rare inland for summer. Several Sooty Terns were seen at Vera Cruz Shoal in Ocracoke Inlet June 5, and another pair was at Sand Bag I. at Cape Lookout June 1 (JFP). As usual, one to two were present all summer at Cape Hatteras (MaL *et al.*). In South Carolina, one was at Raccoon Key May 24 (PL) and two were at Kiawah I., June 3 (DCh). No nests were reported, but Sooties have nested in each of these states previously.

DOVES TO FLYCATCHERS

Common Ground-Doves have nearly become extirpated in North Carolina as breeders. The species has also declined greatly in the past decade in South Carolina. Development is part of the problem, but much suitable habitat is still present, and the birds are frequently found in yards and other areas near human habitation. Common Nighthawk is another non-passerine landbird showing significant

S.A.

What is going on with Whip-poor-will? Regions to the north of us are generally reporting declines in breeding numbers, yet the species is greatly expanding its range eastward in the Carolinas, particularly into the lower Coastal Plain of North Carolina. Fuller noted six Whip-poor-wills and only two Chuck-will's-widows in s. Craven, NC, July 7; the reverse ratio was present 5 years ago. It is not clear if Chuck-will's-widows are actually being displaced, but the Whip-poor-will now probably breeds in every county in North Carolina's Coastal Plain.

declines as a breeder in the Region.

Willow Flycatchers were again in Greene, GA, with a pair plus another male noted June 9 (PS, PY). Apparently new locations for the species in the breeding season were Osceola, Guilford, NC, where one was singing June 8 & 15 (HH), and in Dawson, GA, where one was singing July 24 (JP). Although E. Phoebes nest over the w. two-thirds of the Coastal Plain of North Carolina, the range in South Carolina extends barely into the Coastal Plain. Glover found about 6 nests under bridges in n. Kershaw, SC, June 4; he also reported juveniles near Mayesville June 9 and at least one adult along US 378 at the Black R. June 11. The species was also confirmed breeding near Belvedere, SC, this summer (AW). As usual, the only summer record of Gray Kingbird was from the Georgia coast; one at Jekyll I. in late July (RMa) might have been a breeder.

LARKS TO SHRIKES

Formerly thought to be rare as breeders in the Coastal Plain of North Carolina, Horned Larks seem to be turning up everywhere, particularly in extensive cultivated fields, which are poorly birded except along Breeding Bird Survey routes. LeGrand found the species on all 3 BBS routes he ran in that province, including 10 between Rowland and Maxton, Robeson, June 2. At least three singing ♂ larks were at the Kershaw, SC, airport June 4, and three fledglings were there July 2 (LG). Glover also noted a ♀ lark feeding three young July 4 at Jefferson, SC. One Horned Lark at Sandersville, GA,

June 9 (BDr, AWy) was a good find in that state in summer.

Tree Swallows presumably bred in 1989 at Jordan L., and breeding was strongly suspected there in 1990, as 2 pairs were seen repeatedly entering cavities in dead trees at the lake on several dates in June (HL, PSa), apparently feeding young in the cavities. There were no other nesting reports in the Region. The past 2 decades have seen Cliff Swallows colonize most of the larger reservoirs in the Piedmont, in addition to a few scattered sites elsewhere, but few new sites are reported now. Fussell had one or two birds flying under a bridge June 13 along the coast at Cedar I., NC, but nesting was not confirmed. Forty birds were presumed nesting at the NC 273 bridge over L. Wylie, NC, July 13 (ST).

A House Wren at Selma, NC, June 2 (EP) was slightly e. the "Piedmont" portion of the breeding range; the wrens also apparently breed in scattered burned pocosins in e. North Carolina, where four were singing at 2 sites in w. Carteret July 2 & 18 (JF). In South Carolina, where the breeding range is more restricted, Carter noted at least eight singing House Wrens at Winnsboro in June, and another was seemingly out of range along the Bowman BBS route in Orangeburg June 15 (DF).

Every few years, Cedar Waxwings explode as breeders in the Region, particularly in North Carolina; no one has offered a reasonable explanation. Normally rare to absent in summer, except in the n.w. corner of North Carolina's Piedmont, waxwings were documented breeding in the following sites in that state: Zebulon (RD), Rocky Mount (RD), n. Nash (RD), Tryon (ST), and Cleveland (ST). Space limits citation of other sightings, but birds were reported during the season at 3 locations in n. Georgia, 3 in South Carolina, and uncountable sites in North Carolina. Many were undoubtedly late migrants or non-breeders, but considerable nesting activity was certainly occurring over much of North Carolina.

A survey of Loggerhead Shrikes was conducted by Irvin and Thompson in the w. Piedmont of North Carolina. Irvin reported a "notable lack of shrikes" in the n.w. counties, but "significant numbers as one progresses south," including 43 pairs in Cleveland. It is encouraging that shrikes are doing fairly well in counties near the South Carolina border, but the situation

elsewhere in North Carolina remains gloomy.

VIROES, WARBLERS

Observers are doing a better job in searching for Solitary Vireos in the Piedmont, especially in South Carolina. They were "surprisingly abundant" in parts of Saluda, SC, in pines or mixed woods (TK), and Carter located two singing males near Winnsboro, SC, in June and another in Chester, SC, June 24. Other Piedmont Solitaires were a pair that raised three young in n. Gwinnett, GA (JH), and one singing near Ellisboro, Rockingham, NC, June 26 (HH). The "wayward" Warbling Vireo returned to Santee N.W.R., SC, for a 2nd summer, being noted June 3-17 (TK, LG, DF). Again, there were no reports of a female with this singing male; the species is not known to be breeding in the Region.

Although Blue-winged Warblers are "supposed to" breed sparingly in the n. Georgia Piedmont, there have been very few records in recent years; perhaps one in Haralson June 17 (PR) was a breeder. A singing "Brewster's" Warbler e. of Aiken, SC, June 10 (BD) was unprecedented (3rd state record and first in summer) and must have been a wandering bird attempting to find a mate, as the date is much too late for a "late migrant." A Palm Warbler July 29 at Andrews I., GA (D & DC), was nearly one month earlier than the previous fall arrival date for the state. Along the edge of the Blue Ridge, Thompson found conclusive breeding by Cerulean Warblers at Saluda, NC, where a pair was feeding two fledglings July 18, and at Chimney Rock Park in Rutherford, NC, where he found an active nest in June.

Each state had a significant record of Black-and-white Warbler along the edge of the breeding range; two on territory were 10 mi north of Supply, NC, June 9 (JN, JPi), a female was feeding two fledglings north of Camden, SC, June 23 (LG), and a nesting pair was noted at Hamburg S.P., GA, June 27 (NI). A ♀ Am. Redstart seen on several dates in June and July at Darien, GA (D & DC), was so far from the breeding range that it must be assumed to have been a non-breeder. Surprisingly, a Swainson's Warbler singing June 16-24 was new to Thomas, GA (RLC). Glover had an ad. Ovenbird feeding two nestlings at Westville, SC, June 26, and Kalbach noted as

S.A.

For 2 decades, writers of this column have noted the impact of drought and drainage on wading bird populations, especially in the beleaguered Everglades. In JCO's words, "average or above-average rains in the Everglades since April have only resulted in moderate reflooding following 20+ months of below-average rainfall." Most wader colonies, if they formed at all, were late, small, failures, or all three. The large, traditional L67 colony was vacant. In Conservation Area 3A, 6000 pairs of White Ibises began nesting in late March; after a month, only 10% of the nests remained. Conditions on feeding grounds were so poor that an aerial survey in early May detected just 3300 wading birds on the mainland south of the Tamiami Trail—22% below last May's all-time low (JCO)! At Loxahatchee N.W.R., 500 pairs of Great Egrets and 5000 pairs of White Ibises nested near possibly the only pool of surface water remaining in the whole Everglades system at the end of the dry season (Mark Maffei).

Wood Storks fared no better. Just 148 pairs attempted to nest at 3 sites in the Everglades. The largest was Cuthbert in E.N.P., where 125 pairs laid eggs in March. Following late May rains, most nestlings starved. The May aerial survey found just 260 storks south of the Tamiami Trail, indicating that only the nesting birds remained in the park (JCO). The Corkscrew Swamp colony had mild "success" with 310 nests fledging about 470 young (PH); 15 years ago this would have been considered a disaster. It still is.

Egrets were down 25% and Little Blue Herons 50%, but Snowies and Tricoloreds held about steady (TB). At Alafia Bank in Tampa Bay, 4700 pairs of White Ibises were estimated, a slight increase, but numbers dwindled during the season and nesting was below normal (RTP). Usually a colony of 16 species and 3000 breeding pairs, Audubon's Washburn Sanctuary in Terra Ceia Bay was abandoned this year owing to raccoons (RTP).

More heartening was the report of 11,000 pairs of 13 species of wading birds, nesting at 7 sites at M.I.N.W.R. The 2 biggest sites

were Bluebill Creek, with 750 pairs of Snowies and 110 pairs of Wood Storks among 3300 total pairs, and a Banana R. spoil island where 5000 pairs of White Ibises dominated (RS).

"Two to three dozen" fledgling Reddish Egrets July 18 at the Haulover colony, M.I.N.W.R., indicated continuing success there (JAR, Steve Schweikert). Two Reddish Egrets at Lanark Reef in St. George Sound throughout the period were not nesting in the heronry there (DBM), but the site should be watched. One or two immatures were at St. Marks N.W.R. from June 14 through July (RG, m.ob.).

Roseate Spoonbills nesting in Florida Bay feed largely on the mainland and benefit from winter drydown conditions. Nearly 600 pairs nested there during the 1989–1990 season, over 80% of the nests fledging young (RB). Another 60+ pairs nested at Alafia Bank (RTP), and six at M.I.N.W.R. (RS). Summer drydown conditions probably accounted for the large number of inland spoonbill sightings, from the St. Johns R., O.W.P., the Polk phosphate mines, Tampa, and even Lake City (m.ob.). Very scarce for the n. Gulf coast, one spoonbill was seen at Carrabelle Beach June 3 (DBM).

WHISTLING-DUCKS TO KESTRELS

Unusual at St. Marks N.W.R. were 10 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks June 1–27, three remaining through July (DM, RG). And of 38 at Crew's Lake Park, Pasco, in May, 14 were still present June 6 (DR *et al.*). At the Polk phosphate mines, summering ducks included three Blue-winged Teal, 12 N. Shovelers (new local summer high), four Ring-necked Ducks, and five Ruddies (PF, PT, DF, CF). Two Ring-necked remained at Crew's Lake to early June, with one until mid-July (DR *et al.*), and one was found at O.W.P. July 15 (JL, DWF). Occasional in n. Florida, 3 Hooded Merganser nests were found in *Hamilton* and *Columbia* in May and June (Dick Couch).

Osprey nesting success at St. Marks N.W.R., alarmingly low in 1989, was back to .98 young /pair this year (JR). Encouraging also were 55 adults and many large nestlings at L. Disston, *Volusia*, June 17. The big Am. Swallow-tailed Kite roost near Palmdale

peaked at 800–1000 birds by July 25, while 317 were counted at the Corkscrew roost (KM, PH). At least 70 Swallow-taileds were soaring near Alligator Alley in w. *Broward* June 27, where large concentrations have not been previously observed (JLB). Snail Kites in s. Florida, like the wading birds, responded to the parched conditions by leaving. For the 2nd straight year, no kites nested in the Conservation Areas or the East Everglades; 85% of all nests were scattered around lakes and wetlands of central Florida, with nearly half at L. Kissimmee (JAR). Most nests at E. Lake Tohopekaliga failed owing to a lake drawdown (JAR). A Mississippi Kite nest was found at Ocala June 11, confirming suspicions of several years (JS).

The annual GFC Bald Eagle survey recorded an astounding 535 active territories, up 96 from last year. Sixty-eight percent were successful, producing 585 young (SN). A ♂ N. Harrier near Live Oak, *Suwannee*, June 2 hinted again at possible nesting in n.e. Florida (PP), while another harrier at *Wauchula* June 30 was remarkable for summer (TP). *Nine* reports of Cooper's Hawks featured the first confirmed *Pasco* nest (DR *et al.*), suspected nesting at M.I.N.W.R. (DSi), and a bird at Oscar Scherer S.P. in Venice June 13 (GW). Short-tailed Hawks were found in *Dixie* near their n. range limit June 6 and July 6 at Jena W.M.A. (BM, Jim & Steve Rogers), and June 10 at California Swamp (Jim Cox, Katy Nesmith). Farther south, the 3rd confirmed nesting for *Polk* was found in May at Tiger Creek Nature Preserve (BC, LC, PF). A lone Short-tailed hung around the Corkscrew stork colony all summer (PH). Near Ft. White June 2–3, 2 pairs of Am. Kestrels and a single bird (CP, JMB) indicated that nesting persists there.

RAILS TO WOODCOCKS

Up to six Black Rails were found in repeated visits to the marshes of the "road to nowhere" south of Steinhatchee, *Dixie* (NW, Doug Runde). Heard calling were one along the Manatee River s. of Parish June 3 (RDG, CB), and two in the Everglades July 30 (Rte. 27 and the *Broward-Palm Beach* line; JLB). Owing to dry conditions, Sandhill Crane nesting success was half of normal near Gainesville (SN), and low in cen-

tral Florida (HK).

In a 1989 Snowy Plover survey, GFC Nongame biologists tallied a minimum of 167 nesting pairs in Florida. Of these, 145 were in the Panhandle (25 in the Florida Region) and 22 on the peninsula's Gulf coast from Tarpon Springs to Marco I. Key sites in the Region included S.G.I.S.P. and Alligator Pt. on the Panhandle, plus Caladesi I., Ft. DeSoto Park, Cayo Costa, and a sand bar off Marco I. (JG, CC). There is some hope that a few pairs were overlooked (six were found at North Lido Beach, Sarasota, in April; Bob Parker), but by any standards this population is in deep trouble. There was just one other report this year, of a parent and young May 3 at Alligator Point (C.H. Watt).

Eighteen Semipalmated Plovers at Alligator Pt. July 6 were probably early "fall" returnees (DBM), while a Piping Plover at S.G.I. July 17 was extremely early (DBM). Since no breeding of Am. Oystercatchers is known in *St. Lucie*, two birds at Ft. Pierce Inlet May 31 were intriguing (JMB). Likewise, two Am. Avocets in full alternate plumage at the phosphate mines June 2 had spent the entire spring season, arousing speculation about breeding (PF).

Lanark Reef proved to be used by sizeable flocks of shorebirds, notably 185 Willets and 105 Marbled Godwits July 10 (HS, DBM). Also there July 10, presumably very early fall migrants, were two Dunlins, one in alternate plumage (HS, DBM). Other notable shorebird records included 80–130 Red Knots throughout the period at Alligator Pt. (DBM), 14 Semipalmated Sandpipers at the *Polk* phosphate mines June 9 (PF, PT), 12 White-rumped Sandpipers at the mines June 2 (PF), and one White-rumped at Hickory Mound W.M.A. June 10 (DM). A Long-billed Dowitcher in alternate plumage was seen and heard calling at St. Marks Light July 14, an early date (NW). On June 29 an Am. Woodcock was seen at the Tallahassee Junior Museum (Dana Bryan).

GULLS TO SKIMMERS

About 4000 ad. and juv. Laughing Gulls roosted at Lanark Reef July 17, where the nesting colony had previously contained about 400 nests (DBM). This first colony in *Franklin*, discovered in 1988, has grown so much that the Least

Terns and Black Skimmers have been crowded out. Some of the gulls may have come from St. Marks N.W.R. islands, where numbers have declined (RG). Two nesting pairs of Laughings were seen July 20 at Wards Bank, Jacksonville, where they are rare as nesters (LB). Gull-billed Terns nested at the S.G.I. Causeway (3 pairs; DBM), the phosphate mines (4 pairs; PF, DF, BC, LC), and Wards Bank, where 80 adults and four non-flying juveniles were seen (LB). At St. Marks N.W.R., one Gull-billed June 10 and two July 11 were unusual (DSa, H.M. Hill).

Once again, the state's only Caspian Tern colony was in Hillsborough Bay, where 51 nests were found May 27 (RTP). The major Gulf coast colony of Royal and Sandwich terns remained at Passage Key N.W.R., where 2500+ ad. Royals and 400 Sandwich were estimated (FD). Rare for the phosphate mines district July 28 were two Sandwich Terns (PF, DF).

Roseate Terns nested at 3 Keys sites: Pelican Shoals, with 470-500 adults on eggs (number of nests unknown, but at least 250) June 12 (MR, PK); the same Marathon condo rooftop as last year's colony, with 6 pairs still present July 9; and Vaca Rock on the Gulf side of Marathon, with 7 pairs July 9 (MR). Ninety Forster's Terns at Alligator Pt. and 50 at Carrabelle Beach June 16 were high numbers, but there was no evidence of breeding (DBM). Higher still were the counts of 500 at Lanark Reef on July 17 (DBM), and 663 at the phosphate mines July 28 (PF, DF).

Least Terns near Marco I. battled washouts, a predatory Great White Heron and a Great Horned Owl, and possibly a food shortage. About 400 pairs nested, down from 1000 in 1989, with poor success (TB). By contrast, the S.G.I. Causeway colony, heavily protected this year, jumped from 150 to 704 nests (JG). Among rooftop colonies reported, the largest was of 200+ nests at Citrus World near Lake Wales (Dana Strothers). Of 13 colonies found in *Broward*, 9 were on rooftops and 4 were at construction sites (JLB). The count on the innovative platform colony at St. Marks N.W.R. was 13 nests, with 15 young produced (JR). A count of 646 Least in the phosphate mines July 14 was nearly 500 over the previous all-time *Polk* high count (PF, DF).

Four **Bridled Terns** were on

Pelican Shoals June 12, and 2 nests located for only the 2nd U.S. breeding record (MR, PK). Counts of southbound Black Terns were capped by 175 at Lanark Reef July 1 (DBM) and 433 at the phosphate mines July 28 (PF, DF). At Wards Bank July 20, 200 adult and 100 young Black Skimmers indicated success there (LB). Nesting skimmers near Marco I. eventually totalled the expected 150 pairs, but success was low despite protection (TB). Possibly the largest colony in the Region this year, 204 pairs of skimmers nested at the S.G.I. Causeway (JG).

DOVES TO KINGFISHERS

The status of Ringed Turtle-Doves in *Pasco* is not well known, but photos of one in Shady Hills July 11 clearly distinguished the bird from Eurasian Collared-Dove (DR). Collared-Doves were also found in *Pasco*, where a pair with young was at Zephyrhills July 26 (Sean Rowe), and an adult was at Port Richey July 31 (DJR). Through the period scattered birds were seen near West Palm Beach, where they are expanding into semi-rural areas (CP). At St. Marks N.W.R. a Collared-Dove was observed carefully June 10 (Dean & Sally Jue).

White-winged Doves are increasing near W. Palm Beach. Up to 100 pairs were found nesting in orange groves and "newly opened-up" cypress and pine s.e. of Corbett W.M.A. (CP). One near Dundee July 19 also suggested range expansion in *Polk* (BP). Still another, present at a North Hutchinson I. feeder since fall 1989, remained through the period (JMB). Only scattered Com. Ground-Doves were found in appropriate habitat near W. Palm Beach, where formerly they were common, during extensive June atlassing efforts (CP). For several years I have found ground-doves fairly common breeders on sparsely vegetated dredge spoil islands, and regular also in beach dune communities, but not elsewhere. Approximately the 11th Keys record, a **Key West Quail-Dove** at North Key Largo June 14 was an exciting find (†WH).

Mangrove Cuckoo distribution in Cockroach Bay was restricted to small keys where mangroves survived the Christmas freeze (GP). Chimney Swifts, regular summer residents in Hornstead, have spread

to south Miami and Coral Gables (JCO). Swifts are also increasing in *Palm Beach*, where they favor areas with older homes—and unblocked chimneys (CP). Very scarce breeders so far south, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds apparently nested in n.w. *Broward*, since a June 29 sighting included a male, female, and fledged young (JLB). A single hummer was present June 15 in s. *Volusia*, where they are local breeders (DSi). Belted Kingfishers do not nest in the s. half of the state, and apparently withdraw from coastal areas as well. One at Lake Alfred June 13 probably reflected local nesting (PT), while one in the s. Mosquito Lagoon July 6 provided a very scarce summer record (Ken Bennett, Mary Harrell).

WOODPECKERS TO SWALLOWS

Southeast of the Corbett W.M.A., a pair of Hairy Woodpeckers July 14 and two single birds through the period suggested nesting of this uncommon bird in *Palm Beach* (CP). Another was seen throughout the period along the Corkscrew Swamp boardwalk (RTP, PH, m.ob.).

S.A.

Two concurrent studies of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in the Wakulla District of the Apalachicola National Forest supported contrasting views of the species' status there. Researchers at F.S.U. regularly visited a random sample of 50 of the 186 colonies classified as active by the U.S. Forest Service in 1989. Of these 50, they found 13 to be inactive, 14 had single birds, and the remaining 23 had breeding clans (F.C. James and co-workers). More encouraging results were obtained by the U.S.F.S., who re-visited 15% of the area of the district which had not been studied since 1981 and found 8 active colonies not included in their 1989 inventory of active colonies (Ralph Costa and co-workers). The Wakulla District contains about 30% of the active colonies in the A.N.F. (report prepared by RW).

A Red-cockaded Woodpecker nest with young was found in e. *Orange* in July (TR), while a single bird June 2 in south-central *Manatee* marked a new locality (LH).

Although E. Wood-Pewees are regular breeders in n. Florida, the pair at Ocala June 8 was well south of expected range (JS, Wes Biggs). The 4th *Palm Beach* nest of Eastern Kingbirds in 5 years was found July 14 near Palm Beach Gardens (CP). Across the state on June 9, *Polk* atlassers found 4 kingbird nests with nine young—all in electric power substations (PF, PT)! Thirteen pairs of Gray Kingbirds on the Alligator Peninsula July 16-17 were a welcome indication of abundance there (DBM). A **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** was an exciting find at Shark Valley, E.N.P., June 16 (Sandy Dayhoff) & 25 (Steve Nord).

Purple Martin numbers were reported down in *Orange*, with no large groups seen following nesting (DWF), and *Palm Beach* (CP). Are martins beginning to nest like House Sparrows? At least 10 active martin nests (and 5 sparrow nests) were wedged into unscreened edges of the barrel tile roof at Okeechobee City Hall, Apr. 12-May 9 (JMB, LE). Near Okeechobee 2 other martin nests were found May 11 in broken light fixtures (JMB, LE). Migrating martins began to show up at St. Marks N.W.R. in late June, with the Mounds Pool roost peaking at 1500-1800 by July 28 (RG). Are N. Rough-winged Swallows increasing in west-central Florida? Nesting was recorded at a rock mine in Aripeka June 19 (BP, DR), at the *Polk* phosphate mines June 2 (PF), and at Lorraine June 9, the latter the first record for *Manatee* (DG, BRP). In n. *Broward* the first southbound Rough-winged were four on July 30 (JLB).

Nesting Barn Swallows continued to turn up here and there, with single nests found in s. *Lake* in May (GB), at the Harney Pond Canal bridge on S.R. 70 June 6-July 17 (FL, MLS), and at the junction of I-75 and I-275 on June 2 for the first *Manatee* record (CB, RDG). Separate adults near Okeechobee June 6 (GM) hinted at additional localities. And two adults plus six juveniles at Key West June 15 were so early as to suggest another Keys nesting (JO).

JAYS TO CATBIRDS

Scrub Jays are so sedentary that

intervention may be needed to restore some populations as they are extirpated. In the past 2 years, Archbold Biological Station personnel have carried out an experimental transplant of 18 Scrub Jays to a site near Marco I. Ted Below is monitoring the new population. So far 4 territorial pairs remain, of which 3 nested in 1990 and fledged five young (TB). In s. Brandon, where five Scrub Jays were found on a remnant patch of scrub last year, just two birds and a used nest were located this year (GP). In 1990 Scrub Jays were discovered at 5 new *Hillsborough* sites, for a total now of 7 (GP, DGr). A single Scrub Jay appeared at a Corkscrew Swamp feeder May 26 and remained for 2 months. Since it was not banded, it could not have been one of the wanderers from the transplant experiment, and its origin was unknown (PH). Rare any time in the Keys, a Fish Crow was seen June 26 at Stock Island (JO).

South of Alligator Alley in extreme w. *Broward*, family groups of Tufted Titmice June 6 and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers June 27 provided the first evidence of breeding in the county (JLB). Gnatcatcher nesting was also confirmed at Archbold Biological Station June 5, a first for the Station and unusual for the scrub habitat used (RM), and also near Venus July 16 (B & MK). The Am. Robin singing n. of Raiford May 26 perhaps represented a slight range extension (PP). Or maybe it was just lingering past normal migration like the Gray Catbird singing in Homestead May 29 (JCO).

VIREOS, WARBLERS

Two singing Red-eyed Vireos in w. *Broward* June 6 were very late (JLB), and a Red-eyed in Homestead July 23 was a very early fall migrant (JCO). Last year Black-whiskered Vireos were found both in upper Tampa Bay and on the s. shore; it was hoped that they were reappearing as mangroves recovered from the freezes of the mid-1980s. This season, following the Christmas freeze, Black-whiskered were found on the south shore but not on the

north, where mangrove damage was more severe (GP). Likewise, not one was found among the freeze-damaged mangroves of *St. Lucie* (JMB). However, three were seen at MacArthur Park in W. Palm Beach (CP).

Nesting of Prairie Warblers at MacArthur S.P. was confirmed July 22 with the discovery of a pair with young, and abundance indicated by the finding of at least 10 singing males during the period (CP). In 4 previous years of searching the coast from Tequesta to Boynton Beach, CP had located only scattered singles. In n. Florida, two Prairies singing in n. *Wakulla* where just one had been noted the past 2 years indicated a slight range extension (HS). A ♂ Prothonotary Warbler along Fisheating Creek near Venus July 12 suggested possible nesting, not previously known from the area (DSt). A juv. Kentucky Warbler accompanied by an adult in n. *Suwannee* July 28 furnished a rare peninsula breeding record, fully 100 mi east of the known range limit (BP). A ♂ Com. Yellowthroat remained along a Loxahatchee canal bank all period, somewhat s.e. of known nesting areas (CP). On July 4, first confirmed *Levy* nesting records were provided by family groups of Hooded Warblers near the Lower Suwannee N.W.R. (DCH, JD, DTF), and Yellow-breasted Chats near Chiefland. Corkscrew Swamp is south of known Prothonotary breeding range, but excellent habitat: so was the bird seen there June 19 an early fall migrant, a sneaky breeder, or lost (PH)?

TANAGERS TO ORIOLES

A rare area resident, a singing ♂ Summer Tanager was present all period s.w. of West Palm Beach (CP). Last year it was noted that Blue Grosbeaks had moved south into abandoned *Pasco* orange groves. They came even farther than that: belated 1989 reports indicated singing males in n.w. *Hillsborough* from May through July (GP, DGr) and a male with three young in pine flatwoods of the Morris Bridge Wellfield June 17 & 24 (Tom Hengelbrok). In 1990 two singing males were found

May 19 at Keysville, a new site (DGr). Likewise, two pairs of grosbeaks probably breeding in n. *Pinellas* June 16 were the firsts there (LH). Several singing ♂ grosbeaks during the period in e. *Highlands* and *Okeechobee* suggested breeding there too (B & MK, GM, DSt). Three singing ♂ Indigo Buntings in the Green Swamp of s. *Lake* in early July (GB) were near the species' s. range limit. So was another on the Kissimmee R. in e. *Highlands* June, 6, unless it was a late migrant (FL, GM, DSt). Male Painted Buntings at East Point June 23 (DM) and at St. Marks N.W.R. July 2 (Blannie Jordan) were rarities for the Tally Div. Also out of place was a singing male near Ocala June 28 (JS).

In north and central *Palm Beach*, atlasing surveys showed Bachman's Sparrows to be fairly common summer residents. However, cypress and wet pinelands are being cleared at a rapid rate (CP). Possibly nesting was Field Sparrow singing near Trenton, *Gilchrist*, June 8 & 20 (DPM, BPM, RC), south of the known range limit. The state's first **Golden-crowned Sparrow** was seen and photographed in Islamorada June 20–21 (Svenn & Joy Lindsfold, m.ob., ph.).

Shiny Cowbirds were seen at both ends of the state, with up to 12 males throughout the period in Key West (JO), a pair at a feeder in Cooper City July 4 (JLB), and single males at Eastpoint June 23 (DBM) and July 10 (DBM, HS). Over the entire period, not a single Brown-headed Cowbird was seen by CP during extensive atlas work in *Palm Beach*, and only one was found in Lake Placid, where folks were looking (FL). But a flock of 4000 at the *Polk* phosphate mines July 28 was unprecedented for summer (PF, DF), and two males at a North Hutchinson I. feeder May 29–30 apparently marked the species' appearance in *St. Lucie* (MF). Possibly the females were not far behind, as suggested by ♀ cowbirds (sp.) at 2 area feeders in June.

Orchard Orioles nested again (see corrigenda) on S.G.I., where several young were being fed July 24 (DBM). Just west of Orlando where they breed, Orchards were seen in 2 localities

in s.w. *Lake*: four in early June (HK) and three in early July (GB). Back in the 1970s, Spot-breasted Orioles seemed to be expanding rapidly in s. Florida. It's of interest, then, that JCO reported seeing none in Homestead since the Christmas freeze.

Corrigendum: Two errors in the Summer 1989 report need correction. On p. 1309, BHS found the first *Orchard* Orioles nesting on S.G.I., not Northerns. And on p. 1310, BHS should be listed as *Barbara* H Stedman, not Brian. My apologies to her, and my thanks to HS, who caught the errors.

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FLORIDA REGION

Richard L. West

Three fine manuscripts, soon to be published, facilitated writing this report. The Florida Ornithological Society plans to publish in 1991 an annotated list of Florida birds by W. B. Robertson, Jr., and Glen E. Woolfenden, and a new index of Florida records reported in *American Birds/Audubon Field Notes* prepared by R. W. Loftin and G. E. and J. A. Woolfenden. Publication is farther off for *The Bird Life of Florida*, by H. M. Stevenson and B. H. Anderson, but I was able to see an almost-final draft of this new state bird book. These publications provide an authoritative baseline from which to judge the significance of observations.

Tropical Storms *Klaus* and *Marco* threatened the state the second week of October, apparently holding up migration. A cold front then slammed through, bringing out both birds and birders October 13-16. October 15 brought an outstanding hawk migration to the Keys as reported by Jocelyn Baker, Wayne Hoffman, and others. Observers reported the passerine migration was low in numbers, but quality was good.

Abbreviations: C.F. (*Bill Baggs-Cape Florida State Recreation Area, Dade Co.*); E.N.P. (*Everglades Nat'l Park*); S.C.P. (*Saddle Creek Park, Polk Co.*); S.G.I. (*St. George Island, Franklin Co.*); St. Marks (*St. Marks Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Wakulla Co.*).

LOONS TO FLAMINGOS

A Red-throated Loon off Alligator Pt., *Franklin*, Nov. 24 (LAH, RKC)

was in a favorite site for this generally rare species. Finding only 11 Horned Grebes Nov. 25 in the phosphate ponds, *Polk*, was a disappointing reaffirmation of their trend down from hundreds (CLG), but 12 Eared Grebes in 4 locations there Nov. 11 showed that Eareds continue to favor these ponds (PJF, PT, CLG). A Sooty Shearwater was simultaneously and independently identified by 2 groups of observers as it fed behind shrimp boats off Alligator Point Nov. 24 (LAH, LSA *et al.*).

Migrating Am. White Pelicans were more widely reported than usual: an early count of 70 Aug. 4 (DS), and peak of 124 Aug. 24 at Hickory Mound Impoundment, *Taylor*, (JEC); a peak of 150 Oct. 14 at St. Marks (DS); 50 Sept. 25 at Fernandina Beach, *Nassau*, east of their usual route (CRH); and a somewhat late flock of 200 flying south Nov. 6 in *Pasco* (DJR). Their seasonal high at the phosphate ponds, *Polk*, was 8000 Nov. 25, higher than usual (PJF). An Aug. 16 count of 425 Brown Pelicans found on Lanark Reef and Carabelle Beach (HMS, DBM, RLW) was high, but probably only part of the total to be found in *Franklin*.

The phosphate ponds, *s.e. Polk*, continue to be a favored inland site for Double-crested Cormorants, where 5200 were reported Nov. 25 (PJF). Roosting Magnificent Frigatebirds built up to a maximum of over 400 in September at St. Martins Marsh Aquatic Preserve, *Citrus*, but all had gone by Oct. 24 (BS); this roost is next to the northernmost and long-established one at Seahorse Key, *Levy*, that routinely holds more than 1000 (VU). Farther south at Cortez Key, near Sarasota Bay, one lingered until Nov. 6 (RTP).

Single "Great White" Herons had dispersed N to n. *St. Johns* Aug. 18 (CRH) and to some stormwater retention ponds east of Tampa from late August through Novem-

ber (RTP), and to L. Annie, *Highlands*, Sept. 19 (JNL). An imm. Reddish Egret was seen Sept. 10 near Cedar Key, *Levy*, where regarded as rare (DCH), and two were reported Oct. 18 on the East Coast at Wards Bank, *Duval* (LMB). They have become regular in dispersing along the upper Gulf Coast, as indicated by five immatures seen Aug. 24 at Hickory Mounds (JEC) and three immatures at St. Marks Nov. 3 (HMH).

A Glossy Ibis was on Key West Sept. 23, where rare (JO). Two Roseate Spoonbills dispersed north to Hickory Mound Impoundment, *Taylor*, Aug. 4 (DS), and one to St. Marks Sept. 1 (RI, BB, JT); two more were on the Marquesas Keys, *Monroe*, Aug. 3, one there Sept. 13 (TW). Some 150 Wood Storks (26 imm.) Aug. 1 at L. Miccosukee (GW) suggested successful breeding in *Leon*. Sixteen Greater Flamingos were the reward for walking the Snake Bight Trail, E.N.P., Nov. 19, as this flock of uncertain origin is often out of sight (JG).

WATERFOWL TO RAPTORS

Up to nine Fulvous Whistling-Ducks summering at St. Marks remained to Aug. 28 (DS, RW). Eight Black-bellied Whistling Ducks bred in August in a phosphate pond in n. *Hardee* (TP, in press, *Fla. Field Nat.*). Four Greater White-fronted Geese made a rare visit to St. Marks Nov. 11 (DS). Snow Geese seemed more widespread than usual. First were five Blues at Anastasia State Recreation Area, *St. Johns*, Oct. 27 (LG), then nine Nov. 9 and 75 Nov. 28 at St. Marks (JPR), and two Blues and a Snow Nov. 29 at Honey-moon I., *Pinellas* (DNG). A Snow found inland Nov. 25 in *Polk* was considered rare (PJF). Three Snow Geese far south in the Belle Glade area Nov. 8 (MR) were outdis-

tanced by an imm. Snow that died Nov. 20 on Cudjoe Key, *Monroe* (*vide* MB, *N.A.S.). There were 67 Wood Ducks Nov. 9 on the Wacissa R., *Taylor* (GW), and 230 Nov. 30 at St. Marks (JPR). Eight Gadwall were in *s.e. Polk* Nov. 18, where uncommon, and 538 Am. Wigeon there the same day was the seasonal high (CLG). Ten Hooded Mergansers were on ponds *s. of Florida City* Nov. 25 (SW).

An albino Turkey Vulture first reported Oct. 3 (m.ob. in many locations) in *w. Polk* would be a good subject for a foraging study. About 150 Ospreys were migrating Oct. 15 over Plantation Key, *Monroe* (JLB). An impressive concentration of Black-shouldered Kites roosted in *w. Dade* where 11 were reported Oct. 25 (RH, PWS) and 14 Nov. 23 (SW). A Snail Kite pair seen Oct. 18 at Orlando Wilderness Park was suspected of being at a breeding site, more northerly than usual because of the dry fall and artificially maintained water level at the park (CTR, DWF).

The peak migration of Sharp-shinned Hawks was Oct. 5, when 66 were seen from Boot Key, *Monroe* (WH). In contrast, Hoffman considers Cooper's Hawks rare on the Keys and regards the 10 he saw and eight others reported to him a good count for the Oct. 6-Nov. 30 season. About 200 Broad-winged Hawks in one kettle were seen migrating south Sept. 16 over Crews L., *Pasco* (PAY), but the lone one in *s.e. Polk* Oct. 7 was considered rare there (L.R.A.S.). On Oct. 6, 295 were over the Marquesas (TW), headed for Yucatan? A fabulous migration observed Oct. 15 from Plantation Key, *Monroe*, consisted of eight raptor species, including more than 1000 Broad-winged Hawks (JLB, EHR); this is somewhat comparable to Key West concentrations of 3000-4000 reported Oct. 11, 1957, 1000 on Nov. 8, 1980, and 1200 on Oct. 15, 1985. A kettle of 350 Broad-winged Hawks seen over the upper Keys Nov. 6 included a rare dark-morph one (MCW).

Short-tailed Hawks are rarely reported in migration, so a light morph Sept. 13 near Masaryktown, *Hernando* (PAY) and a dark morph Nov. 27 in *w. Broward* (WG) were notable. Ogden reported an early flight of Short-tailed Hawks into *Dade* this year with birds n. of Homestead Sept. 15 & 30, one near Royal Palm Sept. 24, and two there Oct. 3. Early Swainson's Hawks (one ad., one imm.) were seen on



Three Magnificent Frigatebirds over Crystal River, Florida, September 1990. Photograph/Betty Smyth.

Key Largo Sept. 15 (RS). Ten Swainson's Hawks were seen from Big Pine Key Nov. 4, and 12 were moving NE over Plantation Key Nov. 6, including two distinctively marked birds that had been seen farther south on the 4th (WH). Fourteen Swainson's Hawks (11 ad.) were in a s. *Dade* field Nov. 24 (DL, ML, KS).

A Merlin was a rare visitor at S.C.P. Oct. 6 (L.R.A.S.) but proved common over Boot Key, *Monroe*, where 37 were seen that same date (WH). Peregrine Falcons continue to increase. Along with many coastal reports were inland sightings at Gainesville Oct. 5 (AMK) and Ft. Meade Oct. 17 (TP). These migrants funnel to the Keys, where 45 were seen Oct. 6 and 35 Oct. 13 (18 at once!) from Boot Key (WH), and 12 seen Oct. 15 from Key West (JLB). Finally, Powell received reports in October and November of one in downtown Jacksonville, which may remain to hunt pigeons in the canyons of civilization, as two did last winter.

RAILS TO SKIMMERS

An early Sora was on Lanark Reef Aug. 16 (HMS, DBM). Five late broods of downy Com. Moorhens were on stormwater retention ponds east of Tampa Sept. 8–20; this species seems to benefit from these fenced retention ponds (RTP).

An Am. Avocet at St. Marks Aug. 17 (JPR) and Sept. 6 (CSG) was eclipsed by an amazing 348 reported Nov. 25 in the phosphate ponds, a *Polk* high count (PJF). Some 127 Upland Sandpipers were observed Aug. 18 from Route 27, *Palm Beach* (BH, WG). A rare inland Sanderling was reported from s.w. *Polk* Nov. 5 (BC). A Baird's Sandpiper Sept. 27 at the sewage treatment plant, *Leon* (JEC ph., NOW, SMJ), was rare for the county. A Dunlin at Lanark Reef, *Franklin*, Aug. 19 (HMS, DBM, RLW) was unusual for that date, particularly since it retained some nuptial plumage. Three Am. Woodcock fed under sprinklers near L. Munson, *Leon*, Sept. 9–25, perhaps a response to the drought (*fide* TM).

A Franklin's Gull in first basic plumage was seen Oct. 27 from Rickenbacker Causeway (LSA, BHA, RMA). Two more were found Nov. 2, an adult at Honeymoon I. Causeway (DNG), and an imm. at Tierra Verde, *Pinellas* (LSA ph.), the first ones in the county in



Franklin's Gull in first basic (first winter) plumage, flanked by Laughing Gulls for comparison, at Tierra Verde, Florida, on November 6, 1990. Photograph/Lyn Atherton.

5 or 6 years. Two ad. Lesser Black-backed Gulls visited Wards Bank, *Duval*, Oct. 18 (LMB) and another was at Redington Beach Oct. 26–Nov. 6 (KDN, DNG); they and Franklin's are more difficult to find in *Pinellas* since the Toytown Dump was closed.

There were 415 Caspian Terns at the phosphate ponds, *Polk*, Sept. 1, four times the usual number (PJF). High counts were made of 478 Sandwich Terns and 1020 Com. Terns Sept. 26 at Honeymoon I. (DNG, KDN). A high count there of 764 Black Skimmers Sept. 26 (DNG) was eclipsed by an Oct. 14 count of 1117 at the phosphate ponds, *Polk*, a "highest ever" (PJF).

DOVES TO FLYCATCHERS

Eurasian Collared-Doves are now found throughout the urban areas of *Polk* (CLG) and *Pinellas* (LSA). White-winged Doves were found in 2 unusual places: one at Key West Sept. 1 (JO), and a probable western stray at St. Marks Nov. 6 (JEC); the introduced population is in between, where 1000 were noted coming to roost at Haines City, *Polk*, in September (CLG). A Barn Owl was at C.F. Oct. 26 (JLB, EHR, JCS), where any owl would be notable. A Burrowing Owl, rare south of the Seven-mile Bridge, was on Big Pine Key in mid-October (MB). Hundreds of Com. Nighthawks were southbound Sept. 16 east of Tampa during a heavy overcast and SW winds (RTP).

About 5000 Chimney Swifts were over Tallahassee Oct. 15 (DWM). A Buff-bellied Hummingbird (presumably the same as last year) returned to the Ft. Lauderdale home of Ted and Barb Center Nov. 19. An imm. Black-chinned Hummingbird was picked up dead in n. *Leon* Aug. 27 (RTE, *T.T.R.S.). A bird identified as an imm. ♂ Rufous Hummingbird visited a feeder in *Alachua* Oct. 10–Nov. 22 (RDR). Another (cau-

tiously identified as *Selasphorus* sp.) was in Gainesville Nov. 15 into December, with a 2nd one sometimes present (DTF). Farther south, a Rufous Hummingbird was identified in Homestead Nov. 5 (VE).

Migrating *Empidonax* flycatchers are usually identified with certainty only in the hand. Those reported with at least meager notes: an Alder Flycatcher "seen and heard well" Aug. 18 along the Miami Canal, *Palm Beach*, (BH, WG), and a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher banded Oct. 13 in coastal *Sarasota* (S & AS). Two Least Flycatchers were reported Sept. 24 at C.F. (PWS), and one Sept. 29 at John Chestnut Park (RDG, BP, RWS). An obliging ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher arrived Nov. 15 at St. Marks and stayed through November (JM, m.ob.). A late Great Crested Flycatcher was still calling in rural *Alachua* Nov. 28–30 (JHH), unusually far north to attempt wintering.

Three W. Kingbirds were found Oct. 12–13 at Honeymoon I. (DNG, KDN, BRP), and seven were at Marathon Oct. 27 (HR); by Nov. 4 four had accumulated in Key West (JO) and by Nov. 11 at least 12 around Homestead (PWS). A rare inland Gray Kingbird was found in n.w. Gainesville Oct. 3 (MLJ). Three Scissor-tailed Flycatchers had reached Key West by Oct. 28; the accumulation was six by Nov. 4 (JO), but a laggard was still at St. Marks Nov. 3 & 4 (GG, DS).

NUTHATCHES TO VIREOS

An early Red-breasted Nuthatch was heard Sept. 30 on U. of Florida campus (CAL) and two were found by the Ocklockonee R., *Franklin*, Nov. 10 (ML, AB). A Brown Creeper Sept. 20 at St. Petersburg (†MJH) was 30 days earlier than the earliest specimen, apparently 16 days earlier than the earliest Florida record, and furnished only the 2nd *Pinellas* report. This eclipsed the more normal one found Oct. 27 &

28 at St. Marks (NOW, DAE, BDN). A Winter Wren was near its southern extreme limit Oct. 27 at Honeymoon I. (†DNG).

A Golden-crowned Kinglet made a rare southerly appearance Nov. 23 at Sawgrass Park, St. Petersburg (BRP). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Ft. Lauderdale Oct. 14 (WG) was early for this latitude. A late-nesting (possibly latest for Florida) E. Bluebird was reported in High Springs, *Alachua*: four eggs Aug. 7, three hatched Aug. 18, still being fed by parents at month's end (MMA). Swainson's Thrushes appeared more common than usual with 12 reported at S.C.P. Oct. 6 (PJF, L.R.A.S.) and five banded in w. *Sarasota* Oct. 13–20 (S & AS). Wood Thrush is a rare migrant on the peninsula but one was in *Polk* Oct. 20 (L.R.A.S., *fide* CLG). A flock of 2500 Am. Robins was along the Wakulla R. Nov. 15 (GW), early for such numbers.

The Thick-billed Vireo report carefully documented last fall (and accepted by the F.O.S.R.C.) was supplemented by the report of another one Aug. 25 and Sept. 8–25 at the same location, C.F. (PWS, JMV, PB, m.ob.). Warbling Vireos are very rare migrants anywhere in Florida so ones found at Long Key Sept. 19 (WH) and at C.F. Sept. 24 (PWS) were noteworthy. A high total of eight Philadelphia Vireos was reported, even though almost as rare a migrant as the Warbling: singles Oct. 5 in s. *Leon* (TM) and *Alachua* (3rd record there, WAH), two Oct. 12 on S.G.I. (LSA, m.ob.), two Oct. 14 at Cedar Key, *Alachua* (BC, LC, *et al.*), another that day in *Pinellas* (DNG, KDN, BRP), and one Oct. 28 at S.C.P. (PJF).

WARBLERS

First warbler migration appears in July. Noteworthy "early" reports include Yellow Warblers at St. Marks July 12 (NOW) and w. *Broward* July 28 (JLB), two Yellowthroats July 10 in n. *Broward* (JLB), and two Prairies at S.C.P. July 28 (PJF, DF).

Vermivora warblers seemed less rare than usual. The rare Blue-winged Warbler reports included singles at C.F. Sept. 24 (AMC), in Birch Park, *Broward*, Sept. 29 (WG, JCB), and a late immature at St. Marks Oct. 18 (JEC). The first Golden-winged Warbler was reported Aug. 15 at Sawgrass Park, *Pinellas* (RWS, LAH). A male was in Birch Park, *Broward*, Oct. 11 (WG), and a female there two days

later (m.ob., *fide* WG). Of many Golden-wingeds seen in the Gainesville and Tallahassee areas, the latest was Oct. 18 at Newnans L., *Alachua* (IF). A "Lawrence's" hybrid was seen there Sept. 23 (CAL, *et al.*). A very early Orange-crowned Warbler was reported Sept. 6 at Newnans L. (BPM, JTD), but its status this early needs more documentation. There were five Nashville Warblers reported: one Sept. 20 & 21 at Seminole, *Pinellas* (JMF *et al.*), two Oct. 8 (PWS) and one Oct. 27 (LSA, JLB) at C.F., and one seen eating persimmon at Melbourne Village, *Brevard* Oct. 17 (SH).

The earliest-yet Chestnut-sided Warbler for *Alachua* was found Aug. 21 (JHH). An early Yellow-rumped Warbler appeared Sept. 17 at Ft. De Soto Park, *Pinellas* (MSW), and two more were there the next day (LSA). Three Blackpoll Warblers, rare in Florida in fall, were carefully identified at C.F. Oct. 28 (LSA *et al.*). An early Cerulean Warbler was found Aug. 8 in Delray Beach (BH). Six more were identified in *Palm Beach* and *Broward* Aug. 19–Sept. 17 (WG, WW, BH), and five in *Pinellas* Aug. 15–19 (LAH, RWS, DNG, KDN, BRP). A late one was at C.F. Oct. 13 (GP).

Many reports were received of individual warblers rare on the peninsula and particularly on the s.e. coast. Kentucky Warblers were found at C.F. Sept. 1 & 17 (JMV), one Sept. 17 in Delray Beach (BH, JH), and one banded Oct. 3 in *Sarasota* (S & AS). Immature Mourning were carefully identified Sept. 15 and Oct. 2 at Birch Park, *Broward* (†WG, WW, FJ), and Oct. 6 at Cedar Key, *Levy* (†WAH, SCF). Hooded Warblers appeared at Key West Sept. 19 (JO) and in *Broward* Sept. 23 (JLB). Wilson's were found Sept. 15 in *Broward* (JLB), Sept. 17 in Ft. De Soto Park (LSA, BHA, MSW), Sept. 18 on S.G.I. (JEC), Sept. 20 at Key West (JO), Oct. 22 at C.F. (JLB), and Nov. 3 at S.C.P. (PJF). Canada Warblers were observed Sept. 12 at Wakulla Springs (NOW), Sept. 17 in Bonner Park, *Pinellas* (KDN, BRP), Sept. 20 at Deering Park, *Dade* (VE), Oct. 13 at St. Marks (GEW *et al.*), and one banded Oct. 6 in *Sarasota* (S & AS). A Yellow-breasted Chat was banded Sept. 22 in *Sarasota* (S &

AS), and others were seen Sept. 22–24 at Birch Park, *Broward* (WG), Sept. 25 at Honeymoon I. (DNG, KDN, BRP), and Sept. 29 at C.F. (JMV).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A rare ♀ Western Tanager appeared Nov. 10 at Ft. De Soto (†LSA, BHA, AHM). A late Blue Grosbeak stayed at s. Jacksonville Nov. 14 (JPC). Dickcissels were more common than usual with three found Sept. 23 at S.G.I. (NOW, SMJ), an immature Sept. 29 at St. Marks (†JEC), and one Oct. 11 at Winter Park, *Orange* (HR).

Single Clay-colored Sparrows were identified Oct. 17 on Boot Key (WH), on C.F. Oct. 21 (JCB), on Honeymoon I. Oct. 27 where it is a rare migrant (DNG), and Nov. 23 at L. Alfred, *Polk* (PT, CLG), the first record there in years. Lark Sparrows were less scarce than usual with singles at Plantation Key Sept. 5 (†RS), Hickory Mound Impoundment Sept. 13 (JEC), St. Marks Sept. 20 (BDN, JB), Avon Park Oct. 9 (DF), and Cedar Key, *Levy*, Oct. 10 & 11 (DCH, DTF). A ♀ Lark Bunting, very rare in Florida, appeared Sept. 9 near the St. Marks lighthouse (†BDN, RKC, NOW, RLW). A Lincoln's Sparrow, rare here, was at L. Alfred, *Polk*, Nov. 23 (PT, CLG).

Yellow-headed Blackbirds strayed to Florida more than usual this year: a female and an imm. male Sept. 11–Oct. 3 at L. Seminole, *Seminole* (KDN *et al.*), a first-year bird Sept. 28 for a week at Cedar Key (DCH, DTF), a female Oct. 10 on Honeymoon I. (DNG), and one Nov. 2 in w. *Dade* (GP). An imm. male appeared at a feeder in Key West Sept. 12, was joined by female Sept. 14, and another imm. male Sept. 29; all stayed until Oct. 6 (JO). Two male and two ♀ Shiny Cowbirds were at L. Seminole Oct. 2 through November (KND *et al.*). Two were at Weedons I., *Pinellas*, in October (RWS), and another at St. Petersburg Nov. 4 (LAH, MJH). A maximum of three males and females were at a Key West feeder Aug. 23–Oct. 22 (JO). Spot-breasted Orioles were sharply reduced in number and range by severe cold the past 2 winters, so a report of three immatures at Hypoluxo I., *Palm*

Beach (HPL, PS), was encouraging. A very early Am. Goldfinch arrived Oct. 21 at a Gainesville feeder (CAB).

Observers (area compilers in boldface): M.M. Adams, Brooks H. Atherton, **Lyn S. Atherton**, Robert M. Atherton, **Jocelyn L. Baker**, Jay Bass, Bob Beiseigel, Allison Bennett, C.A. Bird, P. Bithorn, Linda M. Bremer, Marge Brown, James E. Cavanaugh Jr., Ronald K. Christen, Julia P. Cocke, **A. Morton Cooper**, Buck Cooper, Linda Cooper, J.T. Dorney, D.A. Emkalns, R. Todd Engstrom, Virginia Edens, Dorothy T. Fagan, Paul J. Fellers, Judy M. Fisher, S.C. Flamand, Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee, Don Ford, **Dot W. Freeman**, Ike Fromberg, Dave N. Gagne, **Charles L. Geanangel**, **Wally George**, C.S. Gidden, Jeff Goodwin, R. David Goodwin, Lisa Grant, Gary Griffin, Roger Hammer, D.C. Henderson, H.M. Hill, Shirley Hill, W.A. Hindrickson, J.H. Hintermeister, Wayne Hoffman, Larry A. Hopkins, M. Judi Hopkins, **Brian Hope**, Joan Hope, C. Royce Hough, R. Ingram, M.L. Jennings, Frank Jeter, Steve M. Jones, Adam M. Kent, Lake Region Audubon Society, C.A. Lanciani, **Howard P. Langridge**, J.N. Layne, **F.E. Lohrer**, David Lysinger, Mitch Lysinger, Annie H. McKelvey, Douglas B. McNair, David W. Mehlman, J. Moore, Tom Morrill, **Barbara P. Muschlit**, National Audubon Society, Kris D. Nelson, Bruce D. Neville, **John C. Ogden**, Joe Ondrejko, Tom Palmer, Georgina Pardo, Bruce R. Parkhurst, **Richard T. Paul**, **Peggy C. Powell**, **Bill Pranty**, Joe P. Reinman, Harry Robbinson, Donald J. Robbinson, C. Ted Robbinson, R.D. Robbinson, Mark Robson, Edwin H. Rosenberg, Betty Smyth, Daan Sandee, Rick Sawicki, J.C. Simard, P. William Smith, Ron W. Smith, Stanley & Annette Stedman, Henry M. Stevenson, Kitty Suarez, Paul Sykes Jr., Tall Timbers Research Station, Judy Taps, Pete Timmer, Val Urban, Steve Walter, Noel O. Wamer, R.L. West, George Weymouth, Robin Will, Margie S. Wilkinson, Tom Wilmers, Walt Winton, Glen E. Woolfenden, Paul A. Young.—**RICHARD L. WEST, 2808 Rabbit Hill Road, Tallahassee, FL 32312**

ONTARIO REGION

Ron D. Weir

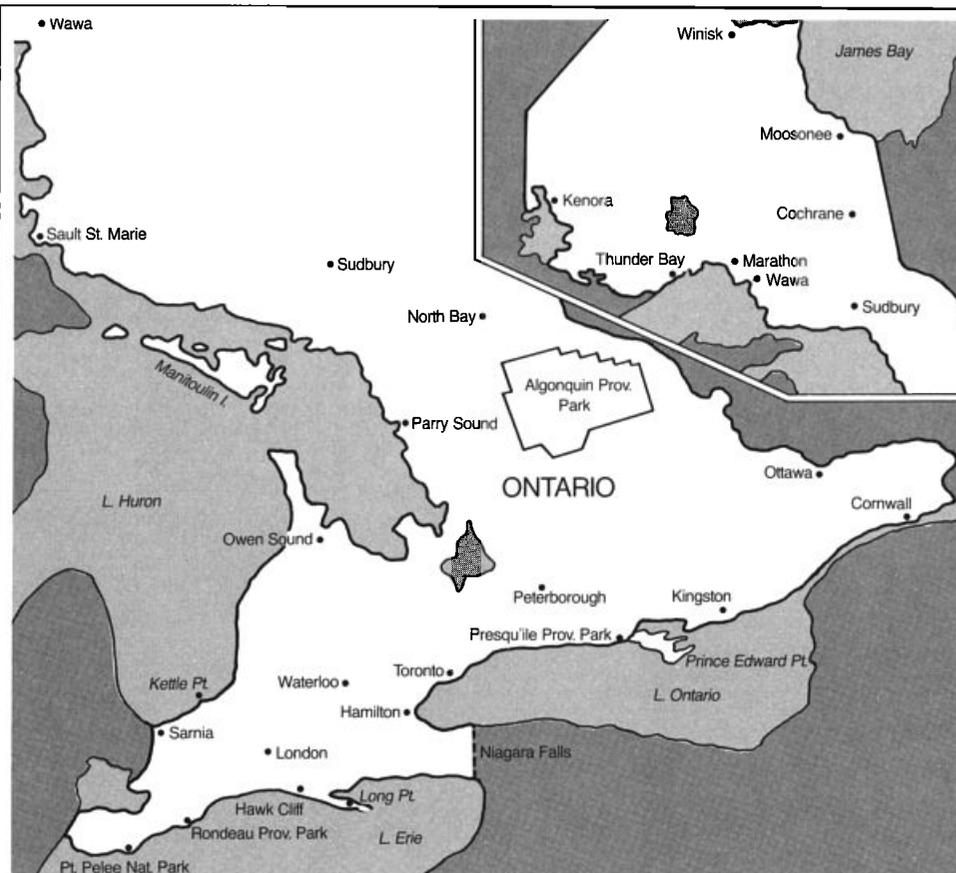
The trend to warmer autumns again extended the southward migration by weeks but did not delay the arrivals from the arctic. Most observers noted a season without spectacular groundings, a situation more beneficial to the birds than to the birders. An intense cold front passed most of Ontario mid-September and prompted spectacular raptor movement. The pattern to higher numbers of several species continued, including Eared Grebe, Cattle Egret, vulture, eagles, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Carolina Wren, and Red-bellied Woodpecker. On the down side was a weak flight of many species of waterfowl, waders, and northern finches.

Abbreviations: P.E.Pt. (*Prince Edward Point*); Pelee (*Point Pelee Nat'l Park and vicinity*); Algonquin, Holiday Beach, and Presqu'île are Provincial Parks. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO IBISES

Most Red-throated Loons moved Oct. 2–Nov. 25, which is normal, but the total of 25 birds was far below the 1982–1989 fall average of 170. Noteworthy among this poor flight was one at Tavistock Oct. 25 (JMH) for *Oxyford's* 3rd fall record. The ad. Pacific Loon at Sudbury Nov. 1 allowed a close study to verify this rare migrant (JCN). The Com. Loon flight was strong again with concentrations of 500 at the s end of L. Simcoe Nov. 3 (SJM *et al.*), 280 off Whitby Oct. 13 (DDC), and 265 off P.E.Pt. Nov. 4 (RDW). One in Thunder Bay Nov. 18 was late (NGE *et al.*).

Horned Grebe maxima at P.E.Pt. were 264 Nov. 4 and 240 Oct. 27 (K.F.N.), as part of a moderate flight of this species whose numbers are grossly underestimated in rough waters of the lower Great Lakes. The 273+ Red-necked Grebes represented a strong movement; 1982–1989 autumn numbers averaged 157. Eared Grebes numbered 13, bringing the annual total to a record 21, which compares with the 1972–1989 fall average of eight per year. Singles were e. to Toronto Aug. 25–Sept. 5 (EJ, RY *et al.*), Oshawa Sept. 12–14 (BH *et al.*), Whitby Oct.



23–24 (RSh, DDC), Brighton Sept. 3–6 (RSm, AL), and Russell Aug. 12–Sept. 10 for the Ottawa district's first (JH *et al.*). Other singles were in e. Hamilton Bay Aug. 25–29 (KAM *et al.*), Tavistock Sept. 2–4 for *Oxford's* first (JM *et al.*), Harrow Oct. 3 (KAM), Winona Oct. 7–14 (KAM *et al.*), Blenheim Oct. 14–25 (JW *et al.*), and Stokes Bay Nov. 2 (E. Johns, TRM). The single at Pelee Nov. 3–11 & 18 (DFR *et al.*) was joined by another Nov. 19 (GTH).

Three N. Gannets wandered onto L. Ontario, the usual pattern of distribution for this rare autumn straggler. Immatures appeared at Niagara-on-the-Lake Nov. 21 (R & MP) and Presqu'île Nov. 23 (GEW, PH, MH). An adult passed Pickering Nov. 24 (BH). The two Am. White Pelicans at Presqu'île Aug. 9 (A & ST) were thought to have been the same two at Camden L. Aug. 10–15 (A & ST *et al.*). Others in the south, where always rare, were two at Kincardine Aug. 21–22 (WP *et al.*) and one at Woodstock Sept. 3–7 for a first in *Oxford* (JM).

North of the established breeding range were Great Blue Herons along the Hudson Bay coast. A single and two were at the mouth of the Little Shagamu R. Aug. 20

(DJA) & 21 (JLC, AW), respectively, and three were at Ekwan Pt. Sept. 9 (*vide* AW). The 22 Great Egrets away from the usual southwest were more than the 1983–1989 fall average of 17. Six reached n. to Shallow L., *Bruce*, Sept. 22 (MP *et al.*) and easternmost birds were four at Seeley's Bay, *Leeds*, Aug. 22 (SM), singles at Godfrey, *Frontenac*, Sept. 29 (GK), Wooler, *Northumberland*, Aug. 10 (SM), and Peterborough Sept. 14–Oct. 11 (WB *et al.*). One at Long Pt. Oct. 29 was record late (L.P.B.O.). The imm. Little Blue Heron at Port Perry Aug. 21–22 (RGT, DT) furnished the only report.

The apparent recovery of Cattle Egrets continued, with 48 sightings. The 28 at Holiday Beach Sept. 28 included a color marked bird matching the pattern used at Pte. Mouillee, MI (ATC). One was well n. at Thunder Bay Oct. 24–Nov. 3 (ph. R. Owen *et al.*). Single ad. Glossy Ibises were at Wildwood L., *Oxford*, Sept. 21–22 (ph. JM *et al.*), Shallow L., *Bruce*, Sept. 21 (E. Johns), and Dundas marsh Oct. 6 (LF). Another *Plegadis* sp., probably Glossy, was at Turkey Pt. Oct. 12–17 (RDM, RR, GP).

WATERFOWL

Record early Tundra Swans were singles over Amherst I. Oct. 1 (JS) and at Pelee Oct. 22 (GTH). Along Hudson Bay, one ad. Ross' Goose was at the mouth of the Little Shagamu R. Aug. 20 (DJA *et al.*). The Brant flight was weak: 91 at Hamilton Beach Nov. 5 (JD, JO) plus 90 on Rice L. Oct. 20 (ERM) accounted for most. Noteworthy was the shooting of a small sized Canada Goose Sept. 19 at Atikokan (DHE), where only the Giant Canada is known (SFP). Five Gadwall at Killarney set a record late date Nov. 2 (JCN). A ♂ Eur. Wigeon pleased observers in Ottawa Sept. 15–Oct. 16 (VBL *et al.*) and a possible female was at Chippewa, Thunder Bay, Sept. 26 (JSk, AP).

Noteworthy were 11,000 Lesser Scaup at Pelee Nov. 10 (AW), possibly exploiting zebra mussels. A ♀ Common Eider stayed Nov. 24–Dec. 2 at Millhaven, near Kingston (JHE, RDW *et al.*), where the species is a very rare autumn visitor. The 13 King Eiders in the south were above the 1982–1989 fall average of 10. Nine of these were shot in Presqu'île between Nov. 8–Dec. 5 (*vide* SML). The others were an imm. male at Southampton Nov. 25–30 (MP *et al.*), and two females Nov. 29 plus

an imm. male a few days later off w. Toronto (EJ, MWD). Single Harlequin Ducks were a male in Presqu'île Sept. 14–24 (CEG *et al.*), a female at Pelee Nov. 10 (AHR), and a female at Point Clark, *Grey-Bruce*, (AWM), compared to the 1980–1989 autumn average of eight birds.

A weak flight of Black and Surf scoters occurred, with 100 Blacks and 160 Surfs at Long Pt. Oct. 9 (L.P.B.O.) the largest groups reported. White-winged Scoters arrived in numbers in the south, led by 175 flying SW past Wolfe I. Oct. 7 (JHE, RDW), and 475 at Ottawa (BMD) and 31 at Whitby Oct. 8 (RJP). The species peaked at 5000 at Long Pt. in early November (L.P.B.O.). Along Hudson Bay, where very few breeding records are known, a female and downy young were found at the Little Shagamu R. mouth Aug. 25 (AW, AK). Four Barrow's Goldeneyes equalled the 1982–1989 fall average. Single females were in Ottawa Oct. 26 and Nov. 25 (BMD, VBL), an ad. male at Pelee Nov. 4–19 (JL *et al.*), and an imm. male at P.E.Pt. Nov. 4 (K.F.N.).

RAPTORS

The 14,500+ migrant Turkey Vultures in the south testified to the species' continuing prosperity in the province. The statistics in Table 1 reflect the increase at 2 stations since the 1970s, which are typical for the south. The period Oct. 11–14 saw widespread, heavy movement along the lower Great Lakes led by 415 at Pelee (DGC, RGF *et al.*) & 196 at Long Pt. Oct. 11 (TW,FW), 935 at Hawk Cliff Oct. 13 (DEF), 112 at Kingston (K.F.N.) & 100 at P.E.Pt. (K.F.N.) both Oct. 14. Some 316 passed over Whitby's Cranberry marsh Oct. 2 (DDC). Late Ospreys were two at Kingston Nov. 2 (MB), along with singles near Hamilton Nov. 10 (BKW), Hawk Cliff Nov. 11 (DEF), and Pelee Nov. 18–22 (AW).

Northern Goshawks erupted in moderate numbers for the best showing since 1985. The 96 birds s. of the breeding range contained a high fraction of immatures. A cold snap with NW winds mid-September produced spectacular movement of Broad-winged Hawks. Some 4091 passed over Whitby's Cranberry marsh Sept. 16 (DDC *et al.*) and 2120 over Toronto's High Park Sept. 17 (RY). Farther s.w. at Hawk Cliff, 8640 flew by Sept. 16, and 32,946 Sept. 17 (DEF *et al.*), a seasonal high there.

Table 1. Hawk totals at two Ontario stations, Autumn 1990, compared with the annual average.

	Hawk Cliff		Holiday Beach P.P.		
	1990 ¹	1982-1989 avg.	1990 ²	1982-1989 avg.	1974-1989 avg.
Turkey Vulture	4150	2838	8645	8298	5872
Osprey	88	84	90	98	84
Bald Eagle	52*	15	31	27	20
Northern Harrier	1292	744	1184	908	705
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9973	7954	14007	14507	13615
Cooper's Hawk	1089*	537	751	660	491
Northern Goshawk	37	24	20	35	24
Red-shouldered Hawk	116	159	1048	1038	812
Broad-winged Hawk	42047*	7362	76271	42180	38691
Red-tailed Hawk	4617*	2576	6331	6703	5943
Rough-legged Hawk	58	26	204	134	142
Golden Eagle	39*	12	87*	32	28
American Kestrel	3037	2207	5375	3618	3320
Merlin	106*	37	63	30	22
Peregrine Falcon	59*	16	38*	20	15
Unidentified	350	1002	216	286	417
TOTALS	67110	25593	114361	78574	70202

¹(DEF *et al.* 1990 Aug. 25–Nov. 30, 85 days)

²(RLB *et al.* 1990 Aug. 25–Nov. 30, 90 days)

*Local record high count.

S.A.

In the south, Bald Eagle migrants maintained rising autumn numbers from the 30 typical during the 1970s, 100 of the late 1980s, to the 173 for 1990. Resident birds at sites along the lower Great Lakes have been omitted consistently from these statistics. The totals from the 2 hawk lookouts presented in Table 1, which also mirror the growing numbers, account for less than half this autumn's total. The age profile of these migrants also provides evidence for optimism. Of 63 eagles for which age was reported, 43 (68%) were immatures and 20 (32%) were adults. The picture emerging from the north, the species' breeding stronghold in Ontario, is also encouraging; Bald Eagle has become the most common raptor at Thunder Bay (NGE). None among the 206+ reports was of a color marked eagle.

S.A.

Golden Eagle numbers in the south rose again to an unprecedented 199 birds. From the plateau of about 30 autumn migrants during 1980–1982, the buildup has been steady. This autumn's main migration occurred Oct. 11–Nov. 24 with record numbers passing both the Hawk Cliff and Holiday Beach lookouts (see Table 1). Spectacular one-day tallies along the lower Great Lakes included 11 at Hawk Cliff Nov. 12 (DEF), 10 & seven over Whitby Oct. 26 & Nov. 8 (DDC, RSh), six each at Holiday Beach & Long Pt. Oct. 25 (ATC, L.P.B.O.), and five at Pelee Oct. 25 (GTH *et al.*). Daily coverage was maintained at several lookouts and only one of the peak days occurred on a weekend. In the north, seven birds equalled the post-1978 fall average and four of these were found migrating w. along Hudson Bay past the mouth of the Little Shagamu R. Aug. 25 (AW *et al.*).

The province's 14th Swainson's Hawk lingered in the Nanticoke area Sept. 27–Oct. 3 (MS, RDM, JO). Single Red-tailed Hawks thought to be of the w. race *calurus* were at Saintfield, Durham, Oct. 20, Lindsay Oct. 28, and Wood-

ville, Victoria, Nov. 3 (RJP *et al.*).

The 366 Merlins s. of the breeding range were over double the 1982–1989 fall average of 172 migrants. Autumn numbers of Peregrine Falcon, which reached a peak of 220 in 1985 and a trough of 96

in 1988, have risen again to 234+ migrants in the south Aug. 27–Nov. 28. Observers at both Hawk Cliff and Holiday Beach tallied record highs. In the n., along James Bay, 20 were counted at the mouth of the Moose R. Sept. 28 (AW *et al.*). The Gyrfalcon irruption was moderate. One appeared in Sault Ste Marie Nov. 14 (CAW) and a grey bird was in Thunder Bay Nov. 17 (TR). Penetrating well into the south were single dark morph Gyrs at Whitby's Cranberry marsh Oct. 19 (RSh), thought to have been the same individual frequenting Toronto's e. Headland Nov. 4–11 (MWD *et al.*), and in Beachville's quarries Oct. 16 (JMH). A gray bird was on Manitoulin I. Nov. 19 (RRT).

GROUSE TO SHOREBIRDS

Rock Ptarmigan, reported during summer along Hudson Bay at the Little Shagamu R. mouth, were still there Aug. 21–26 when up to seven were present, without indication of having bred (*vide* AW). Five Sharp-tailed Grouse near Thunder Bay Sept. 19–Nov. 26 were more than the annual totals there over the past 5 years (NGE). At Sudbury Nov. 17, an Am. Coot set a record late date (CGB).

Algonquin P.P., not known for shorebirds, hosted migrants at Radiant L., where low water levels exposed ideal habitat for the 2nd consecutive year amid mixed forest. Among the very rare waders, there were eight ad. Hudsonian Godwits Aug. 18, five ad. Ruddy Turnstones Aug. 4, a Red Knot Aug. 15–18, an ad. White-rumped Sandpiper Aug. 18, 10 Baird's Aug. 23–Sept. 15, two juv. Stilt Sandpipers Aug. 18, three Buff-breasteds Aug. 28–Sept. 8, 19 ad. Short-billed Dowitchers Aug. 18, and a Red-necked Phalarope Aug. 27 (MR, GF).

The only Piping Plover reported was one at Crescent Beach, Niagara, Aug. 23 (*vide* RFA). A ♂ Killdeer was displaying at Wheatley

Oct. 31, probably fooled by the unusually warm weather (AW). Three Willets were at the tip of Long Pt. Aug. 15 (SD, CD) and singles appeared along Toronto's Humber Bay Aug. 26–28 (HK *et al.*) and Fort Erie Sept. 13 (DCp). The 1982–1989 fall average is eight. In the south, the Hudsonian Godwit flight was moderate at 96 reports, of which 41 birds were in Ottawa Sept. 30 (RPH *et al.*) and 17 set a record high at Pelee Aug. 19 (AW *et al.*).

The 389 White-rumped Sandpipers in the south Aug. 4–Nov. 24 were above the 1983–1989 average of 214. Some 5000 Pectoral Sandpipers passed Ekwan Pt. Sept. 6 (AW *et al.*). The flight of Purple Sandpipers in the south was the poorest in at least 10 years, at eight birds. Singles were in Ottawa Oct. 28 (BMD), Virginiatown Nov. 6 (PWR), and Erieau Nov. 18 (KJB); two in Presqu'île Nov. 2–30 (SH *et al.*), and three at Niagara Falls Nov. 17 (RFK, AB). Four were at the Little Shagamu R. mouth, Hudson Bay, Aug. 30 (DJA, TWK). The Buff-breasted Sandpiper flight was weak again at only 22 birds throughout the south. Six were late on Wolfe I. Oct. 21 (JHE, RDW).

Long-billed Dowitchers moved in numbers unprecedented for Ontario at 96 birds throughout in the south Aug. 1–Nov. 21, compared with the 1982–1989 fall average of 26. In the north, 10 were reported from the Hudson Bay coast Aug. 23–Sept. 12 (AW *et al.*) and singles were in Thunder Bay Sept. 12 & 16 (*vide* NGE). Some 14 Red Phalaropes were reported (1982–1989 average 10). Three were at Russell Sept. 30 (BMD), the same day two were in Richmond (*vide* VBL). Singles appeared at Winchester Sept. 24 & 30 (BMD), Wildwood L., Oxford, Sept. 29 (JMH), Pelee Oct. 2 (KAM), Bright's Grove Oct. 19–22 (CB *et al.*), Port Stanley Oct. 20 (JMCK), Providence Bay Oct. 28 (CTB, GG), Presqu'île Nov. 1–3 (DS), and Hamilton Beach Nov. 5 (JD, JO, DPks).

Table 2. Record late dates for shorebirds in Ontario, Autumn 1990.

Black-bellied Plover	Sudbury	Nov. 5	JCN
Presqu'île		Nov. 27	SH, DH
Upland Sandpiper	Sudbury	Sept. 30	CJW
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Pelee	Nov. 4	AW <i>et al.</i>
Dunlin	Thunder Bay	Nov. 25	AGH
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Wolfe I.	Oct. 31	JHE, RDW
Com. Snipe	Sudbury	Nov. 5	JCN
Wilson's Phalarope	Thunder Bay	Oct. 6	JSK <i>et al.</i>
	Kingston	Oct. 28	KH

JAEGERS TO TERNS

The jaeger flight was weaker than usual at three Pomarines and 13 Parasitics in the south, compared with the 1978–1989 fall average of five & 33 respectively. The Pomarines were at Long Pt. Sept. 15 (JM), Hawk Cliff Sept. 24 (DEF), and Ottawa Nov. 11 (VBL, RPH). An early Parasitic arrived in Hamilton Aug. 19 (RC, KAM). One juv. Long-tailed Jaeger surprised observers at Pelee Oct. 1 (KAM, MPM, DSM).

Lone Laughing Gulls were at Pelee Aug. 19 (DGC) and Long Pt. Sept. 18 (SD). Franklin's Gulls were also at about the 15-year average, with 15 birds Aug. 12–Nov. 17. Little Gulls away from the traditional s.w., where numbers were low again, were singles at Beaverton Sept. 8 (RJP), Sandbanks Sept. 14 (CEG), P.E.Pt. Nov. 4 & 24 (JHE, RDW *et al.*), and Cornwall Aug. 26 and Nov. 21, where eight also appeared Sept. 30 (BMD). Two others were along L. Simcoe at Pefferlaw Creek Nov. 11 (RBB, KS). The three Com. Black-headed Gulls, an average number, were singles at Long Pt. Aug. 25 (JM), P.E.Pt. Sept. 15 (JHE, RDW), and Niagara-on-the-Lake Nov. 17 (RFK, AB). Concentrations of Bonaparte's Gulls were 10,000 off Long Pt. Sept. 15 (JM) & 23 (L.P.B.O.), 9000 at Pelee Aug. 19 (DGC), and 2500 at Beaverton Sept. 9 (RJP).

The California Gull at Cornwall Oct. 23 (BMD) was Ontario's 9th since 1981. In the south, the six Thayer's, 16 Iceland, and 43 Glaucous gulls were typical of such a warm autumn. The 26 Lesser Black-backed Gulls equalled the 1983–1989 fall average, with signs that the species' numbers are stabilizing after such rapid growth. Black-legged Kittiwakes numbered 39, the best since autumn 1985. Some 23 were in the Hamilton area Aug. 19–Nov. 30 (*vide* KAM), followed by seven along the Niagara R. Aug. 26–Nov. 30 (*vide* RFA, GBe). The others were two at Cornwall Nov. 2 (BMD) and singles at Sarnia Sept. 23 (AHR), Ottawa Sept. 30 (*vide* VBL), Kettle Pt. Oct. 19 and Nov. 25 (AHR), Toronto Oct. 27 (AJ), Pelee Nov. 11 (AW) and Pefferlaw Creek on L. Simcoe Nov. 11 for York's first ever (SJM, JRM). Ten Sabine's Gulls made above average numbers for the 4th consecutive autumn. Three frequented the Niagara R. Sept. 25–Nov. 15 (*vide* RFA, GBe)

and two were at Sarnia Sept. 23 (MPW). The others were singles at Cornwall Sept. 20 and (the only adult reported) Oct. 23 (BMD), Kingston Oct. 7 (JHE, RDW), Long Pt. Oct. 28 (DL *et al.*), and Point Clark, Bruce, Nov. 12 (AWM). The imm. Ivory Gull at Presqu'île Nov. 22 (DS) was the first in the south since Dec. 22, 1980, when one was photographed at Niagara Falls (RFA). The species is a rare straggler to s. Ontario in autumn and winter.

At Long Pt., record late were three Forster's Terns Oct. 29–30 (RR, SC, SD) and a Black Tern Oct. 25 (L.P.B.O.). Single Black Guillemots were along the n. coast near Moosonee Aug. 31 (RDM *et al.*) and Ekwan Pt. Sept. 12 (PWJ *et al.*).

OWLS TO SWALLOWS

Snowy Owls arrived in the south at Orillia Nov. 3 (JSc), Toronto Nov. 10 (DP, HK), Amherst I. Nov. 18 (JHE *et al.*), and Niagara Falls Nov. 26 (*vide* MEF) in a heavy flight. The 13 N. Hawk Owls s. of the breeding range marked a major irruption that deposited at least four birds in Algonquin (*vide* RGT) and one south near Presqu'île Nov. 28–30 (KL *et al.*). Four Great Gray Owls were near Atikokan Sept. 1–Nov. 1 (*vide* SFP), but the only one s. of breeding range was near Cobourg Oct. 20 (JM). The N. Saw-whet Owl flight was strong at Long Pt., where 144 were banded Oct. 15–27 (L.P.B.O.). Some 17 were on Amherst I. Nov. 1 (AS, JS).

The 160 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at Long Pt. Aug. 25 set a record high count (L.P.B.O.). An unconfirmed Rufous Hummingbird was reported at Alton, Peel, to Aug. 25 (TO *et al.*) and a *Selasphorus* (sp.) was at Grimsby late September to Nov. 30 (PGi *et al.*). Well n. of range was a Belted Kingfisher at Ekwan Pt., Hudson Bay, Sept. 4–9 (AW, PHS *et al.*). The imm. Red-headed Woodpecker at Atikokan Oct. 20 was the 2nd ever there (DG). Red-bellieds way n. of range were a female in Sudbury Oct. 1–Nov. 30 (D & MP *et al.*), and a male in Thunder Bay Nov. 4–30 (AV *et al.*) for a 3rd district record. Six other extralimitals were in the south. Single Three-toed Woodpeckers in Algonquin Oct. 27 and Nov. 10 (RGT, DT) and a Black-backed in Ottawa Oct. 8 (VBL) were the only reports out of the breeding range. A Pileated

Woodpecker near Moosonee Aug. 17 was locally rare (AW).

Late flycatchers were the Olive-sided Oct. 5 (DB) and Yellow-bellied Oct. 21 (HK) in Toronto, Least at Pelee Oct. 20 (GTH), and E. Phoebe at Killarney Oct. 12 (JCN). An Acadian Flycatcher was banded at Long Pt. Aug. 14 (SD, CD) and Oxford's 2nd autumn occurrence was near Woodstock Aug. 29 (JM). Ontario's 9th Say's Phoebe appeared at P.E.Pt. Sept. 1–2 (ph. BW *et al.*), only the 3rd s. of Sudbury. Single W. Kingbirds strayed to Long Pt. Aug. 28 and Sept. 8 (RF *et al.*), Oxtongue L., Haliburton, Sept. 7 (DSt), and Pelee Sept. 12 (GTH).

Impressive numbers of Purple Martins were counted along the Niagara R. where 16,000 migrated Sept. 23 (*vide* RFA), a late date as well. Others included 1530 at Holiday Beach Aug. 6 (ATC) and 400 at Pelee Aug. 14 (AW, DGC). The N. Rough-winged Swallow at Strathroy Nov. 6 (WRJ) was late, as was the Bank Swallow at Wheatley Nov. 16, a record by 25 days (AW).

JAYS TO SHRIKES

Maximum tallies of Blue Jays were of 37,100 and 51,470 at Holiday Beach Sept. 29 & 30 (ATC). Black-capped Chickadees irrupted in the south, but were not accompanied by Boreals. The main push of up to 150 per day through P.E.Pt. occurred Oct. 6–27 (K.F.N.), and at nearby Presqu'île Oct. 16, 200 were seen flying out over L. Ontario (SH). Up to 125 per day passed Long Pt. Oct. 24–Nov. 27 (L.P.B.O.) and Pelee in late October (AW *et al.*). At Innis Pt., Ottawa, some 1212 were netted during late October (J. Dean).

Carolina Wren reports increased to about 100 birds throughout the southwest. Extralimitals included singles at 3 Toronto sites Oct. 7–Nov. 7 (DP, HK, BL) and Whitby Sept. 1–Nov. 30 (DBa *et al.*), two at Kingston Sept. 1–Nov. 30 (HE *et al.*) joined by a 3rd Oct. 28 (CC), and up to three in Ottawa Aug. 26–Dec. 1 (*vide* VBL). Late Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were singles in Peterborough Sept. 4 (CP) and Brighton Nov. 7 (DH). Along the James Bay coast, an imm. Northern Wheatear was at Moose Factory Sept. 1 (GTH *et al.*), and farther n.w. along Hudson Bay, an adult appeared at Ekwan Pt. Sept. 12 (YRT *et al.*).

A strong flight of E. Bluebirds

developed again with peaks of 146 at Pelee Oct. 22 (GTH) and 121 at Long Pt. Oct. 19 (RR). The imm. ♂ Mountain Bluebird at Pelee Nov. 30 was that area's 4th ever (JEF *et al.*). Nocturnal passage of thrushes included 4200 Gray-cheeked and 7200 Swainson's over w. Woodstock Sept. 29 (JM), but 10,000 Am. Robins at Long Pt. Oct. 14 were a diurnal tally (L.P.B.O.). Varied Thrushes were a single at Guelph Nov. 22–30, Wellington's 4th ever (EO *et al.*), and one unconfirmed at a Dorion feeder Oct. 11 (HA, *vide* NGE). Single N. Mockingbirds were n. to Sault Ste Marie Oct. 26 (CAW) and Marathon Nov. 4 (AP, GPh). Even farther n. of range was the Brown Thrasher on Hudson Bay at Little Shagamu R. Aug. 28 (AW, DJA).

The 100 N. Shrikes in the south were exceptional numbers, led by early arrivals in Algonquin Oct. 4 (RGT, MR) and Stouffville, York, Oct. 10 (GS). The 15 each at Hamilton and Kingston Nov. 4 (KAM; K.F.N.) reflected the arrival of the main body of migrants. A Loggerhead Shrike n. to the Moose R. mouth Sept. 28 was the first for the Hudson Bay lowlands (AW *et al.*).

VIREOS, WARBLERS

Four White-eyed Vireos, an unusually large number for fall, were singles at P.E.Pt. Sept. 16 (RDW *et al.*), Ajax Nov. 10 & 25 (DW), and Pelee Oct. 9 (GTH) and Nov. 18 (AW). Other late vireos were the Solitary at Marathon Oct. 12 (NGE), Yellow-throated at P.E.Pt. Oct. 14 (P. Good *et al.*), Warbling at Pelee Oct. 19 (GTH, MPM), and Red-eyed at Pelee Nov. 10 (AW).

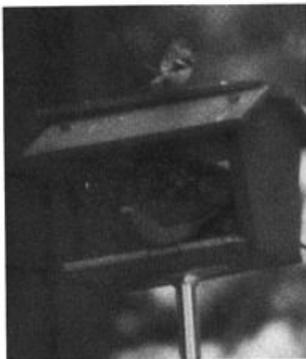
The Orange-crowned Warbler flight Sept. 23–Oct. 19 was among the best ever at 71+ birds in the south; at Pelee, a record 31 were present Oct. 8 (AW, RGF *et al.*). Other high counts at Pelee were the 56 Nashvilles and 52 Com. Yellowthroats Oct. 8 (AW, RGF), and 24 Magnolias and 24 Black-throated Greens Oct. 9 (DGC *et al.*). The only Yellow-throated Warbler was one at Heathcote, Grey, Nov. 2–30 (DCr *et al.*). Eight Prairie Warblers were noteworthy for autumn; the latest were singles at Pelee Sept. 1 (SAC *et al.*), Presqu'île Sept. 13 (SML), Long Pt. Sept. 29 (SAC), and Kingston Sept. 30 (JHE). A heavy passage of Palm Warblers was highlighted by

a record 650 at Long Pt. Oct. 5 (L.P.B.O.), where single 'yellow' Palms were present Oct. 5 & 13 (L.P.B.O.).

One Prothonotary Warbler visited an artificial oasis amid Toronto's concrete towers Oct. 12-14 (AD, HK *et al.*) in exactly the same spot where a Louisiana Waterthrush tarried Aug. 28-30 (AD). Another visited the Toronto zoo Sept. 30 and walked successfully through a cage containing a Snowy Owl (TS). One Kentucky Warbler was at Long Pt. Aug. 14 (PR). Single imm. ♀ & ♂ Com. Yellowthroats were way n. of range at Ekwan Pt. along Hudson Bay Sept. 7 & 9-11 respectively (AW, PHS). An imm. ♂ Hooded Warbler was at P.E.Pt. Aug. 18 (JHE, RDW) and one Yellow-breasted Chat appeared at Long Pt. Sept. 12 (SD). Tardy warblers were the Tennessee in Thunder Bay Oct. 14 (NGE), Black-throated Blue at Niagara Falls Nov. 25 (WD), Cerulean at Woodstock Oct. 8 (JMH), Canada at Pelee Oct. 11 (GTH), and Com. Yellowthroat at Killarney Nov. 2 (JCN).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

The ♂ **Summer Tanager** at Gore Bay, Manitoulin, Nov. 21-25 (ph.



Male Summer Tanager in a very unusual setting at Gore Bay, Manitoulin Island, Ontario, in late November 1990. Photograph/Doreen E. Bailey.

R & VR, DEB *et al.*) was the province's 7th during fall since 1978. A **Western Tanager** visited Thunder Bay Sept. 16 (*vide* NGE), the first fall record for this vagrant since 1983. Range-expanding N. Cardinals were two n. to Kirkland Lake Nov. 17 (MBa), several in Sault Ste Marie Nov. 15 (CAW), and another in Thunder Bay Nov. 17 (WZ *et al.*) An imm. ♂ **Black-headed Grosbeak** in Thunder Bay Nov. 3-7 (*vide* NGE) was noteworthy. Single Dickcissels were at Pelee Oct. 12 (GTH), Winona Oct. 20 (AE), and Wolfe I Nov. 10 (JHE,



Cassin's Sparrow at Point Pelee National Park, Ontario, October 17, 1990. Five of the six records of this species for the province are now from Point Pelee. Photograph/Alan Wormington.

RDW), one fewer than the 1982-1989 fall average of four.

Pelee's 5th and Ontario's 6th **Cassin's Sparrow** was an immature Oct. 17 (ph. AW). Late Clay-colored Sparrows were singles in Smiths Falls Oct. 3-8 (HVU), Long Pt. P.P. Oct. 11 (RDM), and Pelee Oct. 12-16 (GTH, AW). Lark Sparrows were singles in Thunder Bay Sept. 1 (ERA), Bright's Grove Sept. 10 (AHR, DFR), and Grimsby Oct. 13 (HGC). The four **Lark Buntings** were unprecedented in any 12-month period, as Ontario birders have found only 14 in the past 17 years. The single ad. male at Pelee Oct. 4 (JR *et al.*), the lone female at Winona Oct. 13-14 (AE, KAM, GN *et al.*), and the pair at Toronto's e. Headland Oct. 14 (DP) raise the cumulative total to 18, of which seven have occurred during fall.

Six Le Conte's Sparrows were found at 4 sites in Algonquin Sept. 27-Oct. 13 (MR, RGT, DT) for first autumn occurrences, and singles were at Bright's Grove Oct. 7-8 (ph. PR, AHR) and Pelee Oct. 19 (MPM). Early were five Sharp-tailed Sparrows on Amherst I. Sept. 8 (JHE, RDW), followed by two each at Oshawa Sept. 15 (GMB), Dundas marsh Oct. 7 (HGC), and Algonquin Oct. 7 where very rare (MR, WC). Another was at Dundas Oct. 2 (MJB). The 8th **Golden-crowned Sparrow** in Ontario since winter 1981-1982 was an adult at Sudbury Sept. 24 (BC).

A tardy Bobolink was in Thunder Bay Nov. 4 (NGE *et al.*) and the only Yellow-headed Blackbird out of range was the imm. male on Amherst I. Sept. 8 (JHE, RDW). An imm. Brown-headed Cowbird wandered n. to Ekwan Pt., Hudson Bay, Sept. 8 where the species is a vagrant (YRT *et al.*). Among winter

finches, only Purple Finch and Pine Siskin showed strong movement from breeding areas and most appear to have left the province. An imm. ♂ Purple Finch strayed n. to Ekwan Pt. Aug. 1 (DSh, JKC). Migrant House Finch flocks passed P.E.Pt. Oct. 6-Nov. 11 (K.F.N.) and Long Pt. from Oct. 15 (L.P.B.O.). Weak incursions were noted for Pine Grosbeaks, a few of which reached south only to Algonquin, Red and White-winged crossbills, redpolls, and Evening Grosbeaks. One Red Crossbill at Moosonee Aug. 19 was the first ever for that area (AW *et al.*).

EXOTICS

One Rose-ringed Parakeet at Long Pt. Sept. 2-12 visited feeders in the area until November (JDM). The bird is thought to have escaped from the African Lion Safari visiting the area. A Eur. Goldfinch appeared at a Bolton feeder Nov. 19 (BCa).

Corrigenda and addendum: AB 44: 420, column 1, line 2, replace DGC with SML; lines 3-4, a Red-head not a Canvasback was at the Tavistock lagoons May 29; AB 44: 420, column 2, line 6 from bottom, replace Two were by 'One was'; AB 44: 421, column 1, line 20, insert 'in spring' after the words a first; AB 44: 421, column 1, line 4 above S.A., replace SWP with GWP (G.W. Paul); AB 44: 421, column 1, line 10 of S.A., after R.J. Pittaway insert 'et al.', line 10 of S.A. after May 15, delete he noted 16, insert 'there were noted 16', line 12 after *griseus* insert '(MJB)'; line 12 of S.A., last word, replace he with 'R.J. Pittaway'; AB 44: 423, column 1, line 30, after Leeds, May 12 (*vide* MH) insert 'Oxford's first nest of White-winged Crossbill was under observation at Wildwood L. Apr. 7-15, but was abandoned (JMH, DSG).'

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APPALACHIAN REGION

George A. Hall

It was a normal autumn, in that it was abnormal. The weather was benign, bird migration was not much to talk about, but even so there was a lot of spice.

After an August with normal temperatures and a September that was slightly cool, October and November were much warmer than normal. September and October were also very rainy, with the Pittsburgh station reporting an excess of over four inches for the two months. November was on the dry side. There was no snow, even in the north, and relatively few frosts. Such cold fronts as did develop were moderate and brief, and most failed to ground any migrants.

Migration in August and early September was very poor. High water levels left over from the summer rains made for poor shorebirding, and passerines either trickled through or overflowed the Region. By mid-September it was evident that the migration was going to be either very late or very poor. Things did pick up in the last week of September and early October, but no great flight days were reported anywhere. At the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, for example, the highest number of birds banded in one day was 264. In the past, 400-bird days had been common there. During the very mild weather of late October and November, migration was hardly evident. The only weather-related fallouts reported were October 12–13 on the tail end of tropical storm *Lili*, when a moderate bird-kill occurred at Pipestem State Park, West Virginia (JP), and a great concentration of sparrows was noted in Virginia (SR). The major question is: are there really so few birds, or did most of them fly over us during the balmy weather?

Despite the overall poor migration, a record number of rare or unusual birds showed up. The following account lists 11 or 12 species that furnished first state records or especially noteworthy local records.

As usual, much of the quantitative data came from the banding stations, and here results were mixed. At Powdermill Nature Re-



serve the 4940 birds banded were fewer than normal, but the capture ratio (birds per net-hour) was better than usual (RM, RCL). At the Allegheny Front, the 4991 birds banded were far fewer than normal, and the capture ratio was only half the 10-year average (GAH). The smaller station at Presque Isle State Park banded 409 birds (JeS, JiS). At Powdermill, of 52 selected species, nine were caught in above-average numbers and five in below-average numbers (RM, RCL); at Allegheny Front, of 63 species, 13 were banded in above-average numbers and 17 in below-average numbers (GAH). Most of those banded in above-average numbers were "low ticket" species that are never present in very large numbers.

The season-long Waterbird Count at Presque Isle State Park operated for its second year. At Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, in addition to the banding, day-long counts were made throughout the season of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Blue Jays, American Goldfinches, and monarch butterflies migrating over the station.

Rather few birds were coming to feeders at the end of the season. The mild weather did, however, produce a long list of record-late dates. At the end of the period a few northern species had arrived,

but it did not appear to be a major invasion year.

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

LOONS TO IBISES

The only reports of Red-throated Loons came from P.I.S.P. on Oct. 29 and Nov. 1 & 25 (JM). Common Loons were in better numbers than in recent years, and high counts included 96 at S. Holston L. and 46 at Watauga L., TN, Nov. 9 (BC), and 22 at Pymatuning L., PA, Nov. 11 (RFL). Pymatuning L. also produced noteworthy Horned Grebe counts with 250 Nov. 11 and 200 Nov. 18 (RFL). A Red-necked Grebe was at P.I.S.P. Nov. 11–17 (JM), and two Eared Grebes were seen there from Oct. 29 to Nov. 17 (†JM).

Double-crested Cormorants continued to be reported from throughout the Region, with record-high single flocks of 170 at P.I.S.P. Oct. 11 (JM) and 92 at S.

Holston L., TN, Nov. 9 (BC). Eight were seen at the hawk lookout on Tuscarora Summit, PA, Oct. 1 (CG).

An Am. Bittern Aug. 18 in *Washington*, TN, was early (BC). Other records were at Austin Springs, TN, Sept. 14 (JB, RK) and P.I.S.P. Sept. 29 (EK). One of the rarest birds of the season was a "Great White" Heron at S. Holston L., on the Tennessee–Virginia border, Oct. 15–16 (†RK *et al.*). If accepted by the respective records committees, this would apparently furnish a first record of this form for each state. Great Egrets were reported from 16 locations, but no one place had very many. A Snowy Egret was reported from Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery, TN, Aug. 10–17 (CN) and a remarkable four were seen near Chambersburg, PA, Sept. 4 (CG). In the past, imm. Little Blue Herons were not rare in the Region in late summer, but this year there were only two reports: *Unicoi*, TN, Aug. 20 (SG) and Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery, TN, Aug. 22–30 (CN, AH). Black-crowned Night-Herons were reported from B.E.S.P. Aug. 7 (MW) and P.I.S.P. through Oct. 22 (JeS). The only report of Yellow-crowned Night-Heron came from the nesting area near Elizabethton, TN, where one lingered until Oct. 7 (GW). A *White Ibis* was at S. Holston L., TN, Aug. 4 for the 4th area record (WC).

WATERFOWL

The waterfowl flight was very poor at most places. Since very few birds showed up at the TVA impoundments in the south, presumably the birds failed to leave northerly areas during the warm weather.

The flight of Tundra Swans was unimpressive with a few flocks of 100 or so reported in the first half of November. Somewhat out of the normal flight pattern was a flock of 18 seen Nov. 10 at K.C.P.P. (MG, WA). There were unusual numbers of Snow Goose reports, including sightings from *Erie*, PA (JM), *Crawford*, PA (RFL), and *Warren*, PA (RL). More expected were sightings at Tuscarora Summit, PA (CG), *Wood*, WV (EA), and *Unicoi*, TN (JL). Two geese at Pymatuning L., PA, Nov. 26 were identified as Snow X Canada hybrids (AM). One Brant was at P.I.S.P. Oct. 28 (GR). The wintering flock of Canada Geese at Mill Creek Park, Youngstown, OH, included a neck-collared bird that has win-

tered there since 1986 (NB). A Canada Goose apparently of one of the small races was seen Nov. 26 at Pymatuning L. (AM).

A total of 140 Wood Ducks was seen flying from a night roost in *Somerset*, PA, Oct. 13 (JMo). Of the puddle ducks, only Green-winged Teal was reported in high numbers. Pymatuning L., PA, produced good numbers of some diving ducks, with 3500 Com. Goldeneyes Nov. 11 (RFL) and 2300 Hooded Mergansers in mid-November (RFL, AM). A Harlequin Duck at P.I.S.P. Nov. 11 furnished only the 8th record for *Erie* (JM). An early Black Scoter was at P.I.S.P. Sept. 23, with a total of 17 there during the fall (JM). Other reports of this duck, usually rare in the Region, came from Tamarack L., *Crawford*, PA, Nov. 13 (RFL), B.E.S.P. Oct. 13 (HH *et al.*), *Huntington*, WV, Nov. 10 (WA, MG), and Clark Fish Hatchery, KY, Oct. 23 (*vide AS*). The only reports of Surf Scoter came from P.I.S.P., where 50 were counted during the season (JM, EK). Eight White-winged Scoters were tallied on the Waterbird Count at P.I.S.P. and four others were seen there (JM), and one was at Kinzua Res., PA, Nov. 4 (LC).

RAPTORS

The organized Hawk Watches generally had better seasons than last year, but even so most felt the flight was mediocre.

Two Black Vultures at Colerain, PA, Oct. 6 (GY) were north of the expected range. A very late Turkey Vulture was at Ligonier, PA, Nov. 28 (RM). The Osprey flight was better than usual, and Tuscarora Summit recorded 188, their 2nd-highest total (CG). A total of 81 Bald Eagles was reported, from 18 locations. Northern Harriers continued to do well, with several good counts away from the formal Hawk Watch stations.

The season totals of N. Goshawks were 15 at Tuscarora Summit (CG), eight at Town Hill (JPa), and one at Peters Mt. (MG). Away from these Hawk Watch locations, the only reports were from Sheffield, PA, Oct. 21 (DW) and Akeley, PA, Nov. 19 (DDo). Rough-legged Hawks were more widely noted than usual with reports from 11 localities in mid-November, and a very early one was in *Centre*, PA, Oct. 7 (K & JJ). Golden Eagles continued to thrive, with 119 counted. Most were at



Peregrine Falcon at a hack site in New River Gorge, West Virginia. Hacked in 1989, the bird returned and spent the summer of 1990 in this area, where it was photographed August 25, 1990. Photograph/Wendell L. Argabrite.

the Hawk Watches but single sightings came from B.E.S.P. on the unusually early date of Aug. 30 (G & PS), *Elk*, PA, Nov. 19 (LC), and the usual wintering area in *Highland*, VA, Nov. 24–25 (JbK). At Bald Eagle Mt., PA, 22 Goldenes on Nov. 26 established their 2nd-highest daily total (JPe).

Falcon numbers continued to improve. In addition to the total of 21 Merlins reported from 3 Hawk Watches (CG, JPa, MG) and nine on the P.I.S.P. Waterbird Count (JM, EK), singles were seen Sept. 8 at Ligonier, PA (MR), Sept. 30 at Elizabethton, TN (GW), and Oct. 10 at A.F.M.O. (SH). The Hawk Watches reported 41 Peregrine Falcons, including 27 at Tuscarora Summit. Six were recorded at P.I.S.P. between Sept. 16 and Oct. 13 (JM *et al.*), and three reports came from the Elizabethton, TN, area (RK). Others were from Colerain, PA, Oct. 6 (GY), B.E.S.P. Nov. 4 (HH), Cumberland, MD, Oct. 5 (MT), A.F.M.O. with three on Oct. 10 (SH), K.C.P.P. Oct. 5 (WA), and Stuart's Draft, VA, Oct. 13 (SR).

GROUSE TO TERNS

In the area of Lock Haven, PA, populations of both Ruffed Grouse and Wild Turkey were good, but it was thought that the winter food supply for them was poor (PS). A Virginia Rail at P.I.S.P. Nov. 22 was the latest on record there by 29 days (JM). Two flocks of Sandhill Cranes were seen in *Knox*, TN, Nov. 25 (JD, CSa), and several flocks were reported from Dalton, GA, in October and November (HD).

The shorebird flight was a little below average, as most places reported high water levels, reducing

the available stopover habitat. One exception was the pond system at K.C.P.P. Despite the poor showing, there were several unusual records for this Region.

A group of six or seven Am. Avocets was reportedly seen on the New River near Thurmond, WV (*vide CS*). A total of 42 Lesser Golden-Plovers was tallied at P.I.S.P. between Sept. 2 and Oct. 28 (JM *et al.*), and more unusual were records from Cumberland, MD, Sept. 3 & 20 (MT), *Kanawha*, WV, Sept. 19, and six at K.C.P.P. Between Sept. 4 and Oct. 5 (WA). Once again there were no Piping Plovers found at P.I.S.P. (JM).

Cumberland, MD, produced the only reports of Willet, Aug. 6–7, and of Ruddy Turnstone,



Red Knot at Kyger Creek Power Plant, Ohio, September 4, 1990. Photograph/Wendell L. Argabrite.

Aug. 2–23 (MT). Five Red Knots were tallied for the season at P.I.S.P. (JM); more unusual was one at K.C.P.P. Aug. 30–Sept. 9 (MG, WA, ph.) for one of the few inland Ohio records. A flock of 80 Sanderlings at P.I.S.P. Aug. 19 furnished a high count (EK). Other Sanderling reports came from B.E.S.P. Sept. 15 (G & PS), Austin Springs, TN, Sept. 30–Oct. 1 (RK), and *Wood*, WV, Aug. 30 for a first county record (JE). From K.C.P.P. came reports of White-rumped Sandpiper Sept. 1 (WA), Baird's Sandpiper Aug. 16 and Sept. 13 (WA, MG), and six sightings of Stilt Sandpiper between Aug. 16 and Sept. 13 (WA, MG). Two Stilt Sandpipers were also seen at Kingston Steam Plant, TN, Aug. 12 (A & RH).

The seasonal counts at P.I.S.P. were of 13 White-rumped, four Baird's, and three Stilt sandpipers (JM). A Purple Sandpiper at P.I.S.P. Oct. 30 (JiS, BC) was the earliest on record there. Rare in this

Region, a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** near Charleston, WV, Aug. 25 (WA, MG) furnished a third state record; others were at P.I.S.P. Aug. 30 (EH) and Sept. 2 (EK), and at Cumberland, MD, Sept. 7–13 (MT).

Most dowitchers in this Region are identified as Short-billed, so birds identified as Long-billed at P.I.S.P. Sept. 22 (EK, ph.), Pymatuning L., PA, Sept. 23 (RFL), *Mosquito L.*, OH, Oct. 6 (CB), and *Washington*, TN, Oct. 24–25 (BC) were noteworthy. A Red-necked Phalarope was seen Sept. 20 at Cumberland, MD (MT). Notably early was a **Red Phalarope** seen Sept. 11 at Watauga L., TN (†RK), a first for that area.

The most exciting birds of the season at P.I.S.P. were jaegers. A **Long-tailed Jaeger** seen there Sept. 2 (†JHo, EK) was apparently a first for Pennsylvania. A **Parasitic Jaeger** was there Sept. 22 (†EH, DD, EK, ph.), and on Sept. 30 another jaeger that was either Pomarine or Parasitic was seen there (†JM).

The only unusual gulls at P.I.S.P. were a Franklin's Gull Nov. 6 (JiS) and Little Gulls Oct. 28 and Nov. 29 (JeS, JiS). Pymatuning L., PA, had an estimated 16,000 Bonaparte's Gulls and 11,500 Ring-billed Gulls Nov. 11 (RFL). The peak of Bonaparte's at *Mosquito L.*, OH, was 650 (J & DH). Gulls were scarce at the e. Tennessee lakes (RK).

It was not a big year for terns. Caspian Terns were reported from B.E.S.P. Sept. 15 (G & PS), *L. Somerset*, PA, Sept. 24 (RCL), and Gavin Power Plant, OH, Sept. 9 (WA). A Com. Tern was at *S. Holston L.* on Sept. 25 (BC), and one at B.E.S.P. Oct. 4 furnished the first October record there (MW). A few Forster's Terns were seen Aug. 20–Nov. 4 at P.I.S.P. (JM, EK), but the only other records came from Watauga L., TN, Aug. 15 (BC), Gavin Power Plant, OH, Sept. 29 (WA), *Shawnee L.*, PA, Sept. 30 (JT), and *Donegal L.*, PA, Oct. 12 (RCL). There were more reports of Black Terns than usual.

OWLS TO WOODPECKERS

The only report of Barn Owls came from *Washington*, TN, where a brood of four young fledged Nov. 12 (DHu). A **Snowy Owl** was seen at Parkersburg, WV, Nov. 28–30 (m.ob.). Long-eared Owls were reported from P.I.S.P.



Immature male Rufous Hummingbird netted at Ligonier, Pennsylvania, November 15, 1990. It is shown with the notes, sketches, measurements, and reference materials used to identify the bird before it was released — an indication of just how difficult field identification of this species can be. Photograph/Robert S. Mulvihill.

on Oct. 21 (DD) and Nov. 24–25 (RSt, DD), while 10 Short-eared Owls were tallied there between Sept. 24 and Nov. 29 (JM *et al.*). Other Short-eared Owl reports came from State College, PA, Nov. 13 (HH), Jefferson, OH (where they had nested last spring), Nov. 17 and later (MA), and the Shenandoah Valley near Harrisonburg, VA (KF). An injured N. Saw-whet Owl picked up in Washington, TN, Nov. 9 furnished the first local record away from the high spruce forest (*vide* RK). Other records came from Bear Meadows, Centre, PA, Nov. 3 (GY), and P.I.S.P. Oct. 27 and Nov. 10 & 11 (JHo, DD, JeS).

At Johnson City, TN, 3500 Com. Nighthawks were counted in 31 hours over 38 days, with a maximum of 340 Sept. 8 (RK). Other concentrations were reported from the Blue Ridge Parkway, VA, Sept. 2 (BT) and Princeton, WV, Sept. 10 (JP), but in Trumbull, OH, the flight was considered poor (J & DH). A nighthawk at Waterford, PA, Oct. 11 was late (JiS), as was a singing Whip-poor-will in Centre, PA, Sept. 29 (TF).

At A.F.M.O. the season's count of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds was 703 with a peak count of 154 on Aug. 28 (RB). A **Black-chinned Hummingbird** was identified coming to a feeder in Chattanooga, TN, in late November (ph. JPk). If accepted by the state records committee, it will provide a Tennessee first. An imm. **Rufous Hummingbird** came to a feeder at Ligonier, PA, Oct. 17–Nov. 21 (RM, RCL, ph.). The bird was trapped, measured, and a tail feather taken as a voucher specimen. A hummingbird, as yet unidentified, was coming to a feeder in Anderson, TN, as late as

Nov. 30 (*vide* JBO).

Some of the Hawk Watch stations had good flights of Red-headed Woodpeckers. There were 3 sightings of Red-bellied Woodpecker in Warren, PA, north of the normal range (*vide* WH). A flicker appearing to be a Yellow-shafted X Red-shafted intergrade was banded Sept. 20 at P.N.R. (RCL, RM).

FLYCATCHERS TO WRENS

Olive-sided Flycatchers were at P.I.S.P. Aug. 25 (EK) & 29 (JiS), at P.N.R. Aug. 31 (RCL), and near Latrobe, PA, Sept. 2 (RM). Observers had little to say about small flycatchers, but a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher banded Oct. 17 at P.N.R. was very late (RM, RCL). Eastern Phoebe was one of the species banded at P.N.R. in numbers much lower than average (RM, RCL).

A concentration of 450 Tree Swallows and 150 Barn Swallows was seen at Mosquito Lake Game Ref., OH, Sept. 24 (J & DH). Over 11,000 Blue Jays were counted migrating over the A.F.M.O. station during the season, with a peak of 3168 on Oct. 5 (RB). Only 292 were netted and banded at that station (GAH). A notable movement was also detected in Crawford, PA, Oct. 21 (RFL). Common Raven continues to thrive in n. Pennsylvania, with 6 sightings in Warren (WH) and several sightings in Elk (LC), as well as a report of 5 nests this year in the Allegheny N.F. (DW). An unusually large flock of 22 ravens was seen at Roan Mt., TN, Nov. 7 (ES, AS), and one bird was at Canasauga L., GA, Nov. 15 (CR). Single ravens at unusually low elevations were at Clarksville, PA, Nov. 11 (RB), Johnson City, TN, Nov. 8 (BC), and Look Rock,

Blount, TN, Sept. 22 (A & RH).

There was a moderate southward movement of Black-capped Chickadees, starting in September and peaking in November; 34 were banded at A.F.M.O. and 22 at Morgantown (GAH). A Carolina Chickadee banded at P.N.R. Nov. 18 was only the 9th in 20 years. Tufted Titmouse is considered a permanent resident, but some sort of movement was indicated by the 17 banded at A.F.M.O., which lies at an elevation well above the nesting range. Two titmice at a feeder in the far northern county of Elk, PA, Oct. 29 (LC) were the first at that station. The flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches was very sparse.

Carolina Wrens were in good numbers, even in the north, with an increased number of sightings at P.I.S.P. (JM), several at feeders in Warren, PA (WH), and several sightings in Elk, PA (LC). The only report of Bewick's Wren came from Bath, VA, Sept. 28–30 (JMe). Sedge Wrens were reported from Austin Springs, TN, Oct. 3 (RK), 2 locations in Unicoi, TN, Sept. 24 & 30 (LN), and Bath, VA, Oct. 28–30 (CC). Marsh Wrens were reported from at least 4 locations, including a rather late one Oct. 31 at Mountwood Park, Wood, WV (NW).

GNATCATCHERS TO WARBLERS

A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at P.I.S.P. Oct. 10 (JeS) was 3 weeks later than the previous late date. Gray-cheeked Thrushes were in greater than normal numbers at A.F.M.O. (GAH), P.N.R. (RM, RCL), and Elizabethton, TN (RK). Swainson's Thrushes brought mixed reactions, reported as up at P.I.S.P. (JM), normal in e. Tennessee (RK), but low at State College, PA (JPe). At both P.N.R. and A.F.M.O., the capture ratio was more than one standard deviation below the 10-year average (RM, RCL, GAH). Wood Thrushes were in lower than normal numbers almost everywhere; several club field trips in Augusta, VA, recorded none at all (RS).

At Morgantown, WV, Am. Robins were in greater than normal numbers through October (GAH). Northern Mockingbird seems to be decreasing in the Shenandoah Valley (CC), but north of the regular range one was seen in Warren, PA, Sept. 24 (BH) and one at Pymatuning L., PA,

Nov. 11 (GF, JBa).

Counts of Am. Pipits included 28 at the Kingston Steam Plant, TN, Oct. 28 (BS *et al.*), 28 on the balds of Roan Mt., TN, Nov. 1 (RK), and 50+ at K.C.P.P. Nov. 10 (WA). Northern Shrikes were reported from B.E.S.P. Nov. 4 (JPe) & 22 (MW), Mercer, PA, Nov. 23 (JM), and P.I.S.P. from Oct. 27 through November (TF). The 8–10 reports of Loggerhead Shrikes at Elizabethton, TN, were about normal (RK). Other reports came from Bath, VA, Sept. 28–30 (CC), Donegal L., PA, Nov. 4 (DK), and Murray, GA, Nov. 14 (HD). Red-eyed Vireo numbers were above average at P.N.R. (RM, RCL) but below average at A.F.M.O., where Philadelphia Vireo numbers were also below average (GAH).

As usual, reports on the warbler flight were mixed. Some thought it was fair, others thought it was poor. No one rated it as good. For 15 selected species, capture ratios at P.N.R. showed one above the 10-year average, 11 within one standard deviation of that average, and three below average (RM, RCL). For the same 15 species at A.F.M.O., five were within one standard deviation of the average and 10 were below average. The two stations did agree that Tennessee Warblers were greatly reduced. Cape May Warblers were banded in record numbers at P.N.R. (RM, RCL) and seen in unusual numbers in Warren, PA (WH), but captures at A.F.M.O. were only half the 10-year average.

A "Brewster's Warbler" hybrid was seen at State College, PA, Sept. 3 (JPe) and one was banded Sept. 8 at P.N.R. (RM, RCL). A "Lawrence's Warbler" at P.I.S.P. Sept. 8 furnished the 3rd *Erie* record for this hybrid, and first in fall (JM, EK). The rarest warbler of the season, if correct, was a **Kirtland's Warbler** described near Blairsville, Union, GA, Oct. 5 (DF).

There were many very late dates for several warbler species. Some of the more interesting ones were: Canada Warbler Nov. 21 & 30 at P.N.R. (RCL, RM); Yellow-breasted Chat at Blue Grass, VA, Nov. 24 (Jbk); and Nashville Warbler at P.I.S.P. Nov. 27 (ph. JM).

GROSBEAKS TO FINCHES

The flight of Rose-breasted Gros

beaks was good, with a total of 465 counted Sept. 30 on the Elizabethton, TN, Fall Count (RK), and 25+ counted Sept. 22 at Look Rock, TN (R & AH). There were two records of **Black-headed Grosbeak**, both with convincing details: Parkersburg, WV, Sept. 23 (JBM) and Ripshin Mt., TN, Sept. 30 (FA *et al.*).

On Oct. 13 at Stuart's Draft, VA, the weather-induced "fallout" produced counts of 26 Indigo Buntings, 105 Savannah Sparrows, 17 Grasshopper Sparrows, and 14 Lincoln's Sparrows (SR). White-throated Sparrows were uncommon at Morgantown (GB, GAH), and Dark-eyed Juncos were late and scarce there (GAH). In the well-studied population of "Carolina" Dark-eyed Juncos at Mountain Lake Biological Station, VA,

the production of young birds was the lowest on record there, probably because of high rodent populations (CZ). An "Oregon" Dark-eyed Junco came to a feeder at Girard, OH, Nov. 19-30 (J & DH).

A total of 40 Lapland Longspurs was recorded at P.I.S.P. between Sept. 24 and Nov. 30 (JM *et al.*). The only other report, remarkable if correct, was of a lone bird in a parking lot in Mt. Mitchell S.P., NC, on the incredible date of Aug. 12 (RR). Snow Buntings were numerous locally in the north by the end of the period.

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WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

Daryl D. Tessen

August and September were warm and moist, especially in Wisconsin, where numerous heavy rains and strong storms hit various parts of the state. October was characterized by cooler temperatures with strong cold fronts twice accompanied by significant snowfall—in central and southern Wisconsin on the 10th and northern Minnesota on the 17th-18th. By early/mid November the temperatures had moderated considerably (even 60s and low 70s) and remained quite mild into early December. Gratifyingly, precipitation was generally excellent Regionwide, effectively ending the drought of 1988-1989.

Birders lamented the lackluster fall migration. Passerine movement, in particular of warblers, seemed slow during the early part of the period, especially in September—the prime month. Activity increased markedly during October, extending into early November. This period yielded a variety of interesting finds and late records. The remainder of November was characteristically quiet. Having particularly poor migrations were the hawks, shorebirds, sparrows, and finches. Further evidence came from the Lakewood Pumping Station in Duluth which tallied 187,387 migrants during 168



hours, down 75,000 from the previous autumn.

Despite this negative picture the season yielded three new state records: Anna's Hummingbird for Wisconsin, Hammond's Flycatcher for Michigan, and Ashthroated Flycatcher for Minnesota. Add to this Brown Pelican, Ross' Goose, King Eider, Black Vulture, Ferruginous Hawk, eight Gyrfalcons, Whooping Crane, Purple and Curlew sandpipers, Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers, Mew and California gulls, five Sabine's Gulls, several Northern Hawk and Great Gray owls, and Rock Wren, and this was not as dismal an autumn as many perceived.

Abbreviations: W.P.B.O. (*Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, Chippewa Co., MI*). Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO IBISES

Red-throated Loon totals included 84 between Aug. 19-Oct. 28 at W.P.B.O. (staff) and 22 between Sept. 5-Oct. 2 at Agate Harbor, MI (LB). Additional sightings were Oct. 19 at Tawas S.P. (RP) and Oct. 20 at Muskegon S.P. (JG). For Wisconsin 2 sightings were inland, Nov. 2 at Devil's Lake S.P. (PA) and Nov. 8 at Shawano L. (MP), while the one Nov. 20 at Ashland (DV) was more expected. An imm. Pacific Loon was found at Duluth Oct.

27 (KE). Unusual were two Com. Loons present at Madison, WI, in late July, joined by three others in early August. All five remained until late August (PA). On Oct. 19, at least 400 were counted at Tawas S.P. (RP, MPI). The W.P.B.O. staff tallied 4000 Com. Loons Aug. 4-Nov. 17.

Early was a Horned Grebe Aug. 18 at W.P.B.O. Amazing was the Red-necked Grebe count at W.P.B.O. this fall. Between Aug. 5-Nov. 16 the staff totaled 11,025 with a peak of 2721 on Sept. 5! At Michigan's Dow Ponds, three Eared Grebes were present Aug. 28-Nov. 30 (RW, TW) with one Nov. 17 at Spring L., MI (CV, FV). The Western Grebe families on Wisconsin's Rush L. lingered

until Aug. 24 (TZ).

American White Pelican numbers were up in e. Minnesota with several remaining late. Wisconsin had 3 sightings: a maximum of seven that spent August–September at Green Bay (m.ob.), three Oct. 17 at Superior (LS), and five Nov. 19 in *Polk* (JHu), the latter a late date. The elusive summering **Brown Pelican** that moved along the s. Lake Michigan shoreline (Michigan–Illinois) was seen Aug. 16 at Warren Dunes S.P. (SW). Wisconsin had December lingering Double-crested Cormorants at a surprising number of sites. Perhaps this is to be expected, owing to their rapidly increasing numbers.

Tardy was a Great Egret Nov. 11 at Trempealeau N.W.R., WI (TH). Snowy Egrets were found in all 3 states. Michigan had five at 4 sites, Wisconsin three at Green Bay, and Minnesota two including one at Agassiz N.W.R. Aug. 17 (PS), unusually far north. Little Blue Heron sightings included Aug. 12 & 22 and Sept. 5 in *Monroe*, MI (PC, TWe, RPu). Cattle Egrets were recorded in good numbers in all 3 states including 55 at Horicon N.W.R. Sept. 8 (DT). The Green-backed Heron found in Bloomington Nov. 18–Dec. 1 (SC *et al.*) represented a record late date for Minnesota. All 3 states recorded single Yellow-crowned Night-Herons. They included Aug. 2–Sept. 10 at Michigan's Erie Gun Club (TWe, PC, RPu *et al.*), Oct. 10–11 at Minnesota's Wood L., *Richfield* (m.ob.), and Oct. 30 along the Wisconsin R. in *Iowa* (RH). A *Plegadis* ibis identified as an imm. Glossy was at Metrobeach, MI, Aug. 23–25 (RPu, PC, RSi).

SWANS TO CRANES

The traditional Tundra Swan numbers on the Mississippi River between Weaver, MN, and Trempealeau, WI, did not materialize this fall. Only a few thousand were found. The two Wisconsin Trumpeter Swan families lingered until Sept. 30 at Oakridge Lake (JS) and Oct. 19 in *Polk* (JHu).

Greater White-fronted Goose sightings included one Sept. 28 into December in *Kalamazoo*, MI (RA, WW), three Oct. 24 in *Dane*, WI (RH), and a maximum of three Oct. 30–Nov. 17 at Goose Pond, WI (ST, A & SS *et al.*). Unusual was a Snow Goose present at Wisconsin's Crex Meadows W.A. at the beginning of the period

(JH). A **Ross' Goose** was discovered by Robinson at Goose Pond, WI, Oct. 21, and was relocated Oct. 26 (A & SS). Canada Geese peaked at 22,273 Nov. 8 at Shiawassee N.W.R., MI, a record 175,000 Nov. 30 at Lac Qui Parle W.A., MN, and about 200,000 Nov. 14 at Horicon N.W.R. with a total of 585,600 in east-central Wisconsin (BV). A mass exodus occurred Dec. 3 when a blizzard struck central Wisconsin.

A Canvasback was present at the beginning of August in Ashland, WI (DV). The maximum number this fall was 1000 Nov. 24 at Belle Isle, MI (JG, RPu). The peak Ring-necked Duck count was of 750 Oct. 20 at Alabaster, MI (RW, MH). Scaup started migrating Aug. 26 at W.P.B.O. (staff) and Sept. 17 in Wisconsin's *Ozaukee* (BC). A first-winter imm. **King Eider** was found by Backstrom at



King Eider (with Mallards) at Grand Marais, Minnesota, October 21, 1990. Photograph/Dudley Edmondson.

Grand Marais Oct. 20, remaining until Nov. 24. This was only the 2nd recent record for Minnesota. An eider sp. was seen Oct. 7 at W.P.B.O. (staff). Harlequin Ducks were recorded in all 3 states. Michigan had four, including a very early one Sept. 15 at W.P.B.O. (TL, LD, PSy, CK); up to three were at Grand Marais Oct. 21 to early November (m.ob.), while probably the same bird that wintered at Madison, WI, last year returned Nov. 12 (PA *et al.*).

Early was an Oldsquaw Sept. 20 at W.P.B.O. The scoter migration was not as outstanding as last fall but still above average, especially in Michigan and Wisconsin. A record-early Black Scoter was found Sept. 2 (MHe) at Paradise Beach, MN. Early was a Bufflehead Aug. 29 in *Green Lake*, WI (SR).

For the 2nd consecutive fall, Hartman found a **Black Vulture** among the Turkey Vultures at Devil's Lake S.P., WI, during early October. Unfortunately, it could

not be relocated. The fall hawk migration presented a mixed picture. Generally it was a poor flight, especially in Minnesota and Wisconsin, while Michigan recorded an above-average movement. Late was an Osprey Nov. 23 at the Concordia College overlook, *Ozaukee*, WI (BC). Peak Broad-winged Hawk counts at Duluth's Lakewood Pumping Station included 9195 Sept. 14 and 12,842 Sept. 15. Regional Swainson's Hawks included three at Hawk Ridge and one Sept. 6 at W.P.B.O. (LD). Undoubtedly the **Ferruginous Hawk** present during November at the Allegan S.G.A., MI (JG *et al.*), was the same individual as last year. Very early was a Rough-legged Hawk in *Taylor*, WI, Aug. 11 (PR).

Additional Golden Eagle sightings included five in Michigan and three in Wisconsin. The Merlin flight in Wisconsin was excellent, as evidenced by the 571 counted at Concordia College by Cowart during the fall. All 3 states found **Gyrfalcons** this fall. Minnesota led with six birds, followed by Michigan's three and Wisconsin's one. All sightings were during October–November except a very early imm. male banded at Hawk Ridge Sept. 24. Five Prairie Falcons were found in Minnesota.

Hoefler counted 1400 Sandhill Cranes Oct. 20 at Crex Meadows W.A., WI. A **Whooping Crane** was discovered (MHd) Oct. 11 in a farm field near Gatzke, MN. It could not be relocated the following day but was rediscovered Oct. 21 about 60 mi s.w. at Burnam Creek W.A., near Crookston (DS *et al.*), where it remained through Nov. 28. This was Minnesota's first since 1951.

SHOREBIRDS

Extremely late Lesser Golden-Plovers included Nov. 17 in *Manistee*, MI (BA), Nov. 24 in *Nobles*, MN (RG, BJ), and Nov. 25 in *Walworth*, WI (DT). American Avocets were found in Michigan with one Aug. 3–16 at Shiawassee N.W.R. (DP) and two Sept. 4–14 at the Erie Gun Club (PC, DB). One was observed flying over L. Michigan at Wisconsin's Harrington Beach S.P. Sept. 22 (DT *et al.*). Late yellowlegs sightings included a Greater Nov. 11 in *Columbia*, WI (PA), and a Lesser Nov. 17 at Kensington Metropark, MI (GM). Willets were found in Michigan (12 birds at 4 sites) Aug. 4–Sept. 10, and in Wisconsin (five birds at 3 sites) Aug. 6–Sept. 28. Whim-

brils in Michigan included single birds Aug. 5 in *Keweenaw* (LB) and Aug. 23 & 31 at W.P.B.O. (staff). In Wisconsin one was found in the fog s. of Two Rivers Aug. 27 (DT). Five Hudsonian Godwits were recorded in Michigan with a late Nov. 13 sighting at Erie Metropark (GM). Michigan found five Marbled Godwits with Wisconsin having one.



Purple Sandpiper at New Buffalo, Michigan, November 20, 1990. Photograph/Robert Putman.

Red Knots were present at 7 Michigan and 3 Wisconsin sites. Chu tallied 770 Semipalmated Sandpipers at the Erie Gun Club Aug. 2. Western Sandpipers were found in Michigan (six) and Wisconsin (two). Tardy was a Pectoral Sandpiper Nov. 15 at Erie Metropark (RPu). **Purple Sandpipers** were observed and photographed at Sheboygan, WI, Nov. 2 and Nov. 23 into December (D & MB, DT *et al.*) and at New Buffalo, MI, Nov. 18–25 (WWh *et al.*). The **Curlew Sandpiper** at Pointe Mouillee Sept. 4–13 (PC, RPu, PSy) represented Michigan's 5th record. The Buff-breasted Sandpiper flight was very poor, especially in contrast to last fall. Only Wisconsin and Michigan had sightings of a very few birds. A ♀ Ruff was discovered at Pointe Mouillee Sept. 1–2 (KP, DP, JG). A **Red Phalarope** was present Oct. 14–17 at Michigan's Dow Ponds (RW, TW *et al.*).

JAEGERS TO CUCKOOS

Typical jaeger numbers were found in Wisconsin and Minnesota. In the former state all sightings occurred at Superior's Wisconsin Pt. with an unidentified individual Sept. 9 (JR), an immature Parasitic Sept. 16–29 (RJ, DT) and a Pomarine Sept. 29 (DT). Several Parasitics were watched at Duluth during mid-

season. However, Michigan had an outstanding migration with almost 30 birds recorded. Sightings were restricted to 2 sites, W.P.B.O. and *Berrien*. A total of 11 unidentified individuals were noted (nine W.P.B.O., two *Berrien*). Fourteen Parasitics were tallied, 13 at W.P.B.O. between Sept. 1-22 with the other bird at St. Joseph Nov. 6. No fewer than a total of three Pomarines were reported at W.P.B.O., including Sept. 10 (TL), 21 (JG), & 22 (DE, PC, PP *et al.*).

Laughing Gulls were found in *Berrien* with an adult Aug. 14 (KM) and an immature Sept. 1 (PC, DP, JG). There were many out-of-range Franklin's Gull sightings. Wisconsin recorded birds at 6 sites, including 26 Oct. 6 at Concordia College (BC) and an impressive 250 Oct. 3-5 in *Polk* (JHu). Michigan noted individuals at 4 sites. Little Gulls were recorded during August at Manitowac and Milwaukee. Five to seven were found at 3 Michigan sites, with the latest Nov. 22 at Muskegon L. (SM). At Michigan's Erie Power Plant, 2500 Bonaparte's Gulls were present Oct. 30 (RPu). A **Mew Gull** was watched by Sontag Nov. 30 at Manitowac, WI. A first-winter **California Gull** was present at St. Joseph, MI, Sept. 16-23 (JG, DP, KL).

An ad. Thayer's Gull was at W.P.B.O. Oct. 19 (TL). Adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls were found Sept. 19-Nov. 24 at Bay City S.P. (RW, PC, MW *et al.*) and Nov. 16 at Port Huron, MI (RPu). Glaucous Gulls were noted at 5 Michigan and 2 Wisconsin sites with a maximum of eight at Superior. Great Black-backed Gulls were present in 4 Michigan counties; Wisconsin had an immature at Harrington Beach S.P. Oct. 13 (DT) and Manitowac Oct. 17 (CS), and an adult at Superior Nov. 10-20 (RJ, LS, JR). Impressive numbers of Black-legged Kittiwakes were recorded in Michigan. At W.P.B.O. an adult was seen Oct. 21 and Nov. 8, with one to two immatures present intermittently Nov. 4-17. At Port Huron, five immatures were found Nov. 4 with two Nov. 24 (PC, JG, TWe). Unprecedented was the number of **Sabine's Gull** sightings in Michigan. Single immatures were at W.P.B.O. Sept. 22 (PC *et al.*) and Oct. 21 (LD, LG *et al.*), at St. Joseph Sept. 24 (PU, KM) and Oct. 15 (RS), and at Grand Haven Oct. 19 (BM)

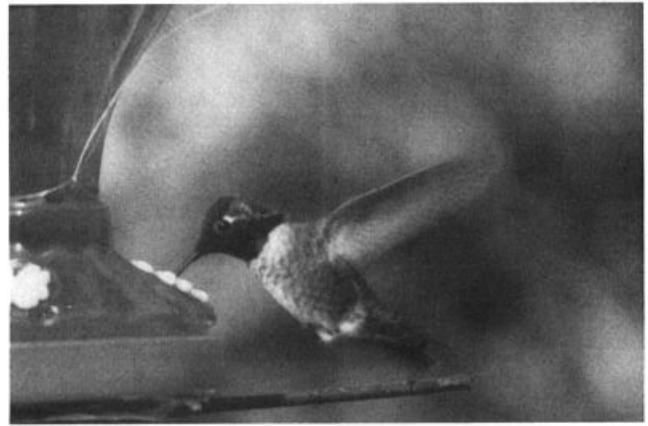
S.A.

At the beginning of November the Brian Cornett family of Joshua Tree Nat'l Monument, CA, moved to Modivi, WI. Upon arriving and unpacking, they discovered a Greater Roadrunner that had survived the 4-day trip in the back of their van. After several attempts it was caught and turned over to Charles Kemper, who cared for it while arrangements were made for its return to California. An Eau Claire individual covered the plane expenses and even drove it to the Twin Cities airport. Upon arrival, the roadrunner was placed in quarantine for the mandatory 10 days, then released back in its original home.

OWLS TO HUMMINGBIRDS

Minnesota had its first successful Barn Owl nesting since 1963 when young were fledged near Hastings. In contrast to last year, Snowy Owls commenced appearing during the latter half of the period suggesting a winter movement. Also indicative of a possible movement was the appearance of N. Hawk Owls in all 3 states, with Great Gray Owls found in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Minnesota had four N. Hawk Owl sightings including an early individual near Upper Red L. Sept. 28 (RR); Michigan had one Oct. 14 near L. Glazon (LB). For Wisconsin, it was the first **Northern Hawk Owl** record in almost 30 years when one took up residence about 10 mi s. of Superior Nov. 18 into December (LS, RJ *et al.*). Great Grays were found at 5 Minnesota sites while in Wisconsin at least three birds were present, two in *Douglas* (DT, LS) and one in *Polk* (JRi). There were few Long-eared Owl reports. In contrast, good numbers of Short-eared Owls were noted in Michigan and especially in Wisconsin. Early was a Boreal Owl at Duluth Oct. 24 (m.ob.). In Milwaukee on Oct. 13, during unloading of a freighter from Canada, a N. Saw-whet Owl was discovered. It was rehabilitated and released Nov. 1 (SD). At the Linwood Springs station in *Portage*, WI, 633 Saw-whets were banded Sept. 17-Nov. 17, with a peak of 52 Oct. 24 (EJ).

A major Com. Nighthawk flight was noted in Wisconsin and



Adult male Anna's Hummingbird in Wales, Wisconsin, November 28, 1990. First record for the state and for the Great Lakes area. Photograph/Lee Kranich.

Minnesota Aug. 24-27. For example, 8000+ were counted during a 3-hour period at Concordia College Aug. 27 (BC), and a spectacular 43,690 were counted during a 2.75 hr. period at the Duluth Lakewood Pumping Station (MHe *et al.*).

It was now early December and

S.A.

In late August at the David Schmidt residence in Wales, s. Wisconsin, a hummingbird was discovered coming to the feeder. As both David and Sue were novice birders, they were uncertain as to its identity, but paging through books convinced them it was different. During the next 2+ months the hummingbird fed at their feeder; they tentatively identified it as an Anna's Hummingbird, then doubted this when they found its normal range was far to the west. With the advent of more typical Wisconsin autumn weather it spent more time at the feeder, resting and eventually sleeping in a thicket near the house. In early November the Schmidts removed the feeder, hoping to encourage the bird to head south (or west). It quickly became evident that the hummingbird was totally dependent upon the feeder and would die if not fed, so the feeder was returned. Finally in late November the Schmidts succeeded in getting word to the birding community. On Nov. 29 Bob Adams arrived and was astonished to find a breeding-plumaged ♂ **Anna's Hummingbird**. Word quickly spread and in the next 3 days 55 birders from Wisconsin and adjacent states were entertained by David, Sue, and the Anna's.

concern was expressed for the hummingbird's safety. In typical Wisconsin fashion, the unusually mild weather changed abruptly. Dawn Dec. 3 began with a snowstorm that quickly changed into a blizzard, the worst in 10 years. Amazingly, two banders braved these conditions to capture the bird. After a futile hour with mist-nets, it was finally hand-captured and rushed to the Milwaukee botanical domes. As this is written, the Anna's Hummingbird is enjoying a Wisconsin winter inside the tropical dome with its feeder. This was the first record for Wisconsin and the Region.

WOODPECKERS TO SHRIKES

Unusually far north were Red-bellied Woodpeckers seen in Hovland and Grand Marais, MN. Two Three-toed Woodpeckers were found in Minnesota, Sept. 16 into December in *Cook* (K & MH) and Nov. 8 in *Lake of the Woods* (MK). Some 600 N. Flickers were counted Sept. 20 in *Price*, WI.

Two outstanding flycatcher sightings occurred this fall. First a **Hammond's Flycatcher** was discovered at the Kalamazoo Nature Center Oct. 24 (PD, RA, JG). The specimen was transferred to the U. of Michigan Museum of Zoology for verification. If verified by California experts and accepted by the records committee it would represent Michigan's first record. Next an **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was discovered near Randall, MN, Nov. 3 (RG, BJ). During the next 3 days it was seen and photographed by many others. This represents Minnesota's first record. Single W. Kingbirds were found in Michigan Sept. 9 at the Freeland Sewage Lagoons (RW) and Sept. 14-15 at W.P.B.O. (LD, TL). A



Ash-throated Flycatcher in Morrison County, Minnesota, November 4, 1990. First state record. Photograph/Peder Svingen/VIREO.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was in Norman, MN, Sept. 26 (PS).

Impressive were the 15,000–20,000 Bank Swallows at the Erie Gun Club Aug. 12 (DC). South of their normal range were Com. Ravens in Clay, Todd, and Benton, MN, and Huron, MI. Also south of their normal range were Red-breasted Nuthatches in Madison and Appleton, WI, at the beginning of the period. Michigan had its 6th Rock Wren record when one was present Nov. 8–19 at W.P.B.O. (LD, TL *et al.*). The Carolina Wren picture continued to be very positive. All 3 states recorded individuals with Michigan having 6 sites, Wisconsin at least 2, and Minnesota one. Record late was a Marsh Wren at Faribault, MN, Nov. 30 (TB).

Tardy was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Madison Nov. 22 (PA). The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher continues to expand its Minnesota range as evidenced by sightings in Becker and Pine. Three Mountain Bluebirds were seen during October in Minnesota. During a 3-day period (Oct. 5–7) 27,000 Am. Robins were recorded at the Lakewood Pumping Station. A record-early Varied Thrush was present Sept. 16–17 in Wilkin, MN (MO), with the only other report of one coming to the Mihalek feeder near Washburn, WI, commencing Nov. 29 (*fide* DV). A Gray Catbird apparently was attempting to winter in the U. of Wis. Arboretum at Madison at the same site as last year (PA). Several N. Mockingbirds were found in Michigan including a family group of six Aug. 4 in Marquette (NI,

TSh), two Aug. 12–26 at Eagle Bay (ME, RW), and singles Aug. 27 at Quanicasee S.G.A. (RAN) and Oct. 31 at Erie Metropark (GM). In contrast to last year, good numbers of N. Shrikes were found commencing in late October. The only Loggerhead Shrike sightings were Aug. 26 in St. Croix, WI (JS), and Sept. 1 and Oct. 6 in Allegan, MI (JG, PC).

VIREOS TO FINCHES

Single White-eyed Vireos in Michigan were found Sept. 8 in Monroe (DP) and Hillsdale (JRE) and until Sept. 15 in Berrien (KM). The only Bell's Vireo report was in Dane, WI, Aug. 31 (SR).

The peak warbler count at the Lakewood Pumping Station was of 9420 birds Sept. 19, mainly Yellow-rumpeds and Palms. Late was a Pine Warbler Nov. 23 in Midland, MI (CF, RW). Not only late but unusually far north was a ♀ Prairie Warbler Nov. 1–2 at W.P.B.O. (LD, SB, NW, TL). Very late were Bay-breasted Warblers near Ashby, MN, Nov. 13 (record late—RG) and Muskegon S.P., MI, Nov. 22 (SM). Somewhat less tardy was a Com. Yellowthroat in Madison, WI, Nov. 17 (PA). There were three October Yellow-breasted Chat sightings in Michigan, including two Oct. 7 at Metrobeach (DL), into October at Kalamazoo Nature Center (JG), and a surprising individual Oct. 21 at W.P.B.O. (LD) for one of the few Upper Peninsula records.

Unusual was a ♀ Summer Tanager that came to a feeder for about a week during early November in Merton, WI (MD *et al.*). A W. Tanager was observed by the Falks Sept. 16 in Moorhead, MN. Further evidence of the northern extension of N. Cardinal's range were one in Superior Oct. 6–17 (RJ) and another at W.P.B.O. Nov. 2–4. A tardy Lark Sparrow was seen near Copper Harbor Oct. 7 (LB). Sharp-tailed Sparrows were reported only from Wisconsin: two Sept. 18 at Ashland (DV), and singles Sept. 20 at Manitowoc (CS) and Sept. 25 at Concordia College (JF). The Harris' Sparrow flight in Wisconsin was typical, good in the west and very poor in the east. Early were Lapland Longspurs Sept. 8 at W.P.B.O. (staff) and Sept. 16 at New Buffalo (JG, DP). Again this fall, w. Minnesota had a good Smith's Longspur flight.

The winter finch flight this au-

turn proved deceiving and poor. Appearing in decent numbers during October/early November were Red Crossbill, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak. But by late November the latter two species had almost totally disappeared, with Red Crossbill rapidly decreasing. Did these species move farther south? Other winter finches yielded disappointing numbers all autumn, some being almost nonexistent, *e.g.*, White-winged Crossbill and Com. Redpoll. By season's end, even northern observers were lamenting the atypically quiet woods.

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MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

Bruce G. Peterjohn

The mild wet weather of summer continued through autumn. Most localities experienced above-normal temperatures every month except October. November was exceptionally mild; as the season ended, many areas had not seen any snow and all bodies of water remained open. Cold fronts passed through the Region on a regular basis, producing abundant rainfall in every state.

As expected in this diverse Region, migration patterns varied markedly from state to state. In general, shorebirds were disappointing and waterfowl were almost nonexistent in many areas. The passerine migration was prolonged along Lake Erie but unremarkable elsewhere as the numerous cold fronts pushed most species across the Region but produced few sizable concentrations. A good assortment of rarities highlighted an otherwise mediocre season.

Abbreviations: Say. Res. (*Saylorville Reservoir, IA*); U.S.W.R. (*Union Slough Nat'l Wildlife Ref., IA*); O.W.R. (*Ottawa Nat'l Wildlife Ref., OH*); S.C.R. (*Squaw Creek Nat'l Wildlife Ref., MO*); Spfld. (*Springfield, IL*). Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO CORMORANTS

An early Red-throated Loon returned to Headlands S.P., OH, Sept. 23 (LR, RHn). Another strong flight produced five records of single Red-throateds from L. Michigan and two from L. Erie, while eight inland records were scattered across every state. The most noteworthy inland sightings included singles at Coralville Res., IA, Nov. 4 (†TK *et al.*), L. Manawa, IA, Nov. 12–13 (†AJ *et al.*), and Louisville Nov. 24–29 (†J & PB *et al.*), and up to two at Thomas Hill Res., MO, Nov. 10–30 (PM, TB, †CH *et al.*) and Crab Orchard N.W.R., IL, Nov. 19–23 (BD, †Dro *et al.*). They are casual or accidental fall visitors to these locations. No Pacific Loons were acceptably described. While several summering Com. Loons were noted during August,



the first migrants appeared Sept. 21–28. A strong movement through the w. states produced unprecedented tallies of 297 at Say. Res. on Nov 4 (SD), 230 at Coralville Res., IA, Nov. 4 (TK), and 41 at Thomas Hill Res., MO, Nov. 10 (PM, TB).

Pied-billed Grebes peaked with 150 at U.S.W.R. Oct. 11 (MK). Horned Grebes returned to Iowa by Sept. 3 but produced few concentrations, such as 300 in *Gibson*, IN, Nov. 25 (GB) and 100 at Table Rock L., MO, Nov. 18 (PMA). The largest Great Lakes flock totalled 100. Last fall's flight of Red-necked Grebes was not repeated. There were one L. Erie and two L. Michigan reports of single Red-neckeds. Inland sightings were limited to one at Caesar Creek Res., OH, Nov. 17–18 (LG, TLI) and two records from Iowa, including an early juvenile at U.S.W.R. on Aug. 28 (TMK). Few Eared Grebes appeared in the w. states and a sub-par movement east of the Mississippi R. produced three or fewer grebes at 4 Illinois and 2 Ohio locations. Western Grebes were a maximum of five at 4 Iowa lakes and singles at 3 Missouri sites e. to Alton Nov. 1 (TP).

A typical passage of Am. White Pelicans peaked with flocks of 1650–4400 at 3 Iowa lakes and 300–600 at 2 Missouri locations. There were five reports from Illinois with a maximum of seven at Mark Twain N.W.R. Sept. 15 (m.ob.). The pelican at O.W.R. remained through Aug. 25, while other singles wandered to Richmond, IN, Aug. 14 (BB), Lake St.

Mary's, OH, Aug. 27–Sept. 2 (m.ob.), and Turtle Creek Res., IN, Oct. 19–21 (TT). The summering **Brown Pelican** on L. Michigan was last noted at Zion, IL, Aug. 10 (†DJo).

Double-crested Cormorants continued to set records with an estimated 3000 at Rend L., IL, Oct. 7 (TF, JD) and 1000–2600 at 6 other sites in Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, and n.w. Ohio. Flocks of 100–500+ cormorants were noted at many locations where they were formerly rare. A belated report of an **Olivaceous Cormorant** at S.C.R. June 5–6, 1990 (†BJ, †m.ob.) furnished a first record from Missouri.

HERONS, IBISES

Numbers of both bitterns improved slightly with 18+ reports of Americans and 9 of Least. Late Am. Bitterns remained through Nov. 24 near Crawfordsville, IN (DZ) and Nov. 21 in *Knox*, IL (MBA). Extralimital Snowy Egrets appeared at 7 locations in the n. states with a maximum of 12 at Big L., IL, Sept. 22 (RPa). The last Snowies remained in *Marshall*, KY, through Oct. 20 (CP, MM) and *Erie*, OH, until Oct. 13 (LR, JV). Little Blue Herons staged a small N movement, numbering 55 at Riverton W.M.A., IA, Aug. 19 (TBr, BPa), 25–30 in c. Illinois, and 18 in *Gibson*, IN, Aug. 5 (GB). Wandering Little Blues were detected at 8 other locations. The Tricolored Heron in *Erie*, OH, was regularly observed through Aug. 26 (m.ob.).

Numbers of Cattle Egrets rebounded in some n. states where the largest flocks totalled 210 in *Fulton*, IL, Sept. 9 (LA *et al.*), 33 in *Erie*, OH, 18–24 in n. Illinois, and 10 in Iowa. As expected, a few Cattle Egrets appeared during November, producing 4 reports from n.w. Ohio and one from n. Illinois. The last were noted in *Seneca*, OH, Nov. 29–30 (TBA) and *Evanston*, IL, Nov. 16 (EW). Late Green-backed Herons lingered to Nov. 23–25 in *Cook*, IL, and Nov. 15 in *Butler*, OH (TA). The 25 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at Riverton W.M.A., IA, Aug. 25–26 (RC, DP) easily outnumbered the Region's 13 other reports.

Kentucky's 8th **White Ibis** was an immature near Hodgenville Sept. 12–14 (JE, m.ob., ph.). At least one White-faced Ibis was identified by its red iris at Big Lake Sept. 14–23 (†RPa, †MD *et al.*), furnishing the 2nd fall record for Illinois. Unidentified *Plegadis* ibises produced 5 records from Iowa, 2 from Missouri, and one from Ohio and Indiana, an exceptional number of fall sightings. Singles lingered through Nov. 4 in Missouri and Nov. 11 along w. Lake Erie.

WATERFOWL

Accidental visitors, **Fulvous Whistling-Ducks** generated excitement in s.e. Missouri, where two appeared near Steele June 30–July 1 (HS, †BR) and another at Duck Creek W.M.A. Aug. 7 (†HF). Tundra Swans passed through the n. states in expected numbers. They returned to Iowa by Oct. 20, and

the largest concentrations totalled 600 in n.e. Iowa, 100–500+ across n. Ohio, and 30–60 in n. Illinois and n. Indiana.

Last fall's major flight of Greater White-fronted Geese through the w. states was not repeated, as the largest flock numbered 160 at Thomas Hill Res., MO, Oct. 7 (IA). A good fall flight for Illinois consisted of 8+ records with a maximum of 53 at Big Lake Oct. 20 (RPa, MD). The only other report e. of the Mississippi R. was of four in *Henderson*, KY, Oct. 13 (m.ob.). Snow Geese returned by Sept. 17–22 but their numbers were not impressive except for the usual immense flocks in w. Iowa. Scattered reports of Ross' Geese in Iowa included a remarkable 29 at Riverton W.M.A. Nov. 20 (SD). Rare but regular migrants through Illinois, as many as five Ross' Geese were noted in *Fulton* Oct. 20–Nov. 3 (LA). A casual fall visitor to n.w. Indiana, one Brant remained at Lake George Oct. 14–Nov. 3 (KB *et al.*). Only one Brant along L. Erie constituted a poor flight for recent years, while 10 at LaDue Res. Nov. 22 (TSu) were unprecedented for an inland Ohio lake.

The duck migration reached new lows in most areas, continuing the trend of recent years. A flock of 200 Wood Ducks at U.S.W.R. was unexpected on the late date of Nov. 19 (MK). A few noteworthy flocks of puddle ducks were encountered such as 2000 Green-winged Teal at Rend L., IL, Nov. 12 (TF), 2000 N. Pintail at Big L., IL, Sept. 25 (RPa), and 1000 Gadwall at Thomas Hill Res., MO, Oct. 7 (IA), but such numbers were not representative of the Region as a whole. A single Eur. Wigeon near Thomson, IL, Oct. 31–Nov. 16 (†LJ) furnished the only report of this very rare fall migrant.

Diving ducks did not fare any better, especially Canvasbacks and Redheads, which were found in distressingly low numbers. Ring-necked Ducks peaked with 1300 at Lake Rockwell, OH, Nov. 4 (LR). An early Greater Scaup returned to *Lake*, OH, Sept. 30 (LR, RHn) and the largest inland flock numbered 12 at Maryville, MO, Nov. 4 (DE). Scaup produced a few sizable concentrations including a mixed flock of 12,000 at Illinois Beach S.P., IL, Oct. 26 (DJo) and groups of 3000–5000 Lessers in Iowa and Missouri Nov. 3–4, but most observers encountered poor numbers.

King Eiders were unreported for the first fall since 1982. Only one Harlequin Duck was discovered, at Cleveland, a poor showing for recent years. The 155 Oldsquaw at Wilmette, IL, Nov. 24 (EW) represented an exceptional recent tally for L. Michigan. Similar numbers were not evident elsewhere. Only one Oldsquaw was noted along L. Erie and the 7 inland sightings were restricted to Illinois and Iowa.

The scoter flight was average at best. Black Scoters peaked with 50+ at Cleveland and 11 along Lake Michigan. Most noteworthy of 8 inland reports were two Blacks at Lake Pewee, KY, Oct. 28 (BP, LRA) and a maximum of seven at Hursttown Res., IN, Oct. 3 (Haw, MW). Surf Scoters were nearly equally numerous. They returned to both Great Lakes by Sept. 28–30 and the largest flocks totalled 50+ along L. Erie. Small numbers were detected at 12 inland lakes, most notably in Kentucky at Bernheim S.F., Nov. 10 (BM, MMo) where they are casual migrants. Few White-winged Scoters were found along both Great Lakes with a peak of six on L. Michigan. Inland White-winged appeared at 13 locations, beginning Oct. 8 at Spfld. (DB) and reaching maxima of nine in Iowa and Illinois.

A Bufflehead at Say. Res. Sept. 23 (SD) was early, while 500 were estimated at Carlyle L., IL, Nov. 11 (MD). Flocks of 400–450 Hooded Mergansers were noted in Indiana, Missouri, and Illinois. Red-breasted Mergansers remained plentiful on Lake Erie, where 50,000+ congregated at Cleveland.

HAWKS TO CRANES

Fifty Black Vultures at Paint Creek Res. Sept. 23 (SW) made an exceptional count for s.w. Ohio. The latest of 10 November Ospreys lingered at Pike, OH, Nov. 17 (TBn, DMi) and Lake Pewee, KY, Nov. 16 (JH). Mississippi Kites were restricted to their traditional range, where flocks of 10–19 kites were noted in Ballard, KY, Aug. 3 (BM, MMo). Bald Eagles peaked with 13 at O.W.R. (m.ob.) and 10 at Patoka Lake, IN, Nov. 29 (DW), an indication of their improved status in the e. states. Except for a maximum of 35 in Kentucky, N. Harriers were noted in small numbers. The only flight of Sharp-shinned Hawks produced 61 at Grammar Grove, IA, Sept.

29 (BPt). The long-awaited flight of N. Goshawks did not develop, as there were only 5 acceptable records from the n. states.

This fall's Broad-winged Hawk migration was sandwiched between Sept. 17–22. Most reports numbered fewer than 200 Broad-winged, although 3500 passed over St. Louis Sept. 22 (MP). Good numbers of Swainson's Hawks were detected in the w. states with a total of 29 in *Holland Atchison*, MO, between Sept. 24–Oct. 1 (MR), 19 at Waubonsie S.P., IA, Oct. 2 (BPa), and 125 in *Andrew*, MO, Oct. 5 with 38 there the next day (JHi). A Swainson's Hawk in *Peoria* Aug. 25–26 (†LA *et al*) was unexpected away from Illinois' breeding location. Another **Swainson's Hawk** at Dugger W.M.A. Sept. 19 (†SL) furnished one of very few acceptable sightings for Indiana. An early Rough-legged Hawk at Coralville Res., IA, Sept. 23 (RHo) was followed by a fair flight in most areas.

The 11 reports of Golden Eagles constituted a good fall total. They were locally unusual visitors to *Holmes*, OH, Oct. 20 (DM), Knox, IN, Nov. 7 (RHa), and *Seneca*, OH, Nov. 11 (TBa). Merlins increased in most states and an impressive 11 passed Wilmette, IL, Oct. 7 (EW *et al*). Peregrine Falcons staged an excellent flight along L. Michigan, where a seasonal total of 14 in n.w. Indiana was dwarfed by 26 at Wilmette, IL, Oct. 7 and 10 there Oct. 8 (EW *et al*). Singles were widely reported elsewhere. Four Prairie Falcons were noted in Iowa after Oct. 14, normal numbers for recent years. Singles at *DeWitt* Nov. 10 (†RCh *et al*) and Buffalo Nov. 15–17 (DB) reflected their status as rare but regular fall/winter visitors in Illinois.

A dismal rail migration was highlighted by single Yellow Rails in *Douglas*, IL, Sept. 9 (†RCh), Snake Creek Marsh, IA, Sept. 29 (AJ), and *Vermilion*, IL, Oct. 6 (†ME, VB), and a Black Rail at Clinton Lake, IL, Oct. 6 (†RPa, †MD). Single King Rails were noted at only 2 Illinois locations while numbers of Virginias and Soras were distressingly low. Common Moorhens were also scarce, although singles lingered through Nov. 1 at Barberton, OH (LR) and Nov. 4 at O.W.R. (EP *et al*).

More than 15,000 Sandhill Cranes staged at Jasper–Pulaski W.M.A., IN (*vide* JC), as their numbers continue to expand. Mi-

grant flocks appeared over Kentucky by Sept. 29, but their southward passage from Jasper–Pulaski W.M.A. peaked Nov. 13–18 with maxima of 1000 in *Hart*, KY (SK), *Hardin*, KY (MB, ST), and *Lawrence*, IN (*vide* JC). Their movement across n.e. Illinois was concentrated Nov. 23–24 with a peak of 737 over *Cook* Nov. 23 (LB). Elsewhere, 250 passed over *Hamilton*, OH, Nov. 8 (PW) while 100 at Bonne Terre Oct. 4 (HF) easily dwarfed all recent reports from Missouri. Wandering cranes also appeared at 2 sites in Iowa and one in c. Illinois.

SHOREBIRDS

This migration was notable for its paucity of large shorebird concentrations. Black-bellied Plovers lingered through Nov. 22–30 in every n. state. A flock of 700 Lesser Golden-Plovers at Big Wall L., IA, Oct. 7 (SD) easily surpassed all other reports. A bird identified as a juv. **Snowy Plover** at Miller Beach Sept. 15 (†KB *et al*) furnished a first fall record for Indiana and the entire Region for this accidental visitor. Late Semipalmated Plovers remained through Nov. 3 in Illinois and Iowa. Five reports of single Piping Plovers constituted a below-normal flight.

The largest flocks of Am. Avocets totalled 14 at Swan Lake N.W.R., MO, Sept. 15 (JW) and eight to nine in Iowa and Illinois. They are casual visitors to Kentucky, where three were noted at Louisville Aug. 16 and two Aug. 29 (LRA). A poor showing for Willets produced 10 records with a maximum of five in n.w. Indiana. Three late Spotted Sandpipers were found at Newton, OH, Nov. 4 (RL). The only sizable flock of Upland Sandpipers numbered 20 at Decatur, IL, Aug. 18 (RPa).

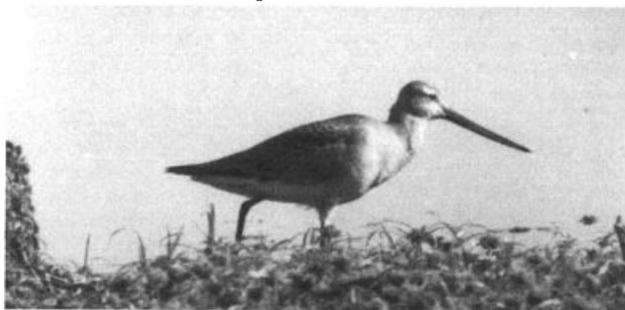
Fall Whimbrels normally appear in groups of one to six along L. Erie. This migration produced extraordinary numbers with 44 at Headlands S.P., OH, Aug. 19

(LR, RHn) and 104 there Sept. 8 (AF, AFj). Expected small numbers were noted elsewhere on L. Erie, while there were 3 reports of single Whimbrels from the Chicago lakefront during late August. A mediocre flight of Hudsonian Godwits produced 3 Illinois sightings with a maximum of five at Arcola Aug. 25–26 (RPa, MD *et al*), one at Gary, IN, Oct. 6 (LH, CF), and 2 reports along L. Erie. The showing of Marbled Godwits was even worse, with only one in e. Missouri. A late Ruddy Turnstone remained in *Gibson*, IN, through Dec. 2 (GB).

Most noteworthy of 4 inland sightings of Red Knots in Illinois were two at Rend L. Sept. 11 (LHa), while casual visitors to Iowa were up to two near Huxley Sept. 3–13 (†SD, †m.ob.). Late shorebirds included an injured Semipalmated Sandpiper in *Muhlenberg*, KY, Oct. 28 (BP, LRA) and a Western at L. Barkley, KY, through Nov. 30 (CP). White-rumped Sandpipers were fairly numerous in Ohio, where three late migrants appeared in *Erie* Nov. 17 (BPj *et al*). Baird's Sandpipers peaked at 17 in Iowa, where the last migrant was reported Nov. 13.

A dismal migration of Pectoral Sandpipers produced a maximum of 300 in Illinois. Six late migrants lingered at Riverton W.M.A., IA, Nov. 21 (SD). Single juv. **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers** delighted observers at Big L., IL, Sept. 25–26 (†LA, †m.ob.) and Coralville Res., IA, Oct. 14 (†TK, †m.ob.), furnishing a 3rd record for each state. Two Purple Sandpipers appeared at single locations on L. Michigan and L. Erie, a poor showing for this rare but regular fall visitor to the Great Lakes. Stilt Sandpipers peaked with 160 at Runnells W.M.A., IA, Sept. 22 (SD, JS); eight late migrants were in *Hopkins*, KY, Oct. 28 (BP, LRA).

Good numbers of Buff-breasted Sandpipers passed through Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois with maxima



Juvenile Hudsonian Godwit at Goose Lake Prairie State Park, Illinois, October 1, 1990. Photograph/ Joe B. Milosevich.

of 20–33 in the w. states and 12–13 in Illinois. Singles at Say. Res. Oct. 15–18 (SD, AJ) and Cleveland Oct. 6 (W & NK) were late. Flocks of Long-billed Dowitchers totalling 365 along w. Lake Erie, 150 at Big L., IL, Oct. 14–15 (LA, TPu), and 59 at Runnells W.M.A., IA, Oct. 6 (AJ) were indicative of the numbers passing through the n. states each fall. Sizable concentrations of Com. Snipe included an impressive 315 at Hoopston, IL, during November (SB). It was a poor fall for Wilson's Phalaropes with a maximum of 11 in Iowa but few e. of the Mississippi River. Red-necked Phalaropes did not fare much better, with four or fewer at scattered sites in Illinois, Iowa, Ohio, and Missouri. Three reports of single Red Phalaropes were normal for L. Erie. Inland singles at Maryville, MO, Oct. 9 (†DE) and Buffalo, IL, Oct. 21 (DB) were casual visitors.

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

A typical jaeger flight along L. Michigan produced one Pomarine Jaeger in Indiana, at least seven Parasitics with a peak of four at Miller Beach, IN, Sept. 23 (LH *et al.*), and nine jaegers that were not specifically identified. A single Parasitic and an unidentified jaeger were reported along L. Erie, while the only inland record was from Iowa, best treated as an unidentified jaeger.

Laughing Gulls appeared in average numbers. There were 4 sightings along L. Michigan, one on L. Erie, and inland reports of single gulls in Kentucky, Missouri, Indiana, and Illinois. Franklin's Gulls staged a strong flight e. of the Mississippi R. with large concentra-



First-winter Little Gull at Joliet, Illinois, November 5, 1990. First record for Will County Photograph/ Joe B. Milosevich

tions totalling 95 at Carlyle L., IL, Oct. 20 (KMc), 92 at Wilmette, IL, Oct. 6 (EW *et al.*), 62 in Jasper, IL, Nov. 5 (LHa), 67 in Gibson, IN, Oct. 7 (GB), and nine at Caesar Creek Res., OH, Oct. 20 (CM, SU). Normal numbers in the w. states peaked with 14,100 in Iowa. Late summer Little Gulls consisted of two at Michigan City, IN, Aug. 18–19 (LH *et al.*) and one throughout August at Headlands S.P., OH (m.ob.). All other Little Gulls appeared during November with three records from L. Michigan and a maximum of two on L. Erie. Accidental visitors to inland lakes, single Little Gulls at Joliet, IL, Nov. 5 (†JM) and Clinton L., IL, Nov. 24–Dec. 8 (RS, †RCh *et al.*) were unexpected. Record numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls appeared at several inland sites with 600 at Truman Res., MO, Oct. 25 (PM, JHz), 750+ at Thomas Hill Res., MO, Nov. 10 (PM, TB *et al.*), 1000 in Gibson, IN, Nov. 23 (GB), and 1130 at Say. Res., Nov. 13 (SD).



Adult California Gull at Pleasant Hill Reservoir, Ohio, November 5, 1990. The species is still a rare visitor in the upper Midwest. Photograph/Bruce Glick.

Iowa's 2nd and 3rd California Gulls were an adult at Say. Res. Sept. 8–Oct. 14 (†SD, †m.ob.) and a first-year bird at Coralville Res. Oct. 27–29 (†TK, †m.ob.). Californias were also detected in Ohio with single adults at Pleasant Hill Res. Nov. 3–23 (†KM, m.ob.) and Lorain Nov. 11–12 (D & JHo, BPj). Thayer's Gulls were noted only in the Chicago area with a maximum of five after Oct. 27. The only Iceland Gull returned to L. Erie Nov. 28. Early Lesser Black-backed Gulls appeared at L. Barkley, KY, Sept. 11–30 (BP *et al.*) and Miller Beach, IN, Sept. 16 (DJ). Great Lakes reports included a maximum of four on L. Erie and 4 reports of singles from L. Michigan. In addition to the Kentucky record, inland Lesser Black-backs were limited to one at Waterville, OH, Oct. 3 (ET) and up to two in Gibson, IN, after Oct. 15 (GB)

Small numbers of Glaucous Gulls were scattered across the n. states during November. There were 5 reports of Great Black-backed Gulls from L. Michigan, typical fall numbers, while one wandered inland to Whiteside, IL, Nov. 12–25 (LJ *et al.*). Black-legged Kittiwakes appeared in numbers rivaling the 1989 fall flight. Along L. Michigan, up to three were reported from the Chicago area while a total of five in n.w. Indiana included an adult at Beverly Shores Nov. 13 (†RB, JB). There were also 3 reports from L. Erie, and inland singles at 3 lakes in Iowa and 3 in Illinois. Most noteworthy of these inland birds were an immature at Crab Orchard L., IL, Nov. 17–19 (BD, †m.ob.) and an adult at Clinton L., IL, Dec. 6–8 (KR, †RCh *et al.*). Sabine's Gulls were restricted to L. Michigan in n.w. Indiana where four were noted at Miller Beach Sept. 23 (LH *et al.*) and two appeared Oct. 18 (BPo).

It was a poor fall for Caspian

Terns with maxima of 80–83 in Iowa and Illinois. A late Caspian remained through Oct. 28 in Iowa. Illinois' 3rd record of Royal Tern was furnished by an adult at Chicago Aug. 4 (†JL). The declining Com. Tern produced flocks of 650–1100 along L. Erie, 260 on L. Michigan in n.w. Indiana, 41 in the Chicago area, and nine in Iowa. A large late fall flock totalled 150 at O.W.R. Nov. 4 (EP *et al.*). The only extralimital Least Tern wandered to Cayuga, IN, Aug. 31 (AB). The status of Black Terns remained bleak, and they were scarce to absent in many areas. Three late migrants were noted in Cook, IL, Oct. 20 (PD).

This season's most unexpected visitor was an imm. Black Guillemot discovered by Bill & Nancy Klamm at Cleveland Nov. 8. This cooperative individual was observed through Nov. 10 and found dead Nov. 11 (m ob) The white-

tipped outer secondaries and more extensive white on the primary coverts suggested it belonged to the races *mandtii/ulimus*, indicating an origin from Arctic Canada rather than the Atlantic Ocean. It furnished the first Regional record and first report from L. Erie.

CUCKOOS TO FLYCATCHERS

Both cuckoos remained scarce. A late Yellow-billed tarried through Nov. 4 at Glenwood, IA (DR). Five reports of Barn Owls from Ohio, 2 from Iowa, and one from Kentucky represented above-normal numbers for fall. The first Snowy Owl was unexpectedly in s.w. Indiana at Knox Nov. 15–30 (RHu). It was not a flight year, with only 4 other sightings in the n. states during late November. A Long-eared Owl returned to Illinois by Sept. 26. Scattered reports from the n. states peaked with 14 in Ohio. Normal numbers of Short-eared Owls appeared.

Except for 1000 Com. Nighthawks at Chicago Aug. 27 (RHu), their fall passage was mediocre. Late migrants were noted Nov. 1 in Jefferson, KY (JA), and Oct. 31 at Columbus, OH (ST). Other late goatsuckers included a Chuck-will's-widow in Sand Ridge S.F., IL, Sept. 22 (LA) and a Whip-poor-will at Urbana, IL, Oct. 11 (*vide EC*).

Identification of extralimital and lingering hummingbirds is posing considerable problems for the age/sex classes of species whose identity can be confirmed only in the hand. Field identifications of these individuals based solely on plumage characters and "jizz" are not acceptable and will not be published. Only Ruby-throateds were positively identified this fall, generally in small numbers with maxima of 15–16. There were numerous sightings during October with the latest confirmed record at Akron, OH, to Oct. 23 (J & BHa *et al.*).

A mast failure caused a mass exodus of Red-headed Woodpeckers from Iowa. Olive-sided Flycatchers returned to every state by Aug. 5–12 and produced a remarkable 15 in Johnson, IA, Sept. 1 (TK). An E. Wood-Pewee in Grayson, KY, Oct. 19 (KC) was fairly late. Except for a late Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Spfld. Oct. 7 (DB), the passage of *Empidonax* flycatchers yielded few surprises. The only extralimital W. Kingbird appeared in Fulton, IL, Sept. 9 (†LA). A very tardy E. Kingbird was reported

from Science Hill, KY, Nov. 13 (DEI). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher wandered N to *Monroe*, IA, Oct. 16 (†TS, †JF *et al.*).

SWALLOWS TO SHRIKES

Large Purple Martin roosts numbered 2800–3000 in Chicago during August (RHu, JL), 1200 in *Fulton*, IL, Aug. 24 (LA), 1000 at Dayton, OH, Aug. 11 (DN), and 1000 in *Erie*, OH, Aug. 24 (MG). One Tree Swallow in *Seneca*, OH, Dec. 1 (TBa) was late. A Barn Swallow lingered through Nov. 11 at L. Pewee, KY (BP *et al.*).

Black-capped Chickadees staged a small movement along L. Erie and into e. and c. Ohio. Red-breasted Nuthatches elicited mixed reports. Fair numbers appeared along the Great Lakes, beginning with an early migrant in n.e. Ohio Aug. 11, but they were scarce at inland locations. An impressive 50 Brown Creepers were



Rock Wren at Maryville, Missouri, November 4, 1990. Photograph/Dave Easteria.

tallied in *Greene*, MO, Oct. 27 (CT).

The accidental Rock Wren graced Maryville, MO, Nov. 4–Dec. 2 (DE, ph.). Carolina Wrens had a good year, increasing in every state and appearing n. to *Winneshiek* and *Kossuth* in Iowa. Bewick's Wrens were limited to a single in Illinois. Good numbers of Winter Wrens were limited to the c. Lake Erie shore where 75+ were tallied Oct. 13 (LR, JV). Three early Golden-crowned Kinglets returned to *Grayson*, KY, Sept. 18 (KC). Both kinglets staged strong movements with maxima of 800 Golden-crowned and 650 Ruby-crowned along c. Lake Erie Oct. 13 (LR, JV), and 100 Ruby-crowned in *Kossuth*, IA, Sept. 25 (MK).

A Northern Wheatear high-



Northern Wheatear in Coles County, Illinois, September 12, 1990. First state record. Photograph/Greg Schaefer.

lighted the fall migration in Illinois. It was discovered in *Coles* Sept. 12 (†GS, †m.ob., ph.), furnishing a first state and 2nd regional record for this attractive thrush. An impressive 150 E. Bluebirds passed over *Franklin*, IN, Nov. 12 (PW). *Catharus* thrushes presented a mixed picture. While observers found relatively few thrushes during daylight hours, counts of nocturnal migrants over Ohio and Illinois and recoveries at a Kentucky TV tower indicated large numbers passed over the Region during September and October. Swainson's Thrushes returned to n. Ohio and n. Illinois by Aug. 7–11. Not normally encountered until winter, single Varied Thrushes were noted in *Urbana*, IL, Oct. 29–Nov. 17 (†EC, †RCh) and *Johnson*, IA, Nov. 4 (†JF).

Some 100+ Brown Thrashers in *St. Louis* Sept. 15 (JZ) represented an exceptional fall total. The largest movements of Cedar Waxwings totalled 1860 flying S at *Waukegan*, IL, Aug. 24 (EW) and 1200 flying N in *Franklin*, IN, Nov. 10 (PW), an example of their often contradictory movements. There were 18 reports of N. Shrikes scattered across the n. states, slightly above normal for recent years. The first Northern returned to n. Illinois Oct. 30 and singles wandered S to *Huntington Res.*, IN (LP), and *Tuscarawas*, OH (ES).

VIREOS, WARBLERS

Late migrants included Solitary Vireos at 4 sites in Illinois, Ohio, and Missouri Nov. 3–5, a Warbling Vireo in *Allen*, IN, Oct. 16 (Haw), and Philadelphia Vireos at 2 Kentucky locations Oct. 17. Twelve Philadelphias made a good number for *Urbana*, IL, Sept. 20 (MS *et al.*).

Warblers produced few large concentrations, and the scarcity of Cape Mays, Black-throated Blues, and Blackpolls indicated their main passage occurred to the east of this Region. Numerous migrants appeared during August and the mild weather allowed some to remain past normal departure dates. The declining Golden-winged Warbler peaked at eight in Illinois. Reports of late migrants included Tennessee Warblers at 2 Illinois sites Nov. 5–6, an Orange-crowned at Chicago through Nov. 12 (LB), three November Nashville Warblers with the latest at *Charleston*, IL, Nov. 12 (BH), and a Yellow at *Muscatatuck N.W.R.*, IN, Oct. 21 (RT *et al.*). Late Pine Warblers were noted Nov. 18 at *Louisville* (BP) and Nov. 17 at *Naperville*, IL (DK).

Rare fall visitors to the Great Lakes, there were 3 reports of Prairie Warblers from n.w. Indiana including a late sighting at *Beverly Shores* Oct. 12 (CF). One was also noted in *Erie*, OH, Sept. 15 (TL). A Bay-breasted Warbler at *Evanston*, IL, Oct. 28 (EW) was fairly late. Kentucky's latest Swainson's Warbler was a TV tower casualty in *Adair* Oct. 12. This tower also claimed 376 Ovenbirds on the late date of Oct. 17 (JE). Connecticut Warblers in *Geauga*, OH, Oct. 16 (AF) and *Oldham*, KY, Oct. 20 (BP) were fairly late, although this warbler is a later migrant than most observers realize. Other late warblers included two Com. Yellowthroats at *Coralville Res.*, IA, Nov. 25 (RP), 21 Hooded Warbler casualties in *Adair*, KY, Oct. 12 (JE), a live Hooded in *Hardin*, KY, Oct. 13 (RH), a Wilson's Warbler at *Michigan City*, IN, Nov. 17–18 (RHu, ASI, WW), and a Canada Warbler at *Porter*, IN, Oct. 21 (BPo).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A Scarlet Tanager in *Iowa City*, IA, Nov. 11 (†JF) was exceptionally late. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were scarce in most areas. One visiting a *Bowling Green*, KY, feeder Nov. 26–28 (BF) may have stayed to winter. Late Blue Grosbeaks were encountered Sept. 22 at *Sand Ridge S.F.*, IL (LA), and *Hamilton*, OH (*fide* NK). A migrant Dickcissel at *Cleveland* Sept. 29 (ES) was e. of its normal range while one at

Glencoe, IL, Nov. 13–14 (LB) was a candidate for wintering.

It was another poor fall for sparrows, continuing the trend of recent years. Early Am. Tree Sparrows returned to *Seneca*, OH, Oct. 7 (TBa), and to Illinois and Iowa by Oct. 11. Five reports of single Clay-colored Sparrows represented normal fall numbers for Illinois, but none was encountered elsewhere e. of the Mississippi River. A Grasshopper Sparrow in *Holmes*, OH, Nov. 20 (DM) was very late. The Henslow's Sparrow at *Clinton L.* Oct. 8 (DRo, SB) furnished one of few recent fall records from Illinois. Eighteen Le Conte's Sparrows at *Snake Creek Marsh*, IA, Sept. 29 (AJ) made an impressive tally for the w. states. Greater interest in Sharp-tailed Sparrows produced a total of 30+ records from every state except Indiana, an indication of their true abundance as fall migrants. Dates spanned Sept. 8–Nov. 6 and the largest flock numbered 12 at *Coralville Res.*, IA, Sept. 27–29 (TK, JR). A TV tower casualty in *Oldham* Oct. 20 (BP) was noteworthy for Kentucky.

An early Fox Sparrow returned to *Brickyard Hill W.M.A.*, MO, Sept. 24 (MR). Early Harris' Sparrows were reported from *Brickyard Hill* Sept. 26 (MR) and *Coralville Res.*, IA, Sept. 27 (JF). A sub-par flight e. of the Mississippi R. produced 3 Illinois reports of single Harris' Sparrows plus one in n.w. Indiana. An early Dark-eyed Junco returned to *Anchorage*, KY, Sept. 22 (BM). After returning to *Evanston*, IL, Sept. 18 (EW) and Iowa by Oct. 1, *Lapland Longspurs* peaked with 5000 in *DeWitt*, IL, Nov. 6 (MD), 1200 at *U.S.W.R.*, Oct. 30 (MK), and 1000 in *Knox*, IN, Nov. 23–30 (GB), fairly good numbers for fall. Smith's Longspurs must pass through the w. states each autumn, but are normally overlooked. They were found at 3 Missouri locations this November with a maximum of 18 near *Columbia* Nov. 18 (IA). Single Snow Buntings south to *Lawrenceburg*, IN, Nov. 11 (DS) and *Carroll*, KY, Nov. 18 (J & CKa) were unusual so early in the season.

Extralimital Yellow-headed Blackbirds were limited to singles at 2 c. Illinois locations. Six Brewer's Blackbirds in *Hocking* Nov. 10 (DH) were unexpected in e. Ohio Great-tailed Grackles

continued to prosper in w. Missouri, where 500+ gathered at Merwin Oct. 31–Nov. 14 (JJ). Iowa sightings were limited to one at Ames Sept. 25 and four at Forney L. Nov. 19 (SD). Linger- ing orioles included an Orchard Oriole at Brickyard Hill W.M.A., MO, Sept. 24 (MR) and a Northern Oriole at Spfld. Nov. 30 (DB).

A cooperative "Gray-crowned" **Rosy Finch** delighted observers in Will, IL, Nov. 15–20 (D & SWH, †m.ob., ph.), furnishing the first Illinois and 5th Regional record of this wanderer from the w. mountains. Other- wise, the fall finch flight was rather lacklust-er. Migrant Purple Finches returned to the Great Lakes by Sept. 1–4 and Swan Lake N.W.R., MO, Sept. 16 (RF). Except for 125 at Illinois Beach S.P., IL, Oct. 13 (EW), they were found in small num- bers with no more than 10–20 in most locations.

The scattered July records of Red Crossbills were followed by a moderate flight this fall. While five appeared at Big River S.F., IL, Aug. 5 (MBa), these crossbills did not appear in numbers until Oct. 11–20 in Illinois, Oct. 23–30 in Iowa and Missouri, and November in Indiana. Only n.e. Illinois witnessed sizable flocks with 250 at Illinois Beach S.P. Nov. 3 (ASt *et al.*), 63 in Cook Nov. 3 (EW), and numerous flocks of 10–20. Elsewhere, the largest flocks totalled 30 in Iowa and 19–21 in n.w. Indiana. This movement hardly extended east to Ohio where there was only one report of five Red Crossbills. White-winged Crossbills were restricted to Iowa where four or fewer were noted at 3 locations Oct. 1–Nov. 20. It was a very poor fall for Com. Redpolls with only singles at 2 Iowa sites during late November. A modest move- ment of Pine Siskins began with arrivals in Fremont, IA, Sept. 16 (DR, BRo) and Grayson, KY, Oct. 1 (KC). Only small num- bers of Evening Grosbeaks were scattered across the n. states dur- ing fall, a prelude to the larger flight occurring in December.

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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

Greg D. Jackson

The fall season played to mixed re- views. On the up side, some groups such as raptors, shorebirds, and hummingbirds entertained their observant audience, and there were several stellar performances by vagrants. The show flopped, how- ever, when the regular passerines came on stage (or at least were sup- posed to appear).

The poor passerine migration was most noticeable on the coast, and probably was related to a paucity of productive frontal activ- ity in early October. The biggest waves of landbirds at the coast were September 23–24 and October 19–21. Although a strong front with several days of following north winds occurred in the period October 10–14, birding was relatively dull. Bob Duncan postulated that this was related to cloud cover over the most of the East at this time. Migrants are known to delay departure under conditions of heavy cloud cover, and this may well have been a factor in that case. Touts labelled the landbird migra- tion as the worst that she could re- member.

Numerous migrants, particu- larly waterfowl and sparrows, ap- peared earlier than usual. Others, such as warblers, grosbeaks, and buntings, lingered in some areas. Shorebirds did a little of both; Jeff Wilson reported early peaks in west Tennessee, and several waders remained late in the season throughout the Region.

In the northwest portions of our territory, precipitation was average or above average through the sea- son, but areas to the east, particu- larly on the coast, encountered drought conditions. Temperatures were generally normal to warm.

I appreciate the many observers who took the time to submit records, especially those who in- cluded details. Unusual sightings must be supported by adequate de- tails for inclusion in this column. I ask that observers use 3x5 cards, ei- ther preprinted or blank, for sub- mission of records; please place one species per card. This aids immea- surably in organizing data.

Abbreviations: C.F.H. (*Centerton Fish Hatchery, Benton Co., AR*); Noxubee (*Noxubee Nat'l Wildlife Ref., MS*); p.a. (*pending acceptance by the state records committee*); * (*specimen to Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science*). Place names in *italics* are parishes (Louisiana) or counties.

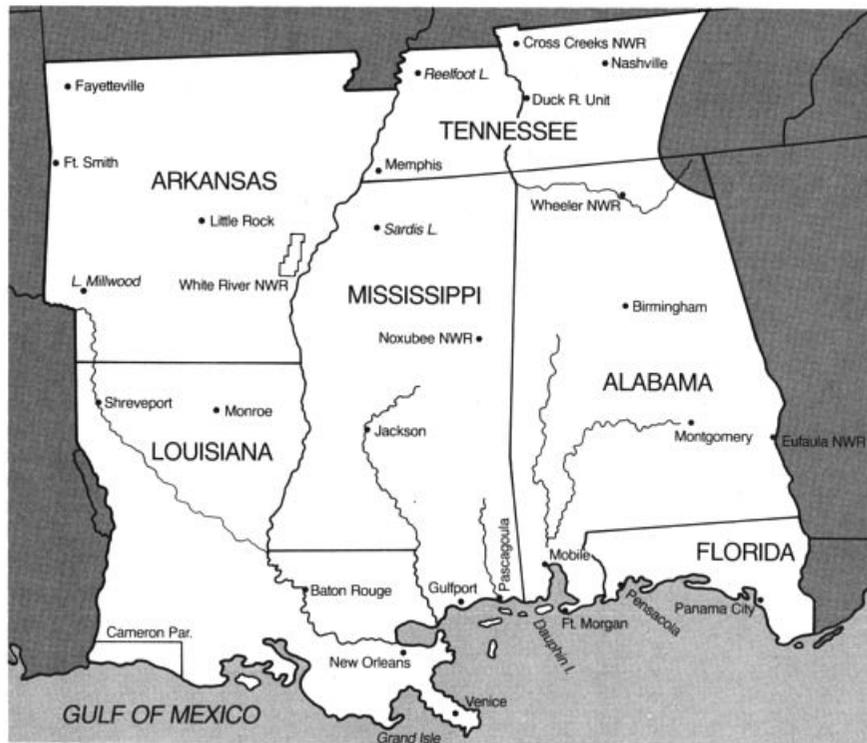
LOONS TO STORKS

Red-throated Loons are rare in our Region, especially inland; one was seen on several occasions begin- ning Nov. 18 at Guntersville, AL (ALM, RRS, MO, m.ob., p.a.). Rarer still is **Pacific Loon**, and sur- prisingly I had 2 reports from the e. portion of the Region. Two were spotted from Santa Rosa I., *Escam- bia, FL*, Nov. 21–27 (RAD), and the 2nd inland record for Alabama was provided by an individual at Guntersville first seen Nov. 23 (BS, SWM, m.ob., p.a.). Eared Grebes are regular visitors in small numbers. I received 7 reports to- tallying 26 birds from Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas beginning Sept. 22. American White Pelicans put on a good show, with inland records unusually prominent. Over 1200 were reported begin- ning Sept. 15. Highest count was of 500 birds in *West Feliciana, LA*, Nov. 23 (DF, CFr). The Brown Pelican picture in Louisiana seems to be slowly improving, and a peak of 113 was noted Oct. 29 in *Cameron (DLD, SWC)*. A first- year **Great Cormorant** was at Ft. Morgan Oct. 7–14 (ph. GDJ, m.ob., p.a.), tying the earliest Al- abama record of this rare visitor.



Immature Great Cormorant that was present at Ft. Morgan, Alabama, October 7–14, 1990. This vagrant is rarely noted in the Central Southern Region, and appeared at an early date. Photograph/ Greg D. Jackson.

Tricolored Herons disperse regu- larly in low numbers in late sum- mer and fall into inland areas, but this year I received 11 inland



records representing a surprising 44 individuals. Noteworthy were 10 birds Aug. 11 in *Washington*, MS (GK, SK), up to six Aug. 17–Oct. 7 at L. Millwood, AR (CM, m.ob.), 14 in *Point Coupee*, LA, Aug. 25 (DWG), and one farther east in *Montgomery*, AL, Aug. 26 (LG). Interesting sightings of Reddish Egret included white morph individuals in *Cameron*, LA, Sept. 29–30 (SWC, DLD, DPM, m.ob.) and Oct. 27 (LT, CAB), up to eight dark morph birds in October in *Hancock* and *Harrison*, MS (JAT, m.ob.), and four as late as Nov. 12 on Santa Rosa I., *Escambia*, FL (RAD, JP).

Of a handful of White Ibis reports from Arkansas and Tennessee, the high count was of 37 Aug. 18 near Grand L., *Chicot*, AR (DRS). Up to 11 *Plegadis* ibises were present at Lakeshore Ponds in *Hancock*, MS, Aug. 17–Nov. 13; three Glossy and six White-faced were identified in this flock (JAT, TLS, GK, m.ob.). One Glossy was at Gulf Shores, AL, Oct. 10 (GDJ). A single *Plegadis* ibis was unusual in *Chicot*, AR, Sept. 9 (DRS, CSi). Roseate Spoonbills have become regular in low numbers in s.e. Louisiana; near Fourchon City, 15 were found Aug. 12, and one remained to Nov. 11 (DPM). Wood Storks were present in good numbers, with several records into October and even November. Highest reported count in Louisiana was of 135 birds in *Cameron* Oct 12 (SWC,

DLD). At Noxubee there were 138 storks Sept. 9 (TLS, MC), and over 100 were spotted Aug. 6 in *Chicot*, AR (DRS, JG). The species is very rare in our eastern coastal areas, so four storks in n. *Okaloosa*, FL, Sept. 3 (RSD), and one in *Harrison*, MS, Nov. 13 (NA, DH) were significant.

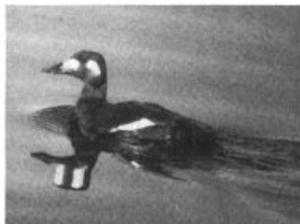
WATERFOWL

An impressive 430 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were near Crowley, *Acadia*, LA, Aug. 12 (KVR). This species is rare in Alabama, and a solitary bird was observed Sept. 1 on the Ft. Morgan Pen., *Baldwin* (PB, GF, JL, BG). What is likely the first s.e. Louisiana record of Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was provided by a lone bird Aug. 13 in *Lafourche* (RSB). Two to three Black-bellieds were in *Howard*, AR, Aug. 13–15 (CM) for a 5th local record. Several Greater White-fronted Geese were away from their usual wintering grounds in s.w. Louisiana. These included 34 seen Oct. 13 in *Iberville*, LA (DLD), one in *Hancock*, MS, Oct. 26 (JAT, MB), one at Wheeler N.W.R., AL, Nov. 11 (SWM), and three Nov. 29 at Ft. Walton Beach, FL (WF, GF, RAD). Ross' Geese are rare but regular in s.w. Louisiana in flocks of Snow Geese. At least six were in *Jefferson Davis* Nov. 17, with up to 100,000 Snows (SWC, KVR). More unusual farther east in Louisiana, a single Ross' was detected near St. Gabriel, *Iberville*, Nov. 24 (SWC, DLD), for a first

Baton Rouge area record. Another was located the following day in *Iberia* (MJM).

Mottled Ducks were seen in good numbers in the s.c. Louisiana ricefields, with 300 present Aug. 26 (KVR). A new early record for N. Pintail on the Mississippi coast was provided by one in *Hancock* Sept. 18 (JAT, MH). The 2nd Mississippi coast record of **Cinnamon Teal** was furnished by the identification of a single bird Sept. 16–29 at Waveland Lagoon (JAT, LS, TLS, p.a.). A Gadwall was in *Hancock* Sept. 18 (MH, JAT), a new arrival date for the Mississippi coast. Three Am. Wigeons in *Montgomery* Aug. 29 (LG) set a new early date for the Alabama inland coastal plain.

An Oldsquaw in *Hancock*, MS, at Waveland Lagoon Nov. 13–30 (JAT, m.ob.) was in an unusual location away from coastal waters, and represented a new local early date. Also early, and more unexpected, was an Oldsquaw Nov. 18 in *Carroll*, AR (MM). Another uncommon inland sighting occurred



White-winged Scoter, unusual inland, at De Gray Lake, Arkansas, on November 13, 1990 Photograph/Max Parker

at Reelfoot L., TN, Nov. 23 (ph. JRW, GWC). An early Black Scoter was seen with four Surfs Oct. 27–28 at Holly Beach, *Cameron*, LA (SWC, DLD, m.ob.). Black Scoter is casual inland in Alabama, so the observation of a female at Guntersville Nov. 20 (RRS, MO) was interesting. Six Surf Scoters Oct. 27 in *Washington* (MM) were rare for n.w. Arkansas. Five White-winged Scoters at Ft. Pickens, FL, Nov. 10 (RAD), and one Nov. 12–13 in *Clark*, AR (SSL, GP, WB, ph. MP), were rare for those areas. The earliest local record of Com. Goldeneye was furnished by a bird Nov. 17 in Grenada, MS (GK, SK).

RAPTORS

Thirty-two Am. Swallow-tailed Kites, 27 in one flock, were a dazzling sight Aug. 3 in *Marengo* (RRS); the previous Alabama maximum was only eight. Black-shouldered Kites were found with unusual frequency this fall in s.w. Louisiana. I received 6 reports representing 11 kites, with sightings of three at different locations in *Cameron* Oct. 28 (JPK, JMB, KVR) and Nov. 10 (SG, BV, JW, CAB, m.ob.). Less expected were two Black-shouldered Nov. 17 in *St. Charles* (AWK). The autumn hawkwatch through the Mississippi R. levee near Baton Rouge yielded an impressive 521 Mississippi Kites Aug. 8–Sept. 1 (CF, JPK); top daily count was of 271 Aug. 25. The species was also common in *Washington*, MS, where 73 were counted Aug. 12 (NH). An ad. Mississippi Kite Nov. 1 in *Gulf*, FL (SCA), was very late. Bald Eagle reports continue to be encouraging. Beginning Sept. 18, there were sightings of nine from Mississippi, five from s. Louisiana, three in coastal Alabama, two in n.w. Florida, and one in s.e. Arkansas.

Sharp-shinned Hawks passed through in excellent numbers. A whopping 1172 were observed in 3 days at the e. jetty in *Cameron*, LA, Sept. 23–24 and Oct. 10 (CF, JPK), with 864 counted on the first day! Totals were not nearly as impressive in coastal Mississippi and Alabama, although observers commented on higher than usual numbers this season. The late September Broad-winged Hawk migration was tremendous in Louisiana. September 23, which followed passage of a cold front, was fantastic for the species in *Cameron*, with 11,085 reported from the e. jetty (CF, JPK) The

following day, an additional 2930 Broad-wingeds were seen at that site, and 10,475 were spotted at a hawkwatch s. of Lake Charles, *Calcasieu* (AJE). Totals on those days were unimpressive on the river levee at Baton Rouge, but Sept. 25 yielded a movement of 1474 Broad-wingeds (CF, JPK). A late Broad-winged was spotted Nov. 17 e. of Cameron, LA (SWC, DLD).

Swainson's Hawk is very rare in most of the Region, but unusual numbers were seen this autumn. An immature was at Ft. Morgan, AL, Oct. 19–20 (ph. ALM, m.ob.) and an adult was seen there Nov. 10 (GDJ, GF, m.ob.) (both p.a.). Two or three were near Kiln, *Hancock*, Nov. 4 & 24 (JAT, ph. JM, m.ob, p.a.), the latter date providing the first documented coastal Mississippi record. The most unusual report was of a rufous morph Swainson's at Pace Pt., *Henry*, Nov. 4 (JRW, p.a.); there is only one previously accepted record for Tennessee. Except for the Nov. 4 records, these sightings followed the passage of cold fronts through the area. Another rare Buteo was the ad. "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk Nov. 8 in *Acadia*, LA (JVR, SWC, DLD). Merlins seemed plentiful this season, and Peregrine Falcons were also noted in good numbers. Along the coast, where Peregrines are uncommon fall migrants, there were 18 reports involving 30 individuals. Usually, inland observations are scarce, but there were 11 records this year of 12 birds. Several early Peregrines were noted. An adult Aug. 14 on the Arkansas R. in *Pulaski* (HP, MP, CCM) provided a new arrival date for Arkansas. Another seen Aug. 26 in *Calcasieu*, LA (KVR), was very early, and one Sept. 1 at Ft. Morgan (PB, GF, BG, JL) set a new early migration date for Alabama.

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS

I had an astounding report of a **Yellow Rail** observed Sept. 1 at Ft. Morgan, after it flew under a mist net and landed in a tree in a wooded area (GF, PB, JL, BG, p.a.)! This represented the 2nd record for the Alabama coast. The species is now known to be fairly common in the s.c. Louisiana ricefields in late fall. The maximum count this season was of 14 in *Acadia* Nov. 8 (SWC, DLD, JVR). King Rails are rarely recorded in fall in w. Tennessee, so

one to two seen in *Shelby* Aug. 28 and Sept. 22 (MAG, JAF) were interesting. A peak count of over 300 Sandhill Cranes was reported Nov. 13 from *Putnam*, TN (WHG).

Black-bellied Plover is uncommon inland, so 5 reports of seven birds Aug. 19–Sept. 25 in n. Alabama (SWM), n. Mississippi (TLS, MC), and w. Tennessee (JRW) were notable. Lesser Golden-Plover is much more difficult to find in autumn than in spring in our Region. Noteworthy records included a very early bird Aug. 4 at Ft. Morgan, AL (PB, GF), another early Aug. 13 in *Lafayette*, MS (TLS), and four Sept. 9 at C.F.H. (MM, JWo). A bird that engenders concern is Snowy Plover, although this season moderate numbers were noted along the coast. Highest counts were of eight Sept. 29 at Ft. Morgan, AL (GDJ), 11 at Broussard Beach, *Cameron*, LA, Oct. 27 (JPK, MS), and another 11 seen Nov. 18 at Big Sabine, *Escambia*, FL (GF, JL, PB). Also at Big Sabine Nov. 18 was a late Wilson's Plover. A Semipalmated Plover at C.F.H. Oct. 7 (KZ, MM) provided a new late date for n.w. Arkansas. The highest Regional count of the endangered Piping Plover was of 14 at Fourchon Beach, LA, Nov. 11 (DPM, m.ob.). Unusual was the single Piping inland at Swan Creek W.M.A., *Limestone*, AL, Oct. 7 (SWM).

The 4th inland Mississippi record of Black-necked Stilt was provided by three at Eagle L., *Warren*, Aug. 11 (GK, SK); six stilts were in *Humphreys*, MS, Sept. 9 & 16 (TLS). The 2nd Am. Avocet for e.c. Mississippi was at Lake Lowndes S.P. Sept. 15 (ES, MES). An unusual 15 birds were spotted Oct. 13 at L. Millwood, AR (CM). The Solitary Sandpiper Nov. 17 in *Grenada*, MS (GK, SK), was quite late. Willets are unusual inland in our area. I received 7 reports of nine birds Aug. 5–Sept. 16 from *Garland* and *Washington*, AR (BL, CM, MM), *Vermilion*, LA (KVR), and *Noxubee*, MS (TLS, MC). The high count for Upland Sandpiper was from s. *Baldwin*, AL, where 45 were noted Aug. 18 (GDJ, DGJ). The species is more difficult to find away from the coastal plain. Up to four Uplands were in *Shelby*, AL, Aug. 22–29 (GDJ, DGJ); one in *Lafayette*, MS, Sept. 6 (GK) provided a first local record for that month.

Upper Mobile Bay annually at-

tracts a few Long-billed Curlews, rare in nearby areas of the coast, and this season two were present. Marbled Godwits are rare in the Region, except on the Louisiana coast where uncommon; the species is particularly scarce inland. One to two were found Sept. 1 & 24 at the Morganza Spillway, *Point Coupee*, LA (DWG). The first inland fall Alabama record of Marbled Godwit was provided by up to three Sept. 23–29 at Swan Creek W.M.A. (TB, GDJ, SWM). The Baird's Sandpiper Nov. 15 in *Jackson* (JAT, m.ob.) set a new late coastal Mississippi date.

Some 1500 Stilt Sandpipers Aug. 5 at Vincent Ref., *Vermilion*, LA (KVR), were notable. Good numbers of Buff-breasted Sandpipers were detected, and several were quite early. Local arrival records were broken by singles Aug. 4 in *Yalobusha*, MS (GK, SK, WMD), and Aug. 5 in s. *Baldwin*, AL (J & JP), as well as by five Aug. 5 in *Washington*, AR (MM, JN, BJ, MBi). Five Buff-breasted in *Shelby* Sept. 3 (PHF) established a new Alabama Mountain Region maximum. The 20 birds Sept. 9 at C.F.H. (MM, JWo) and the 60 counted Sept. 16 in the s.c. Louisiana ricefields (KVR) were impressive for those areas. Schiefer described Long-billed Dowitchers as more common than usual this autumn in e.c. Mississippi. Two at Noxubee Aug. 8 (TLS) set a new local arrival record. Wilson's Phalarope is a regular early autumn transient in the Region, but is usually seen in numbers at only a few sites. One found at Noxubee Aug. 30 (TLS) was only the 3rd for e.c. Mississippi. Two in *Lafourche*, LA, Sept. 29 (RSB, GW) were late. Red-necked Phalaropes are rare in our Region. A solitary bird Sept. 9 in *Humphreys*, MS (TLS)



Red-necked Phalaropes are rare in Tennessee. This juvenile, seen September 8, 1990, was one of many unusual shorebirds noted this season on Island 13 in the Mississippi River. Photograph/Jeff R. Wilson.

S.A.

Although shorebirding has always been productive along the Mississippi R. in w. Tennessee, this autumn was particularly bountiful. The list of waders from Ensley Bottoms in *Shelby* and, especially, Island 13 in *Lake* was reminiscent of good coastal sites, not locales hundreds of miles inland. Thirty-three species of shorebirds were reported this season along the Tennessee shore of the river. On Island 13, which is little more than a giant sandbar, significant sightings by JRW Sept. 8 included two Black-bellied Plovers, three Lesser Golden-Plovers, a Piping Plover (ph.), five Ruddy Turnstones, a Red Knot (ph.), 35 Sanderlings, 11 Baird's and 11 Buff-breasted sandpipers, two Long-billed Dowitchers, and single Wilson's and Red-necked (ph.) phalaropes! Two Red Knots were also located Sept. 15–16 on the island (ph. JRW, WGC). Two Marbled Godwits, very rare in the state, were spotted Aug. 13 in *Shelby* (JRW, DM). Up to three White-rumped Sandpipers were at Ensley Bottoms Sept. 27–Oct. 1 (JRW, m.ob.); this species is rare but regular in the fall.

The outstanding Regional discovery of the season occurred at Ensley Bottoms. An alternate-plumaged ad. **Little Stint** was studied at close range in a mixed flock of "peeps" Aug. 20 (JRW, p.a.). The described features, particularly the face and breast pattern, upperparts coloration, and foot structure and color, appear to exclude all congeners. Unfortunately, the bird could not be relocated for photography or observation by others. There are no previous records of this Eurasian vagrant in the Region.

Island 13 also produced several interesting larids this fall. The dark morph **Pomarine Jaeger** spotted Sept. 8 was Tennessee's 2nd (JRW, p.a.). Single Laughing and Franklin's gulls, rare visitors to Tennessee, were recorded on the island Sept. 15 (JRW, JBG).

Who says the coast has all the coastal birds?!

supplied a first "Delta" record. A very late Red-necked Phalarope was described from *Garland*, AR, Nov. 10 (BL, PL).

LARIDS TO HUMMINGBIRDS

A Laughing Gull was sighted Aug. 20 at Noxubee (TLS), furnishing a 2nd record for the refuge. Franklin's Gulls show a decided drop in abundance in the Region as one proceeds east. They are fairly common in parts of Arkansas, and the peak this season at L. Millwood was estimated at 1200 birds Oct. 27 (CM). Franklin's were regarded as particularly scarce in Louisiana this fall, however (DLD, SWC). This petite gull is usually difficult to find in Tennessee, so six spotted Oct. 13 at Pace Pt., Henry (ph. JRW) were noteworthy. I received reports of five in coastal Mississippi, where uncommon in autumn. A first-winter Franklin's in Escambia, FL, Nov. 27 (RAD, WF) was unusual.

Lesser Black-backed Gull has become regular in the Region. One at Fourchon Beach, LA, Aug. 27–Sept. 1 (DPM, RDP, m.ob.) could have been a summering bird. Two adults were at this location Nov. 11 (DPM, MMy, RDP, GC). The ever-faithful "Les Black" (presumably) returned to the Mississippi coast; it was sighted Sept. 22 at Gulfport (TLS, m.ob.), much earlier than in previous years. Two 2nd-winter Lesser Black-backed were at Rutherford Beach, Cameron, LA, Sept. 29–30 (*DLD, SWC); single first-winter and 3rd-winter birds were also confirmed at this site Oct. 29, and an additional bird was observed (*SWC, DLD). A 2nd-year-type Glaucous Gull was discovered Nov. 20 at Guntersville (ALM, m.ob.); this species is rarely observed in Alabama. A first-winter **Black-legged Kittiwake** identified Nov. 11 at the e. jetty in Cameron, LA (BH, EMW, m.ob.) was both rare and early. Would a report for this Region really be complete without mention of the indomitable "Ole One Foot"? This indeterminate, probably hybrid, dark-backed gull was seen again in Pensacola, FL, July 19–Aug. 30 (RAD).

At Ft. Morgan, 475 Sandwich Terns were observed moving E along the beach Sept. 30 (GDJ), a new high count for Alabama. Up to 1100 Common Terns were at Fourchon Beach, LA, Aug. 14–15 (SWC, DLD, CAM), probably setting a new state maximum. The Black Skimmer Oct. 7 at the Bonnet Carre Spillway, St. Charles, LA (RSB, GW) was unusual for this inland location.

S.A.

Some of the biggest headlines this autumn came from the smallest birds. Eight species of hummingbirds were recorded, with 7 in Louisiana. A tropical vagrant, the **Green Violet-ear**, appeared twice in Arkansas in late summer. One was studied at Rogers in the n.w. corner of the state Aug. 4–Sept. 5 (DAJ, HP, ph. MP, SM, m.ob., p.a.). Several differences were demonstrated from the one noted in July in Newton, 63 mi to the southeast (*fide* DAJ). Although the species has been known to stray as far as w. North Carolina, the presence of two was astounding; these were the 3rd and 4th in the state, all since 1984.

Incredibly, an even rarer hummingbird was discovered in the Newfields' yard in Metairie, LA. The Region's first documented **Broad-billed Hummingbird**, an ad. male, appeared Nov. 2 and remained into December (NLN, PN, m.ob., ph.). It was banded by NLN Dec. 8.

Dropping back from "superbirds" to the merely rare, a **Buff-bellied Hummingbird** was seen Nov. 3–6 in Pearlington, Hancock (GE, *fide* LS, p.a.) for one of few Mississippi records. Buff-bellieds were atypically difficult to find in Louisiana, with only one report Nov. 22 near St. Gabriel, Iberville (*JMB, SH, SWC, DLD). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds had a banner year across the Region. Some locations in Alabama and Mississippi had 100–200 visible simultaneously. The Sargents, at their home e. of Birmingham, used 57 gallons of sugar water in a 6-week period beginning the first of August! An imm. ♂ Ruby-throated Nov. 9 in Starkville (TLS) eclipsed the previous late date for e.c. Mississippi. Black-chinned Hummingbirds are now regularly seen away from their primary locus in the Region in Louisiana. Four were reported (three banded) in n. Alabama Aug. 18–Oct. 5 (RRS, MBS).

Broad-tailed Hummingbirds are casual in Louisiana, but two imm. males were reported this season (p.a.). One Oct. 26–28 in Cameron (MT, RJS, NLN, m.ob., ph. GWL) was at the same location as a Broad-tailed in October 1987. Another was in Orleans Nov. 10 and later (ph. DPM). This season there were three **Rufous Hummingbirds** in Arkansas (p.a.), where very rare. An ad. male was in Faulkner Aug. 19 (WMS, PF), another was in Clark Aug. 25 (D & DH, L & VH), and an imm. male was present after Oct. 16 in Union (L & SS, HP, MP, ph., banded Dec. 19). Others far inland included one seen Aug. 11 in Jefferson, AL (MO, SO), one banded Nov. 12–18 in Huntsville, AL (RRS, MBS), and an ad. female banded Nov. 15 in Columbia, TN (RRS, MBS). An ad. ♂ **Allen's Hummingbird**, very rare in Louisiana, was described from New Orleans Aug. 23 (NN, SN, p.a.).

White-winged Doves are uncommon visitors in autumn, and this season I had 12 reports representing 19 birds. The high count was at Ft. Morgan, AL, with five Nov. 14 (TAI, PB, MN). A few late Black-billed Cuckoos were recorded at coastal areas. One was seen Oct. 28–29 just e. of Cameron, LA (KVR, DLD). One was detected Oct. 28 at Gulf Breeze, FL (LRD, WD), followed by one Nov. 3 on nearby Santa Rosa I. (RLB, RB), both later than the previous late date for the w. Panhandle. Good numbers of Groove-billed Anis were e. of Cameron, LA, Sept. 29–Nov. 18 (DLD, SWC), with 10 on the last date. Single anis were located Oct. 17–28 at Ft. Pickens, FL (GF, RLB, JWB, m.ob.), Oct. 26 in Hancock, MS (MB, JAT), and

Nov. 4 at Pascagoula R. Marsh, MS (TLS). Burrowing Owls are always exciting in the e. part of the Region; one was seen Nov. 3 on Santa Rosa I., Escambia, FL (RLB, RB). A Short-eared Owl Oct. 29 at Rutherford Beach, Cameron, LA (SWC, DLD), was locally rare and early. Six Short-eareds were near Reelfoot L., TN, Nov. 22 (JRW).

FLYCATCHERS TO WRENS

Olive-sided Flycatcher is often difficult to find in our Region, although chances are usually better in the fall. It is annual at Logtown, Hancock, MS, where this season one to two Olive-sideds were observed on 5 separate days Aug. 26–Sept. 17 (JAT, TLS, MH, m.ob.). An E. Wood-Pewee Nov. 3 in Montgomery (LG) supplied a

new late date for the Alabama inland coastal plain.

Good numbers of the rare Yellow-bellied Flycatcher were noted this season, with acceptable documentation on 12. The first was a solitary bird Aug. 25 in Jackson, MS (TLS). At least nine were seen in coastal Mississippi, with up to six Sept. 13 & 15 at Logtown (JAT, MH, GM, LLK). Outside Mississippi, singles were described from Iberville, LA, Sept. 27 (JVR) and Ft. Morgan, AL, Sept. 29 (GDJ, p.a.). A banded Yellow-bellied Oct. 20 at Ft. Morgan (RRS, MBS, p.a.) set a new late Alabama date. A singing Alder Flycatcher was located Aug. 12 at Bob Kidd L., Washington (MM); there is only one other accepted Arkansas record in fall. An E. Phoebe in Pensacola, FL, Sept. 15 (PT) established a new early date for the w. Panhandle. All Vermilion Flycatcher reports this fall were from s.w. Louisiana. Three (two *) were at Garner Ridge, Cameron, Oct. 14–Nov. 18 (KVR, RTB, RDP, NN, SS), and in the same parish a male was discovered Oct. 28 at Smith Ridge (KVR, m.ob.). Another male was spotted Oct. 26 in Acadia (ph. PC, SL).

Ash-throated Flycatcher is infrequently noted in the Region. Mississippi's 2nd occurred Sept. 25, at Waveland Lagoon, Hancock (JAT, MPo, m.ob., p.a.). Other individuals were seen at Holleyman Sanctuary, Cameron, LA, Nov. 11 (CS, PW, p.a.) and at Ft. Pickens, FL, Nov. 18 (GF, JL, PB, BCG). Western Kingbirds are regular along the coast in autumn in small numbers, and this year I received reports of 21 birds. Most notable were two along the Mississippi R. levee in Washington, MS, Aug. 11–12 (GK, SK, TLS); on the levee across the river in Chicot, AR, one was found Sept. 17 (DRS, SA, m.ob.). The **Scissor-tailed Flycatchers** that nested this summer near Florence remained as late as Sept. 3 (DCP, PDK); four young were fledged Aug. 5 & 6 from this first known Alabama nest. An early migrant was noted in Lafourche, LA, Aug. 16 (DLD, SWC). Up to nine Scissor-taileds were spotted near Baton Rouge Oct. 13–20 (M & JJ, D & MW), a high number for e. Louisiana. A single Scissor-tailed Sept. 8 along the Mississippi R. in Issaquena, MS (TLS), was unusual. The 16–17 Horned Larks seen Nov. 3 & 22 in Baxter (PH) represented the first fall record for the e. Arkansas Ozarks.

An impressive movement of N. Rough-winged Swallows, estimated at over 48,000, was heading W at Rutherford Beach, *Cameron*, LA, Oct. 12 (SWC, DLD). That was the 3rd consecutive day of N winds following passage of a cold front. "Many thousands" were also seen in that parish migrating W in association with another front Oct. 18 (RJB). Single Rough-winged and Barn swallows Nov. 17 at Grenada, MS (GK, SK), were late. Bewick's Wrens have become rare in most of the Region. I received 5 reports of six birds, and surprisingly four Bewick's were on the coast. Now very rare in n.w. Florida, one was spotted Oct. 2 in Gulf Breeze (BB) and two Nov. 11 in Marianna (BDN, RC). Another coastal sighting was of one Bewick's in *Cameron*, LA, Oct. 28 (AWK). A bizarre report came from Biloxi, MS, where a Marsh Wren occupied a group of ferns near an office door far removed from any marshes Sept. 24-30 (JAT, m.ob.)!

THRUSHES TO WOOD WARBLERS

A **Northern Wheatear** was discovered at L. Millwood, AR, Oct. 18-22 (ph. HP, MP, CM, m.ob., p.a.). This exciting vagrant was the first ever for Arkansas, and only the 4th for the Region. The imm. ♀ **Mountain Bluebird** Nov. 18 e. of *Cameron* (*DLD, SWC) was the 4th for Louisiana, and the first since 1978. Observers in Alabama and Mississippi commented on a poor *Catharus* thrush passage. In *Lafayette*, MS, an Am. Pipit spotted Sept. 18-21 (GK) eclipsed the previous early arrival date by 3 weeks. Bell's Vireos are rarely recorded, except on their breeding grounds in the n.w. portion of our Region. Single birds were described Aug. 26 in s. *Jefferson Davis*, LA (KVR), and Oct. 7 at Waveland Lagoon, *Hancock*, MS (RRR, EGR). A late departure was noted Oct. 12 for Yellow-throated Vireo at Noxubee (TLS). Although regular in spring, Black-whiskered Vireos are exceedingly rare in the Region in autumn. Two seen in close proximity Aug. 12 at Grand I., LA (DPM), certainly would raise the question of local breeding.

A lone Blue-winged Warbler Aug. 5 at Noxubee (TLS) set a new early record for e.c. Mississippi, while another Oct. 15 at that site (TLS) transcended the previous late date. A Tennessee Warbler

Nov. 21 near St. Gabriel, *Iberville*, LA (DLD), was very late. A late Nashville Warbler was observed near Morgan City, LA, Nov. 23 (D & MW, KW). Mississippi's first, and the Region's 3rd, **Tropical Parula** was a male Sept. 13 at Logtown, *Hancock* (JAT, p.a.). The sighting was preceded by several days of low pressure in s. Texas, with winds in the n.w. Gulf that had a southerly component; but it is difficult to determine the relationship, if any, of such weather to the occurrence of a single vagrant.

Cape May Warblers are rare in fall throughout the Region, so a male at Sardis L., *Lafayette*, MS, Oct. 4 (GK) was noteworthy. Several Black-throated Blue Warblers, usually difficult to find in autumn, were noted in Alabama. A male and two females seen in e. *Jefferson* Aug. 18-27 (RRS, MBS) were earliest ever for the state. Black-throated Blues are even scarcer in the w. portion of the Region, and singles were seen Sept. 29 in *Shelby*, TN (DHe, VR), Oct. 4 in *Tipton*, TN (ph. DDP), and Oct. 6 as far west as L. Millwood, AR (CM).

A Black-throated Gray Warbler was a good find Oct. 27 in Holleyman Sanctuary, *Cameron*, LA (LT, CAB, m.ob., p.a.). Even more exciting was a **Townsend's Warbler** Sept. 13 at Grand Isle, LA (AES, GBS, p.a.); this w. vagrant is casual in Louisiana. Palm Warblers are rare in fall in Arkansas, and this season I had reports Sept. 23 at Little Rock (WMS) and in *Garland* (BL, PL), and Oct. 6-7 at L. Millwood (CM, m.ob.). The eastern race, rare in s.w. Louisiana, was noted Oct. 28-29 in *Cameron* (one *AWK, DLD). Blackpoll Warblers are rare in autumn, especially in w. Louisiana; one was described from Smith Ridge, *Cameron*, Oct. 28 (AWK, KVR, m.ob.). Cerulean Warbler is a species of concern, so it was encouraging that inland and coastal observers found them in good numbers in late summer. A new late date for coastal Alabama for Am. Redstart was furnished by one in s. *Baldwin* Nov. 19 (MSK). A Prothonotary Warbler in *Ok-tibbeha* Sept. 27 (TLS) provided a new departure date for e.c. Mississippi by nearly 3 weeks. An Ovenbird Nov. 29 at Garner Ridge, LA (AWK), was late. The N. Waterthrush near St. Gabriel Aug. 8 (JVR, CCu) was very early for the Baton Rouge area

Connecticut Warblers are extremely rare in w. Tennessee in fall, so one studied in *Shelby* Sept. 19 (JRW) was an excellent find. Mourning Warbler is an uncommon fall transient in s.w. Louisiana, and the high count this season was an impressive 18 in *Cameron* Aug. 31 (*, ph., KVR, JMB, LBM). Harder to find in s.e. Louisiana, singles were seen Sept. 1 at Grand I. (PW, CS, JS) and as late as Oct. 13-18 in *Iberville* (JVR). Mourning Warblers are rare farther east along the coast; singles were noted Sept. 15 in *Hancock*, MS (GM, LLK, JAT) and Oct. 6 at Ft. Morgan, AL (JL, GF, AF, m.ob., p.a.). A fallout in *Cameron*, LA, Sept. 11 yielded a striking 150 Canada Warblers (RJB).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A late Summer Tanager was noted Nov. 10 in Biloxi, MS (GM). Of several late Rose-breasted Grosbeaks reported across the s. part of the Region, the latest was an imm. male Nov. 30 at Ft. Morgan, AL (RAD). Black-headed Grosbeaks are always of interest, and this fall I had records of single males Oct. 17 in *Hancock*, MS (GM) and Oct. 27 in *Cameron*, LA (AES, GBS). One Dickcissel seen Oct. 31 in *Washington* (MM) set a new late departure date for n.w. Arkansas. A ♀ Painted Bunting Nov. 25 at New Orleans was late (CK, PW, CS). Clay-colored Sparrows are rare but regular in coastal areas, and this season I had 6 reports of nine birds from *Cameron*, LA, to Ft. Morgan, AL. Four separate birds were seen at the latter locale Sept. 29-Nov. 10 (GDJ, DGJ, RAD, m.ob.). Two Clay-colored noted Oct. 23 at Sardis Ref., *Lafayette* (GK, VT), were likely the first for inland Mississippi.

Henslow's Sparrows are very rare in the n. part of the Region, so lone birds described from *Chicot*, AR, Oct. 27 (JRW, DC) and *Dyer*, TN, Nov. 22 (JRW) were of interest. Inland Sharp-tailed Sparrows are rare; one was at Cross Creeks N.W.R., TN, Sept. 30 (JRW), two were spotted Oct. 13-14 in *Garland*, AR (BL, PL, m.ob.), and another was seen Oct. 28-Nov. 3 at C.F.H. (MM, KZ). A Lincoln's Sparrow Oct. 19 in *Hancock* (JAT) was the earliest for coast-al Mississippi. Two White-crowned Sparrows at Ft. Pickens Sept. 24 (RAD, RR) provided a new early date for the w. Panhandle, while an arrival record for Alabama was broken by

an immature spotted Sept. 29 at Ft. Morgan (GDJ). Twelve White-crowns were in *Gulf*, FL, Nov. 18 (BDN, NW, SCA), a good number for the e. Panhandle. Smith's Longspurs are known to be regular in limited numbers at Shelby Farms near Memphis, where seven were noted Nov. 25 (JRW). More unusual, and early, were the two Smith's Oct. 25 at Ensley Bottoms, *Shelby* (JRW).

Locally rare Brewer's Blackbird included seven in *Okaloosa*, FL, Nov. 12 (RAD, JP) and a female Nov. 13 in *Putnam*, TN (SJS). Bronzed Cowbirds are scarce in s.w. Louisiana; one was seen Oct. 29 in *Cameron* (RJB). The **Bronzed Cowbird** discovered Nov. 7-10 at Ft. Morgan (RAD, m.ob., ph. GDJ, p.a.) was only the 3rd for Alabama. A W movement of up to 150 Orchard Orioles was witnessed in a period of 45 minutes Aug. 19 at Gulf Breeze, FL (RAD). One found Oct. 13 in *Calcasieu*, LA (KVR), was very late. A N. Oriole discovered Sept. 27 in *Ok-tibbeha* (TLS) set a new late record for e.c. Mississippi. A female of the "Bullock's" form, rare in the Region, was located at Ft. Morgan, AL, Oct. 5 (JH, JFH).

The House Finch assault seemed to accelerate. Fifty-eight in Arkansas were scattered as far west as *Yell*. In n.w. Florida and coastal Alabama and Mississippi, where just beginning to be regular, there were 5 records of 18 birds. The biggest House Finch news came from Louisiana. I received 12 reports of 26 birds, with observations west to *Acadia* and *Vermilion* (p.a.); records in the state, especially in the s.w. portion, have previously been meager. The 4th Mississippi sighting of **Red Cross-bill** came Nov. 14, when as many as 15 were s. of Oxford (GK, SK, p.a.). I had only one report of Pine Siskin by the end of the period.

Corrigenda: In the Spring 1990 report (*AB* 44:441-442), the Lesser Black-backed Gull at Ft. Morgan, AL, was discovered by Ted Parker. The Brown Noddy in the same article should be listed as the "oddest reported," not the "rarest," larid.

Cited observers: (Subregional editors in boldface) Shirley Acchione, Sybil C. Arbery, Nancy Archison, Robby J. Bacon, Mickey Baker, Jane W. Ballman, Richard L. Ballman, Rick Ballman, Walter Barry, John M. Bates, Richard S.

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PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

Rudolf F. Koes
and Peter Taylor

Fall weather was generally dry, mild, and placid across the Region, although there were some strong winds in October and winter's first heavy-duty cold snap hit most of the Region before the end of November. In Winnipeg the period from July to October was driest on record. Early snowfalls were heavy at mid-latitudes (e.g., Thompson, Manitoba), but parts of the south remained snow-free to the end of the period. The mild conditions allowed fall migration to proceed with few spectacular bird concentrations, and Saskatchewan seemed to get the best of a good crop of rarities, mainly late in the season.

Abbreviations: L.M.L. (*Last Mountain Lake, SK*); O.H.M. (*Oak Hammock Marsh Wildlife Management Area, MB*).

LOONS TO HERONS

Rare loons featured in Saskatchewan, with single Red-throats at Blackstrap Lake Oct. 18–20 (WH, FR, SS) and Regina Beach, L.M.L., Nov. 7 (PC, RKR), at least four Pacific Loons at different locations Oct. 7–Nov. 11 (*vide* RKR),



and best of all, the province's 6th and 7th **Yellow-billed Loons** at L.M.L. Oct. 9 (CB, MB, TH, Rkr) and Blackstrap Lake Oct. 27 (SS *et al.*). There were also four Alberta reports of Pacific Loons, Oct. 6 to Nov. 11. All three species are observed more frequently in Saskatchewan and Alberta than s. Manitoba, indicating a sparsely travelled flyway to the Pacific.

Southern herons were found in good variety. A Great Egret was seen at Crooked L., SK, Aug. 15 to early September (P & DF), and four were reported in Manitoba

(m.ob.). Snowy Egret reports at L.M.L., Aug. 7 (WH) and Sept. 2–3 (SS, HL *et al.*), may have involved the same bird. An imm. **Little Blue Heron**, photographed near Regina Sept. 5, was Saskatchewan's 8th and the first since 1976 (KB, RKR, JTr). An elusive white heron at O.H.M., Oct. 2–16, also resembled this species (WA, WN, RP).

Seven Cattle Egrets remained at O.H.M. through August and September (m.ob.), the last one being seen Oct. 8 (DF); another seven were at Big Grass Marsh near Plumias, MB, Sept. 30 (JD). A **Green-backed Heron** at Calgary, Sept. 9 to Oct. 7, was at the same

location as last year's first confirmed Alberta record (RS *et al.*); abundant Leopard Frogs attracted another to Pinawa, MB, sewage lagoons, Aug. 9–30 (PT *et al.*). Finally, an imm. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was reported at O.H.M., Aug. 7 (GH).

WATERFOWL

An astounding, careful estimate of over 460,000 Greater White-fronted Geese along the South Saskatchewan R. near Galloway Bay, SK, Oct. 1 (BG, WH) exceeded previous estimates of the entire mid-continental population. Other impressive goose counts included 250,000 Snows at O.H.M.

Sept. 30 (GH, PH), 50,000+ Snows at L.M.L., Oct. 13 (RKR *et al.*), 50,000 Snows at Murray Lake near Medicine Hat, AB, Nov. 4 (DB), and 1000–1400 Ross' Geese at L.M.L. Sept. 23–30 (FL, WH). Saskatchewan's first *hrota* Brant was an immature at Lenore Lake near Humboldt (JW).

The vulnerability of lone ducks in late fall was illustrated by a Gadwall and a Ruddy Duck, dispatched after long struggles by a Bald Eagle and a Herring Gull, respectively, at L.M.L. in November (*vide* RKR). A ♂ Eur. Wigeon was at Beaverhill Lake, AB, Sept. 26 (RKL). A **Common Eider**, Saskatchewan's 2nd (first documented), allowed close approach at Regina Beach Nov. 2–7, then two were seen Nov. 9–10 (RKR, TH *et al.*, ph. CB, KB). A ♂ Harlequin Duck, possibly one that summered north of Outlook, SK, remained at Gardiner Dam into December (WH, RKR, SS *et al.*). In Manitoba, single ♀-plumaged Harlequins appeared at Delta Sept. 7 (JH, BR), Gull Lake Oct. 21 (GG, RKO, PT), and Pine Falls Nov. 14–15 (MSi, RP, L & RJ).

Oldsquaws were more numerous than usual in s.e. Manitoba, with at least 11 seen including six at Pine Falls, Nov. 14–15 (MSi, RP, PT *et al.*). Four were reported in Saskatchewan, Nov. 1–11 (*vide* RKR). About 15 Black Scoters, mainly singles, were seen across the south of the Region; the most unusual was one at Duck Mountain P.P., SK, Aug. 8 (RKR). Surf Scoters, however, were much scarcer than last fall. The best scoter sighting was of a mixed flock of two Black, eight Surf, and 26 White-winged scoters at Glenmore Res., AB, Oct. 16 (BM, RTh). Six Barrow's Goldeneyes at 4 locations, Oct. 21 to Nov. 7, were well above average for Saskatchewan (SS, RKR, PC, WH, FL).

HAWKS TO SHOREBIRDS

Thirty-six Broad-winged Hawks made a good total at Windy Point Ridge, 25 mi s.w. of Calgary, Sept. 15 (*vide* RD). Any giggles from Ontario hawk-watchers should be silenced by the 83 Golden Eagles at the same location, Oct. 13 (WS). Gyrfalcons staged a strong flight, with reports across the Region from Calgary to Pinawa, mid-October through November. Ruffed Grouse declines were noted in both Manitoba and Alberta. A very late Sora dallied at a tiny patch of

unfrozen creek at Cross Lake P.P., AB, Oct. 22 (JL).

Re-nesting Piping Plovers had two half-grown young at Keho Lake near Lethbridge, AB, a new breeding location, Aug. 3 (TD). Late shorebirds, perhaps reflecting the mild season, included four Semipalmated Plovers at Eagle Lake, AB, Oct. 7 (JS *et al.*), a Killdeer at Lockport, MB, Nov. 9 (RKO), A Willet at O.H.M. Oct. 16 (IG), a Pectoral Sandpiper at Victoria Beach, MB, Nov. 17 (DF), a Stilt Sandpiper at Eagle Lake Oct. 21 (JS), and a Wilson's Phalarope also at Eagle Lake Oct. 14–26 (RKL, JS *et al.*). It was interesting to learn that five American Golden-Plovers at Namaka Lake Oct. 28 were record-late for the Calgary area (JS), since November sightings are quite frequent in Manitoba.

Concentrations of shorebirds at Weyburn, SK, sewage lagoons included 244 Greater and 993 Lesser yellowlegs Aug. 13, and 132 Willets Aug. 6 (NP). Trevor Herriot expressed concern about a possible decline in Marbled Godwits in Saskatchewan.

One W. Sandpiper was seen near Strathmore, AB, Aug. 7 (JS, RS), and five were reported there Aug. 18 (RKL). The best shorebird of the season, if confirmed, was a possible Temminck's Stint observed in minute detail near Carceland, AB, Oct. 8 (JS, MSt). Also exceptional was a series of at least three juv. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers in the Calgary region, Sept. 29 to Oct. 17 (RW, RKL, JS, JTh *et al.*), as well as sightings at Beaverhill Lake, AB, Sept. 22–25 and Oct. 17 (DDe, SB, RKL). Two Ruffs were reported: an immature at Dalemead Res. near Calgary Sept. 29 (PSh), and a female at Brown's Slough near Regina Aug. 11 (TR). Red Phalaropes were seen at Calgary Aug. 12 (JR, OD *et al.*) and Beaverhill Lake Sept. 22–23 (DD, CM, EM).

JAEGERS TO HUMMINGBIRDS

A Pomarine Jaeger at Candle Lake, SK, Sept. 22 (BL) was about the 11th reported for the province. Parasitic Jaegers occurred at L.M.L. Sept. 30 and Big Quill Lake, SK, Oct. 16 (both WH) and Kenilworth Lake, AB, Sept. 22 (RKL), with a "probable" near Patricia Beach, MB, Oct. 21 (GG, RKO, PT). An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger at Keho Lake Sept. 1 (DDo, TD) was the first in extreme south

Alberta since 1966.

At least 6500 Bonaparte's Gulls flocked on s.e. Lake Winnipeg between Patricia and Grand beaches, MB, Oct. 21 (GG, RKO, PT). The best gulls of the season were a first-year **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Wascana Marsh, Regina, Oct. 27 (RKR), an Iceland Gull minutely examined and compared with Thayer's and Herring gulls at Gardiner Dam, SK, Nov. 14 (RKR, PC), a **Black-legged Kittiwake** near Wabamun Lake, AB, Nov. 12 (TT, DN, AH), and a Sabine's Gull at Saskatoon Sept. 12 (BG, MG). An ad. Caspian Tern at Buffalo Bay, Lake of the Woods, Oct. 13 (DF, RTa) was very late, as were six Forster's Terns at Grand Beach, Oct. 21 (GG, RKO, PT). Extraordinary was a probable **Pigeon Guillemot**, well described but not photographable and not seen in flight, at L.M.L. Nov. 7 (PC, RKR).

Northern Hawk Owls were recorded in each province, and made a fair showing in central Saskatchewan (*vide* RKR, HL); one found in a barn near Glenboro, MB, Oct. 29 was released with a bellyful of mice Nov. 4 (PSa, WT). Good numbers of Great Gray Owls were reported in s.e. Manitoba in November (*vide* RN), but Short-eared Owls were scarce across the Region. A well-marked and highly vocal ♂ **Anna's Hummingbird** near Cremona, AB, Aug. 20–Sept. 27 (DO, CH, m.ob.), provided the province's 3rd (2nd confirmed) record.

PASSERINES

An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Kleefeld, MB, Sept. 30 (DF) and an E. Phoebe in Winnipeg Nov. 4–7 (L & RJ, RP) were both very late. A Mountain Chickadee was reported without date or details at Buffalo Pound P.P., SK (EW, *vide* SS). A late report of Saskatchewan's first **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**, in Regina July 3, included an excellent description (JTr). At least four Townsend's Solitaires and 14 Varied Thrushes were found in their eastward wanderings across the Region. Northern Mockingbirds appeared at Raymore, SK, Oct. 10 (WH), Medicine Hat, AB, Oct. 9 (DB), and Hanna, AB, Nov. 24 to at least Dec. 17 (JPi). An Am. Pipit was exceptionally early at O.H.M. Aug. 13 (RKO). Good numbers of N. Shrikes in Saskatchewan and Manitoba included five in the Rafferty-Alameda area, SK, Oct

31 (DW).

A Nashville Warbler and a Palm Warbler visited a Calgary birdbath Oct. 31–Nov. 13 and Nov. 6, respectively (JPc). Northern Parulas were seen at Duck Mountain P.P. Aug. 11 (RKR) and Brandon, MB, Oct. 28 (JH). Also out of range were Black-throated Blue Warblers at Raymore, SK, Sept. 2 (WH) and Claresholm, AB, Oct. 7–10 (JA), a Townsend's Warbler at Writing-on-Stone P.P., AB, Aug. 29 (GD), and a Pine Warbler at Regina Aug. 20 (RKR, TE). Also at Writing-on-Stone P.P., a wave of 100+ Wilson's Warblers passed through on Aug. 28 (GD), and this species was also prominent at Regina in late August (m.ob.). Otherwise, warbler-watching was poor, except at Calgary's Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, where 22 species were found during a wet spell Aug. 16–25.

A ♀ Cardinal was in Brandon Nov. 1–14 (JH), and four others were reported in or near Winnipeg. Single Black-headed Grosbeaks were seen south of Assiniboia, SK, Aug. 29 (RKR) and at Delta, MB, Sept. 8 (NC, GH, RTk). There was little of note on the sparrow scene. An early Rusty Blackbird foraged at the Pinawa sewage lagoons Aug. 29–30 (RKO, PT), and an imm. Orchard Oriole was out of range at Big Quill Lake Aug. 1 (WH).

House Finches were reported in each province: two males at Claresholm, AB, Aug. 9–Oct. 30 (JA), and imm./female birds at Weyburn, SK, Oct. 12 (NP) and East St. Paul, MB, Oct. 13–22 (MSi). Manitoba's 3rd **Brambling** was a one-day wonder at a St Adolphe feeder, Nov. 10 (AC, m.ob.). Doug Collister banded 181 Pine Siskins at Matlock, MB, Aug. 18–Sept. 1. In Regina, some Pine Siskins escorted young Brown-headed Cowbirds to feeders (*vide* RKR). At Stonewall, MB, Am. Goldfinches feasted on woolly galls on oak leaves (KG). There was a general scarcity of winter finches across the Region.

Observers: (subregional compilers in boldface) Wilf Agar, Jason Atwell, Martin Bailey, Dennis Baresco, Keith Barr, Suzanne Benoit, Carol Bjorklund, Paul Chytyk, Norm Cleveland, Andy Courcelles, Jeff Daheer, Gary Davidson, Dick Dekker (DDe), **Ross Dickson**, Doug Dolman (DDo), Teresa Dolman, Olga Droppo, Tom Ether, Dennis Fast,

Pat and Doug Francis, Irvine Gardner, Ken Gardner, Mary Gilliland, Bernie Gollop, Gordon Grief, Peter Hamel, Wayne Harris, Trevor Herriot, Alan Higston, George Holland, Jean Horton, Cley Hunt, Liesel & Reinhard Jansson, Richard Klauke (RKL), Rudolf Koes (RKO), **Robert**

Kreba (RKr), Fred Lahrman, Harvey Lane, Jim Lange, **Gerry Lunn**, Bob Luterbach, Chel Macdonald, Ed Mah-Lim, Blake Maybank, Dave Nadeau, Wayne Neily, Robert Nero, Doreen Olson, Robert Parsons, Jack Pickering (JPi), Jamey Podlubny (JPo), Nick Postey, John Riddell, Tom

Riffel, Barbara Robertson, Frank Roy, Peter Sawatzky (PSa), Stand Shadick, Peter Sherrington (PSH), Martin Siepman (MSi), Wayne Smith, Jack Steeves, Marion Steeves (MSt), Robert Storms, Peter Taylor, Robert Taylor (RTa), Richard Thomas (RTh), Terry Thormin, John Thompson

(JTh), Russell Tkachuk (RTk), Wayne Tomlinson, John Triffo (JTr), Ed Walker, Jim Wedgwood, Don Weidl, Ray Wersheer.—**RUDOLF F. KOES, 135 Rossmere Cres., Winnipeg, MB R2K 0G1 and PETER TAYLOR, Box 597, Pinawa, MB ROE 1L0.**

NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Gordon Berkey

Although many areas received above normal precipitation last summer, severe drought returned for the duration of the fall. This left few choices for waterfowl and other birds dependent on water, so several impressive peak numbers were recorded. As a general rule, however, birds were not plentiful. Warm weather throughout the period allowed many species to linger to record late dates.

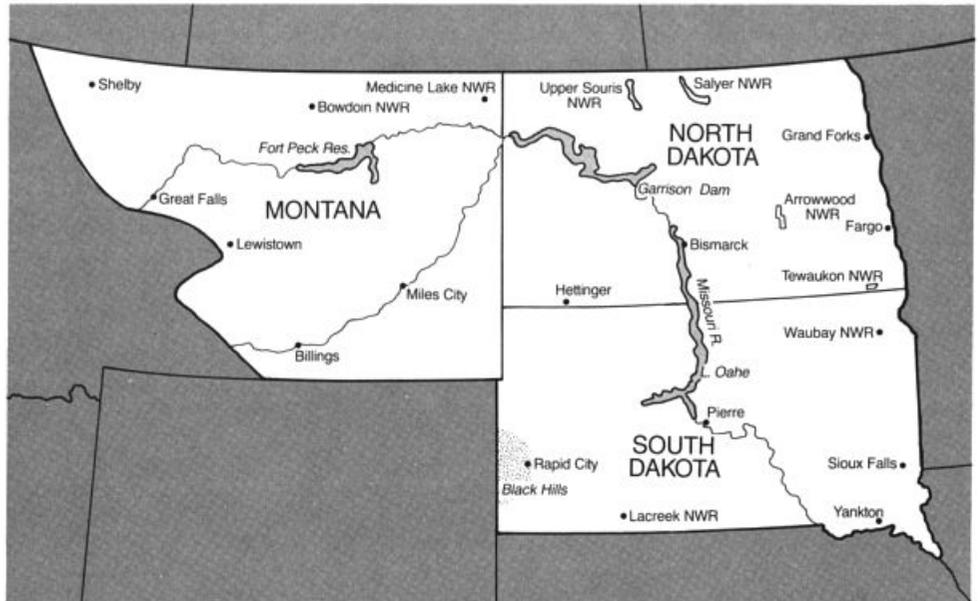
North Dakota recorded two new species, Yellow-billed Loon and Glaucous-winged Gull. Highlights of the season included the array of gulls at Garrison Dam, North Dakota, and of warblers at Westby, Montana.

Abbreviations: Place names in italics are counties. Dates in italics are believed to be either the earliest ever or latest ever for the respective state; numbers in italics are thought to be record high fall peaks for the state.

LOONS TO WATERFOWL

A probable Yellow-billed Loon was seen briefly by a single observer at the Fargo, ND, sewage lagoons Nov. 3 (GN). Documentation of this first for the state has been submitted to the records committee. A total of 926 Pied-billed Grebes was counted at Waubay N.W.R., SD, Aug. 23. A Horned Grebe at L. Audubon, ND, Nov. 26 (GB) and a Clark's Grebe at Fargo Nov. 4 were late.

Snow Geese peaked at 310,000 at Upper Souris N.W.R., ND, Nov. 1 and 175,000 at Sand Lake N.W.R., SD, Nov. 3. The 25,000 N. Pintails at Benton Lake, MT, Sept. 27 (SM) made a good count. A Wood Duck Nov. 28 and a



Harlequin Duck at Grand Forks, North Dakota, October 23, 1990. About the 12th state record. Photograph/Peder Svringen.

Canvasback Nov. 30 in Yankton, SD (WH), were late. Seven Greater Scaup in Marshall, SD, Oct. 4 were early, while the 54 at the Richardton, ND, lagoons Nov. 20 (JH) were an extremely large number for so late.

Good numbers of northern ducks included an amazing 14 Oldsquaw, including 12 in a single flock on L. Audubon Nov. 18 (RM), and five Black Scoters at the Grand Forks, ND, lagoons Oct. 20 (DL). A daily count of 1850 Buffleheads was reached in McLean and Ward, ND, Oct. 28. The flock of 3500 Com. Goldeneyes on nearly frozen Devils Lake Nov. 23 was seven times the previous high. The most unusual ducks observed were North

Dakota's 10th Barrow's Goldeneye at Lake Audubon Nov. 22 (RM) and 12th Harlequin Duck at Grand Forks Oct. 21 (RO). Three Barrow's Goldeneyes were at Canyon Lake in Pennington, SD, where the species has often wintered, Nov. 12 (JZ).

RAPTORS TO SHOREBIRDS

Fall staging Turkey Vultures reached 39 below Garrison Dam, ND, Sept. 30. Ospreys were widely reported from all 3 states, but most interesting was a pair nest-building Aug. 21 in Pennington, SD (RP). This was the first indication of nesting in the state since 1883, but one must speculate that the birds were getting an early start on 1991 rather than trying for 1990! Migrating N. Goshawks were first observed in South Dakota Oct. 13 and North Dakota Oct. 14; the frequency of reports indicated that numbers will be good this winter. Rough-legged Hawks were more numerous than normal in North Dakota; an early one was in Stark on the record date of Aug. 31 (JH). An early Gyrfalcon at the Grand Forks lagoons Oct. 7 (EF) signalled the influx that followed. By the end of the period there were totals of four for North Dakota, three for e Mon-

tana, and one for South Dakota. Prairie Falcons were above normal in the Malta, MT, area, and 31 were seen on 20 dates in the Richardton, ND, area.

American Coot may have been more severely concentrated by the drought than any other species; a peak of 100,000 was reached at Upper Souris Sept. 22. A "Pacific" Golden-Plover was described at Freezeout Lake, MT, Aug. 11 (MS); this would be a remarkable record if confirmed. Four Long-billed Curlews at Lake Ilo Aug. 22 (DB) were the first fall migrants reported for North Dakota in many years. A Dunlin was early at Fargo Sept. 8. Late North Dakota shorebirds were a Greater Yellowlegs flying south over Garrison Dam Nov. 26 (GB), a Red Knot Sept. 30 and Pectoral Sandpiper Nov. 18 (GN) at Fargo, and Stilt Sandpiper at Minnewaukan Oct. 27 (EF). In Montana a Willet was late at Medicine Lake Oct. 12 and Wilson's Phalarope was late near Flaxville Oct. 29 (TN). North Dakota peak counts included 1500 Baird's Sandpipers in McHenry Aug. 15, and 1100 Am. Avocets and 11,000 Long-billed Dowitchers at Minnewaukan Sept. 1. Long-billeds often linger into late October or early November, but the report of six Short-billeds

Oct. 23 from Halfbreed N.W.R. requires documentation, as the latest known date for the Region is Oct. 2.

JAEGERS TO TERNS

An imm. **Parasitic Jaeger** at the Grand Forks lagoons Sept. 21–25 (EF) was the 6th for North Dakota. A Franklin's Gull was very late in *Roberts*, SD, Nov. 21, while a Bonaparte's Gull in *Kingsbury* was extremely early Aug. 13 (BKH).

S.A.

The Missouri mainstem reservoir outlets are great gull feeders, offering ideal conditions for the sparse numbers of rarities that must have overflowed the Region before their construction. The collection observed at Garrison Dam this fall was particularly striking (RM, GB); 11 of the 12 gull species reported for North Dakota this season were seen there. An imm. **Mew Gull** Sept. 30 through Oct. 5 and an ad. "Kumlien's" **Iceland Gull** from Nov. 18 on each furnished a 3rd state record. The "Kumlien's" was carefully compared with adult Thayer's present. A 2nd-winter **Glaucous-winged Gull** seen sporadically Sept. 30 through Nov. 4 was the first for the state. This species has been recorded east of the Rockies only a few times. There is a previous Regional record for Ft. Peck, MT, and the species has been seen in Colorado. The only other state this far east where the species has occurred is Oklahoma. **Three Black-legged Kittiwakes** Nov. 25 through Dec. 1 made a good number for an inland location. In addition, a mystery gull believed to be a hybrid was photographed at the dam Oct. 30 by B.J. Rose of Nebraska. The opportunity provided to birders by the reservoirs remains, however, small consolation for the destruction of a magnificent river valley.

Another **Mew Gull** was at Mirror Lake in Hettinger, ND, Nov. 4 (D & CG). Thayer's Gulls were early at Ft. Peck, MT, Sept. 30 (CC) and at the Minot, ND, lagoons Oct. 7 (RM). A Sabine's Gull was at Grand Forks Sept. 22–23 (DL) and another was at Cooney Res., s.w. of Billings, MT, Sept. 30 (GF, HC). A Caspian



Juvenile Parasitic Jaeger at Grand Forks, North Dakota, September 22, 1990. About the sixth state record. This bird shows the pale nape, streaked face, and pale primary tips that are typical of juveniles of this species. Photograph/David O. Lambeth.

Tern at Fargo Sept. 29 (GN) and two at Cooney Res. Oct. 3 (MW) were late. Two Least Terns were at Mallard I., Lake Sakakawea, ND, Sept. 9 (DNS); very little is recorded about departure dates for this species.

OWLS TO SAPSUCKERS

Downy young Barn Owls were found in *Jackson*, SD, Nov. 3 (KG), for the state's latest breeding record. (Perhaps those late Ospreys really were serious about nesting in 1990!) Following nearly total absence last winter, Snowy Owls arrived in good numbers in late October and November. It is interesting that N. Goshawks and Gyrfalcons, which feed primarily on birds, also made a good showing this fall. A Burrowing Owl at Badlands N.P., SD, Oct. 27 was late.

Numbers of migrating Com. Nighthawks were good, with 250 in Meade, SD (EM), the maximum reported. They lingered as late as Oct. 2 in Minot. A calling Com. Poorwill at Bucyrus, ND, Oct. 7 (D & CG) furnished the first October record in North Dakota since the Lewis and Clark expedition recorded one on Oct. 16, 1804!

Above average numbers of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were seen rather far west; there were several sightings each in New Town and Hettinger, ND, and in Westby, MT, and a single appeared at Bowdoin N.W.R., MT, Sept. 9 (KS). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were at New Town, Hettinger, and Dickinson, ND, Westby, MT, and a single was at Pryor, MT (WR). Birders in this Region should be looking carefully for Red-naped Sapsuckers.

FLYCATCHERS TO THRUSHES

Good flycatcher peaks were of 25

E. Wood-Pewees in *Grand Forks* Aug. 25 (EF) and up to 20 Willow Flycatchers in the Hettinger, ND, area in August (D & CG). An Alder Flycatcher giving the "kip" call note was at J. Clark Salyer N.W.R. Aug. 13 (GB); the date is probably not exceptionally early, but little is known about fall migration of this species. A Western Kingbird was late south of Westby Sept. 27 (TN).

Late swallows for North Dakota were a Tree Swallow at the Richardton lagoons Oct. 18 (JH), six Bank Swallows at Fargo Oct. 13 (GN), and seven N. Rough-wings in *Trails* Sept. 29 (DL). These were all outdone by the swallow (sp.) at Ft. Peck dam Nov. 3–12 (CC).

Blue Jays continue to increase in e. Montana. A nest was reported in a Russian Olive shelterbelt near Malta, where they have been seen regularly since 1982. This would represent the first breeding for latitude 9. They are also increasing in the Miles City area where they have spread to the river valley outside of town. Another was at Westby, and two at Chester were the first there since the late 1970s.

Two Mountain Chickadees wandered from their nesting range to Chester, MT, Oct. 31 (HM). A Winter Wren at New Town Sept. 27 (BCH) was the westernmost known for North Dakota. A late Sedge Wren was in *Deuel*, SD, Nov. 4 (BKH).

A peak of 42 E. Bluebirds in 6 mi was found in *Roberts*, SD, Sept. 20 (DRS). A Hermit Thrush at Bowman-Haley Res., ND, Sept. 3 (CG) was early, while a Wood Thrush at Fargo Nov. 15 (MB) bested the previous late date by a month. The five Varied Thrushes reported in e. Montana were far more than normal. Reports spanning from Sept. 9 through November included singles at Billings, Ft. Peck, and Malta, and two in the Miles City area (DH). Another Varied Thrush was much farther east at Grand Forks, ND, Oct. 28.

PIPITS TO WARBLERS

Two very early Am. Pipits were at Ft. Peck Aug. 11 (CC) and two were at Hettinger Aug. 14 (D & CG). Northern Shrike made an early appearance at Ft. Peck Oct. 1. Solitary Vireo was early at Westby, MT, Aug. 14, while a good vireo concentration in *Ward*, ND, Sept.

S.A.

Tree plantings on the open plains have long been known as excellent migrant traps. The small, rather lightly wooded park in the e. Montana border town of Westby yielded an impressive array of 16 warbler species this fall (TN). An Orange-crowned Warbler was very early Aug. 8. A total of eight **Chestnut-sided Warblers** was observed on Aug. 16 and Sept. 9 & 10; there had been only about 8 previous Montana records. Magnolias Warblers, regular there both spring and fall, were observed Aug. 30 and Sept. 9 & 18. The 5th **Cape May Warbler** for the state was seen Sept. 3. The state's 3rd **Connecticut Warbler** was found and carefully differentiated from MacGillivray's Aug. 15. Finally, Montana's 3rd **Canada Warbler** was also present Aug. 15. Farther west at Ft. Peck, eastern warblers included a probable Chestnut-sided Sept. 29 and a Magnolia Sept. 22.

8 included 23 Warbling and 47 Red-eyed vireos. A ♂ **Blue-winged Warbler** in Minot Sept. 9 (GB) was the 6th for North Dakota, four of these since 1988. Three different Black-throated Blue Warblers were rather far west at Minot Sept. 18 to Oct. 6. A Pine Warbler at Badlands N.P. Sept. 16 (BJ) was rare so far west. A MacGillivray's Warbler near Minot Aug. 22 (RM) was about the 15th for North Dakota. A Connecticut Warbler was in *Minnehaha*, SD, Aug. 27 (AH) where they are considered accidental in fall. A Connecticut Warbler at Minot was early Aug. 14. A total of 20 Wilson's Warblers was registered at Bowdoin Aug. 28. Good warbler peaks for North Dakota were the 40 Yellows at Minot Aug. 30, and 10 Bay-breasteds and 12 Mourning at Grand Forks Aug. 25. Late warblers were a Nashville at Fargo Oct. 23 (MB), Yellow in *Brown*, SD, Oct. 20 (DT), and Yellow-rumped at Grand Forks Nov. 17.

DICKCISSEL TO FINCHES

The flock of 40 Dickcissels in *Grand Forks* Aug. 26 (AS) was unprecedented. Other good totals included the 200 Vesper Sparrows in *McHenry* Aug. 13 and 300 White-throated Sparrows at Grand Forks

Sept. 27. A Field Sparrow at Fargo Oct. 21 was late. Lapland Longspurs arrived early at Grand Forks Sept. 3, as did Snow Buntings at Fargo Oct. 7. The latter species was present in good numbers until freeze-up, but then all but disappeared; they may be dependent on snow for winter moisture.

House Finches were seen in Fargo, Grand Forks, Hope, Jamestown, Minot, Bismarck and New Town, ND; *Minnehaha* and *Yankton*, SD; and Miles City and

Chester, MT. The Chester observation is particularly interesting, as it is quite close to the "western" population. While the eastern invaders are not yet common, they have laid claim to the entire Region.

It was a disappointing fall for northern finches, with only Purple Finches and Pine Siskins present in fair numbers. About 15 Red Crossbills were in Ft. Peck in October, where the species had been present all summer (CC) and probably nested. There were a

few other reports of this species. The only White-winged Crossbills were 25 at *Brookings*, SD, Oct. 29 (JK).

Observers: (area compilers in bold face)—MONTANA: **Charles Carlson**, Helen Carlson, Georgia Frazier, Donald Hiltman, Harriet Marble, Stephen Martin, Ted Nordhagen, William Roney, Michael Schwitters, Karen Stutsman, Mike Weber.—NORTH DAKOTA: **Gordon Berkey**, Don Bozovsky, Margaret

Brophy, Eve Freeberg, David & Carolyn Griffiths, Justin Hoff, Bernice C. Houser, **David Lambert**, Ron Martin, Gary Nielsen, Robert O'Connor, Art Schroder, Dan N. Svingen.—SOUTH DAKOTA: Ken Graupman, Willis Hall, Bruce K. Harris, Augie Hoeger, Barry Jones, Jan Kieckhefer, Ernest Miller, Richard Peterson, **Dennis R. Skadsen**, Joe Zarki.—**GORDON B. BERKEY, Division of Science, Minot State University, Minot, ND 58701.**

SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Joseph A. Grzybowski

It was generally a warm season with moderate rainfall, although some areas were dryer. These conditions, not particularly taxing on the birds, showed up in the birding, with a return to a better number of highlights (particularly for diving waterfowl) than in the dryer years. Although the general pattern was good for most groups, it was mostly within a small variance of just "good."

The last week in October and first week in November was the time of the first big surge of the diving waterfowl. Substantial numbers of Red-tailed, Ferruginous and Rough-legged hawks also appeared in Kansas around the be-

ginning of November, slightly earlier in Nebraska. But this surge had not yet reached central Oklahoma by the end of the period. Observers in Kansas and northeastern Oklahoma also noted more Merlins than in many years.

The warmer weather provided for a modest number of records of lingering land birds, and a few other species. Several unusual hummingbirds were noted this fall including the first Anna's Hummingbird for Kansas.

This was not an eruption year for any passerine species in particular, although Red Crossbills made a spotty Regionwide showing in the second half of the period. Quite possibly, the 1989 eruptions of several species (Scrub Jays, Canyon Towhees, etc.) were food based rather than based on overproduction of young, as none of these species materialized any showing this year. Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported less commonly than usual. Pine Siskins, which were rare last year,

were almost absent this season.

Can any patterns be linked to those drought years just past? Numbers of Eared Grebes were still down, as were those of Pintails and Canvasbacks. Numbers of many dabblers have been unimpressive. Green-winged Teal, the most northerly breeding of the teal, appeared to be more common than Blue-winged in central Oklahoma.

There also appears to be a drop in the numbers of Buff-breasted Sandpiper sightings, and Upland Sandpipers seem to have gone from common to uncommon. Perhaps also peculiar this season (but not necessarily related to the past drought), reports of some shorebirds such as Ruddy Turnstones, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitchers, and Red Knots were low.

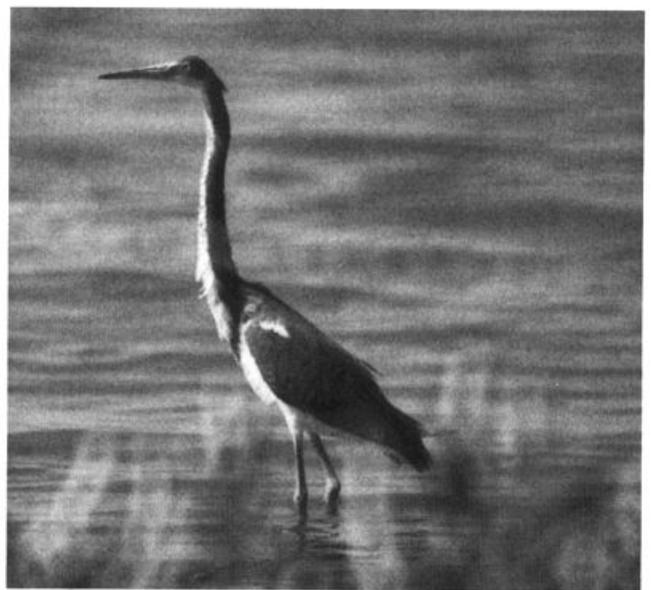
Abbreviations: Fontenelle Forest (*Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., NE*); Lake Hefner (*Lake Hefner, Oklahoma Co., OK*); Salt Plains (*Great Salt Plains Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Al-*

falfa County, OK); Sequoyah (*Sequoyah Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Sequoyah Co., OK*). Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO STORKS

Loon watching certainly produced results this season. In Kansas, this may have been helped by what Lloyd Moore described as "very large numbers" of Common Loons "on all lakes in the state." Similar numbers, however, were not noted in Nebraska or Oklahoma.

Red-throated Loons were well documented in *Tulsa* Oct. 26 & 27 (JCH *et al.*), and at *Douglas*, KS, Nov. 18 & 22 (MM, BF *et al.*). Another was observed in *Scott*, KS, Oct. 31 (T & SS). Unprecedented numbers of **Pacific Loon** reports were received, all from Kansas, including one each in *Russell* Nov. 11 (MM *et al.*) & 29 (MR); *Linn* Nov. 17 (CH, LM, LW); *Cowley* Nov. 18 (MR, SS); *Wyandotte* Nov. 27 (TLM) & 28



Tricolored Heron at Rose Lake, Canadian County, Oklahoma, August 29, 1990. Photograph/Mitchell Oliphant.

(LW); and *Reno* Dec. 1 (D & FV).

Eight reports of from one to four W. Grebes, rare in much of the Region, were received. The earliest was observed Oct. 28 on Keystone Res., OK (JCH, DV). Four birds were found Nov. 11 in *Russell*, KS (MM *et al.*). We hope they were all not simply assumed to be Westerns, as three Clark's Grebes were also identified, Nov. 23 in *Phillips*, KS (DB, SS).

An ad. **Brown Pelican** in non-breeding plumage was noted in *Jefferson*, KS, Nov. 3 (LM *et al.*). Fewer than 5 records of this species exist for Kansas. An Olivaceous Cormorant was photographed Sept. 3 at Lake Edging, *Cimarron*, OK (DV *et al.*) at the very western edge of the Region. Another was observed Sept. 3 at Cheyenne Bottoms, *Barton*, KS (MM *et al.*).

Getting to be a rare sighting these days in the Region, the only Am. Bitterns reported were in *Canadian*, OK, Aug. 18 (JGN), and *Sedgwick*, KS, Oct. 28 (PJ, JNt). This species may merit much more attention in the future.

Great Egrets wandered north to *Hall*, NE, Aug. 11 (TL), *Fontenelle Forest* Sept. 3 (J & SK), and *Keith*, NE, Sept. 13 (RCR, DJR). They now linger into mid-November in Oklahoma. A Snowy Egret, rare in Nebraska, was found Aug. 22 in *Garden* (GC). A **Tricolored Heron** was present at Rose Lake, *Canadian*, OK, Aug. 18–Sept. 11 (JGN, MO, m.ob.). One discovered earlier at the Salt Plains was last observed Aug. 30 (JM *et al.*).

A whopping 30 Wood Storks were photographed along the Red R. in s.e. Oklahoma Aug. 2 (ML). A Wood Stork flushed Sept. 13 in *Canadian*, OK, flew high and drifted to the southeast (JGN *et al.*).

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS

Up to 18 Trumpeter Swans were located in *McPherson*, NE, Oct. 12 (RCR, DJR). Ross' Geese are becoming more common in the Region, and are regular at a number of wildlife refuges. One apparently summered in *Seward*, KS, and was observed Sept. 1 (DB *et al.*).

Becoming scarcer, the only Am. Black Ducks reported were in *Linn*, KS (CH, LM, LW) and *Sequoyah* (JM, JH), both Nov. 17. Also scarce were other noteworthy records of dabbling ducks this season. A ♂ Ring-necked Duck Aug. 10 in *Hooker*, NE, was the first ever

noted by the Rosches in n.w. Nebraska during the month of August.

However, the less common diving ducks made a respectable showing. Six Greater Scaup were found Nov. 10 in *Douglas*, KS (LM), while 15 were noted in *Miami*, KS, Nov. 24 (LM, GP), and 50 were described (with Lessers) on Keystone Lake, *Keith*, NE, also Nov. 24 (RCR, DJR). Oldsquaws were observed in *Tulsa* Oct. 28 (early), with others in *Douglas* and *Miami*, KS, during November (*fide* LM).

Surf Scoters are being reported each fall with increasing frequency. Six Nov. 11 in *Russell*, KS (MM *et al.*), may have made the highest count ever in the Region. Others were noted Oct. 20 & 21 in *Tulsa* (PS, JL, MG), Oct. 23 at Gavin's Point, *Cedar*, NE (BJR), Oct. 27 in *Sheridan*, NE (RCR, DJR), and Nov. 17 in *Cowley*, KS (DK). Two White-winged Scoters were observed in *Douglas*, KS, Oct. 28 (LM, GP), and one was seen Nov. 23 in *Mitchell*, KS (PW). The rarest scoter in the Region is the Black Scoter. A female or imm. male was in *Keith*, NE, Nov. 24 (RCR, DJR).

An Osprey Aug. 14 in *Woodward*, OK, was an early migrant (RH). Slightly north of its normal range was an imm. Mississippi Kite injured by hail in *Lancaster*, NE, Sept. 6 (BH). It was rehabilitated and later released. A Harris' Hawk discovered Oct. 29 in *Cleveland*, OK (VB), was likely the same bird that occurred there the previous winter.

Northern Goshawks, always a treat in the Region, were noted in *Leavenworth*, KS, Oct. 31 (CH, GP, DS) and *Wyandotte*, KS, Nov. 3 (JL). Red-shouldered Hawks in *Dodge*, NE, Aug. 11 (TL), and *Otoe*, NE, Nov. 25 (GW) were north and west of normal occurrences. Swainson's Hawk migrations produced 600 Oct. 5 in *Douglas*, KS (GP), an unusually high number that far east. Hundreds of Red-tailed Hawks materialized across Kansas (SS, LM), but not as far south as central Oklahoma. Rough-legged and Ferruginous hawks appeared en masse the first week of November in n.e. and w. Kansas (LM, SS). One Ferruginous was observed in *Wagoner*, e. Oklahoma (JM *et al.*).

Four Golden Eagles were reported along the eastern borders of the Region in November. Mike McHugh reported the most Mer-

lins he has ever seen in s.w. Kansas. Nine other Merlin reports were received. Peregrine Falcon reports were less common this fall. Interestingly, several were reported early in the period in e. Kansas (*fide* LM) and one was observed Nov. 2 at the Salt Plains (JM *et al.*). However, none were reported during the prime migration period in September and early October. Prairie Falcons were observed east to *Douglas*, KS (LM, GP), and *Douglas*, NE (BJR), both Nov. 18. One in *Morton*, KS, Aug. 19 and Sept. 2 was suspected as breeding (SP, LM, SS).

RAILS TO TERNS

A late or wintering Virginia Rail was observed in *Keith*, NE, Nov. 24 (RCR, DJR). Another was found Oct. 30 in *Sequoyah* (JM *et al.*). Lesser Golden-Plovers were noted until Nov. 26 in *Washington*, OK (DV). Migrant Piping Plovers were observed in *Tulsa* Aug. 18 and Sept. 12 (FP *et al.*). Probably a regular but very rare migrant, a Black-necked Stilt was photographed Sept. 4 in *Texas*, OK (JM, JN).

A Long-billed Curlew Aug. 26 in *Texas*, OK (JAG), was among a sparse set of records for this period. Four Marbled Godwits, rare in fall, were found Aug. 30 at the Salt Plains (JM *et al.*). One lingered very late, until at least Nov. 4 (m.ob.). Sanderlings July 31 at Lake Hefner were early (JGN).

S.A.

Few reports of Buff-breasted Sandpipers were received, and counts were all of fewer than 10 birds. Two were noted in *Sedgwick*, KS, Aug. 19 (PJ, JNt), four in *Seward*, KS, Sept. 1 (SP *et al.*), one in *Linn*, KS, Sept. 8 (BF, MM), and two in *McPherson*, NE, Sept. 14 (RCR, DJR). The high count was of seven in the period from Aug. 27–Sept. 28 in *Oklahoma* (JGN). Almost all birds seen after Aug. 15 are likely immatures. The low numbers observed may simply represent observer bias, but implicate low reproduction, low populations, or both.

Three reports of Red-necked Phalaropes, rare but regular fall migrants, were received, totalling seven birds. Red Phalaropes are very rare in the Region. Two were photographed in *Morton*, KS, Sept.

2 (LM, SP, GP), and one was observed in *Seward*, KS, Nov. 10 (MM, SP, GP).

Although expected, the only Laughing Gulls to report were a yearling Aug. 15 and an immature Aug. 23 at Lake Hefner (JGN). Bonaparte's Gulls appeared to be more common this season than usual. The first was observed Oct. 23. Herring Gulls were noted as early as Sept. 11 (imm.) on Lake Hefner (JAG). An imm. Glaucous Gull photographed Oct. 30 at Lake Hefner (MO, JGN) was also very early.

The unexpected gulls are being more regularly observed. A first-winter **California Gull** was discovered Nov. 28 in *Trego*, KS (SS, MR), for one of fewer than 5 Kansas records for this species. Ten ad. California Gulls were observed on Lake McConaughy, *Keith*, NE, Nov. 9 (RCR, DJR), where they are becoming regular.

Two first-winter Thayer's Gulls were reported: *Douglas*, KS, Nov. 19 (CH, LM, LW) & 22 (MM, GP), and *Rooks*, KS, Nov. 23 (DB, SS, MR). A "Thayer's-type" gull at Lake Hefner Nov. 16–28 (JGN *et al.*) possessed a pink tone on the basal portion of the bill. After the past few fall seasons, reports of only two kittiwakes and two Sabine's Gulls seemed low. The Black-legged Kittiwakes were observed Nov. 4 at Carter Lake, *Douglas*, NE (sometimes in Iowa; BP, LP *et al.*) and Nov. 17 in *Rooks*, KS (SS). One Sabine's Gull was found for a brief period in a flooded field in *Tulsa* Sept. 21 (JA). A 2nd occurred Oct. 8–26 at Lake Hefner (MO *et al.*).

Common Tern observations windowed a period from Sept. 4 to Oct. 4, as usual. However, unusual were the numbers—including 20 on Sept. 28 (JGN *et al.*). Forster's Terns lingered until Nov. 17 in *Sequoyah*, OK (JM *et al.*).

DOVES TO SWALLOWS

A Common Ground-Dove north of normal range hit a window in *Douglas*, KS, Nov. 4 (MS). A **White-throated Swift** was documented Nov. 24 in *Geary*, KS (†LM). There are only a few records for the Region, most unsupported. North and east of normal occurrences were an ad. ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird in *Seward*, KS, Sept. 1 (DB *et al.*), and an imm. male videotaped Sept. 18 in Oklahoma City (MO).

On the Nebraska side, a well-

S.A.

Norma Dennett made news when she noticed an unusual hummingbird at her feeder in Oxford, Sumner, KS. It proved to be an imm. ♂ **Anna's Hummingbird**, the first for Kansas, and it obligingly stayed from Sept. 15 to Nov. 24. Almost every birder in Kansas (and many from farther afield) saw it. It had molted into the high color of full ad. male plumage when last seen.

marked imm. ♂ **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** was noted Sept. 18 in Dawes, (RCR, DJR). Farther east, and much more unusual, a female was photographed with tail spread field guide format in Seward, NE, Oct. 17–24 (JG, m.ob.). Rufous Hummingbirds migrating across the plains included five for Kansas and one for Nebraska, the latest a young male Nov. 8–10 in Johnson, KS (AZ, LM *et al.*).

Olive-sided Flycatchers July 31 in Washington, OK (MD), and Aug. 9 in Cowley, KS (DK *et al.*), were early. An Acadian Flycatcher summering in Douglas, NE, was last observed Sept. 3 (A & IW). Departure dates are difficult to obtain for such species.

Birders in w. Kansas continue to identify western *Empidonax* flycatchers. Birding Sept. 2–4 produced one Hammond's Flycatcher and seven **Cordilleran Flycatchers** in Morton (MM, LM, SP, SS, GP—the few that dare!). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher Nov. 16 in Cherokee, OK (DVa), was late.

Violet-green Swallows appear to very successfully avoid the plains. Thus, one Aug. 18–19 in Morton, KS (LM, SP, DS, SS), was quite unusual. Several species of swallows lingered in e. Oklahoma. Thirty Cliff Swallows Oct. 14 (A & FR), two Tree Swallows Nov. 10 (E & KH), and two Barn Swallows Nov. 17 (TM *et al.*) were noted in Tulsa, with another Barn Swallow observed Nov. 10 in Washington, OK (DV). Tardy departing N. Rough-winged Swallows were observed Nov. 28 in Latimer, OK (JM *et al.*).

JAYS TO VIREOS

Thirty Bushtits wandered to Seward, KS, where they were observed Nov. 10 (MM, SP, GP). In contrast to last fall, few Red-breasted Nuthatches were present. A Winter Wren in Logan, NE, Oct. 13 was west of most occurrences (RCR, DJR). Very late was

a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Nov. 23 in Wagoner, OK (JM, MML *et al.*).

After several reports last year, the only **Varied Thrush** this year was in Rogers, OK (M & WD, JM). Late were Gray Catbirds observed Oct. 20 in Fontenelle Forest (RS) and Nov. 9 in Keith, NE (RCR, DJR). Three Sage Thrashers Aug. 19 in Morton, KS (LM *et al.*), were unusual in being early and east of normal occurrences.

I cannot remember an invasion year for Bohemian Waxwings. This year was no exception, but two were noted Nov. 9 in Lincoln, NE (RCR, DJR), where they normally winter. Farther south, one was observed Nov. 18 in Scott, KS (T & SS). Only two N. Shrikes were reported, both from Kansas—clearly not an invasion year. Very late was a White-eyed Vireo Nov. 23 in Grant, KS (JR).

WARBLERS TO FINCHES

A normal mix of warblers was reported from the Region this season. Most unusual was a ♀ Black-throated Blue Warbler Sept. 28 in Jefferson, KS (GP). A very early Yellow-rumped ("Myrtle") Warbler appeared in Washington, OK, Sept. 14 (MD). A Black-throated Green Warbler Aug. 7 in Oklahoma (JGN) was also early. Others were observed as late as Oct. 19 in Tulsa (JCH). A Yellow-throated Warbler coming to a feeder in Hays, KS, beginning Nov. 1 (WM) was noteworthy in being well out of season and well out of range.

Lingering warblers included a N. Parula in Adair, OK, Oct. 20 (MML), a very late Bay-breasted Warbler Nov. 28 in Douglas, KS (LM, GP), a Louisiana Waterthrush still singing in Fontenelle Forest Aug. 20 (BP), and a Hooded Warbler Sept. 8 in Cherokee, OK (DV).

On the western edge of normal occurrences was an Am. Redstart observed in Texas, OK, Sept. 4 (JM *et al.*). One Oct. 10 in Tulsa was late (PS). A MacGillivray's Warbler documented for Fontenelle Forest (RS) was far east of normal occurrences in the Region.

Lazuli Buntings are only rarely encountered in much of the Region during fall. One was observed at Thomas, NE, Sept. 9 (JT). A likely early migrant was noted Aug. 12 in Cimarron, OK (JAG). An Indigo Bunting Oct. 20 in Adair, OK, was late (MML), as was a Dickcissel Nov. 4 at the Salt Plains (DV *et al.*).

Lark Buntings, unusual in central Oklahoma, were noted Sept. 8 (BFe) & 9 (JN). Fifty Le Conte's Sparrows Oct. 31 in Stafford, KS

(CH *et al.*) were a treat for this pretty but secretive species, and likely indicate a migratory pulse period. A Fox Sparrow Oct. 12 in Keith provided one of few records for w. Nebraska (RCR, DJR).

Among the early sparrow migrants were a Clay-colored Sparrow Aug. 10 in Cimarron, OK (JAG), and two White-throated Sparrows Sept. 26 in Cleveland, OK (VB). About 150 Great-tailed Grackles were observed in Lancaster, NE, Oct. 19–20 (BJR). The expansion of this species in Nebraska is still relatively recent.

Purple Finches appeared in modest numbers in the eastern portions of the Region south to n.e. Oklahoma. House Finches, numerous during the summer in Omaha, mostly disappeared in the fall. Their numbers continue to increase in e. and central Oklahoma. Perhaps the most enticing finch news this season was the spotty but broad showing of Red Crossbills across the Region beginning in mid-October. However, Pine Siskins were essentially absent to very rare this fall—individual birds were locally noteworthy. The only Evening Grosbeaks reported were in n.w. Nebraska (RCR, DJR).

Cited observers (area editors boldfaced): KANSAS—David Bryan, Bob Fisher, Chris Hobbs, Pete Janzen, **Dan Kilby**, Jane Leo, Warren Macy, Mike McHugh, **Lloyd Moore**, John Northrup (JNt), Sebastian Patti, Galen Pittman, John Rakestraw, Mike Rader, Marvin Schwilling, David Seibel, Scott Seltman, Tom & Sara Shane, Don & Fran Vannoy, Phil Wedge, Larry Werner, Alice Zacher. NEBRASKA—Graham Chisholm, Joe Gubanyi, Betsy Hancock, Jim & Sandy Kovanda, Tom Labeledz, **Babs Padelford**, Loren Padelford, Dorothy J. Rosche, **Richard C. Rosche**, B.J. Rose, Ross Silcock, Jerry Toll, Al & Ione Werthman, Gertrude Wood. OKLAHOMA—Jim Arterburn, Vicki Byre, Marge & Walt Davis, Melinda Droege, Bob Feinston (BFe), Mike Gray, Jim Harmon, Elizabeth & Kenneth Hayes, Randy Hiatt, Melinda Hickman, James C. Hoffman, Marian Lichtler, **Jo Loyd**, **Louis McGee**, **Jeri McMahon**, Terry Mitchell, Mike Mlodinow (MML), **John G. Newell**, Jim Norman, Mitchell Oliphant, Fred Pianalto, Aline & Forrest Romero, Pat Seibert, Terry Mitchell, Don Varner (DVa), Don Verser.—**JOSEPH A. GRZYBOWSKI**, 1701 Lenox, Norman, OK 73069.

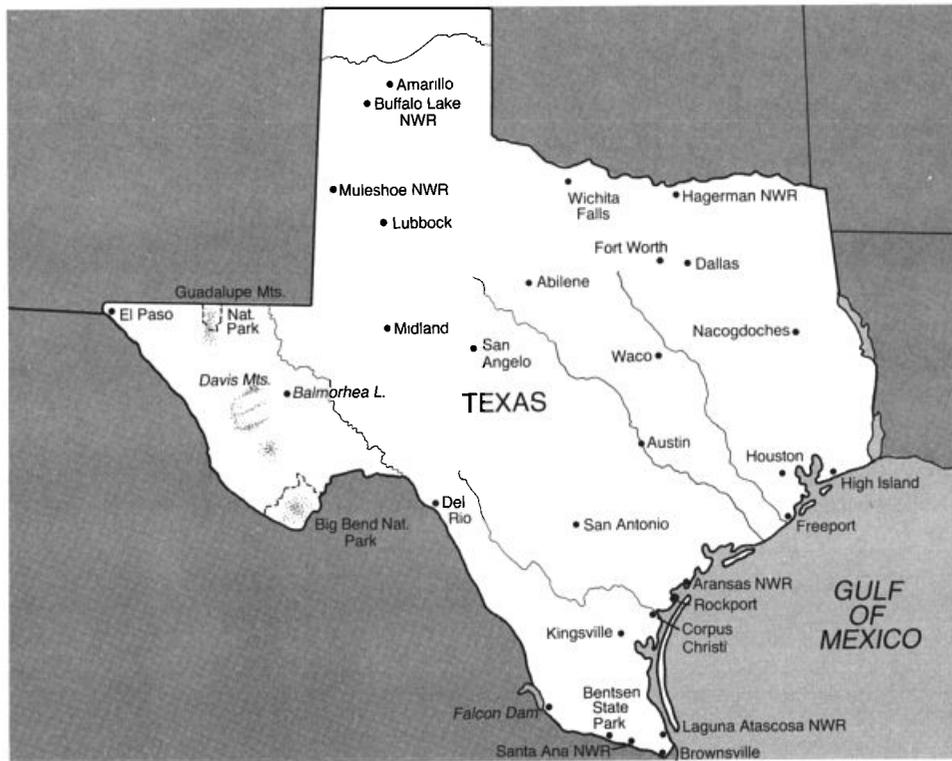
TEXAS REGION

Greg W. Lasley and
Chuck Sexton

There was an unusual unanimity of opinion for this fall migration. Our five subregional editors chimed in: "The season will be quickly forgotten." "One of the most disappointing in recent memory." "Dull and unexciting." "Unusually quiet." "What migration?" Once again, weather patterns were probably the proximate culprit; the weather was roundly criticized for being just what birders fear the most at migration time... pleasant. There were few significant fronts and even those that provided some downpours of rain were not accompanied by downpours of birds. Our first freeze arrived in the last few days of November.

Yet there must have been more to it (less to it?) than just lack of fronts. The migration was similarly dull in south Texas, where extreme drought continued, and in the Trans-Pecos, which contrasted with most of the state by getting record rainfall. In the south, such as around Kingsville, Palmer recognized drought effects such as low numbers of geese (no fresh water) and few diving ducks (high salinities in the bays). By contrast, Big Bend National Park received over twice its normal annual rainfall total by late November. The park was a verdant wildflower wonderland through the season, providing major consolation for anyone drawn to the Chisos in search of avian rarities. The latter, unfortunately, were in very short supply. As Eubanks observed for east Texas, with little in the way of rarities to engender excitement, birders were forced to find entertainment in the more commonplace species that are at least predictable in their presence.

Abbreviations: Ft. Bliss (*Fort Bliss sewage ponds, El Paso*); G.M.N.P. (*Guadalupe Mountains Nat'l Park*); Laureles (*Laureles Division of the King Ranch*); L.R.G.V. (*Lower Rio Grande Valley*); Norias (*Norias Division of the King Ranch*); T.B.R.C. (*Texas Bird Records Committee of Texas Ornithological Society*); T.C.W.C. (*Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection at Texas A & M University*); U.T.C. (*Upper Texas Coast*). The following are shortened



names for county, state, or national parks, wildlife refuges, etc.: Anzalduas, Aransas, Bazemore, Bentsen, Big Bend, Brazoria, Buffalo Lake, Caprock Canyons, Hagerman, Hueco Tanks, Kickapoo, Laguna Atascosa, Muleshoe, and Seminole Canyon.

LOONS TO STORKS

Two Com. Loons at Ft. Bliss Oct. 22 (LJ) and one at Socorro Oct. 25 (BZ) were noteworthy for *El Paso*, where the species is a casual fall migrant. Elsewhere, a peak of 72 Com. Loons was on L. Tawakoni by Nov. 18, the highest fall total ever in n.c. Texas (RK *et al.*). Least Grebes were somewhat hard to find in the L.R.G.V., probably owing to the dry conditions. Three Least Grebes in *DeWitt* Oct. 4–Nov. 1 (DMu) were the only ones reported away from the L.R.G.V. Three Horned Grebes were reported Oct. 1–Nov. 17 in the Panhandle, where the species is rare (*vide* KS). Three very early W. Grebes surprised observers at San Antonio's Mitchell L. Aug. 6–9 (DMu, WS). Western Grebes were present in normal numbers on Trans-Pecos reservoirs, but Clark's Grebes were conspicuously absent (ML, BZ *et al.*).

A Nov. 4 pelagic trip off Port Aransas produced seven Cory's Shearwaters, four Audubon's Shearwaters (†m.ob.), and many seasick birders, as a frontal passage

churned the Gulf waters into 10-foot seas. American White Pelicans were in e. Texas by early August, with 54 counted in *Harrison* Aug. 3 (N.E.T.F.O.); interestingly, 54 were counted at L. Tawakoni in n.e. Texas, Aug. 5 (RK). An Am. White Pelican in *Lubbock* Nov. 10 (MR) and four in *Lamb* Nov. 16–17 (T.O.S.) were unusual. The recovery of the Brown Pelican showed no sign of retreat this season. Eubanks found 1100 at San Luis Pass Aug. 25 and speculated that as many as 2000 summered in Galveston Bay this year. An imm. Brown Pelican roosted for the night atop a telephone pole at Helotes, *Bexar*, Aug. 16 (ph. RH) and another was at San Antonio's L. Calaveras Nov. 25–30 (WS *et al.*).

Unusual reports of Olivaceous Cormorants included one in *San Augustine* Oct. 12 (DF), one in *Wood* Oct. 20, one in *Nacogdoches* Oct. 22 (DW), and three at Midland until Oct. 28 (*vide* FW). An Anhinga at Dallas Aug. 19 (PB) was probably one of the breeders recorded there last summer. Two Anhingas over *Van Zandt* Sept. 22 (RK) and one over Campbell, *Hunt*, Sept. 24 (MWh) provided unusual n.c. Texas records. The latest Magnificent Frigatebird was one over the Intracoastal Waterway in *Kleberg* Oct. 6 (B & MJ).

Unusual Am. Bittern records included one near Bentsen beginning Oct. 16 (L & RG) and one at L. Balmorhea Nov. 17–21 (ML).

Two Least Bitterns at El Paso's Feather L. Sept. 8 (JS) were unusual, but one Aug. 30 at Braunig L., *Bexar* (WS), and another near Port Aransas Nov. 29–30 (E & NA) furnished very rare records. A Great Egret at G.M.N.P. Sept. 30 provided a rare record for that area (*vide* MF). Palmer thought there were fewer Reddish Egrets in the Coastal Bend area this season. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron Sept. 16 in *Jeff Davis* (ML) was out of place, as was a Black-crowned Night-Heron in *Kendall* Sept. 27 (E & SW).

White-faced Ibis numbers were conspicuously down in the Coastal Bend area, with only nine counted all season at Rockport (CC) and only seven at Falfurrias (AO). The only out-of-place Roseate Spoonbills were singles at Austin Sept. 8 (ph. GL) and in *Hays* Sept. 19 (B & JW). An impressive 500 Wood Storks were seen in Corpus Christi Sept. 27 and later on L. Corpus Christi (MJ). As late as the end of October there were still 200 at the latter site. Late Wood Storks included one at a Corpus Christi golf course until Nov. 20 (*vide* AO) and another Nov. 27 near Brownsville (C & DSt).

WATERFOWL

Most contributors in n.c. Texas felt that waterfowl numbers were again down this season (*vide* CH). Hagerman, where large numbers typically congregate, was nearly de-

void of diving ducks in October and November. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks are continuing to expand to the north. Six visited Hagerman Sept. 13–15 (JK, DH, *vide* WP) for a first *Grayson* record, probably the northernmost for the state. N.E.T.F.O. observers found a pair with eight young in *Wood* Oct. 14–20. A Tundra Swan in *Crosby* Nov. 11 was unexpected (ML). Seyffert reported that in general, geese were plentiful in the Panhandle area. Accidental for October were one to two Greater White-fronteds in *Lubbock* Oct. 1–28 (L.E.A.S.). Elsewhere, three Greater White-fronteds at L. Balmorhea Oct. 12 (ML) were unusual. Most observers thought we were seeing a greater proportion of Ross' Geese to Snows than in recent years.

There were regular sightings of up to eight presumed wild Muscovy Ducks along the Rio Grande in *Starr* (BPu, m.ob.). Wood Ducks continue to increase in *El Paso* where the species was once considered accidental. A pair was at Ft. Bliss Sept. 25–Nov. 20 (BZ, JGo), two were near Tornillo Oct. 30 (BZ, SWi), and a pair was at Hueco Tanks Nov. 21 for a first park record (LA, PG). Wood Ducks are also on the increase in the Panhandle area (*vide* KS).

A raft of 500 Canvasbacks on L. Tawakoni Nov. 25 (RK *et al.*) represented a large number for n.c. Texas. Only four Canvasbacks could be found during November in *Kleberg*, all on small fresh water ponds (PP). Single Greater Scaup in *Aransas* Nov. 7 (D & RM), at Lorenzo in *Crosby* Nov. 10 (ML), and at Caprock Canyons, *Briscoe*, Nov. 16 (DD, T.O.S.) were noteworthy. Very few Lesser Scaup were seen during the period on and around Baffin Bay, *Kleberg*, in contrast to the thousands that can normally be found there (PP).

One to three Oldsquaws, rarely seen inland in Texas, were on Lake O' The Pines beginning Nov. 30 (N.E.T.F.O.). That same location hosted a Black Scoter Nov. 18–20 and two White-winged Scoters on the earlier date. A Surf Scoter at Caprock Canyons Nov. 17–18 (EK, T.O.S., ph. HH) furnished a new *Briscoe* record as well as the first Panhandle area record since 1973 (*vide* KS). Other scoters included a White-winged at Hagerman Nov. 25–27 (KH *et al.*) and another on N. Padre I. Nov. 29 (A & MC, E & NA). Five Black Scoters at Ft. Hancock Res., *Hudspeth*, Oct. 25 (BZ)

provided a first Trans-Pecos record, while a Surf Scoter at Ft. Bliss Oct. 29 (ph. BZ) was the second for *El Paso*. Noteworthy concentrations of divers on Lake O' The Pines included 399 Com. Goldeneyes and 428 Buffleheads Nov. 29 (N.E.T.F.O.). A count of 294 Hooded Mergansers on Mitchell L. Nov. 25 was the largest reported (DMu, WS, JMu).

RAPTORS

Ospreys in the Panhandle area are normally reported in ones and twos; a group of seven at L. Tanglewood, *Randall*, Sept. 27 (TJ) was exceptional. Over 50 Ospreys were counted by hawk watchers over Bazemore Sept. 20–23 (*fide* JE).

There were 6 reports of migrant Am. Swallow-tailed Kites on the Coastal Bend Aug. 28–Sept. 3 (*fide* PP). Especially noteworthy was a Swallow-tailed that frequented *Titus* Aug. 17–26 (N.E.T.F.O.) in far n.e. Texas. Exciting news came from *La Salle*, where a Black-shouldered Kite nest with 4 eggs was discovered in late August. Two young kites hatched Aug. 31 but were lost to predation (JRU, *fide* JE). This nesting was noteworthy both for its late date and the location, west of the normal range in s. Texas. Several U.T.C. observers remarked that this year's Mississippi Kite migration eclipsed any of the past decade (*fide* TE). The movement seemed to peak in the 3rd week of August with over 200 roosting in Beaumont (*fide* WG). Numbers of Mississippi Kites elsewhere seemed fairly routine except for the 1942 seen at Bazemore Sept. 21 (*fide* JE); 343 were seen there the next day.

A small group of Harris' Hawks appears to be established in *Lubbock*, where seen Sept. 22–Nov. 16 (L.E.A.S., T.O.S.). The species also seems to be increasingly slightly in the Trans-Pecos area (StW, BZ). Despite some reports to the contrary, numbers of Harris' Hawks in the Kingsville area remained high (N & PP, AO *et al.*). The pair of Gray Hawks that nested at Rio Grande Village in Big Bend successfully fledged two young in mid-August (m.ob.) and were last sighted Oct. 8. Three imm. Gray Hawks were reported throughout the season in the Bentsen/Anzalduas area (L & RG) and an adult was seen occasionally at Salifio.

Another spectacular migration of Broad-winged Hawks delighted

observers at Bazemore where over 232,000 were counted Sept. 20–23 (JE *et al.*). There were also impressive tallies at other areas: 40,750 at Falfurrias Sept. 25–Oct. 7 (AO) and 55,069 in Victoria Sept. 20–27 (RM). The bulk of the Swainson's Hawk migration apparently again slipped through undetected; 1500 were seen Oct. 8 at Seminole Canyon (E & SWi), and 5000 were over Yancey, *Medina* (BA), Oct. 9. A Ferruginous Hawk at Kickapoo Sept. 11–12 (DStu, KB) was early, and a Rough-legged Hawk Nov. 24 at Lexington, *Lee* (HB), was at an unusual location. Golden Eagle is remarkably rare in e. Texas considering its abundance in the w. half of the state. This season we had 2 e. Texas reports, one from High I. Oct. 21 and one at Brazoria Nov. 10 (Spoonbill). Other interesting records were provided by a Golden Eagle in *Kenedy* Oct. 9 (TU) and another in *Barstrop* Nov. 27 (T.A.S.).

Very exciting was the report of a Crested Caracara at G.M.N.P. Nov. 4 (MF), not only the first for the park, but the first in recent history for the Trans-Pecos. Origin of the bird, however, could be questionable, as a recent El Paso area record proved to be a falconer's escapee (*fide* BZ). A probable Aplomado Falcon was reported in *Kleberg* Oct. 29 (MFlan). Although leg bands were not seen, we regard this as a probable "hacked" bird from the reintroduction program now in progress. Peregrine Falcons seemed on the increase across most of the state and were again noted in urban areas such as El Paso and Austin during the season. A total of 1341 migrant Peregrines was tallied by researchers on Padre I. during the period (*fide* JE). A Prairie Falcon over Campbell, *Hunt*, Sept. 14 (MWh) provided an unusual record for that area.

CRANES TO SHOREBIRDS

By the end of the season only 143 Whooping Cranes (including 14 chicks) had returned to Aransas (*fide* TS). This was a disappointing number considering that 142 birds had headed north last spring. There was some speculation that all the birds had not yet arrived or perhaps some were wintering elsewhere. We received more than the usual number of reports of Whooping Cranes away from Aransas this season including three over Muleshoe Oct. 28 (WD), and three over *Carson* Nov. 14 (RS)

Most unexpected, however, was a report of seven adult and two juv. Whooping Cranes over Laguna Atascosa Nov. 9 (J & WBar).

A Black-bellied Plover at El Paso Sept. 17 (BZ) and three in *Randall* Oct. 13 (KS) provided rare records. Over 200 Lesser Golden-Plovers were in the Falfurrias area Aug. 30 (AO), and a few remained until the late date of Nov. 3 in *Kleberg* (JGo, m.ob.) and *Karnes* (WS). A Snowy Plover at Hagerman Aug. 20–21 (AV, BG, PB) was a rare find, as was a Piping Plover there the 20th. A Piping Plover at Socorro Sept. 20 (ph. BZ) was thought to be only the 3rd for the Trans-Pecos. Stunning numbers of Mountain Plovers were seen on the Laureles in early November. A flock of 200–300 was found there Nov. 1 (JGo, MG) and later seen by many.

A pair of Black-necked Stilts fledged three young at the Grand Saline marsh in *Van Zandt* Aug. 12 (RK, JN, AV *et al.*), a first county record. Some 500 Am. Avocets at the Amarillo sewage ponds Aug. 25–Sept. 8 (KS) were possibly concentrated at that point by the general lack of water in area playas. An Am. Avocet at Muleshoe Nov. 17 (T.O.S.) was the latest on record for the Panhandle area, and another at Austin's Hornsby Bend Nov. 27 (ph. GL) provided a new late record there.

A Whimbrel in *Titus* Sept. 29 (N.E.T.F.O.) was notable for the Pineywoods. Very impressive was a concentration of 1500 Long-billed Curlews on a playa near Valentine Oct. 11 (PE); 200 at Midland Nov. 28 (*fide* FW) made a sizeable concentration for that area. Palmer also reported larger than normal numbers of Long-billed Curlews in the Coastal Bend area. Large numbers of Buff-breasted Sandpipers were seen in *Brooks*, *Nueces*, and *Kleberg* during the period. The most impressive was a group of 600 near Ricardo, *Kleberg*, Sept. 1 (†N & PP); about 300 were still present the next day (m.ob.). Such concentrations of the species have probably not been seen in the Coastal Bend since the days of Connie Hagar. Two remarkably late Buff-breasted were seen Nov. 11 on the Laureles (JGo, MG). Wilson's Phalaropes were considerably down in numbers in the Panhandle (KS) and at Midland (FW). Red-necked Phalaropes can be common in far w. Texas, but the species is a good find in the e two-thirds of the

state, where there were scattered reports involving at least eight this season. A Red Phalarope created excitement at L. Balmorhea Nov. 6 (ML).

JAEGERS TO SKIMMER

Three Pomarine Jaegers were identified on the Nov. 4 pelagic off Port Aransas (m.ob.). Franklin's Gulls were unusually common across much of the state. There were peak flights of several hundred over L. Tawakoni Oct. 20 (N.E.T.F.O.) and 4000 in w. *Harris* and *Waller* Nov. 4 (J & WRi). Haynie reported that 10,000 Franklin's Gulls were still in *Dallas* on the late date of Nov. 21, and many remained on succeeding days before the Nov. 27 cold front drove them south. An ad. **Little Gull** was described amid the huge assemblage of Franklin's at L. Ray Hubbard, *Dallas*, Nov. 25 (PB, BG, † to T.B.R.C.). An exceptional and surprising record was provided by an ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull at L. Balmorhea, *Reeves*, Nov. 29–Dec. 3 (ph. J & PCul, ML, FW *et al.*, † to T.B.R.C.). This bird was only the 3rd in the state away from the coast, and the first for w. Texas. No word was heard of the Port Aransas Lesser Black-backed which had spent the past 7 winters at that location. A first-winter Black-legged Kittiwake loafed with Ring-billeds on the spillway of White Rock L., *Dallas*, Nov. 11 (†JL, CP). This record represents the 2nd for *Dallas* and 5th for n.c. Texas (*fide* CH). A juv. Sabine's Gull was at Hagerman Oct. 12 (†BV *et al.*) and another was at L. Waco Oct. 17 (†JMu).

Two Caspian Terns at Ft. Bliss Oct. 6 (LJ) were unexpected, and one lingering at Hagerman until Oct. 28 (RR) was unusual there. Forster's Terns numbered an extraordinary 1190 at L. Tawakoni Oct. 7 (RK), the largest number ever there. Least Terns, rare in fall in n.c. Texas, were recorded 3 times at Hagerman Aug. 12–22 (RR, BG, PB, AV). Least and Black tern numbers climaxed at San Luis Pass Aug. 25 with 8000 of each species recorded (TE). A **Bridled Tern** was reported 60–70 mi s.e. of Galveston Aug. 17 (FCO, † to T.B.R.C.); the first accepted record in Texas occurred in 1988 after Hurricane Gilbert.

DOVES TO NIGHTJARS

Small numbers of resident Inca Doves continue to be reported with increasingly frequency in Hereford and Amarillo in the Panhandle (KS). Although common in arid areas of s. and w. Texas, the Com. Ground-Dove is only rarely found in the verdant Pineywoods. This fall's only report from that area came from *Marion* in n.e. Texas where a lone (lonesome?) dove was discovered Oct. 27 (N.E.T.F.O.). A small colony of Ringed Turtle-Doves continues to thrive in Bedford, *Tarrant* (GK). A flock of 35-40 Green Parakeets spent the season in McAllen (SWE). Two Black-hooded Parakeets of unknown origin were in Kingsville Nov. 21 (BS), and three Monk Parakeets were observed at Waxahachie during mid-September, a new locality for this species (*fide* WP).

A very late Black-billed Cuckoo was reported at Santa Ana Nov. 22 (HW). O'Neil counted 180 Groove-billed Anis Aug. 30-Sept. 1 in the Falfurrias area, an unprecedented number in his nearly 30 years of observation there. A wooded canyon in El Paso's Franklin Mts. hosted a migrant Flammulated Owl Sept. 26 (JGo, BZ), while a walk through McKittrick Canyon in G.M.N.P. Oct. 18 revealed a roosting Spotted Owl (BWA, *fide* MF). The Coastal Bend held an unusual number of Burrowing Owls by late in the season, with several on winter territories in *Nueces* (JSw, *fide* PP) and at least one in *Kleberg* (N & PP).

A fledgling Com. Nighthawk, capable of weak flight but with down still on the head, was found in Ft. Worth on the late date of Sept. 4 (GC). One to five Com. Nighthawks foraged in the lights of the state capitols dome as late as Nov. 21-24 (GC, GL), and one nighthawk, thought possibly to be a Lesser, was there Nov. 26 (GC). Lesser Nighthawk has yet to be confirmed from the Austin area. Single Pauragues were observed in *Karnes* and *DeWitt* Nov. 13-30 (DMu), for rare records at the n.e. edge of the species' range.

HUMMINGBIRDS TO WOODPECKERS

A Buff-bellied Hummingbird in Helotes, *Bexar*, Sept. 19-24 (RH) provided a rare San Antonio area record. Many observers commented on the abundance of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds

this fall. Wolf remarked that as many as 50 could be seen at a single Nacogdoches feeder late August through mid-October. Similar reports were received from *Walker* (DP) and *Victoria* (D & RM), demonstrating the breadth of this movement. Good numbers of Ruby-throateds were also on the Coastal Bend (*fide* PP), but O'Neil reported a decline at Falfurrias for the 3rd consecutive year. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Boot Canyon in Big Bend, Aug. 18 (GL) was far west.

An Anna's Hummingbird in Midland Oct. 6-17 and Nov. 7 (*fide* FW) was only the 4th for that area. Calliope Hummingbirds were noted Aug. 15 & 17 at Big Bend (CS, WS, DMu), and one was in El Paso Sept. 28 (BZ). Broad-tailed and Rufous hummingbirds were widely reported from s. Texas and the U.T.C. from early August through October (m.ob.), but Williams reported them down in numbers in the Midland area. An ad. ♂ *Selasphorus*, plumaged like an Allen's, was seen in Irving Oct. 17 (AP), but without tail feather measurements a specific identification is questionable.

The range of Green Kingfisher barely extends n. to *Victoria*, the species was observed there Aug. 26 and Oct. 28 (RM). A Lewis' Woodpecker was discovered in Midland Oct. 2 (RMS) where it remained through the period. Wandering Red-bellied Woodpeckers were found at 2 *Lubbock* sites in late November (T.O.S., CSt). Six Yellow-bellied and two Red-naped sapsuckers were reported in Big Bend November 3 (ML), an interesting mix for the Trans-Pecos, where *nuchalis* is the expected species. A first park record for Williamson's Sapsucker for Hueco Tanks occurred Oct. 23, while another was in the Davis Mts. Nov. 16 (ML) where the species seems to be annual in occurrence. Elsewhere, a Williamson's in Palo Duro Canyon Nov. 10 (†KS, RS, HHa) & 18 (PA) was the first area sighting since 1986. A Ladder-backed Woodpecker in *Waller* Nov. 10 (BB, TE, JM, GM) was at the n.e. edge of its range in the state.

FLYCATCHERS TO SWALLOWS

The relative abundance of "Traill's"-type flycatchers in fall along the U.T.C. is still an enigma. Eubanks believes that the Willow may be the first of the two to arrive

there, with the first "whit" notes from calling birds being heard as early as late July. The "peet" call notes of the Alders are commonly heard by Labor Day. A calling Alder in *Harrison* Aug. 26 represents a rare instance of a confirmed identification of a Traill's in the Pineywoods (N.E.T.F.O.). A calling Alder Flycatcher in Kingsville Oct. 6 provided a rare Kingsville record (N & PP). A Least Flycatcher was carefully studied Sept. 10 at Ft. Bliss, where the species is a rare and probably largely overlooked migrant (BZ). One of the most exciting birds of the season was a **Gray Flycatcher** discovered Nov. 13 in mesquite woodland near Gillett, *Karnes* (†DMu). The bird apparently was on wintering territory and remained into December, being studied, photographed, and taped by many for the first Texas record east of the Pecos River.

Couch's Kingbird is a rare fall migrant north of *Victoria*; a silent Couch's/Tropical in *DeWitt* Sept. 10-22 (ph. DMu), one at Mitchell L. Oct. 6 (ph. PG, WS), and three on Galveston I. Nov. 19 (Spoonbill) were unusual. The Thick-billed Kingbirds that nested last summer in Big Bend were last seen Aug. 4. Exceptionally late departures included a Cassin's Kingbird in *Jeff Davis* Nov. 28 (PE) and W. Kingbirds in El Paso Nov. 4 (BZ, YZ) and San Antonio Nov. 5 (JMu). Eastern Kingbirds numbered in the hundreds Sept. 9 in sites in *Van Zandt* (RK), undoubtedly in response to the frontal system that day. A gathering of 1000 staging Scissor-tailed Flycatchers near Kingsville Oct. 9 (N & PP) was exciting, but 7000 in *Duval* Oct. 20 (NAL, *fide* AO) must certainly have been a mind-boggling sight!

Rarely is N. Rough-winged Swallow reported in the Panhandle after September (KS). Remarkably, one was seen in *Lubbock* Nov. 2, struggling to fly W in a strong N wind (DS). Two Tree Swallows in *Lubbock* Nov. 19 (CSt) were latest on record there, only the 2nd November record for the Panhandle (*fide* KS). A Violet-green Swallow in Austin Aug. 24 (BF) provided one of very few records there. Northern Rough-winged and Bank swallows were strangely absent from Midland (*fide* FW). Swallow migration on the U.T.C. and the Coastal Bend can be spectacular in its extended period (4 months) and its volume. As an example, Ro Wauer counted 12,000

Barn Swallows at a single *Calhoun* location Oct. 20.

JAYS TO SHRIKES

Lockwood reported high numbers of Steller's Jays in the high country of the Davis Mts. during October and November, but they were completely absent [as usual] from the lowland haunts occupied last fall and winter. Hundreds of migrant Blue Jays were noted at L. Tawakoni Sept. 30-Oct. 7 (RK) but no unusual large movements were reported elsewhere. Two stray Blue Jays were in *Aransas* Oct. 27 (D & RM). A Green Jay was photographed in Midland Oct. 26-27 (DMer, m.ob.) at the same location where one was seen last spring. The only reports of Pinyon Jays came from G.M.N.P., with nine to 24 seen Aug. 25-Sept. 12 (*fide* MF). A **Black-billed Magpie** in El Paso Sept. 21-Oct. 13 frequented the general area where one wintered last year (*fide* BZ). A Fish Crow in *Lamar* Oct. 13 (N.E.T.F.O.) may have been the westernmost for the state. Chihuahuan Raven was scarce in Midland this fall; it was formerly one of the most common resident species there (*fide* FW). A Com. Raven in *Garza* Nov. 16 (T.O.S.) furnished the first area sighting since 1982.

Unlike last fall, there were very few reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches this season. Two White-breasted Nuthatches in *Milam* Sept. 3 (LB) provided very rare records for the Austin area. A Carolina Wren near McNary, *Hudspeth*, Sept. 15 (LJ) was the first in that area since 1958. In the Panhandle area Carolina Wrens continue to be noted, with three in *Lubbock* Nov. 16-17 (T.O.S.) and one Nov. 20 (CSt). An early House Wren was at Rockport Sept. 13 (CC). Unusual records of Winter Wrens included one in G.M.N.P. Nov. 8-18 and four at various Panhandle and High Plains locations Oct. 21-Nov. 21 (m.ob.). A Marsh Wren at Muleshoe Sept. 16 (JCl) was the first in September for the High Plains.

Golden-crowned Kinglets again moved into the state in high numbers this fall; six were at Muleshoe during November (DS, m.ob.) (first refuge record since 1957) and the species had reached the L.R.G.V. by early November as well (m.ob.). Low numbers of the generally common W. Bluebird were noted at G M N P

while, incredibly, *no* bluebird species at all were reported at El Paso during the period (BZ). Clay-colored Robins were not convincingly reported anywhere in the L.R.G.V. this season. A **Varied Thrush** was found dead in Los Fresnos, *Cameron*, Oct. 28 (AM, *LSUMZ), the first record for the L.R.G.V., and about the 10th for Texas.

A Gray Catbird initially discovered in July near Tornillo, *Hudspeth*, was found again Aug. 31 (*vide* BZ), a very unusual record for the Trans-Pecos. Another Gray Catbird banded at Kickapoo Oct. 30 (KB) was only the 2nd ever noted in that area. A Sage Thrasher at Whitsett, *Live Oak*, Nov. 24 (SHA *et al.*) and another at San Juan, *Hidalgo*, Nov. 30 (HW) provided rare records for s. Texas. Strangely, the species was absent at Midland (*vide* FW). A count of 10 Curve-billed Thrashers at Indianola Oct. 28 (RM) was an unusually high number at the n.e. edge of the species' range.



Phainopepla a little east of the main range of the species, furnishing a second record for Kickapoo Caverns State Park, Texas, on November 29, 1990. This bird is evidently a first-winter male, as suggested by the gray and black mottled underparts and the white scaling on the wings and undertail coverts. Photograph/Kelly B. Bryan.

A Phainopepla at Kickapoo Nov. 29 (ph. KB) provided a 2nd park record. Palmer speculates that s. Texas must have all those Loggerhead Shrike that are said to be missing from the rest of the continent; by early in the season they were abundant from *Aransas* south through at least *Kenedy* (D & RM, N & PP, m.ob.).

VIREOS, WARBLERS

Discouragingly few Bell's Vireos were reported from n.c. Texas; one was in *Denton* Sept. 22 (KL) and another was in *Crowley* the same date (MRa). A Warbling Vireo at

Galveston Aug. 6 (TE) was very early, and a Philadelphia Vireo at El Paso Sept. 27 (BZ) was the first in that area in several years. A Philadelphia Vireo Nov. 10 and a Red-eyed Vireo Oct. 13 in *Live Oak* (J & SHo) were late for that area. The nesting pair of Yellow-green Vireos at Laguna Atascosa was last seen Aug. 24 (*vide* MA); other reports this fall lacked any documentation.

A well-described Golden-winged Warbler in *Wood* Nov. 28 was extremely late (N.E.T.F.O.). Nashville Warblers were seen as early as Aug. 25 in *Victoria* (Spoonbill). A Virginia's Warbler in *Lubbock* Sept. 20 (JCI) was of interest. Yellow Warblers were reported in high numbers Aug. 25–Sept. 9 at several *Hidalgo* locations (HW, m.ob.). A Black-throated Blue Warbler in *Dallas* Oct. 12 (MWh) was an exciting find. Zimmer reported that there were very few vagrant eastern warblers in w. Texas this period, but several western species put on good showings. Large numbers of Townsend's Warblers were noted through the season at Big Bend with 75 counted at Boot Springs alone Sept. 8 (ML). Hermit and Black-throated Gray warblers were also thought to be in better than normal numbers in the Trans-Pecos. A Black-throated Gray Warbler at Port Lavaca Sept. 23 (†GS) was a first there. Single Townsend's Warblers in *Live Oak* Sept. 8 (J & SHo), at *Lubbock* Sept. 20 (DS) and at *Buffalo Lake* Oct. 7 (KS) were noteworthy. Single Black-throated Green Warblers at Big Bend Aug. 17 (DMu) and Sept. 3 (JGe) and at El Paso Oct. 18 (BZ) provided very rare records.

A Yellow-throated Warbler frequented Rio Grande Village in Big Bend Oct. 28 to at least Nov. 3 (J & RRo, ph. ML); another was at Kickapoo Sept. 10 for a first park



Yellow-throated Warbler unusually far west at Rio Grande Village, Big Bend National Park, Texas, November 3, 1990. Photograph/Mark Lockwood.

record (KB). A Grace's Warbler was in Boot Canyon Aug. 16–18 (DMu *et al.*). Pine Warblers showed up in several areas away from normal range; one in *Lubbock* Nov. 16 (CSt, T.O.S.) was the first in the Panhandle for November, and one in G.M.N.P. Nov. 20 (LA, PG) provided a first park record. Unusual Prothonotary Warblers included one at Choke Canyon Res. Aug. 17 (RW) and one very late at Bedford, *Tarrant*, Nov. 24 (GK). Canada Warblers peaked on the U.T.C. with 68 at High I. Sept. 1 (BB, TE, JM, GM). A very late Canada was at Bentsen Nov. 27 (RW).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

Summer Tanagers were unexpectedly absent at Midland and only two W. Tanagers were reported there this season (FW). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Big Bend Aug. 28 (ML), and there was a scattering of Black-headed Grosbeak records from the Panhandle and the Coastal Bend. A Varied Bunting at G.M.N.P. Aug. 4 (BWA) was the first for the park since 1962 (*vide* MF). A very late Dickcissel was in *Karnes* Nov. 14 (DMu).

Botteri's Sparrows were reported in good numbers during August from the Norias and near Port Mansfield (RW, OC). In *Johnson* in n.c. Texas, five species of sparrows (Harris', White-crowned, Fox, Lincoln's, and White-throated) broke their previous early dates (CE), but early sparrows were not noted elsewhere in that part of the state (*vide* CH). Five Lark Buntings in *Johnson* Nov. 16 (CE) and one at *Falfurrias* Oct. 31 (AO) were almost the only ones reported. Eight Fox Sparrows in *Harris* and *Waller* Nov. 10 (BB, TE, JM, GM) set a new early arrival date for the U.T.C. area. A Swamp Sparrow at Muleshoe Sept. 16 (JCI) and another in *Hartley* Sept. 29 were the first in September for the Panhandle. A Harris' Sparrow at Hueco Tanks Nov. 23 (ML) provided a first park record.

Three McCown's Longspurs at Kickapoo Oct. 22 (KB) were early and out-of-place. Five Smith's Longspurs returned Nov. 29 to the *Hunt* field where they were reported last winter (MWh). As Wolf and Eubanks pointed out, we know little about the relative abundance of Eastern and Western meadowlarks in e. Texas (the same could probably be said for most of the

state). Too many observers (especially in eastern areas) assume that all silent meadowlarks are Easterns. A singing W. Meadowlark in *Waller* Oct. 27 (JM) seemed a bit early; another in *Gregg* Nov. 19 was unusual for the Pineywoods (N.E.T.F.O.). Hooded Orioles remained common in *Kleberg* into late September (*vide* N & PP), and one made a very unexpected appearance on Padre Island, *Nueces*, Sept. 13 (AC, CB). A Hooded Oriole in *Helotes, Bexar*, Sept. 9 (RH) was unexpected.

It was shaping up to be at least a fair year for Purple Finches. The first ones appeared Nov. 11 in Edgewood, Nov. 13 in Richardson, and Nov. 17–18 at Hagerman (*vide* WP); one in Midland beginning Nov. 17 (GW) was unexpected. As we have all predicted for years, the House Finch has finally arrived in e. Texas. Five visited a feeder in Jacksonville Nov. 16–22 (N.E.T.F.O.). As events would evolve, this record became only the beginning of a winter invasion to follow. In n.c. Texas Haynie also remarked on increasing records of this species; two were in *Dallas* Nov. 23 (*vide* AV) and two were at L. Tawakoni Nov. 3. Two flocks of up to 30 Red Crossbills were at Caprock Canyons, *Briscoe*, Nov. 17–18 (KS, T.O.S., ph. HH), the first from that area since 1986. A dead Red Crossbill was found in *Amarillo* Nov. 24 (TC, * to T.C.W.C.). Pine Siskins were virtually unreported during the period.

Addenda: Two Montezuma Quail at G.M.N.P. June 27, 1990 were out of place (RRe, *vide* MF). A Painted Redstart was photographed at Laguna Atascosa Apr. 7–8, 1990, for the first documented L.R.G.V. record (KR, LD, ST, ph. to T.P.R.F.).

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IDAHO—WESTERN MONTANA REGION

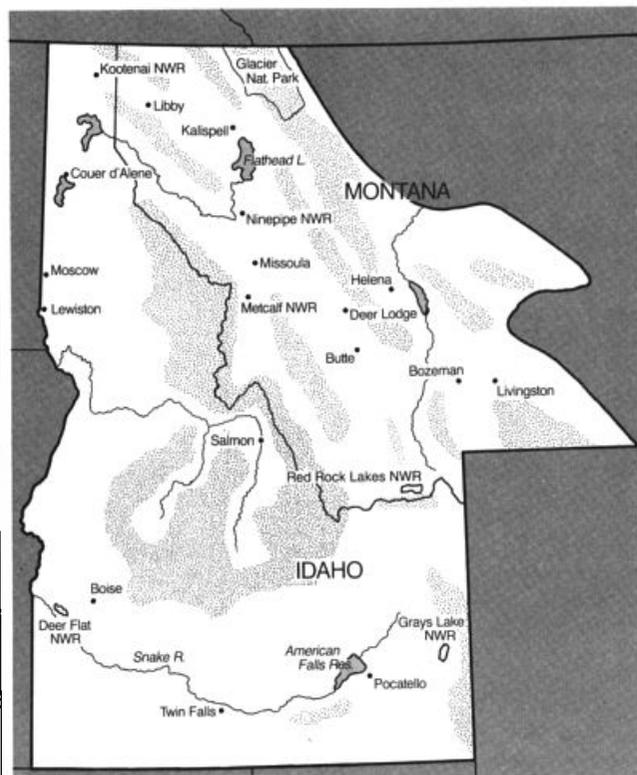
Thomas H. Rogers

August weather in the Region averaged warmer and decidedly wetter than normal, with more than twice the normal precipitation, although most of it fell in the latter half of the month. September, on the other hand, was virtually rain-

less in most localities, but much above average in temperature. October was a little on the cool side in most areas, while above-normal temperatures prevailed in November; precipitation varied from place to place in both months.

The relatively mild autumn appeared to tempt some species to linger much longer than usual, with some record-breaking late dates.

Abbreviations: Deer Flat (*Deer Flat Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Nampa, ID*). Place names in *italics* are counties.



LOONS TO IBISES

A Pacific Loon appeared with six Com. Loons near the dam at American Falls, ID, Oct. 26 (CHT, MD0), and another Pacific was on the Snake R. below C. J. Strike Dam, *Owyhee*, ID, Nov. 11 (DT). A Com. Loon was seen Nov. 5 at Kootenai N.W.R., ID, where unusual (JR), and two were picked up along roads in that general area in late November (KE).

Deer Flat had 30 Horned and 450 Eared grebes Sept. 27 (DT). Silver L. in Harriman S.P., *Fremont*, ID, had two imm. Red-necked Grebes Aug. 20, indicating that the species again bred there (CHT). On Oct. 14, 56 Red-necked Grebes and 29 Pied-billed Grebes were counted on Thompson L. near Harrison, ID (C & HV, MB). Two Clark's and over 170 Western grebes were on Island Park Res., *Fremont*, ID, Sept. 9. Clark's Grebes seemed more numerous farther down the Snake R., especially on L. Walcott, and appeared to leave earlier than the Westerns (CHT). A mixture of both species numbering 200 was at Deer Flat Sept. 27 (DT).

Deer Flat counted 160 Am. White Pelicans Sept. 7-9 (DT), and 20 lingered as late as Nov. 11 at American Falls Dam (CHT). The Boise, ID, latilong had a Double-crested Cormorant Aug. 25 (AL). An Am. Bittern was along the Flathead R. in *Flathead*, MT, on the late date of Oct. 31 (DC). Remarkable was a Great Blue Heron seen Sept. 18 at Josephus Lake n.w. of Stanley, ID, at 7000 ft elevation and many miles from the

nearest known heronry (HR). Single Great Egrets were near Cataldo, ID, Aug. 28 (SW), at Deer Flat Sept. 8, and at C. J. Strike Dam Nov. 11 (DT). A stray Cattle Egret perched in a tree at Ketchum, ID, Nov. 15 (BS). Noteworthy was a Black-crowned Night-Heron Sept. 23 in Hell's Gate S.P., Lewiston, ID (C.B.). A White-faced Ibis was seen at Deer Flat Aug. 19 & 21 (DT) and the species was noted at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., MT, in August (CDM).

WATERFOWL

Tundra Swans peaked at 140 at Kootenai N.W.R., continuing the upward trend there. In the upper Flathead Valley n. of Flathead L., MT, some 250 were still present at November's end (DC).

S.A.

Five adult and three nearly-grown imm. Trumpeter Swans were seen Sept. 15 on Silver L., Harriman S.P., ID, indicating good reproduction in that area. There was believed to be no winter food for this species in the Henry's Fork area, because of severe overgrazing by the swans during the last few winters, so the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service trapped as many swans as possible and moved them to warmer places before winter.

Eight Greater White-fronted Geese were at Deer Flat Oct. 20 (DT) and five were at Mann L., e. of Lewiston Orchards, ID, Oct. 2 along with three Snow Geese (J &

MH). Other White-fronteds were at Metcalf N.W.R., MT, Nov. 15 (DTn). Very late Snow Geese were still trickling through the Salmon R. Valley, ID, Nov. 25 (HR). A Ross' Goose was with Snow Geese at Harriman S.P. Oct. 29 (MC, FK) and two were with Snows on Michaud Flats w. of Pocatello, ID, Nov. 27 (CHT). Up to three Ross' Geese were at Deer Flat in late October and early November (DT), and one was on a Lewiston, ID, pond Nov. 10 (RK). Mann Lake had 1000–1200 Canada Geese Sept. 29–Oct. 2. Their peak of 3800 at Kootenai N.W.R. was up substantially.

Mallards peaked at 20,000 at Kootenai N.W.R. Oct. 20 and Nov. 20, down a bit from the previous year. The N. Pintail peak there was far below the average peak for recent years, perhaps owing to drought on the breeding grounds (JR). In the Fortine, MT, vicinity, no pintails were noted during all of 1990 (WW). Unusual numbers of Gadwall lingered into early November in the upper Flathead Valley (DC). Three Eur. Wigeon at Ninepipe N.W.R., MT, apparently furnished the first fall record there (JH).

A large concentration of Canvasbacks (150–200) and Redheads (500+) was on L. Helena n. of Helena, MT, Oct. 9–11 (BK). An Oldsquaw was spotted on the S. Fork of the Snake R. near Palisades, ID, Nov. 18 (KS), and an ad. male was reportedly shot in the lower Flathead Valley, Lake, MT (DM). Robinson L., *Boundary*, ID, had a male Oldsquaw and a Surf Scoter Nov. 17 (JR). Four Surf Scoters were on the Idaho Nat'l Engineering Lab ponds, Arco, ID, Oct. 12 (CA). Two White-winged Scoters were at American Falls Dam Oct. 20 (CHT), one was near Roberts, ID, Nov. 4 (BH), and two were sighted at Polson, MT (DH). Moderate numbers of Red-breasted Mergansers appeared at Deer Flat in November (DT) and one was seen on the N. Fork of the Flathead R. north of Columbia Falls, MT (DO). A Ruddy Duck present until Thanksgiving n. of Somers, MT, was unusual (DC).

RAPTORS TO CRANES

An Osprey was in the Upper Flathead Valley Oct. 19, almost a month later than the usual departure date (DC). Bald Eagles numbered 52 in the area of Libby, MT, Nov. 8 (MS), and two were sighted

at Thompson L., ID, Oct. 14 (C & HV). The peak at Kootenai N.W.R. was of only four, down from the usual six or eight. Two or three per week were seen on the N. Fork of the Flathead R. starting in mid-October (DO).

Two imm. Swainson's Hawks were carefully identified at Fortine, MT, where they are rarely seen (WW). Swainson's Hawk was reported for the Hailey, ID, latilong Sept. 14, and a Ferruginous Hawk for the Mountain Home, ID, latilong Sept. 10 (AL). Eight Rough-legged Hawks, more than in the last few years, were reported at Kootenai N.W.R., with the first sighting Sept. 29 (JR). A large concentration of Rough-leggeds was in the area of Howe, ID, with over 100 reported Nov. 18, feeding on voles (DMi). They were also numerous and apparently early in the Upper Flathead Valley, where voles were common (DC), and they were frequent along the N. Fork of the Flathead R. beginning Oct. 16 (DO). One Rough-legged was noted at Fortine Oct. 23 (WW). Falcon reports were encouraging, highlighted by a surprising *ten* Gyrfalcon reports.

A small resident population of Sharp-tailed Grouse was reported at Helmville, MT (*vide* PLW). Seventeen Wild Turkeys were seen between Gifford and Reubens, ID, Oct. 3 (RS).

The resident Whooping Crane at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. was last reported Oct. 9, and the last Sandhill Cranes there were seen Oct. 15 (CDM). Sandhills were reported to be still increasing in the Blackfoot Valley n.e. of Missoula, MT (*vide* PLW). One Sandhill Crane was at Church Slough in the Upper Flathead Sept. 8 (DC) and one at Deer Flat Oct. 20 and later was unusual (DC).

SHOREBIRDS TO TERNS

Ten Black-necked Stilts, a notable number, were at Deer Flat Aug. 6 (DT). One Black-bellied Plover was reported at Mann L. Sept. 29 and Oct. 2 (C.B., J & MH), and 14 were at Deer Flat Sept. 27 (DT). Up to four Lesser Golden-Plovers were sighted at Deer Flat, and 12 Semipalmated Plovers were there Aug. 25 (DT).

One or two Solitary Sandpipers were at Deer Flat in late August (DT). Single Whimbrels, scarce in the Region, were near Aberdeen, ID, Aug. 18 (DB) and at Willow Bay e. of American Falls Aug. 27 (MC, FK). Two Hudsonian God-

wits, very rare in Idaho, were photographed Aug. 25 near the Portneuf R. mouth n.w. of Pocatello (CHT, JT, LW). Deer Flat had one Sanderling Sept. 11 and three Oct. 10; also there were two Semipalmated Sandpipers Aug. 25 and one Sept. 11 (DT). Other shorebird totals at Deer Flat included 9200 W. Sandpipers Aug. 25, 107 Least Sandpipers Nov. 20, 220 Baird's Sandpipers Aug. 17, 23 Pectoral Sandpipers Oct. 11, 66 Dunlin Nov. 7, and 282 dowitchers (mostly or all Long-billed) Sept. 27 (DT). Mann Lake reportedly hosted 30 Semipalmated Sandpipers Aug. 9 (CV), a remarkable number if correct. A White-rumped Sandpiper was reported from Willow Bay, ID, Aug. 2 (MC, FK). Four dowitchers at Mann L. Oct. 2 were identified as Short-billed, for an unusual record (J & MH), and a Long-billed Dowitcher at Somers, MT, Nov. 12 (DC) was exceptionally late.

A Parasitic Jaeger was chasing gulls and shorebirds at the Portneuf R. mouth Aug. 25 (CHT) and another jaeger, probably of this species, was at Henrys Lake Oct. 5 (FK). Another jaeger was observed flying over Pend Oreille L., ID, Sept. 18 (NEC).

Two Bonaparte's Gulls were at Couer d'Alene L., ID, Oct. 18 (CV, WH) and one was at Polson, MT, Nov. 10 (DH). Herring Gulls are apparently becoming more common at the Polson dump (DH, DTr). One or two were seen at Deer Flat, along with one Thayer's Gull (DT). Up to five first-year Thayer's Gulls were observed at American Falls Dam in November (CHT). An imm. **Black-legged Kittiwake** was observed at length near Canyon Ferry Dam, Helena, MT, Nov. 23 and again in early December; it furnished a first record for that latilong and apparently the 4th for Montana (BF, S & BN, GH, GoT).

A Caspian Tern in the Upper Flathead Aug. 12 was unusual (DC); five were at Mann L. Aug. 9 (CV) and two were sighted in the Boise latilong Aug. 25 (AL). Deer Flat had two Common and 10 Black terns Sept. 22 and three Black Terns Aug. 22 (DT).

OWLS TO PIPITS

One Barn Owl was sighted at Deer Flat Nov. 15 (DT). A Barred Owl was seen at its usual haunts at Brenneman Slough e. of Kalispell (DC); other singles were seen Oct. 1 at Bowman L., Glacier N.P., and Nov. 6 north of Polebridge, MT

(DO). The lower Flathead Valley had a high population of Short-eared Owls (DH) and several were using grain fields at Kootenai N.W.R. (JR).

Unusual were Lewis' Woodpecker sightings once in August and twice in September at Somers, MT (DC), and one in September at Deer Flat (DT). A Pileated Woodpecker, rare east of the Continental Divide in the Helena area, was seen 8 mi s.w. of Helena about Nov. 1 (TB). In Big Prairie, Glacier N.P., where Say's Phoebe is rare, one was seen Aug. 11 (DO). Deer Flat had an Olive-sided Flycatcher Aug. 25–26 and an Ash-throated Flycatcher Aug. 27 (DT).

Blue Jays made news with several sightings in the Flathead Valley (DC) and "many reports...all over western Montana including two reports of six in a group" (PLW). One at Helena had been present since October 1989 (GH). In Idaho, single Blue Jays were in Lewiston Orchards (JE, CG, OM, EP), near Idaho Falls (HQ), at Boise (BB), north of Ola (M & DD), and in Pocatello (*vide* CHT). A flock of nine Pinyon Jays was in Ashton, ID, Oct. 9 (MC, FK), and the species was visiting Pocatello feeders "as usual" (CHT).

A Winter Wren was sighted near Gardiner, MT, Nov. 7 (TM, DG). One W. Bluebird accompanied a flock of Mountain Bluebirds Oct. 5 near the Warm River n.e. of Ashton, ID (FK). A remarkably late Gray Catbird was near Hamilton, MT, Nov. 15 (DTn). Six N. Shrikes were observed in one day in undisturbed shrub-steppe habitat on the Idaho Nat'l Engineering Lab near Arco (TC). This area is also tremendous breeding habitat for Loggerhead Shrikes (CHT). A peak of 1755 Am. Pipits was at Deer Flat Oct. 10 (DT).

WARBLERS TO FINCHES

Two sightings of Tennessee Warbler (probably the same bird) were made near Gardiner, MT, Sept. 3 & 9 (WS, TM, DG). A Townsend's Warbler in the Rexburg, ID, latilong Sept. 10 was notable (AL). One Black-and-white Warbler visited a Pocatello yard Aug. 26 (CHT).

A Le Conte's Sparrow along L. Helena Oct. 6 was the first for that latilong (CJ, ST). A Swamp Sparrow was carefully identified Nov. 30 at Missoula, where one had wintered in 1975–1976 (PLW). Notable Harris' Sparrows were one at

Jerome, ID, Nov. 12 (FK) and one at Salmon, ID, Nov. 25 (*file HR*). A Harris' and two White-throated sparrows visited Gardiner in late November (JQ); one White-throated appeared with Harris' Sparrows at Missoula in November (PLW); and one of each species was banded at Pocatello. An early White-throated was seen n. of Ola, ID, Sept. 22 (CFZ).

A few Lapland Longspurs appeared in the Pocatello vicinity in November (CHT). Snow Buntings appeared near Helmsville Nov. 6 (HVW, PLW) and a flock of 30 was along Camas Cr., Glacier N.P., Nov. 1 (DO); they had reached Red Rock Lakes by Nov. 14 (CDM). A **Brambling** was photographed at a feeder at Kalispell, MT, Nov. 8 and also seen the next day (R & WW). Glacier N.P. reported 30 Com. Redpolls Nov. 6 (DO) but the species was not noted at Fortine until Nov. 30, Weydemeyer's latest arrival date there.

Observers (subregional editors in boldface): Cherion Allen, Tim Baker, Michael Blewett, Bob Bonnett, Dave Burrup, Tom Cade, Canyon Birders (C.B.), **Dan Casey**, Noel E. Clark, Mark Collie, Mike Dorcas (MDo), Mary & David Dudley, Janet Earhart, Ken English, Bebe Fitzgerald, Willie & Judy Frink, Charlene Gaiser, Russ Gebhart, Dan George, Brad Hammond, Winnie Hepburn, John & Martha Hirth, John Hofflund (JHo), Denver Holt, **George Holton**, Cedron Jones, **Dean H. Jones**, Florence Knoll, **Merlene Koliner**, Ray Korpi, Bob Krepps, Al Larson, Dale Manning, Terry McEneaney, Opal McIntyre, Poody McLaughlin, Dale Miller (DMi), Carl D. Mitchell, Jean Monk, Susan & Bruce Newell, Dan Owens, Lou Potter, Eleanor Pruett, Herbert Quade, Joyce Queckborner, Jim Reynolds, **Hadley Roberts**, William Schreier, Ralph Steigers, Kit Struthers, Brian Sturges, **Shirley H. Sturts**, Paul Sullivan, Marge Swanson, Dan Taylor, George Thompson, Gordon Thompson (GoT), Joel Tinsley, Sara Toubman, Dorinda Trautman (DTn), David Trochell (DTr), **Charles H. Trost**, Carole & Hank Vande Voorde, Hedwig Vogel-Wright, Susan Weller, Winton Weydemeyer, M. Wood, Linda Woods, Rosemary & Wayne Worthington, **Philip L. Wright**, C. Fred Zeilemaker.—**THOMAS H. ROGERS, E. 10820 Maxwell, Spokane, WA 99206**

MOUNTAIN WEST REGION

Hugh E. Kingery

A productive fall resulted in five new birds for Nevada, one for Utah, and a plethora of second to fifth records for both states.

Mild weather prolonged the migration, and an abundant wild food crop apparently kept mountain birds in the mountains and other birds away from feeders. The Indian Peaks, Colorado, Fall Count tallied 91 species, a record high by 13, and had more birds—2637, 39 per count hour—than ever before. This report from the mountains west of Boulder tied in with the impression of fewer mountain birds seen on the plains during the fall. The valleys and plains had no Steller's Jays, few Mountain Chickadees, hardly any nuthatches, no Cassin's Finches, but fair numbers of Townsend's Solitaires.

The Region enjoyed a substantial influx of coastal species, with almost every expected one and some unexpected. Loons and scoters appeared in some numbers and variety.

The number of species reported supports the impression of a long and varied migration. The Region recorded 379 species this fall—the highest from 1977 to date. Nevada made the main contribution to this increase with 283 species, 22 more than its previous high. Colorado

had 335 (average 323, but 13 fewer than last year), Wyoming 249 (average 255), and Utah 224 (average 230).

MIGRANT SONGBIRDS

We see much discussion about a decline in songbirds, much of it keyed to results from 20 years of Breeding Bird Surveys throughout the country. Much seems to depend on the time period for which data are available, as well as the place(s). On the other hand, Hayes reports, "Based on 6 years of D.F.O. records, I cannot yet see any certain statistical basis for announcing a real decline in migrant songbirds. However, August was the poorest in 6 years for migrant shorebirds and September was the worst in the last 7 for fall warblers."

Mountain West observers target Wilson's Warbler as a possibly declining species; if so, conditions on its winter range would most likely affect it, as no significant problems threaten them on the high country willow carrs where they nest. D.F.O. Fall Counts provide a measure of sorts: the 70 this year contrasted with 157 last year—BUT the averages for the past 12 years show cyclical abundance: 1978-1981, Fall Counts averaged 156 Wilson's; 1982-1986 they averaged 36; and 1987-1989 the average rose to 126.

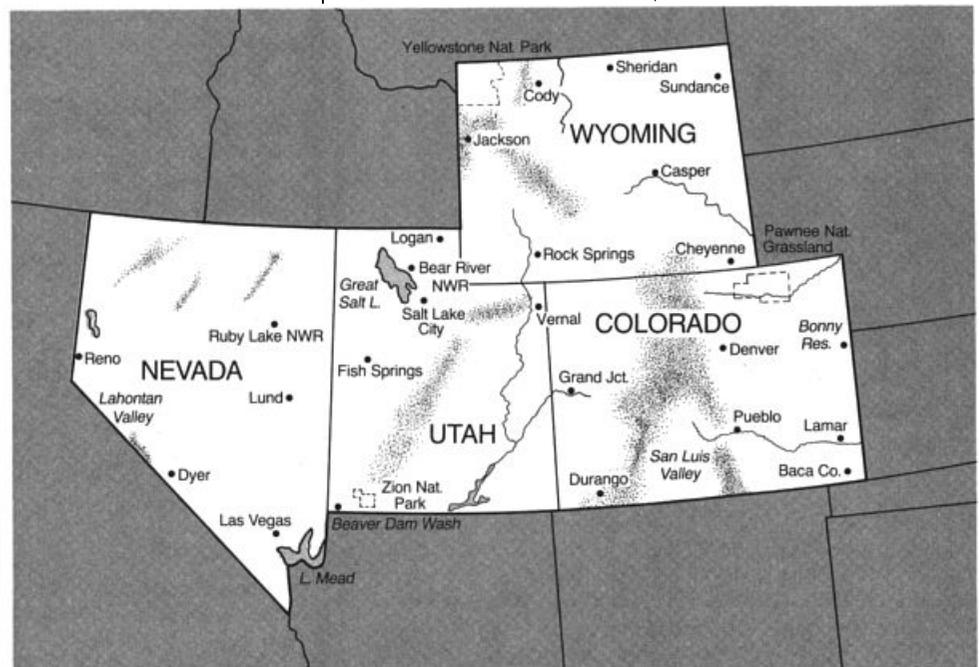
Abbreviations: L/L/B/L (*Longmont/Lyons/Berthoud/Loveland area, CO, using Foothills Audubon Club records*); 1st Lat (*First latilong record [a latilong is outlined by one degree each of latitude and longitude,*

and measures about 50 by 70 miles]); ph. (*photograph on file with Regional Editor*); † (*written description on file with Regional Editor*); †† (*written description on file with, and subject to approval of, state or local records committee*); I.P.F.C. (*Indian Peaks, CO, Fall Count*).

LOONS TO EGRETS

Las Vegas reported two Red-throated Loons, the first in 3 years (VM), and one stayed at Pueblo, CO, Nov. 17-18 (†MJ). Pacific Loons visited Las Vegas; Yellowstone and Sheridan, WY; Fish Springs N.W.R. and St. George, UT (the latter found in July); and 19 were in e. Colorado. Wyoming reported 15 nesting pairs of Com. Loons, with 15 young (21 young in 1989). The peak count of migrant Com. Loons at Walker L., NV, dropped from 1090 last year to 668 Oct. 18 this year (LN, AJ). Utah's 2nd **Red-necked Grebe**, an immature, stayed at Logan Nov. 4-18 (†LR ph., *et al.*). Others stopped at Yellowstone Oct. 2-11 (†TM) and the Rawhide power plant near Wellington, CO, Nov. 10-14 (†WH *et al.*). By Nov. 30 at least 1000 W. Grebes had gathered on L. Mead near Las Vegas, and L. Powell, UT, had 250; L/L/B/L counted, over the season, 1480 compared with 1000 in 1989. The L. Mead grebes included 100-150 Clark's, and a D.F.O. trip in s.e. Colorado Sept. 1-3 tallied 300 Clark's with no Westerns. Clark's bred at L. Powell (KS) and Lahontan Valley, NV (AJ, LN).

A Las Vegas newspaper photo-



graph showed a Brown Pelican that landed in a parking lot Aug. 2, and another was reported from Lake Mead Sept. 14. The Sept. 8-9 D.F.O. Fall Count tallied 539 Double-crested Cormorants. Most of the 800 counted Sept. 29 at Jackson Res. near Ft. Morgan, CO, had not left by Oct. 13 (WH). Julesburg, Colorado's usual site for Olivaceous Cormorants, had one Aug. 21 (††DB).

The 64 Great Egret observations included singles at Las Vegas, Reno, Fish Springs, and Logan, UT, nine at Ruby L., and 51 in e. Colorado. Snowy Egrets have become scarce in Colorado (high count 34 Sept. 8 at Ordway); but in Utah, Fish Springs reported 482 Aug. 7. Descriptions support two of the four reported Little Blue Herons: at Julesburg, CO, Aug. 4 (RG) and Pueblo Aug. 7-17 (DS, MJ). Nevada hosted, briefly on Aug. 23 at Las Vegas, its first **Reddish Egret** (†VM, JHa).

WATERFOWL

Avian botulism struck ducks at Stillwater (910 carcasses picked up—AJ) and Harold Crane Ref. near Ogden, UT (thousands of ducks, hundreds of avocets, stilts, and W. Sandpipers died, *vide* PP). Before this, Stillwater's production of 3000 ducklings quadrupled that of 1989. Duck migration at Ruby L. provided mixed results—average for dabblers, up and down for diving ducks. Fish Springs had good numbers, topped by 7327 N. Pintails. Stillwater and Lahontan Valley had 1800 Tundra Swans in November, including one collared at Selawick N.W.R., AK. A Yellowstone swan had been collared in North Dakota. In n.w. Wyoming only 11 Trumpeter cygnets survived; three in Yellow-



White-winged Scoter at Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge, Utah, October 1990. More individuals than usual stopped off in the Mountain West this season. Photograph/Jo Engler.

Table 1.
Raptor counts at Goshute Mtn. survey site, Nevada.

Species	Total #	No./100 Hours		% change
		1990	83-89	
Accipiters	9419	1407	993	+ 42%
Sharp-shinned	5278	788	563	+ 40%
Cooper's	3645	544	344	+ 58%
Buteos	3787	566	372	+ 52%
Red-tailed	3332	498	347	+ 52%
Falcons	2700	403	191	+111%
Am. Kestrel	2638	394	186	+112%
Total	16864	2518	1684	+ 50%

stone fell prey to coyotes. One pair of the High Plains flock produced 5 cygnets in n.e. Wyoming (W.G.F.).

Observers noted migrating Snow Geese Nov. 2-4: 300 at Jackson, WY, 200 at Eagle, CO, 300 at 2 sites near Denver, 600 at Pueblo. Carson and Walker Lakes, NV, had 2100 Nov. 8-18. Hundreds flew over Old Faithful (Yellowstone N.P.) Nov. 23-24. At Ordway, 10,000 had arrived by Nov. 9. The usual scattering of Ross' Geese moved with them. A **Brant** stopped at Barr L. near Denver Nov. 10-11 (†MJ, ††D.F.O.).

An excellent photograph supports the **Eurasian Wigeon** at Reno Nov. 18-23 (†JT ph., DB); my files contain 2 other documented Nevada reports since 1972. Another stopped at Cheraw, CO, Nov. 17 (†DJ). Five Greater Scaup were seen, in Yellowstone, Denver, and Pueblo, and nine Oldsquaws in Provo, Casper, Denver, and Julesburg. A hunter reportedly shot a ♀ Harlequin Duck at Morgan, UT, Oct. 11 (*vide* AS); if preserved, it will be Utah's first specimen and 2nd record (disregarding two missing specimens from 1913).

Utah's 3rd **Black Scoter**, an ad. male, stayed at Salt Lake City Oct. 19-31 (†CK, ph.). A female stopped Nov. 6-7 at Pueblo (VT, †MJ), and one was reported without details from Casper. The Region's 16 Surf Scoters made an average number, but 37 White-winged Scoters was above average, bolstered by eight at Sheridan Oct. 21 (HD) and six at Glenwood Springs, CO, Nov. 4 (VZ). The Hooded Merganser at Walsh, CO, Nov. 4 was a 1st Lat, as were two Red-breasteds there Oct. 30.

RAPTORS

The Goshute Mts., NV, raptor site counted 16,864 birds—up from the previous high of 14,512 in 1988. All species showed increases on a per-hour basis; Red-tailed Hawks and Am. Kestrels showed big increases, to account for a substantial portion of the high total. Perhaps most surprising, the count again found Broad-winged Hawks—35, *cf.* 37 last year (H.I.L., FT).

Wyoming reported 39 nesting pairs of Bald Eagles with 56 young, and 14 nesting pairs of Peregrines, plus 27 birds hatched this year that survived (W.G.F.).

The 233 Turkey Vultures seen at Pueblo Sept. 30 seemed like a lot for a late date (MJ); 55 flew over Ft. Collins the same day (DL). **Black-shouldered Kites** surprised observers in 2 states: a photograph documents Utah's 2nd record, from Washington Nov. 2 (†NS, ph.). One seen Oct. 11 near Beatty, NV, provided Nevada with a 5th or 6th documented record (†PL). Nevada must have a small contingent of Red-shouldered Hawks—four were reported this fall from Las Vegas, Beatty, Fallon, and the Goshutes. Observers found Broad-wingeds Sept. 21-30

at Lander, WY, and Penrose and Bonny Res., CO. Nobody detected big flocks of Swainson's Hawks this fall; the largest groups were of 240 at Denver's Barr L. Sept. 9 and 280 at Anton, CO, Oct. 8. A Gyrfalcon, probably wild, was photographed at Logan Nov. 15 (†RA, LR ph., KA).

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS

One 10-acre block of alkali bulrush at Lahontan Valley held 18 Virginia Rails and two Soras—and also three Barn Owls, which may have been exploiting that prey source (AJ, LN). American Coot was the most abundant bird this fall at Ruby L. (9605 in October); Fish Springs had 4437 Sept. 25. Sandhill Cranes put on their usual show in the San Luis Valley, CO, and flocks of 1200-2000 streamed over Cheyenne, Ft. Collins, and Lamar.

The shorebird survey of Lahontan Valley found 72,491 birds: 28,917 dowitchers, 23,641 avocets, 13,252 Least and Western sandpipers, and 4531 phalaropes. Twelve Lesser Golden-Plovers included two at Bear River N.W.R., UT, and one at Green R., WY, Sept. 22-23 (†FL, 1st Lat). Immature Snowy Plovers staged at Ogden, with an Aug. 4 peak of 300 (PP). Refuges from Fish Springs to Fallon counted 127 Snowies in early August. A federal survey of the Pawnee Grassland estimated its Mt. Plover breeding population at 3000, down from 20,820 in the mid-1970s but slightly higher than in the mid-1980s; "populations may fluctuate somewhat dramatically between years" (FK).

On Sept. 1-3 in s.e. Colorado, D.F.O. found an impressive 425 Mt. Plovers and 850 Lesser Yellowlegs. Casper had two Whimbrels all of August, plus two at nearby Goldeneye Res. Aug. 28 (SO). Before the rising Great Salt



Two juvenile Sanderlings at Pyramid Lake, Nevada, September 30, 1990. Photograph/Jane Thompson.

L. flooded it, Bear River Ref. hosted thousands of Marbled Godwits; this year Stillwater reported the Regional high count, 225 Aug. 21–24, although U.F.O. reported “hundreds” at Bear R. Sept. 15. A **Ruddy Turnstone** at Bear R. Sept. 6 gave Utah its 4th record (†KK ph., ES). Only one Red Knot appeared, at Jackson Res. Aug. 29 (†WH). Sanderlings spread over the Region Sept. 1–Oct. 6, with 30–40 at Pyramid L., NV, 25 at Bear R. Sept. 15, 5 observations of 21 in Casper, and two to 29 at 9 e. Colorado locations.

Semipalmated Sandpipers occurred at Promontory, UT, 4 sites in Wyoming, and 7 in Colorado. Except for one Sept. 10 at Jackson Res., the 66 Regional Dunlins came Oct. 4–Nov. 11; they included one Nov. 3 at Desert Lake W.M.A., UT (FL, 1st Lat). Jackson Res. attracted a steady stream of Stilt Sandpipers Aug. 5–Oct. 27, with a peak of 393 Sept. 22 (WH). Bear River also had Utah’s first **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** Sept. 6–8 (††ES, †KK, LR ph.). Buff-breasted were at Jackson Res. Aug. 25 (††BA) and Julesburg Sept. 15 (†AM).

A remarkable flock of 45 Short-billed Dowitchers found by Janos Aug. 4 near Hasty, CO, made up the bulk of the 69 reported from the Region. Jackson Res. had Long-billed Aug. 5–Oct. 27, with a peak of 518 Sept. 29. An Am. Woodcock sprang from a brushy, leafy mat in Sunshine Can. near Boulder, CO, Nov. 28–30 (†JP). The Region had five **Red Phalaropes** including Wyoming’s 5th record, excellently described, at Rock Springs Oct. 20–24 (†FL), plus four in n.e. Colorado Sept. 19–Nov. 4.



Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Bear River Refuge, Utah, September 7, 1990. First state record. Photograph/Larry Ryel.

JAEGERS TO TERNS

A jaeger identified as a Pomarine soared past the Goshute range hawk watch Sept. 10 (†FT). A Parasitic Jaeger was at Las Vegas Nov. 23–24 (VM, J & MC, †PL). Utah’s 5th **Long-tailed Jaeger**—the 2nd this year—flew around Bear River N.W.R. Aug. 29–30 (†LR, SH).

In the last 5 years Franklin’s Gull reports have dropped in half; this fall observers in Colorado reported 12,600 while in 1983–1985 they reported 16,500–29,800. Bonaparte’s Gull sightings went up: they included 100 at Bear R., 50–75 at Pueblo in November, and 37 Nov. 17 at Denver. A Heermann’s Gull stopped at Reno, within 15 feet of the observer, Oct. 11 (EM). Colorado had its 14th Mew Gull Sept. 27–28 at Pueblo (†MJ). Las Vegas reported a first-year bird Nov. 27 (MC).

Colorado’s 3rd **Lesser Black-backed Gull** stayed only Nov. 17 at Denver (†RR, †JRo). Las Vegas reported Western Gulls Aug. 24–31 and Nov. 27 (J & MC, VM), and the first Glaucous-winged Gull since 1988 on Nov. 24 (VM). A Black-legged Kittiwake was at Julesburg Nov. 21–22 (BP, †MJ). The season brought only eight Sabine’s Gulls, including birds at Yellowstone, Lander, and Bear River. At Ash Meadows N.W.R. near Death Valley, several observers watched an imm. **Arctic Tern**, Nevada’s first, Oct. 11–14 (†SF ph., †PL, †JD, †GM). Highest count of Black Terns came from Cheraw—45 on Sept. 8.

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

Two White-winged Doves were at Cactus Springs, NV, Sept. 24, n. of their usual range (PL). An **Inca Dove**, Utah’s 7th, arrived Nov. 9 at the same Moab feeder where one appeared last fall (GL, †NB ph.). They now occur regularly in the Las Vegas area. Nevada’s first **Ruddy Ground-Dove** was at Amargosa Valley Sept. 25 (†PL, †JD ph.). Late Yellow-billed Cuckoos were at Ordway Oct. 6 and Walsh Oct. 7.

Burrowing Owls also stayed late, with 5 October records and one Nov. 7 at Pueblo. Federal surveys found Spotted Owls at 5 locations in the Colorado mountains, from Mesa Verde N.P. to Pueblo, and one pair in the Blue Mts. in s.e. Utah. Grand Jct., CO, reported the last Com. Nighthawk, Oct. 11. Swifts stayed into Octo-

ber, with Chimney Swifts at Walsh and Penrose on the 6th and 9th, and 500 White-throats at a Grand Jct. marsh Oct. 10.

September 6 at Corn Creek near Las Vegas, Nevada’s 2nd **Broad-billed Hummingbird** (an immature turning to adult plumage) fed on thistle and buckwheat, not a feeder (†MC, VM). Black-chinned Hummingbirds departed early from Springdale, UT (last one Sept. 27), but stayed in Grand Jct. to Oct. 1 and Moab to Oct. 9. Springdale stragglers were a Broad-tailed Oct. 22 and a Rufous on Oct. 4 (JG). Other tardy hummingbirds were an Anna’s at Reno Sept. 23 (†DBo), four Costa’s at Las Vegas Oct. 28 (PL, SF), Broad-tailed at Logan Oct. 5–9 (KD), and a Rufous remaining at Durango, CO, to Oct. 13 (EF).

Lewis’ Woodpeckers no longer qualify as rare in Utah; the year brought observations from 5 widely scattered locations including, this fall, Provo, Fish Springs, and Cleveland. An imm. Red-headed Woodpecker crossed over the Sangre de Cristo Mts. to Crestone, CO, Sept. 20 (HR ph., 1st Lat). Nevada had its first **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** Oct. 12, an immature observed for 10 minutes (†PL, SF). Eight Red-breasted Sapsuckers were found in w. Nevada including birds on the desert floor around Las Vegas and Dyer. Observers described Yellow-shafted N. Flickers from Eagle, Moab, Fish Springs, and Las Vegas.

FLYCATCHERS TO WRENS

An E. Wood-Pewee gave its distinctive song at Julesburg Aug. 19 (†MJ). Moab produced Utah’s 5th **Eastern Phoebe**, found Oct. 30 (†NB ph.). An Ash-throated Flycatcher stopped at Sheridan Aug. 29 (†RM). Colorado had four Great Crested Flycatchers in 4 e. latilongs Aug. 11–Sept. 16. At Bear River, U.F.O. found thousands of each of Tree, Bank, Cliff, and Barn swallows.

Jays did not descend to the valleys this fall; the only valley records were of a few Scrubs: four to five at Corn Cr. and Reno, and singles at Fish Springs, Logan, and Ft. Collins. L/L/B/L reported eight, of 28 last year. Jackson, WY, had its first Blue Jay Oct. 11 (JH, ph.), and a Grand Jct. feeder attracted the 2nd one there Nov. 22. Pinyon Jays did move around a lot, though. Flocks of 100–1000 occurred from Springdale to Fish

Spring, e. to Sheridan, Fort Collins, and L/L/B/L. Many observers commented on the absence of Clark’s Nutcrackers.

All prior reports of Am. Crows in s. Nevada have involved singles or small groups; hence the flocks of 1000 at Overton Nov. 19 and 2000 at Mesquite Nov. 22 marked a major event (MC, PL). Some winter in c. Utah, but the single crows at Fish Springs Oct. 19 and Springdale Nov. 12 may have had a relationship to the Nevada movement. Even the 250 crows at Jackson Sept. 13 surprised observers. Flocks of 50–150 have recently become common in urban Denver.

Red-breasted Nuthatches stayed in the mountains; the few that did appear on the plains did not remain. One Pygmy Nuthatch strayed to Pawnee Grassland Sept. 22 (WH). A Carolina Wren was at Loveland, CO, Nov. 28 (BK). A good contingent of Winter Wrens arrived, with 12 reported; most surprising was one at Fish Springs Oct. 1–6.

KINGLETS TO PIPITS

November Blue-gray Gnatcatchers occurred at Grand Jct. and Two Buttes, CO, and two Black-tailed Gnatcatchers at Cactus Springs established a n. record for Nevada (PL). Two flocks of E. Bluebirds were larger than any reported recently from Colorado: 40 at Pueblo Nov. 9 (MJ) and 26 at Bonny Res. Sept. 26 (RG). One or two pushed W to Wetmore and Canon City, CO, in October (PM, SW). The Indian Peaks Fall Count Sept. 15 recorded 144 Mt. Bluebirds, at 2.14/hour their highest count, but L/L/B/L counted only 168 all fall, lower than last year’s 199.

Some Townsend’s Solitaires dropped down from the high country; Denver had a modest number, L/L/B/L counted 20, up from four last year, and Cheyenne counted 22. On the plains, Pawnee Grassland had one to four Sept. 22–23 and at Walsh on Nov. 14 were a remarkable 10 solitaires (JTh). Nevada reported Swainson’s Thrushes at Stillwater (†JWlt) and Dyer (the coastal, russet subspecies—PL). The Region reported seven Hermit Thrushes in November, from Reno to Denver. A Wood Thrush was at Prewitt Res. near Sterling Sept. 17 (††DB). An influx of Varied Thrushes included seven in Nevada, three in Utah including



Varied Thrush at Jackson, Wyoming, November 4, 1990. Photograph/Bill Nash.

the first at Moab, one at Jackson, WY, and one at Carbondale, CO (VZ, JM, 1st Lat). A Gray Catbird fed on Russian Olive fruit at Las Vegas Oct. 11 (†PL, †SF). A late catbird straggled into Eagle, CO, Nov. 6 (JM), and a late Brown Thrasher appeared at Evergreen, CO, Nov. 8 (CG). Large groups of Am. Pipits flocked: 115 at Echo L., CO, Aug. 19, 137 Sept. 15 on the I.P.F.C. (2.04/hr, a record high), and 150 Oct. 7 at Grand Jct.

WAXWINGS TO WARBLERS

Bohemian Waxwings wandered erratically: 1000 in Sheridan Nov. 21, and small flocks at Cody and Yellowstone; then some odd, isolated flocks: one or two in Cheyenne Oct. 25–30, 15 at Evergreen, CO, Nov. 3, three at Barr L. Nov. 11, five at Salt Lake City Nov. 25, and a very odd 30+ on Nov. 23 at Mancos, in s.w. Colorado (†LB). Colorado observers reported three yellowish Solitary Vireos: one at Pawnee Grassland Sept. 1, one at Barr L. Sept. 23, and one Oct. 21 at Two Buttes. The race could be *cassinii*, to which most of Colorado's yellowish Solitary specimens belong, or possibly *solitarius* (two specimens). A Philadelphia Vireo was at Chatfield S.P. near Denver Oct. 7 (†JJK).

Generally observers detected fewer migrating warblers, especially Orange-crowned, Yellow-rumped, and Wilson's. In contrast, Rock Springs saw a substantial warbler migration, with 70 Orange-crowns Sept. 8–9 (the same weekend that the D.F.O. Fall count tallied a mere seven); 30 were at Cheyenne Sept. 17, 15 at Fontanelle, WY, Sept. 22, and 15 at Denver's Chatfield Sept. 29. Yellow-rumped Warbler counts at Casper (100 at the August peak) and the I.P.B.C. (187) were high—but elsewhere quite low: D.F.O. counted 72 throughout the fall compared with an 8-year range of 64–148. Four Townsend's Warblers at Yellowstone, six at Eagle, and a late one at Lyons, CO, merited special comment. Late Com. Yellowthroats were at Beaver Dam Wash, UT, Nov. 22 and Denver Nov. 25. Rock Springs and Fontanelle, WY, reported migratory flocks of 110–120 Wilson's Warblers Aug. 25–Sept. 9, and 75 were at Pawnee Grassland Aug. 29 at the peak.

Rare warblers: Blue-winged Warbler at Boulder, CO, Oct. 16–17 (JP); at Indian Springs Oct. 14–15, Nevada's 2nd **Golden-winged Warbler** (both this year; †PL, †SF); Magnolia Warblers Oct. 25 at Scotty's Jct., NV (PL, SF), and Casper (†LRo), and two in Colorado; an imm. ♂ **Cape May Warbler** at Dyer Oct. 12 (†PL, †SF); Wyoming's 5th **Pine Warbler** at Sheridan Aug. 20 (†HD) plus one at Pueblo, CO, Sept. 22–23 (†MJ); a Mourning Warbler at Jackson Res. Sept. 21 (††DB); a ♀ Hooded Warbler at Indian Springs Sept. 24–26 (†PL, †SF).

Uncommon warblers: two Tennessee Warblers in Wyoming, four in Colorado; one Nashville banded at Ogden, UT, two in Wyoming, and 27 in Colorado including 13 at Cortez Sept. 2–Oct. 3; seven Virginia's Warblers in Wyoming; a Chestnut-sided at Casper Sept. 30; two Black-throated Blue Warblers at Boulder; a Black-throated Green Warbler at Julesburg, CO; four Palm Warblers in Colorado, and an undocumented one that would be the 4th for Utah; a Bay-breasted at Pueblo; one Blackpoll at Vernal, UT (†CK, 1st Lat), two in Nevada, one in Wyoming, and two in Colorado including one at Eagle (†JM, 1st Lat); one Black-and-white in Nevada and five in Colorado; Prothonotary Warblers at Canon City, CO, Sept. 22



Le Conte's Sparrow at Simpson Springs, Utah, September 23, 1990. Fourth state record. Photograph/Craig Kneedy.

(†MJ) and Sand Cr., n.e. of Julesburg, Oct. 10 (††DB).

BUNTINGS TO SISKINS

Six Indigo Buntings visited Moab Aug. 18–Sept. 9 (GL), and one was very late at Beaver Dam Wash, UT, Nov. 22 (PL, SF). Two Dickcissels were at Indian Springs Sept. 24–26 (†JD, PL). A Clay-colored Sparrow hung around with White-crowns at Las Vegas Oct. 11 & 20 (J & MC, PL). Fifteen Field Sparrows slunk around Walsh Sept. 23–Oct. 10 (†JTh), and three were at Ridgway, CO, Sept. 15 (†CD, 1st Lat). In w. Colorado, Ridgway and Dove Creek had Lark Buntings Aug. 16 and Sept. 2, and nearby at Monticello, UT, was another Sept. 2 (CD, RL). Photographs documented Utah's 4th **Le Conte's Sparrow**, Sept. 23 at Simpson Springs in the w. desert (†CK, ph.). Golden-crowned Sparrows snuck into the Region again, with two at Reno, two at Washington, UT, one at Ogden (†CK, 1st Lat) and one at Denver starting Nov. 23 (†VR). Hundreds of McCown's Longspurs flocked on the n.e. Colorado prairies Oct. 7–13 (WH). Two **McCown's Longspurs** Nov. 16 and later at Fish Springs provided Utah its 3rd record, the 2nd in 3 years (†JE, ES, CK); three Laplands were also there Oct. 31 and later. By Oct. 27, 300 Laplands had arrived at Pawnee Grassland (WH). Las Vegas had two Lapland Longspurs in September, and a Chestnut-collared Longspur Oct. 6 (J & MC, VM). Full-frame photographs document a **Smith's Longspur** found Oct. 19 in a cut alfalfa field at Amargosa Valley, for Nevada's first record (†SF ph., †PL). On Nov. 11, observers found one Snow Bunting at Yellowstone and 11 at Jackson, WY.

Denver reported many flocks of blackbirds: on the fall count Sept. 8–9, 10,486 Red-wingeds and

3006 Yellow-headededs. Noisy flocks of 500 Com. Grackles and starlings roosted in an urban Denver neighborhood; the cacophony and droppings created a local uproar Sept. 7–25. A Purple Finch visited a Casper feeder Nov. 3–4. Pine Siskins stayed in the mountains with almost no plains records. Nevada's first Lawrence's Goldfinch in several years was at Indian Springs Oct. 14 (PL, SF, ph.).

Corrigendum: A mistake in observer initials—AB 44(3): 470, replace CBr with DBr as the observer of the Dusky-capped Flycatcher.

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SOUTHWEST REGION Arizona

Gary H. Rosenberg and
David Stejskal

Last summer's unprecedented invasion of water birds from Mexico into the Southwest continued into the fall with the discovery of an additional 35+ Brown Pelicans in southern Arizona, not to mention both Brown and Blue-footed boobies in the state for the first time in 13 years.

Evidence that the heavier than normal summer rains had a profound effect on the Arizona (and possibly Mexican) avifauna began to trickle in: large numbers of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were scattered throughout southern Arizona; Cinnamon Teal nested in southern Arizona; a Clapper Rail wandered the streets of Tucson; Elegant Trogons nested successfully in mid-September; Long-eared Owls apparently nested in the White Mountains; a Berylline Hummingbird ventured way north to Prescott; unprecedented numbers of Purple Martins congregated in Tucson; and both Fan-tailed Warbler and Streak-backed Oriole were found in southern Arizona. Not all of these events were necessarily correlated with the increase in rainfall, but breeding success certainly appeared to be high, food crops even higher, and we can't help but anticipate the spring with a surplus of individuals.

Abbreviations: A.B.C. (*Arizona Bird Committee*); B.T.A. (*Boyce Thompson Arboretum*); L.C.R. (*Lower Colorado River*); S.P.R. (*San Pedro River*); S.T.P. (*Sewage Treatment Plant*); V.O.C. (*Village of Oak Creek*).

LOONS TO IBISES

Two Pacific Loons at Davis Dam on the L.C.R. Nov. 23 (PL, SF) were expected, but one on a pond in n.e. Tucson Nov. 30 and later seemed out of place; there are only a handful of records in s.e. Arizona. The single report of Horned Grebe this season came from the unlikely location of Mammoth Nov. 12 (R. Morse). As the relative status during migration of the two recently-recognized species of *Aechmophorus* grebes is still poorly understood, we will continue to publish most records of these two away from known concentration areas. Single W. Grebes were reported from Peck's L., near Cottonwood, Nov. 3 (VG), Buenos Aires N.W.R. Nov. 5 (W. Burson), Tucson Nov. 6-12 (P. Sunby *et al.*), and the Gila Farms Pond, s. of Phoenix, Nov. 28-30 (SGa). A lone Clark's Grebe was observed at Granite Reef Dam, e. of Phoenix, Nov. 22-30 (SGa), while another was picked up dead in Bisbee Nov. 23 (JWh).

The first in the state since 1977 (but hardly unexpected this year after the invasion at the Salton Sea) was a **Blue-footed Booby** found at L. Havasu Sept. 16 and seen sporadically there through Oct. 20 (JS *et al.*). This bird proved frustratingly difficult to find throughout its stay. A **Brown Booby** s.e. of Yuma Sept. 12 (D. Crockett), possibly two more near there in



Adult Brown Booby picked up near Yuma, Arizona, September 12, 1990. Photograph/B. Henry.

September (*vide* B. Henry), and yet another in Phoenix Sept. 14-Oct. 11 (D. Fritz, m.ob.), were also firsts from Arizona since 1977, and more than compensated for the extended Sula dry spell Arizona had experienced. Presumably the same phenomenon that brought these birds to the state brought still more Brown Pelicans across the border. No fewer than 35 Brown Pelicans were reported from the s.w. half of the state (m.ob.). The highest concentration for the period was 17 at Estrella Mt. Park, s.w. Phoenix, in late August. Singles lingered all fall at both L. Havasu and Alamo Lake.

Single Double-crested Cormorants in n. Arizona, where still considered rare, included one throughout August at Cow Springs L. (CL), one on Black Mesa Aug. 17-20 (CL), and another at Tsaille L. Oct. 6 (SGa). In addition, up to two were present through the period at Peck's L., where very uncommon (C. Van Cleve). More exciting were reports of single Magnificent Frigatebirds at Picacho Res. Aug. 20 (B. Brinkley) and Yuma Oct. 13 (D. Robinson); this species has recently proven to be nearly annual in the state in very small numbers.

An Am. Bittern at Peck's L.

Nov. 24 (VG) was somewhat of a surprise. A single Great Egret on Black Mesa Sept. 25-Oct. 1 (CL) provided a first local record, and one of only a handful for all of n.e. Arizona. A Green-backed Heron near there at Kayenta Sept. 18 was thought to be late (CL). An impressive concentration of 530+ White-faced Ibises was n. of Cibola in the L.C.R.V. Aug. 29 (GM).

WATERFOWL TO RAPTORS

As is now expected during the first half of September, Greater White-fronted Geese put in a respectable showing with at least 94 reported Sept. 3-16. Concentrations included 40 along the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson Sept. 3 (S. Levy) and another group of 50 at L. Havasu Sept. 16 (JS). More impressive was a flock of at least 300 Snow Geese at Many Farms L. Nov. 3 (GM). This represents one of the largest flocks seen in Arizona in recent times, and one of only a handful of recent records for n.e. Arizona. Northeast Arizona again produced a few sightings of Ross' Goose for the period with one at Many Farms L. Oct. 4, another or the same, there Nov. 6 (P. Ryan), and two more at Cow Springs L. Nov. 12 (CL). Another single Ross' Goose in Sun City late November into December was also noteworthy (B. Wald).

A concentration of 20 Wood Ducks at Clarkdale on the unusually early date of Aug. 16 might suggest local breeding, but no details on ages of the birds were submitted (VG). Intriguing was an apparent Am. Black Duck at Kayenta Nov. 30 (†CL), initiating speculation as to its origin. As with all sightings of this species in w. North America, free-flying released birds cannot be ruled out. A ♀ Cinnamon Teal with a brood of eight young at Buenos Aires N.W.R. was observed on the very late date of Sept. 8; this species is considered a sparse breeder at best



in s. Arizona. Two Eur. Wigeon, an ad. male and an imm. male (or hybrid?), were found on a pond in Scottsdale Nov. 6 (S. Stengeland *et al.*), and remained into December; this species has occurred annually in the state during the past 10 years.

As is now almost expected, small numbers of scoters turned up in Arizona in November with a ♀-plumaged Surf Scoter at Big L. in the White Mts. Nov. 12 (E. Johnson) and a White-winged Scoter at Kayenta Nov. 14 (CL). A Hooded Merganser on Black Mesa Nov. 7 provided one of few records in n.e. Arizona (CL).

An ad. Northern Goshawk Sept. 19 at Canelo Hills near Sonoita was at an unusually low elevation for this species in s. Arizona (TC). Individual Red-shouldered Hawks were found in extreme w. Arizona with one at L. Havasu City Sept. 21 (SGa), and another at Littlefield Nov. 22 (†PL, SF). Sightings of this species have been on the rise in recent years, but there are still fewer than 20 records in all for the state.

RAILS TO TERNS

Extraordinary was the imm. Clapper Rail found strolling the streets of central Tucson Sept. 27. The bird was captured, and despite attempts of rehabilitation, it eventually died (* U. of Ariz.). It will be interesting to see to what subspecies this bird belongs.

As many as eight Black-bellied Plovers were reported statewide Aug. 3–Oct. 20, with at least two in n.e. Arizona where still considered quite rare. Fifteen Am. Avocets at Many Farms L. Nov. 3 were considered extremely late for the n.e. portion of the state (GM). A Willet, present throughout most of the fall at Gila Farms Pond, lingered there into December (SGa); to date, there are no confirmed winter records for the state. Always a surprise in the state, Ruddy Turnstone put in 2 appearances this fall with one in s.w. Phoenix Aug. 29–30 (DS, CDB *et al.*), and another at the Gila Farms Ponds Sept. 16–20 (S. Burge *et al.*, ph. RW). Both were juveniles. Five Sanderlings, about average for the fall period, were reported with one at Cow Springs L. Aug. 18–19 (CL), an adult at Sierra Vista Aug. 23 (DS *et al.*), two at the Gila Farms Ponds Sept. 16–20 (S. Burge *et al.*), and another at Many Farms L. Sept. 23 (CL). No fewer

than nine Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported during the period, probably an average number for a given fall in the state. These included one at Kayenta Aug. 1 (CL), one at the Gila Farms Ponds Aug. 7 (SGa), two at Sierra Vista Aug. 8 (JBo), two in s.w. Phoenix Aug. 29 (DS, CDB), another at Kayenta Aug. 30 (CL), and two more in s.w. Phoenix Sept. 20 (CDB, GR *et al.*).

A single Pectoral Sandpiper on Black Mesa Aug. 16 was a bit early for this species' normal passage through Arizona. A Dunlin at the Snyder Hill S.T.P. near Tucson Sept. 17–18 (GM *et al.*) was early, and another at Many Farms L. Oct. 7 represented one of few records for n.e. Arizona (GR *et al.*). At least 12 Short-billed Dowitchers were reported nearly statewide Aug. 21–Oct. 7; presumably, all these records involved readily distinguishable juv. birds. A Wilson's Phalarope at Chinle Oct. 7 was thought to be late for that part of the state (DS *et al.*), but one that remained into December in Tucson (m.ob.) was unprecedented.

Herring Gulls were found at Roosevelt L. Sept. 27 (ph. SGa), at the Bill Williams portion of L. Havasu Oct. 14 (SGa), and another four at L. Havasu Nov. 23 (PL, SF). All were first-winter birds. This fall's Sabine's Gull turned up in Chandler Oct. 19–20 (†CBA *et al.*). Common Terns in n.e. Arizona, where infrequently reported, included single birds at Many Farms L. Aug. 15 and Sept. 23, one on Black Mesa Sept. 15, and another the same day at Kayenta (all CL). An unusual concentration for s.e. Arizona was a group of at least 13 at Mammoth Oct. 5 (DS, GR, CDB).

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

Ruddy Ground-Doves again ventured into the state from s. of the border this fall: one was found along the San Pedro R. e. of Sierra Vista Oct. 22 and seen sporadically throughout the period (†DK), while another was netted and banded in e. Tucson Nov. 8 (C. Corchran *et al.*). Several Long-eared Owls found in Hannegan Meadows and at Long L., both in the White Mts., during an unsuccessful search for Boreal Owl, were thought to be nesting locally (R. Duncan, *vide* SGa). This species has not been found nesting previously in the "Canadian" zone in Arizona. A single Lesser Night-



Plain-capped Starthroat in Stump Canyon, Huachuca Mountains, Arizona, on September 10, 1990. The very long bill and the white "blaze" on the lower back can be seen clearly in this view. Photograph/David Sonneborn.

hawk at Kayenta Aug. 28 represented only the 3rd reliable record for the Navajo Indian Reservation.

The White-eared Hummingbirds frequenting feeders at Ramsey Canyon were last seen Sept. 10 (m.ob.). One of the most surprising birds of the season was undoubtedly the **Berylline Hummingbird** at a Prescott feeder Sept. 15–21 (*vide* R. Houser). Prescott is at least 250 mi n.w. of Madera Canyon, the previous northernmost site for this vagrant from Mexico. Another Magnificent Hummingbird (as last fall) was reported from the B.T.A. in early August (*vide* SGa). A Plain-capped Starthroat, almost annual in recent years in s. Arizona, was found at a feeder in Stump Canyon, Huachuca Mts., Sept. 10 (L. Niemoth, ph. D. Sonneborn). The only Lucifer Hummingbird reported to us this fall was a male in Portal most of August (SSp, m.ob.). A *Selasphorus* hummingbird banded at Ramsey Canyon Sept. 2 was tentatively identified as an Allen's; if accurately identified, this individual would represent the latest migrant record for the state.

A very late active nest of Elegant Trogon was found in South Fork of Cave Creek Canyon Sept. 24, with three young fledged Sept. 27 (RM). This late nesting may have been prompted by the unusually heavy summer rains this year throughout s. Arizona. Yet another



Juvenile Red-headed Woodpecker at Portal, Arizona, on October 20, 1990. Fourth state record. Photograph/Robert A. Witzeman.

possible *Eared Trogon* was reported by a single observer, this time from the isolated Rock Creek Canyon on the west side of the Chiricahua Mts. (†L. Consadine). Subsequent searches for this mythical species proved fruitless. Green Kingfishers included one along Sonoita Cr. near Patagonia Aug. 8–23 (JC, CDB *et al.*), and one near Hereford on the upper S.P.R. Nov. 11 (R. Dorrance). Additionally, a male was seen sporadically through the period on the upper S.P.R. near Hwy 90, and a female was there Sept. 14 (DK).

One of the many highlights this season was the imm. **Red-headed Woodpecker** at Portal Oct. 19–29 (RM, ph. RW, m.ob.). This was only the 4th record for the state, and the first since 1974. Single Red-breasted Sapsuckers were reported from s. of St. David on the upper S.P.R. Oct. 3 (DK) and from Slide Rock S.P. Nov. 27 (A. Earnshaw). Another reported to us from the lower Salt R. Nov. 2 (†M. O'Brien) was most likely a hybrid. A ♂ Williamson's Sapsucker in Tucson Oct. 11 (DS) was at a lower than expected elevation in this "non-invasion" year. A "Yellow-shafted" N. Flicker, one of the few reports of this distinctive form in recent years in the state, was found at Parker Nov. 24 (PL, SF).

FLYCATCHERS TO SHRIKES

The only report this fall of E. Phoebe was of one along the upper S.P.R. near the Highway 90 bridge Oct. 22 (DK); most s. Arizona records involve wintering individuals and are typically found later in the fall. Cassin's Kingbirds were found lingering late in small numbers in s. Arizona; two were along Sonoita Creek near Patagonia Nov. 8 (M. O'Brien), and one was in Tucson Nov. 12 (G. Morton). A Purple Martin at Kayenta Aug. 19 (CL) provided a first local record, while in the Tucson area, unprecedented numbers of this species were reported. More than 1000 were seen flying over Tucson Sept. 8 (BB), but more astonishing was the report of at least 10,000 martins flying over the Tucson Mts. Sept. 17 (S. Levy).

A lone Pinyon Jay along the Agua Fria R. above L. Pleasant Sept. 10 (D. Laush), as well as at least 200 along Hwy 60 s. of the Salt R. Sept. 28 (J. Spencer), suggested a possible movement into s. Arizona, but these constituted the

only reports and the invasion never materialized. Two Clark's Nutcrackers were at an unusually low elevation in Oak Creek Canyon Nov. 16 (K. Butler). A Black-billed Magpie in Kayenta Oct. 29 (CL) provided only a 3rd local record, despite being a regularly nesting species just a short distance to the east. Another wandering corvid perhaps checking out the lowlands for a possible invasion was an American Crow seen 6 mi e. of Roosevelt Dam Nov. 5 (GM).

A Golden-crowned Kinglet at Kayenta Oct. 29 (CL) furnished, surprisingly, only a 2nd local record. The only Red-breasted Nuthatch reported from the lowlands this fall was one along Centennial Wash near Salome Oct. 14 (SGa). Northern Shrike has proven regular in winter in n. Arizona. This fall only two were reported, one on Black Mesa Nov. 4 (CL *et al.*), and another near Kayenta Nov. 5–12 (GM). Monson has noted that numbers of Loggerhead Shrikes have apparently declined in the n.e. portion of Arizona. Numbers appear to be healthy elsewhere in the state, but it may be wise to begin monitoring this species so as to detect any major decrease, as has occurred in the n.e. part of its range.

VIREOS, WARBLERS

Single Red-eyed Vireos were reported at Kayenta Sept. 8–11 (R. Johnson, CL) and n.w. of Kayenta Sept. 22 (CL); this species is a regular migrant in small numbers in the n.e. portion of the state.

Two Tennessee Warblers were reported, one at Tucson Oct. 1 (JK), and a very late individual at the B.T.A. Nov. 17 (†CBA). The only Chestnut-sided Warblers for the fall both came from the L.C.R.V.; one at Lake Havasu City Sept. 16 (JS) and the other at Parker Sept. 29 (RF). A Magnolia Warbler found Oct. 2 along Bright Angel Cr. at the bottom of the Grand Canyon (†T. Mickel) further suggested that the lush riparian vegetation in the Grand Canyon has good vagrant potential; unfortunately, it is a bit difficult to reach. One Black-throated Green Warbler was reported from the B.T.A. Nov. 13 (CT); there have been few reports in recent years. One of the warbler highlights of the fall was an imm. ♀ **Prairie Warbler** at Kayenta Sept. 11 (ph GR), providing the

first documented record for Arizona. All 3 previous sight records for the state were in winter from around Tucson, the last in 1975.

Still considered one of the more scarce warblers in Arizona, a Palm Warbler was found at Willcox Oct. 6 (JBo). The Prothonotary Warbler found during the summer at Nogales was still present Aug. 11 (m.ob.), while another male was located 3 mi. s. of St. David along the S.P.R. Sept. 12 (†DK). Only one Ovenbird was reported this fall, along S. Fork of Cave Creek Oct. 20 (JK *et al.*). Hooded Warblers continued to be found after the rash of sightings this summer with one along Sonoita Creek Aug. 7 (B. Zimmer), and another male along Ganado Wash Sept. 29 (†CBA, B. Johnson) providing what amazingly appears to be the first record for the n.e. portion of the state. The bird of the season was the **Fan-tailed Warbler** found in Guadalupe Canyon Sept. 5–8 (L. McClosky, M.L. Denny; ph. M. Denny *et al.*), providing a 5th Arizona (and North American) record of this Mexican specialty. The first North American record of this species also came from near Guadalupe Canyon in 1961.

GROSBEAKS TO ORIOLES

Single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found in Flagstaff in mid-July (ph. J. Windes *et al.*), Sedona Sept. 30 (B. Elmquist), and Rock Point Oct. 7 (SGa). A juv. Painted Bunting s. of the Highway 90 bridge on the upper S.P.R. Aug. 5 (DS *et al.*) furnished the only report of this rare but regular early fall migrant in s.e. Arizona. Three Dickcissels were seen and heard at Elgin Research Ranch Sept. 20 (TC); this species is virtually annual somewhere in the state during mid-to-late September.

Two Clay-colored Sparrows were reported during the fall, one along the upper S.P.R. Oct. 5 (DK) and one at the Empire Cienega Ranch Nov. 12 (BS); the actual status of this species in s. Arizona remains uncertain. Fox Sparrows were reported from scattered localities statewide with one at Teec Nos Pos Oct. 8 (GR *et al.*), one at Patagonia Oct. 27 (GW), one on the upper S.P.R. Oct. 31 (P. Sunby), and one at Littlefield Nov. 22 (PL, SF). A ♀ Orchard Oriole was well described from Kayenta Sept. 23 (†CL); this species remains a rare and irregular visitor to the state. A male and two

♀ Hooded Orioles in Tucson Oct. 15 (GM) were considered late. A pleasant surprise was a ♂ **Streak-backed Oriole** found at Cook's Lake on the lower S.P.R. Oct. 5 (GR, DS, CDB). This was the 2nd of this species to be found at Cook's L. within the last year.

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New Mexico

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Abbreviations: Bitter Lake (*Bitter Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge*); Bosque Refuge (*Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge*); Jornada (*Jornada Experimental Range*); L.V.N.W.R. (*Las Vegas Nat'l Wildlife Refuge*); Petroglyph (*Petroglyph Nat'l Monument*); P. O. Canyon (*Post Office Canyon, Peloncillo Mts.*); R.G.N.C. (*Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque*); Zuni (*Zuni Indian Reservation*). Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO IBISES

Of four Com. Loons reported, one was captured in Albuquerque Oct. 27 (LG, *vide* PRS). Both Western and Clark's grebes were at L V N W R. through Nov. 4 (GS,

PI); other reports included a Clark's at Charette L. Sept. 29 (JH) and November records of five Westerns at Bluewater L. (DC) and two of each species at Cochiti L. (JP) and Roberts L. (RF) in November. Peripheral Am. White Pelicans were 14–16 near Gallup (SI) and at Bluewater L. (DC) in mid-August, plus over 50 at Sumner L. Oct. 19 (JH). An imm. **Brown Pelican** was at Brantley L. Aug. 25–26 (ph CB).

Bittern reports included an American Bittern at L.V.N.W.R. Sept. 27 and Oct. 5, and a Least Bittern at Bernardo W.M.A. Sept. 4 (GS). An ad. Tricolored Heron was at Bitter Lake Aug. 25 (ph. CB). Among the few Cattle Egrets reported were one at Heron L. Aug. 29 (PES), eight near Abiquiu Oct. 30 (D. Stahlecker), and three at Mesilla Nov. 3 (CS). Highs for White-faced Ibises were 104 at La Joya W.M.A. (GS) and 233 at Bosque Refuge (RT *et al.*) Aug. 21–25; late was one at Zuni Nov. 7 (DC).

WATERFOWL TO CRANES

Notably early was a Snow Goose at Bosque Refuge Sept. 15 (JP), while peripheral were 28 Ross' Geese at L.V.N.W.R. Nov. 23 (GS) and one in the Gila Valley Nov. 15 (RF). Notable highs for Greater White-fronted Geese were 39 at Bosque Refuge Nov. 10 and 20 there Nov. 16 (RT, PES). Twenty "Mallard-sized" Canada Geese were at Clayton in October (WC). Early were four Wood Ducks at L.V.N.W.R. Aug. 3 (GS) and two at Mesilla Aug. 12 (CS), while highs were up to 18 at Corrales and 28 at R.G.N.C. Nov. 16 (SB); south of the border, a female at Palomas Nov. 2 (BO, JB) was apparently the first reported from Chihuahua. Late were 15 Cinnamon Teal at Bosque Refuge Nov. 24, where there were also 2 pairs of "Mexican" Ducks (SOW).

Unusual ducks included a sub-adult ♂ Greater Scaup at R.G.N.C. Nov. 21–25 (HS, JP), a ♂ Surf Scoter at Bosque Refuge Nov. 10–16 (RT, PES), and a ♀ White-winged Scoter at Bear Canyon Dam, *Grant*, Nov. 22 (RF). Early was a Bufflehead at L.V.N.W.R. Aug. 8 (GS), while westerly was a Hooded Merganser at Quemado L. Nov. 23 (JH). Two Red-breasted Mergansers were at both Cochiti L. (JP, JH) and Bluewater L. (DC) Nov. 22–24, plus one at Bill Evans L.

Nov. 11—the first in many years for *Grant* (DZ *et al.*).

The last Turkey Vultures in the northeast were 60–70 at Clayton Oct. 2 (WC) and one at Springer Oct. 14 (SOW). Ospreys occurred statewide, including four at Clayton Sept. 23 (WC), an early one near Rodeo Aug. 28 (RS), and the last at Mesilla Nov. 3 (GE). Mississippi Kites continued to thrive in the eastern plains and Pecos Valley, with 54 nests at Clovis and vicinity, 18 at Portales, 8 at Roswell, and 6 at Hobbs (A. Gennaro *et al.*). A nest was also at Mesilla, with two young fledging (CS). Unusual was a N. Goshawk in the Organ Mts. Nov. 9 (K. Skaggs). A rufous-morph Red-tailed Hawk returned to Mangas Springs Oct. 3, for its 4th autumn there (RF). Early were single Merlins at Mangas Springs Sept. 14 (RF) and Bosque Refuge Sept. 23 (CS).

Four White-tailed Ptarmigan on Santa Fe Baldy Aug. 25 (C. Crawford) were 15–16 mi s.w. of the 1981 transplant site, providing further evidence of successful colonization of the area. A hen Gould's Wild Turkey and at least nine chicks were in the Animas Mts. Aug. 9 (SOW), but the Peloncillo Mts. population apparently failed to reproduce (*vide* D. York). Northerly was a Com. Moorhen at R.G.N.C. Nov. 11 (PES). Early were nine Sandhill Cranes at Bernardo W.M.A. Sept. 20 and two at L.V.N.W.R. Sept. 27 (*vide* GS); peripheral reports were from San Simon Cienega (BH *et al.*), Jornada (CS), and Aguirre Springs (LS, EW) in October. The earliest Whooping Cranes were two at Bosque Refuge Nov. 3 (JP).

PLOVERS TO TERNS

Small numbers of Black-bellied Plovers were at La Joya W.M.A., Bosque Refuge, and Holloman L. Aug. 16–Nov. 11 (v.o.). Rare in New Mexico, a highly probable **Lesser Golden-Plover** was at Loving Sept. 8 (D & JH). About 50 Snowy Plovers were at Holloman L. Aug. 16, with at least two juveniles Aug. 7 (CS). About 150 Mt. Plovers were at Moriarty Aug. 8 (DC) and three on Oct. 26 (DC), while 70 were at Los Lunas Sept. 7 (PES) and two at La Joya W.M.A. Sept. 18 (GS). Late were 30 Am. Avocets at L.V.N.W.R. Nov. 4 (PI), one at Bluewater L. Nov. 11 (DC), and 10 at Bosque Refuge Nov. 29 (PRS).

A late Willet was at Bosque

Refuge Nov. 11 (RT, PES), while the only Upland Sandpipers reported in *Eddy* were one Aug. 5 and three Sept. 1 & 8 (SW). Southwesterly Long-billed Curlews were one near Lordsburg Aug. 12 (SW) and 25 there Sept. 14 (RF), plus one in the Animas Valley Aug. 8 (SOW). Notable concentrations of the species were of 63 at Otis Aug. 25 (SW) and 120 at Loving Sept. 8 (D & JH). Very rare in New Mexico, a **Ruddy Turnstone** was at Holloman L. Aug. 26–27 (CS, ph. CB). One to two Sanderlings were reported at Bosque Refuge (CS) and Holloman L. (CB, SB) Aug. 22–27, and 14 westerly Stilt Sandpipers were at Zuni Aug. 14 (DC). New Mexico's first **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** was a juvenile found at Bosque Refuge Nov. 3 (JP) and seen there intermittently through at least Nov. 27 (m.ob., ph. LG, RT). Late were one to two Pectoral Sandpipers at Bluewater L. Oct. 20 and Bosque Refuge Nov. 3–24 (JP *et al.*). Probable Short-billed Dowitchers at Zuni were an adult Aug. 4 and two juveniles Aug. 25 (DC). Eighty Red-necked Phalaropes at Bosque Refuge Sept. 2 (LG, CB) declined to six by Sept. 29 (JP); two were at Holloman L. Aug. 9 (LG, CB).

A Bonaparte's Gull was at Bill Evans L. Nov. 11 (DZ *et al.*) and a late Franklin's at Bosque Refuge Nov. 3 (JP). Local firsts were two California Gulls at Evans L. Nov. 11 (DZ *et al.*) and one w. of Lordsburg Aug. 9 (SW); also notable were singles at Charette L. Sept. 29 (JH) and Bosque Refuge Nov. 3 (JP), plus three at Cochiti L. Nov. 24 (JH). Rare gulls included a possible **Glaucous Gull** near Mesilla Nov. 3–4 (GE, EW) and a "red-legged" imm. apparent Sabine's at L.V.N.W.R. Sept. 27 (GS). Up to eight Com. Terns were reported at Heron L. Aug. 29–Sept. 1, of which four were immatures (PES); another was at Bluewater L. Oct. 6 (DC).

DOVES TO HUMMINGBIRDS

Northerly White-winged Doves were two at R.G.N.C. Aug. 12 (PES), while late were up to four in P.O. Canyon in late November (RS). Noteworthy were seven Inca Doves at Socorro Nov. 24 (J. Shipman) and a Com. Ground-Dove at P.O. Canyon Nov. 3–30 (RS). Two Yellow-billed Cuckoos were at Belen Aug. 18 (JP), while the high at

Rattlesnake Springs was six Aug. 25 and the latest one at nearby Black River Village Sept. 17 (SW).

A Flammulated Owl was captured in the Animas Mts. Sept. 28 (C. Painter, L. Fitzgerald), and a Whiskered Screech-Owl was vocalizing in Clanton Canyon, Peloncillo Mts., Aug. 7 (SOW). Single N. Pygmy-Owls were at El Morro Nat'l Mon. Sept. 8 (DC, SI) and the Catwalk near Glenwood Sept. 26 (RF). A first for the Rio Grande Valley was an apparent **Elf Owl** calling at Percha Dam Oct. 7 (CS). Northerly were one to two Lesser Nighthawks at Belen Aug. 18 and Sept. 29, while very late was a calling Com. Nighthawk at Albuquerque Oct. 28 (JP). Young



Black Swift on nest at Jemez Falls, Sandoval County, New Mexico, on September 3, 1990. Photograph/James Black.

fledged from at least 3 **Black Swift** nests at Jemez Falls in the period Sept. 8–22 (HS, ph. JB). Chimney Swifts were reported near Melrose Aug. 26 (CB, *vide* PRS), while late were about 20 White-throats at Charette L. Sept. 29 (JH).

During Aug. 14–18, W.A. Calder banded a remarkable 378 hummingbirds near Lake Roberts, *Grant*, including 17 Callopes, 53 Black-chinneds, 82 Broad-taileds, and 225 Rufous; banded Aug. 15 was an ad. ♀ **Allen's Hummingbird**, a species still unconfirmed in the state by specimen or photograph. Up to three Lucifers remained at P.O. Canyon through Sept. 20 (RS). Noteworthy were single ♀ Magnificent Hummingbirds at Albuquerque Sept. 3–9 (J. Durrie) and Mangas Springs Sept. 24 (RF), plus a ♂ Anna's at Albuquerque Aug. 15–19 (BO) and another in the Animas Mts. Aug. 13 (SW, MM). A first for New Mexico, a probable **Plain-capped Starthroat** was at Deer Creek, e. of the Animas Mts., Aug. 13 (SW, MM).

WOODPECKERS TO RAVENS

South of the usual range was a Lewis' Woodpecker at Alma Oct. 29 (RF), and westerly Red-headed were single immatures at Bosque Refuge Sept. 20 (RT, PB) and near Mesilla Nov. 23–29 (v.o., ph. BZ). Still unconfirmed in the state, a well-described ♂ **Red-bellied Woodpecker** was at Clayton Oct. 21 (R. Mangelsdorf); one to three Gila Woodpeckers were at Double Adobe Creek, n. of the Animas Mts., in mid-August (SOW *et al.*). Single ♂ Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported at Mangas Springs Oct. 26–Nov. 1 (RF) and near Mesilla Nov. 23 (ph. BZ), and a ♂ Williamson's was in the Animas Mts. Oct. 25 (GC).

A N. Beardless-Tyrannulet netted at San Simon Cienega in mid-October (BH *et al.*) was north of the usual range, while easterly was a probable one e. of the Animas Mts. Aug. 13 (SW, MM). A late Dusky Flycatcher was netted at Black Canyon, Sangre de Cristo Mts., Sept. 15 (JH). A northerly Vermilion Flycatcher was at Corrales Sept. 1 (BO), while late was a stub-tailed juvenile e. of the Animas Mts. Aug. 9 (SOW). Late nests of Cassin's Kingbirds were in the Peloncillo Mts. Aug. 7 (SOW) and e. of the Animas Mts. Aug. 13 (SW, MM). Single E. Kingbirds were near Moriarty Sept. 24 (PI) and Rattlesnake Springs Sept. 7 (D & JH), while a "yellow-bellied" Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at Otis Aug. 25 (SW, CS).

Unusual was a Purple Martin at Bosque Refuge Aug. 9 & 18 (RT, PB, JP). Three Tree Swallows were in the Animas Valley area Aug. 9 (SOW *et al.*), while late were three at Bosque Refuge Nov. 17 (JP). Cliff and Barn swallows were nesting in the s. Animas Valley in mid-August (SOW *et al.*); late was a Barn at L.V.N.W.R. Nov. 4 (PI, PRS). Cave Swallow numbers at Carlsbad Caverns N.P. were "stable" at 3800–4000 (SW); the last were seen Nov. 19 (*vide* SW).

Two Gray Jays at Glorieta Baldy Oct. 28 (SOW) were at the southern limits of the species' range. Unusual were single Pinyon Jays at 11,500+ ft on Tesuque Peak Aug. 27 (JH, J. Vaught), Petroglyph Oct. 28 (HS), and San Simon Cienega Aug. 17–19 (BH *et al.*); other reports included 30+ between Mangas Springs and San Lorenzo (RF *et al.*). Easterly was a Black-billed Magpie at Clayton L. Nov. 18 (WC), while southerly

was one at Jemez Dam Sept. 8 (JP). Notable were 100+ Am. Crows near Moriarty Sept. 24 (PI *et al.*), as were one to two northerly Chihuahuan Ravens (identified by voice) at Petroglyph August to November (HS), Bernardo W.M.A. Aug. 20 and Sept. 4, and La Joya W.M.A. Sept. 5 & 12 (GS).

CHICKADEES TO TANAGERS

Two Black-capped Chickadees were found near Chama (CB). A probable Winter Wren was at Zuni Nov. 25 (DC), and two Golden-crowned Kinglets were at Aguirre Springs Nov. 17 (GE). A pair of Black-tailed Gnatcatchers was reported at Sevilleta N.W.R. Sept. 27 (RT, PB) for only the 2nd local report. Two Bendire's Thrashers were n. of the Animas Mts. Aug. 8 (SOW), while northerly was a Crissal at Jemez Dam Aug. 26 (JP). Westerly was a Gray Catbird at Zuni Oct. 28 (DC). Noteworthy were one to two Sprague's Pipits at Palomas, Chih., Nov. 2 (BO, JB). Northerly Phainopeplas were three at La Joya W.M.A. Aug. 7 (GS) and one at Bosque Refuge Aug. 9 (RT, PB). The only N. Shrike was an adult at L.V.N.W.R. Nov. 4 & 15 (PI, GS).

A Bell's Vireo singing at Double Adobe Creek Aug. 8 & 10 (SOW, SW, MM) furnished only the 2nd local record; 17 at Rattlesnake Springs Aug. 25 (SW) made the highest total there in some time.

Rarer warblers included single Tennessee Warblers at Española Sept. 15 (PI) and Rattlesnake Springs Aug. 26 (CB), a Hermit and a Worm-eating netted at Zuni Aug. 18 (JT), a probable Worm-eating in the Animas Mts. Oct. 25 (GC), an apparent Blackpoll Warbler at Corrales Oct. 26 (SB), and a Black-and-white at Rattlesnake Springs Aug. 9 (LG, CB) and an Ovenbird there Sept. 9 (CB). Late were single Townsend's Warblers near Gallup Oct. 22 (SI) and Corrales Oct. 26 (SB), plus a very late ♂ Grace's at Los Alamos Nov. 28 (M. McKay, *vide* B. Lewis). Also somewhat late was a ♂ Summer Tanager at Black River Village Oct. 10 (SW).

GROSBEAKS TO FINCHES

A flock of 75 Blue Grosbeaks, mostly males, was in sunflowers at Bosque Refuge Sept. 8, and a very late one was there Nov. 16 (CS); a nest (incorporating toilet paper and plastic!) with young was at Rat-

tesnake Springs Sept. 7 (D & JH). A record high of 106 Lazuli Buntings was banded at R.G.N.C. Aug. 5–Sept. 22 (LG *et al.*), along with one or two apparent Lazuli X Indigo hybrids Aug. 12 & 26 (ph. LG). Unusual was a Painted Bunting banded at Glenwood Sept. 2 (B. McKnight). Westerly Dickcissels were one near Gallup Oct. 1 (SI) and two at Las Cruces Sept. 30 (EW). Two Canyon Towhees at 7,500 ft in Los Alamos Sept. 22 (PRS) were high for the species.

About 80 Cassin's Sparrows were singing in the Animas Valley Aug. 7–8; another 160 were in the Playas Valley Aug. 9, including adults with juveniles and carrying food (SOW). Elsewhere in the southwest, 60 Cassin's were singing near Nutt Aug. 10 (SOW) and 22 at Jornada Aug. 15 (CS). A local first was established by Rufous-crowned Sparrows at Petroglyph (HS), where this easily-overlooked species should prove resident. Southerly was an Am. Tree Sparrow at Zuni Nov. 22 (DC). A remarkable 1159 Chipping Sparrows were banded at R.G.N.C. Aug. 5–Nov. 29 (LG *et al.*), along with 33 Clay-colored Sparrows Sept. 2–30 (LG *et al.*). Over 30 Sage Sparrows were at Petroglyph Nov. 19 (HS), while an early one was at La Joya Sept. 5 (GS).

Lark Buntings were present in the south by Aug. 3–8, including up to 72 in the Animas Valley (SOW) and 40 at Jornada (CS). Two to three Grasshopper Sparrows were at L.V.N.W.R. Aug. 16 and Oct. 5 (GS), while transects in the southwest yielded 95 in the Animas Valley Aug. 7–8 (SOW) and 76 in the Playas Valley Aug. 9 (SOW); five others were singing near Nutt Aug. 10 (SOW). Notable were single Fox Sparrows at Silver City Oct. 9 and Nov. 19–20 (D & MZ) and Percha Dam Nov. 22 (LG).

White-throated Sparrows were widespread in small numbers (v.o.), including near Santa Fe Oct. 13 (SOW), Silver City Oct. 22–Nov. 20 (D & MZ), and P.O. Canyon Nov. 24–30 (RS). Migrant White-crowns were in evidence from Sept. 8 on, including 18 *oriantha* banded at R.G.N.C. Sept. 8–Oct. 13—plus late recaptures on Nov. 4 and 10 (LG). A Golden-crowned Sparrow was at Zuni Nov. 22 & 24 (DC) and a Harris' at Bosque Refuge Nov. 16 (RT, PES), while a Harris' Sparrow banded at Las Cruces last winter was recaptured there Nov. 23 (CS). A possible Lapland Longspur was at Bluewater L. Oct. 20 (JP), Chestnut-collareds in-

cluded three at L.V.N.W.R. Nov. 1 (GS), eight at Moriarty Oct. 26 (DC), 200 at Los Lunas Nov. 24 (JP), and six at Palomas, Chih., Nov. 2 (BO, JB).

Unusual was an imm. **Bobolink** near Gallup Sept. 29–Oct. 2 (SI). Great-tailed Grackles reared young at Clayton, where last seen Aug. 21 (WC); unusual were four e. of the Animas Mts. Aug. 13 (SW, MM). Late Com. Grackles were singles at Santa Fe Nov. 11 (LH, SB) and at Zuni (DC) and Bosque Refuge (JP) Nov. 24; the species was reportedly increasing at Carlsbad (SW). A very young Bronzed Cowbird, apparently raised by a Bullock's (N.) Oriole at Las Cruces, was last seen there Aug. 9 (CS). Notable was a Scott's Oriole at La Joya Aug. 7 (GS).

The few reports of Cassin's Finches were in or near montane areas beginning Oct. 7–8. Red Crossbills continued numerous and widespread in the n. and central mountains, with fewer in evidence by the end of the period (m.ob.). Reports elsewhere were of several on Bear Mt. near Silver City Aug. 19 (D & MZ) and a "large family" in Nogal Canyon near Sierra Blanca in October. Early for the lowlands was a Pine Siskin at Bosque Refuge Aug. 9 (RT, PB). Late were Lesser Goldfinches building a nest at Corrales Sept. 1 (BO) and an adult with begging young at Tijeras Canyon Nov. 6 (HS). Notable was an Am. Goldfinch at Zuni Aug. 18 (JT). In contrast to last year's invasion of lower elevations, Evening Grosbeaks were scarce or absent in most such places. Notable were reports of two at El Malpais Nat'l Mon. Nov. 23 (JH) and one at Silver City Nov. 14 (D & MZ).

Cited observers: Sy Baldwin, Pat Basham, Charles Black, James Black, Graham Chisholm, David Cleary, Wes Cook, Gordon Ewing, Ralph Fisher, Larry Gorbet, Bruce Hayward, Lois Herrmann, Dick & Jean Hoffman, John Hubbard, Stephen Ingraham, Pat Inasley, Mike Medrano, Bruce Ostyn, John Parmeter, Catherine Sandell, Gregory Schmitt, Robert Scholes, Lorraine Schulte, Hart Schwarz, Patricia R. Snider, Paul E. Steel, Ross Teuber, John Trocher, Steve West, S.O. Williams III, Eleanor Wootten, Bary Zimmer, Dale & Marian Zimmerman.—**SARTOR O. WILLIAMS III and JOHN P. HUBBARD, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Santa Fe, New Mexico 85703.**

ALASKA REGION

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

Unlike in spring, when Regional weather conditions assert less influence on migration than weather patterns far to the south, fall weather in Alaska greatly affects the timing of bird movements. This fall began with a statewide continuation of mild, high-pressure-dominated systems that, coupled with an early breeding season, allowed for a very early southward bird exodus from the Region. By late October the Region experienced unseasonably cold temperatures that abruptly ended fall migration and ushered in freeze-up. Extreme cold continued into November, when many locales had record cold extremes. The pattern of Autumn upper atmosphere winds and surface storm systems brought a steady stream of lows up the Bering Sea coast and into the Interior where record snows had accumulated by December 1. This weather pattern brought heavy precipitation to the Bering Sea coast, and coastal flooding eliminated much of that area's intertidal habitats in August. The late fall cold also brought record snowfall to most of northern Southeast Alaska.

Observers throughout the Region commented that the peak passerine movements were one to two weeks earlier than average Shorebird migration was extremely early and few concentrations existed anywhere past mid-August. Observer coverage of bird movements in Alaska has always been irregular in all seasons except spring. This year we received excellent migration summaries and substantiation of late and unusual species from Prudhoe Bay and from the Ketchikan area. Both Burroughs at Prudhoe and Heintz at Ketchikan provided insightful discussion and clear details of the entire fall season from their respective areas. Coverage in the vast Interior remains incomplete and our reports suffer accordingly. For the seventh year since 1980, isolated Middleton Island was visited and, as usual, contributed many exciting records.

GREBES TO WATERFOWL

Western Grebe numbers peaked in Sumner Strait, near Mitkof I., Sept. 14, when 477+ were counted



SA

Results of the Alaska summer 1990 waterfowl survey show that the Region's Trumpeter Swan population continues to increase. USFWS biologists conducted the 5th statewide survey Aug. 2–Sept. 12 and counted 13,337 Trumpeter Swans, of which 37% were cygnets. The first such census in 1968 tallied just under 3000 birds. Many areas which had previously been considered peripheral swan habitat experienced good production, and numbers at these sites have steadily increased. Further increases are expected as adults pioneer farther north and west in the forested areas of the Interior (BC).

in two groups (PJW, MEI). Elsewhere, up to 200 had gathered in Tongass Narrows in Ketchikan by early November (SH, MEI). One W. Grebe at Auke Bay, north of Juneau, Nov. 18 (GVV) was well north of the species' annual fall-winter distribution. Pied-billed Grebe went unreported from the Region for the 2nd consecutive Autumn. Most unexpected was a Short-tailed Shearwater walking around the edge of the Sikusuilq Spring fish hatchery, 25 miles up the *Noatak River*, Oct. 24 (WRU). Most Short-tailed Shearwaters leave the n. Bering Sea by early October; this may be the Region's first true inland report.

An ad. Tundra Swan that lingered on spring-fed ponds near Portage to at least Nov. 24 (PS, ph., TGT) may have been the Region's latest for fall (discounting the Cold

Bay "resident" birds). Very early were single Whooper Swans at Adak I. Sept. 23 and Oct. 4 (DC, SC, LC). This Asiatic winter visitor usually arrives in the central Aleutians by mid-October.

Emperor Geese arrived at traditional winter areas Aug. 26 at Cold Bay (CPD) and Oct. 21 at Kodiak (RAM). The fall peak at Cold Bay reached 9421 Oct. 18 (RJK) and the Southwest Alaska census tallied 109,451 Oct. 16–20 (RJK, DAB). The peak staging number of Brant at Izembek Lagoon was 169,934 birds Oct. 18 (RJK, DAB); most birds departed in two flights on Nov. 3 & 5–6. Extralimital Brant were found at *Harding Lake*, 60 mi east of Fairbanks, Oct. 13 (BK) (the Interior's first in Autumn), and at Adak I., where four were present Oct. 4–8 (SC, LC, LL).

Based on late-summer USFWS waterfowl surveys, Alaska duck populations increased over those in 1989, and were near the 10-year average and above the long-term mean. Exceptions which were significantly below included Oldsquaw numbers, the 10-year and long-term means. Both Spectacled and Steller's eiders continued to show dramatic decreases, causing many biologists to consider these species candidates for threatened status (*vide* JGK). A similar situation was recognized for the Region's scoter populations.

A flock of 21 N. Shovelers at Prudhoe Bay Sept. 3 (EB) represented one of n. Alaska's highest totals. Weather conditions that slowed ice-up in nearshore waters near Barrow into mid-November

SA

State and federal biologists reported an impressive die-off of White-winged and Surf scoters along the east Gulf of Alaska coast between Icy Bay and Cape Suckling in August. It was estimated that 100% of summering scoters along 75 miles of inshore waters died by mid-August. Over 600 carcasses were recovered and it was believed that up to 1500 birds perished. In an area where typical scoter summer foods of mussels and clams are abundant, all these birds were nevertheless found emaciated. Laboratory tests revealed above normal levels of four heavy metals (copper, zinc, cadmium, chromium) but cause of death remained uncertain. No other species were known to have been affected.

allowed waterfowl to linger. A flock of 30 Common Eiders, one King Eider, and 30+ Oldsquaw in a sizeable lead in the ice pack at Barrow Nov. 11 (DDG, DWN) was remarkable. Although November records of Common and King eiders near Barrow are not uncommon, the latest reported Oldsquaw from the w. Beaufort Sea is Oct. 19. A ♀ King Eider at Middleton I. Oct. 1 was a first for that island and east of the species' normal winter range. The Izembek Lagoon peak count of 26,280 Steller's Eiders Nov. 30 (CPD, JC) continued the steady decline of that population begun in the early 1980s.

The only extralimital Hooded Merganser was an imm. male at

Anchorage Oct. 6 (TGT). South-coastal's first fall Ruddy Duck was a female at Homer Oct. 27 (DWS, RLS). Whether this Homer bird was connected to this summer's increase of e. Interior sightings (see Summer 1990) is unknown.

RAPTORS TO SHOREBIRDS

The Osprey found at Adak Island Oct. 6 (SC) was a first for that island and only the 2nd fall (and 3rd overall) from the c. and w. Aleutians. The now famous **Steller's Sea-Eagle** along Southeast's Taku River was last reported Oct. 5 (*vide* MEI).

Middleton I. is apparently the easternmost major fall staging site for *fulva* Lesser Golden-Plovers; a count of 400+ there Sept. 27–29 (MEI) was one of the e. Gulf of Alaska's highest totals for this race. Two juv. Semipalmated Plovers at Harding Lake, east of Fairbanks, Oct. 13 (BK) were easily a month later than the Interior's previous latest record. Interesting reports of shorebirds from the c. and w. Aleutians included: A Lesser Yellowlegs at Buldir I. Aug. 3 (ILJ), three Wood Sandpipers at Adak I. Sept. 9 (SC, LC), one Common Sandpiper at Buldir Aug. 13 (ILJ, GVB), a Terek Sandpiper at Nizki I. Aug. 11–17 (SR, DO), and a single Little Stint (without details) at Buldir Aug. 9 (ILJ). We have few fall reports of Terek Sandpiper from the Aleutians.

In the Southcentral subregion, Upland Sandpiper is a very rare fall migrant on the N. Gulf of Alaska coast only, so one in Anchorage Aug. 16 (TGT) was noteworthy as a 3rd Upper Cook Inlet fall report. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers made a nice showing at Adak I., where the fall peak was of 17 on Oct. 26–27 and the latest was Nov. 12 (SC, LC, BW). One juvenile on Anchorage mudflats Oct. 1 (TGT, RLS) furnished a 4th local fall report and the 5th ever for Upper Cook Inlet.

Mild local weather allowed shorebirds to linger in the Prudhoe Bay area, where new Beaufort Sea late departure records were set for Sanderling with one on Sept. 11, Dunlin with 10 on Sept. 14, and Red-necked Phalarope with five on Sept. 30 (EB).

LARIDS TO OWLS

A South Polar Skua was picked out of a mixed jaeger flock inshore in Ugak Pass east of Kodiak Island



Adult Lesser Black-backed Gull [surrounded by Glaucous-winged Gulls] at Juneau, Alaska, September 19, 1990. Photograph/R. L. Scher.

Aug. 11 (†JBA). Most Alaska records of this casual visitor are from summer, from the waters around the Kodiak Archipelago. Prior to fall 1990, the only Alaska records of juv. **Franklin's Gull** were of singles in Petersburg and Ketchikan in fall 1986. This season, we received 4 reports representing three individual Franklin's Gulls from Ketchikan Aug. 21–31 (†SH). Another immature was located at McDonald Lake, 65 km n. of Ketchikan, Oct. 2 (SH).

Late summer gull concentrations associated with salmon spawning streams and regional landfills in Southeast, especially at Juneau and Ketchikan, produced an interesting array of species and numbers into October. Ring-billed Gulls were widely reported from Southeast between Aug. 12 (two at Ketchikan, SH) and Nov. 2 (one at Juneau, MEI*). Maximum was eight at Ketchikan Aug. 19 (SH). Rare in the Region but regular in fall in Southeast, California Gull made an impressive showing at Ketchikan Aug. 2–Oct. 28 where a new Alaska high count of 180 was tallied Aug. 22 (SH). This form also appeared at Juneau between Aug. 12 and Oct. 28 and a maximum was 29 on Oct. 14 (MEI). At least three first-winter California Gulls reached north to Anchorage Sept. 13–Oct. 28 (DWS, DFD, TGT).

Following this summer's (q.v. for discussion) report and photos of an adult gull identified by observers as a **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, another adult appeared at the Juneau landfill Sept. 16–19 (MEI, RLS*, †ph.). This bird's arrival coincided with the fall arrival of Thayer's Gull. The specimen, *L. fuscus graellsii*, finally confirms this gull to the Alaska list. Of the Region's 3 previous reports, only the summer 1990 Prudhoe bird can likely be certified. At press time

S.A.

Among the gull masses this fall at Juneau, an ad. **Western Gull** was reported from Eagle Beach July 15–Sept. 7 (MWS, MEI *et al.*). Photographs of this individual had not been cleared as of press time. Heintl submitted details that described five different Western X Glaucous-winged hybrids from Ketchikan, between Aug. 19 and Nov. 19 (†SH, ph.). The status of Western Gull in Alaska remains enigmatic 15 years after the only state record was collected in Bristol Bay in June 1975. Given the gull attractions at Ketchikan and Juneau and the species' status in British Columbia, this larid is a likely candidate for occasional occurrence into Southeast Alaska. But the taxonomic standing of the n. Pacific Coast population, which includes a major hybrid zone in coastal Washington, renders sight records equivocal and specimens or high quality photographs mandatory.

photographs of that bird had not yet been confirmed by European gull experts.

For the first time ever, Slaty-backed Gulls appeared in Southeast, at Juneau where two different birds were found south of town Aug. 6–13 and Aug. 7–14 (MWS, RHA, RJG, MEI*) and at Ketchikan where an adult was located on the waterfront Aug. 19 to Sept. 14 (†SH). Out of range was an adult Glaucous-winged Gull on the Nenana River at Denali N.P. Sept. 21 (DDG, TGT, RLS); we know of no other Alaska Range records.

Ross' Gulls are distinctly rare in the Beaufort Sea east of Harrison Bay, so a small movement in Prudhoe Bay Sept. 29–30 that contained 29 birds (EB) was most interesting

Most previous Prudhoe records are of single birds. Upper Cook Inlet's 2nd Sabine's Gull was an adult in Knik Arm off Anchorage Sept. 6 (DWS, †RLS). Ivory Gulls were attracted late in the season to a beached Bowhead Whale at Barrow. The first birds were noted Oct. 28. Numbers grew thereafter to 44 by Nov. 1, and the last seen was an adult feeding at the carcass with a Glaucous Gull Nov. 15 (DWN, RSS, DDG), only days before the sun set at Barrow for nearly six weeks! This fall's Caspian Tern high count reached 42 birds Aug. 7 in e. Prince William Sound near Cordova (REF).

DOVES TO FLYCATCHERS

Mourning Doves were reported during September and October from 8 locations representing at least 12 birds from Craig and Ketchikan in s. Southeast Alaska to Cordova in the north (m.ob.). The latest report was of a single at Juneau Oct. 17 (MEI). Two different Barred Owls were reported from 2 sites in the Juneau area throughout September (*vide* RHA, DM). A **Long-eared Owl** was identified in flight being mobbed by Northwestern Crows at Eagle Beach north of Juneau Oct. 14 (†MEI, MWS). All of the three previous Alaska reports are from Southeast and only one is not from fall.

Common Nighthawk went unreported from Southeast where the species is usually annual in small numbers. A single Com. Nighthawk over a recent burn e. of Tok Aug. 8 was noteworthy (JGK) for the Interior, where this species is casual. This fall's only Anna's Hummingbird report was of a late female near Juneau Nov. 1–30 (RW *et al.*).

A single Red-breasted Sapsucker reached Kodiak this fall Oct. 22–Nov. 6 (FN, RAM, JBA). This form breeds to n. Southeast Alaska and small numbers have wandered a few times in fall north and west to Kodiak.

A new late fall date for Western Wood-Pewee for the Interior was established by a single at Ester, near Fairbanks, Sept. 12 (DDG). Most pewees depart the central Interior by Sept. 1. Alaska's first **Great Crested Flycatcher** was found in the now famous west side willow thickets at Middleton Island Sept. 29 (MEI*). This flycatcher breeds north and east as far as east-central Alberta and it wanders occasionally

in fall to coastal California.

THRUSHES TO WARBLERS

Following passage of a storm with strong westerly flow, a basic plumaged ad. ♂ **Stonechat** was found on Middleton Island Sept. 28 (MEI*). This is the most southerly of Alaska's three records. Unusually high concentrations of Am. Robins and Varied Thrushes were noted in South-Central at Anchorage in mid-September and in Cordova in late September to mid-October. Up to 300 Am. Robins took advantage of ornamental tree fruits in west Anchorage neighborhoods Sept. 6–12 (TGT) and at Cordova these thrushes were so numerous that drivers complained of having to slow down to avoid hitting birds in early October (REF).

Amidst the thrush orgy in *Anchorage*, a Cedar Waxwing appeared Sept. 10 (†TGT) for a first local record. Cedar Waxing is casual away from Southeast, where this year's postbreeding peak counts were of 40 at Ketchikan Sept. 3 (SH) and 22 on the lower Stikine R. Sept. 11 (PJW). Three different Warbling Vireos were located at Middleton Island between Sept. 27 and Oct. 1 (MEI*). The latter is a new late date for the Region.

The season's only Tennessee Warbler report came from Middleton I. Oct. 1 (MEI), that island's 4th in fall. The Yellow Warbler at Ketchikan Oct. 31 (SH) established the Region's latest ever. Single **Cape May Warblers** at Middleton Island Sept. 29 and Oct. 1 were the first in Alaska in 14 years (MEI*). Record late for the state by over a month, and representing only the 2nd island record, a Townsend's Warbler was found with kinglets at Kodiak Island Nov. 29 (RAM, DM). Another late bird was at Ketchikan Nov. 4 (MEI, SH). Alaska's 2nd **Prairie Warbler**, a male, appeared with other migrant warblers near Ketchikan Sept. 29 (†SH). The other Prairie Warbler record was also of a male in fall, from Middleton Island. Single **Palm Warblers** at Middleton I. Oct. 2 (MEI*), near Petersburg Oct. 6 (PJW), and at Ketchikan Oct. 21 (†SH) added to the Region's 5 previous records, which were all from October.

EMBERIZIDS TO FRINGILLIDS

Out of range were single Chipping Sparrows found at Anchorage Nov. 12 (3rd local record, TGT, GJT) and at Sitka Nov. 21 (MW) Both

birds remained through the period's end. Chipping Sparrow is rare in fall away from the mainland Southeast river valleys. Heinl found two different **Swamp Sparrows** near Ketchikan, an adult Nov. 2 and an immature Nov. 30 (†SH). This species has now been recorded in 4 of the past 5 Autumns, and all but one of these was in Southeast. This season's White-throated Sparrows were singles at Ketchikan Oct. 13 (†SH) and at Sitka Nov. 23 through the period (MW). Following the pattern of the Region's previous few records, nearly all late fall reports from Southeast, a **Brewer's Blackbird** arrived and stayed at Petersburg Nov. 22–27 (†PJW).

After 6 nearly consecutive Autumns of Brambling records from somewhere on Alaska's Pacific Coast between Ketchikan and Kodiak Island, this season's reports from Juneau, one Oct. 19 (MEI*), and Ketchikan, one Nov. 14 (SE, ph.) fit the pattern. Completely unexpected, however, was a flock of up to seven Bramblings at Kodiak Nov. 27–30 (JBA, RAM). All the previous Pacific Coast (and mainland) records at any season had been of single birds.

Ketchikan produced this season's **Purple Finch** report, with a single female present Nov. 10 (†SH). White-winged Crossbills were virtually absent from the Region except at Kodiak I., where they were reported as uncommon. Observers either noted few patterns or did not comment on the Region's other resident finches.

Corrigendum: Delete the record of Greater Yellowlegs for Gambell June 4, 1990 (AB 44:480). Upon inspection of photographs this bird was subsequently identified as a Lesser Yellowlegs (*vide* GHR).

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BRITISH COLUMBIA/ YUKON REGION

Chris Siddle

The weather in south-central British Columbia was mild and dry—until November, a month of extremes, very windy with wild temperature fluctuations and with twice the normal snowfall in Penticton. Weather in the Vancouver–Victoria area was normal until the heavy precipitation of November 9–12, which caused local flooding. In Prince George the autumn was warmer than usual, until October, which was wet and windy. November produced record snowfalls. In the Queen Charlotte Islands howling gales were frequent throughout October and four inches of snow fell by mid-November.

This season was a memorable one. The first two volumes of the three-volume *The Birds of British Columbia* were published, and celebrated at a gathering of the province's birders in Victoria in early November. The project had been in the works since the mid-1970s.

This will also be remembered as the fall that the Dickcissel showed up briefly in Osoyoos, and torrential rains and snow storms kept virtually all Lower Mainland birders from completing the "twitch" across the Cascades to see it. It was also the fall that the Slaty-backed Gull returned to Vancouver and an errant White-tailed Ptarmigan appeared in a yard in Richmond (elevation about one foot above sea level).

More birders than ever before submitted notes and documentation with their reports of rare birds. Hooray! Never satisfied, I would like to remind everyone that field notes should be written in the field, when the event occurs or as shortly afterwards as possible. The point of field notes is to record the information as you see it, so that your mind doesn't have time to revise, edit, and alter your memory. If you wait to write your initial impressions, they can hardly be initial impressions.

Abbreviations: P.G. (*Prince George*); P.G.N.C. (*Prince George Naturalists Club*); Q.C.I. (*Queen*



Charlotte Islands; V.I. (*Vancouver Island*); VRBA (*Victoria Rare Bird Alert*); W.S. (*Wildlife Sanctuary*).

LOONS TO HERONS

A Red-throated Loon, rare in the interior, was seen at Tranquille, Kamloops, Sept. 28–Nov. 3 (SR). Up to three Red-throateds were seen along the Dempster Hwy near the Blackstone Bridge Aug. 17–18 (HGr). The usual scattering of Pacific Loons occurred in the interior with one at Revelstoke Oct. 27 and Nov. 4 (OG, HG, DP), one at Burton Nov. 25 (RH, GD), and one s. of Vernon, Oct. 23 (CS, PR). Prince George had five between Oct. 21 and Nov. 2 (CA, JBo, DR, HA). Yellow-billed Loons are rare migrants to the interior. One in breeding plumage



Yellow-billed Loon in alternate plumage on Slocan Lake, British Columbia, September 1, 1990. Photograph/Gary Davidson.

graced Slocan Lake near Nakusp Sept. 1, remaining at least a week (ph. GD), and single immatures were at Kamloops Aug. 5 and Sept. 3–16 (SR).

In the Q.C.I., where the first breeding of Pied-billed Grebes was noted in the previous report, an adult with four chicks was seen again at the Delkata W.S. Aug. 13, and two juveniles were still present Oct. 19 (MH). The latest Pied-billed at P.G. was at Eaglet L. Oct. 29 (LL). Some 2500 Red-necked Grebes made a very high count, possibly highest ever for the province, in Skidegate Inlet Oct. 12 (MH, CB). A migrant flock of 150+ Red-neckeds was noted at Eaglet L., P.G., Aug. 27 (CA, DR). A Clark's Grebe was well described at Iona I. Oct. 8 for one of very few Vancouver records (†BL, RP). The last Western Grebe at P.G. was found grounded at the airport. After spending the night in a bathtub, the bird was released Nov. 13. In a similar incident at Golden Nov. 4, a Western became grounded after landing on an icy field (EZ).

There was only one public pelagic trip this fall (Oct. 7 out of Ucluelet), but Ian McLaren, conducting oceanic mammal surveys off the w. coast of V.I., made a number of noteworthy observations. Black-footed Albatross was seen only twice: one at La Perouse Bank, a shelf 25 mi w of Barkley

Sound, V.I., Aug. 3 & 23 (IMc). Pink-footed Shearwaters were five on La Perouse Bank Aug. 3, three on Swiftsure Bank Aug. 4, 15 on La Perouse Oct. 23 (all IMc), and six out of Ucluelet Oct. 7 (RWD, m.ob.). Flesh-footed Shearwaters were found consistently by IMc with four on La Perouse Bank Aug. 3, one on Swiftsure Bank Aug. 4, and three on La Perouse Aug. 23. The only Buller's Shearwater was in the Strait of Juan de Fuca between Victoria and Port Angeles Sept. 24 (HVP), a first record for the Strait. Lower than usual numbers of Sooty Shearwaters were reported from pelagic waters. Two Short-tailed Shearwaters were seen on the Oct. 7 pelagic trip out of Ucluelet (RWD, m.ob.).

A SE gale in the Q.C.I. Oct. 18 swept Leach's Storm-Petrels inland. Two were blown across the highway at Tlell (MH, CB), and one was run over in a parking lot in Queen Charlotte City (MM, *fide* MH).

Brown Pelicans had a mediocre fall, with 2 reports from the Victoria area: Two at the Sooke R. estuary Nov. 6 (MGS), one of these later found dead, and three at Whiffen Spit Nov. 10 (RT). An immature was seen at Pt. Roberts, WA, Oct. 5 (†GAN, SAN). Double-crested Cormorants are rare stragglers to the interior. Four were at Creston Sept. 9 (GD, LVD). There was an influx to the P.G. area, where the Double-crested was added to checklist. Two were at Eaglet L. Oct. 20 (ph. PGNC, SC). Another two were observed on Tabor L. Oct. 21 (CA), one immature was on Eaglet L. Oct. 22 (LL), and two adults were on Eaglet L. Oct. 27–Nov. 8 (CA, JBo, DR). The possibility exists that the two adults were lake-hopping between Tabor and Eaglet lakes, only 20 mi apart. Jack Bowling speculated that these were Alberta birds diverted westward through the mountain passes by poor weather.

Small numbers of Cattle Egrets appeared in the East and West Kootenays at New Denver, Nakusp, and Invermere with the highest number, six, at Golden Oct. 31 (EZ). Six Victoria reports were received with the highest number being two in Cent. Saanich Nov. 25 (JBT). Two Green-backed Herons, providing the 2nd record in 6 or 7 years for Kamloops, were at Tranquille Aug 5 (RH, SR)

WATERFOWL

The high count for Mute Swans, introduced many years ago to Victoria, was of 67 at Cowichan Bay Aug. 26 (JA, GA). Some 816 Trumpeter Swans (661 adults, 155 immatures) were counted in the Courtney–Comox area Nov. 27 during an organized census (DWT). Trumpeter Swans arrived this fall in the Q.C.I. (Delkatla W.S.) Oct. 12 (MH). Canada Geese showing *minima*-type field marks were reported from 2 locations. One was seen at Bamfield Inlet Aug. 1 (ph. IMc) for a first summer record for V.I., while five were at Courtenay Sept. 14 (DM).

A high count of 103 Wood Ducks was at the Duncan Sewage Ponds Sept. 28 (DM). Redheads, uncommon on V.I., were reported twice: three at Duncan Nov. 14 (DM) and two at Comox Sept. 29 (RLT). A ♂ and ♀ Redhead were uncommon sights at Delkatla W.S., Q.C.I., Oct. 19 (MH). A high count of Ring-necked Ducks involved 200 birds at Courtland Flats, Saanich, Nov. 25 (JG). Five Oldsquaws, rare in the interior, were on Eaglet L. Oct. 27 (PGNC, SC), two were at Revelstoke Nov. 25, the first record in 10+ years (DP, OG, HG), and 30 were on Schwatka L., Whitehorse, Oct. 6 (HGr, DSi).

Stray White-winged Scoters were more frequent than usual in the Okanagan with one on Spring Lake, Peachland, Oct. 13 (NO, JBu, ED), three on Green L., Okanagan Falls, Oct. 28 (JBU, JP), and one in Kelowna Nov. 8 (JBU, DBr). An ad. Surf Scoter, also rare in the Okanagan, appeared at Vernon Oct. 21 (†CS), and one at Nakusp Oct. 14 (†CS, GD) provided a first fall record for the W. Kootenay. Large numbers of Com. Mergansers, 72, along with a Red-breasted Merganser, were at Swan L., n. of Whitehorse, Oct. 8 (HGr, MSi). Ruddy Ducks continued to appear in the Yukon with at least four males near Pelly Crossing, at their northernmost location, Aug. 15 (HGr).

VULTURES TO GROUSE

An imm. Turkey Vulture lingered along Coldstream Creek, Vernon, Nov. 22–27, for a very late interior record (ph. JQ).

A N. Harrier, rare in the Q.C.I., was seen at Delkatla W.S. all fall until at least Oct. 30 (MH). Northern Goshawks are tough birds. A female crashed through a

plate glass window in a small cabin near Slocan City Nov. 9. A little stunned, it was escorted outside where it revived and flew off (LVD).

The two Broad-winged Hawks over Rocky Point, Metchosin, Sept. 28 (ALM, DS, RS, BW) furnished a first record for V.I., and it was a pleasure to read the detailed documentation that accompanied the photos. The observers are to be commended. A dark crow-sized buteo with a broadly banded tail seen at Island View Beach Oct. 22 (RS) was possibly a melanistic Broad-winged. And on Aug. 26, a car full of P.G. birders (CA, HA, JBo) nearly collided with what may have been an imm. Broad-winged, in the same area of Eaglet L. where a single observer saw two adults in July 1989 (CS). British Columbia's small population of Broad-wingeds is restricted to the n.e. corner, but the species might be spreading south and west.

Only two Peregrine Falcons were reported for the interior. However, there were 39 reports from the Victoria area, up 13 from the previous 2 years (DF, JBT, BW). A rare interior Gyrfalcon was at Mission Flats, near Kamloops, Nov. 12 (SR) and another was at the Williams Lake airport Oct. 1 (PR). In the Yukon, a Gyr was seen near the West Hart R. trail off the Dempster Hwy Aug. 16 (HGr). Prairie Falcons often wander in fall. This season was no exception with a single at Vernon Nov. 4 (*fide* PR) and another at Revelstoke Sept. 3 (OG, HG). One also appeared out of range over Langley Nov. 6 (†GR). Merlins enjoyed a good year in P.G. with at least 3 pairs breeding within the city core.

A tiny population of Gray Partridge, once common in Kamloops, may still be clinging to existence near that city. Two were accidentally killed just n. of Kamloops Oct. 26 (RH). At least three Sharp-tailed Grouse were observed at Duke Meadows, s.w. Yukon, Sept. 2 (HGr, MSi). This species is a rare resident in s. and c. Yukon.

Willow Ptarmigan were seen at Spatzizi July 14 and on Hudson Bay Mt. Aug. 5 (KM, WE). White-tailed Ptarmigan were also on the Spatzizi July 14 and at Lyons Creek in the Babine Mts. July 15 (MC). Two White-tailed Ptarmigan were found on Mt. Seymour Oct. 27 (†PS, PJ) and nine were there Nov. 20 (DT), for a 3rd local record. What to make of lowland ptarmigan records? A White-

S.A.

In western Canada, good hawk watching locations are about as rare as hen's teeth, so it is exciting when a new spot is discovered. Rocky Point, Metchosin, situated at the extreme southern end of Vancouver Island, shows promise. September 28, 1990, was a big flight day with 200 Turkey Vultures, three N. Harriers, 30 Sharp-shinned Hawks, five N. Goshawks, 18 Red-tailed Hawks, two Broad-winged Hawks, and eight Am. Kestrels passing overhead. At nearby Babington Hill, Metchosin, 30 Sharp-shinned, 25 Red-tailed, and four Golden Eagles were spotted Oct. 13. These results are very impressive. Observers are encouraged to organize systematic migrant raptor counts for these areas.

tailed Ptarmigan was discovered walking on the lawn of a Steveston, Richmond, townhouse Nov. 5. The townhouse owner approached the bird closely and watched it for 20 minutes. It flew off and couldn't be relocated (EB).

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS

Virginia Rails are considered casual in the Q.C.I. Two were heard Aug. 11 and seen Aug. 12 at the Delkatla W.S. (†MH, SH), the first records since 1973. American Coots, rare in the s. and c. Yukon, were noted at Pelly Crossing with 11 adults and eight juveniles counted Aug. 15 (HGr). Sandhill Cranes were seen migrating over Rocky Point, Metchosin, southern V.I., with six Sept. 18 (DS), five Sept. 20 (ALM), and six Sept. 28 (ALM, DS, RS *et al.*). Other V.I. reports included 38 flying west over Jordan River Oct. 4 (VRBA), two along the Trent River, Courtenay, Oct. 5, two in the Northy Lake area, Black Creek, Oct. 14 (DWI, MAI), and 20 over Cowichan Bay Sept. 26 (DM).

Victoria birders submitted some interesting Lesser Golden-Plover records. Tiny numbers of *dominica* plovers were claimed from Aug. 22 to Sept. 21 with a maximum of two reported, at Sidney Spit Aug. 22 & 29 (RB). The only *fulva* was picked up alive Sept. 14 in Saanich. It was kept until Oct. 6, then released (ph. BW, JGa). As the *dominica-fulva* situation is being sorted out provincially, birders are encouraged to document "sub-

species" of the Lesser Golden-Plover wherever possible.

Two Willets at Eaglet L. Aug. 25 (†HA, MA) provided a first for the P.G. checklist, as did a much rarer shorebird, a juv. Red Knot, that frequented Eaglet L. Aug. 14–22 (ph. CA, JBo, m.ob.). The knot furnished the 2nd provincial interior record. A Wandering Tattler at Masset Inlet Oct. 30 was very late for the Q.C.I. (MH). An Upland Sandpiper was seen at Victoria Aug. 19–20 (†DB, DaP, BRG *et al.*) and possibly the same bird Sept. 4 (†KT), for about the 12th record for V.I. There was a brief influx of Marbled Godwits to Victoria with three Sept. 23, five Sept. 24–27, and two Sept. 29, all at the Victoria Golf Course (RS). A Bar-tailed Godwit at Witty's Lagoon Aug. 26 was briefly described with notes that did not entirely eliminate Hudsonian Godwit (†SB, LW).

Victoria reported three Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, about average. One was seen at Sandspit feeding at the airport Sept. 19 (MH, SHo). A **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** was fully described at Swan L., n. of Whitehorse, Sept. 9 (HG), for the 2nd record for the Yukon. Victoria reports of Rock Sandpiper are still much fewer than they were in the 1970s, with only three reports this fall.



Adult Curlew Sandpiper (still showing traces of alternate plumage) at Pacific Rim National Park, Vancouver Island, September 2, 1990. About the eighth record for British Columbia. Photograph/Ian McLaren.

Dunlins are becoming annual fall visitors around Kamloops, where 15 appeared Nov. 3, the flock growing to 28 by Nov. 13–14 (SR). Union Bay, V.I., produced counts of 3600 Oct. 28 and 3000 Nov. 25 (BMS). A **Curlew Sandpiper** showing traces of alternate plumage was photographed at Comber's Beach, Pacific Rim N.P., Sept. 2 (IMc), for the 3rd confirmed

record from V.I. and 8th for the province. Three Stilt Sandpipers were at Swan L., near Whitehorse, Aug. 12 (HG, MSi); two were at Courtenay Aug. 16 (BMS, RLT). Buff-breasted Sandpipers occurred at Sandspit, Q.C.I., with one Sept. 16 and six Sept. 17 (MM). An amazing five Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported from the Victoria area, Aug. 15 (RS) to Sept. 6 (JMc). A Ruff, the 2nd for the Q.C.I., was at Masset Inlet Oct. 30 (†MH, PH). The only Red Phalaropes reported were 25 offshore at La Perouse Banks Aug. 23 (IMc) and one at Masset Inlet, Q.C.I., Oct. 30 (MH, PH).

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

A Parasitic Jaeger, very rare inland, appeared at Tranquille, Kamloops, Aug. 31, for a first or 2nd local record (SR). A high count of 375 Heermann's Gulls was made at James I. Spit Aug. 11 (JA, GA). A record salmon run associated with flooding after heavy rains probably contributed to the record number of gulls at Goldstream R. and estuary. As many as 3500 were present in late November. Highlights Nov. 29 included two Glaucous Gulls, one California Gull, one Bonaparte's Gull, and 200 Thayer's Gulls (DF). A **Slaty-backed Gull**, possibly the same bird as last winter, appeared for several days in the Delta area. The bird was first described Oct. 27 (†BL) and seen again Nov. 12 (†WCW, CE, BS).

Up to four Glaucous-winged Gulls were at Kamloops this fall (RH, SR). Other rare gulls at Kamloops included an imm. Mew Gull Sept. 3, one to four Thayer's Gulls Sept. 23–Nov. 12 (SR), and two Glaucous Gulls, an adult Nov. 15 joined by an immature Nov. 17 (RH, SR). In the P.G. area, Tabor and Eaglet lakes hosted a total of 44 California Gulls Oct. 27 (CA, JB, DR). The species' status in this area needs clarifying. The rarest gull in the interior was a juv. Sabine's Gull at Kamloops Sept. 30 (SR, RH). Another juv. Sabine's was seen at Blackie Spit, Crescent Beach, Oct. 13 (†MPL, BC), and 65 were at La Perouse Bank Aug. 23 (IMc).

Cassin's Auklets totalled 350 at La Perouse Banks Aug. 23 (IMc) and 200 off Ucluelet Oct.

7 (BW, m.ob.). Single Cassin's Auklets were found off Beaver Pt., Salt Spring I., Oct. 26 and Nov. 6 (†DRi) for the first Salt Spring records. A Tufted Puffin, very rare in the Vancouver area, was off the Iona I. Jetty July 28 (†MPL). A Mourning Dove, casual in the Q.C.I., was in Queen Charlotte City Oct. 9 (LMac, BF).

OWLS TO SWALLOWS

The only interior Snowy Owl was reported from Grand Forks in mid-October (SMc, *vide* GD). Only one Northern Hawk Owl was reported this fall for British Columbia: at Burton, s. of Nakusp, Nov. 25 (RH, GD). In the s. Yukon, Hawk Owls were near Fish L. Aug. 26 and Duke Meadows Sept. 2 (HG, MSi). The only Barred Owl report was of a bird at Quick June 19 (MC). Two Short-eared Owls, rare transients to the Q.C.I., were flushed from the beach at Masset Inlet and harassed over the ocean by three Peregrine Falcons Oct. 27 (MH, PH). Two Boreal Owls were heard calling at the 4000 ft level s. of Horsefly Sept. 25 (PR). A N. Saw-whet Owl was heard at Masset Oct. 8 (EWO, MH).

Lewis' Woodpeckers gather in post-breeding flocks prior to migration. Two such flocks were recorded this season: 25 descended on an orchard on the slopes of Anarchist Mt. Aug. 23 (JS), while a flock of about 45 was seen in cottonwoods around Kamloops in late August (RH). One Lewis' straggled to V.I. and was seen at Gordon Head Aug. 20 (HA). A pair of Pileated Woodpeckers raised two or three young in Cottonwood Island Park near downtown P.G. (DE, MW).

A Say's Phoebe, casual on the coast, was at Saanich Aug. 20 (MN, BH). A late report is of a well-described **Ash-throated Flycatcher**, a casual visitor to British Columbia, that appeared on Mt. Tolmie May 29 (†KT). Two Tropical Kingbirds were reported from V.I. but no details were forwarded. A Tropical Kingbird in Delta was seen and described Oct. 28 (†RAS) and Nov. 1 (†GAn) for the first fall record on the British Columbia mainland in several years. An E. Kingbird, casual in the Q.C.I., was photographed in early

September at Sandspit (SHo).

Census work revealed just how small the British Columbia Purple Martin population is. Nine adults and six immatures were at Esquimalt Harbour where at least 2 pairs nested; 13 adults and 16 immatures were at Cowichan Bay where 5 pairs nested; and eight adults and five immatures were at Ladysmith Harbour where 4 pairs nested (EW, DC). Martins were also reported from Iron River, s. of Campbell River, this year (HT, *vide* EW, DC).

JAYS TO WARBLERS

Two Gray Jays along the Shawnigan Lake Road, V.I., Aug. 8 were very unusual in the lowlands (JBT). The Kootenays were invaded by Blue Jays in unprecedented numbers, with birds in these localities: Boswell (two), Creston (three), Erickson (two), Grand Forks (one), Invermere (one), Kimberley (one), Nakusp (three), New Denver (three), Revelstoke (one), Robson (one), Rykerts (one), Wardner (one), and Yahk (one). The Blue Jays first showed up in some locations in late September with a second wave about the 3rd week of October. Most appeared to be wintering at feeders (*vide* GD). Non-Kootenay locations for Blue Jays were apparently restricted to Salt Spring I. (one) and Chilliwack (five).

Clark's Nutcrackers were more abundant than usual in the Golden-Lake Windermere region and around Nakusp, with 100+ on the west side of Lake Windermere in early November the highest number reported (BC). Although not known to be in range, Clark's Nutcrackers were reported from Mt. Webster, s. of Telkwa, Aug. 19 (ML), and from Nichalson Hill in the Nadina drainage Aug. 16 (WE, KM). A White-breasted Nuthatch was heard at Point Roberts, WA, Sept. 20 (†WCW). This species is only casual in the Vancouver Checklist area.

A Brown Creeper "invasion" reached P.G. during November. There were numerous reports of creepers in P.G. back yards. Some remained until at least mid-December (*vide* JBo). A Rock Wren, a vagrant to coastal areas, was seen at Rocky Point, Metchosin, Sept. 20 (ALM, RS).

Two N. Wheatears were

noted in the Ogilvie Mts. near the Dempster Hwy Aug. 17 (HG). Two pairs of W. Bluebirds fledged three young each on Galiano I., and 5 pairs fledged 10 young on Mt. Tuam, Salt Spring I. (HP). A migrating flock of 80–100 Mountain Bluebirds was seen at Robinson, Yukon, Sept. 19 (RJ).

A Gray Catbird, rare in the Fraser valley, was seen at Langley Nov. 15 (GR), and a N. Mockingbird was there Nov. 17 (GR). Another mockingbird was found dead at Campbell River, V.I., Nov. 7 (Nancy Allen, *U.B.C., *vide* RJC). Cedar Waxwings are usually rare in the Q.C.I., but this fall seven were seen Oct. 5 and 25 were noted Oct. 8 (MH).

Orange-crowned Warblers were obviously on the move Aug. 22 when 20 were noted at Mt. Tolmie, Saanich (RS), and 20 were at Beacon Hill Park (JG). Only one Tennessee Warbler was reported from Vancouver this season, at Langley Sept. 8 (†HM, JM).

DICKCISSEL TO FINCHES

An imm. Dickcissel, the 5th for British Columbia, appeared at a feeder in Osoyoos Nov. 22–25 (DB, ph. GD, m.ob.).

A late Am. Tree Sparrow appeared at a Whitehorse feeder Nov. 10–12 (HGr). An imm. Clay-colored Sparrow, Vancouver's first, was in E. Vancouver Oct. 20–23 (†CE, LD, m.ob.). An ad. Chipping Sparrow, rare in Vancouver, appeared at the same feeder Oct. 23 (†CE, LD). The last Vesper Sparrow seen at the Cassidy airfield colony, s. of Nanaimo, was Sept. 12 (DFF), and another was in c. Saanich Aug. 29 (DFF).

Large numbers of White-throated Sparrows were noted throughout s. British Columbia, including 21 reports from locations in Victoria, and three birds at one feeder in Vernon (JQ). Two White-crowned Sparrows, rare in the Q.C.I., were at a Masset feeder Nov. 12; one had been present since Oct. 9 (MH). One or two White-crowns stayed at a Whitehorse feeder until Nov. 19, surviving temperatures to -36 degrees Celsius (HGr). Good numbers of Harris' Sparrows were reported with four at Vernon, one to two at Kamloops, two at Nakusp, two



Dickcissel at Osoyoos, British Columbia, November 24, 1990. Fifth provincial record. Photograph/Gary Davidson.

at Victoria, and an unusual concentration of five s. of Oliver Nov. 19 (DB). Four or five Dark-eyed Juncos were apparently overwintering in Whitehorse, observed daily past Nov. 30 at the same feeder (HGr).

A longspur that may have been a ♂ Smith's Longspur in winter plumage was seen on Mt. Tolmie, Saanich, Sept. 16 (KT). Details have been sent out for confirmation.

A Rusty Blackbird, always unusual at the coast, was at Martindale flats, Saanich, Oct. 13 & 14 (KT, CSa, ALM). A N. Oriole pair (more like Baltimores than Bullock's) was seen at the same site in Quick June 15 and Aug. 1 (ML).

Small flocks of up to 10 Pine Grosbeaks were regular around P.G. after Oct. 29 with a gradual descent from the mountains to the river valleys noted through November. In the N. Okanagan, Pine Grosbeaks stayed high with large numbers reported from the sub-alpine but none from the valley floor (CS). Common Redpolls seemed to have stayed in the north. Good numbers were at P.G. with 13 flocks (700 birds total) recorded along 20 km of highway Nov. 26 (CA, JBo, DR). However, redpolls were more or less nonexistent in the N. Okanagan during late fall.

House Finches, normally absent from the "snow-belt" around Nakusp and Revelstoke, seem to be making an attempt to colonize both towns. Two females were seen at Nakusp Oct. 14, a male was present Nov. 18 (GD), and a few were noted at a Revelstoke feeder throughout November (OG, HG)

Observers: (subregional editors in boldface) Hector Alexander (HAL), Gladys Anderson, Jerry Anderson, Gerry Ansell (GAN), Cathy Antoniazzi, Helen Antoniazzi, Mary Antoniazzi, John Baumbrough, Charlie Bellis, Anja Bielefeldt, Edie Bijdemast, **Jack Bowling** (JBo) (Prince George & the North), Doug Brown, Denise Brownlie (DBr), Joan Burbridge (JBU), Rob Butler, Richard J. Cannings, Syd Cannings, Arne Chaddock, Bunny Cooper, Darren Copley, Mel Coulsen, **Gary Davidson** (Kootenays), Brent Diakow, Eileen Dillabough, R.W. Drinnan, Linda Dupuis, Cameron Eckert, **Wayne Erickson** (Smithers & Houston), Dorothy Ewert, **David F. Fraser** (Victoria–Vancouver I.), Brian Fuhr, Jan Garnett (JGa), Jeff Gaskin, Bryan G. Gates, Hilary Gordon, Orville Gordon, **Helmut Grünberg** (HGr) (Yukon), Peter Hamel, Steve Hamel, **Margo Hearne** (Queen Charlotte Is.), Steig Hoeg (SHo), Bob Houston, **Rick Howie** (Kamloops), Doug W. Innes, Marion A. Innes, Ruth Jones, Nancy Krueger, Bill Lamond, Liard Law, L. MacIntosh, Hue MacKenzie, Joann MacKenzie, Ken MacKenzie, Alan L. MacLeod, Derrick Marven, Jim McCannon, Ian McLaren (IMc), Shirley McLean, Mark Nyhof, Netty Ovehoff, Mary Peet-Leslie, Roy Phillips, David Pierce (DaP), Rosamund Pojar (RPo), Harold Pollock, John Quirk, Phil Ranson, Diane Richardson (DRi), Syd Roberts, Dave Robinson, Glen Ryder, Chris Sandham (CSa), Ron Satterfield, Barbara M. Sedgewick, Brian Self, Michael G. Shepard, Chris Siddle, Dylan Singh (DSi), Metna Singh (MSi), Jeff Scutter, Dave Stirling, R.A.L. Sutton (RAS), Jeremy B. Tatum, Keith Taylor, Howard Telosky, Robert L. Thompson, Rick Toochin, Danny Tyson (DTy), Linda Van Damme (LVD), Hank VanderPol (HVP), Larry Wagner, Eric Walters, **Wayne C. Weber** (Vancouver), May West, Mildred White (MWh), Bruce Whittington, Ed Woode (EWo), Ellen Zimmerman.—**CHRIS SIDDLER, Site 10, Comp. 56, R.R. 8, Vernon, BC V1T 8L6.**

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

David G. Yee,
Stephen F. Bailey, and
Bruce E. Deuel

This fall had the warmest seas since the El Niño year of 1983. While this brought southern seabirds to our waters, some cold-water species such as Northern Fulmar and Ancient Murrelet were also common.

The spotlight on rarities shined brightly on several seabirds, as well as on a few shorebirds and landbirds. However, the vagrant season by and large was poor throughout, with excitement on fabled Southeast Farallon Island produced by geese rather than dramatic landbird fallouts.

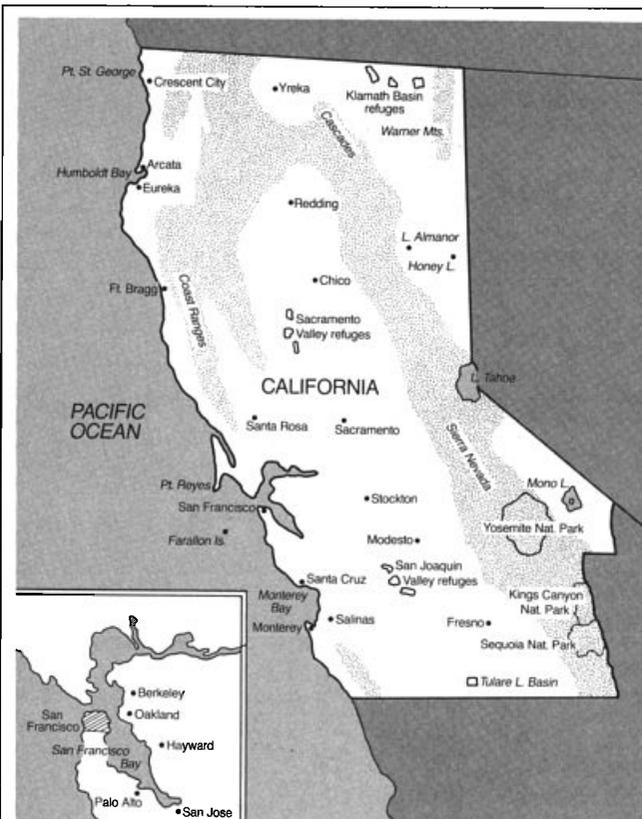
As for trends, Pectoral Sandpiper suffered another very off year and Red-breasted Nuthatches were widespread and numerous for the first time since 1987. It appeared to be an off season for such irruptives as thrushes, Cedar Waxwing, and Pine Siskin, but a healthy one for Red Crossbills. And looming over all of this was the Region's apparent entry into a fifth straight drought year.

As an example of why we do not always accept seemingly plausible descriptions from inexperienced observers, we cite the sick "Red-billed Tropicbird" picked up near the coast that proved to be a Silver Pheasant (*vide* N. Gunnell).

Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (*California Bird Records Committee*); C.C.R.S. (*Coyote Creek Riparian banding Station, Santa Clara Co.*); C.V. (*Central Valley*); F.I. (*Southeast Farallon Island*); H.S.U. (*Humboldt State University*); S.F. (*San Francisco*); ph. (*photo on file with Regional Editors*). All records from F.I. should be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO CORMORANTS

Inland high counts included 25 Com. Loons on Grant L., *Mono*, Nov. 7 (JRJ) and 50+ Horned Grebes on Calaveras Res., *Santa Clara*, Nov. 17 (ALE). A Red-necked Grebe at Clifton Court Forebay, *Contra Costa*, Nov. 24 (AWi) was our only inland report.



Stejneger's Petrel 53 miles southwest of Point Reyes, California, November 17, 1990. First confirmed North American record. Photograph/Monte M. Taylor.

stimulated four grebe species to nest, with 59 Eared Grebe nests Aug. 13 (ES) the first known nesting in the Mono area.

Only one Black-footed Albatross was seen on 3 boat trips offshore *Humboldt*, where it is usually numerous (SWH, GSL). Conversely, up to 90 per day were seen at Pioneer Canyon, *San Mateo*, Aug. 5–10 (SFB). Four Laysan Albatrosses were seen, about average. Shocking was the **Murphy's Petrel** harassing cormorants within feet of F.I. Sept. 27 (†PP). Its aggressive, exploratory behavior suggested that it may have been testing F.I. as a potential breeding site (PP). Moreover, it provided the first fall record for the n.e. Pacific, although migrants have been found in Hawaiian waters during fall (AB 43:400–415). Almost expected [!] were two well-seen (one photographed) **Stejneger's Petrels** 53 mi s.w. of Pt. Reyes Nov. 17

(BBr, ph. RN, ph. M.M. Taylor, †SFB, †m.ob.). This [the first confirmed record] occurred on the 11th anniversary of the first North American sighting, near the Davidson Seamount. Also, four 1906 specimens and several recent sightings beyond the 200 mile limit were all between October and November 20. Further evidence that this species is probably regular far offshore in late fall was the bird seen off s. California Nov. 14.

Flesh-footed Shearwaters were again well represented, with one or two on most boat trips Sept. 10–Nov. 18. Buller's Shearwaters were generally scarce. A scattering of early Short-tailed Shearwaters appeared, beginning with two each on Aug. 23 and Sept. 8 at F.I. The warm water Black-vented Shearwater arrived early in August and later became abundant. The first was in Monterey Bay Aug. 3 (WR). More surprising were two over Pioneer Canyon, *San Mateo*, Aug. 6 (SFB), as this species is rare over deep water so far offshore. Peak counts included 1240 in one hour Oct. 7 at Pigeon Pt. (PJM) and 2000 off Big Sur Nov. 12 (DLSh). A **Townsend's Shearwater** over the west cliff of Cordell Bank, *Marin*, Oct. 28 eluded photography but was described by 19 of the lucky observers (†RS, †SFB, ††m.ob.). Although there is no accepted North American record for

this deep water shearwater from the Revillagigedo Is., Mexico, one was seen in the same location June 16, 1985, by seabird researchers familiar with this species, but that record was not accepted by the C.B.R.C.

The annual Wilson's Storm-Petrels in Monterey Bay Aug. 3–Oct. 20 peaked with four Oct. 6 (DLSh, SFB). A storm-petrel raft over Eel R. Canyon Sept. 23 was only the 2nd ever found offshore *Humboldt*, the first being about the same size and location on the same date in 1977. This year's included 1000–1500 Ashies, 20–30 Fork-taileds, two Leach's, and at least three Blacks (SWH, GeM). Black Storm-Petrel, rare so far north, was also seen from F.I. for the first time since the 1983 El Niño. Least Storm-Petrel, our other warm water species, joined the Monterey Bay storm-petrel flock Sept. 10 (BJW, PJM) to Oct. 21 (DLSh). The peak of 100 Oct. 6 (SFB) was the largest since 1984 (one year *post*-El Niño).

A tropicbird seen from Pigeon Pt. Aug. 30 was probably a Red-billed (BS). An ill Brandt's Cormorant was at the Sunnyvale sewage ponds Oct. 7 (AME). It was preceded by three imm. Pelagic Cormorants that were also inland: one roosted at Vasona Res., *Santa Clara*, Aug. 19–25 (†JDuB), and others visited Crystal Springs Res., *San Mateo*, Sept. 9 (RSTh), and Benicia Sept. 14 (HCo).

HERONS TO DUCKS

Single Least Bitterns were reported from S. F. Bay N.W.R. Aug. 12 (RJR) and from Sacramento N.W.R. Nov. 23 (DES, MiF). *Butte's* 3rd Little Blue Heron was an immature found at Gray Lodge W.M.A. Aug. 9 (†A. Engelis). Cattle Egret reports were well distributed throughout the Region, but the largest number reported was 12 w. of Gridley, *Butte*, Oct. 29 (BED). White-faced Ibises invaded *Monterey* with 15 birds between Pt. Pinos and Moss Landing Sept. 15–Nov. 25 (*vide* DR), while 30 at Bridgeport Res. Sept. 22 (HG) made a new peak count for *Mono*. An imm. **Wood Stork** seen on Twitchell I., *Sacramento*, Oct. 23–27 (K. Nelson, †DGY, m.ob.) represented the Region's 6th "modern" record. Presumably the same bird relocated to the Santa Rosa/Sebastopol area, *Sonoma*, Oct. 30 through November (ph. D.C. Johnston, ph. RAR, m.ob.). A "Bewick's" Swan on Termi-



Wood Stork soaring near Sebastopol, Sonoma County, California, November 11, 1990. Sixth modern record for northern California. Photograph/Ruth Rudesill.

nous Tract, *San Joaquin*, Nov. 9 (DGY) furnished the first Regional report in 3 years. Flocks of up to 300 "white" geese reached the central coast Nov. 2 & 6. At F.I., 13 Snow Geese passed Nov. 2, and 128 Snow, 13 Ross', and two Greater White-fronted geese visited Nov. 6; there were only two, one, and fewer than 10 prior records, respectively. Brant were at Mono L. Aug. 26 (PJM) and Sept. 22 (HG), where extremely rare. Also rare was one in a flock of Aleutian Canada Geese near Colusa Nov. 11 (MJL).

An eclipse ♂ **Garganey** was present at the Bolinas sewer ponds Oct. 10 through November (RS, KH, †JM, †MJL, m.ob.). While most observers considered this the same bird found last spring, opinion was not unanimous (RS). The Tufted Duck that summered along the Hayward Shoreline was still present Nov. 4 (RJR, †GFi). Six Greater Scaup in *San Joaquin* Oct. 24–Nov. 2 (DGY) made a good showing there, while a female at Mono L. Nov. 11 (ES, GRG) provided only the 6th *Mono* record. A rare inland Oldsquaw was at Clifton Court Forebay, *Contra Costa*, Nov. 2 (S. Terrill). Inland Surf Scoters included a female at the Modesto sewer ponds Oct. 21 (HMR); a female at the Stockton sewer ponds Oct. 24, *San Joaquin's* first (†DGY); an imm. male at the Salinas sewer ponds Nov. 2 (BHG); and a female on Clear L. Nov. 29–Dec. 2, *Lake's* second (C. Johnson, G. Commeau, JRW).

RAPTORS

Golden Gate Raptor Observatory tallied new season highs for seven species and for total raptors. Best were the 159 Broad-winged Hawks, of which 64 were counted Oct. 2. Their low count of 63 Ospreys was not reflected Region-wide, but their scarcity of Rough-legged Hawks (only four) was. An imm. Bald Eagle picked up injured at Searsville L., *San Ma-*

teo, Sept. 3 (B. Dengler) provoked the question whether it was one of the birds recently released in *Monterey*. A group of 250 Swainson's Hawks at Woodland, *Yolo*, Sept. 29 (ECB) was the most reported in our Region since 1979. Only one "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk was reported with details: in the s.e. corner of *Glenn* Nov. 28 (†BED). Very early was the imm. Ferruginous Hawk w. of Hotcut, *Butte*, Aug. 10 (TDM). An amazing concentration of raptors included a Regional record 27 Ferruginous Hawks along only 3 mi of Sierra Valley, *Plumas*, Sept. 9 (LJ).

QUAIL TO SHOREBIRDS

A flock of 13 California Quail at Tom's Place (7160') Oct. 2 was new to that part of *Mono* (CDH). A very late Sora was at Hot Cr., *Mono*, Nov. 10 (GRG). An out-of-place flock of 75 Sandhill Cranes was over Skaggs I., *Sonoma*, Nov. 7, the day after an e. wind (DASH).

Numbers of *fulva* Lesser Golden-Plovers (53 birds) were comparable to last fall, although only one was inland, a juvenile at the Lodi sewer ponds Sept. 29 (DGY). By contrast, only 23 *dominica* were reported, including inland singles at L. Shastina, *Siskiyou*, Sept. 26 (RE) and Davis sewer ponds Sept. 1 (GEW), and six at the Lodi sewer ponds Sept. 9–Oct. 19 (DGY). Flocks of Semipalmated Plovers exceeding 100 birds always elicit comment in the Region, so the 2000 seen on the N. Spit of Humboldt Bay Aug. 29 (GeM) seemed amazing. Mountain Plovers are rare on the coast at any time, so two on Pt. Reyes Nov. 25–Dec. 1 (RS, KH, DWm) were noteworthy.

American Avocets were out of place on the F.I. Aug. 21 (4th record) and at Trinity L., *Trinity*, Sept. 1 (RE). Four Solitary Sandpipers at the Ripon sewer ponds, *San Joaquin*, Aug. 9 (WRH), six at Bridgeport Res. Aug. 27, and five in *Monterey* Aug. 11–Sept. 23 (*vide* DR) all set county concentration records. The Region's 5th *Hudsonian* Godwit frequented the Sunnyvale sewer ponds Sept. 1–24 (PJM, †JM, †MJJL) and a **Bar-tailed Godwit** visited MacKerricker S.P., *Mendocino*, Aug. 26–Oct. 6 (†DT, ph. †RJK, †m.ob.). A most surprising Black Turnstone was at Trinity L. Sept. 1 (†RE).

Six inland Sanderlings were reported, including three at Clear L.



Bar-tailed Godwit at MacKerricker State Park, California, September 11, 1990. Photograph/Robert J. Keiffer.

Sept. 22–Oct. 7, representing the 2nd *Lake* record (JRW). Thirty-three Semipalmated Sandpipers (three inland) were slightly below recent fall averages. A possible ad. Rufous-necked Stint at the Moon-glow Dairy, *Monterey*, Sept. 1–2 (†DR, †JM, †MJJL) was the subject of considerable debate, to be resolved by the C.B.R.C. Baird's Sandpiper reports were down slightly from last fall, which was a moderate one, and observers again expressed concern that Pectoral Sandpipers were way below normal. However, eight coastal Sharp-tailed Sandpipers Aug. 25–Nov. 4 were again about average. A large and very late flock of 75 Dunlins was at Mono L. Dec. 9 (J.R. Jehl). It was a 4th straight excellent fall for Silt Sandpipers (15 birds), the most noteworthy being singles at Mono L. Sept. 1 (MPe), the 2nd e. Sierra record, and a *San Joaquin* first on Staten I. Sept. 24 (†GEW).

After only a single record last fall, there were 17 reported coastal Buff-breasted Sandpipers (14 described) Aug. 15–Sept. 15, a Regional record high. One wonders how long this species will remain on the C.B.R.C. review list at this rate. Thirteen Ruffs were found, including one at the Sunnyvale sewer ponds Sept. 10 (†MRo, J. Corliss) and a female at the Hollister sewer ponds Aug. 17 (KVV), first county records for *Santa Clara* and *San Benito*, respectively. The most outstanding find of the season was a **Jack Snipe** (*Lymnocryptes minimus*) shot by a snipe hunter at Colusa N.W.R. Dec. 2 (†R. McNab, *H.S.U.). The only other state record is of a bird obtained in similar fashion at Gray Lodge W.M.A., *Butte*, in 1938.

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

Four of the five Long-tailed Jaegers reported ashore were adults. A juvenile was at Salinas sewage ponds Sept. 2–4 (†ph. DR). Not only are there almost no documented S. Polar Skuas seen from shore, but

boat trips reveal this species to be primarily a deep water bird. All regular day trips found between zero and two skuas, but up to five per day were near Pioneer Canyon Aug. 7–10, and 2 trips up to 75 mi s.w. of Pt. Reyes found 12 on Sept. 30 and three on Nov. 17 (all SFB *et al.*).

Unusually far inland were a 2nd-year Heermann's Gull at Martinez Shoreline, *Contra Costa*, Sept. 29 (GFi) and a first basic Glaucous-winged X Western Gull in the s.e. corner of *Glenn* Oct. 10 (†BED). First arrivals were the Glaucous Gull 45 mi s.w. of Pt. Reyes Nov. 17 (m.ob.) and about 10 Black-legged Kittiwakes at Klamath R. Mouth Oct. 3 (JMa). Adult Sabine's Gulls were found



Adult Sabine's Gull on an inland pond at Sunnyvale, California, September 12, 1990. Most inland records in fall involve juveniles, not adults. Photograph/Alan Walther.

inland at Rule L., *Siskiyou*, Sept. 2 (†SFB), Sunnyvale Sept. 9–16 (PJM, †WGB, ph. A. Walther), Topaz L., *Mono*, Sept. 12 (ES, I. Mandelbaum), and Mono L. Sept. 13 (ES). Were the latter two records of the same bird?

In a low year for Elegant Tern, 500 at Humboldt Bay Sept. 16 (FJB) was a surprise. Eclipsing six Arctic Terns on the outer coast was an immature at Novato, *Marin*, Sept. 23–Oct. 10 (RS, m.ob.). A Least Tern at Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes, Aug. 14 (JMR) was one of very few ever seen n.w. of the Golden Gate.

In *Humboldt* and *Mendocino*, Com. Murres and Cassin's Auklets were noted mostly inshore, with many of them dead, September



Thick-billed Murre at Monterey, California, August 26, 1990. Photograph/Michael O'Brien.



Xantus Murrelet of the southern race hypoleucus, 60+ miles southwest of Point Reyes, California, September 30, 1990. Note the pale underwing, and the white on the face curling up over the eye. Photograph/Ed Greaves.

and October (GeM, DT, GSL, R.W. Sutherland). A Com. Murre at Sunnyvale Sept. 3 (S. Glover) was *Santa Clara's* 6th. A **Thick-billed Murre** visited Monterey Aug. 26–Sept. 6 (†ph. M. O'Brien, †ph. SFB, †ph. DR). Will this species again be regular here in fall? Among Xantus' Murrelets, 4 pairs of the southern race *hypoleucus* appeared, but only on 2 offshore boat trips, where the water is warmer: pairs were 65 and 72 mi s.w. of Pt. Reyes Sept. 30 (JM, SFB, ph. EDG), and 2 pairs were 18 mi w. of Pt. Sur, *Monterey*, Oct. 8 (DR, DLSh, SFB). Conversely, Craveri's Murrelets were surprisingly scarce. An Ancient Murrelet in alternate plumage at F.I. Aug. 4–23 provided a "summer" record. After normal arrival in late October, Ancients became numerous by Nov. 11, when 50 were at Ano Nuevo I. and 20 were at Pigeon Pt. (PJM, GJS). Perhaps the Cassin's Auklet picked up at L. Merritt, Oakland, Aug. 19 (R. Burris) was related to the die-off farther north. A Horned Puffin was found long-dead on Salinas R. Beach Sept. 8 (BJW), but another 7 mi s.w. of F.I. Sept. 30 was a fly-by (CSp, A. Wander).

DOVES TO HUMMINGBIRDS

White-winged Doves continued to raise the average of recent fall sightings as seven coastal birds were found Sept. 2–Oct. 13. With only 3 previous Regional records since 1913, our 3 records of **Common Ground-Dove** were almost invasional: one at L. Elizabeth, *San Mateo*, Sept. 23 (DSg, DL), two at the Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey*, Oct. 13 (RFT), and one at the Salinas sewer ponds Oct. 15 (BHG). Unfortunately, none was accompanied with descriptions. Observers should watch for Ruddy Ground-Dove, considering their recent influx south of us. The Com. Nighthawk at Crowley Res.,

Mono, Sept. 22 (HG, DCR *et al.*) was latest ever for the Mono Basin.

S.A.

A very high 25 Com. Poorwills were reported coastally from *Mendocino* to *Santa Clara* Oct. 10–Nov. 29. Observers feel that these birds, along with past late fall records, are migrants rather than local residents. Almost all of the few C.V. floor records are also from this time period, as illustrated by one in Stockton Nov. 8 (J. & M. Walker); this further indicates migrants, as there are no C.V. breeding records. This raises the question of origins and destinations of these birds. The race *californicus* breeds w. of the Cascades/Sierra, and is the form of the few birds that have been racially identified during late fall/winter in the above mentioned areas. But what of *nuttalli* from n. of the state? Do they make up a percentage of these migrants (or wintering birds)?

Though pale in comparison to last spring's spectacle, 150 Black Swifts at Humboldt State University Sept. 26 (DA) made an impressive fall concentration. Five Black-chinned Hummingbirds reported after mid-September represented a tardy bunch, the last being a female at Tomales Bay S.P., *Marin*, Oct. 11 (DDeS). Single Calliope Hummingbirds refueled at a feeder in Fair Oaks, *Sacramento*, Aug. 7 and Sept. 11 (GEw), rare events for the C. V., especially during fall.

WOODPECKERS TO JAYS

Sapsuckers continued to draw close scrutiny. Prior to 1987 there were only two pre-December Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers for the Region. This fall, six were identified Oct. 13–Nov. 12, including F.I.'s first, Oct. 18. Three Red-naped Sapsuckers found along the c. coast Oct. 3–22 were typical, but a Red-breasted Sapsucker of the n. race *ruber* at the Bolinas sewer ponds Nov. 14 (RS) was quite unusual. However, the real showboat was Williamson's Sapsucker: apparently *Napa's* first in St. Helena Oct. 1–8 (†A. Wright), *Humboldt's* first just w. of Mt. Lassic Nov. 1 (†GSL), and *San Benito's* 2nd on San Benito Mt. Nov. 3–11 (DSg, SA, DL).

Four Least Flycatchers on F.I. Sept. 7–Oct. 1 and one in Fairhaven, *Humboldt*, Sept. 7

(GSL) were below the recent average. Eastern Phoebes in *Prunedale*, *Monterey*, after Nov. 8 (KVV) and *Lost L.*, *Fresno*, after Nov. 24 (B. Williford, KH) were where birds wintered last year. The impressive total of 26 Tropical Kingbirds along the coast Sept. 26–Nov. 3 was eclipsed by the C.V.'s 2nd on Bouldin I., *San Joaquin*, Oct. 27 (†DGY, WRH). Two Cassin's Kingbirds were at the Hollister sewer ponds, *San Benito*, Aug. 17 (KVV) for one of few Regional records for that month, while two W. Kingbirds at S. Lake Tahoe Aug. 23 (MBG *et al.*) furnished one of few Tahoe Basin records. Six E. Kingbirds Aug. 5–Sept. 26 were coastal.

A Cliff Swallow in Stockton Nov. 21 (DGY) was exceptionally late. Five to seven Gray Jays that precariously straddled the *Butte/Plumas* line near Humbug Summit Oct. 8 (BWb, TDM, JHS—*Butte's* 2nd) were at the very s. edge of their Sierra/Cascade range. Pinyon Jay was a coastal intriguer for the first time since 1987 with *Humboldt's* first since 1912 at a Bayside feeder Oct. 20–24 (S. Sinclair, †GSL, †LPL *et al.*) and two over the Marin Headlands Oct. 23 (S. Glover). The Clark's Nutcracker on Mt. Saint Helena Sept. 23 (BiG) was, surprisingly, only *Sonoma's* 2nd.

CHICKADEES TO VIREOS

Chickadees wandering to the lowlands included up to two Mountains in Sunnybrae, *Humboldt*, Nov. 2 into December (SWH) and one in Fair Oaks, *Sacramento*, Nov. 29 (R. Barbieri), and a Chestnut-backed in David, *Yolo*, Sept. 29 (MP). Two Chestnut-backed near Bald Mt. in s.w. *San Joaquin* Oct. 13 (†DGY, WRH, TR) represented a county first. An ailing Am. Dipper was exceptionally rare on the C.V. floor in Sacramento Sept. 28 (MP). A Wrenit at Horseshoe Pond Sept. 7 (BDP) may have been a first for outer Pt. Reyes. San Rafael, *Marin*, played host to a Brown Thrasher Sept. 18 (D. Norton). Approaching legendary status, the *Bendire's Thrasher* returned to its favorite hedgerow in Acampo, *San Joaquin*, Sept. 11 (DGY) for the 5th winter in the past 6. As expected, the only Red-throated Pipit was at F.I. Sept. 24–27 (†PPP). An imm. Cedar Waxwing banded at C.C.R.S. Aug. 3 (*fide* B. Katano) may have originated lo-

cally since they have been known to breed just to the south in *Santa Cruz*. The Phainopepla at Muir Beach Oct. 27 (*fide* CLF) was very rare for *Marin*.

The only Philadelphia Vireo with details was at Carmel R. mouth Oct. 6 (†KVV, KaVV). We were wide-eyed with Red-eyed Vireos as a record high 10 coastal birds were seen Aug. 12–Oct. 7, including *Santa Clara's* first and 2nd at C.C.R.S. Aug. 12 & Sept. 25, respectively (*fide* WGB). And adding some southern flavor was a **Yellow-green Vireo** in Golden Gate Park, S.F., Sept. 23–26 (DPM, †JM, m.ob.).

WOOD WARBLERS

It was a poor Season on the coast for most of our regularly occurring vagrant warblers. Tennessee (19), Magnolia (16), Blackburnian (three), Prairie (six), Palm (63), and Black-and-white (17) warblers, Am. Redstart (25), N. Waterthrush (10), and others (below) had totals among the lowest in 12 years.

One of the highlights from this fancy family was the **Golden-winged Warbler** at Moss Beach, *San Mateo*, Sept. 22–24 (†RSTh, †JM, †BDP, m.ob.). A Virginia's Warbler at Bodega Bay Oct. 1–3 (DN *et al.*) was apparently a first for *Sonoma*. A casually occurring Lucy's Warbler was at the Carmel R. mouth Sept. 29–Oct. 3 (†L. Comrack, DR). Three coastal N. Parulas were found Sept. 8–Oct. 3.

In addition to 15 coastal Chestnut-sided Warblers Sept. 9–30, singles were at Convict L., *Mono*, Aug. 18 (DaS) and Carman Valley, *Sierra*, Aug. 27 (†J. McCormick). *Sierra's* first Magnolia Warbler was at Turner Cr. Aug. 26 (†LJ). Rare Cape May Warblers were at Pt. Reyes Sept. 19 (RS) and F.I. Sept. 30. Black-throated Blue Warbler showed poorly with singles at Pt. Reyes Oct. 6 (RS) and Sutro Heights Park, S.F., Nov. 25–Dec. 4 (PJM, m.ob.), the latter being exceptionally late. Also in small dosage was one Black-throated Green Warbler at Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo*, Sept. 29–Oct. 1 (†RSTh *et al.*). An inland Prairie Warbler was at Mammoth L., *Mono*, Aug. 29 (DaS). Epitomizing the warbler season, 21 Blackpoll Warblers Sept. 1–Oct. 25 was the lowest output in 20 years, with a worst ever three on F.I. Slightly inland birds in Vallejo, *Solano*, Sept. 17 (†MBG, HCo) and the Palo Alto dump, *Santa*

Clara, Sept. 29 (PJM) each provided 2nd county records.

Plumas' first Black-and-white Warbler was in Sierra Valley Aug. 23 (†LJ). Our lone Prothonotary Warbler was near the Mad R. mouth Sept. 16 (RLeV) while an Ovenbird was slightly inland at C.C.R.S. Oct. 11 (MDa). Inland N. Waterthrushes included one at C.C.R.S. Sept. 6 (*fide* WGB) and *San Joaquin's* first near Ripon Sept. 22 (†DGY, WRH). We scored a coup with *Oporornis* warblers as single **Kentucky Warblers** were on F.I. Oct. 1–3 (†PP) and in Pacific Grove Oct. 21–29 (AB, †DR *et al.*—*Monterey's* first); single Connecticut were on F.I. Sept. 18 (†PP) and s. of Half Moon Bay Sept. 22 (†RSTh); and single Mourning were near the Mad R. mouth Sept. 5–8 (JCS, †GSL, †LPL, †B. Allen *et al.*—*Humboldt's* first), at the Carmel R. mouth Sept. 28 (†G. Lasley), and F.I. Sept. 30 (†PP). A very late MacGillivray's Warbler was at Reichmuth Park, Sacramento, Nov. 20 (TDM).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

An above-average six coastal Summer Tanagers included *San Mateo's* first at Miramontes Cr. Sept. 26 (PJM). A healthy 14 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were along the coast; one on F.I. Nov. 13 was the island's latest in 22 years (PP). Indigo Buntings were scarce with singles on F.I. Sept. 25 and Oct. 5. As with last Fall, *Monterey* supplied our only Dickcissel: an immature at the Carmel R. mouth Sept. 5 (RFT, †DR *et al.*).

Five Am. Tree Sparrows along the c. coast included two early birds in September. It was the 4th straight banner Fall for Clay-colored Sparrow as 42 coastal birds spanned the Season including an exceptionally early bird on F.I. Aug. 15. A Brewer's Sparrow at Westhaven, *Humboldt*, Sept. 23 (GSL) and a Lark Sparrow at Arcata Marsh Sept. 19–29 (FJB) were vagrants to the n. coast. Three Lark Buntings were at traditional vagrant traps: F.I. Aug. 31, Pt. Reyes Sept. 10 (MLR), and the Salinas sewer ponds Sept. 11 (BHG, B. Dyer). The Palo Alto Baylands' first (of three) wintering Sharp-tailed Sparrow had returned Nov. 5 (KGH *et al.*) as did a banded bird from last year at Pine Gulch Cr., *Marin*, Oct. 23 (THK). The only inland Swamp Sparrow (31 were coastal) was near Riverbank, *San*



Smith's Longspur at Moss Landing, California, September 15, 1990. First state record. Photograph/Alan Walther.

Joaquin, Nov. 30 (†K. Guse). A conservative 135 White-throated Sparrows solicited many anecdotal "best ever" comments from coastal and C.V. areas. An exceptionally early White-crowned Sparrow of the race *pugetensis* was banded at C.C.R.S. Aug. 13.

The landbird sensation of the Season was the state's first **Smith's Longspur** at Moss Landing Sept. 13-18 (†DEG, †JMa, †ph. m.ob.), a bird that often belly-dragged itself within "too-close-to-focus" range. The only Chestnut-colored Longspurs away from the traditional locales of Pt. Reyes (eight birds) and Bear R. Ridge, *Humboldt* (seven birds) were up to three at Arcata Bottoms Sept. 26-Oct. 9 (FJB, RLeV) and one at Half Moon Bay Nov. 10 (BS). Bear R. Ridge also served up two rare Snow Buntings Nov. 2-10 (†GHZ, †GSL, †B. Allen *et al.*).

An average 16 Bobolinks along the immediate coast included the Region's latest by 2 weeks at Ferndale Bottoms, *Humboldt*, Nov. 24-Dec. 6 (RLeV, B. Allen, m.ob.). A modest four Orchard Orioles were along the coast Sept. 17-Oct. 15, and one "Baltimore" N. Oriole was at F.I. Oct. 5-6. An out of range Cassin's Finch on Mines Rd. Oct. 20 (ALE) was *Santa Clara's* 2nd. Red Crossbill staged a small irruption from S.F. to *Mendocino* with many small flocks of 20+ reported. Five birds on San Benito Mt. Nov. 3 (DSg, DL, SA) were *San Benito's* first.

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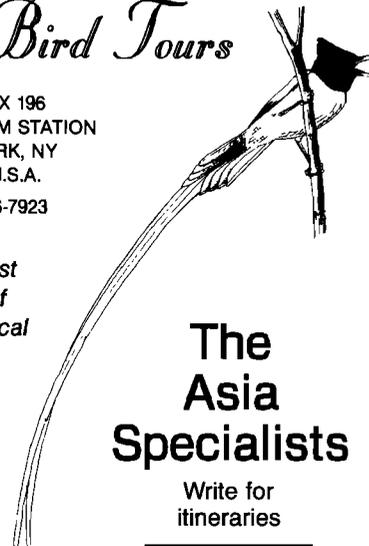


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INDONESIA #2

Flores/Timor/Sumba
2-18 August

1992 BIRDING TOURS

NORTH INDIA (3-27 Jan.)

WEST CHINA (7-31 May))

SRI LANKA (25 Jan.-12 Feb.)

MANCHURIA (28 May-24 Jun.)

THAILAND (18 Jan.-2 Feb.)

MALAYSIA (23 Jul.-15 Aug.)

PHILIPPINES (15 Feb.-15 Mar.)

INDONESIA (24 Jul.-16 Aug.)
Java/Bali/Sumatra

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Guy McCaskie

Dry conditions prevailed as Southern California entered its fifth year of drought. No major movements of irruptive species were evident, although a few Red Crossbills and some Evening Grosbeaks reached the northern and eastern portions of the Region, respectively. Scrub Jays found scattered through the eastern deserts in September had probably originated in the local mountains; if they were moving out of areas too dry to support them, they could not have found the desert any more suitable. A scattering of Plain Titmice and White-breasted Nuthatches along the southern coast in August and September probably originated locally, and possibly resulted in part from the dry conditions prevailing in their normal mountain habitat. However, the small influx of Red-breasted Nuthatches and Golden-crowned Kinglets to that same area in October probably originated to the north of this Region.

An interesting variety of waterbirds was found, including a couple of shorebirds considered accidental in California and inland records of some gulls and terns normally restricted to the coast. Wood warblers appeared less numerous than expected, but included an exciting number of species that brought the total number of species reported to forty.

Abbreviations: B.V.R.A. (*Buena Vista Recreation Area, s.w. corner of the San Joaquin Valley, Kern Co.*); C.L.N.W.C. (*China Lake Naval Weapons Center, extreme n.e. Kern Co.*); F.C.R. (*Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley, Inyo Co.*); G.B. (*Gooselake Basin, a wastewater complex w. of Wasco, Kern Co.*); H.D.L. (*Harper Dry Lake n.w. of Barstow*); N.E.S.S. (*north end of the Salton Sea*); S.B.C.M. (*San Bernardino County Museum*); S.C.R.E. (*Santa Clara River Estuary near Ventura*); S.E.S.S. (*south end of the Salton Sea*); T.L.E.P. (*Tulare Lake Evaporation Ponds, between Delano and Lost Hills, s. San Joaquin Valley*). 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 Michael A. Patten, P.O. Box 8612, Riverside, CA 92515) for all rarities listed in this report, and records submitted without documentation are not published.

LOONS TO FRIGATEBIRDS

A Red-throated Loon on Tinnemaha Res. Oct. 30 (T & JH) was the first to be found in *Inyo*. A Pacific Loon on Tinnemaha Res. Oct. 13–Nov. 4 (GMcC) was only the 3rd for *Inyo*; one to two on L. Isabella, *Kern*, Nov. 11–24 (MTH) and one on L. Perris, *Riverside*, Nov. 25 (RMcK) were the only others reported from the interior. A Red-necked Grebe in San Simeon Oct. 30 (TME) and another in Goleta Nov. 9 (RPH) were the only two found.

At least four N. Fulmars were reported during August and early September, indicating a few spent the summer in s. California waters; 25 in the San Pedro Channel off Long Beach Nov. 17 (JKA), with similar reports elsewhere during November, indicated more than average numbers pushed south into our Region this fall. A **Stejneger's Petrel** at 32°36'N–122°47'W, about 153 nautical mi s.w. of San Miguel I., Nov. 14 (JLD) furnished the 2nd sight record within 200 mi of California; records from farther offshore (*Auk*

55: 255–256, 1938 and *AB* 44: 160, 1990) suggest this species can be expected over these waters at this time of the year, and in fact two were photographed off n. California just 3 days later. A Flesh-footed Shearwater, very rare in s. California waters, was well-seen 13 mi w.s.w. of Pt. Vicente, *Los Angeles*, Nov. 17 (JKA).

A Short-tailed Shearwater near San Miguel I. Nov. 17 (SEF) and another found dead on the beach at S.C.R.E. Nov. 11 (KA) indicated a few were offshore during November. Large numbers of Black-vented Shearwaters pushed north along the coast, as indicated by such counts as 75,000 off the Santa Maria R. mouth Sept. 21 (PEL) and up to 10,000 off Cayucos Oct. 7–29 (TME).

A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, very rare in s. California waters, was off San Simeon Sept. 6 (JMcD), and another photographed off San Diego Sept. 9 (JO'B) was exceptionally far south. Least Storm-Petrels were more numerous than in recent years as indicated by counts of 250 off San Diego Sept. 1 (GMcC) and 100 in the San Pedro Channel Sept. 15 (BED), and remained later than expected, as indicated by 41 over the Tanner Bank off San Clemente I. Nov. 10 (JLD) and another one 130 nautical mi w.s.w. of San Miguel I. Nov. 18 (JLD).

A Red-billed Tropicbird, rare in s. California waters, was 7 mi e.n.e.

of the northwest tip of Santa Catalina I. Sept. 15 (BED). A Red-tailed Tropicbird at 30°15'N 123°52'W, about 280 nautical mi s.w. of San Nicolas I., Nov. 8 (JLD) was close enough to California waters to be of interest. Boobies remained on the Salton Sea into September with a Blue-footed Booby at the mouth of Salt Creek Oct. 3 (RMcK) and a Brown Booby at N.E.S.S. Sept. 29 (CMcG) being the latest of each to be reported. An exhausted Blue-footed Booby captured in a Huntington Beach schoolyard Sept. 7 (DRW) was the first recorded in *Orange*. An imm. Brown Booby 6 mi n.e. of Pt. Vicente Sept. 15 (BED) was one of very few ever found along the coast. An imm. Brown Pelican at C.L.N.W.C. Aug. 23–25 (DVB) was far from the coast, and two on Big Bear L. in the San Bernardino Mts. Sept. 5–22 (CMcG) were at an unusually high elevation. An imm. Magnificent Frigatebird over Pt. Loma Sept. 8 (CGE) and two or three at the Salton Sea Aug. 26 (JO'B) were the latest reported this year.

HERONS TO RAPTORS

An imm. Little Blue Heron photographed near Oxnard Sept. 30–Oct. 7 (FH) and the adult remaining on Upper Newport Bay through Aug. 12 (RAE) were the only two reported away from

coastal *San Diego*. An ad. Tricolored Heron, now considered a casual to accidental straggler to California, was inland at S.E.S.S. Aug. 11 (RAE), and another adult was along the coast near Imperial Beach Aug. 4-9 (JO'B). At least four Reddish Egrets were present in *San Diego* with an adult returning for its 9th winter to s. *San Diego Bay* Sept. 2 (GMcC), an immature on s. *San Diego Bay* Sept. 2 (GMcC), another immature there Oct. 14 into December (REW), and one more in Del Mar, *San Diego*, Oct. 8-20 (GD). An ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, an accidental straggler to s. California, was near Imperial Beach Sept. 30 through November (GMcC), and what is best considered the individual present around La Jolla and San Elijo Lagoon since October of 1981 was on Penasquitos Lagoon near La Jolla Nov. 24-Dec. 1 (LS).

A flock of six Greater White-fronted Geese on Owens L., *Inyo*, Sept. 2 (T & JH) established the earliest date for a fall migrant in s. California; 75 at F.C.R. Sept. 8 (MAP) made an astounding number for this locality, and were followed by 16 more far to the south at Desert Center, *Riverside*, the next day (MAP). A Cackling Canada Goose at F.C.R. Oct. 26 through November (PEL) was at an unusual locality for this race. Remarkable was the finding of three **Garganey** with an ad. male in Irvine Sept. 12-20 (REW), a female or immature photographed in the Fremont Valley near Cantil, *Kern*, Sept. 30 (MTH), and another female or imm. male at F.C.R. Oct. 12-Nov. 1 (JLD); this brought the number of records in s. California to six. At least 20 Eur. Wigeon were found after Oct. 8, including a female in the n.e. part of the Region in California City Oct. 18-Nov. 4 (JLD).

A Harlequin Duck, very rare in s. California, was at Pt. Mugu Nov. 17 into December (AS) and another was in Newport Beach Nov. 25-26 (M & ML). An Oldsquaw flying south past Pt. Loma Nov. 1 (REW) and another on *San Diego Bay* Nov. 20 (JLD) were the southernmost of the four reported. A Black Scoter off Avila Beach Nov. 19 (JLD), another near Pt. Sal, *Santa Barbara*, Nov. 4 (PEL), and two more seen flying south past Pt. Loma Nov. 26 (REW) were the only ones reported. A Surf Scoter near Cantil Oct. 18-19 (MTH)

was the only one found inland away from the Salton Sea. Two White-winged Scoters at S.E.S.S. Nov. 25 (JML) were inland where considered very rare. A Hooded Merganser at N.E.S.S. Aug. 25 (RMcK) had no doubt spent the summer locally.

An imm. Broad-winged Hawk near Santa Maria Sept. 30 (DSt), single birds near Oxnard Sept. 30 and Oct. 21 (FH), one over the Palos Verdes Peninsula Oct. 29 (MH), another in Long Beach Nov. 3 (MH), and a 6th moving south over Point Loma Sept. 30 (D & MH) were fewer than would have been expected 10 years ago. Very few Swainson's Hawks were reported, hence a flock of 14 flying south over Victorville, *San Bernardino*, Oct. 7 (SJM) was of interest. An ad. Zone-tailed Hawk in La Jolla Sept. 9 (REW) was along the coast where considered casual. A Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk in Goleta Nov. 15 (PEL) established the first record for this race in *Santa Barbara*. A Ferruginous Hawk near L. Isabella Aug. 31 (MTH) was quite early. A Merlin at F.C.R. Nov. 17 (MAP) and another on Mt. Pinos Nov. 12 (MTH) both appeared to be of the dark race *suckleyi*, breeding in British Columbia and considered casual in s. California.

CRANES, SHOREBIRDS

A Sandhill Crane over H.D.L. Oct. 25 (EAC) was at an unusual locality. Since Lesser Golden-Plovers are very rare inland, especially so for the Asi-atic form *fulva*, an adult present at T.L.E.P. Aug. 31-Sept. 2 (MTH), and another photographed near Lancaster Aug. 11 (MT), were of extreme interest.

A Wandering Tattler at S.E.S.S. Sept. 15 (RMcK) was inland, where considered casual in fall. An imm. **Upland Sandpiper** near Oxnard Sept. 15-20 (RJM) was the 5th for fall in s. California, and the longest-staying ever in the state. An ad. **Bar-tailed Godwit** at Pt. Mugu Aug. 30 (BE) was the 3rd for s. California. A Ruddy Turnstone on Owens L. Aug. 26 (T & JH) and another at G.B. Sept. 8 (JCW) were exceptionally rare inland away from the Salton Sea, and one at N.E.S.S. Sept. 30 (MAP) was the only one reported on the Salton Sea. A juv. Red Knot at C.L.N.W.C. Sept. 4-9 (DVB) was the only one found inland away from the Salton Sea. Reports of

Sanderlings inland and away from the Salton Sea included single birds on Tinnemaha Res. Sept. 11 (T & JH) & 26 (JLD), four on Owens L. Sept. 26 (PEL), 19 different individuals in e. *Kern* between Aug. 14 and Sept. 27 (MTH, DVB), and six more at H.D.L. between Sept. 30 and Oct. 14 (EAC).

At least 30 juv. Semipalmated Sandpipers were found throughout the Region between Aug. 1 and Sept. 30, about an average number for this time of year. An ad. **White-rumped Sandpiper** in Irvine Sept. 9-13 (LRH, DRW) was only the 2nd to be found in s. California in fall. Baird's Sandpipers were slightly less numerous than usual, but included a late individual in Irvine Oct. 26-28 (DSi). Pectoral Sandpipers were decidedly rare this fall, but included a late individual



Juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Montana de Oro State Park, California, November 11, 1990. Photograph/Brad Schram.

at Finney L. near S.E.S.S. Nov. 24 (IW). Two Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were found with a juvenile at Montana de Oro S.P. Nov. 11-27 (P & SG) and another at the Santa Ynez R. mouth Oct. 4-11 (KH). Reports of Stilt Sandpipers away from the Salton Sea included up to two at T.L.E.P. Aug. 31-Sept. 2 (MTH), a very late one at G.B. Nov. 10 (JCW), one near Santa Maria Sept. 30 (DSt), another at S.C.R.E. Sept. 7 (RJM), one in Anaheim Sept. 12 (DRW), another on San Elijo Lagoon, *San Diego*, Sept. 7 (DP), two there Sept. 30 (SM), and a late bird near Imperial Beach Nov. 4 (REW).

Four Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found with a juvenile inland at Edwards Sept. 16 (MTH), one photographed on Morro Bay Sept. 1 (EVJ), a remarkably late juvenile near Imperial Beach Oct. 21-25 (D & MH), and possibly the latest ever in North America at the same location Nov. 17-23 (REW). Reports of Ruffs included an adult remaining in Goleta through Sept. 8 (SEF), single juveniles at S.C.R.E. Sept. 15-24 (RJM), at Pt. Mugu Oct. 3-8 (RJM) and in Long Beach Sept. 8 (BED), and a re-



Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Morro Bay, California, September 1, 1990. Photograph/Brad Schram.

markably late individual for the n.e. portion of the Region at C.L.N.W.C. Nov. 22 (DVB). A juv. Short-billed Dowitcher near Cantil Oct. 21 (JLD) was at least a month later than the previous late date for a fall migrant in the n.e. portion of the Region. Two Red Phalaropes were found inland, one photographed at Edwards Aug. 4 (MTH) and the other seen on Owens L. Oct. 6 (T & JH).

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

At least five Parasitic Jaegers were found Sept. 3-30 on the Salton Sea, where small numbers occur each fall, and one on Tinnemaha Res. Sept. 13-17 (JLD) established the 2nd record for *Inyo*. An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger photographed



Juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger over the Tulare Lake Evaporation Ponds, California, August 31, 1990. Photograph/Matt Heindel.

on Owens L. Aug. 18-19 (LRB) was the first for *Inyo*; a juvenile at T.L.E.P. Aug. 26-31 (JCW), joined by a 2nd Aug. 31-Sept. 2 (DVB), were the first for *Kern*, and another juvenile on the Salton Sea near Salton City Sept. 10 (JO'B) was only the 2nd for *Imperial*. Seven Franklin's Gulls scattered throughout the Region between Aug. 3 and Nov. 10 were fewer than expected. Totally unexpected was an ad. Heermann's Gull, the first ever found in *Inyo*, on Tin-

nemaha Res. Oct. 13 (SEF); this location is east of the Sierra Nevada Mts., hence far from this species' normal range along the coast. An ad. Mew Gull far inland at B.V.R.A. Nov. 24 into December (MTH) was only the 2nd found in Kern, but was possibly the same bird as present here last winter. More than the expected number of Sabine's Gulls were found inland with a rather late juvenile in Bishop, Inyo, Oct. 15 (T & JH), five different birds on Tinnemaha Res. between Sept. 13 & 29 (T & JH), a juvenile on Owens L. Sept. 21 (T & JH), four birds at C.L.N.W.C. between Aug. 24 and Sept. 28 (DVB, MTH), an adult near California City, Kern, Sept. 23 (BL), a juvenile at Edwards Sept. 29 (MTH), and another near Imperial, Imperial, Oct. 3-5 (RH).

Over 100 Com. Terns passed through Tinnemaha Res. between Aug. 24 and Sept. 29 (T & JH), showing this to be the time that this species moves south through the n.e. portion of this Region. An ad. Arctic Tern on Tinnemaha Res. Sept. 26 (JLD), a juvenile at C.L.N.W.C. Sept. 27-28 (MTH), and another juvenile near Cantil Sept. 30 (JLD) were the first to be found inland in fall away from the Salton Sea. Up to three Black Skimmers on Morro Bay Sept. 21-Oct. 28 (FS) were farther north than usual.

Seven Marbled Murrelets off San Simeon Aug. 9 (TME) were near the s. limit of this species' normal range. Ten Craveri's Murrelets were found off Morro Bay Sept. 22 (TME), this species undoubtedly being regular in these waters at this time of year. An Ancient Murrelet near Anacapa I. Nov. 15 (JLD) was the only one reported.

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

As usual a few White-winged Doves reached the coast, with the northernmost being singles in Montana de Oro S.P. Sept. 7 (KAH) and Oct. 9 (TT). Up to four Inca Doves at F.C.R. after Oct. 19 (JLD) were well north of this species' normal range. Three Com. Ground-Doves near Lompoc Nov. 28 (SEF) were unusually far north, and one at Galileo Hill Oct. 12 (MTH) was the first for Kern. Ruddy Ground-Doves again pushed north into this Region with a female near Imperial Beach Sept. 8 (GMcC) for our earliest fall record, and a male at Deep Springs, Inyo, Sept. 26 (PEL) for



Male Ruddy Ground-Dove near Cantil, California, September 30, 1990. At least nine individuals reached southern California during the 1990 fall season. Photograph/Matt Heindel.

our northernmost record; others included a male at F.C.R. Oct. 14-17 (KLG) followed by four there Nov. 17 into December (GMcC), and single males near Cantil Sept. 30 (MTH), in Desert Center, Riverside, Nov. 23 (CMcG), and on Pt. Loma Oct. 14 (REW).

A N. Saw-whet Owl at C.L.N.W.C. Nov. 28 (JS) was obviously a migrant. Five Chimney Swifts over Glendale, Los Angeles, Aug. 21 (KLG) were believed to have summered locally. Up to 10,000 Vaux's Swifts roosting on tall buildings in downtown Los Angeles Sept. 30-Oct. 4 (KLG) made a remarkable concentration, and one over Big Pine, Inyo, Nov. 2 (T & JH) was very late for this area. Reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers included a juvenile in California City Nov. 1 (MTH) and another photographed near Oxnard Oct. 20 (DD). A ♂ Williamson's Sapsucker in California City Oct. 7 (DK), a female in Mojave Nov. 2-25 (JCW), another female in Morongo Valley Oct. 27 (MAP), single individuals on Figueroa Mt. near Santa Barbara on Oct. 17 (CP) and Nov. 15 (SEF), and one more photographed in Piru, Ventura, Oct. 20-30 (RJM) were all outside areas of normal occurrence.

FLYCATCHERS

A Greater Pewee in San Diego after Oct. 18 (B & IM) was apparently the same individual known to have spent the past 3 winters at this location. A W. Wood-Pewee on Pt. Loma Oct. 18 (REW) was the latest reported this fall. Five Least Flycatchers were reported, with singles inland in California City Sept. 30 (MTH) and near Cantil Oct. 4-6 (MTH), and along the coast in Oceano Sept. 21-22 (KZ), near Oceano Oct. 6 (JSR), and on Pt. Loma Oct. 7 (EP). The only E.

Phoebe reported was one in Santa Barbara after Oct. 30 (RWH) for its 3rd winter. Up to two Vermilion Flycatchers near Santa Maria after Oct. 21 (JSR, RPH), another at Pt. Mugu Sept. 23-29 (RJM), a female in Irvine Oct. 5 through November (DSi), and another female on Pt. Loma Oct. 12 (GMcC) were on the immediate coast where now considered rare; another at F.C.R. Oct. 12 (PEL) was near the n. limit of this species' range.

A Great Crested Flycatcher, an exceptionally rare straggler to California, was in Oceano Oct. 7-10 (KZ), another was in Santa Barbara Sept. 22 (JH), and a 3rd was photographed in Wilmington, Los Angeles, Oct. 31-Nov. 2 (MH). A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher well photographed in Goleta Sept. 23-28 (RJ) was the 6th to be found in California. Fifteen Tropical Kingbirds along the coast between Sept. 23 and Nov. 24 were about average, but one at H.D.L. Sept. 27 (EAC, *S.B.C.M.) was inland where considered accidental. Nine E. Kingbirds were found along the coast between Aug. 1 and Sept. 29, but one in Big Pine Sept. 14 (JLD) and another at S.E.S.S. Sept. 21 (RH) were the only two found inland. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, a casual straggler to California, was near Big Pine Sept. 29-Oct. 13 (T & JH).

WRENS TO VIREOS

Winter Wrens were found in above average numbers in the n.e. part of the Region, and single birds on Pt. Loma Oct. 14-16 & 24 (REW) were unusually far south. Small numbers of Golden-crowned Kinglets were found through most of the Region during October and November with one at Finney L. near S.E.S.S. Nov. 10 (MAP) being the southernmost in the e. part of the Region.

Single Townsend's Solitaires in San Marino Nov. 10 (DC), in La Jolla Oct. 9 (REW), and on Pt. Loma Nov. 18 (REW) were in the coastal lowlands where considered rare. A Gray-cheeked Thrush banded on Pt. Loma Sept. 10-11 (GJ) was the earliest of the four recorded to date in s. California. A Wood Thrush found in Long Beach Oct. 10 (MH) and another seen on Pt. Loma Oct. 21 (REW) furnished 7th and 8th records for s. California. A Gray Catbird, an unexpectedly rare straggler, was near Santa Maria Oct. 5 (SEF), another

was in Costa Mesa, Orange, Oct. 19 (BO'C), and a 3rd was inland near Independence, Inyo, Oct. 23 (T & JH). At least eight Brown Thrashers were found this fall between Sept. 23 and Nov. 9, two coastal and the rest inland. An ad. White Wagtail in Saticoy Nov. 8 into December (RJM) is believed to be the same bird that wintered in this area 1987-1988 and 1988-1989. As expected, a few Red-throated Pipits were found along the coast during October, with one near Santa Maria Oct. 6-7 (SEF), one in Goleta Oct. 1 (JLD), at least three on the Oxnard Plain near Ventura between Sept. 30 and Oct. 7 (LLS, PEL), at least two near Imperial Beach Oct. 13-24 (JO'B, REW) and one on Santa Catalina I. Oct. 26 (LJ). A Bohemian Waxwing, a sporadic straggler, was feeding on rotting apples at Oasis, Mono, Nov. 4 (RMcK). An imm. N. Shrike at Galileo Hill Nov. 3 (MTH) was somewhat early, followed by another at Edwards Nov. 11 (MTH).

A Bell's Vireo, rarely found away from nesting localities, was near Santa Maria Sept. 10 (PEL) and another was studied in Long Beach Oct. 10 (JKA). A Gray Vireo in the Chocolate Mts. Sept. 18 (RMcK), either a migrant or on its winter grounds, was the first ever found in Imperial and one of very few found away from known breeding localities. A Yellow-throated Vireo, a casual to accidental straggler to California, at Panamint Springs, Inyo, Oct. 13-14 (GMcC) was the first found away from the coast in fall. Single Philadelphia Vireos, a species found once or twice a year in s. California, were at H.D.L. on Sept. 30 and Oct. 11 (EAC, *S.B.C.M.), and a 3rd was on Pt. Loma Sept. 22-26 (LSa). Four Red-eyed Vireos were reported, an average number nowadays, with one inland at F.C.R. Sept. 8 (MAP) and single birds along the coast near Santa Maria Sept. 9 (JSR), and on Pt. Loma Sept. 30 (D & MH) and Oct. 14-16 (DP). Three Yellow-green Vireos, remarkably regular strays, were reported with one in Newport Beach Sept. 29 (LJ), another in Costa Mesa Oct. 18 (JP), and a somewhat elusive bird on Pt. Loma Oct. 7-17 (GMcC).

WOOD WARBLERS

Two Golden-winged Warblers were found, a male at L. Palmdale in n.e. Los Angeles Sept. 21 (JKA) and another male in Morongo Val-

ley Oct. 27 (MAP), this being one of the rarest of the wood warblers to reach California. Tennessee Warblers were scarcer than normal with only 27 reported between Aug. 25 and Nov. 9. Fifteen Virginia's Warblers along the coast between Aug. 27 and Oct. 11 were fewer than expected, and the only two found inland were single birds near Santa Ynez, *Santa Barbara*, Sept. 27-28 (CP) and near Lancaster Sept. 3 (KLG). Reports of Lucy's Warblers on the coast, where quite rare, included single birds at Refugio S.B., *Santa Barbara*, Sept. 13-17 (SEF), in Goleta Nov. 22-Dec. 2 (RPH), at S.C.R.E. Sept. 4 (RJM), and near Imperial Beach Sept. 30-Oct. 2 (REW). Single N. Parulas, always scarce in fall, were along the coast in Oceano Sept. 29-Oct. 10 (DF), near Santa Maria Sept. 22 (PEL) and Sept. 30-Oct. 5 (DSt), and in Wilmington Sept. 27-Oct. 7 (MH), and inland at H.D.L. Oct. 3 (EAC) and at Finney L. near S.E.S.S. Sept. 14 (AME).

oases between Sept. 23 and Oct. 26, and a male on Point Loma Nov. 3 (EP). Six Black-throated Green Warblers along the coast between Sept. 29 and Oct. 16 were about average. Single Blackburnian Warblers in Oceano Oct. 13 (BS), on Pt. Loma Oct. 2 & 21 (REW), and near Imperial Beach Oct. 19-22 (JW) were fewer than expected along the coast, but one at H.D.L. Oct. 11 (EAC, *S.B.C.M.) was among very few ever found inland in this Region. A Yellow-throated Warbler, casual to accidental in California, was photographed in Oceano Sept. 30-Oct. 2 (KZ). A Grace's Warbler present in Santa Barbara since Sept. 23 (HPR) was clearly attempting to winter locally.

A ♀ Pine Warbler, an exceptionally good find in California, was in Oceano Oct. 27 (BS) and a male was near Imperial Beach Oct. 17-19 (DP). Eleven Prairie Warblers along the coast between Aug. 26 and Oct. 20 were about average, but one near Cantil Sept. 29 (MTH) was among very few ever



Chestnut-sided Warbler near Oxnard, California, on October 13, 1990. Photograph/Don Desjardin.

Nine Chestnut-sided Warblers were reported along the coast between Sept. 23-Oct. 15, along with very late individuals in Santa Maria Nov. 29 (JSR) and Gardena, *Los Angeles*, Nov. 15-24 (MH), and single individuals found inland at Deep Springs Sept. 22 (MAP) and at Galileo Hill the same day (MTH), giving us an average number for this time of year. Seventeen Magnolia Warblers scattered through the Region Sept. 15-Oct. 21 were more than expected. A ♀ Cape May Warbler, a species that has become remarkably scarce in recent years, was in California City Oct. 13 (MTH) and another was on Pt. Loma Oct. 6 (GMcC). The only Black-throated Blue Warblers found this fall were six at desert



Prairie Warbler in Big Sycamore Canyon, Ventura County, California, October 14, 1990. Photograph/David Koeppl.

found inland in this Region. Palm Warblers were scarce with only 27 reported after a somewhat early individual at S.C.R.E. Sept. 21 (RJM). Four Bay-breasted Warblers were found with one inland in California City Oct. 3 (CH),

and singles along the coast in Oceano Oct. 7 (JSR), Long Beach Sept. 22 (MH), and Huntington Beach Oct. 21-22 (BED). Black-poll Warblers were certainly less numerous than normal, with only 35± found between Sept. 17 and Oct. 17, but including three in the e. portion of *Kern* between Sept. 15 and Oct. 12 (MTH), one at H.D.L. Sept. 30 (EAC), and another at L. Palmdale Sept. 21 (JKA), where considered most unusual in fall.

Ten Prothonotary Warblers were reported, far more than expected, with three at F.C.R. between Oct. 10 & 14 (T & JH, JLD, KLG), one in California City Sept. 21-24 (JCW), and another at H.D.L. Oct. 3 (EAC, *S.B.C.M.) being inland, and singles in Oceano Sept. 29-Oct. 1 (DF) and Oct. 17-20 (FL), in Los Osos Oct. 23-31 (LT), and on Pt. Loma Sept. 29 (REW) & 30 (D & MH) along the coast. The only Worm-eating Warbler found was on Pt. Loma Oct. 21 (REW). Twelve Ovenbirds scattered throughout the Region between Sept. 23 and Nov. 4 was about average. A ♂ Kentucky Warbler, casual to accidental in California, was on Pt. Loma Sept. 14-17 (DA).

No fewer than five Connecticut Warblers were found with single birds inland at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley Sept. 22 (MAP), at nearby Scotty's Castle Sept. 22-27 (MAP), and at Galileo Hill Sept. 19 (RFC), and along the coast on Pt. Loma Sept. 14-15 (GMcC) and in Goleta Sept. 28-30 (DSt). Five Mourning Warblers appeared to be about normal with single birds at Oceano Oct. 3 (JSR), Gaviota Sept. 13 (PEL), Carpinteria Sept. 23 (PEL), Huntington Beach Oct. 8 (SM), and Pt. Loma Sept. 19 (REW). Single Hooded Warblers in Irvine Sept. 22 (JT), near San Juan Capistrano Nov. 3 (MD), and on Pt. Loma Oct. 2 (REW) were about average. More Canada Warblers than expected reached the coast with 10 reported Sept. 17-Oct. 19; one at F.C.R. Sept. 25-28 (KVR), another in California City Nov. 1 (MTH), and a 3rd banded near Victorville, *San Bernardino*, Sept. 30 (SJM) were inland where few indeed have been found.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A ♂ Hepatic Tanager, most unusual as a vagrant along the coast, was on Pt. Loma Sept. 29-Oct. 1

(REW) and a female was there Oct. 6 (GMcC). A Summer Tanager at Oasis Nov. 4 (RMcK) and another at F.C.R. Nov. 17 (MAP) were both exceptionally late for the n.e. portion of the Region. A ♂ Scarlet Tanager, a difficult bird to come by in California, was on Pt. Loma Oct. 14-16 (REW), another was in Costa Mesa Nov. 12 (RAH), and *Kern's* first was photographed in Mojave Oct. 19 (MTH). A Blue Grosbeak in Mojave Nov. 18 (HB) was remarkable, since the previous late date for the n.e. portion of the Region had been in late September. A ♀ Painted Bunting, casual to accidental in California, was at F.C.R. Sept. 25 (GHR), and another was photographed near Cantil Oct. 6 (MTH). A Dickcissel in Big Pine Sept. 11 (T & JH), single individuals at F.C.R. Sept. 22 (MAP) and Nov. 2 (JLD), one in Baker Oct. 6 (MAP), and another at H.D.L. Sept. 30 (EAC) were inland, and single birds in Goleta Sept. 8 & 14 (PEL) and on Pt. Loma Sept. 25 (REW) were along the coast.

A Green-tailed Towhee in Cambria Nov. 1-6 (NW) was only the 6th ever found in *San Luis Obispo*. As usual a few Am. Tree Sparrows pushed south into the n.e. portion of the Region, with six found in *Inyo* Oct. 26-Nov. 17. Clay-colored Sparrows were much less numerous than a year ago with only 25 reported between Aug. 28 and Oct. 21. A Black-chinned Sparrow at Vail L., *Riverside*, Oct. 22 (SJM) was one of very few found in California at this time of year. Single Lark Buntings at F.C.R. Sept. 8 (MAP) and near Scotty's Castle at the n. end of Death Valley Oct. 27 (GMcC) were the only two found this fall.

Large-billed Savannah Sparrows were again found along the coast of s. California with one at the Santa Ynez R. mouth Nov. 28-Dec. 1 (SEF) being the first in years for *Santa Barbara*, and up to four as far n. as Morro Bay Sept. 21-Oct. 5 (GPS). A **Le Conte's Sparrow** photographed at S.C.R.E. Sept. 23-24 (RJM) was one of very few to be found in California, and the first ever along the coast of s. California. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow at F.C.R. Sept. 22 (KR) was the first ever found inland in this Region in fall. Swamp Sparrows were a little more numerous than usual with 35± reported after Oct. 11. White-throated Sparrows were also numerous with 70± reported after Sept. 29, but Harris' Sparrows

were scarcer than normal with only seven found after Nov. 3.

Up to two McCown's Longspurs, rare stragglers to California, were in Irvine Oct. 19–Nov. 3 (DSi) and two more were near Imperial Beach Nov. 18–25



Lapland Longspur at California City, California, November 2, 1990. Photograph/John Wilson.

(GMcC). As usual a few Lapland Longspurs pushed south into this Region with at least 17 found after Oct. 9. At least 55 Chestnut-colored Longspurs, the most numerous and widespread of the longspurs here, were found scattered through the Region with the earliest at F.C.R. Sept. 25 (JLD).

Bobolinks were relatively scarce, with only nine found in the e. por-

tion of the Region and 18 more along the coast between Sept. 13 and Oct. 25, along with a very late individual in Lompoc Nov. 10–18 (KH). The only Rusty Blackbirds found were one in Baker Nov. 11 (MAP), another near Cantil Nov. 15 (MTH), and four together at H.D.L. Oct. 25 (EAC). Orchard Orioles also appeared less numerous than normal with only four found along the coast between Sept. 15 and Oct. 28. A ♂ Baltimore Oriole at Finney L. near S.E.S.S. Sept. 9–11 (GMcC) was at an unusual locality and early for a vagrant.

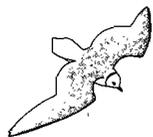
A Rosy Finch near Scotty's Castle Oct. 26 (PEL) was at a most unusual locality. A few Red Crossbills pushed south into this Region during November, with 16 on Figueroa Mt. near Santa Barbara Nov. 9 (NS) and one in California City Nov. 6 (MTH) being the southernmost. Single Lawrence's Goldfinches at F.C.R. Oct. 10 (T & JH), Desert Center Sept. 23 (MAP), and Thousand Palms Sept. 30 (MAP) were in areas where few have been found. Small numbers of Evening Grosbeaks were scattered throughout the e. portion of the Region during Oc-

tober and November, with one at S.E.S.S. Oct. 17–18 (WRR) being the southernmost and only the 3rd ever in *Imperial*.

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DUTCH BIRDING



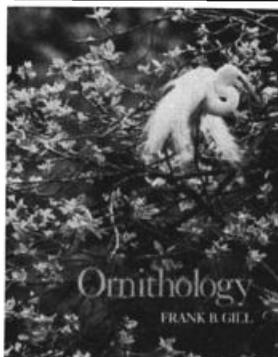
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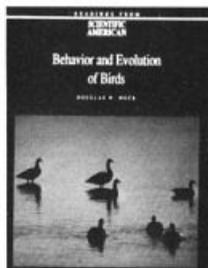
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HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

Robert L. Pyle

Rainfall amounts above seasonal averages continued through the fall at 27 of 31 reporting stations in the main islands, and were especially heavy in normally drier areas of Maui Island. At several wetland areas, water levels rose to flood out mudflats and disperse arriving fall migrants to temporary wet spots not usually visited by birders. Northern Harriers, or perhaps only one, appeared from end to end of the island chain, and the super-rare Maui Parrotbill was well-observed several times at a relatively accessible locality.

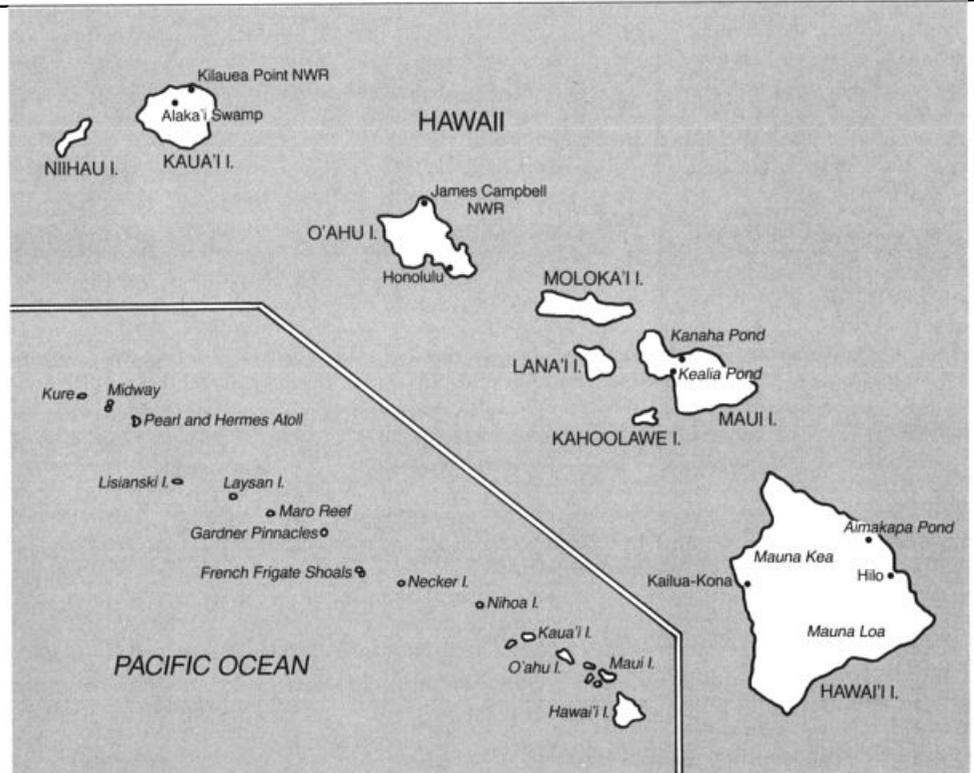
Abbreviations: F.F.S. (*French Frigate Shoals*); H. (*Hawaii Island*); K. (*Kauai Island*); M. (*Maui Island*); O. (*Oahu Island*); HRBP (*catalog prefix for Hawaii Rare Bird Documentary Photographs*); J.C.N.W.R. (*James Campbell Nat'l Wildlife Refuge on Oahu*); P.H.N.W.R. (*Pearl Harbor Nat'l Wildlife Refuge on Oahu*).

PETRELS TO WATERFOWL

An unprecedented 18 Bulwer's Petrels were found alive on Oahu beaches and turned in to Sea Life Park, all between Sept. 4 and Oct. 6. Thirteen were banded and released after rehabilitation; the others died (MB). A bird seen fluttering around a street light in downtown Kahului, M., after dark Oct. 18 was probably a Dark-rumped (Hawaiian) Petrel (*Endangered*) (SW). Another *Pterodroma* petrel that came aboard a cruise ship outside Kahului harbor Oct. 11 was captured, photographed, and identified from plumage characters as a Black-winged Petrel (FD). It was released the next day. Two Black-wingeds and one (look-alike) Bonin Petrel were reported on a near-shore pelagic trip off Honolulu Oct. 20 (DP, PD *et al.*).

A remarkable 201 beached Wedge-tailed Shearwaters were brought to Sea Life Park this fall, 170 during November. About 75% were banded and released; the rest died (MB).

Greater White-fronted Geese,



rare stragglers to Hawaii, turned up on 3 different islands this fall. Two adults and an immature were first seen at Tern I., F.F.S. Oct. 11, but two had died within 6 days (KN, *vide* CR). Two were seen at Ki'i Unit, J.C.N.W.R., on 2 dates in late October (PC); and an extraordinarily large group of six adults and three immatures was seen regularly at Kealia Pond, M., from Nov. 3 to month's end (JO).

Northern Pintails and N. Shovelers, which make up the bulk of the migrant wintering ducks in Hawaii, were in relatively low numbers at their favored sites again this year. Habitat conditions have remained stable or improved at all sites in the main islands except Waipi'o Pen., O.; thus the low numbers may be related to declines in North American populations generally.

But less common species arriving with them, which provide much of the spice for recreational birding in Hawaii, were well represented this fall. An imm. ♀ Garganey was at Laysan I. Sept. 10-15 (JMa), and two were found at both Ki'i Unit, J.C.N.W.R., and Honouliuli Unit, P.H.N.W.R., during November (PD *et al.*). From eight to 14 Eur. Wigeon and four to six Buffleheads were seen regularly at Laysan I. during November (JMa), exceptionally high numbers for Hawaii.

RAPTORS TO CURLEWS

Single Ospreys, casual in Hawaii, were observed at Hapuna Beach, H., Nov. 11 (TB) and Kanaha Pond, M., Nov. 29 (JO). But the real excitement in hawks this season was generated by several reports of N. Harrier. Harriers have been recorded as vagrants in Hawaii fewer than 10 times previously. The first sighting was at Sand I., Midway, Sept. 5, and again Oct. 4 (TS). One was seen Oct. 2-8 (only) at Laysan I. (JMa). Then came reports of one at Ki'i Unit, J.C.N.W.R., Nov. 5 (*vide* PC) and one at nearby Kahuku Pt. Pond Nov. 9 (MO, PD, RLP), but no further sightings there were reported. The last this season was one in the Crystal Cave area of Haleakala Crater, M., Nov. 17 (*vide* CH). All but the last were reported independently as immature. The succession of dates working down the Hawaiian chain from the N.W. end suggest that one harrier might have accounted for several, possibly even all, of these occurrences. Midway and Maui are about 1600 km apart.

Peregrine Falcons continue to reach Hawaii annually now as fall and winter visitors, although they were seen much less frequently in past decades. Early reports this year were of one attacking ducks at Honouliuli Unit, P.H.N.W.R., Oct. 10 (PC), two seen together at Ki'i Unit,

J.C.N.W.R., Oct. 25 (PC), and one seen and photographed at adjacent Amoriant Aquafarm Nov. 26 (PD, HRBP 907-909). A large falcon observed Nov. 3 soaring and "diving on 'Apapane" at 1600 ft near Waikane Valley in the Ko'olau Mts., O., likely was a Peregrine.

A careful census of Black-necked (Hawaiian) Stilts (*Endangered*) at Kealia Pond, M., Nov. 10 yielded about 165 birds, with another 30-50 seen regularly across the island at Kanaha Pond (JO).

Whimbrels are stragglers to Hawaii, but several were reported this fall. An immature was seen regularly at Laysan I. after its arrival Sept. 11, but was found dead Sept. 29 (JMa). A Whimbrel was found at Ki'i Unit, J.C.N.W.R., Sept. 17 & 18 (DW, PC) and again Sept. 30 (PD, MO, RLP). Another was seen at Kealia Pond, M., repeatedly Sept. 27-Nov. 10 (JO). These all were described as having the paler barred rump of the Asiatic race *variegatus*. A broken-winged Whimbrel resident on Laysan since the fall of 1988 was seen there through the fall of 1989 and this fall until the observers left at end of November (JMa).

The color-banded Bristle-thighed Curlew reported last season at Kahuku Pt., O., Aug. 8 (it had been banded a year earlier at Laysan I., 1800 km away) left

O'ahu and was seen back on Laysan Aug. 24 and regularly thereafter into November (JMa, who also banded the bird in 1989 and saw it on O'ahu Aug. 8 after others had found it). This was a good fall generally for Bristle-thigheds on O'ahu. Single birds were seen on the beach at Ala Moana Park in Honolulu (HS), at Waialua Ponds (PD), 3 times at Kaena Pt. (KM, LP), and twice at Ki'i Unit (PD, MO, RLP). Dates ranged from Aug. 24 to Nov. 9. Four Bristle-thigheds were seen at Kahuku Pt. Sept. 10 & 18 (PD), and five were there Sept. 30 (PD, MO, RLP).

GODWITS TO TERNS

Single Bar-tailed Godwits were observed at Sand I., Midway, Sept. 13 (CR) and at Tern I., F.F.S., Oct. 26-29 (JMe, *vide* CR). A juv. Semipalmated Sandpiper was reported at Amorient Aquafarm Sept. 1 (PD). Both species are casual to accidental in Hawaii. Among the uncommon but regular visitors, one to three Pectoral Sandpipers were found at several sites on 4 main islands, all between Sept. 18 and Nov. 9. Up to five Pectorals were on Laysan I. from Aug. 12 through November (JMa). Sharp-tailed Sandpipers appeared widely and in numbers. From one to five individuals, mostly juveniles, were reported through the fall at Sand I., Midway (CR), Tern I., F.F.S. (JMe), and on O'ahu at Ki'i Unit, Amorient Aquafarm, and Waipi'o Pen. (PD *et al.*). At Kealia Pond, M., two juveniles found Oct. 31 were joined by 20 more by Nov. 3, then dwindled to 13 by Nov. 10 (JO). At Laysan I., Sharp-taileds first appeared Sept. 5, built up steadily to a reported total of *more than 100* on Oct. 6 including 50+ in one flock, then dwindled to 20-25 remaining at the end of November (JMa).

Other less common species reported this fall included two Western and two Least sandpipers seen sporadically at Kealia Pond, M. (JO). A snipe of undetermined species was flushed twice Oct. 14 along Keanakolu Road (dirt) through pastureland high on the slope of Mauna Kea, H. (JJ), and a Com. Snipe was seen and heard regularly on Laysan I. Oct. 28-Nov. 20 (JMa). Single Ruffs were recorded at Sand I., Midway (CR), Laysan I. (JMa), Tern I., F.F.S. (CR), and at Waipi'o Pen.,

O. (PD, MO, RLP). Finally, a Wilson's Phalarope first observed at Ki'i Unit, J.C.N.W.R., in late August (PC) was seen there Sept. 2 still in juv. plumage (MO, RLP).

Two Ring-billed Gulls summering at Ki'i Unit and Kahuku Pt. Pond, O., remained through the fall (m.ob.). Another gull report this fall was of an ad. Herring Gull at Kealia and Kanaha ponds, M., Nov. 11-24 (JO). Two Caspian Terns were at Kealia Nov. 24 (JO). The Least (or Little) Tern at Kahuku Pt. Pond (see *AB* summer report) remained until at least Oct. 24 (PD). An adult and two juveniles watched at length at Sand I., Midway, Sept. 13-14 were judged to be Least Terns (JMe), in contrast to one bird studied earlier at Tern I., F.F.S., July 18 and judged by the same observer to be a Little Tern, based on differences in vocalizations and plumage of the adults.

PASSERINES

A leucistic Red-vented Bulbul seen at Kapiolani Park, O., Oct. 15 was described as "between pure white and creamy all over with a reddish vent that showed quite plainly as the bird flew overhead" (SW). One 'Elepaio seen on Aiea Loop Trail Oct. 18 (SW) was significant, as they are rarely reported these days from there or anywhere else on O'ahu.

SA

While doing fieldwork in Pahole Gulch Natural Area Reserve in the Waianae Mts., O., Sept. 27, two N.A.R. staff members found a juvenile Red-billed Leiothrix thoroughly stuck in the sticky sap on a branch fallen from a papala kepau tree. They freed the bird, which was still gummy, and when released it "flapped/hopped/rolled" down the slope (MS). It was the sticky sap of papala kepau that native Hawaiians long ago spread on other tree branches to catch birds for their featherwork. After removing tufts of yellow feathers from the largely black 'O'o bird they would release it, so the story goes, to grow another set of yellow feathers.

It is ironic and rather symbolic that this present-day reenactment of ancient Hawaiian birdcatching craft would involve an *introduced* species when the ancients of course knew only the native birds.

Oahu's ♂ Great-tailed Grackle was seen again along the Honolulu waterfront near Pier 6 Oct. 3 (*vide* JE) and nearby across the channel at Sand I. Oct. 14 (JS).

In Waikamoi Preserve, M., at the same trail location where a super-rare Maui Parrotbill (critically *Endangered*) was seen Aug. 20, a pair of parrotbills was observed by Haleakala Park staff Sept. 27 (*vide* CH) and two were seen there again Oct. 10 (DP *et al.*). Consistent occurrence of this fabulous species at this relatively accessible locality would be a welcome range expansion, would be beneficial for publicizing and educating about the Drepanids' plight, and of course would be great for bird listers. In another part of Waikamoi Preserve, at least 8 sightings of Crested Honeycreeper ('Akohekohe, *Endangered*), another rare Maui Drepanid, were recorded within an hour (DP *et al.*). Also, eight or nine Crested Honeycreepers were watched for 10-20 minutes feeding in olapa trees, just beyond the end of Olinda Rd. (FD). This is a very interesting location some 5-6 km downslope from Waikamoi.

Regular sightings of a small flock of Orange-cheeked Waxbills at a site in Pu'unene, M., throughout the fall (JO) furnished the first repeated record of any waxbill species on Maui. The very few previous reports of waxbills have involved brief views by visitors to the island, not clearly identified to species. Three Java Sparrows at Kihei, M., Oct. 9 (DP *et al.*), following previous sightings there, suggested that this unwanted introduced species is or may soon be established on Maui.

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WEST INDIES REGION

Robert L. Norton

Precipitation for the fall period was 30% above the 100-year average as measured at Cruz Bay, St. John, in the U.S. Virgin Islands. August was +12%, September +37%, October +97%, and November -36%.

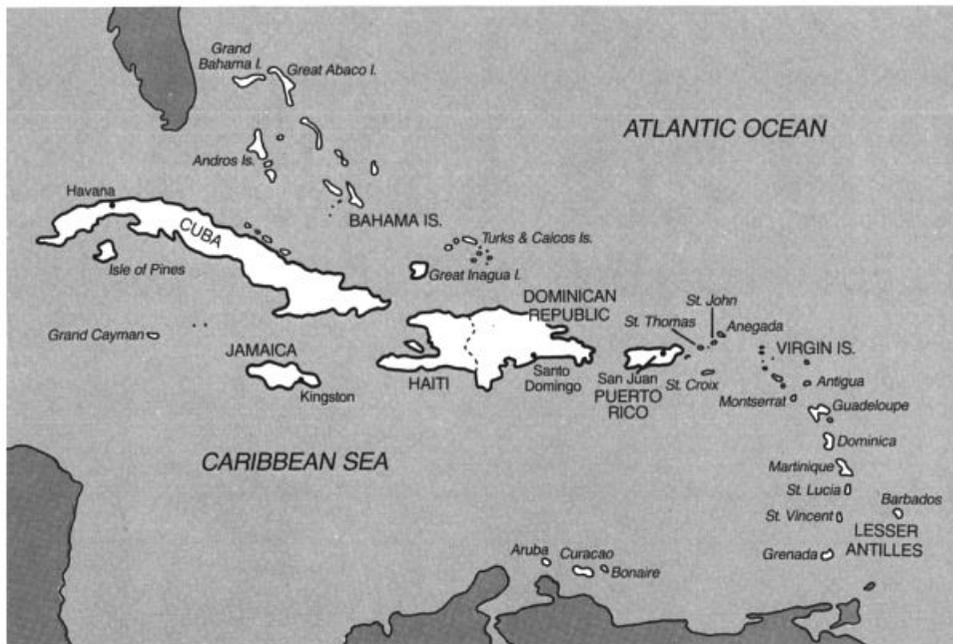
A pelagic day-trip from Miami to the Bimini Islands, with time ashore, proved quite fruitful for the Smiths in mid-September. While on Barbados Sept. 13-25, Faanes and his hosts were privileged (used in the kindest meteorological and ornithological senses) to be in the path of a tropical wave. These seasonal cyclonic disturbances tend to "knock down" scores of migrant shorebirds, much to the relish of Barbados gunners and occasional birders.

Jamaica has two "world class" birding destinations: the Blue Mountains and the Cockpit Country. Support should be given to the Gosse Bird Club of Jamaica in protecting these areas, which are home to that nation's 27 endemic land bird species.

I believe that a way of showing support for bird conservation in the West Indies, or any foreign destination, is to declare on your immigration form that a purpose of your visit is birdwatching. It indicates to governments that you are choosing to spend your tourism dollars to look at their birds in their native habitats—thus using a natural resource that requires little capital investment in return for big benefits. A simple declaration such as this by a non-resident may affect policy and the future of a nation's biodiversity. And you will have paid for the privilege to 'vote' on conservation policy when you ante up your departure tax.

SHEARWATERS TO TERNS

One Audubon's Shearwater was seen during a pelagic trip across the Gulf Stream from Miami to Bimini Sept. 19 (PWS *et al.*). Three Blue-winged Teal reached St. Vincent Sept. 22 (CF). Two Peregrine Falcons were seen offshore over the Gulf Stream Sept. 19 (PWS *et al.*), and one was noted Sept. 18 at Barbados (CF). A Merlin was seen at Alice Town, Bimini, Sept. 19 (PWS *et al.*).



At Barbados, high counts of shorebirds included nine Lesser Golden-Plovers Sept. 18, 94 Lesser Yellowlegs Sept. 20, 12 Solitary Sandpipers Sept. 18, 15 Upland Sandpipers Sept. 17, and 22 Pectoral Sandpipers Sept. 19; single Buff-breasted Sandpipers were seen Sept. 15 & 23 (CF). Birds thought to be Western Sandpipers peaked on Barbados at 220 on Sept. 16, while birds identified as Semipalmated Sandpipers peaked at only 38 on Sept. 23 [a surprising ratio, perhaps reflecting the difficulty of the identification]. Shorebirds were also well represented at St. Vincent on Sept. 22, with two Lesser Golden-Plovers, one Marbled Godwit, one Red Knot, 39 White-rumped Sandpipers, and nine Pectoral Sandpipers (CF).

Godwits furnished the surprise of the day(s) on the incredible shorebird-magnet island of Barbados. Two Hudsonian Godwits Sept. 16 and a Bar-tailed Godwit Sept. 22 were noteworthy. However, on 2 occasions Faanes was shown collections of living shorebirds (kept by the local gunners to use as decoys) where wounded and live-trapped **Black-tailed Godwits** were being kept alive. One had been taken the previous year (DA) during passage of Hurricane *Hugo* through the Lesser Antilles, and the other had been taken a year earlier (GS) under similar circumstances. These birds suggest that Black-tailed Godwit, first reported from the West Indies only 2 years ago (AB 43: 175), may be more than accidental in the Region. **Ruffs** were also seen on Barbados, with sightings Sept. 15, 18, & 24 (CF);

these may well all have been different birds, since no fewer than six had already been taken during the gunning. Single Wilson's Phalaropes were seen at Barbados Sept. 19 & 23 (CF).

Surprisingly, six species of terns were on hand at Barbados during the tropical wave Sept. 16-20: two Gull-billed, two Royal, three Sandwich, two Roseate, and single Common and Least terns. Eight Bridled Terns were seen Sept. 19 during passage from Miami to Bimini, and one was seen off the s. shore of Bimini (PWS *et al.*).

PIGEONS TO BUNTINGS

Fifteen Ring-tailed Pigeons were noted at Hardwar Gap, Jamaica, Aug. 14 (RLN) & 15 (MG, JB). Also seen near here Aug. 14 was another endemic, the elusive Crested Quail-Dove (RLN *et al.*). Fourteen St. Vincent Parrots were seen Sept. 21 at the Vermont Nature Trail (CF), suggesting that this endemic is one of the more accessible parrots of the Region. A single Ashy-faced Owl, the endemic *Tyto* of Hispaniola and recently "split" from Barn Owl, was seen Sept. 25 near Bella Vista, Dominican Republic (CF) The

Grenada Flycatcher was seen Sept. 21 & 22 in open fields of the Vermont Nature Trail, St. Vincent (CF).

A single Barn Swallow was at Dunstan, in the Cockpit Country, Jamaica, Aug. 17 (FS, RLN). Five Cave Swallows at Barbados Sept. 16 (CF) were probably storm-blown, but from where? The species nests in the Greater Antilles east to (and rather sedentarily in) Puerto Rico, but also has been observed in recent years (A.R. Keith) at St. Lucia. Nesting birds were reported in a cruise ship that made ports of call between Puerto Rico and St. Lucia in 1988. Could this swallow be undergoing a Caribbean expansion?

Four species of vireos were noted at Bimini Sept. 19: Philadelphia, Red-eyed, Black-whiskered, and an imm.

White-eyed (PWS *et al.*). Four Am. Redstarts seen Aug. 14 in the Blue Mts., Jamaica, could have been migrants from nearby Cuba. A remarkable report is that at least 3 pairs of redstarts have nested in Cuba recently (OG, AK). A Prothonotary Warbler Sept. 14 at Graeme Hall Swamp, Barbados (CF), furnished one of the southernmost reports in the Region. A Louisiana Waterthrush was seen and heard Aug. 17 (RLN *et al.*) near Windsor, Jamaica. Among 12 species of warblers seen at Bimini during a short visit Sept. 19, PWS *et al.* recorded a Mourning Warbler, perhaps the first from that island, and a Yellow-breasted Chat, perhaps only the 2nd there. A brilliant ♂ Indigo Bunting seen Aug. 14 at Hardwar Gap, Jamaica (RLN), may have furnished the earliest fall date in the West Indies.

Contributors: David Archer, Joanna Burger, Audrey Downer, Craig Faanes, Orlando Garrido, Mike Gochfeld, Arturo Kirkconnel, Dorothy Levins, Ken Parkes, Herb Raffaele, Geoffrey Skeete, Fred Sladen, P. William Smith, Susan Smith, Mickey Wheeler, Bob Whitcomb.—**ROBERT L. NORTON, 3134 Lake Pine Way C-1, Tarpon Springs, FL 34689.**

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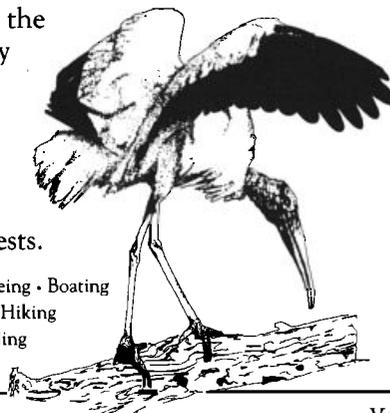
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VIREO

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Man and Birds continued from p. 43
cranes: one, that they flew against the wind and swallowed a stone for ballast so as not to be swept off course; the other, that they posted sentinels at night, requiring them to stand on one foot while holding a stone in the other, thereby insuring that if the sentinel fell asleep, it would drop the stone and be awakened by the noise. More remarkable still was Aelian's notion that the Purple Gallinule would hang itself if it discovered an adulterous wife and was so modest it would faint at the sight of a bridegroom.

After Aristotle and Pliny, we have little in the way of systematic observation and cataloguing of information until the 1500s. We have mentioned Pierre Belon's 1555 *History of the Nature of Birds*, and in about 1600, Ulyssis Aldrovandus, working at the University of Bologna in Italy, produced a three-volume, 2600-page work entitled *Ornithologiae*.

The next step toward modern ornithology was the growth of field observation in the eighteenth century. Captain John Smith made a list of birds at the Jamestown Colony. In 1789, Gilbert White, an English clergyman, published a natural history of his parish, gathered over 40 years' time. His observations of birds were marvelously precise and beautifully expressed. In his *Notes on Virginia*, Thomas Jefferson commented on 77 species of birds from his observations during a trip through the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida from 1773 to 1777. Then came Alexander Wilson, an emigrant Scotsman and school teacher, who (encouraged by Bartram's example) eventually produced his own nine-volume *American Ornithology*, the seminal modern work. In 1832, Thomas Nuttall, curator of the Harvard botanical garden, published a more manageable work, if not title, in *A Manual of the Ornithology of the United States and Canada*

From this now solid grounding arose the great museums of natural history and their collections, the ornithological societies, and the array of magazines and journals devoted to birds. At the beginning of this century, Frank Chapman of the American Museum of Natural History became a pivotal leader in modern ornithology. Lacking formal training, he nonetheless was a pioneer in the study of South American birds and possessed a remarkable ecological and evolutionary perspective. He assembled a formidable group of colleagues—Dean

Because only humans, parrots, and songbirds can imitate sounds, birds are immensely important to the investigation of the interplay between inheritance and learning.

Amadon, James Chapin, Ernst Mayr, and Robert Cushman Murphy — whose efforts dominated the study of ornithology for half a century. Moreover, Chapman was a great popularizer. He championed the diorama mode of museum display and wrote the *Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America*, the first widely distributed pocket field guide to birds, published in 1925.

Contemporary ornithology has benefited from years of careful field observation by devoted amateurs as well as by professional ornithologists. Our knowledge of avian life histories and populations is more complete than that of most other classes of animals. Owing in part to this wealth of information and in part to the attributes of birds, birds have increasingly become the subject in primary biological studies. By the middle of the 1980s, as Ernst

Mayr (1984) has pointed out, birds provided more textbook examples of biological phenomena than any other class of vertebrates.

Birds have been central to work on the formation of species and have been used in some of the most detailed molecular analyses of phylogeny. Perhaps the greatest contribution of bird studies has been to population and community ecology, but their contributions to evolutionary ecology and to the discovery of new connections between animal behavior and ecology are not far behind. Birds are particularly well suited for the study of mating systems and strategies. Birds are similarly useful in investigation of the roles of kinship in evolution and of altruism. The rules governing communication and physiological mechanisms that connect communication to behavior have been greatly elucidated by bird studies.

Because only humans, parrots, and songbirds can imitate sounds, birds are immensely important to the investigation of the interplay between inheritance and learning. Because birds in captivity continue partly to maintain their natural behavior, and to some degree because they are long-lived, they are useful in the study of effects of natural stimuli on physiology and behavior. The same characteristics also make it possible to study the environmental control of reproduction and the role of circadian and circannual rhythms.

Birds are useful in the study of hormone action on developing and adult brains, of the anatomy and development of brain neural circuitry, and of cell death and survival. Systems for song control have served for the study of sexual differences in the brain. Hormone action on receptors, regulation of gene expression, the molecular biochemistry of hormone action, the evolution of the neocortex, and the uses of brain maps are all better understood be-

cause of research on birds. Finally, birds show some of the capacity, common in lower vertebrates, for adult growth and regeneration of the brain. This could be important in determining why mammals lack the capacity.

Birds are, more obviously perhaps, ideal subjects for the study of adaptation to extreme conditions and unusual niches, of navigation, and of energetics of flight. And at the very origin of ethology, the work of Niko Tinbergen with gulls and of Konrad Lorenz with ducks and geese provide classical examples of the attempt to understand the evolution

of behavior. Their studies earned them a Nobel prize. In cell biology and medicine, the discovery of B vitamins and their roles in nutrition came from studies of chickens, which readily reveal dietary deficiency. Albert Szent-Györgyi won a Nobel prize for the elucidation of the Krebs cycle from studies of pigeon breast muscle, as did Payton Ruos for studies of avian sarcoma that linked viruses to cancer for the first time.

Primary research has greatly affected our understanding and practice of conservation, especially research in ecology and evolution.

Birds are, of course, sensitive indicators of environmental change, witness Rachel Carson's account in *Silent Spring*, or warning of the El Niño phenomenon, well before meteorologists announce it, by the failure of seabird reproduction that results from changes in food and climate. We are only now beginning to understand that, besides urbanization and modern modes of transportation, the practices of agriculture and forestry, especially mechanized deforestation, have profound effects on habitats and populations. Because of their migration, birds more than other animals help us to understand the global nature of these effects. Sadly, study of birds is also helping us to understand the effects of our introduction into the environment of domestic animals, rats, nonnative species, and oil and chemical pollution.

A few stories of extinction in modern times are well known; those of the Passenger Pigeon and the Great Auk are dramatic. Less well known is an extraordinary story of a battle won by the birds. It occurred in Western Australia in 1932 and is known as the Emu War. At the time, it attracted much attention and was covered by the press. It seems that some 20,000 emus threatened wheat fields. Soldiers employing machine guns and artillery spent a month attacking the birds. The birds, in the words of Dominick Serventy of the Australian Wildlife Research Office, "apparently adopted guerilla tactics and split into small units. This made the use of military equipment uneconomic." After the soldiers withdrew, fences were built to separate the emus from the grain.

A satisfactory outcome indeed. Perhaps through basic research and thoughtful practice, we will come to a more harmonious relationship with those astonishing creatures that have charmed and fascinated us throughout our own existence. ■

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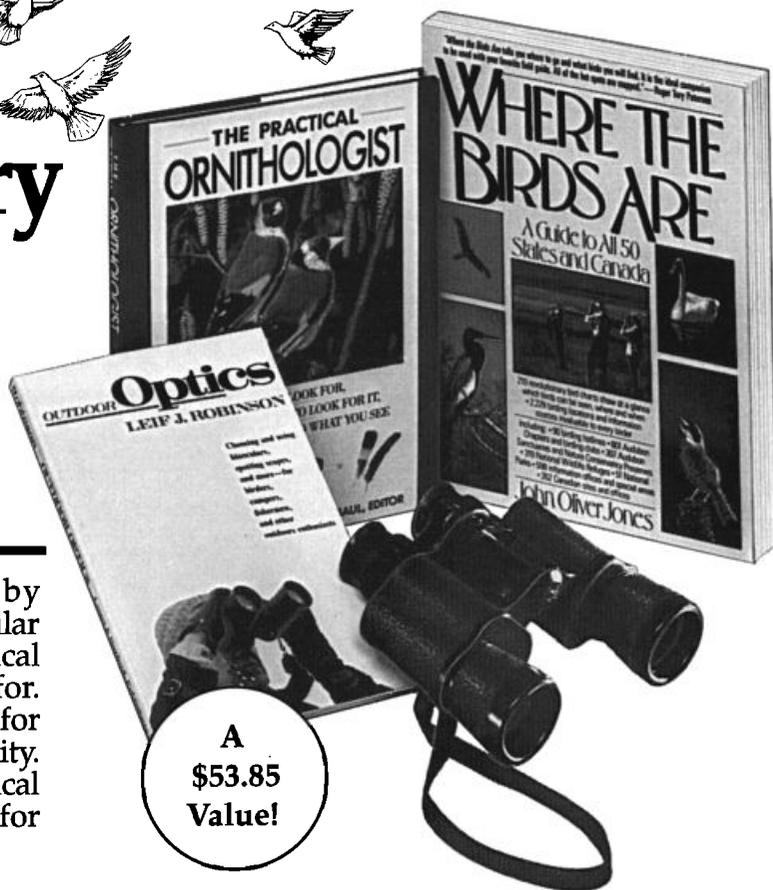
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