

**STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS  
USED IN THE REGIONAL REPORTS**

**Abbreviations used in  
place names:**

In most regions, place names given in  
italic type are counties.

**Other abbreviations:**

Cr	Creek
Ft.	Fort
Hwy	Highway
I	Island or Isle
Is.	Islands or Isles
Jct.	Junction
km	kilometer(s)
L.	Lake
mi	mile(s)
Mt.	Mountain or Mount
Mts.	Mountains
N.F.	National Forest
N.M.	National Monument
N.P.	National Park
N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
P.P.	Provincial Park
Pen.	Peninsula
Pt.	Point (not Port)
R.	River
Ref.	Refuge
Res.	Reservoir (not Reservation)
S.P.	State Park
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area

**Abbreviations used in the  
names of birds:**

Am.	American
Com.	Common
E.	Eastern
Eur.	European or Eurasian
Mt.	Mountain
N.	Northern
S.	Southern
W.	Western

**Other abbreviations and symbols  
referring to birds:**

ad.	adult
imm.	immature
juv.	juvenile or juvenile
sp.	species
†	means that written details were submitted for a sighting
*	means that a specimen was collected
♂	male
♀	female
CBC	Christmas Bird Count

# THE AUTUMN MIGRATION

August 1–November 30, 1992

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# ATLANTIC PROVINCES REGION

Bruce Mactavish

The Region experienced rather uneventful weather throughout the period. Birding activities continue to increase. The level of bird-finding skill is rising throughout the Region's birders. New knowledge of where, when, and how to look for rarities—the spice of birding—is being added yearly to a rapidly growing storage bank of information. The result is not only more observations of out-of-range birds, but a better understanding of bird migration in the Atlantic Provinces. The New Brunswick birding community has virtually come alive in the past 2 years. Intensified coverage of Grand Manan I. and increased exploration of the province's n.e. coast resulted in an impressive list of rarities, including 3 firsts for New Brunswick: a Pacific Loon in breeding plumage, a Black-throated Gray Warbler, and a Henslow's Sparrow. The other provinces had their share of excitement as well.

It is a Region of contrasts, extremes and the unexpected. Red-bellied Woodpeckers staged a flight into the Region that could only be called massive, consisting of some 21 birds. An unprecedented fall influx of Blue Grosbeaks hit Nova Scotia. A record-early migration of Ivory Gulls flew past the n. tip of Newfoundland. More Red-breasted Nuthatches than most people could see in several lifetimes were on one small island in Nova Scotia in a single day.

**Abbreviations:** G.M.I. (*Grand Manan I., NB*); G.M.N.P. (*Gros Morne N.P.*); S.P.M. (*St. Pierre et Miquelon*).

## LOONS TO HERONS

Red-throated Loons were reported in good numbers in 3 provinces. Twenty at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, NF, were early Aug. 29 (BMT). In Nova Scotia there were >50 at Big I., Pictou, Oct. 31 (KM), and 60 at Cole Hbr./Cow Bay Nov. 11 (BMy et al.). The Gulf of St. Lawrence shore of New Brunswick is an important migration route for loons, especially Red-throateds. The largest of several counts of >20 included 120 Sept. 29 at Miscou I. (ST, RS) and 50 Nov. 20 near Cape Tormentine (ST). A Pacific Loon in full breeding plumage off Miscou I., NB, on Sept. 29 was the first to be seen in this dress in the Region (ST, RS). Another Pacific Loon, thought to be an adult in winter plumage,

was well described from Cow Bay, NS, Nov. 8 (PM, BS, RF). These are among the very few well-substantiated records for the Region.

Five Pied-billed Grebes during September and October at St. John's, NF, was an above-average count for this surprisingly regular provincial vagrant (m.obs.). The saltwater cove off Long Pd., G.M.I., NB, is a good location for Red-necked Grebes, with two as early as Aug. 24, 10 Sept. 8, and a peak of 90 Nov. 10 (ST). Other impressive counts of this species were 25 at Cap Bimer, NB, Oct. 29 (ST), 50 at Escuminac, NB, Oct. 12 (ST), and 100 at Tidnish Dock, NS, Sept. 20 (ST).

Four Cory's Shearwaters seen Sept. 14 on George's Bank, NS, were within the species' normal range (Rd'E). The largest number of Greater Shearwaters was seen in the Bay of Fundy, with up to 5000 per day off Brier I., NS, during the last 2 weeks of August (DB) and 8000 s.e. of G.M.I., NB, Sept. 14 (ST). Manx Shearwaters were numerous on whale-watching trips off s.e. G.M.I., NB in August and September, with 75 Sept. 11 the highest count (ST). Sixty Manx Shearwaters Sept. 20 off Miquelon, S.P.M., was a nice count, but expected from this location (MC). Two detailed reports of Audubon's Shearwaters from the Bay of Fundy were received, the first off Brier I., NS, on Aug. 9 (RF) and the other 18 mi e. of G.M.I., NB, Sept. 13 (AR). These are the first substantiated sightings of Audubon's Shearwaters out of several reports in recent years from the s. part of the Region. Leach's Storm-Petrels are routine until early November near the huge breeding colonies in e. Newfoundland but are less common elsewhere in the Region. A nor'easter

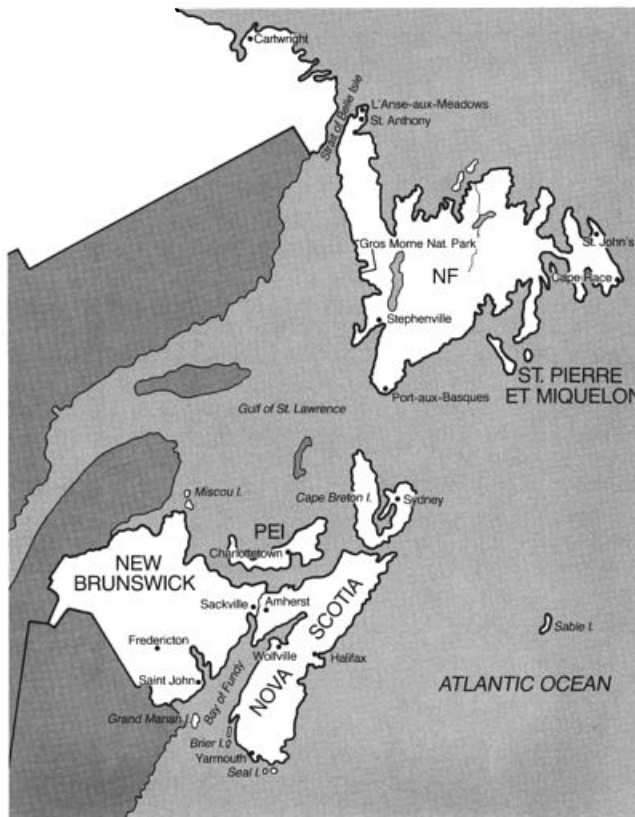
brought 12 Leach's Storm-Petrels to the entrance of the harbor in Halifax, NS, Nov. 2 (BMy, FL) and one to Shediac Bridge, NB, on Nov. 1 (ST). Truly late for the Region was an injured Leach's picked up Nov. 21 at Killagrews, NF (*vide* WM). The 50–100 pairs that nest at Machias Seal I., NB, left the colony the last week of October (RM). The highest number of Wilson's Storm-Petrels seen on several late-summer trips off s.e. G.M.I., NB, was 100, Aug. 23 (ST). Farther out to sea in the Gulf of Maine, 1200 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were seen Aug. 26 from the ferry crossing between Yarmouth, NS, and Portland, ME (LB).

Northeast gales sent 2000 N. Gannets (80% ad.) past L'Anse-aux-Meadows, NF, Aug. 31 in 4 hours; a surprising number for the n. latitude (BMT). An intriguing report of a Brown Pelican from G.M.I., NB, in August was not confirmed. A cormorant sp. in w. Labrador, at Lobstick, in mid-September, was far from any known breeding sites (*vide* BMT).

An above-average October influx of egrets was noted in Newfoundland, with totals of three Great, one Snowy, and eight Cattle egrets. One of the Great Egrets remained to a record late date of Nov. 27. Elsewhere there was one each of Snowy and Great egret in October at S.P.M. Four Great, four Snowy, and two Cattle egrets, three Little Blue Herons, and four Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen in Nova Scotia. And in New Brunswick, one Great and seven Cattle egrets and one Little Blue Heron were found. The only pattern in the timing of occurrence through these s. heron records is that most of the Cattle Egrets were seen during the last 2 weeks of October. Nova Scotia's famous Little Egret was still at Bon Portage I., Sept. 6 (*vide* PM).

## WATERFOWL

It was a poor year for Snow Geese, with the only reports being three at S.P.M. during October (*vide* RE) and one Oct. 1 at Hartlen Pt., NS (FL). High counts of Wood Ducks anywhere in the Region were 50 males at a sewage pond on Campobello I., NB, Sept. 3 (ST) and 40 Sept. 20 at Baie Verte, NB (ST). There were 2 broods of Gadwalls at the Sackville, NB, waterfowl park Aug. 3 (ST), while the easternmost migrant was one Nov. 12–16 at Canning, NS (FL et al.). One ♂ Eur. Wigeon seen Nov. 11–18 at St. John's, NF, was below recent fall totals (RB, BMT). In New Brunswick there were two ♀ (one imm. and one ad.) Eur. Wigeon in the company of a remarkable flock of 250 Am. Wigeons at Black R., Kouchibouguac Nat'l. Park, Oct. 12 (ST et al.) and a ♀ at Wishart Pt., Oct. 7–10 (RD et al.). Just an annual fall rarity in the Region, a ♂ Can-



vasback was at Cap Brule, NB, Oct. 29 (ST). A large post-breeding "lump" of 200 Ring-necked Ducks was observed at Framboise, NS, Aug. 2–Sept. 17 (DM). The first breeding record for Greater Scaup at S.P.M. was established when a female with 5 young was seen in St. Pierre Aug. 16 (LJ). The annual concentration of Greater Scaup at the Pic-tou, NS, causeway grew from 300 Aug. 12 to 900 Sept. 4 (KM). Good numbers of the uncommon Lesser Scaup were identified in New Brunswick, with 40 Sept. 29 at the Tracadie sewage ponds (ST), 20 Oct. 2 at Black R. (ST), and 10 Nov. 18 at Cap Brule (ST). An early Harlequin Duck spent a month at Miscou I., NB, starting Sept. 6 (RD *et al.*). Nine other Harlequins were spread over 6 locations in New Brunswick during November. Large concentrations of Hooded Mergansers included 22 Oct. 12 at Black R., Kouchibouguac Nat'l. Park (ST); 25 Oct. 31 at Lyon's Bk, Pictou, NS, (KM), and 60 Nov. 11 at Annapolis Royal, NS, one of the biggest flocks ever sighted in the Region (BF). Two ♀ Hooded Mergansers Sept. 30 near Churchill Falls, Lab., were well n. of the known breeding range (BMT). Four Ruddy Ducks was a low total for this erratic e. wanderer.

#### DIURNAL RAPTORS TO CRANES

A Black Vulture was video-taped from close range at Margaretsville, Annapolis, NS, in early September, for the first provincial sighting in many years (*fide* IM). Turkey Vultures barely evoke a response in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia anymore; however, a tally of up to seven late Sept.–Oct. 12 at Brier I., NS, was interesting (*fide* IM), and one bird at Murray's Corner, NB, Nov. 16 was late (RD). Where still noteworthy, Prince Edward I. had two Turkey Vultures at Naufrage in August (TD) and one at Margate Sept. 30 (WM). An intriguing report of an Am. Swallow-tailed Kite seen by a non-birder Aug. 31 at S.P.M. is probably best left as hypothetical (*fide* RE).

There are no regular hawk watches in the Region. Unless a hawk flight coincides with a weekend, there is very little chance that it will be noticed; and even then, hawk watching is usually not a priority of the day. The only hawk flight seen this season was reported by Stuart Tingley who, while waiting 2 hours at the Black's Harbour, NB, ferry terminal Sept. 12, saw 40 Ospreys, 80 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 40 Broad-winged Hawks, and 100 Am. Kestrels. A very late Broad-winged Hawk was in n. New Brunswick at Miscou I., Nov. 12 (RD). An unsubstantiated Golden Eagle was reported at Riley's Brook, NB, on the unusual date of Aug. 11.

The numbers of Peregrine Falcons seen on migration through the Region seemed to be on par with those of recent good years. A bird of unknown origin Oct. 8 at Miquelon, S.P.M., wore a blue leg band (*fide* RE). Gyrfalcons were scarce in Newfoundland but were reported from southern parts of the Region, with one Nov. 24 at Castalia,

G.M.I., NB (BD) and one Nov. 19 at Prince Edward I. N.P., PEI (MR), and an early white-morph Gyrfalcon Oct. 24 at Cape Mabou, NS (C & AM).

A late and locally rare Com. Moorhen was seen at Canning, NS, Nov. 8 (BA). Even later was a Sora noted Nov. 23 at St. John's, NF (BMT). Two Sandhill Cranes were at Evangeline, NB, Sept. 8–29 (JGR). An amazing report of 18 Sandhill Cranes in flight over w. Nova Scotia was unfortunately without details.

#### SHOREBIRDS

The juvenile shorebird scarcity scare forecasted for autumn was not as bad as predicted. It was noticed only by the most ardent shorebird watchers. The largest flock of Lesser Golden-Plovers, 140, took place Sept. 6 at Cape Race, NF (CB). Five were still at Grand Pre, NS, Nov. 10 (JT). Semipalmated Plover is one the most ubiquitous shorebirds in the Region, but totals of 1000 Aug. 18 at Cherry Hill, NS (J & SC) and 800 Aug. 25 at Three Fathom Harbors, NS (BS) were impressive. There were two Am. Avocets in New Brunswick: one Aug. 8–23 at Kent I. (JP) and one Oct. 8–15 at Moncton (John Tanner *et al.*).

#### SA

Birders in the Region may be overlooking an important kind of habitat right on their doorsteps. Brian Dalzell made regular visits to several airports in s. New Brunswick and Prince Edward I. during an avian airport use study. The birding potential of this habitat is shown by Brian's list of short-grass-loving shorebirds. Lesser Golden-Plovers and Killdeer were seen on all surveys September to mid-October. Maximum counts for each species were 48 Lesser Golden-Plovers Oct. 16 at Charlottetown, PEI, and 65 Killdeer Sept. 15 at Saint John, NB. Of greater interest was the number of Buff-breasted Sandpipers and Upland Sandpipers. Buff-breasted Sandpiper sightings included one Sept. 9 & 24 at Charlottetown, PEI, one Sept. 10 at Fredricton, NB, five Sept. 11–15 and two Sept. 24 at Saint John, NB, and one Sept. 27 at Moncton, NB. The greatest surprise was the numbers of Upland Sandpipers, a local and scarce breeder in the Region, rarely encountered in migration. Totals were six Aug. 26 and four Sept. 9 at Charlottetown, PEI, four Aug. 24 at Fredricton, NB, and two Sept. 8 at Moncton, NB.

The 216 Whimbrels seen Aug. 1 at Miquelon, S.P.M. was the only count above 100 (RE, DD, BL). They seemed genuinely scarce late August to mid-September, when the birds of the year usually peak in numbers. Nice counts of Hudsonian Godwits came from that narrow corridor over which they traditionally migrate on the w. shore of the Gulf

of St. Lawrence: 46 Aug. 12 Covehead to St. Peter's Head, PEI (SM, DM) and 110 Aug. 13 between Cap Brule and Robichaud, NB (ST), and 36 Aug. 22 at Cape Sable I., NS (LB). A Marbled Godwit at Port Howe, NS, was close to the location where one has been appearing for several consecutive years (PM). Five hundred juv. Red Knots at Lameque, NB, Sept. 29 was an impressive concentration (ST, RS). Ten seen Nov. 29 at Grand Barachois, S.P.M., was a large number for so late (CM, LJ). The peak wave of Semipalmated Sandpiper migration was well defined by maximum counts of the season from the major concentration points, all coming Aug. 10 & 11: 120,000 Aug. 10 at Grand Pre, NS (JT), 300,000 Aug. 11 at Dorchester Cape, NB (DC), and 130,000 Aug. 11 at Mary's Pt., NB (DC). The only W. Sandpiper was a juvenile Nov. 7 at Covehead, PEI (SM).

#### SA

Of considerable interest was a small curlew seen near Brackley Beach, Prince Edward I. N. P., PEI, on Sept. 12 (DS, DM, BB). It was watched for 30 minutes from a distance of 80 meters as it stood on a grass tuft at high tide, then flying away. It was "slightly bigger than the Lesser Yellowlegs next to it"; therefore, it was "approximately Greater Yellowlegs size." The head pattern, "very boldly marked, much like that of Whimbrel" and underwing coverts "pale buffish" eliminate Eskimo Curlew as a possibility. The primaries were said to be unbarred. Whimbrels are barred here. The words Little Curlew *Numenius minutus* were uttered as a contender. This scarce Siberian breeder has strayed to California and Britain so it is not as an outlandish claim as one might at first think.

The bird was perhaps not studied critically enough to justify an infallible identification to species, but it was certainly a bird to be aware of!!

Juvenile White-rumped Sandpipers were as numerous as usual across the Region, but numbers lingered a week or so beyond normal last dates: 16 at Cape Jourimain, NB, Nov. 21 (ST), 10 at Grand Barachios, S.P.M., Nov. 25 (RE), and one at Ferryland, NF, Nov. 29 (BMT). It was a good fall for Baird's Sandpipers, with 20 reported in the Region Aug. 17–Oct. 5. Nova Scotia led the way with 12, New Brunswick had five, including three at Castalia, G.M.I., Sept. 26 (RW), and Newfoundland had its best fall total in years with three. It was also a good year for Stilt Sandpipers, with 16 in New Brunswick alone, including 2 groups of six on the Acadian Pen. in early August (RD). Nova Scotia had 9 individuals, including a surprising group of four on the late of Oct. 18 at Conrad's Beach (BMy, FL, RF). In addition to the Buff-breasted Sandpipers mentioned in the air-

port surveys, eight others showed up in the Region Sept. 11–Oct. 7, including one at Prince Edward I., at Covehead Sept. 13, where there are very few records (DS, SM). A Ruff was seen at Matthew's L., NS, July 23 (AC) as well as two out-of-season Ruffs Nov. 8 near Dartmouth, NS (RF). Long-billed Dowitcher sightings consisted of one at Saint's Rest Marsh, NB, Aug. 24 (JE), eight Sackville, NB, Oct. 15 (JE), one at Castalia, NB, Oct. 14 (PP), and one at Conrad's Beach, NS, Oct. 18 (RF, BMy, FL).

Wilson's Phalaropes were slightly scarcer than in recent autumns, with two at Inkerman, NB, July 30 (RD), three at Conrad's Beach, NS, Sept. 6 (BS) with a late individual still there Oct. 18 (FL, RF, BMy), one at Spaniard's Bay, NF, Aug. 25 (RB), and one at St. John's, NF, Sept. 18 (BMT). Highest sea-faring phalarope counts included 2000 Reds and 50 Red-neckeds at sea south of G.M.I., NB, Aug. 23 (ST) and 800 Red and 100 Red-necked from the Portland, ME, to Yarmouth, NS, ferry Aug. 26 (LB).

#### JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

Pomarine Jaegers seemed more numerous off G.M.I., NB, than usual, with sightings of up to nine several days in September (ST *et al.*). Raymond d'Entremont had 15 Poms around his fishing boat Sept. 11 on George's Bank, NS, the largest flock he has seen in years of fishing in this area. A late Pomarine Jaeger was off Chebucto, NS, Nov. 23 (FL). The great storm of Oct. 7 & 8 that hit e. Newfoundland occurred during the work week and was missed by most birders; however, a hint of what could have been seen was a report of >100 Pomarine Jaegers Oct. 7 at Cape Bonavista (B. Ratcliffe). A NE breeze at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, NF, Aug. 31, produced 26 Pomarine, three Parasitic, two Long-tailed, and 20 unidentified jaegers (BMT). The only other Long-tailed Jaeger was off Brier I., NS, Aug. 22 (EM).

There were plenty of skua sightings from s.w. Nova Scotia. Most were identified down to species, but very little reached the editor in the way of details on identification of this tricky duo. The only S. Polar Skua was a "light morph" off Brier I., Sept. 13 (FS). Great Skuas were singles on George's Bank Aug. 20 and Oct. 5 (Rd'E), one well seen from the Bluenose ferry 40 mi e. of Yarmouth (HH), one 20 mi s. of Halifax Sept. 26 (RG *et al.*), and one probable off Seal I., Sept. 28 (IM). New Brunswick had more Great Skua reports than normal, with one on Grand Manan Basin Sept. 11 (LM), two Sept. 22 off Saint John (BD), and one from the G.M.I. ferry Oct. 17 (*vide* BD).

The only Laughing Gulls were an "immature" Aug. 22 off G.M.I., NB (*vide* BD) and one Machias Seal I., NB (RM). A late and rare ad. Franklin's Gull was at Herring Cove, NS, Nov. 13 (PM, BS). Most Little Gulls in the Region are associated with the Bonaparte's Gull migration through the w. part of the Region. This fall was no exception, with New Brunswick reporting two ad. and one

2nd-summer bird seen Aug. 17 at Deer Island Pt. (ST *et al.*); one 2nd-summer bird Aug. 20–Oct. 4, and 2 adults Sept. 25 at Tracadie (RD *et al.*); and one adult Sept. 29 at Lemeque (ST *et al.*). Nova Scotia had one adult at the Pictou causeway Nov. 20–Dec. 1 (*vide* BMy). No juv. Com. Black-headed Gulls were seen with the 8 adults at Stephenville Crossing, NF, Aug. 16, indicating no successful nesting this year at this proven breeding area (BMT). The maximum autumn count of Com. Black-headed Gulls at St. John's was only 39 Nov. 5 (BMT). This is the lowest total in the 10 consecutive years of monitoring their movements at this location and follows last year's decline after 8 consecutive years of steady increase. Christmas Bird Counts may show whether this is a Region-wide phenomenon. Largest concentrations of Bonaparte's Gulls within their migration corridor consisted of 2000 at Deer Island Pt., NB, Aug. 17 (ST) and 700 at Waterside Park, Pictou, NS (JT).

St. John's, NF, had single ad. Mew Gulls Sept. 13–Nov. 18 and a banded bird Nov. 25–Dec. 1 (BMT). The latter bird was not seen close enough for reading of the leg band, but it was thought to be returning for its 3rd consecutive year, on the basis of its small size and other physical features. One thousand Iceland Gulls around Shippagan, NB, Nov. 29, further attests to the species' abundance in the Gulf of St. Lawrence (ST). The meager total of five Lesser Black-backed Gulls for the Region, all adults, probably reflects a lack of interest in looking for them rather than an actual reduction. An ad. winter-plumaged Sabine's Gull was seen off G.M.I., NB Oct. 9 & 10 (ST *et al.*).

#### SA

An exceptionally early and large movement of Ivory Gulls was noted at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, NF, on the n. tip of the island. They were seen daily Nov. 22–30 in numbers ranging from 8 to 38 (DA). As usual for Newfoundland 90% of the birds were adults. Interestingly, they were flying W along the shore and under gentle weather conditions. They appeared to be on migration, perhaps to undiscovered wintering grounds in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Similar directional movements on a smaller scale have been observed here in late December in past years. Perhaps an over eager individual from this movement was the imm. Ivory Gull at Port Morien, Cape Breton I., NS, Nov. 28–Dec. 1 (*vide* BMy).

Caspian Terns are strangely local in the Region. They are usually numerous where they do occur, such as at Covehead, PEI, where there were 21 Sept. 12 (SM, BB, DM). An estimated 3–6 pairs of Roseate Terns on Machias Seal I., NB, in early August points to a new potential breeding site for the



**Adult Fork-tailed Flycatcher at Horton, New Brunswick, October 10, 1992. Third provincial record. Photograph/Stuart Tingley.**

species (ST). Five juv. Com. Terns Oct. 26 and another Nov. 1 at Shediac, NB, were late (ST). Single Forster's Terns, annual strays to the Region, were at G.M.I., NB, Aug. 29 (RC) and at Lemeque, NB, Oct. 18–20 (RD *et al.*). Two ad. and two juv. Black Terns. Aug. 6, at Miquelon, S.P.M., where a pair of adults had been since July 15, probably represented an isolated breeding record (RE, MB). This is 300 mi e. of the closest known breeding site.

Ten ad. Com. Murres with half-grown young at The Wolves, Bay of Fundy, NB, Aug. 14 suggests an undiscovered local breeding location (ST *et al.*). Eighty Atlantic Puffins s. of G.M.I., NB, Sept. 25 was a high count (ST *et al.*). Eight hundred Dovekies flew S past Cape St. Francis, NF, in 1.5 hours Oct. 26, showing how early they can be common in the Region (BMT).

#### DOVES TO FLYCATCHERS

Nova Scotia's 10th White-winged Dove was at a feeder Aug. 20–Sept. 3 near Port Morien, Cape Breton I. (CMu *et al.*). It was a fair autumn for Yellow-billed Cuckoos, with four in New Brunswick, eight in Nova Scotia, and one each in St. Pierre et Miquelon and Newfoundland. Like most of the few records of Common Barn-Owl, the remains were all that was found of one Aug. 27 near Halifax, NS, apparently having just been eaten by a Great Horned Owl (*vide* IM).

A moderate flight of Snowy Owls was witnessed in the w. part of the Region. An early adult Sept. 27 at Miscou I., NB, was probably one of the 4 adults seen in n.e. New Brunswick during the summer (RD). Other reports began in early November, with 12 in



New Brunswick, three on Prince Edward I., two in S.P.M., and only two in Newfoundland. An early N. Hawk Owl was at Miscou I., NB, lighthouse Oct. 10 (RD). A massive migration of Com. Nighthawks was noted Aug. 25, when 1200 passed over St. Stephen, NB, in the half-hour before sunset (G. Ouwenel).

A late and eastward-straying Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at St. Pierre, S.P.M. (RH). While Red-headed Woodpeckers have remained a constant rare, but regular, fall vagrant to the s.w. part of the Region over the past couple of decades, Red-bellieds have stormed ahead to become several times more numerous. The season's only Red-headed Woodpecker was at Upper Sacville, NS, Oct. 26 & 27 (JT). In New Brunswick, where Red-bellied Woodpeckers were first recorded as recently as 1986, a record 14 individuals were seen from mid-October–November, mostly along the Bay of Fundy (*vide* JE). Even Prince Edward I. did well with the species, reporting 5 birds in November. It is almost surprising that only 3 were reported from Nova Scotia. Newfoundland and St. Pierre et Miquelon probably won't have to wait much longer for their firsts.

An impressive wave of 75–100 Alder Flycatchers was at North Pt., Brier I., NS, Aug. 23 (AM). A late one was seen at Escuminac, NB, Oct. 2 (ST). A small-bodied, small-billed *Empidonax* flycatcher was seen all too briefly at G.M.I., NB, on the very late date of Nov. 12 (ST). New Brunswick's 2nd **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was a hardy bird surviving up to 72 hours of sub-freezing temperatures at Alma Nov. 14–Dec. 1 (RW *et al.*). It was well studied and identifiably photographed. A late Great-crested Flycatcher was thankfully critically identified in n. New Brunswick at Covedell Nov. 8–14 (RD). A full-tailed ad. **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** seen by many and photographed at Horton, NB, Oct. 9–11, was 3rd for the province (DDs *et al.*). Twelve W. Kingbirds Sept. 18–Nov. 15 (five in November) was a good Regional total.

#### SWALLOWS TO SHRIKES

The unique annual October occurrence of Cliff Swallow on the to the Avalon Pen., s.e. Newfoundland, was continued with two near St. John's Oct. 2 (PL) and one Oct. 17 at Ferryland (CB, JP). The only other late swallow was a Barn Swallow Nov. 3 at Chebucto Head, NS (FL). Red-breasted Nuthatches were superabundant at southernmost migration concentration points: >100 Sept. 14 G.M.I., NB (JE), "hundreds" July 25 at the tip of Cape Split, NS (AM), and a mind-boggling 3000 Aug. 30 at Brier I., NS (EM). The only Carolina Wren was at Fredericton, NB, Oct. 27 (Jeremy Forster). The first House Wren for S.P.M. was at St. Pierre Sept.



**Yellow-headed Blackbird at Fundy National Park, New Brunswick, November 16, 1992. Photograph/Stuart Tingley.**

6 (*vide* RE). Oddly, none was reported during October, but there were three from November: one Nov. 12–15 at Halifax, NS (PM), one Nov. 14 at Purcell's Cove, NS (FL), and for Newfoundland's 5th record, one Nov. 22 at Ferryland, NF (PL, JW). It was an average fall for Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, with six in New Brunswick, four in Nova Scotia, and one in Newfoundland. Two were in n.e. New Brunswick on Miscou I. (RD), well away from the well-birded s. extremities of the provinces, where almost all are found in the Region. The N. Wheatear of the season was at Inkerman, NB, Sept. 28–30 (JGR *et al.*). The almost annually found **Townsend's Solitaire** was well represented in Nova Scotia, with early birds Oct. 7 at Margaree Valley (RG) and Oct. 9 at Sable I. (ZL), plus a probable noted Nov. 12 at Gaspereau (G & JT).

The first Bohemian Waxwing was an early one Oct. 10 at G.M.N.P., NF (HD). This single bird was followed by flocks of 27 and 35 Oct. 31 in n.e. New Brunswick (RD, ST), and birds reaching as far east as Miquelon, S.P.M., with 11 Nov. 28 (JH). Northern Shrikes were scarce across the Region, but an exceptionally early bird was identified Sept. 13 on Sable I., NS (ZL).

#### VIREOS AND WARBLERS

October 13 at G.M.I., NB, was the classic time and location for the only sighting of the annual October gem, the White-eyed Vireo (PP). It was a banner fall for Yellow-throated Vireos, with a total of 10: six in New Brunswick and four in Nova Scotia. Most noteworthy of these sightings were three Sept. 18 on G.M.I., NB (m.ob.); 2 late birds Oct. 18 at Hartlen Pt., NS (IM *et al.*); and an even later one Oct. 24 at Deer I., NB (JE). Curiously rare in the Region, Warbling

Vireos included one Sept. 13 at Brier I., NS (FS *et al.*), and one Sept. 20 at Cape Spear, NF (BMt, PL). Philadelphia Vireos are uncommon enough that birders tend to keep track of all they see during fall migration. Twelve individuals noted by one observer on G.M.I., NB, Aug. 25–Sept. 15, was a nice total (ST); eight during the first half of September in Nova Scotia was average. Three Philadelphia Vireos Sept. 19 at Bear Cove Pt., NF, provided a record-high one-day count for e. Newfoundland (KK, BMt). There was a wave of late Red-eyed Vireo sightings, with four in the Halifax, NS, area Oct. 31 (FL, DAC), and around the St. John's, NF, area four Oct. 31 and three other birds Nov. 1 (BMt, JW).

Blue-winged Warblers have become more regular as vagrants to the s. coastal extremities of each province. Three were seen on G.M.I., NB: one Sept. 1 (BD), one Sept. 9 (ST *et al.*), and one Sept. 18 (ST *et al.*). Nova Scotia had two sightings: one Sept. 7 near Halifax (DAC) and one at Little

Harbor, *Shelbourne* (DY). Rare in the Region, but now found each fall by the increased birding effort, two single ♀ Golden-winged Warblers were found in Nova Scotia, Sept. 9: one each at Halifax (PM) and at Hartlen Pt. (FL, RG). The usual number of Orange-crowned Warblers was peppered across the Region, with four at Hartlen Pt., NS, Nov. 8, a high one-day count (PM, BS). Rare and just less than annual in Newfoundland, single Chestnut-sided Warblers were at Cape Spear Sept. 1 & 20 (MP, BMt). A Black-throated Blue at St. Pierre, S.P.M., Oct. 4, furnished the 9th record for the French islands (LJ). Cape May Warblers are often abundant along s. coasts of the Region in southward migration, as was shown by >100 on each, during the last week of August on G.M.I., NB (ST *et al.*). A Black-and-White Warbler at Goose Bay, Lab., Oct. 11, was well n. of its known breeding range (BMt).

New Brunswick's first **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was a female photographed on G.M.I., Sept. 24 (DG *et al.*). Not to be outdone, Newfoundland got its first **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, an imm. male, at St. John's Nov. 1–Dec. 5, also photographed (BMt *et al.*). The previous 5 or more Regional records have come from Nova Scotia. Practically annual in recent years, but always to remain a great rarity in the Region, a ♂ **Townsend's Warbler** was at Hartlen Pt. on the early date of Sept. 13 (FL, BS, JK). Three Yellow-throated Warblers straying to the Region was near average, one at White Head I., NB, Sept. 21 (MS) and different singles at St. John's, NF, Nov. 17–21 (Don Barton *et al.*) and Nov. 22–Dec. 5 (KK, BMt). At least 15 Pine Warblers strayed east to Nova Scotia, and one went about as far east as it could to Renew's, NF, Nov. 7 (KK, BMt).

Several late Pine Warblers came to feeders during the second half of November in both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The amazing total of 30 Prairie Warblers in the Region was at least partly attributable to the increased interest in September warbler watching, especially at G.M.I., NB, and Hartlen Pt., NS. The breakdown of numbers per province was 10 in New Brunswick, including one in the north at Miscou I. (RD), 16 in Nova Scotia, and four in Newfoundland. Cerulean Warbler reports from Nova Scotia included one Sept. 11 Timberlea (DAC) and one Sept. 15 at Hartlen Pt. (FL). A ♀ Prothonotary shone at Hartlen Pt., NS, Oct. 16–18 (IM *et al.*). Both rare and the latest by a month in the Region was a Worm-eating Warbler at Halifax, NS, Nov. 11–14 (PM *et al.*). Always a southern prize, a Kentucky Warbler was seen at Sable I., NS, Sept. 13 (ZL). No less than five Hooded Warblers were reported from Nova Scotia: a female Sept. 5 at Bon Portage I. (PM), one Sept. 6 at Avonport (EU, DU), a male Sept. 13 at sea 50 mi s.e. of Halifax (BMy *et al.*), and two Oct. 13–15 on Sable I. (*fide* KNK). Like Prairie Warbler reports, those for Yellow-breasted Chat accumulate to dizzying heights, with more birders looking for warblers. A total of 21 chats were seen across the Region. Almost all were on s. coast lines, with one at Miscou I., NB, the notable exception (RD).

Besides the usual late and obvious strays from the south, especially chats and other already mentioned species, late warblers seemed scarcer than usual. New Brunswick had a Nashville Warbler Nov. 14 on G.M.I. (ST), and Nova Scotia a N. Parula Nov. 7 at Portuguese Cove (FL *et al.*), an Am. Redstart Nov. 8 at Hartlen Pt. (BS, PM), and a Canada Warbler Oct. 24 at Three Fathom Harbor (L & PP). In St. John's, NF, where there is little else to look for in late fall but late warblers, the few birders found single Yellows Nov. 6–11 & Nov. 6–22, two Black-and-Whites until the end of November, and single Wilson's Nov. 6–Dec. 5 & Nov. 6–11 (BMt *et al.*). A Blackpoll Warbler at Ferryland, NF, Nov. 29, supplied only the 2nd November record for the province of the past 10 years (KK, BMt). Last, and not least, a N. Waterthrush Aug. 20 on a fishing boat off Nova Scotia met a bizarre end "when a scallop slammed shut on its head" (*fide* KNK)!

#### TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A Summer Tanager was at Saint John's, NB, Oct. 14 (*fide* CJ), and a late female Oct. 28–Nov. 12 survived at a feeder in n.e. New Brunswick at Lameque (Rejean Ferron *et al.*). A group of three Scarlet Tanagers Aug. 8 at Murray Head, PEI, appeared to be an adult with 2 young of the year; there is no confirmed breeding record for the province (DS, DM). A Scarlet Tanager Oct. 31 at Hartlen Pt., NS, was late (FL).

It was a fair to good flight of Dickcissels with nine in New Brunswick, six in Nova Scotia, and four in Newfoundland. Four Clay-colored Sparrows in the Region was average for

recent years: one Nov. 3 at Hartlen Pt., NS (JT); one Nov. 6 at White's L., NS (BS), one Nov. 1 at Blackhead, NF (JW *et al.*) and one Nov. 11–15 at St. John's, NF (BMt *et al.*). Field Sparrows are scarce migrants in the w. edge of the Region. New Brunswick had six and Nova Scotia had its best fall total in some years with 10, including three Oct. 10 on Sable I. (IM). Four Lark Sparrows was a little below average for the Region: one Sept. 12 at St. Mary's Pt., NB (DC), one Nov. 10–12 at Tabusintac, NB (RD), one Nov. 16–29 at Lameque, NB (HC), and one Oct. 4 at West Dover, NS (BMy). Six Grasshopper Sparrows seems close to the average of recent autumns for this regular stray: one Oct. 11 at Wishart's Pt., NB (HC), one Nov. 21–30 at Alma, NB (RW *et al.*); two Oct. 10 and one Nov. 12 at Seal I., NS (BMy *et al.*); and one Oct. 31–Nov. 7 at Blackhead, NF (BMt, JP). New Brunswick's first **Henslow's Sparrow** was very well studied at G.M.I., NB, Oct. 20 (PP). The 2 previous records for the Region are from Nova Scotia, also in October. It is hoped the Region's, and Nova Scotia's, 4th **Le Conte's Sparrow**, on the early date of Sept. 12, at Hartlen Pt., was as well seen (PM, BS). A Seaside Sparrow was well observed at Little Harbor, NS, Oct. 16 & 17 (DY).

#### SA

Record-high numbers of autumn Blue Grosbeaks hit the s.w. part of the Region. New Brunswick had six, mostly on G.M.I. during September. Nova Scotia had an astonishing 28 Blue Grosbeaks, rivaling the best of the legendary spring flights. They started early with two Aug. 28 at Rose Bay (EM) and four Aug. 30 at various locations. The peak occurred Oct. 10–17, when 18 individuals were found at coastal locations between Halifax and Yarmouth, including eight Oct. 12 on Seal I. (BMy *et al.*). A few lingered into November, with one Nov. 20 at Hartlen Pt. the last (FL). Interestingly, Indigo Buntings, often seen in high numbers with Blue Grosbeaks, were present in average numbers. Two as far e. as St. John's, NF, Nov. 1, were the latest reported (JW).

Waves of migrating sparrows were noted in early October along the e. coast of New Brunswick, in the Escuminac area, with >150 White-crowned Sparrows (only 5 adults) Oct. 2 and >1000 Dark-eyed Juncos Oct. 6 (ST *et al.*). Lapland Longspurs often slip south without much mention, but this fall they were noted early and in high numbers everywhere. First dates were three Sept. 19 at Covehead, PEI (DS), and 14 Sept. 19 at Cape Spear, NF (JP, PL), followed by high counts from Nova Scotia of 80 Oct. 10 at Sable I. (ZL), 73 Oct. 18 at Cherry Hill (SF, BH), and 40 Nov. 3 at Grand Pre (JT). The season's Yellow-headed Blackbirds included a rare ad. male at Lockport, NS, Oct. 15–18 (AB *et al.*)

and one immature Nov. 16 at Fundy N.P., a park first (RW). The one Orchard Oriole was from G.M.I., NB, Sept. 14 (JE).

It was the poorest finch fall in recent memory. White-winged Crossbills would have been unreported had it not been for a few August birds in Newfoundland. The only Com. Redpoll seen in New Brunswick was an early one Sept. 29 at Miscou I. (ST); none was found in Nova Scotia. Even the more resident ubiquitous Purple Finches and Pine Siskins all but disappeared after September. Just a few Evening Grosbeaks appeared at feeders by November. Four were n. of the known range at Goose Bay, Lab., Oct. 16 (BMt). Red Crossbills were "well reported" from Nova Scotia, with frequent flocks of 2–12 throughout the length of the province. Two House Finches were seen Oct. 9 on Seal I., NS (SF, BH). The status of this finch has never been elevated above local and scarce numbers since the first was seen in the provinces 15 years ago.

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# QUEBEC REGION

Yves Aubry and Richard Yank

Concluding an inclement summer, mean August temperatures were below normal values across much of the province, with precipitation above average levels in the s. regions. It was the coldest summer since 1965 in the north. This led to the poorest breeding season since 1986 for Greater Snow Geese—fall flocks containing only 5% juveniles—and other n. nesters undoubtedly experienced similar difficulty. September and October were mostly cloudy but were drier than usual in s. Quebec. With cooler than normal temperatures in October, unsettled weather prevailed along the North Shore and over the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Several late departure records were established during November despite relatively cool temperatures over most of the province, likely due to an absence of prolonged cold periods.

The season was highlighted by vagrants from the west that included Bar-tailed Godwits, Say's Phoebe, W. Kingbirds, Townsend's Solitaires, and W. Tanagers. Southern rarities included Black Vultures, White-winged Doves, Yellow-throated and Prairie warblers, and Yellow-breasted Chats. High numbers of Gyrfalcons and Snowy Owls reached the south late in the season, while many N. Wheatears usual were forced west of their usual migration route.

## GREBES TO WATERFOWL

A group of 30 migrant Horned Grebes spotted at Aylmer Oct. 21 (MA) was a large concentration by recent standards. The remains of a N. Fulmar that had wandered exceptionally far up the St. Lawrence R. were collected at Portneuf Nov. 25 (CMA), while a record late Wilson's Storm-Petrel was identified by its flight pattern off Rivière-Ouelle Oct. 29 (CA). Also straying upstream along the St. Lawrence were single imm. N. Gannets sighted at Cap-Tourmente Oct. 10 (SP), Laprairie Nov. 16 (PS), and Hull Nov. 27 (DSH). The continued growth of cormorant populations was illustrated by exceptional concentrations of Double-crested Cormorants, 1000 at LaSalle Sept. 5 (YG) and 800 upriver on L. Saint-Louis later in the month (PBa). A flock of 70 seen at Aylmer Sept. 7 (CBa) was also an unusually high number for this location. The most westerly Great Cormorant of the season was an immature at Laval Sept. 20 (GLa, PPa).

As occurs annually, the post-breeding dispersal of s. waders brought several of these graceful birds to the Region. Single Little Blue Herons reached Granby Aug.

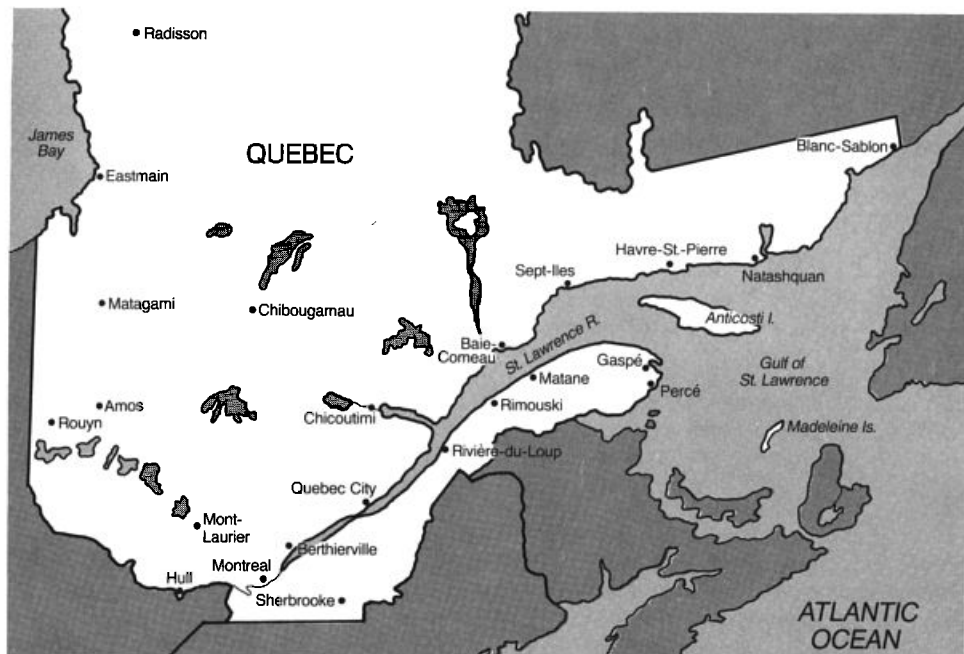
7 (PA, *fide* SDa) and the Chateaugay R., Sept. 20–23 (PBa, m.ob.), while two *Plegadis* ibises stopped at Saint-Etienne, *Beauharnois*, Sept. 5–12 (BG, m.ob.), and one visited Amos, Abitibi, Sept. 26–Oct. 2 (AGB *et al.*). Great and Cattle egrets are regular in extreme s.w. Quebec, but locally rare were a Great Egret at Chicoutimi Aug. 12–18 (CT *et al.*) and a Cattle Egret that wandered to nearby La Baie in September and remaining until Oct. 29 (JPS, AM, m.ob.). Surprisingly, there were no Greater White-fronted Geese, but of interest was the report of a flock of 45 small, short-necked Canada Geese studied at Rivière-du-Loup Sept. 26 (LLv, KT). Uncommon in fall was a single Eur. Wigeon at Longueuil Sept. 1 (GZ) and at Cacouna Sept. 9 (PBr, HPo), while locally rare was an imm. ♀ Com. Eider off Fermiers I., *Vercheres*, Sept. 5 (*fide* GLa). Encouraging was the tally of 90 Harlequin Ducks off Bonaventure I., Sept. 30 (NG), a larger than normal concentration at this site. An impressive flock of 1000 southbound Black Scoters paused on the Ottawa R. at Aylmer Oct. 25 (MGa, BLD, JR). Twenty-five Ruddy Ducks noted at Baie-du-Febvre, *Yamaska*, Oct. 13 (*fide* PBa) were probably local breeders, while a female that strayed to Bonaventure Oct. 18 (JMP) was an uncommon sight along the Gaspé Pen.

## VULTURES TO SHOREBIRDS

The 12th Black Vulture, the 6th for the region since 1988, was identified at Bromont Sept. 20 (DMA, *fide* BHa); most likely the same individual was relocated e. of Rougemont Sept. 26 (GLa, RC, PPa) in the company of four Turkey Vultures. More than one dozen Turkey Vulture sightings were made on the Gaspé Pen., the latest being of individuals (possibly the same) at Saint-Majorique Nov. 21–23 (HPE) and Prevel Nov. 29–30 (ABO, *fide* PPO). Bald Eagles are clearly doing well in this Region as else-

where, witness almost 70 reports received this fall, while contributors in s.w. Quebec and the Lower St. Lawrence remarked on the high number of N. Goshawks. The potential of Tadoussac as a raptor lookout was suggested in our Fall 1990 report. Ibarzabal and others visited this site 22 times this season, logging more than 90 hours of observation and counting an impressive 7135 raptors. September 30 alone, 2550 hawks were seen, including 146 Ospreys, 373 Sharp-shinneds, a locally rare Red-shouldered, 1594 Red-taileds, and 331 Am. Kestrels. High numbers of Gyrfalcon were seen in s. Quebec for the 3rd consecutive year; from Oct. 30 onward, about 12 of these dramatic predators were sighted.

A group of 10 Gray Partridges was notable e. of Quebec City at Saint-Patrice, *Rivière-du-Loup*, Nov. 1 (AL). An Am. Coot at Bonaventure Oct. 16 (JMP) was farther east than usual, as were two Sandhill Cranes at Notre-Dame-du-Rosaire, *Chicoutimi*, Aug. 19 (LS), one at Pabos, *Gaspé*, the same day (PPO), possibly the same bird at nearby Douglstown Aug. 25 (LBM), and two on L. Saint-Pierre Sept. 25 (MH)—one of the latter having been illegally shot. Notable plover concentrations involved up to 500 Lesser Golden-Plovers at Saint-Barnabé, *Saint-Hyacinthe*, Sept. 10 (FB) and 221 Killdeer on Dupas I., *Berthier*, Aug. 16 (YG). One day short of setting a departure record was a Lesser Golden-Plover still at Pointe-au-Père, *Rimouski*, Nov. 18 (JRP, LB), while an immature studied at Saint-Vallier, *Bellechasse*, Sept. 8 (GLE) with yellowish back, breast and superciliary, and short primary projection suggested *P. d. fulva*, for which no fully documented record exists for the province. An endangered Piping Plover sighted at Baie-Comeau on the North Shore Sept. 8 (GB, AD) was a displaced migrant. Hudsonian Godwits were more regularly reported than usual in s.w. Quebec, including a group of 8



adults on I. du Moine, *Yamaska*, Aug. 13 (YG). In e. Quebec, a large if not unprecedented flock of 61 Hudsonians was seen at Chandler Aug. 7 (DMi). The bird of the season was the Region's first **Bar-tailed Godwit**, of the Alaskan *baueri* race, that frequented the tidal pools at Pointe-au-Père Sept. 5–19 (ND, DJa, JP, PMe), while the only Marbled Godwit of the season was found at Rivière-Portneuf, *Saguenay*, Sept. 6 (LV, JLC). A Sanderling at Pointe-au-Père Nov. 28 (DG, JLR) was our latest ever. Fairly typical was the total of three juv. W. Sandpipers seen Aug. 16–Sept. 6 at Saint-Vallier (FD, RD), Beauport (JFR, PO), and Rivière-Portneuf (LV, JLC), but the total of 20 Baird's was better than average. Relatively few reports of Stilt Sandpipers were submitted, but worthy of mention were three far to the east at Etang de l'Est, *Magdalen I.*, July 31 (PFG, SC). Another above-average count was eight Buff-breasted Sandpipers—all sighted e. of Québec City. Only two Long-billed Dowitchers were reported, both adults, at Sainte-Martine, *Châteauguay*, Oct. 10–11 and Saint-Lazare, *Vaudreuil*, Oct. 11–18 (PBA *et al.*). Locally rare was a Wilson's Phalarope at Chandler Aug. 8 (GZ).

#### SKUAS TO OWLS

A skua (sp.) was spotted from shore at Sainte-Anne-de-Portneuf Aug. 26 (MBI). Four ad. Franklin's Gulls were reported: at Cap Bon-Désir, *Saguenay*, Sept. 13 (DLe *et al.*), Sainte-Croix, *Lotbinière*, Oct. 6 (LR, AR *et al.*), Victoriaville Oct. 11–24 (MGg, JP, AC), and Rivière-Ouelle Oct. 25 (CA). An unusual concentration of small larids fed along the Richelieu R. during late November. An estimated 1000 Bonaparte's Gulls were joined by two Little Gulls, one Com. Black-headed Gull, and five Black-legged Kittiwakes. The birds disappeared after a cold snap Dec. 5 (PBA, m.ob.). The Upper Saguenay recorded its first Thayer's Gull, an adult photographed at La Baie Nov. 8 (GS, CC), while most intriguing was a dark-mantled, pink-legged ad. Herring Gull with heavily streaked head and extensively black primaries studied at the latter site Nov. 23 (CC, GS). *Larus a. vegae* is suggested by the description, the Siberian race regularly found in Alaska and considered by some taxonomists to be a form of the Taimyr Gull (*L. heuglini taimyrensis*). Eight to nine Lesser Black-backed Gulls were found in s. Quebec, including up to 5 adults at Victoriaville Sept. 26–Nov. 30 (MGg, RLa, m.ob.). The fall concentration of Great Black-backed Gulls reached 350 birds at Chicoutimi Nov. 15 (CC, GS). An uncommon species in the Upper Saguenay a decade ago, these numbers possibly reflect the apparent increase in populations breeding inland and along Hudson's Bay. A group of 32 Atlantic Puffins seen Aug. 17 (DC) suggested an increase in the small but well-established colony found on Bonaventure I. One of the best finds of the season was Quebec's 2nd **White-winged Dove**, which strayed to Chandler Aug. 14–18



**Say's Phoebe at La Baie, Quebec, November 1–15, 1992. Photograph/C. Cormier.**

(JRL, DLa, LLk), where the only previous sighting had been reported in 1988. Also at Chandler, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo was found dead Aug. 19 (RAGP). The season's first Snowy Owl appeared at Mont-Brun, *Abitibi*, Oct. 2 (BM), followed by nearly 50 birds found across s. Quebec during November. The total of 17 N. Hawk Owls was higher than average but well below the unprecedented 1991 showing. By contrast, the only Great Gray Owl to be located this fall was out of range on I. aux Basques, *Rivière-du-Loup*, Sept. 6–7 (S.B.M.).

#### HUMMINGBIRDS TO SHRIKES

A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was late at Pabos Sept. 28 (RGR), while the only noteworthy woodpecker report was of a Red-bellied Woodpecker that returned to Gaspé Nov. 4 (PBe), where one had overwintered a year ago. Western vagrants included a rare Say's Phoebe that graced La Baie Nov. 1–15 (GS, CC *et al.*) and two W. Kingbirds on the Gaspé Pen., at Percé Oct. 7 (DC, JW) and Cap-des-Rosiers Oct. 28 (MSA). An exceptionally large flock of 1000 Horned Larks was noted in passage near Rimouski Oct. 11 (CPG, JLR). A Tree Swallow lingering over the Richelieu R. at Saint-Jean Nov. 25 (RM, CMu, PMi) broke the 70-year-old departure record by 8 days, while a Barn Swallow was very late at La Pocatière Nov. 15 (CA). The season's only Tufted Titmouse was first seen at Granby Oct. 28 (MA). Red-breasted Nuthatches were especially conspicuous on the barren islands along the lower North Shore at the end of July (CN, IF *et al.*), and

the species was present in high numbers on the Magdalen I. through August (v.o.).

An ad. Carolina Wren that accompanied 2 recently fledged young at Beaconsfield, *Montreal*, in August likely nested nearby (PT, AT) and one photographed at Baie-Comeau, where it was present Oct. 15–Nov. 29, furnished the first North Shore record for this species (GB). Noteworthy among the several Blue-gray Gnatcatcher reports was a bird still at Laval on the record late date of Nov. 29 (JPP). Seven N. Wheatears came in as our highest number ever for a single season. All sightings originated along the St. Lawrence, e. of Québec City, except for one made inland at Bromont Oct. 3 (CD). Scattered Sept. 9–Nov. 1, they could not be attributed to a single meteorological event. It was also a good fall for Townsend's Solitaires, with 3 separate reports; while there were a remarkable 8 reports in 1991, only 15 records had existed previously. One at Pointe-aux-Outardes, *Saguenay*, Oct. 11 (JF, VF) was early, as most arrive November–January. One was located on Visitation I., *Montreal*, Nov. 3 (DJu), and the last paused at Baie-Comeau Nov. 8–9 (GC, GB). The N. Mockingbird first bred in the province in 1960 and was already considered well established along the Lower St. Lawrence during the late 1970s. Numbers have remained low, however, and worthy of mention were late broods at La Pocatière Aug. 14 (CA) and Sept–Iles Aug. 19 (NV, GV). A N. Shrike was early at Sainte-Hedwidge, *L. Saint-Jean*, Sept. 12 (NB), but the species was otherwise scarce in s. Quebec.

#### VIROES TO FINCHES

A Yellow-throated Vireo ventured n. of its usual range to Sainte-Foy, *Quebec*, Oct. 3 (CS). Observers at Baie-Comeau provided several interesting warbler sightings this fall. Southern vagrants included Quebec's 4th **Yellow-throated Warbler** Oct. 23–Nov. 2 (GB, m.ob.) and a rare **Prairie Warbler** Nov. 1 (RBa, RLe, GB). Late warblers at this location included a Tennessee and a Wilson's Oct. 24 (GB, GC), as well as a Nashville Oct. 31 (GB). A Yellow Warbler was also late at Bonaventure Oct. 21 (JMP), not surprisingly, considering the mild weather. An above-average total of six Pine Warblers reached the Lower St. Lawrence and the Gaspé Pen., this fall, while Montreal area observers considered Orange-crowned and Palm warblers more common in migration than usual. High counts were of 10 Orange-crowned Warblers at Longueuil Oct. 7 (DD) and nine Palm Warblers on Charron I., *Chambly*, Sept. 26 (YG). The secretive Connecticut Warbler was detected at Saint-Hubert, *Chambly*, Sept. 12 (RBe) and at Westmount, *Montreal*, Oct. 5 (HR)—the latter furnishing our latest record ever. Yellow-breasted Chats appeared at 3 widely separated locations: Bonaventure Sept. 3 (JMP), Frelighsburg, *Missisquoi*, Sept. 19 (CBe), and Pointe-Lebel Sept. 26 (GB). Although an almost annual visitor, not since 1976 have



**Carolina Wren at Baie-Comeau, Quebec, November 29, 1992. Present since October 15, this bird provided a first record for the North Shore. Photograph/Gilbert Bouchard.**

more than 2 birds visited the Region in a single fall.

Quebec's 10th *W. Tanager*—also our latest ever—showed up at Sainte-Foy Oct. 31–Nov. 1 (BHo). Locally rare was an Indigo Bunting that lingered at Baie-Comeau Sept. 14–Nov. 1 (GB), and an above-average total of four Dickcissels were encountered in e. Quebec: two along the North Shore, at Baie-Comeau Sept. 19 (GB) and Sept-Îles Oct. 14–21 (NV, GV), one on the Gaspé Pen. at Saint-Siméon Oct. 14 (JMP) and, finally, one near Rimouski Nov. 15–20 (BLm, PL). A Clay-colored Sparrow also frequented Baie-Comeau Sept. 19–Oct. 19 (GB), while Charlesbourg, *Quebec*, hosted a 2nd bird Nov. 17 (RLe). Displaced Field Sparrows were good finds at Saint-Eusèbe, *Temiscouata*, Sept. 28 (MBa) and Sept-Îles Oct. 22 (BD), while a Savannah Sparrow—not a frequent lingerer—was late at Saint-Denis, near Saint-Hyacinthe, Nov. 28 (MR). An incomplete description of an *Ammodramus* sparrow suggested a locally rare Grasshopper Sparrow at Levis Aug. 21 (MAL).

A Yellow-headed Blackbird was discovered at Saint-Vallier Aug. 22 (RGn, LLe), and two were seen farther east at Pointe-au-Père Oct. 3 (ABr). From Oct. 25 onward, a female was present at Sainte-Etienne, where the species is seen annually (PBa *et al.*). An impressive flock of 6000 Com. Grackles invaded Saint-Eusèbe this fall (MBa), and for the 2nd consecutive year there was a substantial n.e. movement of N. Orioles. Along the North Shore, singles were noted at Sept-Îles Sept. 2 (NV), and at Baie-Comeau Oct. 12 (RLe) and again from Nov. 28 (GB). Two single females reached the Gaspé Pen. at Chandler Oct. 22+ (MGr, RGa *et al.*) and at Gaspé Nov. 15 (RBe). Finally, at least one male and 2 females visited feeders on the Magdalen I., Nov. 2–15 (UD, SDe, v.o.). Crossbills were generally scarce, but a Red

Crossbill viewed at Havre-Saint-Pierre Sept. 1 (DLe) provided one of very few records from the Lower North Shore. A flock of 300 Com. Redpolls was early at Sainte-Hedwidge Sept. 12 (NB), but few were subsequently noted in s. Québec.

#### EXOTICS

No doubt doomed to perish were a California Quail at Sorel Nov. 1 (DJ, RLo) and two Ringed Turtle-Doves at Pointe-Label, late in the season (*fide* GC). Two Eur. Goldfinches brightened 2 different Montreal feeders, Oct. 15 (HL) and Nov. 30 (YG).

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## NEW ENGLAND REGION

Walter G. Ellison and  
Nancy L. Martin

Autumn 1992 in New England was cool with a dry center and wet bookend months of August and November. The wet spells were notably wetter in s. New England. Wet and snowy weather Oct. 14–21 produced groundings of waterbirds and sparrows all over the Region. Nasty weather Nov. 6 & 23 contributed to good sea watches in coastal Massachusetts. At sea, pelagics were largely absent, but bright spots included good numbers of pelagics at Cashes Ledge, MA, and large numbers of Pomarine Jaegers, some S. Polar Skuas, and Audubon's Shearwaters off Rhode Island. Reports of many w. vagrants brought memories of the halcyon mid-1970s. Boreal invaders were little in evidence, foretelling a bleaker-than-usual winter for birders. Winning the Bird of the Season Contest was an Ancient Murrelet at Cape Ann, MA, the first report of any kind of this westerner in the Region. Nipping at the murrelet's heels were 2 species with scant precedent in the region: a Black-shouldered Kite rewarding a full season of hawk watching at Mt. Tekoa, MA, and a Gray Kingbird at the s.w. corner of New England.

**Abbreviations:** Block I. (*Block I., RI*); Dead Creek (*Dead Creek W.M.A., Addison & Panton, VT*); Gay Head (*Gay Head, Martha's Vineyard, MA*); Plum I. (*Plum I., Newburyport & Rowley, MA*); Sandy Neck (*Sandy Neck, Barnstable, MA*); W.B.W.S. (*Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, S. Wellfleet, MA*).

#### LOONS TO IBISES

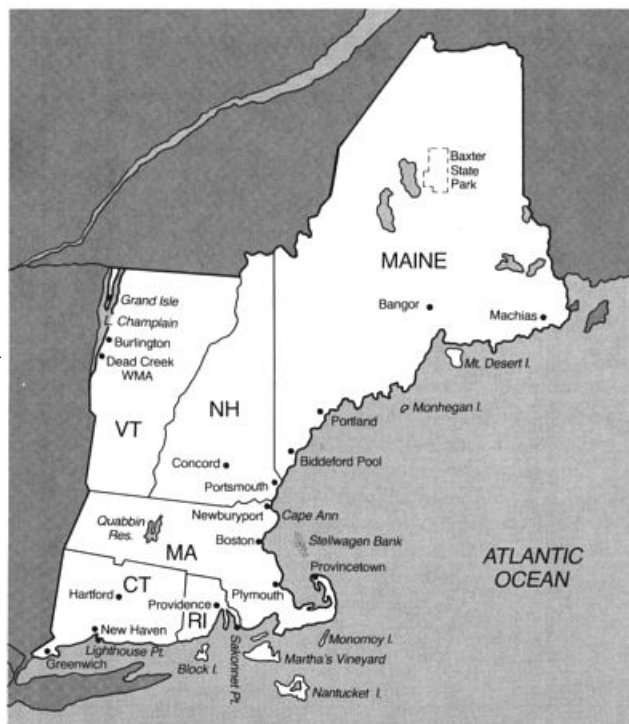
A Red-throated Loon summering inland at Leicester, MA, continued throughout August. Large numbers of loons passed Sandy Neck Nov. 24, including 410 Red-throateds, 370 Commons, and 330 unidentified (RA). Pacific Loons included one well described at Ogunquit, ME, Nov. 15–18 (†SM, KD, JB; †SP), and one reportedly photographed at W. Haven, CT, Nov. 24 (JY *et al.*, *fide* BK). The latter, if accepted by the state record committee, would provide the first documented record for Connecticut. Numbers of Pied-billed Grebes were good relative to recent falls; high counts included 50 in Easton, ME, Aug. 20 (*fide* M.A.S.), 15 in Kingston, NH, Oct. 24 (SMi), and 25 in Middletown, RI, Oct. 24 (RB). Nesting was confirmed in Grand Isle (DJH) and Milton, VT (JO, H. Willoughby), in August. Horned Grebes were reported in good numbers inland, with a high of 140 at Addison, VT, Nov. 28 (TM), and a total of 98 for the season in w. Massachusetts (*fide* SK). The coastal maximum was 124 at Wareham, MA, Nov. 16 (M. Sylvia). August Red-necked Grebes were reported from North Haven I.,



ME (L. Riley), and Gloucester, MA (G. Soucy). Nearly 40 were reported inland, including five at Andover, NH, Oct. 12 (K. Elkins), and five at Ferrisburgh, VT, Nov. 8 (T. Allen). A count of 243 in Boston Harbor Nov. 22 was impressive (T.A.S.L., M. Hall). That ancient mariner, the Georgetown, ME, W. Grebe, returned for its 16th consecutive winter Nov. 21 (*fide* M.A.S.).

Tubenose reports were generally unimpressive, with low numbers of all the regular species at familiar destinations, such as Jeffreys Ledge, Stellwagen Bank, and Coss Ledge. Cashes Ledge, MA, was an exception, with maxima of 605 Greater Shearwaters and 5200 Wilson's Storm-Petrels Sept. 7, and 220 Leach's Storm-Petrels Aug. 31 (RA). The scarce Audubon's Shearwater was reported twice s. of Cape Cod in Rhode Island waters, where it may be anticipated in late summer. One each was seen on Coss Ledge Aug. 21 (DE, DE) and at Block Canyon Aug. 28 (DE). Less anticipated, and nearly unprecedented, was a tantalizing glimpse of an unidentified shearwater from shore on L. Champlain at Grand Isle, VT, Aug. 3; a boat search later that day failed to relocate the bird (†RL). A Leach's Storm-Petrel was grounded at N. Scituate, MA, Sept. 24 (*fide* D. Clapp), and 10 others were reported from the shore in Massachusetts Sept. 27–Nov. 1 (*fide* RS). Most were seen after coastal storms. The N. Gannet migration peaked in e. Massachusetts Oct. 22, when 9000 were counted in Yarmouthport and Dennis (KH). November's stormy weather drove impressive numbers into Long Island Sound, where gannets are uncommon, with a maximum of 700 Nov. 20 at Harkness S.P., Waterford, CT (DP). Two juveniles were well inland on n. L. Champlain Oct. 15 (ph. †RL).

An Am. White Pelican graced Harkness S.P. with its ponderous presence during the joint ABA/AFO meeting at New London Oct. 3 (DP *et al.*). This represents one of less than 10 Connecticut reports. Providing a modest echo of the mini-flight of the summer was a Brown Pelican at Napatree Pt., RI, Aug. 10 (†NF). Five Great Cormorants were reported inland, including two in Maine (*fide* JD, WT), one on L. Winnisquam, Laconia, NH, Oct. 19 (H. C. Anderson), and two in w. Massachusetts (*fide* SK). Indicative of the increase of Double-crested Cormorants regionwide were 1450 around the Young I. colony in Grand Isle, VT, Aug. 7 (WE, NM, RL), and a migration count of 2300/hour at Kittery, ME, Oct. 16 (*fide* M.A.S.). A total of 43 Am. Bitterns for the season was about par for recent years, but a tally of seven Least Bitterns was a little better than average. An ad. and two juv. Least were reported at Grand Isle, VT, Sept. 12 (DJH).



The peak counts of Great and Snowy egrets at the Plum I., MA, heron roost were 112 Greats and 637 Snowies Aug. 2 (WP). Up to 18 Little Blue Herons graced Scarborough Marsh, ME, in mid-September (LB, GC), while one immature at Williamstown, MA, in the Berkshires Aug. 20–30 was locally rare (*fide* SK). A report of nine Tricolored Herons included a maximum of five Sept. 11 at Pine Pt., Scarborough, ME, at the n. edge of this heron's range (GC). The imm. Reddish Egret that summered on Martha's Vineyard moved to Chatham, MA, in late July and was seen primarily at Monomoy N.W.R., until Sept. 20 (m.ob.). Good counts of Cattle Egret included 71 near the Young I. colony, Grand Isle, VT, Aug. 30 (DJH) and 40 at Ipswich, MA, Sept. 19 (T. Raymond). Three straggled into November in e. Massachusetts, with the last at Bridgewater Nov. 19–20 (J. Libby). A Black-crowned Night-Heron was late and locally rare at Woodstock, VT, Nov. 16 (A. Stimson). Large numbers of Glossy Ibis were counted in August on Great Bay at Stratham, NH, with a maximum of 49 sighted Aug. 2 (A & BD).

#### WATERFOWL

Reports of Tundra Swans were limited to five at Naples, ME, in mid-November (*fide* M.A.S.) and one at Charlestown, NH, Nov. 21 (†WN). Snow Geese reached the coast in good numbers, with maxima of 50 at Monhegan I., ME, Oct. 4 (LB), 52 at Sandwich, MA, Oct. 2 (S. Hecker), and 67 at Little Compton, RI, Oct. 3 (RE). Even larger numbers were noted farther west, including 20,000 at the traditional Vermont venue, Dead Creek W.M.A., Oct. 17 (M. Nelson), 7900 at Lighthouse Pt., CT, Oct. 26 (A. Rosengren), and 1460 at Hancock, MA, Nov. 1 (*fide* SK). Up to 15 blue morphs were

seen at Dead Creek in late Oct. (SWM). A blue-morph Ross' Goose was plausibly, but sketchily, described at Quonochontaug, RI, Oct. 7 (*fide* DE). This would be the first record for Rhode Island and the first of a blue morph in the Region. Inland Brants included 15 total in Vermont (*fide* JP, V.I.N.S.), 22 at Northampton, MA, Oct. 25 (*fide* SK), and one at Avon, CT, Oct. 30 (JK). The coastal maximum was 1516, observed Nov. 22 in Boston Harbor (T.A.S.L., M. Hall). A Barnacle Goose was an interesting find at Storrs, CT, Nov. 10–28 (L. Bevier, M. Szantyr, J. McDonald). As usual, the origin of this bird must be considered questionable; apparently the entire Old World population of this goose needs to be neck-banded to allay doubts regarding its natural occurrence. High counts of selected dabblers and bay ducks included 525 Green-winged Teals at Plum I., MA, October (WD), a possible

record count of 30 N. Shovelers at Fort Fairfield, ME, early August (*fide* M.A.S.), 1100 Am. Wigeons at Watchemoket Cove, RI, Nov. 27 (DE), 1300 Ring-necked Ducks at Lakeville, MA, Nov. 1–15 (WP), 2000 Greater Scaup at Middletown, RI, Nov. 6 (DE, NH), and 300 Lesser Scaup at Lakeville, MA, November (v.o.). Numbers of N. Pintails were low and sightings of Blue-winged Teals distressingly low in general. Nonetheless, a handful of late Blue-winged were seen, including two at Eel Pond, Rye, NH, Nov. 14 (A & BD), one at L. Bomoseen, VT, Nov. 21 (RP), and the latest at Middletown, RI, Nov. 30 (RB). The total of 10 Eur. Wigeons was about average, with six reported in Massachusetts (*fide* RS), one in Rhode Island (*fide* DE), and three in Connecticut (*fide* BK). A Tufted Duck at Bonnet Shores, RI, Nov. 21–25 (m.ob., *fide* DE) was the 3rd reported from the state. Sea ducks provided excitement on a Nov. 6 sea watch at Gay Head, with 15,000 Com. Eiders, 6000 Black, 2000 Surf, and 10,000 White-winged scoters passing by (VL). Four Com. Eiders at Greenwich Pt., CT, Sept. 27–28 were early (BO); this duck is very rare on Long Island Sound. All five King Eiders reported were coastal, with two in Maine and one each in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. The annual fall buildup of Harlequin Ducks at Sachuest Pt., RI, reached 46 Nov. 19 (*fide* JO). Coastal Oldsquaw reports were unimpressive, but an apparently summering bird was seen on L. Champlain near St. Albans, VT, Aug. 3–7 (ML *et al.*), and a near-record 93 were found in w. Massachusetts, including a maximum of 45 on Quabbin Res., Nov. 8 (*fide* SK). The best inland count of Black Scoters was 200 on L. Champlain, Addison, VT, Oct. 20 (JP). Barrow's Goldeneyes were few and far between; apparently,



the once reliable concentration at Penobscot R., Bangor, ME, is but a memory, although 2 males appeared at Burlington, VT, Nov. 15 (SWM), marking the 5th consecutive winter of occurrence there. Counts of 50 Hooded Mergansers at Newport, VT, Oct. 29 (P. & S. Wagner), 64 at Winchester, MA, Nov. 11 (LT), 57 on L. Bomoseen, VT, Nov. 21 (RP), and 64 on Quabbin Res., MA, Nov. 22 (TG) were indicative of good numbers in general. About 8000 Red-breasted Mergansers accompanied the gannets seen Oct. 22 in Yarmouth and Dennis on Cape Cod (KH). Maximum counts of Ruddy Ducks included 214 in Southboro, MA, late October (RBr), and 490 in Middletown and Portsmouth, RI, Nov. 7 (RB).

#### RAPTORS TO CRANES

Turkey Vultures continue to increase in the Region, with 100 at the Turner, ME, landfill in September (*vide* WT), up to 18 well up the Connecticut R. valley in Littleton, NH, Aug. 7 (R. Whitcomb), and a "major increase" on Vermont hawk watches (*vide* WB). Although hawk watchers hit the narrow window of opportunity for the Broad-winged Hawk flight, hawk watching was largely depressing this year. Numbers of Ospreys, N. Harriers, Accipiters, especially Sharp-shinned Hawks, and Am. Kestrels were poor to very poor.

#### S.A.

The ongoing regional decline of migrating Sharp-shinned Hawks coincides with a distressing trend all along the e. seaboard of North America. The 205 seen at Wachusett Mt., MA, constituted the lowest total yet seen there (PR), and less than one-fifth of all hawks (excluding the highly variable Broad-winged) were Sharp-shinneds in Vermont (WB). Reasons recently put forward for this drop in numbers include declines in the neotropical migrants that serve as prey for breeding Sharp-shinneds and a possible ecosystem collapse caused by acid rain in e. forests (P. Kerlinger, 1992, *Peregrine Observer* 15:1-2). We believe that a decline in neotropical migrants might be offset by increased numbers of some short-distance migrants. The influence of acid rain is plausible but difficult to prove. Another possibility is that e. Sharp-shinneds are picking up pesticides from neotropical migrant prey forced increasingly into marginal agricultural habitats in the tropics (which are subject to heavy spraying).

Stunning was a well-described imm. Black-shouldered Kite that passed over 3 amazed observers at Mt. Tekoa near Westfield, MA, Nov. 10 (†T. Swochak, †E. Burt, †K. Fay). There is only one prior report for the Region and for Massachusetts—seen on Martha's Vineyard in late May 1910. Bucking the gen-

eral hawk-watching trend was the Bald Eagle; excluding Maine, a minimum of 135 were reported with 35 on watches in e. Massachusetts during September. High counts included four at White River Jct., VT, Sept. 12 (DC), and 12 the same day at Wachusett Mt., MA (PR). Numbers of migrating Red-shouldered Hawks were considered good in e. Massachusetts, with a maximum of 13 Nov. 1 at Oxbow N.W.R. (*vide* PR); 48 on hawk watches in w. Massachusetts was also above average (*vide* SK). The vast majority of a decent Broad-winged Hawk flight occurred Sept. 12 & 13. Several watch sites had their peak count of the season on one of these 2 days, including counts of 9692 at Wachusett Mt. (PR) and 4062 at Quaker Ridge, Greenwich, CT (*vide* N. Currie), Sept. 12, and 3990 at Oxbow N.W.R., MA (*vide* PR), and 1840 at Granville, MA (*vide* SK) Sept. 13. An imm. light-morph Swainson's Hawk was seen at Sachuest Pt., RI, Nov. 4 (†DE, NH); a similar bird was subsequently seen in Middleborough (RA) and in Carver, MA (†L. Robinson) Nov. 15 & 27, respectively. It is not too farfetched to suspect that the Rhode Island bird drifted the 35 mi NE into s.e. Massachusetts. Red-tailed Hawk numbers were good in Vermont but were down by 28% as compared with 1991 tallies; 1200 recorded on watches (*vide* WB), including a maximum of 279 at White River Jct. Oct. 25 (DC). A record-high 996 were seen on w. Massachusetts watches (*vide* SK). Only 19 Rough-legged Hawks were reported, 10 of these seen in w. Vermont. The 21 Golden Eagles reported this season exceed the record of 16 set in 1987; eight were seen in w. Massachusetts (*vide* SK), and five were reported from Connecticut (*vide* BK). Peregrine Falcons continue to be well reported, with 20 in Vermont (*vide* V.I.N.S., WB), >40



Immature Northern Gannet at South Hero, Vermont, October 15, 1992.  
Photograph/Richard Lavalée.

in e. Massachusetts (*vide* RS), 24 "well above average" in w. Massachusetts (*vide* SK), and seven at Block I., Oct. 2-4 (RF). The only Gyrfalcon reported was a gray morph seen in Bridport, VT, Nov. 16 (†JP). A King Rail, now very rare regionally, was reported at Warren, RI, Aug. 7-8 (RB). What is happening to Com. Moorhens? This rail appears to be declining precipitously in the Region, with only five reported regionwide and none seen in w. Vermont, where the species was fairly common as recently as 4 years ago. American Coots fared better; >70 were reported in New Hampshire, with most near the coast (*vide* DD), a high count of 200 at Plymouth, MA, Oct. 31 (WP), and a maximum of 120 at Middletown, RI, Oct. 24 (DE, RE). One to two Sandhill Cranes were present in the Newburyport-Ipswich area in Massachusetts mid-August to Oct. 31 (v.o.), one was seen at Dead Creek Oct. 3 (J. Cross), and another (the same?) was seen soaring over L. Hortonia, Sudbury, VT, Oct. 4 (ph. WB).

#### SHOREBIRDS

Wet August weather grounded large numbers of shorebirds in the Connecticut R. valley of w. Massachusetts, including an impressive 82 Black-bellied Plovers Aug. 17 at Longmeadow (*vide* SK). Lesser Golden-Plovers were reported in modest numbers, 226 total, with maxima of 43 at Nantucket, MA, Sept. 11 (CF), and 41 at Turner, ME, Oct. 12 (JD). The peak count of Semipalmated Plovers at Plum I. was an impressive 1616 Aug. 28 (WD); late semipalmateds were at Milford Pt., CT, Nov. 28 (SKo), and Rye, NH, Nov. 29 (SMi). An interesting feature of Killdeer migration is its bimodality, with an August peak and an October peak apparently reflecting the differing schedules of the 2 age classes. This season's high counts represented the August peak, with 144 counted in Concord, MA (SP) and 75 in Canterbury, NH (R. Quinn), Aug. 18. American Oystercatcher numbers were healthy, with 100 on N. Monomoy I., Aug. 27 and Sept. 5 (D. Holt, S. Doherty), and up to 24 at Bluff Pt., Groton, CT Aug. 12-Sept. 5 (DR, BD). Seven oystercatchers were still at Monomoy Nov. 10 (BN). Four Am. Avocets was a good regional total, including one in Rhode Island at Card Pond Aug. 11 and at Quonochontaug Aug. 14-Sept. 1 (v.o.), one in Wells, ME, Aug. 24 (K. Gammons), one at Provincetown, MA, Sept. 5-8 (PC *et al.*), and a very late individual at Griswold Pt., Old Lyme, CT, Nov. 2 (DP, T. Hendrickson). Seventy-seven Solitary Sandpipers in w. Massachusetts was above average (*vide* SK), and one lingering at Woodstock, VT, to Nov. 1 was exceptionally late (K. Taft). Upland Sandpipers staged at the Pease Tradeport, Newington, NH, in remarkable numbers, peaking at 62 Aug. 14; the last spotted there Sept. 14 was also the latest regionally (DD). Good counts of Whimbrels included 500 at N. Monomoy Aug. 1 (BN) and 200 on the Cherryfield, ME, blueberry barrens Aug. 15

(*vide* M.A.S.). Singles at Burlington, VT, Aug. 12 (P. Riley), and at Grand Isle, VT, Aug. 29 (ph. DJH), were locally rare, and a leucistic Whimbrel was seen at W.B.W.S., Sept. 10 (D. Reid *et al.*). Numbers of Hudsonian Godwits were considered "very good" in Maine (WT). As usual, N. Monomoy had the regional maximum, with 200 Aug. 20 (v.o.), one seen inland at Grand Isle, VT, Oct. 16 (ph. DJH), and the latest at N. Monomoy Nov. 15 (H. Ferguson). The two Bar-tailed Godwits that spent July on N. Monomoy kept each other company until Sept. 5, with one remaining until Oct. 28 (v.o.). The regional total of 15 Marbled Godwits was slightly above average, with a juvenile at Pine Pt., Scarborough, ME, Aug. 30 Sept. 1 (ph. LB *et al.*), seven in MA (*vide* RS), two in Rhode Island (*vide* DE), and five in Connecticut Aug. 3–Sept. 9 from Griswold Pt. westward on Long Island Sound (*vide* BK). The surprising 14 Ruddy Turnstones seen at Longmeadow, MA, Aug. 17 represented weather-induced fallout (*vide* SK). A juv. Red Knot at Grand Isle, VT, Oct. 10 was rare and late (DJH). Heavy weather in August grounded an astounding number of Sanderlings in w. Massachusetts, with 42 at Longmeadow Aug. 4 and 77 total in Longmeadow and Hadley Aug. 17 (*vide* SK). Also weather related was the high count of 260 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Longmeadow, MA, Aug. 4 (*vide* SK). Numbers of W. Sandpipers were modest, with a minimum of 44 reported. Baird's Sandpipers made a good showing of 39, by recent standards; four sighted in w. Massachusetts was a record (*vide* SK), all 3 Maine reports were from Scarborough (*vide* JD), five were found in New Hampshire (*vide* DD), five each were reported in Connecticut (*vide* BK) and Rhode Island (*vide* DE), and one made an appearance at Burlington, VT, Sept. 6 (SWM). An inland Purple Sandpiper was picked out at Burlington, VT, Nov. 15 (SWM). A count of 62 Dunlins at Dead Creek Oct. 16 (FP) was very good for Vermont. Curlew Sandpipers made appearances at N. Monomoy Aug. 2 (BN *et al.*) and at Ninigret, RI, Aug. 12 (RC). Stilt Sandpiper numbers were low for a 2nd consecutive autumn. The total of 16 Buff-breasted was also low but standard for the last half-decade; noteworthy for New Hampshire were one at N. Hampton Beach S.P. Sept. 13–19 (m.ob.), and two in Salem Sept. 23 (K. Campbell). A juv. Ruff on S. Monomoy I., Sept. 13 (R. Prescott *et al.*) may have been the same as the one observed at N. Monomoy Oct. 15 (BN). Up to 70 Long-billed Dowitchers were noted at Plum I. in October, and one at Longmeadow, MA, Aug. 17 provided only the 2nd definite report for w. Massachusetts (*vide* SK). Sixteen Wilson's Phalaropes was a typical recent total; one at Hammonasset S.P., Madison, CT, Oct. 8 was late (DP *et al.*). Numbers of pelagic phalaropes were low, with none reported inland.

## JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

Pomarine Jaegers were well reported. Three at Sandy Neck Aug. 4 were unusually early for an onshore observation (PT). The Massachusetts high count was 15 at Cashes Ledge Sept. 13 (RA), but this number was dwarfed by the 168 observed at Block Canyon, RI, Sept. 17–18 (DE, NH). Twelve Pomarines were seen from shore points in Massachusetts during November storms (*vide* RS). In contrast to Pomarines, Parasitic Jaegers were seen in pitifully small numbers, with only 13 reported. An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger at Block Canyon, RI, Sept. 17, must have been a thrilling sight (DE, NH). Skuas of both species were reported; we hope all were carefully identified. All those reported from Massachusetts waters were called Great Skuas, including nine at Cashes Ledge and one at 42°34'N 69°32'W Sept. 7 (RA *et al.*); four others were reported from Cashes Ledge Aug. 31 and Sept. 13 (v.o.). South Polar Skuas were all reported in the warm waters south of Cape Cod by Rhode Islanders including one skua at Cocks Ledge Aug. 28 (DE, DE), two 30 mi s. of Block I., Sept. 14 (RC), and two at Block Canyon Sept. 17–18 (DE, NH). Little Gulls were exceptionally widespread and numerous, with four in s.w. Maine Sept. 11–Oct. 3 (GC, m.ob.), two at Rye Beach, NH, Oct. 11 (†A. & G. Prazar), three in e. Massachusetts Sept. 17–26 (*vide* RS), >20 on L. Champlain, including a juvenile seen in Grand Isle Co. Sept. 11 & 13 (ph. RL), and up to 5 at Greenwich Pt., CT, Sept. 26–28 (J. Zeranski). Common Black-headed Gull numbers continued a modest increase, with the 19 reported this fall the highest count in a decade. At least seven were sighted in Maine (*vide* JD); 10 were seen in e. Massachusetts Aug. 7–Nov. 29 (*vide* RS), with a maximum of five at Winthrop on the latter date (T. Cameron) and one at Weekapaug, RI, Sept. 19 (DE, DK). One adult at St. Albans Bay, VT, Oct. 11 was beautifully described and was only the 3rd for the state (†SWM). The ongoing cleanup of Boston Harbor may slow the current increase in Black-headed Gulls. Bonaparte's Gulls were abundant on n. L. Champlain, with up to 10,000 present during Oct. (RL). A winter ad. Mew Gull found at Hadley, MA, Nov. 27, may have been the same individual seen there during February and March 1992 (ph. PY). Iceland Gulls at Chappaquiddick, MA, Sept. 1 (VL) and well offshore at Block Canyon, RI, Sept. 17 (DE, NH) were early. One at Pittsfield, MA, Nov. 9 was locally rare (*vide* SK). Twenty-three of the fine total of 31 Lesser Black-backed Gulls reported were seen in e. Massachusetts. A first basic-plumaged bird at Biddeford, ME, Sept. 27 furnished one of 5 or fewer documented records for Maine (†LB). Another first-year immature was seen at Martha's Vineyard Sept. 18 (VL). Two of the five seen



Present at an odd season was this Thick-billed Murre at Provincetown, Massachusetts, on August 20, 1992. Photograph/Kyle Jones.

in Connecticut were attributed to the nominate race fuscus (*vide* BK); such claims require careful documentation. As Kenn Kaufman points out in his *A Field Guide to Advanced Birding*, the occurrence of fuscus "would represent an exceptional rarity on this continent..." An ad. Black-legged Kittiwake on Long I. Sound at Harkness S.P., Waterford, CT, Nov. 13 was a good find (DP). Only three Sabine's Gulls were reported; an adult roosting with other gulls on shore at Jerusalem, RI, Aug. 29 (†NF), an adult seen at Cashes Ledge, MA, Sept. 7 (RA), and a juvenile at S. Hero, VT, Sept. 11 (†RL), the 4th for that state. The total of 43 Caspian Terns harks back to the best autumn migrations of the 1970s; highlights included two at Highgate Springs, VT, Aug. 3 (ML), seven on the New Hampshire coast Aug. 23–Sept. 13 (SMi), and a maximum of nine at Ninigret, RI, Sept. 23 (R. Wadman). The farthest down east of seven August Royal Terns was a banded adult on the 2nd at Popham Beach, Phippsburg, ME (ph. LB). The maximum counts of terns staging at N. Monomoy were 500 Roseates Aug. 15 and 600 Commons Oct. 8 (BN). Less well known as a tern staging area, Missisquoi Bay, at the n. end of L. Champlain, held 168 Com. Terns and 65 Black Terns Aug. 7 (WE, NM, RL). Post-breeding Forster's Terns were reported e. to Jeffries Ledge, ME, Aug. 20 (EP), Scarborough, ME, Sept. 13 (*vide* WT), and to Seabrook, NH, Oct. 15 (PH, IL). Top counts were modest, with 15 each at Monomoy Oct. 8 (BN), and Westport, MA, Oct. 18 (RS). The last was seen at Westport Nov. 14 (RS). Tropical terns staged return engagements at Falkner I., Guilford, CT, where June's Bridled Tern reappeared Aug. 13–16 (ph. J. Zingo) and at N. Scituate, MA, where July's ad. Sooty Tern resurfaced Aug. 8 (RA). Another ad. Sooty Tern was seen at Napatree Pt., RI, Aug. 12 (†R. Flores). The occurrence of these terns inshore in New

England without a tropical storm is almost unknown. Alcid numbers continue at low levels. Ten of 11 Dovekies were reported in Massachusetts, one at Pt. Judith, RI, Nov. 17, was noteworthy (*vide JO*). A summering Thick-billed Murre was found beached at Provincetown, MA, Aug. 20 (ph. KJ). An unidentified murre at Hammonasset S.P., CT, Nov. 7 (BD) was a rare sight on Long Island Sound. Ninety Razorbills were seen in Massachusetts during October and November (*vide RS*), and 42 Black Guillemots were counted at Cape Ann, MA, Nov. 29 (R. Heil). A small alcid seen Nov. 29 at Halibut Pt., Rockport, MA, showed a suite of characteristics that convinced those lucky enough to see it that they had seen the Region's first Ancient Murrelet (†LB, T. Burke *et al.*). Unfortunately, the bird was seen under less than ideal conditions, and it could not be relocated. This species has often occurred inland in the northwest and has been documented in Quebec and Great Britain, so it seems the e. coast was "due" for an occurrence. Atlantic Puffins included three on Jeffreys Ledge, ME, Oct. 29 (EP) and one on Cape Cod Bay, MA, Nov. 1 (JB *et al.*).

#### OWLS TO WOODPECKERS

A family of Barn Owls at Newbury, MA, during August and September was found at the n. edge of the species' tenuously held breeding range in the Region (T. French *et al.*). The Regional total of 27 Snowy Owls was good, but it pales in comparison with the invasion of 1991, the first owl appeared at the Region's Snowy Owl capital, Logan Airport, Boston, Oct. 27, and numbers rose to 5 by Nov. 22 (NS). Two N. Hawk Owls arrived very early in Maine, with birds at Lamoine Oct. 2 (WT) and at Brewer Oct. 4 (ph. R. Hildreth), but none was reported elsewhere. The Com. Nighthawk migration peaked, as usual, in late August and early September, with 667 at Northampton, MA, Aug. 23 (*vide SK*), 150 at Saxtons River, VT, Aug. 25 (RG), 218 at Providence, RI, Sept. 6 (RLF), and 1222 at Worcester, MA, Sept. 9 (F. McMenemy *et al.*). An imm. ♂ Rufous Hummingbird present Oct. 18+ was videotaped at a Holyoke feeder (L. Upatham, ph. SP, WP). This represents the first fully documented record for Massachusetts. The Vermont Bird Records Committee approved last August's ad. ♀ *Selasphorus* hummingbird at Starksboro as a Rufous Hummingbird, on the basis of input from hummingbird authority William Baltosser, establishing a first state record. Surprisingly unresolved but tantalizing was a report of a "large" ♂ or imm. hummingbird that had taken up residence in early October the same Surry, ME, greenhouse that had hosted a Rufous Hummingbird in the winter of 1990–1991 (*vide WT*). Why this bird had not been viewed by an expert by season's end is a mystery to us. Just 16 Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported, with one at Madbury, NH, Oct. 30 (T. Chase) and successful breeding at Bridport, VT (JP) noteworthy. Two remained at Brid-

port until Nov. 16. There was a veritable epidemic of Red-bellied Woodpeckers in n. New England, with four in Maine (*vide JD*), three in New Hampshire (*vide DD*), and two in Vermont (JP, JN).

#### FLYCATCHERS TO GNATCATCHERS

Twenty-six E. Wood-Pewees banded at Appledore I., ME, tied the station high (DH). Two Acadian Flycatchers at the Blackstone R. Canal, RI, Sept. 17, were late (LS). Numbers of "Traill's" Flycatchers (both Alder and Willow) were considered down by banders, with 36 handled at Appledore I., ME (DH), and 20 netted at Woodstock, VT (CCR). A "Traill's" Flycatcher seen at W.B.W.S., Nov. 28–December, was prudently termed an *Empidonax* (sp.) until it was netted and identified (to as low a category as possible †KJ, WP, SP). The count of 17 Least Flycatchers banded at Woodstock, VT, was well below 1986–1991 totals there (CCR). A Say's Phoebe found on Monhegan I., Sept. 14–21, was a rare find (*vide M.A.S.*). A Nov. 14 Great Crested Flycatcher upheld the W.B.W.S. reputation as a haven for late flycatchers (†KJ). The 27 W. Kingbirds reported was a good total for recent years but well below the best years of the 1970s; notable were two inland at Montague, MA, Sept. 20–24 (M. Fairbrother *et al.*), four at Gay Head Nov. 15 (SP), and the last at W.B.W.S., Nov. 23–29 (KJ *et al.*). A Gray Kingbird delighted many at Greenwich Pt. Park, CT, Nov. 18–22 (BO, m.ob.). This bird furnished the 2nd Connecticut record and just the 4th for the Region.

Purple Martins continue to decline in the Region, with one at Northampton, MA, Aug. 24 (TG), a rare sight in the former part of this swallow's breeding range. High counts of staging Tree Swallows included the usual >10,000 at Plum I., Sept. 6 (JB), and 15,000 roosting among the cattails at Sakonnet Pt., RI, Sept. 13 (DE). A very late Tree Swallow was still coursing over N. Monomoy Nov. 29 (SP). Also late were Cliff Swallows at Chappaquiddick, MA, Oct. 2 (VL), and at N. Truro, MA, Oct. 6 (KJ). A reverse-migrant Barn Swallow at Caribou in northernmost Maine Nov. 11 was far afield indeed (*vide M.A.S.*). The annual autumn Blue Jay flight may have been larger than usual; large passages at Lighthouse Pt. Park, New Haven, CT were regular Sept. 30–Oct. 4, with a maximum of 3000 counted Oct. 3 (SM). Appearances by Com. Ravens at the fringes of their constantly expanding frontier continue, with two at Harvard, MA, Oct. 15 (R. Walton), and one at Hopkinton, MA, Nov. 2 (A. Navez). Tufted Titmice ventured as far north as Littleton, NH (J. Waters). There were a few intimations of a modest flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches, including high counts of 20 at Wellfleet, MA, Sept. 20 (RS), 25 at Block I., Oct. 2–4 (RF), and 42 at Quabbin Res., Oct. 4 (MLy). For those who regard Brown Creepers as non-migratory, consider 69 banded at Block I., with a maximum of eight observed Oct. 23 (EL). The

recent spate of mild, nearly snowless, winters in the Region continues to favor Carolina Wrens. This subtropical interloper has "replaced House Wren as the commonest and most widely reported" wren in e. Massachusetts (RAF). Maxima in s. New England included 35 on Martha's Vineyard Oct. 1–2 (RS) and 60 on Block I., Oct. 2–4 (RF). Twenty-one in w. Massachusetts provided a record (*vide SK*), and hardy individuals were sighted northward to Clinton, ME (*vide M.A.S.*), Lebanon, NH (PH), and Grand Isle, VT (DJH). Sedge Wrens included one at Newbury, MA, Aug. 15 (SK *et al.*), and one at Lincoln, MA, Oct. 4 (J. Nove). The latter report lacked documentation but was at a likely spot on a likely date. Marsh Wrens are regular coastal half-hardies, but one at Ferrisburgh, VT, Nov. 30 (C. Bailey) was unexpected. An impressive migration of Golden-crowned Kinglets included peaks of 340 at Plum I., Sept. 24 (B. Cassie), and 300 at Block I., Oct. 2–4 (RF). Late reverse-migrant Blue-gray Gnatcatchers included one at Jonesport, ME (R. Milardo), and two at Truston Pond N.W.R., RI (C. Harten, S. Mitra), Nov. 15.

#### THRUSHES TO VIREOS

An average total of four N. Wheatears was reported, with one at Ft. Hill, Eastham, MA, Sept. 15–18 (G. Martin, m.ob.), an imm. ♂ at Grand Isle, VT, Sept. 22 (†ph. DJH), one at Block I., Sept. 25–29 (ph. RB, m.ob.), and a male at Grand Isle, VT, Oct. 7 (†RL). The Vermont birds occurred within 2 mi of each other, but the descriptions were detailed enough to indicate different individuals; these were the 5th and 6th Vermont reports of this arctic thrush.

#### S.A.

In the midst of all the justified gloom over neotropical migrants, it is pleasant indeed to announce the continued increase of the E. Bluebird. Many persist in the belief that this species is at extinction's door, but recent mild winters in e. North America, coupled with aggressive nest box placement campaigns and the continuing scourge of Dutch elm disease, have greatly aided this open-country thrush. At least 415 bluebirds were reported in New Hampshire and Vermont, with a high count of 35 at Canterbury, NH, Sept. 29 (D. Stavros). More than 260 were reported in e. Massachusetts (*vide RS*), and a count of 273 in w. Massachusetts was "well above average" (*vide SK*). A flight of 200 at Lighthouse Pt., New Haven, CT, Nov. 14 was one of many such passages this fall (E. Shove *vide SM*).

*Catharus* Thrush numbers were a shadow of their levels in the 1970s, but banding totals held steady at recent levels at 2 stations. Totals netted at Woodstock, VT included 34

Veeries and 30 Swainson's Thrushes (CCR); 18 Veeries, seven Gray-cheekeds, and 17 Swainson's thrushes were caught on Block I. (EL). Hermit Thrushes actually appear to be increasing, with 84 banded at Woodstock, VT (CCR), and 92 handled on Block I. (EL). The latter may have been an artifact of more October netting days. Wood Thrushes surprised banders in Woodstock, VT, by setting a station record of 42, but this number may reflect habitat maturation and the increase of autumn olive at the site (CCR). Varied Thrushes were reported from Ellsworth, ME, Oct. 26 (M. Stocking, *fide* WT), and at W. Tisbury, Martha's Vineyard, Nov. 17, when a dead specimen was discovered (C. Crum, *fide* RS). American Pipits were well reported, with an impressive maximum of 400 at Hadley, MA, Oct. 5 (*fide* SK). The only Bohemian Waxwings were at the extreme north end of the region at Ft. Kent, ME, where a flock of 100 was found in late October (*fide* M.A.S.). Contributing to an almost complete lack of boreal irruptions was an anemic total of nine N. Shrikes south to Massachusetts. The last of five Oct. White-eyed Vireos in Rhode Island was one banded at Block I., Oct. 22 (EL). The most remarkable Solitary Vireo was a presumptive *plumbeus* at Oxbow N.W.R., MA, Sept. 6 (M. Blazis, *fide* RS). It is upsetting to note that because such sightings are of "just a subspecies," they are seldom fully documented; these reports should be treated with all the care received by a full species from the west. The three Yellow-throated Vireos banded at Appledore I. provided a station record, where they are regular s. vagrants, rather than migrants (DH). Reports of Red-eyed Vireos were mixed, with 110 banded at Appledore I. considered a low total (DH) and 70 at Woodstock, VT, a near record reflecting an increasing trend there (CCR). The last reported was apparently found by Gray Kingbird acolytes at Greenwich Pt., CT, Nov. 19 (m.ob.).

#### WARBLERS

The eight Golden-winged Warblers in Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts Aug. 30–Sept. 12 furnished one of the best regional totals in recent years. Hybrid "winged" warblers were reported for the 3rd consecutive year, with Brewster's at Oxbow N.W.R., MA, Aug. 15 (RBr), at Waltham, MA, Aug. 23 (LT), and at S. Londonderry, VT, Aug. 27 (WN), and Lawrence's at the Blackstone R. Canal, RI, Aug. 21–25 (†LS). Orange-crowned Warblers were more numerous than usual, with 28 total reported from all states, save Vermont and Connecticut, Aug. 28–Nov. 28, including a maximum of three at Nahant, MA, Nov. 22 (RS). Assessments of neotropical migrant warblers were generally dismal with a few bright spots. Down without qualification were Ten-



**Virtually annual in New England, but still an exciting find, was this Northern Wheatear at Block Island, Rhode Island, in late September 1992. Photograph/Richard Bowen.**

nessee, Nashville, Mourning, Wilson's, and Canada warblers. Unqualified thumbs up were given to Blackpoll and Black-throated Green warblers. High counts of 21 Black-throated Greens at Quabbin Res., MA, Sept. 20 (MLy), and >300 Blackpolls at Wachusett Mt., MA, Sept. 20 (SP), reflected this movement. Mixed reviews were given for most other warblers, with good numbers and terrible totals splitting the Region along east-west lines, for example, the stark contrast between a pitiful two N. Waterthrushes in w. Massachusetts (*fide* SK) and 260 banded at Appledore I., ME (DH). Counted among southern reverse-migrant warblers were three Yellow-throateds, including one Nov. 25–December at Burlington, VT (*fide* G. E. Hall), a Cerulean at Appledore I., Sept. 6 (DH), and another at Providence, RI Oct. 8 (*fide* JO), as well as two Prothonotaries in coastal Massachusetts (*fide* RS) and one on Block I. (m.ob.), and three Kentuckies in coastal Massachusetts (*fide* RS). Among the most tardy of the late warblers were Nashvilles at Greenwich Pt., CT, Nov. 21–22 (BO), Manchester, MA (N. Creighton), and Plum I. (W. Miller), Nov. 22, a Magnolia at Woodstock, VT, Oct. 30 (CCR), a Blackpoll at Nahant, MA, Nov. 12 (TA), an Am. Redstart in S. Boston, Nov. 19–29 (RD), an Ovenbird at Nahant, MA, Nov. 22 (RS), a Mourning Warbler in S. Boston Nov. 19–20 (RD), and a Wilson's Warbler at Mansfield, CT, Nov. 15 (B. Lehmann). That champion reverse-migrant and half-hardy, the Yellow-breasted Chat, was reported frequently, with most of the 25 found during October and November. Three of these reached New Hampshire Oct. 20–Nov. 7 (*fide* DD). Exciting, but briefly seen and described, was a Hermit Warbler at Gay Head Oct. 20 (†G. Daniels). If this bird passes muster with the new Massachusetts Records Committee, it will provide the 2nd for Massachusetts and 3rd regionally, the previous two were both spring reports.

#### TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A W. Tanager visited Gay Head Sept. 2 (VL *et al.*). Nineteen Blue Grosbeaks, the best fall total in a decade, were reported in Massachusetts Sept. 17–Nov. 7, and one was at Westport, CT, Oct. 18–20 (DR, C. Barnard *et al.*). The 35 Dickcissels noted made a good count for recent falls, but none was reported from Rhode Island and Connecticut. Twenty-two Clay-colored Sparrows Sept. 2–Nov. 30 were the most reported since 1977, and one at Star I., NH, Sept. 20 (ph. PH, †SMi, †G. Lasley *et al.*), was one of very few reported from the state. Numbers of Vesper Sparrows were better after several dismal years, with nine in Vermont (*fide* V.I.N.S.), 11 in w. Massachusetts (*fide* SK), and a high count of 10 at Sandwich, MA, in November (PT). Twelve Lark Sparrows Sept. 2–Oct. 31 were at par for recent years; one inland at Hadley, MA, Oct. 17 (PC) was notable. A

Henslow's Sparrow, now a vagrant in the Region, was found at Hammonasset S.P., CT, Oct. 7 (†DP). **Le Conte's Sparrows** were reported at Sandwich, MA, Oct. 6 & 20 (†PT), and at Westhampton, MA, Oct. 15–27 (B. Bieda *et al.*). In the distant past, inland Sharp-tailed Sparrows, presumably midwestern *nelsoni*, were routinely seen in New England, but these reports have been reduced to a trickle as Le Conte's reports increase. Just such a Sharp-tailed was seen at Broad Meadow Brook, Worcester, MA, Oct. 6–9 (RBr). Another *Ammodramus* sparrow seen at Brattleboro, VT, Oct. 17, was well described and seems to have been another Sharp-tailed (*fide* V.I.N.S.). High counts of migrating sparrows included 250 Savannahs at Sandwich, MA, Nov. 28 (PT), 70 Swamps Oct. 11 at Athol, MA (JJ), 650 White-throateds at Canaan, CT, Oct. 7 (DR), and 40 White-crowns at Addison, VT, Oct. 16 (FP); 182 Dark-eyed Juncos were seen Oct. 17 at Littleton, NH (R. Bradley). Little known to birders, but well known in the ornithological literature, a White-throated Sparrow × Dark-eyed Junco hybrid was photographed at Yarmouth, ME, Oct. 19 (LB). New Hampshire's first, and the Region's 7th, **Chestnut-collared Longspur** was found at Deering Nov. 29 (ph. I. I. Macleod *et al.*) Snow Buntings were especially numerous, with several counts in the mid-hundreds and an impressive maximum of 1500 at Logan Airport, Boston, Oct. 27 (NS). A singing **W. Meadowlark** at Otis Air Force Base, Falmouth, MA, Sept. 20 (PT), is one of very few detected in the region since the 1970s, providing only the 2nd autumn report. Six Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported in Maine and Massachusetts Aug. 2–Nov. 18. An Orchard Oriole at Napatree Pt., RI, Aug. 24 (CR), was tardy, as virtually all Orchard Orioles leave New England before the end of July. Two banding stations reported record totals of N. Orioles aught, with 47 at Apple-

dore I., ME (DH), and 24 at Woodstock, VT (CCR). Winter finches were almost nonexistent, with only scattered reports of the less common species and very few of the often abundant Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak. What three Pine Grosbeaks in w. Massachusetts were doing there when none was reported to the north is anyone's guess (*fide* SK). Red Crossbill reports included 4–5 at Masardis, ME, Aug. 30 (J. Greenlaw), one at S. Londonderry, VT, Sept. 4 (WN), and two at Quabbin Res., Nov. 27 (JJ). White-winged Crossbills totaled 26 in Maine, with 14 others reported in New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts. The only Com. Redpolls were seen way up north at Ft. Kent, ME, in late November (*fide* M.A.S.).

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## HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

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

The weather continued cool and damp in Fall 1992. Temperatures averaged subnormal in all 4 months, and rainfall averaged above normal in all but October. November marked the 9th consecutive month with temperatures below normal in New York City, and the 6th in Buffalo. Hurricane *Andrew* Aug. 29 (see Whimbrel) and Tropical Storm *Danielle* Sept. 26 (see Leach's Storm-Petrel, Jaegers, Black Skimmer) had little perceptible effect on birdlife in this Region.

Most observers complained of low numbers, especially of passerines. Some blamed this on nesting failure in the cool wet summer. The fall migration was termed "the poorest I have ever experienced" in Rochester (RGS), "abysmal" in n.w. New Jersey (DHa), and "at best mediocre" in s. New Jersey (WD). Low numbers don't seem to curtail rarities, however. If anything, the number and quality of accidentals were greater than ever this fall. This may not mean that there are more rarities around; it may simply reflect the passion and skill that go into rarities chasing nowadays. We regret that confirming details are not always available, for a good discovery is not complete without a convincing write-up, in the absence of a photograph.

Confirmed this time were two species never before seen in the Region (Roseate Spoonbill, Ancient Murrelet), one other never seen before e. of the Mississippi (Slaty-backed

Gull), and many other great rarities (Violet-green Swallow, California and Mew Gulls, Rufous-necked Stint, Lark Bunting, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Cave Swallow).

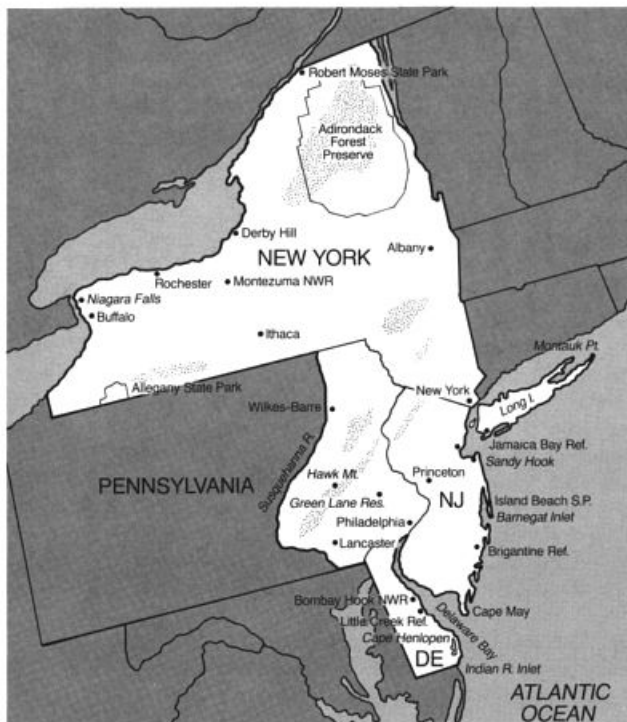
Patterns sometimes emerge to gratify your regional editors as they struggle to digest some 300-odd disparate individual reports. Consider the effects of the cold front of Oct. 25, when Brants were on the move region-wide, as were many other species. Or the great inland passage and grounding of Scoters and Oldsquaws Oct. 31–Nov. 1. Or the front of Nov. 6–7, as it hurried Red-tailed Hawks along the inland ridges and Com. Loons down the lakes and great river valleys.

Another pattern that we understand only dimly is the sea currents that influence pelagics. This fall's reports of Brown Boobies, Frigatebirds, Audubon's Shearwaters, and Bridled and Sooty terns suggest that eddies broke off the Gulf Stream and moved close to the New Jersey shore this fall, after a summer in which lots of whales and cold-water procel-larids indicated cooler waters. But we rarely hear about seawater conditions from pelagic observers.

Many n. migrants were on the move in August, as usual (see Philadelphia Vireo, Connecticut Warbler), giving the impression of an early migration. Yet there is solid evidence that the bulk of fall migration ran late. The Island Beach S.P., *Ocean*, NJ, banders had handled less than 30% of their total by Oct. 10; last year by that date they had banded just under one-half their total (EM). These figures also reflect the larger share of sparrows and other October migrants in this fall's passage (the figures are somewhat biased, it is true, by fewer September days covered this year). And see thrushes, below, for the results of a study of nocturnal migrant calls.

We are still struggling to harmonize our deadlines with those of New York State's regional reporters to *The Kingbird*, on whom we depend heavily. We thank gratefully those who sent us material in early to mid-January, but at press time half of New York State remained *terra incognita*.

**Abbreviations:** Avalon (*seawatch n. of Cape May, NJ*); Bombay Hook (*Bombay Hook N.W.R., near Smyrna, DE*); Braddock Bay (*w. of Rochester, Monroe, NY*); Brig (*Brigantine Unit, Edward P. Forsythe N.W.R., Atlantic, NJ*); Conejohela Flats (*Susquehanna R., at Washington Boro, Lancaster, PA*); Derby Hill (*hawk watch overlooking L. Ontario near Mexico, Oswego, NY*); Green Lane (*Green Lane Reservoir, Montgomery, PA*); Hawk Mt. (*Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, near Kempton, Berks, PA*); Hook Mt. (*hawk watch n. of Nyack, Orange, NY*); Jamaica Bay





(*Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref., New York City*); Little Cr. (*Little Creek Wildlife Area, near Dover, Kent, DE*); Montclair (*hawk watch on the first Watchung Ridge, Upper Montclair, Essex, NJ*); Montezuma (*Montezuma N.W.R., at the n. end of L. Cayuga, Seneca, NY*); Palmyra (*Delaware R. shore in Burlington, NJ, opposite Philadelphia*); Raccoon Ridge (*the Kittatinny ridge near Millbrook, Warren, NJ*); Sandy Hook (*Sandy Hook Unit, Gateway Nat'l Recreation Area, Monmouth, NJ*). Place names in *italics* are counties.

## LOONS TO IBISES

Coastal loon migration peaked Nov. 16, when Ward counted 5600 passing his sea watch at Avalon. This season's main inland grounding of Red-throated Loons brought 15 to the Conejohela Flats Nov. 20, three to Blue Marsh L., *Berks, PA*, Nov. 21 (H. & J. Silagy, RKE), and two to Culver's L., *Sussex, NJ*, Nov. 19 (FT). Regionwide about 10 single Red-throated Loons came down inland, two in late October and the rest in November, slightly more than normal. Hawk watches and a new "sea watch" from Taughannock Pt., on the w. shore of L. Cayuga, *Tompkins, NY*, gave us an unusually comprehensive picture of the Com. Loon's overland migration. On L. Cayuga, where 4942 Com. Loons were counted moving downlake Oct. 25–Nov. 18, there seemed to be 2 flights: a dawn flight at low altitudes by birds that had evidently spent the night uplake, and a larger mid-morning flight, at higher altitudes (300–2000 feet), presumed to have originated on L. Ontario (Cayuga Bird Club, WRE). Common Loon migration is as strongly front related as that of raptors: the big flights at Taughannock occurred on northerly winds after cold fronts (Oct. 25, and Nov. 1, 6, 7, & 15), and many loons overflew the ridge hawk watches in New Jersey and Pennsylvania on the same days. A big flight staged Nov. 1 brought 236 down the Susquehanna R. opposite Washington Boro, *Lancaster, in 2 hours*. Common Loons may not follow the ridges as raptors do, but they do seem to follow the river valleys.

In addition to the usual few Red-necked Grebes along L. Ontario and on the finger lakes in November, one was early at Harvey's L., *Luzerne, PA*, Oct. 9–29 (WR). This season's Eared Grebes were picked out at Taughannock S.P., on L. Cayuga, *NY*, Nov. 3 (WRE), and at Cape Henlopen, *DE*, Nov. 13 (WWF, D. Gardner).

Pelagic trips off New Jersey found 5 species of shearwater, including five Audubon's at Baltimore Canyon Sept. 12 (VE) and another 55 mi E of Barnegat Light Sept. 28 (ABr), and a Manx Shearwater 86 mi E of Barnegat Light, at Hudson Canyon, Oct. 12 (ABr). Northern Fulmars, however, seem to have left our waters, along with the foreign fishing factories.

A Leach's Storm Petrel reported flying along the beach at Cedar Beach, Long Island, near sundown Sept. 26 (†RKM, SSa) was a surprise, since *Danielle* had little



**Adult Rufous-necked Stint at Cedar Beach, Long Island, New York, on August 9, 1992.**  
Photograph/Tom Vezo.

other coastal effect than to displace a few jaegers. Another was reported 1 mi off Cape May Aug. 2 by whaleboat captain Ron Robbins.

A Brown Booby was carefully described off Amagansett, Long Island, Aug. 18 (†AW), providing the 2nd summer record in a row. An Am. White Pelican hung around the lower Delaware R., below Philadelphia, and was seen during several places in mid-August (F. Windfelder, CDo), while another (or the same) was reported from Bombay Hook Aug. 24. Still others (or the same) were over Cape May Sept. 12 and Oct. 10 (JHo, ph. KS, m.ob.). The now-annual Brown Pelican influx dwindled after mid-September, the last count three at Avalon, *Cape May, NJ*, Nov. 13.

Great Cormorants continue to occur more regularly inland, so care must be taken to distinguish them from the now-ubiquitous Double-crested. Four in a flooded quarry near Martin's Cr., *Northampton, PA*, Nov. 15 (AK, P. England, F. Brock, BLM), constituted only the 2nd county record. Singles were at L. Conowingo on the Susquehanna, *Lancaster, PA*, on the very early date of Sept. 1 (RMS), and at Round Valley Res., *Hunterdon, NJ*, Oct. 31 (RKA).

Anhinga reports continue from New Jersey, too seldom documented. Singles were reported from Overpeck Cr., *Bergen, Aug. 13* (*fide* IB), Palmyra Oct. 24, (CDo, M. Edwards), and Beach Haven, *Ocean, Nov. 5* (B. Fells). An all-black ♀ frigatebird of undetermined species passed by Cape May Oct. 8 (F. Mears *et al.*), and a Magnificent Frigatebird was plausibly described at Jamaica Bay Aug. 9 (N.Y.R.B.A.).

Two ad. White Ibises were found near Cape May remarkably late Oct. 2 (RDB). A couple of late wandering *Plegadis* ibis, believed to be Glossies, remained late in upstate New York again, in Hume Township, *Allegheny, Oct. 10* (Palmer, Evans), and

at Hamlin Beach S.P., *Monroe, Oct. 17–19* (MD). A White-faced Ibis could still be picked out among the *Plegadis* at Brig into early September (m.ob.).

The first Roseate Spoonbill for New York and the Region and the northernmost ever on the e. coast, created a stir when Lorna Salzman discovered it Aug. 20 at the Goethals Bridge Pond on Staten I. (m.ob., ph. CA, ph. RJK). The bird, an immature, may have been present for some time; it was seen spasmodically there and at neighboring Prall I., until Aug. 29. The presence in New Jersey and Delaware of egrets dyed pink and yellow for a Rutgers University encephalitis study complicated this record by producing multiple Spoonbill rumors. Since there seem to be no Roseate Spoonbills in captivity, we believe escape is ruled out. Immatures wander frequently and have reached Pennsylvania and Maryland (AOU Checklist), Missouri (Aug. 1986, AB 40:1209), Ohio (Sept. 1986, AB 41:94), and Kentucky (July 1989, AB 43:1321). More recent records may have eluded us, for after AB ceased indexing in 1990, we have been flying blind.

## WATERFOWL

In addition to the several usual Greater White-fronted Geese along the coast, two were found at L. Struble, *Chester, PA*, Oct. 31 (*fide* AH). Escapes, of course, are not unlikely. In addition to the now-regular one or two Ross' Geese among coastal Snow Goose flocks, two were reported from upstate New York: one at Randolph Township, *Cattaraugus, Oct. 7* (†R. Sundell, D. Klaybor), possibly an escape (RA); and one at Point au Roche S.P., *Clinton*, after Nov. 27 (BK, C. Mitchell *et al.*), providing the first Adirondack record.

The Oct. 25 cold front triggered a great flight of Brants across the whole Region, as pieced together from multiple reports. Thousands staged that day along the s. shore of L. Ontario: 1030 in Somerset Township, *Niagara (WD'A)*, 3000 at Hamlin Beach, *Monroe (WS)*, and 3500 at Sodus Bay, *Wayne (Rochester Birding Association)*. Farther south, 1475 passed Taughannock S.P., on L. Cayuga, on strong NW winds (WRE). Still farther south, 3423 passed over the hawk watch at Chimney Rock, *Somerset, NJ (CA)*, 200 over Scott's Mt., *Warren, NJ (GHa)*, and "hundreds" over nearby Raccoon Ridge (TH). Hawk Mt. apparently on the w. edge of this movement, counted 65 (CV). Two were noteworthy well inland at Green Lane Nov. 2 (KCr). A bird of the black race was reported at Brig Oct. 9 (PH).

Wood Duck prosperity in managed habitats was indicated by a record 2230 at the Toad Harbor wetlands, Oneida L., *NY*, and by several 100–200 counts in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. A Green-winged Teal of the Eur. subspecies was identified at the 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> ponds, near Goshen, *Orange, NY*, Nov. 28 (JPT). Blue-winged Teals, decreasing as a breeder in this Region, have quietly become uncommon autumn migrants. The best



report was a meager seven at Lysander, *Onondaga*, NY, Sept. 1; elsewhere we had reports of only about a half-dozen individuals from the entire Region, including two late at Montezuma Nov. 23 (P. Weld). An above-average 10 or so Eur. Wigeons were reported along the coast as far s. as Brig, with a maximum of five at Jamaica Bay in early Nov. (N.Y.R.B.A.). Notable inland were singles at Montezuma Oct. 4–20 (WRE, K. McGowan *et al.*), Culver's L., *Sussex*, NJ, Oct. 19 (FT), and Mannington Marsh, *Salem*, NJ, Oct. 10 (WD).

Central Park's Tufted Duck failed to show up, but a male was seen at Jamaica Bay Oct. 12 (L. Brinker) and another at Playland, Rye, *Westchester*, NY, after Nov. 3 (TWB *et al.*). Something is going on with Com. Eiders. They exceeded even last fall's high numbers at Montauk Pt., building from four Nov. 4 to 1000 Nov. 31. Farther south, eight reached Cape May Oct. 31 (DCz); by contrast, none was reported from the L. Ontario shore. King Eiders, as usual, moved farther south, but in much smaller numbers. Singles reached as far as Avalon, *Cape May*, NJ, Oct. 23 (DW), and C. Henlopen, DE, Nov. 6 (WWF). Harlequin Ducks seem to have given up Montauk Pt., but 10 arrived to winter in Jones Inlet, Long Island, in Nov. (RJK, m.ob.), and a pair was found at Cape May Nov. 10 (CW).

Weather downed lots of sea ducks on inland lakes and rivers, though the numbers broke no records. The largest groups of Oldsquaws among some dozen interior downings were 30 at Stewart Park, near Ithaca, Nov. 7 (NB), 20 at Marietta, on the Susquehanna, *Lancaster*, PA, Nov. 15 (JHe), and 16 at Round Valley Res., *Hunterdon*, Oct. 31 (RKA), all but one gone the next day (E. Patten). It was "the best scoter season we ever had" in e. Pennsylvania (BLM), with all 3 species present—a rare occurrence—Oct. 31–Nov. 1. As usual, Black Scoters, which winter well south, were by far the commonest. Collating numerous records, we estimate that about 110–120 Black Scoters were on inland lakes and ponds in e. Pennsylvania and upland New Jersey Oct. 31, plus an impressive 200+ Blacks and 17 White-wingeds moving S. down the Susquehanna R., opposite Washington Boro, *Lancaster* (*fide* AH). Numbers were lower on the lakes and ponds the next day, but a string of 90 Blacks passed Artificial I., *Salem*, NJ, on the lower Delaware R. (WD). Surf Scoters were, as always, the least frequent, with just was one on L. Cayuga Nov. 7–9 (NB) and seven in s.e. Pennsylvania, including a good four at Conowingo L., *Lancaster*, in early November (RMS). White-winged Scoters were a bit more common, with about 10 on lakes in e. Pennsylvania and upland New Jersey, and a good 17 flying down the Susquehanna opposite Washington Boro Oct. 31 (*fide* AH). This species, which winters the farthest north of the three, is typically commoner inland farther north (e.g., about 25 sightings, maximum 24, on L. Cayuga, NB). On L.

Ontario, off Hamlin Beach S.P., near Rochester, 25,000 Scoters, mostly White-wingeds, assembled Nov. 28 (RGS).

Hooded Mergansers seem to be thriving. The best of several big upstate New York counts were 242 at Fair Haven, *Cayuga*, and Beaver L., *Onondaga*, Oct. 11 (the most in 2 decades, GHu), and a prodigious 1000 estimated on Chautauqua L., in October (J. Leunsmann). Seventy was an unprecedented number on Culver's L., *Sussex*, NJ, Nov. 19 (FT).

#### RAPTORS

We thank Jorge Montejo Diaz for Cape May data; Drew Panko for Fire Island; Steve Walter for Fort Tilden, Brooklyn; Cathy Viverette for Hawk Mt.; Padraic French for Hook Mt.; Marylea Klauder for Militia Hill, Philadelphia; Else Greenstone for Montclair; Judith Cinquina for Mt. Peter, *Orange*, NY; and Jack McCormack for Raccoon Ridge.

The Hawk Mt. Sanctuary, near Kempton, *Berks*, PA, passed a momentous milestone, Oct. 8, when the millionth raptor was counted passing the North Lookout. Maurice Broun had counted the first raptor there—a Broad-winged Hawk—Sept. 11, 1934. The millionth was an immature Sharp-shinned Hawk, tallied by curator Jim Brett. "Champagne, cheers, and tears were shared by all the staff and visitors on the Lookout that afternoon" (CV).

Some 25 Black Vultures were reported in the lower Hudson Valley (JA), but none n. of *Dutchess* and *Ulster*. Turkey Vultures are still increasing—714 was a historic high at Montclair, NJ. Recovering Bald Eagles set new records at Hook Mt. (35), at Montclair (30), and on the beaches (5 for the season at the Fire Island hawk watch). Raccoon Ridge totaled a redoubtable 89, and the best one-day total there—14, Sept. 29—would have been a good seasonal total a few years ago.

Northern Harriers were down yet again at all the hawk watches, for the 3rd consecutive year. Sharp-shinneds declined again at all the hawk watches, both on the beach and in the mountains, after several plateau years. They were about 30% below average at Hawk Mt., and 26% below the 3-year average at Militia Hill. They dropped below 1000 for the season at Mt. Peter for the first time since 1977, and Cape May totaled only 8207, compared with >40,000 in the all-time peak years from the mid-1970s to the mid-1980s. Lack of concentrating weather patterns may have biased this fall's figures downward, but the decline is real. Cooper's Hawks, by contrast, continue to gain slightly. Are they filling part of the Sharp-shinned Hawks' niche? Northern Goshawks failed to make the 10-year invasion some had predicted.

No hawk watch hit the Broad-winged jackpot this season. The 2nd-largest concentration known to us, 5789, was reached in 3 hours Sept. 13 from a backyard in Allamuchy, *Warren*, NJ, away from the main ridge (T. Laura). The mega-kettles of dramatic years depend on a strong cold front around Sept.

15 that unleashes a mass of birds bottled up by several poor flying days. This fall, a weak cold front Sept. 12 was a bit early for maximum effect, and the next, Sept. 19, was a bit late. The Broad-wingeds passed through in widely scattered medium-size groups. The front of Sept. 12 brought several peaks: 2373 to the Hook, 3624 to Montclair, and 1251 to Militia Hill, Philadelphia. Ridges farther inland had the bigger kettles, on light variable winds: Sept. 13 at Mt. Peter with 6110, and Sept. 14 & 15 at Hawk Mt., with 2621 and 1994. A curious late coastal passage, without any counterpart on the ridges, brought 1435 to Cape May Sept. 30, the best fall Broad-winged flight there in 3 years (CS).

It was a good year for Swainson's Hawks. At least two were around Cape May from Aug. 25 (J. Tobias, R. Johnson) to Oct. 22 (JMD). Elsewhere, two singles passed Raccoon Ridge Aug. 23 (very early) and Oct. 26, one passed Hook Mt., Oct. 4, and one adult was at Jenkins, *Burlington*, for a first s.w. New Jersey record, quite late, Nov. 15 (†EB). Post-breeding dispersal brought numerous Red-tailed Hawks northward again in August, where warm fronts concentrated them along the s. shore of L. Ontario. The Braddock Bay hawk watch captured and banded 389 Red-taileds there in August and tallied about 3000, remarkable after what was believed to have been a poor reproductive season (JD). The cold front of Nov. 6 produced the best southbound Red-tailed Hawk counts along the ridges: 552 at Little Gap, *Northampton*, PA (D. Gemmell, J. Galm), 583 at Port Jervis, *Orange*, NY (ET), and 642 at Raccoon Ridge. Although these are not record day counts, they still mean more than one Red-tailed Hawk per minute for an 8-hour watch.

The Kittatinny Ridge continues to funnel the main Golden Eagle migration, though Raccoon Ridge's 40 and Hawk Mt.'s 56 were not records. The best time is the same cold fronts that bring the Red-taileds (e.g., seven at Hawk Mt., Nov. 6). Curiously, the few Golden Eagles that migrate down the coast seem to come earlier. Fire Island had its first ever this fall Oct. 27, and five of Cape May's seven passed in October.

American Kestrel numbers were discouraging again at the hawk watches, and Merlins slipped a bit from the recent boom years along the inland ridges. We received convincing notes on a dark Gyrfalcon at Hamlin Beach S.P., *Monroe*, NY, Oct. 24 (†RMA). A white bird passed down the w. shore of L. Champlain Nov. 13 (BK).

#### RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS

Normally invisible Black Rails let themselves be seen at Oceanside Preserve, Long Island, Aug. 24 (J. Caspers), and at Muddy Run, *Lancaster*, PA, Oct. 12 (RMS). The latter was No. 294 on Schutsky's record-breaking 1992 state list. A relatively modest four Sandhill Cranes were seen: one early at Blue Mt. L., *Berks*, PA, Sept. 1 (H. & J. Silagy, RKe), two

at Octoraro Res., on the *Chester-Lancaster* border, PA, Oct. 20–Nov. 8 (RMS, m.ob.), and one at Cape May Oct. 11–13 (CD, J. Bouton, W. Insull).

A number of regular shorebird spots were unsuitable this year. Water was high on Lakes Ontario and Champlain, as well as on inland lakes such as Green Lane. As for managed areas, the e. pond at Jamaica Bay was too high and, where some ponds were let down, as at Montezuma and Tinicum, Spad-derdock and other vegetation covered the flats. The Susquehanna was high until late September; when the water was drawn down Sept. 20–25, 20 species of shorebirds stopped on the newly exposed mud of the Conejohela Flats (JHe).

As fabulous as ever, Bombay Hook contained 21 shorebird species Aug. 1 alone (B & NM). Brig was another exciting spot. After years of high water for duck encouragement and disease control, the West Pool has been declared a "moist soil management area." This fall it grew up in fine grass, which held 4000–8000 Least Sandpipers Aug. 28 (RKA), the Region's biggest concentrations of Baird's and Buff-breasted sandpipers, and a possible Sharp-tailed among the Pectoral sandpipers.

Many more shorebirds must pass over this Region than pause inland. A rainy day can bring remarkable things down for a few hours. Consider the haul at the Walkill sod farms well upland in *Sussex*, NJ, Aug. 17: 56 Black-bellied and six Semipalmated plovers, as well as seven Hudsonian Godwits (S. Angus, J. Carey). The same rain downed four Stilt Sandpipers at suburban Roxbury Pond, *Morris*, NJ (DHa). Next day, in heavy rain, eight Semipalmated Plovers and four Stilt Sandpipers (less than annual inland in n.-c. New Jersey) were at an Allentown, *Monmouth*, NJ, sod farm (TBa), >30 Pectoral Sandpipers were near New Sharon, *Mercer*, NJ (TBa), and a Sanderling (and a Laughing Gull) gave a seaside flavor to the Allentown-Bethlehem-Emmaus airport, *Lehigh*, PA (RW).

The aforementioned 56 Black-bellied Plovers at the Walkill sod farms Aug. 17 and another 55 at the Conejohela Flats Sept. 25 (JHe) were high counts inland; the other half-dozen inland reports were, more typically, of four or fewer. Lesser Golden-Plovers must have gone through smoothly, as no huge flocks gathered. Their distribution pattern fit that of transoceanic migrants: clearly commoner north than south. The best assemblages were 118 along the lakeshore w. of Rochester Oct. 3 (MD), 110 in Carlton Township, *Orleans*, NY, Sept. 1 (W. Listman), and up to 100 on the Warren turf farms in s.w. *Orange*, NY, through Oct. (JPT, RJK, m.ob.). The e. Long Island fields at Cutchogue contained only a meager 47 on the best day, Sept. 1 (JJR, PG), and only a few flocks of one or two dozen were found farther south.

The post-breeding Am. Avocet assemblage in the Bombay Hook-Little Cr. area reached about 300 again (NP *et al.*). The

only straggler got all the way to L. Ontario at Fair Haven Beach S.P., very late, Nov. 3 (G. Wolford, ph. D. Crumb, for the 2nd Oneida L. basin record, the other dating back to 1959. The coastal Willet population is so wedded to salt marsh that the stray singles that turned up at Tinicum Aug. 11 (L. Lewis) and on the Susquehanna at the Conejohela Flats Sept. 25 (L. Lewis, JHe) were likely of the W. race.

Upland Sandpipers were reported from some 15 locations from L. Ontario to Delaware, but in the lowest numbers yet. We have customarily listed only 2-digit counts. This fall we received only two that large: 18 at the Allentown-Bethlehem-Emmaus airport, *Lehigh*, PA, Aug. 3 (AK), and 10 at the Clarksville (Columbus) sod farm, *Burlington*, NJ, Aug. 22 (EB). Next in line came a report of nine Uplands at the Lumberton, *Burlington*, NJ, alfalfa fields Aug. 4 (WD) and eight at the Westhampton Air Force Base, Long Island, Aug. 30 (AW, SS). We haven't bothered before to publish single-digit records in fall. This species needs attention!

Whimbrels were unusually widespread this season. Some 100+ were found on Long Island Aug. 2, including 60 at Cow Meadow, Freeport. Nine was a good number at Hamlin Beach S.P., *Monroe*, NY, Aug. 4 (RMA), and one was downed at the Savannah Mucklands, near Montezuma, by the remnant of hurricane *Andrew*, Aug. 29 (A. Farnsworth). One at Little Cr., Sept. 5 (MG, BP) was noteworthy; this is one of the hardest regular shorebird migrants to find in Delaware (APE).

As usual, the best places for Hudsonian Godwits were the Line I., in Great South Bay, *Suffolk*, Long Island, with 14 Aug. 10 (AJL, ABa), and at Bombay Hook, with 20 Aug. 1 (B & NM) and 15 Aug. 16 (APE). Even more Hudsonians turned up at unexpected inland spots than did last year: Yates Township, *Orleans*, NY (WW), Tinicum (NP), the mouth of Spruce Run Res., *Hunterdon* (two, RKA), and Featherbed Lane, *Salem*, NJ (B. Steelman). Two at the Conejohela Flats Sept. 25 furnished the 6th *Lancaster*, PA, record (JHe), while the aforementioned seven in *Sussex*, NJ, Aug. 17, were unprecedented (DHa). Many of these inland stragglers arrived well after the main coastal passage (Sept. 25–Oct. 31), and the numbers are increasing. The Spruce Run birds were only about the 7th in n.w. New Jersey, but the 3rd this year. The *Salem* record marked the 2nd consecutive year at that spot (WD).



**New York's first Roseate Spoonbill was found August 20, 1992.**  
Photograph/Chris Aquila.

Marbled Godwits remain far fewer than 20 years ago. The best place for them yet again was Bombay Hook, with four, Aug. 20 (NP), although singles were reported in late Aug. from the Line I. (AJL, ABa), Brig (F. Lesser), and the Goethals Bridge Pond, Staten I. (JJR, RJK). One was quite late on Champagne I., in Hereford Inlet, *Cape May*, NJ, late Oct.–Nov. 2 (R. Lewis, H. Wallum).

Sanderlings, never willingly far from salt water in this Region, were forced down, usually by rain, at such unexpected inland localities as Moselem Springs, *Berks*, PA, Sept. 13–25 (B. Smith, M. Spence), Tinicum (3, Sept. 7), and Palmyra Sept. 20 (TBa), plus the *Lehigh*, PA, airport bird mentioned above. A W. Sandpiper identified Aug. 6 at Westville, *Franklin*, NY, in the Adirondacks, provided only the 2nd county record, the first since 1880 (H. Klein, W. Krueger, L. Stevenson). For the first time, more than one **Rufous-necked Stint** was reported from this Region. Certainly one, and quite possibly two (the afternoon bird appeared to be further faded), were at the Cedar Beach, Long Island dune-line pools Aug. 9 (AJL, ABa, †RJK, ph. T. Vezo, photos examined by PHo, R. Crossley, DS, R. Veit, P.A. Buckley). One found in the same place Aug. 23–29 may have been yet another individual (J. Dorman, RJK, m.ob.). One well described at Bombay Hook Aug. 3 (†CDo) could not be found again.

White-rumped Sandpipers were in very poor numbers, with 2 counts of 20, at Cedar Beach and Mecox, Long Island, both Aug. 29 (RJK), the biggest coastal groups reported to us. Inland, we learned of only three in e. Pennsylvania (J. Horn, BLM, P. England, KCr). Baird's Sandpipers were nowhere numerous, but singles were reported very widely from early August into mid-October. The best place for them in the Region, as for Buff-breasted Sandpipers, was the West Pool at Brig, where 6–10 years was the peak Sept. 5–8 (B & NM, JKM, K. Karlson). Three or

four at Cedar Beach, Long Island, Aug. 23–Sept. 1 (JJR, RJK, RKM, SSa) were a pale reflection of 3 summers ago. Singles were fairly often reported from Cape May, Bombay Hook, and Little Cr. Inland, the best count was four in Clarence Township, *Erie*, NY (L. Holmes), plus a half-dozen widely scattered singles.

A Sharp-tailed Sandpiper reported at the West Pool at Brig Sept. 15 (ABr) is being reviewed by the New Jersey Bird Records Committee. What are now considered the normal individual Curlew Sandpipers held over from the previous season at Jamaica Bay and coastal Delaware, where quite likely more than one circulated among Bombay Hook and the Port Mahon/Little Cr. complex. One had reached basic plumage there by Sept. 5 (HG, BP), and it (or another) was still being identified as late as Oct. 19–24 (CDC, B & NM). Stilt Sandpipers were in only modest numbers. Our biggest reports



**Henslow's Sparrow in Central Park, New York City, on October 4, 1992. First record for the park. Photograph/Barry M. Belgorod.**

were 40 at Montezuma Aug. 16 (D. Sherony) and 35 at Bombay Hook (NP). Smaller numbers were found along the inner river systems at Tinicum and the Conejohela Flats. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were scarce too. Their best spot was the aforementioned West Pool at Brig, where 10–15 were around in mid-September (RC, JHo, SM, KS). In their favorite e. Long Island fields, the peak was only 14 Sept. 3 (N.Y.R.B.A.), and the next best counts were 5 in the Lumberton alfalfa fields, *Burlington*, NJ, Aug. 31 (WD, K. Tischner), and 4 near the entrance to Bombay Hook Sept. 19 (CDC *et al.*). Only ones and twos were found along L. Ontario and down the Susquehanna and Delaware rivers. A Ruff could occasionally be found at Bombay Hook, as is now usual, in August.

Bombay Hook remains "the best place to see" Wilson's Phalaropes "east of Mono Lake" (APE). The peak count this fall there was 75 Aug. 8 (NP). Elsewhere they were

quite scarce, with singles at the usual coastal locations [Brig, Cape May, the Line Islands Aug. 2 (AJL, ABa)] and one in the rain at a catch-basin near Wescoville, e. PA, Aug. 25 (AK). Red-necked Phalaropes were commoner than Wilson's inland, with four at Montezuma Oct. 9–12 (NB), four on L. Ontario at Derby Hill Sept. 29, two on the Line Islands Aug. 10 (AJL, ABa), and widely scattered singles Aug. 20–Oct. 16 in *Chester* and *Lancaster*, PA (RMS, JHe). Two singles in *Morris*, NJ (FT, RKa, IB), were only the 6th and 7th for n.w. New Jersey. Red Phalaropes were, as usual, found mostly near the L. Ontario shore (five singles, Sept. 10–Nov. 30). Farther south the only onshore reports were at the Goethals Bridge Pond, Staten I., Aug. 24–29 (H. Flamm, J. Stonick) and at the Holtwood Flyash Pond, on the lower Susquehanna R., Sept. 11 (RMS).

#### JAEGERS TO TERNS

Jaegers were below normal on the Great Lakes, with only three Parasitics at Derby Hill Sept. 27–Oct. 12 and another three at Hamlin Beach S.P., *Monroe*, Nov. 8 (WS). They were in good numbers off New Jersey, the best Pomarine counts being 65 seen 55 mi e. of Barnegat Light Sept. 28 (VE) and 70 seen 86 mi out, Oct. 12. A Pomarine Jaeger off Orient Pt., Long Island, Nov. 24, was unusual in the entrance to Long Island Sound (S. Arena). A few Parasitics could be seen from the New Jersey shore, the one-day maximum being five around Cape May Sept. 26 after tropical storm *Danielle*. Two Long-tailed Jaegers were also identified on the Sept. 28 pelagic trip (VE). A juv. Jaeger photographed at Cape May in Sept. 1991 (DCz), not previously published, has now been identified as a Long-tailed, one of the few photographed inshore in this Region.

The Niagara R., this Region's gull capital, was quiet up to late November, with only one Franklin's and a handful of Little gulls. Then, during Thanksgiving week, Marlene and Rod Planck from Michigan located three accidental gulls that brought the all-time Niagara R. list to 19, added one to the New York State list and two others to the Buffalo area list: **Mew Gull**, of the Pacific coast race, *L. canus brachyrhynchus* (Nov. 25), **California Gull** (Nov. 29), and **Slaty-backed Gull** (Nov. 24), the first record e. of the Mississippi. All these birds were found initially on the Ontario side but eventually entered New York airspace (to the great relief of state listers). (See also the Ontario column.) Also in the Niagara R. that week were three Thayer's, 13 Icelanders, five Lesser Black-backed (including one believed to be of the race *intermedius*), and four Glaucous gulls (only one on the New York side) (TL).

Elsewhere, Little Gulls were scarce, with less than a half-dozen along the rest of the Great Lakes, about three on Long Island, and two on the Jersey shore. Surprisingly, Com. Black-headed Gulls seem to have gone unreported from either the Niagara R. or Long Island; the only regional records were

an adult from Pickering Beach, DE, Sept. 17 (MG, BP) and a first-winter bird found in a field with Ring-billed Gulls near Woodstown, *Salem*, NJ, Nov. 23 (R. Steelman). At the end of November, an estimated 25,000 Bonaparte's and 10,000 Ring-billed gulls were on L. Chautauqua, NY (R. Sundell).

As landfills are closed or capped, gull concentrations diminish. Some 5300 were at a landfill slated to close on the Mohawk R., e. of Schenectady, Nov. 28 (RPY), while at Stewart Park, near Ithaca, where several local landfills have been closed, gull concentrations were down 80% (NB). Nevertheless two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at Stewart Park in late November (NB), and four at the Nanticoke landfill, *Broome*, NY, from mid-October+ (WRE). Three to five were in the Niagara R. during the fall, at least two at Montezuma for the 3rd straight year (R. Ashworth, M. Tetlow, NB), about eight on Long Island, about a dozen in New Jersey, and at least four in Delaware (D. Abbott, APE, WWF, J. Dunning). One even passed Hawk Mt. Nov. 16 (L. Goodrich, JHe, H. Morrin)!

The only Black-legged Kittiwakes on the Great Lakes were two in the Rochester area in October, one an unusual adult (WS, D. Sherony, G. Chapin), and one at Derby Hill Oct. 17. One was remarkable at Henlopen, DE, Nov. 26 (APE). The Region's only Sabine's Gull, a juvenile, passed Derby Hill Nov. 27 (m.ob.). The best Caspian Tern migrant concentrations were 75 in the Port of Wilmington Sept. 7, diminishing to 15 Sept. 24 (APE), and another 150 at Salem Cove, on the Delaware R., in September (WD). Two Sandwich Terns at Cedar Beach, Long Island, Aug. 18 (P. Lindsay, B. Hines), and one still there Aug. 27 got there ahead of hurricane *Andrew*. Similarly unrelated to any storm was a **Bridled Tern** out of Cape May toward Baltimore Canyon Sept. 12 (DS) and a **Sooty Tern** that came to roost with the Com. Terns on Great Gull I., Long Island, Aug. 12 (H. Hays), and again Aug. 27 (B. Walsh). The July **White-winged Tern** continued at Little Cr. through August, changing into basic plumage, and was last noted Sept. 14. Black Terns were fairly widespread in ones and twos, even well inland, such as two at Berwick, *Luzerne*, PA, Aug. 17–18 (D. Gross) and three at L. Musconetcong, *Morris*, NJ, Aug. 24 (TH). But the best counts were meager: nine at Champagne I., in Hereford Inlet, *Cape May*, NJ, Sept. 4 (B. Mitchell), eight at Assunpink, *Monmouth*, Aug. 24 (TBa), where they are quite unusual, and a maximum of only five at Little Cr. (NP). An ad. Black Skimmer at Piermont Pier, on the Hudson R., *Rockland*, NY (†C. Harten) was a first for the county. Nearly as out of place were an adult and an immature on the Conejohela Flats Sept. 26–28, possibly related to tropical storm *Danielle*.

This Region's first **Ancient Murrelet** at L. Ontelaunee, *Berks*, PA, Nov. 8 (M. Spence *et al.*, ph. EW) did not linger. Was the one seen later in Massachusetts the same? This species wanders inland frequently but had never

been previously recorded e. of Ohio and Illinois (twice: AB 37:187).

## OWLS TO WOODPECKERS

Last year's Snowy Owl invasion had a modest echo. The first birds arrived in *Wyoming* (R. & M. Daniel), *Monroe* (CCs), and *Oneida*, NY, quite uniformly Oct. 25–26. About 35 were banded by the Braddock Bay hawk watch, about 6–8 there, and the rest along the St. Lawrence seaway (JD). About six got to Long Island, and outliers reached as far south as the c. New Jersey coast at Ocean City, *Atlantic*, Nov. 20. The late summer Com. Nighthawk migrant swarms of a generation ago are long gone, but this fall's best flights held about even with those of the last 3 years. All the flocks of >100 reported to us this season were packed into 3 days, Sept. 3–5, a little later than normal: 150 over the Militia Hill hawk watch, including 60 in one group (M. Klauder), 120 over Kenmore Township, Buffalo (P. Benham), and 100 each at Suffern, NY, in a thundershower (ET) and over Reading PA (E. Schiefer).

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds must have had a banner breeding season, at least in the e. part of this Region. Yunick banded a record 45 May–August in *Saratoga*, NY, and the banders at Great Gull I. had >50 in their nets during the fall season, including 11 Sept. 1 (JDiC). Eighteen were at the Beanery, Cape May, Sept 8 (CW). Hawk Mt.'s 88, however, with a daily maximum of 14 Sept. 8 (CV), was a little below the 10-year average. Few Red-headed Woodpeckers migrated along the barrier beaches or the ridges; Hawk Mt. counted only eight for the season (CV). One or possibly two ♂ Black-backed Woodpeckers were in the Rochester area Sept. 30–Oct. 5 (*fide* R. Shone, P. & M. J. Weld); they are rare finds outside the Adirondacks any time.

## FLYCATCHERS TO SHRIKES

An Ash-throated Flycatcher was carefully described at the Ft. Tilden, Brooklyn, hawk watch Oct. 24 (†S. Walter), and others were at Cape May Nov. 9 (CW, LZ, m.ob.) and Nov. 28 (ph. RDB). About nine W. Kingbirds on Long Island and the same number around Cape May for the season were about par. One was observed eating pokeweed berries Oct. 19 (LZ). More unusual were inland records in s.w. New Jersey at Palmyra Sept. 19 (C. Bush) and at Elsinboro Township, *Salem*, Nov. 1 (WD). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were at Higbee Beach, Cape May, Sept. 6, and at Robert Moses S.P., Long Island, Oct. 18 (R. Hines, D. Teta). Much rarer was the Fork-tailed Flycatcher that stunned the Fire Island, Long Island, hawk watchers Oct. 13 (†RJK, AJL). This was this species' 4th consecutive year in our Region.

Swallow concentrations were impressive in s. New Jersey this fall. More than 11,000 Purple Martins paused on wires in the rain at Mauricetown, *Cumberland*, NJ, Sept. 4 (PD, L. Dunne). About 71,000 Tree Swallows were at Stone Harbor, *Cape May*, Oct. 13 (P. Bayer, B. & M. Mansfield). Also present at

Cape May were two of the rarest swallows in e. North America. Four Cave Swallows were discovered at Cape May Nov. 7 (JDo, VE, m.ob., †ph. DCz), dwindling to one Nov. 15 (JMD). They constitute a 2nd county and state record. The scrutiny given these swallows soon called attention to an imm. Violet-green Swallow with them, Nov. 7–10 (B. Russell, ph. RDB, m.ob.). This seems to be one of the few records e. of the Mississippi.

About 1300 Fish Crows were counted leaving a Stone Harbor roost at dawn Sept. 30 (CS). Nearer their n. frontier, up to 30 at the Nanticoke landfill, *Broome*, NY, in late fall may be a c. New York high count (WRE). This species seems to be expanding up the Susquehanna R. valley. Sedge Wrens were very good finds at W. Nicholson, *Wyoming*, PA (WR), Tourne Park, *Morris*, NJ Sept. 13 (J. Knappa) and at Forest Park, Queens, NY Oct. 3 (G. Tudor).

Kinglets seem totally unaffected by whatever ails the thrushes, vireos, warblers, and flycatchers. They inundated the barrier beaches on October cold fronts; 2367 Golden-crowned Kinglets were banded in 54 days at Island Beach S.P., *Ocean*, NJ—30.4% of this operation's total take (*fide* E. Mahler). The only Northern Wheatear was in a favorite location, Jones Beach S.P., Long Island, Sept. 24 (J. Greenlaw, m.ob., †RJK, ph. T. Tierno). Remarkable numbers of E. Bluebirds moved down the coast. About 130 passed the Ft. Tilden, Long Island, hawk watch during the season, peaking Nov. 8 with about 50 (S. Walter). The Cape May counts were staggering, culminating in an unprecedented 2500 over the hawk watch Nov. 13 (JMD).

The almost universal judgment that thrushes are scarce received some concrete reinforcement from banding. Among 7773 migrants banded at Island Beach S.P., *Ocean*,



**A Violet-green Swallow at Cape May Point State Park on November 7, 1992, was one of the few records east of the Mississippi. Photograph/Robert D. Barber.**

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NJ, Aug. 20–Nov. 8, there were only three Wood Thrushes, 27 Swainson's Thrushes, eight Gray-cheeked Thrushes, and 21 Veeries (EM). Hermit Thrushes did slightly better, at 108. Since 1988, nocturnal flight calls of Veeries and Swainson's Thrushes have been monitored at listening stations in c. New York State, increasing this year to three: Alfred, *Allegheny* (Allegheny Bird Club), Beaver Dams, *Schuyler* (WRE), and Franklin Mt., *Oneonta* (Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society). During 1988–1990, Veery calls peaked in late August and early September, while most Swainson's Thrushes passed during the last 3 weeks of September. The 1992 migration began 7–10 days late, although the passage had become normal by mid-September. Since no weather conditions seem to have caused this delay, the late thrush migration may have been the result of a wet late spring (WRE).

There was not much of a N. Shrike flight; about a dozen birds were reported from n.w. New York, with none farther south than Ithaca. Loggerhead Shrikes were rarer. We received only 3 reports from the entire Region: W. Nicholson, *Wyoming*, PA, Oct. 21 (Reid's first in n.e. Pennsylvania since 1973), Hamlin, *Monroe*, NY, Aug. 22 (MD), and the now-traditional one near Broadkill Beach, DE, Aug. 28 (WWF, D. Gardner) to at least Oct. 4 (B. Lantz, J. Janowski).

## VIREOS, WARBLERS

One neotropical migrant that seems to be thriving is the Philadelphia Vireo. They arrived early [Aug 19 at Tunkhannock, *Wyoming*, PA (WR) and Aug. 20 at Higbee Beach, Cape May (JHo)], peaked at an amazing 13 at Higbee Sept. 12 (RC, JHo), and were more evident than usual throughout the Region. Six Philadelphias around Buffalo Sept. 12–Oct. 1 (*fide* RA) was good, and five Sept. 2 at Trenton was a remarkable one-day count (RJB); at Palmyra they were present almost all September, with a peak of 10 Sept. 2 (CDo, WD).

Most warblers were alarmingly scarce. They seemed "almost non-existent" in n.w. New Jersey, where only 9 species were reported and no one found more than five individuals in one day (DHa). Censusing and banding operations gave us some con-

crete measurements this season. In the Buffalo Ornithological Society's 57th fall count Oct. 11, warblers were down 63% below the 3-year average. At Alfred, *Allegheny*, NY, Brooks banded 91 warblers of 17 species this fall, as compared with 148 warblers of 21 species last fall—despite spending more hours this time (3118, compared with 2418 last fall). She banded more than 4 individuals of only 5 species: Magnolia 18, Com. Yellow-throat 16, Nashville 11, Yellow-rumped 10, and Ovenbird 7. Banding results much farther south at Palmyra produced a somewhat different list of successful species: Com. Yellow-throats 53, Am. Redstarts 44, Ovenbirds 32, Magnolias 21, Palms 14, Black-and-Whites 13, Yellow-rumpeds 12, and Black-throated Blues 12. At barrier beach banding operations, of course, Yellow-rumped Warblers outnumber all the rest combined after mid-September, but Island Beach's 844 were 34% below last year's numbers. The two other principal coastal warbler migrants were down even more: Com. Yellow-throats (245, 48% down) and Am. Redstarts (148, 43% down). Among Spruce-breeding species, Cape May Warblers were notably low, with only eight banded all fall at Island Beach (EM).

Low numbers did not necessarily mean little variety, however. Dooley recorded 30 species of warbler at the Palmyra banding site Aug. 23–30 and added seven more by the project's end, Oct. 31. The migrant mecca of Higbee Beach, Cape May, rang up daily warbler totals of 20 species (Aug. 14), 22 species (Aug. 20), 24 species (Aug. 30), and even 25 species (Sept. 12). Those dates also illustrate how much warbler migration takes place in Aug., populated mostly (but not exclusively) by the more southerly breeding species.

Golden-winged Warblers were remarkably widespread for a species universally considered in trouble. We received about a dozen specific reports that are far from complete (*i.e.*, some correspondents did not itemize them). Especially impressive were multiple sightings, such as five at Higbee Beach, Cape May, Aug. 20–21 (JHo, PD), three at High Rock, Staten I., Aug. 30 (CA), two plus a "Brewster's" at Ft. Washington S.P., Philadelphia, Sept. 7 (B & NM), and doubles at Palmyra Aug. 22 (R. Brown, WD) and Hammer Cr., Lancaster, PA, Sept. 3 (RMS). A male was extremely late at Summit, on the Passaic R., Union, NJ, Nov. 16 (†S. Bagen). Northern New Jersey remains the metropolis of "Lawrence's" Warbler. One was found at Drew University, Madison, Morris, Sept. 10 (D. Lane) and up to four singles at Cape May Aug. 13–Sept. 6 (RC, JHo, PD). About 15 Orange-crowned Warblers from all parts of the Region (and not all reporters itemized them) was also an above-average number. Connecticut Warblers were regular on the coast as usual, while inland



**Ash-throated Flycatchers were seen in several places, including this one at Higbee Beach, New Jersey, November 28. Photograph/Robert D. Barber.**

one was early at Tunkhannock, *Wyoming*, PA, Aug. 19 (WR), and they were recorded nearly daily at Palmyra for almost 2 months, Aug. 21–Oct. 14, up to three a day. Four were found at Chalfont, *Bucks*, PA, Sept. 14–Oct. 15 (RF *et al.*).

The season's prize warbler was a Black-throated Gray Warbler at the Fire Island Hawk Watch Sept. 14 (J. Quinlan, J. Fritz *et al.*), for the 2nd New York record in as many years. An obscure warbler, believed to be an imm. ♂ Hermit Warbler, seen (but unfortunately not captured) at Palmyra Sept. 16–17 (CDo), has been referred to the New Jersey Bird Records Committee.

#### TANAGERS TO FINCHES

An ad. ♀ W. Tanager was at Lyons, *Somerset*, NJ, Oct. 2 (†S. Sobocinski), and another of unspecified sex was reported at Sandy Hook Sept. 27 (G. Herzog, J. Labun). Dickcissels were not especially evident migrating down the coast, though a count of six at Brig Aug. 29 (CA) was noteworthy. Rather a lot were found inland: 2 very early flyovers at Medford, *Burlington*, NJ, Aug. 12 (WD), a feeder in Easton, PA, Sept. 1–10 (AK), Stony Kill, *Dutchess*, NY, Oct. 22 (E. Pink, O. Waterman), Palmyra in early September, and Ramsey's Run, near Brandywine Creek, *New Castle*, DE (CDC).

Sparrow numbers have not declined, and October is now more likely to produce real "waves" than is September. Counts of about five Clay-colored Sparrows on Long Island and sixish at Cape May were below last year, but about par. Two arrived very early at Palmyra Aug. 19 (CDO), and individuals inland at Highland Park, *Niagara*, NY, Sept. 28 (CCs, J. Browning), Oswego, NY, Sept. 25 (C. Fosdick), and Trenton, NJ, Oct. 18 (RJB) were good finds. Among "hundreds" of sparrows at Cape May Oct. 22 were a record nine Vespers, but Reid found only one all year in n.e. Pennsylvania, where they were "plenti-

ful" 25–20 years ago. Numbers of Lark Sparrows were thin: three on Long Island and two at Cape May, plus two providing records inland: one at Bond's L., near Buffalo, Oct. 11 (†K. Rader), and another near Easton, PA, Nov. 30 (AK).

Lark Buntings used to straggle here nearly annually during the 1960s, mostly to the coast, but then were found only 3 times after 1978. So three this season was a surprise. A male in fading breeding plumage was reported at Jamaica Bay Sept. 9 (†R. Lewis), an immature or female at Fire Island Hawk Watch Sept. 14–15 (D. Mizrahi, †RJK *et al.*) and an ad. male in winter plumage at Island Beach, NJ, Sept. 21 (J. Miller). Drought in the Great Plains may have favored them during the past few summers (see AB 46:442). A Henslow's Sparrow, superbly photographed Oct. 4, supplied the first record for Central Park, N.Y.C. (S. Elliott and class, ph.

B. Belgorod). Others were very good finds at Island Beach, NJ, Oct. 18 (M. Doscher), Higbee Beach, Cape May, Nov. 15 (DCz, VE, JDo, RDB, RC, CW), and at 2 locations in Morris, NJ: Troy Meadows Oct. 21 (R. Johnson), and Tourne Park Oct. 24 (J. Knapp). Last year's mini-invasion of LeConte's Sparrows had an echo. One was found for the 2nd consecutive year at Overpeck Creek S.P., Bergen, NJ, in early October (J. Bangsma), and another was at Brocton, *Chautauqua*, Oct. 8 (†P. Farver). A few Sharp-tailed Sparrows, presumed to be of inland races, could be found once more at what are turning out to be regular stopovers: Beatty Pt., *Monroe*, NY, Sept. 7 (early) (KCG *et al.*), and islands in the Susquehanna R., at the Conejohela Flats, where this year's maximum was four Oct. 11 (SSr, RMS *et al.*). Lincoln's Sparrows could be found in good numbers in the right spots: at least eight Oct. 2–4 at Lyons, *Somerset*, NJ (S. Sobocinski, LL, R. Brown), five at Brandywine Creek S.P., DE, Oct. 3 (B & NM), three at Chalfont, *Bucks*, Sept. 29 (*vide* AH), and three at Mt. Joy, *Lancaster*, PA, Oct. 2 (JHe). One was found singing at Blue Mountain L., *Berks*, PA, Sept. 27 (B. Smith, H. & J. Silagy, RKe). Up to four Lapland Longspurs arrived early at Cedar Beach, *Suffolk*, Long Island, Oct. 4–10 (JJR, m.ob.), and three reached as far south as Leipsic, DE, Nov. 14 & 21 (CDC, E. Short), but elsewhere they were scarce.

Yellow-headed Blackbirds were quite widespread but, curiously, only two [Ocean City, *Atlantic*, NJ, Sept. 6 (D. Cromwell) and Cape May Oct. 10–12 (PH)] were near the coast. The northernmost was an early ad. male at Palmyra Aug. 23 (T. Young). In Pennsylvania, singles stopped at a feeder near Easton, PA, Sept. 10–11 (AK) and in s.w. Philadelphia Sept. 27. In Delaware, singles were e. of Smyrna Oct. 24 (B & NM) and at Taylor's Bridge Oct. 31 (J. Swertinski). The only Brewer's Blackbirds reported were sin-



gles at a feeder at Upper Providence, near Media, PA, Nov. 9, at Erieville, *Madison* (fide GHu), and at Cape May Nov. 23 (DS).

Winter finches were all but totally missing once again. Red Crossbills were not found s. of upland New York. White-winged Crossbills and Redpolls went altogether unreported. The only Pine Grosbeak was one near Troy, *Bradford*, PA, Nov. 29 (R. Miller). Purple Finches seem to have had a poor breeding season (RPY) and were very scarce on migration. A trickle of Pine Siskins reached the coast of New Jersey in late October. A very few Evening Grosbeaks came down interior ridges, such as 20 at Hawk Mt., Nov. 11 (the only report from e. Pennsylvania), and four over Upper Montclair Nov. 17 and eight Nov. 20 (the only reports from all of New Jersey).

#### EXOTICS

A pair of Chiloe Wigeons near Allendale, *Bergen*, NJ, Oct. 2-4 (ST *et al.*) were certainly escapes, as was the ♂ Red-crested Pochard at Fair Haven S.P., *Cayuga*, NY, Nov. 1. Three Blue-crowned Conures were at Cape May Aug. 12 (PS), and a Canary-winged Parakeet at Lyndhurst, *Bergen*, Aug. 10 (J. Broschart). A Ringed Turtle-Dove continued at Peace Valley, *Bucks*, PA, to at least Sept. 13 (A. Mirabella). A Red Bishop was at the Conejohela Flats all September (SSr).

**CORRECTION:** The Black-throated Gray Warbler reported in *AB* 46:243 was on the Queens, N.Y.C., and not the Quogue, LI, CBC.

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## MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

Henry T. Armistead

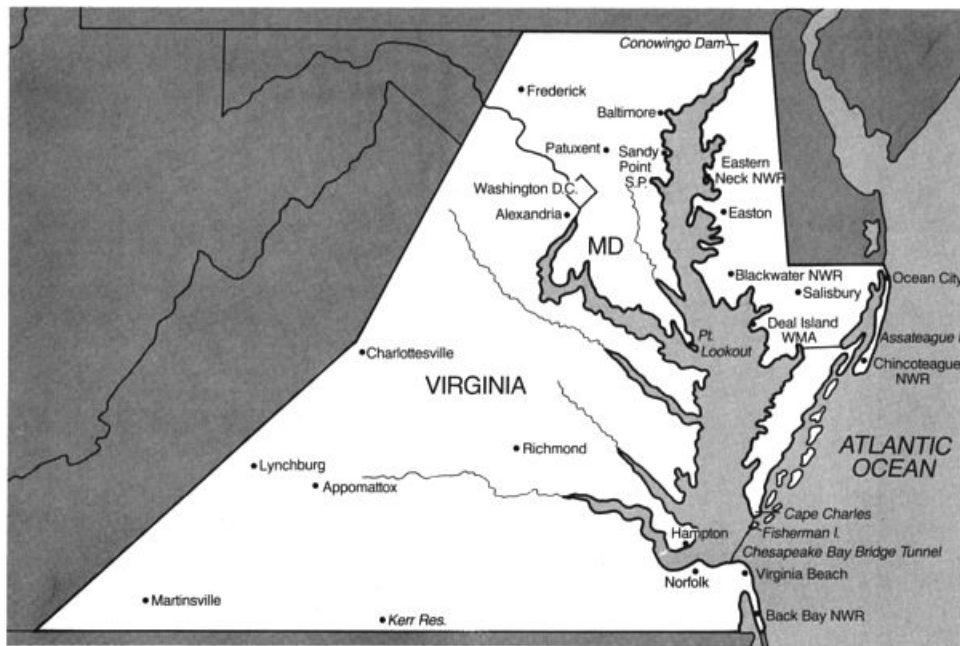
This was a fall largely bereft of rarities, with a few good flight days, especially Sept. 12-13 and 20 for passerines. There was no heartening news of fine flights of neotropical migrants, although the number of lingering birds was more than usual. There continues to be good coverage, especially coastally, of raptor flights and passerine banding efforts. Pelagic trips were moderately successful. Increased activity on Assateague I., MD, as well as competition for >315 species, state that big years led to the discovery of many moderately rare birds as well as excellent counts, most of which were verified. In one case, an observer achieved a list of 300 in Maryland's one coastal county. So, competition (stress?) can be good.

**Abbreviations:** Assat. (*Assateague I., MD*), Balt. (*Baltimore, MD*); the Bay (*Chesapeake Bay*); Black. (*Blackwater N.W.R., MD*), C.B.B.T. (*Chesapeake Bay Bridge & Tunnel, VA*); Chinc. (*Chincoteague N.W.R., VA*), Craney (*Craney I. Disposal Area, Portsmouth, VA*); D.C. (*Washington, D.C.*); E.N.N.W.R. (*Eastern Neck N.W.R., MD*); E.S.V.N.W.R. (*Eastern Shore of VA, N.W.R., VA*); Fish. I. (*Fisherman I., N.W.R., VA*); Hart (*Hart & Miller Is., Baltimore Co., MD*); Kipt. (*Kiptopeke, VA*). Place names in *italics* are counties. Dates in *italics* represent banded birds.

#### LOONS TO IBISES

The high for Red-throated Loons was but 150 at Ocean City Nov. 28 (MLH), and one at D.C. was of interest Nov. 2 (OJ). Peak Com. Loon numbers were reported from ridges on the edge of the Region Nov. 15-17 (LMD, HLW, BL), and in D.C. an extraordinary 91 were counted Nov. 7 (OJ). Modest highs for Pied-billed Grebes were 36 at Loch Raven Res. n. of Balt., Nov. 15 (SWS), 35 at Leesylvania S.P., VA, Sept. 22 (EMW), and 21 in the midst of exotic *Hydrilla* at D.C., Oct. 4 (DC). Two different Eared Grebes materialized in D.C., one present Oct. 4 (VBK, OJ, DC *et al.*) and another Nov. 7-21 (OJ, MAT, GG, FD, for the 2nd and 3rd District records); Lehman found one as well at Chinc., Nov. 2 (PL). Several pelagic trips were weathered out, but one Aug. 8 off Ocean City found a Cory's, nine Greater and 14 Audubon's shearwaters, plus 251 Wilson's and nine Leach's storm-petrels (GS, MO, EB, MLH *et al.*). Off Virginia Beach were a Greater, two Cory's, and 28 Audubon's shearwaters, plus 202 Wilson's Storm-Petrels Aug. 22 (BP, F & MW *et al.*). Sighted on an Aug. 30 foray were a Cory's and an Audubon's shearwater plus 235 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, along with two blue marlin, a hammerhead shark, a mola, two loggerhead turtles, and 35





short-finned pilot whales, including young (KHB, VBK *et al.*). Some of the weathered-out observers from an Aug. 15 Ocean City trip were at least able to see 30 Wilson's Storm-Petrels from shore right in the inlet (DC, OJ, GS; MLH), while far up the Bay in MD waters one was seen near the target ship w. of Smith I., Aug. 9, with 10 Brown Pelicans nearby (JLS, MI, SR). Also far up the Bay in MD were two N. Gannets at Hooper's I., Nov. 15 (HTA, GW) and 70 at Tilghman's I., Nov. 21 (HTA, CM), the latter a record fall count for Bay waters not in proximity to the sea. Two Am. White Pelicans were present at Chinc., September to the end of the period (RAA, PL, WHH, CRV *et al.*), one wandering up Assat. into MD territory Sept. 12 (JE). Brown Pelicans continue to thrive along this coast, with top MD counts of 167 at Ocean City (DC) and 130 on Assat., Sept. 11 (MLH). As is becoming usual, small numbers lingered through the end of November, with 23 at Chinc., Nov. 29 (HTA, GA). High counts at Kipt., Sept. 7, included 415 plus 1370 Double-crested Cormorants and 210 Cattle Egrets (HTA, GA). Of interest a way up the York R., VA, were a N. Gannet and 18 Brown Pelicans 6 mi. above the bridge, Nov. 25 (BW). Sykes found 13 Great Cormorants already at Cape Henry, VA, Oct. 26, and one was way upstream on the Choptank R., *Caroline*, MD, Aug. 29 (JLS). Not reported earlier for the Region were 17 Double-crested Cormorant nests on pylons near the James R. bridge off Newport News this summer (BW), one of only 2 breeding areas in VA. Always rare was an Anhinga at Stumpy L., Virginia Beach, Aug. 4 (BL), and four males and a female were soaring over Chinc., Sept. 20 (TW *et al.*). Unique was an ad. ♀ Magnificent Frigatebird at E.N.N.W.R., Aug. 30 (JP), supplying one of the few MD records. The rooftop Am. Bittern (*AB* 46:404) was seen by RAA, not RH.

Peak heron counts were 632 Snowy Egrets

at Chinc., Aug. 8 (MJG), 63 Great Blue Herons in D.C., Aug. 22, in the *Hydrilla* (DC), and 126 Glossy Ibises and 152 Snowy Egrets at Assat., Aug. 7 (MLH). A flurry of late Cattle Egrets reported in MD in late October and early November, unusual for the Region, such as one at *Anne Arundel*, Oct. 31 and one in *St. Marys* the next day (GJ) plus one at Loch Raven Oct. 29 (SWS). There were also more lingering Green-backed Herons than usual, including one at Denton, MD, Nov. 20 (BF). Another interesting late report was of 350 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, 70 Green-backed Heron, and 700 Great Egret nests, all found in residential areas of lower Tidewater VA (i.e., w. or s. side of the Bay) by Watts this summer—more than were found on the entire e. shore of that state. Single imm. White Ibises were at Chinc., Sept. 9–11 (JMA, GMr, BL), Wallops I., Sept. 24 (CRV), and Fish. I., Sept. 3 (DSb), all in VA. A late Glossy Ibis was seen at Hog I., Surry, VA, Nov. 19 & 29 (DtS, BW), and five at Arlington, VA, Aug. 20 (RAA, JMA) were unusual for this area near D.C. Reese's count of 90 in the Vienna-Mardela Springs, MD, area Aug. 16 was excellent for this area of the c.-e. shore. The Little Egret first found in mid-May at Chinc. was seen throughout the summer (m.ob.), the last report Sept. 27 (SA).

#### WATERFOWL

Mute Swans reached a new regional peak with a depressing 735 at Hooper's I., MD, Aug. 23 (HTA); I wonder what they taste like. A Ross' Goose was at Snow Hill on the lower MD e. shore Oct. 20–Nov. 27 (MO, GJ, MLH, DC *et al.*), and another was at Black., Nov. 7 (DA). Unusual in D.C. was a Brant Nov. 2, along with 25 Black Scoters (OJ). In VA the star duck was a Fulvous Whistling-Duck at Queen's L. near Williamsburg, Sept. 6–14 (SRs, BL, BT, MRB *et al.*, ph.), the male Falcated Teal at

Warrenton Nov. 20–23 an undoubted escape (WJLS). The only Eur. Wigeon report was of one at Chinc., Oct. 9–Nov. 28 (DFA, GA, PL *et al.*). A true rarity on the upper Bay was a Com. Eider at Pt. Lookout S.P., MD, Oct. 24–Nov. 1, new for *St. Marys* (D & PB, JLS, GJ), and two were at Ocean City Nov. 1–2 (PL). Chinc., not a good place for jetty ducks, boasted a King Eider Sept. 19 (VBK *et al.*). More expected were three Com. Eiders and two Harlequin Ducks at C.B.B.T., Nov. 14 (CHAS). At Beaverdam Res. near Marshall, VA, 73 Oldsquaws were a new VA Piedmont high Dec. 3 (RC). Notable inland were nine Surf and five Black scoters at Loch Raven Res., Nov. 1, along with 400 Ring-necked Ducks Nov. 29 (SWS). At Poplar I. on the c. Bay in MD, Reese found 22 White-winged and Eight Surf

scoters Aug. 22. Most of the best waterfowl counts were from Chinc., with two Fulvous Whistling-Ducks (plus one Oct. 22), 772 N. Shovelers, 505 Gadwalls, 820 Am. Wigeons Nov. 19; 2337 Green-winged Teals, 3254 Am. Black Ducks, 2814 N. Pintails Nov. 13; and 556 Blue-winged Teals Sept. 18 (MJG, A & PS). Mute Swans have become re-established at Chinc., with 71 seen Nov. 13 (MJG).

#### RAPTORS TO RAILS

The Kipt. Hawkwatch operated on 68 days Aug. 28–Nov. 9, recording 10,116 raptors in 574.1 hours (BW, DtSet *al.*), 17.6 per hour, yet another decline from 24.7 in 1991, 27 in 1989, 30.2 in 1988, 27.4 in 1987, and 40–96 during 1982–1986. Coverage improves almost every year and, in spite of fewer hawks, there are always spectacular highlights, such as a new VA record of 214 Merlins Sept. 20, along with 555 Am. Kestrels. Other season highs were 56 Ospreys Sept. 21; Peregrine Falcons Sept. 23; 24 N. Harriers, 531 Sharp-shinned, and 45 Broad-winged Hawks Sept. 28; 108 Cooper's Hawks Oct. 10; 64 Red-tailed Hawks Oct. 27; and 209 Turkey Vultures Nov. 9. The best flight days were Sept. 20, 21, & 28, Oct. 5, 10, 18, & 27, and Nov. 6. For the first time in several years, no Golden Eagles or N. Goshawks were seen. At the same site, 253 raptors were banded (up from 169 in 1991), including 165 Sharp-shinned, 60 Cooper's, and 16 Red-tailed hawks (ELH). About 5 mi. s. of here at Wise Pt., E.S.V.N.W.R., 821 raptors of 9 species (3rd highest count since opening in 1985) were banded on 55 days Sept. 14–Nov. 24 in 393 hours (RFL, MAB) including 518 Sharp-shinned, 136 Cooper's, and 46 Red-tailed hawks (a new high), 91 Merlins (35 Sept. 20), and 10 Peregrine Falcons. In addition, 15 raptors of 4 species banded at >4 other sites were recovered here. Unfortunately, reports were not received from raptor-banding sites a mile s. of here on Fish. I. or from the classic Pere-

grine project on Assat. Also seen at Kipt. were 26 Ospreys and two Merlins as early as Sept. 3 (HTA, GA), and a Golden Eagle was seen nearby Sept. 23 (BDW). At Hooper's I., MD, an excellent flight of 290 raptors was seen Oct. 25, 11:30 A.M.–4 P.M., comprising 12 species with 88 Turkey Vultures, 69 Sharp-shinneds, a N. Goshawk, two late Broad-wingeds, and 95 Red-taileds (including a pure albino) (HTA), followed by 121 Turkey Vultures Nov. 8 (HTA, CM), all flying N into the wind. Outstanding raptor flights also went through D.C., with 88 Turkey Vultures, 37 Red-shouldered Hawks, five N. Harriers, and 217 Red-taileds Nov. 8 and 113 Red-taileds Nov. 7 (DC, OJ, MAT), unprecedented flights for the District. Reese had 100 Turkey Vultures in passage at Tilghman's I., Nov. 8. A very early Sharp-shinned Hawk was at Black., Aug. 23, along with a Cooper's (HTA); the Grubers had 89 Sharp-shinneds and 63 Am. Kestrels at E.N.N.W.R., Oct. 4. For what was not supposed to be a good flight year, N. Goshawks were widely reported from mid-October (v.o.). No blockbuster Broad-winged Hawk counts were received, but 929 were seen in Howard, MD, Sept. 13 (NM, JF), and 608 were at Sycamore Landing n. of D.C., Sept. 20 (DC).

Golden Eagles were seen at 7 localities, with one in D.C., Nov. 7 providing the 4th record (DC). Good rail news was a Yellow at Chinc., Nov. 23 (DtS *et al.*) and two Blacks calling on the odd date of Oct. 9 near Wingate, *Dorchester*, MD, at 9:30 A.M. (JLS). Hoffman found 15 Virginia Rails at Trutt's Landing, *Worcester*, MD, Oct. 10, and 11 were at Black. & Hooper's I., MD, Aug. 23 (HTA). Engle found five Com. Moorhen roadkills along the Dover Bridge Rd., *Caroline*, MD, Sept. 10–15. High totals for Am. Coots were 900 at Loch Raven Res., Nov. 28 (SWS) and 2000 at Leesylvania S.P., VA, Oct. 24 (EMW).

#### SHOREBIRDS

Regular diversified wader surveys were done only at Chinc. with the following highlights (A & PS): 363 Semipalmated Plovers, six Black-necked Stilts, 198 Whimbrels, 209 Red Knots, and 516 Semipalmated Sandpipers Aug. 5; 78 Greater and 127 Lesser Yellowlegs, 9222 Sanderlings, 132 Least and 239 Pectoral sandpipers, and 538 dowitchers (sp.) Aug. 12; 402 W. Sandpipers Sept. 15; three Wilson's Phalaropes Sept. 22; four Marbled Godwits Sept. 29; two Am. Avocets, three Hudsonian Godwits Oct. 6; and 149 Black-bellied Plovers and 4042 Dunlins Nov. 24. A whopping 28 Black-necked Stilts Aug. 4 was a new VA high count (BL), and six Hudsonian Godwits were seen Oct. 25 (WHH), some lingering through November. Rounding off the good wader records at Chinc. were single Baird's Aug. 5 (SM) and Sept. 19 (DG), a late Pectoral Nov. 28 (HTA, GA), and a late Stilt Sandpiper Nov. 2 (PL), a Ruff Sept. 27 (CRV), 75 Long-billed Dowitchers Oct. 24 (WHH), and up to eight Wilson's

Phalaropes Sept. 19–20 (VBK, RAA). Very late were 10 Lesser Golden-Plovers at New Design Rd., *Frederick*, MD, Nov. 11 (DC). A Wilson's Plover at Assat., Aug. 28 & 30 was the only one seen in MD all year (MLH, MO, CS, ph.). Half a dozen or more pairs used to breed on this island every year. Exceptional was a count of 750 Killdeer at Rhodesdale, *Dorchester*, MD, Aug. 20, along with 10 Least and 20 Pectoral sandpipers in fields (SHD). At Ocean City, 106 Am. Oystercatchers were a good count for the MD coast Aug. 9 (MLH). An Am. Avocet at Chesapeake Beach Sept. 7–15 provided the 2nd Calvert, MD, record (JLS, GJ, MI, ph.), while a Wilson's Phalarope seen Sept. 21–22 was a first (JLS, MI, ph.). Two Solitary Sandpipers at Kipt., Oct. 31, were very late (BW). Excellent regional counts were 38 Upland Sandpipers at the Salisbury, MD, airport Aug. 8 (JGR, JE) and 11 at New Design Rd., *Frederick*, Aug. 23 (DC) in MD. Good records at Hart included six Baird's Sandpipers plus a Whimbrel Sept. 19 (SR *et*



**Eared Grebe in Washington, D.C., on November 7, 1992. Third record for the District of Columbia. Photograph/Dave Czaplak.**

*al.*) and three Buff-breasted Sandpipers Aug. 31 (GJ). Not reported very frequently in MD, a Hudsonian Godwit was at Assat., Aug. 23 (MLH), and one at Black., Oct. 31 (BGP, MG). Up to 44 Marbled Godwits were at the Oyster, VA, flats Sept. 6 (GA) and 33 Oct. 2 (HTA, CM); a Buff-breasted Sandpiper was seen nearby Sept. 6 (GA). Highlights of the Schwab's Back Bay area beach patrol were 8199 Sanderlings, 156 Black-bellied Plovers, and 62 Whimbrels Aug. 24; 8499 Sanderlings and 76 Whimbrels Aug. 1; and 6963 Sanderlings Sept. 3. Six Baird's Sandpipers were seen at interior Liberty Res., *Carroll*, MD, Sept. 7 (JLS, MI, EB, RFR). Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers were at Easton Aug. 24 (SF), new for *Talbot*, MD. Two Red-necked Phalaropes were at sea off Ocean City Aug. 8 (GS, MLH *et al.*) and Sept. 12 (PP); four Reds were sighted from



**Fulvous Whistling-Duck at Williamsburg, Virginia, September 7, 1992. Photograph/Michael R. Boatwright.**

Virginia Beach Aug. 30 (VBK, KHB *et al.*) and one off Ocean City Oct. 11 (MLH). Single Red-neckeds were also at the Easton Sewage Ponds Sept. 26 (GA) and Craney Sept. 18 (BL). Best shorebirds from Assat. were 250 Semipalmated Plovers and 500 Semipalmated Sandpipers Aug. 23 (MLH), 2500 Sanderlings and 270 Least Sandpipers Aug. 7 (MLH), a Ruff Sept. 12 (JLS, JHK, MI, GJ), and two late White-rumped Sandpipers Nov. 1 (MLH).

#### JAEGER TO TERNS

Pelagic forays turned up a Parasitic and two Pomarine Jaegers plus 15 Bridled Terns Aug. 22 (BP, F & MW *et al.*) and a Pomarine Jaeger and three Bridled Terns Aug. 30 (KHB, VBK *et al.*) off VA Beach. Out from Ocean City, two Parasitic Jaegers and four Bridled Terns were seen Aug. 8 (GS, MLH *et al.*) and a Pomarine Jaeger Nov. 29 (MLH, MO). An Arctic Tern here Aug. 1 provided the first photographic documentation for MD (GS, MLH, MO, BP *et al.*). Closer to shore was a Bridled Tern seen from C.B.B.T., Sept. 3 (DSb, TG). Among the rarer gulls was a Franklin's at False Cape S.P., VA, Nov. 6 (DSb, TG), a Little at Chinc., Oct. 24 (WHH *et al.*) and two at Ocean City Nov. 28–29 (GJ, MLH, DC), a Com. Black-headed and four Lesser Black-backed at Back Bay/False Cape Oct. 7 (DSb), a Thayer's at *Worcester* landfill, MD, Nov. 22 (MLH, MO), and a Black-legged Kittiwake at Ocean City Oct. 30 (MLH) and 60 off-shore Nov. 29 (MLH, MO). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen at 15 localities with nine at Hart Aug. 31 (GJ), five at Laytonsville, MD, landfill Nov. 27 (OJ), and four in D.C., Nov. 22 (OJ). Wilds saw 1000 Bonaparte's Gulls at Conowingo Dam, MD, Nov. 21. In the E.S.V.N.W.R.-Oyster area, 75 was an excellent count of the declining Gull-billed Tern Aug. 4 (BL). Two Sandwich Terns at Hooper's I. were far up the Bay for

this species Aug. 23 (HTA), as were two at Pt. Lookout S.P., Sept. 26 (BGP, MG); another 123 were at Back Bay Aug. 1 (DSb). There was a better than average flight of Black Terns through the area, at least by the standards of recent years (v.o.).

#### DOVES TO SHRIKES

On the anecdotal side, a Mourning Dove was 17 mi at sea off Ocean City Oct. 11 (MLH), and a Great Horned Owl was scared off its kill, a Great Egret, at E.N.N.W.R., Aug. 18 (J & PG). A harbinger of a splendid flight year by regional standards, a Snowy Owl was located on Assat. I., Nov. 21–22 (MLH, DC, JM, SHD, CRV). This was a very poor flight year, however, for N. Saw-whet Owls and, in spite of great effort, 29 (as compared with 65 in 1991) and one Long-eared Owl were banded at Assat. (DFB) in October and November, as well as two more Saw-whets on the nearby mainland at E. A. Vaughn W.M.A. The best Com. Nighthawk flight was 430 in Arlington, VA, Sept. 4 (RAA) with two late flights in D.C. Oct. 15 (RLH). A Chimney Swift in Bethesda, MD, was extremely late, Nov. 23 (DSs). Septem-



**Arctic Tern at sea off Ocean City, Maryland, on August 1, 1992. Photograph/Brian Patteson.**

ber 3 was poor for warblers at Kipt., but 18 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, 985 E. Kingbirds, 3260 Purple Martins, and 455 Fish Crows were counted (HTA, GA). Only seven Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen, including one at Kipt. Sept. 10 (DtS) and another at Assat., Sept. 4 (MLH). Empid banding at the new fall location at E.N.N.W.R. was successful, with 32 Yellowbellies Aug. 5–Sept. 20, 31 Traill's Aug. 2–Sept. 24 (six on Aug. 20), and 19 Leasts Aug. 17–Nov. 8 (J & PG).

Another very late Least was at Assat., Nov. 14 (MO, MLH). Only one W. Kingbird was seen, at Kipt., Oct. 10 (BT), where a late E. Kingbird had been sighted Oct. 9 (DFA). A Purple Martin roost held 6000 birds on the late dates of Sept. 11–12 (JLS, MI), and 4579



**Connecticut Warbler in Washington, D.C., September 14, 1992. Photograph/Dave Czaplak.**

were observed at Kipt., Sept. 3 (DtS). Best N. Rough-winged Swallow totals were 500 in *Queen Annes*, Aug. 25 (J & PG) and 300 at Lilypons Sept. 28 (EMW) and 20 still present on the Potomac R. n. of D.C., Nov. 15 (SMr). Excellent Blue Jay flights took place at E.N.N.W.R., with peaks of 10,000 Sept. 27 and 8000 Sept. 24, where 130 were banded (J & PG). Yet another fall passed without an influx of Red-breasted Nuthatches. Sedge Wrens were only at 3 places in MD but, back on May 22, Watts found 22 in Messick Marsh, Poquoson, VA, unprecedented for recent years. Off the wall and off the coast was a Marsh Wren 22 mi e. of Ocean City Oct. 11 (MLH). Good flights were had for both kinglets with 164 Golden-crowneds and 44 Ruby-crowneds banded at E.N.N.W.R., Nov. 1 (J & PG); abnormally early individuals of both species were also seen elsewhere. Late Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were at Sycamore Landing, MD, Nov. 7 (HE) and Williamsburg Nov. 29 (BW). The thrush flight was once again poor. A very early Am. Pipit was at Jug Bay, MD, Sept. 24 (JLS). Loggerhead Shrikes were seen at 5 localities.

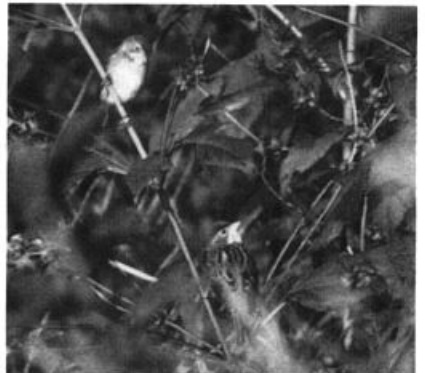
#### VIREOS TO WARBLERS

The warbler flight had a few good days, Sept. 1, 12–13, & 20, but once again there were no rave reviews. Among the bigger banding operations, Kipt. tagged 2835 birds of 78 species in 8055 net hours Sept. 2–Oct. 30 (JWD, WPS, KT, DSb *et al.*), including a Brewster's Warbler Sept. 2. Massive flights of Yellow-rumped Warblers occurred here Oct. 11 (20,000) (BT) and Oct. 18 (16,800, 6:30–10:30 A.M., RLA). E.N.N.W.R. banded 3549 birds of 93 species (29 warblers) in 8372 net hours Aug. 2–Nov. 15 (J & PG, ZP, JP *et al.*). Near D.C. at Potomac, MD, the Adventure Sanctuary reported 2641 birds of 88 species captured Aug. 11–Nov. 4. Among those tallied were 28 warbler species, includ-

ing eight Connecticut Sept. 12–Oct. 7 (MD *et al.*). A late White-eyed Vireo was at Bristol, MD, Nov. 27 and Dec. 14 (PVM). This was a good fall for Philadelphia Vireos, with four in *Calvert* (JLS) and six in the Ocean City area Sept. 13 (SM). Both Brewster's and Lawrence's plus Golden-winged and Blue-winged warblers were seen in D.C., Aug. 29 (DC, OJ). Assat. was an unusual place for a Lawrence's Aug. 22 (MLH). A Tennessee Warbler at Parsonsburg, MD, Nov. 1, was very late (ELP), as was a N. Parula in D.C. Nov. 7 (OJ); also seen were a Black-throated Green at L. Elkhorn, *Howard*, MD, Nov. 11 (JW), a Blackpoll at Assat., Nov. 1 (MLH, MO), a Wilson's at Violet's Lock, MD, Oct. 27–Nov. 11 (MGr, LF), and a Magnolia at Irish Grove Sanctuary near Crisfield, MD, Nov. 14 (C & DB). Several observers commented on the good fall for Mourning [five at E.N.N.W.R., Sept. 2 (J & PG)] and Connecticut Warblers [12 at Stevenson, MD, Sept. 8–Oct. 11 (BR); Czaplak saw eight in D.C.].

#### GROSBEAKS TO FINCHES

Best counts were 25 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and six Scarlet Tanagers at Tilghman's I., Sept. 13 (JGR), and a late Rose-breasted was at Loch Raven Res., Nov. 21 (SWS). Also late was an Indigo Bunting at Assat., Nov. 14 (MO, MLH), and Stasz counted 60 at Indian Creek W.M.A., *Charles*, MD, Oct. 4. Dickcissels were only reported 4 times, two at D.C., Sept. 18 marking the 5th recent record there (ph. DC). At least 14 Clay-colored Sparrows were seen, including two at Kipt., Oct. 18 (BDW) and three on Assat., Oct. 4 (MLH). Lark Sparrows were at 3 sites, with one at Hurluck, MD, Aug. 16 (RFR, JLS), new for *Dorchester*. An Ipswich Sparrow at Kipt., Oct. 26 (WPS), was the first ever banded there. On the C.B.B.T., a Henslow's and a Grasshopper sparrow were seen Sept. 26 (DM *et al.*). But the best sparrow species was Le Conte's, with one at Williamsburg Oct. 29–Nov. 4 (BT) and one at Irish Grove Nov. 9 (BD). Up to six Lapland Longspurs were seen at Oland Rd., *Frederick*, MD, Nov. 28 (GM). This was a good flight year for Snow Buntings, such as the group of 18 that harassed the Snowy Owl 3 times on Assat., Nov. 22 (LMD, HLW). A



**Two Dickcissels in Washington, D.C., September 18, 1992. Photograph/Dave Czaplak.**

tremendous *Phragmites* roost of Bobolinks was at Oyster, with a carefully estimated >80,000 entering the reeds Sept. 10 (BDW) and two late ones at both U. MD Central Farm, *Howard*, MD (SA), and Kipt. (BW) Nov. 1. The only Yellow-headed Blackbird was one at Sandy Pt. S.P., MD, Nov. 21 (HLW). Five Brewer's Blackbirds were at George's Landing Rd., *Worcester*, MD, Nov. 22, where they wintered last year (MO, MLH). A Red Crossbill at Knoxville, *Frederick*, MD, Oct. 30 was anomalous (SMr). Otherwise this fall was another disaster for n. finches here.

**Observers:** D. F. Abbott, J. M. Anderson, R. A. Anderson, R. L. Anderson, David Arbor, George Armistead, Scott Atkinson, K. H. Bass, John Bjerke, Eirik Blom, M. R. Boatwright, Dave & Paula Bohaska, D. F. Brinker, Carol & Don Broderick, M. A. Byrd, Cape Henry Audubon Society, Martha Chestem, Roger Clapp, **David Czaplak** (D.C. area), L. M. Davidson, Fritz Davis, John Dillard, Bob Dixon, Margaret Donald, S. H. Dyke, Stephen Eccles, Jeff Effinger, Howard Elitzak, Ethel Engle, Jane Farrell, Bettye Fields (BeF), B. Fletcher, **R. B. Fletcher** (*Caroline*, MD), D. Ford, Steve Ford, Linda Friedland, Charlotte Friend, P. D. Fritz, M. J. Gormley, J. S. Gottschalk, Greg Gough, Mike Gremillion (MGr), Danny Grookston, **Jim & Patricia Gruber** (*Kent*, MD), Mary Gustafson, Tom Gwynn, M. W. Hewitt, Robert Hilton, E. L. Hodnett, **M. L. Hoffman** (Assateague I., MD), R. L. Homan, W. H. Howe, Marshall Iliff, Ottavio Janni, Simone Jenion, George Jett, Teta Kain, V. B. Kitchens, R. L. Kleen, M. K. Klimkiewicz, J. H. Krueger, Bev Leeuwenberg, Paul Lehman, Doug Lister, **R. F. Lukei** (Wise Point raptor banding), Gail Mackiernan, Nancy Magnusson, P. V. Melville, Greg Miller (GMr), Stauffer Miller (SMr), Carolyn Mills, Dorothy Mitchell, Steven Mlodinow, Randy Moore, John Morton, Marianna Nuttle, Michael O'Brien, Beth Olsen, Bonnie Ott (BOt), Jared Parks, Zach Parks, Brian Patteson, B. G. Peterjohn, Paul Pisano, **E. L. Pitney** (lower e. shore of MD), Kyle Rambo, Steven Reams (SRs), **J. G. Reese** (*Talbot*, MD), Sue Ricciardi, R. F. Ringler, C. S. Robbins, Barbara Ross, Fran & Norm Saunders, **Gene Scarpulla** (pelagic trips), J. D. Schroer, Don Schwab (DSb), W. Scudder, Dot Silsby (DtS), Christine Simoes, S. W. Simon, Don Simonson (DSs), W. J. L. Sladen, Ann & Paul Smith, W. P. Smith, **Jo Solem** (*Howard*, MD), E. J. Stann, J. L. Stasz, Don Stein, P. W. Sykes, Brian Taber, Karen Terwilliger, Mary Ann Todd, C. R. Vaughn, B. D. Watts, Gerry Weinberger, H. L. Wierenga, Jim Wilkinson, C. P. Wilds, Levin Willey, **Bill Williams** (Kiptopeke Hawkwatch), G. B. Wilmot, E. M. Wilson (greater D.C. area), Terrie Woodrow, Fran & Martha Woods, Helen Zeichner. **HENRY T. ARMISTEAD**, 523 E. Durham St., Philadelphia, PA 19119.

## SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION Summer 1992

*Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.*

The summer season started out like a typical March—cool, wet, and windy, making meaningful birding, such as conducting Breeding Bird Survey routes and Breeding Bird Atlas blocks, very difficult. Portions of July were quite hot and dry, but the overall effect of the summer was one of slightly cooler and considerably wetter conditions than those of recent years, with enough rain that most reservoirs had little or no shoreline for waterbird migrants.

Reporting of results seemed to be down this summer, and nothing, other than word of mouth, was received about the success of colonial waterbird nesting. As usual, there were a few noteworthy sightings, but a remarkable number of goodies turned up—Bulwer's Petrel, Soft-plumaged Petrel, and Herald Petrel—on the relatively few ventures to North Carolina's Gulf Stream this season.

### LOONS TO FRIGATEBIRDS

A few Com. Loons lingered along the coast, as usual, but one found inland at a sandpit pond in n. Greene, GA, June 21–July 4 (PS *et al.*) was quite a surprise. Notable breeding records of Pied-billed Grebe included adults with young in a wet Carolina bay between Neeches and Orangeburg, SC, June 3–25 (RC) and an adult with 3 chicks at an impoundment near Aurora, NC, June 9 (KM, SS). The only report of Horned Grebe was of a lingering bird near Stacy, NC, present May–June 4 (SD).

A number of pelagic trips were taken to the Gulf Stream off North Carolina this summer, with some exceptional results. The best Black-capped Petrel report was of 134 birds off Oregon Inlet July 25 (RD, C.B.C.). A Soft-plumaged Petrel, probably of the Cape Verde Petrel form (species?), was seen off that inlet June 27 (HL, RD *et al.*). This is now at least the 4th good record for the state for the species complex—all probably Cape Verde—but the bird was somewhat distant for conclusive proof that it was a Cape Verde. About as rare was a light-morph (or possibly intermediate-morph) Herald Petrel seen June 6 off that inlet (EK, JM, JD). This might be the first North American report for the light morph, yet there is one previous sighting of intermediate-morph, and several of the dark-morph, Herald Petrels in North Carolina waters. If you thought the 2 previous species were excellent finds, what about the Bulwer's Petrel sighted by Hass in the Gulf Stream off Oregon Inlet, near "The Point," July 1? This is the first good sighting of this species, which breeds as close as the e. Atlantic/Mediterranean, for North Ameri-

can waters, but its presence in North Carolina waters had been anticipated. No photos were taken, but the description and sketch of the bird are now being reviewed by the N.C. Bird Records Committee. This species and the Soft-plumaged (Cape Verde) Petrel are still not on the American Ornithologists' Union or American Birding Association lists for North America, first pending complete review by the N.C. committee. The best Greater Shearwater count was a so-so 18 birds off Oregon Inlet June 27 (HL party). Four Leach's Storm-Petrels June 27 (HL party) and one July 25 (RD party) were encountered off that inlet, and those same 2 pelagic trips reported 26 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels on the first trip and two (to 10) on the 2nd. This species presents such an identification headache that there is often a 500% spread in count totals among observers on board the boat!



**Band-rumped Storm-Petrel off the Outer Banks of North Carolina, June 6, 1992.**  
Photograph/Alan Brady.

There were several June sightings off North Carolina of N. Gannet. Cooper noted six Great Cormorants on the jetties at Masonboro Inlet, NC, June 6 and four still there July 4. The ever-increasing Double-crested Cormorant was found at many inland sites, and the species again nested in Clayton, GA, the only nesting site in that state. Two nests each produced 3 young by late July (*fide* TM). Anhingas seem to be increasing as nesters in North Carolina, and a potential new nesting site was discovered, when Enders saw 7 birds at White's Millpond s.e. of Scotland Neck this season. A ♂ Anhinga, in the e. Piedmont near Flat Cr., *Lancaster*, SC, June 8 (RC), must have been a visitor, as the species is not known to nest in that province in the Region.

### WADERS

I received no reports at all concerning the welfare of heronries in the Region. Do I take this as good news? I heard that North Carolina's heronries had mixed to decent success, but nothing on paper was received. An Am. Bittern was seen July 26 at Eagle I., NC (RMcN, RT); its nesting status there and at most coastal sites is a complete unknown. Lynch noted two Least Bitterns in Northampton, NC, June 6, at a previously



(GG). The Mississippi Kite, still not conclusively found nesting in North Carolina, is expanding its numbers there. In addition to the usual population of >30 birds in extreme e. *Halifax*, up to 30 birds, some probably from the former flock, were in adjacent w. *Bertie* this summer (FE). A record state count of 47 birds was made about 15 miles s. of Scotland Neck June 6 (RMcN, HLi, MO), and >20 were seen June 24 just n.w. of Williamston, at the e. edge of the range (FA). Two were again seen at Oconee Neck in Northampton June 6 (ML), and still another possible breeder was one seen July 3 along Fishing Cr. at US 301 (FE). Single Mississippis outside the breeding range included one near Harkers I., NC, June 6 (JF, DS), and another along the Broad R., Chester, SC, June 6 (DF). Two potential "new" nesting sites for N. Harrier were reported in coastal North Carolina, where the species is a very rare breeder. Fussell had an

known site, but this species seems genuinely rare over most inland locales. Although North Carolina has been averaging one to 3 reports of **Reddish Egret** per year for a decade, something of major proportions happened in 1992. There were no summer reports from Georgia or South Carolina, but the birds were at numerous sites along the North Carolina coast in June and July (continuing into the fall). There were at least 3 birds at Sunset Beach for much of the season (RD, HL, JL, RM), at least one at Figure Eight I. (DC), one at Bogue Inlet July 28 (HH), 3-4 at New Drum Inlet for much of the season (SD), and one at Portsmouth I. in July (SD). A few of these were adults, but most were immatures (all dark morph). Piedmont sightings of Yellow-crowned Night-Heron included one adult on the Stockbridge B.B.S. route, GA, June 7 (TM, PB) and single adults at Chattahoochee River N.R.A., GA, June 18 (WD) and July 4 (MAV). R. Carter found the White Ibis to be quite rare in inland South Carolina this season, and no one reported post-breeding birds on inland lakes, either. (In fact, the heavy rainfall of the spring and early summer must have kept nearly all reservoirs full, for hardly anyone reported any post-breeding records of the less common waders.) The first **Roseate Spoonbill** in North Carolina in perhaps 10 years was an immature that initially appeared at Calabash Cr., NC, July 13 (RD), and then (presumably the same bird) was rediscovered at Eagle I., farther up the coast, July 19-31+ (GM, SC, KM, m.ob.). A spoonbill was very rare, especially inland, at Silver Bluff Sanctuary near Jackson, SC, July 4-10 (PK), but nary a one was found this year at the Savannah spoil area in that state, where several were present a year ago. Not to be outdone, Georgia birders found a good

total of six spoonbills July 17 at Cumberland I. (BD, PR), and two at Jekyll I., July 25 (JS, CS). Wood Stork nesting in Georgia and South Carolina apparently went well, but the highlights of the species were extralimital reports: one s. of Goldsboro, NC, July 27 (ED); two in Early, GA, June 7 (JS, CS); one in Jefferson, GA, June 15 (AW, TC); and birds in June at 3 sites in Bamberg, one in Hampton, and one in Allendale, SC (RC).

#### WATERFOWL

Two out-of-season Brants were present through about July 4 at Beacon I., NC (JB, *vide* SD). Georgia birders must have covered the sewage ponds in Clayton nearly every day, noting many lingering waterfowl—a Green-winged Teal June 13–July 31+ (PB, TMi *et al.*), a pair of N. Pintails from spring through June 14 (PB, TMi), and a Blue-winged Teal July 19 (PB, TMi). Lynch noted a ♂ Am. Black Duck with chicks just s. of L. Phelps, NC, June 26; several birds were at Eagle I. in that state all summer, but there was no indication of nesting (SC); the species is a fairly common breeder in the e. portion of that state. Other lingering birds, all in North Carolina, included a Gadwall and an Am. Wigeon all summer in Spindale (ST), a Ring-necked Duck all summer at Greenville (HV), a Surf Scoter at Cedar I. in early July (JB), a Red-breasted Merganser at Greensboro, June 13 (HH), and a Ruddy Duck at Eagle I. July 26 (SC, KM).

#### HAWKS TO COOTS

No new inland nesting sites were reported for Ospreys, though 2 active nests at Greensboro fledged 5 young (HH). An Am. Swallow-tailed Kite was a good find near Stacy, NC, July 13 (BC), and a notable total of 11 birds was made in s. Aiken, SC, July 22

ad. male carrying food near Long Bay in Carteret in June, and Lynch saw a pair foraging at Waterlily June 26. At previously identified (possibly breeding) sites, a male was carrying food at Piney I. in June (JF) and a female was noted at Ocracoke I., July 15 (SD). Reports of Sharp-shinned Hawks were quite rare, but I received at least 16 reports of Cooper's Hawks, strongly implying an increase in the nesting population, at least in the Carolinas. R. Carter encountered the species on 5 occasions in the South Carolina Coastal Plain, and birds were seen carrying food in Beaufort (RT), Cleveland (ST), and Polk (ST), all in North Carolina. There were 5 reports of Broad-winged Hawk from the Coastal Plain, poorly known in that province in summer. The first documented nesting attempt of **Golden Eagle** for Georgia occurred during the season, but the nest was not successful at the undisclosed nesting site. One of the adults had a patagial tag, indicating that it had been released in the state (TJ). The Am. Kestrel seems quite rare nowadays as a breeder, and it is slowly slipping away in other seasons. Nestings were reported only from Carrboro (ML) and Goldsboro (GH) in North Carolina, though surely the species nested in other places in the Region that weren't reported. The **Peregrine Falcon** made its first nesting attempt in Georgia since 1942, at an undisclosed location, but this nest also proved unsuccessful (TJ).

Two or three Black Rails were heard calling at the marsh in n. *Greene*, GA, where they were found a year ago (PS, JS, BD). There is still no confirmed nesting of the species in Georgia; the birds should occur in brackish marshes along the coast, but is anybody checking these marshes? The only other significant report of the species was a good tally of 19+ calling at Piney I., NC, June



19 (JF). With the latter Black Rails were 23+ calling Virginia Rails (JF), indicating how common that species can be in brackish marshes during summer in North Carolina. A Virginia Rail seen at Eagle I., June 10 (SC), was rare at that location; the breeding status of the species along the coast s. of Carteret, NC, requires further study. Purple Gallinules are easily found in South Carolina only at one or 2 places, such as Savannah N.W.R.; this declining species was noted by R. Carter s. of Allendale June 9. Vegetations praying at Goldsboro's sewage lagoons has prevented Am. Coots from nesting there in recent years, though one bird was present (but not nesting) June 21 (GH).

#### SHOREBIRDS

Single Lesser Golden-Plovers in basic plumage were found June 28 and July 26 at Pea I., NC (RD *et al.*) and July 22 at New Drum Inlet, NC (SD). A count of 17 Semipalmated Plovers at Jekyll I., GA, June 26 (TM) was notable for that month. The final statewide totals of breeding Piping Plovers for North Carolina are not yet available, but 28 pairs nested on N. Core Banks (SP, *fide* SD), an increase of a few pairs from last year. No indication of the nesting success was mentioned, though such data in the past have almost always been negative. Three Am. Avocets near Aurora, NC, were notable July 16 (SC, KM), and these 2 observers had an excellent count of 510 Lesser Yellowlegs at Eagle I., July 18. Inland Upland Sandpipers were noted in July at an airport near Greensboro (HH *et al.*), on hospital grounds near Goldsboro (ED), and at sod farms near Orangeburg, S C (RMcN). A Long-billed Curlew was not unexpected at New Drum Inlet, NC, July 17–31 (SD). Dinsmore's shorebird study on the Outer Banks of Carteret provided many notable records: a peak of 1100 Red Knots June 3 on N. Core Banks, 16 W. Sandpipers at Portsmouth I., June 7, and 1200 there July 29, 105 White-rumped Sandpipers at Portsmouth I., June 6, six summering Dunlins at Portsmouth, 5 Curlew Sandpipers at Portsmouth July 28, and a color-banded Curlew there July 22, two Stilt Sandpipers at Portsmouth June 5, one to two Wilson's Phalaropes at that island July 18–21, and single Red-necked Phalaropes June 2 at New Drum Inlet and June 5 at Portsmouth. The sewage ponds in Clayton, GA, provided most of the inland shorebird highlights of the season: a late (?) Least Sandpiper June 14 (RR), several White-rumped Sandpipers as late as June 7 (PB *et al.*), and a somewhat late and rare Red-necked Phalarope May 30–June 1 (BD). A Pectoral Sandpiper was early July 4 in Houston, GA (JS, CS), but for the most part shorebirding on inland lakes and ponds was a nonexistent pastime, thanks to high water levels. In addition to the Curlew Sandpipers at remote Portsmouth I., three were found July 26 at South Pond on Pea I. (RD, MT, JW), where advanced permission must be obtained to visit the pond.



**Sub-adult Masked Booby off the Outer Banks of North Carolina, June 6, 1992. Photograph/Jerry McWilliams.**

#### JAEGERS TO TERNS

A few Pomarine Jaegers were seen on North Carolina pelagic trips this summer, but a S. Polar Skua seen off Oregon Inlet July 25 (RD party) was a much better find. The only inland Laughing Gull report was one seen at L. Gaston, NC, June 11 (HL). Lesser Black-backed Gulls are now starting to spend the summer in the Region, and this season there were reports of a near-adult July 13 at N. Topsail Beach, NC (GiG), and a first-summer bird July 21–31 at New Drum Inlet, NC (SD). Five Great Black-backed Gulls were notable at Cumberland I., GA, July 17 (BD, PR). Seldom seen in midsummer was a first-summer Sabine's Gull at Portsmouth I., July 18 (SD).

Two Caspian Terns were unusual at Spindale, NC, June 26 (ST). A few apparently non-breeding Roseate Terns were, as usual, spotted along the North Carolina coast—two at Cape Hatteras point June 1 (PM, BG), two at N. Core Banks June 1 (SD), and singles at Portsmouth I., June 2 and July 30 (SD). Of greater interest was a banded adult found dead at Nag's Head, NC, May 21 (PBra); it had been banded as a chick at Bird I., MA, July 17, 1988 by Ian Nisbet. Common Terns do not breed in Georgia, and their summer status along the coast is muddled, though thought to be rare in midsummer; however, 10 were noted July 18 at St. Simons I. (BD, PR) and many were noted at nearby Jekyll I., July 26 (JS, CS). Quite unexpected was an Arctic Tern seen off Oregon Inlet June 28 (TH); the species is seldom seen after May in that area and, like the Com. Tern in summer in Georgia, has a "muddled" fall status in the Region's waters. Holmes noted that 6–8 pairs of Least Terns each nested at a quarry and on a shopping mall roof in the New Bern, NC, area, with unknown consequences. The species has nested for several years at the mall and is the only such rooftop nesting by Least Terns ever reported from that state. Notable in Georgia were 150 Least Terns in the Jekyll-St. Simons I. area July 18 (BD, PR) and one inland in Clayton July 25 (RR). As usual, Sooty Terns nested along the North Carolina coast, with a nest in a Com. Tern colony at New Drum Inlet in late June (JB); as always, the nest failed. A Sooty was

seen at Raccoon Key, SC, July 9 (DCh), but there was no indication of whether the species nested in that state in 1992.

#### DOVES TO HUMMINGBIRDS

Thought to be practically extirpated as a breeder in North Carolina, a Com. Ground-Dove at Sunset Beach July 13 (RD) offers a ray of hope that the species is hanging on. R. Carter had a calling bird in s. Bamberg, SC, May 31 and had two near Brighton, Hampton, SC, June 23; Peachey noted two in late July near Conway, SC. The species' status away from the coast is not well known in that state; however, the Com. Ground-Dove appears to be in serious trouble in the Region, at least n. of Georgia, with house cats named as one source of the decline. A territorial Black-billed Cuckoo in Charlotte, NC, for many days in July (TP *et al.*) was well out of its range, as the species does not normally nest in the Region. A species that might be in trouble, the Barn Owl, was studied by Enders in North Carolina; he found a nest with 4 young in a barn w. of Pungo L. and observed the species in a silo a few miles s. of this lake during the summer. A pair of Barn Owls with 2 chicks was found in June in a cotton gin at Latimore, NC (PW, ST). A real success story in the Region is the spread of the Whip-poor-will into the Coastal Plain, and this spread could be part of the reason for the decline in Regions to the north. The species may well be short-stopping in the Coastal Plain on their way north and breeding in the former wetlands that are now pine plantations. The Whip-poor-will now breeds (or occurs in summer) in practically every Coastal Plain county in North Carolina and in nearly every such county in South Carolina. R. Carter found them in nearly every Breeding Bird Atlas block he worked in the South Carolina Coastal Plain, including s. Hampton, and Murray counted six Whips along 2 mi at Wampee, Horry, SC, June 2. A Whip calling on the Juliette, GA, B.B.S., June 7 (HO, MAV) was south of its range in that state. Some observers have noted an apparent decline in Chuck-will's-widows in the Coastal Plain, but others aren't sure yet. Time will tell! T. Moore and other Atlanta, GA, birders noted an alarming scarcity of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds this summer; this is another species that receives mixed reviews every year.

#### FLYCATCHERS TO SWALLOWS

Thompson again found Willow Flycatchers at their only known nesting locale in South Carolina, in n. *Spartanburg*, where 5 males were heard singing June 9. At the outpost in n. *Greene*, GA, only one Willow was reported on territory this season (PS, JS, BD), but DeKalb, GA, where one was found June 20 (GS), appears to be a new site for the species. Eastern Phoebe were found at 3 of 6 bridges over the N. Edisto R. along the Lexington-Aiken line, SC, June 14, with the southernmost at SC 302 (RC). This species continues to increase as a breeder, owing



mainly to high survivability during the recent mild winters. Again, the only summer record of Gray Kingbird was from the Georgia coast, where one to several pairs breed; three were at Jekyll I., July 18 (BD, PR). The erratic Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was reported once—near Gull Rock, NC, in June (AB). The Horned Lark is another bird spreading its breeding range far into the Coastal Plain, and R. Carter detected birds near Sawyerdale, Norway, Salley, and Sycamore in South Carolina this June. He also visited a sod farm e. of Fort Valley, GA, June 22 and noted one or two calling birds at that Coastal Plain site. **Tree Swallows** were found nesting in the Region's Coastal Plain for the first time. Two adults were seen entering a cavity in *Northampton*, NC, June 6 (ML, C.B.C.) strongly suggesting breeding, but the clincher was the finding of a pair and a juvenile at a cavity at Eagle I. near Wilmington June 28 (SC, KM). The only known Piedmont nesting site—at Blalock L., *Clayton*, GA—had a pair nesting again, and 3 young were seen June 14 (RR). The Fourth of July seems to be a popular birding day, and early-arriving Bank Swallows, seven near Seven Springs, NC (GH, BGr) and two in n. *Greene*, GA (PS), were noted on that date. The spread of nesting Cliff Swallows seems to have stopped in most of the Region, as all suitable large reservoirs (at least in the Piedmont) have them. Dozens were found nesting under the SC 97 bridge at L. Wateree, SC, June 8 (RC), perhaps at a new site at a lake where breeding has previously been reported.

#### CROWS TO VIREOS

Because crows are such secretive nesters, one wonders whether two seen at far w. Tryon, NC, June 17 (ST), were nesting or just visiting. One of the breeding season mysteries of the Region is the surprising abundance of House Wrens in the pocosins, especially those recently burned, of e. North Carolina. Fussell noted 14 birds during May–July at Great Sandy Run Pocosin, *Onslow*, NC, and he had a new site near Atlantic, NC, where one was singing June 13. He also had two Cedar Waxwings near Atlantic June 10 and another at Cherry Point, NC, July 16. These were probably non-breeding birds, yet a pair nested in 1990 in nearby s.e. *Craven* (JLe, *fide* JF) for an almost unheard-of tidewater nesting. This was a much quieter summer for waxwings elsewhere than in recent years, with the only breeding reported being a nest at Tryon, NC, July 18 (ST). The Solitary Vireo nests sparingly throughout the Piedmont and rarely along the edge of the Coastal Plain, which is the location of a singing bird on territory in longleaf pines w. of Pinebluff, NC, June 3 (HL). Single Solitaries were noted in Gwinnett, GA, in the Piedmont, June 7 and 26 (JH). Warbling Vireos still cling to the remarkable outpost at L. Marion, SC, and a new site, perhaps just a temporary one, was a yard in Greensboro, NC, where one was singing for much of the summer (*fide* HLI).

#### WARBLERS

Thompson had a ♀ Chestnut-sided Warbler on territory at the foot of the Blue Ridge at Chimney Rock Park, NC, in June, but no nesting evidence was seen. A B.B.S. route in mainland Dare, NC, produced notable warbler totals May 30 (ML, IP, PT): 56 Prairie, 60 Prothonotary, and 11 Worm-eating, along with 69 Com. Yellowthroats. The disjunct breeding population of Cerulean Warblers along the Roanoke R., NC, appears to be in decline, as only about 12 singing birds could be found in June from Halifax to Jamesville (ML, RS), as opposed to approximately 50 birds sighted during the early 1970's (*fide* ML). Worm-eating Warbler, which breeds in nearly all coastal counties of North Carolina, extends down the South Carolina coast for several counties; three singing birds from April into June at Wampee, *Horry*, SC (RM) were quite close to the coastline. Swainson's Warbler is very spotty in the Piedmont as a breeder, but there were 4 such reports for the summer: one to 2 near Chapel Hill, NC, May 10–June 26 (HW), for the first there since 1988; a pair along Reedy Cr. in s. *Greenville*, SC (PWo); one on territory near Athens, GA (BDu); and two in Clayton, GA, June 1 (BD). Ovenbirds were found by R. Carter June 5 near Tony Hill Bay in *Bamberg*, June 7, near Sawyerdale, and June 9 s.e. of Barnwell, all in the South Carolina Coastal Plain. Three more Ovenbirds were near the Green Swamp, NC, June 7 (RD); the species seems to be spreading southeastward as a breeder. Carter also noted single Louisiana Waterthrushes June 5 in *Bamberg* and June 9 s.e. of Barnwell in South Carolina, and Cooper had a Louisiana singing near Aurora, NC. All these sites are far into the Coastal Plain, near the edge of the breeding range.

#### TANAGERS TO GOLDFINCHES

Scarlet Tanagers, which have spread eastward over much of North Carolina as a breeder during the past 20 years, were reported e. to Jamesville, Gates, and Oak City (ML) this season. Two in *Clayton*, GA, July 25 (RR), and an imm. female banded July 12 near York, SC (BHi), were also notable. Breeding Bird Atlasers in South Carolina have reported a much more widespread inner Coastal Plain population of Painted Buntings than previously thought, and this summer R. Carter found them fairly common to common in *Orangeburg*, *Bamberg*, and *Hampton*. It was a very disappointing summer for the unpredictable Dickcissel; the only reports were of three in *Jefferson*, GA, June 15 (AW, TC) and a pair w.n.w. of Aurora, NC, June 30 (KM, SS). At least nine singing Field Sparrows at Atlantic, NC, June 25 (JF) were a surprise. For some reason, Grasshopper Sparrows seemed to be down in numbers, and R. Carter found them in his atlas work in South Carolina only in *Orangeburg*. Henslow's Sparrows, which frequently have to abandon their pine plantation nesting sites after a few years because of

sapling encroachment, were found at a new site in w. *Martin*, NC, May 23 and June 6 (ML); this could well be a colony displaced from nearby sites by pine encroachment. At least one pair of Song Sparrows nested at Lancaster, SC (JL), near the s.e. edge of the range. A seemingly healthy White-throated Sparrow decided that it liked Raleigh, NC, so much that it stayed all summer (H & GLa); another remained at Goldsboro to June 3 (ED).

I don't like to write about House Finches any more, but there appear to be a few places in the Region not yet colonized by them, such as Charleston, SC, where a pair was at a feeder all summer (G & DSt), and nearby James I., where a pair were noted July 22 (DF). Red Crossbills, which seldom visit the Region nowadays, were surprisingly found twice, in Georgia. Sykes noted a bird overhead in Grant Forest, *Putnam*, June 5, and Raney had three at Conyers June 12. This species has never been proved to nest in that state, and the birds were likely wanderers. A Pine Siskin was out of season at Dawsonville, GA, June 21 and 23 (FM). Three or four Am. Goldfinches, including at least one breeding-plumaged male, were at a residence near Otway, *Carteret*, NC, all summer (DS, JF); this is outside the known breeding range, which includes most of that state's Coastal Plain except for coastal counties.

**Observers:** Fred Annand, Patrick Brasington (PBra), Patrick Brisse, John Brunjes, Allen Bryan, Carolina Bird Club, Derb Carter, Robin Carter, David Chamberlain (DCh), Bobby Clontz, Sam Cooper, Tess Cumbie, Ricky Davis, Eric Dean, Steve Dinsmore, Bruce Dralle, Wally Dreyfoos, John Drummond, Barny Dunning (BDu), Frank Enders, Dennis Forsythe, John Fussell, Burnie Gould, Betty Grady (BGr), Gilbert Grant (GiG), Gary Gray, Todd Hass, Herb Hendrickson, Bill Hilton, Jr., Joel Hitt, Bob Holmes, Gene Howe, Terry Johnson, Paul Koehler, Ed Kwater, Herman & Gail Lankford (H & GLa), James Lasley, Harry LeGrand, Janet Lembke (JLe), Henry Link (HLi), Merrill Lynch, Kevin Markham, Greg Massey, Frank McCamey, Roger McNeill (RMcN), Jerry McWilliams, Terry Miller (TMi), Pat Moore, Terry Moore, Rick Murray, Ian Nisbet, Megan O'Connor, Helen Ogren, Jack Peachey, Sue Philhower, Ida Phillips, Taylor Piephoff, Robert Raffel, Paul Raney, Rex Sallabanks, Georgann Schmalz, Carol Sewell, Jeff Sewell, Sandy Smith, Deb Squires, Grant & Daphnie Staley (G & DSt), Paul Sykes, Simon Thompson, Patricia Tolbert, Mike Tove, Russ Tyn-dall, Howard Vainwright, Mary Ann Vernocy, Haven Wiley, Pat Wilkison, Peter Worthington (PWo), John Wright, Ann Wyand.—**HARRY E. LeGRAND, JR., N.C. Natural Heritage Program, P.O. Box 27687, Raleigh, NC 27611.**

# FLORIDA REGION Fall 1991

Richard L. West and Noel Wamer

This column should note the passing Nov. 4, 1991, of its staunchest Florida contributor since the inception of *Audubon Field Notes* (now *AB*). Henry M. Stevenson contributed to Volume 1 (1947) with an account of the St. Marks Christmas Bird Count (CBC). He compiled or co-compiled 34 St. Marks CBCs, 10 Tallahassee, 24 Panacea, 2 Apalachicola, and a Port St. Joe Count, for a total of 70 CBCs in all. He contributed to the first Florida Regional Report edited by C.M. Brookfield (1949) and continued an unbroken chain of 43 years of contributions until his death. He assumed editorship of the Florida Region with Volume 8 (1954) and edited 62 Regional Reports, spanning 28 years. The selfless contribution of his records and his responsible editorship of those of others will endure as a permanent memorial to him.

This Regional Report summarizes the most important 1991 records chosen to extend and complement the 1992 Report, which follows in more detail. The cold front of Oct. 7 & 8 grounded large numbers of migrants in peninsula Florida. These and other other migrants added up to an exceptional season in which correspondents did not have to complain drearily about numbers being "down as usual."

**Abbreviations:** Cape Florida (*Cape Florida*, *Bill Baggs S.R.A.*, *Dade Co.*); C.N.S. (*Canaveral National Seashore*); E.N.P. (*Everglades N.P.*); F.D.C.P. (*Ft. DeSoto Co. Park*, *Pinellas*); Honeymoon I. (*Honeymoon I. S.R.A.*, *Pinellas*); p.a. (*pending acceptance*); S.Pr. (*State Preserve*); S.M.N.W.R. (*St. Marks N.W.R.*, *Wakulla Co.*); S.R.A. (*State Recreational Area*); S.R.C. (*Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee*).

## LOONS TO RAILS

Increased observer awareness has begun to result in nearly annual reports of Pacific Loons along the Gulf coast; this season one was found Nov. 30 in Apalachicola Bay, *Franklin* (LA, BA, †S.R.C., v.o.). The two Band-rumped Storm-Petrels seen at the C.N.S. sea watch Oct. 30 (†HR) were probably the first seen from onshore in the region. Table 1 summarizes the pelagic species seen from the C.N.S. sea watch. A rare Great Cormorant was reported at the St. Marks Light Nov. 9 (†RB, JB). A Fulvous Whistling-Duck at

S.M.N.W.R., Oct. 6 (BN, DEm), was n. of its normal Florida range. Greater White-fronted Geese have occurred with decreasing frequency in recent years, so 13 at S.M.N.W.R., Oct. 20 (BN, DEm, WWi), was significant. Five Snow Geese in s. Lee, Nov. 10 (WG, AI), and 11 in e. *Sarasota*, Nov. 24, both high counts for the s. peninsula, were part of a minor invasion that also brought individuals to Cedar Key (DH) and St. George I. (BN *et al.*). The season's total of three Brants (v.o.) was notable; the one at Marco I. Nov. 22 & 30 (TB) was the first for *Collier*. Single Oldsquaws were reported e. of Ellenton, *Manatee*, Nov. 17, to the end of the period (JBo, m.ob.) and at Cedar Key, *Levy*, Nov. 30 (KN). Black Scoters were more common than usual on the lower Atlantic coast; a high count of 10 was at Hollywood Beach, *Broward*, Nov. 14–26 (JB, JS).

The two Black-shouldered Kite reports were noteworthy. September 26 three juveniles were seen with adults n.w. of Homestead, but by mid-October none could be found in the area (BS, SSm). The two Black-shoulders at Osprey October 20 (RD) provided a rare *Sarasota* record. A Snail Kite had ventured to a new location for the species, Nov. 3 at McIlvane Marsh, *Collier* (GF, SD); they appear to have dispersed widely from a concentration of 135 in w. *Indian R.* in September. Single Mississippi Kites at W. Palm Beach Aug. 28 (AW, PW) and at Taylor Slough, E.N.P., Sept. 12 (BS) were rare fall records for s. Florida. A Yellow Rail was flushed during a cattle round-up Oct. 16 at Paynes Prairie S.Pr., *Alachua* (HA, KP).

## SHOREBIRDS TO SWALLOWS

High counts of waders from Honeymoon I., *Pinellas*, included 79 Wilson's Plovers Aug.

17, 52 Piping Plovers Nov. 13, and 111 Marbled Godwits Sept. 1 (all DG). A very rare Curlew Sandpiper was at the sod farms in w. *Palm Beach* Nov. 2 (HL). Four Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported at 3 locations (v.o.) within the brief period Sept. 1–7. Single Ruffs were at Zellwood, *Orange*, Aug. 10–11 (WB, GS) and the w. *Palm Beach* sod farms Sept. 7–8 (JG, BS). A Franklin's Gull at the St. Marks Light Oct. 13 (BN, DEm, WWi) was the only one reported. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported from 7 locations Oct. 20–Nov. 30 (v.ob.), including one inland Nov. 9 at Belle Glade (HL, GH) and six at Wards Bank, *Duval*, Oct. 27 (SB). One Lesser Black-backed at Ponce Inlet, *Volusia*, Nov. 27 with a mantle darker than that at nearby Laughing Gulls was considered to be of the race *intermedius* (†HR), a form not previously reported from Florida. A Black-legged Kittiwake, rarely reported from the n. Gulf coast, was seen in the pass between Dog I. and St. George I., Nov. 17 (BN, BSp *et al.*). A juv. Gull-billed Tern at Marco I., Nov. 8 & 22 (TB) furnished a rare *Collier* record. High counts of terns from Honeymoon I. include 5000 Commons Nov. 22, 900 Forster's Sept. 21, 263 Leasts Aug. 26, 305 Blacks Sept. 18, as well as 764 Black Skimmers Nov. 29 (all DG).

A shy Key West Quail Dove was at Cape Florida Oct. 18–19 (BS *et al.*, †S.R.C.). Early Black-billed Cuckoos were seen Aug. 25 at Saddle Creek Park, *Polk* (PT), and repeatedly heard calling near the Wakulla R. Aug. 27 (SO). High numbers of Mangrove Cuckoos were also early at Cape Florida. Sep 7–21 (MC *et al.*). Seven Groove-billed Anis near Lanark Village, *Franklin*, Oct. 27 were the only ones reported (JC, KNe). An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Cedar Key Sept. 18 (DH) provided the first local record. Florida's 2nd reported *Myiodynastes* sp. was at St. Marks Light Oct. 12 (NW, BN, †S.R.C., RC, CC). The count of 40 Gray Kingbirds at Honeymoon I., after a cold front Aug. 26 (DG) was an exceptionally high number for anywhere in the Region. Eclipsing the *Myiodynastes* sighting was the Brown-chested Martin found along Browns Farm Road in w. *Palm Beach* Oct. 24 (HL, †S.R.C., p.a., GH). If accepted, this would supply the first Florida and 2nd N. American record of this migratory S. American swallow.

## JAYS TO FINCHES

A Scrub Jay at Crystal L. (JB, GM) was the first for *Broward* since 1986. Four Gray-cheeked Thrushes banded at Casey Key, *Sarasota*, Sept. 24 (AS, SS), were early, and one found dead at Panacea, *Wakulla*, Nov. 8 (RB, JB), was late. Florida's most persistent record of Thick-billed Vireo came from Cape Florida Aug. 31–Nov. 16 (JV, MC, m.ob.). Although most reports dur-



ing this period were of single birds, two were seen together Sept. 5 (†BS, SSm). The Philadelphia Vireo at Ft. George I., *Duval*, Oct. 5 (LA, m.ob.) was rare for n.e. Florida. Locally high counts of warblers included five Tennessees at Casey Key Sept. 24 (AS, SS, banded), 16 Black-throated Greens at F.D.C.P., Nov. 2 (LA, BA, MW), eight Blackburnians at St. Petersburg Sept. 21, and three Bay-breasteds at F.D.C.P. Nov. 2 (LA, BA, MW). A cold front Oct. 8 brought large numbers of Blackpoll and Connecticut warblers to the s. Atlantic coast. At the Jupiter Inlet LORAN tower, *Martin*, 576 casualties of the former and five of the latter were picked up, while 100 Blackpolls and five Connecticut were seen in Boca Raton, *Palm Beach* (HL, GH). This same front brought single Blackpolls to 3 locations in *Pinellas*, Oct. 8–9 (LA, MW, KN), where the species is infrequently recorded in the fall. More reports than usual were received for both Wilson's and Canada warblers. There were 10 reports of the former Sept. 12–Nov. 28 and 7 of the latter Aug. 22–Oct. 13 (v.o.).

A ♀ Stripe-headed Tanager was seen and heard at Delray Beach Nov. 30 (BH). An impressive 26 Scarlet Tanagers and 94 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found at 2 locations in *Pinellas*, Oct. 7 (DG, MW), a day before the warbler fall-out in *Palm Beach*. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak tarried at a feeder in Lake Wales until Nov. 15 (GH). Locally rare were single Dickcissels at Honeymoon I., Sept. 14 & 26 (DG) and Flamingo, E.N.P., Nov. 3 (MWh). The season's only Clay-colored Sparrow was at St. Marks Light Oct. 20–21 (DEm *et al.*). A rare Fox Sparrow was at Jacksonville Nov. 25 (JCo), and a rarer Lincoln's Sparrow was at S.M.N.W.R., Oct. 19 (BN, DEm). The six Yellow-headed Blackbirds reported from 6 locations Sept. 16–Nov. 7 (v.o.) was a higher-than-usual season total. Single Rusty Blackbirds were out of normal habitat at different Tallahassee sewage ponds Nov. 7 (JCa) and Nov. 8 (BN, DEm). Very rare in the lower peninsula were two Brewer's Blackbirds banded at Casey Key Nov. 10 (AS, SS). A House Finch was reported Oct. 27 at MacArthur S.R.A., *Palm Beach* (CPL).

## FLORIDA REGION Fall 1992

Noel Wamer and Richard L. West

There is no doubt that the passage of hurricane *Andrew* over s. Florida was a horrendous catastrophe for the human residents of the affected area. This was a Category 4 storm, with a return frequency on the order of 300–400 years, and was thought to be the 3rd most powerful hurricane to strike the

United States in this century. The storm's effects on this area's unique avifauna are not yet clearly understood. The chaotic conditions that persisted for months obviously resulted in very little attention given to birds, with dedicated observers whose homes were in the storm's path reporting they were too busy to observe or document during the period. One birder reported that Spot-breasted Orioles were especially evident after the storm, as they were so easily spotted in the leafless trees. John Ogden found substantially fewer species than in previous fall seasons in his yard in s. Homestead, where much of the vegetation had been destroyed. Of the hundreds of exotic birds that escaped from the Miami Metrozoo and other collections, the only report received was of a pair of Yellow-faced Grassquits. Among the mammalian escapees were hundreds of monkeys and a pair of capybara.

The modifications to native habitats, many of them rare, likely will result in cumulative effects that will take years to assess. A National Audubon aerial survey a few days after the storm indicated major damage to the West Indian hammocks at Key Biscayne N.P., total destruction of the trees at the Cuthbert L. and Rodgers River Bay rookeries, and 90% of the mangroves blown down in a 20-mi stretch of the Everglades N.P. shoreline. There was major damage to the native pinelands, as well as reports of the few remaining stands being used as dumping sites for storm debris. A long-term detrimental effect of the storm may be the increased spread of exotic habitats, since many of these pest species rapidly invade disturbed areas. Although the destruction of exotic habitats, such as at Cape Florida, presents opportunities to re-establish native habitats, these will likely be lost to the tremendous fiscal problems the storm left behind. Among s. Florida's rarer species, White-crowned Pigeon, Mangrove Cuckoo, the Cape Sable race of Seaside Sparrow, and Cave Swallow should be watched carefully, as they may be the species whose habitats or ranges received the greatest direct impact from the storm.

By contrast, the weather in the rest of the state was relatively benign. A tropical depression far off the Atlantic coast Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 brought good numbers of migrants to the n.e. coast, and good fallouts on the middle Gulf Coast came with cold fronts of Aug. 15–16 & 29–30 and Oct. 1–4.

**Abbreviations:** Cape Florida (*Cape Florida*, *Bill Baggs S.R.A.*, *Dade Co.*); C.R. (*County Road*); E.N.P. (*Everglades N.P.*); D.I. (*Dog I.*, *Franklin Co.*); F.D.C.P. (*Ft. DeSoto County Park*, *Pinellas Co.*); M.I.N.W.R. (*Merritt I. N.W.R.*); p.a. (*pending acceptance*); P.P.M. (*Polk County Phosphate Mines*); S.Pr. (*State Preserve*); S.C.P. (*Saddle Creek Park*, *Polk Co.*); S.M.N.W.R. (*St. Marks N.W.R.*, *Wakulla Co.*); S.R.A. (*State Recreational Area*); S.R.C. (*Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee*).

## LOONS TO WATERFOWL

A rare Pacific Loon (with a distinct chin strap) was seen off the city park in Cedar Key, *Levy*, Nov. 28 (ES, BP, †S.R.C., p.a.), and an early Com. Loon flew over St. Marks Light, *Wakulla*, Oct. 4 (NW). A Horned Grebe was extremely early, and in an odd location, at Wekiwa Springs S.P., *Orange*, Sept. 26 (EW, LW, videotaped). Lone Eared Grebes were seen Oct. 11 at L. Georgia, *Orange* (TR), Oct. 24 at S.M.N.W.R. (PM), and Oct. 22–26 in *Pasco* (PY). The last was a first county record. The 105 Cory's Shearwaters observed Oct. 15 e. of Ponce Inlet (TR) was a high count in recent years. A Sooty Shearwater appeared unexpectedly over the dam at Guana River S.P., *St. Johns*, Oct. 7 (JCo). Even more unexpected was a large shearwater, with dark upperparts and light underparts, seen flying over I–75 near Sun City Center, *Hillsborough*, Aug. 7 (RP), a location >15 mi from pelagic waters. The P.P.M. provided the highest season counts of Am. White Pelicans and Double-crested Cormorants with 2350 and 4000, respectively, Nov. 11 (PF). High counts of Magnificent Frigatebirds were 52 in 2 flocks at D.I., Oct. 3 (DE), after storms, and 402 at the Cortez Key roost in *Manatee* Sept. 22 (RP, AS, NB). The only inland frigatebirds, reported were over Lake Placid Aug. 18 (BSt) and the Avon Park Bombing Range, *HIGHLANDS*, Sept. 27 (DFo).

The P.P.M. provided the highest season counts of Great and Snowy egrets, with 525 and 640, respectively, Nov. 11 (PF). The number of Reddish Egrets at D.I., peaking at 10 Sept. 30 (DE), was a high for the n. Gulf coast and included a locally rare white morph. An unbanded, but otherwise undescribed, Scarlet Ibis was reported near Ft. Myers Aug. 6 (NP). The 700 Glossy Ibises in flooded fields e. of Winter Haven Oct. 6–11 (PF, MB) was a very high number for *Polk*. Roseate Spoonbills wandered inland—one at Lakeland Sept. 3 (TP) and two at the P.P.M. Sept. 26 (PF, MB). The 1500 Wood Storks at the w. *Palm Beach* sod farms Aug. 30 (JB, ER) was a locally high number. A Greater Flamingo wandered north to Merritt I., Oct. 2 (RR).

The 70 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at Zellwood, *Orange*, Aug. 1, included 4 families with young (PF, DFo); the flock of 30 at Guana River S.P. Oct. 18, was north of their normal range (*fide* PP). There were six reports of Snow Goose Oct. 24 to Nov. 30, with the only inland report from near Tallahassee Nov. 10 (JCa). Concentrations of Mottled Ducks were reported from 2 locations: 158 at Orlando Wilderness Park Sept. 3 (DF) and 105 at the P.P.M., Nov. 11 (PF). Visitors to M.I.N.W.R. from afar included a ♀ Cinnamon Teal Nov. 12 and a ♀ Eur Wigeon Nov. 12 to the end of the period (v.o., both *fide* HR). High duck counts from the P.P.M. included 1700 Blue-winged Teals Sept. 12, 575 Am. Wigeons Nov. 11, and 2850 Ring-necked Ducks Nov. 11 (all PF). The Com. Eider present through the end of the summer period at the Eau Gallie Causeway,

Titusville, was found dead Aug. 8 (SB), and of the two reported at Cocoa's Jetty Park in late November (*fide* WB), one remained through the period (m.ob.). All 3 species of scoter were reported during the period. Single Black Scoters were reported from D.I., Nov. 8 (DE), and Maderia Beach, *Pinellas*, Nov. 29 (KN). Single Surf Scoters were at D.I., Nov. 26 (DE), and Madeira Beach Nov. 29 (KN), while two were present in *Collier*, Nov. 20+ (TB, SH, MK). The only White-winged Scoter reported was a male at D.I., Nov. 14 (DE). High counts of Hooded Mergansers and Ruddy Ducks were reported from the P.P.M., with 1575 and 1025, respectively, Nov. 11 (PF).

#### RAPTORS TO ALCIDIS

Three Am. Swallow-tailed Kites at St. Petersburg Beach Aug. 23 (DB) provided a rare fall record for the *Pinellas* coast. Three Black-shouldered Kites were reported: two at the mouth of Fisheating Cr., *Glades*, Nov. 12 (GY), and one in w. *Broward*, Nov. 16 (JB). Snail Kites were reported from the Orlando Wilderness Park in e. *Orange*, s. to the Shark R. in n. E.N.P. There had been no recent records from the latter location due to the extended drought (MC, PB *et al.*), while at L. Tohopekaliga, *Osceola*, where 100 pairs had nested during spring, no kites could be found Oct. 26 (HK). The high season count reported for N. Harriers was 40 at D.I., Oct. 19 (DE). The 10 Cooper's Hawks passing Boot Key, *Monroe*, Oct. 10 (WH *et al.*) was a high count for the Keys, where the species had been considered accidental until recently. Other high counts of migrating hawks included 680 Sharp-shinned Hawks at Boot Key Oct. 10 (WH *et al.*), and 85 Broad-winged over Key West Sept. 23 (JO). A dark-morph Short-tailed remained at S.C.P. from the summer period until Sept. 7 (PF, MB), and another dark-morph was glimpsed over C.R., 326 n. of Cedar Key Aug. 7 (JC, KNe). A single-day count of eight Swainson's Hawks came from Boot Key Oct. 10 (WH *et al.*), a high number that early in the season. A total of 76 Merlins were reported, with a high count of 44 at Boot Key Oct. 10 (WH *et al.*). A rare inland Merlin was at the Green Swamp, *Polk*, Oct. 17 (TP). Peregrine Falcon reports totaled about 137 individuals Sept. 22–Oct. 31, with 97 passing Boot Key Oct. 10 (WH *et al.*). The concentration of wading birds at flooded fields e. of Winter Haven attracted several peregrines, and the peak of three there Oct. 8 (LC, BC, MB) was a high count for an inland site.

Four Black Rails were found during a 2-hour tape survey at the end of C.R. 361, *Dixie*, Aug. 15 (NW). The two Sandhill Cranes at the w. *Palm Beach* sod farms Sept. 20 (JB, CP, BE) were considered locally rare.

Peak counts of plovers were a very low 157 Black-bellieds at Honeymoon I., *Pinellas*, Nov. 28 (DG), 17 Snowies at D.I., Oct. 2 (DE), 123 Wilson's at Honeymoon I., Oct. 10

(DG), and 66 Pippings at Honeymoon I., Oct. 10 (DG). A Black-necked Stilt at S.M.N.W.R., Nov. 8 (TW, NW) was late. The season's highest count of Am. Avocets was 170 at the P.P.M., Sept. 26 (PF). The season's only reported Upland Sandpiper was at Clearwater Sept. 25 (LA, PBL, RS). A Hudsonian Godwit in flooded fields e. of Winter Haven Oct. 6–11 (LC, BC, MB) was the 2nd for *Polk*. Infrequent inland records of Ruddy Turnstones and Red Knots came from the P.P.M., with three of the former Sept. 20 (PF) and one of the latter Sept. 12 (PF, MCh) for perhaps the 3rd *Polk* record. The P.P.M. also produced a high count of 7000 peeps Sept. 5 (PF). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper at D.I., Sept. 21 (DE) was the only one reported. Other high wader counts from the P.P.M. included 790 Stilt Sandpipers and 440 Short-billed and 130 Long-billed dowitchers Sept. 20 (PF). The flooded fields e. of Winter Haven held 204 Com. Snipes Nov. 29 (PF). Only 2 reports of Wilson's Phalarope were received; a peak of 12 were at the P.P.M., Sept. 12 (PF, MCh).

Strong easterly winds Nov. 9 brought an incredible 2230 jaegers within sight from the beach at the Canaveral Nat'l Seashore, *Volusia*—2226 of these were identified as Pomarine and four as Parasitic (HR). Juno Beach, *Palm Beach*, produced a high count of 208 jaegers (not identified as to species) Nov. 10 (HL, GH), and one Pomarine and three Parasitics were seen at D.I., Sept. 27–Oct. 2 (DE). The rare Com. Black-headed Gull was found at Hagens Cove, *Taylor*, Nov. 3 (HA, †BM). Sabine's Gull was reported from both the Atlantic and Gulf—an immature seen from Yankeetown, *Levy*, Sept. 22 (JF) and an adult at Cocoa's Jetty Park from Nov. 28 through the end of the period (RE, m.ob.). A Gull-billed Tern was seen Sept. 9 and Oct. 10 at Honeymoon I., a rare find there at any season (DG). High tern counts from the P.P.M. were 655 Caspians Nov. 11 (PF) and 1660 Forster's and 340 Blacks Sept. 20 (PF, CG). The Caspian Tern count may be the highest ever for the region. The peak Sandwich Tern count from Honeymoon I. was 411 Sept. 9 (DG). Notable tern counts from D.I. were 490 Sandwiches Sept. 30 and 700 Commons Sept. 27 (both DE), the latter seen after stormy weather. Several Bridled Terns were spotted onshore at South Hutchinson I., Aug. 24–25 after *Andrew* (v.o.), and 150 were found Aug. 3 in the Florida Straits off Fowery Rocks Light, *Monroe* (WW, RW). The Aug. 3 trip in the Florida Straits also recorded 12 Sooty Terns. A high inland count of 1155 Black Skimmers was made at the P.P.M., Oct. 24 (PF). A beached Dovekie, found alive at Plantation Key, *Monroe*, Nov. 19, died the next day (*fide* WH).

#### DOVES TO VIREOS

Collared Doves were widespread. The first nest for *Orange* was observed in Orlando Aug. 1–14, and 25 were counted Oct. 25 within 1 mi of the nest site (DF). Residents, who estimated that 60 were present in

August near Keaton Beach, *Taylor*, seemed to be looking forward to the opening of dove season (*fide* NW). The White-winged Dove at D.I., Oct. 19 (DE, TL), was certainly a w. stray, while the origins of singles at Cedar Key Oct. 7 through the period (DH) and at Key West Nov. 8 (JO) were less clear. Single Black-billed Cuckoos were at Largo, *Pinellas*, Aug. 30 (SG), and at S.M.N.W.R., Sept. 20 (NW). The season's high count for Yellow-billed Cuckoos was 22 at D.I., Oct. 18 (DE). A Smooth-billed Ani was n. of the species' normal range at Paynes Prairie S.Pr., *Alachua*, Oct. 27 (JW). A Groove-billed Ani, the vanguard of a major influx, was found Sept. 25 at Carrabelle, *Franklin* (DE). By Nov. 18, the species had reached s. Florida, where one w. of Delray Beach (BH, PW, AW, HL) supplied the 2nd *Palm Beach* record. Two at D.I. (DE) and four at S.M.N.W.R. (RC, v.o.) were present to the end of the period. A Great Horned Owl calling in Coral Gables every evening Oct. 30–Nov. 8 (KS) may have been an *Andrew* displacee. Two late nighthawks at D.I., Nov. 7 (DE) could not be conclusively identified, but three at F.D.C.P., Nov. 13, were identified as one ♀ and two ♂ Lessers (LA, BA, †S.R.C., p.a.). Chuck-will's-widows were early at Key West Sept. 12 (JO) and late at St. George I., S.P. Nov. 29 (NW). Late swifts were a *Chaetura* sp. at Gainesville Nov. 15 (BM) and a Chimney at Vero Beach Nov. 29 (BW). A ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird visited a Tallahassee feeder Nov. 18 to the end of the period (†NW). Considered accidental in s. *Dade* was a Red-headed Woodpecker Aug. 6 until hurricane *Andrew* hit (*fide* MC).

On the flycatcher front, single Yellow-bellieds were banded at Casey Key Sept. 23 and Oct. 8 (SS, AS), and a singing Acadian at Boca Raton Sept. 28 (BH, JH) was the 2nd for *Palm Beach*. Single Least Flycatchers were at F.D.C.P., Aug. 30 (LA) and S.M.N.W.R., Oct. 24–27 (NW, JCa). A probable Alder Flycatcher was at D.I., Sept. 9 (DE, banded), while one at S.C.P., Sept. 12 was heard calling but not seen (PF, MB). Five Vermilion Flycatchers were reported, with the first of the season two immature males at D.I., Oct. 6–9 (DE), and an ad. male through the end of the period at S.M.N.W.R. (m.ob.). Late Great Crested Flycatchers were at L. Arbuckle S.Pr., *Polk*, Nov. 28 (MB), and one in a rural *Alachua* yard through the end of the period for the 3rd consecutive year (JHi). The Brown-crested Flycatcher at S.M.N.W.R., Nov. 14 (†DM) was among the rarest of this season's w. strays. A late *Myiarchus* at Paynes Prairie S.Pr. Nov. 18, was thought to have been an Ash-throated (BM). Eleven W. Kingbirds were reported, with the first of the season at F.D.C.P., Oct. 5 (WB) and a peak count of four at Key West Oct. 30 (JO). Transient Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were at D.I., Oct. 26 (DE, TL), and at St. George I., Nov. 5 (JCa). At Key West, the wintering Scissor-taileds numbered 13 Nov. 27 (JO). Very high numbers of Tree Swallows were present on the n. Gulf coast late in the

period, with 28,000 roosting at S.M.N.W.R., Oct. 23 (JCa) and 50,000 passing D.I. between sunrise and 11 A.M., Nov. 15 (DE). A Bank Swallow at Key West Aug. 8 (JO) was early for that location.

Nine calling Fish Crows were identified at Key West Oct. 5 (JO), where they are uncommon. An early Golden-crowned Kinglet was at D.I., Oct. 19 (DE); by the end of the season, they were widespread, but in low numbers, w. of the Suwannee R. Very few reports of thrushes were received. Only two Gray-cheeked Thrushes were banded at Casey Key (SS, AS), and Swainson's Thrushes were low at S.C.P., with a season high of only two Oct. 11 (PF). An early Hermit Thrush was at D.I., Oct. 11 (DE, banded), and a Wood Thrush at S.C.P., Oct. 4 (PF), was considered locally rare. Key West's Bahama Mockingbird was last seen Sept. 7 (JO). A Sprague's Pipit was at the St. George I. Causeway Nov. 27 & 28 (LA, BA), two were there Nov. 29 (NW, TW), and one continued through the end of the period (m.ob.). Both Bell's Vireos reported were in *Palm Beach*, with one at Boca Raton Oct. 4 and another w. of Delray Beach Nov. 18 (both BH). An extremely early Solitary Vireo was in *Orange*, Sept. 13 (BP, JB). Single Philadelphia Vireos were at Largo Oct. 10 (KN), D.I., Oct. 11 (DE), and Jacksonville Oct. 24 (JCo).

#### WARBLERS TO FINCHES

Nine Blue-winged and 24 Golden-winged warblers were reported Aug. 30–Oct. 13 (v.o.), with the six Blue-winged at S.C.P., Oct. 7 (CG, PT), a locally high number. Rare "Brewster's" were at St. Petersburg Sept. 16 (SG) and at F.D.C.P., Sept. 23 (KN, JD), and rarer "Lawrence's" were at F.D.C.P., Sept. 20 (LA, BA, JT) and at S.C.P., Sept. 26–27 (m. ob.). Tennessee Warblers were considered low at S.C.P. (PF), where only four were seen. An early Orange-crowned Warbler was at D.I., Sept. 26 (DE). Nashville Warblers were reported at 6 locations Sept. 7–Nov. 27 (v.o.). A very high total of 57 Chestnut-sided Warblers were counted at 3 locations in *Pinellas*, Oct. 1 (KN, BPk, MW), and another was late at D.I., Nov. 7 (DE, banded). Crowded in among the Chestnut-sideds Oct. 1 were 40 Magnolias in a small park in Largo (KN, BPk). A Black-throated Blue was late at L. Arbuckle S.Pr., Nov. 23 (DFo). A **Townsend's Warbler** was photographed at Elliott Key, *Dade*, Sept. 13 (AS, †S.R.C., p.a.). If accepted, this would provide the 5th verified state record. A Palm Warbler arrived extremely early at Cedar Key Aug. 6 (DH), as did two Bay-breasteds at St. Petersburg Aug. 29 (†LA, BA, MW). Single Bay-breasteds were found at S.C.P., Oct. 11 and Nov. 1 (both PF) and were considered locally rare Orlando Sept. 12 (HK). Fifty-one of the 55 Cerulean Warblers reported Aug. 15–Sept. 9 (v.o.) were from *Pinellas*. High numbers of Am. Redstarts were at S.C.P., where 27 were found Oct. 4 (PF). A Prothonotary Warbler was late Nov. 14 at the

**Table 1. Summary of pelagic species recorded at Canaveral. National Seashore sea watches (20 days, Oct. 23–Nov. 29, HR)**

Species	Season Total	Daily High	Date
Cory's Shearwater	9	4	Oct. 25
Audubon's Shearwater	4	2	Oct. 30
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	2	2	Oct. 30
Northern Gannet	3638	1050	Nov. 9
Red-necked Phalarope	2	1	Oct. 23, 29
Red Phalarope	5	3	Oct. 29
Pomarine Jaeger	4569	1073	Oct. 30
Parasitic Jaeger	1581	251	Nov. 27
Long-tailed Jaeger	2	1	Oct. 24, Nov. 15
Black-legged Kittiwake	6	2	Oct. 29

Lower Wekiva R. S.Pr., *Orange* (NPr), as was a Worm-eating at Cedar Key Nov. 24–28 (DH). Both reports of Swainson's Warbler were from *Pinellas*, Aug. 28—one at Largo (KN) and two at F.D.C.P. (LA, BA). The only Mourning Warbler reported was banded at Casey Key Sept. 17 (SS, AS), and the five Hoodeds banded there Sept. 1–Nov. 1 were considered a good season total. The spectacular 200 Hoodeds at F.D.C.P., Aug. 29 (LA, BA), were an order of magnitude higher than any other counts submitted, and a late Hooded was at St. George I. S.P., Nov. 5 (JCa). Single Wilson's Warblers were reported from 3 locations Oct. 1–17 (v.o.), and seven Canadas were reported from 5 locations Aug. 29+ (v.o.). A Yellow-breasted Chat at Lake Alfred Oct. 18 (CG, PT) was considered locally rare.

Locally uncommon was a Summer Tanager at Cape Florida Oct. 17 (JV). A rare ♀ W. Tanager was in South Miami Oct. 7 (JF). A high count of 40 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks came from St. Petersburg Oct. 4 (MW), and a ♀ Blue Grosbeak at St. George I. S.P., Nov. 27 (RS), was late. A Painted Bunting was at Archbold Biological Station Oct. 10 (BP), where the species is locally rare. Clay-colored Sparrows were found more frequently than usual on the n. Gulf coast—five for the season at S.M.N.W.R. and D.I., Sept. 10–Nov. 14 (v.o.). The only Grasshopper Sparrow reported was found at D.I., Nov. 8 (DE). Ten White-crowned Sparrows were counted on D.I., Oct. 28–Nov. 15 (DE), while one at Casey Key Oct. 27 was the first seen there since 1984 (SS, AS). The only Dark-eyed Junco reported was well south of the species' normal range at Winter Haven Nov. 11 (BB, BC, LC), providing the 5th or 6th record from *Polk*. The one concentration of Bobolinks reported consisted of 2000 on the w. *Palm Beach* sod farms Sept. 20 (JB, CP, BE). The single Yellow-headed Blackbird reported was at S.M.N.W.R., Aug. 31 (BPr). An ad. ♀ Bronzed Cowbird visited a Seminole, *Pinellas*, feeder Oct. 21–Nov. 11 (KN). A rare ♂ N. (Bullock's) Oriole was found at Newnans L., *Alachua*, Oct. 15 (IF). An imm.

♀ Purple Finch at a Tallahassee feeder Nov. 29 (NW) was the only one reported. A ♀ House Finch was seen at Paynes Prairie S.Pr. (BM), and another was heard over St. Marks Light (NW), both Oct. 23—two new locations for the species—and recently fledged birds visited feeders in Tallahassee as late as mid-September (NW). Five Pine Siskins were reported from D.I.—three seen Nov. 7 (DE) and singles recorded Nov. 9 (DE) & Nov. 21 (FJ)—and one was at East Lake Woodlands, *Pinellas*, Nov. 27 (DG).

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# ONTARIO REGION

Ron Ridout

Weather across the province during the period seemed to be a continuation of the past summer's dismal conditions. Observers repeatedly complained of cool and often wet weather accompanied by a seeming lack of migrants. Many surmised that the atrocious summer caused many birds to fail in their nesting attempts, resulting in the poor fall migration.

While this may be true to an extent, it is also likely that most birds did nest anew after the late June cold snap that killed many nestlings. This later nesting period pushed their migration scheduling back, forcing them to move south in a much tighter time frame rather than at the more leisurely pace they prefer in more normal summers. When this narrow migration window occurred during ideal conditions and they weren't forced to stop, as was the case in late August and September, we were left with very little to look at. Large nocturnal movements of warblers and thrushes were noted at Kingston and Long Point on several evenings in early September. The same wintry conditions in June may have had some impact on shorebird breeding success in the Arctic, but assessing numbers at traditional stopovers was complicated by high water levels and a lack of habitat.

On another front, counters at established raptor watches lamented the lack of strong

cold fronts and the resultant n.w. winds. However, final results were again difficult to assess, with no clear-cut trends (see Table 1). Several observers noted numbers of migrating raptors inland away from the traditional lakeside sites.

Among the northern irruptive species, Snowy Owls moved south early and in good numbers, but sightings of the others were either non-existent or sporadic at best. A few Northern Hawk Owls and Gyrfalcons were seen in the south in November.

Northern finches remained in the north, with only a handful of sightings of Com. Redpolls, both crossbills and Evening Grosbeaks. Purple Finches and Pine Siskins staged weak movements in the south in late October and early November.

Rarities during the period included Canada's first Inca Dove plus Slaty-backed Gull, Violet-green Swallow, and Black-throated Sparrow, all new for Ontario.

**Abbreviations:** Pelee (*Point Pelee Nat'l Park and vicinity*); P.E.Pt. (*Prince Edward Point*); L.P.B.O. (*Long Pt. Bird Observatory*); T.C.B.O. (*Thunder Cape Bird Observatory*); Algonquin and Presqu'île are Provincial Parks. Place names in *italics* denote counties or regional municipalities.

## LOONS TO HERONS

Red-throated Loons were well represented, with close to 200 birds reported. More than one-half this total was seen Nov. 24 at Burlington, with 110 birds counted (WS, JDo, JC). For the 2nd consecutive year,

Pacific Loons turned up at Tiny Marsh, *Simcoe*, Aug. 1-19, and in Prince Edward, this year at L. Bell Nov. 8 (JE, EG). The bird at Tiny Marsh was present from mid-June (*vide* C.W.S.). A strong flight of Com. Loons across the province was topped by a 2-hour count of 1680 at Kettle Pt. Oct. 17 (AR).

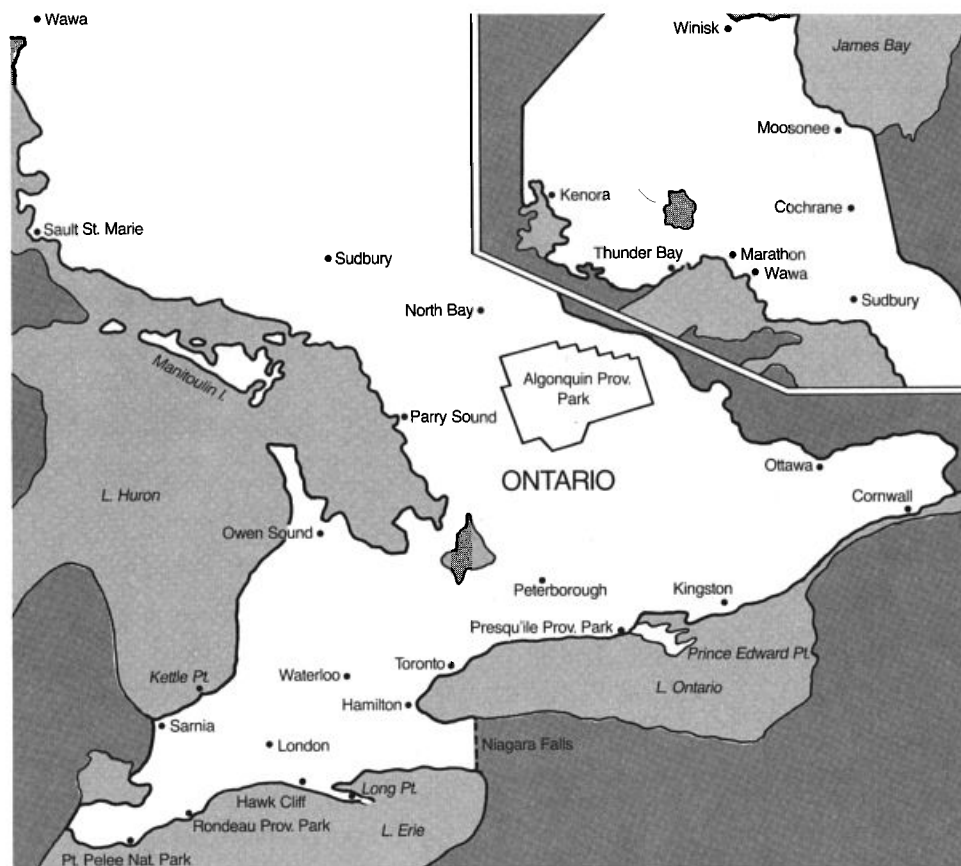
A breeding-plumaged Horned Grebe at Toronto Aug. 1 (RY) was an early migrant in a sporadic movement with a high count of 371 at P.E.Pt., Nov. 8 (K.F.N.). The situation was much the same with Red-necked Grebes, although peaks of 150 Sept. 3 & 12 at T.C.B.O. (DS) were notable. Nine Eared Grebes were reported through the period. Two were at Hamilton Aug. 15-29, and one remained until Nov. 6 (SH, AE). Singles were seen at Norwich Sept. 12 (JMH, v.o.), Blenheim Oct. 4 (SC), Sarnia Oct. 10 (DR), and Beaverton Oct. 31-Nov. 7 (RP, RT, DT). One was found dead in a fishing net off Middle Sister I., L. Erie Oct. 8 (GI), and two were at the Harrington lagoons, *Oxford*, Oct. 11 (D & EB).

A starving N. Fulmar was found grounded in a Moosonee backyard Nov. 30 (RW, \*R.O.M.). The only N. Gannet reported was an immature at Bell's Corners on the Ottawa R., Nov. 20 (RH). Various reports of White Pelicans likely involved 2 birds. One was at Long Pt., Sept. 11 (RM) and Hawk Cliff, *Elgin*, Sept. 28 (BC *et al.*). An immature was seen at Frenchman's Bay Oct. 2-15 (AS, m.ob.) last seen flying E. at Whitby Oct. 17 (DC). A Least Bittern at Pickering Oct. 18 (DW) was somewhat tardy. Thirty-five Great Egrets were reported away from the southwest, with one n. to Finlayson L., *Rainy River*, Aug. 9 (TN, DE), providing that district's 3rd record. An imm. Snowy Egret was at Erieau Aug. 11-23 (KB, JB, SC), and an imm. Little Blue Heron was at Holiday Beach Sept. 20 (TH).

A lone Cattle Egret dining on kinglets on the lighthouse lawn at Long Pt., Oct. 12 (RB) was one of 28 during the period. The late fall incursion in the south is an annual event, but 9 birds in the north were notable, including 5 at Stormer L., *Kenora*, Oct. 22 (GR), 2 separate individuals at Thunder Bay Oct. 24, 27, & 28 (m.ob.) & Oct. 27-29 (m.ob.), and 2 at Harstone Oct. 24-31 (W & BA). An imm. Glossy Ibis was at Port Alma Aug. 28-Sept. 1 (KB, JB, SC).

## WATERFOWL

A record early Tundra Swan at Sarnia Aug. 29 (DR) preceded a lack-luster flight that peaked at Long Pt., Nov. 19, with 5040 censused (RK, PB). A lone individual in the Atikokan area Nov. 9 (TN, DE) was record late, and one at the Nepean dump Nov. 14 (MBr) was well east. Mute Swans continued





their expansion with a record count of 172 at Long Pt., Sept. 11 (RK), an imm. bird at Pelee through most of the period (m.ob.), and one returned to winter at W. Guilford, *Haliburton*, Nov. 21 (RP) for the 12th consecutive year.

A Greater White-fronted Goose was found among 20,000 Canada Geese at Ottawa Beach Nov. 15–30 (AB, v.o.). One of two Snow Geese at Wildwood L., *Oxford*, Oct. 5 (JMH), was believed to be a Greater. In a sub-par Brant flight, 200 at Ottawa Beach Oct. 18 (AB) was the maximum count. A lone bird at T.C.B.O. Sept. 22 (DS *et al.*) appeared to be of the *nigricans* subspecies, providing the 3rd record for the province. Numbers of migrant dabbling ducks were well down from last year. During 1992's frigid breeding season, downy young may have had to spend too much time keeping warm under hens, many starving in the process. Some peak totals included 120 Wood Ducks at Holland Landing Sept. 18 (JM), 3130 Black Ducks and 3815 Mallards at Long Pt., Nov. 19 (RK, PB), 232 N. Shovelers at Shirley's Bay, *Ottawa*, Oct. 25 (BD), 450 Gadwalls at Hamilton Aug. 4 (RD), and 8284 Am. Wigeons at Long Pt., Oct. 25 (RK, DA). Late Blue-winged Teals included singles at T.C.B.O., Nov. 4, and Pelee Nov. 7 (AW, MBI *et al.*) and a ♀ Eur. Wigeon at Kingston Oct. 1–11 (WCu, SM) was the only one reported.

Diving ducks appeared to suffer poor breeding success as well, although some numbers were impressive. Maximum totals included 26,500 Canvasbacks, 17,000 Red-heads, 2600 Ring-necked Ducks, and 21,000 Greater Scaup, all on one aerial survey of Long Pt. Bay Nov. 6 (RK). Other noteworthy numbers were 40,000 and 30,000 Lesser Scaup at Long Pt., Oct. 16 (RK), and Hen and E. Sister I., *Essex*, Nov. 1 (JP), respectively, 25,000 Oldsquaws at Port Weller Nov. 6 (IR), 1500 Black Scoters at L. Deschenes Oct. 25 (BD), 5000 Com. Goldeneyes at Stoney Cr., Nov. 22 (RD *et al.*), 195,000 Red-breasted Mergansers at Holiday Beach Nov. 5 (AC), and 2420 Ruddy Ducks off the Long Pt. s. shore Oct. 25 (RK, DA).

Several species moved S earlier than normal, as evidenced by the early dates: a ♀ Canvasback at Hamilton Aug. 1 (KM), a Redhead at Tavistock Aug. 22 (JMH), a Ring-necked Duck at Wildwood L., *Oxford*, Aug. 14 (JMH), separate Greater Scaup at Long Pt., (L.P.B.O.) and Bright's Grove (RTy) Aug. 29, and an Oldsquaw at the tip of Long Pt. Aug. 5 (L.P.B.O.). The Com. Eider reported last period at Darlington P.P. lingered until Aug. 23 (*vide* MB). A King Eider inland at Belwood L., *Wellington*, Nov. 21 (RvT) was a county first. Harlequin Duck sightings totaled six with singles at Presqu'île Oct. 1 (DSH), T.C.B.O. Oct. 17 (DS), Pelee



Juvenile Thayer's Gull at Marathon (Lake Superior), Ontario, on October 14, 1992. Photograph/Alan Wormington.

Oct. 31 (JL, v.o.), P.E.Pr., Nov. 7–11 (RWO, KH, WF), and 2 different males at Sault Ste. Marie Oct. 1–Nov. 30 (EC) and Oct. 26 (EC, SR).

#### RAPTORS

Turkey Vultures moved S in numbers approaching 1991's record total, with 23,398 reported. The flight was steadier but with peak days of 1345 Oct. 19 at Hawk Cliff (DF) and 1948 Oct. 4 at Holiday Beach (RBe) not approaching the highs of 1991. A nest with 2 young at Fourteen I. L., *Frontenac* (JI), was very late. Inland, a large flock of at least 100 birds was noted in Wellesley Township, *Waterloo*, Sept. 24 (M & HW), and 38 birds on Manitoulin I. Oct. 4 (CB, JLe) was a record high for the island. The last migrants were 6 birds at Holiday Beach Nov. 20 (RBe). An Osprey at Lowbanks Aug. 1 (WD) was a very early migrant. Twenty-two birds at Hawk Cliff Sept. 12 (DF) was a good daily total. Bald Eagles continued their strong showing, with 217 totaled. Noteworthy tallies away from the watches included 12 at Long Pt., Aug. 17 (JW, B & AF), and 10 at the Atikokan dump Oct. 31 (D & ME).

The N. Goshawk flight rivaled 1991's incursion, with 25 passing T.C.B.O., Oct. 13 (DS) and 215 totaled in the south. A remarkable 42 birds passed Hawk Cliff in September (DF). Kettles of Broad-winged Hawks observed away from the daily monitored sites included 2600 at Hamilton Sept. 11 (WS *et al.*), 1596 the same day at Toronto (RY), and 2200 inland at Hwy 12 and Scugog Line 2, *Durham*, Sept. 20 (AL). On Aug. 18, a very rare dark-morph bird was observed at Woodstock (JMH). A dark-morph Swainson's Hawk was observed 22 km n. of Rainy R., Aug. 22 (DE, DG), one of the few records of this color morph for Ontario. Unusual Red-tailed Hawks reported were a rufous individual of the *calurus* subspecies seen at Pelee Oct. 24 (AW), a dark-morph *calurus* at Woodstock Nov. 7 (JMH), and an albino at Lowville Oct. 18–Nov. 20 (WL, RPr). The earliest migrant Rough-legged was seen Sept.

4 at Holiday Beach (RBe). Golden Eagles migrating past T.C.B.O. in the north numbered 13 Sept. 23–Nov. 4 (DS). Three at the Armstrong dump Nov. 9 scavenged deer and moose carcasses (NE), and one caught in a wolf trap at Bancroft Nov. 29 will be used in a diorama at the new Algonquin P.P. museum (RT). Numbers in the south were well off 1991's total, with 143 reported, but many may have slipped through unnoticed. The first migrants were separate birds at Hawk Cliff (DF) and Holiday Beach (RBe) Sept. 23.

A Merlin at Long Pt., Aug. 10 (L.P.B.O.), was a summering individual, but one at Pelee Aug. 9 (AW) was considered a record-early migrant, as was another at Brantford Aug. 12 (CG, WLa). South of breeding range sightings totaled 259—respectable but somewhat lower than in recent years. The 174 Peregrines in the south were above the 10-year average of 146. At T.C.B.O., 18 birds passed by Sept. 20 and 41 (all *tundrius*), a very good total for the migration. Fourteen Gyrfalcon sightings involved four at Netitishi Pt., Sept. 28–Oct. 4 (DM, RTy), a gray-morph individual at Sault Ste. Marie Oct. 24 (EC), 5 different birds around Thunder Bay from Nov. 13 on (NE), and, in the south, a gray morph at Hamilton and Fifty Pt., Oct. 24 and Nov. 1 (RD, BCn *et al.*), a white morph at Carleton Place Oct. 24 (CBt), and 2 separate individuals at Ottawa Nov. 6 (BD) & 13 (CT).

#### RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS

The only Yellow Rail reported was a specimen picked up on a road at Kettle Pt., Oct. 17 (AR). A Virginia Rail flushed by a moose at Algonquin Sept. 25 (MR) was record late. Sandhill Cranes continued their dramatic increase with a record high number of 345 near Britainville *Manitoulin* Oct. 25 (CB). Peak numbers elsewhere included 115 at Lion's Head, *Bruce*, Nov. 14 (WG), and 68 at Teeswater Nov. 15 (AM). A total of 29 birds migrated past Holiday Beach from Sept. 23 on (AC).

The main movement of Lesser Golden-Plovers occurred in early September, with flocks of 154 at Pelee (AW) and 100 at Dover Township, *Kent* (SC, MM, PC) Sept. 4, 150 at both Columbus (RP) and Mt. Hope (JO, WS) Sept. 5, 100 at Sudbury Sept. 10 (JN), and 75 at Arthur Sept. 12 (RvT). The only Piping Plover seen was an imm. bird grounded in the parking lot of the Woodstock arena after a rainstorm Sept. 18 (JMH, Sch). A Killdeer at Kakabeka Falls Nov. 28–29 (WZ) was record late there. Single Willets were at Pelee Aug. 28–31 (KS, v.o.), Long Pt., Aug. 29 (PP, JOh), Rondeau Sept. 4 (SC), and Kingston Sept. 6–9 (RWO, KH). As with Willets, Whimbrel totals were low, with only 32 reported. A flock of five at

Featherstone Pt., *Haldimand*, Sept. 9 (JMI, WS), was the largest group seen. Reports of Hudsonian Godwits involved mainly single birds, with three at Corner Marsh, *Durham*, Oct. 21–24 (m.ob.) the highest count. Two lingered at Hamilton until Nov. 4 (AW). The lone Marbled Godwit of the fall was at Ship-sands I., *Cochrane*, Aug. 8 (M.N.R.).

Two Semipalmated Sandpipers at St. Catharines Nov. 8 (ASm, PY, KR) were beyond the normal departure date. Reports of W. Sandpipers were scattered across the south, with one at Ottawa Aug. 4 (MG) quite rare there. The latest bird was at Lakeview, *Peel*, Oct. 21 (TO). Sixty-one White-rumped Sandpipers at the Munster lagoons Nov. 6 (BD) was a notable number, while one lingering until Nov. 22 at Blenheim (SC) was late. Counts of 14 Baird's Sandpipers at both Amherst I., Aug. 30 (K.F.N.), and Sudbury Sept. 9 (JN) were the peak tallies, and one was still present at Sudbury Nov. 3 (CW). Four Purple Sandpipers at Niagara Falls Nov. 29 (RR, DAS, m.ob.) constituted the largest group reported in a below-average fall. A molting Curlew Sandpiper was present Aug. 30 & 31 at the Avondale ponds, St. Catharines (KR, ASm, m.ob.). Buff-breasted numbered 42, up somewhat from the past few years, reported from a wide number of places. Unusual locales included one at Misery Bay, *Manitoulin*, Aug. 29 (DBa, MH), three there Sept. 24 (JN), one at Chippewa, *Thunder Bay*, Sept. 5 (DBr), two at Neys P.P., Sept. 6 (AH), and one at Woodstock Sept. 17 (JMH). High counts were five each at Pelee Sept. 7–10 (KO, JLR) and London Sept. 26 (SP).

A Long-billed Dowitcher at Horseshoe Bay, *Bruce*, Aug. 11 (DFi) provided the first record for Bruce; one at Munster Sept. 20 (MG) was rare there, as were singles at Netitshi Pt., Sept. 24 & 28 (DM, RTy). The 19 Red Phalaropes during the period registered a strong flight for the 2nd year in a row. One at Hamilton Sept. 24 (RD) was very early.

#### JAEGERS TO TERNS

Only two Pomarine Jaegers were seen this fall; both were lone immatures at Long Pt., Sept. 2 and Oct. 26 (PP). The 38 Parasitics reported represented an average fall. The first migrant was a probable Parasitic at Long Pt., Aug. 7 (RMu), while five there Aug. 24 (PP *et al.*) was an excellent count. One inland at Walsh Station, *Norfolk*, Nov. 4 (RK) was likely moving between L. Ontario and Erie. Of the two Long-tailed reported, one was an adult at the McLaughlin Bay W.R., *Durham*, Sept. 1 (JR.) and an imm. bird was found dead on the beach at the tip of Long Pt., Aug. 20 (PJ, AWi).

The two Laughing Gull sightings consisted of an immature at Pelee Sept. 8 (AW)

and a first-winter bird inland at Belwood L., *Wellington*, Nov. 28–29 (ML). Thirteen Franklin's Gulls were reported, the first an immature at Ft. Erie Aug. 30 (RWi, KR, ASm) and the latest one at Pt. Edward Nov. 13 (RTy). On the basis of plumage, at least 6 different birds were at Pelee Nov. 3 & 4 (KM). Little Gull numbers were down substantially at Niagara and Long Pt., although 12 at Sandbanks P.P., Nov. 12 (ABO, SHa), were notable there. If, as suspected, they nest along the James Bay lowlands, wintry conditions during the breeding season may have reduced the population. Of the six Com. Black-headed Gulls seen, adults were at Beaverton Aug. 29–Oct. 3 (RP, m.ob.), Amherst I., Aug. 30 (JE, RDW), Long Pt., Sept. 15 (AWi, PJ), Pelee Sept. 18 (TH), and Bright's Grove Oct. 31 (DR). An immature was at Aldolphustown Oct. 18 (RWo).

The three reported Mew Gulls were an

first Slaty-backed.

Black-legged Kittiwakes totaled 21, ranging from one at Hamilton Sept. 5 (WS *et al.*) to one at Pelee Nov. 29 (RS). All but one adult off Winona Nov. 19 (AW, RD, m.ob.) were first-winter birds. Five Sabine's Gull sightings included imm. bird at Pt. Edward Sept. 23 (DR) and Nov. 24 (DR, KB), two at Netitshi Pt., Oct. 3 (DM, RTy, SS), and an adult at the Nonquon lagoons *Durham*, Sept. 2–4 (RWo). Migrant Arctic Terns are rare in the fall, making 2 reports, one adult at Amherst I., Aug. 30 (JE, RDW) and an immature at Hamilton Oct. 5 (RD) notable. A Forster's Tern at Pelee Nov. 15 (AW) was record late by 16 days.

#### DOVES TO SWALLOWS

A late Mourning Dove at a feeder in Moosonee Nov. 19 (DM) was managing to survive temperatures as low as -20°C.

Canada's first Inca Dove was discovered Oct. 7–13 (DG *et al.*) during a hike along the railway at Atikokan, illustrating the use of isolated open spaces in the boreal forest by vagrant birds. Record late for Long Pt. was a freshly killed Yellow-billed Cuckoo Nov. 7 (D. & AWy). Two Snowy Owls at the Dickson Wilderness, *Waterloo*, Oct. 21 (KQ) were the first in a large flight. Several were found dead, their bodies emaciated, having starved, which would explain the 5 birds caught in a trapline at Moosonee (JT), apparently scavenging the trap baits. Ten N. Hawk Owls had been reported by the end of the period, the beginning of what may prove to be a strong movement south this winter. The one farthest south was e. of Milton Nov. 11–19 (MJ). Few Great Grays were reported, though one at Elphin Nov. 29 (MK, FB) was noteworthy.



**Fitting the pattern of northward autumn dispersal, and providing a first for Canada, was this Inca Dove at Atikokan, Ontario, on October 9, 1992. Photograph/Alan Wormington.**

outstanding number. All were adults, one each at Millhaven Aug. 8 (RDW), Kettle Pt., Nov. 13 (SCo, JNe), and the Niagara R., Nov. 25 & 29 (R & MPL, RK, KR, m.ob.). Two ad. California Gulls were reported in late November: one at the Kincardine dump Nov. 27 (AM) and the other at the Niagara R., Nov. 29 on (R & MPL, ALe, m.ob.). Lesser Black-backed were more common than ever in the province, with at least 41 birds reported. Numbers at Niagara were difficult to assess, but at least seven were there from mid-November. Other concentrations were 12 birds in *Essex* and *Kent* Aug. 10–Nov. 15 (AW, KB) and 8 at the Nepean dump from Aug. 20 on (m.ob.). Two observers searching the mass of gulls at the Niagara Falls dump on Nov. 24 spotted what they believed to be an ad. Slaty-backed Gull in basic plumage (R & MPL). By Nov. 28, repeated views of the bird at various spots on the river confirmed their conviction. By the end of the month, several hundred observers had seen Ontario's

A Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Leamington Oct. 30 (P & JW) was record late for Pelee. The only Rufous reported was a male at Westover Aug. 28 (AG). A ♂ Black-backed Woodpecker at Pelee Oct. 9–13 (B & PR) was the first there since 1975. A Red-shafted N. Flicker was seen at Brighton Sept. 13 (MRi).

Normally not seen during fall migration, three Acadian Flycatchers were reported. Singles were at Long Pt., Aug. 19 (DA, RR), Pelee Aug. 22 (TH), and Rock Pt. P.P., Sept. 6 (MJa, RK). For the 2nd consecutive year, a Willow Flycatcher, rare in the north, was banded at T.C.B.O., Aug. 31 (DS). A hefty total of six separate W. Kingbirds were at Tobermory Aug. 24 (*fide* MP), Long Pt. Sept. 4–7 (RF, JDo, m.ob.), P.E.Pt., Sept. 6 (K.F.N.), Burlington Beach Sept. 7 (RD, BCn), Toronto, Sept. 17 (RH), and one n. at Terrace Bay Oct. 13 (AW). Although most regions reported dismal numbers of migrant swallows, a roost of 75,000 Trees and 25,000

Barns at Kingston Aug. 6 (RDW) was sizable. Ontario's first reported **Violet-green Swallow** spent 2 days at T.C.B.O., Oct. 28–29 (PB *et al.*), eluding the banders there. Two **Rough-wingeds** lingering at Niagara Falls Nov. 30 (m.ob.) were very late.

#### JAYS TO SHRIKES

Migrant Blue Jays passing Holiday Beach totaled 165,863, well off 1991's high. On the basis of previous years, counters speculate that there may be a 2-year cycle (AC). A small raven at Long Pt., Oct. 9–12 (JMc, RMu) could not be identified as to species. Either raven would be an excellent sighting there. Single Com. Ravens at Cobourg Oct. 17 (CEG) and Oshawa Oct. 19 (THo) were well s. of their range. On Oct. 17, 5000 Ruby-crowned Kinglets were counted at P.E.Pt. (RDW) and 1000 Golden-crowneds were estimated at Toronto I., Oct. 20 (RY). A large grounding occurred Oct. 22 along Burlington Beach, where 300 Winter Wrens, 700 Golden-crowned Kinglets, and 800



**This Black-backed Woodpecker at Pt. Pelee, Ontario, on October 12, 1992, was the first in 17 years for that heavily-birded locale.**  
Photograph/James N. Flynn.

Ruby-crowneds were counted (RD, AW). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Rednersville Nov. 22 (DTy) was the latest of the fall. Eastern Bluebirds lingered late in the north, with three at Sudbury (MvDT) and 11 at Algonquin (RT, DT), both sighted Oct. 18, and a single at T.C.B.O., Nov. 4 (DS). Townsend's Solitaires were unusually numerous, with individuals at T.C.B.O., Oct. 31 (DMB, PB), Thunder Bay Nov. 28 (AH), and Toronto from Nov. 29 on (GF, m.ob.). Large numbers of *Catharus* thrushes passed over Kingston on 2 evenings, with 2500 Swainson's and 1200 Gray-cheekeds along with 7200 warblers Sept. 19–20 (RDW). Unusual dates for thrushes included an early Gray-cheeked at Beachville Aug. 6 (JMH), a late Swainson's at Leamington Nov. 7 (AW), and a Hermit at

Marathon the same day (WC). Bohemian Waxwings began appearing in the south as early as late October, with 12 at Kingston Oct. 26 (WM), one at Cranberry Marsh, Durham, Oct. 27 (JS), and one at Pelee Oct. 31 (JD, SU, AW). Northern Shrikes moved S in good numbers, led by early arrivals on Manitoulin I., Oct. 3 (CB) and Dundas Marsh Oct. 4 (JG, RD, v.o.). Away from the breeding areas, transient Loggerhead Shrikes were noted at Blenheim Aug. 14–24 (SC) and Walsingham Aug. 18 (DAS).

#### VIREOS, WARBLERS

The only White-eyed Vireo was late at Long Pt., Oct. 17 & 19 (RMu). A Warbling Vireo n. to Moosonee Aug. 28 (JT, PS) was very rare. Late vireos included a Yellow-throated at Thickson's Woods, Durham, Oct. 4 (DC) and a Red-eyed at Pelee Nov. 8–16 (JBa, DSd *et al.*). Among several reports of Golden-winged Warblers, a count of five at Pelee Aug. 31 (MHe) was noteworthy, as was a Brewster's there the same day (SU, JD, AW) and another at Pittock L., Oxford, Aug. 22 (JMH). Very late warblers included a Tennessee at Toronto Oct. 23 (RY), Chestnut-sideds at Pelee (AW) and Toronto (KK), both Oct. 25, Black-throated Greens at Pelee Nov. 6–7 (KM) and at Sault Ste. Marie Nov. 11 (EC, SS), a Hooded at Toronto Oct. 1 (DP), and a Wilson's at Cranberry Marsh Nov. 7 (MB).

Amidst a strong Orange-crowned Warbler flight, a count of 19 at P.E.Pt., Sept. 19 (JE, RDW) was notable, and a bright individual at Dorland Oct. 7 (JMH) was possibly the subspecies *lutescens*. A ♂ Black-throated Gray Warbler reported at Pelee Sept. 7 (C & CP, WD) would be only the 2nd Park record. The lone Yellow-throated of the period came to a feeder at Sydenham Nov. 9–14 (S & AT). A Prothonotary s.w. of Wingham Aug. 16 (SMi) was out of place. Considered a rare straggler in the fall, a Worm-eating Warbler at Pelee Aug. 29 (DMn, TO *et al.*) provided the 8th fall record there.

#### TANAGERS TO FINCHES

Repeating 1991's fall total, two Summer Tanagers strayed north to visit feeders, with one at Atikokan Oct. 17–23 (TN, DE) for that area's 2nd record and another at Thornhill Nov. 11–19 (THn, m.ob.). Dickcissel sightings totaled 5 for the period, with individuals at Long Pt., Aug. 25 (RK), Aug. 27 (PP), and Sept. 7 (RR, T. & CBD) at T.C.B.O., Sept. 27 (MD, PB), and at Pelee Oct. 7 (AW). Late Clay-colored Sparrows were at Smith's Falls Nov. 2–17 (HV) and Matachewan Nov. 14–22 (LT). Single Lark Sparrows were at Long Pt. P.P., Sept. 1 (C & SWo), and at Corner Marsh, Durham, Nov. 30 (MSP, m.ob.).

While making a supply run, banders at T.C.B.O. discovered Ontario's first **Black-throated Sparrow** at a campground in Sibley P.P., Oct. 2–3 (MD, DS *et al.*; details to be published in *Birders' Journal*). Long Pt.'s 4th Lark Bunting was an imm. female banded Sept. 7 (SSa *et al.*). Increasingly rare at any



**Lark Bunting banded at Long Point, Ontario, on September 7, 1992. Photograph/Peter Jones.**

time, a Henslow's Sparrow at Pelee Nov. 7 (RS) was noteworthy. Three of the seven Sharp-tailed Sparrows reported were identified as Nelson's. These were individuals at Hillman's Marsh, Essex, Oct. 1 (AW), Wildwood L., Oxford, Oct. 8 (JMH), and Presqu'île Oct. 22 (DSH). After such a dismal summer, perhaps the record early Fox Sparrow at Long Pt., Aug. 16 (TO), was not all that surprising. Harris' Sparrows moved through the northwest in good numbers with a high count of 25 at Thunder Bay Sept. 29 (NE, AH). Extralimits appeared in the south at Pelee Oct. 3 (SF, KO, v.o.) and Bright's Grove Oct. 9–11 (CBu, AR). A lone Smith's Longspur seen at T.C.B.O., Oct. 18 (DS, DTa), may prove to be an annual occurrence there. Very early Snow Buntings were seen at Peterborough Sept. 30 (DMo) and Port Weller Oct. 12 (IR).

Several of the winter finch species seemed to build in numbers in n. and c. Ontario during August but then inexplicably faded away. Many observers speculated that a bumper cone crop throughout the region explained the lack of concentrations in any one locale. Record early individual White-winged Crossbills at Beachville Aug. 6 (JMH) and Pelee Aug. 22 (TH *et al.*) and a Com. Redpoll at Toronto Sept. 1 (RY) were thought at the time to be the forerunners in a major influx that never materialized.

#### Corrigenda and addendum

AB 46:81, add juv. to Lesser Golden-Plover at Dundas Marsh Aug. 31; AB 46:258, Am. Bittern at Big Creek Marsh, Halton, Dec. 14 should be Big Creek Marsh, *Haldimand-Norfolk*; AB 46:259, Peregrine, Falcon, Hamilton and Winona Dec. 26–Jan. 3 (MC, R. Beer, JS) should be (MC, R. Beer, IS) for I. Smith; Purple Sandpiper, Hamilton Beach Dec. 3 (JLo) credit (JLo); AB 46:260 S.A., N. Hawk-Owl, "one reached Sheffield Feb. 14–29 (RZD); two were in Hamilton area Feb. 14+ (RZD AB)" should read "one was near Kirkwall *Hamilton-Wentworth* Feb. 14–29 (RZD *et al.*), but two were reportedly present 2 weeks earlier (*fide* J. Dowall)"; also



**Adult Harris' Sparrow at Pt. Pelee, Ontario, October 3, 1992. Photograph/James N. Flynn.**

delete "one in Waterloo"; AB 46:261, Gray Catbird, Port Royal Feb. 8 (L.P.B.O.) change to Walsingham (RZD, BCh).

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## APPALACHIAN REGION

George A. Hall

Was there a fall migration? Many observers in the Region would answer in the negative. Indeed, the southbound flight was generally very poor. By contrast, while numbers were low, there were a sizable number of interesting records, as well as quite a few real "goodies." The account that follows has a State and Regional first record and a number of local first or 2nd records.

Can we blame it on the weather? Most of the season was on the cool side and was slightly wetter than normal, although October was quite dry. There was an early snowfall in the s. highlands, Oct. 18, but otherwise there was no significant snow by the end of the period. Hurricane Andrew produced rains in e. Tennessee and may have been responsible for at least one stray species. An early August system produced a fallout of shorebirds at P.I.S.P. (JM). There was a fairly regular procession of frontal systems during September, but only the system of Sept. 21–24 produced noteworthy influxes of birds. In *Unicoi*, TN, the Sept. 22–24 system produced a kill of birds attracted to a single light between 2 houses on the mountain. A total of 493 birds of 31 species were picked up (all neotropical migrants)(RK). The mild November weather produced the expected increase in late dates for migrants.

At the P.N.R. banding station, the 5349 birds banded constituted the 2nd lowest total of the past 10 years (RM & RCL), while at A.F.M.O., 3866 bandings were the 4th poorest (GAH). The station at P.I.S.P. handled only 783 birds (RFL). At P.N.R., of 70 species, only 3 were banded in numbers one or more standard deviations (S.D.) above the 10-year average, and 22 were one or more S.D. below that average (RM, RCL), while at A.F.M.O., of 53 species 5 were in numbers one or more S.D. above average, and 19 species were one or more S.D. below average. The Region lost one of its most dedicated observers, with the death of Merrill Wood of State College, PA, who had been a contributor since 1949, when the Appalachian Region was established.

**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*); G.L.O.R. (*Gallipolis Locks, Ohio R., Mason Co., WV*); K.C.P.P. (*Kyger Creek Power Plant, Gallia Co., OH*); M.C.E.H. (*Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County, KY*); 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.

**Table 1. Hawk totals at 3 Ontario Stations, Autumn 1992, compared with the 10-year average where available**

Species	Cranberry Marsh Whitby 1992 <sup>1</sup>	Hawk Cliff 1992 <sup>2</sup>	Holiday Beach 1982–91 avg.	1992 <sup>3</sup>	1982–91 avg.
Turkey Vulture	772	7070	3399	14790	9172
Osprey	61	150	86	113	103
Bald Eagle	12	71	24	43	34
N. Harrier	129	724	816	680	938
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2117	11467	8452	11711	14625
Cooper's Hawk	132	725	668	650	711
N. Goshawk	33	116	33	42	38
Red-shouldered Hawk	168	360	163	1449	1070
Broad-winged Hawk	1118	13466	11847	23941	43319
Red-tailed Hawk	1483	4323	2936	9796	6583
Rough-legged Hawk	30	44	40	123	159
Golden Eagle	8	53	23	59	42
Am. Kestrel	758	3535	2436	2164	4006
Merlin	40	124	51	67	40
Peregrine Falcon	29	62	28	42	25
Unidentified	352	1329	940	137	284
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7242</b>	<b>43619</b>	<b>31942</b>	<b>65807</b>	<b>81149</b>

<sup>1</sup> [JBr et al., 1992, Aug. 29–Nov. 29, 62 days]. <sup>2</sup> [DF et al., 1992, Aug. 23–Nov. 30, 82 days]. <sup>3</sup> [RBe et al., 1992, Aug. 16–Nov. 30, 92 days].

## LOONS TO IBISES

Seven was the unusually high number of Red-throated Loons reported, with singles at P.I.S.P., Oct. 24 (JM), Somerset L., PA, Nov. 4 (*fide* AM), Stone Valley, PA, Nov. 19–22 (MM, DB, AF), Watauga L., TN, Nov. 21 (FA), and three at Cave Run L., KY, Nov. 7 (†FB). One of the prizes of the season was an imm. **Pacific Loon** at P.I.S.P., Nov. 25–30 (ph.). This is the first record for the Region and for Pennsylvania (†JM, DD). Common Loons staged one of the better flights of recent years. One arrived at Watauga L., TN, Aug. 6 (RK). Some high counts were 72 at Dewey L., KY, Nov. 7 (KN); 50 on the Ohio R. at Huntington, WV, Nov. 1 (MG); 40 in *Guernsey*, OH, Nov. 28 (MA); and a total of 178 counted at the Town Hill, MD, hawk count station through the season (JPa).

Horned Grebes were sparsely reported, with no large flocks, as in some years. At P.I.S.P., seven or eight Red-necked Grebes were present Oct. 10–Nov. 20 (m.ob.), and one was at another *Erie* location Nov. 10 (DH). Eared Grebes were at P.I.S.P., Oct. 18, Nov. 6–16 (up to two), and Nov. 30 (JM, BS). The Double-crested Cormorant continues to do well, with small numbers reported from almost all suitable bodies of water. Away from the water were the two flying over Roan Mountain S.P., TN, Sept. 12 (RK); 58 Sept. 23, and 61 Oct. 5 at the Tuscarora Summit, PA, hawk count station (CG), and 176 through the season at the Town Hill station (JPa).

An Am. Bittern was sighted at Conneaut Marsh, *Crawford*, PA, Aug. 1 (RFL), and one was seen perched in a pear tree (with or with-



Immature Pacific Loon at Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania, November 26, 1992. First state record. Photograph/Dave Darney.



out *Perdix*?) in a suburban backyard (JiS & JeS). Great Egrets were widely reported but were in lower numbers than in most years. Two imm. Little Blue Herons were at Cave Run L., KY, Aug. 3 & 4 (FB); single immatures were at S. Holston L., TN, Aug. 16 (RK) and in *Greene*, TN, Aug. 19 (JB, BC), and an adult was at P.I.S.P., Aug. 21 (RFL). The only report of Cattle Egret came from Austin Springs, TN, Oct. 14–17 (rather late date) (RK).

A group of six imm. **Wood Storks** was seen near Fort Ashby, WV, Dec. 2 (RKi, MT). At least three of these birds died, and the specimens have been preserved (MT, CS). An unidentified *Plegadis* ibis (ph.) was seen at P.I.S.P., providing the 4th fall record for the county (JM).

## WATERFOWL

Although a few concentrations were reported, the waterfowl flight was generally on the low side. Did the mild weather keep the ducks in the North? Tundra Swans were reported from fewer places than normal. The only large concentration was from P.N.R., where 2000 were counted Nov. 6 (RCL, RM). The other big flight came from *Warren*, PA, where 400–500 were seen the 2nd half of November (*fide* WH). A total of 11 Snow Geese were reported from Edinboro, PA, Oct. 6 (JeS), P.I.S.P., Oct. 6 (BW), Pymatuning L., PA, Oct. 4, 9, & 31 (RFL), G.L.O.R., Oct. 3, *Kanawha*, WV, Oct. 31 and K.C.C.P., Nov. 7 (WA). Of these, four were the Blue morph. A lone Brant at P.I.S.P., Oct. 25 (JM) and four on Oct. 31 (BG, EK) were not unusual, but three at Donegal L., PA, Nov. 1–2 (RCL) and one at Terra Alta, WV, Nov. 1 (WW), both loca-

tions in the highlands, were noteworthy. Brant were also seen at B.E.S.P., Nov. 13–14 (HH) and near State College, PA, Nov. 5 (KJ, JJ). The number of Canada Geese at Pymatuning L. PA, had built up to 10,000 (a normal number) by the end of the period (RFL).

There were a number of early-arriving ducks in e. Tennessee, but numbers there remained low (RK). The only report of large numbers of dabbling ducks was of 418 Mallards and 166 Wood Ducks on one pond in *Somerset*, PA, Oct. 18 (AM). Some high counts of diving ducks came from Pymatuning L., PA: 2150 Com. Goldeneyes Nov. 7, 1000 Hooded Mergansers Oct. 31, and 1244 Red-breasted Mergansers Nov. 28 (RFL). The Hooded Merganser has been increasing in this Region and was widely reported in good numbers this fall. Oldsquaws were reported from 6 locations, with a high count of 173 at L. Somerset, PA, Oct. 30 (AM), and a single flock of 60 birds flying past the Town Hill, MD, hawk station (JPa). All three scoters were

reported from P.I.S.P. (JM), where they are expected on L. Erie, but there were many "inland" records. The Black Scoter is usually the rarest, but this year it was the most numerous with reports of 67 at L. Somerset, PA, Oct. 30 (AM), eight at B.E.S.P., Oct. 25 (A & TF), and 54 there, Nov. 1 (HH, TFL), 2 at G.L.O.R., Nov. 7 (WA), and Colyer L., PA, Oct. 25 (K & JJ). Surf Scoters were found at L. Somerset, Oct. 30 (AM), Shawnee S.P., PA, Oct. 31 (RKi) B.E.S.P., Nov. 1 (TFL, HH), G.L.O.R., Nov. 7 (WA), Rocky Gap S.P., MD, Nov. 8 (JCh), while White-winged Scoters were found at B.E.S.P., Oct. 25 (A & TF), at L. Somerset, PA, Oct. 30 (AM), and at Edinboro, PA, Nov. 14 (DS).

Single Eur. Wigeons were found at P.I.S.P., Oct. 28 (JM), Nov. 8 (BS) and Nov. 10 (DH). The prize duck of the season was a **Tufted Duck** (ph.), the 3rd w. Pennsylvania record, Sept. 19–Nov. 21 (m.ob.). In behavior and appearance, this bird appeared to be a wild bird but, as usual with this species, some doubt remains.

## RAPTORS

A Black Vulture in *Crawford*, PA, Sept. 7 and Oct. 8 (RFL, JBa), is another northward step for this species. The one reported from the Ohio R. near Marietta, OH, Oct. 30 (JPr) was north and west of its usual range, and the concentration of 75–80 at M.C.F.H., through late October and November (FB) was noteworthy.

The organized hawk watching stations had subpar years. At the Hanging Rock, WV, station, the total count of Broad-winged Hawks (1865) was lower than a single day's count in some years (GH). The details of



**Table 1. Appalachian Hawk Watch results, Autumn 1992**

Location/ Observers	Days Obs	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Broad-winged Hawk	Broad-winged High (Date)	Bald Eagles	Gold Eagles	Total Hawks
Rockfish Gap, VA (YL)	not given	393	10,020	not given	8	0	10,796
Hanging Rock, WY (GH)	26	242	1,865	685 (Sept. 23)	6	9	2,355
Town Hill, MD (JPa)	77	596	1,020	170 (Sept. 14)	13	31	2,771
Tuscarora Summit, PA, (CG)	72	1,276	2124	580 (Sept. 15)	12	36	4,963

these counts are given in Table 1.

Ospreys were neither as widespread nor as numerous as in some recent years. There was a report lacking full details of Am. Swallow-tailed Kite at Hartstown Marsh, *Crawford*, PA, Aug. 3 (DH). Sixty Bald Eagles were reported from 19 different locations, numbers almost the same as those of a year ago. Three Bald Eagles were known to have been shot in West Virginia this fall. One of these was killed, one is being rehabilitated with excellent prospects for recovery, and the 3rd suffered too much wing damage to be liberated. A Golden Eagle was also known to have been wounded, but DNR personnel were unable to capture it. During 1991-1992, a



**Dark ibis (*Plegadis* species) at Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania, October 15, 1992.**  
Photograph/Jerry McWilliams.

total of nine eagles of both species were known to have been shot in the state, one apparently poisoned and one electrocuted (WT). Four N. Goshawks were seen at the Town Hill hawk station, and other records came from Warren, PA, Aug. 5 and Sept. 9 (CP), Bald Eagle Mt., PA, Oct. 17 (AF, CPr), *Shenandoah*, VA, 2 sightings in November (DDa), as well as four for the season at the Town Hill hawk watch. The number of Sharp-shinned Hawks seen at both Town Hill, MD (JPa), and Rockfish Gap, VA (YL), was much lower than the 1991 totals.

A remarkable report came from *Trumbull*, OH, where a "kettle" of 18-20 Red-shoul-

dered Hawks was observed on Oct. 19 (J & DHo). This species seldom migrates in flocks. A report of a Swainson's Hawk at the Rockfish Gap station has been submitted to the VSO rarities committee (YL). The only report of Rough-legged Hawks came from Pymatuning L., PA: two on Oct. 28 and three on Nov. 28 (RFL). Besides the Golden Eagles listed in Table 1, a hawk-counting station at Bald Eagle Mt., PA, listed 30 for the season (JPp). The only other report came from Cumberland, MD, Sept. 27 (MT).

Five hawk-counting stations reported 17 Merlins and 18 Peregrines. Away from these stations, 9 Merlins were reported from P.I.S.P. (JM), *Wood*, WV (*vide* JE), and Ch.N.F. (HD). At P.I.S.P., a total of seven Peregrines were seen through the season (JM). At Parkersburg, WV, three Peregrines were present during the period. One of these, which had been hacked in Fort Wayne, IN, was present Sept. 14-Nov. 4, apparently killed by collision with a vehicle while hunting—a dead pigeon was found with it (JE).

#### RAILS TO TERNS

Roadkill Soras in *Washington, DC*, were quite early Aug. 16 & 25 (BC), and those at Troutville, VA, Sept. 5 (BK) and at *Botetourt*, VA, Oct. 18 (MP) were noteworthy. An assembly of 30 Com. Moorhens at Hartstown Marsh, PA, was unusual (RFL). Sandhill Cranes are regular in n. Georgia, so reports from near Rome, GA, Sept. 8 and Ch.N.F., Nov. 13-15 (HD) were to be expected, but one at Edinboro, *Erie*, PA (the opposite end of the Region), Aug. 28 was noteworthy (DH).

Water levels at most places were high, so the shorebird flight was generally light, although more than the usual number of rarities were reported. The small amount of good shorebird habitat still remaining at P.I.S.P. can still attract large numbers, under the right conditions. August 4, a massive fall-out of approximately 900 shorebirds of 16 species occurred during a thunderstorm (JM). Several inland sites also turned up a few good records, and there were many late records, continuing in some cases to the end of the period.

Black-bellied Plovers were reported from G.L.O.R., Sept. 29, *Kanawha*, WV, Oct. 24-Nov. 4 (MG, WA), State College, PA, Oct. 31 (TF) and from Tuscarora Summit hawk station, where three flew over, as late as

Nov. 4 (CG). Lesser Golden-Plovers were at P.I.S.P., Sept. 5-Nov. 12, with a season total of 12 (JM), and a late one, Nov. 28 (BS). Golden-Plovers were also reported from B.E.S.P., Nov. 4 & 5 (AF, DB, BB) and Roanoke, VA, Nov. 15 (MS). An Am. Avocet was seen at P.I.S.P., Aug. 11 (JiS). The storm at P.I.S.P. brought an unprecedented fallout of 45 Whimbrels Aug. 3, and 74 Aug. 4 (BS, DH). A *Hudsonian Godwit* was at B.E.S.P., Nov. 1-5 (m.ob.) and four Marbled Godwits Aug. 4 (BS & DH) and one Aug. 26 (JM) were at P.I.S.P. Counted among the Aug. 3 shorebird fallout at P.I.S.P. were 135 Ruddy Turnstones, 52 Red Knots, and 317 Sanderlings (BS). Single turnstones were seen at Fort Loudon, PA, Aug. 30 (CG) and at Cumberland, MD, Sept. 28 (MT). The Sanderlings, unusual in this inland Region, were reported from K.C.P.P., Sept. 5 (MG, WA), Watauga L., Aug. 28 (RK), B.E.S.P., Aug. 16 (EZ), M.C.F.H., Aug. 28, and Nov. 8 (late)(FB). Western Sandpipers occurred widely, in greater-than-usual numbers, the 19 at B.E.S.P., Nov. 1 (TF) was a high number for the Region. White-rumped and Stilt sandpipers were reported in larger numbers than usual. Purple Sandpipers were at P.I.S.P., Nov. 24 (DH) & Nov. 28 (AK). Short-billed Dowitchers were reported from K.C.P.P., Sept. 5 (WA) and from M.C.F.H., Aug. 8 & 22 (FB), while a Long-billed Dowitcher was at P.I.S.P., Sept. 17 (BS, LL). Wilson's Phalaropes were seen at P.I.S.P., Aug. 4 (LL) & Aug. 19 (DBo), State College, PA, Aug. 4 (DB & BB) and *Washington*, TN, Aug. 28 (RK). A Red-necked Phalarope was seen on the Ohio R. near Parkersburg, WV, Oct. 31 (J & TC). At P.I.S.P., a single Red Phalarope was seen Sept. 30 (OD, JGS), and four were seen there Oct. 17 (JiS, JM).

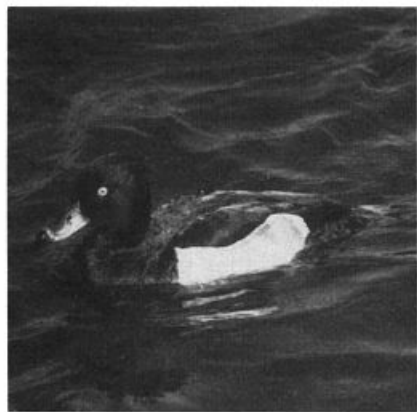
As usual, P.I.S.P. checked in with some of the rarer gulls: Franklin's Gull, Aug. 3 (BS) and Nov. 5 & 6 (JM); Little Gull, a juvenile on Aug. 29 (LM), Nov. 6-27 (JM *et al.*); and Lesser Black-backed Gull, Sept. 17 (LL, BS). Two Laughing Gulls at Watauga L., TN, Aug. 28, may have been brought there by the remnants of *Andrew* (RK). As usual Bonaparte's Gulls crossed the mountains in some numbers, with a peak concentration of 200 birds at Cherokee L., TN, Nov. 22 (SS).

Caspian Terns were unusually numerous and were reported from nearly all areas with suitable water. The highest count was 11 at B.E.S.P., Aug. 17 (EZ). The only report of Com. Terns came from M.C.F.H., Sept. 19 (FB). Fourteen Forster's Terns were at Watauga L., TN, Aug. 28 (RK), and the 4 at G.L.O.R., Nov. 7 were rather late (WA). Black Terns were more common than usual.

#### OWLS TO SWALLOWS

The only reports of Barn Owls came from the 2 regular localities: Elizabethton-Johnson City, TN, where 3-5 sites are known (RK), and *Augusta*, VA, where a nest containing young was photographed, Nov. 8 (AL). Snowy Owls were reported from Edinboro, PA, Nov. 8 (RT), and *Erie*, Nov.

28 (BG). The only Long-eared Owl was sighted at P.I.S.P., Nov. 26 (DD). A Short-eared Owl was also sighted at P.I.S.P., Sept. 20 (BS), and wintering Short-eareds had arrived at the recovered surface mines in *Jefferson*, OH, by Oct. 10, with three present by Oct. 31 (MA). A N. Saw-whet Owl nest on Unaka Mt., in August (ph.) was the first doc-



**Male Tufted Duck at Pymatuning Reservoir, Pennsylvania, on October 3, 1992.**  
Photograph/Ed Kwater.

umented Tennessee nesting (RK). Young Saw-whets were also heard at A.F.M.O., where an adult was banded, Oct. 2 (GAH). Other reports came from Roan Mt., TN, Sept. 13 (GW), P.I.S.P., Nov. 15–20 (JM), and Lander, PA, Nov. 5 (DDo).

At Johnson City, TN, a total of 3169 Com. Nighthawks were counted Aug. 15–Oct. 16. This was the lowest total in 3 years. The maximum daily number was 450, Sept. 1 & 19 (RK). A flight of 800 was observed at Staunton, VA, Sept. 1 (YL), and a very large movement was observed along the highway from Pittsburgh to Youngstown, OH, Sept. 6 (CB). A Chuck-will's-widow calling Sept. 4 in *Carter*, TN was late (FA).

The count of 391 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds flying past the A.F.M.O. station was the same total as in 1991 (RB). A Ruby-throated at Waynesboro, VA, Oct. 13, was late (EG). A Rufous Hummingbird at Edinboro, PA, first seen on Sept. 27, was still present at a feeder on Nov. 30 (B & RF).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported from Mosquito L., OH, Oct. 3 (CB), from *Mason*, WV, Sept. 29–Oct. 10 (WA), and from *Shenandoah*, VA, early September (DDa); three flew past the Town Hill hawk station (JPa). A Red-bellied Woodpecker was in Akeley Swamp, *Warren*, PA, in the far north of the Region, Sept. 11–Nov. 25 (TG, DDo). Is the Hairy Woodpecker in trouble? It has been scarce all year at Morgantown, WV (GAH), and no reporters mentioned this once-common permanent resident.

An Olive-sided Flycatcher, seen Aug. 30, was the only one banded at P.N.R. this fall (RM, RCL). Other reports came from another *Westmoreland*, PA, site, Sept. 11 (VC), and P.I.S.P. Sept. 10 & 24 (JM). An E. Kingbird at P.I.S.P., Sept. 19 (EK) was the latest county record by 7 days. The prize band-

ing of the fall was a **Western Kingbird**, captured at P.I.S.P., Sept. 26 (RFL). A major movement of N. Rough-winged Swallows was observed at Elkton, VA, where several waves moved through in late August. The maximum number counted was more than 1000, Sept. 4, and the last seen bird Oct. 8 (MSm). A Tree Swallow at P.I.S.P. Nov. 7 & 8 (CT) was not especially late, but the Cliff Swallow there, Sept. 25, was the latest record by 20 days (JM).

#### CORVIDS TO VIREOS

The total migrating Blue Jay count at A.F.M.O. was only 2254, compared with 17,000 in 1991, when 4593 were counted on one day (RB). No Red-breasted Nuthatches were banded at A.F.M.O. (GAH), and there were very few reports from elsewhere. It has become monotonous to report each season that Carolina Wren populations are booming and are doing well in the north, *Mahoning* and *Trumbull*, OH (CB), and *Elk*, PA (LC). The Winter Wren flight was unusually good, with numerous reports from over the Region. Marsh Wrens were reported from 3 Tennessee stations, at *Unicoi*, Sept. 21 (RMa), Austin Springs, Sept. 29 (RK), and Kingsport, Oct. 15–16 (RK), and at Ashton, WV, Oct 3–8 (WA, MG).

The kinglet flight was heavy at P.N.R. (3 S.D. above average) (RM & RCL) and in *Warren*, PA (WH), but was below average at A.F.M.O. (GAH). In *Augusta*, VA, a club project involving 580 nest boxes produced 1468 fledgling E. Bluebirds (*fide* RS). Most field observers found the spotted thrush migration to be poor. At A.F.M.O., both Swainson's and Gray-cheeked thrushes were more than 1 S.D. below average. Gray-cheeked Thrushes were very scarce everywhere. Twelve Veeries, 19 Gray-cheekeds, and 151 Swainson's were a part of the kill in *Unicoi*, TN. The one thrush species in good numbers was the Am. Robin. Large flocks were reported from several places, and captures at A.F.M.O. were more than 2 S.D. above average (GAH).

Gray Catbirds at P.N.R. were banded in numbers 2 S.D. below average at P.N.R., and one was banded there Nov. 27 (RCL & RM). Another late catbird was seen at P.I.S.P., Nov. 28 (RSt, JiS). In the Shenandoah Valley, VA, N. Mockingbirds were in below-normal numbers (RS). American Pipits were reported from Woodcock L., PA, Oct. 31 (RFL), Donegal L., PA, Oct. 12 (RCL & RM) and M.C.F.H., Sept. 27 (FB). A Bohemian Waxwing was reported from Pymatuning L., PA, Nov. 10 (DH). Fewer than normal numbers of Cedar Waxwings flew over A.F.M.O. One or two N. Shrikes were at P.I.S.P., Oct 31+ (DD, RSt, F & BH), and one was at Lander, PA for the 4th consecutive year (DW). Besides the usual reports of Loggerhead Shrikes from *Augusta*, VA (RS), and the Elizabethton-Johnson City, TN, area (RK), one was seen at the foot of Peters Mt. near the Hanging Rock hawk station, *Monroe*, WV, Sept. 20 (GH).



**Young Barn Owls in a nest in Augusta County, Virginia, November 8, 1992.** Photograph/Allen Larner.

There were many reports of late Solitary Vireos, including Nov. 28 observations at Harrisonburg, VA (CZ), and *Botetourt*, VA (MS). Bandings of Red-eyed Vireos at P.N.R. were 3 S.D. below average (RM & RCL), and at both P.N.R. (RM & RCL) and A.F.M.O. (GAH), bandings of Philadelphia Vireos were one S.D. below average.

#### WARBLERS TO FINCHES

As usual, a Regional Editor faces potential madness when faced with conflicting reports of the warbler migration. The flight was fair to good in *Shenandoah*, VA (DDa), Roanoke, VA (MS), and n.e. Tennessee (RK), but was poor at *Elk*, PA (LC), A.F.M.O. (GAH), *Rowan*, KY (FB), and Fairview, NC (RY). The only report of a big wave came from Roanoke, Sept. 21–22 (RK). Nineteen species were represented in the *Unicoi*, TN, kill (MS). At Sheffield, PA, there was a good movement of Yellow-rumped Warblers in November (CN). November Yellow-rumpeds are not unusual, but Palm Warblers at P.N.R., Nov. 5 (RM & RCL), and at P.I.S.P., Nov. 11 (JD), Am. Redstart at P.N.R., Nov. 5 (RM & RCL), and Com. Yellowthroat in *Roanoke*, VA, Nov. 29 (MS & MP), were notable late records.

At P.N.R., 9 species were banded in numbers more than one S.D. below average, while at A.F.M.O., 17 species were in that category. The most notable decrease at A.F.M.O. was the Tennessee Warbler, whose captures were more than 2 S.D. below average. This species is the all-time leader in bandings at that station. A "Lawrence's" Warbler was reported from Herrington Manor S.P., MD, Aug. 12 (SM).

Bandings of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at P.N.R. were more than one S.D. above average, and a heavy movement of grosbeaks was observed at East River Mt., WV, Sept. 21 (JP). Indigo Buntings at P.N.R. were handled in numbers 2 S.D. below average (RCL, RM). The sparrow migration was fairly good at most places, but arrival was somewhat late. The Lark Sparrow is seldom seen in the

Region, but one was sighted at Ch.N.F., Oct. 6 (HD). A Henslow's Sparrow at Troutville, VA, Oct. 27 provided only the 4th local record (MS, BK), and another of this declining species was seen at Ashton, WV, Sept. 29 (WA). A **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** in *Botetourt*, VA, Oct. 3–18 furnished only the 2nd local record (MS, MD, JA).

An "Oregon" Junco was seen at Ridgeway, PA, Nov. 14 (DWO). The only Lapland Longspurs were at P.I.S.P., where they arrived Sept. 30 (JM). Snow Buntings were seen in *Adams*, PA, Nov. 13 (CG), and at Big Meadows in Shenandoah N.P., Nov. 2–8 (*fide* RSi).

The only reports of "Northern" finches were of a Pine Grosbeak reported from Pymatung, PA, Nov. 10 (DH), a flock of 12 Evening Grosbeaks at Town Hill hawk station (no date given) (JPa), and Com. Redpolls at P.I.S.P., Nov. 8 & 10 (DH, LL). Red Crossbills in Shenandoah N.P., Oct. 24, may have been part of the Appalachian breeding population (RSi). There were a few scattered reports of Pine Siskins.

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## WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

Daryl D. Tessen

The autumn was characterized by cool, wet, cloudy weather. August and part of September continued the cold summer pattern. Record lows were established in various communities. A warmup occurred during mid-September, with cold periods alternating with warm through October. As the season progressed, precipitation improved for most sections, generally averaging above normal. November proved to be one of the cloudiest on record. There were only a *very few* sunny days. Snowfall occurred early in the month, accompanied by unusually cold temperatures. More normal temperatures returned for the month's duration.

Last year yielded one of the best ever fall migrations for the Region, in *stark* contrast to this year. It was exceptionally quiet or, as many birders expressed it, dull! Waves were few and far between, and certain groups were notable for their absence. Especially poor were the numbers of shorebirds and winter finches—dismal for many species, despite good habitat. Rarities were considerably fewer, as evidenced by the following highlights: Wisconsin—King Eider, Anna's Hummingbird, Green-tailed Towhee, Black-throated and Golden-crowned sparrows; Minnesota—Neotropical Cormorant (from the summer season), Mississippi Kite, Painted Redstart, Black-throated Sparrow; and Michigan—Curlew Sandpiper, Black-throated Sparrow.

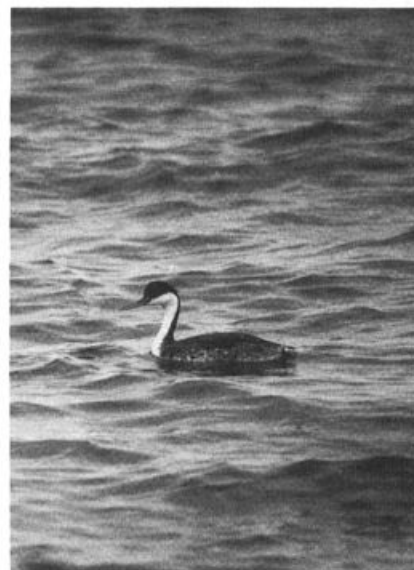
**Abbreviations:** P.M.S.G.A. (*Pt. Mouillee State Game Area, MI*); S.N.W.R. (*Shiawassee N.W.R., MI*); W.P.B.O. (*Whitefish Pt. Bird Observatory, MI*).

### LOONS TO IBISES

A few Red-throated Loons were sighted in Wisconsin and Minnesota during October–November. W.P.B.O. in Michigan tallied 229 Aug. 16–Nov. 3 (staff). Impressive were the 1300 Com. Loons flying by New Buffalo, MI, Nov. 10 (KM). W.P.B.O. counted 3210 during the season. Binford found 586 Horned Grebes at Agate Harbor, MI, Sept. 11. This species lingered into December in *Door*, WI (SDe) and *Ozaukee*, WI (BD, MK), while a Red-necked Grebe lingered at Madison, WI (SR). The W.P.B.O. staff again observed an impressive Red-necked migration with 18,789 Aug. 1–Nov. 11 with a peak of 5079 Aug. 18. Eared Grebes were found in all 3 states, with five in Wisconsin, four in Michigan, and a very late individual in *Carver*, MN, Nov. 26 (DM). The W. Grebe found in Michigan this fall represented the first confirmed record. It was present Nov. 6–12 at New Buffalo (BT, KM *et al.*).

A Clarke's Grebe was present Aug. 21–22 in *Yellow Medicine*, MN (KE *et al.*). The phenomenal number of Am. White Pelicans found in Wisconsin during the summer continued into the fall. Sightings came from 8 locales, including maximum numbers of 250 on the Mississippi R. in *LaCrosse* (JD, FL) and 150 in *Vernon* (FL). Impressive Double-crested Cormorant flights included 8000–10,000 during late August in *Delta*, MI (CT), 4300 Aug. 11 in *Door*, WI (R & CL), and 1350 Sept. 19 in *Ozaukee*, WI (BC). The summer Neotropical Cormorant in *Ramsey*, MI, lingered until Aug. 4.

Late Great Egrets included Nov. 7 at Hori-con N.W.R., WI (BD), and Nov. 17 in *Houston*, MN (CS). Snowy Egret observations included 23 birds in Michigan, four in Wisconsin, and two in Minnesota. A Little Blue Heron was present Aug. 25 in *Washington*, MN (RG). Single birds were seen Aug. 15 in



Western Grebe near Buffalo, Michigan, on November 8, 1992. First confirmed state record. Photograph/Jim Granlund.

*Washtenaw*, MI (VB *et al.*) and Oct. 25 at Erie Power Plant, MI (DC, DB). Cattle Egret totals included 21 for Michigan, about 25 for Minnesota, with about 30 in Wisconsin, including one Nov. 13 in *Ozaukee*, WI (BC).

### SWANS TO CRANES

The Tundra Swan migration was unimpressive, as evidenced by a maximum of 2500 Nov. 21 in *Vernon*, WI (JD). Great White-fronted Geese were found in all 3 states, unusual for this season. One was seen in Duluth Oct. 30–Nov. 8 (m.ob.). Wisconsin had records from *Dane* (KB) Nov. 4, *Douglas* (RJo) Nov. 10, and *Columbia* (PA) Nov. 14. Michigan records included S.N.W.R., Oct. 7 (DP), two St. Joseph Oct. 24 (two) (V & DR), Fremont Sewage Ponds Nov. 13–14 (ES, GW *et al.*), and Belle I., Nov. 28 (FC, EC, DL). Wisconsin had 2 sightings of the rare Ross' Goose. A maximum of three were present at Goose Pond, *Columbia* (PA *et al.*)



were found Aug. 8 at P.M.S.G.A. (KT), with 14 Oct. 12 at St. Joseph (RS, AD). In Wisconsin one was at Horicon N.W.R. Oct. 7–8 (KB, BD). Late Greater Yellowlegs were seen Nov. 7 at Three Oaks Sewage Ponds, MI (WB *et al.*) and Nov. 12 at Winona, MN (CS). Minnesota had its 2nd latest Solitary Sandpiper date with one Oct. 19 in Clay (RJ, RG). Single Willets were at Superior Aug. 21 (RJ) and at the Karn Plant, MI, Sept. 12 (SM). Michigan found 10 and Wisconsin five Whimbrels through early September, a surprising number for the fall. All 3 states had Hudsonian Godwits, with the latest count four at Milwaukee Oct. 16 (BD, MK) and one in Roseau MN, Oct. 18 (RG). Marbled Godwits were found in Michigan (three) and Wisconsin (one) during August–September. The Nov. 7 Ruddy Turnstone in Cook represents the 2nd latest Minnesota sighting (KE). Red Knots were

present in all 3 states, with the most sightings in Michigan (8 counties, maximum 12). Late was a Sanderling at St. Joseph Nov. 26 (RS). Western Sandpipers appeared in Michigan (seven) and Wisconsin (four). A late sighting was a Least Sandpiper at Milwaukee Nov. 6–7 (JF). Record late White-rumped Sandpipers were in Minnesota—Nov. 8 Duluth (HT *et al.*) and Wisconsin—Nov. 26 Milwaukee (MK). Michigan had the monopoly on Purple Sandpipers, with an impressive number of sightings. They included Oct. 17 at St. Joseph (RS, WB), Nov. 7 at P.M.S.G.A. (DB), Nov. 8–9 at Holland S.P. (KT, DM *et al.*), Nov. 11–13 and two Nov. 22 at New Buffalo (DB, JG *et al.*). A Curlew Sandpiper was present at P.M.S.G.A., Aug. 15–23 (JG, PC, Ko *et al.*). Buff-breasted Sandpipers appeared in all 3 states, including 20 in Wisconsin, 9 in Michigan and an Oct. 21 bird in Polk (PS), the 2nd latest date for Minnesota. A Nov. 3 Long-billed Dowitcher in Dane, WI, was late (SR). Red-necked Phalaropes were present in all 3 states with good numbers (maximum 28) at Horicon N.W.R. (BD). Michigan found three Red Phalaropes, including a juvenile Sept. 24–29 at P.M.S.G.A. (PC, KT, DC), Nov. 12 at New Buffalo (KT, RS, KM), and Nov. 22–23 at W.P.B.O. (TWa).

Oct. 18–29, with one at Horicon N.W.R., Nov. 17 (BD *et al.*). One was seen intermittently Oct. 19–Nov. 30 in Olmsted, MN (JB). The only Brant was one found Nov. 10–24 at New Buffalo, MI (MP *et al.*). The Canada Goose migration was average at best this fall, with spectacular numbers especially lacking in Wisconsin.

A Eur. Wigeon was at Erie Metropark, MI, Nov. 8 (TWe, PC). For Wisconsin, peak fall waterfowl flights included 5000 Canvasbacks Oct. 31 in Vernon (JD), 1000 Redheads Oct. 29 in Door (R & CL), and 3000 C. Mergansers Nov. 17 in Pierce (SC). For Michigan, there were 2333 Greater Scaup Oct. 11 at W.P.B.O. (staff) and 1386 C. Mergansers Nov. 1 at S.N.W.R. (DP). A King Eider was present Nov. 21–23 at Port Washington (BD *et al.*), the first sighting for Wisconsin in 8 years, and about the 19th record. Harlequin Ducks were present in all 3 states. Michigan had individuals at W.P.B.O., Aug. 22 and Oct. 3 & 12 (staff). The Sept. 19 bird at Duluth (AH) represented a record early arrival date for Minnesota. One was also present Nov. 26–30 in Otter Tail (SDM *et al.*). Wisconsin's sightings included Oct. 24–31 in Ozaukee (BD, MK, KB, DG) and Nov. 15–30+ at Milwaukee (MK *et al.*). The scoter migration proved variable this autumn. Minnesota had an unusual number of inland sightings for all 3 species. Michigan had a poor Black flight, but good Surf—667 for the season at W.P.B.O., and White-winged—2506 also at W.P.B.O. Sightings of the latter species commenced Aug. 19. The flight for all 3 species was unusually late and poor in Wisconsin.

The hawk migration was average or slightly above at best. Several new record/outstanding flights were established. At Hawk Ridge they included 433 Ospreys, 982 Bald Eagles, 257 Cooper's Hawks, 2247

N. Goshawks, 69 Golden Eagles, 2016 Am. Kestrels, and 71 Peregrine Falcons (ME, HRNR). At Michigan's Erie Metropark Hawkwatch, they included 16,016 Turkey Vultures, 413 Cooper's Hawks, 757 Red-shouldered Hawks, 30,803 Broad-winged Hawks, and 51 Golden Eagles (*vide* TS). Peak Broad-winged flight days included Sept. 12 at EMH, MI, and Sept. 19 Ozaukee, WI, when about 15,000 were counted at both sites.

There were several interesting hawk sightings. Best were the two Mississippi Kites in Minnesota. The first was an adult seen Sept. 11 in Wabasha (AM) and the 2nd an immature seen Sept. 15 at Hawk Ridge (FN). Two Swainson's Hawks were found in Wisconsin: Sept. 19 in Ozaukee (BC) and Sept. 28 in Pierce (KB). Two were seen at Hawk Ridge. An early sighting was a Rough-legged Hawk Sept. 7 in Douglas, WI (S & LL). Four Golden Eagles were observed in Wisconsin, including a very early Aug. 28 bird at Manitowoc (CS). Four Gyrfalcons were seen during the season in Minnesota, including one Oct. 3 in Roseau (SB, PS), which was early. Nine Prairie Falcons were reported from 6 Minnesota counties.

An injured Yellow Rail was found in Milwaukee Oct. 7 (SD). The only King Rail sighting was Aug. 5, at Horicon N.W.R. (KB). Very late, and rare in the Upper Pen., was a Com. Moorhen Nov. 27 in Houghton (SA).

#### SHOREBIRDS

Late was a Black-bellied Plover at Buffalo, MI, Nov. 22 (JG, BP). The only Piping Plover sightings were in Wisconsin, where the bird is becoming rarer with each passing year. One was in Milwaukee Sept. 2 (BB, KB *et al.*), with another near Ashland Sept. 22–24 (KS, DV). In Michigan, Am. Avocets

present in all 3 states, with the most sightings in Michigan (8 counties, maximum 12). Late was a Sanderling at St. Joseph Nov. 26 (RS). Western Sandpipers appeared in Michigan (seven) and Wisconsin (four). A late sighting was a Least Sandpiper at Milwaukee Nov. 6–7 (JF). Record late White-rumped Sandpipers were in Minnesota—Nov. 8 Duluth (HT *et al.*) and Wisconsin—Nov. 26 Milwaukee (MK). Michigan had the monopoly on Purple Sandpipers, with an impressive number of sightings. They included Oct. 17 at St. Joseph (RS, WB), Nov. 7 at P.M.S.G.A. (DB), Nov. 8–9 at Holland S.P. (KT, DM *et al.*), Nov. 11–13 and two Nov. 22 at New Buffalo (DB, JG *et al.*). A Curlew Sandpiper was present at P.M.S.G.A., Aug. 15–23 (JG, PC, Ko *et al.*). Buff-breasted Sandpipers appeared in all 3 states, including 20 in Wisconsin, 9 in Michigan and an Oct. 21 bird in Polk (PS), the 2nd latest date for Minnesota. A Nov. 3 Long-billed Dowitcher in Dane, WI, was late (SR). Red-necked Phalaropes were present in all 3 states with good numbers (maximum 28) at Horicon N.W.R. (BD). Michigan found three Red Phalaropes, including a juvenile Sept. 24–29 at P.M.S.G.A. (PC, KT, DC), Nov. 12 at New Buffalo (KT, RS, KM), and Nov. 22–23 at W.P.B.O. (TWa).

#### JAEGER TO TERNS

The jaeger flight was uncharacteristically poor regionwide. Both Minnesota and Wisconsin could muster only one Parasitic sighting—Duluth Sept. 7 (MH) and Sheboygan Oct. 15 (KB). Michigan fared slightly better with a Pomarine Sept. 6 at W.P.B.O. (TL) and Parasitics intermittently Aug. 26–Sept. 28 at W.P.B.O. (staff) and Sept. 9 at St. Joseph (KT), with six additional unidentified individuals at 2 sites. Franklin's Gulls appeared in Michigan (25) and Wisconsin

(325), with 320 of these in *Polk* Oct. 12 (JH). A few Little Gulls were present in all 3 states. Thayer's Gulls were found in Michigan's Erie Power Plant Nov. 7 (DB), New Buffalo Nov. 13 (JG), and Muskegon Wastewater System Nov. 14 (m.ob.). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were in all 3 states. Surprisingly early was the adult in Milwaukee Aug. 27 (BB). Michigan had sightings at Bay City S.P., Sept. 16–Oct. 9 (m.ob.), L. Lansing two Nov. 14–30 (m.ob.) and South Haven in October (RA). An adult was in *Hennepin*, MN, Nov. 21–22 (P8 *et al.*). Several Glaucous Gulls were found in Michigan and Wisconsin during late October–November. Michigan had its usual sightings (9 counties) of Great Black-backed Gulls. A few individuals made it into Wisconsin and Minnesota, where it is rarer. Wisconsin had single adults at Pt. Beach S.P., Aug. 22 (CR) and Superior Nov. 10 (RJo). Minnesota had single immatures in *Cook* Nov. 7–18 (BS *et al.*) and Duluth Nov. 9 (KE). Three Black-legged Kittiwakes (one adult, two immatures) were at Port Huron Nov. 6 (PC, DR), while at Muskegon S.P. an adult and an immature were sighted Nov. 4 & 29, respectively (KT). Two Sabine's Gulls (one adult, one immature) were watched Sept. 19 at Duluth (BM *et al.*).

In *Door*, WI, >300 Caspian Terns were noted Aug. 19 by the Lukeses. Chu counted 6300 Com. Terns at P.M.S.G.A., Aug. 22. A late individual was seen in Port Huron Nov. 6 (PC). An Arctic Tern was watched by the W.P.B.O. staff Sept. 23–24. A **Least Tern** feeding a fledged juvenile was observed Aug. 29 in the backwaters of the Mississippi R., *Dakota*, MN (KB).

#### DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

Michigan had its first documented Barn Owl sighting since 1983, when one was at Cornell Nov. 25 (KW, CC). Minnesota found N. Hawk Owls and Snowy and Great Gray owls in average numbers this autumn, a somewhat welcome relief after 2 consecutive invasion years. Snowies were present in both Wisconsin and Michigan in above-average numbers. Michigan had the only additional 9 N. Hawk Owl and Great Gray Owl sightings. Three N. Hawk Owls were around Sault Ste. Marie Oct. 28 (WP), with one on Nov. 27 (m.ob.). Three Great Grays were tallied, including Sept. 1–Oct. 17 near the Tahquamenon R. mouth (DE), Oct. 2 & 30 at W.P.B.O. (staff), and Oct. 22 near Barbeau (WP). A Boreal Owl was seen at W.P.B.O., Oct. 27 (staff).

The Com. Nighthawk migration was unimpressive, as evidenced by a regional peak flight of only 1250 Aug. 25 at Cedar Grove, WI (DBE). A record late Ruby-throated Hummingbird came to a Minnesota feeder in *Meeker* mid-October–Nov. 7 (PB *et al.*). Wisconsin had its 2nd **Anna's Hummingbird** and the region its 3rd—all in the past 3 years—when a male appeared during late October at the Pinnow (BPi) feeder in Racine. Word did not reach the birding community until mid-December, when it

was positively identified (BB *et al.*). Two ♀ Rufous Hummingbirds were found during late August in Minnesota, the first in *Crow Wing* Aug. 21–23 (JS) and the 2nd in *Rice* Aug. 23–24 (F5 *et al.*). Three-toed Woodpeckers were found in both Minnesota and Michigan: three were in *Cook* and single birds were in *Chippewa*, Sept. 24 (DM) and at W.P.B.O., Oct. 26 (LG, BSt). Black-backed Woodpecker sightings were above average in Michigan (18 birds) and Minnesota (16).

#### FLYCATCHERS TO SHRIKES

An Oct. 25 Least Flycatcher in *Otter Tail* (DM *et al.*) represented a record late date for Minnesota. Very late was an E. Phoebe Nov. 29 in *Sauk*, WI (TW). A W. Kingbird was in *Leelanau*, MI, Sept. 20–21 (CF). Kirsch watched a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher catching insects Oct. 7 in *Trempealeau*, WI. Tree Swallows were found at 3 Wisconsin sites Nov. 10–11. A Barn Swallow in St. Louis, MN, seen Nov. 4 (FN), missed trying the late record by one day. Peak Blue Jay flights included 2762 in one hour on Sept. 29 at Muskegon S.P. (GW) and 4500 on Oct. 2 at



**King Eider at Port Washington, Wisconsin, on November 22, 1992. Photograph/Bill Cowart.**

Erie Metropark (GM). The Carolina Wren continues to do exceedingly well in Michigan (16 counties) and Wisconsin (>6 counties). Minnesota had one Sept. 6 in *Hennepin* (TT, SC). Record late, by 2 weeks, was the Sedge Wren found by DeKam Nov. 23 in *Rock*, MN. Very late was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet lingering into December in Manitowoc (CS). Minnesota had three Mountain Bluebirds: Sept. 30 *La Qui Parle* (S & DM), Oct. 3 *Swift* (RG), and Nov. 8 *Lake* (BS). Townsend's Solitaires appeared in all 3 states, with no less than nine in Minnesota, two in Michigan, and one in Wisconsin. Peak thrush flights included 302 Gray-cheeked and 376 Swainson's Sept. 14 at W.P.B.O. (staff). Minnesota had five Varied Thrushes

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this fall. None was found in the other two states, which is unusual.

There were a surprising number of N. Mockingbird sightings in Michigan (9 counties), with Wisconsin having just one. Two Sprague's Pipits were watched at Felton Prairie, MN, Aug. 22 (PS, SB). Bohemian Waxwings were scarce this fall, but very early was one in Ashland Sept. 6 (DV). Cowart counted >5000 Cedar Waxwings in *Ozaukee*, WI, Aug. 30. Loggerhead Shrike observations included 5 Minnesota counties and one Michigan and Wisconsin county.

#### VIREOS TO FINCHES

The only White-eyed Vireo sightings occurred in Michigan, with one Aug. 27 at *Berrien* (PU), several until Sept. 5 at *Hillsdale* (JR), and a very late individual Oct. 11 in Fenner Arboretum (JR). North of normal was a Blue-winged Warbler Aug. 12 at W.P.B.O. (staff), while the one Sept. 13 in *Winona*, MN (CS), provided the 3rd latest record. Also in Minnesota were very late sightings for the Nashville Warbler—Nov. 3 *Cook* (JGr), and Magnolia Warbler—Oct. 23 *Winona* (CS). A very large Yellow-rumped Warbler migration was counted at W.P.B.O., with 4439 noted Aug. 1–Nov. 11. A Kirtland's Warbler Oct. 6 was record late for the breeding grounds. A total of 176 were seen/banded July 16–Oct. 6, representing a 2.3:1 juvenile/adult ratio (CK, PS, TL, MP). A Prairie Warbler was found at Port Crescent S.P. MI Sept. 5 (MEs). Early was a Bay-breasted Warbler Aug. 4 in *Portage*, WI (MB). Michigan had a late Cerulean Warbler in *Huron* Sept. 15 (MW). Also in Michigan was a Worm-eating Warbler Aug. 24 at the Kalamazoo Nature Center (GF, RK, RA). A tardy bird was seen Oct. 1 in *Washington*, MN (DS).

Record late was a Com. Yellowthroat Nov. 27 in *Hennepin*, MN (TT). Hooded Warblers were seen in Madison, WI, Aug. 4 (PA) and in Michigan Aug. 2 at Tawas S.P. (RR), Aug. 20 in *Hillsdale* (JR), and Sept. 3 in *Isabella* (WT). While watching a Yellow-rumped Warbler flock move through her yard Sept. 30 along the north shore of L. Mille Lacs, Geertz heard an unfamiliar call. To her surprise she discovered a **Painted**





Amazingly, each state in the Region recorded a single Black-throated Sparrow during the season. This one at Whitefish Point Bird Observatory on November 13, 1992, provided a third Michigan record. Photograph/Dave Evers.

**Redstart.** Before its disappearance 10 minutes later, her husband was also able to observe it. This represents a first Minnesota record. A Yellow-breasted Chat was found at W.P.B.O., Oct. 11 & 15 (staff).

A ♂ Blue Grosbeak was at W.P.B.O., Sept. 20 (PSy, LG). Wisconsin had about its 8th Green-tailed Towhee record, with one infrequent visitor at a feeder at Cornucopia Oct. 10–22 (DV *et al.*). The Nov. 27 Field Sparrow in *Olmsted* (JB) provided Minnesota's 3rd latest date. A Vesper Sparrow lingered into December at Horicon N.W.R. (BD). Slightly tardy was a Lark Sparrow Oct. 5 in Milwaukee (DG). Amazingly, all 3 states found Black-throated Sparrows! Michigan commenced the show with one Nov. 13–15 at W.P.B.O. (BS, DE), representing the 3rd record. Next came Wisconsin, when one appeared at the Foust feeder in Oshkosh Nov. 15–18 (TZ *et al.*), the 6th state record. Both ad. birds were photographed before leaving when rainstorms passed through their areas. Finally another (?) adult appeared in Minnesota for their 3rd record. It was present in *Wilkin* Nov. 25–Dec. (BW *et al.*). Sharp-tailed Sparrows were present in Milwaukee Sept. 21–Oct. 10 (BD, MK *et al.*) and in *St. Croix* Oct. 2 (MB). The Nov. 27 Swamp Sparrow was the 3rd latest for Minnesota (*Olmsted*) (JB). A Golden-crowned Sparrow appeared at a Dundee feeder in *Shenoygan*, late November. Word of this accidental find did not reach the birding world until late December. This represents the first confirmed record for Wisconsin. Very late N. Orioles were found with an immature captured, by a dog in Superior Nov. 23 (*fide* S & LL). Another was at Caro, MI, Nov. 27 (MW).

Generally, the winter finch picture was dismal, with some species hardly recorded at all. Few Pine Grosbeaks and Com. Redpolls

were found regionwide. Crossbills yielded a mixed bag, with a few individuals showing up at some locations. The Pine Siskin flight was very good at W.P.B.O., 14,437 counted Aug. 1–Nov. 24, with a peak of 5058 Oct. 25 (staff). Elsewhere, numbers were greatly diminished. Only the House Finch continued its relentless expansion.

**Addendum:** Minnesota recorded its 2nd Lewis' Woodpecker, when one was seen in *Cook* May 10 (AH).

**Contributors:** Ray Adams, Susan Andres, Philip Ashman, Parker Backstrom, Karl Bardon, Susan Barton, Vi Benner, Dan Berger (DBe), Murray Berner, Laurence Binford, Brian Boldt, Jerry Bonkoski, Walter Booth, Don Brooks, Kay Burcar, Ernie Carhart, Steve Carlson, Don Chalfant, Fred Charbonneau, Phil Chu, Charlie Coughlin, Bill Cowart, Jeff Dankert, Suzanne Dee (SDe), Nelvina DeKam, Scott Diehl, Bob Domagalski, Arva Dyreson, Kim Eckert, Monica Essenschacher (MEs), Molly Evans, Dave Evers, Greg Fisher, Chip Francke, Maurita Geertz, Ray Glassel, Leonard Graf, Jim Granlund (Michigan), Jan Green (JGr), Dennis Gustafson, Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve (H.R.N.R.), Mike Hendricksen, Anthony Hertzelt, Joe Hudick, Robert Janssen, Robby Johnson (RJo), Rich Keith, Cam Kepler, Eileen Kirsch, Mark Korducki, Steve & Laura LaValley, Dick Leasure, Fred Leshner, Tony Leukering, Roy & Charlotte Lukes, Stan Madziar, Dennis Martin, Greg McKay, Ann McKenzie, Doug McWhirter, Steve & Diane Millard, Kip Miller, Bonnie Mulligan, Frank Nicoletti, Karl Overman, Warren Parker, David Peters, Michael Petrucha, Bob Pinnow (BPi), Bob Putman, Jack Reinoehl, Sam Robbins, Virgil & Delores Royer, Ruth Rudesill, Carroll Rudy, Dennis Rupert, Carol Schumacher, Kirk Schumbert, Jean Segerstrom, Ellen Slater, Tim Smart, Roy Smith, Charles Sontag, Dave Sovereign, Bill Stjern, Bonnie Stout (BSst), Forest Strand, Peder Svingen (Minnesota), Charlotte Taylor, Daryl Tessen (Wisconsin), William Thieunissen, Kevin Thomas, Barbara Thornbury, Howard Towle, Tom Tustison, Paul Underwood, Dick Verch, Tony Walker (TWa), Kay Walkner, Tim Walsh, Bernice Wanek, Tex Wells (TWe), George Wickstrom, Myles Willard, W.P.B.O. staff, Thomas Ziebell.—DARYL D. TESSEN, 2 Pioneer Park Pl., Elgin, IL 60123.

## MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

Kenneth J. Brock

Refreshingly, few correspondents felt compelled to use the adjectives boring, lackluster, or dull to describe the fall flight. Indeed, the appearance of 3 Regional first records alone (Dovekie, Glaucous-winged Gull, and "Western" Flycatcher) provides sufficient grounds to render Fall 1992 memorable. In addition, however, a bevy of less notable rarities plus an unprecedented Broad-winged Hawk flight spiced the migration to suit the taste of even the most discriminating birder.

The cool temperatures of summer continued through fall, bringing pleasant birding conditions during the sultry days of August and producing chilly days in November. Precipitation was above normal, with serious flooding in portions of Iowa.

Above-average water levels eliminated shorebird habitat in many traditional sites but generated new habitat in a few others. Though most correspondents deemed frontal activity too weak to create major waves, a Sept. 22 front brought Indiana's best single-day jaeger count in 27 years, and a turbulent late-November blow corresponded with emplacement of the Glaucous-winged Gull and Dovekie.

A hearty thanks goes to Anne Stamm, who stepped down after serving as the Kentucky editor for almost 2 decades. Well done, Anne.

**Abbreviations:** L. Cal. (*L. Calumet, Chicago*); L. Chat. (*L. Chataqua N.W.R., IL*), Spfld. (*Springfield, IL*).

### LOONS TO IBISES

Red-throated Loons made an excellent showing with multiple reports from Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. The highest count was four on L. Lemon, IN, Nov. 6 (DW). This species also made a surprise appearance at Red Rock Res., IA, Nov. 7–9 (†DP, †m.ob.), providing that state's 2nd earliest record. Autumn Pacific Loons are becoming regular in the Region. The season's 4 reports included singletons from L. Spfld. Nov. 6–Dec. 8 (†DBo, m.ob.), L. Lemon, IN, Nov. 4–6 (DW *et al.*), Red Rock Res., IA, Nov. 8–9 (†JF, †THK), and Clinton L., IL, Nov. 14–22 (LA, RSA, MD). Common Loon numbers were generally above normal; the highest counts consisted of 585 seen Nov. 8, in a raft off Beverly Shores, IN (KB), 378 over Bay Village, OH, Nov. 15 (LR), and 293 in Erie, OH, Nov. 14 (RHa).

The peak Horned Grebe count was only 150 at Clinton L., IL, Nov. 23 (KR), suggesting a below-par movement through the Region. By contrast, a strong movement of Red-necked Grebes provided reports from every state except Kentucky and Missouri.



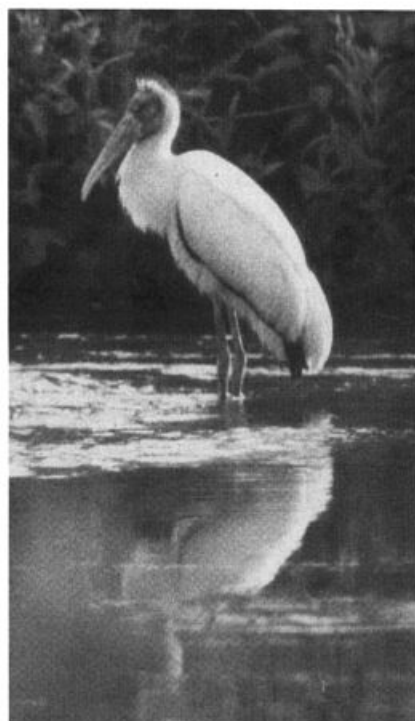
(THK), where this species is rare. Green-backed Herons are in general decline in Ohio (LR), a pattern consistent with reports throughout the Region. One Green-backed lingered at S. Bend, IN, until the unusually late date of Nov. 20 (EM). Though Black-crowned Night-Herons were scarce throughout the Region, four remained at Riverdale, IL, until Nov. 29 (WM). A smattering of Yellow-crowned Night-Heron reports included a late record in Chicago's Jackson Park Oct. 14 (HRy). A season highlight for Illinois birders was the appearance of an imm. Wood Stork at Sanganois conservation area Aug. 4. (DCo, †JL, †m.ob. ph.). The bird remained in the area until Sept. 1, when it was seen at Long L. in Schuyler (RP). An imm. *Plegadis* ibis, unidentified as to species, was observed at Runnels, IA, Oct. 4. (JSc).

Notable records included an impressive 34 at Buck Cr. S.P., OH, Nov. 8 (KA, DOv), singles from 3 Illinois locations, and one in *Allamakee*, IA, Nov. 14 (FM). Small numbers of Eared Grebes were scattered across the Region. The highest count was 6 at Spfld., Nov. 24 (DBo), and the easternmost sighting occurred in Geneva S.P., OH, Nov. 14 (JP). Single W. Grebes appeared at 3 Illinois locations and at one in Indiana, providing an unusually high number e. of the Mississippi R. Illinois sightings included birds at Clinton L., Oct. 24–Nov. 30 (†RCh *et al.*), Evanston Nov. 17–21 (CA *et al.*), and Chicago Nov. 27 (LB, JL). The Indiana bird was at L. Gibson Nov. 21 (†AB m.ob). Eight W. Grebes were also reported from 4 Iowa locations.

Am. White Pelican counts were normal in Iowa, where 2035 were counted at Saylorville Res., Aug. 15 (BE) and in e. Missouri. Numbers were low in w. Missouri (*vide* DiA). The maximum count e. of the Mississippi R. was >400 at Mark Twain N.W.R., IL, Sept. 11 (HW). One lingered in Gibson, IN, Aug. 30–Sept. 7 (GB). Double-crested Cormorants continue to flourish. Counts exceeding 100 birds were logged in every state; the highest tally was 5150 at Carlyle L., IL, Oct. 10 (KM). Eastern Missouri's first Neotropical Cormorant, and the state's 4th record, was at Riverlands Environmental Area in St. Charles (along the Mississippi R.), Aug. 30–Sept. 12 (†WR, †PS, †m.ob. ph.).

American Bitterns remained scarce, with 11 reported in 4 states. Noteworthy among the six Least Bitterns reported was one at Sloughs W.M.A., KY, on the very late date of Oct. 10 (MSt *et al.*). The Illinois maximum Great Blue Heron count of 500 at L. Chat., Aug. 1 (RP) was overshadowed by Great Egret totals of 700 in Calhoun, Sept. 15 (KM) and 600 at L. Chat., Aug. 29 (RP). Small

numbers of Snowy Egrets were reported in every state except Indiana and Iowa. Little Blue Herons were more widespread than normal, with 120 at Horseshoe L., W.M.A., Aug. 13 (KM) and 18 at Ballard W.M.A., KY, Aug. 18. An imm. Little Blue at Kertleson-Hogback, IA, Sept. 26 (LS) was rather late. Cattle Egrets occurred in good numbers across the Region. Ohio produced the highest counts, with 75 in Sandusky, Sept. 6 (JDu, SU) and 40 in Erie Sept. 26 (RHa). One wandered n.w. to Bays Branch, IA, Oct. 31



**Immature Wood Stork at Sanganois Conservation Area, Illinois, on August 6, 1992. Photograph/ Joe B. Milosevich.**

## WATERFOWL

The Tundra Swan flight was confined primarily to Iowa and Ohio. *Allamakee*, IA, provided the highest count, with 400, Nov. 14 (DCa), and Ohio had counts of 222 in Lake, Nov. 28 (LR *et al.*) and of 200 in *Ashtabula*, Nov. 27 (RHa). Elsewhere, the maximum count was 70 at James L., IN, Nov. 11 (BS). The Greater White-fronted Goose flight produced 500 at Bays Branch, IA (THK), and counts below 10 at several Illinois and Indiana locations. DeSota N.W.R., IA, hosted 540,000 Snow Geese Nov. 27 (TBr), providing the Region's highest count. The runner-up tally was 25,000 at Mark Twain N.W.R., IL, Nov. 14 (HW). Single Ross' Geese were at La Salle Nuclear Plant, IL, Nov. 21 (CW, JMc) and in *Guthrie*, IA, Nov. 27 (RCu). The Region's only Brants were seen in Erie, OH, where one was present Nov. 6 and four were observed Nov. 30 (KA).

Maximum counts of puddle ducks were encouraging, as shown by the totals listed in Table 1. All were recorded by M. George and represent the highest counts for the Region.

**Table 1. Maximum duck counts in Central Illinois**

Species	Number	Location	Date
Green-winged Teal	5,000	Carlyle L.	Nov. 17
Am. Black Duck	5,400	Madison	Nov. 16
Mallard	97,500	Carlyle L.	Nov. 17
N. Pintail	10,000	Carlyle L.	Nov. 17
Blue-winged Teal	1,200	Carlyle L.	Nov. 17
N. Shoveler	1,000	Madison	Nov. 16
Gadwall	9,000	Carlyle L.	Nov. 17
Am. Wigeon	4,400	Carlyle L.	Nov. 17
Canvasback	125	L. Chat.	Nov. 16
Redhead	1,500	Carlyle L.	Nov. 17
Ring-necked Duck	6,000	Carlyle L.	Nov. 17



**Buff-breasted Sandpiper in northwestern Will County, Illinois, September 11, 1992.**  
Photograph/Joe B. Milosevich.

The Lesser Scaup flight was about normal, with peak counts close to 2000 on L. Michigan. Typical Harlequin Duck numbers were recorded on the Great Lakes; however, the observation of five along Chicago's lakefront Oct. 3 (KH, m.ob.) is most unusual. Oldsquaw numbers were low on the Great Lakes, with four reports from L. Erie and 2 from L. Michigan. Among the numerous inland reports were 2 males at Brown Res., OH, Nov. 7 (JDu, SU), a lingering bird at Joliet, IL, Nov. 15–Dec. 3 (JOL, JM), three at Pleasant Cr. L., Nov. 26–27 (THK), and one at Dugger Recreation Area, IN, Nov. 7 (MBr). Small numbers of scoters were widely distributed across the Region. Blacks and Surfs occurred in all 6 states, but the only large concentration consisted of a mixed flock of 140 at Rocky R., OH, Oct. 31 (TLe). The 9 Black Scoter sightings away from the Great Lakes included a female in *Mercer*, IL, Oct. 12 (†BBE), a female at Pleasant Cr. L., IA, Oct. 24–28 (†JF, †THK), one at Louisville, KY, Oct. 31 (MSt), three on L. Gage, IN, Nov. 5 (Haw *et al.*), and five at Maryville, MO, Nov. 8 (ph. DE). The largest Surf Scoter count consisted of 60 at Bay Village, OH, Nov. 21 (JDu, SU). Noteworthy inland sightings came from Louisville, KY, where 8 were seen Nov. 1 (MSt), one at Bagnell Dam, MO, Nov. 16 (†WR), and 3 each at the IPL ponds and L. Manawa, IA, Oct. 28–31 (B & LP, THK). White-winged Scoters were reported in all states except Kentucky. The Region's highest single count was 10 at Caesar Creek L., Nov. 29–30 (LG, m.ob.), an excellent count for an inland site.

Common Goldeneye counts were modest to low, except for 2 in Illinois: 400 at Heidecke L. and L. Renwick Dec. 2 (JM) and 220 at Spfld., Nov. 29 (DBO). An overzealous migrant arrived in *Calloway*, Oct. 27 (CP), eclipsing the previous early arrival date for Kentucky. Highlighted by counts of 500 at Carlyle L., IL, Nov. 17 (MG), and 160 at

Ladue Res., OH, Nov. 7 (EE), the inland Bufflehead flight was outstanding. Hooded Merganser counts exceeding 100 were recorded in 4 states; the maximum was 220 at L. Rockwell, OH, Nov. 11 (LR). The Region's only large Com. Merganser accumulation consisted of 1800 at Saylorville Res., IA, Nov. 29 (BE). Red-breasted Mergansers were abundant on L. Erie, as demonstrated by a remarkable 220,000 seen at Sandusky, OH, Nov. 14 (RHs). The largest Ruddy Duck concentrations were also in Ohio, where 640 birds in *Allen*, Oct. 31 (DD), constituted the maximum count.

#### VULTURES TO CRANES

An excellent raptor migration was highlighted by a superb Broad-winged Hawk flight. In addition to numerous spot counts, an organized hawk watch was conducted in w. Ohio. The results of 43 days observation at Oak Openings, OH (TKp, MA), are listed in Table 2.

**Table 2. Fall Hawk watch 1992, Oak Openings, Ohio**

Season totals	High count	Date
884 Turkey Vulture	205	Oct. 4
4 Osprey	2	Sept. 13
1 Bald Eagle	1	Nov. 6
5 Northern Harrier	2	Oct. 17
210 Sharp-shinned	60	Oct. 4
25 Cooper's	4	Sept. 27
77 Red-shouldered	33	Oct. 31
2198 Broad-winged	1590	Sept. 12
262 Red-tailed	74	Oct. 31
2 Rough-legged	1	—
1 Golden Eagle	1	Nov. 15
14 American Kestrel	6	Oct. 4
4 Merlin	1	—
1 Peregrine Falcon	1	Oct. 4
41 Unidentified		
<b>3729 Total</b>		

The season's only Black Vulture accumulations consisted of >85 in *Grayson*, KY, Nov. 16 (KCl, HC) and 100 at Rocky Ford S.P., OH, Nov. 29 (SW). The greatest Turkey Vulture concentration was at Brookville Res., IN, where 170–300 were observed Sept. 20–Oct. 18 (NK *et al.*). The 29 Mississippi Kites observed at 6 Kentucky locations during August (BM *et al.*) were within their traditional range. Totally unexpected, however, was an immature that lingered in *Kane* (n. IL) Aug. 21–Sept. 5 (†RWi, †CR, †HRe). Bald Eagle numbers continue to improve, with peak counts of >75 at L. Chat, Nov. 9 (KR), 51 at Pool 9, *Allamakee*, IA, Nov. 22 (JDb), and 51 on Indiana DNR surveys in late November (*fide* JC). Small N. Harrier numbers were reported across the Region; the maximum count was 11, including 3 males, in *Ohio*, KY, Nov. 6 (KCl, HC). The anticipated fall N. Goshawk wave produced only a ripple, with 23 birds from 4 n. states.

The highest count was 3 at Illinois Beach S.P., Nov. 13 (EW *et al.*).

An unprecedented Broad-winged Hawk flight occurred in Highland Park, IL (near L. Michigan), at 4:15 P.M., Sept. 18. While driving, A. Siegle noted what he believed to be an enormous starling flock in the distance. Closer inspection indicated that the flock consisted of migrating Broad-winged Hawks. Upon stopping at a service station, he began to count the birds as they streamed past in a broad band. In about an hour, the band broke into kettles; by that time, 10,000 Broad-wingeds had already been counted. By 6 P.M., when the hawks were descending in search of landing sites, 14,000 Broad-winged Hawks had been tallied. No other raptor species were detected in the throng. This spectacle constitutes by far the largest Broad-winged flight ever for Illinois; the previous published maximum was only 4395.

Other notable Broad-winged counts included 3700 Sept. 21 at *Taney*, MO (R & EM), 3300 at Highland Park, IL, Sept. 19 (ASi), 1856 in *Boone*, MO, Sept. 19 (PMC), and >1000 at Busch W.M.A., MO, Sept. 19 (DBE *et al.*). Swainson's Hawks were recorded in expected areas; a count of 163 in w. Iowa Sept. 27 (B & LP) is noteworthy. Seventeen Golden Eagles were recorded in the 4 n. states, with immatures wandering e. to Ohio, where it is a species. The Ohio birds were seen at Parma Heights Oct. 27 (†RJ) and Oak Openings Nov. 15 (†MA). Forty-nine Merlins were distributed across the Region with records from every state; one at Union Slough N.W.R., IA, Aug. 20 (MK) established a new early arrival date. Peregrine Falcon numbers, bolstered by successful release programs, continue to increase. Seventy reports were scattered across the Region. An injured imm. gray-morph Gyrfalcon, discovered Oct. 29 in *Lorain*, OH, was taken to a local veterinarian, where it gained newspaper coverage (ph. *Plain Dealer*) before dying. Single Prairie Falcons were reported from Urbana, IL, Nov. 22 (RCh) and s. of Cherokee, IA, Sept. 19 (DBi).

As is generally the case, fall rail reports were skimpy. The Region's only Yellow Rails consisted of singletons flushed at Snake Cr. Marsh, IA, Sept. 19, 20, & 26 (m.ob.). Five King Rails were found at Casey Barrow Access, IA, Aug. 16 (JSc), and one was seen there Aug. 22 (JF). This species was also viewed at Springville Marsh, OH, Aug. 20 (TBa). The largest Com. Moorhen accumulation consisted of 20 at L. Cal., Sept. 6 (JM). An injured Purple Gallinule, found in Cleveland Heights, OH, Sept. 24, was taken to a rehabilitation center and ultimately transported to N. Carolina for release (*fide* JP). By Oct. 24, 17,000 Sandhill Cranes had arrived at the traditional staging area in Jasper-Pulaski W.M.A., IN (AB *et al.*). Excellent counts were also made in Kentucky, with 2000–3000 over Highlands, Nov. 29 (AK, *fide* BM) and >2000 over Louisville that same day (HSc). High crane

numbers elsewhere included 2185 at Chicago Botanical Gardens Nov. 13 (LB) and 200–300 in *Clark*, OH, Nov. 24–27, the latter constituting an unusually large count for that state. Noteworthy for Indiana were 2 pairs of Sandhills that nested near Bristol; each pair raised one young. All departed about Oct. 25 (VR).

#### SHOREBIRDS

Black-bellied Plovers were widespread, with a peak count of 51 at L. Cal., Aug. 23 (JL). Singletons visited Cowan L., OH, Sept. 9 (LG), establishing a first local record, and lingered at Rathbun Res. until Nov. 28 (TJ), providing a new late date for Iowa. Modest Lesser Golden-Plovers were widespread; the maximum was 164 in *Will*, IL, Sept. 11 (JM). Piping Plovers staged a fine flight with 7 sightings, including one in *Calloway*, KY, Sept. 1 (CP), where this species is rarely seen. American Avocets were scarce; the largest flocks contained 11 at Rathbun Res., IA, Oct. 8 (CS) and nine at Charleston, IL, Oct. 10 (RB). Single birds strayed into unfamiliar territory in *Calloway*, KY, Sept. 15–16 (CP) and at Caesar Creek L., OH, Nov. 3 (TLi, ph. LG). A flock of 500 Greater Yellowlegs at L. Chat, July 25 (RP), greatly exceeded counts from all other locations. The Lesser Yellowlegs flight was unexceptional, except in Illinois, where 4000 were seen at L. Chat, July 25 (RP), and 471 at L. Cal., July 20 (JL). A straggler lingered at *Gibson*, IN, until Nov. 21 (AB). Willets were in short supply this fall, with only 6 reports, all of singletons, in the entire Region. One of these appeared in *Calloway*, KY, Sept. 5 (CP), where this species is quite rare. A tardy Spotted Sandpiper remained in *Gibson*, IN, until Nov. 8 (GB). The maximum Upland Sandpiper count consisted of 27 at Schneider, IN, Aug. 16 (WB). The Whimbrel count totaled nine: five in Ohio, two in Chicago, and two in n.w. Indiana. Quite rare were single inland Hudsonian Godwits at Grand L. St. Mary's, OH, Oct. 22–24 (DD, LG, m.ob.), Arcola, IL, Oct. 24–25 (RSa, RCh), and Grand L. St. Mary's, OH, Nov. 11–15 (JDu, m.ob.).

The Region experienced a fine Red Knot flight, with 36 in Indiana, 12 in Illinois, four in Iowa, and four in Ohio. The Iowa birds appeared Oct. 4 at Rathbun Res. (†CS, †TJ, †RCu), establishing a late departure date for the state. The Semipalmated Sandpiper flight was feeble, with peak counts of 295 at L. Cal., Aug. 29 (JL) and 200 at L. Chat July 25 (RP). One lingered at Great L. St. Mary's, OH, until Oct. 24, well beyond the normal departure date (JD, SU). The 4000 birds seen at L. Chat July 25 (RP) constitute the Region's only

large Least Sandpiper concentration. A flock of 11 ad. White-rumped Sandpipers, observed in N. Chicago (*Lake*) Aug. 26 (DJ), constitutes an extraordinarily large fall count. A late White-rumped at Gibson, IN, Nov. 8, was superseded by two Baird's Sandpipers at the same location Nov. 15 (GB). The only large Pectoral Sandpiper counts came from Illinois, where 1000 birds were picked out at both L. Chat July 25 (RP) and Horseshoe L. Conservation Area Aug. 29 (KM). Elsewhere this species was scarce. Purple Sandpipers appeared sparingly at traditional Great Lakes sites, with one on L. Michigan and three on L. Erie. After last year's massive flight, the Dunlin migration moderated considerably; the largest counts consisted of 100–200 individuals. The Stilt Sandpiper migration was about normal; one reached Cowan L., OH, Sept. 3 (LG), establishing a first local record. Buff-breasted Sandpipers appeared in every state except Kentucky. The maximum count was 40 at Montrose W.M.A., MO, Aug. 30 (BF *et al.*). Single Ruffs were reported at Chicago July 19 (DM, ASi), a female at Riverlands Environmental Area, MO, Aug. 3 (†DiA), and a black and white male at Cleveland, OH, Aug. 24–25 (WK, †TLe). Few Short-billed Dowitchers were reported; the 244 at L. Cal., Sept. 13, were by far the largest single count. Two fine Long-billed Dowitcher counts were made in n.w. Ohio, the largest 300 at Metzger Marsh, *Lucas*, Oct. 24 (JD, SU). The identification of an early ad. Long-billed in *DuPage*, IL, Jul 27 (†MSm) was confirmed by call. Wilson's Phalaropes were scarce; the Region's total consisted of 10 from Illinois, two from Indiana, and two from Ohio. Red-necked Phalaropes were even less common, with only three in Illinois and two in Ohio. By contrast, Red Phalaropes staged an excellent flight with 8 records from 4 states. Many sightings were at inland locations, including a very early arrival at L. Chat, Sept. 10–19 (KR, †RCh, m.ob.), one at *Sangemon*, IL, Nov. 3 (DBo, ph. DOc), a singleton at Rath-



Vermilion Flycatcher at Rathbun Reservoir, Iowa, on October 25, 1992. Photograph/T. H. Kent.

bun Res., IA, Nov. 8–9 (ph. †THK, †RCu, m.ob.), and two at L. Lemon, IN, Nov. 7 (RT, DW *et. al.*).

#### JAEGERs, GULLs

The Great Lakes had a good Jaeger fall with eight Parasitics on L. Michigan and two on L. Erie, plus 10 unidentified jaegers along the Indiana lakefront. The best single day accompanied a Sept. 22 cold front that swept three ad. light-morph Parasitics, three juv. Parasitics, six unidentified jaegers, and a juv. Long-tailed Jaeger (ph. RHu, †LH, HAW *et al.*) into view at Miller Beach, IN. This tally constitutes Indiana's highest single-day jaeger count since 1965. Laughing Gulls were widespread, with 12 records from the 4 n. states. Franklin's Gulls expanded e. farther than normal, with 500 at Credit I., e. IA, Nov. 3 (CB, *fide* PP), 100+ at Palos, IL, Nov. 4 (SF), and 11 at L. Lemmon, IN, Nov. 7 (DW). Counts of Little Gulls continue to rise. Seven birds were recorded in Illinois (four at inland sites) and two in Ohio. The only Com. Black-headed Gull was at Lorain, OH, Nov. 26–27 (JP), where this species occurs regularly. Adult California Gulls appeared Nov. 16 in Chicago (†RHu) and Nov. 18 at Michigan City harbor, IN (†KB). Good numbers of Lesser-Black Backed Gulls were reported, with eight in Illinois, five in Ohio, two in Indiana, and one in Missouri. The latter record was at Riverlands Environmental Area Nov. 8–30 (JZ *et al.*). A major candidate for the "bird of the year" was an imm. Glaucous-winged Gull that appeared in



Black-legged Kittiwake in Boone County, Missouri, November 24, 1992. Photograph/Doug Hardesty.

Chicago to frequent garbage dumps on the city's s. side. The bird, believed to be in 2nd-year plumage, was discovered at O'Brien Lock and Dam, Cook, Nov. 27 (†LA); it remained until Dec. 12 and was seen and photographed (JM) by scores of birders. This appears to be the first confirmed Glaucous-winged Gull e. of the Mississippi R. A Great Black-backed Gull wandered w. to Riverlands Environmental Area, MO, Nov. 15–19 (JV *et al.*), where this species is casual. Black-legged Kittiwakes were widely dispersed across the Region, with three in Illinois, three in Indiana, two in Ohio, and one in Missouri. The earliest sighting was at Ogden Dunes, IN, on the remarkably early date of Oct. 4 (JW). Notable among the Illinois birds was a well-documented adult at Wilmette Nov. 25 (†RHu). The Missouri kittiwake, a juvenile, was found near in Boone (s.e. of Columbia) Nov. 24 (†PMc, ph. DH); this species, which is casual away from the Mississippi R., provided a first county record. An ad. Sabine's Gull was at L. Spfld. Sept. 27–Oct. 1 (†DBo, ph. DOe).

#### TERNS TO WOODPECKERS

Caspian and Com. terns moved through in normal numbers, with respective peak counts of 85 at Coralville Res., IA, Sept. 3 (TKi), and 500 along the Indiana lakefront Sept. 18 (KB). Late Forster's Terns lingered at L. Spfld. until Nov. 11 (DBo) and at Calhoun, KY, until Nov. 19 (CP). Perhaps Rosche's comment, "Wow! Where have they gone?" most aptly describes the dwindling Black Tern numbers across the Region. Though small numbers were reported in 5 states, the highest count was a paltry 25. One of the season's most pleasant surprises was the appearance of the Region's first Dovekie at La Salle Nuclear Plant, IL, Nov. 26 (†CW, †JMc). The alcid was observed at close range and was studied for more than an hour as it swam and dove in the plant's cooling lake. Dovekie records exist for Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. The latter consists of 2 specimens, both taken in late November.

Both cuckoos appeared in normal numbers. The rarely reported pale form of Great Horned Owl was at Algona, IA, Nov. 29 (MK). A modest incursion of Snowy Owls developed in the n. states, with eight in Ohio, six in Illinois, six in Indiana, and three in Iowa. Burrowing Owls were reported from 2 Iowa locations. The first was found dead in the grill of a local car in Pocahontas, Sept. 10 (SN, *fide* JDi), and the 2nd was observed in Story, Sept. 11 (JK, *fide* JDi). Per usual, Long-eared Owls were reported sparingly, with five in Illinois and two in Iowa. Short-eared Owls appeared in every state; the maximum count was eight in Victoria, IL, Nov. 14 (MBa). Single N. Saw-whet Owls were found at five locations: 3 in Iowa, one in Illinois, and one in Ohio.

Good Com. Nighthawk flights occurred in every state; among the peak counts were 2500 at Columbus, OH, Sept. 3 (KA), >1200 in Highland Park, IL, Sept. 7 (PF), and 1050



This bird, apparently of the Western Flycatcher complex (Cordilleran or Pacific-slope), was a notable stray at Lake Ahquabi, Iowa, November 15, 1992. Photograph/T. H. Kent.

in Homes, OH, Sept. 4 (ES). The only large Chimney Swift tally was made in Urbana, IL, Sept. 8, where 1200+ were observed (RCh). Sadly, a traditional site was destroyed when the chimney at Fairfield High School, IA, was blocked; in previous years, hundreds of swifts congregated at the school, but this year only seven swifts were found (DP). Iowa's 3rd Lewis' Woodpecker was discovered Oct. 14 in rural Cherokee, n. of Washta. The bird remained until Oct. 18 (†MBw, ph. THK, m.ob.).

#### FLYCATCHERS TO WRENS

Olive-sided Flycatchers, E. Wood-Pewees, and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported in typical numbers. Most unexpected was the appearance of a "Western" Flycatcher at L. Ahquabi S.P., IA, Nov. 14–15. This individual could not be identified as to species, (†AJ and BBr, †ph. JF). If the bird can be identified, it will constitute a first record for the Region. Lingerings Acadian Flycatchers were reported at several locations; the latest satisfactorily documented record was Sept. 26 at Fox I., IN (Haw). A late E. Phoebe was identified at Headlands Beach S.P., OH, Nov. 15 (CH). Remarkably, two Vermilion Flycatchers made a striking appearance within the Region this fall, both females. The first was at Spfld. Sept. 18 (†DBo, ph. DOe), furnishing Illinois' 5th record (and first ever for fall). The 2nd bird, at Rathbun Res., Oct. 25 (†JSi, ph. †THK, †m.ob.), provided the 3rd Iowa record. Extralimital W. Kingbirds were found at Rice L., IL, Sept. 6 (ASt), at Penfield, IL, Sept. 7 (RCh), and at Geneva S.P., OH, Sept. 15 (†JP).

Sizable Purple Martin flocks included >5000 in Fulton, KY, Aug. 23 (BM *et al.*), 2000 in Chicago July 22 (KH), and 1100 at

Ottawa N.W.R., OH, Sept. 6 (EP). Tree Swallow counts reached 20,000 at 2 Illinois locations: L. Chat., Sept. 25 (KR) and Rice L. Oct. 3 (RCh, LA). Illinois also provided maximum counts: 2000 N. Rough-winged Swallows at L. Chat., Aug. 29 (RP), 2000 Bank Swallows at L. Chat., Sept. 12 (RCh), and 100 Cliff Swallows Sangamon, Sept. 3 (DBo). A lingering Bank Swallow in Henderson, KY, Oct. 10 (MSt) provided a new late date for the state. A Barn Swallow at Wilmington Res., OH, Nov. 21 (LG) was also quite late. Unusual for the fall migration was the passage of 410 Blue Jays in just a half-hour at Union Slough N.W.R., Sept. 20 (MK). Fledgling Blue Jays, being fed by adults in Jefferson, KY, Sept. 1 (DS), provided an unusually late nesting record. The 140 Fish Crows observed at the Union County conservation area Sept. 25 (KM) represent one of the highest counts ever for the state. Red-breasted Nuthatches were plentiful only in Iowa—counts were disturbingly low elsewhere. Winter Wrens peaked at Ottawa N.W.R., Oct. 4, when 25 were counted. Both Sedge and Marsh Wrens enjoyed normal migrations.

#### KINGLETS TO WARBLERS

A bumper flight of Golden-crowned Kinglets resulted in high counts across the Region. A rather late nesting of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was established in Grayson, KY, Aug. 11 (KCl), when adults were observed feeding 3 young. A Townsend's Solitaire turned up in s.w. Iowa, where this species is rare. The bird was discovered at Waubonsie S.P. Nov. 11 (BR, PL) and was still present Nov. 13 (THK, JF). The peak Swainson's Thrush count was 138 in Evanston, IL, Sept. 15 (EW). Hermit Thrushes also had an excellent flight in n.e. Ohio (LR). A very late Wood Thrush was discovered in Urbana, IL, Oct. 25 (EC). The largest Am. Pipit count consisted of 200 in Parke, IN, Nov. 6 (AB). Seventy, observed in Medina, OH, Nov. 14 (JMe), represents a fine count for that location. A record number of Sprague's Pipits were recorded in w. Missouri. Eight were sited at Rosecranz Airport Oct. 2 (MR), and 14 were there Oct. 18 (DE, TBk). These impressive numbers were pale compared with the 37 found at Taberville Prairie Oct. 23 (DE). An unusually large assemblage of 2000 Cedar Waxwings visited Summit L., IN, Oct. 31 (JB, KG). Typical Shrike numbers were reported across the Region, with 11 Northern and 10 Loggerheads.

Vireos were reported in typical numbers. An extremely late imm. White-eyed Vireo was discovered in Columbus, OH, Dec. 15 (†BW), and a tardy Philadelphia lingered in Chicago's Jackson Park until Oct. 24 (DoA, KCa). Late Red-eyed Vireos appeared at Highlands Beach S.P., OH, Nov. 1 (LR, RHn) and at Spfld., Nov. 19 (DBo).

As is frequently the case, assessment of the warbler flight depended strongly on the location of the observer. In the Chicago area, the warbler migration produced good numbers



of Magnolias, Redstarts, Mournings Ovenbirds, Wilson's, and Blackburnians; Cape May Warblers were scarce (DJ). A similar pattern existed near Cleveland, OH, except for Wilson's counts, which were meager (TLe). Remarkably low numbers of all species were found at Ottawa N.W.R. (EP) and in n.e. Indiana (Haw). A ♂ "Lawrence's" Warbler was identified at Urbana, IL, Sept. 8 (RCh), and a "Brewster's" was picked out at Elizabethtown, KY, Sept. 5 (†RHe). Late warblers included two Tennessees at Spfld. Oct. 21 (DBO), a Nashville at MacBride S.P., IA, Nov. 1 (THK), a Chestnut-sided at Fairfield, IA, Nov. 21 (DP), a Blackburnian at Potato Cr. S.P., IN, Oct. 18 (TS), and a Com. Yellowthroat at Morgan Cr. Park, IA, Nov. 27 (*vide* THK).

By far the season's most remarkable warbler was a **Kirtland's Warbler** at L. Chat. Oct. 9 (†KR). This is Illinois' 3rd fall record and the first since 1978. Always difficult to find in fall, Cerulean Warblers were detected at Sugarcreek Preserve, OH, Sept. 13 (LG) and in Vermilion, IL, Sept. 22 (HSm). The only Worm-eating Warblers were at Three Creeks S.F., MO, Aug. 23 (GW) and in Indiana's Migrant Trap Sept. 19 (CF).



**Le Conte's Sparrow at Dugger Recreation Area, Indiana, October 17, 1992. Photograph/Michael Ray Brown.**

#### TANAGERS TO FINCHES

Summer Tanagers were more common than normal, with four in Kentucky, three in Ohio, and two in Indiana. A winter ♀ Scarlet Tanager that visited a feeder in Pendleton, KY, Nov. 22–23 (JA) exceeded the previous latest state record by 3 weeks. Immature male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks lingered until the remarkably late date of Nov. 28 at both Glenview, IL (PF), and Atlantic, IA (AJ *et al.*). Indigo Bunting totals of 42 in St. Clair, IL, Aug. 14 (KM) and 30 in Gibson, IN, Sept. 7 (GB) represent excellent fall counts. Dickcissels were observed feeding young Aug. 30 in Arcoloo, IL (RCh), furnishing a late nesting report. Six "spotted" Rufous-sided Towhees

were reported in Missouri; two of these wandered e. to St. Louis. Clay-colored Sparrows appeared in typical numbers, with four in Illinois and three in Iowa. Linging birds were observed at Spfld. Oct. 27 (DBO) and at Union Grove S.P., IA, Nov. 23 (MP). A Lark Sparrow, discovered in Chicago Sept. 10 (RHu) was well n. of its normal range. Completely unexpected was a Lark Bunting at L. Cal., Sept. 5 (LA); this species is a casual visitor in Illinois. Savannah Sparrow numbers were low along L. Erie. It is possible that they were simply all farther west, as counts of 330 in Boone, MO, Oct. 17–31 (PMc) and of 45 near Hollandsburg, IN, Oct. 19 (AB) were unusually high. LeConte's Sparrows were surprisingly common and widespread, with reports from every state except Kentucky. In Missouri the previous high count was almost doubled when an Oct. 17 LeConte's survey was conducted in Boone (PMc *et al.*) yielding 94 birds. A very early LeConte's wandered as far e. as Cleveland, OH, where it appeared Aug. 22 (†RHn, †RHa). An impressive 15 Sharp-tailed Sparrows were counted at L. Chat., Sept. 25 (KR). One was also found at Slough W.M.A., KY, Oct. 10 (MSt, KOS), providing that state's 5th record. Sharp-tailed also occurred at 2 locations in Iowa and at one site in Indiana. Though rarely reported, the distinctive Gambel's race of the White-crowned Sparrow appears regularly in the Region. During the fall flight, *gambelii* were noted at Brookville Res., IN, Oct. 11 (WB) and at L. Cal., Nov. 7 (WM). Harris' Sparrows were reported e. of the Mississippi only in Illinois, where seven were found. Notable Longspur reports included 2000 Laplands at Clinton L., IL, Nov. 15 (RCh) and a ♀ Smith's in Sangamon, IL, Nov. 7 (DBO). The Region's high Snow Bunting count was 500 at La Salle Nuclear Plant, IL, Nov. 22 (CW, JMc).

The Bobolink flight was deemed very poor in Ohio; elsewhere it was normal. A ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird at Mark Twain N.W.R., IL, Oct. 21 (HW) was unusual for that location. Brewer's Blackbirds appeared with greater frequency. The peak counts included 24 at FermiLab, IL, Nov. 7 (MSm) and 20 at Clinton L., IL, Nov. 29 (RP, MD). Out-of-range Brewer's included singletons in Tuscarrus, OH, Oct. 29 (†RSc) and in Warren, KY, Nov. 21 (MSt). Few N. Orioles were reported; the peak count was eight at Spfld. Aug. 23–24 (DBO). Winter finches continue to vacate the Region. Small numbers of Purple Finches and Red Crossbills were scattered across 5 states; peak counts of both species occurred at Wilmette, IL, Oct. 24, where (JOb) found 30 and 48, respectively. A single White-winged Crossbill, in Lake, OH, Oct. 27 (JP), provided the only record. Pine Siskins were recorded in every state, but the only large count was of 800+ at L. Cal., Oct. 24 (JOb). An ad. Am. Goldfinch, feeding tail-bobbing young out of the nest in Pendleton, Oct. 2, provided a late nesting record for Kentucky. Evening Grosbeaks were sparse, with only 4 reports

for the Region: three singletons in Illinois and a small flight in Ohio.

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# CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

Greg D. Jackson

The menu this fall was varied enough for the most discriminating palate. For the "eat-to-live" types, we were offered a respectable diet of meat-and-potatoes migrants. The "live-to-eat" constituency dined on a smorgasbord of exotic vagrants. There were good numbers of Am. White Pelicans and large waders this fall. Many species of waterfowl appeared ahead of schedule. Raptors and shorebirds were numerous, and hummingbirds gave a great show. Several lingering swallows were recorded. Wood-warbler numbers were mixed, raising varying opinions on this portion of the passage.

Temperatures were generally lower than usual early in the season, with average values later. Precipitation was increased both early and late this fall, the former partly attributable to Hurricane *Andrew*. The best fronts for observing birds at the coast were Aug. 28–29, Sept. 27–29, and Oct. 11–12.

Observers should always submit details on unusual birds, as I cannot include sightings of rarities without acceptable documentation. I appreciate the cooperation I have received in this matter.

**Abbreviations:** acc. (accepted by the state bird records committee); C.F.H. (*Centerton Fish Hatchery, Benton Co., AR*); C.P. (*Cameron Parish, LA*); M.L. (*Millwood Lake, s.w. AR*); M.R. (*Mountain Region, AL*); p.a. (pending acceptance by the state bird records committee); ph. (photographed); S.G. (*St. Gabriel, Iberville Parish, LA*); T.E.C. (*The Earth Complex, a.k.a. Ensley Bottoms, Shelby Co., TN*); T.V. (*Tennessee Valley, AL*). Place names in *italics* are parishes (Louisiana) or counties.

## LOONS TO STORKS

A Red-throated Loon Nov. 6 in *Oktibbeha* (TLS, MC) provided only the 3rd inland Mississippi record of this usually coastal rarity. Single Eared Grebes were locally rare Nov. 8 & 15 at 2 sites in *Lowndes*, MS (TLS, MH, JR), and beginning Nov. 17 in w. *Jefferson*, AL (ALM, MO). As was true last fall, large numbers of Am. White Pelicans were noted, appearing as early as Aug. 14. More than 800 arrived at M.L. Sept. 11 (CM), and >2000 were seen the next day in *Pope*, AR (NL, CL). Flocks numbering up to 425 pelicans were tallied in mid-season in *Dyer*, TN (WGC). A Brown Pelican Sept. 28 at Bull Shoals L., *Marion* (M & DW, acc.) represented the 7th record for Arkansas. Double-crested Cormorants continue to do well in the Region, with large numbers noted in several areas. One in *Madison*, LA, Aug. 13 (JTB) was early. An M.R. maximum was set by the observation of 230 Sept. 24 in w. *Jefferson*, AL (TAI, BM). An Anhinga was unusual



## S.A.

To be imprisoned in the viewless winds,  
And blown with restless violence round about  
The pendant world.

SHAKESPEARE, *Measure for Measure*

Hurricane *Andrew* was the pre-eminent weather event of the season, with an impact on s. Louisiana that will be felt for many years. After devastating s. Florida, the tempest crossed the Louisiana coast w. of Morgan City in the early morning of Aug. 26. Sustained winds were up to 135 mph, with gusts of 170 mph recorded. The storm, constantly decreasing in strength, tracked N that morning between Baton Rouge and Lafayette. Over the next 36 hours, it curved NE across c. and s. Mississippi and n. Alabama, bringing a deluge of rain. Thankfully, New Orleans was spared the brunt of the storm, but estimates of damage in Louisiana were still put at \$1 billion [N.O.A.A. 1992. *Climatological Data: Louisiana* 97(8)].

The avian toll from hurricanes is always difficult to estimate, in terms of both loss of life and habitat degradation. Transient landbirds would be unlikely to initiate flight in the face of the approaching storm, and these losses were probably low, given the narrow front of the hurricane. Waterbirds showed the inland displacement typical of these storms. The inaccessibility and evacuation of much of the immediate coast precluded observation as *Andrew* approached, and there were no reports from these areas.

A few Brown Pelicans were seen inland in Louisiana after the storm. Magnificent Frigatebirds are classic storm waifs; there were 8 reports of >50 birds in s.e. Louisiana, with 3 sightings of seven frigatebirds Aug. 27–28 in *Warren* and *Rankin*, MS (JTB, TLS, ph. MCr). Affected large waders included a Reddish Egret in New Orleans Aug. 26 (ph. DPM, PY *et al.*) and a few oddly placed Roseate Spoonbills in s.e. Louisiana. Two Pomarine Jaegers were in *Jefferson*, LA, Aug. 27 (PY, p.a.), and another was spotted in that parish the next day (DPM, p.a.). A Long-tailed Jaeger was seen Aug. 27 at S.G. (JVR, p.a.); there are only 2 accepted Louisiana records of this vagrant. At least 10 other unidentified jaegers were also noted in s.e. Louisiana.

Numbers of inland Louisiana Laughing Gulls were reported; nine were near Jackson, MS, Aug. 27 (TLS). The occurrence of a Laughing Gull Sept. 6 near Birmingham, AL (ALM, ADM), may have been storm related. Increased numbers of Caspian Terns were noted in several areas, with the 52 in *Morgan* Aug. 29 (SWM) furnishing a new maximum for inland Alabama. There were many displaced Royal, Sandwich, and Least terns, with reports of the former two as far inland as Hattiesburg, MS (TLS). Onshore Bridled and Sooty terns are usually related to tropical disturbances. There were 3 Louisiana reports of single Bridleds Aug. 27–28 in *Pointe Coupee* (CAM, AWK), in *Jefferson* (DPM), and at S.G. (JVR) (all p.a.). Three s.e. Louisiana Sooties were found, one dead, and three were also noted in Mississippi in *Adams* (GT) and *Hinds* (DM, SP). Large numbers of Black Terns were seen in Louisiana, with as many as 473 in New Orleans Aug. 26 (PY). Inland Black Skimmer reports included 20 at S.G. (CGB) and nine birds at 4 sites inland in Mississippi Aug. 27–Sept. 14 (TLS, GK).

in *Shelby*, TN, Aug. 2–6 (ph. JRW). The Magnificent Frigatebird spotted Nov. 14 in C.P. (BF *et al.*) was late.

A Least Bittern described as the rare Cory's (chestnut) color phase was located Sept. 6 at Sardis W.M.A., *Lafayette*, MS (RRR). Great Egrets congregated early in the season at the catfish farms of *Humphreys*, MS, with a peak count of >2500 Aug. 22 (GK, SK). An individual Nov. 12 at C.F.H. (KG) set a new local departure date. Tricolored Herons disperse inland sparingly in late summer and early autumn, but this year numbers were extraordinary; there is a possible correlation with Hurricane *Andrew*. I received >20 reports from 4 states involving hundreds of birds, with a high tally of 191 Tricoloreds Sept. 19 at S.G. (SWC, DLD). The count of 30 in *Chicot*, AR, Aug. 27 (DRS, HP, MP, JW) was amazing for that part of the Region. Even more closely associated with the coast is the Reddish Egret. There were no previous records in inland Mississippi, so the single birds seen Aug. 1 in *Grenada* (WMD) and Aug. 19–23 in *Noxubee* (TLS, MC, ph. JB) were a surprise. The 94 Cattle Egrets in *Morgan*, AL, Aug. 29 (SWM) set a new T.V. maximum. A lone bird Nov. 15 at C.F.H. (KG, MM) was late.

Unusual counts of White Ibises included approximately 50, with only 2 adults, Aug. 26 in *Chicot*, AR (DRS, HP, MP), and a peak of 155 birds Oct. 28 at S.G. (JVR). White-faced Ibises are casual in Arkansas; singles were identified Aug. 26 in *Chicot* (DRS) and Nov. 28–29 in *Clark* (WG, DH). This was a banner year for wandering Roseate Spoonbills, with 12 reports involving 85 birds away from the usual areas in s.w. Louisiana. Farthest afield were 2–3 immatures Sept. 3–Oct. 2 in *Chicot*, AR (DRS, CD), and another Aug. 12 in *Noxubee*, MS (TLS, JB); one Arkansas bird made television news in Little Rock! Wood Storks conducted localized invasions in Louisiana and Mississippi, while numbers seemed only average in Alabama. The largest concentration reported was of 440 birds Aug. 5 in *Noxubee*, MS (TLS, MC), establishing a new state maximum. Storks are rare in much of the Florida Panhandle, so one in *Okaloosa* Oct. 5 (SM) was noteworthy.

#### WATERFOWL TO RAPTORS

Two ad. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were great finds Aug. 18 & 22 in *Chicot*, AR (DRS, CS, ph.). Extremely rare for n.w. Florida was a **Tundra Swan** in *Santa Rosa* Nov. 13 (ph. CWM). Ross' Geese are routine in s.w. Louisiana, but one seen Nov. 26 at S.G. (JVR) was notable. A N. Pintail in *Washington*, Aug. 22 (MM) was early for n.w. Arkansas. As many as 11 Blue-winged Teals tarried through the end of the season in *Oktibbeha*, MS (TLS, MH, JR). A rare **Cinnamon Teal** was discovered Sept. 13 at Yazoo N.W.R., *Washington*, MS (TLS, GK); what was probably the same male was seen there Oct. 10 (JEM). Record-early Gadwalls included nine in *Okaloosa*, FL, Sept. 10

(DMW), and two birds the following day in *Noxubee*, MS (TLS). A new Mississippi arrival date was provided by the single Am. Wigeon Sept. 13 at Yazoo N.W.R. (TLS, GK). Unusual summering ducks that continued well into the fall season included a Canvasback in *Jackson*, MS (CC, JRP, m.ob.), and a Redhead in w. *Jefferson* (TAI, m.ob.). Scarce inland Oldsquaws were seen Nov. 7–8 in *Tunica*, MS (JRW, GK, SK), and Nov. 15–22 at T.E.C. (MGW, DAM, CB, VR).

Even less common away from the coast is the Black Scoter; single birds were recorded Oct. 24–Nov. 22 in *Forrest*, MS (TLS), Nov. 7 at M.L. (CM, acc.), and Nov. 20–21 in *Oktibbeha*, MS (TLS, MC, JB). Surfs are the most regularly seen of the scoters in our Region, though they are still noteworthy in most areas. There were 8 reports of 13 inland birds beginning Oct. 17. Non-coastal White-winged Scoters are tough to find; singles were observed in *Forrest*, MS, Oct. 24–Nov. 1 (TLS) and at M.L., Nov. 21 (CM). A Com. Merganser, only occasional at the coast, was located Oct. 25–26 in *Jackson*, MS (CC, JAT, JRP, m.ob.). Eight Ruddy Ducks Aug. 22 in *Humphreys*, MS (GK, SK), and another Aug. 23–Sept. 17 in *Jones*, MS (TLS), likely were rare summering birds. Cross L. in *Caddo*, LA, produced both an early Ruddy Duck Oct. 3 (CL) and an impressive 9000 Nov. 28 (CL *et al.*).

At least eight Black-shouldered Kites, uncommon in s.w. Louisiana, were noted in C.P., beginning Oct. 1; one was seen Oct. 22 in *Hancock*, MS (NB), near the occasional breeding site. An Am. Swallow-tailed Kite was a surprise in s. *Morgan*, AL, Sept. 8–13 (ALM, MO, GDJ, DGJ), with only one previous T.V. record. Two Mississippi Kites Aug. 22 in s.e. *Shelby* (GDJ, DGJ) were rare for the M.R. The imm. Bald Eagles seen Aug. 11 in *Lafayette* (VT) and Aug. 12–15 in *Noxubee* (TLS, GK) could have emerged from recent successful nests in n. Mississippi. Beginning Sept. 18, 10 Bald Eagles were reported in s. Louisiana, where the species can be difficult to find. An extremely early N. Harrier was at S.G., Aug. 1 (JVR). Swainson's Hawks are rare in the Region, though they are regularly seen in s.w. Louisiana; one was spotted Oct. 24 in C.P. (DPM, PY). More unusual were two at S.G. Oct. 13 (JVR), an outstanding three Swainson's Oct. 18 at Ft. Morgan, AL (ALM, ADM), and a single bird at New Orleans Oct. 29 (KVR). An ad. Golden Eagle was a rare find Oct. 15 in *Okaloosa*, FL (DMW, CW). Good numbers of transient Merlins appeared this fall; even from inland areas, I received 18 reports of 23 birds from Aug. 30. Peregrine Falcon sightings were on a par with recent fall records, which translates to continued encouraging news for this regal predator. A **Prairie Falcon** was spotted Nov. 28 in *Shelby*, TN (MAG, p.a.); questions about origin always beset sightings of this species in our Region, but it is likely that some are wild vagrants.



**Tundra Swans are very rare at the Gulf. This bird November 13, 1992, in Santa Rosa County furnished one of few records for northwestern Florida. Photograph/C.W. Milmore.**

#### RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS

Several Yellow Rails were again noted in October in the rice fields of Louisiana and Arkansas. Sandhill Cranes are rare in w. Tennessee, so the adult found Oct. 14 in *Dyer* (WGC) was of interest. Lesser Golden-Plovers are usually scarce in autumn, and this season we had only an echo of the 1991 invasion. At T.E.C., there were 6 reports of 28 birds Sept. 12–Nov. 14 (JRW *et al.*). Ten Lesser Golden-Plovers were noted Nov. 7 in *Noxubee*, MS (TLS), a local maximum for the fall; one bird lingered to Nov. 11 in nearby *Loundes* (TLS), for a local departure record. Piping Plovers are tough to find inland, especially with their currently reduced population. Lone birds were located Aug. 30 in *Colbert*, AL (SWM, GNP), Sept. 6 in *Morgan*, AL (SWM), and Sept. 13–17 on Island No. 13, *Lake*, TN (WGC, RPF). There were several unusual sightings of Am. Avocet, with a peak count of 26 at M.L., Sept. 21 (CM, DdH, DH). Two Greater Yellowlegs at C.F.H., Nov. 22 (MM) established a new local departure date. An early Upland Sandpiper was noted Aug. 4 in *Oktibbeha*, MS (TLS); late birds were found Oct. 6 at S.G. (DLD) and Oct. 11 in New Orleans (DPM, PY).

Whimbrels are difficult to find in s.e. Louisiana in autumn. This year there were 3 reports of six birds Aug. 14–26 from *Jefferson* (CS, RSB, m.ob.) and S.G. (JVR). The Long-billed Curlew is rare away from s. Louisiana and upper Mobile Bay, AL. Notable observations of single curlews were made Aug. 23 on W. Ship I., MS (TLS), Sept. 17–Oct. 5 at Biloxi, MS (MCn, JAT, m.ob.), Sept. 6 in *Natchitoches*, LA (CL), and Oct. 15 in *LaSalle*, LA (RJB). A rare autumn Hudsonian Godwit was discovered Oct. 12 in *Chicot*, AR (DRS, acc.). Marbled Godwits are expected in migration in small numbers

along the coast, but inland birds are rare. Lone Marbleds were found Aug. 11–14 in *Noxubee* (TLS, MC, m.ob.) and Sept. 19–20 in *Humphreys* (GK, JPH *et al.*); there were only 3 previous n. Mississippi records. Another Marbled was sighted at T.E.C., Sept. 6–7 (GK, ph. JRW). A late Ruddy Turnstone, uncommon in the interior, was seen in *Chicot*, AR, Oct. 3–6 (DRS, JW, HP). The Red Knot is a scarce inland migrant, so 3 reports of four birds were notable Sept. 3–21 along the Mississippi R., in w. Tennessee (MLG, JRW, WGC). A flock of 70 was significant Oct. 28 in *Harrison*, MS (TLS).

North Mississippi produced 11 sightings of 32 Sanderlings Aug. 8–Oct. 10 (WMD, TLS, ES, GK, SK), more than is customary for this non-coastal area. Baird's Sandpipers are regular but can be tricky to locate, in the e. portion of the Region. This season there were 7 reports of up to eight birds Sept. 17–Nov. 9 in n. Mississippi (TLS), Alabama (ALM, MO, GDJ, RAD), and n.w. Florida (DMW). A remarkable find was the juv. **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** discovered at T.E.C., Sept. 12 (ph. JRW). This bird was viewed by hundreds of birders from 14 states through Sept. 18, providing the first Tennessee record (acc.) and only the 2nd for the Region. The count of 33 Stilt Sandpipers Oct. 12 in *Morgan*, AL (GDJ), set a new T.V. maximum. A Wilson's Phalarope at the same site Oct. 1–18 (ALM, m.ob.) provided a late departure date for n. Alabama. Unusual records of Red-necked Phalaropes included up to three Sept. 20–21 at Yazoo N.W.R., MS (TLS, GK), and a late bird at M.L., Oct. 24–Nov. 1 (ph. CM *et al.*). A rare Red Phalarope provided the first T.V. record Nov. 8–13 in *Colbert*, AL (GNP, SWM, m.ob.).

#### LARIDS TO SWIFTS

A Pomarine Jaeger Sept. 5 in C.P. (JH, JBo) had been present since July; this species is rare onshore in the Region. A juv. **Long-tailed Jaeger** at M.L., Oct. 12–20 (CM, HP, MP, m.ob., ph., acc.), provided only the 2nd record for Arkansas. Inland Laughing Gulls are rare. Non-hurricane-related occurrences included singles Oct. 17 and Nov. 21 in *Yalobusha*, MS (GK, SK), Sept. 24 in w. *Jefferson*, AL (TAI, BM), Nov. 21 in *Marshall* and *Limestone*, AL (GDJ, JH, JTP), and Nov. 22 in *Forrest*, MS (TLS). The grouping of 4 late November sightings in 2 days across a wide area implies a low-level incursion. The Franklin's Gull Nov. 28 in *Caddo*, LA (CL, HH, BH, VN), was very late. Lesser Black-backed Gulls continue to be found in small numbers in s.w. Louisiana. At Rutherford Beach, C.P., two to four birds were present Sept. 24–Oct. 25 (JH, JFH, DLD, SWC *et al.*, p.a.). For the 10th season, "Les Black" returned to the

beach at Gulfport, MS (JAT, m.ob.). An ad. Great Black-backed Gull was a treat at Dauphin I., Oct. 2–11 (LR, m.ob.); this "Kong of the Gulls" occurs in Alabama in most years. Black-legged Kittiwake is a rarity anywhere in the Region, and most sightings are of immatures. An adult was discovered Nov. 29 at Barnett Res., *Rankin*, MS (TLS *et al.*). Eight Com. Terns were unusual in *Oktibbeha*, MS, Sept. 18 (TLS). The 25 Forster's Terns Nov. 28 in *Caddo*, LA (CL *et al.*), were unusually numerous for that late in the season. More than 150 Black Terns Sept. 8 in *Colbert* and *Lawrence*, AL (ALM, MO), set a new T.V. maximum.

**Eurasian Collared-Doves** continued their probe into the Region. Up to 20 birds were located in late summer and early fall in Montgomery (LG, p.a.), furnishing the first inland Alabama record. The White-winged Dove is usually seen in small numbers along the coast each fall; this year I had 10 reports of 18 birds beginning Oct. 23. A Com. Ground-Dove was at T.E.C., Sept. 19–Oct. 18 (LW, JRW *et al.*), and three were nearby Nov. 14–15 (JRW *et al.*); this diminutive dove is rarely seen in Tennessee. The Inca Dove breeds sparingly in s.w. Louisiana but is rare farther e. in the state. A lone individual was spotted in *St. John*, Oct. 26 (RJS). This was a good season for the Groove-billed Ani, which is regularly seen in small numbers in fall along the Gulf. Beginning Sept. 22, there were 12 observations involving 36 anis from coastal areas as far e. as *Bay*, FL. The report of 2 of these oddities inland in *Avoyelles*, LA, Sept. 19 (RJB, m.ob.) was very unusual. Transits of >1000 Com. Nighthawks were noted Sept. 3–4 in *Craighead*, AR (NL, CL). The Whip-poor-will Sept. 1 in *Hancock*, MS (JAT), was early. Several *Chaetura* swifts were seen in s.e. Louisiana in late November, with both Chimney and Vaux's suspected to have been present.



This juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, a first for Tennessee and second for the Central Southern Region, stayed at Memphis September 12–18, 1992, and was enjoyed by hundreds of visiting birders. Photograph/Jeff R. Wilson.

#### S.A.

Hummingbirds made their mark on the Region this fall, with 10 species represented, including 4 first state records! The 2nd Regional record for **Broad-billed Hummingbird** came Oct. 12–13, when a ♂-type bird was observed in Metairie, *Jefferson*, LA (NLN, p.a.); this is the *same yard* that produced a male 2 years ago. Amazingly, a male Broad-billed was banded in *St. Mary*, LA, Nov. 30–Dec. 1 (D & SM, NLN, BB, ph., p.a.). Beginning in early October, there were reports of five Buff-bellied Hummingbirds in s.e. Louisiana. The prize of the season went to MMS, who discovered a ♀ **Blue-throated Hummingbird** in Baton Rouge, LA, Nov. 23 (m.ob., ph., p.a.). This was the first e. record of this exotic stray.

Good numbers of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were reported in the Region (*fide* NLN, RRS), with several lingering birds late in the season. The usual small numbers of Black-chinned Hummingbirds were noted. Surprisingly, three **Anna's Hummingbirds** were banded this fall. A female was observed in *St. John*, LA, beginning Nov. 18 (RJS, MW, NLN, p.a.), and a male appeared in nearby *St. James* Nov. 23 (TS, JS, NLN, ph., p.a.). Alabama's first Anna's was confirmed Nov. 19 in Huntsville (RRS, MBS, m.ob., ph., p.a.). A **Calliope Hummingbird** delighted observers in *Hancock* Nov. 21–25 (LS, JAT, TLS, RRS, m.ob., ph. JRW), providing the first Mississippi record. A rare **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** was banded Nov. 30 in Baton Rouge, LA (NLN, MD, MMS). Of several **Rufous Hummingbirds** reported, the most notable was an ad. male in *Pulaski* Aug. 28 (BMu, RC, PF, m.ob.),

one of the few records for Arkansas. Mississippi's first **Allen's Hummingbird**, an imm. male, was banded in *Hancock*, Nov. 22–30 (LS, JAT, RRS, MBS). Another Allen's was banded in *Jefferson*, LA, Nov. 23 (JT, NLN).

#### TYRANT FLYCATCHERS TO WOOD-WARBLED

This was a good fall for the Olive-sided Flycatcher, which is at best uncommon in the Region. There were 14 reports of 16 birds Aug. 2–Sept. 19. Alabama's first **Hammmond's Flycatcher** was banded at Ft. Morgan Sept. 19 (RRS, MBS, ph., p.a.); the few other Regional records have been from Louisiana. At least 12 Vermilion Flycatchers were noted Oct. 24–25 in C.P., where the species is uncommon. A single bird was unusual farther inland in *Rapides*, LA, Oct. 11 (RJB, PW). An Ash-throated Flycatcher Oct. 24 in C.P. (KVR,



m.ob., ph., p.a.) was a rare find. Reports of W. Kingbirds in odd localities included solitary birds Sept. 6 in *Lauderdale*, AL (GNP), and Sept. 19 in *Bolivar*, MS (GK, JPH, TLS). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, rare in n. Mississippi, appeared Oct. 16 in *Tunica* (WMD). Another Nov. 9 in *Pulaski*, AR (WMS), was late. Purple Martins lingered again this fall in *Bay*, FL; eight were still present Nov. 18 (R & AI). More than 50 Tree Swallows were late migrants Nov. 5 in *Marshall*, AL (ALM, ASC). Also tardy were two Barn Swallows Nov. 8 in *Perry*, AL (ALM, ADM), and another Nov. 28 on Dauphin I., AL (TAI, JAI). Three Fish Crows were unusually late Nov. 19 in w. *Jefferson*, AL (TAI).

Bewick's Wren is now infrequently seen in the Region; it was good to have 5 reports of seven birds beginning Sept. 25 in s.w. Arkansas, w. Tennessee, and n. Mississippi. Early arrivals included a Winter Wren Oct. 12 at S.G. (DLD) and a Veery Aug. 29 in *Lauderdale*, AL (PDK, GNP, DHP, WJR). Conversely, the Wood Thrush Nov. 28 in New Orleans (DPM) was behind schedule. Single Bell's Vireos were great finds Oct. 4 in *Lafayette*, MS (GK), and Oct. 9 to the south in *Hancock* (JAT). Golden-wingeds are rare in fall warblers in Arkansas; this season, lone birds were observed Sept. 1 in *Washington* (MM), and Oct. 3-4 at M.L. (CM, JW). A Golden-winged Aug. 29 in *Noxubee*, MS (TLS) was early, and one spotted Nov. 21 in *Santa Rosa*, FL (DMW), was remarkably late. A rare "Brewster's" Warbler was a local first Aug. 29 in Montgomery, AL (LG). An early Tennessee Warbler appeared Aug. 6 in *Baldwin*, AL (VBF). Orange-crowned Warblers Aug. 27 at S.G. (DLD) and Sept. 10 at M.L. (CM) were unusual for those early dates. Also premature was a Nashville Warbler Aug. 29 in *Washington*, AR (MM). The Chestnut-sided is scarce in Arkansas in fall migration; one was seen Aug. 29 in *Prairie* (TSI). An early Magnolia was at Grand I., LA, Aug. 14 (CS, PhW).

Black-throated Blue Warblers are rare in the fall, especially in w. areas. Single birds were sighted Oct. 11 in *Hancock*, MS (TLS), and Oct. 23 in *Lafayette*, MS (GK), and two were noted Oct. 17 on Grand I., LA (DPM, MMy, m.ob.). A late Black-throated Blue was detected Nov. 15 in Gulf Breeze, FL (LRD, WWD). Very rare in the Region, a Black-throated Gray Warbler was spotted in C.P., Oct. 15 & 24 (RJB, CAM, m.ob., p.a.). Palm Warblers can be difficult to find in the fall in Arkansas, so the seven in *Craighead*, Sept. 29 (NL), were noteworthy. The Black-poll Warbler, an Atlantic flyway species, is rare throughout our area in the fall. The first fall records for n.w. Florida came Sept. 11 and Oct. 12 in Gulf Breeze (RAD, PCT, BT). Another Blackpoll was in *Putnam*, TN, Oct. 1 (BHS). Few Ceruleans are noted in autumn passage in e.-c. Tennessee, so sightings were noteworthy Sept. 4 & 6 in *Putnam* (SJS). A late Prothonotary was located Oct. 3 in *Chicot*, AR (DRS, JW). There were several notable observations of the elusive Mourn-



**Red-necked Phalaropes are rare in the Region, and this one was also later than usual at Millwood Lake, Arkansas, from October 24 to November 1, 1992. Photograph/Helen Parker.**

ing Warbler this fall. These included solitary birds Aug. 29 in both Gulf Breeze, FL (RAD), and New Orleans (ph. DPM), and another Oct. 7 in *Limestone*, AL (ALM, p.a.). An early Wilson's Warbler was in New Orleans Aug. 29 (PY), and an exceptionally late bird was seen Nov. 17-Dec. 3 in *Jefferson*, AL (ALM, MO). A Canada Warbler Aug. 23 in *Washington* (MM) was both early and unusual in fall for n.w. Arkansas. Another on the same date in *Jackson*, MS (TLS), set a new local arrival date.

#### TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A rare W. Tanager was identified Oct. 10 at Dauphin I., AL (SM, p.a.). The Blue Grosbeak identified Nov. 28 at S.G. (JVR, CCu) was tardy. The latest reported Indigo Bunting, a rare winterer, was seen Nov. 25 near New Orleans (PY). Painted Buntings were late Oct. 27 in *Chicot*, AR (DRS), and Nov. 7 at S.G. (SWC, DLD). The Dickcissel is a scarce fall transient in Louisiana; there were 5 sightings of nine birds Sept. 29-Oct. 25 at S.G. (JVR, DLD) and in C.P. (KVR *et al.*). Clay-colored Sparrows are expected coastally in small numbers as far e. as Ft. Morgan, AL; in that area, there were 8 reports of a minimum of 10 birds Oct. 6-Nov. 16. More unusual sightings included the Clay-colored Sept. 10 at Gulf Breeze, FL (RAD), and up to four birds Sept. 19 and Oct. 10 in *Washington* (MM, acc.) that provided the first record for n.w. Arkansas. Of several Lark Sparrow observations, the most unusual was of two birds Aug. 22-29 in the M.R. of Alabama in *Jefferson* (TAI, SH, PH). A Henslow's Sparrow Oct. 16 in *Chicot* (DRS), and a Sharp-tailed Sparrow the same day in *Garland* (LA), were rare reports for Arkansas. A Harris' Sparrow, rare in the e. part of the Region, was discovered Nov. 27 in s. *Baldwin*, AL (RAD, WWD, p.a.).

The W. Meadowlark appeared in good

numbers in November near Memphis, with >20 birds at T.E.C., and three noted just to the south in *Tunica*, MS (JRW). Of 3 sightings of the rare but regular Yellow-headed Blackbird, the most unusual was one far inland in *Lowndes*, MS, Nov. 8 (TLS). An early Rusty Blackbird appeared Nov. 15 at S.G. (JVR). The Region's 2nd fall record of the dreaded *Shiny Cowbird* consisted of at least one bird Oct. 25 and Nov. 28 in C.P. (RJB, JH, m.ob., p.a.). Bronzed Cowbirds are rare in Mississippi; an individual was seen in *Hancock* Oct. 23-Nov. 21 (JAT, m.ob.). Late N. (Baltimore) Orioles were picked up in s. *Baldwin*, AL, Nov. 27 (LRD, RAD, WWD), and in *Oktibbeha*, MS, Nov. 29 (RL, MC, TLS). An individual of the rare Bullock's race was reported Sept. 24 from C.P. (JH, JFH). The House Finch has now vanquished the Region, with flocks noted as far s.w. as Lake Charles, LA (DPM). A Pine Siskin was early in New Orleans Oct. 22 (PY), and by mid-November small numbers had arrived in C.P. (SWC, DLD) and at Ft. Morgan, AL (GDJ, DGJ). An early Am. Goldfinch was at S.G. Nov. 6 (JVR, SWC, DLD).



**Hurricane Andrew displaced many coastal birds inland, including juvenile Black Skimmers at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, August 27, 1992. Photograph/Curtis A. Marantz.**

**Cited observers (subregional editors in bold-face):** Leif Anderson, John T. Battalio, Birgit Berger, Julie Boone (JBo), Ned Boyajian, Christopher G. Brantley, Roger J. Breedlove, Julia Broyles, Carolyn Bullock, **Steven W. Cardiff** (Louisiana), Chita Cassibry, Alice S. Christenson, Martha Cooper (MCr), Margaret Copeland, Martha Coughlan (MCn), Roberta Crabtree, W. G. Criswell, Catherine Cummins (CCu), Miriam Davey, W. Marvin Davis, **Donna L. Dittmann** (Louisiana), Chuck Dovish, Lucy R. Duncan, **Robert A. Duncan** (n.w. Florida), William W. Duncan, Perk Floyd, Bill Fontenot, Robert P. Ford, Venetia B. Friend, Larry Gardella, Murray A. Gardler, Karen Garrett, Wanda Green, Bill





An immature male Allen's Hummingbird (identity confirmed by banding) visited Hancock County, Mississippi, November 22–30, 1992. There were no previous state records. Photograph/Jeff R. Wilson.

Hall, Dolores Harrington, Donald Harrington (DdH), Paulette Haywood, Hubert Herve, James F. Holmes, Jim Holmes, James P. Hooper, Sharon Hudgins, Marion Hutto, James A. Imhof, Thomas A. Imhof, Richard & Ann Ingram, Debra G. Jackson, Greg D. Jackson (Alabama), Paul D. Kittle, Gene Knight, Shannon Knight, Andrew W. Kratter, Cheryl Lavers, Norman Lavers, Ruth Lee, Charles Lyon, Deborah Mann, Curtis A. Marantz, Sharon Maxwell, Steve W. McConnell, Anton C. Menart (n.w. Florida), Al D. Miller, Ann L. Miller, Charles Mills, C.W. Milmore, Donald & Sweetie Mire, Mike Mlodinow, Sue Moske, Barbara Mullins (BMu), Joseph E. Mulrooney, Barbara Munson, Michael J. Musumecche, David P. Muth, DollyAnn Myers, Mac Myers (MMY), Velda Neilson, Nancy L. Newfield, Michael Owens, Helen Parker (Arkansas), Max Parker (Arkansas), Johnny T. Parks, Dee H. Patterson, JoRee Pennell, Steve Peterson, G. Ned Piper, Judee Reeves, Leslie Reid, Robert R. Reid, J. Van Remsen, Virginia Reynolds, William J. Rogers, K. V. Rosenberg, Martha B. Sargent, Robert R. Sargent, Ernest Schiefer, Terence L. Schiefer (inland Mississippi), Lydia Schultz, William M. Shepherd, Cassie Simons, Don R. Simons, Terry Singleterry (TSi), Barbara H. Stedman, Stephen J. Stedman, Ronald J. Stein, M. Mark Swan, John Sylvest, Tom Sylvest, Betsy Tetlow, Phil C. Tetlow, Genevieve Tharp, Vic Theobald, Judith A. Touns (coastal Mississippi), Jan Tramountana, Martha G. Waldron (w. Tennessee), Paul Wallace, Phillip Wallace (PhW), Carol Ware, Donald M. Ware, Mavis & Dale Way, Melvin Weber, Lynn Williams, Jeff R. Wilson, Jay Withgott, Peter Yaukey.—GREG D. JACKSON, 2220 Baneberry Dr., Birmingham, AL 35244.

## PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

Rudolf F. Koes and Peter Taylor

The most spectacular weather event of a changeable season was a freak snowstorm and cold spell in s. Alberta, delivering a foot or more of snow and record low temperatures, Aug. 21–25. Many dead songbirds were seen in the Turner Valley (*vide* RDi), and stranded warblers and flycatchers sought insects on the ground in the Taber area (LiB). Slush-filled sloughs forced many birds elsewhere, and heavy mortality of gulls, ducks, and swallows was noted on wet highways (BrA). By contrast, temperatures touched the low 80s across the Region around the end of September, finally allowing many farmers to harvest their crops. Frequent snowfalls in November quickly covered unharvested grain that had been tempting waterfowl to linger.

A number of boreal forest species were noted out of their normal range or habitat, whereas some irruptive birds, such as Bohemian Waxwings and Common Redpolls, were abnormally scarce. Low numbers of juv. Snow Geese, and poor shorebird numbers overall, apparently reflected the cold and unproductive Arctic summer.

**Abbreviations:** I.B.S. (*Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Calgary, AB*); L.M.L. (*Last Mountain L., SK*); O.H.M. (*Oak Hammock Marsh W.M.A., MB*).

### LOONS TO WATERFOWL

Continuing the recent pattern of rare but regular occurrence in Saskatchewan and Alberta, single Pacific Loons were noted at L. Diefenbaker, SK, Oct. 17 (FR, LaB); Regina Oct. 24–Nov. 1 (FrL *et al.*); L.M.L., Nov. 14 (BL); and Ghost Res., 35 mi w. of Calgary, Nov. 13–14 (R, TK). Also at Ghost Res. were one or two Yellow-billed Loons, Nov. 11–13 (RWe, WS, RDU). Amazing were at least four, possibly five, Yellow-billed Loons in Saskatchewan: a winter adult at Regina Beach, L.M.L., Nov. 14 (BL); two differently marked immatures near Gardiner Dam Nov. 15 (FR, MW) and Nov. 28 (RKr, MaH, M & DR); and a winter adult and an imm. bird at Kinookimaw Beach, L.M.L., Nov. 21 (RKr, RM, MaH).

Three very late grebes were on the Winnipeg R. in Manitoba: a Pied-billed at Pinawa Nov. 22, a Horned at Lac du Bonnet Nov. 29, and a Western at Pinawa Nov. 29–Dec. 1 (PT *et al.*). An ad. Clark's Grebe feeding a well-grown juvenile at Namaka L. near Calgary Aug. 30 provided the first local breeding record (AS). In Saskatchewan, two ad. Clark's Grebes accompanied one young at Reed L., Sept. 7 (MyP), and a Western/Clark's mixed pair accompanied one young on Turtle L., Aug. 4 (MC).

Southern herons were scarce; only two Great Egrets were reported in Manitoba

(m.ob.), and one was near Yorkton, SK, Sept. 24–Oct. 15 (BiA, WH *et al.*). Five Cattle Egrets were scattered across the 3 provinces; the most unusual were singles near Vauxhall, AB, Aug. 16–Sept. 13 (LiB, m.ob.) and Medicine Hat, AB, Nov. 1–3 (JG). Two ibises, probably White-faced, were at Reed L., SK, Aug. 1 (MyP).

A ground-based survey of Greater White-fronted Geese along the S. Saskatchewan R. between Lacadena and Lancer turned up 428,000 birds Sept. 29–30; concurrent aerial surveys in s.w. Saskatchewan and s.e. Alberta added a further 180,000 (Canadian Wildlife Service, Saskatchewan Wildlife Branch, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, *vide* BG). High counts of Snow Geese included 200,000 near Yorkton, SK, Oct. 18 (JP, FS *et al.*); 150,000 at O.H.M. in early October (m.ob.); 100,000 at Rattlesnake and Murray lakes near Medicine Hat in early November (DB); and 14,000 at Horsefly L. near Taber, AB, Nov. 6 (LiB).

Locally rare ducks included a ♂ Wood Duck with four young near Weyburn, SK, Aug. 19 (NP), an Am. Black Duck at St. Paul, AB, Oct. 8 (RKJ), and a Harlequin Duck at St. Ambrose, MB, Oct. 10 & 25 (RP *et al.*). Reports of Oldsquaw increased from east to west: one bird in s. Manitoba, four in Saskatchewan, and 11 in Alberta; the latter included six at Glenmore Res., Calgary, Nov. 1 (AS, MiH). The only Black Scoter in the south was at Natalie L., MB, Oct. 24 (RP, LK). The highest inland Surf Scoter counts were 14 at Nickle L., SK, Oct. 9 (NP), and about 12 at both Glenmore Res. (TK) and Elk Island N.P., AB (BC) in mid-October. A boat survey of Redberry L., SK, turned up 189 White-winged Scoters Oct. 5 (FR).

Although Saskatchewan's first fully documented Barrow's Goldeneye occurred as recently as 1983, the species is becoming a regular rarity there; this fall's 4 reports consisted of a male at Blackstrap L., Oct. 22–early November (FR, JW), a male at L.M.L., Nov. 7 (RKr, RM), a male at Regina Beach Nov. 14 (BL), and a female there the following day (RKr, MaH).

Closer to home, more than 30 Barrow's Goldeneyes were at Elk Island N.P., Nov. 3 (BC); the species remains depressingly hard to find in Manitoba (PT *et al.*). More than 700 Hooded Mergansers were counted on Emma L., SK, Oct. 17 (BL); equally impressive were 1200 Com. Mergansers at Lac La Biche, AB, Nov. 21 (RT). Two Ruddy Duck flocks totaled 589 birds at Christopher and Emma lakes, SK, Oct. 24 (BL).

### HAWKS TO GULLS

A Turkey Vulture was sited at Dry Island Buffalo Jump P.P., AB, Sept. 18 (RDi). Seventy-seven Bald Eagles at Patricia Beach, MB, plus 30 more within 20 mi, Nov. 1 (RKO, PT, RZ), may be a record ground-based count for s. Manitoba.

Increased coverage of raptor migration in s.w. Alberta provided the following one-day provincial record totals at Sheep R.: 69 Bald Eagles Oct. 16; 230 Sharp-shinned Hawks



Oct. 6 and 227 counted Oct. 7; and 126 N. Goshawks (nearly all adult), Oct. 8 (WS, RWe). This merely whets the appetite for Golden Eagle totals of 666 seen Oct. 6 and 406 sighted Oct. 7. The grand total of 1422 Golden Eagles in 49 viewing days at Sheep R. is in turn eclipsed by 2043 in 29 days at Mt. Lorette in the Kananaskis Valley (PS). These two observation sites are believed to monitor different migration routes in the foothills and in the front range of the Rockies, respectively.

Rough-legged Hawks were numerous only in s.e. Manitoba, with counts of up to 27 in the Stead-Brightstone area in late October and early November (m.ob.). A party of five Peregrine Falcons was reported near Blackstrap Reservoir, SK, Aug. 29 (JW). Three Gyrfalcons were reported in s. Manitoba, two in Saskatchewan, and six in Alberta.

A half-grown family of Willow Ptarmigans near L. Louise in early August provided a first breeding record for Banff N.P. (AE, photo). A Yellow Rail was found in a ditch at Weyburn, SK, Sept. 25 (NP). A concentration of 4500 Am. Coots on Taber L., AB, Aug. 28, was a Lethbridge-area record by a wide margin (LiB). A "Pacific" Golden-Plover at Namaka L., Sept. 20 was the observer's 4th in 12 years at that location (JS, written details); clearly, it is a bird to watch for on the prairies. More than 100 Lesser Golden-Plovers gathered at Buck L., SK, Sept. 20 (LiB). Rare in fall were two Piping Plovers at Gardiner Dam Sept. 10 (FR).

Two Whimbrels visited Lac La Biche Aug. 5 (RT). Hudsonian Godwit counts at Beaverhill L., AB, included at least 27, Aug. 8 (LiB), and 100, Aug. 12 (BR). Locally rare near Calgary were single Hudsonian Godwits at Fish Creek P.P., Sept. 15 (J & AG) and Namaka L., Sept. 20 (JS, JRi). Twenty Ruddy Turnstones thronged a small farm slough near Taber Aug. 31 (LiB). Although thousands of W. Sandpipers probably overfly

s. Alberta en route to Cheyenne Bottoms, six birds was an unusually high count at Dawson L. Sept. 6 (TK, photo); three others were seen near Calgary Aug. 16 (JS, MSt), and two were reported near Vanscoy, SK, Aug. 5 (JW). A ♂ Ruff visited Elk Island N.P. July 28–Aug. 3 (BC, m.ob.). Thousands of Red-necked Phalaropes were on Beaverhill L., Aug. 16 (DDe). Three single Red Phalaropes were reported in Alberta at Kievers Lake P.P. near Calgary Sept. 27 (DH, MiP, GD), Namaka L., Oct. 11 (AS, RD), and Therien L., St. Paul, Nov. 5 (RKL).

Two Parasitic Jaegers were carefully observed at Lac La Biche Sept. 17 (RT). A juv. Little Gull visited L. Wabamun, AB, Nov. 3 (NW, fide PM). Thayer's Gull reports totaled only two in Alberta and three in Saskatchewan, the latter all at the Prince Albert dump Oct. 17 (BL). Glaucous Gulls were also rather disappointing, with 10 reports scattered across our vast region. A first-winter Great Black-Legged Gull, the 5th found in Saskatchewan, was at the n. end of L.M.L., Oct. 2 (FrL, BT, photo). Single ad. Sabine's Gulls dropped in at Pinawa, MB, sewage lagoons Sept. 5–6 (PT, RZ), and Beaverhill L., Sept. 7 (TTh).

#### CUCKOOS TO VIREOS

A Black-billed Cuckoo at Stonewall, MB, Sept. 17 & 20 was late (KG). Great Horned Owls featured in odd situations: one grabbed a freshly caught trout out of Bob Frew, Sr.'s hand at Reesor L., AB, Sept. 3; another, weighed down with a muskrat, had to swim to shore with a butterfly stroke at Pakowki L., Nov. 12 (DDi; both reports fide DB). One of three very pale Great Horned Owls seen in Winnipeg was found dead of strychnine poisoning, alongside a partly eaten Rock Dove (fide BN). Snowy Owls staged a strong influx from e. Alberta across to s.e. Manitoba the second half of October. Thirty birds, mainly

emaciated juveniles, were turned in for rehabilitation in Winnipeg; only six could be restored and released (fide BN). The "echo" of last year's N. Hawk Owl invasion was very faint, with 5 reports in Manitoba and 3 in Alberta. Six N. Pygmy-Owl reports in w. Alberta eased concerns about this species (fide RD, PM). A Great Gray Owl was new to the Beaverhill L. list Sept. 1 (FF).

Most heartening was a report of >500 Com. Nighthawks e. of Ste. Anne, MB, Aug. 21 (DJ, fide KG); however, concentrations near Pinawa peaked around 50, where 100–300 was the norm a decade ago (PT). A protracted migration of Three-toed Woodpeckers provided a pleasant break from the chore of counting Golden Eagles at Sheep R.; 22 were seen, along with five Black-backed Woodpeckers, from late September through October (WS, RWe).

Individual Three-toeds popped up in I.B.S., Sept. 13 (JRi), in Regina Oct. 14 into December (FeL, BD), and in residential Pinawa Oct. 17 (PT), hinting at a broader regional movement. A Black-backed Woodpecker was seen far from the forest at Stonewall, MB, Oct. 16 (KG).

Late departures included a Hammond's Flycatcher at Mt. Lorette Sept. 18 (PS), a "Western" Flycatcher in Calgary Oct. 7 (J & MM), and a W. Kingbird also in Calgary Sept. 16 (IH). The species composition of 150,000 swallows at the s. end of Beaverhill L., Aug. 20 was not determined (KHe). Persistence was rewarded for renesting Cliff Swallows at Pinawa; 3 nests contained airworthy young Aug. 28, well after most migrate (PT).

A Gray Jay appeared at Beaverhill L., Oct. 18 (PH). A Steller's Jay wandered e. to Cooking L., AB, where it stayed several days until Oct. 13 (TTr, fide PM). Heavy migration of Blue Jays was noted at Buffalo Bay in extreme s.e. Manitoba; 400 flew south in 45 minutes, Sept. 12 (RP, AA). A Black-billed Magpie caught and killed a flying bat in Calgary Nov. 10 (IH)! Another wanderer from the forest was a Boreal Chickadee at a White-wood, SK, feeder Nov. 18 (JP). Manitoba's 8th Carolina Wren, the first since 1980, gave ultraclose views at a Winnipeg windowsill feeder Nov. 1–16 (EL, m.ob., ph.). An exceedingly late House Wren was found in an apartment kitchen in Saskatoon Nov. 15; too small to save for Christmas, it was released (PS).

A Northern Wheatear, reported with conviction but without details at Regina Sept. 6, would be a first for Saskatchewan (J & SR). The eastward drift of Townsend's Solitaires was stronger than usual, with at least seven seen in Saskatchewan and four in Manitoba; by contrast, fewer Varied Thrushes were found than in the last 2 years: five in Saskatchewan and one in Manitoba. A Wood Thrush



**One member of a brood of half-grown Willow Ptarmigan near Lake Louise, Alberta, in early August 1992. Photograph/Alex Emond.**

was reported at a Saskatoon birdbath Sept. 22 (JW). Single Gray Catbirds were late in East St. Paul, MB, Nov. 4 (*vide* MSI) and at Patricia Beach Nov. 11 (DF). Northern Mockingbirds fledged at least 2 young at Lost L., near Vauxhall, AB, in late August (PS *et al.*), and single mockers were seen in Calgary Aug. 8 (JS) and Regina Sept. 3 (TR). Three Am. Pipits were record early at O.H.M., Aug. 1 (RKO). A Solitary Vireo of the Rocky Mountain race was a local first at I.B.S. Aug. 16 (JRI).

#### **WARBLERS TO FINCHES**

A Tennessee Warbler lingered in Regina to Oct. 17 (FeL, BD), and an Orange-crowned Warbler was in Calgary Oct. 31–Nov. 1 (DC). Extralimital records of Chestnut-sided Warblers included an adult feeding a fledgling in a Calgary park Aug. 3 (SK). Two imm. Chestnut-sideds were in Edmonton Aug. 22–23 (BR, TTh, PM), and several migrants were seen in Calgary (JRI, RS), with one unusually late straggler at I.B.S., Oct. 4 (AS). Overwintering attempts by at least three stray Cape May Warblers in Calgary (m.ob., *vide* RD) were clearly doomed in this winter's deep freeze. Other highlights of an interesting warbler season were a ♀ Black-throated Blue at Delta, MB, Sept. 15 (KHo, EC); a Townsend's Warbler at Spring Valley, SK, Sept. 3 (FB); a Pine Warbler at Turtle Lake, SK, Aug. 4 (MC *et al.*); a late Bay-breasted at Livelong, SK, Oct. 10 (SP); totals of 293 Am. Redstarts and 72 N. Waterthrushes in a Saskatoon bird count, Aug. 29 (compiled by JW); a McGillivray's Warbler banded at Beaverhill L., Aug. 23 (GH); a very late Connecticut Warbler at Regina Oct. 13 (MB, CB); and finally a suicidal Com. Yellowthroat at Saskatoon Nov. 14 (PS).

A ♀ N. Cardinal frequented Ft. Saskatchewan, AB, Oct. 31 into December (ph. LG), and a late Rose-breasted Grosbeak visited a Regina feeder Oct. 18–19 (RKR, KS). A ♀ "Spotted" Rufous-sided Towhee was a Manitoba rarity at Brandon Hills Sept. 7 (RWI). Eight species of sparrow was an excellent half-hour tally in a weedy area at Lac La Biche Sept. 26 (RT, RDi). Several unusually late sparrows were reported: a Chipping Sparrow at Patricia Beach Nov. 11 (DF); a Vesper Sparrow near Wainwright, AB, Nov. 25 (JRI); a Savannah Sparrow at Lac La Biche Nov. 15 (RT); a Song Sparrow at Inverness Falls, MB, Nov. 22 (JRe); and a Lincoln's

Sparrow at St. Albert, AB, Nov. 28 (DN).

Two McCown's Longspurs Oct. 27 were late in the Elrose-Kyle area, SK (CB). A Smith's Longspur was a rarity near Taber, AB, Sept. 3 (LIB). Fifteen Snow Buntings were extraordinarily early near Carseland, AB, Sept. 5 (RS); the largest reported flock totaled 3000 at Beaverhill L., Nov. 7 (EW). More than 2000 Brewer's Blackbirds were still near Lumsden Beach, SK, Oct. 10 (RKR, RM). An ad. ♀ Orchard Oriole was unusually late and far west near White Bear, SK, Aug. 29 (SJ).

A "Gray-crowned" Rosy Finch visited Vilna, AB, for a few days from Nov. 10 (AB). Reports of House Finch totaled at least 17 birds in Manitoba, including 12 in Winnipeg, 12 in Saskatchewan, with 11 in Regina, including one yellow-variant male (TH), and four in Alberta, three of which were in Calgary. Once again, few Pine or Evening grosbeaks ventured out of the boreal forest. Three Red Crossbills were banded at Beaverhill L., July 31 (*vide* RF), and a few were seen in Weyburn Aug. 21 & 28 (NP) and Moose Jaw, SK, Nov. 10–30 (AG), but White-winged Crossbills were not reported at all. Common Redpolls were uniformly scarce across the prairies.

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## **NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION**

*David O. Lambeth*

Our fall season was strongly impacted by one of the coldest summers on record. Crops and gardens matured late by several weeks, and it stands to reason that late, and even failed, production of important food sources for birds resulted in poor reproduction and altered migratory patterns. Numbers tapered off very early for many species whose young migrate later than the adults. Berkey commented on the low numbers and early departures of insectivores from the Minot area, while Harris noted the numerous late nesting records in South Dakota. Moderate temperatures through November permitted some species to linger long enough to set late dates.

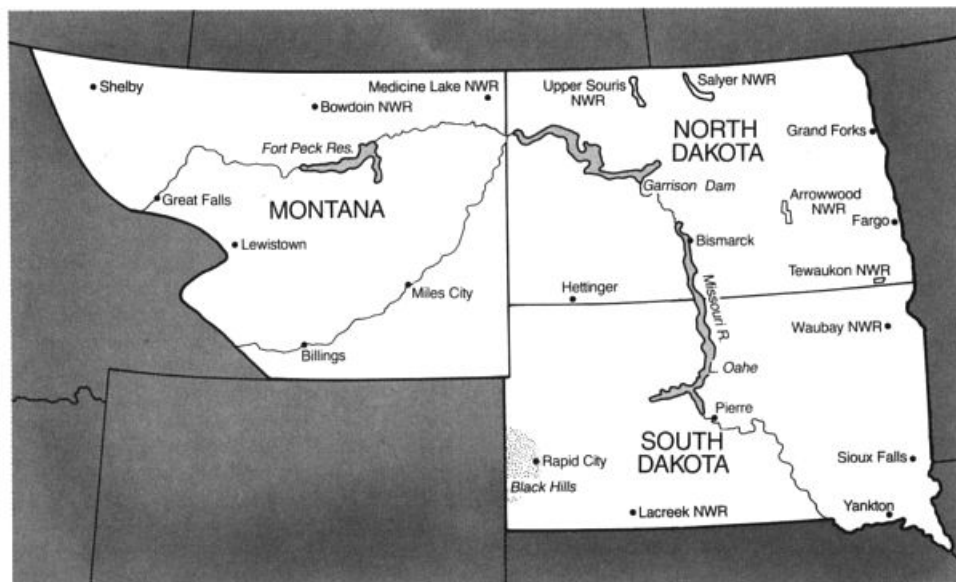
**Conventions:** Dates in boldface are believed to be either the earliest or latest ever for the respective state; numbers in boldface are thought to be record-high peaks in fall for the state cited.

#### **LOONS TO WATERFOWL**

The report of a Pacific Loon in S. Dakota Oct. 27 (BKH) awaits review by the state's record committee. Common Loons numbered 9 at L. Audubon, ND, Oct. 10 (REM, GBB). An Eared Grebe was at Devil's L., ND, Nov. 29 (EEF). Western Grebes peaked at 1000 at Ft. Peck Sept. 6, and eight of 13 flightless W. Grebe young were rescued from the ice in Day, SD, Nov. 7. Two adult and two young Clark's Grebes were seen at Clear L., Deuel, SD, Oct. 5 (BKH).

Newcastle's disease claimed a number of cormorants and pelicans on Pelican I., Devil's L., ND. A Double-crested Cormorant was late Nov. 16, in Grand Forks, ND (MJ). Only four Am. Bitterns were reported; this species appears to be in sharp decline and merits close monitoring. Great Egrets peaked at >70 in Deuel, SD, Aug. 21, and Little Rush L., SD, Aug. 25; and at 25, Kelly's Slough N.W.R., ND, Aug. 18. Fifty Snowy Egrets were also present at Little Rush L. Aug. 25 (DRS). Counts of 24, 75, and 40 Cattle Egrets were received from n.e. S. Dakota, but only one was reported in N. Dakota where appearances remain inconsistent. Nineteen White-faced Ibises were found in Brown, SD, Sept. 13.

A **Trumpeter Swan** called repeatedly Oct. 27 at Cottonwood L., LaMoure, ND (GLK). Two Mute Swans at Rattlesnake L., MT (WR), were not surprising, as feral birds occur in the Livingston and Yellowstone Park areas. Belief that the numbers of Snow Geese are too great for the available nesting habitat at some Hudson Bay colonies led to increased bag limits. However, as few as 2% young (naive) birds in some flocks resulted



Aug. 5 (WR). Two White-rumped Sandpipers, rare in fall, were at N. Lemmon Res., Adams, ND, Aug. 30 (D & CG). A Baird's Sandpiper in Cass, ND, Nov. 18 was very late (GEN). A total of 135 Dunlins was found in the Devil's L. area Oct. 17 (EEF), and 15,000 Long-billed Dowitchers were present at Minnewaukan Flats Sept. 6 (GBB, REM). A very late Red-necked Phalarope was at Devil's L. Nov. 11 (DOL). A Red Phalarope, N. Dakota's 6th, was found and photographed at the Grand Forks lagoons Oct. 7 (EEF, DOL). The same (or different?) bird was seen occasionally through Oct. 30.

#### GULLS TO WOODPECKERS

The number of gulls at Garrison Dam was very low, possibly due to reduced releases of water through the turbines. However, N. Dakota's 6th Iceland Gull was seen there Nov. 29 (REM, GBB). A Herring Gull at Big Stone L. Aug. 4 was S. Dakota's earliest ever by a month (BKH). A Sabine's Gull at the Minot lagoons Sept. 12 was only the 2nd adult among the 18 records for N. Dakota (REM, GBB). The first pair of nesting Caspian Terns at Freezeout N.W.R. fledged one young about Aug. 25 (MS). Forster's Terns lingered to Sept. 28 in Hughes, SD (BKH). Three Least Terns foraged at Old Winter Harbor at Ft. Peck Aug. 3-24 (CC).

Details will be given in the winter report for an Inca Dove that appeared in mid-November in Mandan, ND. An E. Screech-Owl was drinking from a bird bath in Bismarck at 4 A.M., Nov. 25 (RNR). As many as five Snowy Owls were seen per day in n.e. N. Dakota. A N. Hawk Owl photographed in Ft. Peck Nov. 21 provided the 14th record for Montana (CC). A Barred Owl was heard

in poor success by hunters. Three blue morphs were among the 20,000 Ross' Geese that passed through Freezeout, MT, (MS), and a peak count of 17 was recorded at Upper Souris, ND (REM, GBB).

High counts of ducks at some locations reflect the reduction in available wetlands. Among the rarer ducks reported were five Greater Scaups in N. Dakota; two Oldsquaws at Priest Butte L., Nov. 16-23 (MS) and five in N. Dakota Oct. 18-Nov. 2; and four Black Scoters in the Grand Forks area Oct. 31 (GBB, REM). Buffleheads peaked at 1500 at L. Poinsett, Hamlin, SD (BKH). Exceptionally high counts of Hooded Mergansers were recorded, with 265 at Devil's L. Nov. 11 (DOL) and 126 at Waubay Oct. 28 and 120 at L. Herman in Lake, SD, Nov. 10 (BKH). Three Red-breasted Mergansers near Kelly's Slough Aug. 14 (GSL) eclipsed the previous early date for "fall" by 2 months. Ruddy Ducks numbered 28,000 at Devil's L. Sept. 20 (GBB, REM).

#### OSPREY TO SHOREBIRDS

Osprey boasted 20 reports. The number of Bald Eagles and the proportion of immatures continue to be encouraging. A N. Harrier harried a flock of waxwings at Ft. Peck Nov. 14 (CC). A daily count of 20 Cooper's Hawks was made in Richland, ND, Sept. 20 (MAO). Six reports of N. Goshawk in S. Dakota included one chasing a hunting dog (DRS). A Broad-winged Hawk was late in Brookings, SD, Oct. 6 (JRK). What led to the early appearance of Rough-legged Hawk? The dates of Aug. 9 in the Badlands (MLJ), Aug. 22 in Cass (D & DW), and Aug. 29 in Grand Forks (DOL) each preceded the prior earliest date for N. Dakota. Thirty reports of Peregrine Falcon spanned the period. Gyrfalcons were observed Oct. 14 and Nov. 5 at Freezeout (MS), Oct. 19 at Rattlesnake L., MT (WR), Nov. 15 at Pickeral L., SD (DRS), and Nov. 14 near Watford City, ND (GBB).

Increased acreage in the Conservation Reserve Program may explain the high population of Ring-necked Pheasants in w. N.



**Red Phalarope at Grand Forks, North Dakota, on October 7, 1992. Sixth state record. Photograph/David O. Lambeth.**

Dakota and e. Montana. Search of a wildlife area near Willison produced 70 Soras Aug. 30. At least 2500 Sandhill Cranes passed over Ft. Peck within a ten-minute span Oct. 25 (CC).

A Black-bellied Plover at Gascoyne Res., ND, Nov. 18, was record late by a week (D & CG). Twenty Black-necked Stilts and 15 Solitary Sandpipers were present at Halfbreed N.W.R. during early August (WR). Eighteen Long-billed Curlews were seen on an island in the Missouri R., near Ft. Peck Aug. 4 (CC). There are few fall records for this species in N. Dakota, but four were seen Aug. 27 in Slope (DJB). In N. Dakota, seven Hudsonian Godwits were found Aug. 2-Oct. 15, while 10 Red Knots were seen in Grand Forks and Cass Sept. 5-11. Sanderlings peaked at 150 at the Grand Forks lagoons Sept. 25. A juv.-plumaged W. Sandpiper was carefully studied at the Grand Forks lagoons Sept. 26 (EEF, DOL, doc.), and 20 Westerns were reported to be at Halfbreed N.W.R.,



**Northern Hawk Owl at Fort Peck, Montana, November 21, 1992. Photograph/Charles M. Carlson.**

Aug. 27 in *Union*, SD (DS, EL). Only three Long-eared Owls were reported. The number of Short-eared Owls seems to be gradually increasing around Westby, MT (*vide* TN). Two N. Saw-whet Owls were banded in mid-October in *Brown*, SD (DAT).

A staging flock of 320 Chimney Swifts foraged over downtown Grand Forks Aug. 13 (EEF). A window-killed ♂ Ruby-throated Hummingbird provided the first specimen for Montana (*vide* CC). A Broad-tailed Hummingbird in *Jackson*, SD (KG), Sept. 12, provided a very unusual record, if accepted, since it was outside the Black Hills. Montana's 2nd Red-bellied Woodpecker was photographed Nov. 4 near Glasgow (CC). Three Williamson's Sapsuckers were seen in the Pryor Mts., Aug. 24 (WR). An unusual concentration of 20 Hairy Woodpeckers was feeding heavily on pine nuts at the Denbigh Experimental Forest Nov. 21. All six N. Flickers at Tiber Dam, MT, Nov. 21 were the Yellow-shafted form (HM); a Red-shafted in *Grand Forks* Sept. 28 was the first observed there (DOL). The report of two Pileated Woodpeckers s. of Mandan Nov. 30 (*vide* RNR) is of interest, as this species is not known for the Missouri R., within N. Dakota.

#### FLYCATCHERS TO SHRIKES

A pair of W. Wood-Pewees feeding young in Trenton Park, *Williams*, ND, provided the 2nd confirmation of breeding for the state (REM, GBB). A Cordilleran Flycatcher netted and banded at a meeting of S. Dakota's Rare Birds Record Committee Sept. 13 in *Brown*, SD (DAT), was the state's 2nd e. of the Missouri R. North Dakota's 2nd record for Pinyon Jay occurred in the Hettinger cemetery Oct. 10 (D & CG). Common Ravens appeared in N. Dakota as early as Oct. 11 at Denbigh (GBB).

A Carolina Wren, a casual fall and winter visitor to S. Dakota, was banded in *Clay*, Aug. 18 (KD, EL); another was present in *Beadle*, Oct. 16–Nov. 7 (BJ). A Marsh Wren was late in *Deuel*, SD, Nov. 19 (GS). A Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher in Oak Park, Minot, Sept. 25, was the 2nd for w. N. Dakota and the state's 12th (GBB). Townsend's Solitaires had moved as far east as *Edmunds*, SD, Sept. 20 (JDW). A Gray-cheeked Thrush in Hettinger Oct. 17 was very late (D & CG), while a Hermit Thrush was early Sept. 8 in *Brown*, SD (JCS). The only Wood Thrushes reported were late: Oct. 6 in Fargo (CAS) and Oct. 9 in *Brown* (JCS). A ♀ Varied Thrush was photographed Sept. 27 among the willow shrubs along a trail through native prairie in *Divide*, ND (GBB); three others were found in N. Dakota in November. Two Am. Pipits found in *Cass*, ND, Nov. 12, set a new late date (GEN). A N. Shrike in



Varied Thrush in Divide County, North Dakota, on September 27, 1992. Photograph/Gordon B. Berkey.

*Jackson*, SD, Oct. 10, was the earliest ever by 5 days (KG), and one in *Roberts*, SD, Oct. 28, was still in juv. plumage (BKH).

#### VIREOS TO WARBLERS

Four Solitary Vireos were early in *Clay*, SD, Aug. 18 (KD, EL); the number peaked at 13 in Grand Forks on Sept. 12 (EEF). A Yellow-throated Vireo in Grand Forks, Sept. 22, was late (DOL). A migratory fallout in N. Dakota Aug. 23 & 24 produced 100 Red-eyed Vireos in *Cass* and 29 Wilson's and 18 Canada Warblers in *Richland* (MAO). A Tennessee Warbler in *Brown*, SD, Oct. 16, was late, while a N. Parula at Pickerel L. Aug. 23 (DRS), two Chestnut-sided Warblers in Union County S.P., Aug. 20 (DS), and a Black-throated Blue Warbler in *Clay*, Sept. 2 (DS), were earliest ever for S. Dakota. A Black-throated Blue was banded in *Brown*, Sept. 6 (DAT). A Townsend's Warbler banded and photographed in *Brown*, Oct. 30 (DAT) will furnish S. Dakota's 2nd record, if accepted. Other warbler rarities for S. Dakota included a Pine in *Minnehaha*, Aug. 28 (MSS), and a Connecticut banded in *Brown*, Sept. 6 (DAT). A Blackpoll at New Town, ND, Sept. 12, was most unusual, as it was in ad. ♀ plumage (BCH). High counts of warblers in N. Dakota included 15 Palms at Devil's L., Sept. 20 and 41 Com. Yellowthroats near Williston Aug. 30 (REM, GBB).

Westby is a small town in extreme n.e. Montana, on the border of N. Dakota. Woodlands and tree plantings are scarce there; it took Ted Nordhagen 20 years to see his first Black-capped Chickadee in Westby, yet he has recorded numerous sightings of warblers that are rare in Montana. This fall, four Magnolia Warblers were found Aug. 21–Sept. 23 (about 12 prior records for Montana), and six Canada Warblers were seen

Aug. 12–27 (4 prior state records). The migration route of Canada Warblers may have shifted westward, as the species was recorded for the first time Aug. 23 and Sept. 4 in Ft. Peck (CC). An exceptional number for fall anywhere within this Region were the 20 Blackpoll Warblers in Westby Sept. 11 (TN). The first record for Townsend's Warbler at Ft. Peck Sept. 4 was photographed (CC). A Connecticut Warbler, killed when it hit a window, made the 4th record and the first specimen for Montana (*vide* CC).

#### GROSBEAKS TO FINCHES

Two ♀ Black-headed Grosbeaks were feeding the same immature at Ft. Peck (CC) Aug. 18, and a Black-headed was banded the same day in *Brown*, SD, where it is casual (DAT). Two Dickcissels near Bowman, ND, Oct. 2, were carefully described (MLJ). Flightless Rufous-sided Towhees were being attended in Newton Hills S.P., Sept. 5 (NP).

Four Green-tailed Towhees were found at Palisade Campground, MT, Aug. 3 (WR). A Brewer's Sparrow at Bowman-Haley Res., Sept. 19 provided a departure date for this poorly known species (D & CG). A Golden-crowned Sparrow, providing the 2nd record for N. Dakota, appeared at dusk at Ron Martin's feeder near Sawyer Oct. 9.

The first Snow Bunting was seen Sept. 27 in *Divide*, ND (GBB). A N. Oriole at Great Falls, MT, Nov. 10, was extremely late (H. Lorenz). House Finches have arrived in Bowman in extreme s.w. N. Dakota (MLJ), while daily counts reached 40 in the east. Red Crossbills seemed to be on the move in mid-October, although reports were few and scattered. Many observers would agree with Carlson's comment that it has been many years since Evening Grosbeaks have been present in numbers.

**Observers (state compilers in boldface):** MONTANA: Charles Carlson, Harriet Marble, Ted Nordhagen, Michael Schwitters, William Roney.—NORTH DAKOTA: Don J. Bozovsky, **Gordon B. Berkey**, Eve E. Freeberg, Dave & Carolyn Griffiths, Bernice C. Houser, Mayme L. Johnson, Mike Jacobs, Gary L. Krapu, David O. Lambeth, Greg S. Lambeth, Ron E. Martin, Gary E. Nielsen, Mark A. Otnes, Robert N. Randall, Carol A. Spurbeck, Dennis & Diane Weisenborn.—SOUTH DAKOTA: Kurt Dean, Ken Graupman, Bruce K. Harris, Blanche Johnson, Jon R. Kieckhefer, Eric Likness, Nathan Pieplow, David Swanson, **Dennis R. Skadsen**, Gary Stava, Jerry C. Stanford, Mark S. Skadsen, Dan A. Tallman, J. David Williams,—**DAVID O. LAMBETH**, 1909 20th Ave. S, Grand Forks, ND 58201.



# SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Joseph A. Grzybowski

It was a delightfully cool August—unheard of in these parts—no air-conditioning needed, followed by a normally hot September. Beginning in September, one front after another rolled through. Although each was not necessarily eventful birdwise, all in all, they produced a reasonably good season of birding. By November, portions of the Region from n.w. Oklahoma northward were blanketed with snow. Still, it was not exceptionally cold.

Warbler numbers were generally down from the remarkable glut of last year, but the unusual seemed more often reported this season. Sanderlings were present in better than normal numbers, and some lingered in each state. Common Loons also appeared to have fared well. With the fronts, some migration was advanced but, again, not exceptionally so. It seemed as if most sparrows arrived late and in low numbers in Oklahoma, although early migrants were found somewhere. By contrast, LeConte's Sparrows, mostly secretive and not easily detected, were more frequently reported, in much higher numbers than usual, and must have come off a good breeding season.

**Abbreviations:** Cheyenne Bottoms (*Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Barton Co., KS*); Fontenelle Forest (*Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., NE*); Hefner (*Lake Hefner, Oklahoma Co., OK*); McConaughy (*Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., NE*); Quivira (*Quivira N.W.R., Stafford Co., KS*); Salt Plains (*Great Salt Plains N.W.R., Alfalfa County, OK*). Place names in *italics* are counties.

## LOONS TO WATERFOWL

One to two Red-throated Loons were identified in *Douglas, KS*, Nov. 15 & 23 (MM, GP, MP). Pacific Loons were reported from *Miami, KS*, Oct. 24 (LM, GP) and Nov. 24 (CH), and from *Trego, KS*, Nov. 7 (*fide* LM). Common Loons may have been commoner this season, with several observers across the Region reporting good numbers by mid- to late October.

A Horned Grebe Sept. 18 in *Morton, KS* (PJ), was early. Four W. Grebes were reported from *Gosper, NE*, Oct. 29 (JJ), with another Nov. 7 at *Rooks, KS* (SS). McConaughy touted 1900 W. Grebes Sept. 20 and 766 Nov. 5 (RCR, DJR). Two Clark's Grebes seen there Sept. 20 (RCR, DJR) reflect the rarity of this species relative to Westerns in the Region.

Brown Pelicans in *Russell, KS*, Aug. 11–30



(MR) and *Pawnee, OK*, Nov. 1 (JV, DV) were counted among several in the past few years, possibly representing growing numbers of Gulf Coast populations. Neotropical Cormorants were discovered at *Linn, KS*, Aug. 2 (LM), Cheyenne Bottoms Aug. 15 (MC) and at Hefner Oct. 4–17 (JGN). A few more Am. Bitterns were noted this season, including individuals in *Lincoln, NE*, Aug. 15 (RCR, DJR), in *Geary, KS*, Oct. 22 (DLS, CO), in *Tulsa, OK* (JAr), Oct. 12, and in *Sarpy, NE* (MS), Oct. 28. Unusual were two Least Bitterns Aug. 30 in *Knox, NE* (MB).

Great and Snowy egrets were found n. to *Knox, NE* (MB). A Great Egret also wandered w. to *Morrill, NE* (RCR, DJR). During the past few years, Great Egrets have lingered well into November in c. and e. Oklahoma, with several widely scattered reports this season as well. One at *Sedgwick, KS*, stayed at least until Nov. 15 (PJ). A Snowy Egret and Green-backed Heron Oct. 31 in *Tulsa* (BC) were also tardy, as were 32 Cattle Egrets Nov. 24 in *McCurtain, OK* (BH). Twelve Cattle Egrets in *Cherry, NE*, Aug. 11 were part of the advancing brigade of this species. Seven Tricolored Herons graced *Bryan, OK*, Sept. 7–8 (JWe), an unusually high count for this rare bird for the Region.

An imm. White Ibis noted Sept. 7 in *Stafford, KS* (BF, JZ, EZ), was a sought-after vagrant. Another was observed Aug. 6 in *Bryan, OK*, perhaps the same bird seen Aug. 14 in *Johnston, OK* (JWe). Tardy or vagrant were unidentified *Plegadis* ibises Oct. 17–20 in *Tulsa* (JW, TM *et al.*) and Nov. 1 at the Salt Plains (JW *et al.*). A White-faced Ibis seen Sept. 20 in *Wagoner, OK* (JAr), was e. of most sites of occurrence. Roseate Spoonbills seen July 4 in *Cleveland, OK* (MH), Aug. 18–19 in *Canadian, OK* (JP, JGN *et al.*), and Sept. 4 at the Salt Plains (VBe, JFI) teased the minds of those who wonder how many birds really traipsed into Oklahoma.

Not often observed anywhere was a Res.,

morph Goose, this one at Webster Res., *Rooks, KS*, Nov. 14 (SS). Ross' have clearly increased during the past several decades and would now generally be considered expected across the Region. Blue-winged Teals were present in good numbers by early September. One lingered until Nov. 6 in *Dundy, NE* (RCR, DJR).

Two Ring-necked Ducks were early Sept. 17 at *Scott, KS* (HK). At least six Greater Scaup were identified Nov. 1 in *Noble, OK* (JW *et al.*). Oldsquaws appeared in *Geary, KS*, Nov. 15 (DLS, CO). Two Black Scoters were carefully studied Oct. 30 in *Dawes, NE* (RCR, DJR), certainly the rarest scoters in the Region. Four White-winged Scoters were identified in *Tulsa, OK*, Oct. 21 (SD). Another was discovered Nov. 1 in *Noble, OK* (JW *et al.*). Early were a pair of Com. Goldeneyes Oct. 14 in *Pawnee, OK* (JAr).

## RAPTORS TO TERNS

Inclement weather during late May delayed the reproductive activity of many species in the Region. Among them were Mississippi Kites. One pair in *Cleveland, OK*, fledged one of their young Aug. 30 (VB). Recently fledged young were also observed during late August and early September in *Oklahoma* (JAG). Earlier reproductive efforts were probably reflected in a flock of 60–70 kites observed over Lawton, OK, Sept. 9, containing only one immature (J & LM). An extralimital report of a kite occurred in *Keith, NE*, Aug. 9 (JF).

Although common in the Region, the observation of 100 Turkey Vultures in two groups Oct. 14 in *Washington, OK* (DRe), was among few documenting significant fall movements. And, Oct. 8, Helen Thomas watched several thousand Swainson's Hawks pass overhead in about 20 minutes at a roadside stop in *Kay, OK*.

A N. Goshawk was spotted Nov. 28 in *Cimarron, OK* (MD). Noteworthy w. in the Region was a Broad-winged Hawk Sept. 18 in *Morton, KS* (PJ). Slightly early was a Rough-legged Hawk Oct. 17 in *Buffalo, NE* (RH, LR). Prairie Falcons appeared more numerous this season in the c. strip of the Region. Reports of 21 Merlins and 8 Peregrine Falcons were received. One Peregrine seen Aug. 14 in *Kansas City* was believed to have been hacked just across the border into Missouri. Two Peregrines showed up in downtown *Tulsa* this season, where they were routinely monitored (*fide* JL).

A Greater Prairie-Chicken Nov. 30 in *Muskogee, OK*, was among very few recent records for this county (JM). King Rails responded to tapes in *Morrill, NE*, Sept. 4 and *Garden, NE*, Sept. 20 (RCR, DJR). Quite a surprise was a Purple Gallinule found dead in a Taco Hut parking lot in



**Groove-billed Ani in Miami County, Kansas, October 24, 1992. Photograph/Galen Pittman.**

Riley, KS, during early September (*fide* LM)—was it the tacos or the water? The 40 to 50 Sandhill Cranes Sept. 27 in *Dawes*, NE were early (RCR, DJR), as were the 25 that showed up at Cheyenne Bottoms the same day (*fide* DR). Whooping Cranes were observed Nov. 2 at the Salt Plains (JM).

Lesser Golden-Plovers lingered Nov. 7 in *Johnson*, KS (BF, MM). The 750 Am. Avocets observed Sept. 21 in *Garden*, NE (JT), must have been a real treat. Tardy were two Willets in *Texas*, OK, Sept. 14 (LA). A Marbled Godwit was noted July 10 in *Cheyenne*, NE (RCR, DJR). Several Red Knots were observed at Quivira Aug. 15 (MC) and Sept. 6 (BF), and two visited Hefner Aug. 23–25 (JGN *et al.*). Six Sanderlings Oct. 29 in *Gasper*, NE (JJ), were tardy, as were 13 at McConaughy Nov. 5 (RCR, DJR), and the 5–11 present Oct. 19–Nov. 14 at Hefner (JGN, m.ob.). Baird's Sandpipers sometimes occur in surprisingly large flocks; 3000 at McConaughy Aug. 15 represented such a concentration. Although small numbers of Buff-breasted were generally reported from across the Region, 120 Sept. 3 in *Wagoner*, OK (JM, JN), were among the larger flocks reported in recent times. Five in *Grady*, OK, Sept. 7 provided a first county record (JAG, KW). Short-billed Dowitchers were noted Sept. 6 in *Tulsa* (JA). Token Red-necked Phalaropes graced *Buffalo*, NE, Aug. 30 (RH, LR) and *Morton*, KS, Sept. 20 (PJ), while a meatier 90 were counted Sept. 18 in *Sheridan*, NE (RCR, DJR). Twelve were also counted at Quivira Sept. 6 (BF).

A dark imm. jaeger (sp.) was observed Sept. 5 at Quivira Sept. 5 (BF, JZ). Now regular summer vagrants in Oklahoma, Laughing Gulls were detected Aug. 15 at Quivira (MC), Sept. 6 in *Geary*, KS (DLS, CO), and Sept. 28 in *Jefferson*, KS (MI, GK). Additional birds were seen Sept. 11–14 and Oct. 7–8 in *Bryan*, OK, and Sept. 15 in *Marshall*, OK (JWe). The expanding number of Cali-

fornia Gulls is worthy of record. Three to 30 were noted on McConaughy Sept. 19–Nov. 5 (RCR, DJR). An adult was noted Sept. 12 in *Marshall*, OK (JWe), while a 2nd-year bird was identified in *Douglas*, KS, Nov. 15 (MM, GP). Two Sabine's Gulls were found in *Jefferson*, KS, Sept. 28 (MI, GK). Our Where's-Waldo Black-legged Kittiwake appeared in *Bryan*, OK, Nov. 6–18 (JWe). Among Com. Terns observed this season were three in *Bryan*, OK, Sept. 11 (JWe), and one Sept. 22 at Hefner (JGN, VBe). Least Tern watchers found good late season success in *Cleveland*, OK, where 27 pairs fledged 55 chicks (VB).

#### DOVES TO SWALLOWS

Part of a potential emerging pattern was the occurrence of up to nine Inca Doves coming to a feeder in *Finney*, KS, through the end of November (B & LR). One was discovered Nov. 1 in *Payne*, OK (FW). The less common Com. Ground-Dove was reported Sept. 19 in *Morton*, KS (SS). Not seen in the Region for some time, a Groove-billed Ani finally appeared Oct. 24–Nov. 6 in *Miami*, KS (MC, m.ob.).

Barred Owls were recorded in *Morton*, KS, Oct. 31 and Nov. 10 (*fide* LM). A Chuckwill's-widow found Oct. 2 in *Oklahoma* (EP) was unusually tardy. A noteworthy concentration of 9000 Chimney Swifts swirled the stacks at Lake Yahola, *Tulsa*, Sept. 17 (JL, PS). An imm. Calliope Hummingbird was claimed for a *Rush*, KS, feeder Aug 15–16 (SS, DS, SP), as was a ♂ Broad-tailed in *Morton*, KS, Sept. 5–6 (SS, MM, m.ob.). Reports of Rufous Hummingbirds came from *Cleveland*, OK, Aug. 11 (RB), *Dakota*, NE, Aug. 29 (DB), *Morton*, KS, Sept. 5–6 (m.ob.), and *Sumner*, KS, Nov. 15–Dec. 1 (*fide* DK). Janet Hall submitted photographs of an imm. ♀ **Allen's Hummingbird** she had banded at the residence of Chris Hobbs in *Wyandotte*, KS, to J. Remsen of Louisiana State University, who conclusively identified the bird—a first for Kansas and the Region.

A Lewis' Woodpecker Nov. 22 in the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Ref. (LMY) was quite unusual. Data points for the recently split Red-naped Sapsuckers accumulated for several birds: one in *Cimarron*, OK, Sept. 13 (LA), two Sept. 17 at *Scott*, KS (HK), and one Sept. 18 in *Morton* (PJ). A pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers was feeding a brood still in the nest Aug. 30 in *Wabaunsee*, KS (DLS).

A Dusky Flycatcher was netted Sept. 5 in *Morton*, KS (GP, SP, LM, MM). Written documentation of a Gray Flycatcher Sept. 5 in *Morton*, KS (MM, GP), was accepted by the Kansas Bird Records Committee. And a Cordilleran Flycatcher was identified in *Seward*, KS, Sept. 4 (LM). Two Acadian Flycatchers deciphered in *Dodge*, NE, Aug. 27 (BJR), were unusual n. and w. of most occurrences. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was noted as late as Nov. 17 in *Sequoyah*, OK (DV). Ash-throated Flycatchers were still present in *Cimarron*, OK, Sept. 14 (LA). A concentration of about 1000 Bank Swallows in *Garden*, NE (RCR, DJR), is noteworthy for this

lower-density swallow. Two Tree Swallows lingered until Nov. 4 in *Wyandotte* KS (LM), as did two Barn Swallows seen Nov. 7 in *Tulsa* (AR *et al.*).

#### JAYS TO VIREOS

Blue Jays expressed a major movement into w. Nebraska during August and September (RCR, DJR), an area in which such an event would be more readily noticed. Pinyon Jays also increased in numbers in w. Nebraska by late August (RCR, DJR). A Clark's Nutcracker seen Sept. 19 (JT) & 26 (TJ) in *Sioux*, NE, was a good find. Four Mt. Chickadees seen Sept. 14 in *Cimarron*, OK (LA), were early. Red-breasted Nuthatches Sept. 6 in *Geary*, KS (DLS), and Sept. 14 in *Cimarron*, OK (LA), were also ahead of most.

Those good years in Canyon Wren reproductive success continue to show with out-of-range individuals like the one seen in *Morton*, KS, Sept. 5 (RP, SC). Rock Wrens nesting at the e. limit of their range in *Antelope*, NE, fledged 6 young Aug. 26 (MB). A single bird was banded in Fontenelle Forest Oct. 5 (RG). A lingering Marsh Wren was observed Nov. 29 in *Garden*, NE (RCR, DJR), as was a Gray Catbird Nov. 17 in *Sequoyah*, OK (DV).

Townsend's Solitaires were noted e. to *Buffalo*, NE, Oct. 17 (RH, LR), and *Comanche*, OK, Oct. 17 (JDT *et al.*). Among the few fall reports of Swainson's Thrushes were birds seen Sept. 4 (JB) & Sept. 6 (TB) in Fontenelle Forest, and one found Sept. 13 in *Cimarron*, OK (LA). A Veery was netted Sept. 4 in *Morton*, KS (*fide* DR). Several Varied Thrushes appeared including two in *Finney*, KS, Oct. 21 (*fide* LM), three in *Riley*, KS, Oct. 24 (VL), and one in *Jefferson*, KS, Oct. 25 (GG).

A N. Shrike appeared Sept. 12 in *Sheridan*, NE (RCR, DJR), a very early date. The species was widespread by late October in w. Nebraska (RCR, DJR). One was noted Nov. 8 in *Geary*, KS (DLS). A Solitary Vireo observed Nov. 26–28 in *Geary*, K (DLS) was tardy.

#### WARBLERS TO FINCHES

Nothing like the numbers of last year, but a few "hot" warbler finds, included a ♀ and ♂ Golden-winged Warbler Aug. 22 & 23 in Fontenelle Forest (BP, LP, CR), one Aug. 15 in *Miami*, KS (DG), and *Wyandotte*, KS, Sept. 2 (LM), and one Sept. 6 in *Tulsa* (DI). A Black-throated Blue Warbler was seen Oct. 11 in *Linn*, KS (JG, NJ). Connecticut Warblers were reported Sept. 7 & 8 from Fontenelle Forest (LP, EG) and Sept. 19 (TM, JW) & Sept. 23 (PS, JL) in *Tulsa*. Berlin Heck certainly had an impressive day Aug. 25. The unusually cool weather may have concentrated warblers into a mixed group of 8 species, which included a Swainson's, six Worm-eating, and two Blue-winged warblers, all seldom seen in fall.

Other uncommon finds during fall were a Chestnut-sided Aug. 21–23 (BP, LP), Mag-nolia Sept. 25 (JA), and up to three Blackbur-

nian warbler(s) Aug. 21–Sept. 2 (BP, LP) in Fontenelle Forest (BP, LP), with another Magnolia seen Aug. 25 in *Sarpy*, NE (PSw). Blackburnians were also noted Sept. 12 (JW) in Tulsa, as were single Palm Warblers seen Sept. 22 (TM, DI) and Oct. 3 (JAr, JTh). Also observed were one to four Pine Warblers, seen regularly in *Geary*, KS (DLS, m.ob.), with others in *Jefferson*, KS, Sept. 1 (GP) and *Leavenworth*, KS, Sept. 6 (CH, JS).

Mid-September produced an array of unusual warblers in w. Kansas and Oklahoma, with a Blackpoll and Virginia's warbler Sept. 19 in *Finney* (*fide* DR), two Townsend's warblers Sept. 19 in *Cimarron*, OK (PJ), a Canada Sept. 20 in Morton, KS (PJ *et al.*), and Black-throated Grays Sept. 18 and 20, also in *Morton* (*fide* DR). Among early the arrivals was a Wilson's Warbler Aug. 8 in *Dawes*, NE (RCR, DJR).

An Am. Redstart was at the rarefied edge of its migration range at *Scott*, KS, Sept. 17 (HK). Yellow-throated Warblers were last observed Sept. 24 in Fontenelle Forest (BP, LP) and Oct. 6 in *Tulsa* (SB). A Cerulean in Fontenelle Forest was last seen Aug. 23 (LP, RS). Tardy were Ovenbirds Oct. 15 in *Tulsa* (TM) and Oct. 24 in *Canadian*, OK (HH). An Orange-crowned Warbler lingered until Nov. 26 in *Geary*, KS (DLS).

An imm. Black-headed Grosbeak Oct. 4 found in *Tulsa* was quite unusual (JL, PS). A ♂ Painted Bunting attended three recently fledged young in *Comanche*, OK, Sept. 7 (JAG, KW). A new breeding site for Bach-

man's Sparrow was located in *Creek*, OK. Four adults and two immatures were noted there Aug. 8 (JCH *et al.*). Many birders saw a Black-throated Sparrow Nov. 30 in *Johnson*, KS (B & PR). LeConte's Sparrows appeared in good numbers this fall, with up to 50 observed in *Sarpy*, NE (RS *et al.*). Two Sharp-tailed Sparrows in *Coffey*, KS, Oct. 4 delighted the Kansas Ornithological Society membership. Early migrant sparrows included two Songs and two White-crowns Sept. 13 in *Cimarron*, OK (LA). Six Chestnut-collared Longspurs Oct. 13 in *Tulsa* (JAr, JM, JN) were both early and east of most sites of occurrence in the Region, but four McCown's Longspurs seen Oct. 12 in *Tulsa* (JAr) were even more exceptional.

A sight record of a Pine Grosbeak Nov. 7 in *Tulsa* (DRe) awaits review by the Oklahoma Bird Records Committee. A few Red Crossbills appeared across the Region, including up to five Oct. 24–Nov. 27 in *Geary* KS (DLS). Pine Siskins finally materialized this fall, the first in several years, with an early arrival Sept. 26 in *Cleveland*, OK (VB). A ♂ Lesser Goldfinch feeding two fledged young in *Scott*, KS (BC), could represent the first observed Kansas nesting for this species. A male was noted there all summer.

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Hall, Chris Hobbs, Maxie Irwin, Pete Janzen, Nan Johnson, **Dan Kilby**, Hugh Kingery, Glen Koontz, Dan LaShelle (DLS), Virginia Long, Mike McHugh, **Lloyd Moore**, Chuck Orte, Richard Parker, Sebastian Patti, Galen Pittman, Mike Rader, Billie & Paul Rhudy, Betty & Leonard Rich, David Rintoul, John Schukman, Diane Seltman, Scott Seltman, Jim Zellmer, Ellen Zellmer. NEBRASKA—Jim Ault, Dick Bierman, Tanya Bray, John Brennaman, Mark Brogie, Jim Fuller, Ruth Green, Essie Grill, Robin Harding, Todd Jensen, Joel Jorgensen, **Babs Padelford**, Loren Padelford, Lanny Randolph, Chris Rasmussen, Dorothy J. Rosche, **Richard C. Rosche**, B.J. Rose, Mark Shubert, Ross Silcock, Phil Swanson (PSw), Jerry Toll. OKLAHOMA—Leif Anderson, Jim Arterburn (JAr), Vic Bell (VBe), S. Boucher, Ruth Boyd, Vicki Byre, Bill Carroll, Marvin Davis, Scott Dingman, Judy Flannigan (JFl), Joseph A. Grzybowski, Hubert Harris, Berlin Heck, James C. Hoffman, Mark Howery, Deloris Isted, **Jo Loyd**, **Janet & Louis McGee**, **Jeri McMahon**, **Terry Mitchell**, L. Myers (LMY), **John G. Newell**, Jim Norman, Edith Payne, Dan Reinking (DRe) Aline Romero, Pat Seibert, Jim Thayer (JTh), Helen Thomas, Jack D. Tyler, Don Varner, Joyce Varner, Florence Wass, Jeff Webster (JWe), Kim Wiar, Jay Withgott (JWi), Jim Woodard.—**JOSEPH A. GRZYBOWSKI**, 1701 Lenox, Norman, OK 73069.

## TEXAS REGION

Greg W. Lasley and Chuck Sexton

This season was marked by a wide diversity of opinions for all the aspects on which we routinely try to generalize. Weather patterns, observer coverage, bird distribution, and bird numbers were all characterized by divergent reports from various regions. More than most seasons, generalizations were hard to come by. Rainfall and moisture patterns were patchy around the state, both within regions and through the season. The Trans-Pecos and Panhandle had been wet early but dried out later; n.-c. Texas did the opposite, and within the Hill Country some areas were wettest in August, while others didn't get drenched until November. Conditions in e. Texas were just "normal" and mild. An early freeze bit the n. half of the state in early November, and a few snowstorms hit n.w. Texas late in the season; one was particularly heavy in the Amarillo area. Hurricane *Andrew* was barely evidenced, either meteorologically or ornithologically, in Texas.

The migration was generally dull for many observers, but rarities of regional or statewide significance seemed to punctuate reports from many corners. Moreover, num-



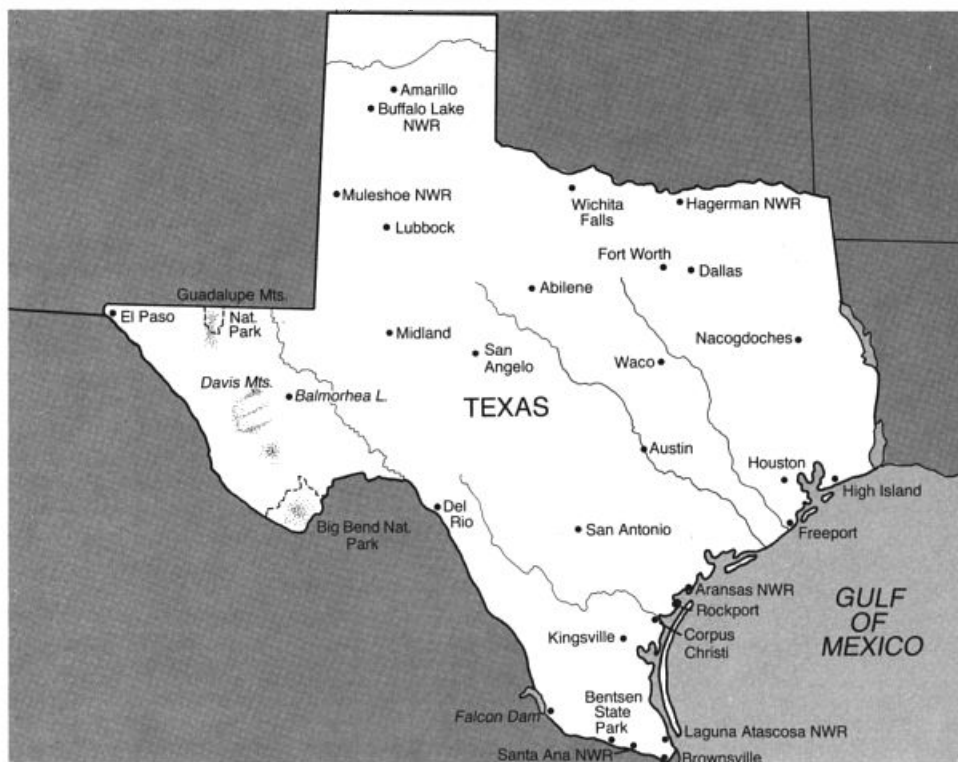
**Cory's Shearwaters made a good showing off the Texas coast this season. These were photographed October 4, 1992, off Port Aransas. Photograph/Ken Nanney.**

bers of regular species were "uneven;" with hundreds of one species found in an area in which another species was completely absent. We report on a few of those cases of exceptional numbers of selected migrant passerines, but in actuality the reports of sparse or non-existent migrants outweighed the former. As might be expected, this was disappointing to many observers and downright alarming to others.

Wintering seedeaters seemed to hold back their southbound momentum in more northerly parts of the state and by season's end had not reached far s. and w. Texas, or they were avoiding those regions altogether.

Yet there were some notable incursions of s. and w. species eastward onto the upper Texas coast. A few montane visitors, such as crossbills and siskins, arrived early in west Texas, but a full-scale invasion failed to materialize there or elsewhere.

We have lost another friend. Long-time readers of Texas columns in this publication will recognize the name of Sue Corson from Big Spring. Sue passed away Nov. 22 after a long bout with cancer. Sue was well known in w. Texas as an active, enthusiastic birder and as a contributor to this report. We dedicate this column to her memory.



(†GLu, KN, CM *et al.*). Another added bonus of the Sept. 12 trip off Port Isabel was a good look at a *Leach's Storm-Petrel* (†MR *et al.*). There are only 6 accepted records of this species in Texas. A Masked Booby was found washed up on the beach in *Jefferson*, Sept. 5 (ph. CH, TR). Counts of migrant Am. White Pelicans in *Hidalgo* were impressive, with 1500 seen Oct. 15 and 2500 seen Oct. 29 (R & LG). The Brown Pelican reported at Feather L., *El Paso*, last season remained until Aug. 2 (JS). An Am. Bittern at Hagerman Nov. 18–21 (CH, m.ob.) furnished the first fall record there in more than 5 years. Two Great Egrets remained in Midland, until Nov. 30, providing the latest record there by more than 2 months (FW). An imm. Tricolored Heron in *El Paso*, Aug. 1–Sept. 19 (BJ, JS), was unexpected. Unusually high numbers of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were found throughout most of the season s. of Vattmann, *Kleberg*, where many potholes held extraor-

**Abbreviations:** Bazemore (*Hazel Bazemore Co. Park, Nueces*); Ft. Bliss (*Ft. Bliss sewage ponds, El Paso*); G.M.N.P. (*Guadalupe Mountains Nat'l Park*); L.R.G.V. (*Lower Rio Grande Valley*); S.S.W.T.P. (*South Side Water Treatment Plant, Dallas*); T.B.R.C. (*Texas Bird Records Committee Texas Ornithological Society*); U.T.C. (*Upper Texas Coast*); V.C.D.B. (*Village Creek Drying Beds, Fort Worth*). The following are shortened names for the respective county, state, or national parks, wildlife refuges, and other sanctuaries: Anzalduas, Aransas, Bentsen, Big Bend, Buffalo L., Falcon, Hagerman, Kickapoo, Laguna Atascosa, and Santa Ana.

#### GREBES TO STORKS

Least Grebes were unusually numerous in many areas of s. Texas, from Rockport (CC) to Santa Ana (R & LG, BM); as many as 30 were at the latter location Oct. 2 (*vide* JL), while 10 remained at a small Kingsville pond

throughout the season (PP). Elsewhere, a pair of Least Grebes hatched 5 young Sept. 17, for a probable first *DeWitt* breeding record (DMu). Horned Grebes numbered a whopping 200 on L. Tawakoni Nov. 1 (RK); two seen at Aransas Nov. 6 were considered unusual (DW, JT, JD). A very rare Red-necked Grebe was reported at Bob Sandlin L., *Titus*, Nov. 15 (RAL, †T.B.R.C.), a first report from that area of the state. A Clark's Grebe at Ft. Hancock Res., *Hudspeth*, Aug. 25 (BZ), was counted as early, while two at Balmorhea L., throughout the period (TJ), were more expected. Cory's Shearwaters put on what was perhaps their best showing ever, with 60 seen Sept. 18 on a pelagic trip off Port Aransas and 30 or more seen in the same area Oct. 4 (m.ob.). Audubon's Shearwaters made news with three sighted off Port Isabel Sept. 12 (†WS *et al.*), one photographed off Port Aransas Sept. 18 (†MR, CH, CS, JA *et al.*), and another off Port Aransas Oct. 4

ordinary amounts of water (N & PP). White Ibises continued to wander well inland during the fall season. The most unusual records this season were of several seen in n.-c. Texas in *Delta*, Aug. 10–Oct. 24 (MWh), another in *Lee*, Aug. 10 (HB), and still another in *Midland*, Aug. 29 (GG, F & HW). A single flock of more than 800 White-faced Ibises Oct. 25 at Powderhorn L., *Calhoun* (RW), was noteworthy. Roseate Spoonbills, like the White Ibises, continue to show up in increasing numbers at inland locations. Noteworthy were seven spoonbills in Austin Aug. 18 (ph. GL), probably the same flock at nearby Smithville the next day (CJ), one in *Delta*, Aug. 15–22 (MWh), one at Hagerman Aug. 30–Oct. 4 (PS, JH, KH, RR, m.ob.), and an amazing 14 individuals in *Harrison*, Sept. 3 (GLu, DBro). Flocks of a few hundred to several hundred Wood Storks were reported more frequently in the coastal bend and s. coastal area (m.ob.). Single Wood

Storks showed up in n.-c. Texas at Grapevine L., *Denton*, Sept. 7 (MS) and in n.e. Texas in *Morris*, Sept. 6 (LBro).

#### WATERFOWL

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continued to do very well in their regular haunts in s. Texas. For example, up to 2500 Black-bellieds were found in a single field in *Medina* during the period, and smaller flocks were ubiquitous in both *Medina* and *Uvalde* (TG). More surprising were the Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks that turned up in numbers away from traditional areas. Large flocks were seen during the season in down-



Ruff at Austin, Texas, on August 19, 1992. Photograph/Greg W. Lasley.

town San Antonio, where they appear to be using the San Antonio R. basin. In Waco, Muldrow reported that the 55–60 birds present were the highest number ever recorded there. Twenty Black-bellies at S.S.W.T.P. throughout the period (m.ob.) seemed intent on being the latest addition to the regular avifauna of n.-c. Texas (CH). Finally, Black-bellies were seen regularly at the Abilene wastewater plant, well beyond their regular range (LBI). The only Greater White-fronted Geese reported in the Panhandle all season were two in *Carson*, Oct. 30 (PAL). Flocks of up to 2000 Greater White-fronteds were reported in *Delta*, Oct. 24–Nov. 14 (MWh), and in *Kleberg*, Oct. 24–Nov. 21 (N & PP). Three Ross' Geese at Ft. Bliss Oct. 18 (JPa) were rare and early, while numbers of this species at Hagerman peaked at 34 during November. Twelve Ross' were found Nov. 19 at Pilot Point, furnishing a first for *Denton* (CH). Canada Goose numbers seemed unusually low in many areas of s. Texas (PP, m.ob.). Up to 18 Muscovy Ducks were reported from the Salineno and Falcon Dam area (R & LG, RR, m.ob.). Green-winged Teals, N. Pintails, Blue-winged Teals, Gadwalls, Am. Wigeons, Buffleheads, and Ruddy Ducks—all normally common by late fall in the Coastal Bend—were surprisingly uncommon there this period (N & PP). A Mottled Duck at Austin Sept. 19 (T.A.S.) was somewhat unusual, but up to six in n.-c. Texas in *Delta*, Oct. 24–Nov. 10 (MWh, PPI), were a very surprising find. The species is also becoming a reliable visitor to *Dallas*, where only a few years ago it was considered accidental (CH, m.ob.). Six Blue-winged Teal ducklings in *Randall*, Aug. 23 (KS) were quite late for the season. Six Cinnamon Teals were at Aransas Oct. 16 (PH), while Cooper L., *Delta*, hosted seven N. Shovelers as early as Aug. 13 (MWh). Eight Greater Scaup Nov. 28 at Big Creek L., *Delta* (MWh, SC), and another in Corpus Christi Nov. 29 (A & MC, E & NA), were unusual sightings. A flock of 10,000 Lesser Scaup in Aransas Bay Nov. 14 (ML) was a notable observation. A Surf Scoter was seen at Austin's Hornsby Bend Oct. 11–18 (JSu, m.ob.), while two at S.S.W.T.P., Oct. 18–19 (EW, MP, ph.), provided the first *Dallas* record in 17 years (*fide* CH). The two Com. Mergansers reported on L. Tanglewood, *Randall*, during the summer, remained at that location throughout the period as well (TLJ). A Com. Merganser found among 16 Red-breasteds at L. Bastrop Nov. 26 (BrF) was an unusual sighting for c. Texas, while another Com. Merganser at Ft. Hancock Oct. 1 (BZ) surpassed the previous early date for the El Paso area by a month. A Masked Duck was reported at Santa Ana Nov. 8 (†SS).

#### RAPTORS

Hawk-watching efforts, under the tutelage of John Economidy, were widespread and well organized on the coast and elsewhere. Readers interested in detailed results of these



**With more active pelagic birding off the Texas coast, records of Bridled Tern are increasing. This one was about 60 miles off Port Isabel on September 12, 1992. Photograph/Martin Reid.**

fine efforts should avail themselves of Economidy's regional reports published in the newsletter of the Hawk Migration Association of North America. As usual, the Mississippi Kite flight peaked in late August and early September along the coast, evidenced by an astounding 2250 at Falfurias Aug. 27 (AO). However, perhaps because of complex regional weather changes induced by, or related to, Hurricane *Andrew*, kites continued to stream by in substantial numbers throughout September (e.g., about 350 at Smith Pt. on Galveston Bay Sept. 27) (*fide* JE). An ad. Bald Eagle at Buffalo L., Sept. 6 (PT) set a new early record there by 15 days. An imm. Com. Black-Hawk was found injured in *El Paso* Sept. 8, providing a 4th county record (ph. HBi, BZ). There were 3 reports of Com. Black-Hawks along the Rio Grande in November. The peak Broad-winged Hawk flight of nearly 113,000 birds passed over the coastal bend Sept. 24 (GS *et al.*), just 2 days later, and a few thousand hawks fewer, than last year's best flight. A flight of 2000 Broad-wingeds in *Hunt*, Sept. 22 (MWh), was an excellent find at an inland location. No truly massive flights (e.g., >5000) of Swainson's Hawks were reported this year. A very early Swainson's Hawk was noted on the U.T.C., in *Jefferson*, Aug. 6 (J & JW), with others seen in *Morris* and *Marion*, Aug. 14 & 22, respectively (LBro, HBI).

#### RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS

A mower flushed three Yellow Rails at Aransas Oct. 21 (*fide* CC), where the species is seldom reported. A King Rail was a rare find at Hagerman Aug. 21 (PS), and another at V.C.D.B., Sept. 5 (KO), was the first found alive in *Tarrant* in 22 years (*fide*

CH)(remains of another were found a couple of years ago). Excitement ruled the day Oct. 16 in *Hays*, when two Whooping Cranes (with a flock of Sandhills) flew over Flocke's house. He called Archer, who lives to the south, who was able to run outside and see the same flock with the two Whoopers as they passed by. The first Whooping Cranes of the season at Aransas were seen Oct. 17 (ME), with 134 present by the end of the period. A Black-bellied Plover at Port Aransas Aug. 5 (E & NA) was early. Lesser Golden-Plovers were found in above-average numbers and at more locations this season in n.-c. Texas (*fide* CH); they were seen as late as Nov. 8 at Hagerman (m.ob.), while another provided a new area record at Cooper L., *Delta*, Sept. 26 (MWh, PPI). Amos suggested that Snowy Plovers at Mustang I. might be on the decline, but so far observers in other areas have not noticed this trend. Piping Plover numbers were mentioned by a number of observers along the c. coast this season. Most encouraging were counts of 175 on the Mustang I. beach Oct. 1 (TA) and 101 in the same area Oct. 6 (CC). Elsewhere, 28 Piping Plovers seen in the Boca Chica area near the mouth of the Rio Grande Sept. 19 (JI) were of interest. Notable was a count of 200 Mt. Plovers just s. of Knippa, *Uvalde*, Oct. 23 (SW). American Oystercatchers were reported in better numbers than have occurred in several years at various coastal locations. Especially significant were 60 on Bolivar Pen., Oct. 5 (RTP, SL, GDL, GL), 22 at Mustang I., Oct. 9 (TA), and 19 at Aransas Bay Nov. 14 (M L). Two Am. Oystercatchers near Boca Chica Sept. 19 (JI) were found at a location at which they are seldom reported. Black-necked Stilts lingered through the period in *El Paso*, where the species normally departs by mid-October (m.ob., *fide* BZ). Two imm. N. Jacanas were discovered below Falcon Dam Nov. 6 (†SS), where they remained throughout the period, to the delight of many observers. Some extraordinarily high counts of Willets along the Mustang I. beach came in early in the period: 532 Aug. 25 and more than 350 on each of Amos's subsequent surveys through Sept. 3. A very rare fall Hudsonian Godwit was found in n.e. Texas in *Harrison*, Nov. 1 (G & JLu). Unusual Marbled Godwit records included one at Cooper L., *Delta*, Aug. 22 (first record in that area in 12 years)(MWh), one at Hagerman Sept. 4 (JHa), one at Amarillo, *Randall*, Aug. 15–23 (KS), and two at Ft. Bliss Sept. 7–Oct. 1 (m.ob.). Single Ruddy Turnstones in *Harrison*, Sept. 17 (DBro, GLu), and at Hagerman Sept. 20 & 27 (PS, RR), provided rare records at those locations. Two Red Knots were early at Port Aransas Aug. 5 (E & NA), but Amos reported a notable decline in numbers in that area from previous years. A Curlew Sandpiper was reported at Austin's Hornsby Bend Sept. 14–15 (†BrF) providing a 4th Texas record if accepted by the T.B.R.C. Following closely on the heels of the July Ruff at Austin, another individual



was seen at the same location Aug. 18–21 (BrF, †ph. GL). Four Short-billed Dowitchers were closely studied by Seyffert Sept. 26 in Amarillo, *Randall*; the species is seldom reported there. Other Short-billed Dowitcher reports of interest included one at Balmorhea L., Aug 23 (ML), and two near Jolly, *Clay*, Aug. 27 (DMc, TMc). Wilson's Phalaropes were reported in "exceptionally low" numbers at Waco (JMu) and Austin (GL, m.ob.), while Red-necked Phalaropes made more appearances in the e. two-thirds of the state than usual (5 reports from Sept. 2–Nov. 14). Two well-described Red Phalaropes were at Ft. Bliss Oct. 3 (†DE, BN). Two small flocks of phalaropes, probably Reds, were seen flying and landing on the water at a great distance on the Sept. 18 pelagic trip off Port Aransas (JA, m.ob.).



**This immature Black-capped Vireo banded at Kickapoo Caverns State Natural Area, Texas, on October 14, 1992, apparently provided the latest fall record ever for the United States. Photograph/Mark Lockwood.**

#### JAEGERS TO SKIMMER

A well-described ad. Pomarine Jaeger at Cooper L., *Delta*, Oct. 3, that afforded good views of its central tail feathers provided only about the 2nd documented record for n.-c. Texas (†MWh). An ad. Laughing Gull, a rare but increasing visitor to n.-c. Texas, was also seen at Cooper L., Oct. 31 (MWh). Rounding out the impressive list of finds at this same lake, a 2nd-winter Little Gull was seen briefly by White Oct. 10 (†T.B.R.C.). A very early Bonaparte's Gull was seen at Bolivar Flats Aug. 9 (GDL). A 1st-winter California Gull visited San Antonio's Calaveras L., Oct. 25 (†WS) and another (or the same?) was observed at nearby Braunig L., Nov. 21–27 (†WS, ph. GDL, m.ob.). Yet another 1st-winter California Gull was seen at L. Waco Nov. 28 (†JMu), providing the 10th species of gull for that lake's history. The now-famous Mustang I. Lesser Black-backed Gull returned Oct. 11 for its 10th winter (TA). No reports of Sabine's Gulls were received anywhere in Texas this fall. A flock of 14 Caspian Terns at Hagerman Sept. 4 (JHa) was one of the largest gatherings ever recorded in n.-c. Texas (*fide* CH). There was a scattering of inland reports of Com. Terns, with one at Ft. Bliss Sept. 18 (BZ), two at Cooper L., Sept. 12 (MWh), and another there Oct. 17 (GLu, DO, MWh). At least three Bridled Terns were spotted off Port Isabel Sept. 12 (†ph. MR, WS) and two more were off Port Aransas Sept. 18 (†ph. CS, CH, MR, JA *et al.*). More aggressive and ambitious pelagic birding in the Gulf promises to make some great Texas rarities less rare (PP). Since first documented in Texas in 1988, the list of documented Bridled Tern records now stands at 10. Possibly the result of Hurricane *Andrew*, a Sooty Tern was well documented by Nanney over Lake O'The Pines, *Marion*, Aug. 26. A single Sooty Tern sighted on Padre I., *Kleberg*, Sept. 11 (A & MC), and another at Boca Chica Sept. 29 (L & RG), were at more

expected coastal locations, but the observation of 30–35 Sooties feeding 60 mi off Port Isabel Sept. 12 (MR, WS *et al.*) provided a seldom-seen spectacle in Texas. A spectacular concentration of 11,200 Black Terns appeared on Padre I., *Kleberg*, Sept. 22 (SB, ACh). Topping off the list of terns is the report of an imm. Brown Noddy 60 mi off Port Isabel Sept. 12 (MR *et al.*, †T.B.R.C.). This will represent the 3rd record for the state, if accepted.

#### DOVES TO NIGHTJARS

A count of 175 White-winged Doves in Waco Oct. 7 (JMu) was the most ever reported at that location. Inca Doves have not only become established in Amarillo but have extended their residency to Vega, *Oldham*, where birds found this summer remained through the fall (RS). This species was also reported intermittently at Palo Duro Canyon (PT). Common Ground-Doves were in increased numbers on the U.T.C., during the period (*fide* GDL). The 2nd Black-billed Cuckoo of the year, but only the 5th since 1964 in *Midland*, was found there Sept. 9 (JMe, BRD). Great nesting success by Groove-billed Anis in s. Texas is apparently responsible for the numbers of reports received this period all along the coast. The earliest ani records this fall were of one in Austin July 23 (JA) and of one photographed in *Chambers*, Aug. 6 (GDL). Thereafter, they were reported in virtually all coastal counties, as well as inland to *Colorado*, *Bexar*, and *DeWitt* (m.ob.). Flammulated Owls made an impressive showing in *El Paso*, with five individuals found Sept. 21–Oct. 19 (HBi *et al.*). This species apparently passes through that area in good numbers but goes largely undetected at daytime roosts (BZ). Common Poorwills are considered accidental in the Wichita Falls area, but a road kill was found there Sept. 13 in w. *Clay* (DMc).

#### SWIFTS TO WOODPECKERS

More than 1800 Chimney Swifts staged over Keene, *Johnson*, Oct. 26–29 (CE). A Broad-billed Hummingbird at Sinton Nov. 13 through the end of the period represented about the 12th documented record for the state (†ph., m.ob.). Buff-bellied Hummingbirds were unusually scarce in Kingsville and Falfurrias but were plentiful through the first 3 months of the season at one ranch site in *Brooks* (PB, AO); there was only one report the entire season at Santa Ana (*fide* JL). By contrast, Buff-bellieds were more common than normal on the U.T.C. and in other areas where fall birds occasionally show up. There were four U.T.C. reports Sept. 26–early November, but the most surprising were of a c. Texas Buff-bellied that showed up in *Bastrop*, Oct. 17–19 (BrF). Magnificent Hummingbirds were described as unusually numerous in Big Bend and the Davis Mts. An ad. ♀ Ruby-throated visited

a feeder near Ft. Davis Sept. 10–12 (PE), and another (or the same) was in nearby Davis Mountains S.P. Sept. 16–30 (KB). A ♂-plumaged *Archilochus* at Austin Nov. 28 (JA) was an unexpected find. Anna's Hummingbirds showed up in small numbers as far e. as Falfurrias, Sinton, and Aransas Pass. An imm. *Costa's Hummingbird* was photographed and tape-recorded in El Paso Sept. 16–17 (†BZ), providing only the 4th documented Texas record. Calliope Hummingbirds put on a good showing in w. Texas, with singles noted in Big Bend Aug. 9 (CS), El Paso Aug. 14 (BZ), and Davis Mountains S.P. on the late dates of Oct. 28–Nov. 12 (KB). "Textbook" ad. ♀ Allen's Hummingbirds were seen at Sinton Nov. 25 (m.ob.) and in Houston Aug. 18 through the period. Unfortunately, it will be virtually impossible to make a positive identification of Allen's Hummingbirds in Texas, in the absence of either a specimen, hand-held measurements, or detailed photos of critical tail feathers. Two Ringed Kingfishers were observed over the Nueces R. n. of Uvalde Aug. 1 (JA); also one was seen in Corpus Christi Aug. 21–Nov. 25 (GS), two at Ft. Clark Springs, *Kinney*, Sept. 21 through the period (ML), and another at Choke Canyon, Live Oak Oct. 31 (E & N A, CC, GS), adding to the ever-increasing records away from the L.R.G.V. A pair of Green Kingfishers w. of Kingsville Aug. 28 provided a new *Kleberg* record (*fide* PP), while another at Stillhouse Hollow Res., *Bell*, Oct. 28 (PhT *fide* BrF) was well n. of its usual haunts. Farther west, another Green Kingfisher frequented the golf course at the Lajitas, *Brewster*, Sept. 16–Nov. 6 (JHi). An out-of-range Red-bellied Woodpecker showed up in Amarillo, *Potter*, Oct. 31–Nov. 4 (KS). An unidentified sapsucker in Laguna Meadow at Big Bend Aug. 10 (CS) was very early for any sapsucker at that location. Only one

Red-naped Sapsucker was reported in the Panhandle, a male seen at Buffalo L., Sept. 6 (KS). After the first L.R.G.V. report last winter, another (or the same) Red-naped Sapsucker was reported at Anzalduas Oct. 7 (L & RG). A first *Bastrop* record was established with the sighting of a Williamson's Sapsucker at Uteley Nov. 28 (†BrF). This record is also the easternmost in Texas in a number of years.

#### FLYCATCHERS TO SWALLOWS

A W. Wood-Pewee noted in Vega, *Oldham*, Oct. 23 (RS) provided the latest record there by 14 days (*fide* KS). The bizarre case of the wintering Gray Flycatcher near Gillett, *Karnes*, added another chapter when the bird returned Oct. 30 for its 3rd consecutive winter (DMu). Extensive banding this fall at Davis Mountains S.P. demonstrated some interesting findings. Perhaps most significant was the breakdown of *Empidonax* flycatchers at this "western" locale. Least Flycatchers proved most numerous, followed by Dusky and Willow. Hammonds, Grays, and Cordillerans were represented by only one individual each (KB). Single Black Phoebe in *Live Oak*, Oct. 10–11 (J & SHo) and in *DeWitt*, Aug. 11 (DMu), were away from usual haunts. A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher was reported at Port Aransas Oct. 2 (†TA). If accepted by the T.B.R.C., it would represent the 5th or 6th record for the state. The nesting Tropical Kingbird pair continue their residence in and around the country club in Brownsville; they have been present at this site for almost 2 years (*fide* BM, m.ob.). Couch's Kingbirds were seen regularly as far n. as Goliad during the season (ME, LV). The Gambills reported "hundreds" of Couch's moving s. through *Hidalgo*, Oct. 10. A silent Tropical/Couch's Kingbird was at Smith Point, *Chambers*, September–October (†GDL, SM, J & JW *et al.*). A concentration of 700 E. Kingbirds moving through Brownsville Sept. 12 (BM) was exceptional. A Purple Martin in El Paso Aug. 23 (CSa) provided the first county record in many years, while a Bank Swallow seen at that location Nov. 1 (JPa) was the latest ever recorded.

#### JAYS TO WAXWINGS

Green Jay numbers continue to increase in the Coastal Bend. They are now regular in parts of *Nueces* and *San Patricio* (*fide* PP). *Midland* was visited by two chickadees this fall, when the area normally has none. The county's 3rd Carolina Chickadee was present Sept. 19 (*fide* FW), and the county's 2nd Mt. Chickadee showed up Nov. 3 (WW). Most unexpected, however, was a reported Carolina Chickadee at Santa Ana Oct. 25 (BM), with two others seen there as well, Nov. 9 (L & RG). We received third-hand reports that these birds were seen through Nov. 28 (m.ob., *fide* JI). We are aware of no previous records of this species for the entire L.R.G.V. The only Red-breasted Nuthatches reported were individuals at Amarillo, *Potter*, Sept. 4–5, *Randall*, on the same dates (RS) and at

Lake O'The Pines Sept. 8 (JHu). Two Rock Wrens near Bentsen Sept. 25 and another nearby Sept. 30 (L & RG) hopped farther e. along the Rio Grande than their usual locale. Another Rock Wren at Padre I., *Kleberg*, Nov. 3 (A & MC, J & BS) was also unexpected. Seyffert reports that the Carolina Wren saga in the Panhandle continues. The nesting bird reported in Amarillo last season was last seen Oct. 2 (KS). Three in Palo Duro Canyon were seen regularly throughout the period (KS, PT). Will this be another species to take up permanent residence in this area? There were scattered reports of Winter Wrens by mid-October in several areas, but the most unusual was one near Hueco Tanks S.P., Oct. 31 (LJ), providing a first *El Paso* record. Sedge Wrens are rare throughout most of n.-c. Texas, but they seemed numerous at L. Tawakoni this fall, with a dozen counted there Nov. 20 (m.ob.). A Marsh Wren at Ft. Bliss Aug. 20 was very early (BZ). A high count of 173 migrant Blue-gray Gnatcatchers in *Nueces*, Sept. 5 (GS), was noteworthy, as was a Black-tailed Gnatcatcher in *Goliad*, Oct. 18 (BHo), farther e. than their usual site. A Mt. Bluebird was seen in w. *Harris* Nov. 23–24, providing only the 2nd U.T.C. record (PDH, m.ob.); the only previous record was in 1961. A pair of Clay-colored Robins continued at Anzalduas at least until Aug. 11, with two others reported without documentation elsewhere in *Hidalgo*. Single Gray Catbirds were out of place at Davis Mountains S.P., Oct. 4 (KB), and at Hueco Tanks S.P., Oct. 19 (DE, BN). An early Brown Thrasher was seen in Kingsville Sept. 29 (*fide* PP). A count of 25 Long-billed Thrashers in w. *Goliad*, Aug. 19 (ME), seemed unusually high, while an individual was seen along the Nueces River n. of Uvalde Sept. 12 (JA). A Sprague's Pipit at L. Benbrook Nov. 30 provided a rare fall record for *Tarrant* (CH). A small flock of 26 Cedar Waxwings in Falfurrias Nov. 26 (AO) were apparently the only ones reported in the s. half of the state this season.

#### VIREOS, WARBLERS

Data released this season indicate the best year ever for Black-capped Vireo nesting success at Kickapoo Caverns, *Kinney* and *Edwards* (ML, DS). A 30% increase over the previous year, 311 young vireos are known to have fledged from 90 successful nests at that site. A young Black-capped Vireo was netted and banded Oct. 14 at Kickapoo (ph. ML), representing the latest U.S. record. A singing Gray Vireo in the Davis Mts., Sept. 5 (KB) was late and at an odd location, while a Solitary Vireo at Rockport Sept. 28 (CC) was a little early for that location. Rare was a *plumbeus* Solitary Vireo at Goose I., *Aransas*, Oct. 23 (A & MC). Unusual records of Yellow-throated Vireos included one bird at Buffalo L., *Randall*, Oct. 4 (RS, KS) (rare in fall in Pan handle), singles Sept. 12 & 19 in the Davis Mts. (KB) (out-of-range), and two Nov. 19 in *Nueces* (GS) (very late). A Hutton's Vireo at Ft. Bliss Sept. 22 (BZ) provided one

of very few *El Paso* records. A Warbling Vireo fledgling with an adult in *Midland*, Aug. 3 (J & DMe, RMS), provided a 1st county nesting record, while one seen in Palo Duro Canyon Oct. 3 (PT) provided one of the latest dates on record for the Panhandle (*fide* KS). A "Lawrence's" Warbler was identified at High I., Oct. 10–12, representing the first fall record for this hybrid on the U.T.C. (and probably the state) (ph. ML, JM, MK *et al.*). Eastern warblers made a good showing in the Trans-Pecos; otherwise the warbler numbers in that area were less than inspiring (BZ). A Tennessee Warbler at Davis Mountains S.P., Oct. 12 (KB) was a first for the park, and a N. Parula at Ft. Bliss Nov. 19 was rare and extremely late (BZ). A ♀ Black-throated Blue was seen at Lajitas Oct. 9 (JHi). Other rare Trans-Pecos records included a Palm Warbler at Ft. Bliss Oct. 3 (DE, BN), a Prothonotary Warbler there Sept. 1 (BZ), an Ovenbird at Tornillo Oct. 1 (BZ) (first for *Hudspeth*), and a Louisiana Waterthrush at Boot Canyon, Big Bend, Aug. 21 (ML). Nashville Warblers were more plentiful than



**Yellow-throated Vireo is very rare in western Texas. This one was found in Davis Mountains State Park on September 12, 1992. Photograph/Kelly B. Bryan.**

usual in the Panhandle (*fide* KS). Yellow Warblers were thought to be more abundant than normal in n.-c. Texas (*fide* CH) but probably nothing compared with the 385 Yellows counted at Corpus Christi Sept. 5 (GS) or the 100 seen at Brownsville Sept. 12 (BM). It has been several years since a Chestnut-sided Warbler has been reported in the Panhandle; one in Vega Sept. 29 (RS) provided a county record. An early Yellow-rumped Warbler was seen in San Antonio Sept. 20 (JA, CS), while Black-throated Grays seemed to show up everywhere. Single Black-throated Grays were seen in Hays Oct. 10, *Calhoun*, Oct. 17 & 25 (BHo, RW) (new county record), Santa Ana Oct. 25 (BM) & 21 (HW), and *Brazoria* Nov. 7 (RT). Black-throated Greens were described in good

numbers by most observers in the e. half of the state, as well as in the Panhandle. A Palm Warbler at Hagerman Sept. 27 (RR) and another (or the same) Oct. 11 (PS) were the first fall sightings there in 13 years. Another Palm Warbler at L. Tawakoni Oct. 11 (RK, GH, JN) provided a first *Van Zandt* record. A rare inland Blackpoll Warbler was found along Cibolo Cr., *Wilson*, Oct. 3 (DMu, WS). A Louisiana Waterthrush in Amarillo, *Randall*, Oct. 15 (NE), provided the 3rd fall record for that area and the latest by a remarkable 24 days (*fide* KS).

We received documentation on two Connecticut Warblers this season that will be forwarded to the T.B.R.C. One was found at Crosby, *Harris*, Sept. 29 (†GDL) and a 2nd in La Porte Nov. 4–5 (†BuH). This species remains an extremely rare bird in this state (5 accepted records). A Hooded Warbler in *Nueces*, Nov. 13, was very late (GS). *Wilson's* Warbler is a common migrant in the Panhandle, but the encouraging >60 counted at Buffalo L., Sept. 2 (KS), within a very short time period, was noteworthy.

#### TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A ♂ Scarlet Tanager made an appearance at Concan Sept. 12 (JA); the species is very rare anywhere in Texas in fall, but especially so far west. The usual off-track W. Tanager turned up this year in *DeWitt*, Sept. 17 (DMu). Northern Cardinal numbers were described as above normal in parts of s. Texas all the way to the Midland area (m.ob.). This increase in numbers to the west probably explains the increased observations in El Paso this fall (DE, BN, BZ *et al.*). In a similar view, Pyrrhuloxias seemed particularly abundant in their regular range in the west and were also commonly seen farther east than usual, with many sightings on the U.T.C. in *Waller*, *Harris*, and *Ft. Bend* (m.ob.). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Palo Duro Canyon Oct. 17 (T.P.A.S.) was very late for that area. Rare in fall for n.-c. Texas was a Black-headed Grosbeak in *Johnson*, Oct. 14 (CE); another at San Marcos Sept. 27 (DHe) was also unexpected. A Lazuli Bunting in *Midland*, Aug. 29 (JHe *et al.*), provided the first fall record since 1985, topped off by two more seen Sept. 6 & 12 (*fide* FW). Seven Varied Buntings banded at Davis Mountains S.P., Aug. 16–Sept. 6 (KB), seemed like an unusually high number, and another Lazuli Bunting noted in e. *Harris* was unexpected (†GDL). Olive Sparrows seemed more common than usual in *Goliad*, *DeWitt*, *Kingsville*, areas of *Live Oak*, and *Kinney* (m.ob.). A Rufous-sided Towhee near Rockport Oct. 8 (CC) was early for that area. In *El Paso* and *Hudspeth*, Brown Towhees made an obvious push into lowland/riverine areas, where they are not typically found from September to the end of the period (*fide* BZ).



**Baird's Sparrow is seldom well-documented in Texas. This individual was banded at Big Bend Ranch State Natural Area on October 29, 1992. Photograph/Kelly B. Bryan.**

In contrast to some fall seasons, Chipping Sparrows were not numerous anywhere. A Chipping Sparrow, seen Sept. 6 at Kingsville, turned out to be Palmer's first and last for the season. Unusual sightings were single Field Sparrows in the Davis Mts., Oct. 17 & Nov. 27 (KB). A Lark Bunting in *Brazoria*, Aug. 17 (MD), set a new early date for the U.T.C., while one in *Victoria*, Nov. 13 (ME), may have provided a first county record. Lark Buntings invaded n.-c. Texas in above-average numbers, with the easternmost one reported at L. Ray Roberts Nov. 8 (RR). An impressive count of 15 Sage Sparrows came in at Ft. Bliss Nov. 30 (BJ), while a very rare Baird's Sparrow was netted and photographed in the hand at Big Bend Ranch, *Presidio*, Oct. 29 (KB). A casual visitor to the El Paso area, Grasshopper Sparrows were recorded on 2 occasions, with single birds near Tornillo Oct. 1 (BZ) and at Hueco Tanks (a first park record) Oct. 19 (DE, BN). Two well-described Henslow's Sparrows were found at San Rayburn Res., *Jasper*, Nov. 10 (RR), the only record of the species this season. A Le Conte's Sparrow that met its fate by striking a window in Wichita Falls Oct. 19 furnished only the 5th record there (†DMc). Although the status of Sharp-tailed Sparrows in n.-c. Texas has been labeled accidental at best, the species should be expected to pass through, given records both north and south of the region (*fide* CH). One such Sharp-tailed was well described Oct. 24 at Big Creek L., *Delta* (MWh, PPI). The most unusual sparrow of the season had to be the imm. Golden-crowned netted and banded at Davis Mountains S.P., Nov. 11 (ph. KB), providing the 11th documented Texas record.

Very unusual for fall were two Bobolinks on N. Padre I., *Kleberg*, Oct. 3 (BG). A Brewer's Blackbird Oct. 9 in *DeWitt* arrived a month early for that area (DMu), while another seen at Welder Ref., *San Patricio*, Sept. 30 (CC), probably provided a new

Coastal Bend early date. A group of 37 Com. Grackles in Falfurrias Nov. 8 (AO) provided the only far s. Texas record of the season. While nearby feedlots assure Kingsville of a continuing abundant supply of Bronzed Cowbirds, something does seem to be reducing the number of wintering birds in that area (PP). The previous late date for Orchard Orioles in the Amarillo area was Sept. 26, 1970, so one found at Buffalo L., Oct. 24 (KS), was indeed of interest. An Audubon's Oriole in w. *Goliad*, Aug. 19 (ME), and another at Berclair, *Goliad*, Aug. 26 (RW), were at northerly locations for the species. House Finches continue to be reported at various U.T.C. locations. A few Red Crossbills in the high Chisos Mts. of Big Bend Aug. 7–9 were noteworthy. Pine Siskins were described as early, and in good numbers, in the Trans-Pecos and in n.-c. Texas but were seldom mentioned by

observers in other areas of the state. For the 2nd consecutive August, an out-of-season Am. Goldfinch was found in the L. Tawakoni area Aug. 13 (RK). The only Evening Grosbeak reported was found dead at Amarillo, Porter Oct. 15 (ACa, TCa).

**Addendum:** Pioneering Cave Swallows dramatically extended their known range this past summer, reaching the edge of n.-c. Texas for the first time (CH). A nest was photographed July 8 in a culvert s.w. of Ft. Worth in *Erath*, near the *Comanche* line. Nesting Cave Swallows were also found near Brady, *McCulloch*, June 23 (MP).

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## IDAHO-WESTERN MONTANA REGION

Thomas H. Rogers

Autumn in the Region continued warm and dry in most localities, although September did become cooler in some areas. No marked cooling trend occurred until mid-November, when a few areas reported snow and freezing of ponds. As usual, a few stragglers were noted, but weather did not appear to have much effect on the timing of the migration.

**Abbreviations:** Deer Flat (*Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, ID*); Metcalf (*Lee Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville, MT*); Ninepipe (*Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, MT*); Red Rock Lakes (*Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, MT*).

### LOONS TO HERONS

A Red-throated Loon was photographed at Harrison, ID, Oct. 23–Nov. 9 (DS, SHS, SW, DG *et al.*, KD, CV), and another appeared at Cascade Res., Valley, ID, Oct. 11 (MC). One to three Pacific Loons were sighted and photographed in Idaho at Sandpoint (DS, KD), at Harrison (DS, KD, SHS, WH, PG *et al.*) Oct. 17–Nov. 16, at Deer Flat Oct. 11 (MC), on Am. Falls Res., Power Oct. 23 & 31 (DT, CHT), and later at Massacre Rocks, Power (CHT). Coeur d'Alene L., n. ID, had 40 Com. Loons Oct. 20 (KD), and a surprising 166 staged an appearance Oct. 28 (CV, WH). One was seen periscoping on Flathead L., at Somers, MT, Nov. 28 (DC),

and 13 came into view at Sandpoint Oct. 20 (KD).

A pair of Red-necked Grebes again nested on Silver L., Fremont, ID, and several were reported nesting on Henrys L. to the north (CHT). Five were sighted on Coeur d'Alene L., Oct. 20 (KD), and one was seen on the Clearwater R. near Lewiston, ID, Oct. 8 (LL). Hayden L., ID, had six Sept. 16 (JG). White Pelicans reached peak numbers at McArthur L., Boundary, ID, Aug. 14. They were last seen there Sept. 22 (PC).

Double-crested Cormorants continued to be frequent visitors to the Kalispell, MT, area; there were unconfirmed reports of breeding along the Flathead R., and feeding flocks commonly showed up at Smith L., w. of the city (DC). Double-crests were seen at Salmon, ID, Aug. 30 and Sept. 20 for Hadley's 4th and 5th observations there. A Great Egret flew over Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, ID, Oct. 23, for a rare occurrence there (LN). Up to 12 Cattle Egrets were counted in the vicinity of Deer Flat Nov. 1–21 (JG, †MC, FK). One to two appeared in the Lewiston vicinity Oct. 22–Nov. 30 for the first records there since 1986 (CV, MK, LL, OM, CG). Up to 14 were reported at Lee Metcalf in the Bitterroot Valley s. of Missoula, MT, Oct. 22 and into November (CB, PLW). An imm. Black-crowned Night-Heron was sighted in the Lewiston vicinity Aug. 16 & 30 and Oct. 8 (C.B., LL, JH).

### WATERFOWL

A Trumpeter Swan sporting a green neck collar appeared at Mann L., Lewiston Orchards, ID, Aug. 30 (JH); likely the same bird, collar numbered 2V5, was seen at Winchester L., Lewis, ID, Sept. 18 (WH), and four were at Thompson L. near Harrison Nov. 9 (CV). Both an adult and a cygnet were seen at Metcalf Oct. 17 (CB), and four were observed at Am. Falls Res., Oct. 22 (DT). A pair nested along the Rocky Mt. Front s.w. of Augusta, MT, where three cygnets were seen Aug. 20 (MS). Trumpeter production at Red Rock L. was slightly above normal; Canadian migrants began moving through the area during mid-November (KN). A field n. of Stevensville, MT, yielded seven Greater White-fronted Geese Nov. 27 (CB), and one was found at a golf course in Lewiston Sept. 29 (CG, OM). Thirty-two turned up at Deer Flat Oct. 11 (JG).

A blue-morph Snow Goose appeared at Ninepipe Sept. 18 (PR). A Ross' Goose visited Deer Flat Oct. 12 (MC, FK), and two more were identified Nov. 8 (JG). At Kootenai N.W.R., 3600 Canada Geese was a good peak number for late September (LN). Seven "cackling" Canada Geese appeared at Deer Flat Nov. 24 (†MC), and one with a yellow col-



lar was studied at a hunter check station (*fide* DJ). A ♀ Eur. Wigeon was sighted in Boise, ID, Nov. 13 (TE), and two were seen on Pend Oreille L., n. ID, Oct. 17 (DS, IS, PS, EC). Benewah L., Kootenai, ID featured 10 Greater Scaup Oct. 23 (DS); L. Pend Oreille, five on Oct. 20 (KD), and many on Oct. 27 (CV, EC), and Ninepipe, one on Nov. 8 (CB). A ♀ Oldsquaw was seen at Trueblood W.M.A., Grandview, ID, Nov. 16 &



**Black-throated Sparrow at Cascade, Idaho, on November 11, 1992. Photograph/Mark R. Collie.**

21 (MC), and another at Polson, MT, in late November (DH). Surf Scoters appeared in Montana—four at Frenchtown Oct. 18 (DH, PLW) and three imm. birds at Helena Oct. 18, 19, & 24 (GH, CJ, DS). In Idaho, one Surf was noted at Harrison Nov. 9 (CV) and one immature at St. Maries Nov. 7–11 (DS) and one on C.J. Strike Res., Grandview, Oct. 19 (TE). A White-winged Scoter appeared at Ninepipe Nov. 8 (CB). In Idaho, two visited the N. Lewiston sewage pond Nov. 15 (RG), and one frequented a farm pond in the Winchester area in late November (C.B., CV). Additional Idaho sightings were of one near Am. Falls Res. Dam Oct. 26 (CHT) and a flock of six reported at Bear Lake N.W.R., Montpelier, ID, (*fide* CHT). Three White-winged were seen at Frenchtown, MT, Oct. 18. Reports for the Missoula area indicate that the species should be regarded as a regular, though uncommon or rare, fall migrant there (PLW). A Red-breasted Merganser was noted in n. Idaho on Pend Oreille L., Oct. 17 (DS, IS, PS, EC), on Coeur d'Alene L., Nov. 4 & 15 (PG), and on Thompson L. n. of Harrison Nov. 4 (JN).

#### **HAWKS TO PLOVERS**

A very late Osprey lingered at Hellgate Park near Lewiston Dec. 5 (JH). The Bald Eagle pair that lost its nestlings at Kootenai N.W.R., when their nest blew down, were found building another nest nearby in October (LN). Falcon sightings reported were Merlin, three; Peregrine, five; Gyrfalcon, two, and Prairie, six. Some sightings were likely duplications. A covey of about 17 Gray Partridges, not seen for several years at Red Rock Lakes, was noted in November (KN). About 15 Wild Turkeys were noted along the Kootenai R., near the mouth of Smith Cr., Boundary, ID, Aug. 30 (DT). Hellgate Park had four N. Bobwhites Dec. 5 (JH). At least 50 Soras were counted Aug. 16 at Metcalf, where an *albino* Am. Coot showed up as well, Aug. 29 (CB). Four Sandhill Cranes stopped at Kootenai N.W.R., Oct. 17–18 (LN). Sandhills began migrating S. in late August at Red Rock Lakes, and the lone Whooping Crane that summered there headed S Sept. 3 (KN). Thirteen Black-bellied Plovers were sighted at Am. Falls Res., Aug. 20 (DT); up to 10 stopped at Mann L., Aug. 30–Sept. 20 (CV, WH, J & MH, C.B.),

and one appeared at Dry Lakes s. of Deer Flat Nov. 4–6 (JG). A well-described Lesser Golden-Plover was viewed 6 at Metcalf Sept. 6–8 (CC, SC), and three were sighted at Deer Flat Aug. 13–Sept. 18 (JG, MC, photographed by TE). Three Snowy Plovers were near Am. Falls Dam for a week, beginning Aug. 29 (CHT). An imm. Semipalmated Plover was at St. Maries, ID, Aug. 23 (DS, IS), and one to two at Mann L., Sept. 13 & 20 (C.B., JH, MH).

#### **SHOREBIRDS TO MURRELETS**

Two Willets appeared on the Cataldo, ID, mudflats Oct. 9, for the latilong's first (PG, *fide* SHS). Three Red Knots were sighted along Am. Falls Res., Sept. 19 (BH, CHT, m.ob.). Sanderlings were present throughout the fall season in the Pocatello area; well over 100 were seen on the s. shore of Am. Falls Res., Sept. 19 (BH, CHT). Twelve Sanderlings were seen at Deer Flat Sept. 24 and two on Oct. 24 (JG). Metcalf had one Aug. 29 (CB). Mann L. had a Sanderling and a Semipalmated Sandpiper Sept. 13 (C.B.) and 4 of the latter species Sept. 22 (JH, MH). A White-rumped Sandpiper was identified at Deer Flat Sept. 9 (MC). Several Silt Sandpipers were observed along Am. Falls Res., in September (CHT). A Short-billed Dowitcher was seen in the company of two Long-billeds at Metcalf Oct. 17 (CB), and three visited a pond in Lewiston Aug. 5 (LL).

Two Parasitic Jaegers chased Com. Terns along Am. Falls Res., Aug. 29 and Oct. 19 (BH, CHT *et al.*) Ring-billed and California gulls peaked at 1000 each, and Herring Gulls attained an unusual count of 100 at the Coeur d'Alene landfill Nov. 14 (DS *et al.*). A Franklin's and three Herrings appeared at the Polson dump Nov. 8 (CB), and a Thayer's was seen at the Coeur d'Alene landfill Nov. 17 (CV, WH). A single ad. Thayer's was found at Am. Falls Res., Oct. 22, and a 2nd-year bird Oct. 28 (CHT). The Coeur d'Alene landfill was visited by a first-winter Thayer's and a first-winter Iceland Gull Nov. 14 and by a first-winter Glaucous-winged Gull Nov. 18 (DS). A Bonaparte's Gull was sighted at Deer Flat Sept. 25, at nearby Dry Lakes Nov. 15, and at Cascade Res., Nov. 11 (MC). One showed up at Metcalf Oct. 30 (SB, *fide* CB). The Lewiston vicinity had a Bonaparte's Sept. 13 (WH, MK) and Oct. 19 (LL). Up to

six were seen in the Coeur d'Alene L. area Oct. 28–Nov. 9 (CV, WH, PG). Three Mews and three Herrings were seen feeding at the Polson dump in late November (DH). An *albino* Ring-billed Gull appeared at Deer Flat Sept. 24 (JG) and Nov. 7 (MC). The Frenchtown ponds had a Sabine's Gull Oct. 18 (DH). Two Caspian Terns were sighted at Coeur d'Alene L., Sept. 15 (GHa). One to three Com. Terns were seen at Mann L., Aug. 22 and Sept. 10 & 13 (†JH, MH, CV, C.B.); also seen there were two Forster's Terns Aug. 30 and another at Winchester L., the same day (†JH, MH). An Ancient Murrelet was videotaped at Benewah L., Oct. 26 (PF, LE).

#### **OWLS TO WOODPECKERS**

Three Barn Owls were observed at N. Lewiston's sewage plant Nov. 8 (C.B.). A Flammulated Owl was heard calling at Benewah L., Oct. 5 (DS). Farragut S.P., Bayview, ID, noted a Barred Owl in January (TJ), and one was sighted near Kootenai N.W.R., Nov. 14 (LN). One was seen s. of Princeton, ID, the week before Thanksgiving (DD, *fide* KD). Clarkia, ID, had a Great Gray Owl Sept. 14 (DS). A Barred was sighted at Cocolalla L. s. of Sandpoint, ID, in August and one at Farragut S.P., mid-March–Nov. 15 (ph. TJ *et al.*). Another Barred was observed in Bigfork, MT, in September (TC), and one was hunting in the Island Park, ID, area Oct. 16 (CHT *et al.*). A juv. Saw-whet Owl visited the observer's camp at Diamond L., Sawtooth N.F., ID, Aug. 9, and the remains of a dead juv. Saw-whet were found near Silver City, ID, Aug. 16 (CHT). One was seen and heard in Farragut S.P., in August (TJ).

A rare sighting was of a Poorwill along Morgan Cr., 40 mi s.w. of Salmon, ID, Sept. 7 (JGr). A Black Swift swooped over Deer Flat Sept. 5 (JG). A Vaux's Swift flying over the Snake R., near Twin Falls, ID, Oct. 3, was a rarity there (JT, BK), and about 120 were seen flitting over Kootenai N.W.R., Aug. 25 (LN). An Anna's Hummingbird near Hamilton, MT, Oct. 16–28, made a latilong first—and the state's 6th—record (†PB, CB *et al.*). One at Frenchtown was seen Oct. 22–30 (NC).

Very late was a Red-naped Sapsucker at Thompson L., near Harrison Nov. 30 (*fide* SHS). Single Three-toed Woodpeckers were



found on the Rocky Mt. Front w. of Choteau Nov. 8 (MS); along the Moyie R., *Boundary*, ID, Aug. 26 (DT); near Gilmore Summit 60 mi s.e. of Salmon Oct. 19 and Nov. 27 (HR); and along Deep Cr. 15 mi s.w. of Salmon (HR). Both Three-toed and Black woodpeckers were among throngs of Hairy Woodpeckers in burned areas of Blackfoot-Clearwater Game Range n.e. of Missoula in early November (DC). A ♀ Hairy pecked on downed timber at Silver L., Harriman S.P., ID, Aug. 17 (CHT).

#### JAYS TO WARBLERS

Blue Jays continued to increase in the upper Flathead Valley, MT. Single birds and pairs were reported from Whitefish, Bigfork, and Lakeside throughout summer and fall. One at Bigfork was suspected of being a hybrid with Steller's (JW). One appeared at Hamilton, MT, Oct. 5 for the first sighting there (CB), and Avery, ID, had one Oct. 4 (DS). The birds were reported in the Missoula vicinity (PLW, m.ob.). A Chestnut-backed Chickadee was seen at Cascade Res., Oct. 11 and Nov. 14 (MC, DTr), apparently a latilong first. Several White-breasted Nuthatches were seen at Sawtelle Park at 8000 ft. above Henrys L.—as they were seen during summer, they are suspected of nesting there (CHT, JT). A Marsh Wren at Benewah L., St. Maries, ID, Oct. 4, was noteworthy (DS). One to two Bewick's Wrens were sighted in the Lewiston area Oct. 17 and Nov. 8 (WH, C.B.). The birds are apparently continuing to spread n. in Idaho, as individuals were found at Benewah L., Oct. 4 (DS), in a St. Maries yard Nov. 14 (DS, IS) and under a porch in St. Maries Nov. 28 (IS). A rarity was a Winter Wren along Panther Cr., 20 mi w. of Salmon Nov. 10 (HR). An imm. N. Mockingbird was sighted e. of Deep Cr. Crossing, T10S, R3W, section 3, *Owyhee*, ID, Sept. 22 (MC).

Notable was a Tennessee Warbler at Deer Flat Sept. 26–27 (JG, MC, AF), as was one spied along Old Gardiner Road, Gardiner, MT, Sept. 6 (TM). A Black-and-white Warbler appeared at Deer Flat Sept. 5 (JG, AF) and another at the Idaho Nat'l Engineering Laboratory, Arco, ID, Aug. 12 (DM). A **Hooded Warbler** photographed at L. Lowell, Deer Flat, from at least Oct. 30–Nov. 18, was Idaho's first (MC, EK, DT, CHT, TE, m.ob.).

#### TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A winter-plumaged ♀ Scarlet Tanager was photographed at Bell 12 Crossing, *Ravalli*, MT, Nov. 17, for the state's 7th record (†HH). A Black-throated Sparrow was photographed at the Cascade, ID, city park Nov. 11 (†MC, FK). Five Lincoln's Sparrows were sighted at Rose Lake, ID, Sept. 20 (IDS). A Swamp Sparrow was reported at Metcalf Oct. 30 (DGo, *fide* CB). An imm. White-throated appeared at Pend Oreille L. Oct. 17 (DS); a Golden-crowned and two Harris' were seen on the Mica Bay Road, Coeur d'Alene L., Oct. 7 (PG); and two Harris'

were found in Little Lost Valley n. of Howe, ID, Nov. 20 (BH *et al.*). Another Harris' frequented a feeder e. of Kalispell late September–Oct. 12+ (JR). The Tobacco Plains n. of Eureka, MT, provided a Lapland Longspur Oct. 13 (DC). A flock of 200 Rosy Finches was sighted along Warm Springs Cr., 20 mi s. of Salmon (HR).

**Addenda:** A Snowy Egret, rare in the Helena area, was sighted at Canyon Ferry W.M.A., June 19, 1992 (JS). Near the Idaho-Canadian border, a White-tailed Ptarmigan was reported near Porthill Feb. 16 (RM) and two were seen on Grass Mt., Mar. 1 (BB, *fide* EC). One Sandhill 13 Crane appeared at Kootenai N.W.R., May 21 (LN). The species has been nesting successfully in the Blackfoot Valley n.e. of Missoula, for the past 15 years. Back in 1991, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks proposed a limited hunting season on Sandhills because the birds were raising havoc with grainfields there. The local Audubon group managed to stave off the hunt, but open season did take place near Warm Springs, MT, in 1992 (PLW).

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## MOUNTAIN WEST REGION

*Hugh E. Kingery*

Seven first state records exemplified a productive fall for the Mountain West: Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, and Ruff in Nevada, Little Gull and Great Crested Flycatcher in Utah; Marbled Murrelet in Wyoming; and Inca Dove and Thick-billed Kingbird in Colorado. Because of the sparse population in our Region, 4 of the 7 records are attributable to a single observer.

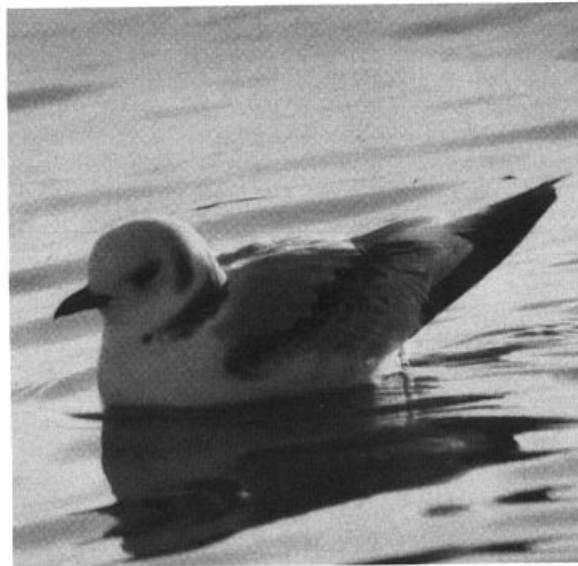
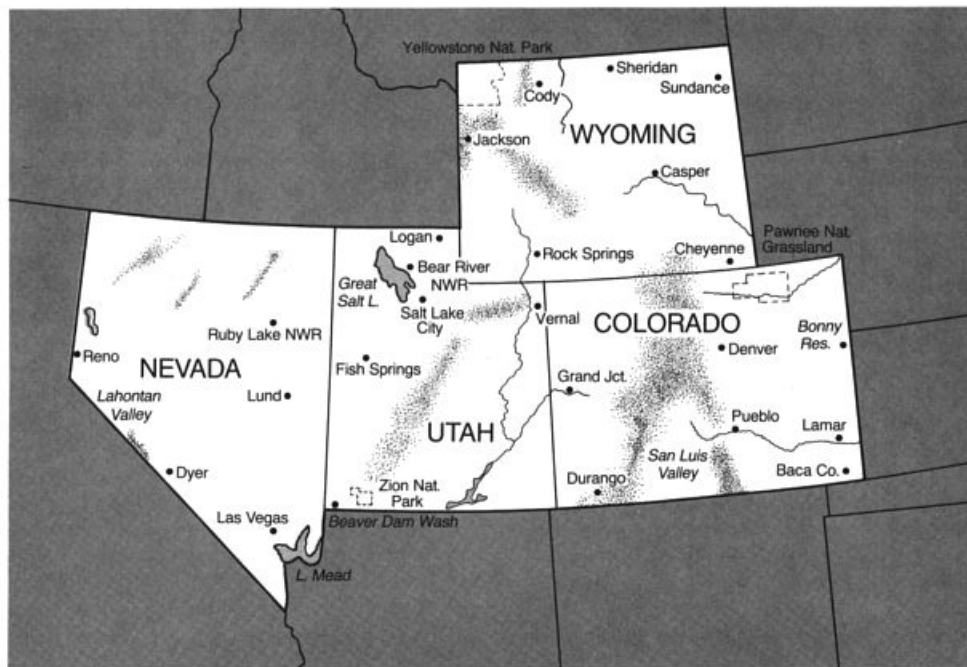
Marshes at Ruby L. and Stillwater N.W.R. shrank even more. Those in Ruby L. have dropped from a 12,000-acre maximum to 2900, the lowest in 31 years. Marshes in w Nevada dropped from 48,745 in 1972 to 2480 in 1992. Reno in November received "just a splash in the rain gauge." Regional weather was generally dry and mild.

In e. Colorado, the October 1991 freeze killed 825,000 trees, with costs exceeding that of any tornado or snowstorm in Colorado history—\$425 million to replace them. Dead trees were generally Siberian elms, cottonwoods, and willows, most growing in cities and around farmhouses—artificial habitat contributions to the native plains grasslands. Most trees in natural situations (along streams) survived. While the dead trees devastated nesting habitats for kingbirds, robins, Yellow Warblers, and orioles, the expected onslaught of Eur. elm bark beetles may attract opportunistic Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers.

**Abbreviations:** L.L.B.L. (*Longmont/Lyon/Bert-houd/Loveland area, CO, using Foothills Audubon Club records*); S.S.G.L. (*South Shore, Great Salt L.*); 1st Lat (*first latilong record [a latilong is outlined by one degree each of latitude and longitude, measuring about 50 by 70 mi]*); \*ph. (*photograph on file with RE*), #ph. (*photographed but not submitted to Regional Editor*); † (*written description on file with R.E.*); ‡ (*written description on file with, and subject to approval of, state or local records committee*); I.P.E.C. (*Indian Peaks, CO, Fall Bird Count*).

#### LOONS TO HERONS

Red-throated Loons stopped in November at Denver, Grand Jct., and Las Vegas (two). One to four Pacific Loons stopped at Las Vegas, 4 Front Range Colorado locations, and S.S.G.L. Oct. 8†. Yellowstone tallied Page 2 an impressive 31 Com. Loons Sept. 30, and Pueblo had a record 21 counted Oct. 31. A good description documents Nevada's 2nd **Yellow-billed Loon**, Oct. 17† at L. Mead (DM, m.ob.). Another, Colorado's 11th, stayed at Pueblo Nov. 26–29 (†MJ, A.V.A.S.). Wyoming had two Red-necked Grebes (Yellowstone Oct. 19 and Cheyenne Nov. 15 [†JC]), and Colorado had one at



**Black-legged Kittiwake at Walsh, Colorado, November 7, 1992.**  
Photograph/Janeal W. Thompson.

Longmont Oct. 25–29. Eared Grebes peaked Sept. 12 at an impressive 800 at Sheridan, WY; Great Salt L. had its usual huge concentrations. Boulder and Longmont, CO, recorded high numbers of W. Grebe types (1639 and 1305, respectively); a C.D.O.W. survey showed a surprising 1075 in n.e. Colorado Nov. 6. At Ordway, CO, Aug. 29, Clarks vastly outnumbered Westerns 226:3 (BP, VT).

Thriving Am. White Pelicans fledged 1500 young at Pyramid L., NV (AJ, LN), 522 on Yellowstone L. (TM), and 1200 at Riverside Res., CO (RAR). They also nested at Banforth L., WY. Two of Las Vegas's summer Brown Pelicans stayed through the fall (see AB) Colorado's 8th Brown Pelican stopped only Aug. 18–19 at Lamar (‡DN). The first nest count since 1977 at Barr L. near Denver included 170 Double-crested Cormorant

and 31 Great Blue Heron nests (KRD). At Yellowstone, 123 cormorant nests fledged 210 young (TM). In high counts for the Mountain West, Las Vegas had 1–15 Great Egrets until Nov. 19 (MC), and Longmont had up to eight, until Sept. 23 (MB). Nevada's 3rd Tricolored Heron lingered Sept. 12–13 at Pahrnatag N.W.R. (†MC, †RRu, †VM). Flightless young in Olive Marsh (n.w. Pueblo Atlas block) in August confirmed Green-backed Heron breeding at Colorado's 3rd site (A.V.A.S.). One strayed for 3 days to Evergreen, CO, Aug. 31–Sept. 2 (DK), and Fish Springs. N.W.R. recorded its first Sept. 22 (JB). An immature at

Pahrnatag N.W.R., Sept. 13, was pegged as Nevada's first Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, based on darker plumage as compared with nearby Black-crowneds and its longer legs seen in flight (†RRu).

#### **WATERFOWL**

With the drought, w. Nevada's count of 25,000 ducks was the lowest in 25 recorded years. Peak numbers included 6000–8000 Redheads at Walker L. and 2000 Canvasbacks at Pyramid L. (LN, AJ). Ducks peaked Oct. 8 at 14,655 at Fish Springs N.W.R., UT, with Green-winged Teals, Northern Pintails, and Am. Wigeons the most numerous. The n.e. Colorado count recorded Nov. 6 included 92,311 ducks and 35,372 geese, down from last year's count of 126,375 ducks and 71,737 geese.

Western Nevada recorded 200–260 Tun-

dra Swans during November; Fish Springs had 28 Nov. 23, Wyoming reported 150, and Colorado had 15. A photo shows the bird identified as a Trumpeter Swan at Ash Meadows N.W.R., NV. Each state reported one to four Oldsquaws, including the first at Las Vegas since 1977, Oct. 18† (\*ph. MC). Utah's 4th Black Scoter, seen Nov. 18 at Mantua, became a U.S.U. specimen Nov. 19 (PW, DV). Another stopped Nov. 14 at Longmont (†BPr). Regional Surf Scoters dropped to 11; Wyoming had 2 each at Rock Springs, Sheridan, and Buffalo. Ten White-winged Scoters included one at Silverthorne, CO, Nov. 14–18 (BF, †LM, 1st Lat). A backpack in the Flattops Wilderness near Meeker, CO, produced 2 broods of Lesser Scaup and 9 broods of 49 young Barrow's Goldeneye, supplementing the Atlas discovery of that breeding population (MC). Over

the past few years, Hooded Mergansers have increased; this year, Nevada's 17 included one at Sheldon N.W.R., and Colorado had 95.

#### **RAPTORS**

Ash Meadows N.W.R. hosted Nevada's 6th Black-shouldered Kite Aug. 31 (♀ MC). An injured juv. Bald Eagle banded in n.e. Colorado May 13, 1992, was recovered in Major, OK, Aug. 18. The meadow vole explosion in Yellowstone attracted large numbers of migrating raptors during August, e.g., 17 N. Harriers, 15 Ferruginous Hawks, 35 Red-tailed, 18 Swainson's, and 40 Am. Kestrels (TM). Broad-winged Hawks rarely show up in the fall, so the one at Cheyenne Sept. 16 and two in Ft. Collins Sept. 6 & 21 were of interest. The top count of Swainson's came from Smithfield, UT—192 on an unspecified date; 80 hung around Walsh, CO, Sept. 13–19. On D.F.O. trips, Ferruginous Hawks peaked at 23 Nov. 28. Wyoming had 21 nesting pairs of Peregrine Falcon (WY G&F). Falconers found a Gyrfalcon near Lander, WY, Nov. 8, and birders found it again Dec. 6 (†RS, 1st Lat). Two were reported in Casper Oct. 17 and Nov. 27.

#### **MOORHENS TO PHALAROPES**

The nesting pair of Com. Moorhens at Carson L., NV, apparently double-clutched; found with one adult and 6 new chicks Aug. 1 were 3 fledglings, one of which twice fed a chick (AJ, LN). Large flocks of Sandhill Cranes passed through n.e. Wyoming (1000 Sept. 25 at Buffalo), e. Colorado (1600 Sept. 27 at Eaton), and n.w. Colorado (3100 Sept. 28).

Lahontan Valley's fall shorebird count Aug. 14–19 dropped 45% below that of 1991 and 76% below the 1989–1991 average. The 12,612 birds included 4590 Long-billed Dowitchers, 3372 Least or W. Sandpipers, and 1935 Am. Avocets. The valley still held 2000

dowitchers and 1500 Westerns/Leasts Oct. 13 (AJ, LN).

Several shorebird species become more numerous in the Mountain West in late fall rather than late summer. This year, Black-bellied Plovers "peaked" at 10 at Longmont Oct. 20; the last two were at Swink, CO, Nov. 14. Although Casper had one to three Lesser Golden-Plovers Aug. 14–Sept. 29, Julesburg, CO, had seven Oct. 4, and Las Vegas had one Nov. 2. Sanderlings flooded the Region, remaining until Nov. 1: Longmont had 35 Oct. 20 (MB), and the Arkansas Val., CO, on Oct. 25 had 120, at Rocky Ford and Swink (MJ, A.V.A.S.); Casper reported 30 Sept. 18. 43 Dunlins Sept. 26†; Lahontan Valley had the most, 15 on Nov. 27. Other late shorebirds included a Mt. Plover at Pawnee Nat'l Grassland Oct. 8, a Willet at Cheraw Oct. 28, one Ruddy Turnstone Oct. 3 at Julesburg, and 40 Stilt Sandpipers Oct. 25 at Rocky Ford.

Flocks of 46–78 Mt. Plovers followed tractors at Walsh, CO, Aug. 29–Sept. 2 (LG). Near Eagle, CO, Aug. 30, two to three Upland Sandpipers were flushed from a mountain meadow near the timberline at 11,700 feet—an unusual site, both for the species and for birders as well (†JM). The showing of 1200 Marbled Godwits Aug. 16 brings the good news that Bear River refuge is recovering habitat and birds (FL). Near Lamar, CO, a flock of 10 Red Knots Sept. 4 dwindled to four on Oct. 10 (‡KS). One at Las Vegas Sept. 14–Oct. 4 gave s. Nevada its 8th record (†MC, \*ph). Utah's 2nd Buff-breasted Sandpiper, in atypical habitat like the first last spring, fed in shallow water and pickle weed Sept. 27 (‡CK). Casper reported three Buff-breasteds Aug. 29 (J & VH, CM). Nevada's first Ruff, identified after the fact from photographs, fed busily with Killdeer, yellowlegs, and Least and Western Sandpipers at Las Vegas Sept. 26 (†MC, JC, identified by PL). Colorado picked up two additional Red Phalaropes: one at Longmont Sept. 13–14 (†MB) and one at Swink Oct. 11 (†MJ).

#### JAEGERS TO MURRELETS

The jaeger reports included one unidentified flyby at Las Vegas Sept. 14, two Parasitics, at Las Vegas Oct. 12 (†RRu 5th s. Nevada) and Longmont Sept. 1–7 (†MB, MN). Janos "conservatively estimated a phenomenal number of gulls at Pueblo Res.," in October: 5000 Ring-billeds, 80 Bonaparte's, some Californias and Herrings, and one Mew, as well as several hundred goldeneyes, mergansers, grebes, and diving ducks of 5 species, and geese, eagles, and ospreys. "They created a wild scene dependent on a vast supply of shad. Perhaps 10 feeding flocks of at least 1000 birds, wildly active, diving, leapfrogging over each other, follow the fish and hassle each other for tidbits." Nevada's 3rd Laughing Gull stayed Oct. 8† (†VM, †MC, m.ob.). Franklin's Gulls returned in numbers to e. Colorado, with August counts of 1260 to 2500. Utah recorded its first Little

Gull, perched next to larger Forster's Terns Sept. 17 on Willard Bay near Ogden (†CK). Mew Gull reports came from Sheldon N.W.R., NV (a juvenile Aug. 20, †B & DS), Las Vegas Nov. 30 (possible: VM, \*ph, MC), Casper Sept. 27–30 (†BS, J & VH), Mack, CO, Nov. 15 (†RL), and Pueblo Nov. 29–Dec. 6 (†MJ). At Yellowstone, 262 California Gull nests produced 780 fledglings (TM). Colorado's 7th Lesser Black-backed Gull remained at Cherry Cr. Res. near Denver Nov. 11–15 (†MJ, JBH). A Yellow-footed Gull returned to Las Vegas Nov. 21†; since this one, like the one last winter, had only one foot, it probably duplicates Nevada's 2nd record back for a 2nd visit (J & MC \*ph, †SF). A Black-legged Kittiwake, Nevada's 10th, arrived at Las Vegas Oct. 12 to stay for the period (RRu, †SF). The kittiwake at the Walsh, CO, sewer pond Nov. 7, substantiated by a portrait photo, was the first in s.e. Colorado (†JnIT). At Yellowstone, 27 pairs of Caspian Terns attempted to nest without fledging any young (TM). An Arctic Tern was described from Cortez, CO, Sept. 22 (‡CL), for Colorado's 5th report.

#### S.A.

The most remarkable report of the season came from Yellowstone: on Shoshone L., Haskell observed what he identified as a Marbled Murrelet from his canoe; he saw the bird 2 feet away and watched it swim under the canoe, using its wings as flippers. His vivid description is of an adult in winter plumage.

#### DOVES TO HUMMINGBIRDS

Doves on the move? More Mourning Doves stayed later: Buffalo, WY, reported 174 Sept. 12—the 1991 peak was only 30; Denver Field Ornithologists counted 388 on their fall count the same weekend. Colorado observers continued to see groups into late November, including seven at Ft. Morgan Nov. 22 (JCR). Colorado had its first Inca Doves—in 3 widely separated places. The first came to a feeder in suburban Lafayette Nov. 4–23 (C & DMe, \*ph.). Two fed at a Pueblo feeder Nov. 15† (JWi, MY sketch), and then three came to a feeder in Lamar in late November (JS). Nevada's 3rd Ruddy Ground-Dove was found in an orchard in Amargosa Val. Oct. 21 (†SE, †PL). A Flam-mulated Owl called near Moab, UT, Aug. 11, for a 1st Lat (NB). At Julesburg, CO, 2 observers saw a Snowy Owl Nov. 28–30 (BP, JRo \*ph.). Yellowstone had 26 observations of Great Gray Owls. A Boreal Owl called in the Deep L. Atlas block near Glenwood Springs, CO, Sept. 27 (DB).

A Black Phoebe Sept. 8 gave Reno its 3rd report (†EK). An E. Phoebe at Moab was seen foraging Oct. 25 near the same spot as one noted in 1990 (†NB). A Great Crested



**Ruddy Ground-Dove at Amargosa Valley, Nevada, October 21, 1992. Third state record. Photograph/Shawneen Finnegan.**

Flycatcher fed over a cornfield and in a Russian Olive hedgerow at Layton Oct. 3 for Utah's first record (†CK). Utah also sported a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, at Fish Springs Oct. 16–20 (†MDR). Colorado's first Thick-billed Kingbird stayed long enough for only 3 people to see, Oct. 23 at Waterton (‡DW, ‡JK, ‡JR).

#### JAYS TO WAXWINGS

Blue Jays continue their w. incursions. One came to an Elko, NV, feeder Nov. 8–26 (†MP), Logan and Bountiful, UT, reported 5 Oct. 19†, and Cody, WY, had one to four all fall. In Rio Blanco, CO, 10–30 Black-capped Chickadees per day Aug. 17–Sept. 30 represented a strong movement, compared with the 11 seen during the same period in 1991. Denver Field Ornithologists trips counted 262, close to the highest total in the last 7 years. By contrast, L.L.B.L. had 169 for the fall, cf. 255 last year, but it had 89 Mountains cf. 28 last year. After scarcity during the summer Bushtits ranged from Canon City to Trinidad, including 150 at Walsenburg Oct. 31 (DS). Observers found more Ruby-crowned Kinglets than usual, with such counts as 25 at Fontanelle, WY, Oct. 4, 18 at Saratoga, WY, Sept. 5, and 29 on D.F.O. trips (previous high 25). Two gnatcatchers (presumably Blue-gray) at Cortez, CO, Aug. 25, had black undertails. The sketchy information available to field observers on Blue-gray versus Black-taileds suggests that these may have been Black-taileds, like the pair that nested at Cameo, CO, last year (not found this year). The new A.O.U. monograph on Blue-grays has only one sentence on the tail "Races from arid and semi-arid areas tend to be slightly less blue with more black in outer rectrices than nominate race." [But see *Birding* 19(1):17–29.]

Colorado reported many fewer E. Bluebirds than in the past few falls only; a family group of four at Colo. Springs (†AV) and



**Cape May Warbler at Desert National Wildlife Range, Nevada, October 3, 1992. Fourth state record. Photograph/Marian Cressman.**

one at Ft. Morgan. Flocking thrushes on Nov. 16 at Carrizo Cr., Baca, CO, included 200 Mt. Bluebirds and 1001 Am. Robins (JnLT). Varied Thrushes showed up Oct. 18 at Reno and Elko (†MP), NV, and Oct. 8 at Cody, WY (MD). Brown Thrashers strayed w. to Cody Sept. 16, the first in 8 years (JC), Heber City, UT, Sept. 19–22 (S.L.A.S.), and Las Vegas Oct. 12. Sprague's Pipits stopped for the 3rd fall in winter wheat near Julesburg, CO, Oct. 4–18 (m.ob.). The only flock of Bohemian Waxwings south of their usual n. Wyoming winter haunts consisted of 250 at Orangeville, UT, Nov. 26 (FL).

#### VIREOS TO WARBLERS

After the spring excitement of nesting White-eyed Vireos, fall brought Colorado its 11th and 12th records: Aug. 16–18 in a dense tangle in Pueblo's Olive Marsh, a vocal bird in worn breeding plumage (†MJ, TB) and one on a Lyons fenceline Aug. 18 (†DWK). Colorado birders saw four non-*plumbeus* Solitary Vireos Aug. 8–Sept. 19 (3 reported *Cassinii*, one did not specify): at Eagle, Pueblo, Barr L., and Hoy in n.w. Colorado. A Yellow-throated Vireo stopped at Lyons Aug. 28 (†DWK).

Warblers staged a spectacular migration for the Mountain West, at least in Colorado. One spartan backyard in Paonia with 3 small trees and 5 bushes attracted 9 species on a single day. High counts of Yellow-rumped came in mid-September, with 181 at Yellowstone, 115 at Denver, and 514 in Boulder. Heber City, UT, had 125 Oct. 21. The September count at Ridgway, CO, tallied 321 Yellow-rumped; by extrapolation, the compiler estimated 87,000 in *Ouray* and 1,250,000 in the 6-county area that day alone; assuming waves of these birds of passage, the total number using the area could have been 5–10 times that (JRG). Even if these statistics are wildly optimistic, the calculation points to quantities of passerines

that probably move through largely unnoticed. Colorado's Townsend's tally exceeded 110—higher than usual. Orange-crowned reports dropped about one-third, while Nashvilles went up—the 16 in Cortez on 2 days was surprising (LB).

Wyoming's 4th **Golden-winged Warbler** was picked up at Green R., Aug. 23 (†FL). Northern Parulas visited Las Vegas and Denver; the Chestnut-sided at Cortez Oct. 21 was the first recorded there in fall (†G & M F). Colorado reported three Magnolias in September. Las Vegas observers found Nevada's 4th **Cape May Warbler** Oct. 3, feeding with Lesser Goldfinches among the sunflowers (†JC, MC, LW). Five Black-throated Blues were identified at Cody Sept. 7–23 (♀JGa) and at Durango Oct. 28 (†GC), as well as at Casper and Fountain; two Black-throated Greens at Boulder and Ft. Collins Oct. 29 & 31; three Blackburnians at Cheyenne, Fountain, and Barr L.; three Pines at Casper and Boulder; two Palms at Las Vegas and Boulder, single Blackpolls at Amargosa Val., NV, Oct. 21 (†SF) and two at Green R., WY, Sept. 12 (FL, 1st Lat), Cody Sept. 29, and Cheyenne Aug. 14; and Black-and-whites at Las Vegas, Reno, Sept. 19–20 (†DB *et al.*), Casper, Cheyenne, Fountain, and Pawnee N.G. An Am. Redstart flitted inside a grocery store at Tonopah, NV, in October (JBr); another fanned at Grantsville, UT, Aug. 22–29 (SG). A photograph supports Nevada's 2nd **Connecticut Warbler** at Tonopah Sept. 16 (†JB), and Colorado's 9th **Mourning Warbler** visited Denver Sept. 11 (†WS). A Hooded was observed at Las Vegas Sept. 19 (LW).

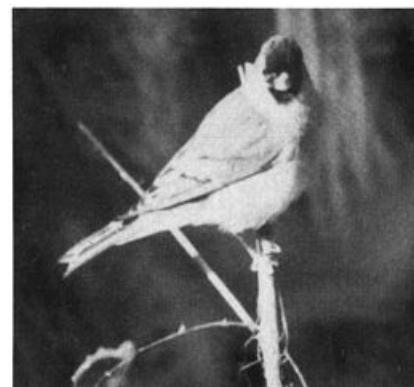
#### S.A.

Wilson's Warblers poured into e. Wyoming and Colorado Aug. 27–Sept. 25. Cairo estimated 1000 Sept. 5 along a 12-mi stretch of road near Cheyenne. As many as 50–100 per day were reported from Casper and Green R., WY, Ft. Morgan, Denver, Ft. Morgan, Bonny Res., and Last Chance, CO. These birds probably originate from the north, rather than from their local mountain breeding sites. One of those sites, near Dillon, CO, reported an 80% predation rate on Wilson's nests, primarily the work of weasels (MKW).

#### TANAGERS TO GROSBEAKS

A Hepatic Tanager stayed in a Cortez yard Sept. 18–22, the first s.w. Colorado record (†G & M F). A ♀ N. Cardinal graced Las Vegas Nov. 20 (†MM), and Casper had its first in 15 years Nov. 17 (LR). Tonopah's rest stop attracted a Dickcissel Sept. 24 (JBr). For the 4th consecutive fall, Corn Cr. near Las Vegas produced a Clay-colored Sparrow, Oct. 4 (MC). A rare specimen stopped at

Old Faithful in Yellowstone N.P., Sept. 7 (TH). The plethora of spring and summer Lark Buntings diminished, with 2 reports from s.w. Nevada, a peak of 45 Aug. 4–9 in s.e. Utah, and of 25 Sept. 10 at Grand Jct. Numbers seemed undiminished in e. Colorado; 1000 assembled Aug. 12 at Ft. Morgan (JCR). Like Clay-colored, Swamp Sparrows visit s. Nevada in the fall; this year's 3 records came Oct. 21–Nov. 28. Nevada also had four White-throats Oct. 11–23. Nevada also had its first reported White-winged form of Dark-eyed Junco at Fernley Oct. 18–19 (†DT). A huge flock of juncos—3000–5000—moved through a mixed pine/oak/aspen forest n. of Cortez Sept. 30 (†LB). Snow Buntings filtered into the Region in November, with small groups at Grand Teton N.P., 28 at Casper, and singles at Logan and Pueblo. A flock of Great-tailed Grackles at Walsh built to 100 Sept. 5 and Nov. 2; 1000 Com. Grackles were there Sept. 30 (JnLT). The Purple Finches at Fernley Oct. 13 and 23 may be the first documented



**Male Lawrence's Goldfinch (one member of a pair) at Desert National Wildlife Range, Nevada, October 11, 1992. Eighth state record. Photograph/Marian Cressman.**

from w. Nevada (†DT). Others straggled to Casper (†LR), Kremmling (†NB), and Colo. City (†DS, DJ). Two House Finches in Jackson Nov. 25 may be the first to have arrived there, perhaps from Montana's burgeoning population (BR). One Red Crossbill straggled to desert Corn Cr., Oct. 17 (R.R.A.S.). Colorado's only Com. Redpolls came to Kremmling Nov. 28–29 and to Eagle Nov. 12; neither stayed (†NB, †JM). Two **Lawrence's Goldfinches**, photographed Oct. 11 at Corn Cr. (J & M C), gave Nevada its 8th record. Evening Grosbeaks scattered in normal numbers, peaking at 175 at Buffalo Nov. 24 and 120 at Evergreen, CO, Nov. 8.

**Omitted:** This report omits rarities submitted without description—Red Phalarope and Prairie Warbler in Colorado and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Nevada.

**Corrigendum:** Photographs show that the Mew Gull reported Dec. 3–7, 1991 [AB 46(2): 293] was actually a Ring-billed Gull with retained juv. plumage (PL, MC). The Spring issue of AB [436(3)] lost all the Mountain

West boldface, starting with the 3rd column on p. 454. Foremost, we failed to acknowledge with boldface all the local compilers, without whom no *AB* column could exist. In addition, according to *AB* style, any observation of a species seen 10 times or less in the state deserves boldface; these lost their attention: Black Rail (CO, 5th), 7000 Sanderlings (UT, abun), Long-tailed Jaeger (CO, 3rd), Laughing Gull (NV, 2nd), Glaucous-winged Gull (CO, 4th), Whip-poor-will (CO, 9th), Red-bellied Woodpecker (WY, 1st), White-eyed Vireo nest (CO, 1st), Blue-winged Warbler (NV, 2nd), Worm-eating Warbler (NV, 6th), Lark Buntings (unus. abun.), Streak-backed Oriole (NV, 1st).

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## SOUTHWEST REGION

### Arizona

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**Abbreviations:** A.B.C. (*Arizona Bird Committee*); B.T.A. (*Boyce Thompson Arboretum*); L.C.R. (*Lower Colorado R.*); G.F.P. (*Gila Farms Pond*); M.F.L. (*Many Farms L.*); N.I.R. (*Navajo Indian Reservation*); P.A.P. (*Pinal Air Park Pecan Grove*); P.R.D. (*Painted Rock Dam*); S.P.R. (*San Pedro R.*); S.T.P. (*Sewage Treatment Plant*); T.A.S. (*Tucson Audubon Society*); V.O.C. (*village of Oak Creek*).

#### LOONS TO MERGANSERS

No fewer than 13 Com. Loons were found on lakes in *Apache* Oct. 17–29, where this species is an irregular migrant. A loon found injured on a road in Wupatki Nat'l Mon. n. of Flagstaff Oct. 18 (K. Watson; *fide* JC) died a few days later (\*Mus. of N. Ariz.) and was ultimately identified as a Pacific; this represents only the 2nd record for n. Arizona. Another Pacific was present at Watson L. near Prescott Nov. 27–28 CT), where there are very few records. Of local interest were Pied-billed Grebes with dependent young in n.w. Tucson on the late date of Nov. 11 (KK). Single Horned Grebes were reported from Gilbert Oct. 14 (CBa), and from M.F.L. Oct. 29 (GR, CDB), while two were present at Willcox Oct. 10–31 (R. Fisher, ph. D. Zimmerman). Single Clark's Grebes, still under-reported away from the L.C.R., were found at Picacho Res., Aug. 30 (GH), at Tsaila L., N.I.R., Sept. 5–13 (CL, GR), at Willcox Oct. 4 (L. Green), and at Picacho Res., Nov. 1 (GH).

Hurricanes are rare in the Southwest but have brought incredible birds to the desert in the past. Hurricane *Lester* blew into s. Arizona from the Pacific coast of Mexico Aug. 24, bringing with it a storm-petrel sp.; written details of this bird (†DJO, †P Kasper) suggest that it was probably a **Least Storm-Petrel**, which would have provided a first state record had it been documented with a specimen or photograph. No fewer than 13 Brown Pelicans were recorded in s. Arizona, with nine at P.R.D. through Aug. 7 the largest concentration reported. One bird at Picacho Res. lingered through the period (m.ob.). An ad. Neotropic Cormorant at Willcox Oct. 28 (†C. Sandell) provided one of the few *Cochise* records for this species. Large concentrations of 250 Great and 500 Snowy egrets (both species with young) were at P.R.D., Aug. 7 (TC *et al.*). Among the scattered individuals of Great Egrets around the state this fall, the most notable were at Round Rock L., Sept. 12–13 (CL) and at M.F.L., Oct. 29 (GR). More than 100 Snowy Egrets at 3 locations in n. *Apache* Sept. 7 was a good count for that area of the state. Relatively large numbers of Cattle Egrets filtered

into the state this fall; the highest concentrations were 228 in s.w. Phoenix Aug. 31 (*fide* SG) and 40 at Sedona Oct. 20 (A. Thornburg). A Green-backed Heron was seen at Pound Rock L., Oct. 11 (CL, TC, DTr); there are only a few records for this species from n. Arizona.

Larger-than-normal concentrations of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were present at Sun Lakes, s. of Phoenix, where numbers built up to 147 Aug. 31 (SG *et al.*), and at Nogales S.T.P., where more than 100 were seen Oct. 20 (B. J. Rose). About normal numbers of Greater White-fronted Geese were reported around the state this fall, but a single at Flagstaff Aug. 23 was both locally rare and somewhat early. Scattered small groups of Snow Geese were found throughout the state, mostly in mid-November. A total of 10 individual Ross' Geese, a few more than normal, were reported from 7 localities from Oct. 27+ (m.ob.). A group of 14 Canada Geese at Picacho Res., Aug. 30 (GH)



**Veery at Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Arizona, on August 25, 1992. Photograph/Steve Ganley.**

were about 2 weeks early for normal passage; a tiny "cackling"-type Canada goose was with a Ross' Goose at Cow Springs L., Oct. 30 (CDB, GR).

Single ♀ Eur. Wigeons returned to ponds at McCormick Ranch in Scottsdale and at the Phoenix Zoo by late October; a male in with hundreds of Am. Wigeon at Sunrise L., *Apache*, Oct. 28 (CDB, CR), provided only a 2nd county record. A single Greater Scaup in n.w. Phoenix Nov. 26 (TG) provided one of the few local records. A ♀ Oldsquaw was below Parker Dam Nov. 27 (ph. SF *et al.*); this species appears almost annually in winter somewhere along the L.C.R. At least 13 Surf Scoters, far more than usual and too numerous to list individually, were found statewide from mid-October through the end of the period; interestingly nine of the 13 were found in n. Arizona, where this species





is generally considered quite scarce. Even more scarce was a single White-winged Scoter found at Kayenta Nov. 7–11 (CL). Hooded Merganser records are few in n. Arizona, making one at Kayenta S.T.P., Oct. 12–Nov. 18 (CL) and another at Kachina wetlands s. of Flagstaff in mid-November (J. Hildebrand, E. Morrall) of interest. More than the expected numbers of Red-breasted Mergansers passed by away from the L.C.R. this fall, with 24 individuals seen at 8 localities.

#### VULTURES TO RAPTORS

Relatively large numbers of Black Vultures were reported n. of their normal area, with a group of 11 in s.w. Phoenix Sept. 13 (D. Rosie), and up to nine at P.A.P., Sept. 14 (CDB). A late Turkey Vulture was seen at M.F.L. Oct. 17 (CL). At least six individual Black-shouldered Kites were present during the fall at scattered localities in s.c. Arizona, where this species has occurred regularly during the past 10 years. Individual migrating Mississippi Kites were found Sept. 6 at P.A.P. (JBo *et al.*) and Sept. 14 along the Santa Cruz R. n. of Tucson (D. Gunther); there are still only a few scattered records of this species during fall migration. A N. Goshawk was seen at Ganado L., Sept. 5 (RW), an unusual locality for that early date. Two Red-shouldered Hawks were found during the period, one found as early as Aug. 5 at Picacho Res. (†G. Hentz), and another Oct. 18+ in s.w. Phoenix (TC *et al.*). Late lingering or migrant Gray Hawks were discovered Sept. 6 at Guadalupe Canyon (JW) and at P.A.P., Sept. 29–Oct. 8 (JK, CDB); an injured bird also remained through the period at Patagonia (m.ob.). Two Zone-tailed Hawks lingered later than usual into the fall at P.A.P. (m.ob.). Unusual was a Harlan's-type Red-tailed Hawk at Cornville Nov. 7 (CL); extreme caution is still needed in separating this form from other dark-morph raptors. Extremely rare as far as Tucson, two imm. Crested Caracaras were seen at P.A.P., Oct. 25 (CDB; ph. GR). A very early Merlin

was at the Sierra Vista S.T.P., Aug. 1 (G. Wallace).

#### SHOREBIRDS TO TERNS

At least four Lesser Golden-Plovers were reported this fall: one at M.F.L., Aug. 23 (CL); one at Willcox Sept. 10 (GM), remaining there to at least Sept. 16; and another at G.F.P., Sept. 20, joined by a 2nd individual Sept. 30 (D. Eshbaugh, RBr), both remaining there until Oct. 3. A late Semipalmated Plover was reported from Nogales Nov. 21 (DJ). At least 113 Mt. Plovers were discovered n. of Casa Grande throughout the period, representing a new wintering area for the state. Six Black-necked Stilts were at M.F.L., Sept. 7 (CL), where this species is very scarce. A single Marbled Godwit at M.F.L. Sept. 7 (CL), and four at Sunrise L., White Mts., Sept. 19 (GM *et al.*) were notable records for n. Arizona. One to two Greater Yellowlegs at Black Mesa Nov. 18–24 (CL) was considered late for n. Arizona. A scarce visitor to the state, a Ruddy Turnstone was seen at Willcox Sept. 21 (MS). Probably equally rare, an ad. Red Knot was sighted at Willcox Aug. 23–25 (MS, KK *et al.*). Small numbers of Sanderlings were reported statewide throughout the fall, but a flock of 14 at Kayenta Sept. 28 (CL) is perhaps one of the largest single concentrations ever recorded. Again, no fewer than nine individual Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported statewide Aug. 6–Sept. 21. Twenty W. Sandpipers Nov. 26 at Snyder Hill S.T.P. was a greater-than-expected number on that late date. Short-billed Dowitchers were widely reported around the state in their usual small numbers early August to mid-September; exceptional was a calling individual reported from Willcox on the very late date of Nov. 7 (PS), nearly 3 weeks later than the previous late date for the state. In sharp contrast to last year's invasion into the Southwest, only one Red Phalarope was reported, from G.F.P., Sept. 15–23 (CBa *et al.*).

An imm. jaeger sp. at Willcox Sept. 5 (†MS) was thought to be a Pomarine; details

of this record are being circulated among A.B.C. members. More definitive was an ad. Long-tailed Jaeger found dead in Ponderosa Pine Forest n. of Lupton, N.I.P., Sept. 18 (\*U. of A.). This was the 2nd specimen for Arizona and about the 8th record overall. A significant push of Bonaparte's Gulls was noted from late October to early November, with small numbers reported statewide during that period. An ad. Heermann's Gull at Patagonia L., Oct. 28 (LD) was unusual, but not totally unexpected for this time of year. A Herring Gull at Willcox Oct. 24 (T.A.S.) was the only one reported in the state this fall away from the L.C.R. Larger-than-usual numbers of Com. Terns were reported in the state away from the L.C.R.

in September, with the highest concentration 8–10 individuals at M.F.L., Sept. 20 (DS, JK *et al.*). A late Forster's Tern was reported from Picacho Res., Nov. 1 (JB).

#### DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

Amazingly a White-winged Dove at Kayenta Sept. 7 (RWe) represents one of the very few records of this highly mobile species from n. Arizona. Another dove apt to move in the fall is Inca Dove; one was at Portal Sept. 17+ (DJ *et al.*), where this species is extremely scarce, and one was at Lee's Ferry Oct. 24 (CL), representing one of only 6 or so n. Arizona records. Much has already been written about the increasing number of fall and winter records of Ruddy Ground-Dove from the Southwest. This fall, no fewer than 17 individuals were found throughout s. Arizona n. to Camp Verde Oct. 5† (m.ob.), bringing the total number of records in the state to at least 30 involving >50 individuals, all in the past 10 years!

Yellow-billed Cuckoos lingered later than usual in s.e. Arizona, with three at Patagonia Oct. 4 (JBo), two more at Arivaca the same day (CDB, GW), and another at Patagonia Oct. 8 (KK, LK). Groove-billed Anis invaded Arizona, with five individuals reported: at Chandler Oct. 15 (M. Bowen), along the Little Colorado R. w. of Cameron Oct. 21 (P. Ryan), at the bottom of the Grand Canyon near Phantom Ranch Oct. 23 (L. Stevens *et al.*), one from n.w. Tucson Oct. 24 (A. Bessey), and one near Carefree Nov. 4 (W. Camp). It should be mentioned that s. California also experienced a similar invasion of anis this fall. There are very few records of Lesser Nighthawk from n. Arizona, making one seen at Round Rock Sept. 5 (CL), and another thought to be this species at Red L., Sept. 22 (DS, JC, JK) of note.

At least 10 Black Swifts, among about 750 White-throated Swifts, were at Canyon de Chelly Sept. 5 (RWe). Although there are still no documented records of this species in the state, August and September appear to be the months to search for Blacks in among

White-throated flocks in n e Arizona, as there are now many sight records there. An imm. ♀ White-eared Hummingbird remained through the period at Ramsey Canyon (m.ob.), representing only the 2nd time that this species has attempted to winter in the state. A single Violet-crested Hummingbird hovered at P.A.P., Oct. 12 (SG), an unusual location for the species. One Individual lingered at Portal to Nov. 11 (DJa, Ssp), while three remained at the Paton's feeders in Patagonia through the end of the period. An imm. ♀ magnificent Hummingbird at a n.e. Tucson feeder Nov. 5 (KK, LK) was late and at an unusually low elevation. The Plain-capped Starthroat found at Portal in late July remained there until Oct. 3 (DJa, m ob.). An imm. ♀ Lucifer Hummingbird lingered at Portal until Oct. 22 (DJa), while another imm. ♀ Lucifer frequented a n.e. Tucson feeder Oct. 8–Nov. 7 (WR); there are only a few previous records for this species from Pima. A Costa's Hummingbird at Sedona Nov. 9 (S. Clemens) was outside its normal breeding range in Arizona. A Callopie Hummingbird at Patagonia Oct 3–7 (KK *et al.*) and two lingering at feeders in Portal to Oct. 24 (SSp) were later than normal for the state; there are very few records of this species from Arizona beyond late September.

The now-famous pair of Eared Trogons in upper Ramsey Canyon was detected infrequently throughout the period. Additional birds were again reported from South Fork of Cave Cr. Canyon: one Oct. 1 (RM), and two Nov. 1–3 (RT *et al.*). The number of Green Kingfisher reports from s. Arizona continues to increase, with no fewer than nine individuals found this fall. Lowland reports of Acorn Woodpecker are always of interest; this fall one was at Bingham Cienega on the S.P.R., Sept. 3 (GM), and another in Scottsdale Sept. 16 (J. Bartley). An imm. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at Rio Verde n. of Phoenix Nov. 8+ (RN, DTr), and another immature was at Patagonia Nov. 14 (DJo); this species has turned out to be a rare but regular fall and winter visitor in s. Arizona. The same can be said of Red-breasted Sapsuckers, reported from Tempe Nov. 5–10 (PS *et al.*), and B.T.A., Nov. 8 (CDB). A Downy Woodpecker at Cottonwood Sept. 28 (CT) was early for that locality. The Yellow-shafted form of N. Flicker has rarely been reported in recent years, making one on Black Mesa Oct. 10 (TC, DTr) and another in Sabino Canyon Oct. 12 (KK) noteworthy.

#### FLYCATCHERS TO VIREOS

A Buff-breasted Flycatcher in upper Gardner Canyon, Santa Rita Mts., seen Sept. 6 (DJo), provided one of the few recent records of this species from that mountain range. Two E. Phoebes, a sparse fall and winter visitor to s. Arizona, were reported for the period: one along Babocomari Cr. s. of Elgin Oct. 24–25 (S. Upson) and another at Patagonia Nov. 1 (DJo) that remained through the period. A Vermilion Flycatcher at Page Springs Nov. 12

(R. Roberts, VG) was late for that area, but one at Kayenta Sept 27–Oct 20 (CL) was almost unprecedented for n. Arizona. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was found at Hereford Oct. 17 (JW).

Two Am. Crows at St. David Oct. 22 (DK) were locally rare. Two Mt. Chickadees were in Gardner Canyon Santa Rita Mts., Sept. 6 (DJo); this species is a casual visitor to non-breeding areas in s. Arizona. A complete surprise was the discovery of four Winter Wrens along the w. fork of Oak Cr., Aug. 9 (JC). Individuals were heard singing in this area back in the 1970s during May and June (J Hildebrand, *fide* JC). Plans are under way to search for suspected nesting at this locality; the nearest nesting site for this species to c. Arizona is *San Luis Obispo, CA*.

A single Rufous-backed Robin, a rare visitor from Mexico, was along Babocomari Cr., Oct. 25 (S. Upson). Two Varied Thrushes, irregular fall and winter visitors, were found in the Kayenta area this fall: one n. of Kayenta Oct. 18 (T. Huels, GM, CL) and another nearby on Black Mesa Nov. 12 (CL). Exceptional was a Veery seen at B.T.A., July 4 (J. Bartley), that remained through Aug. 25 (TC; ph. SG) providing the first Arizona summer record away from its known breeding site s. of Eagar in the White Mts. A Gray Catbird at Pena Blanca L., Aug. 27 (L. Vanderworth) was unexpected. A Blue Mockingbird seen briefly at the edge of a residential area in n.w. Tucson Sept. 23 (†GM), defies explanation and, given the recent winter record from near Patagonia, has members of the A.B.C. wondering about the true status of this species in Arizona. An impressive five Brown Thrashers were found this fall, one of which was seen through the period in Patagonia. After a 9-year hiatus, and only the 2nd time in 14 years, a **Bohemian Waxwing** was found in Arizona, on Black Mesa Nov. 12 (CL). A Bell's Vireo at Sabino Canyon Oct. 17 (KK) was late. Rarely seen during migration away from breeding areas, a Gray Vireo was n. of Portal Aug. 22 (JBo). The Yellow-throated Vireo first discovered along the S.P.R. during the summer was last reported Sept. 17 (DS, JK, ph. GR).

#### WARBLERS

No fewer than 38 species of warbler were found in Arizona this fall, marking one the best fall seasons for this group in recent memory. Another single-observer **Blue-winged Warbler** was reported from n. of Portal Sept. 16 (†RM); there are only about 6 previous sightings for Arizona. Only slightly less rare was a Golden-winged Warbler at Patagonia Sept. 20–27 (CDB *et al.*). Two Tennessees were also found at Patagonia Sept. 12–27 (CDB *et al.*). After this past spring's invasion of N. Parulas, only three were found during the fall: one at Ramsey Canyon Aug. 2 (T. Wurster), one along Tanque Verde Wash Sept. 10 (MS), and one at Rio Verde Nov. 6+ (BD *et al.*). The bird of the season was the imm. **Crescent-chested Warbler** found Sept. 11 at Patagonia (DJo,

m ob, ph SF, GR) that remained through the end of the period for hordes of birders to see. This is only the 3rd record of this species n. of Mexico, all of which have been in Arizona. Interestingly, this individual spent all of its time foraging at clusters of suspended dead leaves after all the live leaves had fallen.

A Chestnut-sided Warbler at P.A.P., Oct 17 (KK), and another in s.w. Phoenix Oct 18+ (TC), were the only ones reported. Similarly, two Black-throated Blue Warblers were reported: one from Prescott Sept. 29 (K Wingert), another from Scheelite Canyon Oct. 17 (*fide* JHi). A very early Black-throated Green was reported from Chandler Sept. 9 (SG, CBA). Very sparse in the state during the past 10 years, **Blackburnian Warblers** made 2 appearances in Arizona: one at P.A.P., Oct. 7 (†KK, WR), and a 2nd at St. David Oct. 22 (†DK). There are still fewer than 20 state records. Almost unheard of away from montane areas, a Grace's Warbler was at Tucson Oct. 24 (E. Brabaw). For the 2nd consecutive fall, multiple Palm Warblers were found in s. Arizona: one at P.A.P., Oct 25 (GR, CDB, PS), one at Paloma Ranch Oct. 31 (CBA), and one at Picacho Res., Nov 15 (M. Bezantz). Almost annual in the state during fall, a single Blackpoll Warbler was seen at Sabino Canyon Oct. 16 (†KK).

At least seven Black-and-white Warblers, six Am. Redstarts (low), and three N Waterthrushes (also low) were found. Always seemingly out of place in the Southwest, two Prothonotary Warblers were found this fall: one at Round Rock L., Sept. 6 (ph RWe), and one at Patagonia Sept. 12 (DJo). A Worm-eating Warbler also put in an appearance at Patagonia Aug. 14–21 (DJo). A Louisiana Waterthrush was along Sonoita Cr. near Patagonia Sept. 13 (JBo *et al.*); other than the numerous winter records, very few migrant records for the state occur after mid-August. Only one Ovenbird (window-killed) was found this season at W. Sedona Nov. 17 (ph. J. Kitley). Still an extreme rarity in the state during fall, a Kentucky Warbler was along the upper S.P.R., Nov. 1 (TC, RN, DTr). There are only 2 other November records for Arizona. A very late Com. Yellowthroat was at M.F.L., Oct. 17 (CL, GM, T. Huels). Recent years have produced numerous records of Hooded Warblers from the state; this fall one was seen at Empire Cienega Aug. 12 (GM, T. Huels), one at Pena Blanca L., Aug. 16 (JBo), one at Prescott Aug. 25 (CT), and yet another along the S.P.R., Nov. 19 (JWh). The first **Canada Warbler** in many years was seen in Chandler Sept. B (CBA); there are still fewer than 10 records of this vagrant in the state. Rarely seen in the lowlands, Painted Redstarts were discovered in Chandler Sept. 9 (CBA, SG) and in Tempe Oct. 6 (D. Fink).

#### TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A Summer Tanager was detected in Ganado Wash Sept. 19 (DS), where it is a decidedly rare migrant. A male of this species (perhaps of the e. subspecies *rubra*) returned to the

Phoenix Zoo for at least the 2nd consecutive year Nov. 21+ (RJo). One of the **Flame-colored Tanagers** that spent the summer in Ramsey Canyon was sporadically seen at an orchard below the reserve into early September (m.ob.). The female that attempted nesting in Madera Canyon was last seen Aug. 2 (JBo). At least seven Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found throughout s. Arizona during the fall. A Yellow Grosbeak was reported from Sonoita Cr., Aug. 7 (M. Smith), but was never relocated; this record is being reviewed by the A.B.C. Virtually every August, small numbers of Painted Buntings appear in s. Arizona. This year was no exception, with a male at Kino Springs Aug. 4 (D. Osborn) and a female-plumaged bird at Sierra Vista S.T.P., Aug., 22 (RT *et al.*). No fewer than nine Dickcissels were reported statewide Sept. 6–29, with the majority seen Sept. 12–19.

A singing Cassin's Sparrow was n. of its normal breeding range at G.F.P., Aug. 16–25 (DS *et al.*). This species was also reported from the B.T.A. area during the same period (CT). Clay-colored Sparrows were found again in a very short time frame, with one on Black Mesa Sept. 4 (LL), one at Teec Nos Pos Sept. 6 (RWe), and another in Sierra Vista Sept. 12–13 (DS *et al.*). Historically, Yellow-headed Blackbirds wintered in s. Arizona in staggering numbers but, more recently, huge flocks have rarely been detected. This November, a flock of >100,000 ♀ Yellow-heads was found near Casa Grande (B. Deekus). It was a good fall for Bobolinks in Arizona, with five reported: one at the Sierra Vista S.T.P., Aug. 22 (RT *et al.*), one at P.A.P., Sept. 3 (JK), one at Concho L., Sept. 5 (PBr), one at the Kachina Wetlands Oct. 2 (JC, AG, VG), and one at Snyder Hill S.T.P., Oct. 28 (W. Clark). A ♀ **Common Grackle** was at Eagar Sept. 12 (ph. CBa, B. Johnson), and a juv. female was at Petrified Forest N. P., Sept. 19 (†JK, DS; ph. SG); there are now about a dozen state records. This summer's mini-invasion of Pine Grosbeaks to the Flagstaff area was followed by another small movement into n.e. Arizona to localities in which this species is not known to breed; six were present on Black Mesa Nov. 1, seven were there Nov. 6, and another two in the Carrizo Mts. in the extreme n.e. corner of the state Nov. 8 (all CL). Small numbers of Lawrence's Goldfinches were reported from early October to the end of the period across s. Arizona from Parker e. to Portal, and n. to the Phoenix area (m.ob.). In general, relatively large numbers of Red Crossbills, Cassin's Finches, Evening Grosbeaks, and Am. Goldfinches were found at various localities in c. and n. Arizona, beginning in late October. Exceptional were 20 imm. Evening Grosbeaks at Teec Nos Pos Sept. 6 (RWe), and another immature at P.A.P., Oct. 8 (DS).

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## New Mexico

*Sartor O. Williams, III*

**Abbreviations:** Bitter L. (*Bitter L. N.W.R.*); Bosque Ref. (*Bosque del Apache N.W.R.*); E.B.L. (*Elephant Butte Lake*); L.V.N.W.R. (*Las Vegas N.W.R.*); P.O. Canyon (*Post Office Canyon, Peloncillo Mts.*); R.G.N.C. (*Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque*); R.G.V. (*Rio Grande Valley*); U.N.M. (*University of New Mexico*); Zuni (*Zuni Indian Reservation*). Place names in *italics* are counties.

### LOONS TO WATERFOWL

On the loon front, a Pacific Loon was seen at Las Cruces Nov. 16–20 (CS *et al.*, ph. BZ). Small numbers of Com. Loons were found from the R.G.V. eastward after Oct. 15, with highs of six at Maxwell N.W.R., Oct. 31 (LG, JP), and seven at Conchas L., Nov. 3 (CR), plus three near Ruidoso Nov. 24 (CR, CS). A Horned Grebe at Quemado L., Oct. 14 (EL), may be a first for *Catron*. Both Western and Clark's grebes were escorting young in August at L.V.N.W.R. (CR), E.B.L. (BZ), and Caballo L. (JH *et al.*); a mixed-species pair with chicks were seen at L.V.N.W.R., Aug. 15 & 24 (CR). Hurricane *Lester*, which entered the Southwest from Sonora Aug. 23–24, was probably responsible for New Mexico's first *procellariiform*, a Least Storm-Petrel found dying at Silver City Aug. 24 (D & MZ, \*U.N.M.). Brown Pelicans were observed throughout the period in New Mexico, with at least one immature at E.B.L., July–September (*fide* CS) and two immatures there, seen successfully plunging, Oct. 10 (JP, ph. LG) to Nov. 26 (ph. DC); distracting to several thousand Halloween Eve band concert spectators was an apparent adult that circled and then landed briefly on a Las Cruces football stadium



**Immature Brown Pelican at Elephant Butte Lake, New Mexico, on November 26, 1992.**  
Photograph/David Cleary.

press box (GE). Northerly and late were seven Double-crested Cormorants at Morgan L., *San Juan*, Nov. 24 (RD, JH). Also northerly was a Great Egret at Tucumcari L., Aug. 19 (CR), while two late birds were seen at Bosque Ref., Nov. 18–22 (v.o.), and one at Burn L., Nov. 20 (BZ). One to four Little Blue Herons were seen at Bosque Ref. Aug. 7–28 (v.o., ph. DC). Cattle Egrets were unusually common about Bosque Ref., with more than 175 on Aug. 8 (CR *et al.*). An ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Bosque Ref., Aug. 8 (CR, JP, ph. LG), was last seen Aug. 14; a probable immature was found at La Joya Sept. 17 (RT, PES). A subad. White Ibis, likely deposited by Hurricane *Lester*, was seen daily at Bosque Ref., Aug. 26–31 (v.o., ph. LG), but not thereafter. Migrant White-faced Ibises were widespread in all quadrants August to mid-September (v.o.), including 438 at Zuni Sept. 7 (ph. DC) and 205 at Bosque Ref., Aug. 15 (JP, CB); the last was one at L. Avalon Oct. 27 (TH, *fide* SW). Peripheral Wood Ducks included singles at Tucumcari Aug. 18 (CR) and at L. Roberts Nov. 21 (EL); eight at L. Avalon Oct. 24 (TH, *fide* SW) was a large number for *Eddy*. A ♀ Eur. Wigeon at Storrie L. Nov. 21 (JP, CB) was last seen Nov. 26 (JP, LG). The only scoter was a ♀ Surf Scoter E.B.L., Oct. 29 (CB). A probable ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye, unusual away from the *San Juan R.*, was seen at Storrie L., Nov. 26 (JP, LG). Also at Storrie L. were 30–50 Hooded Mergansers Nov. 26–27 (JP, LG, BF), a large concentration for New Mexico.

### RAPTORS TO PLOVERS

Ospreys were relatively numerous, with one to three at 16 widely scattered locales Aug. 28–Oct. 18 (v.o.), and 26 were counted at the Manzano Mts. lookout, a 45% increase over the 1985–1991 average there (EM *et al.*); late were singles at E.B.L. (JP, LG), L. Avalon (TH *fide* SW), and Carlsbad (TH, *fide* SW)

Nov. 6–7. Black-shouldered Kites made a major incursion into s. New Mexico this fall, with up to four at Bosque Ref., Oct. 22+ (m.ob., ph. LG, DC), two at Bitter L. Oct. 31–November (B. Rosenbaum, SB), one at Mangas Springs Nov. 13 (RF), and one to two in the Animas Valley from mid-November (AC *et al.*). Northerly was a Harris' Hawk at Bosque Ref. Aug. 12 (DC)–Nov. 7 (JP, LG); in the southwest, two to three Harris' near Rodeo (GE), Cotton City (RF), and Deming (BZ) Aug. 7–Sept. 26 were encouraging signs, while the population in the southeast "continued to improve" (*fide* SW). Single Broad-winged Hawks were at Percha Dam Sept. 1 (DL, RM) and at Rattlesnake Springs Sept. 6 (LG, JP); five were counted at the Manzano Mts. lookout (EM *et al.*). Easterly was a Zone-tailed Hawk in the Gallinas Mts., Aug. 25 (CR). Merlins were unusually plentiful statewide Sept. 11–Nov. 28 (v.o.); 28 at the Manzano Mts. lookout represented a 108% increase over the 1985–1991 average (EM *et al.*). An unbanded ad. Aplomado Falcon was found e. of San Antonio Aug. 8 (CR), relocated Aug. 14 (ph. SC, LG), and last reliably seen Aug. 29 (BF); the recent discovery of a small Aplomado population in n.e. Chihuahua argues strongly for the natural origin of this bird. Montezuma Quails are near the edge of their range in the Magdalena Mts., making the 15–20 seen in Six Mile Canyon Nov. 19 noteworthy (J. Black, *fide* CB). Also noteworthy were 54 N. Bobwhites at Boone's Draw Sept. 8 (CR). Scaled Quail numbers were up in Union (*fide* WC) and were judged to be the highest in more than 2 decades in Eddy (*fide* SW), apparently attributable to continued adequate moisture and mild conditions. A first-in-the-wild hybrid Whooping x Sandhill crane chick arrived at Bosque Ref., Nov. 5 (U.S.F.W.S.). Single Lesser Golden-Plovers, rare in New Mexico, were at Los Lunas Sept. 19–20 (LG, JP) and at Bitter L., Sept. 5 (JP, CB, LG). Westerly was a Snowy Plover at Lordsburg Playa Aug. 19 (EL), where it is rarely reported. A probable Piping Plover was made out at Maxwell N.W.R., Aug. 2 (CR); there are but 3 previous New Mexico reports, only one of which has been verified. Mountain Plovers peaked at 83 near Ft. Sumner Sept. 4 (CR), 136 at Moriarty Sept. 6 (CR), and 108 at Los Lunas Sept. 10 (CR), where the last were seen Oct. 10 (JP, LG).

#### SANDPIPERS TO CUCKOOS

Westerly Upland Sandpipers included three at Los Lunas Aug. 15 (JP, CB) and one at Percha Dam Aug. 31 (BZ); numbers at Carlsbad were higher than usual, with 90 counted on 31 dates July 28–Sept. 21 (SW). The only Whimbrel showed up at Bosque Ref. Aug. 26 (LG). A westerly Long-billed Curlew was seen at Zuni Sept. 7 (ph. DC); a remarkable find were up to 1000 curlews near Loving Sept. 26 (D & JH). A Ruddy Turnstone was enjoyed at Bitter L. Aug. 21 (CR), Sept. 5 (JP, LG), and Sept. 7 (SW); there are fewer than a dozen New Mexico reports. Single Red

Knots were observed at Stubblefield L., Sept. 19 (CR, CB) and at Bitter L., Aug. 10 (G. Wallace, E. Speirs), Aug. 21 (CR), and Sept. 5 (JP, LG). Stilt Sandpipers were much in evidence from the R.G.V. eastward Aug. 6–Sept. 26 (v.o.), with a high of 75 at Bitter L., Sept. 5 (JP *et al.*); late was one at Bosque Ref., Oct. 25 (GE). A well-detailed juv. Buff-breasted Sandpiper was seen at Los Lunas Sept. 5 (JP), site of New Mexico's first verified record last September; truly remarkable, if accurate, were six possible Buff-breasted at Bitter L., Sept. 6 (SW). Red-necked Phalaropes were relatively plentiful Aug. 8–Oct. 15 (v.o.), including four to five at Zuni (DC) and 14 at L. Huerfana, *San Miguel* (CR). Single Red Phalaropes were reported at L.V.N.W.R., Sept. 27 (CR), and at Holloman L., Oct. 8 (EW, LS). A Bonaparte's Gull at Storrie L., Nov. 27 (JP, LG) was late. Highs for California Gulls were 10 at Heron L., Sept. 13 (PRS), and 15 at Storrie L., Sept. 7 (JH *et al.*). A first-year probable Thayer's Gull was seen at Maxwell N.W.R.,



**Black-shouldered Kite at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, New Mexico, October 24, 1992. Several birds were present in the state during the season. Photograph/Larry Gorbet.**

Oct. 31 (JP, LG). Rare terns included three Caspians at Stubblefield L., Sept. 19 (CR, CB), plus singles at Bitter L., Sept. 5 (JP, LG), and at E.B.L., Aug. 10 (JH *et al.*), and single Commons at Springer L., Aug. 4 (CR), and E.B.L. and Caballo L., Sept. 26 (JP, LG). Westerly was a Least Tern at Bosque Ref., Aug. 12 (DC); the last at Bitter L. was seen Sept. 5 (JP, LG). White-winged Doves continued to press northward, including one to two at Roswell Oct. 5 & 9 and Nov. 5 (SB). Inca Doves far n. of their usual range were singles at Farmington Nov. 27 (PS) and Clayton Nov. 2+ (WC, ph. F. Krebhiel); fair numbers were seen in the south, including 23 at Owens Farm, *Doña Ana*, Oct. 31 (CS). Encouraging numbers of Greater Roadrunners in the southwest sug-

gested increases there after several apparently poor years (RF, D & MZ).

#### OWLS TO FLYCATCHERS

Three Com. Barn-Owls were at Zuni Oct. 4 & 10 (ph. DC), where the species is rare. Easterly was a Flammulated Owl found injured at Carlsbad Oct. 14 (SW). The first evidence of successful reproduction by Boreal Owls in New Mexico was provided by 2 fledged juveniles in the San Juan Mts., s. of Cumbres Pass, *Rio Arriba*, Aug. 19 (D. Stalhecker). Noteworthy were 15 Violet-crowned Hummingbirds in Guadalupe Canyon Aug. 22 (JP, CB). A Lucifer Hummingbird at Silver City Aug. 17–31 (D & MZ) provided a 2nd local record, while easterly was a possible Lucifer at Bosque Ref., Sept. 6 (EL); in P.O. Canyon, where they are regular, the last Lucifer was seen Oct. 13 (RS). Anna's Hummingbirds continued in evidence in the southwest, with up to four in Silver City Aug. 1–Oct. 3 (D & MZ), one to two in Las Cruces Oct. 31 and Nov. 2–5 (*fide* CS), and a singing male at P.O. Canyon until Nov. 20 (RS). Two to three Magnificents were seen at Silver City feeders Sept. 14–Oct. 22, where one remained into December (D & MZ). Late and notable was a Rufous in Santa Fe Nov. 13–14 (SOW, ph. A. Nasher); another remained at P.O. Canyon into December (RS). Southerly were three Lewis' Woodpeckers near Mule Cr. Oct. 3 (RF). Encouraging were multiple reports of juv. Red-heads at Ft. Sumner (CR, BV, T. Bulow) and Boone's Draw (CR, CB). Easterly was a Williamson's Sapsucker at Maxwell N.W.R., Sept. 13 (CR), while early for the lowlands was one at Santo Domingo Aug. 13 (DL, RM). Somewhat early were single Olive-sided Flycatchers at Santo Domingo Aug. 12 (DL, RM) and Bosque Ref., Aug. 13 (PES, RT). An apparent E. Wood-Pewee was vocalizing at Rattlesnake Springs Sept. 1 (SW), while easterly was a Western at Texico Aug. 10 (CR). Two Least Flycatchers were at Boone's Draw Aug. 20 (CB), where one was seen Sept. 8 (CR); late was a possible one at Corrales Oct. 4 (TB). Three Cordilleran Flycatchers were at Boone's Draw Sept. 8 (CR), e. of their normal range. Westerly was an E. Phoebe at Corrales Oct. 31 (TB). A Great-crested Flycatcher was observed near Gladstone, *Union*, Sept. 18 (CR, CB). Eastern Kingbirds remained much in evidence in the northeast, with a high of 21 at Maxwell N.W.R., Aug. 2 (CR); singles were in the R.G.V., at Peña Blanca, Aug. 7 (DL, RM), at San Felipe and Algodones Aug. 12 (DL, RM), and at s. *Doña Ana*, Aug. 30 (ph. BZ), the latter a local first.

#### SWALLOWS TO SHRIKES

East of the expected range were two probable Purple Martins near Raton Aug. 2 (CR). Following increases near El Paso in recent years, Cave Swallows invaded *Doña Ana* this year, where up to 20 were found at canal bridges near La Union Aug. 26–September (ph. BZ); nesting was suspected but not confirmed.



**Aplomado Falcon in Socorro County, New Mexico, August 14, 1992. Considered likely to have been a genuine wild stray. Photograph/Steven Cox.**

Blue Jays continued to thrive in the e. plains and Pecos Valley, from Clayton (WC, CR) s. to Carlsbad (SW) and included 15 at Ft. Sumner Sept. 4 (CR); westerly were one at Santa Fe Oct. 17 and Nov. 26 (LH) and two at Albuquerque Oct. 4+ (BO). Out of range were one Pinyon Jay at Bernalillo Aug. 9 (JH) and others seen in Albuquerque Aug. 29 (AS). Clark's Nutcrackers, local in the Manzano Mts., were sighted in Trigo Canyon Aug. 3 & 10 (HS) and at Capilla Peak Aug. 24 (AS). Black-billed Magpies may be successfully extending their range southward along the Rio Grande, as evidenced by 101 at Corrales Sept. 16 (TB); others have been in the adjacent Santa Ana-Bernalillo area since at least early 1989 (*vide* BW).

Southerly were three to four Black-capped Chickadees at Belen Sept. 29 (LG). Dispersing Mt. Chickadees included singles at Bernalillo Oct. 31 (JH) and Mesilla Nov. 20 (BZ). Northerly was a Verdin near Albuquerque Oct. 11 (*vide* HS); another was found at La Joya Aug. 10 (JH). Bush-tits were noted twice near Clayton (WC), where they have been scarce in recent years. Red-breasted Nuthatches staged a conspicuous submontane movement Aug. 20–Sept. 21, with easterly reports from Clayton (CR, WC), Ft. Sumner (CR), near Melrose (CR), Carlsbad (SW), and Rattlesnake Springs (v.o.), plus R.G.V. reports at Albuquerque (v.o.), Bosque Ref. (CR), and Percha Dam (JP, CS). Chris Rustay continued to document Cactus Wren occurrence n. and e. of the established range, finding one near Mosquero Aug. 18, nine plus several nest structures w. of Conchas L., Sept. 15, and four more s. of Conchas L., Aug. 3, and finally, two birds plus a nest structure at Ft. Sumner Aug. 21. A Winter Wren at Zuni Oct. 18 (DC) provided the 2nd recent record there. Early was a Marsh Wren at Tucumcari L., Aug. 18 (CR). The only submontane Golden-crowned Kinglets were two at Percha Dam Sept. 27 (CS, EW). Small to moderate numbers of E. Bluebirds

appeared at Clayton, Conchas L., Mesilla, and Rattlesnake Springs (v.o.), while surprising were more than 50 near Lincoln plus another 12 in the Rio Hondo Valley Nov. 23 (CR, CS); Easterns "with young" were reported at Santo Domingo Aug. 12 (DL, RM), but details were lacking. A westerly and notably late Gray Catbird at P.O. Canyon Nov. 19–20 (RS) provided a local first. Early was a Sage Thrasher at Pena Blanca Aug. 7 (DL, RM). Westerly Brown Thrashers were singles at Bosque Ref., Nov. 22 (GE) and Las Cruces Oct. 20 and Nov. 5–30 (*vide* CS). Cedar Waxwings were generally sparse, with the earliest at Las Vegas Aug. 24 (CR) and southerly reports of up to 20 at Mangas Springs Nov. 15 (RF), one at Jornada Aug. 28 (CS) plus three there Nov. 19 (CS), and up to 10 at Las Cruces Nov. 4–9 (CS, GE). Northerly were two Phainopeplas at Seville N.W.R. Aug. 20 (RT, PB). The only N. Shrike was an immature at Storrie L., Nov. 26 (JP, LG).

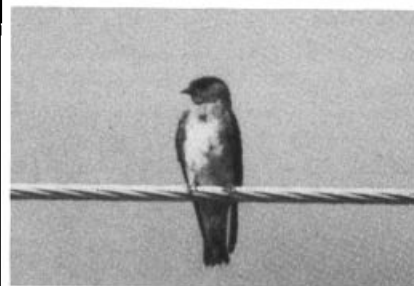
#### VIREOS TO WARBLERS

A Hutton's Vireo was seen at Percha Dam Sept. 12 (JP, LG); other singles were at Dripping Springs, Organ Mts., Sept. 20 (GE) and Nov. 28 (EW, LS), where they have become more or less regular in fall during recent years. Philadelphia Vireos included singles at Percha Dam Aug. 31 (BZ, JG) and Jornada Aug. 14 (TF *et al.*); one was found dead in Valencia Oct. 11 (BW, \*U.N.M.). Red-eyed Vireos made a good showing Aug. 29–Oct. 4, with singles in Roosevelt (CR), R.G.N.C. (v.o.), Socorro (PB), Percha Dam (CS, CR, CB), and Rattlesnake Springs (LG, D & JH). Noteworthy was a Tennessee Warbler at Rattlesnake Springs Sept. 6 (JP, CB); others were reported without details from Bosque Ref., Percha Dam, and Las Cruces (v.o.). Late was an Orange-crowned Warbler at Socorro Nov. 26 (PB), while a Virginia's was early at Bernalillo Aug. 1—with three there Aug. 9 (JH, RD). Single N. Parulas were seen at Rio Rancho Sept. 5 (DL, RM) and at Boone's Draw Oct. 2 (CR, PRS), plus a late one at Corrales Nov. 21 (TB). Rarer warblers reported with good details included a Chestnut-sided at Percha Dam Sept. 11 (CR, CB), a Magnolia at Boone's Draw Sept. 8 (CR), a Black-throated Blue found dead at Ft. Sumner Oct. 19 (*vide* JH), a bright ♀ Pine at Percha Dam Sept. 9 (CB), single Palms at Petroglyph N.M., Nov. 2 (HS) and at Percha Dam Sept. 6 (TF, *vide* CS) & Sept. 10 (CB), and single Prothonotaries at Percha Dam Sept. 3 (DL, RM) & Sept. 9 (CB) and Animas Valley Nov. 1 (AC *et al.*); rumors of Prothonotaries elsewhere remained unsubstantiated, as they were never formally reported. Single Blackpolls were seen at Bernalillo (JH, RD), Percha Dam (CR, JP, LG), and Animas Valley (CS) Sept. 12–13, while Black-and-Whites were relatively plentiful Aug. 27–Sept. 13, with one to two at Santo Domingo, Boone's Draw, Percha Dam, Animas Valley, and Rattlesnake Springs (v.o.); Townsend's were notably early, widespread,

and numerous (m.ob.). Easterly Hermits were singles in the Gallinas Mts. Aug. 25 (CR), and Percha Dam Sept. 20 (DL, RM). Ovenbirds are generally scarce in fall, so singles at Percha Dam Sept. 10 (CB) and Rattlesnake Springs Sept. 6 (JP, LG) were noteworthy. Three Red-faced Warblers were watched at Springtime Canyon Aug. 8 (SOW); the species is local in the San Mateo Mts. A northerly ♀ Summer Tanager was sighted at Conchas L., Sept. 15 (CR).

#### CARDINALS TO FINCHES

North of their usual range were single N. Cardinals at Conchas L., Nov. 14 (ph. LG) and at Roswell Oct. 24–Nov. 7 (SB), as were single Pyrrhuloxias at Glenwood Nov. 18 (B. McKnight) and Boone's Draw Oct. 2 (CR). Rarely reported in fall, single ♀ Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found at Corrales Sept. 10 (AS) and Rattlesnake Springs Sept. 25 (D & JH). Migrant Blue Grosbeaks at Bosque Ref. peaked at 300 Sept. 10 (RT, PB).



**Cave Swallow near La Union, Doña Ana County, New Mexico, on September 3, 1992. Spreading recently in adjacent areas of Texas, the species invaded this county only this year. Photograph/Barry R. Zimmer.**

At R.G.N.C., 139 Lazuli Buntings were banded Aug. 2–Sept. 27 (SC, LG *et al.*), reaching their high in mid to late August. Four Varied Buntings were in Guadalupe Canyon Aug. 22 (JP, CB); peripheral was a Painted at White Sands, N.M., Sept. 10 (RW). Continuing the summer's trend, Dickcissels were again found in the east, including 11 at Boone's Draw (CR), up to 10 at L. Avalon (TH, *vide* SW), and 12 at Rattlesnake Springs (SW, RW) Sept. 7–8, as well as westerly singles at Mangas Springs Sept. 11 (RF) and at Percha Dam Aug. 28 (BZ) and Sept. 6 (TF, *vide* CS). Unusual away from the foothills areas, several Brown Towhees were in desert areas at Las Cruces and Jornada October to November (*vide* CS); in Eddy, numbers have increased "dramatically" in the lowlands, including the Loving Salt Lakes area (*vide* SW).

A Botteri's Sparrow was singing in the Animas Valley Aug. 23 (JP, CB) at the same site that had yielded one in 1991. Westerly Field Sparrows were singles at R.G.N.C., Oct. 11 (G. Beaton), and Petroglyph N.M., Oct. 25 (HS). Early was a Sage Sparrow at Jornada Oct. 7 (CS). Six Savannahs at Maxwell N.W.R., Aug. 2 (CR) may have summered locally. Grasslands near Broadview, Curry, provided a new locale for Grasshopper Sparrows, with 34, including 8



juveniles, there Aug. 10 (CR). Early Lincoln's included singles at Zuni (DC) and R.G.N.C. (SC, LG *et al.*), Aug. 29, plus two at Camp Thunderbird, Grant, Aug. 22 (EL). Northerly was a Swamp Sparrow at Kirtland Nov. 24 (RD, *fide* JH); an imm. Golden-crowned was seen at Corrales Nov. 1-2 7 (TB). Early was a Harris' Sparrow at Las Cruces Oct. 25 (CS); others arrived Nov. 4-22 at Santa Fe (JH, SOW), Corrales (TB), and Zuni (ph. DC). Three probable Lapland Longspurs were picked out at Maxwell N.W.R., Nov. 27 (JP, LG); at Moriarty and Los Lunas turf farms, Chestnut-collareds far outnumbered McCown's (v.o.), while both were found in small numbers in s. *Doña Ana*, Nov. 20 (BZ). Late were 50 Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Waterflow, *San Juan*, Nov. 24 (JH, RD). Noteworthy were six Orchard Orioles at Rattlesnake Springs Sept. 7 (SW, RW); a ♂ Northern at Socorro Nov. 14 (PB) was exceptionally late. One Brown-capped, two Black, and 23 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were observed at Storrie L., Nov. 21 (JP, CB); other Rosy Finches included 40 at Angel's Peak, *San Juan*, Nov. 28 (PS), and 13 at Sandia Crest Nov. 8 (BO). Also at Sandia Crest were up to 20 Pine Grosbeaks Nov. 28 (DM), a high number for that isolated range. "Many" Cassin's Finches were seen near Regina, *Sandoval*, Nov. 28 (PS); small numbers were reported at Zuni (DC) and the Sandia (BV, HS) and Manzano Mts. (HS), as well as seven in the Organ Mts., Nov. 7 (CS). Red Crossbills were reportedly more common than usual at Zuni, with a high of 30 coming into view Oct. 3 (DC), but they were scarce elsewhere, with the exception of 75 at Aguirre Springs, Organ Mts., Nov. 7 (CS). Early for the lowlands were single Pine Siskins at Bernalillo Aug. 1 (JH, RD) and at Bosque Ref., Aug. 13 (RT, PES), as was a ♀ Am. Goldfinch at Rattlesnake Springs Aug. 2 (SW). Evening Grosbeaks were considered numerous near Regina Nov. 28 (PS), and 30 were seen at Zuni Oct. 18 (DC); the few reports from elsewhere were restricted to n. and c. montane areas (v.o.).

**Cited observers:** Pat Basham, Sherry Bixler, Charles Black, Terry Brownell, David Cleary, Wes Cook, Steve Cox, Alan Craig, Robert Dickerman, Gordon Ewing, Ralph Fisher, Ted Floyd, Bernard Foy, Larry Gorbet, Jeff Gordon, Lois Herrmann, Tommy Hines, Dick and Jean Hoffman, John Hubbard, David Leal, Eugene Lewis, David Mehlman, Eric Meyer, Ray Meyer, John Parmeter, Christopher Rustay, Catherine Sandell, Robert Scholes, Lorraine Schulte, Hart Schwarz, Patricia R. Snider, Paul E. Steel, Paul Sunby, Alan Swain, Ross Teuber, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S.F.W.S.), Brad Vaughn, Roland Wauer, Steve West, Bill Willard, S. O. Williams, Eleanor Wooten, Barry Zimmer, Dale & Marian Zimmerman.—SARTOR O. WILLIAMS III, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, P. O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504.

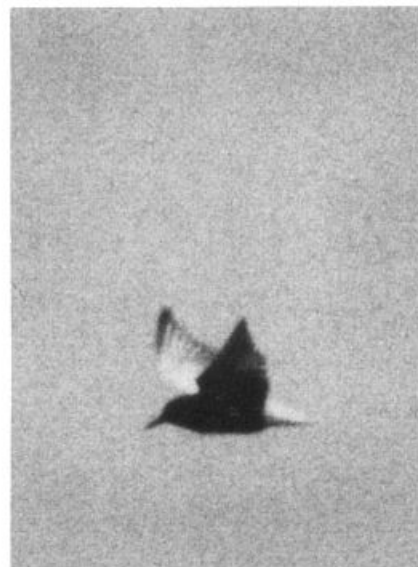
## ALASKA REGION

Theodore G. Tobish, Jr. and  
M. E. Isleib

For the northern third of the Region, the summer period closed dramatically in mid-August, as freezing conditions and heavy frost punctuated an already abbreviated nesting season. Especially along the n.w. coast, unusually low temperatures froze out aquatic plants and spoiled a ripening berry crop, Aug. 11-15. Because the breeding season began late, 1992 nesting productivity certainly suffered. Cold high-pressure conditions prevailed across the Region north of the North Gulf Coast. An extended period of below-freezing temperatures in mid-September brought significant snow accumulations across a wide swath of central Alaska that wreaked havoc with passerine migration. Obvious heavy surges of Interior and Northern nesters were noted along normal migration corridors to the east, while unusually high numbers of these species were also noted in the Southcoastal region and along the outer Southeast coast. This September cold lingered long enough to bring an early freeze-up that hurt Trumpeter Swans and loons still too young to leave the lakes on which they had been raised. The remainder of the season was unseasonably warm, wet, and uneventful Regionwide. This season's highlights came mostly from staging concentration areas, especially in Homer and around Ketchikan. Once again, the Ketchikan area's fish processing plants attracted vast numbers of North Pacific gulls and produced several spectacular records. Pioneering efforts at St. Lawrence I. and Nunivak I., and in the Forrester I. group, 15 mi at sea off the extreme s. Southeast, produced several interesting records. This was also not a year for Asiatics.

### LOONS TO WATERFOWL

Two pairs of Arctic Loons, each with one young, were present on coastal ponds at Kotzebue Aug. 29-30 (WINGS). This form is probably an annual nester within the coastal fringe at least around Cape Prince of Wales; this is one of the Region's northernmost breeding record. After being missed for several fall seasons, Pied-billed Grebes made a strong showing in the SE with six individuals found Aug. 22-Nov. 17 and north to Swan L. Sitka, (SCH, PJW, MAA, MLW). Western Grebe numbers built slowly in the traditional wintering areas of Sumner Strait to a fall peak of only 179 Nov. 29 (PJW). High counts from the 3 concentration points around Ketchikan reached 562 in late November (SCH). One W. Grebe at Juneau's Auke Bay Nov. 29 (GVV) was this season's northernmost. Up to 20 ad. Brandt's Cormorants were present on offshore rocks around Forrester and nearby Lowrie Is.,



Adult White-winged Tern near Homer, Alaska, August 18, 1992. Second state record. Photograph/George C. West.

Sept. 14 (\*MEI). The Region's high count is 21 birds from Alaska's only true colony at the entrance to Prince William Sound. There was no evidence of nesting in the Forrester Is. group. Southeast experienced another surge of Cattle Egrets from the south, beginning with one October 24, at Craig (BC, MD). Thereafter, singles were noted at Wrangell, Oct. 26-29 (*fide* PJW), Petersburg, Nov. 13-14 (PJW), and north to Haines Nov. 26-Dec. 7 (MEI, m.ob.). Since their first arrival near Ketchikan in November 1981, Cattle Egrets have now occurred in fall in the Southeast in 4 years. In addition, the Asiatic form, *B. I. coramanda*, was collected in the w. Aleutians in June 1988.

Preliminary waterfowl production estimates from the Tetlin area in the e. Interior show a general decrease for nearly all species from 1991 numbers, which had been one of that area's poorest years ever (USFWS-TJD). This was the first year since 1982 that Trumpeter Swan production did not increase in the Upper Tanana R. basin. Alaska's 7th Wood Duck appeared along Mitkof I.'s Blind Slough Oct. 21-27 (JR, †PJW). The Region's recent increase in Wood Duck sightings may well be related to the species' range expansion in n.c. British Columbia (see AB 46:465). *Aythya* and locally late dates made up most of the season's interesting waterfowl reports. A N. Shoveler in Anchorage Oct. 31 and a Canvasback to at least Nov. 22 were Upper Cook Inlet's latest by 2 weeks and nearly a month, respectively (both RLS). Another Canvasback, in Homer Sept. 30 (GCW), was that area's first in fall. The Southeast's first ever Tufted Duck was located in saltwater at Petersburg Nov. 28 (PJW), where it remained into December. A mixed group of ad. and imm. Lesser Scaup totaled an unusually high 50 birds Aug. 29-30 at Kotzebue (WINGS). These birds likely represented local breeders in an area in which the species is not known to nest and in

which it is casual after mid-summer. At Kodiak, where the rarer Central Alaska breeding *Aythya* occur mostly in fall-winter, a record local high 18 Lesser Scaup were found Nov. 17 (RAM).

#### S.A.

Distressing news came from Western Alaska concerning Spectacled Eider, where only 1700 pairs were estimated in the State's traditional core nesting areas across the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. U.S.F.W.S. personnel have since determined that the Region's chief population on the delta has declined 96% at a constant annual 14% rate since 1970 (U.S.F.W.S. unpubl. data). In the midst of these negative data, came information on the projected annual subsistence harvest, which this year took >700 birds. Although additional egg data were not available at press time, it is clear that at least the Yukon Delta Spectacled Eider population is set for imminent extirpation. It now seems unconscionable that the U.S.F.W.S. continues to delay adding this form to the endangered species list, while at the same time neglecting to limit subsistence harvests. Complex issues surrounding conservation measures related to declining goose populations in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta have brought politics into what should have been a clear case of protection of a sensitive population.

Casual west of the spruce forests at the base of the Alaska Peninsula, a drake Barrow's Goldeneye at Cold Bay Nov. 1 (MZ, CFZ) constituted the 5th local record. Following spring and summer reports of a few pairs from Northway area, a likely locally raised juv. Ruddy Duck was located there Aug. 26 (MEI, EDB).

#### COOT TO LARIDS

We received the average number of reports of Am. Coots scattered around the s. half of Southeast, with a maximum six counted on Mirkof I., Nov. 6 (PJW). Shorebird highlights were few and far between. A juv. **Common Ringed Plover**, identified by calls, was found in a group of Semipalmated Plovers at St. Paul I., Aug. 19 (WINGS, ph. PEL). This represents a first for the Pribilof I. and the earliest of very few fall records for the Region. Nice photographs were submitted of several of the four Rufous-necked Stints found at St. Paul I., Aug. 18-20 (WINGS, ph. PEL), where this stint is apparently annual in August. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were widespread in the usual coastal sites between Western and Southeast in average low numbers, with the latest report of two coming from Homer Nov. 1 (RLS, DWS). More unusual was a juv. Sharp-tailed at Fairbanks Sept. 21 (PDM, DDG), a 2nd Interior record. Although Stilt Sandpiper has become annual in fall along the North Gulf Coast, 2 at Kodiak I., Aug. 16 (JBA) and one at Homer Aug. 21-24 (first local record, MEI, EDB, GCW) were noteworthy. Buff-breasted Sandpiper is a casual migrant anywhere in the Bering Sea, and most often from spring, so one at Gambell, St. Lawrence I., Aug. 23 (WINGS), was most unusual and a first for the island in fall. The only Ruff reported was a male at Kodiak I., Aug. 25 (†RAM), for a 2nd local record and one of few from the North Gulf Coast.

Significant was the tally of up to 500 Pomarine Jaegers counted passing by St. Lawrence I.'s Northwest Point Aug. 25 (WINGS). We have few Autumn data from the n. Bering Sea: This count is one of Western Alaska's highest. This year's South Polar Skua appeared Sept. 11 (MEI) amidst the active jaeger flocks off Lowrie I. in the extreme Southeast. Now annual in fall, **Franklin's Gull** were noted from traditional gull concentration sites, at Juneau's Eagle

Beach Aug. 21 (DWS), and around Ketchikan, where at least three were located Aug. 12-31 (†SCH, \*MEI, m.ob.). Long overdue in the Southeast among the late summer gull hordes was an ad. basic-plumaged **Little Gull** in the passes with Bonaparte's Gulls s.w. of Wrangell Oct. 4 (†SCH). This is the Region's 3rd single-observer sighting. The season's only Com. Black-headed Gull was an adult reported from the Kenai R. mouth at Kenai Aug. 24 (MEI, EDB), a first local record. Found frequenting the gull feeding frenzies around the Ketchikan area was a **Black-tailed Gull** in transition to 3rd-winter plumage, first located Aug. 22 and seen sporadically to Oct. 8 (†ph. SCH, m.ob.). Great comparisons were made between this individual and virtually all the Pacific Northwest's commoner gull species. Alaska's 4 records span a vast distance of the Region's coastline, from St. Lawrence I., the central/western Aleutians, and now s. Southeast. An additional mid-summer Nome area report, whose written details suggest Black-tailed Gull, cannot be substantiated by the inconclusive photos. Ring-billed Gulls arrived in Ketchikan at the end of July, reaching a local peak of >30 Sept. 2 (SCH), by far the Region's highest one-day total. Unusual were 2 juveniles offshore at Lowrie I., Sept. 14-24 (MEI). Unprecedented numbers of California Gulls staged in s. Southeast, especially along the Ketchikan waterfront, beginning with five sighted Aug. 1. Flocks continued to appear through August, where numbers peaked at a remarkable >2000 Sept. 2 (SCH, m.ob.), nearly seven times the Region's previous maximum counted last fall (q.v.) in Ketchikan. Above-average counts of this gull were noted elsewhere, at Juneau, 25-30+ Aug. 29 (MEI) and, surprisingly, at sea around the Forrester I. group, where 300 lingered Sept. 14 (MEI). What was thought to be the same ad. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** as a bird present in the Juneau area in spring '92

and summer '91, was again seen Aug. 29 (MEI, EDB). Slaty-backed Gulls were documented east of their normal fall range, at Katmai Nat'l. Monument's Brooks Camp Sept. 1 (†KR, LD, DD), a first local record, on the e. side of Kodiak I., an adult Sept. 30 (JBA), and in Ketchikan, where one 2nd-winter bird appeared briefly at the dump Nov. 6 and an adult arrived Nov. 30 (†ph. SCH). Pure **Western Gulls** were documented at several s. Southeast sites at Ketchikan, one juvenile Aug. 29-Sept. 1 (†ph. SCH, MEI, EDB), and a 2nd-winter individual Oct. 9 (†ph. SCH), at Sitka, one adult Sept. 8 (MEI), and at Forrester I., Sept. 19-22 (\*MEI). Another W. Gull was reported without documentation from Homer Aug. 18 (GCW).

Casual in fall away from the Bering Strait was an ad. Ross' Gull





**Clark's Nutcracker at Ketchikan, Alaska, October 12, 1992. Photograph/Steve Heint.**

on the beach at the s. end of Nunivak I., Oct. 9 (†BJM), providing a 2nd island record. The c. Prince William Sound Caspian Tern count peaked Aug. 8, with 20 adults and 7 flying young (MEI). Circumstantial evidence is still all that we have for Caspian Tern nesting in Prince William Sound. Late summer inshore oceanographic conditions at the mouth of Cook Inlet certainly provided optimal conditions for staging Arctic Terns and other pelagic migrants. Although it was difficult to get good counts from the lower inlet, numbers peaked at a very conservative >1400 birds in about a 10-sq-mi area of Kachemak Bay near Homer Aug. 15–22 (WINGS, GCW, TGT). In the midst of these feeding aggregations was an immaculate alternate-plumaged *White-winged Tern* Aug. 15–24 (ph. WINGS, GCW, RLS, DWS *et al.*). The Region's only previous *White-winged Tern* was also an adult found in an Arctic Tern colony in July in the w. Aleutians.

#### OWLS TO WINTER WREN

A minor "flight" of Snowy Owls was noted in the Southeast, where this Arctic nester is very rare, with at least 6 birds reported early Oct. to early November from Juneau to Annette I. (m.ob.). Besides the average 2 reports of N. Pygmy-Owl from s. Southeast, Walsh had impressive numbers, at least 10, Aug. 8–Nov. 14 on Mitkof I. (PJW). Three Barred Owls from the Ketchikan area appear to be about average and were the season's only reports (SCH). Vaux's Swifts made a strong, rather late, push off the mainland in Southeast in September. A group of 33 hawked about south of Petersburg Sept. 13 (PJW), 15 were near Ketchikan Sept. 15 (SCH), and very late was a single that drifted offshore to Lowrie I., Sept. 18 (MEI). The only Anna's Hummingbird was a male at a Juneau feeder Oct. 13–22

(GVV). Far more surprising was the ♀ *Costa's Hummingbird* that joined the above Anna's Hummingbird Oct. 15–22 (SZ, GVV, \*MEI). Within 3 years, the Region has now had two ♀ *Costa's*, the first of which appeared in Anchorage in July 1989. Kodiak's 3rd Yellow-shafted Flicker appeared there Sept. 22 (JBA).

Late flycatchers included an Olive-sided seen offshore on *Lowrie I.*, Sept. 23 (MEI), a near-record late W. Wood-Pewee near Juneau Oct. 17 (MWS, SZ), and one of the Region's latest ever Pacific-slope at Ketchikan Sept. 30 (†SCH). Two different *Empidonax* reached the Bering Sea islands for the first time ever. The first was variously described as a "Western"/Yellow-bellied type in the middens at *Gambell* Aug. 26 (†ph. PEL, WINGS). Photos and details of this bird have been circulated and remain inconclusive. No less amazing from the s. Bering Sea at Nunivak I., Oct. 4 (†BJM), was another well-described *Empidonax*, whose description also indicated a "Western"/Yellow-bellied type. An Alder-type *Empidonax* at Ketchikan Oct. 11 (†SCH) provided the Region's latest *Empidonax* record. After 16 years, Alaska's 2nd *Tropical Kingbird*, a calling bird, was well documented in Ketchikan Oct. 9–13 (†ph. SCH). The Region's first was a silent individual, also at Ketchikan, in October. The E. Kingbird that appeared at the odd early date of Aug. 6 (JD, SD) in Delta Junction, provided a 2nd local record, and the first from the Interior in a long time. One of Western Alaska's latest, and a first in fall from St. Lawrence I., was the Bank Swallow at *Gambell* Aug. 22 (WINGS).

Still casual in the Region, a *Clark's Nutcracker* briefly visited a Ketchikan yard Oct. 12 (ph. SCH). Most records in the general pattern of occurrence for this corvid are later in winter from the Southeast. After several years of delineating the distribution and taxonomy of upper Portland Canal's crows, which had so far included only Am. Crows in Alaska, at least in the Hyder area, "several" small birds were found in the late summer flocks. At least one of these was collected Sept. 23 (\*SCH, *fide* DDG) and was clearly an ad. Northwestern Crow. As far as we know, this represents a first local record and, although the Hyder area's late salmon runs are a food source magnet, it is a long way west to the more typical tidewater habitat for this species. Red-breasted Nuthatches dispersed in moderate to high numbers through the Southeast (MEI, SCH, PJW) and west to Nunivak I., where two were found in the dunes Sept. 23 (BJM). Normally one of the most sedentary residents in the Region, a Winter Wren appeared in the dunes at the south end of Nunivak I. Sept. 28 (BJM). An October 1929 specimen of the Pribilof race from Barrow had been the Region's only previous extralimital record.

#### MUSCICAPIDS TO WARBLERS

The Region's 5th-ever and 2nd fall *Stonechat* was chased around *Gambell* Sept. 8 (†DWS,

RD). Three of these reports are from St. Lawrence I. An active *Siberian Accentor* was found in the dunes of Nunivak I., Sept. 23 (†BJM) at the opposite end of the island from where the Region's first was taken in 1927.

A Fairbanks area banding operation produced a Tennessee Warbler Aug. 10 (THP), the Interior's 2nd in fall. The s. coastal sections of the Region had a nice flurry of very late warblers. November Orange-crowns included singles at Kodiak I., Nov. 14–19 (RAM, MMM), Sitka Nov. 16 (MLW), and two in Ketchikan Nov. 2 (SCH). A Yellow Warbler was described from *Gambell* Aug. 27 (WINGS), a first in fall from St. Lawrence I. and one of Western Alaska's latest. The MacIntoshes had yet another November Townsend's Warbler, Nov. 14–19, at Kodiak (MMM, RAM). All 5 of the Kodiak area's records are from November to early winter. Although the description of a ♂ Mourning Warbler from Juneau Sept. 12 (†MWS) was reasonably convincing, the problematic *Oporornis* complex, especially in fall, and the lack of fall migration data from n. and w. British Columbia keep this record as unsubstantiated for now. A ♀ MacGillivray's Warbler was netted in Fairbanks Sept. 9 (\*THP, *fide* DDG), a first in fall for the Interior. Single Wilson's Warblers were late at Anchorage Oct. 24 (JB), at Tok, Oct. 10 (CG), and in Ketchikan Nov. 16 (SCH).

#### SPARROWS TO FRINGILLIDS

Chipping Sparrows were noted out of their range in Anchorage—one Sept. 17 (TGT) for the 3rd fall in a row and, well offshore in the Southeast from Lowrie I., one Sept. 16–18 (MEI). This *Spizella* is casual in fall away from Southeast's mainland. The season's only White-throated Sparrow appeared in Ketchikan Nov. 16 (†ph. SCH, DB). Single Harris's Sparrows were described from Mitkof I., Oct. 10 (PJW), and Ketchikan Oct. 20–23 (†JP, ph. SCH). This sparrow is still irregular away from Juneau. One of the Region's latest of the few fall reports was a Rustic Bunting, well described from Nunivak I., Oct. 9 (†BJM). Casual in fall from anywhere in the state, an imm. W. Meadowlark arrived in Ketchikan Oct. 31 (\*SCH, DB), within the range of dates of the handful of Autumn records. What was believed to be the same ♂ *Brewer's Blackbird*, which appeared at the same Ketchikan feeder the previous spring, reappeared there Oct. 7 (JK, ph. SCH), remaining through the period. Away from the Southeast, where the usual few Brown-headed Cowbirds were noted, at least three were reported from well inside Denali Nat'l Park Aug. 28 (BEL, BD, *fide* SES). On several occasions, we have received seemingly anomalous extralimital fall cowbird reports.

The season's only Brambling report was a single that arrived at Kodiak Oct. 24 (PS) and remained into December. The same Ketchikan feeder with the *Brewer's Blackbird* harbored a ♂ *Purple Finch* Nov. 14–18



Western Meadowlark at Ketchikan, Alaska, October 31, 1992. Photograph/Steve Heintz.

(JK, †SCH), the Region's first of this casual fall-winter visitor in several years. Both crossbill species continued to be mostly absent from the Region. Scattered local populations of White-winged Teal were noted inland from Kotzebue (WRU) and around Turnagain Arm (TGT). Red Crossbills made a late summer push into the s. Kenai Pen. at least for August, when small groups were seen from Homer (GCW) north to middle Resurrection Pass Aug. 16–18 (TGT).

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## BRITISH COLUMBIA/ YUKON REGION

Chris Siddle

August promised more of the hot, dry weather that had parched British Columbia during June and July. However, an unseasonably cool spell in mid-August and early September brought snow flurries to n.e. British Columbia and cold temperatures to the rest of the province. In the interior, the best fall migration of passerines in years was in full swing by mid-August. October and November were much more "normal" weatherwise.

Noteworthy avian events included Steller's Jays flocking in unusual numbers near Van. and Vic. in early September, Tropical Kingbirds and Snowy Owls invading the southwest, Cattle Egrets invading the s. half of British Columbia, and a Red-throated Pipit turning up on Vancouver I.

We are grateful to Richard J. Cannings, University of B.C., for his invaluable editorial and ornithological assistance.

**Abbreviations:** P.G. (Prince George); Q.C.I. (Queen Charlotte Islands); Van. (Vancouver); Van. I. (Vancouver Island).

### LOONS TO WATERFOWL

A smattering of Pacific Loons was reported in the interior, as is usual in the fall. The largest concentrations were in c. B.C. with 12 at Tyhee L., Telkwa Nov. 1–10 (EK); 32 on Eaglet L., P.G., Sept. 20 (CA, HA, JB, MPh), and four on Taber L., P.G., Sept. 21 (CA, DR). The only Yellow-billed Loon reported from V.I. was an early bird (without details) off Sooke Sept. 8 (DA). An imm. Yellow-billed frequented Swan L., Vernon, Nov. 14–22 (PR, MC, †CS). A ♀ adult in fading breeding plumage at Eaglet L., Aug. 8 (CA, JB), provided P.G.'s 2nd local summer record. In the s. Yukon, where it is also rare, a Yellow-billed Loon (imm.) was on Nares L., Nov. 8–11 (CE, HG, PS).

Clark's Grebes now appear to be rare but regular in s. B.C.. A Clark's Grebe near Vernon Sept. 6–26 (†CS) was probably the same bird spotted in late June. A Clark's at Penticton Oct. 13–29 (SC, †LR, v.o.) was the S. Okanagan's first.

Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were found in small numbers in the Strait of Georgia from very early August, when one was discovered alive in Duncan (*vide* JA, GA) to Sept. 21 (SD). Other exciting tubenoses were 150 Buller's Shearwaters and a Laysan Albatross near Barclay Canyon during the Oct. 10 pelagic trip (MGS). The only interior Double-crested Cormorants sighted were eight at Leath L., Creston, Sept. 19 (GD, LVD).

Black-crowned Night-Herons were reported from 2 locations in the interior: one at Chichester marsh, Kelowna, Aug. 29–Sept. 13 (†CS, CC, Don Wilson), and the

other at Salmon Arm Aug. 30 (DM). Great Egrets continue to increase as non-breeding visitors to B.C. with a mid-August invasion. At least three were found around Vancouver, with sightings at Van Dusen Gardens Aug. 18 (TD), Exhibition Park Aug. 18 (†DJ), Pitt L., Aug. 15 (TH), 16 (DG), & 30 (LC), Roberts Bank Aug. 16 (BGS) and Sept. 5 (GPA, SPA), Brunswick Pt., Sept. 6 (RWP), and Reifel I. Bird Sanctuary Sept. 7 (JI). Two were at Vedder Canal, near Chilliwack, Aug. 19 (WR). Non-Lower Mainland birds were seen much later in the season, with singles at Revelstoke Oct. 30–Nov. 7 (OG, m.ob.) and at Tofino Nov. 22 (RP).

Cattle Egrets invaded in unprecedented numbers. The interior showed a clear pattern of birds arriving Oct. 20–26. In some cases, *flocks* were involved: 14 egrets at Christina L., Oct. Z (RW); 17 and 30 birds at Kelowna Oct. 20 (ED, †DB, DW, JL); 20 at McBride Oct. 25 (ES); and 14 at Revelstoke Oct. 25 (ET, m.ob.). Smaller numbers were scattered at other interior locations, including a maximum of seven at Nakusp Oct. 25 (GD), and sightings at Trout L., n. of Nakusp, Edgewood, Fauquier, and Oliver, with six at Tugulnuit L. (DF), five or six at P.G., Oct. 26 (MA, SK, LL), and at Golden, Invermere, Balfour, Kimberley, and Vernon, and at François L. Small numbers lingered until mid-November.

On Van. I., the first Cattle Egret arrived Oct. 18, at Port Alberni (DO). The bulk were first detected Oct. 24 or 25. Five were reported at Port Alberni Oct. 25 (DGC); a flock of 14 was at c. Saanich Oct. 24 (DP). Other sites included Oyster R., Campbell R., Quadra I., and Courtenay. On the Lower Mainland, egrets were scattered from e. of Mission (EH) and Squamish (TP), to Delta. Once again, the birds arrived in flocks: 16 in Richmond Oct. 25 (SZ) and 18 over the Alex Fraser Bridge the same day (DS). Such an invasion would tend to be predictive of stragglers farther north. This was indeed the case. Two singles were found on the Q.C.I., the first since 1984, at Delkatla Sanctuary Oct. 24–66 and Queen Charlotte City Oct. 24 CMH, PH, CB). The Sunshine Coast n. of Van. recorded the 3rd Cattle Egret ever seen at Pender Harbor Oct. 30 (TG, AS).

A Ross' Goose appeared at Vernon Sept. 13 (Pr, †CS) and associated with Canada Geese throughout the period. Both an adult and an immature were found with Snow Geese at Reifel I., Nov. 6 (JI, RWR, m.ob.). The adult disappeared after Nov. 9, but the immature remained until the end of the period. A Brant associated with Greater White-fronted Geese at Creston Oct. 15 (RWO), providing one of very few interior records. A Garganey, probably an eclipse male, at Iona I., Sept. 13–14, provided the 5th or 6th for B.C. (RK, †JAM, †HNM, m.ob.). Two ♀ Redheads at Port Renfrew Oct. 15 (JDa, KD) were noteworthy for the outer coast. The Okanagan's first Black Scoter, extremely rare in the interior, was a female at Okanagan Landing Oct. 10–12 (MC, †CS, PR, m.ob.).

## TURKEY VULTURES TO SHOREBIRDS

As was true of last fall, this season's hawk watches on s. Van. I. found Turkey Vulture numbers building slowly during August, with counts swelling in early September. The major movement came in the 4th week of September with 1000 over Rocky Pt., Sept. 27 (ALM), the largest concentration ever reported for B.C.. A flock of 200–250 detached itself from the main group and moved out over the Strait of Juan de Fuca, heading south. Interestingly, WA observers reported 206 vultures arriving in the Port Angeles area in the early afternoon (*fide* BW). Numbers dwindled quickly through the first week of October. An imm. Turkey Vulture soared over the summit of Silver Star (6000 feet) Sept. 5 at a higher-than-usual altitude (MC, CS). The latest concentration of Turkey Vultures in the interior was 32 birds just s. of Armstrong Sept. 27 (PR, CS).

At the same watches, only a trickle of Ospreys was noted Sept. 2–Oct. 14, with a total of 8 birds.

A pair of Ospreys still had 2 large young in the nest at Nicola L., Sept. 18, a late date (RJC). The S. Van. I. hawk watches reported peak movements of Sharp-shinned Hawks during the first half of September. The high count for 1992 was 40 at Rocky Pt., Sept. 5 (RS), compared with 1991's high of 56 much later in the month. Cooper's Hawks passed the hawk watches steadily through September at the rate of 1–3 birds a day. The high was 8 birds Sept. 12 at E. Sooke Park (DA).

For the 3rd consecutive year, a Broad-winged Hawk was seen on s. Van. I. Three others were reported, but the only documented bird was an immature at E. Sooke Park Sept. 12 (BB, DS, AV, DMc). Seekers of new hawk watches take heed: observers reported unusual numbers (10–20) of kestrels and accipiters in flight at North Bend, in Fraser Canyon, and at Ross L., s. of Hope, Sept. 5 (RC, MB, *fide* DMP). Concentrations of raptors (>50) were also noted at Creston Oct. 12–16 (RWO, AW). Two Peregrine Falcons, very rare in Fraser Valley, were seen on a cliff near Hope Oct. 9 (RJC).

There was a big increase in Prairie Falcon sightings. Individuals were seen over alpine meadows at Cathedral Lakes P.P., Aug. 20–22 (CAD, IJ), at Manning Park Aug. 19 (CAD, IJ), and at Big Ledge, s. of Revelstoke, Aug. 14 (GD) were expected. However, the number of lowland sightings was surprising. Singles were observed at McBride Aug. 13 (†CS, ES), Valemount Aug. 19 (ML, CS, ES), Vernon Sept. 2–Oct. 25 (†CS, PR), Asnola Nov. 8 (RJC), and Wilmer slough Oct. 20 (DSO). An out-of-range Prairie Falcon was seen at Tofino Oct. 20 (AP, ARi, MP-L).

A slight increase in Lesser Golden-Plover sightings was noted across the region. Most



occurred from late August to mid-September, with another distinct period in October. Vancouver reported five in S. Delta Aug. 30, including two "American" and two "Pacific," but no details were received. It would be interesting to learn *how* birders distinguish these 2 species. Readers are referred to p. 69 of *The Macmillan Field Guide to Bird Identification* by Alan Harris, Laurel Tucker, and Keith Vinicombe as an excellent summary of diagnostic field marks. Another "*fulva*" was reported without details from Sechelt Sept. 13 (TG). A Semipalmated Plover at Tofino Oct. 25 (DM) was late. Two interesting concentrations of Killdeer were reported: 45 at Okanagan Landing Oct. 11 (RJC, CS, m.ob.) and 7th at Martindale Flats, Central Saanich Nov. 16 (RS).

Two Am. Avocets at Chilliwack Nov. 3 (GG) provided a local first record and represented a late date for this species. Greater Yellowlegs, rare in the Yukon, were seen as singles at Takhini River Pond, 35 km w. of Whitehorse Aug. 11 (CE, PS) and Aug. 2 (RJC). Upland Sandpipers turned up much more frequently than usual along the coast and in the Okanagan. Victoria had a maximum of 3–5 in c. Saanich Aug. 23–Sept. 21 (AC, MMc, BD, v.o.) Vancouver had two Uplands at Reifel I., Aug. 23 (JI). One at Chichester marsh, Kelowna, Aug. 26, provided a 9th record for the valley (†CC, †DB, ED). Single Marbled Godwits, vagrants in s. B.C., appeared at Revelstoke Sept. 9 (HG, DP), and at Esquimalt Lagoon Oct. 12–18 (RS, LLe, AC, DM, v.o.). Two Hudsonian Godwits appeared at Reifel I., the first Aug. 9–12, and a juvenile Sept. 13–14 (JI). A trickle of Ruddy Turnstones came in over the south. The low water levels in the s. interior may

have given the birds some mud flats on which to rest and feed. One Ruddy Turnstone was seen at the mouth of Bellevue Cr., Kelowna, Oct. 16 & 18 (NG, †DB, v.o.). Individual Ruddies were at Maude Roxby Bird Sanctuary, Kelowna, Aug. 24 (†DB), Salmon Arm Aug. 30 (RH), and Penticton Aug. 28 (JPr, DPr). A juv. *Red Knot* appeared at Tranquille, Kamloops, Aug. 29 (SR), providing the 3rd record for the interior. Western Sandpipers are rare in the s. Yukon. Sixteen immatures at Takhini R., Aug. 11, were of note (CE, PS). Baird's Sandpipers were well represented this season. High counts were 85 at Salmon Arm Aug. 30 (RH), 22 at Vernon's Commonage Aug. 30 (CS), 16 at Minnie L. Rd., Nicola Valley, Sept. 19 (RJC), 6 at Valemount Aug. 19 (ML, ES, CS), 32 at Delta Aug. 29 (GPA, SPA), and 10 at Cowichan Bay Aug. 9 (DM). The only Sharp-tailed Sandpiper outside its normal sites was an immature at Nisutlin R. delta Sept. 25 (CE, Cathy Egli, David Mossop, supplying the 3rd

Yukon record. More Dunlins than usual turned up in the Okanagan Valley, with a high of eight at Head of the Lake, Vernon, Nov. 1 (PR). Four Buff-breasted Sandpipers were seen at S. Delta Aug. 30 (HMac, JMac). A Short-billed Dowitcher at Kluane, Yukon, Aug. 25, was unusual (RJC). A Short-billed at Vernon Aug. 30 provided the 5th fall record for the Okanagan (†CS).

## JAEGER TO Doves

Eighteen Pomarine Jaegers were found on the Oct. 10 pelagic trip to Barclay Canyon off s.w. Van. I. (MGS). A Pomarine in Active Pass Sept. 21 (HNM, JAM) was rare for the Strait of Georgia. The only interior Parasitic Jaeger was an adult at Kelowna Sept. 18 (†DB). For the 2nd consecutive year, an ad. Long-tailed Jaeger, extremely rare outside offshore waters, appeared at Eaglet L., P.G., Sept. 1 (MPh). Four S. Polar Skuas, the highest single count ever for B.C., were seen on the Oct. 10 pelagic trip to Barclay Canyon (MGS).

Eighteen reports of Franklin's Gulls in s. B.C. were received, about the usual number for fall. The highest count was 4 immatures at Iona Aug. 9 (JDe, WEM). Single Little Gulls were reported from 5 locations in s.w. B.C., an unusually high number, but only one bird was described, an adult at Island View Regional Park, Saanich, Aug. 2 (DA).

Censuses at the Whitehorse, Yukon, dump included the Yukon's 4th Ring-billed Gull, a juvenile, Aug. 11–20 (ph. CE, ph. PS, RJC) and the 3rd California Gull, a first-winter bird, Aug. 11–13 (ph. CE, ph. PS). Thayer's Gulls, formerly unknown in the s. Yukon, were also found, with 3 adults July 31, increasing to 15 adults and 3 juveniles by Oct. 7 (ph. CE, ph. PS). As California Gulls are





**Recent coverage at the Whitehorse dump has changed the known status of several gull species there. This Ring-billed Gull, a fresh juvenile, provided the fourth record for the Yukon Territory on August 11, 1992. Photograph/Cameron Eckert and Pam Sinclair.**

poorly known in n. B.C., a record of >20 at the Smithers dump Nov. 10 (DH) and of 9 adults and 2 immatures at Rose Spit, QCI (MH) is of note.

The count of 1000 Ring-billed Gulls at Salmon Arm Aug. 30 (RH) is cause for concern. This Regional Editor has received no current information about the status of the newly established Ring-billed Gull nesting colony there, in the same bay as the largest W. Grebe colony remaining in B.C.. The potential for egg and nestling predation is frightening. Four reports of single Sabine's Gulls were received from non-pelagic locations, about the usual number. Three thousand Black-legged Kittiwakes, all adults except for 5-10 immatures, were at Rose Spit, QCI, Oct. 25 (CMH). Such a flock is unusually large for fall and reverses the usual ad.-to-imm. ratio.

Elegant Terns continued their vagrancy into the Strait of Juan de Fuca, with five at Deep Bay Aug. 2 (VBC, †BMS), one at Clover Pt., Sept. 13 (†BB), and two at Sidney Lagoon Sept. 19 (†DDF). Other reports lacked field notes. Terns identified as Arctic were reported from Revelstoke and Van. Observers are cautioned that Arctic Terns are casual outside of pelagic waters in s. B.C.. Reports require careful field notes focusing on, among other things, leg length (if the bird is standing), relative bill length (if the bird is close to other tern species), and jizz (in flight). Prince George's first documented Com. Tern was observed at Eaglet L., Sept. 1 (†MPh). Single Forster's Terns were well described from Iona I., Sept. 17 (WEM) and Clover Pt., Sept. 8 (\*RS, KT).

A murrelet sp. was found on Teslin L., Oct. 21 (PD), well within the window of vagrancy for Ancient Murrelets. Noteworthy were 26,160 Cassin's Auklets seen flying between Langara I. and Rose Spit, Q.C.I., Oct. 24 (CB, MH), probably the largest concentration ever seen in B.C. waters.

A Mourning Dove along the Alaska Hwy 25 km n. of Pink Mt., June 16, provided one of very few records for B.C. n. of the Peace River area (CG, AR). A Rufous (Oriental) Turtle Dove at a feeder in Tofino Aug. 15-18 (RP, m.ob.) stimulated a controversy among listers. This species is kept as a cage bird in WA and B.C. and in captivity aboard ship by some Japanese fishermen.

## OWLS TO SWALLOWS

The marked invasion of Snowy Owls was the best for a decade. The earliest bird was at Smithers Oct. 23 (RP). The P.G. area had a passage of Snowies Oct. 31-Nov. 19, from Fort St. James, to Hixon, to 30 mi e. of Giscombe (JB, ph. NK). Vancouver and Victoria received their Snowies in early November. Around Van., the owls were found mostly on the Fraser R. delta from Roberts Bank to Reifel I. The highest numbers in one area were 5 at Brunswick Pt., Nov. 15 (MW, EH), and 5 at Reifel I., Nov. 20 (KI). On Van. I., singles were at the Victoria airport, N. Saanich, Nov. 4-7 (MS, BB, m.ob.), and at Comox Oct. 21 (IMc) and Nov. 17 (dead) (LB, *fide* DWI).

Boreal forest owls were virtually unreported. The only Great Gray Owl was an injured bird at Watson L., Oct. 20 (SS). A possible family group of three N. Hawk-Owls on Mt. Revelstoke Aug. 26 (HG, JJ) and an individual near Haines Junction, Yukon, Nov. 28 (CE, PS), were the only hawk owls reported. By contrast, N. Pygmy-Owls were more frequently encountered than usual, especially in the lowlands, in the W. Kootenays, Revelstoke, and in the Okanagan Valley (GD, CS, SC). A Burrowing Owl at Iona I., Nov. 9 (†JD, SD, m.ob.), reminded birding veterans of the 1940-1960s, when a small resident population was noted at that location.

On s. Van. I., the largest concentrations of Vaux's Swifts were seen in September, with 106 Sept. 10 (DS) and >200 Sept. 27 (DA), at E. Sooke Park. Also over this park were 65 seen Oct. 4 (DA) and 25 found Oct. 12 (LH). These October sightings may represent an



**Thayer's Gull (apparent adult in wing molt) at the Whitehorse dump on August 14, 1992. Formerly unknown in the southern Yukon Territory, the species was found in some numbers there this season. Photograph/Cameron Eckert and Pam Sinclair.**

extended migration of this species. Forty were seen crossing the Strait of Juan de Fuca at ship level Sept. 27 (HV).

Lewis' Woodpeckers, which bred fairly commonly on s. Van. I. and around Van. during the 1940s to early 1960s, disappeared completely from these areas during the 1970s and 1980s. What seems to be occurring now is an increasing record of vagrancy, with single birds at Malahat Sept. 12 (DAL), E. Sooke Park Sept. 28 (CSH, AC, CBr) and at Sooke Oct. 8 (DA). One was found at Debouville slough, Pitt R., Sept. 5-11 (LC, JDe). Also

reported, without further details, was a nest from which one juvenile fledged, near Ganges, Saltspring I. (DDF). If a small population of Lewis' is establishing itself on the Gulf I., that would explain the increase in sightings in contiguous areas. P.G.'s first Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was a well-described immature from Giscombe Oct. 5 (†JB).

After the appearance of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers in the P.G. area during July, the only August report was of an adult and of 3-4 immatures at Mt. Tabor Aug. 9 (ph. JB). A Western-type Flycatcher at Tombstone campground, Dempster Hwy, Aug. 21, is the first for the Yukon (CE, PS). A Say's Phoebe at 5000 feet on Mt. Steele near Sechelt Aug. 23 provided the 4th record for the Sunshine Coast (TG). The latest fall record for a Say's in the Yukon was Sept. 20 at Takhini L. (CE, PS). An Ash-throated Flycatcher, casual on the coast, was at Alaksen Nat'l Wildlife Area Nov. 9 & 10 (JK, AK). This fall, an unprecedented number of Tropical Kingbirds appeared on s. Van. I. from mid-October to early November. Singles were seen at Wallace Dr., C. Saanich Oct. 27 (†KD, †BB, J & GA) and Welch Rd., C. Saanich, Nov. 4-8 (AC, †BB, KD, MMc). No field notes were received for individuals reported from Tofino, Courtenay, and Campbell R. One was well described for Iona I., Sept. 26 (JI, JLu, †TP, MT, v.o.) A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was convincingly described from Port Alberni, where it made a brief fly-over July 18 (†DGC). A Horned Lark at Sandspit airport Oct. 23 was notable, as the species is casual on the Q.C.I. (MH). An imm. Barn Swallow and a Violet-green Swallow were very late at Port Alberni Nov. 22 (DGC).

## JAYS TO FINCHES

Gray Jays were unusually common in the s. Yukon this summer and early fall. Even more conspicuous was an unprecedented apparent passage of flocks of Steller's Jays around Van. and s. Van. I. Although the high count for the Van. area was only 30 from Minnehada Park Sept. 7 (WCW), 218 were seen at Ten Mile Pt., Saanich, Sept. 5 (HP). Numbers on s. Van. I. gradually dropped from highs in early September to somewhat higher than usual numbers in early November. An unusual influx of Steller's Jays into urban areas also occurred at P.G. in mid-September (JB). Blue Jays were much less frequent this fall. Only 6 reports were received, with single birds at Langley, Aldergrove, Kimberley, Cranbrook, and Invermere, where a pair were once again rumored to have nested this spring (DSO). More Mt. Chickadee reports than usual were received for the Lower Mainland, with one at Miller's Landing for a 1st Bowen I. record Oct. 28 (GH). Red-breasted Nuthatches were unusually abundant during August and September in the s. Yukon (HG).

Three out-of-range reports for individual Rock Wrens were received: at the n. end of Kinbasket L., near Valemount Aug. 17 (ML, †CS, ES); at the summit of Pink Mt. n.w. of



**Snowy Owl at Prince George, British Columbia, November 18, 1992. Photograph/Nancy Krueger.**

Ft. St. John June 18 (†CG, AR), providing the 2nd Peace R. record; and at Sechelt Sept. 27, providing the 2nd Sunshine Coast record (TG). A House Wren at Round L., Telkwa, Aug. 4–5 was well n.w. of its range (EL). Northern Mockingbirds appeared in the Region as fall vagrants. Individuals were found at Pacific Rim Park Oct. 20 (HH), at Revelstoke Oct. 4 (HGo, DPo), at Summerland Oct. 24 (†DB, v.o.), and at Port Alberni July 25 (†DGC).

Vancouver I.'s first Red-throated Pipit was seen in c. Saanich Sept. 19 (†KT, †BRG, \*BB). A Eur. Starling at Whitehorse Oct. 27–29 was very rare for the Yukon (HG). As has become usual, Palm Warblers were reported as vagrants to the coast, with individuals at Vancouver, Tofino, and Nanoose. A ♂-type Black-and-White Warbler at Kelowna Aug. 23 provided the only documented record for the Okanagan Valley (†DB). A ♀ Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Van., Oct. 9 (IH) and a female at the Holmes R., s.e. of McBride, Aug. 15 (CML, †CS) were out of range. Single Vesper Sparrows at Iona I., Sept. 22 (†J Luce, †WCW, v.o.), and at Jerico Park, Van., Oct. 4 (†RJC, RT, Wendy Frith), were w. of their usual range. A Grasshopper Sparrow, the 2nd for Van. I., was beautifully sketched, photographed, and described Nov. 25 & 29 at c. Saanich (†BB, †BW, ph. DDF), proof that any bird can show up anywhere, anytime. Swamp Sparrows are proving to be regular rare migrants in s.w. B.C., with this season's found at Swan L. (Saanich), c. Saanich, Goldstream, Duncan, Port Alberni,

and Vancouver. Interior reports included one at Nakusp Oct. 18 (RWC, GD, †CS) and a very early individual at Vernon Sept. 5 (†CS). A vagrant Com. Grackle was reported from Invermere Oct. 19 or 20 (DSO). The Yukon's 2nd House Finch was a female at a Teslin feeder Sept. 12 (PD). The territory's first was a male at the same feeder 2 years before. A pair of House Finches also apparently nested at Whitehorse this summer, raising 3 young. The pair survived throughout the reporting period (BSt). Evening Grosbeaks are normally accidental in the Yukon. A small invasion took place, with 20 at a Watson L. feeder in mid-November (RF), a male at Whitehorse Nov. 14 (BBa, JBa), eight at Teslin Nov. 26 (PD), two at Wolf Cr. Nov. 26 (HJ, AJ), and four at Goldenhorn subdivision, Whitehorse, Nov. 28 (MAR, DC).

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**This Grasshopper Sparrow furnished a second record for Vancouver Island, British Columbia, when it was studied at Central Saanich on November 29, 1992. Photograph/David F. Fraser.**

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## OREGON/WASHINGTON REGION

*Bill Tweit and Jeff Gilligan*

Our weather remained under the influence of the El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) through the first half of autumn. In e. Washington, August–October was drier than normal, and November precipitation levels were near normal. In s.e. Oregon, August and September were similarly dry,

but October saw the heaviest precipitation for that month since 1982, and November was wet. Temperatures were normal. During the fall, the surface of Malheur L. reached about 500 acres, its lowest level since 1934.

The dramatic effects of ENSO on seabird populations continued from the summer and were remarkably similar to the effects of the 1983 episode. Numbers of migrant Buller's and Sooty Shearwaters were very low. Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels became quite scarce, and Cassin's Auklets appeared to suffer a high rate of mortality. By contrast, Brown Pelicans and Elegant Terns were abundant. ENSO may have contributed to

unusual occurrences of Sooty Shearwaters and Cassin's Auklets on the inside waters and of Red Phalaropes in inland areas.

The fall Cattle Egret flight was apparently the largest ever to reach our Region; we also saw increased numbers of Great and Snowy egrets. This fall was also characterized by poor numbers of many shorebird species, especially of the more uncommon coastal migrants, and by moderate number of e. vagrants. Barred Owl, Scrub Jay, and Bewick's Wren populations kept growing, and observers continued to find Boreal Owls in new locations. The first 3 fall pelagic trips ever scheduled to explore waters beyond the

edge of the Continental Shelf found no *Pterodroma*.

**Abbreviations:** Fields (*Fields, Harney, OR*); Leadbetter (*Leadbetter Pt., Pacific, WA*); Malheur (*Malheur N.W.R., Harney, OR*); O.S. (*Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor, WA*); Sauvie (*Sauvie I., Columbia, OR*); S.J.C.R. (*s. jetty of the Columbia R., Clatsop, OR*); W.W.R.D. (*Walla Walla R. delta, Walla Walla, WA*).

## LOONS TO DUCKS

The only interior Red-throated Loon report was at Haystack Res., Deschutes, OR, Nov. 7 (TC, LR). They are generally more scarcely reported in the interior, away from the lower Columbia R., than are Pacific Loons, which were reported 6 times. The Pacific Loon total is about average, although much lower than the 23 found last fall. An exceptional total for Aug. 20 (TC) was 1200 Pacific Loons at Manzanita, Tillamook, OR, in addition to 200 at S.J.C.R., Aug. 29 (SR)—also early. Five Yellow-billed Loons were found, all on Puget Sound (B & GR, RVi, Martin Muller, Charles Evans, VN)—the average number of fall reports for the last decade. A report of apparent breeding by Clark's Grebes at Upper Hampton L., Columbia N.W.R., Grant, this summer (RH) represents another breeding locale for this scarce Washington species. We continue to list all reports of migrant Clark's Grebes in search of a pattern. For the interior, there were 3 reports from the Richland, WA, area Sept. 27–Oct. 11 (*fide* TG), two on the Columbia R., above Priest Rapids Dam, Yakima, Nov. 8 (AS), two at Wickiup Res., Deschutes, OR, Nov. 18 (CM), and one at Haystack Res., Deschutes, OR, Nov. 7 (TC). The 2 coastal reports included two Clark's at Seaside, Tillamook, OR, Aug. 8 (PS, †DL) and one at Timothy L., Clackamas, OR, Sept. 26 (DL).

This season hosted 11 pelagic trips out of Westport, WA, Aug. 1–Oct. 11 (TW), including two forays to deep water (>500 fathoms) Sept. 20 and Oct. 3. Oregon trips included one to deep water off Newport Oct. 24 (BT) and two others covering shallower waters over the shelf. As throughout the summer, N. Fulmars remained very scarce through September. Less than five were found on most trips, increasing to 18 Sept. 20. By Oct. 3, they had become abundant, averaging 270 per trip, and >1300 were off Oregon on the Oct. 24 trip. Pink-footed Shearwaters were seen in normal numbers. Three Flesh-footeds were seen on 3 pelagic trips off Westport, and two were seen off Oregon Oct. 24, only a vague improvement over the 3 previous fall totals. Buller's Shearwaters were scarce, with 2 peaks off Westport: 65 Aug. 29 and 48 Oct. 10. All other counts were <40.



Sooty Shearwaters were much less abundant than normal this fall; the peak count off Westport was only 6481 Sept. 12. An unusual incursion of Sooties into Puget Sound was noted during late September after heavy winds: 80 off Dungeness, Clallam, Sept. 27 (D & SS), 300 off Seattle Sept. 29 (KA), 200 at Salmon Banks, San Juan, Sept. 27–28 (Mark Lewis), and >400 still at Point No Point, Kitsap, Oct. 2 (VN). The numbers off Seattle and Kitsap were unprecedented. Sooties vanished quickly from the inside waters, with only 15 present at Point No Point on Oct. 3 and two Oct. 6 (VN).

A Manx Shearwater was well seen and photographed 15 mi off Westport Oct. 10 (†BL, †TW), for the 2nd Washington record and the first photographic documentation for the N. Pacific. It was probably the same bird seen a month earlier from shore at O.S., Sept. 17 (†BW). This apparently protracted stay is similar to the pattern of the first Washington record, a sight record in 1990, when multiple observers saw one on 3 different occasions Sept. 14–Oct. 6. A Black-vented Shearwater observed just beyond the surf at Bandon, Coos, Nov. 22 (GL) provided about the 5th Oregon report of Black-vented/Manx type shearwaters. Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels became very scarce off Westport as the season progressed, declining from 55 Aug. 1 to 0–3 per trip. The 300 seen well offshore Oct. 24 were probably migrants from the n. populations. Long-distance trips turned up a few Leach's Storm-Petrels, which are almost never reported over the shelf in fall.

Peak counts of Am. White Pelicans included 270 at Columbia N.W.R., Grant, WA, Aug. 11 (RH), 200 at Cold Springs N.W.R., Umatilla, OR, Aug. 6 (*fide* TC),

and 52 on Howard Prairie L., Jackson, OR (MM), in line with fall numbers for at least the last 5 years. Single White Pelicans on Chambers L., Thurston, Sept. 30 (Wally Wilkins), near Anacortes, Skagit, Nov. 11–16 (*fide* BK), and at Seattle Nov. 22 (Mike Smith) were w. Washington rarities. Ten juveniles banded at Strum L., BC, were in the Bend, OR, area Sept. 19–Oct. 5 (TC), for the first local record. Virtually all marked pelicans seen in the Region are from the Strum L. colony. Brown Pelicans were found in large numbers along the outer coast, n. to Grays Harbor, WA (BT, MP, GL), with adults comprising 90% of the numbers (HN). A Least Bittern was seen at Malheur Sept. 2–3 (Martin Powell), where they are regular but rarely seen.

The 44 reports of Great Egrets from w. Washington this fall are well above the usual 2 dozen. The peak was 21 at Ridgefield N.W.R., Clark, Sept. 11 (BSh). The Rogue Valley, Jackson, OR, held 35 Snowy

Egrets in August (MM), where they are normally scarce. An imm. Little Blue Heron at Florence, Lincoln, Aug. 23–24 (ph. Dennis Arendt), furnished the 5th record for Oregon. The spectacular Cattle Egret flight begun in late October provided the highest number of interior reports ever, with 27 sightings in e. Washington—four near Richland during November (TG), 15 flying N over Dry Falls Dam, Grant, Oct. 25 (AS), one at Royal Slope, Grant, Nov. 25 (Jane Grant, *fide* RH), two at Chief Timothy S.P., Asotin, Oct. 26–28 (*fide* MK), one near Ellensburg (first Kittitas record) Nov. 2–14 (PM), and four in NW Walla Walla, Nov. 29 (M & MLD). The only e. Oregon reports of Cattle Egrets were of two in Hermiston, Umatilla, Nov. 6 (Marion Corder). Sixty were reported from w. Washington Oct. 23–Nov. 25, for the highest fall total ever, up from >38 in 1984. Most of the reports (43) came from Skagit and Whatcom, with smaller numbers in Grays Harbor (9), Snohomish (2), King (4), and Pierce (2). Virtually all records in w. Oregon were coastal—for the best flight in several years.

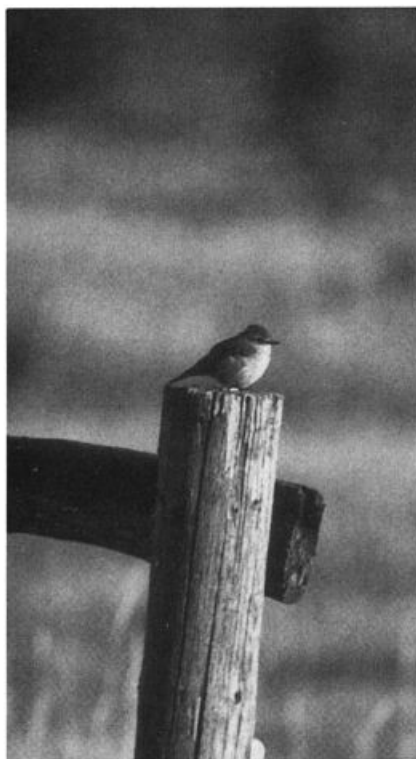
Marked Trumpeter Swan reports include green neckband x88 at Richland, Benton, Nov. 16; Red-breasted Mergansers 2 (BW), and four on Banks L., Grant, including green neckbands 62/8v and 2/v (JA). A well-described ♀ Falcated Teal on Willapa Bay, near Nahcotta, Pacific, Oct. 27 (†Jan Cornelius) provided the 2nd Washington report, the first having been shot at the same site Jan. 3, 1979. A Tufted Duck on the Columbia R. near Turtle Rock, Douglas, WA, Nov. 29 (SM) furnished a rare interior record. A King Eider at Coos Bay, OR, Nov. 6 (JK), was an unusual find—one had wintered nearby at Bandon the previous winter. One interior

Oldsquaw record, in *Jefferson*, OR, Nov. 5 (SS, CM, LR, TC), is below average. However, 47 Surf and 37 White-winged scoter reports from the interior rival the record numbers seen for 1990. Surfs were found Oct. 14–Nov. 7, with flocks of up to 14 seen in each state and White-wingeds Oct. 14–Nov. 22, primarily in Washington. Found on Banks L., *Grant*, WA, Nov. 15 (AS), were 165 Red-breasted Mergansers, a very high count away from the coast.

#### VULTURES TO PHALAROPES

Substantial fall Turkey Vulture flights have been noted annually along the s. shore of Vancouver I., as they assemble before crossing the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Until this fall, comparable numbers have not been found on the Washington side of the Strait. Hawk-watchers found >650 Sept. 27 over Striped Peak, on the n. edge of the Olympics, W of Port Angeles, *Clallam* (Diann MacRae), indicating they have probably crossed the Strait at a high altitude and may move S over the Olympic Range. Black-shouldered Kite records included 4 at Francis, *Pacific*, WA, Aug. 10 (RTa), 2 at Finley N.W.R., *Benton*, OR, Aug. 23–Oct. 22 (KM, DPe), at least 9 Oregon coastal reports (m.ob.), and several in the Rogue Valley, OR, all fall (MM). We seem to be experiencing a steady decline in kite numbers in both Oregon and Washington, and we urge all observers to monitor their numbers. Six Red-shouldered Hawk reports from s.w. Oregon is about average, but one at Malheur Aug. 31 (JK) was casual there. An imm. Broad-winged Hawk was observed at Malheur Sept. 19 (†TG); most Oregon records, fewer than 10, come from *Harney*.

Rough-legged Hawks appeared earlier than normal: two in *Whitman*, WA, Sept. 9–13 (RTa) and one near Reardan, *Lincoln*, WA, Sept. 6 (JW); later in the fall, their numbers were well above normal in s.w. Washington (M & MLD). Twelve reports of Merlins from the interior is roughly average. A few Gyrfalcons were found in the normal areas, three in n.w. Washington (*fide* TW, BK) and one near Colfax, *Whitman*, WA Oct. 29 (Russ Roundy). None of the Oregon reports included supporting details. Good numbers of Am. Kestrels were found in *Whatcom*, WA (TW); this is unusual, as their wintering numbers have declined noticeably in w. Washington in recent years. Some dramatic migratory concentrations of Sandhill Cranes were noted, particularly the passage of >13,000 in 1½ hour at Soap L., *Grant*, WA, Sept. 15 (JA). For the largest local concentration ever, >500 cranes were seen near Touchet, *Walla Walla*, WA, Sept. 25–29 (M & MLD). Both species of golden-plover were found in low numbers on the coast this fall (BT). In the interior, Lesser Golden-Plovers (*dominica*) were found at W.W.R.D.—two Sept. 13 (AS), one at Millcreek Res., *Walla Walla*, WA, Oct. 9–12 (M & MLD), and on the Yakima R. delta, *Benton*, WA—with one or two Sept. 28–Oct. 14



**Vermilion Flycatcher at Bend, Oregon, on October 17, 1992. First state record. Photograph/Tom Crabtree.**

(BW). An imm. Lesser Golden-Plover (*fulva*) at Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark*, WA, Sept. 25 (†BSh) and three at Dungeness, *Clallam*, WA, Sept. 27 (D & SS) constituted the only reports of this species away from the outer coast, although neither locale is far inland. A Snowy Plover at Bayoccean Spit, *Tillamook*, OR, Aug. 23 had been banded at Coos Bay, OR, in 1990 (CR). A Snowy Plover shot (!) along the Willamette R. between Portland and Salem Sept. 22 was found and brought in for rehabilitation (*fide* HN), providing the first confirmed report for the Willamette Valley.

Nine Am. Avocets were found in w. Oregon this fall (DC, GL, DB, CR); they are casual in fall on the westside. Solitary Sandpipers enjoyed a moderately good fall in the interior: e. Washington had 21 reports [peak count four at Millcreek Res., *Walla Walla* (M & MLD)] and e. Oregon had three. On the westside, one near Silverton, *Marion*, OR, Oct. 27 was very late (JL, DPe). The best shorebirds of the fall were single Hudsonian Godwits at O.S., Sept. 12 (†TS)—Oct. 4 (SM) and at Othello, *Adams*, WA Aug. 25–29 (†ph. RH). There are about 15 previous Washington records. The only report of a Bar-tailed Godwit, a scarce annual fall migrant, was one at O.S., Sept. 10 (TB)—Sept. 16 (BW). The count of 35 Marbled Godwits at Tillamook Sept. 15 was the highest for the n. Oregon coast in several years (Tim Janzen, Dan van den Broek).

A Red Knot at W.W.R.D., Sept. 29 (TG), supplied the only interior report of this uncommon fall migrant, aside from the customary few coastal reports. The count of

>100 Pectoral Sandpipers at Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark*, WA, Sept. 11 (BSh) marked the only significant concentration. In general, they were in lower numbers than during last fall but were well above the scanty numbers recorded for fall 1989 and 1990. One in *Umatilla*, OR, Nov. 7 (M & MLD) was late for the interior. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were scarcer than normal, with 3 coastal reports and a *Clallam* first at Dungeness, WA, Sept. 27 (†D & SS). Stilt Sandpipers were so scarce in Washington that all the reports can be listed: four at Othello, *Adams*, Aug. 25 (RH), one at Marysville, *Snohomish*, Sept. 6 (RTa), and one at W.W.R.D., Sept. 13 (AS). Buff-breasted Sandpipers apparently had an off year in the Region, with a sum total of 3 reports: singles at O.S., Aug. 28 (DP) and Sept. 12–16 (BW) and one at Tillamook, OR, Aug. 26 (HN). The Ruff total was also poor: a male at S.J.C.R., Sept. 11–16 (Scott Rea) and a female near Astoria, *Clatsop*, OR, Sept. 12 (MP). Both Red-necked and Red phalaropes were very scarce off Westport all season; peak counts were 37 Reds on Aug. 15 and 125 Red-neckeds Aug. 1 (TW). This is the 3rd consecutive fall of poor counts of Red-necked Phalaropes off Westport. Red-neckeds were in normal numbers inland though, with 1000 at Point No Point, *Kitsap*, Sept. 3–8 (VN) and 400 at Othello, *Adams*, Aug. 26 (M & MLD). A smattering of Red Phalaropes, primarily adults, were found inland from the outer coast of Washington in August: six off Protection I., *Jefferson*, Aug. 7 (M & MLD), one at Sauvie Aug. 21 (JK), one off Kingston, *Kitsap*, Aug. 22 (DP), and one at Reardan, *Lincoln*, Aug. 29–31 (JA). Inland records are usually later and are immatures.

#### JAEGERS TO OWLS

Both Pomarine and Long-tailed jaegers peaked off Westport Sept. 12–13, with about 100 per trip (TW). The usual few interior reports of Parasitic Jaegers included two at W.W.R.D., Sept. 13 (AS) and one at Umatilla, OR, Oct. 18 (JS). Numbers of imm. Franklin's Gulls reaching the Region in autumn appear to have declined significantly for the past 4 years. This fall's reports included one at W.W.R.D., Sept. 13 (AS), five Sept. 14 (BSu) building to 12 at Everett, WA, Sept. 27 (RTh), and one at Bainbridge I., *King*, WA, Aug. 18 (Ian Paulson). Little Gull reports from Everett, WA, Oct. 6 (Verna Timm) and of an adult at Point No Point, *Kitsap*, WA, Nov. 10–30 (VN) reflect normal numbers.

The distribution of Thayer's Gull in the interior is still poorly understood, so singles at Electric City, *Grant*, WA, Nov. 15 (†AS) and at Umatilla, OR, Nov. 11 (JS) are worthy of mention. An ad. Glaucous Gull at Richland, WA, Nov. 30 (BW) furnished one of the few reports of the species, and the only adult. The Sabine's Gull count of 566 off Westport Sept. 13 dwarfed all other daily totals, generally <50 (TW). Farther south, the peak migration occurred Sept. 15 off the

s Oregon coast (TT) Two Sabine's Gulls off Newport, OR, were late this fall, Oct. 24 (BT). Inland records included an immature on Whidbey I., WA, Aug. 23 (John Winkler), an immature on the Snake R., *Wallowa*, OR, Aug. 23 (Sheri Erickson), an adult at Sauvie Sept. 4 (HN), two adults at Everett, WA, Sept. 6–14 (Lea Brant, BSu), an adult at the Yakima R. mouth, *Benton*, WA, Sept. 19–25 (BW), and one on Wallowa L., *Wallowa*, OR, Oct. 4 (CD).

Elegant Tern numbers correlate very well with ENSO events. The previous major ENSO was in 1983, when they were found in the hundreds on the s. Washington coast, with small numbers reaching n. Puget Sound. Elegant Terns have since appeared on the Washington coast in small numbers in 1990 and 1991. This fall, coastal numbers were comparable with those of 1983, with counts of 1000 on Willapa Bay, *Pacific*, Aug. 21 (BSu, RM) and good numbers on Grays Harbor in August (BT). A few had appeared in Puget Sound by mid-July. Numbers increased substantially in August and in more wide distribution than in 1983, with >40 at Dungeness, *Clallam*, Aug. 7 (D & SS), 10 at Cultus Bay, *Island*, Aug. 9 (RTh), two at Everett Aug. 9 (Charles Easterburg), three at Cattle Point, *San Juan*, Aug. 15 (SA), 52 at Oak Bay, *Jefferson*, Sept. 3 (EK), and two reaching as far south as Seattle Sept. 11 (*fide* EH). They left by mid-September, the last seen in the Oak Bay area Sept. 14 (Dick Johnson) & Sept. 27 in the Dungeness (D & SS). Numbers declined rapidly on the Washington coast by the end of August; none was seen at O.S., Aug. 28 (DP) and only one could be found there Sept. 12–17 (BW). On the Oregon coast, Elegants remained very common through September (JG).

Common and Arctic terns were scarce along the outer coast (TW, G & WH, JG); the peak count of Arctic was 61 Sept. 12 (TW) off Westport. A Com. Tern on Willapa Bay, *Pacific*, WA, Nov. 7 (SM) was very late for the coast. Inland Arctic Tern records included one at Monmouth, *Polk*, OR, Sept. 24 (†SD, BB) and one at Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark*, WA, Sept. 25 (†BSh). A Forster's Tern was on L. Washington at Seattle Aug. 23 (DP), an accidental for w. Washington. The post-fledging mortality of Com. Murres was apparently high, as July surveys of a beached birds in *Lincoln*, OR, found 21 ad. and 260 fledgling Com. Murres (BLo). Two Kittlitz's Murrelets were reported at Boiler Bay, *Lincoln*, Oct. 6 (†Gerald Smith, Joyce Smith, DPe); there are no previously accepted records from Oregon, and this record is being reviewed by the O.B.R.C. Three Xantus'/Craver's murrelets were seen in deep water off Westport Sept. 20 (TW), providing the first Washington records since 1987. Two Ancient Murrelets in Rosario Strait Aug. 15 (ph. M & MLD, ph.) were too early for fall migrants and may have summered locally. The peak count at Point No Point, *Kitsap*, WA, was not particularly large with 200 Nov. 15 (VN). Ancient Murrelets

were more conspicuous than usual along the Oregon coast in November [e.g. 150 at Cape Arago, *Coos*, Nov. 22 (GL)]. ENSO effects on Cassin's Auklet populations were dramatic. A July survey of a beach in *Lincoln*, OR, found 134 dead (BLo). Numbers were pathetic (>10 per trip) off Westport until October, when the first movement of Cassin's Auklets from the north appeared, with counts increasing to 170 Oct. 11 (TW) and 85 off Newport, OR, Oct. 24 (BT). On Puget Sound, where summer records of Cassin's Auklets are usually greeted with skepticism, an individual was sighted off Edmonds, *Snohomish*, Aug. 22 (DP) and one in Everett Oct. 11 (SM).

A very rare fall vagrant, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen at Malheur Sept. 3 (Eric Horvath). Snowy Owl reports of singles on the Hanford Res., *Benton*, WA, Nov. 18 (Dave Goeke), near Stanwood, *Snohomish*, Nov. 18 (BA), in *Lincoln*, Nov. 20 (MD), at O.S. Nov. 22 (Brad Wilsen), and on Lummi Flats, *Whatcom*, from mid-November (Randy Knapp) marked the highest fall numbers since 1985. A N. Hawk Owl at Sherman Pass, *Ferry*, Nov. 14 (†AS) to Nov. 24 (JA) provided the first Washington record since 1982, and a second was reported e. of Oroville, *Okanogan*, Nov. 27–28 (PD). Barred Owl numbers continue to increase. Several reports were of fledglings with parents in the Bellingham, WA, area, where they have become more widespread than ever (TW); and Nov. 19 marked the first *Deschutes*, OR, record (TC, CM). The first Boreal Owl records from the s. Washington Cascades included one at Sunrise, Mt. Rainier N.P., Sept. 11 (†DP) and two in the Darland Mt. area, *Yakima*, at 5200 (RH). They were also noted at Waldo L., in the c. Oregon Cascades, Oct. 18 (SR), at Mt. Pisgah, *Wheeler*, in the Ochoco Range Oct. 24 (DL, David Anderson), and near Tollgate, *Umatilla*, Oct. 24 (CC, JS). They had not been reported previously from the Ochoco Range.

#### SWIFTS TO THRUSHES

Migrant Black Swifts are rarely sighted in Oregon, so reports of two at Mt. Hebo, *Tillamook*, OR, Aug. 10 (JL) and four at Sauvie Sept. 7 (Steve Jagers) deserve mention. A Red-breasted Sapsucker at Liberty L., *Spokane*, WA, Oct. 7 (JA) was very far east for this species. The Gray Flycatcher on Orcas I., WA, Aug. 18 (†SA) supplied a first *San Juan* record. A Black Phoebe along the Lost R., *Klamath* Aug. 29 (Kevin Spencer, Kirk Heims) was unexpected on the eastside. The Vermilion Flycatcher seen at Bend Oct. 10–16 (Ralph Wodt, m.ob.) provided the first Oregon record. A *Myiarchus* identified as an Ash-throated Flycatcher was at Florence, *Lane*, OR, Nov. 25 (Tom Schnidgall); we hope the identification was correct and that it was not one of the other species in the genus. Western Washington had two Tropical Kingbirds this fall, an event last recorded in 1984. On the outer coast, where they are

expected, one was seen at Ruby Beach, Olympic N.P., *Jefferson*, Oct. 30 (ph. †Joel Citron). On Puget Sound, where they have not been recorded previously, one was seen at Samish I., *Skagit*, WA, (Richard Lindstrom, *fide*, BK) Nov. 15–28. No Oregon reports came in.

Steller's Jays apparently moved into, or through, w. Washington in unusual numbers this fall. Local high counts at Seattle Sept. 8 (Dan McDougall-Tracey) included >100 Sept. 10 (TB) and 80 Sept. 15 (BW, G & WH), both at O.S. In *Whatcom*, by early August, Steller's were more apparent in lowland areas than in some years, with more numbers present at the end of the fall (TW). There were three Blue Jay reports from w. Washington: Freshwater Bay, *Clallam*, in mid-August (Blaine Dalton, *fide*, D & SS), at Bow, *Skagit*, WA, Oct. 22 (*fide* BK), and near Washougal, *Skamania*, Nov. 9+ (WC), none was reported elsewhere. Three reports is about average for the past decade, but much lower than for the past two fall seasons. The Scrub Jay range expansion in the Region continues at a fast pace. Reports from new areas in w. Washington included one at Gig Harbor, *Pierce*, Oct. 8 (Norris Cone), two at Ft. Lewis, *Pierce*, Oct. 4 (R & GR), one on Vashon I., *King*, Nov. 18+ (Joy Nelson), and two at Little Palmer L., *Pierce* (Lloyd & Sharon Miller, *fide* TB). In e. Washington, where their range has been limited to the Columbia Gorge, two were at Yakima Oct. 2 (Jean Chott, *fide* Debie Brown). Several have remained in e. Oregon from the incursion, fall 1991: two were at Bend into the fall (TC), and at least one was in Madras, *Jefferson* (TC, LR). Finally, their numbers and range continue to increase on the Oregon coast (LT, RB). Many more Am. Crows were seen this year in the Othello, *Grant*, WA, area than in 1991 (RH), with probable nesting at a minimum of four locations. Crows were first recorded in this area in 1990.

Mountain Chickadees at Everett Sept. 29 (SM), five at Seattle Nov. 25 (Russell Rogers), and two at Everson, *Whatcom* Nov. 10 (PD) indicate a minor incursion into w. Washington. Two Pygmy Nuthatches found near Howard Prairie L., *Jackson*, OR, Aug. 3 (Marie and Ernie Plant) were westside rarities. Two Rock Wrens present for several days beginning Oct. 10 in the Coos Bay area (David Gray) were said to have been a *Coos* first, providing an overdue record for this regular westside vagrant. A Canyon Wren at Beacon Rock S.P., *Skamania*, Aug. 20–21 (CCh) was farther west than has previously been recorded in the Columbia Gorge and, taken in conjunction with two records from this spring, may indicate a range expansion. The Bewick's Wren range is clearly expanding; they first appeared in the Spokane, WA, area during spring 1991. This fall they were recorded along the L. Spokane R. and in Indian Canyon Park Sept. 5–7 (JA). In s.e. Washington, three were found in *Asotin* during October (MK); in s.e. Oregon one



appeared at Alvord Ranch, *Harney*, Oct. 11 (JJ). Reports of W. Bluebirds at Dungeness, *Clallam*, WA, Oct. 3 (D & SS) and at Seal Rocks, *Lincoln*, OR, Nov. 18 (Shirley and Jim Thielen) were from coastal locales, where they are unusual. Above-average numbers of Varied Thrushes were noted in the Columbia Basin (M & MLD).

#### MIMIDS TO WARBLERS

Northern Mockingbird reports included one at Nisqually N.W.R., *Thurston*, WA, Aug. 16 (R & GR) and five in w. Oregon (m.ob.), for an average fall total. A Sage Thrasher in Eagle Point, *Jackson*, OR, Sept. 21 (HS) was unusual. Although they breed commonly on the eastside, they average less than one record per year on the westside. Early Bohemian Waxwings included a flock in the Pasayten Wilderness, *Okanogan*, WA, Aug. 21 (Michael Donahue) and one at Umatilla, OR, Sept. 12 (JS). A Solitary Vireo near Summer L., *Lake*, OR, Sept. 9 (SS) appeared to be of the e. race. The Tennessee Warbler sighted at Malheur Oct. 8 (Brian Sturges) was later than for most fall records, and reports from Malheur Aug. 29 (Nancy Olson) and Miller I., *Klamath*, OR, Aug. 31 (Bob Lucas) were earlier than usual. A Chestnut-sided Warbler, a regular fall vagrant, was at Malheur Sept. 19 (†TG). The Cape May Warbler at Windust Park, *Franklin*, Oct. 10–11 (†MD) furnished the 2nd Washington report, and one at Fields Sept. 20 (†TG) provided one of less than 10 Oregon records.

The usual number of Palm Warbler reports from Oregon included birds near Brookings, *Curry*, Oct. 10 (HS), at Tillamook, Oct. 11 (Bill Tice), at Boiler Bay, *Lincoln*, Oct. 26 (BT, Greg Gilson), and inland at Corvallis, *Benton*, Nov. 24–25 (Mike Lippsmeyer). The five Blackpoll Warbler records included Washington's 6th at Burbank, *Walla Walla*, Aug. 29 (†TG) and 7th at Columbia Park, *Benton*, Sept. 5 (†TG), as well as four Oregon records: at Alvord Ranch, *Harney*, Sept. 5 (BOB), at Malheur Sept. 12 (Sheran Jones, Clarence & Marilyn O'Leary) & Sept. 30 (SS), and Port Orford, *Curry*, Sept. 4 (DFi). An Am. Redstart in Olympia, WA, Sept. 19 (†TS) supplied the only report of this vagrant to the westside. Three Ovenbirds were found at Davenport, *Lincoln*, WA, Sept. 18 (†JA) and at Malheur Sept. 19 (Karen & Jerry Kearney) and Sept. 26 (SS, TC); they are often unrecorded in fall.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are now regarded as annual visitors in fall, with one at Spokane, WA, Oct. 2–13 (†ph. JA) and others at Malheur Aug. 31 (DSt) and Sept. 26 (JJ). A ♀ Indigo Bunting at Roseburg Aug. 1 (MH) may have summered locally. The green-plumaged Painted Bunting visited a feeder in Harbor, *Curry*, from Nov. 20–29 (ph. AB, m.ob.) for the 4th Oregon record. Clay-colored Sparrows, also annual in fall in Oregon, were at Fields Oct. 1 (SS) and in Brookings, *Curry*, Nov. 16 (Phil Hicks) A

Lark Bunting was found near Florence, *Lane*, Aug. 26 (†JK, DSt); about one-half the Oregon records are of fall birds on the outer coast. Three Swamp Sparrow records from the interior indicate that the species may be more regular there than previously thought. Reports came from near Walla Walla, WA, Nov. 27 (M & MLD), at Fields Oct. 10 (JJ), and near Joseph, *Wallowa*, OR, Nov. 11–12 (CD). A Rusty Blackbird at Walla Walla, WA, Nov. 9–29 (MD, †AS) supplied the only report of this species, which is found almost every fall.

The report of a flock of >1000 House Finches flying s. at S.J.C.R., Nov. 15 (SR), apparently migrants, is interesting, as there is little evidence that they have regular migratory patterns in the region. Red Crossbills became scarce in the Washington Cascades during August (CCh, DP) and were sparingly reported elsewhere in w. Washington (G & WH). They were common on the c. Oregon coast in August (Laimons Osis) and in *Klamath* in October (PS). Pine Siskins were abundant in the Puget Sound lowlands (EK, G & WH, TW) and w. Oregon (JG, HN). Evening Grosbeaks were more numerous than normal in the Portland area this fall (HN).

#### Initialed observers (subregional editors in

**boldface):** Kevin Aanerud, Jim Acton, Bud Anderson, Scott Atkinson, David Bailey, Alan Barron, Range Bayer, **Barb Bellin** (Salem area), **Thais Bock** (Tacoma area), Wilson Cady, Chris Chappell (CCh), Craig Corder, **Tom Crabtree** (e. Oregon), Dick Cronberg, Paul DeBruyn, Mike & Merry L. Denny, **Colin Dillingham** (*Curry*), Stephen Dowlan, Dave Fix, Tony Greager, **Hendrik Herlyn**, Randy Hill, Glen & Wanda Hoge, Eugene Hunn, Matt Hunter, Jim Johnson, Joe Kaplan, Merlene Koliner, Eugene Kridler, Bob Kuntz, Bruce LaBar, Gerard Lillie, Bob Loeffel (BLo), John Lundsten, Donna Lusthoff, Phil Mattocks, Kathy Merrifield, Craig Miller, Steve Mlodinow, **Marjorie Moore** (Rogue Valley), Roger Muskat, **Harry Nehls** (w. Oregon), Vic Nelson, Bob O'Brien, Mike Patterson, Dennis Paulson, Don Pederson (DPe), Robert & Georgia Ramsey, Lew Rems, Craig Roberts, **Tom Rogers** (easternmost Washington), Skip Russell, Howard Sands, Tom Schooley, Bill Shelmerdine (BSh), **Dory & Stan Smith** (*Clallam*), Dave Stejskal (DSt), Andy Stepnewski, Judy Stevens, Paul Sullivan, Steve Summers, Bob Sundstrom, Ruth Taylor (RTa), Terry Thompson, **Larry Thornburgh** (*Coos*), Rob Thorne (RTh), Rick Vetter (RVe), Richard Viet (RVi), Terry Wahl, Jeff Wisman, Bob Woodley — **BILL TWEIT**, P.O. Box 1271, Olympia, WA, 98507, and **JEFF GILLIGAN**, 25 NE 32nd Ave., Portland, OR 97232.

## MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

David G. Yee, Stephen F. Bailey, and Bruce E. Deuel

The season started and ended as did the previous 6—very dry. The drought has had pronounced effects on breeding birds and bird distribution throughout the Region, but whether it contributed to a lackluster migration is speculative. Except for the Coyote Cr Riparian Banding Station, which had some all-time banding highs, all areas, including the coast, Central Valley, and Great Basin, had very low numbers of waterbird and passerine migrants. Winter irruptives were in small-to-average supply, except for Pine Siskins.

Effects of El Niño continued, as many pelagics were seen again from shore, and warm-water rarities abounded. El Niño may also have been responsible for a relatively fogless coastline, which allowed the Marin Headlands to experience its greatest number of migrant raptors ever.

The vagrant season was shy in terms of total numbers of passerines, but sparkled in terms of quality, especially among shorebirds. There was also a definite surge of rarities from the tropical Southwest. Was it related to the forces that displaced Southeast rarities to this Region this past Spring and Summer? Of course, we can always blame it on El Niño!

**Abbreviations:** C.B.R.C. (*California Bird Records Committee*); C.C.R.S. (*Coyote Cr Riparian Banding Station, Santa Clara*); C.S.U.H. (*California State University, Hayward*); C.V. (*Central Valley*); E.O.P. (*end of period*); F.I. (*Southeast Farallon I.*); H.R.S. (*Hayward Regional Shoreline, Alameda*); S.F. (*San Francisco*); ph. (*photo on file with Regional Editors*). All records from F.I. and Palomarin should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory. Place names in *italics* are counties.

#### LOONS TO CORMORANTS

A Yellow-billed Loon at Crescent City, *Del Norte*, Nov. 2 was mostly in alternate plumage (ph. ADB). Grebes nested very late at O'Neill Forebay; on Nov. 14 about 10 ad Westerns and 40 Clark's tended at least one and 5 broods of downy young, respectively (DS, PJM).

Cook's Petrels were found on all 4 boat trips far offshore, with 30 total 57–125 mi off Pt. Sur to Pt. Reyes Aug. 8–Nov. 14 (JLD, SFB, DR, THK). Another Cook's Petrel was only 8 mi s.w. of Cordell Bank Nov. 1 (RS, DLSh). This species is regular over warm waters deeper than 1800 fathoms, at least from April to November (AB 45:1067–1068).

The Region's 6th **Streaked Shearwater** was

5 mi off Pajaro R. mouth, *Monterey* and *Santa Cruz*, Sept. 7 (RS, †ph. SFB, DLSh), and almost in the same location Sept. 19 (DLSh). Presumably the same bird was seen at Monterey Harbor Sept. 28–29 (*fide* DR, CHK, THK, GFi). The Region's 2nd photographed **Wedge-tailed Shearwater** was 7 mi off Pajaro R. mouth, *Monterey* and *Santa Cruz*, Oct. 24 (JMcK, DLSh, ph. RLB). Black-vented Shearwaters were early and abundant n. to *Sonoma*. The first three were off *San Mateo* Aug. 12 (RSTh), and thousands were in Monterey Bay through the period.

Typically, a Wilson's Storm-Petrel was in Monterey Bay Aug. 22–Oct. 17 (DLSh, MiF, SBT). Three Wilson's were scattered 82–90 mi s.w. of Pt. Reyes Nov. 14 (SFB). As El Niño faded, Fork-tailed, Ashy, and Black storm-petrels continued to be seen from *Monterey* to *Sonoma* until Oct. 7, especially during August. Exceptional were six storm-petrels seen inside S.F. Bay at H.R.S. Leach's dates were Aug. 1–2 (probable †RJR, JSL) and Nov. 14 (†RJR); Ashys were Aug. 1–2 (RJR, JSL), Aug. 16–26 (DES, m.ob.), and Nov. 14–22 (SAG, RJR); a Black was seen there Aug. 1–2 (†RJR). Up to 20 Least Storm-Petrels were in Monterey Bay Aug. 15–Oct. 10 (DSg, DLSh, JLD).

An imm. **Red-tailed Tropicbird** 129 mi s.w. of Pt. Sur, Aug. 8 (K. Kaufman, †JLD, PP) was only the 2nd for *Monterey* and the 3rd for the Region, but this species is probably regular more than 100 mi offshore. The **Brown Booby** remained at F.I. to Nov. 13 (PP, MLE). Another **Brown Booby** flew over Mountain View Forebay, *Santa Clara*, Aug. 29 (†MJM). An unidentified dark booby was picked out in Monterey Bay Aug. 18–21 (T. Jones, *fide* DLSh).

An Am. White Pelican around Arcata, *Humboldt*, Sept. 28–Nov. 21 (GLE, CJR), and six at L. Talawa, *Del Norte*, Oct. 13–30 (C. Hampy, ADB), were very rare on the n. coast. Very few juv. Brown Pelicans were present, indicating very poor reproduction (GeM, m.ob.), perhaps a function of El Niño. Conversely, Double-crested Cormorants seemed to reproduce well inside S.F. Bay, as 95% of 543 birds counted from *Contra Costa* to *Marin* Oct. 16 were birds of the year (GeM). A Brandt's Cormorant at Sunnyvale Aug. 15 (PJM) was the 3rd for *Santa Clara*.

#### BITTERNS TO DUCKS

Always notable, especially coastally, a Least Bittern was noted at Verdi Rd. pond, *San Mateo*, Sept. 15 (BS). Little Blue Herons continued to frequent south S.F. Bay, with 2 adults at Alviso Slough Aug. 8–9 (AV, PJM) and an immature at Charleston Slough Aug. 30 (MJM, MiF). Among the many outstand-



ing finds was an imm. **Tricolored Heron** on Santa Rosa Cr., *Sonoma*, Nov. 7–19 (D. Hofmann, †BDP, †GFi, †JM), providing only the 2nd Regional record, and more than 20 years after the first. Late word was received that White-faced Ibises fledged >1000 young from the Lower Klamath N.W.R. colony (*fide* D. Mauser), but the Colusa N.W.R. colony no longer exists (*fide* GMe), illustrating the ephemeral nature of nesting by the species in the Region.

A Tundra Swan at the H.R.S., Sept. 27 (RJR) was extremely early. What was presumably the same **Whooper Swan** seen last year reappeared at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Nov. 29 (*fide* RE), but apparently left shortly thereafter. Noteworthy geese included a Snow X Ross' Goose on s. Humboldt Bay Oct. 14 (MHM) and *Sierra's* first recorded Ross' Goose in Sierra Valley Oct. 18 (LJ, KL), surely reflecting a previous lack of observers.

A ♂ **Garganey** visited Mt. View Forebay, *Santa Clara*, Aug. 22–Sept. 22 (†PJM, ph. A. Walther, m.ob.); there are less than 10 Regional records. Blue-winged Teals were numerous on the c. coast, especially in *Monterey*, with 21 observed at the Moonglow Dairy Sept. 28 (SFB). Of several early Eur. Wigeon, the first was at Charleston Slough Sept. 19 (WGB). A ♀ Tufted Duck returned to L. Merced, S.F., Oct. 23 (A. Ridley), for what was probably its 5th winter, joined by a female Nov. 26 (PJM).

A ♂ King Eider on Humboldt Bay after Nov. 11 (FJB, †GSL) was believed to be a returnee from the previous year. An ad. ♀ Oldsquaw at Modoc N.W.R., Oct. 17 (*fide* RLR) was the first in n.e. California away from the Klamath Basin. Five inland Surf

Scoters were more than normal. Much rarer inland was a ♂ White-winged Scoter at O'Neill Forebay Nov. 14 (DS, PJM). Notable Barrow's Goldeneyes included a male at O'Neill Forebay Nov. 14 (PJM, DS), a female at Frenchman L., *Plumas*, Nov. 28 (DS *et al.*), and a pair n. of their normal winter coastal range near the Smith R. mouth, *Del Norte*, Nov. 27 (TDM, AM). A Hooded Merganser in Shasta Valley, *Siskiyou*, Aug. 6 (RE), and a Red-breasted Merganser in Sunnyvale, *Santa Clara*, Aug. 15 (PJM) were either extremely early or had oversummered.

#### RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS

A **Yellow Rail**, the Region's 3rd in 3 years, was found at Inverness Park, *Marin*, Nov. 22 (RS *et al.*). Sandhill Cranes appeared coastally, where they are casual, at Pt. Reyes Oct. 18 (FGB *et al.*); Bolinas Oct. 18 (*fide* KH); near Sebastopol, *Sonoma*, Nov. 19 (R. Evans *et al.*); and in Hayward Nov. 22 (RJR). It was the "season of the plovers" in



**Wedge-tailed Shearwater** [in heavy molt] seven miles west of the Pajaro River mouth, California, on October 24, 1992. Third photographed record for North America. Photograph/Ronald L. Branson.

the Region. A Lesser Golden-Plover (*dominica*) at Crowley L., Oct. 21 (DS) was one of very few e. of the Sierra. The Region's 4th (the State's 5th) **Mongolian Plover** delighted many at Moss Landing, *Monterey*, Sept. 16–20 (CKf, KK, †ph. m.ob.), where it accompanied a **Wilson's Plover**, the northernmost on the Pacific Coast and the Region's first, which was present Sept. 15–E.O.P. (B. Ramer, †DEG, †ph. m.ob.). A juv. Mountain Plover straggled to Crowley L. Oct. 21 (DS), and four reached Moss Landing Oct. 23–27 (REM, RFT, SFB). Up to three juv. Eur. **Dotterels** frequented L. Talawa, *Del Norte*, Sept. 8–12 (ADB, †ph. m.ob.), and another juvenile was on Pt. Reyes Oct. 17–Nov. 21 (†BDP *et al.*). There were only 3 previous State records.

What would be the Region's 4th **Upland Sandpiper**, if accepted by the C.B.R.C., was identified from feathers found in a *Trinity* Peregrine Falcon nest in June (J. Schmitt)! No

fewer than four juv. **Bar-tailed Godwits** were found: one at Abbott's Lagoon Aug. 22–Sept. 24 (RS, †ph. m.ob.); one at L. Talawa Sept. 14 (JCS *et al.*); one at Point St. George, *Del Norte*, Oct. 2–8 (ADB *et al.*, ph. GSL); and one at Bodega Harbor Oct. 26–Nov. 1 (T. Jenkins, †GFi, ph. DN). A juv. **Little Stint**, only the Region's 3rd, was in Eureka Sept. 16–22 (JCS, D. Fix, R. Hewitt, ph. RLeV, †m.ob.). Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were scarce compared with reports from recent fall seasons, with a juvenile at Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo*, Oct. 2–4 (RSTh *et al.*) and 2 juveniles at Bodega Harbor Oct. 24–27 (D. Hofmann, †WEH *et al.*). A **Curlew Sandpiper** was described from Princeton Harbor, *San Mateo*, Aug. 8 (†ALE, GFi). Eight **Stilt Sandpipers** widely scattered through the Region Aug. 8–Oct. 24 constituted a moderate showing. Only four **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** were noted: at C.C.R.S. Aug. 30 (PJM); Mattole R. mouth, *Humboldt*, Sept. 1 (J. Puffer); Salinas River St. Beach, *Monterey*, Sept. 23–24 (†DEG *et al.*); and at Pt. Reyes Oct. 11–24 (BDP *et al.*). Twelve coastal **Ruffs** were found Aug. 5–Oct. 11; inland arrivals are always later, as shown by two near Lemoore, *Kings*, Nov. 18 (DS *et al.*), which then remained to the EOP at this possibly regular wintering spot.

#### RAPTORS

The Golden Gate Raptor Observatory suffered only 30 days of fog, *versus* a 5-year average of 51 days. Thus, new high numbers were recorded for total raptors (20,398), including 4528 Turkey Vultures, 4656 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 6234 Red-tailed Hawks, 634 Am. Kestrels and 71 Peregrine Falcons. The 162 N. Harriers were only 34% of average, and 48 Broad-winged Hawks were only 36% of average.

An imm. Osprey at Crowley L., *Mono*, Oct. 21 was the latest for the c. Sierra (DS). An ad. N. Goshawk eating Rock Doves at Salinas Nov. 30–Dec. 1 (JSO, †RFT) fed us with the first acceptable record for *Monterey*. The rarest of the Swainson's Hawks on the coast was one at Carmel R. mouth, *Monterey*, Sept. 25 (BJW). An ad. Ferruginous Hawk at Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite N.P., Sept. 12–14 (B. Dolman, R. MacDonald, *fide* DLSu) was observed at a very high elevation at about 9000 feet. Populations of >16 Red-tailed Hawks and >10 Golden Eagles at Altamont Hills, *Alameda*, seem stable despite the >400 Red-tails and "several" eagles killed annually by windmills (ALE). Immigration must replace the lost birds.

#### JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

Counts of 55 Pomarine Jaegers in the Cordell Bank area Nov. 1 (RS, DLSu) and 23 Parasitic Jaegers just off Seaside, *Monterey*, Oct. 10 (SFB, DLSu) were high but in exemplary locations. An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger chased Least Terns at H.R.S., Sept. 4 (†RJR), and another flew into S.F. Bay at S.F., Oct. 4 (JMD). Four Franklin's Gulls were very few. Simultaneous with a reported movement of Mew Gulls in Oregon, an extremely early



**Wilson's Plover at Moss Landing, California, November 21, 1992. A first for the Region and the northernmost ever recorded on the Pacific Coast, this bird had been present since September 15. Photograph/Ed Greaves.**

juv. Mew Gull Aug. 17 was at San Gregorio Cr. mouth, *San Mateo*, Aug. 17 (ph. RSTh). Juvenile and first-summer Mew Gulls were at Abbotts Lagoon, *Marin*, Aug. 23 (ASH). Very rare in our Great Basin district was an ad. Mew Gull at Tule L., *Modoc*, Nov. 28 (†K. Spencer). Continuing the nesting expansion of California Gull, at least 2 pairs produced chicks at Alameda Naval Air Station (LDC, LRF), where the birds prospected in 1991 (SFB). The maximum of 250 Sabine's Gulls off *Monterey* Aug. 30 (DLSu) was the 4th highest ever.

High counts of Elegant Terns included a *Santa Cruz* record 2300 at Pajaro R. mouth Aug. 18 (RMrr). Fifty-two at Shoreline L., Nov. 6 (MMR) was an unprecedented and late number for *Santa Clara*; normally only small numbers linger into November. At Alameda Naval Air Station, 138 Least Tern nests produced an "awesome" 215–221 fledglings (LDC). Tempering our joy at this banner production, only one of the Region's other 4 nests fledged a chick (at W. Pittsburg - LDC), as Red Foxes took both nests at Oakland Airport (LRF). Up to two Least Terns strayed to near Skaggs I., *Solano*, Aug. 8–13 (MFRi); the species is very rare n. of *Contra Costa*. A near-record 12 Black Terns scattered along the coast. A juv. Black Skimmer rested at Moss Landing, *Monterey*, Sept. 18–19 (K. Parker, T. Easterla, m.ob.).

Two Xantus' Murrelets of the s. nominate race were noted 84 mi.s.w. of Pt. Reyes Oct. 17 (SFB), and three more were sighted near Cordell Bank Nov. 1 (DLSu, RS). Two Ancient Murrelets were well inside S.F. Bay. One bird's head was found under power poles at Alviso Nov. 8 (PJM, ES); this first for *Santa Clara* may have been a raptor kill. Another at H.R.S., Nov. 10–15 (N. Bain, †RJR) was found dead on the latter date (\*C.S.U.H.).

#### DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

Five White-winged Doves along the c. coast

Sept. 7–Oct. 29 met the recent average. The only report of a potentially nesting Yellow-billed Cuckoo in the Sacramento Valley this year was one at Knight's Landing, *Sutter*, Aug. 22 (ECB, TCo).

Not only was a Lesser Nighthawk at the University of California Santa Cruz arboretum Aug. 26–Sept. 11 (†DEG *et al.*), one of few positive records for *Santa Cruz*, but its lengthy stay has little precedent for a migrant. Six Black Swifts were over Capitola, *Santa Cruz*, Sept. 27 (DSL), and two were over Burlingame, *San Mateo*, Sept. 17 (RSTh). Though they breed along the c. coast, fall migrants s. of *Marin* are extremely scarce. A well-studied Chimney Swift over Stockton Sug. 24 (†DGY) constituted the Region's 2nd interior record. Pending acceptance by the C.B.R.C., a ♂ **Broad-billed Hummingbird** in Fair Oaks, *Sacramento*. Sept. 5 (†GEw) would be the Region's 4th and the state's earliest for fall. Black-chinned Hummingbirds are casual coastally; the 2nd for *Santa Cruz* visited the same feeders in Carbonera Aug. 11–12 (BSch) visited by the first one 10 years ago. Twenty-two banded at C.C.R.S., Aug. 2–Sept. 11, was an all-time high. *Marin*'s 2nd Williamson's Sapsucker at Tomales S.P., Oct. 11–E.O.P. (S. Clark, ASH, JsC, m.ob.) was quickly followed by a 3rd at Bolinas Nov. 17 (KH).



**Juvenile Bar-tailed Godwit (foreground—with Marbled Godwits) at Bodega Harbor, California, October 26, 1992. First record for Sonoma County. Photograph/Dan W. Nelson.**

#### FLYCATCHERS

*Empidonax* flycatchers moved very well through the Region this fall, especially coastally. This was affirmed by the record-breaking banding totals at C.C.R.S. of their 2 most regular occurring species: 51 Willows Aug. 9–Oct. 9 and 703 "Westerns" July 3–Oct. 21 (121 on Aug. 26!). The Region's 5th Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was, not surprisingly, at F.I., Aug. 25 (†PP, †KH, †D. Christian). Seven Least Flycatchers on F.I., Aug. 28–Oct. 17, with seven along the c. coast Aug. 30–Oct. 3, and another at the Mad R. mouth, *Humboldt*, Sept. 14 (JCS), were impressive numbers. Six Hammond's Flycatchers Sept. 21–Nov. 24 (two from the C.V.) and four coastal Dusky Flycatchers Aug. 27–Oct. 3 was considered above average. Most impressive were four coastal Gray Flycatchers: Pt. Reyes Oct. 3 (RS), Wilder Ranch S.P., *Santa Cruz*, Oct. 6 (†DEG), H.R.S. Oct. 23 (†RJR), and



**Juvenile Little Stint at Eureka, California, September 17, 1992. Third Regional record. Photograph/Ron LeValley.**

L. Earl, *Del Norte*, Oct. 30–Nov. 2 (ADB *et al.*). Nearly all coastal records are for spring. Typically, E. Phoebe are found in mid-winter, so four was considered high: Bodega Bay Oct. 27–28, (DE, JM), Pt. Reyes Oct. 30 (RS), F.I., Nov 13, and Carmel R. mouth Nov. 13 (CHo).

Tropical tyrannids took center stage this season among passerines. For the 2nd consecutive year, **Vermilion Flycatchers** pushed high into the state as *Monterey's* 2nd at Del Rey Oaks Oct. 13–18 (C. & D. DeWeese, ph. DR, m.ob.) was eclipsed by the Region's first on the n. Coast at Samoa, *Humboldt*, Oct. 16 (R. Adams, †ph. GSL *et al.*) and what may possibly have been the same bird at L. Talawa, *Del Norte*, Oct. 25 (J. Mays, M. Johnson). Dusky-capped Flycatchers inundated the state this fall. Singles were big at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey*, Nov. 20–E.O.P. (SA, †DSL, †JM *et al.*), and El Granada, *San Mateo*, Nov. 30–Dec. 2 (†BS). The latter two were possible returnees from previous years. Twenty-eight Tropical Kingbirds spanning the coast Sept. 19–Oct. 26 was higher than average, but our only vagrant E. Kingbird was at Mono L., Aug. 27–29 (JE, DS, ES). And we dare not forget those radical long-tailed. Two casual-in-fall Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were seen at Pt. Arena (*Mendocino's* first) Aug. 28–Sept. 7 (L. Riley, ph. RJK) and at the Big Sur R. mouth Oct. 15–20 (CHo, J. Davis, †SFB, †DR), while the W. Coast's first Fork-tailed Flycatcher landed at Bridgehaven, *Sonoma*, Sept. 4–8 (ChW, J. Kelly, †ph. m.ob.).

#### **NUTHATCHES TO VIREOS**

Many observers along the coast and C.V. characterized the Red-breasted Nuthatch movement as strong during September–October, but lackluster thereafter. The state's 5th N. **Wheatear** visited F.I., Sept. 26 (S. Anderson, †PP *et al.*), where two of the previous four had been sighted. Another at Nicasio Res., *Marin*, Sept. 27–29 (†ph. JE, †DS, RS) was identified as distinct from the F.I. bird, with a possible N. **Wheatear** at the Las Gallinas sewer ponds, *Marin*, Oct. 12 (†T. Behr *et al.*) undetermined as to its relationship to the previous two. The Region's first fall **Gray-cheeked Thrush** is 4 years was at Pt. Reyes Oct. 13–15 (RS, †JM, m.ob.). A Swainson's Thrush on F.I., Nov. 29–30, was the latest there by 5 days.

The summering **Brown Thrasher** at Daly City remained until Sept. 1 (R. Franz). Fall birds have been few in recent years; this fall one was at F.I., Oct. 17–23. After last fall's invasion, the only Red-throated Pipit observed was at Pt. Reyes Oct. 10–11 (RS). Phainopeplas are vagrants to the coast. One near Scott's Valley Sept. 14 (B. Monahan) was only *Santa Cruz's* 3rd or 4th, while *Humboldt's* 2nd or 3rd was e. of Garberville Nov. 1–8 (†ph. GSL, WER, LPL). Four N. Shrikes were at traditional wintering sites Oct. 17 onward, but one at Prosser Cr. Reservoir, *Nevada*, Nov. 29 (DS) was from a new locale.

The Region's 2nd and 3rd fall **White-eyed Vireos** were at Mono L., Aug. 13–14 (†ES), and at F.I., Oct. 28 (†PP). In addition to three "Blue-headed" Solitary Vireos along the c. coast Sept. 10–Oct. 5, one at Muir Beach, *Marin*, Nov. 16 (RS, C. Miller) was the Region's latest. Two *plumbeus* Solitary Vireos in *Sacramento* Oct. 1–23 & Oct. 12 (TDM, GEw) were supplemented by F.I.'s overdue first seen Sept. 15. A **Yellow-throated Vireo** at Stinson Beach, *Marin*, Oct. 11–18 (DSi, †JM, †BDP, †GFi, m.ob.) was only the Region's 4th recorded in fall. Our lone Philadelphia Vireo was at the Big Sur R. mouth Oct. 3 (†CHo). Red-eyed Vireos had a strong showing (seven) and early (five in August!) along the coast. Traditionally, Yellow-green Vireos appear later, exemplified by one on F.I., Sept. 29 (L. Gilbert, †PP) and another at the Carmel R. mouth Oct. 14–21 (REM, †RC, †BHG).

#### **WOOD WARBLERS**

It was a banner season for warbler diversity, as the warbler list topped out at 39 species. However, most vagrant warbler species tallied average to below-average totals. As usual, most were coastal, unless otherwise noted.

Warblers in below-average numbers included 17 Tennessees (for the 3rd consecutive year) Aug. 31–Nov. 11, 18 Magnolias Aug. 28–Oct. 13, seven Black-throated Blues Oct. 6–27, seven Blackburnians Sept. 18–Oct. 25, and 87 Palms Sept. 26–Nov. 27. Warblers in average numbers included nine Prairies Sept. 1–Oct. 11, 76 Blackpolls Aug. 30–Oct. 29, 25 Black-and-whites Aug. 23–Nov. 30, 57 Am. Redstarts Aug. 11–Nov. 16, 17 N. Waterthrushes Aug. 24–Oct. 20, and two Canadas Sept. 11–15. Above-average numbers of warblers included 24 Chestnut-sided Sept. 2–Oct. 19, 10 Ovenbirds Aug. 25–Oct. 14, and six Hoodeds Sept. 7–Oct. 3.

Except for Tennessees, *Vermivora* warblers exploded onto the Regional scene. A **Blue-winged Warbler** at Pt. Reyes Sept. 19 (JsC, †BDP, †S. Cox, m.ob.) was the Region's 4th or 5th, and a **Golden-winged Warbler** was in Stinson Beach, Oct. 10–12 (KH, †JM, †GFi, m.ob.). Both were *Marin's* first. Seven Virginia's Warblers along the c. coast Aug. 30–Oct. 13, including *Santa Clara's* first at C.C.R.S., Sept. 6, provided a record total away from *Mono*. Single Lucy's Warblers at Moss Beach, *San Mateo*, Aug. 30–Oct. 27 (RSTh, m.ob.), F.I., Oct. 25–28, and S.F.,

Nov. 5–6 (B. Deutch, ASH), was an impressive total. Totals of an incredible 19 coastal N. Parulas seen Aug. 28–Oct. 6 were augmented by reports of 2 fledglings at Elk Head, *Humboldt*, Aug. 1–3 (GSL, JH *et al.*), providing first county records for these inland locales: Knight's Landing, *Sutter*, Sug. 22 (†ECB, TCo) and Bees L. *Yolo*, Sept. 19 (L. Edson). These numbers were possibly related to the species' strong spring showing, as the recent fall average is 3.

A Chestnut-sided Warbler at C.C.R.S., Nov. 28–Dec. 6 (MJM *et al.*) was *Santa Clara's* first—and very late. Cape May Warblers were sighted at Pt. Reyes Sept. 27–29 (DS, EDG *et al.*) and Oct. 3 (BIL, RS *et al.*). A late Black-throated Blue was at Lee Vining, *Mono*, Nov. 25–29 (†DS, S. Miller, R. Knapp). Our lone Black-throated Green at Moss Landing Sept. 29–30 (SGI) met the recent average, while a casually occurring Yellow-throated was at Westhaven, *Humboldt*, Oct. 8 (†ph. GSL, LPL). Fairhaven's summering **Prairie Warbler** remained until Aug. 29 (DFx). An inland Palm Warbler was seen at Cosumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento*, Nov. 16 (AEn). Two Bay-breasted Warblers at Pt. Reyes Sept. 18 (RS) and F.I., Sept. 29, met the recent average. *Yolo's* first Blackpoll Warbler was at Bees L., Sept. 20 (L. Edson), while another inland bird was in Gonzales, *Monterey*, Oct. 9 (RC).



**Fork-tailed Flycatcher near Jenner, Sonoma County, California, on September 4, 1992. This was the first definite California record for a tropical stray that has reached many other parts of North America. Photograph/Nancy T. Konzett.**

An inland Am Redstart was seen at Spenceville Wildlife Area, *Yuba*, Sept. 5 (B. Williams, J. Thompson). Golden Gate Park, S.F., held our only Prothonotary Warbler Oct. 10–12 (†M. Healy, †JM *et al.*). The summer's Worm-eating Warbler, at C.C.R.S., remained until Sept. 6 (PJM). Single Connecticut Warblers were found at F.I., Sept. 18–19 and Oct. 18 (†PP), and at Bodega Bay (*Sonoma's* first) Oct. 3–4 (RAR, †ph. m.ob.). Mourning Warblers graced F.I., Aug. 30–31 (†PP), and Pt. Reyes Sept. 20 (GMCC, m.ob.). The C.V.'s first Hooded Warbler was in *Sacramento* Sept. 5 (†GEw). Rounding out this impressive warbler list was a dazzling **Red-faced Warbler** on F.I., Aug. 25 (†ph. PP, KH). This species has never been found in California n. of the San Gabriel Mt.s.; all warbler species known from the state have now been recorded in the Region.

## TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A fall record nine Summer Tanagers were recorded Aug. 16–Sept. 18. All were coastal, save one in Sacramento Sept. 5 (†GEW). Nineteen coast-hugging Rose-breasted Grosbeaks Aug. 13–Nov. 24 gave us our best fall in 15 years. The possible hybrid Rose-breasted X Black-headed Grosbeak that summered in Del Rey Oaks, *Monterey* (mentioned last season), was confirmed as a first-year Rose-breasted



Red-faced Warbler on Southeast Farallon Island, CA., August 25, 1992. Photograph/Peter Pyle.

and remained until Sept. 3 (DR). Painted Buntings at Bonny Doon, *Santa Cruz*, Sept. 15 (†K. Kellman) and at F.I., Oct. 6 (†PP), spiced the season's s.w. flavor. An above-average three Dickcissels were found: L. Earl, *Del Norte*, Sept. 18 (ADB), F.I., Oct. 1, and San Rafael, *Marin*, Oct. 31–Nov. 1 (L. Stewart). Coastally, six Am Tree Sparrows Oct. 27–Nov. 20, 46 Clay-colored Sparrows Aug. 23–Oct. 31 (a lone straggler was seen on F.I., Nov. 24–26), and 13 Brewer's Sparrows Aug. 28–Nov. 15 constituted a strong *Spizella* showing. The C.V.'s first Clay-colored Sparrow was in Stockton Oct. 8 (†DGY). Fourteen coastal Lark Buntings Aug. 23–Sept. 26, with a late bird at Bodega Bay Nov. 1–3 (RAR *et al.*), was above average. F.I. scored yet another Le Conte's Sparrow Sept. 18–19 (†PP). White-throated Sparrows are the least reported *Zonotrichia* in the Great Basin region, so birds at Tule L., *Siskiyou*, Nov. 21 (K. Spencer) and Sierra Valley (*Plumas*'s first) Sept. 29 (†LJ) were noteworthy. Single Snow Buntings were seen at L. Talawa Nov. 2 (ph. ADB) and at F.I., Nov. 18 (†L. Gilbert), and up to two were at Bear R. Ridge Nov. 22–25 (MM,†AME).

A modest 15 coastal Bobolinks were picked up Aug. 1–Oct. 27, including *Contra Costa*'s first in Martinez Aug. 1 (†EHa), and two at Mono L. County Park Sept. 9 (PJM). A Rusty Blackbird at the Scott Cr. mouth, *Santa Cruz*, Nov. 24–Dec. 2 (GJS, DSLu) and three Orchard Orioles was a poor showing for these species. Finches wandered widely. A wayward Cassin's Finch was observed at Pt. Reyes Aug. 23 (RS). Two Lawrence's Goldfinches at Bridgeport, *Mono*, Oct. 19 (DS) were very rare e. of the Sierra, while six on F.I., Sept. 16–Oct. 29, were the first "numbers" there since 1974 (PP). Finally, Pine Siskins were in the "hundreds everywhere."

**Corrigenda:** In AB 45:146, the following text was omitted at the beginning of the page: *Low water in Crowley Res. Mono.*, stimulated four grebe species to nest....

In AB 45:147, a Sabine's Gull was at Tule L., not Rule L. **Addendum:** Received late was a description of an ad. **Royal Tern** at Crescent City, *Del Norte*, Sept. 22, 1990 (†ADB).

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## SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Guy McCaskie

Southern California experienced a storm-free season with relatively normal weather for this time of year. Migrant landbirds were considered by most observers to be in smaller-than-normal numbers, with alarmingly low numbers encountered along the coast. A minor influx of finches was evident in October, with Pine Siskins the predominant species.

**Abbreviations:** C.L. (*China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme n.e. Kern Co.*); E.A.F.B. (*Edwards Air Force Base, s.e. Kern Co.*); F.C.R. (*Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley Nat'l Monument, Inyo*); H.D.L. (*Harper Dry Lake, n.w. of Barstow, San Bernardino Co.*); L.A.C.N.H.M. (*Los Angeles Co. Natural History Museum*); N.E.S.S. (*n. end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.*); S.B.C.M. (*San Bernardino Co. Museum*); S.C.R.E. (*Santa Clara River Estuary near Ventura, Ventura Co.*); S.D.N.H.M. (*San Diego Natural History Museum*); S.E.S.S. (*s. end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co.*); S.F.K.R.P. (*South Fork Kern River Preserve near Weldon, Kern Co.*); W.F.V.Z. (*Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology*). As virtually all rarities in s. California are seen by many observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying the bird are 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. Records submitted without documentation are not published.

## LOONS TO FRIGATEBIRDS

A Red-throated Loon, most unusual far inland, was on Klondike L. near Big Pine, *Inyo*, Nov. 2 (T & JH), then on nearby Tinnemaha Res., Nov. 3–14 (T & JH). Four Pacific Loons were found in the e. part of the Region, with one photographed on North L. (el. 9255 feet) near Bishop, *Inyo*, Oct. 28 (T &



Immature Swainson's Hawk near Santa Maria, California, September 19–25, 1992. Now very rare near the coast. Photograph/Ken Holinga.





JH), another on Tinnemaha Res., Nov. 4–6 (T & JH), and single birds found dead at S.E.S.S., Oct. 26 (WRR) and Nov. 2 (WRR). A Red-necked Grebe in Santa Barbara Nov. 21+ (HM) was the only one found in the Region.

Northern Fulmars were more numerous than usual in October, as indicated by 62 counted during a Los Angeles Audubon Society boat trip off San Pedro, *Los Angeles*, Oct. 18 (KLG). Two Cook's Petrels s.w. of San Nicolas I., Aug. 16 (RAE), about 35 off *San Luis Obispo*, Aug. 9 (JLD), and 8 more there Aug. 19 (RAE) were all over deep water w. of the continental shelf, where this species is seen regularly. A count of 10 Buller's Shearwaters found s. of Pt. Conception during August and September was more than usual, with single birds off San Nicolas I., Aug. 16 (RAE), Dana Pt., *Orange*, Sept. 5 (BT), San Diego Sept. 12 (REW) and Santa Barbara the same day (SJS), and six off *Santa Barbara*, Aug. 18 (RAE). Black-vented Shearwaters were numerous along the coast, with as many as 10,000 seen on a single day from Pt. Mugu, *Ventura*, Aug. 30–Sept. 6 (DD) and 5000 seen off Cayucos, *San Luis Obispo*, Aug. 22 (TME). A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel seen from Pelican Pt., *Orange*, Oct. 25 (MTH) was unusually far south. A flock of 1300 Black Storm-Petrels and 3500 Least Storm-Petrels off San Diego Sept. 13 (JLD) was an unusual concentration for s. California waters and an exceptional number for the latter species.

Two Red-billed Tropicbirds were found in the San Pedro Channel, with one in mid-channel Oct. 17 (MJB) and the other n.e. of the isthmus at Santa Catalina I., Oct. 18 (TF). An imm. Red-tailed Tropicbird photographed at 34°35'N, 122°27'W, about 88



**Juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at the Santa Clara River estuary near Ventura, California, October 5, 1992. Photograph/Brad Sillason.**

nautical mi s.w. of Pt. Piedras Blancas, *San Luis Obispo*, Aug. 19 (SFB, RAE, DR) is about the 10th to be reported in California waters, with all but the one over Southeast Farallon I., July 3, 1979, over deep water w. of the continental shelf. An imm. Brown Booby 3 mi off Pt. Vicente on the Palos Verdes Pen., *Los Angeles*, Oct. 18 (SJS), is one of a very few found along the California coast. An ad. Neotropic Cormorant photographed along the Colorado R. near Imperial Dam, *Imperial*, Sept. 12 (JT), is only the 4th to be found in California. Three imm. Magnificent Frigatebirds were inland near Seeley, *Imperial*, Aug. 12 (G & KW), and three more a little farther n. at S.E.S.S. Aug. 24 (WT), and single immatures along the coast over Goleta, *Santa Barbara*, Aug. 17 (TS), Pt. Loma, *San Diego*, Aug. 19 (REW), and s. San Diego Bay Aug. 23 (TMer).

#### HERONS TO RAPTORS

An ad. Little Blue Heron in Carpinteria, *Santa Barbara*, Aug. 24–25 (WF), another at

Pt. Mugu Aug. 16 (CHM), and an immature at Hansen Dam in the San Fernando Valley, *Los Angeles*, Nov. 5–6 (DA), were away from San Diego, where this species is now resident in small numbers. An imm. Tricolored Heron, now much rarer in California than 20 years ago, was at the mouth of the Tijuana R., near Imperial Beach, *San Diego*, Oct. 24–Nov. 13 (JL). The ad. Reddish Egret that has spent the past 10 winters on s. San Diego Bay was again present Aug. 14–Sept. 13 (GMCC) but not later, and an immature at Bolsa Chica, *Orange*, Oct. 18+ (SW) is one of a few found away from *San Diego*.

Four Fulvous Whistling-Ducks near Bakersfield, *Kern*, Aug. 22 (MOC), and three at N.E.S.S., the same day (GMCC), are among the few found away from S.E.S.S., in recent years. A flock of 63 Tundra Swans on Klondike L., near Big Pine Nov. 3 (T & JH), were the earliest to be reported this year; single birds on Oso Flaco L., *San Luis Obispo*, Nov. 18–22 (BF),

in Goleta Nov. 23 (JSta) and at S.C.R.E., Nov. 24 (BS), and four in flight near Hansen Dam Nov. 21 (DA) were the only ones found away from the Owens Valley by season's end. Seven Ross' Geese at C.L., Oct. 16 (DVB), was a large number for this area of California. A Brant at Piute Ponds near Lancaster, *Los Angeles*, Sept. 5 (KLG), was believed to have spent the summer at this inland locality. An early Eur. Wigeon on Upper Newport Bay, *Orange*, Sept. 25 (CAJ), was followed by at least 20 scattered throughout the Region by the end of the period. A ♀ Com. Pochard at Silver Lakes n. of Victorville, *San Bernardino*, Nov. 26+ (MAP) was undoubtedly the same bird present here during the winters of 1988–1989, 1990–1991, and 1991–1992. A Tufted Duck near Hansen Dam Oct. 24 (DA) gives us the earliest arrival date for a fall/winter bird in s. California. A Greater Scaup in Irvine, *Orange*, Oct. 2 (JLD), and another at the Santa Ynez R. mouth, *Santa Barbara*, Oct. 16 (LB), were believed to be recently arrived fall migrants, indicating that the first scaup to arrive in s. California in fall may be Greaters rather than Lessers, as suggested by some observers. The ♀ Harlequin Duck first found at Pt. Mugu in 1990 was still present at the end of the period (BL), and the male found in Cayucos in May remained through Sept. 16 (KAH). Two Oldsquaws were found inland, where they are considered casual, with a female on a small pond in Death Valley Junction, *Inyo*, Nov. 27 (GMCC), and a male on the Colorado R., below Parker Dam, *San Bernardino*, Nov. 27+ (SEF); four found along the coast during November was an expected number. A Surf Scoter inland at N.E.S.S., Aug. 22 (GMCC), had probably summered locally, but an ad. female, spotted

at F.C.R., Oct. 17–21 (GMCC), was a fall migrant far from the coast.

Regular hawk watching around Apple Valley on the n. side of the San Bernardino Mts., *San Bernardino*, Sept. 20–Oct. 25, confirms that this is a major flight line for migrant Turkey Vultures. This is the claim made by P.J. Watkins in his 1976 unpublished theses on migrant Turkey Vultures along the Mojave R., with 8141 counted during the period, including 2360 Oct. 3 (VGY). A Black-shouldered Kite sighted near Blythe, *Riverside*, Nov. 8 (MAP), was far from any area of regular occurrence. A Mississippi Kite flying over the coastal slope of the Palos Verdes Pen., Sept. 26 (JLA), is only the 3rd to be found in this Region in fall. An ad. N. Goshawk at Westguard Pass e. of Big Pine Sept. 22 (T & JH) was early for a fall migrant and suggests the possibility of nesting in this area.

An imm. Broad-winged Hawk at Hansen Dam Sept. 15–16 (DMA), an adult there Oct. 15 (DA), and an immature moving S along Pt. Loma in San Diego Oct. 18 (B & MMcl) were the only three reported. The only flocks of Swainson's Hawks reported were 181 passing over Apple Valley Oct. 14 and 103 passing over the same area the next day (VGY). One near Santa Maria, *Santa Barbara*, Sept. 19–25 (LB) was on the immediate coast, where they are now considered very rare, one knocked out of the sky and killed by a pair of Peregrine Falcons over downtown Los Angeles Sept. 12 (WW, \*W.F.V.Z.) met a most unusual end, and one over Chilao in the San Gabriel Mts., *Los Angeles*, Nov. 1 (KLG), was late. Two Zone-tailed Hawks were reported, with an immature over Irvine Regional Park, *Orange*, Nov. 27–28 (DRW) and the other near Santee, *San Diego*, Nov. 4 (DWA). An imm. Peregrine Falcon at Daggett, *San Bernardino*, Sept. 7 (MAP), was in the n.e. portion of the Region, where they are most unusual.

#### CRANES, SHOREBIRDS

A Sandhill Crane near Lompoc Oct. 3–4 (BHi) is the first to be found in *Santa Barbara* in more than 10 years; two at Tinemaha Res., Oct. 22 (T & JH), another on nearby Klondike L., Nov. 10–11 (T & JH), and three at H.D.L., Oct. 19 (EAC), were away from areas of regular occurrence.

Ten migrant Lesser Golden-Plovers (*dominica*) were found along the coast Sept. 15–Oct. 31, along with an unusually late individual in San Diego Nov. 21–23 (EL) and two a short distance inland at Hansen Dam Oct. 13 (DA). All 20 reported Pacific Golden-Plovers were along the coast, as is normal, with some still present at the end of the period as expected. A juv. **Wilson's Plover** photographed in Santa Barbara Aug. 11 (FS) is only the 6th to be found in California, and the northernmost before the discovery of this or another individual, in *Monterey* in September. An exceptionally late, if not wintering, Solitary Sandpiper was found in Torrance, *Los Angeles*, Nov. 25–Dec. 4 (DMo). The only Ruddy

Turnstone found inland away from the Salton Sea was one at H.D.L., Aug. 22 (RMCK \*S.B.C.M.). A juv. Red Knot near Lakeview, *Riverside*, Oct. 4–6 (TMet), was the only one found inland away from the Salton Sea. Sanderlings appeared to be more numerous than expected in the n.e. portion of the Region, with about 50 reported there Aug. 1–Oct. 10; one on Owens L., *Inyo*, Nov. 4 (T & JH), was exceptionally late for this area of California. As is now expected, a few



**Gray Catbird at Huntington Beach Central Park, California, on October 12, 1992.**  
Photograph/James R. Gallagher.

Semipalmated Sandpipers passed through the Region during August and early September, when 15 juveniles were found along the coast along with an additional to juveniles inland, but one in Irvine, *Orange*, Sept. 27–Oct. 2 (RAH, JLD), was late. Single Pectoral Sandpipers at S.E.S.S., Nov. 2 (GDJ), at Atascadero Nov. 9 (RZ), and in Lompoc Nov. 11–14 (BHi) were somewhat late. A Sharp-tailed Sandpiper photographed at the San Joaquin marsh in Irvine Sept. 29–Oct. 8 (RAH) was only the 3rd adult to be found in California in fall; a juvenile was photographed at the S.C.R.E., Oct. 5 (BS). A juv. Stilt Sandpiper at C.L., Aug. 4 (DVB), another on E.A.F.B., Sept. 7 (MTH), and a 3rd near Hansen Dam Sept. 17 (DA) were inland and away from the Salton Sea, and up to six juveniles on San Elijo Lagoon, *San Diego*, Sept. 21–Oct. 9 (PAG), were along the coast, where they are rare. The ♀ Ruff found inland at C.L., July 20, remained through Sept. 16 and was joined by a juvenile Sept. 8–19 (DVB); along the coast, single juveniles were on Morro Bay, *San Luis Obispo*, Sept. 15 (KAH), near Santa Maria Sept. 18–Oct. 13 (SEF) and in Long Beach, *Los Angeles*, Sept. 18 (BED). Five Red Phalaropes were found inland, with single birds at Deep Springs, *Inyo*, Sept. 10 (T & JH), on Owens L., Sept. 24 (T & JH), at C.L., Sept. 26 (MTH), and on E.A.F.B., Sept. 12 (JCW) and Oct. 13 (MTH).

#### JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

A Pomarine Jaeger on the shore of the Salton Sea at Salton City, *Imperial*, Oct. 31 (GMCC), was in fresh juv. plumage, obviously a recently arrived fall migrant and inland, where it is most unusual. The only Parasitic Jaegers away from the coast were

one over Palmdale, *Los Angeles*, Sept. 6 (CH), another at N.E.S.S., Aug. 22 (GH), two more there Sept. 13 (MAP), and a 5th at S.E.S.S., Oct. 18 (PU). An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger was inland on E.A.F.B., Aug. 23 (MTH), and a juvenile was in Daggett Sept. 7 (MAP). Fifty S. Polar Skuas were found off the coast Aug. 11–Sept. 19, including an amazing 41, just to the s. of Santa Rosa I. Aug. 11 (JLD).

Franklin's Gulls appeared scarcer than normal, with an adult at C.L., Aug. 23 (MTH), and three on the Salton Sea Aug. 7–Oct. 3 (MM, GMCC, MAP) the only four reported. A first-winter **Com. Black-headed Gull** photographed in Santa Barbara Nov. 21+ (SEF) is the 5th to be found in this Region. A first-winter Heermann's Gull over Hansen Dam Nov. 29 (DA) is one of a very few ever to be found inland away from the Salton Sea. A juv. Mew Gull inland near Cantil, *Kern*, Oct. 10 (MTH), was the first to be found in this area of California. A first-winter Herring Gull at C.L., Sept. 16–19 (MTH), was a little early and in an area in which it is considered rare. An ad. Yellow-footed Gull at the mouth of the Tijuana R., *San Diego*, Aug. 24 (DWA), is one of a very few to be found on the coast of California. Six Sabine's Gulls were found in the interior, with an adult on E.A.F.B., Sept. 12 (MTH), another adult at C.L., Sept. 25–26 (DVB), a juvenile there Oct. 5 (DVB), an adult on Piute Ponds near Lancaster Aug. 30 (KLG), a juvenile on nearby L. Palmdale Sept. 18 (CH), and an adult in El Monte, *Los Angeles*, Oct. 14 (JSc). Migrant **Com. Terns** appeared to be more numerous than usual in the n.e. portion of the Region, as suggested by reports of at least 35 individuals found there Aug. 22–Oct. 1. Because Black Terns are now rare along the coast, the presence of one at S.C.R.E., Aug. 11 (JLD), two along the coast of *Orange* Aug. 8–Sept. 2 (CAJ, SM), and four to five in coastal *San Diego* July 27–Aug. 30 (TC, PAG, GMCC) are of note. Two Black Skimmers at Arroyo Grande, *San Luis Obispo*, Aug. 21–Sept. 3 (KAH), were the farthest north in the Region.

A nominate Xantus Murrelet, a post-breeding visitor from off Baja California, was seen s.w. of San Nicolas I., Aug. 15 (RAE). Two Craveri's Murrelets, also post-breeding visitors from the south, were off San Diego Sept. 13 (JLD), and 15 more were off Morro Bay Sept. 19 (BKS).

#### DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

A Band-tailed Pigeon on Pt. Loma in San Diego Oct. 24 (PU) was on the immediate s. coast, where it is rare. Eight White-winged Doves were found along the coast, with one in Los Osos, *San Luis Obispo*, Nov. 29–Dec. 2 (HC) the northernmost; one at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley N.M., Sept. 12 (T & JH), was somewhat north of the species' breeding range. Inca Doves continue to be found north of their current range, with one in Desert Center, *Riverside*, Oct. 16 (KAR), three at Iron Mt. Pumping Plant in s.e. *San*

*Bernardino* Oct. 9 (GMCC), and at least 10 at F.C.R., Sept. 15+ (T & JH). Ruddy Ground-Doves again appeared in the e. portion of the Region, beginning with three at F.C.R., Sept. 12 (MAP), and building up to an amazing 10 there Nov. 26 (RSta), one at Iron Mt. Pump Station Oct. 9 (GMCC), two more there Oct. 22 (GH), and one along the Colorado R. north of Blythe Nov. 26 (SC \*L.A.C.N.H.M.); along the coast, a male was near Imperial Beach, *San Diego*, Oct. 23 (EG).

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Galileo Hill in e. *Kern*, Sept. 11 (DVB), is one of a few found away from known breeding localities in fall. At least four **Groove-billed Anis** were found, with single individuals along the Colorado R. n. of Blythe Sept. 30–Oct. 18 (SC), in Baker, *San Bernardino*, Oct. 22–23 (PEL), near Desert Center Oct. 23 (TB), in El Monte, *Los Angeles*, Nov. 8–9 (RJ), and what was probably the same bird in nearby Whittier Nov. 27+ (JSc), doubling the number recorded in California.

A freshly dead Flammulated Owl in Frazier Park, *Kern*, Aug. 7 (GD \*L.A.C.N.H.M.) and another on the Colorado R., s. of Palo Verde, *Imperial*, Aug. 7 (SC \*S.D.N.H.M.), were evidently fall migrants, as both were away from known breeding localities. Found at most unusual sites were a N. Pygmy-Owl, at Butterbrecht Springs n. of California City, *Kern*, Aug. 22 (JCW), and a recently dead N. Saw-whet Owl, at Oasis, *Mono*, Nov. 26 (GMCC \*S.D.N.H.M.). A Com. Nighthawk at F.C.R., Sept. 19 (MAP), and up to three at C.L., Sept. 2 & 22 (DVB), were in the n.e. portion of the Region, but away from breeding localities, and where small numbers are now being found annually at this time of the year. A Black Swift over Pt. Loma in *San Diego* Sept. 23 (GMCC) was along the coast, where it is unusual in fall. Five Chimney Swifts near Glendale Aug. 11 (KLG) were the latest of the summering birds present around Los Angeles this year. A ♀ Broad-billed Hummingbird photographed near Lone Pine Sept. 12–14 (MI, T & JH) was the first to be found in *Inyo* and one of the northernmost ever to be found in California.

An Acorn Woodpecker found dead in Ridgecrest, *Kern*, Aug. 20 (JBre), was far from any area of regular occurrence. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers appeared to be more numerous and widespread, with 11 found in the e. portion of the Region Oct. 6–Nov. 24, a juvenile in Bakersfield, *Kern*, Nov. 8 (MTH), and another in Lompoc, *Santa Barbara*, Nov. 29–30 (BHi). A Hairy Woodpecker in California City Sept. 5–Oct. 24 (MTH) was one of a very few to be found in this high desert area of California.

#### FLYCATCHERS

Four Least Flycatchers were sighted along the coast, with one in Goleta, *Santa Barbara*, Oct. 9 (LB), another in nearby Carpinteria Sept. 20–21 (PEL), a 3rd in Huntington Beach, *Orange*, Sept. 11–16 (BED), and the

4th on Pt. Loma in *San Diego* Oct. 3–9 (JLD)—giving us an above-average number for this time of year. An early E. Phoebe near Imperial Beach Oct. 8–12 (JOZ) was followed by single birds at Desert Center Oct. 16 (MAP), Yates Wells in extreme n.e. *San Bernardino* Oct. 22 (PEL), Pt. Loma in *San Diego* Nov. 1 (EL), Huntington Beach Nov. 6–7 (SM), near Borrego Springs in e. *San Diego*, Nov. 10 (AM), and California City Nov. 12 (MTH). Single Vermilion Flycatchers at C.L., Sept. 2 (DVB), in California City Sept. 5–24 (MTH), and near Cantil Oct. 27–29 (MTH) were n.e. of the species' normal range, and one in Santa Barbara Sept. 18 (LB) was quite far north for along the coast. A Dusky-capped Flycatcher, a casual straggler to California, was seen in Carson, *Los Angeles*, Nov. 4 (JL); a 2nd was found in Montana de Oro S.P., *San Luis Obispo*, Nov. 7 (JSR). A Great Crested Flycatcher, another casual straggler to California, was near the mouth of the Santa Maria R., *Santa Barbara*, Oct. 4 (JMC). Twenty-nine Tropical Kingbirds along the coast Sept. 15–Oct. 31 were more than usual for this post-breeding wanderer to California. The Thick-billed Kingbird that spent last winter in Seal Beach, *Orange*, was back again Oct. 9+ (DPu). The only E. Kingbirds to be found this fall were single birds in Santa Barbara Sept. 7 (HPR) & Sept. 18 (KB), another at Hansen Dam Sept. 17 (DA), and a 4th inland near Victorville, *San Bernardino*, Aug. 29 (RL). Three Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported, with one inland at C.L., Aug. 7 (DVB), another along Cerro Noroeste Road in the Los Padres N.F., *Kern*, Sept. 6 (RSto), and the 3rd on the coast near Imperial Beach Oct. 10–11 (BMCC)—more than an average number for this time of year.

#### WRENS TO VIREOS

A Winter Wren in Montana de Oro S.P., Aug. 25 (KAH), and another on s. Vandenberg A.F.B., Sept. 1 (KH), were early for migrants. An unusual location for a Townsend's Solitaire was Santa Rosa I., Oct. 11 (SJS). A Swainson's Thrush carefully studied at F.C.R., Oct. 17–21 (MAP, JLD), showed the characters of *swainsoni*, a race not documented with a specimen as occurs in California. A Hermit Thrush photographed at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley N.M. Oct. 20 (JLD), is believed to be *faxoni*, a race previously unreported in California. A Gray Catbird, a casual wanderer to California, appeared at Huntington Beach Oct. 12–31 (JEP). Six Brown Thrashers were reported, with an early individual at F.C.R., Sept. 19 (KAR), followed by single birds at Hansen Dam Oct. 4 (DA), Iron Mt. Pump Station Oct. 9–12 (PAG) & Oct. 18 (VH), at Cactus City Rest Stop e. of Indio, *Riverside*, Oct. 10–11 (BP), and the 6th in Borrego Springs Nov. 1 (AM). Migrant Bendire's Thrashers were found along the coast on Pt. Loma in *San Diego* Oct. 4 (REW) and in Huntington Beach Oct. 11 (PS), and a wintering bird was observed near Lakeview,

*Riverside*, Nov. 8+ (TMet). A **Curve-billed Thrasher** on the Colorado R. n. of Blythe Oct. 8 (SC) was still present at the end of the period and is the first to be found in *Riverside*, about the 15th to be found in the state.

An imm. **Yellow Wagtail** photographed in Irvine Sept. 19–20 (LRH, DRW) was the 3rd to be found in s. California, and the 10th in the state, all Sept. 4–21. The only Red-throated Pipit found this fall was one near Imperial Beach Oct. 17–20 (D & MH). A Bohemian Waxwing in Big Pine Nov. 18 (T & JH) and a N. Shrike at Oasis Nov. 8 (CMcG) were the only individuals of these 2 visitors from the north to be reported.

A White-eyed Vireo on Pt. Loma in *San Diego* Oct. 25 (PAG) was only the 4th to be found in California in fall. A Solitary Vireo in California City Oct. 23 (JCW) appeared to be of the nominate race, a casual to accidental straggler to California. A Philadelphia Vireo at Galileo Hill Oct. 10 (AS) was the 3rd to be found in *Kern*. Seven Red-eyed Vireos, more than normal in recent years, were reported, with single birds on the coast in Cambria Sept. 26 (TME), Santa Barbara Aug. 9 (JEL), Huntington Beach Aug. 28–Sept. 5 (JEP) and Oct. 4–5 (JEP), and Costa Mesa, *Orange*, Sept. 4 (JEP), one a short distance inland at Hansen Dam Oct. 18 (DA), and another at 6500 feet in the San Gabriel Mts., Aug. 18 (CHM).

#### WOOD-WARBLED

The normally expected West Coast species of wood warblers were in alarmingly low numbers, but vagrants from farther east continue to appear in California, resulting in 37 species found in this Region during the period. A ♀ Golden-winged Warbler was photographed in El Capitan S.P., *Santa Barbara*, Sept. 19–20 (SN); there are now >40 records of this species in California. A count of 20 Tennessee Warblers after Aug. 28 was somewhat low, but numbers reaching s. California have been declining in recent years. Only 12 Virginia's Warblers were found along the coast Aug. 15–Oct. 5, a far cry from the numbers found here 20 years ago. Single Lucy's Warblers in Gaviota Sept. 2 (BHi) and at Huntington Beach Oct. 24 (BED) were along the coast, where they are considered rare, and one at C.L., Aug. 8 (MTH), was only the 3rd to be found in *Kern*. A N. Parula at S.F.K.R.P., Aug. 29 (SL), may have been associated with the spring-summer influx; of the 10 found Sept. 4–Oct. 16, one in the Saline Valley, *Inyo*, Sept. 18 (T & JH), and another in Twentynine Palms, *San Bernardino*, Oct. 16 (MAP), were the only two away from the immediate coast. Twelve Chestnut-sided Warblers were found Sept. 11–Nov. 29, with nine along the coast and the remaining three in the e. portion of the Region. Fourteen Magnolia Warblers seen Sept. 13–Nov. 4 was about normal, including nine along the coast and the remaining five in *Kern* and *San Bernardino*. The only Cape May Warblers to be found were a male photographed in Goleta Sept. 30–Oct. 1 (FS)

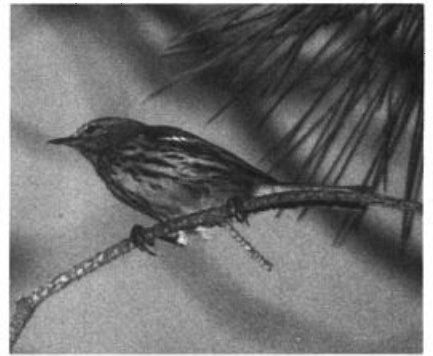
and another at Huntington Beach Sept. 5 (JEP). An early ♀ Black-throated Blue Warbler in Westminster, *Orange*, Sept. 15–16 (DRW), was followed by eight more Oct. 11–Nov. 14, including five inland, one at 6750 feet in the San Bernardino Mts., Oct. 21 (B & JS). A Black-throated Green Warbler, much scarcer as a vagrant to California today than 15 years ago, was at Hansen Dam Sept. 26 (DA). Single Blackburnian Warblers on Pt. Loma in San Diego Sept. 23 (DGA), in Montana de Oro S.P., Oct. 10 (JSR), and in Oceano Oct. 17 (JMC) were the only three found along the coast, but one near Brawley Oct. 18 (PU \*S.D.N.H.M.) was one of a very few found inland, and the first to be found in *Imperial*. A ♀ Pine Warbler at F.C.R., Oct. 21 (CM, JLD), was inland, where it is most unusual, and one on Pt. Loma in San Diego Oct. 25–Nov. 10 (REW) was in the same pines frequented by the male present here all of last winter. All six Prairie Warblers found Aug. 31–Nov. 21 were along the coast, as is normal. Forty Palm Warblers Sept. 15–Nov. 24 was an average number, but the fact that six of these were inland, with single birds at F.C.R., Oct. 3 (MTH), at Galileo Hill Oct. 4 (JCW) & Oct. 10–12 (MTH), at Nipton Oct. 20 (RMCK), at H.D.L., Oct. 19 (SWC), and near Temecula, *Riverside*, Nov. 24 (BM), was unexpected, as this species is rarely found away from the coast. A Bay-breasted Warbler on Pt. Loma in San Diego Oct. 20 (DPo) was the only one reported. Fifty-five Blackpoll Warblers were reported Sept. 7–Oct. 23, with 11 found inland, including three in *Inyo*, six in *Kern*, one at Iron Mt. Pump Station Oct. 11 (CMcG), and the 11th in Twentynine Palms Oct. 16 (KAR). Forty-two Black-and-White Warblers and 68 American Redstarts were normal numbers for this time of year. Two Prothonotary Warblers were found, with one on the coast in Montana de Oro S.P., Sept. 26–28 (JMcD), and the other inland at Manzanar, *Inyo*, Nov. 14–15 (A & LK). Six Ovenbirds, four in the n.e. portion of the Region and the other two along the coast, Sept. 27–Nov. 6, were about average. Twenty-five N. Waterthrushes, most noted during September, as expected, were slightly fewer than usual. A Kentucky Warbler, much rarer in fall than in spring, was at Galileo Hill Oct. 25 (HB). A Mourning Warbler, well studied at F.C.R., Oct. 5 (GMcC, JLD), was only the 2nd to be found inland in fall. The Hooded Warblers that nested in La Canada Flintridge remained into September, with one juvenile accompanying the female there Sept. 11 (GB). A ♀ Hooded remaining in Montana de Oro S.P., June–Sept. 16 (GPS), a female near Victorville Sept. 5–26 (SJM), and a male in Davy Brown Campground, *Santa Barbara*, Sept. 10 (ZL), were all believed to have spent the summer locally; the same could not be said, however, for the male at regularly worked Hansen Dam Aug. 16 (DA), nor obviously the one to two males there Nov. 21+ (DA). The only Canada Warblers to be reported were one in Redondo Beach, *Los*

*Angeles*, Oct. 8 (DMo), and another on Pt. Loma in San Diego Oct. 23 (MG, TC). A Painted Redstart, always an exciting find, was seen on Pt. Loma in San Diego Aug. 31 (J & DS). A Yellow-breasted Chat in Los Osos, *San Luis Obispo*, Nov. 14 (KAH), and another near S.C.R.E., Nov. 28 (BO'C), were both unusually late.

#### TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A ♂ Hepatic Tanager in Irvine Nov. 21+ (MTH) appeared to be wintering locally. An average number of Summer Tanagers were found, with at least 20 along the coast and a half-dozen in the e. portion of the Region. Two Scarlet Tanagers were found: one on Pt. Loma in San Diego Oct. 24 (CGE, TC) and a rather late individual in Oceano, *San Luis Obispo*, Nov. 27–Dec. 7 (JMC). Fifteen Rose-breasted Grosbeaks scattered throughout the Region was a little fewer than normal. A Blue Grosbeak in Torrance, *Los Angeles*, Nov. 18 (DMo), and another at the Oso Pump Station in the Antelope Valley, *Los Angeles*, Nov. 28 (JBra), were both unusually late. Twenty Indigo Buntings at various places within the Region during August–October were certainly fewer than we expect; one in Irvine Nov. 21–24 (RAE) was quite late. Single “female” Painted Buntings were along the coast in Goleta Sept. 2–3 (SEF) and in San Diego Sept. 4 (NW), and a 3rd was inland in Mojave, *Kern*, Oct. 6–7 (GH). A Dickcissel, much rarer today than 10 years ago, was at F.C.R., Oct. 3–5 (JLD), and one to two were near Imperial Beach Oct. 1–10 (PU, TC).

A Green-tailed Towhee in Montana de Oro S.P., Nov. 19–20 (B & EE), was only the 3rd to be found on the immediate coast of *San Luis Obispo*. The only Am. Tree Sparrows to be reported this fall were single birds at Mesquite Springs in Death Valley N.M., Nov. 8 (KGH), and in California City Nov. 2 (HB). As usual, small numbers of Clay-colored Sparrows were found, with about 20 along the coast, and another 15 in the e. portion of the Region. A Field Sparrow photographed at F.C.R., Oct. 16–17 (JLD), appeared to be of the expected w. race *arenacea* and is only the 3rd to be found in California. Five Black-throated Sparrows were found along the coast, where the species is considered a very rare visitor, mid-August to early October. Eight Lark Buntings were reported from various localities within the Region, including one on the coast in Gaviota, *Santa Barbara*, Sept. 9–13 (SEF). Large-billed Savannah Sparrows were again found along the coast, with single birds at the mouth of the Santa Ynez R., Sept. 4 (BHi) and Nov. 21+ (BHi), and on Morro Bay Oct. 24 (GPS) the northernmost. Eight Grasshopper Sparrows in the e. portion of the Region during October was more than expected in this area of California. Early Sharp-tailed Sparrows in Malibu, *Los Angeles*, Sept. 27 (CA, KLG), and near Oceanside, *San Diego*, Oct. 11 (RRV), were in freshwater marshes, but one at the mouth



**Immature male Cape May Warbler in Goleta, California, October 1, 1992.**  
Photograph/Shawneen Finnegan.

of the Tijuana R., in Imperial Beach Nov. 24 (TC), was at the precise spot at which three had spent much of last winter, and in a salt-water marsh, as is typical for most individuals found in California. Reports of at least 30 Swamp Sparrows scattered throughout the Region after Oct. 4 indicated that more than usual were present. However, <20 White-throated Sparrows, and only four Harris' Sparrows were reported, suggesting that these 2 species were in less than expected numbers. Longspurs were decidedly scarce this fall, with five Lapland Longspurs found at 3 locations Sept. 27–Nov. 21 (JSti, SC, MTH, RAE), and 14 Chestnut-collared Longspurs at 8 locations Oct. 10–Nov. 24 the only ones reported.

Numbers of Bobolinks found along the coast have declined dramatically in recent years, with four in Goleta Aug. 30–Sept. 30 (SEF, PEL), single birds in Irvine Sept. 19 (SM) and Oct. 2 (JLD), and four or five near Imperial Beach Oct. 1–20 (GMcC, TC, DWA) the only ones reported; inland numbers were about as expected, with 6 individuals at F.C.R., Sept. 19–Oct. 17 (T & JH), 2 in Independence, *Inyo*, Sept. 12 (A & LK), another there Oct. 12 (A & LK), one at Galileo Hill Sept. 12 (MTH), and another at H.D.L., Oct. 1 (SWC). The only Rusty Blackbird to be found this fall was on Santa Cruz I., Nov. 14 (MAH). Single Com. Grackles, still a casual to accidental straggler to California, were met up with in Big Pine Nov. 7 (T & JH) and at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley N.M., Nov. 28 (RSta). The only Orchard Orioles reported were an ad. male and a female together in downtown Los Angeles Aug. 25–26 (MCW) and an imm. male at F.C.R., Sept. 15 (GMcC).

A Rosy Finch at Deep Springs L., *Inyo*, Oct. 4 (T & JH), was early for such a lowland locality. Two Pine Grosbeaks at about 9000 feet on the e. slope of the Sierra above Bishop Oct. 16 (T & JH) established only the 2nd record for *Inyo*, this species normally remaining in the heavily forested areas w. of the Sierra crest. Small numbers of Purple Finches were away from areas of normal occurrence throughout much of the Region, with one at F.C.R., Oct. 17 (MAP), and three in Nipton, *San Bernardino*, Oct. 20 (RMCK), unusually far out on the desert. A



**Female Hooded Warbler banded near Victorville, California, September 5, 1992.**  
**Photograph/Stephen J. Myers.**

few Cassin's Finches appeared to be associated with the Purple Finch movement, with one at the Cactus City Rest Stop e. of Indio Oct. 11 (MAP) at the most unusual locality. Pine Siskins certainly invaded the Region, in high numbers throughout most areas by late October, as indicated by such counts as 325 in the Cuyama Valley of e. *Santa Barbara* Nov. 9 (SEF). A Red Crossbill recently found dead along the Colorado R., n. of Blythe Aug. 20 (SC \*S.D.N.H.M.), was certainly at an unexpected locality. An influx of Evening Grosbeaks into the n.e. portion of the Region in October brought individuals as far south as Iron Mt. Pump Station Oct. 9-12 (MAP), Victorville Oct. 11 (KLG), along the Colorado R., n. of Blythe Oct. 19-20 (CMA), and to Desert Center Oct. 16 (GH).

**Addendum:** The Tufted Duck on L. Isabella Jan. 17-18 (AB 46:314, 1992) was found by Gjon Hazard, not by John Sterling.

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## HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

*Robert L. Pyle*

### PETRELS TO FRIGATEBIRDS

It was an interesting season for pelagic species in Hawaii's near-shore waters. A Cook's Petrel was confidently identified 12 mi off Oahu's west coast Oct. 24 (†DP, AR, MP). The only previous state records were at sea between Midway and F.F.S. on 3 dates during November 1984. One Bonin Petrel, a regular nester in the NW Hawaiian I., but rarely reported in the main islands, was found alive at the Pacific Missile Range Facility K., Nov. 20. It was turned in to the fall shearwater aid program and released the same day near Lihue (TT). A mottle-headed *Pterodroma* found in Lahaina, M., Sept. 4 was identified as a Black-winged Petrel, then photographed and released (RG).

The unusually large numbers of Wedge-tailed Shearwaters reported near the main islands late last season continued through the fall, but in irregular patterns. September 12 (the day after *Iniki* hit Kauai and brushed the w. coast of Oahu), EV spent 3 hours watching from Makapu'u Pt. and Diamond

Head at the s.e. corner of Oahu, in moderate s. winds. He reported Wedge-taileds streaming by, averaging 300/hour, mostly at the Makapu'u site, going mostly E to W, some as close as 100 m from shore. Among them were Brown Boobies (10/hour) and Red-footed\* Boobies (15/hour, including many immatures), and a group of 120 Great Frigatebirds, but no Sooty Terns and only a few noddies. During a half-hour of watching off Kahuku Pt., Sept. 24, at the n. tip of Oahu, PD identified only three Wedge-taileds but >100 Sooty Shearwaters, 10 Red-footed Boobies, and 250 Brown Noddies. A large feeding flock of seabirds well offshore Ke'anae Pen., M., Sept. 27, included at least tens of Wedge-taileds, some frigatebirds and Sooty Terns, and many more birds too distant to identify (JO).

During an 8-hour pelagic trip out to 12 mi s.w. of Oahu Oct. 24, estimates of Wedge-taileds varied from >500 (PD) to "thousands—almost unprecedented numbers" in "dozens" of feeding flocks (DP), the first flock just outside Honolulu harbor. Also seen were two or three Newell Shearwaters, 13 Brown and 20 Red-footed boobies, and 50 Brown Noddies (PD). For comparison, the same day (Oct. 24), watching from near Makapu'u Pt. at 6-7:15 A.M., TC counted 40 Wedge-taileds, 12 Brown Boobies, 70 Red-

footed Boobies, a few frigatebirds, and roos of Brown Noddies. He reports not having seen anything like these large numbers in previous watches at the same place and time of day. The next day (Oct. 25) at precisely the same time and place, he saw no Wedge-taileds, only a few Brown and Red-footed boobies, and fewer than 50 Brown Noddies.

Several fall reports of Sooty Shearwaters close to shore were interesting, as they are seldom seen from land, although the species does migrate regularly through Hawaiian waters. One Sooty Shearwater was reported off s. Oahu Aug. 2 (DP), and >100 were counted off Kahuku Pt., O., Oct. 24 (see above). Off Ho'okipa Beach e. of Kahului, M., JO observed Sooties streaming by at 3-10/minute Sept. 25, and 1-2/minute Sept. 26. None was seen there on prior or later dates, and only occasional Wedge-taileds were seen there in late September (JO). Some Sooties were also seen in a feeding flock off Ke'anae Pen., M., Sept. 27 (JO). A Sooty Shearwater found alive Nov. 7 in Kahului, M., about 1 km inland, was released the same day, in apparent good health (RG, JO).

The Wedge-taileds, boobies, and noddies were finishing their nesting season on and around Kauai and Oahu. Clearly the numbers of birds at sea counted at a given place and day do not necessarily represent the num-



## S.A.

Hurricane *Iniki* blasted Kaua'i I., Sept. 11, bringing enormous destruction to homes, buildings, utilities, and vegetation in the inhabited lowland areas fringing the island. As perhaps the premier island for accessible populations of seabirds and native forestbirds, Kaua'i has long been a popular destination for visitors in search of these species.

At Kilauea Pt. N.W.R., on an exposed peninsula along the n. shore, refuge buildings suffered heavy damage. Downed ironwood trees covered the primary nesting sites for Laysan Albatross, and protective fencing was badly damaged. Repair and cleanup could only be partly accomplished by November, when the albatross returned, but they did begin their nesting activities in expected numbers. Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, nesting in burrows on the steep sides of the point, were the most severely impacted. An estimated 200–300 nearly full-grown chicks (about 40%) were lost when burrows collapsed or were plugged by sliding and wind-blown soil, loosened when strong winds ripped out vegetation on the hillsides. After the storm, three tropicbird chicks were miraculously still present on the vertical open cliff faces exposed to the full force of the winds. Red-footed Booby young had been flying for several weeks. When the strong winds began, adults and young were observed rising up from the colony, only to be tossed violently in the wind, most being pushed back helplessly into the nesting trees. Next morning, some dead and badly injured boobies were found in public places and in the colony. But mortality in the large population was estimated at fewer than 100 birds. The long-term effects from the severe damage to nesting and roosting trees in the colony will not become known until next season and beyond.

Just before the hurricane arrived, the 100 or so Great Frigatebirds, which roost but do not nest on the refuge, were observed flying to sea to the northwest, away from the oncoming storm. They began returning a few days later and, within 2 weeks, 125 were counted back at the refuge. The frigatebird roosting trees that had fallen are still being used, but as these

deteriorate, the roost site may shift elsewhere. Six Nene (Hawaiian Goose, *Endangered*) introduced a year ago to the refuge from the growing wild population in s. Kaua'i were all seen the day after the hurricane in apparent good health. When nesting season began in December, 2 pair bonds had been formed, the first noted for this little group.

A large program begun over the past decade to replant native coastal vegetation on the refuge was set back considerably, as many of the recent planting had been torn out and blown away or stripped of leaves and branches. An estimated 25% of the plantings were lost and another 50% badly damaged. Of primary concern is reinvasion by exotic plants to these areas. The native plant nursery on the refuge was destroyed.

At nearby Hanalei N.W.R., farther inland and more protected from the winds, pre- and post-hurricane censuses indicated that the waterbird habitat and the native waterbirds, including four *Endangered* species, were not significantly affected. But impoundment dikes and water delivery systems were damaged. At Huleia N.W.R., the choked stream may actually have been temporarily helped by the strong winds, clearing out bulrushes to form more open water. On the upper hillsides, 90% of the vegetation (mostly exotic) lost all leaves, and many trees were blown down.

The foregoing notes from the Kaua'i refuges are based on reports provided by Kathleen Viernes.

Nesting areas of Newell Shearwaters (*Threatened*) on steep slopes at mid-elevations were badly damaged by uprooted trees and washouts, destroying the uluhe fern cover and leaving the areas vulnerable to erosion and exotic weed invasion. "Fallout" of fledgling Newells in nightlighted coastal areas normally peaks in October and November. Fewer than 900 (about half the usual number) were rescued and released, no doubt due partly to nest-site destruction as well as to fewer nightlights and powerlines remaining after the storm (TT).

Botanists conducting post-*Iniki* surveys in

the mountain forests reported that high winds funneling through gaps in the ridges had scoured some mountainsides completely bare of lush forest, down to rock and earth in certain exposed spots, while leaving others unaffected. They found heartbreaking injury and destruction to some *Endangered* native plants, whose few remaining relict individuals had been closely tended and monitored in recent years. Runoff from heavy rains totally destroyed aquatic habitats in some stream bottoms and piled up debris in valleys. This damage to native forest and subsequent invasion of alien plant species will surely have an impact on endemic birds.

General forest cover in the somewhat protected Alaka'i Swamp area was not too badly damaged (TT). Some observers speculated that Hurricane *Iwa* in 1982 had blown down the accumulation of large vulnerable trees, leaving few for *Iniki*. In the weeks after *Iniki*, visitors to the Koke'e area near the Alaka'i reported severe reductions in native passerine populations (DK, DP), reflecting both dispersal and mortality. High winds blew flowers from the trees, forcing nectar-feeders to disperse to lower elevations. DK reported that the day after *Iniki* struck, 'Apapane and 'I'iwi invaded the area around his home below Koke'e at 3400-foot elevation, where they are rarely seen in fall. A few were still seen there 10 weeks later. The same phenomenon was observed after hurricane *Iwa* struck a decade ago. It is feared that birds are exposed to mosquito-borne diseases much more at lower elevations and either perish or later return with the infection to their normal habitat. TT received at least 3 reports of 'Apapane found sickly or dead at low elevations after the storm, probably affected by disease or undernourishment.

Ten years after *Iwa*, reports of the critically *Endangered* species on Kaua'i (Kama'o, Puaiohi, 'O'o'a, O'u, and Nukupu'u) are being received with less frequency and have almost ceased altogether in the past year or two, except for a few sightings of Puaiohi. In the months since *Iniki*, no reports of these scarce species have yet been received.

bers to be seen at nearby places or days. No really unexpected species were reported just after *Iniki*. The interesting seabird occurrences this season, including the unusually large concentrations of shearwaters, were probably not a direct result of *Iniki* but may share with *Iniki* a common antecedent cause, namely, the El Niño condition that peaked last winter. Space limitations permit only an abbreviated report of "the rest of the story" this season. Additional fall observations may be included in next season's report.

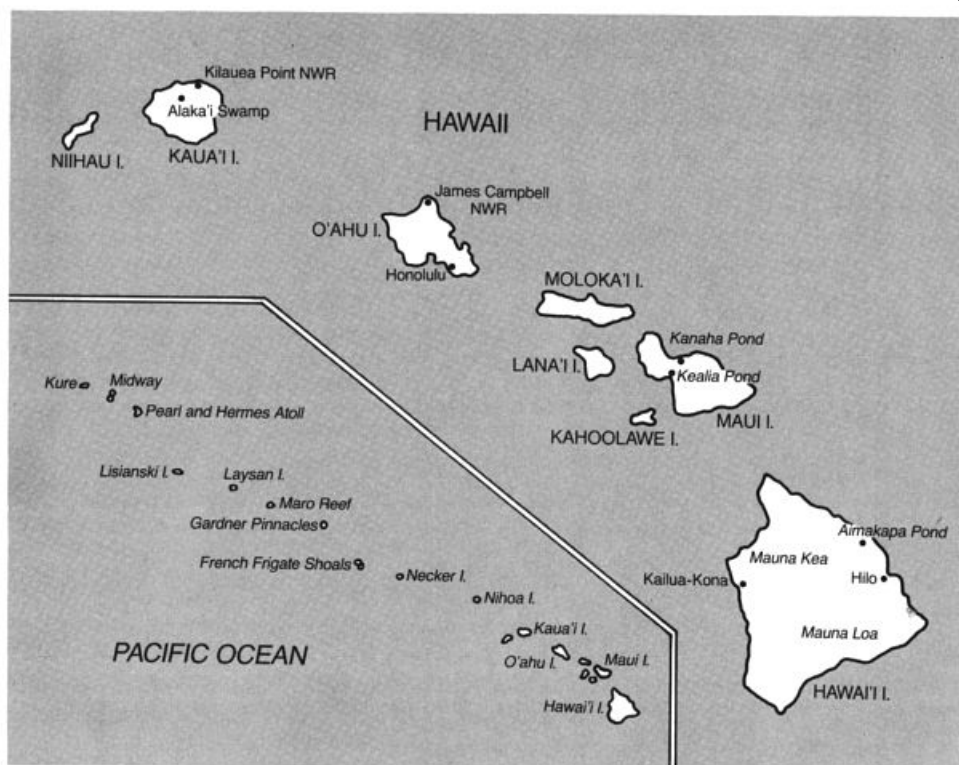
### HERONS TO DUCKS

A Green-backed Heron in good plumage found at Whittington Park, H., Nov. 29 (TS),

and seen again a month later, provided only the 2nd good record of the species in the state in many decades. A bizarre report of a Nene (Hawaiian Goose, *Endangered*) at Harbor L., n. of San Pedro, CA, in December was phoned long distance to the Hawaii Audubon Society. The bird's identity was confirmed through U.S. and California wildlife agents, but it must have been a non-natural occurrence. Commonly occurring species of migrant ducks were way down in numbers this fall. Unusual species included single Garganeys reported at Ki'i Pond, O., Oct. 31, and Nov. 15 (PD) and at Tern I., F.F.S., Sept. 14–19 (*fide* BF), and a pair of Canvasbacks at Aimakapa Pond, H., Nov. 21 (BD, TS).

### OSPREY TO FALCONS

Single Ospreys (casual in Hawaii) seen at almost the extreme opposite ends of the state (Midway, *fide* BF, and South Point, H., DP) both Oct. 18, must have been different birds. The one observed at Kanaha and Kealia Ponds on Maui regularly this year, including through the fall (RL, DP, JO), was probably a 3rd individual. An 'Io (Hawaiian Hawk, *Endangered*) was watched at Mountain View, H., Nov. 15, taking 5 Nutmeg Manikin chicks from a nest one by one, flying to the same perch 100 feet away to eat each, then returning for the next (BD). A Peregrine Falcon (*Endangered*) was at Amorient Aquafarm, O., Nov. 15 (DR), and perhaps



the same bird was reported 5 days later at Ulupau Head (DK).

#### SHOREBIRDS TO TERNS

Migrant shorebirds, like ducks, appeared in unusually low numbers this fall. Notable

species included a Spotted/Com. Sandpiper at Tern I., F.E.S., Aug. 31 (*fide* BF), one or two Bar-tailed Godwits at 2 O'ahu sites Aug. 13 and Sept. 24 (BE, RLP, PD) and at Laysan I., Oct. 26–Nov. 10 (*fide* BF), and a Baird's Sandpiper at Kealia Pond, M., Aug. 15–23 (JO).

Up to four Bristle-thighed Curlews were at Kahuku Pt., O., Aug. 16–Oct. 31 (PD), and one was seen at Lihue Airport, K., Oct. 6 (TT). Ruffs were reported this fall at Amorient Aquafarm, O. (PD), at 3 locations on Maui (JO) and at Laysan I. (*fide* BF). All 3 species of phalarope, casual to vagrant in Hawaii, turned up this season: a Wilson's at Kealia Pond, M., Aug. 29–Sept. 3 (JO), a Red-necked at Laysan Sept. 18–26, and a Red at Laysan Nov. 10 (*fide* BF). Two S. Polar Skuas were watched sitting on the ocean 3 mi off Honokohau, H., Oct. 3, and a short while later three were seen in flight (BD). A Great Crested Tern at Laysan I., Aug. 22 and Sept. 5 (*fide* BF), provided the state's 3rd record, all during the past 4 years. The remains of a White Tern (BPBM-178826) found Aug. 24 (3 weeks before *Iniki*) on Stainback Road at 8200-foot elevation, 31 mi inland from Hilo, H. (SJ), showed no evidence of predation. But how did it get there?

#### PASSERINES

'Elepaio observed in Waiahole Valley (three, Sept. 20), Waianae Kai Trail (two, Oct. 4), and Moanalua Valley (one heard Oct. 11), all on O'ahu (EV), were encouraging reports for this species, whose numbers have crashed badly on this island in recent years. Red-billed Leiothrix have been increasing on O'ahu from near-extirpation. As many as eight to 31 were reported on 4 different O'ahu trails this season (PD). A Eur. Starling was reported again Nov. 14 & 17 at Sand I. Park in Honolulu (DO), the locale of most prior records of this species.

One Red-crested Cardinal at Hanapepe Oct. 21, and reports of a sudden influx at a residential feeder in Kalaheo, both on the s. coast of Kauai, were west of their previously occupied range, suggesting a dispersal attributable to hurricane *Iniki* (DP). A juv. Yellow-billed Cardinal found in Whittington Park, H., Nov. 29 (TS), extended the range of this species still farther

up the e. coast of the island. The critically *Endangered* Maui Parrotbill was recorded 3 times this fall (Sept. 3 & 11, Nov. 23) by visitors on the Hosmer Grove nature trail in Haleakala N.P., M., (*fide* VG, good details). Several small flocks of Orange-cheeked Waxbills were seen Nov. 21 & 22 along cane roads between Pu'unene and Kihei on Maui (PB), an island on which this species has just recently appeared.

**Abbreviations:** BPBM (*prefix for catalog numbers of specimens in B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu*); F.E.S. (*French Frigate Shoals*); H. (*Hawaii I.*); K. (*Kauai I.*); M. (*Maui I.*); O. (*O'ahu I.*)

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