

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.	juvenal 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, 1993

Atlantic Provinces Region Bruce Mactavish	82	Southern Great Plains Region Joseph A. Grzybowski	124
Quebec Region Richard Yank and Yves Aubry	84	Texas Region Greg W. Lasley and Chuck Sexton	127
New England Region Charles D. Duncan	87	Idaho-Western Montana Region Dan Svingen and Thomas H. Rogers	130
Hudson-Delaware Region Robert O. Paxton, William J. Boyle, Jr., and David A. Cutler	91	Mountain West Region Hugh E. Kingery	132
Middle Atlantic Coast Region Eirik A. T. Blom, Michael O'Brien, Brian Patteson, and Eugene J. Scarpulla	95	Southwest Region Arizona: Gary H. Rosenberg David Stejskal and Chris D. Benesh New Mexico: Sartor O. Williams III	135 137
Southern Atlantic Coast Region Ricky Davis	98	Alaska Region T.G. Tobish, Jr.	140
Florida Region Noel Wamer	100	British Columbia/Yukon Region Chris Siddle	142
Ontario Region Ron Ridout	103	Oregon/Washington Region Bill Tweit and Jeff Gilligan	144
Appalachian Region George A. Hall	107	Middle Pacific Coast Region David G. Yee, Stephen F. Bailey, and David Fix	147
Western Great Lakes Region Daryl D. Tessen	111	Southern Pacific Coast Region Guy McCaskie	151
Midwestern Prairie Region Kenneth J. Brock	114	Hawaiian Islands Region Robert L. Pyle	155
Central Southern Region Greg D. Jackson	117	West Indies Region Robert L. Norton	156
Prairie Provinces Region Rudolf F. Koes and Peter Taylor	120		
Northern Great Plains Region Ron Martin	122		

ATLANTIC PROVINCES REGION

Bruce Mactavish

The Region's weather was unremarkable, without any disrupting storms. But it was a season of birding highlights. A prevailing south-west wind in September brought high numbers of southern warblers. There was a good western flavor to the last half of the season, with three Say's Phoebes, Townsend's Warbler, and Golden-crowned, Le Conte's, and Harris' sparrow. Other exotics included Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Rufous Hummingbird, Spotted Redshank, and a flood of Northern Wheatears. The bird of the season was a Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher in what is one of the eastern most clumps of trees in North America!

Abbreviations: G.M.I. (*Grand Manan I., New Brunswick*); S.P.M. (*St. Pierre et Miquelon*)

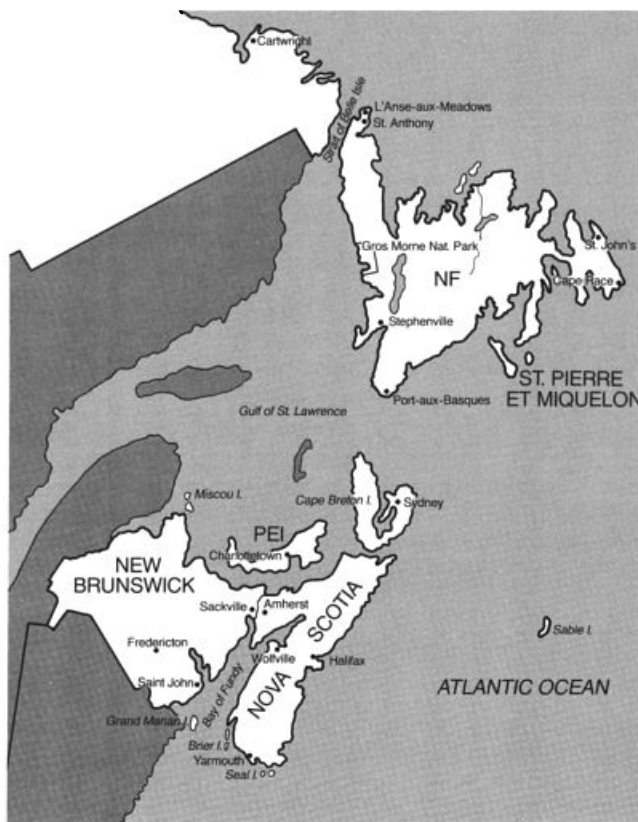
LOONS TO HERONS

The many more than usual reports of Cory's Shearwaters were in part due to more off-shore observers in late summer and early fall. Twenty-seven sighted from the N. Sydney, NS to Argentia, NF ferry Aug. 20 included nine in the Nova Scotia waters of Cabot Strait and 12 s. of S.P.M., an exceptionally high number (BMT). Twelve were seen from a research vessel on the s. Grand Banks, NF Aug. 26–Sept. 7 (JW). Less unusual were eight Cory's 20 mi s. of Cape Sable off s.w. Nova Scotia Sept. 25 (IM); they were reported as common on George's Bank in October (RD). Greater Shearwaters were common on both sides of the Bay of Fundy, with 3000 Sept. 6 s.e. of G.M.I. (ST *et al.*). The same trip also hosted the largest concentration of Wilson's Storm-Petrels at 1000. Wilson's were fairly common on the s. Grand Banks, NF Aug. 26–Sept. 7 (JW).

With the exception of 11 Little Blue Herons, nine in Nova Scotia, "southern herons" were scarce. There were Regional totals of two Great, five Snowy, and five Cattle egrets, one Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, and one Glossy Ibis.

WATERFOWL TO RAILS

A imm. (Greenland) Greater White-fronted Goose took up residence with a flock of domestic fowl at Renew's, NF Oct. 8–18 (BMT, KK *et al.*). Eastern straying N. Shovelers included two Sept. 13 at Grand Barachois, S.P.M. (DD) and one Oct. 27–Nov. 10 at St. John's, NF (BMT *et al.*). The Tracadie, NB sewage ponds hosted up to 190 Lesser Scaup



Oct. 19, surpassing anywhere else in the Region (RD). The Miscou, NB lighthouse area had an early ad. ♂ King Eider Nov. 8; 8000 Surf Scoters Oct. 2, and five early Harlequin Ducks Aug. 29 (RD, ST). Eastern New Brunswick again attracted high numbers of Hooded Mergansers with 85 Oct. 15–21 at Kouchibouguac N.P. (RD, ST), and 50 Nov. 11 at Bathurst (RD).

For two decades, Brier I., NS has been the best place in the Region for Turkey Vulture; 12–15 were there Oct. 26 (JT). The rare Cooper's Hawk was reported Sept. 29 (BMY *et al.*) and Oct. 11 (RF) from Seal I., NS. The most impressive hawk flight witnessed was on Seal I., 15 mi off the s.w. corner of Nova Scotia, with 200 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 150 Am. Kestrels and 60 Merlins Oct. 1 (BMY *et al.*). The only Gyrfalcons reported were a gray-morph at Lamèque I., NB Oct. 15 (HC), dark birds at Trout R., NF Nov. 7–9 (*fide* HD), and in St. John's, NF Nov. 24–25 (JW). Peregrine Falcons were present in good numbers.

Newfoundland had its 3rd and 4th records of Clapper Rail: Oct. 17 at Biscay Bay, Avalon Peninsula (GP *et al.*), and Oct. 22 found dead in a St. John's hotel parking lot (J. Russell). Stray Com. Moorhens in Nova Scotia were singles Nov. 7 at Sydney Mines (AM), through November at Dartmouth (m.ob.), and four individuals on Sable I. Sept. 12–Oct. 19 (ZL).

SHOREBIRDS

American Golden-Plovers are said to fly due S from Newfoundland to South America. This must be what flocks of 80 and 240 were doing over the Grand Banks 175 mi s.e. of St.

John's Sept. 7 (JW). A Spotted Redshank was photographed Sept. 17 at Hartlen Pt., NS for a provincial first (PM, BS). Four Upland Sandpipers at Grand Pré, NS Aug. 20–23 suggested local breeding (J>). An impressive 110 Hudsonian Godwits Aug. 15 were in n.e. New Brunswick at Maisonnnette P.P. (RD). The only W. Sandpipers reported were two from Nova Scotia: Aug. 20–21 at Conrad's Beach (BMY) and Sept. 25 at Brier I. (ES, FS). Gale-force SW winds Aug. 23 seemed responsible for a buildup of White-rumped Sandpipers on the Great Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland. High counts were 621 at St. Paul's Inlet and 2276 at Eddies Cove East (PL, BMT). The latter far surpasses any count ever obtained in the Region and is one of the largest for the Atlantic coast of North America! Three ad. Long-billed Dowitchers Aug. 13–21 at Sackville, NB are among the few Regional records earlier than mid-September (ST *et al.*). An ad. Curlew Sandpiper at Cape Sable, NS Aug. 22 may have been

one of the two seen there in July (BMY, EM *et al.*). Two Curlew Sandpipers were reported at Dorchester Cape, NB Sept. 12 (*fide* DC). It was the best autumn for Buff-breasted Sandpipers in years, with nine in New Brunswick, 18 in Nova Scotia, five in Newfoundland, and three in S.P.M. Regional totals of other shorebirds were average: nine Stilt and 14 Baird's sandpipers, and nine Wilson's Phalaropes. American Woodcock was seen twice at Miquelon, S.P.M., Oct. 5 & 23 (RE, MC).

GULLS TO ALCIDS

The most interesting reports came from Newfoundland. John Well's cruise on the s. Grand Banks Aug. 26–Sept. 7 produced 125 Pomarine, three Parasitic, and five Long-tailed jaegers. There were 75 Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers attending a feeding flock of 5000 kittiwakes at Pinware River P.P., Labrador (PL). A NE gale in L'Anse-aux-Meadows Aug. 27 brought in 33 Pomarine, 14 Parasitic, six Long-tailed, and 21 unidentified jaegers (PL,



Adult Long-billed Dowitcher at Sackville, New Brunswick, August 14, 1993. Photograph/Bruce Mactavish.



Lesser Black-backed Gull in first-winter plumage at St. John's, Newfoundland, on October 25, 1993. Photograph/Bruce Mactavish.

BM). A Long-tailed Jaeger was a rarity at Hartlen Pt., NS Sept. 18 (FL, BMy).

A moribund Great Skua was identified on Sable I., NS Oct. 20 (IM). Exciting skua information comes from an almost unbirded area of the s. Grand Banks, 150 to 240 mi s.e. of Cape Race, NF. Wells had a total of 125 skuas Aug. 26–Sept. 7: 20 Great Skuas, four or five S. Polar Skuas, ≥70 uniform blackish-brown skuas with restricted or no white primary flashes (probably S. Polar), and the rest unidentified. These results are similar to a 1978 trip to this area.

New Brunswick had a Laughing Gull at G.M.I., Sept. 19 (JWi); two were in St. John's, NF Sept. 1–Oct. 15 (m.ob.). The Tracadie, NB sewage pond was the hotspot for Little Gull, with a first-summer bird July 5–Aug. 15, and up to three adults Aug. 28–Sept. 17 (RD). Others were a second-summer Aug. 2 and an adult Aug. 18 at Deer I., NB (RD); one Sept. 12–24 at G.M.I. (BD *et al.*); one Oct. 3 at Pictou, NS (C. Brennan); one Sept. 3 at Scatari I., NS (CM) and one first-summer Aug. 28 at Shoal Cove E., NF (PL, BMt). For the 3rd consecutive fall, the peak of Com. Black-headed Gull at St. John's was extremely low. The maximum count of 16 Nov. 7 was only 10% of highs just 5 years ago. It is unclear whether the entire Region is experiencing a similar decline. There were two ad. Mew Gulls: Oct. 1 at Aspy Bay, NS (AM) and Oct. 13–Nov. 7 at St. John's, NF (BMt *et al.*). Lesser Black-backed Gull included four in New Brunswick, three in Nova Scotia, and four in Newfoundland. Single Sabine's Gulls were at Robichaud, NB Sept. 4 (DA), G.M.I., Oct. 23 (PP), and one 60 mi s. of Cape Race, NF Aug. 28 (JW). A **Sandwich Tern** was photographed on a buoy at Clarke's Harbor, NS for the 3rd provincial and 5th Regional record (IM *et al.*). Barely annual in the Region, a Forster's Tern was at Seal I., NS Sept. 30 (BMy, JT).

CUCKOOS TO SHRIKES

Yellow-billed Cuckoo numbers were down, with two each in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland. Snowy Owls were lightly reported, except for five at Cape Sable, NS Nov. 28 (BMy *et al.*) and four on the Acadian Pen., NB in November. New Brunswick's first **Rufous Hummingbird** was an ad. male photographed at a feeder in Southern Head, G.M.I., Aug. 6–8 (R. Harris). An imm. ♂ *Selasphorus* thought to be a

Rufous appeared at a feeder in New Glasgow, NS Oct. 14 and was captured Nov. 2 (M. McGrath, IM). Two Red-headed Woodpecker reports were average for recent years: singles Nov. 16–23 at Lamèque I., NB (JF *et al.*) and Nov. 27 at Cape Sable, NS (WA *et al.*). After several consecutive autumns of explosive Red-bellied Woodpecker incursions, none was reported this season!

Three Say's Phoebes were seen: Sept. 13–14, photographed at Miquelon was a first for S.P.M. (RE, JH); Sept. 17–18 at Sable I., NS (ZL), and Nov. 22 at Chance Harbor, NS (CBe). A Great Crested Flycatcher Oct. 9 at Bear Cove, NF provided one of few provincial records (KK, BMt). The bird of the season was a **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** identified



Sandwich Tern at Clark's Harbour, Nova Scotia, September 6, 1993. Third provincial record. Photograph/Ian McLaren.

and photographed at St. John's, NF Oct. 8 (JS *et al.*). This furnished the 3rd record for Canada and 4th for n.e. North America. Western Kingbirds seem to be more unusual than a decade ago. The only singles reported were Oct. 1–3 at Langlade, S.P.M. (RO, RE) and Oct. 19 near Lockeport, NS (DJC *et al.*). Becoming annual, a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** was at Riverview, NB Sept. 1 (White, *fide* JE).

S.A.

A widespread and exceptionally large influx of N. Wheatears hit Atlantic Canada and the n.e. United States. This Region saw a record high of 11. New Brunswick had singles Aug. 31 at Castalia, G.M.I. (Colorado Audubon Society); at Cap-de-Cassie (B. Cotsworth *et al.*) and Harrington Cove, G.M.I. (Don Gibson *et al.*), both Sept. 4–10; and Sept. 21 at Fredericton (M. Pugh). Nova Scotia had singles Aug. 28 at Delaps Cove (LP); Sept. 17–18 and another Sept. 24 at Sable I. (ZL), and Sept. 25 at Risser's Beach (J&SC). Newfoundland had one Aug. 27–28 at L'Anse-aux-Meadows (PL, BMt). S.P.M. had singles Sept. 6 at St. Pierre (BL) and Oct. 16 at Miquelon (JH).

Rare swallows in e. Newfoundland were single Purple Martins at St. John's Sept. 29 (JP) and Blackhead Oct. 6 (CBo); and flocks of two and five Cliff Swallows at Bear Cove Oct. 9 and Blackhead Oct. 10 respectively (KK, BMt). An unidentified tree-swallow-like

bird with a large, square white rump patch flew low over spectators at a lakeside event for 5 minutes in St. John's, NF Aug. 4, quite possibly a House Martin (*fide* BMt). It was not relocated by more experienced birders. Two swallows at Cherry Hill Beach, NS Nov. 7 looked like Violet-green Swallows (*fide* RS).

Red-breasted Nuthatches were abundant in Nova Scotia woods. Newfoundland's 8th and 9th House Wren were Nov. 13–Dec. 5 at St. John's (BMt *et al.*) and Nov. 14 at Cappahayden (JW). An overdue first in the same province was a Marsh Wren Oct. 9 near Cape Race (KK, BMt *et al.*). The only Carolina Wren was at Fredericton, NB Nov. 7–22 (O. Washburn). It was a good year for Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers in New Brunswick, with at least 21 individuals.

A Townsend's Solitaire was reported without details from Marshfield, PEI Nov. 27 (*fide* DM). Several hundred Hermit Thrushes were part of a massive migrant wave Oct. 16 at Miscou I., n.e. New Brunswick (RD, ST). The beginnings of a Bohemian Waxwing incursion were seen early. A flock of 32 Oct. 16 at Miscou I., NB (RD, ST) and a small flock Oct. 19 on Sable I., NS (ZL) were followed by widespread reports of flocks of up to 150 in those provinces. Numbers increased in late November, when the first reached e. Newfoundland. Northern Shrikes were relatively common and widespread. A Loggerhead Shrike was at Seal Cove, NB Sept. 29; the species is now so infrequent that it almost merits boldface type (P. Roberts).

VIREOS TO WARBLERS

Newfoundland's 2nd White-eyed Vireo was at Bear Cove Sept. 18. Nova Scotia had singles Sept. 30 Brier I. (P. Hamel) and Oct. 15–22 Halifax (DC *et al.*). A Solitary Vireo showing characteristics typical for the western *plumbeus* race was at Hartlen Pt., Oct. 1–2 (IM). Single Yellow-throated Vireos were seen Sept. 17 at North Head, G.M.I. (P. Wilshaw); Sept. 25 at Hartlen Pt., NS (JT), and Oct. 2 at St. Pierre, S.P.M. (LJ). Six Warbling Vireos included two in Nova Scotia and four in e. Newfoundland, all Sept. 18–Oct. 4. There was a high, but now expected, Regional total of 13 Blue-winged Warblers Aug. 24–Sept. 18: eight in New Brunswick, four in Nova Scotia, and one in Newfoundland. Newfoundland's 5th Townsend's Warbler Nov. 28+ was on the same



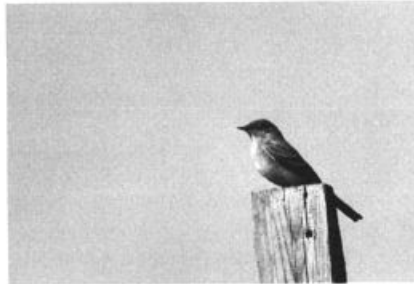
Adult male Rufous Hummingbird at Grand Manan Island on August 8, 1993. First record for New Brunswick. Photograph/Ron Harris.

street where two were previously found (JW, PL *et al.*). A remarkable nine Yellow-throated Warblers were found: two in New Brunswick, five in Nova Scotia, and two in Newfoundland. Six occurred Aug. 17–Oct. 15 and three in the last half of November. Although low numbers of Pine Warblers were reported—only three in Nova Scotia—five at St. John's, NF the last 10 days of November was the 2nd highest fall total in the past decade (BMT *et al.*). Prairie Warblers stormed the Region, with 22 in New Brunswick, 25 in Nova Scotia, five in Newfoundland, and one on S.P.M. Cerulean Warblers reported without details were singles Aug. 17 at Cape Sable I., NS (MN, WA) and Sept. 20 at Tusket Falls, NS (MH). Nova Scotia had Prothonotary Warblers: an early bird Aug. 2 at Sable I. (ZL) and one Sept. 12–14 at Hartlen Pt. (m.ob.). It was a banner autumn for Worm-eating Warbler, with 5 reports including Newfoundland's first and New Brunswick's 2nd and 3rd; singles were Sept. 12 at Bear Cove Pt., NF (KK, BMT); Sept. 9 at Swallowtail, G.M.I. (ST *et al.*); Sept. 18 at Cape Jourimain, NB (CC); Sept. 3 at Cape Sable, NS (CBe, KM), and Sept. 7 at Sable I., NS (ZL). Kentucky Warblers included singles Sept. 6–12 at Bear Cove, NF (CBo, BMT) and Bear Cove Pt., NF (CBo *et al.*) and two "in late September" on Sable I., NS (ZL). Connecticut Warblers reported without details were singles Sept. 8 at Fredericton, NB (PP) and Sept. 14 at Pubnico Pt., NS (RD). Newfoundland's 2nd Hooded Warbler was a female captured at Pt. May, Burin Pen., Sept. 12 (JW *et al.*). Others were single males Sept. 7–17 at Sable I., NS (ZL) and Oct. 18 at Glace Bay, NS (A&CM). Yellow-breasted Chat totals were nine in New Brunswick, nine in Nova Scotia, and two in Newfoundland.

A fairly warm November helped St. John's, NF tally an amazing 14 species of warblers in the month's last week: four Orange-crowned, one Nashville, one Yellow, one Cape May, several Yellow-rumped, one Townsend's, two Yellow-throated, five Pine, one Prairie, two Palm, one Blackpoll, four Black-and-white, one Am. Redstart, and four Wilson's (BMT *et al.*)!

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

One Summer Tanager was on Seal I., NS Sept. 28 (BMy, JT). Six Scarlet Tanagers Oct. 3–16 on the Avalon Pen., NF was a record autumn total (KK, BMT, JW). A November movement of N. Cardinals into New Brunswick (102 reports) and Nova Scotia (15+ reports) was the largest in years. Average numbers of Blue Grosbeaks were found Sept. 6–Oct. 17: two in New Brunswick, five in Nova Scotia, and one in Newfoundland. Dickcissel reports were average, with three in New Brunswick, three in Nova Scotia, and five in Newfoundland. Clay-colored Sparrow numbers, one in New Brunswick and nine in Nova Scotia, were boosted by an unprecedented single locality count of six on Seal I., NS Oct. 2 (BMy, JT). There were five



Say's Phoebe at Miquelon, St. Pierre et Miquelon, on September 13, 1993. First record for this island group. Photograph/Jackie Hebert.

Lark Sparrows Aug. 21–Oct. 17, four in Nova Scotia and one in New Brunswick. A Le Conte's Sparrow was photographed and well observed by 9 people Oct. 9 on Seal I., NS for only the 2nd confirmed Regional record (FL *et al.*). A Seaside Sparrow was at Economy, NS Oct. 17, where it is more regular than at other Region locations (ES). New Brunswick's first Harris' Sparrow visited a feeder at Lamèque Nov. 7–9 (J. Laroque *et al.*). An even greater rarity in the east was an imm. Golden-crowned Sparrow photographed Oct. 2 on Seal I., NS for a 3rd provincial and Regional record (BMy *et al.*). A huge movement of passerines at Miscou I. in n.e. New Brunswick Oct. 16 included 250 Fox, hundreds of Swamp, and thousands of White-throated sparrows (RD, ST).

All three Yellow-headed Blackbirds were in s.w. Nova Scotia on a wide range of dates: Aug. 15, Sept. 30, & Oct. 8. The first Orchard Oriole for S.P.M. was at Miquelon Sept. 26 (JH). Another was more routine at Hartlen Pt., NS Sept. 30 (*vide* BS).

It was a finchy autumn. Common Redpoll was the star, with an early October appearance even in the south. Flocks of several hundred were present in all provinces in October. A Hoary Redpoll was reported Nov. 16 at Mary's Pt., NB (DCh). Pine Siskins, White-winged Crossbills, and Pine and Evening grosbeaks were locally common. American Goldfinch was more abundant than usual in Nova Scotia; record numbers were reported in e. Newfoundland with flocks of ≥ 40 .

Observers (subregional editors in boldface): Wilford Atwood, Calvin Brennan, Chris Brown, Dick Brown, Connie Colpitts, David Christie, Hilaire Chiasson, John & Shirley Cohrs, Dave Currie, Brian Dalzell, Hank Deichmann, David Detchberry, Robert Doiron, Roger Etcheberry, J. Ferron, Don Gibson, Mike Hawkwood, Jackie Hebert, Laurent Jackman, Ken Knowles, Fulton Lavender, Bruno Letournel, Paul Linegar, Zoe Lucas, Peter MacLeod, Angus MacLean, Bruce Mactavish, Blake Maybank, Dan McAskil, Ken McKenna, Ian McLaren, Eric Mills, Alan & Cathy Murrant, Murray Newell, Peter Pearce, George Piatt, Bev Sarty, Edgar Spalding, Francis Spalding, Richard Stern, Jim Taylor, Stuart Tingley, Gordon & Judy Tufts, John Wells, Jim Wilson.—**BRUCE MACTAVISH**, 37 Waterford Bridge Rd., St. John's, NF A1E 1C5.

QUEBEC REGION

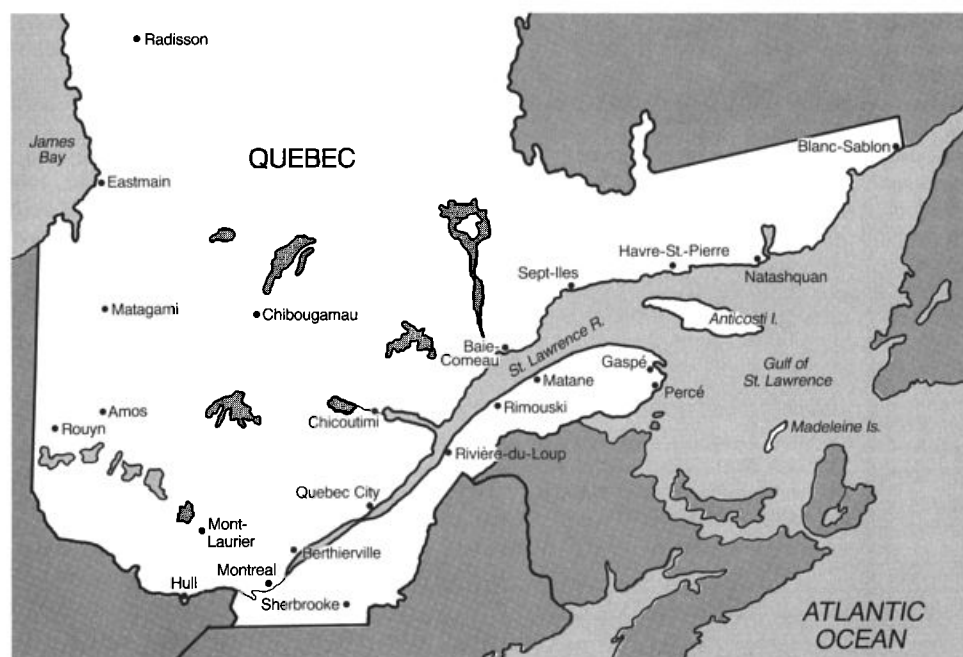
Yves Aubry and Richard Yank

August brought above-normal temperatures and precipitation across the province, extending July's pattern. Rainfall was especially heavy along the Lower North Shore, with Sept-Îles recording levels 230 percent of normal. September and October were both cool with higher-than-average precipitation, which created numerous opportunities to encounter grounded migrants. Several large concentrations of shorebirds were found inland, particularly during late October. October was miserable, with temperatures averaging 1° to 3° C below the mean and precipitation 135 to 200 percent of normal across southern Quebec. November continued chilly, but with precipitation closer to normal.

LOONS TO WATERFOWL

A breeding-plumaged Pacific/Arctic Loon spotted from the Anticosti I. ferry Aug. 1 (PF) brought to 3 the number of sightings from the St. Lawrence this year. The Trois-Pistoles ferry was back in service this fall, producing a Manx Shearwater Sept. 4 (C. Brodeur, M. Darveau *et al.*). Unexpected was a displaced Manx Shearwater found inland on L. Massawippi, n. of the Vermont border Aug. 20 (W. Bertacchi, P. Lévesque). Likely driven upriver by strong E winds were a Wilson's Storm-Petrel found at Quebec City Sept. 26 (AC, JLC), a Leach's Storm-Petrel at nearby Saint-Romuald-d'Etchemin Oct. 15 (LM), and single N. Gannets at Quebec City Oct. 11 (DC) and Cap-Tourmente 5 days later (R. Lepage, F. Hamel). A flock of 160 Double-crested Cormorants seen in flight over the Ottawa R. at Aylmer Sept. 10 represented a high count for this inland locale (M. Aubé). Approximately 30 Great Egrets were scattered across s. Quebec early in the season, a reflection of the now-regular status of this wader in the Region. Noteworthy were up to six at Sainte-Croix, Lotbinière Aug. 15–29 (M. Laroche, RGN, L. Duquet) and one that wandered even farther E to Petit-Matane Aug. 10 (L. Fradette, *vide* PF). There were only two Snowy Egrets reported, an immature at Vaudreuil Aug. 22–28 (JPP, W. Grubert, m.ob.) and a late adult at Victoriaville Oct. 30 (M. Côté *et al.*). The rarer Little Blue Heron made a better showing, with three immatures at La Martinique, Magdalen Is., Aug. 23–28 (DGG, v.o.), at Sainte-Martine, Châteauguay Sept. 4–18 (PB, m.ob.), and at Saint-Romuald-d'Etchemin Sept. 27 (J.F. Rail, C. Nadeau). A group of 17 Cattle Egrets appeared at Notre-Dame-du-Laus, Labellie Oct. 16–18 (J. Caron).

Two groups of southbound Tundra Swans, of four and three birds respectively, paused at Philipsburg, Missisquoi Nov. 9–10 (G. Landry) and Plaisance, Papineau Nov. 14–28 (D. Dallaire, A. Cloutier), while five Mute Swans of undetermined origin were



surprising at the tip of the Gaspé Pen., near Pabos Aug. 17–19 (JRL, R. Henry *et al.*). Only three Greater White-fronted Geese were reported: at Danville and nearby Victoriaville Oct. 11–12 (J. Béliveau, R. Lacerte), Montmagny Oct. 17 (S. Marois), and Granby Oct. 24 (G. Boyer, B. Hamel), while the fall flight of “Greater” Snow Geese contained an exceptionally high 48% young, which suggests the total population may have exceeded 700,000 birds (A. Reed). A small Canada Goose, possibly of the *hutchinsii* race, accompanied the Snow Geese at Cap-Tourmente Oct. 8–10 (GB, RGN, DC), and two more were reported upriver at Sainte-Foy Oct. 10 (FG, J.F. Ouellet). At the n. limit of their range, an exceptional 50 Wood Ducks graced a pond at Sainte-Hedwidge, L. Saint-Jean Sept. 20 (NB, CB). Large concentrations of Ring-necked Ducks involved 2000 at Aylmer Oct. 19 (*vide* ML) and 3700 at Baie-du-Febvre, Yamaska Oct. 31 (DJ). A fallout of Black Scoters occurred Oct. 23, with 600 at Longueuil (J.M. Béliveau) and 300 at nearby Chambly (M. Bertrand). A ♀ Red-breasted Merganser with a brood of seven young at Alma Aug. 1 furnished a first-nesting record for L. Saint-Jean (CG, M. Savard).

RAPTORS TO SHOREBIRDS

A Black Vulture, the Region's 13th, was photographed when it visited the village dump at Wemindji, James Bay Aug. 20 (G. Lessard), and one was identified in flight at Trois-Pistoles Aug. 30 (YG). An Osprey was sighted well n. of its breeding range at Kuujjuaq Aug. 7 (YG). The highlight of the Montreal hawkwatch was a one-day record count of 3538 Broad-winged Hawks Sept. 16 (M. McIntosh *et al.*). More extensive coverage of the raptor migration was undertaken at Tadoussac this fall, with excellent results: 17,891 raptors were counted during 614 hours of observation (JI, CG *et al.*). Sharp-shinned

and Red-tailed hawks accounted for 34% and 33% of the total, respectively, while other highlights were 955 Ospreys, 60 Bald and 60 Golden eagles, 1900 Am. Kestrels, and 80 Peregrines. The five Gyrfalcons encountered in s. Quebec were well below the 12 of last fall and represented the lowest fall tally in 4 years. An imm. Purple Gallinule, recorded on 9 previous occasions in Quebec, was picked up in weak condition on the main street of Roberval, L. Saint-Jean Sept. 27 (*vide* NB). Revived on a diet of earthworms, the bird was subsequently flown to Florida. Four locations were visited by out-of-range Sandhill Cranes: one reached Havre-Saint-Pierre along the North Shore Aug. 5–12 (E. Lebel), three were seen at L'Isle-Verte, Rivière-du-Loup Aug. 25 (M. Mills, J. Décarie), one was noted at Saint-Jérôme, Terrebonne Sept. 18 (F. Bach), and two paused at L'Ascension, L. Saint-Jean Oct. 6–7 (*vide* G. Lupien).

American Golden-Plovers were regularly observed, with a high count of 530 at Saint-Barnabé, Saint-Hyacinthe, Oct. 5 (FB). Late October produced several notable shorebird concentrations, including up to 350 White-rumped Sandpipers at Pointe-au-Père Oct. 17–20 (PF, B. Bernier), 80 Pectoral Sandpipers well inland at Beech-Grove, Pontiac Oct. 18 (JD), and 400 Dunlin at Saint-Etienne-de-Beauharnois Oct. 23 (*vide* PB). A Marbled Godwit was locally rare at Saint-Vallier Sept. 6 (L. Marier, G. Fréchette), while single W. Sandpipers were identified at Pointe-Paradis Sept. 6–7 (GB), Pointe-au-Père Sept. 7 (JRP, D. Lever), and Grande-Entrée, Magdalen Is., Sept. 17 (DGG, CAG). Flocks of Purple Sandpipers migrating through c. Quebec involved 30 at Métabetchouan, L. Saint-Jean Nov. 6 (CC, GS) and 28 at Anse au Lord, Rimouski Nov. 12 (JRP, L. Brisson). One strayed W to Côte-Sainte-Catherine Oct. 24 (*vide* PB). The rarest shorebird of the season was an ad.

Curlew Sandpiper at Pointe-au-Père Sept. 2–6 (D. Daigneault, JPP, v.o.), but worthy of mention were imm. ♂ Ruffs at Pointe-Lebel Sept. 27 (GB) and Métabetchouan Oct. 4–5 (NB, CB *et al.*). This was an excellent fall for Buff-breasted Sandpipers, with 13 individuals reported at 8 locations Aug. 15–Sept. 22. One at Dune du Nord Sept. 3–4 (BL, DGG, CAG) was the first on the Magdalen Is. in a decade. Long-billed Dowitchers were scarce, with only one juvenile identified at Saint-Etienne-de-Beauharnois Sept. 18–Oct. 23 (PB, m.ob.).

JAEGERS TO OWLS

Unusual inland were a light-morph Parasitic Jaeger sighted at Côte-Sainte-Catherine, Laprairie Oct. 7 (PB) and an imm. Laughing Gull described at Victoriaville Oct. 31 (AC, MG *et al.*). A higher than

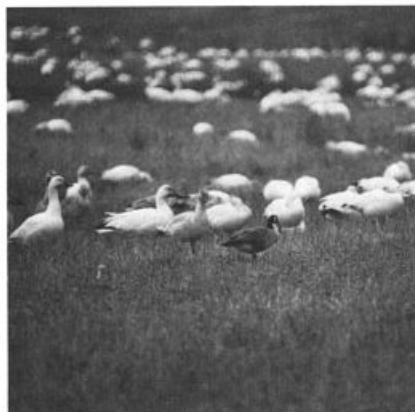
usual 17 Little Gulls were found, all reports originating along the St. Lawrence except for an adult seen at Métabetchouan Aug. 4 (CC, GS). An ad. Mew Gull was an excellent find at Victoriaville Oct. 11 (MG, C. Roy, A. Daigle *et al.*), but the rarity of the season was Quebec's first Slaty-backed Gull, an adult seen at Chicoutimi and nearby Saint-Fulgence Nov. 7–20 (CC, GS, v.o.). Intriguing was a dark-mantled ad. Herring Gull with pink legs carefully examined but not photographed at Victoriaville Oct. 24–Nov. 20 (MG *et al.*). At least six Lesser Black-backed Gulls were present at Victoriaville Aug. 30–Nov. 20 (MG *et al.*), while two more were seen at Aylmer Sept. 20–Oct. 11 (JD, R. Morin, m.ob.). A spectacular concentration of 14,000 Black-legged Kittiwakes, viewed off I. aux Basques, Rivière-du-Loup Oct. 10 (PF, JLR, R. Bélanger), was likely pushed into the St. Lawrence estuary by strong E winds. Relatively few Sabine's Gulls were seen, but one or two did visit the Beauharnois dam Aug. 28–Sept. 6 (PB, RY), one graced the waterfront at Saint-Romuald-d'Etchemin Sept. 25 (C. Simard), and another was noted at Victoriaville Sept. 26 (J. Ducharme, MG). All were immatures. An imm. Ivory Gull at Les Mechins, Matane Nov. 4 (F. Hilton) was the first found in the Region in 3 years. Up to 1000 Com. Terns gathered at Beauharnois Aug. 22–Sept. 11, including 35 birds banded on L. Champlain in Vermont, while a juv. Arctic Tern was there on the relatively late date of Oct. 10 (PB).

More than 1000 Dovekies were counted along the tip of the Gaspé Pen., Nov. 13 (D. Cahill *et al.*) and good numbers apparently moved into the St. Lawrence estuary, with up to five birds spotted near shore at Bergeronnes Nov. 14–28 (A. Bouchard), two observed at Pointe-des-Monts in late November (JPB) and, along the s. shore, one seen at Rivière-Ouelle Nov. 23 (CA). Few cuckoos migrated NE this fall, with only one

Yellow-billed detected on the Gaspé Pen., Oct. 11 (JRL). A Snowy Owl at Val-Neigette, *Rimouski* in mid-Aug. (R. Brisson, P. Bouillon) was early, but did not presage an above-average fall incursion. There are relatively few breeding records for the Long-eared Owl, so worth mentioning were single adults, each with two recently fledged young, at Neufchâtel, *Québec* Aug. 5 (GD) and Pointe-au-Père Sept. 1–11 (YG, JLR, D. Gagné *et al.*).

SWIFTS TO SHRIKES

Two Chimney Swifts still present at Côte-Sainte-Catherine Oct. 17 (PB) were record late by one day. A vagrant Red-bellied Woodpecker appeared at Pont-Rouge, *Portneuf* Sept. 4 (F. Dion, R. Dion), while hawk watchers at Tadoussac noted a total of 90 Three-toed and Black-backed woodpeckers (CG, JI *et al.*), suggesting at least a local irruption. Rare on the Magdalen Is., a Three-toed Woodpecker was seen at La Martinique Sept. 22 (B. Vigneault *et al.*). A Least Flycatcher remained at Quebec City on the record late date of Oct. 11 (RGn), while a single W. Kingbird was discovered at Pabos Sept. 27 (RGr, PP). An unusually large concentration of 50 N. Rough-winged Swallows was observed at Châteauguay Oct. 10–11 (PB), while three individuals still present at Pointe-du-Buisson, *Beauharnois* Nov. 7 (C. Auclair, R. Guillet, m.ob.) set a new late departure record. A Tufted Titmouse was unusually early at Saint-Valérien-de-Milton, *Shefford* Aug. 8 (M. Plante), while six birds staged a mini-invasion of s. Quebec during November, including three that enlivened a feeder at Philipsburg Nov. 11 (J.G. Papineau). At least 11 Carolina Wrens were reported, indicating this s. species is doing well in the Region. Exceptionally far n. were individuals at Rimouski Aug. 20–Nov. 4 (L. Ouellet) and Baie-Comeau Oct. 16–Nov. 2 (GB). A Marsh Wren was also n. of its usual range at the latter site Oct. 15–17 (GB), while one lingering at Saint-Etienne-de-Beauharnois Oct. 30 (PB, R. Piché) tied the late departure record. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, while regular fall vagrants, were more frequently reported than usual with seven birds along the lower St. Lawrence from Quebec City to Pointe-au-Père: the earliest at Rimouski Aug. 29 (YG) and the latest at Lévis Oct. 30 (JLc). Seven N. Wheatears equaled last fall's record. Most sightings occurred e. of Quebec City, but an immature did turn up near the Ontario border at Quyon, *Pontiac*, Oct. 3 (JD). A ♂ **Mountain Bluebird** was reported in the company of 12 E. Bluebirds at Saint-Cléophas, *Joliette* Sept. 5 (P. Coutu). The only reported concentration of Am. Robins was 4100 birds at Tadoussac Oct. 25 (RC, CG, JI). Bohemian Waxwings arrived in the Region in October, when small numbers were widely distributed across s.w. Quebec (*fide* PB) and large flocks frequented the Gaspé Pen. (*fide* PP). On Oct. 31 47 birds visited the Magdalen Is., where the species seldom occurs (BL, J.



A small Canada Goose, possibly of the race *hutchinsii*, with Greater Snow Geese at Cap-Tourmente, Quebec, October 8, 1993. Photograph/Gilbert Bouchard.

Bourque). Four imm. Loggerhead Shrikes, endangered in the province, were sighted at Saint-Paul, *Joliette* Sept. 3 (C. Savignac).

VIREOS TO FINCHES

Baie-Comeau attracted several s. vagrants again this fall. The Region's 12th White-eyed Vireo was photographed there Oct. 6 (GB). It was accompanied by a Yellow-breasted Chat that remained until Oct. 8 (GC). Another chat was seen at Saint-Augustin, *Portneuf* Aug. 4 (FG), while other rare s. visitors included a **Yellow-throated Warbler**, the Region's 7th, found at Saint-Cléophas Oct. 23–29 (L. Bellerose, R. Bellerose), as well as lone Prairie Warblers at Beaconsfield Aug. 11 (P. Tarassof, A. Tarassof) and Métabetchouan Aug. 20 (CC, J. Villeneuve *et al.*)—the latter a first for L. Saint-Jean. Limited data on warbler numbers were submitted, but impressive totals of 8500 and 2700 migrants were tallied at Tadoussac Sept. 15–16 (CG, JI). A count of 242 Yellow-rumped Warblers at Rimouski-Est Sept. 10 also included a Palm Warbler of the w. race (YG). Out-of-range Pine Warblers involved one at Baie-Comeau Sept. 11 (JPB), another at La Baie, *Chicoutimi* Oct. 16 (CC, GS), and one that reached Bonaventure Nov. 10–12 (J.M. Pitre). Also wandering NE of its normal range was a Cerulean Warbler that brightened Rivière-Portneuf during September (LM).

The N. Cardinal continues to be increasingly common in the province; five–seven invaded the Gaspé Pen., Oct. 26 onwards (*fide* PP). A ♀ cardinal also reached the Magdalen archipelago and was present at Grand-Ruisseau Nov. 23–30 (U. Décoste *et al.*). Following the recent pattern of fall vagrancy, a ♀ Indigo Bunting reached Cap-aux-Meules, Magdalen Is., Oct. 11 (DGG, CAG). Five Dickcissels was a typical total for recent falls. Several w. *emberizines* reached Quebec, including Rufous-sided Towhees of the w. form at Chicoutimi Nov. 9+ (*fide* CC) and at Cantley, *Hull* Nov. 25–28 (S. Pilon); a White-crowned Sparrow of the *gambelli* race at Sacré-Coeur, *Saguenay* Sept. 29 (CG, JI); a Dark-eyed Junco of the pink-sided form at

Ancienne-Lorette, *Quebec*, Sept. 11 (D. Labarre); an "Oregon" Junco at Sainte-Thérèse-de-Lisieux, *Quebec* Sept. 18 (L. Labeaume), as well as a "Grey-headed" Junco, *J.h.caniceps*, photographed at Limoilou, *Quebec* Oct. 27 (*fide* LM). The latter represents a first provincial record of this distinctive sub-species from the s. Rockies. Less unexpected were e. ♂ Rufous-sided Towhees at Ferland, *Chicoutimi* Oct. 9–11 (M. Simard *et al.*), at Saint-Elzéar, *Témiscouata* Oct. 13 (R. Deschênes), and at Gaspé Nov. 13 (G. Jobin). On Oct. 11, a field near La Baie, *Chicoutimi* attracted an impressive 135 Am. Tree Sparrows, 160 White-crowned Sparrows, and 500 Dark-eyed Juncos (CC, GS), while a large flock of 125 Lapland Longspurs was located at Beech-Grove Oct. 18 (JD). A Field Sparrow provided a rare record for the Magdalen Is., at La Martinique Sept. 22 (DGG). Seldom reported in fall, single LeConte's Sparrows were detected at Cap-Tourmente Sept. 5 (A. Desrochers, L. Rochefort) and Neufchâtel Sept. 18 (GD), while a White-crowned Sparrow was remarkably early at La Pocatière Aug. 5 (CA).

Only one Yellow-headed Blackbird was reported, a female at Pabos Sept. 30 (RGr, PP). But an exceptional eight N. Orioles—at least six females—were scattered along the Gulf of St. Lawrence, with two on the N. Shore at Sept-Îles Sept. 28 (B. Duchesne) and Baie-Comeau Oct. 10–13 (GC), one on the Magdalen Is. at Grande-Entrée Nov. 8–28 (C. Cyr), and five on the e. Gaspé Peninsula (PP, m.ob.). At least three of the latter lingered into December. Large numbers of Pine Grosbeaks (>5300) and Com. Redpolls (>6500) were observed in passage at Tadoussac Oct. 19–25 (CG, RC, JI), and both species were common in s.w. Quebec in the last week of the month (*fide* PB). The only notable House Finch was a male coming to a Desbiens feeder Oct. 4 (NB, CB) to furnish one of few L. Saint-Jean records.

ADDENDUM

A belated report was received of Quebec's first record **Bewick's Wren**, well described at Saint-François-du-Lac, *Yamaska* June 1 (C. Maisonneuve, R. Ouellet, R. McNicoll).

INITIALED OBSERVERS AND AREA EDITORS (in boldface)

—C. Auchu, P. Bannon, J.P. Barry, N. Binet, C. Bouchard, G. Bouchard, F. Bourret, J. Brisson, D. Campeau, R. Claveau, C. Cormier, A. Côté, G. Cyr, G. Dubé, J. Dubois, P. Fradette, C.A. Gaudet, D.G. Gaudet, Y. Gauthier, F. Gérardin, R. Gingras (RGn), C. Girard, R. Giroux (RGr), M. Grégoire, J. Ibarzabal, D. Jauvin, J. Lachance (JLc), M. Lalancette, J. Larivée (JLr), B. Leblanc, J.R. Lepage, L. Messely, J.R. Pelletier, P. Poulin, J.P. Pratte, G. Savard.—YVES AUBRY, Canadian Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 10100, Sainte-Foy PQ, G1V 4H5, and RICHARD YANK, 566 Chester Road, Beaconsfield PQ, H9W 3K1.

NEW ENGLAND REGION

Charles D. Duncan

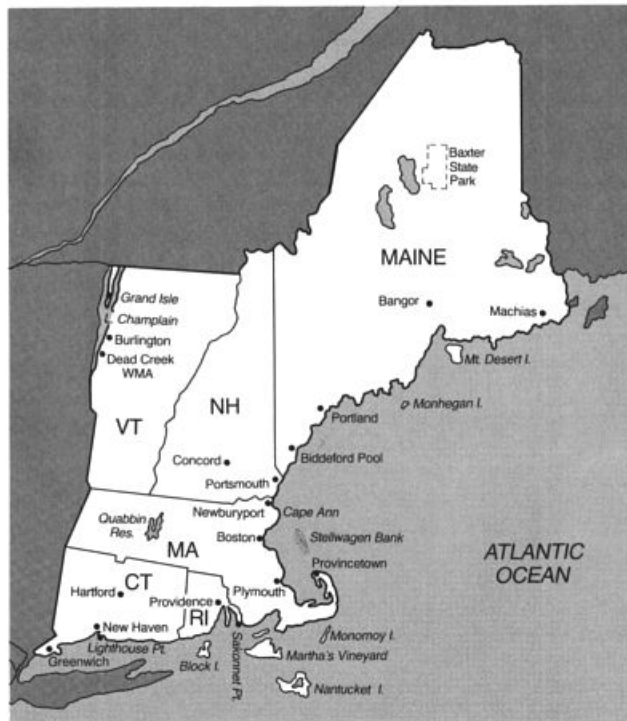
The season opened with a continuation of the warm, dry, weather of summer. By the end of August, coastal areas from Rhode Island to Maine were experiencing either "severe" or "extreme" drought. Inland areas fared only slightly better. The hoped-for "cold-fronts-with-NW-winds" were few; one in mid-September did yield good hawk movements. Cold weather soon arrived and New England's October was the 7th coldest in 99 years. Strong winds and heavy rains across New England in late November downed trees and power lines and brought a modest flight of seabirds to coastal Massachusetts. Ornithologically, the fall season was the most interesting in years. However, the warbler migration was pallid. Invaders arrived from both north and south: the largest incursion ever for Northern Wheatears, the first irruption of northern seed-eaters in several years, and an excellent collection, again of several taxa, of what David Holmes called southern "belles and beaus." Equally remarkable was the number of lingering species.

Abbreviations: A.I., (*Appledore I., ME*), P.I. (*Plum I., Newburyport & Rowley, MA*), V.I.N.S. (*Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences, Woodstock, VT*).

LOONS TO IBISES

The peak of the Red-throated Loon migration occurred about 2 to 3 weeks earlier than normal, with a high count of 260 at Barnstable, MA Oct. 27 (RF). Eight reports totaling 24 birds was above average in w. Massachusetts. Good numbers of Pied-billed Grebes were found with high counts in mid-October furnishing the highest fall count in nearly 2 decades, 568 Horned Grebes were at Wareham, MA Nov. 29, 4 times last year's maximum there. In w. Massachusetts, the 98 birds in 19 reports tied last year's above-average total (*vide* SK). The total of 20 Red-necked Grebes in w. Massachusetts was much better than average (*vide* SK). A count of 28 at Mascoma L., Enfield, NH, Oct. 3 (PH), established a record high there. The presence of three Eared Grebes this year was remarkable. A W. Grebe was at Westport, MA Nov. 14 (MB).

Cory's Shearwater, typically a warm-water species, was more in evidence in the n. parts of the Region than in recent years. The count of 685 at Stellwagen Bank, MA Oct. 11 (PT) was the highest in more than a decade. Greater Shearwaters were also quite numerous: 1500 attending the tuna fishing boats at



WATERFOWL

The group of eight adult and three imm. Tundra Swans at Little Compton, Nov. 11, was the largest ever in Rhode Island (DE, RE). Three others were reported from New Hampshire and one from Vermont. In Massachusetts, two Greater White-fronted Geese were at Wachusett Res., Oct. 10, and singles were reported from Westford, Oct. 23, and Acton, only 7 or 8 miles away, Oct. 30. In Rhode Island, the migration of Snow Geese was the best in recent years (*vide* DE), with 250 at Trustrom Pond, Nov. 7 (JM) and the largest flock in Connecticut: 450 at New Haven, Oct. 24 (SMa). The Oct. 12 count of 65 Brant was the largest flock ever for w. Massachusetts, where the season's total of 121 was well above normal (*vide* SK). Rebounding from last year's low numbers in w. Massachusetts, the tally of 43 Blue-winged Teals in 19 reports was well above average (*vide* SK). Redheads are always local and

the s. edge of George's Bank, 40 mi SE of Block I, RI, Sept. 12 (WP *et al.*), produced the highest fall count regionally in many years. Even more impressive was the total of 12,000 Wilson's Storm-Petrels between Plymouth and Cashes Ledge, MA at the end of August (SP). A **White-faced Storm-Petrel** was s. of Nantucket, MA at 40°57'N, 70°29'W Aug. 23 (SH), a typical date and location for this rare-but-regular visitor. A count from shore of 250 Leach's Storm-Petrels at Barnstable Oct. 27 (*fide* SP) after a small storm was a good tally.

This year the maximum N. Ganet number was 50+, seen at Old Lyme, CT Nov. 6 (HG). Even farther afield was a first-year bird found at a ski resort in Killington, VT Oct. 13 (MF, ASt, *et al.*) A pair of Am. White Pelicans was between Centerville and Yarmouth, MA Nov. 5–9, as well as at S. Dartmouth, and Chilmark, MA Nov. 16 (v.o.). An *Anhinga* was seen briefly from a moving car Aug. 14 at Hooksett, NH, by observers familiar with the species (†RHA). From nearby Manchester, NH came an Aug. 27 report (JW), unsupported by details.

There were only 2 reports of Least Bittern. In Connecticut one or two birds were at Old Lyme Aug. 8-10 (TH), and in Maine, one at Cherryfield, *Washington* Sept. 28 (*fide* WT) was about a month later than the typical departure date for breeders.

A **White Ibis** in "dirty adult plumage," was seen July 31, and Aug. 8 & 10 at Milford, CT (TK, CW, RSo). One at the Machias, ME landfill for at least 5 days, Sept. 11+ (Lew Frey *et al.*) also matched this description. A 3rd bird, also described as "adult," was seen flying with Glossy Ibises to an evening roost at Appledore I, ME Sept. 19 (SMo). The 64 Glossy Ibises at P.I., Aug. 21, was the highest count reported in many years.

erratic in New England, and rare inland. One was at Plainville, CT Nov. 11 (JMo). In w. Massachusetts, two were at e. Quabbin Oct. 24 and one at Agawam, Nov. 3-23 (*fide* SK). The annual gathering of Ring-necked Ducks at Lakeville, MA was well attended this year, reaching 1300 birds Oct. 23 (WP). Three ♀ or imm. Harlequin Ducks in the harbor at Seabrook, NH, beginning Oct. 16 had chosen an odd locale, away from their preferred pounding surf. Two remained to Nov. 20 (ABD *et al.*). The winter aggregation of Oldsquaws at Nantucket had reached 50,000 birds Nov. 10 (EA), a staggering, if typical, number. The w. Massachusetts total of 575 Black Scoters was above average (*fide* SK). Buffleheads staged a major flight in w. Massachusetts with 413 birds recorded. At Pittsfield, *Berkshire*, 117 seen Nov. 7 (*fide* SK) was a record high for inland Massachusetts. Hooded Mergansers were also quite evident, with 314 in w. Massachusetts. Seventy were at Sabattus Pond, *Androscoggin*, ME Oct. 30 (LB), where 1200+ Com. Mergansers were seen Nov. 19 (PV). In w. Massachusetts, a total of 513 was above average, as was the tally of 28 Red-breasted Mergansers in 9 sightings (*fide* SK). Ruddy Ducks were exceptionally well noted this season with counts of 600 at Little Compton, RI, Nov. 14 (DE, RE), and 168 at West Newbury, MA Nov. 6 (RS).

DIURNAL RAPTORS

This year 1-17 Black Vultures were seen until at least Nov. 15 at the New Milford Landfill and nearby Sunny Valley Nature Preserve in w. Connecticut. The most northeasterly report was of one at Milton, MA Aug. 18 (DS). Hawkwatchers, especially those away from the coast, had an excellent season with virtually every species somewhere in the Region. In New Hampshire, a record 347

Ospreys was only partially attributable to the 115 seen through improved coverage at Rye and Lebanon. Napatree Pt., RI, also recorded its highest-ever count, 103, Sept. 19 (JZ); 465 seen at the w. Massachusetts hawk-watches was also above average. Mississippi Kites have been occurring more frequently in New England. The Region's 4th and 5th fall reports were provided by Massachusetts individuals Sept. 12 at Ipswich (†RD, *fide* JB) and Sept. 25 at Marshfield (*fide* SP). One or two wing-tagged imm. Bald Eagles were seen at 2 e. Maine locales in mid-September, apparently having come from a Texas banding project. The Champlain Valley of Vermont saw a big flight of N. Harriers Nov. 3, with 23 at Addison alone (*fide* JP). The season total in w. Massachusetts was 262, an all-time high (*fide* SK). At the hawk-watches there, all 3 accipiter species were counted in above-average numbers. At S. Harpswell, ME the 1620 Sharp-shinned Hawks tallied was a weak showing despite very good counts of 31 Cooper's Hawks and 8 N. Goshawks (GA). Western Massachusetts hawk-watches tallied a record 119 Red-shouldered Hawks, encouraging for a species whose population has declined. The Broad-winged Hawk migration was a very good one this year. The season total for w. Massachusetts of 32,379, mostly seen Sept. 19, was the highest in 10 years. Three w. Connecticut sites each had counts of over 20,000 Sept. 19. The 1051 Red-tailed Hawks seen at w. Massachusetts hawk-watches set a record there (*fide* SK), as did the Regional total of 26 Golden Eagles, smashing last year's high of 21. The season's 11 Golden Eagles at Quaker Ridge, Greenwich, CT (*fide* BK), alone would have been higher than the total for all of New England until recently. Counts of the 3 more common species of falcons were also very good. Particularly interesting were the improved numbers of Am. Kestrels in Rhode Island, with 88 at Napatree, Sept. 19 (*fide* DE), the record 38 Merlins at the w. Massachusetts hawk-watches, and the 17 Peregrine Falcons at Nantucket, Sept. 30, the last being a one-day record for Massachusetts. The Region's four Gyrfalcons were the most since 1987. One at Block I., RI, Oct. 1, described as a dark-morph individual, was early. It was thought to be the same individual seen at various Rhode Island locales throughout the period.

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS

A Yellow Rail, was flushed by a tractor and seen briefly at Daniel Webster W. S., Marshfield, MA Nov. 2 (DL). A King Rail at Norfolk, MA Sept. 12 (BC) was a rare migrant. A Com. Moorhen was rare offshore at Monhegan I., ME Oct. 2 (BN *et al.*); regionally there were reports of 11 individuals, perhaps better than average for a species that has become rather rare. A Wilson's Plover seen at close range Sept. 2 at Columbia Falls, Washington, ME (GW), the 3rd record for the state, was the first in fall. A flock of 1500 Semipalmated Plovers at Milford Pt., CT Aug. 11 (SMa) provided a good count. In w.

Massachusetts, the season total of 114 was a record high. Record flocks of 24 and 26 birds Aug. 15 & 17, respectively, found at Agawam were thought to comprise different individuals (*fide* SK). A single ad. Am. Avocet may have been responsible for Aug. 1 sightings at both Quicksand Pond, RI (RB, BG), and S. Dartmouth, MA (TR). Another was at E. Boston, Sept. 17 (TA). A New Hampshire record high count of 72 Upland Sandpipers at Newington, and a Massachusetts near-record 21 at Cumberland Farms, Middleboro-Halifax, MA relieved anxiety temporarily about the species's decline. A Whimbrel at Longmeadow Aug. 6 was the first in w. Massachusetts since 1989 (*fide* SK). Only slightly less rare was one at Bridport, VT 2 days earlier (HW, WSc). Uncommon inland were three Hudsonian Godwits at Burlington, VT Oct. 17 (†TH, DC) as well as singles at Richmond, MA and at 3 Vermont locales. Noteworthy for their number were the 11 Marbled Godwits Sept. 30 at N. Monomoy I., MA (WH), only one bird shy of tying the state high. Three Semipalmated Sandpipers were a rarity far inland at Chesuncook L., Piscataquis, ME Aug. 13 (SPo). They were in good numbers in Rhode Island (*fide* DE) but low in w. Massachusetts (*fide* SK). Only about 30 Baird's Sandpipers were recorded regionally. One inland at Norridgewock, ME Aug. 25 (†WS) was locally rare. Only 14 Stilt Sandpipers were seen at P.I. (WD), normally a consistent locale. The 27 Buff-breasted Sandpipers for the Region was a little better than average and included a group of eight at P.I. (JB *et al.*). Ruffs included one at S. Monomoy I., MA in mid-August (*fide* SP), one without substantiating details at Crowley, MA Sept. 19, (NW), and a rare immature at Machiasport, ME Sept. 22 (NF). A staggeringly late, but carefully documented Short-billed Dowitcher was found at Napatree Pt., RI, Nov. 29 (†, CR). Common Snipes were again very low in w. Massachusetts, with only 12 found this fall (*fide* SK). Reports of all 3 species of phalaropes were few. A Red Phalarope found at Shelburne, VT Nov. 19 (TH, SMI, BKr) passed muster with the Vermont Bird Records Committee.

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

Thirty-four Pomarine Jaegers was a good total for a boat trip to the tuna fishing grounds at the edge of the continental shelf, 40 mi SE of Block I., RI, Sept. 12 (WP *et al.*), but far more unusual was a single member of this species seen 75 mi inland at the Little Round Top hawkwatch, Bristol, NH, Sept. 6 (†, SF, JWe). A Long-tailed Jaeger was photographed 15 mi s. of Block I., RI, Aug. 30 (DE, DF). Even rarer were the 2 sightings of difficult-to-identify immatures of this species. One was photographed at Cashes Ledge, MA Aug. 23 (RA). A pair at the tuna fishing grounds mentioned above Sept. 12 (WP *et al.*) furnished the first New England sighting of more than one of this species since 1982. Both Great and South Polar

Skuas were reported from the M.V. "Bluenose" Sept. 12 (RM, WH). A juv. Laughing Gull, the 2nd documented Vermont occurrence of the species, was seen at Bridport Aug. 3 (†WSc, JP, HW). A vagrant adult Franklin's Gull was capably described from the Schoodic Pen. section of Acadia N.P., ME Sept. 1 (GW *et al.*). Some 17 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. Sabine's Gulls were seen found at Rockport, MA Sept. 5 (CL), and inland at Sebastcook L., Newport, ME Oct. 24 (ph., †WS).

Terns had an usual year. A pair of Caspians, part of the Regional total of 16, was locally rare off Bar Harbor, ME Sept. 11 (WH *et al.*). More curiously, two-five Royal Terns were seen at Hammonasset S.P., CT on several occasions (*fide* BK), and a total of five in Massachusetts were unusual numbers. Equally unusual were the numbers of Sandwich Terns. In Massachusetts, one was at Martha's Vinyard, Aug. 17, and two were there Sept. 10 (VL), another at Ipswich, Sept. 9 (DRi) and one (dead) at Eastham, Sept. 11 (SP *et al.*). One put in an appearance at Napatree Pt., RI, Sept. 4 (CR). A group of 11 Com. Terns at Hammonasset S.P., CT Nov. 24 (JG, FD) was tempting fate with such a late departure from New England. It was a very big year for Forster's Terns, especially in Massachusetts. The largest flocks were of 80 at S. Monomoy I., Sept. 12 (BN), with 60 at adjacent N. Monomoy I. (*fide* BO). In Maine, 25 among 6 locales was extremely high, as were 40 at Quicksand Pond, RI (*fide* DE). Black Terns were in good numbers with 50 at S. Monomoy I., MA (SP), a dozen at Quicksand Pond, RI (JO), and 11 on a boat trip from Rye, NH (SM, DA), all in early to mid-September. Alcid reports were spotty. Twenty-three Dovekies seen at Rockport, MA Nov. 28 (G d'E) after a storm with SE winds was the highest count. Singles, and one pair, were found coastally at five other Massachusetts and two New Hampshire sites in late November, and one was picked up inland at E. Wakefield, NH (AB, SM). The 81 Razorbills seen in 30 min. with 60+ "large alcid, sp." at Provincetown, MA Nov. 29 (ML), was the highest for the season and one of the better November counts in recent years.

CUCKOOS TO WOODPECKERS

Both Black-billed and Yellow-billed cuckoos were virtually absent in w. Massachusetts (*fide* SK). Vermont observers considered Black-billed hard to find, and came up with only a single report of a Yellow-billed: Aug. 15 at Winhall (WNo). In Connecticut, five or more Short-eared Owls were found beginning Sept. 22 (*fide* BK). Two Sept. 13 at Nantucket, MA where the breeding population has plummeted, were probably migrants (*fide* SP). Three were found there Nov. 7 (CF). One Oct. 26 at Northampton, MA in the Connecticut R. Valley was a very good find, as were four in Addison, VT Nov. 30. The species is of "special concern" in the latter state.

Common Nighthawks had a season's total of only 3398 at Northampton, MA (TG). Elsewhere in Massachusetts, after a poor August migration, the situation improved to "decent" in early September (*vide* SK). One at N. Scituate, Oct. 8 (*vide* SP) was late but was overshadowed by the Oct. 30 appearance of one at Wrentham (SN), the second-latest ever for the Region. A flight of 800–1000 Aug. 30 (GCp) at Esmond was one of the largest ever recorded for RI (*vide* DE). A **Rufous Hummingbird**, seen and photographed at close range, at S. Eaton, NH Aug. 19, (†JSi) provided a 2nd state record. A Black-backed Woodpecker Sept. 12 at Winhall, VT (†WNo) was at the opposite end of the state from the small breeding population in the "Northeast Kingdom." Even rarer was a female, Nov. 2, at Eastham, MA (GL).

FLYCATCHERS TO GNATCATCHERS

As measured by captures at banding stations, it was not a good year for flycatchers breeding in New England. At A.I., the five E. Wood-Pewees caught was a record low, as was the catch of 18 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers. A dozen each "Traill's" (*i.e.*, undifferentiated Alder and Willow) and Least flycatchers were caught (*vide* DH). For comparison, the 7-year average of "Traill's" caught at Appledore is about 44. At V.I.N.S., banders caught only 11 Least Flycatchers. The count of 50 E. Phoebe at Block I., RI, Oct. 4–6, was unusually high, however. An **Ash-throated Flycatcher**, the 9th for Massachusetts, was at Arlington, Nov. 7–14 (LT *et al.*). After their upward spike last year, W. Kingbird numbers sank again, with only 12 reported Region-wide. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at Eastham, MA Oct. 24–29 (ph., NI *et al.*). Some 15,000 Tree Swallows, drawn from the surrounding 10–15 mi, were roosting at Sakonnet Pt., RI, in late September (DE), as they did last year. Very late, too, was a N. Rough-winged Swallow, Sept. 19 at W. Peabody, MA (RH). In fact, it was the second-latest ever for Massachusetts.

The terrible toll buildings and their windows take on migrant birds is not always so immediately evident as it was Nov. 2 on the roof of a Hartford, CT parking garage. Twenty Black-capped Chickadee corpses were found, apparently having struck an adjacent, much taller, building during the foggy night and previous day (*vide* BK). Thankfully less macabre was the report of 180 live birds at Wellfleet, MA Sept. 11 (BBC), one of the higher one-day chickadee migration counts for the state. Boreal Chickadees made their first move southward in 7 years. Three were at W. Boylston, MA Nov. 13 (ML *et al.*), and four occurred at Belchertown, MA in mid-November (*vide* SP). Farthest south was one at Hammonasset S.P., CT Nov. 4 (RSz) seen with migrating Black-capped Chickadees. Red-breasted Nut-hatches staged what Seth Kellogg called a "monster" southward movement in the w. parts of the Region, some birds arriving in Rhode Island as early as July. Several flocks exceeding 100 birds were reported

from Rhode Island, Connecticut, and w. Massachusetts, the largest being of 300+ at Voluntown, CT Nov. 27 (DP). Contrasting with the expansion of Carolina Wrens has been the sharp decline of Sedge Wrens in New England since about 1976. Hopeful, therefore, was the continued presence of 2–3 breeding pairs in Windsor, MA (*vide* SK), as well as individuals found at Greenwich Pt., CT Sept. 9 (BO'T), Monhegan I., ME Sept. 25 (PV), and Block I., RI, Oct. 5 (RO, DE, DK). Golden-crowned Kinglets were scarcer than usual, but 365 Ruby-crowned Kinglets in 95 reports was above average in w. Massachusetts (*vide* SK), as was a tally of 200 at Block I., RI Oct. 4–6 (RB). The latest Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was at Trustrom Pond N.W.R., RI Nov. 30 (JM *et al.*).

THRUSHES TO VIREOS

A **Townsend's Solitaire**, the 5th recorded for the state, delighted observers by remaining at Hingham, MA Nov. 13+ (DC *et al.*). No Gray-cheeked Thrushes of any race were found in w. Massachusetts. The first big nocturnal flight of Swainson's Thrushes to be reported here in more than a decade occurred, 500 strong, Sept. 17 at Lincoln, MA. Have Brown Thrashers really disappeared from New England? None was reported this season. For the 2nd consecutive year, Am. Pipits were present in good numbers. Maximum counts occurred early, during the 3rd week of September.

Bohemian Waxwings moved into n. New England on a broad front, generally arriving about the beginning of November. First, by more than a month, however, was one at Corea, Hancock, ME on the remarkable date of Sept. 3 (NF). The most southerly were four at Wellfleet, MA Nov. 21 (SC), and the largest group comprised 270 individuals at Plymouth, NH, Nov. 18 (PH). In sharp contrast was the miniscule total of four Cedar Waxwings banded at Maine's Appledore I., where the normal catch is 30–100 (*vide* DH). Rare at the n. edge of their range were individual White-eyed Vireos at Monhegan, ME Sept. 25 (PV), Deerfield, MA Sept. 30 (DPo), and Rockingham, VT Oct. 26 (†TJ).

WARBLERS

Those species universally found in low numbers were Tennessee and Bay-breasted warblers and Am. Redstarts. Low in some part of New England without compensating highs elsewhere were N. Parulas in w. Massachusetts (*vide* SK), Yellows at A.I. (*vide* DH), Ovenbirds at V.I.N.S., N. Waterthrushes in w. Massachusetts (*vide* SK), Wilson's and Canada warblers in w. Massachusetts (*vide* SK), and Yellow-breasted Chats at A.I. (*vide* DH). There was an above-average six Golden-winged Warblers in e. Massachusetts, but only one elsewhere. Orange-crowns were better-than-average with 16 in e. Massachusetts, three in Maine, and two in Vermont, both accepted by the Vermont Bird Records Committee. Cape Mays were "disastrous" at A I (*vide* DH) but

enjoyed a good flight in early October at Block I., RI, (RB *et al.*) and Monhegan I., ME (BN). Yellow-rumped Warblers were low everywhere except in w. Massachusetts which witnessed a good flight (*vide* SK) Com. Yellowthroats were low at V.I.N.S. (*vide* CR) but strong at Block I., RI, (*vide* EL) Warblers recognized as being in good numbers somewhere, without opposing claims elsewhere, were Nashvilles in w. Massachusetts (*vide* SK), Magnolias in w. Massachusetts (*vide* SK) and at V.I.N.S. (*vide* CR), Black-throated Blues in w. Massachusetts (*vide* SK), Black-throated Greens in w. Massachusetts (*vide* SK) and at V.I.N.S. (*vide* CR), Palms in w. Massachusetts and, at least during the first week of October, at Monhegan, ME (BN.). No species appeared in impressively high numbers throughout all parts of the Region.

Late records of Tennessee Warbler were of one eating *Euonymus* berries at Scarborough, ME Nov. 1 (GC), and one, estimated to have been dead for a week, Nov. 27, at Lincoln, MA perhaps the 2nd latest ever for New England (SP). Noteworthy for their number were the five Orange-crowned Warblers at Cambridge, MA Oct. 24 (RS). Other late warblers were a Nashville at Boston, MA Nov. 12+ (TA), a carefully studied Yellow at Rye, NH, Sept. 21 (RQ), and a Black-throated Blue at Chatham, MA Nov. 1–12. Astonishing was the appearance of two **Townsend's Warblers**, the 5th and 6th records for New England. Maine's first ever was an ad. male at Monhegan I., Sept. 13 (†HT, TMa, JMS). In New Hampshire, one at Rye, Nov. 21 (†MR) furnished the 2nd state record. A Black-and-white Warbler at Tiverton, RI, Nov. 24, (DF) was present very late. Only 15 Connecticut Warblers were found regionally, though three in w. Massachusetts was higher than normal (*vide* SK). A "re-trap" of a Com. Yellowthroat at A.I., proved him to be at least 7 years old. A Canada Warbler, Oct. 17 at Medford, MA (MRI), was yet another late-to-depart warbler.

It was a banner year for "southern warblers" in New England. The presence of nine Yellow-throated Warblers, five in Massachusetts alone, was without precedent. Of the Massachusetts birds, two were at P.I., and one was at S. Peabody, doubling the number of records away from the s.e. coastal plain. The most northerly was the individual at Scarborough, ME Sept. 12 (GC). Single Cerulean Warblers were at Marblehead, MA on the record early dates of Aug. 7–9 (TA *et al.*), and at Quabbin, MA Aug. 15 (ML). Two Prothonotary Warblers were found in Massachusetts in September, and one at Appledore I, ME Sept. 11, delighted attendees at the Association of Field Ornithologists meeting. The 4–5 Kentucky Warblers in e. Massachusetts from Aug. 7 to Sept. 20 (*vide* BO), and two banded at A.I., Aug. 18 and 20 (*vide* DH) represented the greatest number of fall records in almost 2 decades. Totals of five Hooded Warblers in e. Massachusetts and one at A I, were well more than in most

years. They included late individuals at Boston, Oct. 31 (RDo) and Nahant, Nov. 5 (LP *et al.*).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

Two Summer Tanagers in Maine, one at Appledore I., banded Sept. 8 and seen again 2 days later (*fide* DH), and one at Monhegan I., Sept. 29 (BN) were rare. Only a dozen Scarlet Tanagers were banded at V.I.N.S., less than half the 7-year average. Poor local reproductive success was suggested as the proximate cause. A Western Tanager arrived on schedule in mid-November at Wellfleet, MA and stayed over a week (JSo *et al.*). A total of 19 Blue Grosbeaks was found, including one at Northampton furnishing the 5th fall record for w. Massachusetts (ML). A "lightning-strikes-twice" event occurred with the Nov. 30 return of a ♀ Painted Bunting to the same Brewster, MA feeder where one passed the winter of 1992–1993 (AF). Another, the first in Rhode Island in ten years, visited a Tiverton feeder Nov. 21 (WN). Only nine Dickcissels were reported this season. There has been a steady decline in the past decade with the present total less 20% of those of the past.

American Tree Sparrows showed up in n. New England in good numbers beginning in early October. At V.I.N.S., 111 were banded compared to a 7-year average of only 26. On the late side were individual Lark Sparrows at Wrentham, MA Nov. 20 (*fide* SP) and nearby Bridgewater, MA for the next two days (KW). Two Grasshopper Sparrows were e. at Cutler, *Washington*, ME Sept. 2. One was refound Sept. 5 (NF). Good finds in Massachusetts were a Henslow's Sparrow at Salem Woods, MA Oct. 16 (†, IL), and single Le Conte's Sparrows at Newton, Sept. 24–28 (RF), and Marshfield, Oct. 30 (Gd'E). A Seaside Sparrow was at Scarborough Marsh Aug. 22 (†LB). At A.I., the banding total of 39 Song Sparrows was "disastrous" compared to a normal total of 50–140 (*fide* DH). Banders at V.I.N.S. (CR) and at Block I., RI (EL), echoed the sentiment. In fact all *Melospiza* sparrows were netted at V.I.N.S. in low numbers with the 19 Lincoln's Sparrows and 12 Swamp Sparrows setting record lows (*fide* CR). A Lincoln's Sparrow far at sea at the s. edge of George's Bank, Sept. 12, was a rarity (WP). White-throated Sparrows were also caught in low numbers at V.I.N.S., 169 *vs.* a 7-year mean of 246. Still, an impressive 400 were reported on Monhegan I., ME from late September to early August (BN). In w. Massachusetts, 296 White-crowned Sparrows in 90 reports was a record high (*fide* SK). Maine observers commented on the very high proportion of juv. White-Crowneds, with one observer in the e. part of the state not finding an adult among roughly 80 individuals seen during censuses (NF). Dark-eyed Juncos arrived in Maine in mid-September and seemed especially numerous, particularly in e. parts of the state, through the end of the reporting period (*fide* WT CD). Members of the rare "Oregon" group of subspecies were



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Eastham on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, on October 26, 1993.
Photograph/Roger S. Everett.

reported from Cape Elizabeth, ME Oct. 19 (SPo), and S. Londonderry, VT Oct. 26 (†, WNo). Lapland Longspurs were well reported in all parts of New England. An Oct. 29 flock at Biddeford Pool, ME of 75+ individuals (LB) was a particularly good tally. Snow Buntings staged a poor flight in w. Massachusetts (*fide* SK). But elsewhere reached peaks of 500 at Bridport, VT Nov. 3 (FP) and of 800 at Boston's Logan Airport, Nov. 2 (NS), with 610 at P.I., the same day (WD *et al.*). Connecticut and Rhode Island also reported above-average flights. Migrant Bobolinks built to a peak of 1579 individuals at New Haven, CT Sept. 12. At Block I., RI, though, an early October weekend total of ten only 10% of totals in the early 1980's (*fide* RFx). Yellow-headed Blackbird was represented by a male at W. Bridgewater, MA (CK), an immature at P.I. (RF), both Sept. 20 and one at Monhegan I., ME Sept. 29 (BN). Astonishingly late was the Orchard Oriole photographed at Truro, MA Oct. 25 (ph., JSo *et al.*). The previous Massachusetts late date was Sept. 26 (1967). Adult ♂ N. Orioles are very scarce after August. This year, three such individuals were reported: E. Machias, ME (CD) and Chester, NH (ABD) both on Oct. 22, and Portland, ME Nov. 17, with a female of its species. The Portland birds, joined by another female and an immature, were present to beyond the end of the reporting period (REa). Other late females or immatures were at Cumberland, ME Nov. 22 (LB), and Chester, NH, Nov. 8 (ABD). In Vermont, banders at V.I.N.S. ended the season with only 3 N. Orioles captured against a 7-year mean of 13. Late and rare, a ♀ "Bullock's" Oriole, presumably a reverse migrant, was reported from Parker River N.W.R., MA (KD).

A Brambling, providing the 4th state record and the first in fall, was at Groveland, Essex, MA Nov. 8 (LC, DCh), leaving some commentators wondering about the "question of origin." Northern finches staged their first invasion in several years, but there was a localized quality to their distribution. Pine Grosbeaks, mostly females and imm. males, arrived in late October and early November in small flocks across Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and w. Massachusetts. The most southerly was one that reached Voluntown, CT Nov. 17 (DP). Red Crossbills moved in w. Massachusetts beginning Oct. 23 but could not elsewhere be considered to

have staged an invasion. The situation was virtually identical for White-winged Crossbills. Common Redpolls staged their first major flight since the winter of 1986–1987, arriving at the end of October in Maine and Vermont, spreading southward to Connecticut and Rhode Island by mid-November. The largest flocks were of 300 at Hanover, NH, Nov. 5 (BNo), and 328 at Bridport, VT Nov. 17 (JP). Two Hoary Redpolls were convincingly described at Addison, VT on the early date of Nov. 19 (†FP, EP, JP, TH). Evening Grosbeaks moved southward on a very broad front. Observers in Rhode Island were amazed to find a few arriving from early July through September, followed by larger flocks from mid-October onward. In Connecticut it seemed that after building to a peak, numbers dropped off after mid-October suggesting that at least some migrants pushed on farther south. Among the higher state counts were 350 at Searsburg, VT Nov. 30 (NM), 300 at Scarborough, ME Oct. 15 (LB), 80 at Claremont, NH, Nov. 13 (SW), and 69 at New Haven, CT Oct. 28 (JF *et al.*) The total in w. Massachusetts was 1614, about ten times higher than in "normal" years.

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S.A.

Prior to the mid-1950's **Northern Wheatears** were extraordinarily rare in New England. The frequency of occurrence grew gradually until 1976, when 11 invaded New England and the Maritimes, more than in the entire previous decade. These 11 were found over the period of 2 months suggesting that a single meteorological event pushing migrants off their course may not have been the cause. Over the next 16 years, a more moderate total of 33 was recorded in fall in New England.

This season presented the 2nd Great Wheatear Invasion. South of the breeding grounds, observers found at least 23, including nine in New England and three just beyond our borders (*vide* NBHC). While the 1993 occurrences were more temporally compressed than the 1976 invasion, fully a month passed from the discovery of the season's first individual in n. Newfoundland to the last in New England. This season's sightings in the Region are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. N. Wheatears in New England, Fall 1993

1 Bridport, VT	Sept. 10-11	(†,BG <i>et al.</i>)
1 P.I.	Sept. 11	(†,MMA <i>et al.</i>)
1 Martha's Vinyard, MA	Sept. 11	(AK)
1 Block I., RI	Sept. 18	(†,EJ, ASm)
1 ^a Northampton, MA	Sept. 18	(PY)
1 Groton, CT	Sept. 19	(<i>vide</i> NBHC) ^b
1 S. Monomoy I., MA	Sept. 25	(RS <i>et al.</i>)
1 Burlington, VT	Sept. 25 or 26	
(fide NBHC) ^b		
1 Petit Manan N.W.R., ME	Sept. 27	(fide SPo)

^a 2nd ever in w. Massachusetts

^b No details

HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

*William J. Boyle, Jr.,
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David A. Cutler*

The hot, dry summer weather continued into August, but gradually abated, as a series of cold fronts in September brought good waves of migrant songbirds and spectacular Broad-winged Hawk flights to selected ridges. Low water levels at inland reservoirs, a product of the prolonged summer drought, brought some excellent shorebirding, but bone-dry Raymond Pool at Bombay Hook, the Region's premier shorebirding spot, failed to attract its usual hordes of waders. The last half of the season was cooler and wetter than normal, but failed to produce the strong cold fronts that can lead to major flights of migrants along the coast.

Although the season was regarded as only fair to good by most observers, an exceptional number of rarities was discovered. Many state or local rarities were vagrants from the western United States in a season when such regular wanderers as Western Kingbird and Lark Sparrow were in relatively short supply. New to the Region were Black-bellied Whistling-Duck and Marbled Murrelet, while other major rarities included Western Grebe, Reddish Egret, Spotted Redshank, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Ross' Gull, several Rufous Hummingbirds, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Gray Kingbird, Cave Swallow, Northern Wheatear, Lark Bunting, Black-headed Grosbeak, and the hold-over Whiskered Tern from the summer season.

After year's of devoted part-time duty by Dave Ward watching for migrant seabirds at Avalon, *Cape May*, New Jersey, the Cape May Bird Observatory sponsored the first full-time sea watch at that location from mid-September to mid-December. As far as we know, this is the first such endeavor ever conducted in the United States, although less comprehensive studies have been conducted at such places as Cape Canaveral, Florida, and Pigeon Point, California, in addition to Ward's long-standing efforts at Avalon. The results, through November 30, were very informative, and provide an interesting comparison with observations from inland sites on selected migrants. It would be enlightening to see the results of similar studies carried out at such key coastal observation sites as Cape Ann, Cape Cod, Montauk Point, Cape Hatteras, and others. As mentioned in this column last year, the combination of data from sea and lake watches with those of the hawk watches often shows a pattern, as on November 7, a day of strong northwest winds, when big Red-tailed Hawk and Golden Eagle flights passed along the ridges and a major Common Loon movement occurred on Lake Cayuga.

Abbreviations: Avalon (*seawatch n. of Cape May, NJ*); Bombay Hook (*Bombay Hook*

N.W.R., near Smyrna, DE); Braddock Bay (*Braddock Bay Park, 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*); Hamlin Beach (*Hamlin Beach S.P., w. of Rochester, Monroe, NY*); Hawk Mt. (*Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, near Kempton, Berks, PA*); Jamaica Bay (*Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref., New York City*); Little Creek (*Little Creek W.M.A., Kent, DE*); Montezuma (*Montezuma N.W.R., n. end of L. Cayuga, Seneca, NY*); Raccoon Ridge (*the Kittatinny Ridge near Millbrook, Warren, NJ*); Sandy Hook (*Sandy Hook Unit, Gateway Nat'l Recreation Area, Monmouth, NJ*).



Eared Grebe at Cape May Point, New Jersey, on October 2, 1993. Photograph/Keith Seager.

Table 1. Seawatch at Avalon, NJ, Sept. 15-Nov. 30¹

Species	Peak flight	Date	Total to Nov. 30
Red-throated Loon	5305	11/13	47,843
Common Loon	295	11/06	3154
Northern Gannet	2608	11/18	22,807
Brown Pelican	37	10/13	103
Great Cormorant	11	11/09	124
Double-cr. Cormorant	20,312	10/10	151,861
Green-winged Teal	1174	10/24	4767
Am. Black Duck	143	11/25	3255
Common Eider	5	09/21	12
King Eider	2	11/22	3
Oldsquaw	112	11/02	1102
Black Scoter	14,462	10/24	42,926
Surf Scoter	10,959	10/25	64,134
White-winged Scoter	188	11/19	3431
unident. scoter	23,265	10/24	87,920
Red-br. Merganser	680	11/19	3431
Harlequin Duck	6	10/24	9
Pomarine Jaeger	1		2
Parasitic Jaeger	8	10/25	62
alcid, sp.			5

¹ Dave Ward, Clay Sutton, Fred Mears

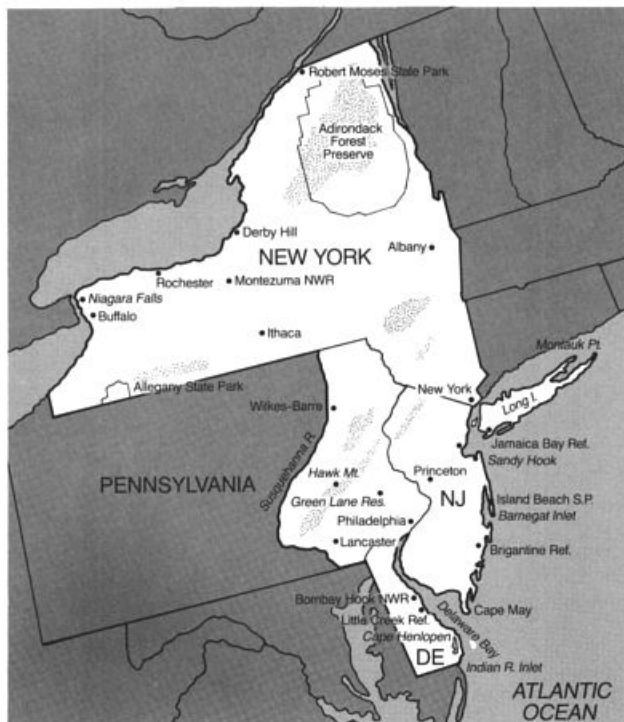
LOONS TO IBISES

Unprecedented large flights of Red-throated Loons occurred along the L. Ontario shore from Hamlin Beach w. to Golden Hill S.P., *Niagara* in mid-November. The peak count of 227 Nov. 11 at the latter location nearly doubles a previous high total seen in the 1950's (WDn). At Hamlin Beach, where the shape of the shoreline brings the migrants closer in, counts of 1201 Nov. 10 and 1413 Nov. 16 were all-time highs (BEw). Although these loons were presumably bound ultimately for the Atlantic coast, they were all migrating W. Not surprisingly, these flights coincided with the peak numbers on the

coast, where 5305 passed Avalon Nov. 13. As usual, very few came down between the Great Lakes and the Atlantic.

A well-described **Pacific Loon** discovered in a flock of 25 Com. Loons on the Susquehanna R., at Marietta, Lancaster, PA Oct. 30 (JHe), was a county first, and only the 2nd for the state, if accepted by the records committee. The loons, grounded by rain and fog that also brought numerous waterfowl to inland lakes such as Beltzville L., Carbon, PA and Cayuga L., NY, departed the next morning, while birders were searching for the vagrant. For the 2nd year in a row, a loon watch was conducted at Taughannock S.P. on the s.w. shore of Cayuga L., Thompsons, NY Oct. 10–Nov. 27. An impressive total of 8374 Com. Loons was tallied, the biggest flights coming on days with strong N or NW winds, especially Nov. 1–2 & 7, with totals of 943, 1224, and 1140, respectively. The protracted migration produced daily flights in excess of 250 in each of the 7 weeks of the study. Only 15 Red-throated Loons were recorded, with a maximum of five Nov. 7 (B. Meade, BEv).

The usual small numbers of Red-necked Grebes were noted along L. Ontario, but an early bird (or birds) at Hamlin Beach Sept. 15 (BEw) and 25 (DSH), and Oct. 10 (CCa), was still in breeding attire, a plumage seldom seen in this Region. One at Taughannock (BEv), four for the season at Saratoga L. (WRE, NLM), three at Smith Pt., LI Nov. 11 (JC), and two at Round Valley Res., Hunterdon, NJ Nov. 26 (RKA), plus a few scattered singles along the New Jersey coast were the others reported. An Eared Grebe discovered at the Conejohela Flats Oct. 2 (JHo), was a county first; it was joined by a 2nd bird Oct. 7 and both were seen through Oct. 17. Other Eared Grebes were at Cape May Oct. 1–2 (m.ob.), Yates, Orleans, NY Oct. 30 (WDn), and Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence, NY Nov. 16–18 (LC). New Jersey's first documented **Western Grebe** since the 1970s was found on the Shark R. Estuary, Monmouth Oct. 29, and seen by many through Nov. 2, after which it was seen again only briefly Nov. 8



(T. Tarlach, m.ob., ph. S. Finnegan, LLa).

A Sept. 11 pelagic trip that ventured 90 mi s.e. of Montauk produced four-six Audubon's Shearwaters, as well as similar numbers of Manx Shearwaters. American White Pelicans appeared in all 4 states, with two at the Conejohela Flats Aug. 22 being the most unusual (JB, TG, EW). Two at Jamaica Bay, one-two at Brig, three at Cape May, and one at Prime Hook N.W.R., Sussex, DE all in November, may have been some of the same birds wandering the coast. As noted in the Summer Season, Brown Pelican numbers were far below those of recent years, the flock of 37 at Avalon Oct. 13, being the biggest count of the year. A N. Gannet at Hamlin Beach Nov. 22, added to the variety at that excellent "sea" watching locale (RMA *et al.*). The huge count of Double-crested Cormorants at Avalon partly reflects the exploding Great Lakes population causing so many complaints by fishermen.

Single Little Blue Herons at Braddock Bay Aug. 28 (BE) & Sept. 25 (RO, RSp) were noteworthy, but much more unusual and very late was one on the Chenango R. at Chenango Bridge, Broome, NY Oct. 30 (J. Hotaling). The **Reddish Egret** first seen at the Logan Tract, Kent, DE in July was at Little Creek most of August, and was seen by many searching for unusual terns. Also at Little Creek and the Logan Tract during August were the previously noted imm. White Ibis (m.ob.); two at Bombay Hook Aug. 22 could have been the same birds (LLa *et al.*). Another imm. White Ibis on the Conestoga R. at Rock Hill, Lancaster, PA Aug. 2–21, may have been the bird discovered at Marsh Creek W.M.A., Chester a few days earlier. The last of the season was a fly-by at Cape May Aug. 25.

WATERFOWL

A group of five **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** at Manor Township, Lancaster, PA July 21–Aug. 12 (JB, TG, H. Morrin) followed closely the appearance of a flock of 11 in Indiana and Westmoreland, PA as well as similar-sized flocks at numerous other locations around the n.e. United States and Canada. The origin of these birds remains the subject of much speculation, although many have noted the rapidly increasing population in n. Mexico and Texas. An impressive flock of 700+ Tundra Swans at Brig Nov. 21 was the only concentration reported (DF), while the usual scattering of Greater White-fronted Geese included one on Long Island, two in New Jersey, and one in Delaware.

Ross' Geese are now annual along the coast, but two adults at Tomhannock Res., Rensselaer, NY Nov. 14–28 were highly unusual (WRE, NLM *et al.*). At least one



Black-legged Kittiwake (in first-winter plumage) in Montour County, Pennsylvania, on November 5, 1993. Apparently the first state record to be photographically confirmed. Photograph/Rick Wiltraut.

was at Brig from Oct. 17 (LLa *et al.*), but a family group of six at Woodland Beach W.M.A., Kent, DE in early October represents a new high for the Region; two others were at Prime Hook in November. Snow Geese were much in evidence, even in inland locations such as Mercer, NJ where the largest flocks in memory (up to 1000 birds) were found. They were apparently on their way to the n. Delmarva Peninsula, where aerial surveys found a record 189,000 birds in mid-November, about two-thirds of them in Delaware.

A flock of 2500 Canvasback at Montezuma was impressive for a species that has declined drastically in the Region in the past ten years. The now annual contingent of Tufted Ducks included three on Long Island in October and a returning drake in Rye, Westchester, NY from Nov. 11 (TWB *et al.*). A group of eight King Eiders flying N past the Mt. Pleasant, Thompsons, NY hawk watch Oct. 26, were amazingly far inland, and may represent the largest number ever recorded from upstate New York (†NB). A Harlequin Duck at Hamlin Beach Nov. 1 added to the



One of two American White Pelicans at Conejohela Flats, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, on August 22, 1993. Photograph/J. Eric Witmer.

interesting list of migrants there (BEW *et al.*), and the usual small flocks appeared along the coast by mid-month. A returning Barrow's Goldeneye arrived at Saratoga L. in early November (WRE *et al.*).

RAPTORS

The list of regional hawk watches is getting too long to itemize in our limited space, but we thank the many contributors. One of the newer watches, Militia Hill, in Fort Washington S.P. just outside Philadelphia, attracted dozens of curious visitors after its founder, Marylea Klauder, appeared on a local radio talk show. The seasonal count there topped 20,000 for the first time, far surpassing the total at Hawk Mt. Sanctuary. Cape May had the highest count since 1988 at 30,971, though still far below the 17-year average, while Fort Tilden and Fire Island on Long Island had above average totals thanks to strong flights of Am. Kestrels.

A Black Vulture was new at Mt. Pleasant Oct. 11 (B. Guirey). Impressive one-day counts of Bald Eagles were led by Raccoon Ridge with 21 Sept. 11 (109 for the season, JM) and Chimney Rock Somerset, NJ with 18 Sept. 19 (CA). Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers were up at most counts, including a 61% increase over last year at Cape May, but remain far below the long-term averages. Northern Goshawks made a strong showing, if not an outright invasion, with a record 80 at Cape May and a seven-year high of 104 at Hawk Mt. November 7 was the biggest day, as 13 passed both Raccoon Ridge and Hawk Mt.

September 19–20 saw a huge movement of Broad-winged Hawks across the northeast, although it bypassed some of the traditional sites like Hawk Mt. and Raccoon Ridge. Montclair recorded 14,000+ birds on both days and Militia Hill had 11,535 on the 20th, a day when only 111 Broad-wingeds passed Hawk Mt. Only one Swainson's Hawk visited Cape May, where their frequency correlates well with the number of Broad-winged Hawks reaching the point (only 625 for the season). In Pennsylvania, however, a probable Swainson's Hawk was at Hawk Mt., Sept. 22 and singles were at Blue Mt., Lehigh Sept. 25 and Oct. 9 (R. MacClay). The revived Franklin Mt. hawk watch, near Oneonta, Delaware, NY in only its 3rd year of full-time coverage, continues to lay claim to being the premier Golden Eagle migration site in the northeast, with a season total of 139 (*vs.* 65 at Hawk Mt.) including 27 Nov. 2 and 25 Nov. 7 (C. Vredenburg *et al.*). Although Am. Kestrels were up at most counts, the numbers at Cape May were still far below the long-term average, while Merlin declined there for the 8th year.

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS

A Purple Gallinule was seen at Brig Sept. 30 (C. Krilowicz) and another was found dead at Cape May the same day (P. Kerlinger). Ednie notes that Am. Coot, which was formerly abundant at Bombay Hook in the fall, is now quite rare there; this species has

declined substantially as a breeding bird in the Region in recent years. Two early Sandhill Cranes were found in New York: one at Braddock Bay Aug. 9 (BEW, CCA), and another was an outstanding local rarity along the Susquehanna R. at Windsor, Broome near Binghamton Sept. 12–15 (J. Sedlacek *et al.*). Individuals at Cape May Oct. 13–14, at Goshen, Cape May Oct. 26–29 (C. Bennett), and Greenwich, Cumberland, NJ Nov. 6 (H. Basso), may represent the same bird wandering up the Delaware Bayshore.

The only sizable count of Lesser Golden-Plovers was a flock of 27 at Doctors Path, Riverhead, LI Sept. 5, but small numbers were seen at inland sod farms as well as grassy areas of Brig and Bombay Hook. Three Am. Avocets at Chautauqua L., Chautauqua Aug. 20, contributed only the second 20th cen-



Franklin's Gull at Cape May, New Jersey, September 10, 1993. Photograph/Tony Leukering.

tury record for the Niagara region (R. Sundell); more expected were singles at Jamaica Bay Aug. 5 and Sept. 23–Oct. 3, and one-three at Brig and Cape May on various dates through the fall. A Spotted Redshank was reported at Jamaica Bay Oct. 3 (B. Gochfeld), and another was seen and photographed at Brig Oct. 22–23 (B. Moscatello, J. Sedicino, A. Driscoll). Topping off the season, the Spotted Redshank that spent last winter returned to the same floating pier in Brooklyn Nov. 30 (J. Giunta).

Coastal observers are used to seeing small flocks of Hudsonian Godwits, but groups of five at Tomhannock Res. (WRE), eight at Montezuma, ten at Sylvan Beach, Oneida, and 17 at Irondequoit Bay, Rochester, all in mid-October, were extraordinary for upstate New York. The Conejohela Flats were excellent for shorebirds this fall, and produced 16 species Sept. 18. Among the species seen there earlier were one-two Marbled Godwits Sept. 2–6 (RMS *et al.*), while another was an exceptional rarity at Tift Nature Preserve near Buffalo Aug. 26 (WW *et al.*). Numerous individuals were reported from Long Island and New Jersey, and a few small flocks, including one of 11 birds at Townsend's Inlet, Cape May Oct. 10 (DG). One was a fly-by at Port Mahon, DE Aug. 12 (WH *et al.*).

Delaware's first Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was an adult at Bombay Hook Aug. 8 to month's end, discovered by John O'Brien, who had come from Illinois to see an unusual tern. Curlew Sandpiper reports included only one at Brig previously noted, one at Shinnecock Inlet Oct. 3 (ES), and a

few at the usual spots in Delaware. In addition to the usual sod farms and coastal locations, Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found at the Conejohela Flats Aug. 26–Sept. 8, and at 3 different inland spots in upstate New York where they are uncommon: Green Island, Albany, Aug. 25–27 (m.ob.), Montezuma Sept. 6 (K. McGowan), and Phoenix, Oswego, Sept. 12–16 (J. Hanyak *et al.*). The 5 reports of Ruff were in early August, except for a female at Jamaica Bay Sept. 4.

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

One or two Pomarine Jaegers were at the Conejohela Flats for at least 9 days from Aug. 29 (RMS), and another was at Cape May Point Sept. 22, in addition to the two seen at Avalon. A Franklin's Gull at Wildwood Crest, Cape May Sept. 11 (TLe *et al.*), was the 2nd local occurrence of the year of this species, which is rare anywhere away from the Niagara area, where only one was noted in September. No significant concentrations of Little Gulls were found at Niagara or Rochester, and only a few were noted on the coast, where Com. Black-headed Gull (3 reports) seems to be less common than formerly. The scarcity of white-winged gull reports did not presage a winter influx, but a first-winter Thayer's Gull was noted at Montauk Nov. 20 (TLA) and Nov. 27 (J. Ash); although considered a regular fall migrant at Niagara, there are few records from the southern part of the Region.

Brinkley described an unidentified sub-ad. gull at Cayuga Oct. 28, thought to be either a Herring × Great Black-backed hybrid or a Slaty-backed Gull; given the recent appearance of the latter species at Niagara Falls as well as other spots around the country, birders need to be aware of all possibilities (†NB). A Black-legged Kittiwake near Washingtonville, Montour, PA in early November was the first photographically documented for the state, although there have been a number of accepted sight records (ph. B&FH).

The gull of the season was New Jersey's first Ross' Gull, an immature seen about 5 mi off Manasquan Inlet by birders from a fishing boat Nov. 27; initially thought to be a Little Gull, it was correctly identified thanks to the stunning photographs taken by the quick-thinking photographer (T. Boyle, S. Kerr, ph.). The only previous Regional report was of a single-observer sighting at Montauk Dec. 11, 1986. Two different imm. Sabine's Gulls were found at the Conejohela Flats Sept. 5 (RMS) and Sept. 27 (JHe). In upstate New York where they occur annually, there were reports from the Niagara R. and two at Hamlin Beach.

One-two Sandwich Terns at Hereford Inlet, Cape May in August and September (DGi) were the only ones reported among the smaller than usual flocks of Royal Terns. An Arctic Tern at Hamlin Beach Oct. 14 furnished only the 2nd record for Genesee Region of upstate New York (BSy *et al.*), while a Bridled Tern seen 35 mi e. of Indian River Inlet Aug. 23, furnished a first record



North America's first Whiskered Tern stayed in coastal Delaware throughout August. This view on August 15, 1993, shows the progress of molt on the underparts and on the primaries. Photograph/Brian Patteson.

for Delaware (m.ob.). Another **Bridled Tern** was the highlight of the Sept. 11 pelagic trip out of Montauk (m.ob.).

The previously reported Whiskered Tern and two White-winged Terns spent most of August consorting with Black Terns at the Pickering Beach section of Little Creek; many observers got to see all three species of *Chlidonias* terns in the same field of view at once. The Whiskered lingered into early September. Black Terns staged a major influx on Long Island in early September, with *maxima* of 82 at Wainscott Pond, *Suffolk* Sept. 5 (ES) and 121 at Ft. Tilden Sept. 6 (SW). Oddly, no big flights were noted at Avalon, although numbers were seen offshore from whale-watch boats and a group of 13 was at Hereford Inlet Sept. 4 (DG). New York's and the Region's first **Marbled Murrelet** was discovered at the Robert Moses Dam on the St. Lawrence R. near Massena Oct. 11, and stayed until Oct. 26, sometimes on the New York side, sometimes on the Ontario side, where it provided a first for that province (B. DiLabio, m.ob.); photos have been sent to experts in an effort to confirm the suspicion that the bird was of the Siberian subspecies. A Com. Murre was at Cape May Nov. 25 (FT).

OWLS TO FLYCATCHERS

Modest numbers of Snowy Owls began moving into the Region in November, but the Cape May Bird Observatory owl banding project hit the jackpot early in the month, when a major flight of N. Saw-whet Owls produced 157 banding records in 5 days, including a record 68 Nov. 7 (K. Duffy). Two owls banded on Nov. 7 were retrapped within a week at Assateague I., but none could be found by daytime birders on the morning after the big flight. New York finally got its first confirmed **Rufous Hummingbird**, not one but five. The first was an ad. male at a Chester, *Orange* feeder Aug. 9 (J. Tramontano), and the 2nd an ad. female at a Kingston, *Ulster* feeder Sept. 24–Oct. 21 (A. Heidcamp *et al.*, ph.), the specific identification determined from excellent photos. The last three appeared in November: Birders trying to confirm the identity of an imm. ♂ *Selasphorus* hummer found at Wave Hill Park, *Bronx*, NYC Nov. 16, found a 2nd bird, an imm. female, Nov. 18. Based on photographs and close observation, the male was

determined to be a Rufous, while the female was regarded as a probable, but not definite Rufous; the pair was present to Nov. 24 (B. Loeb, TWB, HMG, †C. Marantz). Meanwhile, another ad. male showed up at a feeder in *Queens*, NYC Nov. 22–24 (J. Luk-savage, TLa). Yet another **Rufous Hummingbird**, Delaware's fourth, was at the Blatz feeder in Greenville, *New Castle*, DE Oct. 28–30 (CCb *et al.*).

An extremely late E. Wood-Pewee was at Cape May Nov. 7 (VE), while an unidentified *Empidonax* flycatcher at East Aurora, *Erie*, NY Nov. 16–18, was unusual whatever it was (†L. Holmes, †WDn). The observers were leaning toward Acadian, but November banding records have all been Least or Yellow-bellied; a w. species is equally likely. An Ash-throated Flycatcher was present at Jones Beach, LI Nov. 2–7 (J. Fritz, J. Quinlan, m.ob., ph. PWP), while the hummingbird watchers at Wave Hill discovered another Nov. 18 (TWB, HMG, J. DiCostanzo). A third Ash-throated was at Cape May, Nov. 22 (JD *et al.*, ph.). Western Kingbirds at Medford, *Burlington*, NJ Oct. 16 (WDa) and Assunpink W.M.A., *Monmouth*, NJ Nov. 21 (G. Wenzelburger *et al.*) were noteworthy, but only about seven were reported from the usual coastal locations. A **Gray Kingbird** was at Brig Sept. 8 (P. Weirick *et al.*), and it or another was at Cape May all day Sept. 29 and again briefly Oct. 3 (RC, m.ob.), for only the 3rd and 4th state records. The only Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at Storm King Mt., *Orange*, NY Aug. 21 (M&H Shelemer), but a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** made it 5 years in a row for this Regional rarity; this year's bird, an immature, was one day only at Ellisburg, *Jefferson*, NY Sept. 8 (GAS, ph. LC).

SWALLOWS TO SHRIKES

A major flight of 1200 Cliff Swallows passed the hawk watch at Cape May, where the species is usually uncommon, Sept. 11, but the prize of the family was Cape May's 3rd record of Cave Swallow, a single bird at the hawk watch Nov. 20 (DSi); this species has now occurred in the Region in 3 of the past 4 years, both in spring and late fall. A Com. Raven was unseasonal at Braddock Bay Aug. 20 (F. Nicoletti, D. Niven), while one at Chimney Rock Nov. 20, was far from the small population along the Kittatinny Ridge (CA). Likewise, a Fish Crow at Greece, *Monroe*, NY was well n. of the species' Ithaca and Susquehanna R. outposts (KCG).

Three Black-capped Chickadees at Brandywine Creek S.P., DE Oct. 10, were presumably part of the major movement of this species farther N (APE). A Sedge Wren at Washington Boro, *Lancaster*, PA Nov. 13, was the first local record in almost 2 decades (JHe), while singles at Rye and 3 sites on Long Island was well above normal for this declining species; two in Cape May and two in Goshen, *Cape May* were more expected. This was clearly the year of the N. Wheatear in the northeast, with at least two-dozen records, including five in New York and one in New

Jersey. New York's were at Jones Beach (J. Greenlaw, TLa) and Great Gull I., Sept. 18 (R. Pasquier); Vanderbilt I. in the St. Lawrence R., Sept. 21–25 (*vide* GAS); Ft. Edward, *Washington* Sept. 23–27 (m.ob.); and Manhattan Sept. 27–28 (N. Berkins *et al.*). In New Jersey, one was at Rosedale Park *Mercer* Sept. 8–11 (B&B Jones, m.ob., ph. LLa). Some observers were careful to rule out other species of wheatear, a possibility that should not be overlooked.

A **Bohemian Waxwing** at Hawk Mt., Nov. 9–10 was a rarity for that state (LG, CV), and record-high numbers appeared in upstate New York at about the same time, including 101 at Somers, *Niagara* Sept. 11 (WDA). The Loggerhead Shrike at Broadkill Beach, DE arriving for its 3rd year Aug. 17 (WWF), and another at Suffolk Community College, near Riverhead, LI Sept. 20–21 (ABa) were the only reports.

VIROES TO FINCHES

The fall migration of vireos and warblers was generally rated as good and better than recent years, especially in early to mid-September, when some strong cold fronts brought several waves of migrants. Lack of space limits details, but no unusual species were detected. A **Black-headed Grosbeak** was present one day only at Cape May, Nov. 18 (DSi, RC *et al.*), and a report of an imm. female at Winfield P., *Union*, NJ Sept. 18 will be reviewed by the records committee (P. Axelrod *et al.*).



One of two *Selasphorus* hummingbirds present at Wave Hill Park in the Bronx, New York City, in November 1993. New York had its first positive records of Rufous Hummingbird this fall. Photograph/Richard Cech.

Clay-colored Sparrows at *Northampton* Sept. 15 (A. Koch) and Churchtown, *Lancaster* Oct. 3 (B&FH) were unusual for Pennsylvania; one was at Mt. Pleasant Oct. 11 (NB), while four in the NYC area and about ten in New Jersey were near normal for the season. A Lark Sparrow was a rarity at Hamlin Beach Nov. 12–14 (MD, CCA *et al.*), but only three were found on Long Island and five in New Jersey. New Jersey's eighth **Lark Bunting** was present at Cape May Point Sept. 16–18, discovered by a restless British birder walking the streets of town (G. Etherington, m.ob., ph. KK).

Henslow's Sparrows at Smith Pt., LI Oct. 11 (JC) and Cape May Nov. 1 (DSi) were the only reports of this rare migrant away from its limited breeding grounds, but **LeConte's Sparrows** continue to be found with increasing frequency—are they really occurring

more often or are people just looking harder? One was near Bainbridge, *Lancaster*, PA Oct. 24 (S. Conant, R. McGraw, ph. EW), another at Haledon Res., *Passaic*, NJ Oct. 10 (G. Schultze *et al.*), one-two at Overpeck Park *Bergen*, NJ Oct. 27–29 (J. Bangma *et al.*), and the last at Cape May Nov. 16 (DSi, VE). An ad. **Harris' Sparrow** was present at the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed property, *Mercer*, NJ Nov. 14–18 (B. Anderson *et al.*, ph. LLa).

Only 3 reports of Yellow-headed Blackbird were received, well below normal, but a Brewer's Blackbird was a good find at Central P., Manhattan Nov. 30–Dec. 4 (S. Friedman *et al.*). The two ♀ Brewer's Blackbirds that wintered at Assunpink last year returned Nov. 7 (TBa *et al.*), and four were at a dairy farm near Mt. Holly, NJ Nov. 14 (D. White). A N. (Bullock's) Oriole was at a Larchmont, NY feeder Nov. 1 (PL).

After years of waiting, birders were finally rewarded with the prospect of a winter finch invasion. A single Pine Grosbeak was at Sandy Hook Oct. 15 (J. Herder), and small numbers appeared throughout upstate New York during November. Crossbills were scarce, however, the only sizable flock being of 30 White-winged Crossbills at Arnot Forest, *Thompkins* NY Nov. 6 (A. Farnsworth). Common Redpolls began to appear throughout the Region, except for Delaware, in late October and early November, reaching as far as Cape May Nov. 8, in anticipation of the huge winter flight to come. Among the Commons were two well-photographed Hoary Redpolls at a Jamesville, *Onondaga*, NY feeder (DC), and one-two at Derby Hill Nov. 15–25 (DC, m.ob.). Other reports will follow with the winter season, but observers are cautioned on the difficulty of separating the 2 (?) redpolls species (see AB 32:330). Pine Siskins came through in moderate numbers in October and early November, with as many as 100 at Ashland, *New Castle*, DE Nov. 4 (J. White), but most disappeared by month's end. Similar events transpired with Evening Grosbeaks, which came through in big numbers during late October, especially along the coast, leaving few stragglers after that, mainly at feeders.

EXOTICS

A flock of six Barnacle Geese, presumably the itinerant family that has been wandering the northeast for the past few years, flew into a lake in Moorestown, *Burlington*, NJ Oct. 22 with a flock of Canadas (KT). Four days later they were seen at Johnson Park Piscataway, *Middlesex*, NJ for a brief stay. Many other exotics, including several Ruddy Shelducks were reported.

Observers: (Subregional compilers in boldface)

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MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

Eirik A. T. Blom,

Michael O'Brien, Brian Patteson, and Eugene J. Scarpulla

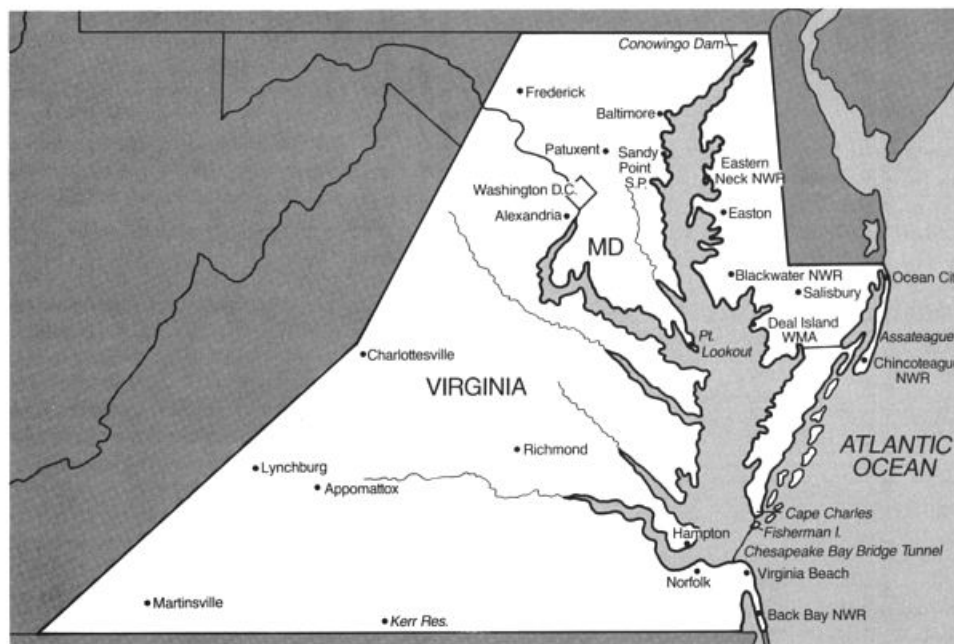
Abbreviations: C.B.B.T. (*Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Bridge Tunnel*); Chinc. (*Chincoteague*); E.N.N.W.R. (*Eastern Neck N.W.R.*), E.S.V.N.W.R. (*Eastern Shore of VA W.R.*), P.L.S.P. (*Point Lookout S.P.*); P.N.A.S. (*Patuxent Naval Air Station*).

LOONS TO HERONS

Two inland Red-throated Loons was about average. The only notable grebe report was of a (summering?) Horned 65 mi e. of False Cape, VA Aug. 22 (NB), far too early to be a migrant. A pelagic trip out of Cape May, NJ Aug. 22 ventured S to Baltimore Canyon and was rewarded with the first **White-faced Storm-Petrel** ever recorded off Maryland (ph.). This is the 4th Regional record. There were reports from 5 pelagic trips, all in August. Shearwaters were difficult to find, with high counts of two Cory's, three Greater, and four Audubon's. By contrast, storm-petrels made news: Wilson's were in low numbers, but a trip to Poor Man's Canyon Aug. 14 turned up 11 Band-rumped (BP) a new record for Virginia. The only Anhinga was at Stumpy L., VA Aug. 10 (VK). The previously reported **Little Egret** at Chinc. remained at least through Sept. 25 (WHH, MH). Rare inland, four imm. Little Blue Herons were at Piney Run P., *Carroll*, MD Aug. 28–Sept. 19 (RFR). Single imm White Ibises were at Ocean City, MD Aug. 13–14 (EB, GG, *et al.*), on Assateague Aug. 8 (MLH), one-two at Harford Glen, *Harford*, MD Aug. 7–9 (DW, EB), and at Liberty Res., *Carroll*, MD Aug. 8 (EBo) to Aug. 21 (JLS), a 2nd county record.

WATERFOWL

Mute Swans continue to increase in the Chesapeake Bay, with high counts of 370 in s. *Dorchester* Aug. 8 (HTA) and 200 at E.N.N.W.R. Nov. 7 (PGD). The first Tundra Swans were noted at E.S.V.N.W.R. Oct. 10, and 20 Brant were at Oyster, VA the next day (MO), both early. The newly constructed pond at the E.S.V.N.W.R. visitor center harbored 2 rare waterfowl its first season: a Greater White-fronted Goose Oct. 20–29 and a Fulvous Whistling-Duck Nov. 17–24. Ross' Geese, now annual, were found near Sudlersville in *Queen Anne's*, MD Nov. 17 (PGD) and Nov. 28 (JLS, MI), and near Snow Hill, *Worcester*, MD Nov. 10 (PL, SF). The *hydrilla* mats on the Potomac R. around D.C. continue to provide locally remarkable counts, including 770 N. Pintails Oct. 30 (DC), 250 N. Shovelers Nov. 11 (DC), and 1200 Mallards Oct. 29 (OJ). Deal I., *Somerset* is the most reliable place for Eur. Wigeon in Maryland. This year there was an ad male



White-faced Storm-Petrel over Baltimore Canyon, apparently a first record for Maryland's offshore waters, on August 22, 1993. Photograph/Alan Brady.

with "1000s" of Am. Wigeon Oct. 26 (LD, AR). In Virginia, singles were at Chinc., Nov. 20 (JH) and Fisherman's I., Nov. 27 (BS). Jetty ducks made a good showing. Single King and Com. eiders were reported from the C.B.B.T. as early as mid-October (JH, DS), and two Commons and a King were at Ocean City in late November (v.o.). Unexpected was a full ad. ♂ Common on the West Ocean City Pond Nov. 10–16 (MLH, PL, SF *et al.*), a plumage rarely seen in this Region. A ♂ Harlequin Duck was at the C.B.B.T., Nov. 25 (DS) and two were at Ocean City (v.o.). Inland at Piney Run a ♀ Surf Scoter Oct. 31–Nov. 14 furnished a 2nd record for *Carroll*, MD, and the discovery of the county's 3rd Black Scoter Nov. 14 turned bizarre as the observers watched an animal (?) grab the bird and pull it under water until it drowned. The body was recovered (RFR).

RAPTORS TO RALLIDS

The Kiptopeke Hawk Watch had its best coverage to date with 607 hours over 74 days Aug. 29–Nov. 30. Counters recorded 15,548 birds for an average of 25.7 an hour, a 46% increase over last year but well below the 40–96 birds per hour of the 1980s. The best day was Oct. 11 with 2206 birds, including 1453 Sharp-shinneds, 511 Am. Kestrels, 91 Cooper's Hawks, and 73 N. Harriers. Season highlights included 905 Ospreys, up from

384 last year; 59 Merlins and 43 Peregrines on Oct. 2; four Golden Eagles; and a record ten N. Goshawks. Much of the increase was attributed to better November coverage (BW). Ft. Smallwood, *Anne Arundel*, MD is known for its spring hawk flights, the only location in the Region that is. This season there was light fall coverage, 47.75 hours on 13 days Sept. 19–Nov. 7. The total of 914 hawks is about 20 birds per hour, suggesting a more complete effort is justified. Totals included 389 Sharp-shinneds, 149 Am. Kestrels, and 111 Red-taileds (HW, LD, *fide* Paul Fritz). The only Mississippi Kite was at Vienna, VA Sept. 6 (RW). Single N. Goshawks were over DC Oct. 24 & 28 (DC) and Nov. 2 (OJ). Forty-four Red-shouldered Hawks over DC Nov. 17 may be a record for the district (DC, OJ). Golden Eagles were slightly above average with singles at Loch Raven Res., *Baltimore*, MD Sept. 22 (SWS), Centennial Lake, *Howard*, MD Sept. 21 (JF) and Nov. 1 (BO), at Blackwater N.W.R., Nov. 18 (EW) & 25 (AH), and in *Frederick*, MD Nov. 24 (SM).

SHOREBIRDS TO TERNS

An Upland Sandpiper at Dulles Airport Sept. 19 was late (DFA). The high count of Marbled Godwits was 40 at Oyster, VA Sept. 3 (HTA) and Sept. 19 (JH). The only Virginia Hudsonian Godwits were at Chinc.



Sandwich Tern at Assateague Island, Maryland, on August 20, 1993. Photograph/Mark L. Hoffman.

with a high of seven Aug. 21–22 (KB). In Maryland, one at Piney Run Nov. 2–7 provided not only the first for *Carroll*, but incredibly, the first inland record for the state (Louis Nielsen, RFR). The most notable shorebird reports came from 2 inland locations. Draining of a small farm pond near Emmitsburg, *Frederick*, MD resulted in an impressive array of 18 species (SM, PO). Highlights included 114 Am. Golden-Plovers Oct. 3, five White-rumped Sandpipers Sept. 6, two Baird's Sandpipers Sept. 6–8, a Stilt Sandpiper Aug. 28–31 and Sept. 6, up to three Buff-breasted Sandpipers Aug. 28–Sept. 8, and a Red-necked Phalarope Aug. 31–Sept. 4. A Wilson's Phalarope was there Oct. 15–22. Late and notable inland were one–seven White-rumped Sandpipers at Piney Run Nov. 3–14 (RFR). Early was a Com. Snipe at

Liberty Res. Aug. 8 (RFR).

Fall reports of Laughing Gulls from the Piedmont have been increasing in recent years: good counts included 319 in *Howard*, MD Aug. 22 (JS, POs) and 400 at Nokesville, VA Sept. 9 (KB). A Franklin's Gull on Oct. 3 was about the 8th for DC (OJ). An ad. *California Gull*, now n.e.early an annual event in the Region, provided a 2nd DC record at the Tidal Basin Oct. 3 (DC). An albino Ring-billed Gull was at Ocean City Oct. 9 (RFR).

Royal Terns have been using the Bay in increasing numbers, reflected in the 135 in s. *Dorchester*, MD Aug. 8 (HTA). Sandwich Terns were below par, with a high of only three at Assateague Aug. 20 (MLH), and in the Bay in *St. Mary's*, MD, four at Pt. Lookout Aug. 15 (RFR), and two at P.N.A.S., Sept. 6 (KR). One at Kiptopeke Oct. 10 (MO) was late. Also late was an imm. Gull-billed Tern at Ocean City Oct. 9 (RFR). A Com. Tern at Conowingo Dam, *Harford* Nov. 10 was late inland, and 1200 Forster's Terns there Oct. 27 was a large number for the date (EB). Black Terns, declining for more than a decade, put in a good showing, with reports from at least 9 locations between early August and early October (v.o.), with a high of seven in DC Sept. 5 (DC). All 5 August pelagic trips reported one–two Bridled Terns (v.o.).

OWLS TO SHRIKES

Not reported in the previous season, Bass banded over 100 fledgling Barn Owls in the Nokesville, VA area in June and July, part of an on-going nest-box program. A Snowy Owl was reported from Sherwood, *Talbot*, MD Nov. 28 (CF). For the 3rd year in a row Brinker banded N. Saw-whet Owls on Assateague. This year 63 were caught, well above last year's 29, but in line with the previous year's 65. The largest flight of Com. Nighthawks was 150 over Falls Church, VA



Clay-colored Sparrow at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Virginia, in October 1993.
Photograph/Susan Blackford.

Sept. 9 (JA). Chuck-will's-widows were still singing as late as Sept. 12 when one was heard at Kiptopeke (BW), and two at Assateague (HW, LD). *Selasphorus* hummingbirds staged a mini-invasion into Maryland with 4 reports, including, amazingly, two at feeders where they have been seen in previous years. Single birds, all at feeders, were at Takoma P., Oct. 23–Nov. 17+ (S. Pancake, BD, PO†), Pocomoke City Oct. 30 (D. Bruce, ELP†), Elkton Oct. 31+ (G. Griffith, PL, SF†), and Savage Nov. 14 (J. Wilson, PD, JS, NM, JF). The Elkton bird was trapped and identified as an imm. ♂ Rufous. The others, presumed to be Rufous, could not be conclusively identified. The all-white hummingbird found at a feeder near Annapolis, MD July 20 was last seen Aug. 8. Careful observation suggests it is an albino Ruby-throated (LD, HW). There were only 2 reports of Olive-sided Flycatcher, one at Rocky Ridge, *Frederick* MD Aug. 14 (SM) and two at Riverbend P., *Fairfax* VA Sept. 15 (BL). Reese's count of 25+ empids at Tilghman's I., MD supports the suspicion that in fall many passerines are as, or more, common along the Chesapeake Bay side of the Delmarva Peninsula than they are along the Atlantic Coast side.

S.A.

The bird of the fall in Virginia and a first for the Region was a "Western" Flycatcher found by Michelle Davis and identified and photographed by M. O'Brien at E.S.V. N.W.R., Nov. 12. It was refound Nov. 29, when the temperature reached 74°F, by Brinkley, who reported that it responded aggressively to an imitation of W. Screech-Owl and gave several calls suggestive of Pacific-slope Flycatcher rather than Cordilleran. Recent controversy over the calls given by the 2 species probably precludes specific identification.

Four W. Kingbirds were reported, all from the Delmarva: Sept. 19 & Oct. 26 at Kiptopeke (MO, FD), and Nov. 1 at Exmore (SM), all in Virginia, and in Maryland, one at Assateague Oct. 3 (MO). The best counts of E. Kingbirds were 600 going to roost with Bobolinks and blackbirds Sept. 3 at Oyster

(HTA) and 939 passing over Kiptopeke Sept. 5 (BW). The highest Tree Swallow concentrations were of 21,000 at Assateague Oct. 12 (MLH), and 12,000 migrating along the York R., *Gloucester*, VA Sept. 25 (TK). Red-breasted Nuthatches, staging their largest movement in years, were widely reported (v.o.). Hoffman's diligent scouring of Assateague paid off when he found Maryland's first **Rock Wren**, present Oct. 11–14, well seen and photographed by many. Sedge Wrens, once fairly common and now on the verge of disappearing from the Region, peaked at six on Assateague Oct. 23 (MLH). Numerous observers reported excellent thrush flights along the coast, with: 500 E. Bluebirds at Kiptopeke Nov. 6 (MOB), an exceptional count; large flights of Hermit Thrushes Oct. 19 & Nov. 4 (v.o.); and the little-known "Bicknell's" Thrush, banded at Kiptopeke Oct. 1, with others seen there on Oct. 6–7 & 14. Virginia's first **Northern Shrike** in nearly 15 years was an immature discovered at Lucketts, *Loudon* Nov. 6. It was seen through the end of the period, reported taking small rodents and a variety of birds. Also present in the area on several days was a Loggerhead Shrike, making for convenient comparisons. Elsewhere, Loggerheads remained scarce, with a scattering of reports from traditional locations (v.o.).

VIREOS TO WARBLERS

In the past 2 decades observers have had to scale down their perceptions of what constitutes a "big" flight. This year the 2 best movements were Sept. 5–6 and Sept. 19–20. On the 5th Hoffman had 72 Pines, 14 Prairies, 44 Black-and-whites, 105 Am. Redstarts, and 63 Com. Yellowthroats on Assateague. Early the next day Armistead counted 100 unidentified warblers flying over near Kiptopeke and there were 25 Magnolias and 75 Am. Redstarts at Tilghman I. (JR, JE). The 19th & 20th were the best flights of the season in DC (OJ†) and on the Eastern Shore of Virginia (MO). At Hughes Hollow, *Montgomery*, MD there were 10–15 Chestnut-sideds and 10+ Bay-breasteds Sept. 19 (MH), and the next day in *Howard*, MD there were 29 Black-throated Greens and 14 Blackburnians (BO). Other notable finds included a "Lawrence's" Warbler at Kiptopeke Aug. 19 (MO); seven Golden-winged at 4 locations (v.o.); a Cerulean, very rare on the coast, at Kiptopeke Aug. 9 (MO); and more Connecticut than usual, with 14 in more than 8 locations, including seven in DC (OJ, v.o.). Extremely early was a Yellow-rumped Warbler at Assateague Aug. 28–29 (MLH). Wilson's Warblers were reported in better than average numbers (v.o.).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

Three Summer Tanagers in *Howard*, MD in September were n. of where they are regularly found (JS). There were more Dickcissels than usual. In Virginia, two were in Kiptopeke Sept. 4 (BW) and there were single fly-overs there Oct. 2, 4, & 14 (MO). In

Maryland there were singles on Assateague Sept. 12–13 (LD, HW), and Oct. 22 & 24 (MLH) and three Oct. 3 (MO). Clay-colored Sparrows were down in Maryland, with singles on Assateague Sept. 25 (MLH) & Oct. 1 (SHD), but up in Virginia with 10 records Sept. 12–Nov. 9, most at Kiptopeke (v.o.). Lark Sparrows were also up, with two in Kiptopeke Sept. 4–5 (BW, DS) and singles on Assateague Sept. 5 and Oct. 15–17 & 19 (MLH, SHD). Sharp-tailed Sparrows of one of the inland races were in *Frederick*, MD Oct. 21–27 (SM, PO) for the 2nd county record, and at Lynnhaven Inlet, VA, where a few were found in a flock of 70 Sharp-taileds (RS). The sparrow of the fall was a **Harris' Sparrow** a few miles from Lucketts (HC), where a flock of 120 White-crowned Sparrows was representative of a better-than-average fall flight. Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings were both reported in slightly better-than-average numbers. The high counts were of eight longspurs at New Design Road, *Frederick*, MD Nov. 27 (BC) and 24 Snow Buntings at Sandy Point S.P., *Anne Arundel*, MD the same day (P. Mergatroyd). The flock of birds Armistead watched going to roost Sept. 3 at Oyster, VA included 6000 Bobolinks, 2500 Red-winged Blackbirds, 35,000 Com. Grackles, and 3000 Eur. Starlings. Five hundred Rusty Blackbirds passing Kiptopeke Nov. 6 (MO) was an excellent count for this increasingly hard-to-find species. A Yellow-headed Blackbird was near Blackwater N.W.R. Nov. 26 (OJ) and one in DC Nov. 20 was about the 4th local record (DC). Northern Orioles were numerous at Kiptopeke Sept. 8 when 46 were counted (HTA) and late in *Cecil*, MD Nov. 27 when two were found (DZ).

Presaging an exceptional winter was one of the best fall finch flights in over a decade. Purple Finches and Pine Siskins began moving into the Region in mid-September and peaked in October. High counts included 116 Purples at Kiptopeke Nov. 7 (MO) and 70 in DC Oct. 23 (DC, OJ), 30 Pine Siskins in *Harford*, MD Oct. 16 (DZ) and 100 at Kiptopeke Nov. 6 (MO). Evening Grosbeaks moved through primarily after early October, with highs of 30 at Phoenix, *Baltimore*, MD Oct. 15 (SWS) and near Avondale, *Carroll* Oct. 24 (RFR); 52 at Kiptopeke Oct. 19 (MO), and 55 at Wye I., *Queen Anne's*, MD Oct. 26 (JR). It has been nearly ten years since Evening Grosbeaks were anything but rare in the Region. The big story was the early run of Com. Redpolls. There was only one in Maryland Nov. 9 at Blackwater N.W.R. (W. Maane), but in s.e. Virginia flybys started Nov. 23 (MO) and continued throughout the period (v.o.). A flock of 22 at Fisherman's I., C.B.B.T., Nov. 28 (NB) was the first clear sign of what the winter would bring.

OBSERVERS: D.F. Abbott, Roger Anderson, Janet Anderson, G.L. Armistead, H.T. Armistead, Scott Atkinson, Ken Bass, John Bjerke, Ed Boyd (EBo), Dave Brinker, Ned

Brinkley, Carol and Don Broderick, Hartsell Cash, Martha Chestem, Barry Cooper, Dave Czaplak, Lynn Davidson, Phil Davis, Fenton Day, Bill Dobbins, P.G. Dumont, S.H. Dyke, Stephen Eccles, Jeff Effinger, C. Fairweather, Jane Farrell, Shawneen Finnegan, R. B. Fletcher (Caroline County), Steve Ford (Sfo), Greg Gough, Mary Gustafson, J. Hansen, A. Higgs, Russ Hill, Mark L. Hoffman, Marilyn Howe, W.H. Howe, Marshall

Iliff, Ottavio Janni, George Jett, Teta Kain, Mike Kerwin, Val Kitchens, Ellen Lawler, Bev Leeuwenburg, Paul Lehman, Doug Lister, Sarah Mabey, Gail MacKiernan, Nancy Magnusson, Peter Martin, Stauffer Miller, Dorothy Mitchell, M. Nuttle, Paul O'Brien, Tim O'Connell, Peter Osenton (POs), Bonnie Ott, E.L. Pitney (E. Shore of MD), Kyle Rambo, Ann Raspberry, Jan Reese, Robert F. Ringler, Barbara Ross, Don Schwab, Bob

Schutsky, L. Short, S.W. Simon, Jo Solem (Howard County), J. L. Stasz, Robert Swaider, Brent Tarter, Mary Ann Todd, Mark Wallace, Dave Webb, Hal Wierenga, Jim Wilkinson, Bill Williams, E. Wilson, Richard Wilt, Helen Zeichner, D. Ziolkowski.—Eirik Blom, Michael O'Brien, Brian Patteson, and Eugene J. Scarpulla, 7906-B Knollwood Rd., Towson, MD 21286.

SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

Ricky Davis

The fall season was benign weatherwise, with the exception of hurricane *Emily* which brushed the Cape Hatteras, North Carolina area in mid-September. The storm's effect on bird life in the Region was minimal with almost no reports of unusual activity. The season was warm and relatively dry, although a steady stream of fronts caused some peaks in the migration of hawks, waterfowl, and some landbirds. For the first time in several years, there was an increase in positive reports about thrush migration, and some banders had very good seasonal totals. Another group which appeared in good numbers after several years' absence was winter finches. Reports started coming in from the northern part of the Region by late October, and continued through November.

Abbreviations: C. Hat. (Cape Hatteras, NC).

LOONS TO WOOD STORK

Red-throated Loons are rare but regular inland migrants in North Carolina, but not Georgia. Thus one flying past Kennesaw Mt., outside of Atlanta Oct. 25 (GB), was very unusual. Eared Grebes continued to increase as fall visitors in both North and South Carolina. The best counts were four at Sumter, SC Nov. 26 (LG, BF); up to four along the North Carolina Outer Banks in October and November (m.ob.) and one-two returning to Goldsboro, NC (ED) for the 7th consecutive year. North Carolina has several records of **Western Grebe**, but none had been fully documented—until now! One found on the big pond at C. Hat., Nov. 8 (PL, SF, KHo) stayed through the period. Photographs and many observers should place this species firmly on the state list.



Western Grebe at Cape Hatteras Point, North Carolina, November 8, 1993. First fully documented state record. Photograph/Ken Hollinga.

Offshore trips were conducted regularly August and September, and the results were exciting. Black-capped Petrels were recorded off both North and South Carolina, and the rare **Herald Petrel** is becoming almost regular. There were 4 reports from North Carolina, with singles noted Aug. 2 (AF, *fide* NB), Aug. 7 (AH *et al.*), Aug. 16 (AH *et al.*), & Sept. 26 (MT *et al.*), all off Oregon Inlet. Shearwaters were in good supply off Oregon Inlet, with 2452 Cory's and 240 Greaters (MT *et al.*) Aug. 22. The Sooty, rare in fall, was reported twice: two Aug. 7 and one Aug. 9, off Oregon Inlet (AH *et al.*). The always exciting **White-faced Storm-Petrel** was found off Oregon Inlet Aug. 27 (OBS *et al.*). Band-rumped Storm-Petrels continued off North Carolina on most trips, with a good count of 37 off Oregon Inlet Aug. 14 (AH *et al.*). Brinkley observed an "all dark, fork-tailed storm-petrel with 5-6 white primary shafts" off Oregon Inlet Aug. 20. It was different in size and shape from Leach's and Band-rumped. The sighting suggests there is still much to be learned about offshore bird distribution. Observers should be aware of possibilities, but cautious when reporting unusual birds.

There were two August reports from North Carolina and one from South Carolina of White-tailed Tropicbird. Masked Booby made news with one adult off Oregon Inlet Aug. 21 (MT *et al.*), one subadult off Hatteras, NC Sept. 18 (BP *et al.*), and two adults off Savannah, GA Nov. 14 (BB *et al.*). The **Brown Booby** is extremely rare in the Region; an immature was noted in the Cape Lookout, NC area Aug. 2-8 by Rittmaster, White and others (*fide* JF).

An Am. White Pelican was found at Jordan Res., NC Nov. 3-14 (JK *et al.*). This bird provided the 3rd record for the lake. Wandering waders were easily found this season, due to low water levels at many inland lakes. There were good counts of herons and egrets, with the Reddish Egret being reported coastally in all 3 states. The White Ibis also staged a significant inland invasion, with birds found all the way to the foothills. The peak count was 52 near Wilson, NC Aug. 29 (RD). Glossy Ibis was also evident in good numbers at Savannah N.W.R., SC Nov 6 when Waters counted 80. The high count for Wood Stork was 200+ near Skidaway I., Savannah, GA in late September (BDn).

WATERFOWL TO CRANES

Fulvous Whistling-Ducks made news on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. A flock of 11



Almost unknown in North American waters until recently, the Herald Petrel was recorded four times off North Carolina this fall. This one was off Oregon Inlet August 16, 1993. Photograph/Alan Brady.

was at C. Hat., Oct 21 (SD, ML, SW), and one-two remained through the period. There were other reports all along the Banks. Several reports came from the Darien, GA area, with two Nov. 13 (PR, JS, BD) and one Nov. 21 (GB). A Mute Swan appeared at Clam Shoal in Pamlico Sound, off Hatteras, NC, Aug. 8 (SD) and remained for awhile. Origins of this species in the Region are always suspect. A surprising **Greater White-fronted Goose** was found inland at L. Johnson near Raleigh, NC Nov. 21 (VJ, m.ob.), remaining for a week.

Three Eur. Wigeons returned to Pea I., NC Oct. 3 (ED, SD); a peak of five was seen Oct. 22 (SD). A ♂ Harlequin Duck was found at Oregon Inlet, NC Nov. 29 (S&JD), later joined by another male. Two Oldsquaw were found inland at L. Brandt near Greensboro, NC Nov. 25 (HLi, *fide* HH). One at Jekyll I., GA Nov. 27 (JS, CL) provided a rare record for that state. Scoters were found inland in North Carolina (all three species) and Georgia, with one White-winged at E.L. Huie Land Application Facility near Atlanta Nov. 10-14 (BHu, GB), a rare record. A late summer breeding record for Ruddy Duck was set by a pair with five young August and September at Ocean Isle, NC (MMd).

Peak migrant raptors included 106 Sharp-shinned and 12 Cooper's hawks at C. Hat., Oct. 19 (SD); 10,835 Broad-winged at Pilot Mountain S. P., NC Sept. 22 (TG); 14 Merlins at C. Hat., Oct. 19 (SD); and an impressive 14 Peregrines near Charleston, SC Sept. 26 (RC, CE, D&DF). A well-described dark-morph Broad-winged Hawk seen at Chapel Hill, NC Oct. 18 (JP, JSh) might possibly be the first found in the Region! While birding North Carolina's Pea I. area Oct. 3, Eric Dean found an imm. **Swainson's Hawk**. Dinsmore photographed the bird for first documentation in the state! Several earlier records lacked conclusive evidence. An ad. Golden Eagle was at the Yawkey Wildlife Center in coastal South



a report after *Emily* of 88 Sooties off Oregon Inlet, NC Sept. 4 (BP *et al.*). Black Terns were reported Regionwide, with a peak count of 411 at New Drum Inlet, NC Aug. 20 (SD). A Black Tern at Bear I., SC Nov. 12 (ST) provided a very late date for the species. The only Brown Noddy came from Georgia, with an immature off Savannah Aug. 22 (BB *et al.*). Easily the most astounding report of the season, an ad. **Atlantic Puffin** was seen in flight off Oregon Inlet, NC Aug. 14 (AH *et al.*), a first state record!

DOVES TO HUMMINGBIRDS

The presence of Eur. Collared Dove in s. Georgia continued, with two-three birds in the Brunswick area throughout the period (TM). For the 2nd consecutive year, a White-winged Dove was found in the Buxton, NC area, with one Nov. 10 (RD) and probably the same bird Nov. 13 at nearby Avon. One was also present at Jekyll I., GA in early October (B. Hallett *et*



White-faced Storm-Petrel off Oregon Inlet, North Carolina, on August 27, 1993. Photograph/Brian Patteson.

Carolina Nov. 16 (LG, JC). The peak count of migrating Sandhill Cranes in GA was 1500+ over Kennesaw Mt. near Atlanta Nov. 22 (JPe).

SHOREBIRDS

Inland birders are dependent upon the presence of low water levels for observing migrant shorebirds. Several sites produced such conditions: Falls L. near Raleigh, NC; the Goldsboro, NC Wastewater Treatment Plant; the Orangeburg, SC Super Sod Farm; and the E. L. Huie Land Application Facility near Atlanta. Some peak totals of common species were 16 Black-bellied Plovers Oct. 10 and 11 Am. Golden Plovers Sept. 12 at Falls L. (RD); 16 Upland Sandpipers at Goldsboro, NC Aug 28 (ED), and 15 at Orangeburg, SC Aug 22 (LG, PW, NM); 50 Sanderlings at Falls L., Sept. 12 (RD); 250 Pectoral Sandpipers at Orangeburg, SC Aug. 29 (RC, CE), and 30 Short-billed Dowitchers at Falls L., Sept. 1 (RD).

Dinsmore counted 110 Piping Plovers Aug. 20 at Portsmouth, NC and 26 more at nearby New Drum Inlet for a very promising total. American Avocets were reported twice inland: one at Falls L., NC Sept. 11 (LT) and one in n.e. *Laurens*, GA Sept. 20-28 (TP). Always rare inland, a Willet was found at

Buckhorn Res., Wilson, NC Aug. 29 (RD). An imm. Ruddy Turnstone at Orangeburg, SC Sept. 6 (BW) provided a rare inland record for that state. Red Knots are rare inland transients in the Region, thus reports Aug. 22, Sept. 4 & 12 from Falls L., NC were noteworthy (SD, RD). Baird's Sandpipers were reported at least 11 times in North Carolina and once in Georgia, with a pair in n.e. *Laurens* Aug. 22-23 (TP). The only reports of Curlew Sandpiper came from the North Carolina Outer Banks. Stilt Sandpipers were observed in all 3 states, but a count of 120 Aug. 24 at Pea I., NC was exceptional (SD). Buff-breasted Sandpipers had a good migration. There were 10+ reports from North Carolina, 5 from South Carolina, and 2 from Georgia. The only Ruff reported was a female at South Pond, Pea I., NC Aug. 30 (SD).

JAEGERS TO PUFFINS

One of the very few inland records of Parasitic Jaeger for Georgia was one seen in flight along the Oconee R., *Greene*, Sept. 4 (PS). The Long-tailed Jaeger and S. Polar Skua were reported from North Carolina, with 3 different offshore records for each. Identification of skuas is complex. Consider the report of a "non-S. Polar" off Oregon Inlet, NC Aug. 21 (MT *et al.*) The consensus is that the bird belongs to the **Antarctic Skua** complex. Another one was seen off Charleston, SC Aug. 22 (DF *et al.*), adding more reports of these "brown" skuas. More field work is needed for a clear picture of at-sea skuas in the Region.

In North Carolina, the rare Sabine's Gull was found twice off Oregon Inlet Sept. 5 & 18 (BP *et al.*), and once onshore at C. Hat., Oct. 8 (DA *et al.*). Arctic Tern was seen once, an adult off Hatteras, NC Aug 15 (SD). Bridled and Sooty tern numbers were average, except

al.). Common Ground-Dove, undergoing a steady decline over much of the Region, was found in good numbers only at the Savannah R. Spoil Site, SC, with 20 Sept. 4 (CZ, *fide* AW). One inland at the E.L. Huie Land Application Facility near Atlanta Nov. 11 (PH *et al.*) provided a rare local record. Cuckoos were reported in average numbers, with about 5 records of Black-billed across the Region. Georgia did it again: an imm. ♂ **Black-chinned Hummingbird** photographed at Winder Oct. 14-18 furnished that state's 5th record (JDa, R&NC, B&BDu). When will the other 2 states follow? Not to be outdone, a feeder in *Laurens*, SC hosted a ♂ **Blue-throated Hummingbird** Aug 7-11 (PW, LG, JPa) for that state's and the Region's first record.

FLYCATCHERS TO VIREOS

The Olive-sided Flycatcher was recorded twice in the Congaree Swamp, SC Sept. 11 (C.N.H.S.) and Oct. 3 (RC, CE). Empidonax flycatchers were reported several times, but the only birds identified to species were Least (two in South Carolina) and Yellow-bellied (two in North and South Carolina, and one banded at Jekyll I., GA Oct 1). Late *Myiarchus* flycatchers require scrutiny; thus a Great



Adult White-tailed Tropicbird off Oregon Inlet, North Carolina, on August 16, 1993. Photograph/Alan Brady.

Crested Flycatcher was carefully studied near Pendergrass, GA Nov. 6 (JV). Western Kingbirds were found at least four times in North Carolina, and once in South Carolina near Charleston Sept. 30 (D. Forsythe). The rare Gray Kingbird was photographed at Buxton, NC Oct. 20 (SD, m.ob.) and another was observed at Moore's Landing, SC Oct. 5-8 (DF, RC, CE, m.ob.). The season's token Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at C. Hat., Oct. 19 (SD, m.ob.).

A dark martin was seen in flight in the evening Nov. 13 at Darien, GA by Raney and Sewell. Observers should be aware that any martin seen in the Region after October could be something other than a Purple. In North Carolina and, to a lesser extent, South Carolina and Georgia, Red-breasted Nuthatches staged good migrations. Birds were found across North Carolina in early October; many remained through the period. Thrushes also had a better-than-usual migration. Gray-cheeked were found at several localities, and Hilton in York, SC banded 14 for the season. Twenty Swainson's at Kennesaw Mt., GA Sept. 18 (BD *et al.*) was encouraging; while Hilton banded 49 Swainson's for the season at York, SC. Warbling Vireo is rarely observed during migration, thus one in n. *Greene*, GA Aug. 28 (PS) provided a good report. The finding of six *singing* Warbling Vireos near Sparta, NC Sept. 5 (RM) represented very late territorial birds. Philadelphia Vireos were reported from North Carolina (6+ reports) and Georgia (4 reports), with the most unusual being an early migrant at Kennesaw Mt., GA Aug. 4 (GB, JS).

WARBLERS TO TANAGERS

Observers' impressions of the warbler migration were mixed. Some felt it was one of the slowest in memory, while others had good reports. The Golden-winged Warbler was reported from all 3 states, with a count of five

at Kennesaw Mt., GA Sept. 25 (BD *et al.*). Kennesaw also produced an astounding 39 Bay-breasted Warblers Oct. 20 and 45 Tennessee Warblers Oct. 21 (BD *et al.*). The best Nashville Warbler report came from Ft. Fisher, NC where one was found Nov. 28 (RW). The rarest warbler of the season was a **Townsend's Warbler** banded Sept. 30 at Jekyll I., GA by the Cohrs. If accepted by the Georgia Records Committee, it would furnish the state's first record. North Carolina had the only reports of Connecticut Warbler, with singles at L. Townsend near Greensboro Sept. 21 (HLi, HH, DB), Ft. Fisher Sept. 30 (SC), and Greenville Oct. 21 (KH, *fide* JW). A feeder in Columbia, SC hosted the Region's only W. Tanager, a female Oct. 18 (CE, *fide* RC).

DICKCISSEL TO FINCHES

North Carolina had the only Dickcissels, with singles at Pea I., Aug. 28 (RT), C. Hat., Oct. 23 (SD), and Ft. Fisher Nov. 16 (RW). Clay-colored Sparrows were found only at Pea I., NC while Lark Sparrows were seen in all 3 states. President Clinton gave an evening address at Kenan Stadium in Chapel Hill, NC Oct. 21. The packed stadium included a number of small birds flying in the infield lights. After the stadium cleared, HW counted 20 Grasshopper Sparrows! Sykes found the only LeConte's Sparrow, in the usual spot in n. *Greene*, GA Nov. 13. Lincoln's Sparrow reports continue to increase in the Region, probably a result of more birders knowing how and where to find them. Two Lapland Longspurs near Rocky Mount, NC Nov. 28 were the only ones reported this season (RD). Snow Buntings were found on North Carolina's Outer Banks at Oregon Inlet Nov. 13 (HW) and at Rodanthe Nov. 29 (SD).

Yellow-headed Blackbird was found 4 times in North Carolina, while a count of 450

Rusty Blackbirds at Augusta, GA Oct. 23 (AW) was exceptional. Orchard Orioles are normally out of the Region by September, thus one at the E.L. Huie Land Application Facility near Atlanta Oct 18 (GB) was extremely late.

The last several years have been disappointing for winter finch flights. This fall was different. In late October and early November, reports of Purple Finches, Pine Siskins, and—yes—Evening Grosbeaks started trickling in. Most were in North Carolina, but South Carolina and Georgia had a few records.

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FLORIDA REGION

Noel Wamer

After *Andrew* in the fall of 1992 and the "Storm of the Century" in the spring of 1993, the season's benign weather was a blessing to Floridians, if not to birders waiting for major weather-related fallouts. However, a shipping accident just inside the mouth of Tampa Bay August 10 resulted in a spill of about 330,000 gallons of fuel oil. While tourists were able to escape the effects, birds were not as lucky. Rich Paul reported that although two-thirds of the oil was recovered, there was severe damage to the birds nesting at the Johns Pass area. Luckily, about 90% of nesting in this area was complete at the time of the spill. Paul's surveys of Brown Pelican colonies in the vicinity indicated about 12% of adults were lightly oiled. Ultimately 360 birds of 15 species, 80% of them Brown Pelicans, were brought to the Pinellas Seabird Rehabilitation Center.

The two active banding stations at Casey Key and Dog Island continued to provide

valuable data on migration dates and numbers. Both locations reported above-average numbers of thrushes. There were few reports of concentrated fallouts of passerine migrants. Exceptions were from Ft. DeSoto County Park, where the Athertons had 17 warbler species in one flock August 29, and at Spanish River Park on the east coast, where Brian Hope reported over 100 warblers of various species September 5. The continued recovery of the Peregrine Falcon, and its concentration during migration on the Lower Keys, was well illustrated by the phenomenal number seen during the Boot Key hawk watch.

I note with regret the passing of Robert W. Loftin, a remarkable ornithologist and friend, whose work in compiling indexes of *Audubon Field Notes* and *American Birds* reports from Florida, and several other southern states, will be an invaluable aid to future research. The efforts of Bill Pranty in coordinating the compilation of reports for the *Florida Field Naturalist* and this report are thankfully acknowledged, as are the comments of Bruce Anderson

Abbreviations: A.B.S. (*Archbold Biological Station, Highlands Co.*); A.P.A.F.R. (*Avon Park Air Force Range, Polk Co.*); Cape Florida (*Cape Florida-Bill Baggs S.R.A., Dade Co.*); C.N.S. (*Canaveral National Seashore*); C.P. (*County Park*); E.N.P. (*Everglades N.P.*); D.I. (*Dog Is., Franklin Co.*); F.D.C.P. (*Ft. DeSoto County Park, Pinellas Co.*); M.I.N.W.R. (*Merritt Is. N.W.R., Brevard Co.*); 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 was reported Nov. 28 at Alligator Pt., *Franklin* (LAH *et al.*), and a raft of 60 Com. Loons off D.I., Oct. 15 (DSE, LRM) was a high number on an early date. The only Eared Grebe reported was at P.P.M., Nov. 11 (PJF), where the species is reported nearly annually. The Dry Tortugas are rarely visited in the fall, so the 11 Masked and four Brown boobies there Oct 28 (TP) were inter-

esting. Strong E winds in late November brought large numbers of N. Gannets to inshore waters of the c. Atlantic coast. Hundreds were off Hollywood Beach, *Broward*, 1000 off Playalinda Beach, C.N.S., *Brevard*, and 408 were seen from Turtle Mound, C.N.S., *Volusia*, all in late November (HR *et al.*). The highest count of Am. White Pelicans was, as usual, from P.P.M., where 2000 pelicans were present Nov. 7 (PJF). Magnificent Frigatebirds were along the s.w. coast in excellent numbers. Peak counts in *Collier* were estimated at 5 times their 20-year average (THB), and 899 were counted at 2 roosts in *Pinellas* and *Manatee* Nov. 21 (RTP). At the latter locations, 15% were immatures, the highest proportion in 13 years. White-morph Great Blue Herons at Wards Bank, *Duval* Aug. 8 (JAW) and Carabelle, *Franklin* (DSE, LRM) were locally rare. Reddish Egrets continued to increase on the n. Gulf coast. Thirteen were at D.I., Sept. 18 (DSE, LRM), and nine were at Hagens Cove, *Taylor* Aug. 23 (RTP). All were dark-morphs. A Glossy Ibis was at Key West Oct. 2 (JO). The report of 10,000 e. of Belle Glade, *Palm Beach* Oct. 17 (WB, CG) was the highest number ever reported in the Region. The total Florida breeding population is thought to be less than 4000 individuals. The 40 Roseate Spoonbills s. of South Bay, *Palm Beach* Aug. 29 (JLB, EHR) were a high number inland, and up to six at Dundee, *Polk* August–November (PJF, m.ob.) was unusual. Flooded fields s. of South Bay attracted large numbers of Wood Storks, where a maximum of 1700 were present Aug. 29; 1000 lingered to Sept. 15 (both JLB, EHR). Low water brought a concentration of 180 storks to Lake Munson, *Leon* in late September (GEM, TM).

The 1000 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks e. of Belle Glade Oct. 17 (WB, CG) was notable, and one at Volusia Dunes P., Oct. 22 (WB *et al.*) was in very unusual habitat. Eight Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were at Myakka R., *Sarasota* Oct. 17 (WB, CG), a new location for this apparently increasing species. The 32 Snow Goose over Myakka R., *Sarasota* Oct. 31 (BB, WB *et al.*) were harbingers of a major influx. Three seen at Rookery Bay Sanctuary Nov. 7 (BAA, JEM) provided only the 3rd report for *Collier*. The estimated 193 s. of South Bay Nov. 7–14 (EHR, m.ob.) deserved to be called an outrageous number. The species was reported in November from other locations where it is considered rare, including P.P.M., Venice Beach *Sarasota*; Arcadia, *DeSoto*; L. Lochloosa, *Alachua*, and M.I.N.W.R. Snows were also observed more frequently than normal in the e. Panhandle. All reported were predominantly blue morphs, indicating an origin from the C. flyway. The only reported Brant was Nov. 29 (SH, SG) at Honeymoon Island S.R.A., *Pinellas*.



Four non-domestic Mallards Nov. 29 on the e. shore of Hillsborough Bay and a few in Mackay Bay, both *Hillsborough* Oct.–Nov. (both RTP) were locally rare. The 30 Blue-winged Teal at A.B.S., *Highlands* Aug. 31 (KT, MG) were early and high numbers inland on the s. peninsula. Locally high numbers were present at Orlando Wilderness P., *Orange* where 300 Sept. 18 had decreased to 125 Oct. 1, and 80 Nov. 29 (all DF). A Eur. Wigeon was reported from M.I.N.W.R., Nov. 7 (SPB). A high 1200 scoters off Playalinda Beach, C.N.S., Nov. 12 (SR) was estimated to be equally divided between Black and Surf. Two Surf Scoters near Boca Raton, *Broward* Oct. 30–Nov. 8 (BHH *et al.*), and one Oct. 30–Nov. 9 at Cedar Key, *Levy* (RKR, MAM, m.ob.) were both in locations with few reports. A White-winged Scoter at S.M.N.W.R., Oct. 29 (JR) was the only report for the rarest scoter of the Region. Although not as numerous as in some years, dabblers and divers continue to occur in the P.P.M.: 1500 Blue-winged Teals and 2000 N. Shovelers Nov. 7 (PJF); 15 N. Pintails and 3000 Ring-necked Ducks Nov. 13 (PJF, CLG); and 450 Hooded Mergansers Nov. 28 (PJF, DMF, CLG).

RAPTORS TO TERNS

Kettles of 150 Turkey Vultures over Key West Nov. 8 & 30 (JO) were notable. An Am. Swallow-tailed Kite was at D.I., Aug. 15 (DSE, LRM), where it is rare in the fall, and one over Key West Aug. 19 (JO) was moving SSW, on course for Cuba. A sub-ad. White-tailed Kite s. of South Bay Sept. 3 (BHH, WG, JLB, EHR) was the only recent record for *Palm Beach*. A White-tailed at St. George I., Oct. 23 (EW, DWh) provided one of the few reports from the e. Panhandle. One was found in the

species' "stronghold" w. of Homestead, *Dade* Nov. 12 (PWS, SAS). Its decline there is thought to result from the loss of roost trees to *Andrew* and/or higher-than-normal water levels. Early N. Harriers were at D.I., Sept. 8 (DSE, LRM), e. of Avon P. (DS) and at A.B.S. (GEW), both Sept. 14. The season's total for harriers at D.I. was 11, a lighter passage than last fall (DSE, LRM). Hawk-watches were conducted Oct. 9 at Boot Key, *Monroe* Nov. 28 at Delray Beach, *Broward* and Nov. 29 & 30 at Flamingo, E.N.P. The 25 Sharp-shinned and four Cooper's hawks over Cape Florida, *Dade* Nov. 20 (PJF, JBE) were notable. The Cooper's Hawk Aug. 8 at Brooker Creek, *Pinellas* (DES) was probably resident; observers report that the species seems to be increasing there. An imm. Broad-winged Hawk at S.C.P., Sept. 18 (PJF, m.ob.), and an adult Nov. 21 (PJF) were considered to be rare in *Polk*. The first Broad-winged of the fall was noted Sept. 30 at Key West, which had 17 Oct. 2 (both JO). There were 22 Broad-

winged observed over Spanish River P. near Boca Raton Oct. 25 (BHH), an area where concentrations are seldom noted. Short-tailed Hawks were reported from 2 new locations in the Tampa Bay area: singles at Brooker Creek Aug. 3 (DES) and Lettuce Lake P., *Hillsborough* Sept. 22 (SCB). The very rare Ferruginous Hawk was reported in Cedar Key Oct. 1–2 (†S.R.C., DCH, NT). A Merlin reported Aug. 17 at A.B.S. (JF) was nearly a month earlier than any verified fall report. Peregrines were reported inland more widely than usual; three in w. *Palm Beach* Oct. 30 (EB, MG) were exceptional. All of these reports were overshadowed by the 190 Peregrines that passed Boot Key Oct. 9 (WH, m.ob.). This highest ever single-day count was accompanied by 42 Merlins.

A Yellow Rail seen flying across a road at S.M.N.W.R., Oct. 23. (NW) was the only one reported, as was a Black Rail at Lower Suwannee N.W.R., *Levy* Nov. 29 (JTK). It is uncertain whether the 14 Sandhill Cranes at S.M.N.W.R., Nov. 21 (HH, DH) were part of the 27 seen the same day nearby w. of Crawfordville, *Wakulla* (GW). Another six overhead at D.I., Nov. 22 (DSE, LRM) constituted the first report there. A shorebird survey Sept. 11 at Shell Key, *Pinellas* found 14 Snowy and 325 Semipalmated plovers (PMB). At D.I. the seasonal maximum of 12 Wilson's Plovers Sept. 14 was higher than last fall, and the seasonal maximum of 60 Piping Plovers Sept. 23 demonstrates the importance of D.I. to this threatened species (both DSE, LRM). As many as three Semipalmated Plovers at Paynes Prairie S.Pr., Sept. 10–Oct. 3 (RKR, MAM) provided only the 2nd *Alachua* report. Notable Black-necked Stilts numbers were reported from several locations: 102 Aug. 2–Sept. 20 at S.M.N.W.R. (JR); 31 Aug. 6 at

Sawgrass Park, *Pinellas* (RWS); 250 Aug. 14 at Zellwood, *Orange*, (LAH, RWS, m.ob.); 100 Aug. 23 s. of South Bay (EHR, JLB); and the 24 at P.P.M. (CLG, PJF) lingered to a late date. Single Am. Avocets were locally rare at D.I., Sept. 10 (DSE, LRM) and s. Tallahassee Sept. 21 (JEC), as were a group of five at S.M.N.W.R., Aug. 14 and Sept. 10–Oct. 28 (JR). A remarkable 586 avocets at P.P.M., Nov. 7 (CLG) was the highest ever for *Polk*.

The only inland Willet reported was at Zellwood Aug. 21 (PJF). Upland Sandpipers were more widely reported than usual. One was at A.P.A.F.R., Aug. 17 (DS), 21 were at Zellwood Aug. 22 (JHH, m.ob.), two were w. of Homestead Aug. 29 (PWS, SAS), and one was at M.I.N.W.R., Sept. 3–10 (SR). Occurrences of multiple Long-billed Curlews are unusual in the Region, so four at Alafia Banks, *Hillsborough* Sept. 12 (AFS) and three at Fort Myers Beach, *Lee* Nov. 26 (BHA) were notable. A Marbled Godwit at Paynes Prairie S.Pr., Sept. 1–3 (RKR, m.ob.) furnished a notable inland record, the first for *Alachua*. Low water conditions attracted at least 14 through the period to S.M.N.W.R. The only inland report of a Ruddy Turnstone was at a sewer pond in s. Tallahassee Sept. 1 (GEM). High numbers of Red Knots were reported from the c. Gulf coast, where 400 were at F.D.C.P., *Pinellas* Aug. 11 (RTP), 550 at Shell Key Sept. 11, and an amazing 5000 Sept. 17 (both PJB). Unusual inland were a Red Knot in w. *Palm Beach* Nov. 8 (BHH), and a Sanderling in s. Tallahassee Sept. 1 (GEM). The 11,000 peeps present at the P.P.M., Nov. 13 (PJF, CLG) was a very high count. Two carefully identified Semipalmated Sandpipers were in s. Tallahassee Nov. 1 (GEM). The only White-rumped Sandpipers reported were two in w. *Palm Beach* Nov. 8–13 (BHH, HPL). Rare Baird's Sandpipers, both singles, were reported from Wards Bank Sept. 11 (JWB, SPB), and D.I., Oct. 12 (DSE, LRM). Six Pectoral Sandpipers at D.I., Sept. 6 (DSE, LRM) were considered unusual. Purple Sandpipers were reported from 3 locations on the Atlantic coast: two at Fort Clinch S.P., *Nassau* Nov. 8 (BPM) & Nov. 23 (JWB); one at Volusia Dunes Park, *Volusia* Nov. 26 (WB *et al.*); and one at Port Canaveral, *Brevard* Nov. 28 (*vide* DC). The 100 Dunlin in w. *Palm Beach* Nov. 13 (BHH, HPL) was a high number inland, and up to three were at P.P.M., Nov. 6–28 (BC, LC, PJF, CLG). A rare Curlew Sandpiper was at Fort Myers Beach Oct. 14–28 (VM, m.ob.). Single Stilt Sandpipers at D.I., Aug. 31 & Sept. 17 (DSE, LRM), that area's first reports. An impressive 600 were present at P.P.M., Nov. 7 (PJF). The 12 Long-billed Dowitchers at A.P.A.F.R., Oct. 2 (DS) were probably the first report from that location, and there were 1000 in w. *Palm Beach* Nov. 8–14 (BHH, HPL, m.ob.). An early Com. Snipe was at A.P.A.F.R., Aug. 19 (DS) and one at Key West Oct. 2 (JO) was unusual, as was an Am. Woodcock at D.I., Nov. 23 (DSE, LRM). The four Wilson's Phalaropes at Zellwood Aug. 21 (PJF *et al.*), and two there Aug. 22 (JHH *et al.*) were well below previous

numbers. One in s. Tallahassee Sept. 19–24 (JEC) was a rarity for *Leon*, and one at Marco I., Sept. 18 (THB) was the first report for *Collier*.

A flight off Turtle Mound, C.N.S., Nov. 26 consisted of 879 Pomarines and 124 Parasitics (HR, WB, ES, EB). A Parasitic at D.I., Oct. 30 (DSE, LRM) was the only jaeger reported from Gulf waters. A rare Franklin's Gull at Fort Myers Beach Nov. 7 was in first-winter plumage (LSA, video BHA, AHM). Lesser Black-backed Gulls reached *Pinellas* early when two were present on the Sunshine Skyway Causeway Oct. 4–5 (LSA, JFT, ARK). The high number reported was eight at Wards Bank Oct. 16 (NW, TW) and the same number there Nov. 7 (JAW). An unusual inland report came from w. *Palm Beach* where one adult was present s. of South Bay Nov. 13–14 (HPL, EHR, JLB). Very unusual for the n. Gulf was a Great Black-backed Gull at D.I., Oct. 30 (DSE, LRM). A very rare, very early Iceland Gull was reported at Wards Bank Oct. 9 (†S.R.C., SPB). A Gull-billed Tern was inland at Zellwood Aug. 21 (PJF *et al.*), another was inland s. of South Bay Aug. 29, and two were there Nov. 10 (both EHR, JLB). The 60 Caspian Terns at the latter location, also Nov. 10 (EHR, JLB), was a high inland number. The seasonal peaks at D.I. were 200 Royal Aug. 31 and 100 Sandwich terns Sept. 15 (both DSE, LRM), both below last year's highs. The estimated 2000–3000 Sandwich Terns at Alafia Banks Oct. 2 (RTP) & Oct. 24 (AFS) were remarkable. Counts at Shell Key Sept. 11 (PMB) included 537 Sandwich, 224 Common, and 350 Black terns. A large flight of Commons moved E past D.I., Oct. 5 where 700 were seen in one hour (DSE, LRM). The early migration of Least Terns was illustrated by the three at Key West Aug. 8 (JO), the last seen there this season.

DOVES TO VIREOS

White-crowned Pigeons wandered N of their breeding areas. One was at Hypoluxo I., *Broward* Oct. 15 (CW, GSH *et al.*), and two at Big Cypress Bend Nov. 20 (JEM) provided one of few reports from *Collier*. Eurasian Collared-Doves continued their expansion with a first nesting noted in late summer at Vero Beach, *Indian River* (BW). First reports came from: Carabelle; Dunellon, *Marion*; Moore Haven, *Glades*; and Clewiston, *Hendry* (all PWS, SAS). White-winged Doves were reported more frequently than usual. Two were at Key West Oct. 14 (JO), one at Cedar Key Oct. 14–31 & Nov. 20–31 (DCH), and another visited a feeder in coastal *Wakulla* Oct. 30–Nov. 2 (JMS, CS). The single White-winged at D.I., Oct. 21, Oct. 25, and Nov. 8 (all DSE, LRM) were considered to be different individuals. Black-billed Cuckoos were especially conspicuous. Two were at Seminole S.F., *Lake* (SB), singles were seen at Honey-moon Island S.R.A., Oct. 7 (RWS), and Paynes Prairie S.Pr., Oct. 16 (MAM, RKR, MAK). The latter was the first for *Alachua* since 1983. Singles were banded at D.I., Oct. 13 & Oct. 17 (both DSE, LRM) Impressive

numbers of Yellow-billed Cuckoos were present at D.I., where estimates were 30 Oct. 10, and 50 Oct. 22 (both DSE, LRM). However, observers in *Pinellas* reported fewer than average numbers (*vide* RWS). The only Groove-billed Ani was at D.I., Oct. 9–10 (DSE, LRM), *vs.* last fall's invasion.

A late Chuck-will's-widow was banded at D.I., Nov. 27 (DSE, LRM). Whip-poor-wills received more notice than usual. Two were seen at A.B.S., Aug. 27 (GEW), and one was reported in full song there Sept. 24 (JF). Individuals were banded at D.I., Sept. 19 & 22 (DSE, LRM). An imm. ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird at Cedar Key Oct. 28–Nov. 2 (DCH, m.ob.) had distinctive gorget feathers. An imm. ♂ *Selasphorus* was in Homestead Sept. 29–Oct. 11, and an imm. female was there Oct. 25–Nov. 7 (both PWS, SAS). An imm. male in Dade City Nov. 14–30 (ph. DW, m.ob.) was considered to be Rufous, for a first *Pasco* record. A Red-headed Woodpecker in Bonaventure lingered until Aug. 29 (EHR), providing an infrequent *Broward* record. A Hairy Woodpecker was noted in a stand of dead pines along Payne Creek, *Hardee* Sept. 8 (JF), a rare report from the s. Peninsula. The only Olive-sided Flycatcher reported was at F.D.C.P., Sept. 11 (LSA, video BHA, JFT, m.ob.) for the 2nd *Pinellas* record. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were banded at Casey Key, *Sarasota* Sept. 14 (AS) and D.I., Sept. 19 (DSE, LRM). The latter was a first local record. Single Yellow-bellied were seen at S.C.P., Oct. 2 (CLG), Homestead Oct. 2 (PWS, SAS), and St. George Island S.P., *Franklin* Oct. 24 (JMS, CS). The 11 "Traill's" banded Sept. 23–Oct. 5 at D.I. (DSE, LRM) were thought to be mostly Alder Flycatchers. Nine Least Flycatchers were reported Sept. 12–Oct. 6. Vermilion Flycatchers were reported only from the e. Panhandle, where an immature was seen at S.M.N.W.R., Oct. 8 (DJ, SJ), and an ad. male returned to its traditional wintering site Oct. 11. It was joined by an imm. male Nov. 26+. An ad. male was present at L. Munson Oct. 29+ (GEM). The rare Brown-crested Flycatcher was reported Sept. 30 at St. George Island S.P. (†S.R.C., JMS, CS), more than a month earlier than the earliest prior Regional report. A *Myiarchus* at Flamingo, E.N.P., Nov. 29 (SW) was thought to be Brown-crested. Eleven W. Kingbird reports Aug. 31–Nov. 26 were all of single birds, except for two w. of Homestead Nov. 8 and seven there Nov. 20 (both PWS, SAS). Several roosts of E. Kingbirds were found in the c. Peninsula, where 95 were near Old Venus, *Highlands* Aug. 23 (DS), 73 at M.I.N.W.R., Sept. 3 (SR), and hundreds during the 2nd week of September at Lake Rosalie, *Polk* (DSt). Gray Kingbirds are rare inland except in s.e. Florida, so one n. of Venus, *Highlands* Aug. 2 (KT, ph. BP), and another at A.P.A.F.R., Aug. 22 (DS) were notable. Among the 10 reports of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, the most interesting was from Fernadina Beach, *Nassau* Oct. 27 (ELC).

A rare Horned Lark at M I N W R , Nov

30 (SR) was at the same location where one was present last winter. The hundreds of Cliff Swallows over Boot Key Oct. 9 (PWS, WH) was probably the highest one-day total for the Region. A remarkable passage of Barn Swallows was noted at D.I., Oct. 18, where 900 were counted in 30 minutes (DSE, LRM). Presumably the same Scrub Jay was seen at 2 locations in Gainesville Oct. 2 (MGM) and Oct. 5 (JG). The closest known populations are about 30 mi away. Nine Fish Crows at Key West Oct. 10 (JO) indicated a continued increase in the local population. The Red-breasted Nuthatch at A.D. Barnes C.P., *Dade* Oct. 13–23 demonstrated the erratic nature of this species' wanderings; none was reported elsewhere. An early Winter Wren was in n.w. *Jefferson* Oct. 13 (NW). A Shiny Cowbird at S.M.N.W.R., Aug. 22 (JL) likely summered nearby. A late Veery was banded at Casey Key Nov. 7, and a Hermit Thrush banded Nov. 13 (both AS) was the first there since 1987. A season's total 19 Gray-cheeked Thrushes were banded at D.I., the latest on Oct. 26 (DSE, LRM). A Gray-cheeked at S.C.P., Oct. 17 (CLG) was a local rarity. The 25 Swainson's Thrushes at Boyd Hill Nature Park, *Pinellas* Oct. 16 (RWS), and 10 at S.C.P., Oct. 17 (CLG) were notable. The four Wood Thrushes banded at Casey Key were more than usual (AS), and the one seen at H.T. Birch S.R.A., *Broward* Oct. 4 (WG) was considered to be very rare on the s.e. coast. A major movement of Gray Catbirds was reported at D.I., Sept. 6 with an estimated 6000 (DSE, LRM). The last date for Key West's Bahama Mockingbird was Aug. 14 (JO). There were 3 reports of the rare Sprague's Pipit, more than in most fall seasons: singles at s. Tallahassee Nov. 12 (GEM), S.M.N.W.R., Nov. 13 (DJ, SJ), and St. George I Causeway Nov. 26 (LAH, RWS, m.ob.). What may have been an unlucky Thick-billed Vireo was found on Boot Key Oct. 3 (†S.R.C., WH), and was last seen Oct. 10 (PWS *et al.*), the same day that more than 200 falcons were seen passing the key. The 8 Philadelphia Vireo reports, all singles, were dispersed through the state from *Dade* to the e Panhandle, but confined to Sept. 29–Oct. 30 (v.o.).

WARBLERS TO FINCHES

The 18 reports of Blue-winged Warblers Aug. 27–Oct. 2 (v.o.) included a remarkable seven at Brooker Creek Park Sept. 18 (LSA, BHA).

The 27 Golden-wings reported Aug. 29–Oct. 17 (v.o.) outnumbered reports of Blue-wings. *Alachua* observers were graced with three different "Brewster's" this season: Sept. 25 (RKR), Sept. 29 (BPM, CER), and Oct. 4 (MAM). Another was at Sawgrass Park Sept. 25 (SCB, DLT). Among the five Nashville Warblers reported was one that visited Cedar Key Sept. 25–Oct. 2 (DCH). A tardy ♀ Black-throated Blue was banded at D.I., Nov. 11 (DSE, LRM). A very rare ♀ **Townsend's Warbler** was at F.D.C.P., Sept. 11 (†S.R.C., LSA, video BHA). Early Palm Warblers were at D.I., Sept. 8 (DSE, LRM), and S.M.N.W.R., Sept. 12 (FCJ, JWH). Ceruleans reports spanned Aug. 11–Sept. 12 (m.ob.), mostly from *Hillsborough* and *Pinellas* where 29 were reported. The 24 Am. Redstarts at S.C.P., Oct. 16 (PJF, m.ob.) was the highest local count ever. Two Swainson's Warblers were banded at D.I. this fall, Sept. 6 & 15 (DSE, LRM). Other individuals were reported from Lettuce Lake P., Sept. 6 (LSA), John U. Lloyd S.R.A., *Broward* Sept. 6 (JLB), and Homestead Oct. 3 (PWS, SAS). A very good count of 75 Ovenbirds was made at Spanish Creek P., Sept. 5 (BHH). Most unusual were up to four Louisiana Waterthrushes, including two in song, at S.C.P., Aug. 7–Sept. 6 (PJF, CLG, m.ob.). A rare Mourning Warbler was at Spanish River P., Sept. 27 (BHH). Among the 6 reports of Wilson's Warblers Sept. 12–Nov. 3 (v.o.) was one that lingered in s. Tallahassee Oct. 17–Nov. 3 (GEM). Three Canada Warblers in one bush at St. George Island S.P., Sept. 4 (JEC) delighted birders. Of the eight more reported from then until Oct. 9, the only multiple occurrence was two at S.C.P., Sept. 15–18 (m.ob.). Scarlet Tanagers are considered to be uncommon in *Polk*, so a total of six from 3 locations Oct. 16–17 (BC, LC, PJF) was noteworthy.

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak banded at Casey Key Oct. 14 (AS) was the first there since 1989. Up to 70 Indigo Buntings visited feeders in a yard in s. Jacksonville Oct. 24–26 (JPC). Of the six Dickcissels reported Aug. 21–Oct. 24, the only one not at S.M.N.W.R. was at Key West Oct. 18 (JO). A juv. Bachman's Sparrow banded at D.I., Oct. 3 (DSE, LRM) was probably the first from a Gulf barrier island. The rarest sparrows reported were two Lincoln's Nov. 21 w. of Homestead (PWS, SAS). The 35 White-crowned Sparrows Nov. 28 was *Polk's* highest count ever (CLG, PT). A Dark-eyed Junco Nov. 28 at Lake Woodruff N.W.R.

(WB) was a rarity for *Volusia*. A calling W Meadowlark Oct. 22 was the first record for D.I. (DSE, LRM). Two Brewer's Blackbirds were in a flock of 50 Rustys in n.w. Tallahassee Nov. 28 (JEC), the same day a Brewer's was banded at Casey Key (AS). Single Bronzed Cowbirds, both male, were noted at Gainesville Nov. 18 (RKR) and Cedar Key Nov. 25 (DCH). Pine Siskins reports were five in s.w. Tallahassee Nov. 12 (GEM), two on D.I., Nov. 20 (DSE, LRM), and one at Paynes Prairie S.Pr., Nov. 23 (BPM, JTD).

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ONTARIO REGION

Ron Ridout

With the exception of some moderately strong cold fronts which pushed across the province during September, weather throughout the period was rather benign. Precipitation was slightly above average in most areas during November, though mild temperatures made conditions bearable for many lingering migrants

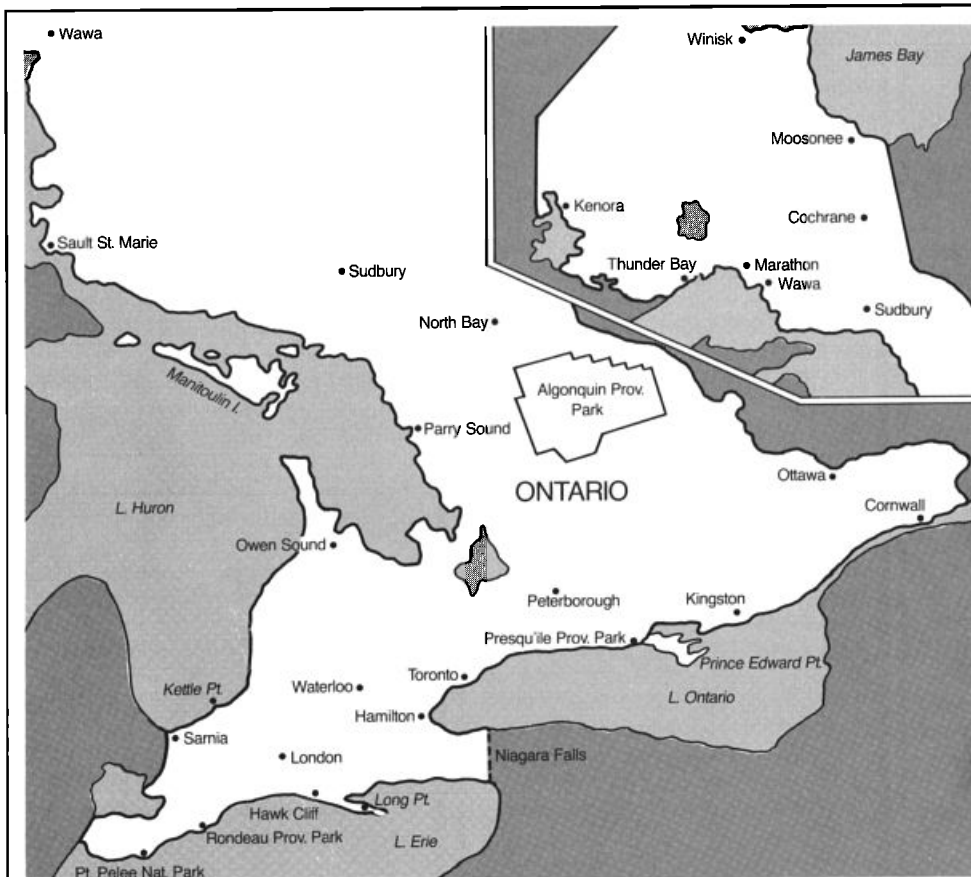
Assessing trends during the period presented a mixed bag of results. While some species of waterfowl improved on 1992's numbers, others were reduced; and while some raptor monitoring sites suffered dismal seasons, Holiday Beach had an outstanding fall. Passerine numbers on the whole seemed improved over last year's discouraging totals though there were exceptions to this as well.

By mid-October, it was evident that a southbound exodus of several winter finch species was underway. At the same time,

record or near-record late lingering individuals of several passerine species brought the excitement to a feverish pitch.

Finally, outstanding rarities, including Canada's first Variegated Flycatcher, Ontario's first Marbled Murrelet and Dusky Flycatcher, plus Dovekie, White-winged Dove and Fork-tailed Flycatcher capped one of the most memorable autumns in memory.

Abbreviations: Pelee (*Pt. Pelee N.P.*); P.E. Pt. (*Prince Edward Pt.*); L.P.B.O. (*Long Pt. Bird Observatory*); T.C.B.O. (*Thunder Cape Bird*)



JO), one at P.E. Pt., Nov. 20 (KH), one at St. Clair N.W.A., Kent Nov. 26 (JH), and two at Holiday Beach Nov. 28 (RHB).

WATERFOWL

A Tundra Swan at Cochrane Oct. 28 (LM) was well n. of the normal migration route. A high count of 11,260 at Long Pt., Nov. 11 (RK) was indicative of a strong flight throughout the s.w. Single Mute Swans at Goulais Bay, *Algoma* mid-September–Oct. 9 (*fide* AW) and Wawa Oct. 3 & 9 (AW *et al.*) were very rare for the north. Sightings of Greater White-fronted Geese involved one at Belles Corners, *Ottawa Carleton* Oct. 27 (RH), likely the same bird at Nepean Oct. 30 (BD), one at Arkona Nov. 21–25 (PC *et al.*) and nearby Strathroy Nov. 26 (AM), and two at Pelee Nov. 28 (AW) and then Kingsville Nov. 29 (JH).

Numbers of dabbling ducks rebounded from 1992's low counts, perhaps a reflection of improved breeding success in 1993. High counts on the Long Pt. aerial surveys included: 200 Wood Ducks at Long Pt., Sept. 12 (L.P.B.O.), 7388 Am. Black Ducks, 14,621 Mallards,

Observatory); Algonquin, Presqu'ile, and Rondeau are Provincial Parks.

LOONS TO HERONS

Red-throated Loons continued to increase in migration with close to 300 reported, nearly all on the Great Lakes. One at Komoka Nov. 13 (PR) was the lone inland sighting while 190 at Hamilton Bay the same day (KM, WL) was by far the largest single count. Lone Pacific Loons were at Gilles L., *Timiskaming* Nov. 5 (BM) and P.E. Pt., Nov. 13 (†RDW). Concern continued over a weak flight of Horned Grebes with 165 at P.E. Pt., Nov. 7 (K.F.N.) the highest count. The picture was somewhat better for Red-neckeds with widespread sightings including counts of 110 at T.C.B.O., Aug. 14 and 73 at W. Bay *Manitoulin* Nov. 27 (CB). Five Eared Grebes involved individuals at Tavistock Sept. 9 (JMH), P.E.Pt., Oct. 10 (JE, RDW), Hillman Marsh, *Essex* Oct. 17 (AW), Fifty Pt., *Niagara* Oct. 30 (JI, RP), and Hamilton Nov. 14 (RC, RS *et al.*). A very rare W. Grebe appeared at Hamilton Bay Nov. 21–24 (RC, m.ob.) while the possibility of Clark's could not be ruled out of a Western at Wicklow Beach, *North-humberland* Oct. 10 (†CEG).

At least 9 sightings of first-winter N. Gannets on L. Ontario off Whitby and Hamilton Oct. 25–Nov. 28 (m.ob.) involved at least two birds. Two were together off Whitby Nov. 16 (GS *et al.*). Estimates of ever-increasing Double-crested Cormorants at Presqu'ile ranged as high as 10,000 Aug. 6 (CEG). Another high count was 3000 at Hamilton Aug. 17 (RD). Numbers of 'southern' egrets

were well below recent fall averages. A Great Egret at Barrie I., *Manitoulin* Aug. 1–Sept. 19 (R&JMc, DB) joined by another there Sept. 14 (RCa) were the most northerly of the 60 reported. Eight at Pittock L., *Oxford* Sept. 29 (JMH) was a notable number there. Sightings of Cattle Egrets involved just six birds, one at Hillman Marsh Oct. 2 (CBh *et al.*), one in Cavan Twp., *Peterborough* Oct. 9 (ST), and four in Otonabee Twp., *Peterborough* Oct. 25 (DSa *et al.*).

In contrast, reports of *Plegadis* ibises reached near record proportion with a total of 14 birds. Individuals identified as Glossy included one at Corner Marsh, *Durham* Sept. 25 (JL), likely the same bird at nearby Cranberry Marsh Sept. 28–Oct. 1 (AL *et al.*), Wolfe Is., *Frontenac* Oct. 6–10 (WS, †RDW), Burgoyne, *Bruce* Oct. 12 (JW, D&LN), and Presqu'ile Nov. 1–20 (DSH *et al.*). Sightings categorized as unspecific *Plegadis* included five at Holiday Beach Oct. 24 (†AC *et al.*), one flying W at Bronte Nov. 7 (MJ), likely the same bird half an hour later at Hamilton (RC,

553 N. Pintails, and 14,655 Am. Wigeon Oct. 12 and 511 Gadwall Oct. 26 (RK *et al.*). Impressive totals elsewhere included: 400 Green-winged Teal at Dundas Marsh Oct. 11 (KM), 2000 Am. Black Ducks and 2000 Am. Wigeon at Kingston Nov. 7 (K.F.N.), 3000 Blacks and 10,000 Mallards at Wildwood L., *Oxford* Nov. 21 (JMH), 270 N. Shovelers at Dundas Marsh Nov. 7 (PRO), and 380 Gadwall at Pelee Oct. 22 (AW). Unusual sightings involved an injured Blue-winged Teal at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham* which lasted until Nov. 21 (m.ob.) and single Eur. Wigeon at Kettle Pt., Oct. 23 (AR) and Kingston Oct. 31 (GP).

For the most part, diving duck numbers rebounded, though less so than dabblers. The Long Pt. surveys tallied 41,865 Canvasbacks and 3925 Redheads Nov. 11 and 61,774 scaup and 3292 Ruddy Ducks Oct. 26 (RK *et al.*). Significant totals elsewhere were 3700 Redheads at Wolfe I., *Frontenac* Nov. 15 (JE), 15,000 scaup at Sarnia Oct. 16 (DR, SR), and 2000 and 3300 Lesser Scaup at Presqu'ile Oct. 9 (DSH) and Hamilton Nov. 7 (RC, JO) respectively.

Still rare in the s., a Com. Eider appeared at Stoney Creek Oct. 30–Nov. 4 (†RP, JI, m.ob.). By the end of the period, 21 King Eiders were reported on L. Ontario, a good fall showing. One at Pelee Nov. 20 (AW) was only the 10th Park record. Harlequin Duck sightings totaled 14. Five were from the Thunder Bay area, where the species, once considered rare, is becoming a regular fall migrant (*fide* DS). Single Barrow's Goldeneyes were at Hamilton Nov. 2–7 (m.ob.)



Red Phalarope at Wheatley Harbour, Ontario, October 30, 1993. Photograph/Alan Wormington.

and Ft. Erie Nov. 6 (MH, m.ob.).

RAPTORS

A Black Vulture at Long Pt., Oct. 5 (RWe) provided that area's 4th record. Turkey Vulture numbers were above average at 20,224. A maximum count of 2594 at Holiday Beach, Essex Oct. 13 (RB) was excellent. The bulk of s. and c. Ontario birds pass this site each fall. Nine Ospreys there Nov. 2 was a good number for the date (RB). Bald Eagles continued to hold their ground with 209 reported from locations across the province.

Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers continued to maintain while Cooper's Hawks actually improved dramatically. The N. Goshawk flight dropped below levels of the last two years, likely beginning the down-slide of the cycle. The exception to this was Holiday Beach. Winds were never quite right for pushing large numbers of *Buteos* to the n. shores of the Great Lakes. The exception to this again was Holiday Beach, which is at the bottom of the s. Ontario geographic funnel. As an example, on Sept. 18 both Hawk Cliff and Holiday Beach experienced their peak Broad-winged Hawk day. Hawk Cliff counted 2370 (RHu) while Holiday Beach had a remarkable 63,400 (RB). Four Swainson's Hawks, a good total, involved one at T.C.B.O., Sept. 7 (DS, VF) and three at Holiday Beach, two Sept. 16 (†MKi, CF, DSt) and one Sept. 17 (†MKi). A Krider's Red-tailed Hawk at Sarnia Nov. 13–28 (DR, SR) was a rare sight in the s.w. A very early Rough-legged Hawk at Sylvan Valley, Algoma Aug. 1 (EC) seemed to presage a heavy s. movement, though by the end of the period fewer than normal were counted. A very high count of 45 birds at Long Pt., Nov. 1 (L.P.B.O.) was an exception. Golden Eagles in the south numbered 134 birds, down slightly from 1992.

Holiday Beach's increase in Merlin totals could not offset an overall drop in numbers reported across the south. Poor weather could be argued as a reason, but then how could the 290 Peregrines, almost double the ten-year average in the s., be explained? Nine Gyrfalcons sighted involved four different birds in the Thunder Bay area at various times Oct. 10–Nov. 20 (NE), one gray-morph on Manitoulin I., Nov. 6 & 10 (RCa), a dark-morph at Sault Ste. Marie from Nov. 12 on (TM, *et al.*), two birds, a gray-morph Nov. 20 (CBI) and a white bird Nov. 27 (CBI), both at Sudbury, and one at Nepean Nov. 24 (BD).

CRANES TO SHOREBIRDS

Sandhill Cranes continued to increase dramatically. Very high counts in the n. included 500 near Massey Oct. 10 (ME), 275 at Spring Bay Oct. 31 (JN), and 200 at Gordon L., Algoma Oct. 9 (EC). A flock of 14 at Long Pt., Nov. 21 (C&SW) was a record number there and the highest s. count.

Passage of Am. Golden Plovers was later in September, with lower numbers reported. A flock of 80 on Manitoulin I., Sept. 25 (JN)



Marbled Murrelet in basic (winter) plumage at Cornwall, Ontario, October 11, 1993. First record for the province. This bird was of the Asian form, *B. m. perdx*, which may well be a separate species from the one found along the Pacific Coast of North America. Photograph/Bruce M. Di Labio.

was the largest number seen. One at Byng Inlet, Parry Sound Sept. 2 (MK) provided the first record for that district. Three hundred Killdeer at Wildwood L., Oxford Sept. 1 (JMH) was a high buildup. An albino at Port Rowan Oct. 18 (DM) was a surprising sighting. American Avocet sightings included three at Hamilton Aug. 21–28 (AE, KM, GN), one at Presqu'île Sept. 4 (JB *et al.*), and one at Oshawa Sept. 24 (HK, v.o.). Observations of Willets were low with singles at Rock Pt., Haldimand Aug. 5 (MD), Hamilton Aug. 21–31 (KM, GN, m.ob.), Port Colborne Sept. 6 (BF, RK, MJa), and two at St. Catharines Aug. 15 (KR, AS, v.o.). Whimbrel totals were also low with just 24 observed. One at Darlington P.P., Durham Oct. 4 (MR) was notably late. The Kingston area accounted for most of the 55 Hudsonian Godwits seen with 33 birds counted Sept. 25–Nov. 11 (K.F.N.). Much rarer Marbled Godwits included lone birds at Hamilton Aug. 14–16 (KM, m.ob.) and Wiarton Sept. 14 (SG).

A juv. Sanderling at Pelee Aug. 14 (AW) was record early there while Semipalmated Sandpipers at Pittock L., Oxford Nov. 11 (JMH) and Featherstone Pt., Haldimand Nov. 29 (JM) were record late in those counties. Observations of 11 W. Sandpipers matched 1992's total. Three at Thornbury Aug. 14 (GPe) were a county first. Highs of 39 White-rumps Oct. 25 (MR) and 14 Baird's Aug. 30 (TB, CL) at Presqu'île were notable. A Pectoral Sandpiper at Pittock L., Oxford Nov. 20 (JMH) was extremely late. Good details were provided for a very rare juv. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Thedford Sept. 8 (†AR). With 22 birds reported, Purple Sandpipers were close to the fall average. One at Darlington P.P., Oct. 12 (RT) was the earliest, nine at Presqu'île Nov. 11 (DSH) was the largest count, and one at Wheatley Nov. 17 (AW *et al.*) was notable. Buff-breasted numbered a respectable 39 birds. Noteworthy sightings included singles at Bracebridge Aug. 15 (WC), Thornbury Sept. 5 (LR *et al.*), and Burwash Sept. 8 (CBI).

Lone Ruffs appeared at Jarvis Aug. 8 (JD, RK) and Wolfe I., Frontenac Oct. 9 (RE, RDW). Numbers of Long-billed Dowitchers, though improved over 1992 with 20 birds sighted, were below the fall average of about

37 birds. The 35 Red Phalaropes observed for the fall was an exceptional number. One at Wawa Oct. 3 (AW *et al.*) was the first record for the L. Superior area.

JAEGERS TO TERNS

A total of 17 Pomarine Jaegers reported approached 1991's record of 21. Sightings included three at Sarnia Oct. 9 (DR, SR *et al.*), singles at Hamilton Oct. 13 (BS, JC), Oct. 20 (BS *et al.*), & Oct. 31 (RD *et al.*), two on a w. L. Ontario pelagic Oct. 17 (O.F.O.), one at Niagara-on-the-Lake Oct. 31 (RK, MJa), and a remarkable eight birds (six ad., two imm.) at Hamilton Oct. 25 (JO, R&MPI). The same day and location produced the season's high 25 Parasitic Jaegers (JO, R&MPI) while 17 birds at Sarnia Oct. 9 (DR *et al.*) was the next highest count in a fall that produced a record 106 sightings. Observations of 10 Long-tailed were mind-boggling and unprecedented. Sightings involved a Great Lakes daily record of six birds (four adult, two immatures) at Hamilton Sept. 16 (JD, BS, RD) plus an adult at Wheatley Sept. 25 (JCo, DMi *et al.*), an immature nearby at Pelee Oct. 7 (KM, JHy, CM), an adult at Sarnia Oct. 9 (DR, SR *et al.*), and an adult at Hamilton Oct. 20 (JD, BS, *et al.*).

The 3 Laughing Gull sightings included one at Blenheim Sept. 25 (DMi, JCo *et al.*), an immature at Wolfe I., Sept. 26 (JE, †RDW), and a first-winter at Pelee Sept. 30–Oct. 28 (CBh, DM, m.ob.). Just six Franklin's Gulls were seen in the south, continuing the down-slide of recent years. Individuals were seen at Amherstview Aug. 1 (RDW *et al.*), Toronto Aug. 5 (RY), Ft. Erie Sept. 5–Oct. 1 (GB, m.ob.), Presqu'île Oct. 8 (J&CEG, DSh), N. Bay in early November (RTa), and Hamilton Nov. 13 (LE). Little Gull numbers improved somewhat over 1992 with 84 reported. Thirty birds at Turkey Pt., Oct. 23 (RR) was the largest group while an immature on L. of the Woods s. of Kenora Aug. 8 (RTk) was extremely rare there. A below-average 3 Com. Black-headed Gull observations included one at Beaverton Aug. 29–Oct. 24 (RT, RP), one at Wolfe I., Sept. 26 (JE, RDW), and one on L. Ontario at Pefferlaw Cr., Northumberland Oct. 23 (CEG).

Lesser Black-backed Gulls numbered 42 birds, continuing their gradual increase. Sightings were widespread across the s. with one as far n. as N. Bay Nov. 7–14 (RTa *et al.*). The only notable concentration was 9 birds at Nepean Oct. 9 (BD). Numbers of Black-legged Kittiwakes were substantially below normal with just 10 birds seen. Surprisingly, they were outnumbered by Sabine's Gulls of which 15 were reported. Of note was a record early juvenile at Pelee Aug. 30 (AW, DC) and another juvenile at Ft. Frances Sept. 17 (LP), the first record for *Rainy River*. One observer saw one at Cornwall Oct. 23 (CE), the same day he observed an imm. Arctic Tern there. Two Black Terns at Holiday Beach Oct. 8 (AC) were very late.

ALCIDS TO FLYCATCHERS.

One wonders if the hunter at Carleton Place thought he had the world's smallest duck when he shot a Dovekie Oct. 26 (BD, * N.M.C.). There are less than 10 records for Ontario. Much rarer was Ontario's first **Marbled Murrelet** discovered at Cornwall Oct. 11–30 (ph. BD, CT, m.ob.). The bird was determined to be of the subspecies *perdix* as have been all of the 13 other c. and e. North American records. Ontario's 4th **White-winged Dove** spent one afternoon at the tip of Long Pt., Sept. 18 (†PP, JWo).

Barn Owls are rarely reported in the province, so one at Kingston Nov. 13 (K.F.N.) was notable. Snowy Owls moved south in sub-par numbers though 20 in the Kingston area from Oct. 20+ (K.F.N.) was a respectable tally. The only N. Hawk Owls in c. Ontario were individuals on Manitoulin I., Nov. 16 (DB) and Nov. 27 (DB, WW). A lone Com. Nighthawk at Holiday Beach Oct. 19 (AC) was record late there. A latest-ever Whip-poor-will for *Durham*, found at Thickson's Woods Nov. 3 (PH), was eclipsed by one far n. of there at Gros Cap, *Algoma* the same day (GW). A very late *Selasphorus* hummingbird at Elginburg Nov. 1 (*vide* RDW) was not



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher north of Wheatley, Ontario, September 19, 1993. Photograph/Jim N. Flynn.

identified to species. The seven Red-bellied Woodpeckers away from the s.w. included two in *Frontenac*, three in *Leeds Grenville*, and one on Manitoulin I. A Black-backed Woodpecker at Amherstview Oct. 23 joined there by another Nov. 15 (MM) may be the forerunners of a movement s. for the 2nd winter in a row.

The fall of 1993 will be remembered as the season of the flycatcher. It began with a very rare in the n. Willow Flycatcher banded at T.C.B.O., Aug. 15 (MDu). Ontario's first **Dusky Flycatcher** was captured by T.C.B.O. banders Sept. 13 (DS, JCa, * R.O.M.) on Porphyry I., *Thunder Bay*. A Say's Phoebe, Ontario's 11th, was observed at Cloud Bay, *Thunder Bay* Sept. 16 (ph. M&SB). The star of the show, Canada's first **Variagated Flycatcher**, discovered on Toronto I., Oct. 7 (D&JHo, m.ob.), was seen by hundreds of observers from across the continent while it lingered until Nov. 6. Single W. Kingbirds

Table 1. Hawk totals at three Ontario Stations, Autumn 1993, compared with the 11 year avg. where available.

	Cranberry Marsh ¹ Whitby 1993	Hawk Cliff 1993 1982-92 avg.	Holiday Beach ³ 1993 1982-92 avg.
Turkey Vulture	681	3891	3733
Osprey	33	212	92
Bald Eagle	13	48	28
N. Harrier	93	1242	808
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1084	11071	8726
Cooper's Hawk	59	908	673
N. Goshawk	11	51	40
Red-shouldered Hawk	16	442	181
Broad-winged Hawk	700	5881	11994
Red-tailed Hawk	496	3826	3062
Rough-legged Hawk	5	6	40
Golden Eagle	5	30	26
Am. Kestrel	269	4114	2536
Merlin	17	77	58
Peregrine	13	91	31
Unidentified	84	319	975
Totals	3579	32209	33038

1 (JBr et al. 1993 Aug. 28–Nov. 28, 56 days)

2 (RHu et al. 1993 Aug. 21–Nov. 30, 89 days)

3 (RB et al. 1993 Aug. 22–Nov. 30, 92 days)

were at T.C.B.O., Aug. 31 (DS, CS) and Oct. 12–25 (DS et al.) and Bancroft Oct. 11 (TS). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, which stayed over 7 weeks at Wheatley Aug. 15–Sept. 30 (AW, m.ob.), furnished *Kent's* first record. Ontario's 2nd **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** found at Cayuga Sept. 29–30 (JDe, JM, m.ob.) tarried just long enough to be seen by dozens of local observers.

JAYS TO SHRIKES

Numbers of Blue Jays passing Holiday Beach fell just short of a record high with 416,893 tallied. The pattern over the past few years is falling neatly into the counters' two-year cycle theory (AC). A record was set there for Am. Crows with a seasonal total of 280,336 (AC). Out of range Com. Ravens in the s. were at Toronto Oct. 13 (RY, NM), Ipperwash Oct. 14 (DAS, WB), and Purpleville, *York* Nov. 2 (GBE). Black-capped Chickadees staged a heavy passage s. in October and with them came a few Boreals. Singles were seen at Kingston Sept. 29 (RE), P.E. Pt., Oct. 2 (RDW), Toronto Oct. 30 (JBa), and near Port Stanley Nov. 23 (RHu). Mixed in this movement, though likely arriving from the s., were a number of Tufted Titmice. Sightings near Lakes Ontario and Erie ranged from Brockville to Holiday Beach. One individual at Chepstow Nov. 20 (DN, BK) was the furthest out of range.

Fall records of Bewick's Wrens are unusual so one at P.E. Pt., Sept. 25 (†RDW) was noteworthy. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at T.C.B.O., Oct. 15 (MDu) was far n. of range. Two N. Wheatears were found, both the same day. One was at Moosonee Sept. 20–23 (EH) while the other was at Barrie I. *Manitoulin* Sept. 20–27 (MBr, m.ob.). A Mt. Bluebird at Wawa Oct. 9 (AW et al.) was *Algoma's* first. In the n., 6 Swainson's Thrushes, four at Batchawana Bay and two at Wawa, Oct. 9 (AW et al.) was a high count for the date. A Brown Thrasher was well n. at Dorian Oct. 8 (AW et al.). Four hundred

Am. Pipits on Manitoulin I., Sept. 26 (JN) was an unusually high count. Bohemian Waxwings moved into traditional wintering areas in November with many pushing well into the south. The largest concentration was 1000 birds on the Bruce Peninsula Nov. 15 (MW) while one at Pelee Oct. 23–Nov. 7 (TH, v.o.) was record early there. Now endangered, southbound Loggerhead Shrikes were at Millgrove Sept. 11 (RC) and very late at Merrickville Nov. 3 (BB) and P.E. Pt., Nov. 6 (WF, KH, RW).

VIREOS TO FINCHES

Several White-eyed Vireos away from the s.w. were also quite late including singles at P.E. Pt., Nov. 7 (K.F.N.), Toronto I. Nov. 9 (HK), and w. Toronto Nov. 11 (RS). The latest was at London

Nov. 8–12 (SP). An ad. Red-eyed Vireo was still feeding a fledged young bird at Algonquin Sept. 18 (DT, RT), a very late date. A hatch-year Golden-winged Warbler banded at T.C.B.O., Aug. 26 (PB) was certainly unusual for the site. The only Lawrence's reported was at Walsingham Aug. 4 (MG). Some maximum warbler counts included 3000 Tennessees and 600 Nashvilles at T.C.B.O., Aug. 21, 2000 Yellow-rumped each at T.C.B.O., Sept. 18 and L.P.B.O., Oct. 14, and 1000 Palms at T.C.B.O., Sept. 18. Single Yellow-throated Warblers, both at feeders, were at Teeswater Sept. 8–Oct. 3 (AMc) and Sault Ste. Marie from Nov. 12 on (ET, EC, v.o.). The Teeswater bird was the *dominica* subspecies, one of very few provincial records. A Prairie Warbler at T.C.B.O., Sept. 26 (DS et al.) was n. Ontario's first record. Unusual 'southern' warblers included a Kentucky at Waterloo Sept. 16 (CC), a Worm-eating at Toronto Nov. 7 (PSS), and an 'orange-throated' Yellow-breasted Chat banded by T.C.B.O. staff on Porphyry I., *Thunder Bay* Sept. 14 (DS, JCa).

Seemingly an annual fall occurrence, two Summer Tanagers were found with one at Pelee Oct. 30–Nov. 7 (JLe et al.) and another at a feeder in Pembroke Nov. 8–28 (DV,



This Brambling, the fifth for Ontario, was temporarily stunned when it hit a window near Woodstock November 12, 1993. It was released unharmed the next day. Photograph/W. G. Lindley.

CMi). Lone Dickcissels included one found dead at Toronto Sept. 10 (AK) and one alive at Stonecliffe Oct. 9 (WL, KG). Individual Lark Sparrows appeared at P.E. Pt., Oct. 3 (RDW) and Virginiatown from Nov. 18 (PRI). Occurrences of migrant Le Conte's Sparrows were higher than usual with totals of 11 at Algonquin Sept. 25–Oct. 13 (RT, v.o.), six at Pelee between Aug. 30 and Oct. 25 (AW, v.o.), and three at Long Pt., Oct. 18–23 (L.P.B.O.) the most noteworthy. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Black Rapids, Leeds Grenville Aug. 21 (WCu) was record early. Harris' Sparrows appeared in the east on Manitoulin I. Oct. 9–13 (RJ *et al.*) and at Long Pt., Oct. 27 (GG, PP). Fifty Snow Buntings at Hamilton Sept. 18 (GN, MS) were very early.

An imm. ♂ Brambling cooperated by stunning itself at an observer's window in Dorland, Oxford Nov. 12 (JMH). It was held overnight and released unharmed the next day. Several species of winter finches moved s. in good numbers during October and November. Pine Grosbeaks began appearing mainly in November though surprisingly one of the earliest records was at Long Pt., Oct. 23 (PBu). Purple Finches and Pine Siskins moved in September and October and while the former passed through completely, many of the latter remained. Common Redpolls staged a massive movement in late October and early November. One observer estimated 10,000 at Woodstock Nov. 12 (JMH). Three at Pelee Oct. 23 (TH) were record early there. Though most passed through the province to points s., a good number remained by period's end. With this

heavy passage came the much rarer Hoary Redpoll. Twenty different sightings were scattered across the province from Moosonee to Niagara Falls.

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APPALACHIAN REGION

George A. Hall

It certainly was an interesting fall season, and the contributors submitted a record amount of information. Much of it was discouraging, as the list of species in the "lowest numbers ever" was long, but most people felt it was a better season than 1992. August was hotter than normal and dry, while September and October were cooler than normal with slightly above-average precipitation. November was warm and wet. The September migration was generally poor, although there were a few exceptions. There were few marked frontal systems. One such system September 22–25 produced some good flights of passerines, as well as major hawk flights. Another marked system moved through October 1–3. While the Neotropical migrants of September had been in low numbers, the short-distance migrants of October staged a very good flight at most places. Finally, late October and early November brought the beginnings of the first "northern finch" winter in several years.

The news from the big banding stations was not good: at Powdermill Nature Reserve the 5952 birds banded was the fourth lowest total in ten years (RCL & RM), while the 3797 banded at Allegheny Front Migration Observatory was the third poorest total (GAH). The station at Presque Isle State Park banded only 519 birds (RFL) while a second-year station in Garrett, MD had a good season with 1647 bandings (CS).

Of 79 species analyzed at Powdermill Nature Reserve, 29 were handled in numbers one or more standard deviations S.D. below the ten-year average and only three were one or more S.D. above average. At Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, of 33 species, ten were one or more S.D. below and two were one or more S.D. above the average.

There were major southward flights of Black-capped Chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches, as well as the "northern finches." There were several first local records, three state firsts for West Virginia and one first well-documented record for Pennsylvania.

Abbreviations: A.F.M.O. (*Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, Grant/Tucker counties, WV*); B.E.S.P. (*Bald Eagle State Park, Centre, PA*); Ch.N.F. (*Chattahoochee Natl. Forest, GA*); G.B.W.M.A. (*Green Bottom W.M.A., Cabell, WV, formerly known as Glenwood Swamp*); K.C.P.P. (*Kyger Creek Power Plant, Gallia, OH*); M.C.F.H. (*Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan, KY*); O.R.I. (*Ohio River Islands N.W.R., Parkersburg, WV*); P.I.S.P. (*Presque Isle State Park, Erie, PA*); P.N.R. (*Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland, PA*); R.C.B.L. (*Robert C. Byrd Locks, Ohio River, Mason, WV, formerly known as Gallipolis Locks*); T.H.H.W. (*Town Hill Hawk Watch, Allegany, MD*).

Table 2. Record or near-record late dates for some passerines in Ontario, Autumn 1993.

E. Wood-Pewee	Dundas Marsh	Nov. 7	PRO, KS
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Sault Ste. Marie	Oct. 25	SRo
Great Crested Flycatcher	T.C.B.O.	Oct. 22	DS <i>et al.</i>
E. Kingbird	Toronto	Oct. 7	T.B.O.
Purple Martin	Pelee	Oct. 17	AW
Sedge Wren	Cavan	Oct. 13	MBk
Gray-checked Thrush	Whitby	Oct. 23	MBa
Am. Robin	Moosonee	Nov. 19	EH
Warbling Vireo	Long Pt.	Oct. 17	L.P.B.O.
Red-eyed Vireo	Mississauga	Nov. 7	AG
Blue-winged Warbler	Mississauga	Oct. 15	DP
Tennessee Warbler	Toronto	Nov. 12	RY
Orange-crowned Warbler	Atikokan	Nov. 3	DE
Yellow Warbler	Dundas Marsh	Nov. 7	PRO, KS
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Rondeau	Oct. 30	PAW
Cape May Warbler	Dundas Marsh	Nov. 7	PRO, KS
Black-throated Green Warbler	Pelee	Nov. 6	AW
Pine Warbler	T.C.B.O.	Nov. 2	DS <i>et al.</i>
Prairie Warbler	Toronto	Oct. 9	PSS
Bay-breasted Warbler	Presqu'île	Oct. 15	MR
Ovenbird	Toronto	Nov. 13	PSS
N. Waterthrush	Pelee	Nov. 6	AW
Mourning Warbler	T.C.B.O.	Oct. 6	DS <i>et al.</i>
Hooded Warbler	L.P.B.O.	Oct. 14	AB
Wilson's Warbler	Toronto	Nov. 13	lP.RSm
Yellow-breasted Chat	Port Rowan	Oct. 31	PBu
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	T.C.B.O.	Oct. 18	DS <i>et al.</i>
Indigo Bunting	T.C.B.O.	Oct. 21	DS <i>et al.</i>
Bobolink	Harrisburg	Nov. 4	WL
Orchard Oriole	Pelee	Sept. 6	AW

LOONS TO IBISES

The only reports of Red-throated Loons came from P.I.S.P., Nov. 6 & 7 (JM & DS) and one was sighted passing the T.H.H.W., Nov. 20 (JPa). Numbers of Com. Loons were higher than in most recent years, with high daily counts of 48 at Pymatuning L., PA Oct. 3 (RFL), 43 at B.E.S.P., Oct. 30 (TF) and 42 at Watauga L., TN Nov. 27 (RK). At the T.H.H.W., 263 were counted during the season, with 169 Nov. 20 (JPa) and several were seen at the Rockfish Gap, VA hawk watch (*fide* RS). On Nov. 26 an undetermined number (at least 30) of loons landed on the wet highways in Garrett, MD, with many rescued (CS). Four Red-necked Grebes were listed on the Waterbird Count at P.I.S.P., Oct. 21–Nov. 7 (JM) and an Eared Grebe was present there Nov. 14–30 (JM).

Adding to the list of waterfowl seen from the hawk watches was a **Brown Pelican** at Rockfish Gap, VA Sept. 11 (m.ob.) This bird was later seen at nearby Stuart's Draft, VA Sept. 17 (DSt). As in most recent fall seasons Double-crested Cormorants were found in modest numbers, with a high count of 50 on the Ohio R., Cabell WV Oct. 31 (MG). At T.H.H.W., 168 were logged for the season (JPa) and they were also seen at Rockfish Gap (*fide* RS) and East River Mt. (JPh).

American Bitterns were reported from 7 locations. The only Least Bittern report came from P.I.S.P., Aug. 12 (LM). In August the post-nesting count at the new O.R.I. found 289 Great Blue Heron nests (PM). Great Egrets were reported in good numbers at 16 locations from P.I.S.P. in the n. to n. Georgia. One at Boone L., TN Nov. 28 was rather late (WC & LMc). There were more than the usual number of Little Blue Heron reports: at least six at G.B.W.M.A., July 24–Aug. 28 (WA, MG); Jackson, WV Oct. 10 (GH); Lyndhurst, VA July 28–Aug. 3 (YL); Putnam, TN Aug. 1–Sept. 26 (B & SS); and S. Holston L., TN Aug. 22 (RK). A Tricolored Heron was at Clintonville, PA for 3 weeks in August (WF). Cattle Egrets were found at Washington, TN Aug. 25 (RK) and Fincastle, VA Oct. 29 (MSm). A most unusual record was of a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at North Bend S.P., WV Oct. 10 (RP). A Glossy Ibis was at Cumberland, MD Nov. 18 (MT).

WATERFOWL

Once again the fall waterfowl flight was not very good. Tundra Swans were early when 3 separate flocks of about 500 each were in the Westmoreland/Fayette area of s.w. Pennsylvania Nov. 1 (RCL & REM) and the Oct. 3 date at Wilbur L. was a record-early date for Tennessee (m.ob., *fide* RK). No other large flocks were reported but 240 flew over the Stone



Mt., PA hawk watch Nov. 6 (GG). Tundra Swans at Fishersville, VA Nov. 8 (YL) and Shenandoah, VA Thanksgiving weekend were out of the normal range (DDa). Two Mute Swans were seen at Dalton, GA Aug. 15 (HD) and pairs were at Pymatuning L., PA Sept. 19 & 26 and at Conneaut L., PA Oct. 16 (RFL). Twenty-five Snow Geese were seen at the Rockfish Gap hawk watch Nov. 28 (JI). Other records came from P.I.S.P., Nov. 2 (GR); Ligonier, PA Sept. 28 (MR) and another through October and early November (WR); and Washington, OH Nov. 21 (LW). The waterfowl record of the year was a Ross' Goose at the R.C.B.L., Nov. 14–19 (ph., WA, MG, TH). This was a West Virginia first and since it fed in fields on the Ohio side of the river a 6th (?) record for Ohio. Five Brant at P.I.S.P., Oct. 5 were early and the Waterbird Count there listed 110 Oct. 31 (JM). Four Brant at B.E.S.P., Nov. 18 (EZ) were noteworthy. At Pymatuning L., the Canada Goose count was 7180 (somewhat low) Nov. 20 (RFL).

As mentioned in the summer report, several species of dabbling ducks were at P.I.S.P. in late July and early August (JM). An early Hooded Merganser at Pymatuning L., PA Sept. 12 (RSt) suggests a possible nesting in that area. The duck migration was poor at most places, but Ring-necked Ducks and Hooded Mergansers seem to be doing well. High counts for both came from Pymatuning L., PA: 600 Ring-neckeds Nov. 13 and 2500 mergansers Nov. 28 (RFL). The Waterfowl Count at P.I.S.P. listed 56 Black, 77 Surf, and 21 White-winged scoters for the season (JM). A Black Scoter was at Boone L., TN Nov. 5 (4th local record) (RK). Surf Scoters were found at Knox, PA Oct. 10 (WF); eight at L. Arthur, PA Nov. 4 (CL); first local record at Willow Island Locks, Ohio R., WV Nov. 21

(PM & LW); R.C.B.L., Oct. 11 (WA); and K.C.P.P., Oct. 16 (WA). Four White-winged Scoters were at Boone L., TN Oct. 16–17 (BC).

Two noteworthy ducks were a Eur. Wigeon at P.I.S.P., Nov. 5 (BH) and a Harlequin Duck in Frederick, VA Oct. 26 (RSi).

RAPTORS

The Black Vulture continues to do well northward. Six were seen near State College, PA Sept. 18 (GV); 73 were logged at the Hanging Rock, WV hawk watch (GH) and 105 were listed for the season at Rockfish Gap, VA. There was a roost of 45 Blacks and 35 Turkey vultures in late October in Summers, WV (JPh). The 1020 Turkey Vultures counted at Rockfish Gap set a new record (JI).

The organized hawk watches had mixed results. The count at Harvey's Knob, VA was much poorer than last year (4341 total cf. 8011) (DH), but Hanging Rock, WV was much better (GH), while Rockfish Gap was slightly lower than last year (JI).

There was a good movement of Ospreys along the Ohio R., with 33 sightings at O.R.I. (PM) and a heavy flight at Huntington, WV (MG). Elsewhere they were widely reported in good numbers, an improvement over 1992. The 30 Bald Eagles at Rockfish Gap was the highest ever. Besides the eagles listed at the hawk watches, 18 other birds were reported from 15 locations, giving a Bald Eagle total similar to last year's. Northern Harriers continue to be reported in good numbers. The flight of Sharp-shinned Hawks was much improved from last year with 2416 birds logged at 4 stations compared with 1606 last year. Harvey's Knob listed two N. Goshawks, Rockfish Gap three, and T.H.H.W. had four. Away from the watches single N. Goshawks were found at Akeley, PA Oct. 28 (WH), Starbrick, PA Nov. 21 (WH), Russell, PA Nov. 21 (DBu), and at Natrona Heights, PA there were three Sept. 17 and one Oct. 22 (PH). Sixty-three Red-shouldered Hawks at Rockfish Gap was a new high for that station. Broad-winged Hawk counts were much lower than in 1992 at Rockfish Gap and Harvey's Knob, but much better at Hanging Rock. Rough-legged Hawks were at Pymatuning L., PA Sept. 29, Oct. 30, and Nov. 21 (RFL); at Shippenburg, PA Nov. 11 (D & RH); and in Bradford, PA Nov. 22 (RY). The place to see Golden Eagles is the fire tower on Bald Eagle Mt., PA where a record total of 39 was seen Nov. 6 and 12 Nov. 7 (JP). The only other report was from Ch.N.E., Nov. 10 (HD).

Five hawk watch stations recorded 21 Merlins and 33 Peregrines. Away from the watches Merlins were reported from 5 locations and 11 Peregrines were reported from 8 locations.



Piping Plover at Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania, on September 4, 1993.
Photograph/Jerry McWilliams.

RAILS TO TERNS

A dead **Yellow Rail*** was found in a marsh in *Allegheny*, MD Oct. 17 (SM), a county first. A belated summer record was of an ad. **King Rail** with two young birds at L. Arthur, PA July 7 (GW). This is first breeding record for *Butler*; the recent breeding bird atlas listed only 2 sites for the state. Common Moor-hens nested at G.B.W.M.A., where six downy young were seen July 25–Sept. 3 (WA *et al.*). Migrant Sandhill Cranes were first seen at Dalton, GA Nov. 22 (JJ). Most remarkable was the *nesting* of a pair of Sandhills in Pennsylvania Gamelands No. 151 *Lawrence/Mercer*, where there was a young bird Aug. 3 (the first breeding record for the state) and the family remained into November (GW).

Shorebird numbers were low in e. Tennessee (RK), and at P.I.S.P. only 2991 birds were counted as the shorebird habitat continues to deteriorate (JM). However, several locations not noted for shorebirds had good flights, e.g. a pond near New Hope, *Augusta* VA produced 14 species Sept. 17–19 (RS). Black-bellied Plovers were found at B.E.S.P., Oct. 30 (TF) and Nov. 6 (DB), and at New Hope, VA Sept. 17 & 18 (YL). American Golden Plovers were reported from: P.I.S.P. (JM); Knox, PA (WF); *Cumberland*, PA (R&DH); *Cumberland*, MD (MT); New Hope, VA (fide RS) and K.C.P.P. (WA). A juv. Piping Plover was seen at P.I.S.P., Aug. 11 (EH), and Sept. 4–12 (DS, JM).

American Avocets were at P.I.S.P., July 19 and Aug. 3 (JM); Shenango Res., Sept. 4–6 (first *Mercer* record) (EK&WS); R.C.B.L., Aug. 21 (WA & MG), and *Cooke*, TN mid-October (SSa). A Willet at New Hope Sept. 17 was the 3rd county record (YL). A Ruddy Turnstone was at M.C.F.H., Aug. 24 (JEl). At P.I.S.P. 13 Red Knots were seen July 30–Sept. 24 (JM, WS), one was at Woodcock L., *Crawford*, PA Aug. 29 (RFL) and one at B.E.S.P., Nov. 7 (HH) was the 3rd area record. Sanderlings at New Hope, VA Sept. 2 & 11 (YL), and at Watauga L., TN Sept. 17 (RK) were unusual inland records. White-rumped Sandpipers were at New Hope Sept. 18 (m.ob.), Woodcock L., PA Oct. 15, and Pymatuning L., PA Oct. 17 (RFL). Baird's Sandpipers were at P.I.S.P. (five Aug. 22–Sept. 19) (JM&DS); *Cumberland*, MD Sept. 17 (MT), R.B.C.L., Sept. 15 (WA), and K.C.P.P., Oct. 2 & 10 (WA). Two Purple Sandpipers were at P.I.S.P., Oct. 31 (JM). Stilt Sandpipers were reported from Woodcock L., PA Aug. 29 (RFL), P.I.S.P., Sept. 24 (JM) and from K.C.P.P., Oct.

10 (WA *et al.*). The rare Buff-breasted Sandpiper was at R.C.B.L., Aug. 21–23 (ph.) and Sept. 4–6 (WA, m.ob.), at *Cumberland*, MD Sept. 5 (MT) and at Shenango Res., PA Aug. 28–Sept. 6 (WS, MF). Short-billed Dowitchers were seen at New Hope, VA Sept. 18 (YL), Pymatuning L., PA Aug. 15 & Sept. 12 (RFL), and R.C.B.L., Aug. 21 & Sept. 21 (WA). A freshly dead Am. Woodcock found in Jersey Shore, PA (G & PS), Nov. 7 and one in *Bradford*, PA Nov. 11 (RY) were notably late.

The Wilson's Phalarope at P.I.S.P., Oct. 20 was the first local October record (JM). A Red-necked Phalarope was at the Shenango Res., PA Aug. 28 (MF) and the usually rare Red Phalarope was reported from P.I.S.P., Oct. 22 (JM) and B.E.S.P., Nov. 11 (4th area record) (TF, EZ).

As usual *Erie* produced two notable gulls: imm. Laughing Gull Aug. 21–31 (JM, DS), and ad. Little Gull Nov. 7 (JM). The only gull concentration reported was of 1000 Ring-billeds at Pymatuning Nov. 28 (RFL), but a group of 11 Herring Gulls all season on the Allegheny R., near Pittsburgh was unusual for the location (PB). The gull of the year was *Sabine's Gull*. West Virginia's first was seen and photographed at O.R.I., *Wood* Sept. 24–28 (PM, ME). Another (†) was seen at Prince Gallitzin S.P., PA Sept. 27 and later (fide D&RH). There are perhaps 6 previous Pennsylvania records.

There were only 2 reports of Com. Terns; L. Arthur, PA Sept. 13 (GW) and New Hope, VA Sept. 18 (YL), but Forster's Terns were found at 6 locations. Caspian Terns continue to be reported in higher numbers than in the past with reports from 3 locations on the Ohio R., Pittsburgh (CSc, PB), O.R.I. (PM), and R.C.B.L. (WA, MG), as well as L. Arthur, PA (GW), B.E.S.P. (A&TFu), Pymatuning L., PA (RFL), and Ligonier, PA (MR). Black Terns were feeding young at Pymatuning L., Aug. 1 (RFL) and they were more widely reported than usual.

OWLS TO FLYCATCHERS

There were only 2 reports of Barn Owls from the Elizabethton-Johnson City, TN area (RK). Snowy Owls were found at P.I.S.P., Nov. 3–26 (JM, WS) and *Frederick*, VA Nov. 16 (RSi). A Long-eared Owl was at P.I.S.P., Nov. 11 & 13 (DD). Short-eared Owls arrived on the *Clarion*, PA wintering area Nov. 9 (WF), and one was present in *Hawkins*, TN Nov. 6 (JB). Eight or nine N. Saw-whet Owls were at P.I.S.P., Oct. 10–Nov. 9 (DD) and one was at Saybrook, PA Sept. 17 (CN).

A count of migrating Com. Nighthawks at



Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Mason County, West Virginia, on August 21, 1993. Photograph/Wendell L. Argabrite.

Johnson City, TN tallied 3205 birds Aug. 15–Oct. 20 with a maximum of 834 Aug. 30. The hourly rate was the lowest of the 4 years of counting (RK). The only other large count was of 600 at Parkersburg, WV Aug. 29 (JPe). A Rufous Hummingbird came to a feeder in *Murray*, GA July to late November (fide HD). The 388 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds flying over the A.F.M.O. station was the same count as in 1991 and 1992 (RB), but the 199 banded at P.N.R. was the best total since 1963 (RL, RM). Most encouraging were the reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers from 10 localities, including a new nesting record in *Elk*, PA Aug. 7 (LC). Olive-sided Flycatchers were notably scarce with only 3 reports: one was banded at P.N.R., Aug. 28 (RM, RCL); one was seen on Roan Mt., TN Aug. 29 (RK); and one was at State College, PA at the late date Sept. 23 (D&BB). At P.N.R. the bandings of E. Wood-Pewees, Yellow-bellied and Acadian flycatchers were either the lowest or second-lowest totals ever. The scarcity of small flycatchers was echoed in *Allegheny*, PA where migration counts were the lowest on record (PH). On the other hand at P.N.R., the total of 86 E. Phoebe bandings was the best ever (RCL, RM). A fallout of several dozen E. Phoebes in a short time occurred at Morgantown Oct. 5 (SSt).

SWALLOWS TO VIREOS

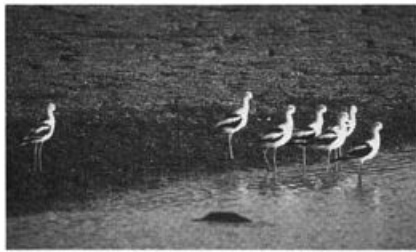
In late July swallows of 4 species began to assemble in Elkton, VA. On Sept. 6 a peak count of 1420 N. Rough-winged Swallows was made. The peak count of 175 Tree Swallows occurred Sept. 1. Rough-wingeds remained until Oct. 2 (MSm). Other swallow concentrations were at New Hope, VA with 150 Rough-wingeds Sept. 24 and 1000 Trees Sept. 28 (YL), and Tamarack L., PA with 2500 Tree Swallows Sept. 26 (RFL).

The count of 6098 migrating Blue Jays over A.F.M.O. was better than last year, but was still 39% below average (RB). Fish Crows have been expanding their range, but the peak of 400 Oct. 21 on the Penn State campus, *Centre* was noteworthy (TF). The Com. Raven was reported at low elevations away from the mountains in *Greene*, PA (RB), and on the Monongahela R., at Morgantown (SSb).

Black-capped Chickadees staged a heavy S flight in October and November. It was a major invasion although not as heavy as some of the flights in the 1970s. In the n. at *Elk*, PA Tufted Titmice were coming to feeders in more than usual numbers (LC).

Another "northern invasion" was the influx of Red-breasted Nuthatches. In mid-September they were numerous along the high ridge at A.F.M.O., and by October they were widespread throughout.

Carolina Wrens were in good numbers even as far n. as *Warren*, PA (TG). Sedge Wrens were found at G.B.W.M.A., Aug. 7 (MG), in *Bath*, VA Sept. 25 (YL), and at Austin Springs, TN Oct. 3 & 26 (RK). Marsh Wrens were found in 4 Pennsylvania localities; Conneaut Marsh (RFL), Natrona Heights (PH), P.N.R. (RCL, RM), and Colyer L. (WT), and 3 Ten-



A flock of American Avocets in Mason County, West Virginia, on August 21, 1993. Photograph/Wendell L. Argabrite.

ennessee locations: *Washington* (RK), *Knox* (JB), and *Roane* (JB).

At P.N.R. the 25 bandings of Golden-crowned Kinglets was the lowest total since 1978 (RCL, RM), but in *Allegheny*, PA the flight was the best in years (PH). The Ruby-crowned Kinglet flight was generally considered "normal." The spotted thrush picture continues bleak. At P.N.R. bandings of both Swainson's and Gray-cheeked were the lowest on record (RCL, RM) while at A.F.M.O. the 175 Swainson's Thrushes was the lowest total in 20 years (GAH). Elsewhere the reports were similar. However, Hermit Thrushes were in normal or slightly above normal numbers. After good breeding season populations of Wood Thrushes at P.N.R. it was surprising that only eight, the poorest ever, were banded in the fall (RCL, RM). But in *Allegheny*, PA the numbers seen were the best in the 20 years of counting (PH). The prize banding of the season at A.F.M.O. was West Virginia's first **Varied Thrush** Sept. 29 (m.ob.).

A N. Mockingbird was at P.I.S.P., July 19–Sept. 25 (DS, BG) and one was at Warren, PA Oct. 23 & 24 (BW). Both localities are n. of the usual range. American Pipits were reported in good numbers from: Newville, PA (D&RH); Woodcock L., PA (RFL); New Hope, VA (JJ), Lyndhurst, VA (CC), and n.e. Tennessee (RK).

One ad. **Bohemian Waxwing** (†ph.) Nov. 5–30 and two Nov. 8 & 9 at Roderick Wildlife Reserve, *Erie*, PA (m.ob.) would be the first documented records for the state if accepted. The three Bohemians (†) at Natrona Heights, PA Oct. 27 (PH) were well described and represent the earliest date for the state. At both places the Bohemians were with large flocks of Cedar Waxwings. The only report of N. Shrike came from P.I.S.P., Nov. 6–7 (DD). Besides the 7 reports from n.e. Tennessee (RK) the only reports of Loggerhead Shrike came from *Monroe*, WV Oct. 21 (MG) and *Murray*, GA Nov. 8 (HD).

At both P.N.R. (RCL, RM) and A.F.M.O. (GAH) Philadelphia Vireos were captured in the lowest numbers in the last 10 years. Red-eyed Vireos were generally in average numbers except at P.N.R., where the total was the 2nd poorest in 10 years (RM, RCL).

WARBLERS TO FINCHES

What to say about the usual contrasts and contradictions of the warbler flight? Some places, *Centre*, PA (JP) and *Trumbull*, OH (J&DHo), reported good seasons. Some oth-

ers, *Clinton*, PA (P&GS) and Ch.N.E. (HD) had one or two "waves." But at other places—n.w. Virginia (RSi), *Augusta*, VA (RS), and n.e. Tennessee (RK)—the flight was poor. The two big banding stations had poor years. At A.F.M.O. the number banded declined 49% from the 10-year average and 7 species were more than one S.D. below the average (GAH). At P.N.R. 4 species were banded in the lowest numbers in the last 10 years and 14 species were more than one S.D. below the average (RCL, RM). At both of these stations no species was more than one S.D. above the average. The three "spruce budworm specialists," Tennessee, Bay-breasted, and Cape May warblers, were in lowest numbers ever at A.F.M.O. (GAH). This was also true for the first two at P.N.R. (RCL, RM).

The only species that had a really good flight was the Yellow-rumped Warbler, although the two rarest species, Orange-crowned and Connecticut warblers, were more common than usual. A "Brewster's" Warbler was seen in *Centre*, PA July 31 and Aug. 8 (JP) and the much rarer "Lawrence's" Warbler was banded at A.F.M.O., Sept. 24 (GAH) and was reported from *Butler*, PA in July and August (GW), and *Augusta*, VA Sept. 11 (PBr). There were several unusually late dates: Golden-winged Warbler at P.N.R., Sept. 23 (RCL, RM); N. Waterthrush, Natrona Heights, PA Oct. 16 (PH); and Nashville Warbler, Roder-



Juvenile Sabine's Gull at Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, West Virginia, in September 1993. First state record. Photograph/Mitch Ellis.

ick Wildlife Reserve, PA Nov. 1 (JM).

Scarlet Tanagers do not normally appear in flocks, but at St. Mary's, PA Aug. 9 an influx occurred in which "they were all over my yard" (LC). A heavy concentration was also noted in *Union*, GA Sept. 10 (JG). A Dickcissel was at Starbrick, PA Aug. 3 (JS).

At P.N.R. the 142 Chipping Sparrow bandings was the highest total ever (RCL, RM). Ten Henslow's Sparrows were found on recovered surface mines in *Jefferson*, OH Aug. 4 (MA) and 12 were noted in one field near Meadville, PA Aug. 7 (RFL). Sharp-tailed Sparrows at Austin Springs, TN Oct. 3 (RK) and in *Botetourt*, VA Oct. 11 (MS, BK) were noteworthy records. A **Harris' Sparrow** (†) near Dan's Rock, MD Aug. 18 (MT) was totally out of season as well as out of place.

Lapland Longspurs were reported from P.I.S.P., Oct. 22–Nov. 13 (JM) at Fairview, PA Nov. 18, and at State College, PA Oct. 22 and Nov. 11 (TF). Besides the expected reports from n. Pennsylvania, Snow Buntings were reported s. of the usual range at Rocky Gap S.P., MD Nov. 14 (MT), *Botetourt* Nov. 21

(BO), and as far s. as Roan Mt., TN Nov. 11 (RK) and Hump Mt., NC Nov. 23 (ES).

The only reports of Red Crossbills came from Great Smoky Mountains N.P., Aug. 16 (DBr) and Roan Mt., TN Nov. 11 (RK). A White-winged Crossbill was photographed at Brockport, PA Oct. 26 (GS). If the warblers had a poor flight, the finches made up for it. At P.N.R. Purple Finches were in the best numbers since 1980 and the 534 Am. Goldfinches banded there were the most since 1981 (RM, RCL). At A.F.M.O. a total of 3424 (43% above average) was counted flying over the station. The influx of Com. Redpolls was the best in many years. In late November they were present in small groups throughout w. Pennsylvania and as far s. as Oakland, MD (CS) and Waynesboro, VA (CC). Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks began to appear in the Region in mid-October and by the end of the period they were in scattered flocks (mostly small) throughout. Neither species was in the numbers we associate with the big invasions of the past, but it was the first influx of grosbeaks in several years.

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WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

Daryl D. Tessen

Temperatures were cooler than normal for most of the season. However November was mild enough to allow most lakes and rivers to remain open well into December. There were only a few strong cold fronts (*i.e.* early September and early October.) The latter on October 7–8 dropped temperatures as much as 40°F degrees in Minnesota.

The summer pattern of above-normal precipitation continued into the autumn. Thankfully it was not as severe as had typified the preceding months. By November precipitation actually was below average with almost no snow on the ground at season's end in Michigan and most of Wisconsin. Minnesota received a substantial snow-fall (12 inches) around Thanksgiving.

The fall migration proved variable. The waterfowl movement was good while the shorebird flight was very poor. This was undoubtedly caused by extensive excellent habitat that minimized the usual concentrations. A good warbler wave was noted in Wisconsin and Minnesota, while the sparrow flight was poor, particularly in Wisconsin and Michigan.

Rarities abounded this Fall! Highlighting the rarities were in Wisconsin the King Eider, Purple Gallinule, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Common Ground-Dove, and Phainopepla; in Minnesota the Mississippi Kite, Common Ground-Dove, Anna's Hummingbird and Townsend's Warbler; and in Michigan the Northern Gannet, Reddish Egret, Ancient Murrelet, *Selasphorus* hummingbird and Northern Wheatear. Add to this numer-

ous other interesting finds and this autumn was truly exciting.

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

LOONS TO IBISES

A few Red-throated Loons were recorded in Minnesota and Wisconsin between mid-September–mid-October. Michigan had 180+ mid-September–November with the majority (162) at W.P.B.O. Remarkable was the appearance of **Pacific Loons** in all states. In Michigan single birds were seen at Pt. Iroquois Sept. 15 (BS) and W.P.B.O., Sept. 22 (AB,KT), while Wisconsin had one at Superior (Wisconsin Pt.) Oct. 2 (RJo). Minnesota had six sightings! They include *St. Louis* Sept. 18 (AH) & 25–26 (KB *et al.*), *Crow Wing* Oct. 15–24 (WM *et al.*), *Washington* Oct. 18–20 (KB *et al.*), *Lake* Oct. 30–Nov. 7 (KE *et al.*) and *Freeborn* Nov. 15–16 (SM,RG). Common Loons lingered into December in several Wisconsin locales. There was another impressive Red-necked Grebe migration at W.P.B.O. as 12,472 were tallied between Aug. 7–Nov. 15 with peak of 1798 Aug. 31 (staff). Grebes nested late in Minnesota as evidenced by two downy young Eareds in *Murray* Sept. 5 (KB). Eareds were found at two Wisconsin and three Michigan sites. A W. Grebe was at New Buffalo, MI Nov. 21 (*fide* RS). A **Northern Gannet** was at Muskegon, MI Nov. 26 (JG). Impressive numbers of Am. White Pelicans were found in Wisconsin with a total of 400+ birds, including 240 in *Vernon* and 110 in *LaCrosse* (JD). The last bird was seen Nov. 23. Michigan had 20+ reported from five counties.

Record late was a Great Egret lingering into December in Minnesota's *Dakota* (*fide* PB). Almost as tardy was one at Horicon N.W.R., Nov. 23 (KB). Several Snowy Egrets were found in all 3 states. A mottled Little



Female King Eider at Sheboygan, Wisconsin, November 29, 1993. Photograph/Thomas Schultz.

Blue Heron spent 2 months at Horicon N.W.R. (m.ob.). Minnesota had singles in *Sibley* Aug. 11 (RG) and *Anoka* Aug. 22 (DTh). Outstanding was an imm. **Reddish Egret** at P.M.S.G.A., Aug. 3 (TW). This represents the first Michigan record. Cattle Egrets were especially numerous in Minnesota and Wisconsin (100+ in *Dodge* BD). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were only found in Wisconsin with immatures at Horicon N.W.R. and Port Washington. Five Glossy Ibises were found in Michigan's Erie Marsh Preserve Oct. 2 (CP).

SWANS TO CRANES

Peak Tundra Swan concentrations included 5000 Nov. 15 at Bay Port, MI (TB) and 3000+ Nov. 4 in *Trempealeau* WI (CR). Three Greater White-fronted Geese were at the Todd Farm, *Allegan*, MI between Oct. 3–6 (KT). Record early was a **Ross' Goose** Sept. 18 that was seen by Frederickson and Evpelding in *Kandiwohi*. A hunter shot one in *Stevens* during mid-October (*fide* PB), also in Minnesota. A Brant was present in Sault Ste. Marie between Oct. 25–Nov. 10 (WP) with two at Port Huron Oct. 31 (DC,DB *et al.*). Tardy was a Blue-winged Teal Nov. 27 at Madison, WI (PA). A Eurasian Wigeon was at Grand Haven, MI Oct. 2 (JW). Ashman noted 700 Ring-necked Ducks at Goose Pond, WI Oct. 30. Rosenberg found record Canvasback and Greater Scaup numbers for the Saginaw Bay area with 3200 and 4000 respectively during late November. Tessen found a ♀ **King Eider** at Sheboygan Nov. 28. Several Harlequin Ducks appeared along L. Michigan in Wisconsin, including one Oct. 15–17 at Harrington Beach S.P. (m.ob.), one Oct. 29 at Manitowoc (CS), maximum of three Oct. 16–Nov. 30+ at Sheboygan (DT *et al.*) and two Nov. 14–30+ at Milwaukee (m.ob.). Michigan's contributions included two Oct. 10 and one Oct. 23 at W.P.B.O. (staff) with one Nov. 27–30+ at New Buffalo (KM *et al.*). There was a good scoter migration with an unusual number of inland sightings for all 3 species. The W.P.B.O. had its usual impressive flight as evidenced by totals of 242 Blacks, 589 Surfs and 2234 White-wings for the season. The ♂ **Barrow's Goldeneye** returned for the 4th year to Elks Rapids, MI Nov.





Red Phalarope (with Bonaparte's Gull) at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, November 26, 1993. Photograph/Brian Boldt.

14–30+ (DJ,JBu). Early was a Bufflehead in Dodge WI Sept. 3 (SR).

An imm. Mississippi Kite flew by Hawk Ridge Sept. 5 (FN). This is the 3rd consecutive fall Hawk Ridge has recorded this species. The Broad-winged Hawk flight was spectacular in all 3 states with the major exodus occurring Sept. 17–19. Hawk Ridge had 47,922 on the 18th while Lake Erie Metro Park Hawk Watch had 35,831 also on the 18th! Swainson's Hawks were found in both Michigan and Wisconsin. Golden Eagles were seen in all 3 states. Minnesota had 2 Gyrfalcon sightings: Nov. 10 at Hawk Ridge (FN) and Nov. 28 in Cook (PS). One was sighted at Michigan's Sault Ste. Marie Nov. 20 (WP *et al.*). Minnesota birders found an excellent number of Prairie Falcons with no fewer than eight birds including one unusually far e. at Hawk Ridge Nov. 6 (FN). The hawk flight was outstanding in Minnesota and Michigan. Hawk Ridge had a record 148,615. Seasonal highs included 1740 Turkey Vultures, 475 Ospreys, 1725 Bald Eagles, 356 Cooper's, 110,272 Broad-winged and 2686 Am. Kestrels. The L. Erie Metro Park Hawk Watch tallied a record 167,679. Seasonal highs included 21,720 Turkey Vultures, 688 N. Harriers, 35 N. Goshawks, 130, 175 Broad-winged, 5762 Red-tailed and 34 Peregrine Falcons. A King Rail was on Isle Royal Sept. 1 (SW). Most surprising was the discovery of an injured imm. Purple Gallinule along a Milwaukee highway Oct. 16. The bird died 3 days later (SD).

SHOREBIRDS

A Piping Plover stopped at St. Joseph Aug. 9 & 11 (RS,WB,JR). A surprising number of Am. Avocets was seen in Michigan. They included Aug. 3 at Benton Heights (RS), Aug. 11, 16 & 28 at St. Joseph (KM,RS), Aug. 11 at Warren Dunes S.P. (KT), three Aug. 20 at P.M.S.G.A. (PC,TW,LG) and Aug. 24 at New Buffalo (KM). Wisconsin had one Aug. 22 at Madison (KB). Willets also appeared in these 2 states. Michigan sightings included Aug. 9 at St. Joseph (RS), Aug. 18 Agate Harbor (LB), and Aug. 25–26 W.P.B.O. (staff); Wisconsin's included Aug. 15–18 Dodge (BD) and Aug. 19 Sheboygan (D&MB). An Upland Sandpiper was found perched on top of a tombstone in an urban cemetery in Hennepin MN Aug. 31 (SC). A few Whimbrels were found in the Region. Michigan had singles Aug. 9 at St. Joseph (RS) and Sept. 18, 21 & 22 at W.P.B.O. (staff). The Oct. 6 bird in St. Louis (JF) was the 2nd latest date for Minnesota. Hudsonian Godwits were found in Wisconsin Sept. 6 in Dodge (DT) and Sept. 18 in Douglas (S&LL),

and in Michigan Aug. 21 (MPet) and Sept. 2 (DJ) at Erie Marsh Preserve and Sept. 19 at P.M.S.G.A. (DC). Marbled Godwits recorded in Michigan included four Aug. 7 (MPet), singles Aug. 15 & 20 (m. ob.) at P.M.S.G.A. and Sept. 25 at New Buffalo (RS,WB,JR). Red Knots were found in Minnesota (six), Michigan (three) and Wisconsin (two). W. Sandpipers were noted in Michigan (five) and Wisconsin (four). Outstanding was a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper in Wisconsin's Dane Aug. 24 (RL). If accepted by the records committee it would represent the first state record. Curiously, possible 2nd and 3rd birds were seen near Beaver Dam and Limwaukee at about the same time. A Purple Sandpiper was briefly seen Nov. 12 at Sheboygan, WI (D&MB). Michigan observations included Nov. 23 at New Buffalo (KM), Nov. 28 at Muskegon S.P. (GW) and Nov. 28 at Holland S.P. (JG,KT). There was a fine Stilt Sandpiper migration in Wisconsin peaking at 125 on a flooded field in Dodge Aug. 22 (DT). The Buff-breasted Sandpiper flight was excellent region-wide with a wide distribution in all 3 states due to fine habitat. There was a fine Red Phalarope movement as all 3 states recorded several birds. Minnesota had its 7th and 8th sightings with singles Sept. 21 Hennepin (KB) and Oct. 8 Roseau (PS). Wisconsin had singles Oct. 31 at Menasha (DN,TT), Nov. 7 in Door (BS); and Nov. 26–30 at Milwaukee (JI *et al.*). In Michigan single birds were noted at W.P.B.O., Sept. 8 & 12, Oct. 12 & 27 with two Nov. 4 (staff) while one was at the Muskegon Wastewater System Oct. 2–3 (GW).

JAEGERS TO TERNS

Again this autumn Michigan birders found all 3 jaeger species. Single Pomarine Jaegers were seen by Byrne Aug. 30 at W.P.B.O. and by Binford Sept. 5 at Agate Harbor. Two ad. Long-tailed Jaegers were also seen by Byrne at W.P.B.O., Sept. 15. Parasitic Jaegers were recorded in all 3 states with two in Wisconsin (Superior—LS), three in Minnesota (Du-luth area) and ten in Michigan (W.P.B.O. and Port Huron). Only one Franklin's Gull could be located in both Wisconsin and Michigan, an unusually low number. Little Gulls were found during August in Manitowoc, New Buffalo and Benton Harbor. None were found thereafter which is unusual. Hale counted 10,000 Ring-billed Gulls Nov. 1 in Jefferson, WI. Three California Gulls were sighted in Minnesota. An adult was in Big Stone Oct. 9 (RG,RJ), a second winter bird



Juvenile Sabine's Gull in Pipestone County, Minnesota, on September 6, 1993. All three states in the Region recorded Sabine's Gulls this fall. Photograph/Peder Svingen.

was in Washington Oct. 20 (RJ) and another adult was in Sibley Nov. 7 (RG,RJ). Thayer's Gulls were found in all 3 states with the Oct. 8 bird in Anoka (KB) representing a record early arrival date for Minnesota. An Iceland Gull was seen Nov. 26 near Port Hope, MI (MW). Minnesota had two Lesser Black-backed Gulls including Sept. 11 Anoka (KB) and Sept. 29–mid-Nov. Hennepin (KB *et al.*). Michigan's sightings included Oct. 1–Nov. 30 at Bay City S.P. (MW *et al.*), Oct. 2 & 30 in Clinton (JR), Oct. 29–30 at Muskegon Wastewater System (JP *et al.*) and Nov. 22 at Midland Ponds (RW,EK). Glaucous Gull numbers increased during the 2nd half of the season. Twelve were present at Superior by December. Great Black-backed Gulls were found in Manitowoc Sept. 8 (MB) and near Mequon Sept. 24 (BC), both WI. Record early in Wisconsin was a Black-legged Kittiwake in Milwaukee Aug. 17 (SB,JS,JC). Other kittiwake sightings included Oct. 7 at W.P.B.O. (staff) and Oct. 31 at Port Huron (DC,DB,JB,DM), both MI. All 3 states recorded Sabine's Gulls, a remarkable occurrence. For Michigan, sightings included Aug. 25 at Benton Harbor (KT), singles Sept. 12, 13 & 21 with two Sept. 11 at W.P.B.O. (staff). For Minnesota, the observations included Sept. 4–12 in Pipestone (RG), and three Sept. 20–27 in LeSeur (CK *et al.*). They represent about the 14th and 15th state records. Wisconsin's contribution was an individual watched by Johnson (RJo) at Wisconsin Pt., Oct. 2, representing about the sixth record. Miller found an Arctic Tern at New Buffalo Nov. 6. Tying the departure date was an Oct. 24 Forster's Tern in Minnesota's Douglas (RJ).

ALCIDS TO WOODPECKERS

Michigan had its 3rd Ancient Murrelet when Byrne watched an individual Nov. 1 at W.P.B.O. Common Ground-Doves made a rare appearance in the region with one caught in the banding nets at Hawk Ridge Oct. 16 (DE) for Minnesota's first state record. Wisconsin had its 3rd record when two appeared at the Dott feeder for a week during mid/late October. Late was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo Oct. 17 in Wisconsin's Washington (SD). The Snowy Owl migration was impressive but disturbing. It commenced unusually early Oct. 6 in Minnesota, with numerous sightings by late October–November. Most birds were emaciated (mainly imm. males), with many dying. Grand Marais birders saw a weakened Snowy attack a merganser. It nearly drowned as the duck swam out of the harbor. The Snowy was later found dead. By late November the number of sightings had started decreasing. Nevertheless it was felt that record numbers might be recorded when all the sightings were tallied. For example Minnesota had counted 70 by Nov. 30. Northern Hawk Owls were scarce with only two in Michigan and one in Minnesota. Likewise Great Gray Owl sightings were few with four in Michigan and three in Minnesota. Over 900 N. Saw-whet Owls were banded in s. Oconto WI (TE *et al.*). The only substantial Com. Nighthawk

migration was noted at the Cedar Grove Hawk Station, WI with 2500 Aug. 24 (DB). Minnesota had its 2nd **Anna's Hummingbird** record with one at a feeder in *Chisago* Oct. 7–Nov. 2 (PB). It was not positively identified until Oct. 18, with the property owner requesting no further observers after the 19th.

A *Selasphorus* hummingbird, thought to be a Broad-tailed but not as yet confirmed, appeared in Michigan's *Lake* Aug. 24 (JWh). Wisconsin's hummingbird picture was even more frustrating as two (one clearly larger) came to a feeder west of Milwaukee in October but no visitation was allowed. Positive identification could never be made for either.

FLYCATCHERS TO SHRIKES

Tying Minnesota's departure record was an Acadian Flycatcher Sept. 2 in *Houston*. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher spent Oct. 4–23 near Sault St. Marie (TA, WP) while Minnesota had one Oct. 23 in *St. Louis* (m. ob.). A Purple Martin in Manitowoc Oct. 1 was late (CS) as was a Tree Swallow in *Sheboygan* Nov. 20 (*fide* Dbe), both WI. Exceptionally late was a Barn Swallow that lingered at Madison, WI into December (KB). Red-breasted Nuthatches migrated early and in excellent numbers in Wisconsin. Carolina Wrens continue in good numbers in the e. two states. Minnesota even had two in *Hennepin*. The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in *Sheboygan* Oct. 16 was late (DT). A **Northern Wheatear** was watched at W.P.B.O., Oct. 15 (AB, DJ *et al.*), representing Michigan's 4th record. Two Mt. Bluebirds appeared in Minnesota. A female was in *Roseau* Oct. 7 (PS) while a male was in *Cook* Oct. 30 (m. ob.). Five Townsend's Solitaires were in Minnesota including three in *St. Louis* and one each in *Houston* and *Anoka*. The Gray-cheeked and Swainson's thrush migration was encouraging as observers, especially in Wisconsin, noted good numbers. Berner counted 232 Gray-cheeked and 1000+ Swainson's migrating the night of Sept. 17 in *Portage*. Two late Gray-cheeked were Oct. 23 in *Winnebago* WI (TZ) and Oct. 29 at Whiskey Harbor MI (MW). Seven Varied Thrushes were reported in the Region, six in Minnesota and one for Michigan. Bohemian Waxwings commenced appearing in early October in n. locales, with numbers increasing for the remainder of the period. Some birds were even filtering into s. areas. Easily the bird of the season was the ♂ **Phainopepla** discovered in S. Milwaukee's Grant Park Oct. 30 or 31. A walker noticed a 'black cardinal' feeding on berries. He informed a birding friend with positive identification occurring the following day. To the delight of numerous birders it remained until Nov. 15 feeding on bittersweet, hawthorn, and other berries. This is not only the first record for Wisconsin but the Region as well. The Loggerhead Shrike picture remains depressing as only 4 sightings occurred this fall, all from Minnesota.

VIREOS TO FINCHES

All White-eyed Vireo sightings occurred in Michigan with the latest Oct. 15 at W.P.B.O.



Wing pattern of a Common Ground-Dove captured for banding at Hawk Ridge, Duluth, Minnesota, October 16, 1993. First state record. Photograph/Dave Evans.

(staff). This represents the 2nd U.P. record. Wisconsin had several late warbler sightings including an Orange-crowned Nov. 8 (PA), Black-and-white Nov. 4 (KB) and a very late Ovenbird until Nov. 26, all at Madison (PF), and a Com. Yellowthroat until Nov. 23 at Ashland (DV).

Minnesota had its share of late warbler observations. They included a record-late ♀ Golden-winged Oct. 15 & 19 (SC), a Tennessee Nov. 15—2nd latest date (SC), Black-throated Green Nov. 1 (SC), Black-and-white Oct. 31 (CF) and a record-late Louisiana Waterthrush Oct. 4 (SC), all in *Hennepin*, plus a Prothonotary Sept. 5 in *Winona* (ASM). The most interesting sighting within the group easily was a **Townsend's Warbler** that Tustinson (TTu) and Wanschura discovered Aug. 27 in the Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis. The sighting represents only the 2nd state record. Also of interest was a Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler Oct. 30–Nov. 1 in Minnesota's *Cook* (m. ob.). And to complete the group, Emmons (REm) saw a Kirtland's Warbler in *St. Clair*, MI Sept. 5.

There were two Summer Tanagers in Michigan. One was near Paradise Oct. 17 (GW,KT) while the other was in Bear Lake Nov. 16–18 (BA). A Scarlet Tanager came to a West Allis, WI feeder Nov. 23–24 (MPe). If accepted by the records committee this would be a record late date. A W. Tanager came to Hardy's feeder Aug. 18 in *Price* WI. A Rufous-sided (Spotted) Towhee was in Madison, WI Oct. 7 (RL). Six Sharp-tailed Sparrows were still at Crex Meadows W.A., WI Aug. 12 (RB). Several sparrow species appeared early in the s. parts of the region. They included the Am. Tree at Bay Port Sept. 27 (TB), Le Conte's at the Wilderness Arboretum Sept. 11 (ME), both MI; White-crowned in *Anoka* Sept. 11, ties earliest southern date (CF), Dark-eyed Junco in *Hennepin* Aug. 12 (SC), both MN; and Dark-eyed Junco in Madison, WI Sept. 4–5 (DC). Of further interest was a Lark Sparrow at W.P.B.O., Sept. 10 (staff). At Copper Harbor, MI a Lark Bunting was present Oct. 10 with a Sharp-tailed Sparrow also in October (LB). Michigan had its 3d **Smith's Longspur** Sept. 17–20 at W.P.B.O. (LD *et al.*). Very late was a N. Oriole in *Aitkin* Nov. 25.

Winter finches commenced appearing in the n. third of the region as the season progressed. Encouraging was the S movement of several species although the verdict was still out if this would finally be a finch winter. Pine

Grosbeaks and Red Crossbills were restricted to the n., the latter being the scarcest of all the finches. White-winged Crossbills, Com. Redpolls, Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks moved S, especially during November. Good numbers of Com. Redpolls, 1000+ Nov. 8 in *Door*, WI (R&CL), 750 at Todd Farm, MI (JG, RP) and Evening Grosbeaks, mainly Michigan, were reported. Two Evenings Aug. 19 in *Anoka* (KB) were record early for s. Minnesota. Indicative of the good redpoll movement were the 12 Hoary Redpolls reported from Michigan.

Addendum: Received too late for the summer season but certainly noteworthy was Minnesota's 2nd **American Dipper**. Suzanne Sawyer watched one along the Temperance R. in *Cook* June 10.

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Anna's Hummingbird, apparently an immature male, in Chisago County, Minnesota, on October 18, 1993. Second state record. Photograph/Anthony Hertz.

MIDDLE WESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

Kenneth J. Brock

Though spring and summer rains abated, flooding remained the major news story in the western states. High water conditions not only impacted birds, but also closed many of the better birding areas to the public, limiting access and depleting observational data. The most obvious correlation between flooding and fall birds involved increased numbers of opportunistic egrets and precious few shorebirds. It was widely speculated that the dearth of shorebirds was attributable to high water, but counts of several normally abundant species were low even in the drier, eastern reaches of the Region. With few exceptions waterfowl counts were also low.

On the brighter side many correspondents noted encouragingly improved numbers of neotropical migrants, especially warblers. A leading proponent of this school was Jim Haw who, armed with a dozen years of observational data, described the neotropical migration through Fort Wayne, Indiana, as, "the best I have ever seen."

Rarities provided new first state records for Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, and Missouri. Most remarkable among these was a spate of Reddish Egrets across the Region and a flurry of western hummingbirds at October feeders.

Abbreviations: L. Cal. (*Lake Calumet, Chicago*); O.N.W.R. (*Ottawa N.W.R., OH*), S.C.R., (*Squaw Creek N.W.R., MO*); Spfld. (*Springfield, IL*).

LOONS TO IBISES

Red-throated Loons were well represented on the Great Lakes with ten on L. Michigan and five on L. Erie. The only inland report consisted of an adult at Spfld., Nov. 4–30 (†DBo). Highlighting a robust Com. Loon flight on the Great Lakes were counts of 500 at Miller Beach, IN Oct. 30 (RHu, m.ob.) and 205 at Huron, OH Oct. 30 (ES). Numbers were generally low at inland sites. Red-necked Grebes were widespread with two in Lorain, OH Nov. 15 (TKI) and at Buck Creek S.P., OH Nov. 27 (DO), plus singles at Clinton L., IL Oct. 10–Nov. 20 (†MD, †RPa), Spfld., Nov. 2–3 (DBo), Marquette Lagoon, Gary, IN Nov. 12–14 (KB, m.ob.), Huron, OH Nov. 15 (KA), and Saylorville Res., IA Nov. 21–22 (BEn, †AJ). Eared Grebes were reported in every state except Kentucky and Missouri. A W. Grebe on the Ohio R. above Markland Dam Nov. 27 (†LMc, JCI, KC ph.) provided a rare record for Kentucky.

Northern Gannets created considerable excitement on the Great Lakes in early November. On the morning of Nov. 7 an immature was discovered at Lorain harbor, OH (†CH). About noon the same day, while driving N on I-71, †J. Berry was shocked to see a southbound gannet fly over his car near Brunswick (20 mi. from Lorain). On Nov. 10

doubtlessly this same individual was found injured (and ultimately died), farther s. in Franklin (fide KA), suggesting that it followed I-71 S. Perhaps even stranger was the tale of a juv. Northern Gannet that made the rounds on s. Lake Michigan during this same period. The bird was first seen off Miller Beach, IN Nov. 5 (†JWh, †KB). The following morning, a group of Chicago birders enroute to Miller Beach were stunned to see presumably the same bird fly W over Jackson Park in Chicago (†RHu, DM, ASI). On Nov. 9 †S. Farrell detected the nomadic sulid plunge-feeding in a man-made lake on Chicago's n. side in Lake (†DJ, LB). An Am. White Pelican wandered E to Springfield, OH Nov. 11–14 (DO, LG, ph.). Rare throughout the Region, an Anhinga near Charleston, MO Aug. 3 (LHu) was noteworthy.

The bittern report was slightly improved with Americans reported in 4 and Least in 3 states. The Region's only Tricolored Heron was an immature that appeared Aug. 21 in Geauga, OH (BF, LR).

Cattle Egrets were reported in every state, but the major concentrations occurred along the Mississippi R. system where great numbers congregated to forage behind receding flood waters. The most impressive counts included 1500 near St. Joseph, MO in September (L L), 750 in Jackson, IL Sept. 19

S.A.

Known for their salt water penchant, Reddish Egrets rarely wander far from the marine environment. This fall however, a minimum of two, and perhaps four, Reddish Egrets, all in similar juv. plumage, generated a plethora of first state records across the Midwest. This unprecedented mini-invasion began with an Aug. 2 record just outside the Region at Point Moullee, MI (fide Chu); this individual did not linger. The Region's first report occurred Aug. 14 when S. Friscia discovered one at L. Cal.; though this bird was often difficult to find, it remained through Sept. 24. After sharpening their skills on the L. Cal. bird, R. Hughes and A. Sigler spotted a Reddish Egret at Kingsbury W.M.A., in n.w. Indiana, Aug. 21 (50 mi from L. Cal.). The Indiana bird was observed regularly until Aug. 28, a period in which the L. Cal. bird was not seen; consequently, the possibility that the Illinois and Indiana sightings involved the same individual cannot be ruled out. Schantz found the final egret Sept. 5 in a flood-water pool w. of Colfax in c. Iowa; this bird remained until Sept. 10. During this observation period the L. Cal. egret was still present, indicating that these were different individuals. Except for the Michigan bird all were photographed and documented by many observers.

(KMc), 300+ near Kansas City, MO Aug. 28 (LMo), and 234 in Mills, IA Aug. 7 (B&LP). A well seen ad. White-faced Ibis at Rice Lake W.M.A., IL Oct. 14 (KR, LA), constituted the Region's only ibis.



Immature Reddish Egret at Lake Calumet, Illinois, on August 14, 1993. First state record. Photograph/ Joe B. Milosevich.

WATERFOWL

A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck shot at Blue L. in Monona, IA Oct. 24 (TH), renewed the chronic problem of escapism. A late October Tundra Swan flight brought 75 to Hurstown Res., IN Oct. 31 (Haw) and 2000 to Akron, OH Nov. 1 (WS). Two drifted as far S as the Ohio R. and were seen at Rabbit Hash, KY Oct. 30 (†LMc). Greater White-fronted Geese were scarce with only 3 reports from Iowa and one from Ohio. It was an outstanding season for Brants, with reports from 3 states. A flock of nine was at the Port of Indiana Oct. 9 (JO, m.ob.), 45 were at Headlands Beach S.P., OH Oct. 31 (RHn, LR, JVP), 28 were seen in Erie, OH Nov. 1 (TL), and one flew past W. Beach, IN Nov. 6 (TP, m.ob.). The most unexpected Brant, however, appeared at the Falls of the Ohio Nov. 7, providing Kentucky's first record (BPB, JE, ph.).

Most correspondents assessed puddle duck numbers as uniformly low; however, a few bright spots emerged. An unprecedented Blue-winged Teal flight was witnessed on L. Michigan Sept. 23 when 3900 were counted flying past Miller Beach, IN in less than 2 hours (JWh, KB). In contrast to population levels of other dabblers, the Gadwall appears to be flourishing. Fine numbers were reported in virtually every state; the peak count of 1000 was duplicated at Bailey Hollow, KY Oct. 16 (CP) and Delair Ref., IL Oct. 12 (MG). On the down side the maximum N. Shoveler count was only 306. Bay duck numbers were equally unimpressive. The Ring-necked Duck flight in Ohio was deemed the poorest in years (LR). Harlequin Ducks were scarce with singles reported Oct. 21 at Miller Beach, IN (RHu, DM) and Nov. 20 at Lorain, OH (ES). Though scarce on the Great Lakes, Oldsquaw appeared in unprecedented numbers at inland sites with singles in Illinois and Indiana, six in Iowa, and seven in Ohio. The best news involving ducks concerned scoters, which appeared in excellent numbers across the Region. Black Scoters were recorded in every state with high numbers on the Great Lakes and several remarkable inland counts. Surf Scoters followed a similar pattern but were slightly less abundant, appearing in every state except Missouri. Single Surf Scoters were detected as far w. as L. Manawa, IA Nov. 6 (B&LP) and as far s. as Louisville, KY Nov. 8 (JB, PBe). Though also widespread, White-winged Scoters appeared in somewhat lower numbers. Most of the Region's Hooded Mergansers appeared in Ohio where 420 were at L. Rockwell Nov. 2 (LR, m.ob.) and 238



A first for Kentucky was this Brant at Falls of the Ohio, Jefferson County, on November 7, 1993. Photograph/Brainard Palmer-Ball.

were at O.N.W.R., Nov. 7 (EP). A Com. Merganser in Knox, IN Oct. 3 (RHI) was unusually early.

VULTURES TO CRANES

Good numbers of Black Vultures were observed at the E. Bend and Ghent power plants in Carroll, KY with a peak of 40 at Ghent Nov. 27 (LMc). Three Blacks that appeared in *Tuscarawrus*, OH (ES), provided an excellent local record. Fall Mississippi Kites were: one in *Union*, IL Aug. 30 (RPa), an adult in Trail of Tears S.P., MO Sept. 3 (NN), three in Madison, IL Sept. 11 (HW), and one in *Knox*, IN Sept. 18 (SL). An exceptional N. Harrier count of 20+ was made Nov. 4 in *Vermillion*, IN (AB). Peak Sharp-shinned Hawk counts included 64 at Grammer Grove, IA Oct. 10 (BPt), 57 at Oak Openings, OH Oct. 23 (TKp, MA), and 18 at Waukegan, IL Sept. 27 (DJ). Fourteen N. Goshawks were reported across the Region, an average total for a non-flight year. The eastern-most birds consisted of singles in *Lucas*, OH Oct. 23 (†TKp) and in Oak Openings, OH Nov. 27 (†MA). Though pale by last fall's standard, respectable Broad-winged Hawk counts were recorded: 2437 near St. Louis, MO Sept. 27 (*fide* DA), 1085 at Oak Openings, OH Sept. 18 (TKp, MA), and 1085 at Algoma, IA Sept. 21 (MK). Rough-legged Hawks were scarce.

The fall Merlin count of 69 is consistent with recent increases across the Region. A gray-morph Gyr Falcon, seen near Kettleson Hogsback, *Dickinson*, IA Sept. 26 (†TS, †JCI, †MJ, †WRS, †JSi), provided that state's 2nd record. Prairie Falcons were seen in *De Witt*, IL Oct. 27 (†RCh), at Union Slough N.W.R., Oct. 29 (†THK), and at Glenview Naval Air Station, *Cook*, IL Oct. 27–Nov. 28 (GR, †DJ, †m.ob.).

A total of four Yellow Rails was reported at 3 locations; the latest was discovered on the surprisingly late date of Nov. 5 at Newton, IL (SS). Virtually unknown in fall, a window-kill Black Rail was found at McCormick Place on the Chicago lakefront Oct. 8 (DW *fide* RHu). An ad. Virginia Rail, observed feeding a downy young at Snake Creek Marsh, IA Aug. 29, provided a very late nesting record. Following the pattern of recent declines, the Region's peak Com. Moorhen count was only 15, seen at L. Cal., Sept. 17 (WM). The largest Am. Coot concentration consisted of 13,000 at Swan L., MO Oct. 23 (SK). High water at the Jasper-Pulaski, IN staging area forced many Sandhill Cranes to roost off-site, thereby lowering counts which peaked at 14,453 on Nov. 3 (*fide* JCs). A few Sandhills wandered as far E as Cleveland, where three were seen Sept. 7 (W&NK).

SHOREBIRDS

The fall shorebird migration was uniformly poor across the Region, with some transient species disturbingly scarce. One of the few encouraging aspects of the shorebird flight was the Region's 2nd fall **Snowy Plover**, which appeared at O.N.W.R., Aug. 1 (CC, †RHa, EP) and was still present the following day (KA, TBa). A Snowy was then discovered at Metzger Marsh W.M.A., Sept. 11 and remained through Sept. 13 (†BW, FG, KA). The only sizable Semipalmated Plover count was 275 at O.N.W.R., Aug. 1 (EP). Only three

Piping Plovers were reported. The earliest, at Miller Beach, IN Aug. 31 (JM, BEt), was followed by reports at Buck Cr., OH Oct. 7–10 (LG, †DO) and *St Charles*, MO Oct. 9–10 (JVy, PBa). A remarkable 34–35 Black-necked Stilts (and several nests) were located in s.e. Missouri Aug. 5 (LHu). Two stilts were also seen at N. Kansas City, MO, Aug. 28 (JG *et al.*). A total of 38 Am. Avocets were reported in 4 states.

Incredibly, the Region's highest Lesser Yellowlegs count was only 117; in contrast, fall *maxima* over the past decade have typically exceeded 1000. Only nine Willets and five Whimbrels were reported. Numbers of Hudsonian Godwits appeared only in *Ottawa*, OH where 10–11 were seen Oct. 23–25 (Rha, KA). The only Hudsonian outside Ohio was an immature at L. Cal., Oct. 4 (JLa). Marbled Godwit numbers were down in Iowa and typical in Illinois; the only other occurrence was at O.N.W.R.,

where one was present Sept. 5 (EP, RHa). Red Knots were scarce on L. Michigan, but 11 were reported along L. Erie. Inland Knots included three in Ballard, KY Sept. 18 (HC, CP) and one in Gibson, IN Oct. 24 (GB). An Aug. 8 count of 278 Semipalmated Sandpipers represented the season's peak at L. Cal. (WM) and the Regional maximum. Least Sandpipers were scarce with most states reporting numbers far below normal. A Baird's Sandpiper was discovered at the Falls of the Ohio, KY Aug. 21 (BBC), where this species is rarely seen. The Pectoral Sandpiper flight was extremely poor; the Region's highest count was only 291. By far the largest Dunlin tally consisted of 1000 at Metzger Marsh W.M.A., OH (RHa). An ad. **Curlew Sandpiper** highlighted the fall shorebirds at O.N.W.R., Aug. 10 (†RHa, EP, *et al.*) and provided Ohio's 4th record. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported in every state, including one at the Falls of the Ohio, KY Sept. 4 (JB, PBe). The Short-billed Dowitcher migration was astoundingly poor. None were reported in Iowa and the total count for Illinois was only 4. The only modest concentrations occurred at O.N.W.R. where they peaked at 50 Sept. 5 (EP). Wilson's Phalaropes were also frightfully scarce with only five reported in the entire Region. Ohio had an excellent Red Phalarope flight with 14 birds at 8 locations.



Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Grundy County, Illinois, on September 8, 1993. Photograph/Joe B. Milosevich.



Adult Ross' Gull (front, with Ring-billed Gulls) at Red Rock Reservoir, Iowa, on October 31, 1993. A first for the state, it added to the handful of mid-continent records for this elegant northerner. Photograph/T. H. Kent.

The single Red Phalarope seen outside Ohio was at Carlyle L., IL Oct. 22 (†JVu).

JAEGERS TO TERNS

An impressive 37 jaegers were reported during the fall flight; all but one appeared on the Great Lakes. The exception was a flyby at the Oak Openings, OH hawk watch Sept. 5 (†MA). Among the acceptably identified birds were six Pomarine and four Parasitic Jaegers on L. Erie and one Pomarine and three Parasitics on L. Michigan.

A juv. Laughing Gull wandered W to Saylorsville Res., IA; it was discovered there Sept. 18 (†AJ ph.). Franklin's Gulls were scarce e. of the Mississippi R, where the peak count was only four. Nine Little Gulls were reported from Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. The primary Bonaparte's Gull flight passed through L. Erie; Nov. 7, 23,000 were at Eastlake and 20,000–30,000 were in Cleveland (LR, *et al.*). Adult California Gulls appeared at Michigan City harbor, IN Nov. 20 (KB, †Haw m.ob.) and at Carter L., IA Nov. 21 & 23 (TBr, †WRS, †B & LP). Most noteworthy of the Region's 19 Thayer's Gulls was a first-winter bird at Red Rock Res., IA Nov. 13 (†RPI, †RCe, †THK). The season's only Iceland Gull was an ad. "Kumliens" at L. Cal., Nov. 27 (WM, RHu, DM). Good numbers of both Lesser Black-backed and Glaucous gulls occurred on the Great Lakes. This autumn's total of six Black-legged Kittiwakes was near normal for the Region. Unquestionably the season's best gull, Iowa's first **Ross' Gull**, was discovered at Red Rock Res. on Oct. 31 (†JF, PWi, †m.ob., ph. THK, RA). This pinkish-breasted individual, an adult molting into basic plumage, associated with a mixed flock of Ring-billed and Bonaparte's gulls below the dam; it departed Nov. 1. A marvelous Sabine's Gull flight of 12 birds graced the Region; oddly the vast majority appeared away from the Great Lakes. Reports included five in Illinois, three in Indiana, three in Ohio, and one in Iowa. The latter was at Red Rock Res., Oct. 21–23 (†MP *et al.*).

Caspian Tern numbers were deemed low on L. Erie (LR), but were near normal elsewhere. Common Terns remained scarce with only paltry totals from each state; however, the count of 291 at Lorain, OH Oct. 25 (TL), was high for such a late date. No Forster's Tern concentrations were reported and the only Least Tern was seen Aug. 19 at Marshall-

town, IA (†MSt). A refreshing change from the routinely dismal Black Tern reports was a count of 640+ in *Jackson, IL* Sept. 25 (KMc).

DOVES TO HUMMINGBIRDS

S.A.

Observers are beginning to reap the benefits of taking a second look at hummingbirds that visit feeders in October. Among this season's rewards were two Anna's, two Rufous, and seven unidentified *Selasphorus* hummingbirds. Foremost among these was the Region's first Anna's Hummingbird at T. Barksdale's feeder in Columbia, MO Oct. 29. The bird, an ad. male, was banded Nov. 11 and remained until Nov. 15 (†TBK, PMc, m.ob.). Remarkably, a 2nd ad. ♂ Anna's appeared at the J. & H. Palmer residence in Platte City, MO Nov. 16. On Nov. 18; this individual was also banded (†LMO, †JG). Illinois first confirmed Rufous Hummingbird arrived at the Olympia Fields feeder of E. & S. Strauss Oct. 14; it remained through Nov. 18 when it apparently died. Measurements taken at the Chicago Field Museum confirmed that the bird was indeed an imm. ♂ Rufous (†m.ob. * C.F.M.). The most interesting of five *Selasphorus* hummingbirds detected in Missouri was a banded bird that appeared at the home of H. & S. Vandever in Springfield Oct. 26. Authorities netted the bird and learned that it had been banded as an after-hatching-year ♀ Rufous Hummingbird by R. Sargent Dec. 19, 1989 in Pensacola, FL. This well traveled lady was subsequently recaptured on one previous occasion at Bay Minette, AL Feb. 2, 1992. Clearly, any hummingbird present in October warrants careful scrutiny.

Missouri's 5th Com. Ground-Dove was recorded Oct. 9 at Horseshoe L. (†LL). Extralimital Barn Owls appeared at 2 Indiana locations: in the Migrant Trap Oct. 10 (†LMk) and at Chain-o-Lakes S.P., Nov. 14 (JWi *et al.*). Barn Owls had not been confirmed in either of these areas for more than 20 years. A good Snowy Owl flight penetrated the n. states in November. Records included eight in Iowa, seven in Illinois, five in Indiana, and four in Ohio. Long-eared Owls were much as expected with ten reported across the Region, however, the seven Short-eareds reported was far below normal. The season's five N. Saw-whet Owls were distributed among 3 states. The Region's most impressive Com. Nighthawk flight was recorded at Columbia, MO Sept. 20, when 1650+ were counted (SH). A Whip-poor-will lingered on the Chicago lakefront until the unusually late date of Nov. 17 (KH).

FLYCATCHERS TO WARBLERS

Olive-sided Flycatchers were scarce with reports only from Illinois and Iowa. Late Acadian Flycatchers were identified by voice Sept. 25 at both Magee M., OH (RHa) and Sanganois W.M.A., IL (KR). A calling Alder Flycatcher at Sanganois W.M.A., IL Sept. 24

(KR) was also extremely late. An ad. ♂ **Vermillion Flycatcher** delighted birders at Ivanhoe, IL Oct. 11–18 (BS, ph. †m.ob.). A very late Great Crested Flycatcher, at Effigy Mounds, IA Nov. 8 (†DC), provided that state's latest fall record. The swallow migration was poor. The only sizable concentrations consisted of 3000+ Purple Martins on the Chicago lakefront Aug. 14–15 (KH) and 2500 Tree Swallows at Muscatatuck N.W.R., Oct. 9 (PWh).

Red-breasted Nuthatches invaded in numbers not seen in many years. Early August brought the first birds to the n. states and the surge penetrated the entire Region; Red-breasteds were deemed widespread in Kentucky and the heaviest since 1972 in Missouri. The highest counts consisted of 60+ harassing a N. Saw-whet Owl at Kingsbury W.M.A., IN Nov. 7 (LHi, LC) and 51 counted if 4 hours in s.w. Missouri Nov. 15 (PMA). A Bewick's Wren seen Sept. 30 at Matanzas Prairie, IL constituted the season's only record. Sedge Wrens were more common than normal with reports from every state except Kentucky; the peak count was 11 in *Greene, IL* Aug. 21 (HW). A good Golden-crowned Kinglet flight was highlighted by 100+ at Urbana, IL Oct. 30 (RCh). A single Bohemian Waxwing appeared in Jackson Park, Chicago Nov. 1–3 (†PC, JLa). Northern Shrikes were not widely distributed with only six in Iowa and two in Illinois. A Bell's Vireo lingered at West Frankfort, IL until Sept. 30 (LSt). Migrant vireo numbers were generally about typical for the fall flight.

The warbler flight was unusually strong in many areas with excellent diversity and encouraging numbers in Ohio, e. Missouri, and n. Indiana. Unfortunately, warblers remained unimpressive at some locations. It was a fine season for Golden-winged Warblers with unusually good numbers across the Region; the peak count was eight at Spfld., Sept. 1 (DBO). Tennessee Warblers arrived early, Aug. 3 at Fox I. Park, IN (Haw), and staged an excellent flight with daily counts exceeding 40 individuals reported from 4 states. Cape May Warblers were also more common than normal. The generally hard-to-find Black-throated Blue Warbler appeared in good numbers in Iowa and record numbers in Indiana, where 10 were counted Sept. 21 at Fox Island P., IN (Haw), constituting the highest daily count ever for that state. One Black-throated Blue lingered at the N. & M. Hoprich feeder in Garfield Heights through Dec. 4, providing the latest Ohio record (LR). A Prairie Warbler at the Skokie Lagoons, IL Sept. 30 (†EW), and a Louisiana Waterthrush on the Chicago lakefront Sept. 10 (KR, LA), were unexpected. Fall Hooded Warblers are quite rare in Iowa, consequently, the singing male at Hickory Hill P., Sept. 5–6 (CE), was noteworthy.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A ♂ Summer Tanager at Indiana Dunes S.P., Oct. 8 (JLo), established a first October record for n. Indiana. Late N. Cardinal nest-



Blue Grosbeaks nested late in Will County, Illinois. This young fledgling had two siblings still in the nest on September 3, 1993.
Photograph/Joe B. Milosevich.

ings included adults feeding recently fledged young in *Polk*, IA Sept. 15 (RCe) and in *Kentucky* Oct. 23 (ASt). A ♂ Black-headed Grosbeak was documented at Clinton L., IL Sept. 16–18 (†RPa, †MD, †RCh). Blue Grosbeaks continued their N expansion with numerous reports that included a late breeding record in *Will*, IL Sept. 3 (JM ph.). An imm. Dickcissel was present in *Tuscarawus*, OH Sept. 30–Nov. 6 (ES).

The sparrow flight was typical, with normal numbers and few surprises. Fall Clay-colored Sparrows were restricted to Illinois and n. Indiana where five were reported. The highest Savannah Sparrow counts included 60 at Royalton, IL Oct. 14 (LSt) and 75 in *Boone*, MO Oct. 24 (PMc). Most remarkable was a flock of 25 imm. Grasshopper Sparrows Aug. 28 at a reclaimed coal mine in *Vermillion*, IN (AB). The Region's peak Le Conte's Sparrow count consisted of 15 seen Oct. 24 in *Boone*, MO (PMc). Sharp-tailed Sparrows were widespread with reports from every state except Indiana. Most noteworthy among these was one at Sauerheber W.M.A., KY Oct. 16 (BBC). As expected a few Harris' Sparrows were reported in the w. states; an imm. at Jackson Park in Chicago Aug. 18 (†PR, *et al.*) was unusually early. Lapland Longspurs peaked Nov. 18 in *De Witt* and *Macon*, IL when 10,000 were counted (MD). The Region's only Smith's Longspur was seen in *Boone*, MO Oct. 24 (PMc).

A Yellow-headed Blackbird strayed E to Oak Openings, OH where it was seen Oct. 17 (TKp). Early Rusty Blackbirds arrived at Zirkel Slough, IA Sept. 24 and peaked at Trumbull L., IA Nov. 11 where a flock of 1000 was seen (LSc). Unusually high Brewer's Blackbird counts were made along the *Grundy-LaSalle* line in Illinois where 44 (no date given) were seen (CMc, JMc), and at the Shamrock sod farm in *LaPorte*, IN where up to 20 were observed in September (EH). Lingering orioles included a tardy Orchard in Spfld., Sept. 4 and a very late ♂ Northern in *Sangamon*, IL Nov. 30 (DBo).

Purple Finches peaked Oct. 30 when 50 were counted in Urbana, IL (RCh). Crossbills remained scarce with small numbers of Reds in Illinois and Iowa, and two White-winged in South Bend, IN. In early November Com. Redpolls appeared in the n. states; the peak counts included 300 at N. Perry, OH Nov. 10 (RHa), 70 at Clinton L., Nov. 29 (RSa), and 40 at the Port of Indiana Nov. 6 (JM). Pine Siskins were reported in every state; the high-

est count of 60 was duplicated at Clinton L., IL Oct. 27 (RCh) and at Beverly Shores, IN Oct. 23 (LHi *et al.*). For the first time in 6 years a significant incursion of Evening Grosbeaks occurred in the Region. A few late October birds proved to be precursors of an early November wave that ultimately produced records in every state except Missouri. The highest counts included 40 in the Indiana Dunes Nov. 6 (ASi *fide* LHi) and 18 in Hopkins, KY Nov. 3 (BW). Most of these birds passed through quickly, departing the Region by late November.

Corrigendum: The Pacific Loon reported at Clinton L., IL Dec. 20, 1992 (AB 47:261) was seen by †S. Bailey and †R. Chapel, not D. Bohlen.

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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

Greg D. Jackson

The music of beating wings was *forte* across the Region this autumn. Many exotic notes wafted to our ears, and *crescendos* of traditional music were heard in mid-season.

Temperatures were generally cooler than normal beginning in September, and rainfall was close to the mark. As was no surprise considering the floods to the north, the Mississippi River was higher than usual. The most productive front-related activity on the coast came September 5–6 and 12, September 28 through October 6, October 11–13 and 22–26, and November 7. The period of October 22–26 was particularly productive across the southern edge of the Region.

Many large waders appeared inland this season. Waterfowl arrived in adequate numbers, some earlier than usual. Raptors passed through most areas in force. Shorebirds were a highlight inland; the high water in the Mississippi River was a boon to wader-watchers at nearby ponds in Memphis. The vagrant hummingbird parade was good, though totals were not unusual. Passerine migration was generally excellent, with many early records and western strays. Flycatchers were noteworthy this fall. Warblers often arrived early and stayed late, and several Atlantic Coast migrants were noted.

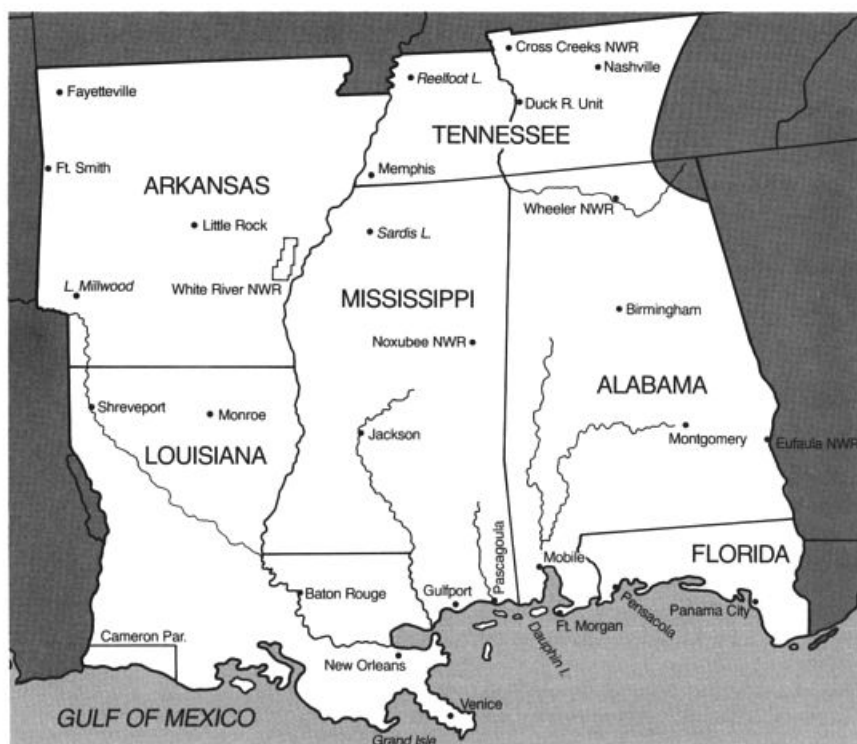
I cannot include sightings of rarities without acceptable documentation.

Abbreviations: C.P. (Cameron Parish, LA); I.C.P. (Inland Coastal Plain Region, AL); N.N.W.R. (Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, e.c. MS); p.a. (pending acceptance by the state bird records committee); T.E.C. (The Earth Complex, a.k.a. Ensley Bottoms, Shelby, TN).

LOONS TO STORKS

Alabama's 15th Pacific Loon appeared Nov. 27 at Dauphin I., *Mobile*, AL (BCG, ph., p.a.). Of several early Com. Loons, one in *Washington*, AR Sept. 7 (RD) was especially notable. Eared Grebe is uncommon to rare in our Region, becoming more scarce to the east. Single birds were noted Sept. 25–Oct. 2 in *Oktibbeha*, MS (TLS, MC), Oct. 13–17 near Memphis, TN (MLG, CHB, m.ob., ph.), and Oct. 25–Nov. 30 in *Okaloosa* and *Santa Rosa*, FL (DMW, RAD *et al.*). Continuing recent trends, good numbers of Double-crested Cormorants were found inland, with hundreds seen in some locales. Rare in s.e. Louisiana, two—three Neotropic Cormorants were identified Aug. 15 & Oct. 9 in *Pointe Coupee* (CAM, MMS, DLD, SWC *et al.*).

Over 1500 Great Egrets Aug. 22 in *Grenada* and *Tallahatchie*, MS (GK) must have been impressive. Tricolored Herons can be hard to find inland, so the appearance of 10–11 birds Aug. 21–Sept. 18 in *Adams*, MS (TLS, MH) was unexpected. Seven Reddish Egrets were unusual as late as Nov. 22–24 in *Bay*, FL



(RLW). A White Ibis was a rarity near Nashville Aug. 19 (DN). Good numbers were noted along the Mississippi R. in early fall, with 80 in *Chicot*, AR Aug. 31 (DRS, RC), and 400 in *Adams*, MS Sept. 18 (TLS, MH). An unidentified *Plegadis* ibis was rare Oct. 5–10 in *Lake*, TN (WGC).

Unusual numbers of Roseate Spoonbills appeared in s.e. Louisiana this fall; most were in *Lafourche*, where a peak of 45 was recorded Sept. 4 (CS). Very rare elsewhere in the Region, a lone spoonbill was spotted Aug. 7 in *Grenada*, MS (GK, SK, PH, LH). Wood Storks were plentiful this year, with many reports Aug. 7–Oct. 9. Local peaks included 100 in *Perry*, AL Aug. 8 (RRR *et al.*), 40 in *Chicot*, AR Aug. 29 (DRS), 144 storks Sept. 12 at N.N.W.R. (MC), and 350 in *Adams*, MS Sept. 18 (TLS, MH).

WATERFOWL TO RAPTORS

The Black-bellied Whistling-Duck is rare in Arkansas; three–four birds were in *Chicot* Aug. 28–29 (HF, CF, GS, DRS). A pair of Black-bellieds with three chicks was a surprise in C.P. on the late date of Nov. 10 (CAB, GOB). At N.N.W.R., a rare Tundra Swan appeared Nov. 28 (MC, PG). Up to eight Trumpeter Swans were in *Cleburne*, AR beginning Nov. 2 (TD, HP, MP). At least one, with a numbered tag, was from the Minnesota re-introduction program, thus these probably were not “wild” birds. The fields of *Jefferson Davis* and *Vermilion*, LA produced huge numbers of geese Oct. 31; over 115,000 were estimated, including 16,500 Greater White-fronteds (JPK, DR). This species is more difficult to locate farther e.; as many as nine were in *Limestone*, AL beginning Nov. 20 (SWM, SH, HHK, m.ob.), and nine appeared on the same day at N.N.W.R. (TLS). Ross’ Geese are expected in s. Louisiana in

small numbers; a maximum of 25 was noted Nov. 6 in *Vermilion* and *Acadia* (SWC, DLD). Rare elsewhere in the Region; two Ross’ Geese were in *Shelby*, TN Nov. 14 (JRW) and another was located Nov. 20 in *Limestone*, AL (RRR *et al.*).

Usually scarce in s.e. Louisiana, 25 Mottled Ducks were found Oct. 9 in *Pointe Coupee* (SWC, DLD). A N. Pintail Aug. 14 in *Vermilion*, LA (MMS, CAM) was likely a rare summering bird, while five in *Benton*, AR Aug. 24 (MM) probably were early migrants. Alabama’s 4th record of Eurasian Wigeon was provided by a male at Wheeler N.W.R., *Morgan*, Oct. 25–Nov. 6 (SWM, VM, GE, p.a.); this was not the hybrid male present in several recent winters. Ring-necked Duck summers rarely in our area; one was in *Adams*, MS Aug. 21 (TLS, MH).

An Oldsquaw, hard to find inland, was located in *Clark*, AR Nov. 7 (DH). Inland scoter records were higher than usual this autumn, with several sightings of all 3 species. Black Scoters are particularly unusual inland. One near Wheeler Dam, *Lawrence/Lauderdale*, Oct. 25 (ALM, ADM), set a new early date for Alabama. Single birds were also seen Oct. 20–21 in *Lonoke*, AR (LP, LeP, DZ, ph.), and Nov. 2 in *Oktibbeha*, MS (TLS). I received 9 reports of 11 inland Surf Scoters in Alabama, Arkansas, and Tennessee beginning Oct. 22. Lone White-winged Scoters were spotted Nov. 7 in *Dyer*, TN (WGC) and Nov. 20 in *Shelby*, AL (ALM, ASC).

Good numbers of Ospreys were reported. A Mississippi Kite Oct. 2 at the w. border of Arkansas in *Sebastian* (KM, SB) was unusual. The N. Harrier Sept. 5 at Grand I., *Jefferson*, LA (RDP) set a new local early date. Good numbers of Cooper’s Hawks were observed across the Region. An ad. “Harlan’s” Red-tailed Hawk was a rare treat Nov. 21 in *Perry*,

AL (GDJ, DGJ). Golden Eagles are scarce, so it was interesting to have 6 reports of single birds from 4 states beginning Oct. 23. Merlins were recorded in good numbers, including 12 inland birds; one spotted Aug. 29 at T.E.C. (JRW) was early. The Peregrine Falcon flight also was impressive, with inland sites reporting 24 individuals. A Prairie Falcon returned Nov. 12 to *Cossar S.P., Yalobusha*, MS (GK, PH) for the 3rd year.

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS

Yellow Rails are regular in fall and winter in the rice fields of s. Louisiana; an estimated 15 were seen in *one hour* in *Vermilion* Nov. 6 (DLD, SWC, m.ob.). The species is rarely reported from Alabama, and the calling bird Nov. 24 at Dauphin I. (J&JP, p.a.) was only the 3rd for the Alabama coast. A lingering Virginia Rail was at Memphis Nov. 17 (OKM, CA, ph.); the Purple Gallinule Nov. 25 in *Bay*, FL (B&MK, ACM) also was late. Of several uncommon inland Black-bellied Plovers, the maximum number reported was seven birds Nov. 9 in *Lafayette*, MS (GK). This area also produced an early Black-bellied Aug. 4 (WMD) and a three tardy birds Nov. 24 (GK). American Golden-Plovers were noted in good numbers this fall, with peak tallies of 11 birds Oct. 21 in *Limestone*, AL (GDJ) and 12 at N.N.W.R., Oct. 30 (TLS, MH). The lone golden-plover in *Shelby*, AL Aug. 27 (HHK) set a new local arrival date; a late bird continued through the end of the period in *Limestone*, AL (SWM, m.ob.). Excellent numbers of two plovers-in-trouble were found this season in *Bay*, FL (RLW); 97 Snowies were present Oct. 4–6, and 56 Pippings were tallied Nov. 8–10. Far inland Piping Plovers are rare, and one was discovered Aug. 21–22 in *Adams*, MS (TLS, MH, JR).

Of several unusual inland Am. Avocets, the maximum was 34 birds Sept. 26 in *Hempstead*, AR (CM). One near Memphis Nov. 21 (WGC, MLG) set a new w. Tennessee departure record. Two late Solitary Sandpipers were discovered Nov. 21 in *Assumption*, LA (RSB, GW). Tennessee’s 2nd Long-billed Curlew appeared Sept. 27 at T.E.C. (RTC, p.a.). Hudsonian Godwits are very rare in autumn in our Region; one was discovered at T.E.C., Sept. 1 (JRW, ph.). The Marbled Godwit near Memphis Aug. 7 (MLG, m.ob., ph.) provided an unusual inland occurrence. The most noteworthy of several non-coastal Ruddy Turnstones was in *Shelby*, AL Sept. 9–23 (ALM, ADM). There were 6 rare inland reports of Red Knot, with four birds noted Sept. 30 in *Lafayette*, MS (WMD).

The “Bird-of-the-Season” was the ad. Rufous-necked Stint Aug. 7 at T.E.C. (JRW, JF, CHB, p.a.). This vagrant was studied at length; field notes and color sketches depicting structure and feathering exclude other species. There are no previous Regional records. Baird’s Sandpiper is uncommon to rare inland in the fall; this season eleven were reported, all from T.E.C. and Mississippi. Single Dunlin were noted Aug. 14–Sept. 5 at T.E.C. (JRW), *Tallahatchie*, MS (WMD,



Eared Grebe at Shelby Farms, Tennessee, October 14, 1993. Photograph/J. R. Wilson.

GK, SK), and *Lafourche*, LA (DPM, RDP *et al.*); these birds may have summered locally. Ten late Stilt Sandpipers were observed Nov. 26 in *Plaquemines*, LA (DPM, PY, NN). American Woodcock is rare on the coast in summer; a bird Aug. 18 in *Santa Rosa*, FL (WJB) had been present since June. Wilson's Phalarope is an expected early fall transient in many areas. Unusual records were of single birds Aug. 14 in *Escambia*, FL (RSD, WWD, VS), Sept. 1 in *Shelby*, AL (ALM, ASC), and near Nashville Sept. 1–5 (TJW). Red-necked Phalaropes are much more difficult to locate in our area, though a few usually appear in autumn along the Mississippi R. in Tennessee. A surprising nine birds were found there Aug. 5–Sept. 26, with a peak of five Aug. 14–19 at T.E.C. (JRW, DAM, VR *et al.*, ph.); the first sighting Aug. 5 in *Dyer* (WGC) set a new early arrival date.

GULLS TO HUMMINGBIRDS

Three inland Laughing Gulls were reported Sept. 12–Nov. 14. Franklin's Gulls are difficult to find away from s.w. Louisiana and Arkansas. This season there were reports of six Franklin's from 5 other areas beginning Sept. 12. The rare Lesser Black-backed Gull now appears regularly in s. Louisiana; there were at least four birds in C.P., July 17–Oct. 30. Florida reports included one–three birds in *Escambia* and *Santa Rosa* Oct. 7–Nov. 29 (GF, WF, JK, RAD, m.ob.), and another Nov. 22 on Shell I., *Bay* (RLW). Great Black-backed Gull is rare but regular in the Region; one was noted at Dauphin I., AL Nov. 28 (BCG, ph.). Black-legged Kittiwake is always a great find; an immature was at Pickwick L., *Hardin*, TN Nov. 27 (JRW, ph.). The juv. Sabine's Gull Oct. 5–6 on E. Ship I., *Harrison* (BR, JAT, ph.) was only the 4th for Mississippi. An impressive 2000 Caspian Terns were in C.P. Oct. 17 (JPK, DR).

As usual for the fall, there were scattered reports of White-winged Doves across the coast; five were in *Plaquemines*, LA on the early date of Aug. 20 (PVC). Common Ground-Doves are rare in Mississippi away from the coast; three individuals were in *Oktibbeha*, *Rankin*, and *Lafayette* during the narrow span of Oct. 22–28 (TLS, MC, MH, JR, GK). The species is also scarce in the Memphis area, where there were reports of five birds Sept. 22–Oct. 23 (WRP, MLG, JRW). The odd Groove-billed Ani is a regular coastal fall visitor, becoming more scarce to the east. There were 7 reports totaling at least 22 birds in s. Louisiana and s. Mississippi, beginning with four birds in *St. John* as early

as Sept. 19 (RJS). More unusual was an ani Oct. 8 at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*, AL (SWM *et al.*). A Short-eared Owl Nov. 14 in *Jefferson* (RDP) was rare for s.e. Louisiana.

Buff-bellied Hummingbird is expected in low numbers each year in the s. part of our Region, especially in Louisiana. This year the s.e. portion of that state produced nine birds, including three in *St. John* at the very early date of Sept. 23 (SN, RJS, NLN). Florida's 5th Buff-bellied Hummingbird was banded Nov. 5 at Destin, *Okaloosa* (RRS, MBS, BH, ph., p.a.); a different bird appeared in the same yard Nov. 29 (BH, *fide* RRS, ph., p.a.). An imm. ♂ Calliope Hummingbird, very rare but noted more frequently in recent years, was in Reserve, *St. John*, LA Nov. 4–30 (SN, NLN, RJS, m.ob., p.a.). Unusual records of banded Rufous Hummingbirds included two starting Aug. 2 in *Pulaski* and *White*, AR (PF, LF, RC), another beginning Aug. 18 in *Winston*, MS (FW, RRS, MBS), and three near Nashville Nov. 10 (RRS, MBS). Florida's first confirmed Allen's Hummingbird was a female banded Aug. 25 in Pensacola, *Escambia* (RRS, MBS, MK, JK, ph., p.a.).

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS TO WRENS

Several tardy E. Wood-Pewees were noted. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers are rare-but-regular migrants in our area. Five were banded Sept. 10–Oct. 9 in s. *Baldwin*, AL with three appearing on the last date (DC *et al.*); two calling Yellow-bellieds were in Birmingham Sept. 10 (BCG, p.a.). Alder Flycatchers are rarely identified in the Region. Single calling birds were discovered Aug. 5–31 in *Benton* and *Washington*, AR (MM) and *Oktibbeha*, MS (TLS). Say's Phoebe is a casual vagrant to the Region, so one in C.P., Oct. 22 (NBB, LD, p.a.) was exciting. Vermilion Flycatcher is rare in our territory outside Louisiana. An ad. ♂ was at Ft. Pickens, *Escambia*, FL Oct. 7 (LG, AZ); another was a surprise Oct. 17 in *Shelby*, TN (CHB).

A calling Ash-throated Flycatcher was found Oct. 30 in C.P. (DPM, PY, p.a.). This stray *Myiarchus* was outclassed by at least two calling Brown-crested Flycatchers, casual in Louisiana, near Ft. Jackson, *Plaquemines*, Nov. 26 (DPM, PY, NN, p.a.). Another flycatcher vagrant this season in Louisiana was the calling Couch's Kingbird Nov. 19 in *Vermilion* (RWD, GMG, p.a.). Oddly, this was a poor season for W. Kingbirds on the coast, with only two reported. A rare inland bird was seen Sept. 6 in *Tallahatchie*, MS (GK, SK, JRW, TLS). The Scissor-tailed Flycatchers Oct. 18 in *Lafayette*, MS (RB) and Nov. 1 in Memphis (GLI) were unusual. The appearance of a Gray Kingbird in *Plaquemines* as late as Nov. 7 (NN, RDP, GMG) is difficult to explain; this bird is rare in Louisiana even earlier in the season.

An impressive flight of 40,000 N. Rough-winged Swallows was observed Oct. 23 in C.P. (SWC, DLD). This was a banner fall for Red-breasted Nuthatch, with large numbers of early-arriving birds in n. areas. Earliest reports set new local records Sept. 4 in *Hemp-*

stead (CM) and *Washington*, AR (PR). Encouragingly, there were 6 reports of nine Bewick's Wrens from Arkansas (MM, DRS), w. Tennessee (MGW *et al.*), and n. Mississippi (GK, SK, PH, TLS). One of these now scarce wrens was in *Washington*, AR Aug. 18 (MM), early enough to raise the question of local nesting. Notable concentrations of transient wrens included 50 Sedge Wrens at a site in *Vermilion*, LA Oct. 28 (GOB, CAB), and 15 Marsh Wrens Sept. 29 in a field in *Henry*, TN (TJW).

S.A.

The number of Northern Wheatear records for Alabama tripled this fall. One bird was at a shopping center in Montgomery Sept. 20–22 (JG, m.ob., ph., p.a.). Amazingly, another appeared Oct. 2 at Ft. Morgan (HH, CK, WL, GDJ, DGJ *et al.*, ph., p.a.). The only previous record for the state was, coincidentally, also at Ft. Morgan on the same date in 1988! These sightings were the 7th and 8th Regional occurrences, with only two before 1988. Perhaps there has been a shift in the pattern of vagrancy, or a population increase, in this not inconspicuous species. Mississippi and Tennessee are now the only states in the Region lacking records of this exciting n.e. stray.

THRUSHES TO WOOD-WARBLERS

Early thrushes included a Gray-cheeked banded Sept. 5 in s. *Baldwin* (DC *et al.*), and two Swainson's Sept. 4 in *Washington*, AR (PR). A Wood Thrush lingered Nov. 20 at Ft. Pickens, FL (JWB, JB, RLB). Sprague's Pipit is rare in the Region beyond w. Louisiana, so the calling bird Nov. 8 in *Iberville*, LA (DLD) was notable. "Brewster's" Warbler is always a treat; the second I.C.P. record of this hybrid came Sept. 27 in Montgomery (LFG). Late-departing warblers included a Nashville Nov. 27 in C.P. (CS, PW), and N. Parulas Oct. 26 in *Oktibbeha*, MS (TLS) and Nov. 27 in C.P. (CS, PW).

Good numbers of Yellow Warblers were seen at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, FL early in the season (RAD). An individual Nov. 21 in *Perry* (GDJ, DGJ) provided a new late date for inland Alabama. The Magnolia Warbler Nov. 21 in *Plaquemines*, LA (NN) was behind schedule. Cape May Warbler is rare in the autumn; this is particularly true in the w. part of the Region. One was a surprise Oct. 17 at



Immature Golden Eagle in Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, October 23, 1993. Photograph/Steven W. Cardiff.



American Avocet at Ensley Bottoms, Shelby County, Tennessee, on August 27, 1993. The first of several to appear in the area this season. Photograph/J. R. Wilson.

Grand I., LA (RDP, MMy). A Cape May in *Shelby*, AL Oct. 19 (HHK, m.ob., ph.), and a banded bird Oct. 23 at Ft. Morgan, AL (DC *et al.*), were late. Another scarce East Coast migrant, the Black-throated Blue Warbler, is found more frequently in fall than the Cape May; eight were banded Sept. 14–Oct. 18 in s. *Baldwin*, AL (DC *et al.*). More unusual was the male at Grand I., LA Oct. 17 (RDP, MMy).

Continuing the series of Atlantic Coast fall migrants, a Blackpoll Warbler Sept. 15 at Gulf Breeze, FL (RAD) was only the third local autumn sighting. A ♂ Am. Redstart Nov. 6 in *Perry* (JVP, VN) was the latest for inland Alabama except one early winter record. Connecticut Warblers are rare fall transients; single birds appeared Oct. 2 in Nashville (ATT) and Oct. 9 on Dauphin I., AL (JRW, SWM, PJ, BCG, CDC *et al.*, p.a.). The Mourning Warbler is found much more frequently. This season I received 6 reports of 11 birds outside Louisiana; an ad. male Aug. 28 in Birmingham (BCG, PHF) established a new arrival date for inland Alabama. Mourning Warblers are more common in Louisiana; in C.P., Sept. 4–6 a count of 18 was made (CL, RB, BB). Canada Warblers Aug. 15 in N.N.W.R. and Oct. 20 in *Oktibbeha*, MS (both TLS) broke local arrival and departure records.

TANAGERS TO CARDUELINE FINCHES

The W. Tanager is rarely seen in the Region, and there was one report of a male Sept. 19 at Gulf Breeze, FL (JWB). The rare Black-headed Grosbeak was an excellent discovery Oct. 16 at Grenada L., *Yalobusha*, MS (GK, PH). Several Painted Buntings were tardy, including one at Ft. Morgan, AL Nov. 18 (RAD), and four in *Plaquemines*, LA Nov. 26 (DPM, NN, PY). Rare "spotted"-type Rufous-sided Towhees were seen Oct. 3 at T.E.C. (JRW) and Nov. 21 in *Limestone*, AL (SWM). These probably were w. birds, though exceptionally the scapulars and

coverts of e. towhees can be similar.

The appearance of a Bachman's Sparrow Oct. 2 at the coastal vagrant trap of Ft. Morgan, AL (GDJ) was strange. Clay-colored Sparrows are rare but regular along the coast in autumn. One was in *Jefferson*, LA Sept. 28 (JPS); three Clay-colored were discovered Oct. 2 at Ft. Morgan, AL (GDJ, DGJ), and another appeared that day at Gulf Breeze, FL (RAD, LRD, PCT, BT). Two imm. Black-throated Sparrows were studied Oct. 25 at Ft. Pickens (RLB, JWB, p.a.); there is only one previous Florida record of this w. stray. A late Grasshopper Sparrow was in *Shelby*, TN Nov. 7 (JRW). The Henslow's Sparrow Nov. 6 in *Bradley*, AR (WS, MP, HP, m.ob.) was a nice find.

Good numbers of LeConte's Sparrows were in *Shelby*, TN, with 10 birds at 3 sites beginning Nov. 6 (JRW, m.ob.). One at N.N.W.R., Nov. 13 (TLS) was locally early, while another Nov. 11–19 in *Okaloosa*, FL (RLB, JHS) was rare. A new early date for n.w. Arkansas was provided by a Lapland Longspur in *Carroll* Nov. 6 (MM). Smith's Longspur is a regular visitor in small numbers to *Shelby*, TN. This year another area was discovered to the north in *Lauderdale*, where one Smith's was found Nov. 20 (JRW, WGC). West Tennessee's 3rd Snow Bunting was a crowd-pleaser at the same site Nov. 20–25 (JRW, WGC, m.ob., ph.).

Bobolinks are rare in the fall, particularly in the w. portion of the Region. Three were noted as early as Aug. 29 in *Tallahatchie*, MS (DK, HM, AM, JBe); a lone bird was in *Iberville*, LA as late as Nov. 7 (DLD). Two W. Meadowlarks returned to *Shelby*, TN on the early date of Sept. 26 (JRW); in nearby *Tunica*, MS one was located Nov. 13 (JRW, GK, MAG). Five Yellow-headed Blackbirds were rare, and a large number, for *Bay*, FL Oct. 20 (R&AI, TR, m.ob.). The Bronzed Cowbird population has apparently blossomed in *Jefferson*, LA where over 240 were seen Sept. 13 (RDP)! A male was rare farther e. in *Harrison*, MS Nov. 7 (GK, SK, TLS, m.ob.). House Finches appeared in *Shelby*, TN in a big way this season, with a single flock Nov. 13 at T.E.C. estimated at over 1200 birds (JRW, GK, MAG). Evening Grosbeaks sent scouts into the Region starting Oct. 2 at Nashville (ATT, PM).

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PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

Rudolf F. Koes and Peter Taylor

The cool, wet summer continued across the south through much of August and early September; mosquitoes were excruciating in southern Manitoba, making prolonged use of binoculars and telescope unbearable at

times. The balance of the period was more seasonable overall, but wet enough to delay or prevent harvest of crops in much of southern Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan. Water levels remained below normal in northern and central Alberta. Except for a few brief cold spells, temperatures in October and November were near or above average, with little snow. Most large lakes and rivers froze rapidly in the second half of November. Overall, the migration was

unspectacular in the east, but more exciting in Alberta.

Abbreviation: Oak Hammock (*Oak Hammock Marsh Wildlife Management Area, MB*).

LOONS TO DUCKS

At least two Red-throated Loons visited the Calgary area Oct. 7–11 (MP, J&MM), and a late adult was at Wabamun L., AB Nov. 28 (PT, TT, RT, RDi). A record total of 20



Pacific Loons in Alberta Oct. 3–Nov. 20 (m.ob.) included eight migrating at Windy Point in the Rockies s.w. of Calgary Oct. 21 (WS). In Saskatchewan, single Pacific Loons were at Broderick Res. and Gardiner Dam Oct. 16 (MW) and again at Gardiner Dam Nov. 11 (BL). Over 250 Com. Loons gathered at Touchwood L. near Lac La Biche, AB Sept. 17 (CW). A Yellow-billed Loon visited Ghost Res., AB Nov. 7–13 (J&MM *et al.*); another was found on a road near Regina Nov. 23 and released on open water, but died Dec. 3, furnishing Saskatchewan's 2nd (and only extant) specimen (RE, RKr).

An Am. White Pelican and a Double-crested Cormorant looked forlorn, almost ice-bound at Lac La Biche, AB Nov. 17 (RT, BS). At least seven Great Egrets were seen in Manitoba, including five Aug. 14 at Delta (VE, PG), where four remained Sept. 4 (GG), and one was at Eagle L., AB Oct. 17 (AS). A Cattle Egret near Winnipeg Oct. 20 (AC) was record-late. A subad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Wascana Marsh, Regina Sept. 3 (FL) was about Saskatchewan's 7th. Manitoba's 10th *Plegadis* ibis was scrutinized to no avail at Oak Hammock Oct. 2–31 (AC, RKo, m.ob.). Large concentrations of Tundra Swans included 184 at Murray L., AB Oct. 30 (DBa, PHo, BV) and 1000 at Oak Hammock Oct. 23 (GG). Avian cholera struck staging waterfowl at Oak Hammock; 1434 dead birds were retrieved Oct. 24–Nov. 29, including 429 Snow Geese, 503 Canada Geese and 489 ducks, mainly Mallards (*fide* RN). An evening flight of Wood Ducks at St. Adophe, MB totalled 283 birds Sept. 18 (AC). Huge numbers of Mallards remained unusually late at Oak Hammock: 70,000 Nov. 14 (GG) and 5000 Nov. 30 (RKo).

Two-hundred-and-forty Ring-necked Ducks were at the n. end of Last Mountain Lake, SK Sept. 16 (PC). About 4000 Lesser Scaup was a record count at Horsefly L. near



Immature *Plegadis* ibis (White-faced or Glossy) at Oak Hammock Marsh, Manitoba, October 2, 1993. Photograph/Rudolf F. Koes.

Taber, AB Oct. 10 (LB). An imm. Common Eider at Cold L., AB Nov. 11 (RKI) was well described and tentatively identified as *sedentaria*; there are no previous Alberta records. Wandering single Harlequin Ducks visited Lac la Biche, AB Oct. 9 (RT) and Steinback, MB Sept. 12 (DF), while one lingered late in the mountains near L. Louise, AB Nov. 7 (MMI). Oldsquaws, Black Scoters and Surf Scoters appeared in each province, with regional inland totals of 12, 4 and 70+ birds respectively, reflecting their usual relative abundance in populated regions. At least three Barrow's Goldeneyes were found in Saskatchewan Oct. 16–31 (PC, BL, RKr, SS). An excellent total of 114 Hooded Mergansers was counted in Elk Island N.P., AB Aug. 18 (BC).

RAPTORS TO WOODPECKERS

Bald Eagles added variety to the Golden Eagle watch in w. Alberta: 465 migrated past Mt. Lorette Sept. 21–Nov. 29 (PS *et al.*), with a peak of 52 Oct. 10, while the peak at Windy Point was 47 Oct. 14 (WS). Sick and injured waterfowl attracted Bald Eagles to Oak Hammock, with a peak of 35 Nov. 11 (RKo), while the traditional fall concentration at Patricia Beach, MB reached 44 birds, Oct. 17 (DBo, GG, PG). Five ad. Bald Eagles hunting near Seven Sisters Falls, MB in October

succeeded beyond their wildest dreams, stampeding a mixed flock of Snow and Canada geese into power lines, leaving 21 dead and many wounded (WHR).

Some surprisingly late Broad-winged Hawks were reported: five at Mt. Lorette Oct. 2–23 (PS) and one near Libau, MB Oct. 14 (MS). In early September, concentrations of up to 120 Swainson's Hawks roosted near Monarch, AB (VH) and near Medicine Hat, AB (DBa). Rare in the Rockies were lone Ferruginous Hawks in the Kananaskis Valley Sept. 22 (JS, PS) and at Mount Head Oct. 17 (BW). Rough-legged Hawks were spottily distributed; 32 remained at Oak Hammock Nov. 28 (RKo). Migrating Golden Eagles totalled 4587 at Mt. Lorette Sept. 16–Dec. 1, with counts exceeding 300 birds on Oct. 1, 13, and 17 (PS *et al.*) At other observation posts in the Alberta Rockies, 1728 were counted Sept.

26–Oct. 17 (*fide* PS); making generous allowance for repeat sightings, the passage evidently involved 5000+ birds. Gyrfalcons were noted in each province, with up to three at Oak Hammock Oct. 31–Nov. 28 (RKo); nine migrating Gyrfalcons at Mt. Lorette Oct. 16–Nov. 16 included three Nov. 1 (PS).

Two Soras near Birch Hills, SK Nov. 8–10 (BL) were exceptionally late. Counts of 600 Sandhill Cranes s. of Calgary Sept. 20 (DK) and 1000 s. of Lethbridge Sept. 22 (FRu) were unusual for s.w. Alberta. Shorebirds were hard to find in many areas, with water levels remaining high. Five Black-necked Stilts e. of Calgary Aug. 8 (MHa) may have been a family group. Noteworthy shorebird concentrations included 400 Am. Golden-Plovers near Winnipeg Oct. 16 (GH), 250 Semipalmated Plovers at Beaverhill L., Aug. 3 (RKI), and 177 Com. Snipe at Oak Hammock Sept. 25 (GG). Three Red Phalaropes were found in Alberta: one at Beaverhill L., Sept. 29 (PM, AH) and two at Mamaka L., Nov. 13–17 (AS, RW).

The only jaeger reported was a Parasitic at St. Paul, AB Sept. 23 (RKI). Lone first-year Little Gulls visited Seven Sisters Falls Aug. 7–8 (PT, WN *et al.*) and Reed L. near Morse, SK Sept. 30 (R&MZ). Up to three Thayer's Gulls were at Cold L., Oct. 10–Nov. 25 (RKI *et al.*), four were at Gardiner Dam Nov. 4 (PC), with three remaining on Nov. 11 (BL), and two visited Calgary Nov. 6 (TK). Glaucous Gulls were found in each province, with a grand total of ten first-winter birds Nov. 4–27. The only Sabine's Gulls were an adult and an immature s.e. of Calgary Sept. 9 (MHa, AS) and an adult at Beaverhill L., Sept. 26 (EML).

Snowy Owls appeared across the south in the first half of October, and remained widespread and fairly common. Many emaciated, imm. birds were turned in to rehabilitation centers; apparently there was a major



Male Black-throated Blue Warbler at Calgary, Alberta, October 22, 1993. Photograph/Terry Korolyk.

lemming crash in mid-summer following a heavy Snowy Owl hatch in n. Canada (*fide* PW). Five N. Hawk Owls were found in c. Alberta Oct. 14–Nov. 29 (m.ob., *fide* PS), and one was near the Qu'Appelle Valley n. of Regina Nov. 5–12 (WHa, JDu).

Excellent numbers of Com. Nighthawks migrated through s.e. Manitoba Aug. 23: 1300 were estimated at Delta (PG, VF) and 500+ between Beausejour and Pinawa (RKO, PT). A Pileated Woodpecker in grassland near Bindloss, AB was found damaging a new barn and captured by an irate farmer; he took it to Mike O'Shea, who later released it discreetly!

PASSERINES

A late Barn Swallow nest at Melita, MB contained three nearly-fledged young Sept. 30 (KDS). Over 250 Com. Ravens feasted on dead waterfowl at Oak Hammock in late November (RKO, KG). Eight Boreal Chickadees were out of place at Delta Sept. 25 (PG, MGi, DB), while several out-of-habitat sightings near Seven Sisters Falls Sept. 7–Oct. 16 (PT) indicated a migratory movement. There was a major regionwide irruption of Red-breasted Nuthatches, starting in August, with many birds still lingering at feeders in November.

A Winter Wren at Fort Qu'Appelle, SK Nov. 19 (RH) was both late and locally rare. A short open stretch of the Bow R. near Castle Junction, AB held 28 Am. Dippers Nov. 29 (MMI). Three Northern Wheatears visited Churchill, MB Sept. 16 (DH). Lone Townsend's Solitaires were found near Last Mountain L., Sept. 16 (PC) and in Saskatoon Nov. 10–17+ (FRo). The only Varied Thrushes reported were at Saskatoon Oct. 31 (CBI, *fide* MW), Gibbons, AB Nov. 10, and Edmonton Nov. 14 (*fide* PM). Single N. Mockingbirds were at Medicine Hat, AB Sept. 5 (MO) and Regina Beach, SK Oct. 25 (DG *et al.*). American Pipits were unusually numerous near Stonewall, MB with 674 counted Sept. 11–Oct. 18 and a peak of 388 Sept. 28–Oct. 1 (KG). Bohemian Waxwings were generally scarce, exceptions being large numbers at Lac La Biche, AB (RT) and 600 at Gimli, MB Nov. 20 (GH *et al.*).

A Chestnut-sided Warbler furnished a first local record at Lethbridge, AB Sept. 25 (RM). A Black-throated Blue Warbler was banded at Delta Sept. 19 (PG, MGi), but another Oct. 21–24 (KN, TK *et al.*) was pho-

tographed. Other highlights were a Townsend's Warbler at Luck L., SK Aug. 25 (MGo), a Pine Warbler at Calgary Sept. 21 (CHI), and a MacGillivray's Warbler at Regina Sept. 4 (CBj).

Single W. Tanagers visited Saskatoon (SS) and Regina (PHj) in August. Far-flung Northern Cardinals were found at Calgary Oct. 21–Nov. 15 (WD, m.ob.), Edmonton Nov. 21–30+ (L&OB, m.ob.) and Gillam, MB Oct. 22–27 (*fide* GH). A ♂ Black-headed Grosbeak was in Assiniboine P., Winnipeg Aug. 29 (GH, JA). Alberta's first confirmed Black-throated Sparrow was photographed at Jasper Aug. 30–31 by a visiting novice birder (GM); the image is minute but diagnostic. Two Golden-crowned Sparrows were reported at a Moose Jaw, SK feeder Oct. 19 (B&MD), while one in Calgary Sept. 21 (CHO) was the 3rd to visit the same backyard in three years.

Pine Grosbeaks were scarce outside the boreal forest. House Finch reports included family groups or small flocks at Winnipeg and Melita, MB, Weyburn and Regina, SK, and a record well n. at Melfort, SK (*fide* RKr). In contrast, only one House Finch was reported in Alberta, at Calgary Oct. 25–Nov. 30+ (R&JD). Common Redpolls were numerous in the mountains of Alberta and Edmonton, and in much of Manitoba, while Evening Grosbeaks were, yet again, very scarce outside the boreal forest.

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NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Ron Martin

The season was generally dry and mild in the Dakotas, with Montana experiencing normal to above-average precipitation. The only notable weather event occurred Thanksgiving week when heavy snows blanketed much of the Region, with up to two feet in some areas.

Many observers commented on the dismal passerine migration aided in part by a second consecutive cool, wet summer, with low reproductive success. There was indication of significant late nesting, especially in waterfowl and rails and to a lesser extent in passerines, as evidenced by very late broods in North Dakota and possibly by numerous late migrant warblers in South Dakota.

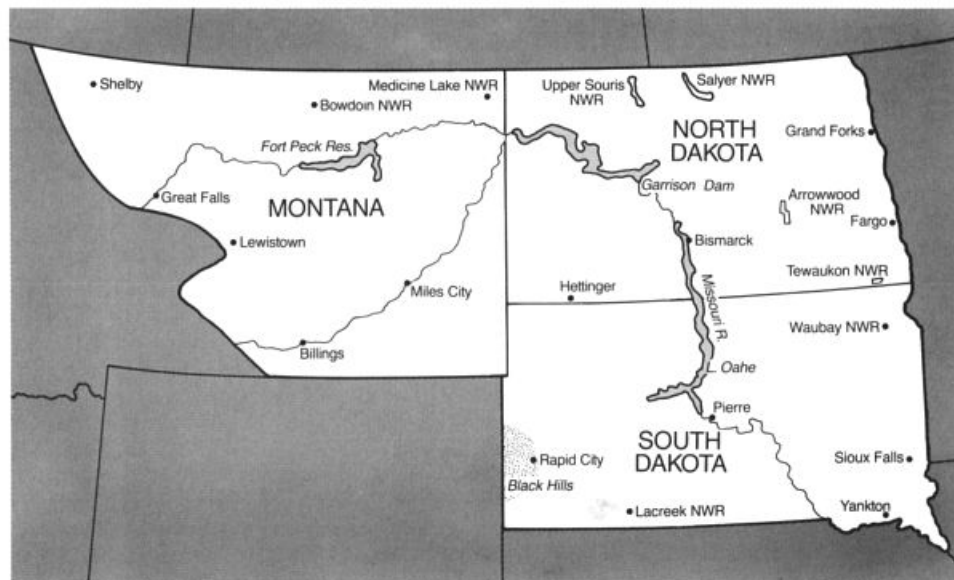
Seasonal highlights include an influx of Pacific Loons, a strong eruption of Red-breasted Nuthatches, the first record of Ancient Murrelet for South Dakota, and the first state nesting record of Black-necked Stilt for North Dakota.

LOONS TO WATERFOWL

Unprecedented were four Pacific Loons, with singles in Montana at Fork Peck Oct. 15–31 (CC) and Halfbreed N.W.R., Oct. 11 (BR, MW). Most unusual was a "flock" of two on L. Audubon, ND Oct. 24–30 (REM, GBB). These observations furnished the 4th and 5th Montana record and the 3rd for N. Dakota. Common Loons peaked at 52 on Bynum Res., MT Sept. 4 (JB). A W. Grebe was late in Kingsbury, S.D. Nov. 20 (JSP), as was a Clark's Oct. 10 in Ward, ND.

Waders made a good showing at Tewaukon N.W.R., ND Aug. 28 with 67 Great Egrets, three Snowy Egrets, and 96 Cattle Egrets. Four White-faced Ibis were present Sept. 4 (MO). Casual in South Dakota, a Tricolored Heron was in Day Aug. 4 (BKH).

Numerous late broods of dabbling ducks were noted in North Dakota in September and October with N. Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, and Gadwall leading the way. Gadwall peaked at 50,000 Oct. 17 in Benson, ND, 9000 at Benton L., MT Oct. 12, and 7000 in Clark, SD Oct. 21. A Eur. Wigeon at Benton L., Sept 17 was unusual in fall (RJ). Notable diving duck concentrations in North Dakota were 7000 Canvasbacks at Devil's L., Oct. 2 and 400 Ring-necked Ducks at Devil's L., Nov. 28, while two Greater Scaup were the earliest on record Oct. 2 at the same location. Scoters made an exceptional showing in the Dakotas with 11 Black Scoters in North Dakota Oct. 2–Nov. 6. Surf Scoters were early with six in Grand Forks Sept. 23 (DOL) and eight Sept. 29 in Roberts, SD (JS). The species peaked Oct. 11 in Grand Forks at ten. High counts of White-winged Scoters included six Oct. 31 on L. Audubon and



three Nov. 6 in *Deuel*, SD (MH). Barrow's Goldeneyes in e. Montana were at Medicine L., Oct 9 (RR) and Ft. Peck Oct. 25. Significant Hooded Merganser counts Nov. 4 were 593 at Waubay N.W.R., SD and 32 at Bowdoin, MT (DP).

EAGLES TO SHOREBIRDS

Bald Eagles were numerous in November in the Devil's L. area with a peak of 44 on the 21st (EF). A Cooper's Hawk at Benton L., Sept. 15 was the first sighting there since 1986 (RJJ). A Broad-winged Hawk at Chester, MT Sept. 7 was a first for Latilong 6 (HM), and another was late Oct. 8 in *Edmunds*, SD (MZ). A concentration of 150 Red-tailed Hawks was near Lostwood N.W.R., ND Oct. 9, and ten Golden Eagles crowded Medicine L., Oct. 17 (MR). A Gyrfalcon at Lostwood Oct. 7 tied the earliest North Dakota date (RKM). There were two other North Dakota sightings and five were observed in Montana.

S.A.

Current knowledge of Yellow Rails in North Dakota puts arrival at stable breeding areas by mid-May with calling birds becoming silent by late July. This year a very dry spring was followed by heavy rains in June and July, which created many acres of favorable habitat. First noticed on Aug. 13, numerous Yellow Rails were found calling in flat saline grasslands in *Grand Forks*, ND by David Lambeth. By the end of August they had been found in 30 different sections with perhaps as many as 100 calling birds present. Last heard Sept. 2, the favorable conditions remained into late October. What were these birds doing prior to the existence of this habitat? This phenomenon was noted in a previous year by Gordon Berkey in *Kidder* when calling birds were found in late July after large thunderstorms in areas where none were heard in June.



Two juvenile Pacific Loons on Lake Audubon, North Dakota, October 24, 1993. Since this was only the third state record, it was particularly surprising to find two together. Photograph/ Gordon B. Berkey.

A Yellow Rail flushed in *Ransom*, ND Aug. 15 provided a first county record (DW). A small, juv. black rail of unknown species ran across a road in *Nelson*, ND Oct. 24. A movement of 20,000 Sandhill Cranes passed Ft. Peck in one hour Oct. 20.

The first breeding confirmation for **Black-necked Stilt** in North Dakota was furnished in August when a male with one downy young was discovered at the Devil's L. sewage lagoons (BB, EA). Seven Whimbrels at Benton L., Aug. 20 were the first there in fall. Four Hudsonian Godwits in *Day* Aug. 4 furnished only the 2nd fall report for South Dakota. A Red Knot in *Grand Forks*, ND Oct. 16-19 was record late by 19 days (REM). In South Dakota one was in *Kingsbury* Sept. 11 (JSP). Buff-breasted Sandpipers made a good showing with 10-14 in late August at Grand Forks, Fargo, and Minot, ND. South Dakota fielded the peak of 22 in *Charles Mix* Aug. 14.

JAEGERS TO CROWS

Two jaegers at Freezeout L., MT Sept. 5 were identified as a light-morph Parasitic and a dark-morph Parasitic/Pomarine (MS). Notable at Garrison Dam, ND were the 7th record for *Iceland Gull* Nov. 13 and an early *Glaucous Gull* Nov. 7. A Sabine's Gull was at the Minot Sewage Lagoons Sept. 18 and two were there Sept. 24 (REM). Forster's Terns were late Oct. 2 at Devil's L., ND and *Kingsbury*, SD. The first record of **Ancient Mur-**

relet for South Dakota was furnished by an emaciated bird found during a snowstorm in *Edmunds* Nov. 13 (JDW)

A major incursion of Snowy Owls regionwide began with two in Grand Forks Oct. 11, and movement was still being noted at the end of the period. Rare and very late was a Rufous Hummingbird in *Codington*, SD Oct. 19-29 (RB). A brown, imm. sapsucker at Ft. Peck Sept. 23 may have been a Yellow-bellied, but Carlson was not able to study the bird at length. The status of this species in Montana is unclear. A Pileated Woodpecker in *Rolette*, ND Nov. 26 was far w., but there are two previous records in the county (HK).

Two Cassin's Kingbirds in the Bull Mts. n. of Billings Aug. 10 were

at the n. edge of the species' range. Very few young W. Kingbirds were seen in North Dakota, but E. Kingbirds appeared to have reproduced reasonably well. Record high for North Dakota were 7300 Tree Swallows Aug. 27 in *Grand Forks* (EF). Two Clark's Nutcrackers in *Slope*, ND Nov. 15 furnished about the 19th record (JS). More than triple the previous high were 25,000 Am. Crows in *Ward*, ND Sept. 25 (RHD).

NUTHATCHES TO WARBLERS

Red-breasted Nuthatches staged a major invasion with many remaining into the winter season. A peak of 80 was recorded Sept. 19 at Denbigh Experimental Forest, *McHenry*, ND. About the 20th record for Carolina Wren was furnished by an individual Aug. 10 in *Clay*, SD (EL, KD). Latest ever for North Dakota were a Sedge Wren at Minot Nov. 14 and a Marsh Wren Nov. 21 at Garrison Dam (GBB). Recently fledged Marsh Wrens were at Minot on the late date of Sept. 11. Thrush migration seemed to be almost nonexistent, with Swainson's Thrush numbers particularly gruesome.

A few scattered flocks of Bohemian Waxwings were mostly on the n. edge of the region. The only South Dakota observation was of two in *Day* Nov. 29. A late Red-eyed Vireo was banded Oct. 22 in *Brown*, SD.

Eastern warblers in Montana included a Magnolia near Halfbreed N.W.R., Sept. 10 (BR), two Cape Mays at Chester Aug. 30 and Sept. 6 (HM, MK), two Palms at Chester Sept. 14 & Oct. 30, and single Canadas at Ft. Peck Aug. 20 and near Chester Aug. 30. Less than 20 records exist for each of these species. Warbler migration in North Dakota was generally early, with low numbers. The few highlights were a Black-throated Blue Sept. 26 at Hope (DLK), a late Black-and-white Oct. 7 in Grand Forks, a late Mourning Oct. 2 in Fargo (CAS), and a MacGillivray's at Minot Aug. 21, furnishing about the 16th state record (GBB). Numerous late warblers in South Dakota included a Nashville Nov. 7 in *Minnehaha* (JL), Cape



Juvenile Black-necked Stilt at Devils Lake, North Dakota, on August 10, 1993. This represented the first confirmation of breeding in the state. Photograph/Eldon Anderson.

May in *Day* Oct. 15 (DRS), Black-throated Blue in *Brown* Oct. 30 (DAT), Blackpoll Oct. 13 in *Day*, and a Connecticut Oct. 17 in *Minnehaha*. A MacGillivray's banded in *Brown* Sept. 16 was well to the e. (DAT).

GROSBEAKS TO FINCHES

A Blue Grosbeak at a New Town feeder Sept. 17 provided the 18th record for North Dakota (BCH). Three Indigo Buntings at Devil's L., Oct. 2 were late, as was a recently fledged Rufous-sided Towhee at Sawyer, ND Sept. 17. Sparrows followed the passerine trend with low peaks and early departure for many species. Rare in Montana, two Swamp Sparrows were at Rattlesnake L., Oct. 6 and a single was there Oct. 24. Late Swamp Sparrows were at Minot Nov. 14 and in Brookings, SD Nov. 20 (JSP). Snow Buntings were early Oct. 2 in *Grand Forks* and Oct. 15 in *Brown*, SD.

Purple Finches were widespread in North Dakota and n.c. South Dakota and two reports came from Montana. A few scattered reports of both crossbill species were received with small flocks the norm. Hoary Redpolls were early at Ft. Peck Nov. 4 and in *Grand Forks* Nov. 10. With perhaps 5 or 6 previous records, a Lesser Goldfinch was a good find in *Fall River*, SD Aug. 18 (JSP). After several years with almost no Evening Grosbeaks a small movement in e. North Dakota was welcome. Eleven reports were tallied with a peak of 20 near Manvel Nov. 14 (BL). Twelve Evening Grosbeaks at Wind Cave N.P., Aug. 5 could indicate some breeding in the Black Hills this past summer (GBB).

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SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Joseph A. Grzybowski

The fall period could probably be characterized as generally uneventful, though there were a few highlights. Waterfowl did not make much of a showing in Kansas or Oklahoma until the end of the period. Flooding laid waste many grain fields in eastern Nebraska and Kansas, leaving less "waste" for waterfowl.

However, the rains and flooding may have helped a number of ardeids including the American Bittern, and also other marsh and waterbirds farther west in the Region, to continue with what may be the collective progeny of several generally wetter seasons. Cattle Egrets were the most visible of species benefiting from flooding conditions. Other species such as Double-crested Cormorants and Pied-billed Grebes may also have profited from late season nestings fostered by the availability of water in northwestern Nebraska.

Perhaps the event of the season was the virtual explosion of Red-breasted Nut-hatches. They were everywhere, inspiring feeder watchers to contribute substantial amounts to the gross national product just to have these cute little denizens in their backyards. The story of from whence they came, or where they will go, hopefully will develop from syntheses and analyses of data across regions in this issue and other issues to come. Certainly a co-inhabitant in many areas, Pine Siskins contrastingly continued their population slump of the last several years, perhaps being joined by the goldfinches this year, though another cardueline cousin, the Purple Finches, may have shown a slight upsurge.

Warbler and sparrow birding also seemed slow, though there were a fair number of reports of the rarer species such as a Palm Warblers and Sharp-tailed Sparrows. LeConte's Sparrows also seemed to track positively last year's good numbers with birds found easily in appropriate habitats in Kansas and Oklahoma.

Abbreviations—Cheyenne Bottoms (*Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Barton Co., KS*); Hefner (*Lake Hefner, Oklahoma Co., OK*); Quivira (*Quivira N.W.R., Stafford Co., KS*).

LOONS TO WATERFOWL

Common Loons were generally scarce this fall in most areas of the Region. Nonetheless, a few "zooty" loons were distinguished. Although there are 17 sight records of Red-throated Loon for Nebraska, the immature photographed Nov. 19 in *Douglas* (BJR) was the first of this open reservoir species documented since 1899 (*fide BP*). Considered exceptional 10 years ago, the two Pacific Loons noted in *Noble*, OK Nov. 15 (JA) were the only ones this season after the flurry of recent-year reports.

More than the normal number of W.

Grebes was spotted outside breeding areas with reports this season from 3 locations in e. Nebraska (*fide BP*), 4 in e. Kansas (*fide LM*), and 2 in Oklahoma. On Sept. 5 a pair of W. Grebes, one with one-two young on its back, was observed at Cheyenne Bottoms, the first confirmed nesting for Kansas (DRE *et al.*). Clark's Grebes were reported in *Lincoln*, NE Sept. 3 (RCR, DJR), and *Jefferson*, KS Nov. 17 (MM, GP).

A high count of 10,000 Am. White Pelicans Sept. 12 in *Pawnee*, OK (PS, JL) was a positive note. Four lingered in *Lincoln*, NE until Nov. 19 (RCR). Occurring almost as frequently as summer vagrant herons in recent years, Brown Pelicans were reported in *Marion*, KS Sept. 6–16 (NW, m.ob.), and *Marshall*, OK Sept. 18 (JWe). A Neotropic Cormorant documented Sept. 4 from *Cherry*, NE (PK *et al.*) is only the 2nd the record for Nebraska (*fide BP*). Another was noted Sept. 6 at Cheyenne Bottoms (SC, RP), and a third was observed in *Bryan*, OK Aug. 3 (JWe).

Healthy numbers of Am. Bitterns were reported this fall from all states. Among herons and egrets traipsing afield N of most of their cohorts were five Great Egrets in *Phelps*, NE Aug. 29 (RH, LR), at least one adult and one imm. Little Blue Heron Aug. 20–28 in *Sarpy*, NE (JJ *et al.*), and two imm. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in *Phelps*, NE Aug. 28 (BP *et al.*). The numbers of ardeids at Quivira was again at high levels this summer and fall, with a number lingering late in the season. Most exceptional of these were an Am. Bittern to Nov. 26 (SS *et al.*); Least Bittern to Oct. 17 (MR); Great Egret Nov. 16 (SS); Snowy Egret Nov. 8 (PJ); Yellow-crowned Night-Heron until Nov. 16 (SS); and White-faced Ibis until Nov. 13 (SS). Other tardy "long-legs" in the Region included a Cattle Egret Nov. 20 in *Pawnee*, OK (PS, JL), and an imm. *Plegadis* sp. ibis in *Pottawatomie*, OK Nov. 12 (JAG). The rare Tricolored Heron was observed in *Bryan*, OK Sept. 7–8 (JWe), and at Cheyenne Bottoms on a late date of Oct. 2 (RR). An imm. White Ibis wandered to *Linn*, KS Aug. 8 (JG, NJ). The seven Wood Storks that appeared in *Johnston*, OK Aug. 8 (JWe) were fewer than some of the groups recently observed.

Scattered Tundra Swan reports occurred from Nov. 16 (two at Quivira; SS) onward. Trumpeter Swans continue to appear, products of reintroductions farther n. Four were noted at *Garden*, NE Nov. 23 (LMA). Patterns



This Red-throated Loon at Omaha on November 19, 1993, was the first one fully documented for Nebraska since 1899. Photograph/B. J. Rose.

of appearance indicate S movement to *Harvey*, KS Nov. 20 (RD), and *Osage*, OK Nov. 30 (DRe). An impressive 420,000 Snow Geese were noted in *Washington*, NE Nov. 11; four Ross' Geese, now regular in the Region, were also noted (BP, LP).

A few Mottled Ducks persisted at Quivira with two noted Aug. 14–Sept. 24 (SS, m.ob.). The only Am. Black Ducks reported were of one–two birds Nov. 20–21 in *Jefferson*, KS (MM, GP, LM), and one Nov. 29–30 in *Sarpy*, NE (BJR).

Three Ring-necked Ducks in *Morton*, KS Sept. 25 were early (MR, SS) as was a Lesser Scaup Sept. 2 in *Garden*, NE (RCR). Greater Scaup were reported from *Tulsa* Nov. 7 (PS, JCH, JL) and Nov. 20 (JL *et al.*), with a high count of 22 coming from *Keith*, NE Nov. 19 (RCR).



Little Gull in juvenile/first-winter plumage (with two Franklin's Gulls of similar age) in Bryan County, Oklahoma, September 19, 1993. Although Little Gull records have been increasing on the southern plains, this was the first Oklahoma record of an immature. Photograph/Michael Patterson.

Among the odd "sea ducks" were Oldsquaw Nov. 7 in *Russell*, KS (MR) and *Jefferson*, KS (BF, MM), and one Nov. 20 in *Tulsa* (JL *et al.*). Three Black Scoters were found in *Sarpy*, NE Nov. 18 (BJR). Single Surf Scoters appeared Oct. 17–24 in *Comanche*, OK (JAG, m.ob.) and Nov. 22–25 in *Lincoln*, NE (BJR, DS). Six Red-breasted Mergansers Oct. 30 in *Tulsa* (JL) were early.

RAPTORS TO TERNS

An Osprey Nov. 20–21 in *Omaha*, NE was tardy (BP, LP, TB). Mississippi Kites in *Shawnee*, KS Aug. 1–2 (JB) threaded outside the n. limits of their normal range. Fourteen reports of Merlin were received for Nebraska (*fide* BP), 6 from Kansas (*fide* LM) and 3 from Oklahoma. Fourteen Peregrine Falcon were observed Sept. 4–Oct. 31 (*fide* BP, LM).

A Yellow Rail Sept 27 in *Dodge*, NE (DP, JP) was one of the likely but almost never detected occurrences for the region. Sandhill Cranes peaked at 100,000+ during late October at Quivira (PJ) and early November (*fide* LM). Among them were up to 19 Whooping Cranes (Oct. 24). Two more were discovered in *Kearney*, NE Oct. 11–28 (RH, LR).

Perhaps a favor of the recent wet years were the 100 Black-necked Stilts at Quivira Sept. 6 (LM, GP). One–two migrant Piping Plovers were noted Sept. 8–10 at Hefner (JGN). An estimated 150–200 Mt. Plovers were observed in *Morton*, KS Sept. 17 (L&RS) with 122 counted Oct. 24 in *Kearney*, KS (T&SS). A Solitary Sandpiper Oct. 26 in *Tulsa* (AR *et al.*), and a Willet Oct. 16 at Quivira were very late (SS).

Although the Rosches saw few Upland Sandpipers this season, thousands were noted in w. Kansas with up to five/acre near *Pawnee* Aug. 17 (SS). The 25–30 Marbled Godwits at Quivira Aug. 7–8 (SS) was an exceptional number for fall with one lingering to Oct. 17 (MR).

Among the rarer shorebirds, Red Knots were observed Aug. 21 & Sept. 17 (one) at Quivira (SS *et al.*), peaking with four on Sept. 2 (*fide* LM). One was also observed in *Seward*, KS Sept. 2 (SP). Only small numbers of Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported for the fall period. The highest counts came from *Tulsa* (1–60 were reported Aug 2–Sept. 6), and *Wagoner*, OK where 40+ were noted Aug. 21 (JH, DVa, JM).

Several Red-necked Phalaropes were observed Aug. 21–Sept 26; the high count was nine noted Sept. 3 in *Lincoln*, NE (RCR,



A mystery bird was this small white gull, likely an albinistic individual, with Ring-billed Gulls at Lake Hefner, Oklahoma, August 24, 1993. Photograph/Mitchell Oliphant.

DJR). Most unusual for date, location, and plumage was a report of a ♀ Red Phalarope in breeding plumage Aug. 1 in *Phelps*, NE (RH, LR); an apparent immature was observed Aug. 26 & Sept. 12 in *Kearney*, NE (JJ).

Laughing Gulls Aug. 3–21 (JD *et al.*), and Nov. 12 (JA) in *Tulsa*, Aug. 3–9 in *Bryan*, OK (JWe), Sept. 18 in *Marshall*, OK (JWe), were, almost surprisingly, the only ones reported for the season. The observations of four juv. Franklin's Gulls being fed by adults Aug. 2 at Cheyenne Bottoms (*fide* DR) and that of adults carrying nesting material earlier in the season implicates potential breeding for Kansas.

Observations of Little Gulls are increasing in the Region. An imm. Little Gull was photographed in *Bryan*, OK Sept. 18–19 (JWe, MP), while adults were seen Oct. 14 in *Miami*, KS (LM), and Nov. 26 in

Cherokee, OK (JN). Perhaps the most peculiar gull of the season was one unidentified small, white-plumaged bird at Hefner Aug. 24 (MO).

A California Gull Nov. 21–23 in *Douglas*, NE was e. of most records for the Region (JT *et al.*). About 50 were observed in *Keith*, NE Sept. 3 (RCR, DJR). At least five first-winter



Phainopepla at Garden City, Kansas, September 8, 1993. First documented state record. Photograph/Sara Shane.

Thayer's Gulls were identified in Kansas and one in Nebraska, the earliest Oct. 10 in *Jefferson*, KS (LM). The only Glaucous Gull reported for the season appeared Nov. 22 in *Gosper*, NE (JJ). Immature Sabine's Gulls were observed Sept. 18–23 in *Morton*, KS (MR, m.ob.), and Oct. 23–26 (two) in *Sequoyah*, OK (KM).

The high count of Com. Terns was seven Sept. 18 in *Bryan*, OK (JWe). Tardy were two Forster's Terns Nov. 30 in *Creek*, OK (JA). Surprising was a documented report of an Arctic Tern Sept. 3–4 & 16 at 2 locations on L. Texoma, *Bryan* and *Marshall*, OK (JWe, VJ). This potential first record for the Region will undergo review by the Oklahoma Bird Records Committee.

DOVES TO SWALLOWS

Reports of extralimital doves keep rolling in. A record of two White-winged Doves at a sunflower seed processing plant during

September in *Thomas*, KS is under review by the Kansas Bird Records Committee. Inca Doves have persisted in some areas with one Aug. 8 (DK, JNo), another Aug. 19 in *Reno*, KS (DK, JNo), and one in *Seward*, KS Oct. 16–21 (LE). Birds continue to be observed in *Finney*, KS (*fide* LM), and one appeared in *Choctaw*, OK Nov. 8–9 (JWe).

The makings for a weak incursion of Snowy Owls produced birds at Quivira Nov. 4–7 (JR, m.ob.); *Ravena*, NE Nov. 11 (injured; RH, LR); *Kearney*, NE Nov. 13 (RH, LR); *Geary*, KS Nov. 15 (CO); and *Jefferson*, KS Nov. 27 (J&EZ).

Common Nighthawks appeared to pass through a little later than normal in Oklahoma, being most common at the end of September, rather than from the beginning. The 700 Oct. 6 (JA) and three Nov. 14 in *Tulsa* (DI) may reflect this impression. Migrant Com. Poorwills in *Sedgwick*, KS Oct. 2 (PJ, JNo, NC) and *Tulsa* Oct. 24 (JA) were minor surprises, as was a Whip-poor-will Sept. 26 in *Tulsa* (JA).

S.A.

An interesting set of ethics is being generated by hummingbird enthusiasts. An ad. ♀ *Costa's Hummingbird* coming to a feeder in *Douglas*, KS during early November was captured in a weakened condition Nov. 9 (*fide* LM). The bird was rehabilitated by Jan Hall, then taken to the Desert Museum in Arizona and released in late November. This *Costa's* represented only the 2nd record for Kansas. Less fortunate was a *Rufous Hummingbird* reported in *Sedgwick*, KS September–November. To help it survive, it was captured during a cold snap and taken to the local zoo, where it then went unattended and died (*fide* PJ). Other *Selasphorus* hummingbirds were singles in *Muskogee*, OK from late October through the period (JBe); *Craig*, OK from Oct. 1 (CS); an imm. ♀ *Rufous banded* Nov. 5 in *Delaware*, OK (EW); and an ad. ♀ *Rufous* seen and banded Nov. 6–Dec. 10 in *Tulsa*, OK (G&MS, EW).

An imm. ♂ *Broad-tailed Hummingbird* was seen Sept. 1 in *Dawes*, NE (RCR, DJR). A *Black-chinned Hummingbird* remained until Sept. 18 in *Cimarron*, OK (TT); one in *Stephens*, OK Nov. 5+ (KB) was clearly sedentary. An *Archilochus* sp. Oct. 26 in *McClain* (PB) was also tardy. The *Red-naped Sapsucker* Oct. 1 in *Cimarron*, OK (MO) was one of yet few for the Region.

Hammond's, Dusky, and Cordilleran flycatchers were reported along with a few *W. Wood-Pewees* in *Morton*, KS late August–early September. Three *Cassin's Kingbirds* in *Dawes*, NE Sept. 24 (DJR) were tardy. Although regular, the 3000 *Bank Swallows* at *Cheyenne Bottoms* Aug. 21 (SS, MR) were unexpected. The 21 *Barn Swallows* Oct. 31 in *Tulsa* (JA) were late, as were two in *Wagoner*,

OK Nov. 9 (JM). Also exceptional for the date were a count of 500 *Purple Martins* Sept. 18 in *Tulsa* (TM *et al.*).

JAYS TO VIREOS

A *Black-billed Magpie* in *Dickinson*, KS was e. of its normal range (DK). Wandering outside its range was a *Bushtit* Sept. 5 in *Morton*, KS (SC, RP). Everyone found *Red-breasted Nuthatches*; among the earliest were ones Aug. 26 in *Omaha*, NE (JT) and one Sept. 5 in *Wagoner*, OK (CJ).

Rock Wrens in *Geary*, KS Oct. 14 (CO) and *Miami*, KS Oct. 31 (LM, GP) were certainly extralimital dispersers. *Sedge Wrens* collecting nesting material in *Sarpy*, NE Aug. 14 (B&GC) seemed abnormally usual. *Mountain Bluebirds* made it into the c. of the region beginning with four in *Butler*, KS Oct. 23 (PSc). *Sage and Curve-billed thrashers* Sept. 25 in *Morton*, KS (SS, MR) were unusual, as was a 2nd *Curve-billed* in *Finney*, KS Oct. 24 (T&SS).

A splash of serendipity was the first documented *Phainopepla* for Kansas, photographed Sept. 8–9 in *Finney*, KS (B&LR). Early was a *Sprague's Pipit* Sept. 20 in *Rush*, KS (SS). Only a few *N. Shrikes* appeared at the end of the season, the earliest being Oct. 31 in *Douglas*, NE (BJR).

A *Pacific Coast* race of the *Solitary Vireo* observed Oct. 6 in *Morton*, KS (SP, MM, GP) was well-described (*fide* LM). Several previous specimens for the Region from *Morton*, KS and *Cimarron*, OK predate 1960. Several of the e. form were noted in early November, the latest Nov. 9 in *Cleveland*, OK (NK).

WARBLERS TO FINCHES

A "hot" warbler in the spring, and even hotter in the fall, was a *Golden-winged Warbler* Sept. 29–30 in *Sedgwick*, KS (ST *et al.*). An "Audubon's" Warbler was noted e. in *Wyandotte*, KS Nov. 23 (LM). Other observations of w. warblers rare in the Region were a *Black-throated Gray* Sept. 18 (MR); one–two *Townsend's Warblers* Sept. 4–18 (SP, MR); and *MacGillivray's* Sept. 5 (SC, RP) & 18 (MR), all in *Morton*, KS. A *Townsend's* was also observed Sept. 18 in *Cimarron*, OK (JS). Several extralimital *Pine Warblers* appeared in n.e. Kansas during September (*fide* LM), with others w. to *Morton*, KS, Sept. 18 (MR) and *Sedgwick*, KS Oct. 2 (PJ). Eastern warblers in the w. edge of the Region included an *Ovenbird* and *Blackburnian Warbler* Sept. 5 (MT), and *Palm* and *Magnolia Warblers* Sept. 18, all in *Morton*, KS (MT). An *Am. Redstart* was spotted Sept. 18 in *Cimarron*, OK (JDT *et al.*).

Rare in fall was a *Magnolia Warbler* Sept. 26 in *Tulsa* (JA). More than the usual number of *Palm Warblers* for the fall season were reported, including singles Oct. 2 & 4 and three Oct. 7 in *Sedgwick*, KS (PJ, m.ob.), and three Oct. 10 in *Tulsa* (PS, JL). A nice find was a *Worm-eating Warbler* Sept. 9 in *Douglas*, KS (MW). Rarely reported in the fall, a *Hooded Warbler* Sept. 28 in *McCurain*, OK (BH) was the latest of two noted there.

Tardy was a ♀ *Summer Tanager* coming to

a feeder in *Sarpy*, NE Nov. 20–30 (KR). *Western Tanagers* were found in *Finney*, KS Sept. 8 (B&LR) and *Morton*, KS Sept. 18 (SS). Rarely seen in Kansas, four *Green-tailed Towhees* located in *Morton* Sept. 23 (SS, MR) were unusual.

An imm. *Chipping Sparrow* remained in *Dawes*, NE until Nov. 28 (RCR, DJR). Two *Brewer's Sparrows* Sept. 26 in *Morton*, KS (SS, MR) were among few fall records for Kansas. Quite tardy was a *Grasshopper Sparrow* Nov. 30 in *Muskogee*, OK (JN). A *Henslow's Sparrow* Nov. 1 in *Barton*, KS (SS, MR) was possibly the westernmost and latest reported for Kansas. The *Sharp-tailed Sparrow* Oct. 17 at *Quivira* (MR) was both rare and w. of most occurrences. Single *Sharp-taileds* were also found Sept. 30 (PS, JL) & Oct. 17–18 in *Tulsa* (PS *et al.*). Of suspicious status were five *Swamp Sparrows* Aug. 15 in *Phelps*, NE (RH, LR). A *Swamp Sparrow* Oct. 2 in *Tulsa* (JW) was slightly early.

All four *Longspurs* made early appearances with single *Laplands* Oct. 12 in *Russell*, KS (MR) and *Pawnee*, KS (SS); 30 *Smith's* Oct. 30 in *Osage*, KS (LM, MM); 30 *Chestnut-collareds* Sept. 25 in *Morton*, KS (SS, MR) and about 400 *McCown's* Oct. 24 in *Jackson*, OK (JAG, DV). The only *Snow Bunting* reported was one Nov. 26 in *Pierce*, NE (MB).

Ten *Great-tailed Grackles* Aug. 8 in *Phelps* (RH, LR) were a likely part of the recent range expansion. Unusual was a *Lesser Goldfinch* Sept. 19 in *Morton*, KS (DK, JNo).

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TEXAS REGION

Greg W. Lasley and Chuck Sexton

The horrific summer drought in central Texas was technically broken by a light rain August 31–September 1, but much of the state remained “droughty” through most of the fall. A wet front pushed through September 15, but moisture from it was spotty. The upper Texas coast went without measurable rain for four months until mid-October. An early freeze, in many areas the earliest on record, hit as far south as Corpus Christi October 30–November 1. This same Halloween storm brought an inch of snow to the Davis Mountains, some of that area’s only significant precipitation for the season. A Thanksgiving weekend hard freeze that reached the coast was accompanied by an ice storm in north Texas.

The season was one of the most interesting ever in the Trans-Pecos; Zimmer remarked that “rarities seemed to be around every corner.” The drought conditions were blamed for a dull shorebird migration in much of central and eastern Texas but sizable concentrations of some species on the coast and in extreme west Texas suggested that the shorebirds either a) piled up on the coast after finding no suitable habitat in the interior, or b) skirted to the west for unknown reasons. Neotropical migrant passerines were sparse enough in the Coastal Bend to worry Charlie Clark who has birded the area systematically for years. There were hints of a widespread but modest influx of western species into east and south Texas matched by westward movements of eastern vireos, warblers, and other species.

Abbreviations: Ft. Bliss (*Fort Bliss sewage ponds, El Paso*); (*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*); T.C.W.C. (*Texas Co-operative Wildlife Collection, Texas A & M University*); U.T.C. (*Upper Texas Coast*); V.C.D.B. (*Village Creek Drying Beds, Ft. Worth*). The following are shortened names for the respective county, state, or national parks, wildlife refuges, etc.: Anahuac, Aransas, Attwater, Bazemore, Bentsen, Big Bend, Hagerman, Kickapoo, Laguna Atascosa, and Santa Ana.

LOONS TO STORKS

A Red-throated Loon was at L. Balmorhea, Reeves Nov. 26–28 (†KB, GDL, ph. GL), while single Pacific Loons were at San Antonio’s Braunig L., Nov. 6 (†WS), and on L. O’ The Pines, Marion Nov. 13–14 (†GLu, D&LBro). A concentration of 88 Com. Loons at Rockport Oct. 30 (CC) was notable. The loon of the season, however, was an imm. Yellow-billed Loon discovered on L. Balmorhea Nov. 25 (†MP, JWS, GK), the first for the Trans-Pecos and the third for Texas. The bird remained on the lake delighting numerous observers until Dec. 10 when it was found dead (R&NA, * to T.C.W.C.). A very rare Red-necked Grebe allowed close approach at L. Tawakoni, Van Zandt Nov. 28, providing the first report for n.c. Texas in many years (†RR, RK). Western Grebes were more common than normal across much of Texas; in the Trans-Pecos the species was especially notable with one at Ft. Hancock on the very early date of Aug. 2 (BZ, DTh), one at Ft. Bliss Sept. 26 (BZ), up to five at that same location Nov. 17–19, and at least 20 at L. Balmorhea Nov. 25+ (m.ob.). One–two W. Grebes, very rare in n.e. Texas, were on L. O’ The Pines Nov. 14–20 (DBro, m.ob.) while

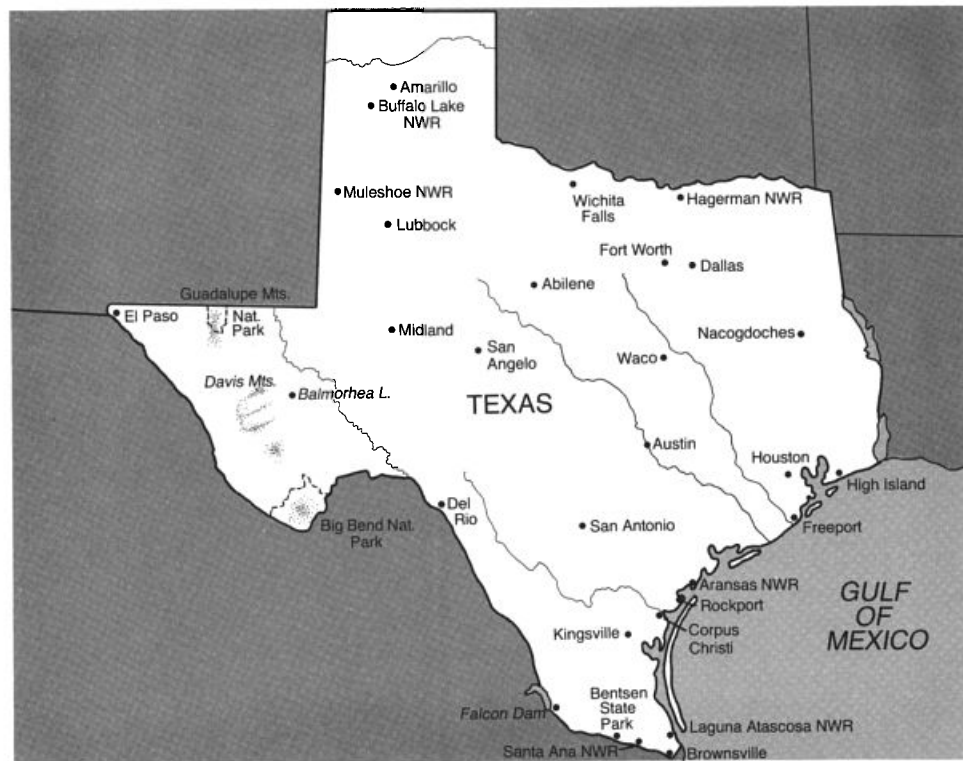
another at L. Grapevine, Denton Oct. 31 (EW) provided a rare record for that area. Clark’s Grebes also put on a good showing in the Trans-Pecos area with at least two on L. Balmorhea Oct. 6 through the period (GDL, m.ob.), up to five at Ft. Hancock Nov. 20–30 (DE, BN, BZ), and a lone bird at Ft. Bliss Nov. 27 (BN, DE). Eleven Audubon’s Shearwaters 60–70 mi off Port Mansfield, Willacy, Aug. 7 (RC) and five more Aug. 15 (RC, †DB) were of great interest. Two Sooty Shearwaters found on the Port Aransas beach, one each June 11 & Oct. 10 (TA, both * to T.C.W.C.), will represent the 8th and 9th accepted Texas records. A few Band-rumped Storm-Petrels, very rare in Texas, were reported without documentation Aug. 7 & 15 off Port Mansfield.

A Blue-footed Booby remained at Lake Lyndon B. Johnson, Burnett/Llano all period. The 2nd Texas record, it first showed up June 2, but was not known to local observers until late August. The bird survived a few freezing nights in October and November; it will be of interest to see if it can survive the winter.

Hawk-watchers tallied 2013 Anhingas migrating over Corpus Christi’s Hazel Bazemore P., Sept. 20–28 (*fide* GS). An Am. Bittern in the surf near Boca Chica Sept. 18 (JI) was certainly an unexpected sight. Highlights included a Snowy Egret in Amarillo Sept. 4 (RS), Little Blue Heron in Lubbock Aug. 2 (PK), as well as single Tricolored Herons at Hagerman Aug. 15 (RR), Dallas Aug. 24 (BGi) and Oct. 24–28 (PB, RR), and Cedar Creek Res., Sept. 19 (PS). A Reddish Egret at L. O’ The Pines Oct. 9 (DBro, m.ob.) was the most far-flung of several inland reports. The only Glossy Ibis of the season was reported at Anahuac Nov. 25 (†J&JW) while a very late Panhandle record was provided by a White-faced Ibis at Buffalo L., Nov. 21 (KS). A flock of 45 Wood Storks in Dallas Sept. 23 (EW, JP) was a large number for that locality.

WATERFOWL

Mixed geese and ducks at Laguna Larga, Kleberg, numbered as many as 200,000 Nov. 18, a spectacular concentration (PP, AW). An imm. swan showing many characteristics of a Trumpeter arrived at El Paso’s Feather L., Nov. 28 (HJ, m.ob.). Unexpected Wood Duck records included one at Laguna Atascosa Oct. 31 (*fide* TP) and another at Hueco Tanks, El Paso the same date (DE, BN). For the 2nd year in a row, Mottled Ducks appeared farther n. than normal in Delta during October (MWh); continued observations by N.E.T.F.O. show Mottled Ducks resident in small numbers at several locations near the n.e. corner of the state. The first fully accepted record of Eur. Wigeon in n.c. Texas (and the 15th accepted record for the state) was provided by a male at S.S.W.T.P., Oct. 24–29 (†EW, m.ob.). Three Greater Scaup



on Greenbelt L., *Donley* Nov. 27 (JO, SP, AS) provided a rare Panhandle record while it was reported more numerous than normal in n.c. Texas as well (CH). An Oldsquaw at Hagerman Nov. 7 (KH) provided a first record for that area in several years. A **Barrow's Goldeneye** was well-described from L. O' The Pines Nov. 19–21 (†SG, J&EM *et al.*). If accepted, this record would represent only the 4th for Texas. Red-breasted Merganser was seen twice there; one was at Ft. Bliss Nov. 15 (BZ) and two were at Ft. Hancock Nov. 18–20 (BZ, DE, BN). Masked Ducks continued to be reported in coastal and s. Texas, their distribution pattern is complicated by dispersal of young and adults and the possibility of immigrants. At least one pair nested successfully at a private *San Patricio* location; a female with five young was observed Aug. 21 (*fide* TBL). Several Masked Ducks were reported without documentation in the Riviera area during the period and one–five were seen and photographed Sept. 17–Nov. 30 at a roadside pond near Norias, *Kenedy*. These records may represent several different locations, but lack of documentation for many reports has caused confusion.

RAPTORS

Hook-billed Kites were reported by m.ob. from regular L.R.G.V. locations from Falcon Dam to Santa Ana. Ten Am. Swallow-tailed Kites exceeded the normal fall quota, including five on various dates at Smith Point, *Chambers*, and a very late bird Oct. 29 in Brownsville. A White-tailed Kite near Milford Oct. 31 was a rare find for *Ellis* (GB), as was another that returned to the Vernon area in n.c. Texas Nov. 27 (DMc). Mississippi Kites were unusually abundant in the Coastal Bend and in s. Texas July 31–Sept. 23. High daily counts during the peak Aug. 26–Sept. 4 ranged 2000–45006 at Bazemore and Falfurrias (JE, AO). A Mississippi Kite in El Paso Sept. 30 (BZ) and another in Lubbock Oct. 18–19 (JC) provided very late local records. An imm. Bald Eagle at L. Tanglewood, *Randall* Sept. 12 (TLJ) was very early for the Panhandle. A single-day total of 75 Sharp-shinned Hawks at L. Tawakoni Oct. 3 (RK, GH, JN) was a significant number for that inland locality. A Com. Black-Hawk in the Davis Mountains Oct. 6 was very late (GDL). Panhandle records of Harris' Hawks are extremely rare; three in Lubbock Nov. 6 (SM) and another Nov. 17 (BR) were unexpected; however, most remarkable was a single bird in *Castro* Oct. 11



Yellow-billed Loon at Lake Balmorhea, Texas, on November 27, 1993. Third state record. The pale feather-edges characteristic of first-winter loons can be seen clearly in this portrait. Photograph/ Greg W. Lasley.

(CDL), only the 3rd for that area since mid-century (*fide* KS). Gray Hawks were seen regularly at their usual L.R.G.V. haunts, a bit more frequently this season than usual. The total number of Broad-winged Hawks for the season at Bazemore was a disappointing 156,290 (JE). O'Neil's highest one-day count at Falfurrias was also unusually low: 2000+ Sept. 30. Single unseasonable Swainson's Hawks were at Riviera Nov. 30 and Kingsville Dec. 2 (PP). Single Zone-tailed Hawks in *Kleberg* Nov. 13 (RWi) & Nov. 23 (A&HR) added a new species for that county. Another Zone-tailed in San Antonio Aug. 28 was the first there in many years (S.A.A.S.); yet another in w. *Travis* Sept. 27 was very unexpected (GB). Fort Bliss hosted two rare hawks in November: a Rough-legged Nov. 18 (2nd *El Paso* record, BZ), and a "Harlan's" Nov. 16–30 (BJ *et al.*). An unbanded Aplomado Falcon was observed in company with two banded birds at Laguna Atascosa Nov. 9 (*fide* TP). It may have been an immigrant from Mexico or, conceivably, offspring of previously-released birds. We are seeing a gradual increase in reports of "early" Peregrine Falcons in July and August almost statewide. As Peregrine populations continue to recover this may become routine. Rare so far e. was a Prairie Falcon near Sadler, *Grayson*, Oct. 18 (CH, TR).

QUAILS TO TERNS

In the Panhandle, a Virginia Rail at Greenbelt L., *Donley* Nov. 6 provided a new county record while another near L. Marvin, *Hemp-hill* Nov. 25 represents one of only a few area sightings (*fide* KS). Apparently the first confirmed nesting record for Sora in the Coastal Bend was provided when an adult and juvenile were photographed Aug. 5 in *Nueces* (AC, MJ). A large concentration of 760 Black-bellied Plovers was near Bayside Oct. 14 (CC), while a single bird Nov. 18 in e. *Deaf Smith* (KS) provided the latest record ever for that area. A Wilson's Plover was hundreds of miles from saltwater at Richland-Chambers Res., *Navarro* July 17 (PHa). Concern in Texas and elsewhere has increased about the status of the Mt. Plover. The only ones found in the Panhandle were one in Lubbock Aug. 29 (CSt) and six in *Randall* Oct. 9 (KS). A single Mt. Plover visited L. Balmorhea Sept. 10 (KB *et al.*); it was also reported near Anzalduas Sept. 17 (*fide* TP). Two Hudsonian Godwits, exceedingly rare in w. Texas in fall, were reported from Imperial Res., Sept. 3 (BJP). Less rare, but still notable, were three Marbled Godwits at Miller's Creek L., *Baylor/Throckmorton* Sept. 4 (KN *et al.*) and a late Marbled at V.C.D.B., *Tarrant* Oct. 13 (EW, MP). Guy Luneau encountered two rare Ruddy Turnstones in the Pinewoods in *Harrison* Aug. 26. Two Sanderlings at L. Balmorhea Sept. 10 (KB *et al.*) and three at Ft. Bliss Sept. 14–22 (BZ) provided rare Trans-Pecos records. Four W. Sandpipers in e. *Deaf Smith* Nov. 18, and two Nov. 21 represent the only November records for that area (KS). A group of 27 Pectoral Sandpipers at Ft. Bliss Sept. 21 was far more than typically there (BZ,



Blue-footed Booby at Lake Lyndon B. Johnson, Texas, on August 28, 1993. Second state record. The bird looks comfortable in this photo, and apparently it was, since it was still present at this site more than six months later. Photograph/ Greg W. Lasley.

CJ). The first, if overdue, Ruff record for the Trans-Pecos was provided by a bird at Ft. Bliss Sept. 5–11 (†ph., BN, DE). An astounding 2300 twirling Wilson's Phalaropes in the Rockport area Sept. 6 left Charlie Clark's head spinning. Surprisingly, it was quite sparse in the Austin and San Antonio areas (CS, S.A.A.S.). Five Red-necked Phalaropes were scattered over the e. half of Texas August–October. Up to 16 visited Lubbock through September (CSt).

A cooperative but confusing jaeger stayed around Kirby L. in Abilene Sept. 4–18 (ph. GHu, m.ob.) and was ultimately identified as a juv. **Long-tailed Jaeger**. Texas has fewer than 10 confirmed records. Other jaegers dashed through Austin Aug. 24 (CS *et al.*) and past Buchanan Dam Oct. 3 (G&JLu) too quickly for specific identification. A Laughing Gull, rare so far w., visited L. Balmorhea Aug. 9 (BGi). There were 2 reports of large concentrations of Franklin's Gulls: 15,000 at Cooper L., *Delta* in late October (MWh) and an astonishing 35,000 on Padre I., *Nueces* Oct. 28 (J&BSu). Sekula photographed a second-winter California Gull at San Antonio Nov. 27 which remained through the period. A first-winter Thayer's Gull at Ft. Worth Nov. 28–30 (†ph., CH, *et al.*) represents only the 2nd or 3rd record for n.c. Texas. Three Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported in October and November along the coast. This was a good year for Sabine's Gull with a total of eight singles: Lubbock Aug. 25–31 (†DCu, JC *et al.*), *Castro* Aug. 26–28 (CDL), El Paso Sept. 6 (†ph., BZ) & Sept. 26 (C&KBra), San Antonio Sept. 30 (†CSa) & Oct. 20–27 (†ph., WS, JMu), L. Grapevine, *Denton/Tarrant* Sept. 30–Oct. 6 (†EW, m.ob.), and L. Alcoa, *Milam*, Nov. 25 (†BF). Rare Com. Tern records included singles at Hagerman Aug. 29 (KH) & Oct. 18 (CH) as well as an adult and immature at L. Balmorhea Sept. 17 (ph., KB). A Least Tern in Lubbock Aug. 30 (SM) was a nice find for the S. Plains where it is casual. Sixty-five Sooty Terns were reported about 60 mi offshore from Port Mansfield Aug. 7 (RC); at least 34 more were seen in the same area Aug. 15 (RC, DB).

DOVES TO KINGFISHERS

Inca Doves continued spreading N into the Panhandle; one in Borger Aug. 24 (*fide* FC) provided a first *Hutchinson* record. A previously unreported population of Green Para-

keets was recorded from Mission where 32 were observed by the Gambills. An unusual concentration of 50–60 Groove-billed Anis were found in s. *Jim Wells* Aug. 19 (AO). Also of note was a single Groove-billed Ani discovered Sept. 4 at Big Creek L., *Delta* (MWh), perhaps the first record for n.e. Texas. Groove-billeds were confirmed nesting in San Antonio when five young were seen with adults Aug. 5 (*fide* S.A.A.S.). Ferruginous Pygmy-Owls were found at more new localities in *Brooks* (AO), some very near Falfurrias. Another newly discovered site in e. *Willacy* produced sightings in August and September (*fide* TP). A rare N. Saw-whet Owl was heard and seen in Big Bend's Boot Canyon Sept. 4 (†GK); if accepted by the T.B.R.C. this will represent about the 14th Texas record.

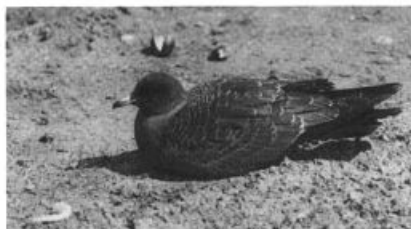
Two imm. or ♀ *Anthracothorax* sp. (mango) hummingbirds were documented and seen by a lucky handful of birders. One was at Santa Ana Aug. 18–20 (R&LG, †TB; ph., KM); another was seen and videotaped at Falfurrias Sept. 22–23, & 27 (ph., ES, JB; AO). Although these were almost certainly Green-breasted Mangos, our experience with the 2 previous Texas records suggests that ♀ or imm. mango hummingbirds cannot be positively identified to species without a specimen in hand. The January 1992 mango at Corpus Christi was even captured, measured, and photographed extensively in the hand (AB 46:289), yet tropical hummingbird experts still had a difficult time arriving at consensus regarding its identification. The T.B.R.C. eventually accepted the Corpus Christi bird as a Green-breasted Mango, but a Brownsville bird in September 1988 remains identified only as "Mango sp." despite good photos.

Three Broad-billed Hummingbirds around the state was a bounty: the first at Midland Aug. 24–27 (†ph., D&JMe), another in *Harris* Sept. 27–29 (†MAT), and the last at Buchanan Dam, *Llano*, Nov. 22+ (†J&BMA; ph., GL). The summering White-eared Hummingbirds in the Davis Mts. were reported at the same feeders into early August as was a single Blue-throated there (*fide* KB). Buff-bellied Hummingbirds nested very late in Sinton, *San Patricio* with 2 young fledging Dec. 1 (*fide* AO). Up to three Lucifer Hummingbirds visited a Ft. Davis feeder Aug. 15–Sept. 10 (ph., KB). Another Lucifer wandered E to Del Rio Aug. 3–5 (†VH); even more remarkable was a bird photographed in *Hays*, just s. of Austin Sept. 5–11 (CBu, †m.ob.; first documented record away from w. Texas). More than 1000 Ruby-throateds were feeding in one field in w. *Harris* Sept. 25 (*fide* GDL). Spinning off this major movement to the e. were up to six Ruby-throateds in the Davis Mts., Sept. 4–12 (KB *et al.*) and a few more in Big Bend about the same time (JG). Small numbers of Black-chinned Hummingbirds also made news in the Panhandle where at least three birds lingered to the end of the period in temperatures down to 7°F in Amarillo (JPr) and Clarendon (VT). Anna's Hummingbirds, rare in the Panhandle, showed up in Lubbock Aug. 29–30 (VW) and Oct. 6–13

(RE). Calliopes were more common than normal in *El Paso* where at least six were seen during August and September (BZ, DE). Bryan described Calliopes in "invasion" numbers in the Davis Mts. during the same period. An out-of-range Calliope visited a *Hays* feeder Sept. 18 (JG). Extralimital Ringed Kingfishers were scattered e. and n. of their regular range. These included single birds at Bazemore Aug. 12 & Sept. 8 (GS), Victoria Sept. 1–Oct. 20 (possibly first county record; NH), and San Antonio Nov. 22 (ph., JMu; first county record, possibly present since late August, *fide* S.A.A.S.). Yet another first county record was supplied by two Ringed Kingfishers in San Angelo, *Tom Green*, Nov. 12 (BJP).

FLYCATCHERS TO SHRIKES

Littlefield added considerably to our knowledge of *empidonaces* in the Panhandle this season. His records in *Castro* included four Hammond's, Aug. 24–Sept. 20, nine Dusks Aug. 6–Sept. 11, a Gray Sept. 19, and two Cordillerans Sept. 2–3, & 15. There had been only single sightings of Dusky and Gray in the Panhandle previously (*fide* KS). Other Cordillerans were noted in Vega, *Oldham* Aug. 27 and in Amarillo, *Randall* Aug. 28 (RS). There was a sparse movement of Say's Phoebe that reached as far e. as *Marion* and *Jefferson* and as far s. as the L.R.G.V. A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher was studied at Port Aransas Aug. 27 and was briefly seen the next 2 days (†J&SH). Rare Violet-green Swallow reports included one in *Castro* Sept. 10, 18, & 30 (CDL) and two in *Chambers* Oct. 11 (†GDL, m.ob.), the latter establishing a first U.T.C. record. In a rarely recognized phenomenon in Texas, a massive migration of 3000 Blue Jays was noted Oct. 3 at L. Tawakoni (RK). Two Green Jays Nov. 23–29 at Del Rio had wandered well up the Rio Grande (or W from Ft. Clark Springs) (*fide* VH). A Black-billed Magpie surprised the Franks in *Jeff Davis* Nov. 21 (†to T.B.R.C.). The first *Donley* record of Carolina Wren was of a bird at Greenbelt L., Nov. 6 (*fide* KS) while a Winter Wren in Tornillo Nov. 18–30 (BZ) was only the 2nd ever recorded in *El Paso*. Golden-crowned Kinglets showed some evidence of movement in the Trans-Pecos, deep s. Texas, and the Coastal Bend (m.ob.). Three Mt. Bluebirds at L. Benbrook Nov. 13 constituted *Tarrant's* first in 16 years (MP, EW, m.ob.). At least as surprising was a Mt. Bluebird in *Galveston* Nov. 6–7 (†ph., J&JW) and another at Choke Canyon, *Live Oak* Nov. 6 (GS, CC). Townsend's Solitaires were abun-



Juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger at Abilene, Texas, in early September 1993. Photograph/Gary Hunter.

dant in the Davis Mts. and Big Bend but numbers were not noteworthy in the Panhandle or *El Paso*. Unexpected was a Rufous-backed Robin found dead on campus of Univ. of Texas at *El Paso* shortly after a severe windstorm Oct. 27 (SCu, * to U.T.E.P.). This record represents only the 4th for Texas. A Curve-billed Thrasher in *Waller* Oct. 31 (JM) was farther n. than expected, while a Crissal Thrasher photographed at *Midland* Oct. 5 (TBro, *fide* FW) represented a new county record. Kutac spotted a Sprague's Pipit in flight w. of Amarillo Nov. 23, quite a rarity for the area. Three N. Shrikes were noted in the Panhandle Oct. 24–Nov. 29; last year there had been none.

VIREOS TO WARBLERS

There was a "bevy of rare vireos" in the far west: Ft. Bliss hosted a Red-eyed Aug. 31 (2nd fall record for *El Paso*), a Gray Sept. 22 (county first), and a Philadelphia Sept. 23 (all BZ). Other Red-eyeds were in Amarillo Sept. 1 (RS) and at Davis Mts. S.P., Sept. 28 (banded by KB). A Bell's Vireo surprised observers in *Jefferson* Oct. 10 (†BB, m.ob.). West and n.w. Texas also had the lion's share of notable warbler records: a Tennessee at Buffalo L., Oct. 10 (KS); a Virginia's was in *Lamb* Sept. 13, while a Hermit in *Castro* Aug. 15 provided a first for the n. Panhandle (both CDL). A Blackburnian in Lubbock Sept. 26 (LS) brightened the fall season, as did a Yellow-throated in Big Bend Nov. 12 (JG). A Grace's graced *El Paso* Aug. 31 (ph., BZ) while Prairie's showed up in Amarillo Sept. 2 (RS), and Lubbock Sept. 28 (CSt), the latter records being only the 3rd and 4th for that region. Hueco Tanks hosted its first Blackpoll Oct. 19 (BZ) and earlier in the season had harbored an even rarer Louisiana Waterthrush Aug. 23 (2nd county record, DE, BN). Kelly Bryan netted a Mourning Warbler at Davis Mts. S.P., Aug. 28–Sept. 1 (first county record) yet he captured not a single MacGillivray's this season! One MacGillivray's turned up considerably farther e. in *Jefferson* Oct. 29 (BG). A Tropical Parula at Brazos Bend Sept. 17–26 (†CCo, LHu, MA, m.ob.) added to the short list of notable warblers away from w. Texas. A Worm-eating Warbler was a rare fall find in *Hays* Sept. 15 (JG). The consensus warbler event of the season was the Palm Warbler movement. They arrived in large numbers in their regular range (e.g. 53 in *Jefferson* Oct. 10, JM). In n.c. Texas, there were first ever records for *Rains* and *Delta* Sept. 26 (RK, GH, JN) & Sept. 27 (MWh), respectively. The species spread to far w. Texas in October where Bryan and Barlow detected one in *Hudspeth* Oct. 1, and two more were noted in the *El Paso* area Oct. 14 (BZ) and Oct. 16 (DE).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

There was a very late Summer Tanager at Hueco Tanks Nov. 16–21 (DE *et al.*). Three reports of Scarlet Tanagers on the U.T.C. Sept. 29–Oct. 27 surpassed a typical fall sample. Most unusual was a W. Tanager photographed in *Tarrant* in early August (IS, DCh), a first record for n.c. Texas. Although unex-

pected at any single location, six Black-headed Grosbeaks widely scattered in e., c. and s. Texas was perhaps a typical fall showing; the earliest was one at Norias Oct. 4 (BZ). A total of 15 Dickcissels reported at 2 Trans-Pecos locations suggested a better than average showing there (*vide* BZ). Two White-colored Seedeaters at Santa Ana Aug. 26 were of note (EF) but 17 found at 2 locations in San Ygnacio Oct. 8 exceeded expectations (BZ). Most curious was an Am. Tree Sparrow described from Port Mansfield on the lower Texas coast Nov. 1 (PM, SS), certainly at the "wrong" end of the state. Sage Sparrows were unusually abundant around El Paso and the Davis Mts., and lone birds were seen near Grandfalls, Ward Oct. 14 and in Big Bend Nov. 13 (JG). Three to four LeConte's Sparrows in Big Bend Nov. 27 represents one of few Trans-Pecos records (CS). Equally rare was a Sharp-tailed Sparrow in *Marion* in far n.e. Texas Oct. 9 (GLu). There was a smattering of Fox Sparrows in far w. and s. Texas and it was more easily found in its regular wintering haunts (m.ob.). Good longspur records included *Hunt's* first McCown's Nov. 24 (MWh), and a 2nd Lapland for *El Paso* at Ft. Bliss Nov. 27 (DE, BN).

Rusty Blackbirds clearly made a W invasion mid/late-November with birds reported in *Tarrant*, *Hemphill*, and as far w. as Hueco Tanks (m.ob.). A Com. Grackle at Lajitas w. of Big Bend Nov. 13 was also far from its usual haunts (JG). By season's end, Purple Finches seemed to have settled into n. Texas in good numbers but Pine Siskins had still not

appeared in any significant numbers in most areas. A well-described Lesser Goldfinch in w. *Harris* Nov. 29 represents the first U.T.C. record in about 15 years (PDH).

Cited Observers (Subregional Editors in bold-face)

—Tony Amos, Rich & Nanette Armstrong, Mike Austin, Giff Beaton, Bob Berstock, Peter Billingham, Terry Blankenship (TBl), Johnny Boerjan, David Bradford, Craig & Karen Braginton (C&KBra), David & Luanne Brotherton, Tom Brown (TBro), Barbara Bruns (BBR), Tim Brush, Kelly Bryan, Connie Burrus (CBu), Fern Cain, Ronnie Carroll, David Chappell (DCh), Charlie Clark, Jeremy Clark, Don Connell, Arlie Cooksey, Chris Corbin (CCo), Scott Crabtree, Dave Curson (DCu), Scott Cutler (SCu), David Dauphin, Charles Easley, John Economy, Mark Elwonger, Doug Emkalns, Rosemary English, Tony & Phyllis Frank, Brush Freeman, **Tony Gallucci** (Central Texas; P. O. Box 6, Camp Verde, TX 78010), Red & Louise Gambill, Steve Gast, John Gee, Brian Gibbons (BGi), Bill Graber, Karl Haller, Peggy Harding (PHA), George Harmon, Steve Hawkins, Vern Hayes, **Carl Haynie** (North-central Texas; 908 Cottonwood Trail, Benbrook, TX 76126), Petra Hockey, Norman Holgerson, Joan & Scott Holt, Eric Hopson, Lisa Hug (LHu), P.D. Hulse (PDH), Gary Hunter (GHu), Lee Hutchins, Joe Ideker, Hugh Jameson, Marcella Jenkins, Charlie Jensen, Thomas L. Johnson, Bob Johnson, Greg Keiran, Richard Kinney, Phillip Kite, Ed Kutac, Greg Lasley, C.D. Littlefield, Gail

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IDAHO-WESTERN MONTANA REGION

Dan Svingen and Thomas H. Rogers

The summer's unseasonably cool weather continued into early fall. August temperatures were well below normal. The rest of the fall was mild however, until a bitter, mid-November arctic blast froze open water throughout northern Idaho and Montana. The cold snap forced waterfowl and semi-hardy species out of the northern half of the region, greatly reducing local bird diversity. In spite (or because) of the unsettled weather, regional birding was exciting this fall, with several significant finds being recorded. Sightings noted below in boldface type are subject to review by the Idaho or Montana Rare Bird Committee. They are treated here as valid records pending acceptance or rejection by the committee.

Abbreviations: A.F.R. (*American Falls Reservoir, American Falls, ID*); F.C.L. (*Fighting Creek Landfill, Coeur d'Alene, ID*); U.M.O.M. (*University of Montana Ornithological Museum*).

LOONS TO HAWKS

Six-ten Pacific Loons were present at A.F.R.,

Sept. 25–end of October (BH, DM, CT, DT). One–two were at Harrison, ID Oct. 6–Nov. 7 (DSv, m.ob., ph.), while another was at Sandpoint, ID Oct. 26 (EC, WH, CV, DSv). These sightings were both earlier and more numerous than normal. Two Am. White Pelicans were near North Fork, ID Aug. 24, where they are quite rare (HR). Double-crested Cormorants were seen at Lewiston, ID Aug. 3–4 (LL, CA) and at Mann L., Lewiston Orchards, ID Sept. 1 (LL).

A Cattle Egret was intermittently seen in Moscow, ID through the first half of October (DH, KD), and another was in the Fortine, MT area during the first half of November (DC, LJ). Three were in Lewiston Oct. 7 (BC). A very late White-faced Ibis flew over A.F.R., Nov. 7 (DR, CT).

Regionally nesting Trumpeter Swans had little reproductive success, likely due to the very wet, cool spring. In contrast, birds migrating through the region from Canada apparently had a good nesting year (KN). Ten Trumpeters were found among Tundra Swans at Kootenai N.W.R. near Bonners Ferry, ID in early November (JR). A Ross' Goose was present Sept. 23–Oct. 10 at Deer Flat N.W.R. near Nampa, ID and three were at Caldwell, ID Nov. 1 (JG). A Blue-winged Teal was found at Thompson L. near Harrison Oct. 10, where unusual (JN). Eurasian Wigeons were seen at Harrison Oct. 8 (DSv, ph.), at Chatco-



A Pacific Loon (in first-winter plumage) faces the camera at Harrison, Idaho, on November 7, 1993. Photograph/Dan Svingen.

let, ID Nov. 17 (AFI) and at Boise, ID Nov. 17–30 (ECI, JS, DTr).

A ♀ Oldsquaw was found at Kootenai N.W.R., Oct. 30 (JR); and single males were at Helena, MT in mid-November (GH) and on A.F.R., Nov. 17 (CT). Two **Black Scoters** Oct. 15 at Sandpoint (†EC), will represent Idaho's first record. Surf Scoters were seen at Lewiston Oct. 17 (GH, LL) and at Minidoka N.W.R. near Rupert, ID Oct. 31 (CT). Two White-winged Scoters were shot at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. near Lima, MT in early October (KN), and 13 were seen at Sandpoint Oct. 26 (†EC, WH, CV, DSv). Two Red-breasted Mergansers were at Sandpoint Oct. 26 (EC, WH, CV, DSv).

Thirty-five Rough-legged Hawks were seen Nov. 27 around Helena (GH). Normal annual high counts for this area are three–six. Montana's lower Flathead Valley also hosted

high raptor concentrations; on Nov. 9 DHo recorded 163 diurnal raptors of 10 species on a 20 mi drive through the valley! CT *et al.* found at least 100 Rough-leggeds on a 200 mi drive around Idaho Falls, ID Oct. 20. A Golden Eagle Nov. 8 near Moon Pass by Wallace, ID was unusual (JT). Regional observers reported three Gyrfalcons, one Peregrine Falcon, one Prairie Falcon, and four Merlins this fall, all about normal.

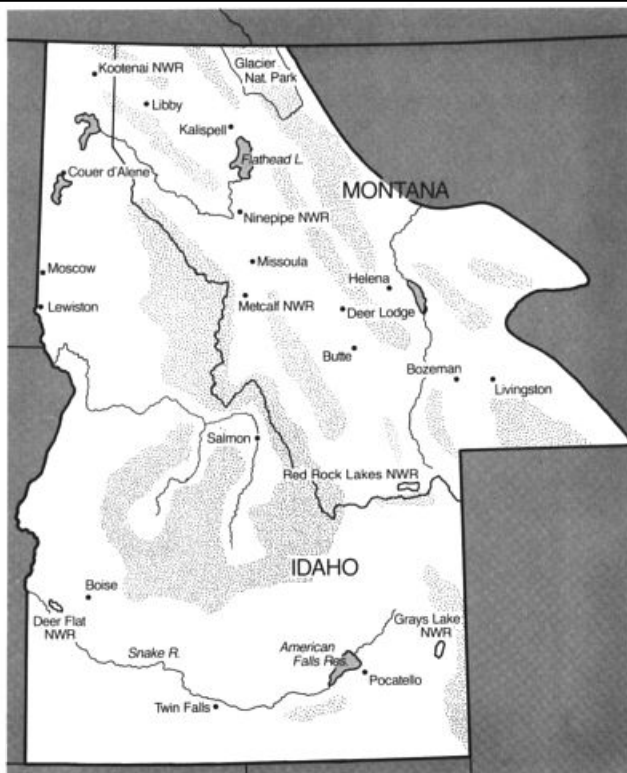
RAILS TO TERNS

A Virginia Rail lingered at Lewiston Nov. 19 (MK, PZ). Red Rock Lakes N.W.R.'s lone Whooping Crane departed for its wintering grounds Sept. 1 (KN).

The regional status of several shorebirds remains clouded, so the numerous sightings this period of rare species are difficult to interpret. It may be that 1993 was an exceptional year, but it is more likely that more complete coverage and growing identification skills are increasing sighting frequency.

One-four Am. Golden-Plovers were at Mann L., Sept. 21–Oct. 11 (m.ob.); up to seven were at A.F.R., Sept. 11–mid-October (CT, BH, DM, DT), while up to four were at Deer Flat N.W.R., Oct. 11–Oct. 21 (JG). A Snowy Plover was at Dry Lakes by Nampa, ID Aug. 8 (JG). A Solitary Sandpiper was found at St. Maries, ID Sept. 14 (WH, CV). Unusual was a Marbled Godwit at Mann L., Aug. 17 (CG, OM). A Semipalmated Sandpiper was very unusual at Sandpoint Aug. 31 (CAS); six were present at A.F.R., Sept. 8 where they are rare but regular (DT). Stilt Sandpipers are rarely reported from n. Idaho, so the six at Mann L., Aug. 20–Sept. 5 (m.ob.), one at Cottonwood, ID and four at Tolo L., by Fenn, ID Sept. 18 were worthy of note (CBi). At least two Short-billed Dowitchers were feeding with Long-billed Sept. 12 at Mann L. (DSv, IS, KD, DH).

Single Franklin's Gulls Aug. 12 at St. Maries and Aug. 31 at Sandpoint were unusual (DSv, CAS). A first-year Little Gull Oct. 25 at Sandpoint will represent Idaho's 2nd record (†EC). Mew Gull sightings are becoming more frequent in n. Idaho, so the adult at Hayden L., ID Sept. 17 was not totally unexpected (†JG). A Mew Gull was also present at Polson, MT Oct. 25 and Nov. 27 (DHo, CB). Only one first-winter Thayer's Gull was found Oct. 17 at the F.C.L., but six were there Oct. 29 (†DSv, ph., m.ob.). Thayer's Gulls were also on A.F.R., Oct. 23–late November (DT, CT) and at the Polson landfill throughout October and November (CB, DHo, *U.M.O.M.). A first-winter Glaucous-winged Gull was present at the F.C.L., Nov. 11 (†DSv, ph.), along with one or two Glaucous-winged hybrids (†DSv, ph.). An ad. Glaucous-winged Gull was on A.F.R., Oct. 26 (DT, MC, FK). First-winter Glaucous Gulls were at F.C.L., Nov. 11



(DSv, ph.), and at Idaho Falls Nov. 30 (BH, m.ob.). A well seen Sabine's Gull at Georgetown L., Granite, represented Montana's 12th or 13th record (†DS). Two Arctic Terns at A.F.R. were scrutinized Aug. 1, and will represent Idaho's 5th record (†CT, DT).

OWLS TO FINCHES

Flammulated Owls are rarely reported anywhere in the region so the sighting 16 mi n.e. of Helena on the late date of Nov. 21 is intriguing (†MV). This will represent the 10th Montana record. Pend Oreille L., Bonner, ID fishermen were surprised when a Snowy Owl, flying low across the lake, landed on their small boat Nov. 3 (EC)! A N. Hawk Owl was photographed 20 mi w. of Missoula, MT Nov. 23 (†CP, ph.). A Barred Owl was photographed in Boise Nov. 14 (MC, FK, ph.).

A ♀ **Anna's Hummingbird** captured near Helena Nov. 21 will represent the state's 6th record (†JRe, GH). A ♀ Broad-tailed Hummingbird appeared at a Moscow feeder Aug. 6 (KD). A N. (Yellow-shafted) Flicker was seen Nov. 13 near Swan L., MT (JE).

A Blue Jay patronized a Salmon, ID feeder for most of November (HR), and two others spent October and November in Moscow



Barred Owl at Boise, Idaho, on November 14, 1993. Photograph/Mark R. Collie.

(KD, DG). A Bewick's Wren was found near St. Maries Sept. 29 (DSv), and another was seen near Blackfoot, ID Oct. 2 (JT, BK). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was at A.F.R., Sept. 20 (DT). A N. Mockingbird occasionally visited a Boise feeder throughout the fall (BB).

A **Tennessee Warbler** was clearly seen near Challis, ID, Sept. 5 (BH); the species has been recorded less than 10 times in the state. A Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler was present Nov. 20 by Parma, ID (MC, FK, DT). Well-described **Palm Warblers** were found Aug. 28–29 at Deer Flat N.W.R. (†JG, AF, EH), Sept. 12 near Worley, ID (†DSv), Sept. 18 near Helena (†JRe), and Sept. 17–18 near Hayden L. (†JG, DB, ph.). These sightings represent Idaho's 4th to 6th records, and the first for the Helena area. A fall-plumaged **Blackpoll Warbler** was at A.F.R., Sept. 8 (†DT). No accepted Idaho records exist for this species. An Am. Redstart at Salmon Sept. 30 was the latest ever recorded there (HR). A ♂ **Prothonotary**

Warbler graced a backyard Blackfoot birdbath Aug. 29 (†JT, BK). This will provide Idaho's first state record. An Ovenbird 10 mi w. of Missoula Oct. 13 provided one of the very few w. Montana records (PW).

A late W. Tanager tarried near Hamilton, MT Nov. 15 (CB). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was at Deer Flat N.W.R., Oct. 9–10 (†JG, MC, FK), for the 5th state record. White-throated Sparrows are rare but regular in w. Montana, and rare and irregular throughout Idaho. This fall, the species was much more widespread and numerous than usual. Four individuals were scattered around the Coeur d'Alene L. area Sept. 25–Oct. 11 (†CW, DSv, ph.), three were in the A.F.R. area Sept. 26–Oct. 3 (DR, DT) and around Troy, MT (KB), while single White-throated Sparrows were at McCammon, ID Oct. 10 (CT), in Boise Oct. 29–30 (MC, FK, DTr), by Missoula Nov. 5–30 (PW) and at DC's feeder in Somers, MT Nov. 25–30. A Harris' Sparrow was found in a large mixed-species flock Oct. 10 at Deer Flat N.W.R. (MC, FK). KD had a Harris' Sparrow in his Moscow yard Oct. 17, while PW had two birds coming to his Missoula feeder throughout October. A Harris' Sparrow was also present Nov. 13 in Glacier National Park, MT (JE, ph.) and one was near A.F.R., Nov. 27 (CT). A **Rusty Blackbird** pair was present in St. Maries Nov. 20–30 (†DSv, ph.) for Idaho's 8th record. Twelve White-winged Crossbill Oct. 9 near Cataldo, ID were noteworthy (SW).

Observers Cited [Subregional editors in boldface]: Carla Almaraz, Clifton Barry, Dan Bell, Bill Belknap, Canyon Birders (C.Bi), Kay Burk, Dan Casey, Earl Chapin, Bob Chism, E.C. Cleavland, Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society (CAS), Mark Collie, Kas Dumroese, Joseph Engler, Aubrey Fautheree

(AF), Anthony Floyd (AFI), Charlene Gaiser, John Gatchet, Dale Goble, Evelyn Hainey, Brad Hammond, Winnie Hepburn, Dave Holick (DH), Denver Holt (DHo), **George Holton**, Lynn Johnson, Barbara Kracher, Florence Knoll, **Merlene Koliner**, Louise La Voie,

Opal McIntyre, Dale Miller, Kenneth Niethammer, John Nigh, Carol Pearson, Jimmie Reynolds, Jim Reichel (JRe), Hadley Roberts, Dan Rogers, Jack Smith, Don Stoecker, **Shirley Sturts**, Dan Svingen (DSv), Ila Svingen, Joe Taggart, Dan Taylor, Joel

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MOUNTAIN WEST

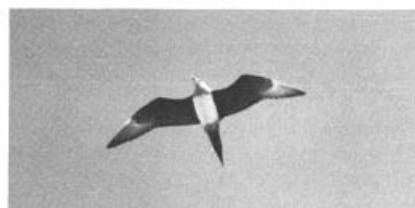
Hugh E. Kingery

Wyoming photographed its first Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and observers noted 2nd records of both Heermann's Gull in Wyoming and Harlequin Duck in Utah. Three Long-tailed Jaegers and four rare gull species headed a lengthy list of seaworthy visitors. Unusual warblers included Black-throated Blue, Bay-breasted, and Palm. Benign fall weather patterns created no major storms, and money may have turned around the water deficiency at Stillwater Refuge. The season featured late nesters—atypical ones like Barn Swallows, that fledged September 15 at Morgan, Utah (AS), and Mourning Doves in the nest Sept. 11 at Julesburg, Colorado (DBr). There were many ducklings, some with downy feathers, in early September at Ruby Lake, Nevada (JM). Perhaps less unusual, Lesser Goldfinches gathered nesting material at Cortez, Colorado, August 4 and fed fledglings August 29 (LB). A Western Wood-Pewee with fledglings was reported reneating at Sheridan, Wyoming, Aug. 20, and a Rock Dove sat on a nest in Colorado Springs November 22. Union Reservoir near Longmont, Colorado, figured prominently in this account: In November it hosted 2000 Western Grebes, 361 Common Goldeneyes, substantial numbers of gulls, and a plethora of shorebirds and waterbirds.

Abbreviations: L.L.B.L. (*Longmont/Lyons/Berthoud/Loveland area, CO, using Foothills Audubon Club records*); R.E. (*Regional Editor*); 1st Lat (*first latilong record [a latilong is outlined by one degree each of latitude and longitude, and measures about 50 by 70 miles]*); # (*photographed but not submitted to R.E.*); † (*written description on file with R.E.*); ‡ (*written description on file with, and subject to approval of, state or local records committee*).

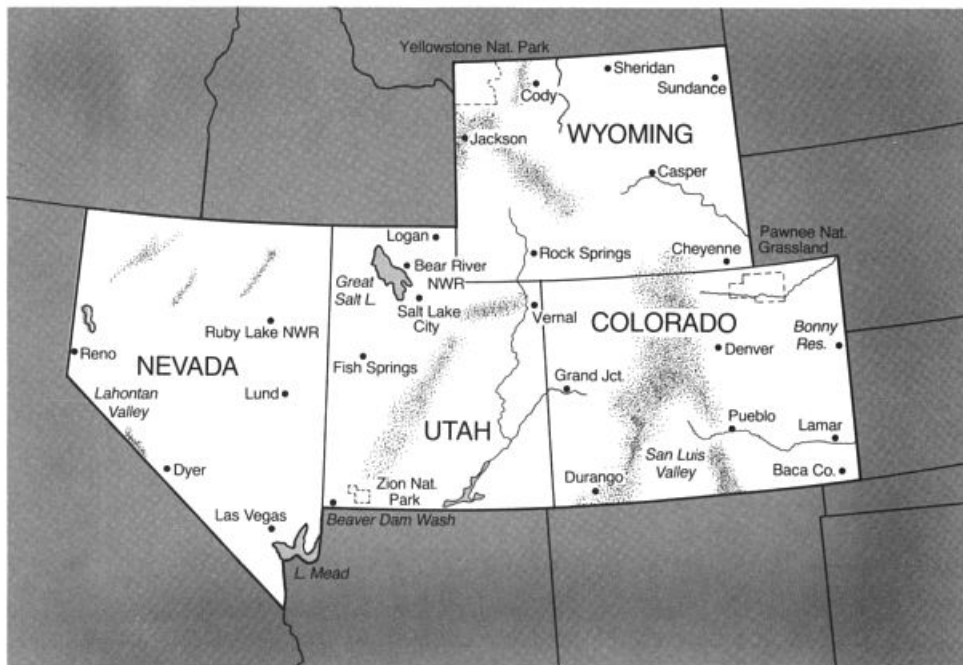
LOONS TO EGRETS

Nevada recorded its 6th **Red-throated Loon** at Pyramid L., Oct. 11 (†GC); others appeared at Pueblo, CO Oct. 17 (‡BP, LL), and Denver Nov. 11–16 (‡JRe). All 4 states hosted Pacific Loons, with three at Pyramid L., NV Nov. 21–22, one at Quail City Res., UT Nov. 9–10, five at Casper and Sheridan, WY, and eight in Colorado from Ft. Collins to Colorado City. Walker L. in w.c. Nevada had a record concentration of 1152 Com. Loons Oct. 19 (LN,



Adult Parasitic Jaeger at Pyramid Lake, Nevada, on September 19, 1993. Photograph/Jane Thompson.

JE). Casper reported 235 Eared Grebes Aug. 5 and 308 Sept. 29. A flock of W. Grebes at Union Res., CO built up to 2000 Oct. 13 before dwindling to 400 Nov. 1. Walker L., NV had 293 Oct. 19. Five pairs of Clark's Grebes bred, one successfully, at Lahontan Valley, NV (LN). Neel watched a Golden Eagle there dive on an Am. White Pelican, taking it to the ground where the two rolled in the dirt, the eagle's talons in the pelican's neck and breast. The pelican shook free and even charged. The observers unwittingly caused the eagle to fly off; a pelican carcass was never found. Colorado's high count of Am. White Pelicans was 700 in the s.e., Sept. 5 (D.F.O.); Walker L., NV had 1008 Oct. 19 (LN). Nevadans reported two Least Bitterns: one each at Las Vegas Aug. 7 (DC) and Carson L., Sept. 21 (NS). Great Egrets have increased in recent years; Nevada reported 12, Utah had three, and Colorado had 34, including one at Delta on the w. slope Oct. 10–23. Little Blue Herons stopped at Baca Aug. 26 (‡KS) and Ordway Sept. 5 (†MJ). Logan reported a colossal 300 Cattle Egrets Aug. 14 (KA). Five Green Herons were in St. George, UT Sept. 5 (DW), and one Nov. 14 stood on a lawn in Cortez, CO (DP).



WATERFOWL

In w. Nevada, 27,570 N. Shovelers topped the October waterfowl inventory of 119,029 ducks, and 32,810 Green-winged Teal topped November's 124,630 ducks (LN). Utah's September inventory counted 628,970 ducks, 4665 geese, and 46,054 coots. The high was 70,716 Green-winged Teal and 69,442 N. Pintails. The Las Vegas Black-bellied Whistling-Duck stayed through August (AB: Vol. 47, No. 5). At Ruby L., NV the resident flock of 13 Trumpeter Swans burgeoned to the usual 30–35 in October. A Brant (e. race) stopped at Union Res., Oct. 30–Nov. 3 (JH, ‡BP); Colorado has 10 records, 6 of (Black) Brant and, now, 4 of the nominate subspecies. Reno had one–two Eur. Wigeons Oct. 24+ (LN). An obliging **Harlequin Duck**, Utah's 2nd, stayed along the Antelope I. causeway to Great Salt L., Sept. 25+ (‡ES *et al.*). The causeway also offered 10 Oldsquaws in November. The Region enjoyed a banner contingent of scoters: four Blacks in Colorado, at Greeley, Denver, and Pueblo; 21 Surfs—nine in Nevada, four in Utah, four in Wyoming, and six in Colorado; and eight White-wingeds—three in Nevada, one in Utah, two in Wyoming, and four in Colorado. Hooded Mergansers have become regular in the past 15 years; Grand Jct., CO upgraded their status from rare to uncommon. Ruby L., NV had its 2nd record Nov. 6 and L. Powell the first s.e. Utah record Nov. 27.

RAPTORS

The L.L.B.L. count of N. Harriers dropped



Excellent numbers of Sabine's Gulls appeared in the Mountain West this season. This juvenile was at Lake Mead, Nevada, on October 5, 1993. Photograph/Jon L. Dunn.

to six from 16 a year ago, yet D.F.O. counted 17 on 10 field trips—more than any in the past 8 fall seasons. In Nevada, two N. Goshawks dropped into the valleys at Las Vegas and Ruby L. Lahontan Valley had a Red-shouldered Hawk Aug. 8 (†GC). Swainson's Hawk flocks in Colorado included 200 Sept. 15 at Pawnee Nat'l Grassland and 746 Sept. 22 around Last Chance. Ferruginous Hawks found good prairie dog feeding in the Denver area—D.F.O. counted 30 Nov. 27 after tallying an early 15 on its Sept. 11–14 Fall Count. The Region had 28 Merlins, 21 in Colorado. A gray-phase Gyrfalcon cruised by Casper's Soda L., Nov. 22 (J&VH).

CRANES TO SHOREBIRDS

Conspicuous flocks of Sandhill Cranes migrated over e. Colorado—the most surprising were 700 in flocks Oct. 2 in the Evergreen foothills. L.L.B.L. reported 980 cranes in October (cf. 182 last fall) and Ft. Collins had 900 on 3 days in October. A Whooping Crane arrived Nov. 26 for a stay in Grand Jct. (CD, RL).

The Lahontan Valley, NV shorebird census Aug. 23–27 counted only 11,362, including 6560 Long-billed Dowitchers and 1212 Black-necked Stilts. Counts over 4 years have varied from 72,491 in 1990 to 12,612 in 1992. Insufficient water and consequent poor habitat and food supply were cited. The refuge benefited from water purchased in August which, though too late to help the shorebirds, did produce lots of ducks (LN). Shorebirds visited other sites: Near Torrey, UT Schmeirer found a Semipalmated Plover and eight Baird's Sandpipers on Boulder Mt. at 11,100 ft. Observers found a few more Am. Golden-Plovers than usual, with one at Las Vegas Oct. 5, one—three at Casper Sept. 12–Oct. 6, and 23 at 7 Colorado locations Sept. 12–Oct. 20. The four at Rocky Ford, CO came with a description separating them from Pacific Golden-Plovers (BD). A juv. Piping Plover visited Jackson Res., near Orchard, CO Aug. 8 (BRi). On the Pawnee Grassland, Knopf monitored 44 Mt. Plover nests; only 18 fledged young. The two Greater Yellowlegs at Reno Nov. 28 presaged the few which winter in w. Nevada each year (LN). Casper reported an impressive 44 Sanderlings Aug. 14–Oct. 13 and Cheyenne, WY had another dozen; Coloradoans reported 33. An influx of Buff-breasted Sandpipers involved one—two at Casper Aug. 14–Sept. 12 (†J&GL, J&VH) one—three at Rocky Ford, CO Sept. 5 & 20,

and one near Lamar, CO Sept. 10. Ruby L., NV had 605 Wilson's Phalaropes in August and Lahontan Valley tallied 500+ Red-necked Phalaropes in early September. The Region reported only one Red Phalarope at Rocky Ford, CO Sept. 19 (†KS, DJ).

JAEGERS TO GULLS

A bulky jaeger with a squared-off tail, probably a Pomarine, chased a Great Blue Heron and gulls at Cherry Creek Res. near Denver (†LM). At Pyramid L., NV an ad. Parasitic Jaeger, Nevada's 12th, harassed Forster's Terns Sept. 19 (†JTh, ph). An extraordinary three Long-tailed Jaegers visited the Region. One "fell out of the sky" at Price, UT Sept. 9, but rehabilitation didn't rescue Utah's 5th record (EH, NB, ph, *B.Y.U.). Colorado's 4th flew over Blue L. near Las Animas Sept. 12 (†PS, ph). At Union Res., Colorado's 5th Long-tailed scared gulls and rewarded observers Oct. 13–29 (†JP, HEK, m.ob.). Franklin's Gulls seem to have declined in the Region. Once a breeder in the Lahontan Valley, they have become rare bird alert material; this fall had produced one report (JTh, *fide* LN). In the past, irrigated farms n. of Denver attracted thousands of Franklin's, but L.L.B.L. reported only 850 and D.F.O. a mere 57. A "Big Day" effort in s.e. Colorado Sept. 4 produced a respectable 2020 Franklin's (BP). A juv. Little Gull was reported from Denver Oct. 15 (†KS). The first-year Heermann's Gull reported from Casper Oct. 16 will give Wyoming its 2nd record, if accepted by the R.B.C. (†VH). Another Heermann's stopped at Reno Oct. 21 (VM). Silverman provided a vivid description of Colorado's 8th Lesser Black-backed Gull at Las Animas Sept. 12, a nervous gull that flew frequently and raised its wings while swimming and standing to show off its diagnostic field marks. Reno attracted a second-year Glaucous Gull Nov. 28 (LN). At Pueblo the Great Black-backed Gull that arrived Sept. 4 in second-summer plumage (A.V.A.S., †MJ) likely is the same bird discovered last spring (Colorado's 4th documented record). In Utah a Sabine's Gull fed on brine flies on the Antelope I. causeway Sept. 25–Oct. 8 (ES, CK, †DW). A Sabine's Sept. 9 at L. Mead near Las Vegas (J&MC) had four companions Oct. 5. Another was described from Pahrnatagat N.W.R., NV Sept. 12 (†JQ). Colorado had 24 Sabine's and Wyoming one this season.

OWLS TO WOODPECKERS

A Snowy Owl visited Sheridan Nov. 24, the only Regional report. Denver produced 19 Burrowing Owls for a good Fall Count in September. The first Great Gray Owl for s.w. Wyoming was at Greys R., Nov. 5 (†RS). Two dead Boreal Owls added distribution information—a juvenile near Jackson, WY and a road-kill near Idaho Springs, CO.

A Magnificent Hummingbird visited a feeder Aug. 20–24 at Fraser, CO (†WB); the state has a smattering of records. Costa's Hummingbird visited a feeder in Springdale, UT Oct. 28–Nov. 8, the first there in 10 years

(CM, *fide* JG). A Broad-tailed stopped at a Las Vegas feeder Nov. 21 (VM). At Cheyenne Aug. 19 a Loggerhead Shrike fruitlessly chased a Rufous Hummingbird (JC).

S.A.

Ueblacker reports that her Birds of Prey Rehabilitation Center in Broomfield, CO received 52 Barn Owls in 1993, most from e.c. Colorado. Seven to eight is normal; this exceeds the total reported by birders this year. She returned 50 to the wild, with nest boxes. Her theory: Colorado farms produced lots of grain this year, but low prices caused farmers to clean out silos for storage, and in the process they disturbed large numbers of Barn Owls. One came from the Denver airport, still undergoing construction, where 2 families moved into a hollow pipe-beam. Airport workers left the doors open at night so that the owls could come and go. The Rehabilitation Center also received six N. Pygmy-Owls and 16 N. Saw-whets, several of the latter from the Denver metro area.

Since the A.O.U. re-split sapsuckers into three species, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker reports have burgeoned; Colorado reported six from Ft. Collins to Pueblo. Tricky field marks separate Yellow-bellied from Red-naped. In addition, a few observers have not caught up with the split. Regional observers should *always* include a short documentation for Yellow-bellied. The literature says that Red-naped acquire adult plumage in August on the breeding ground, and that Yellow-bellied acquire it in the spring. Therefore, immatures seen in winter or in fall away from the breeding grounds should be Yellow-bellied. Thus, the immature-plumaged sapsucker seen Oct. 17 at Corn Cr. near Las Vegas was probably a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (†JF) and Nevada's 3rd record—all in mid-October. Pine and fir engraver beetle infestations "raging across the Carson Front" attracted a Black-backed Woodpecker to L. Tahoe, NV Nov. 19 (LN).

FLYCATCHERS TO GNATCATCHERS

Western Wood-Pewees moved through the Front Range in greater numbers than usual—30 Aug. 15 at Denver, 52 on its September Fall count, and 61 at L.L.B.L. (cf. 29 last year). A Vermilion Flycatcher was at an Eastlake, NV yard Oct. 1–6 (†JRa). Nevada reported two E. Kingbirds, Aug. 25 at Tonopah (JB, ph) and Sept. 18 at Corn Cr. (KW). Another fed from a utility wire at Moab, UT Sept. 6 (NB). The Purple Martin at Fish L. Valley gave s. Nevada its first fall report since 1983 (JB). Black-billed Magpies have increased in s. Utah in the past 15 years; 200 in Cedar Valley included the first visitors to Hedges' yard. Also in Cedar City, flocks of 500–1000 Am. Crows arrived in mid-October (SH). Denver's 281 Black-capped Chickadees counted on D.F.O. field trips set a new high. The D.F.O. Fall Count



Worm-eating Warbler at Tonopah, Nevada, on October 16, 1993. Photograph/Jane Thompson.

tallied 199. A Carolina Wren arrived in Beulah, CO Aug. 21, and stayed (PF). Another stayed in Pueblo Nov. 22–26 (BD). A Bewick's Wren hopped around a plum bush and bird bath at Morrison, CO Aug. 18 (†RW, 1st Lat). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher reports continued to expand in number, with observations from 12 Front Range sites including Pawnee Grassland, Ft. Morgan, and Last Chance.

BLUEBIRDS TO VIREOS

Observers found E. Bluebirds, another increasing species, in 6 Front Range sites from Burlington and Loveland to Penrose and Colorado City. On the plains, Mt. Bluebirds ranged out to Ft. Morgan Oct. 13; L.L.B.L. tallied 283 compared to 59 last fall. The latest Hermit Thrush report came from Rifle Nov. 25 (KP). An influx of Varied Thrushes visited Stillwater Ref., Oct. 12, Las Vegas Nov. 22, Ogden, UT Oct. 10 (banded, MK), Story, WY Nov. 26+ (†HD, K&WG), and, in Colorado, Lyons Nov. 13 (†WG, †DB), Longmont Nov. 17–18 (†AM, HEK, m.ob.), and Golden Nov. 22 (GD). An imm. Gray Catbird seen Aug. 13 and adults seen from May 31–Aug. 24 implied breeding at Torrey (ASc); Utah's only breeding records come from the north. Two Brown Thrashers skulked at Fish Springs N.W.R., Sept. 14; one remained to Sept. 29 (JBa). Bohemian Waxwings moved into n. Wyoming in November, with 300 at Buffalo Nov. 15+. Colorado's 13th White-eyed Vireo flew among Russian olives and cottonwoods along Pueblo's Arkansas R. (†BP), and a Yellow-throated Vireo stopped at Penrose, CO Sept. 26 (JWa).

WARBLERS

Each season a different cast of rare warblers dominates the report. This fall the Region enjoyed 15 Black-throated Blues, 13 Palms, and six Bay-breasteds. Colorado reported 13 of the Black-throated Blues, including the first W. Slope record, a male at Cortez Oct. 3 (†LB). Nevada claimed the other two: a well-photographed male at Tonopah Oct. 22–30 and one at Blue Diamond near Las Vegas Nov. 19 (CL). Casper had one Bay-breasted Sept. 25, and Colorado had five Sept. 22–Oct. 13, including a 1st Lat. at Last Chance Sept. 22 (†H&UK). Nevada had five Palms, one at Las Vegas and four at Tonopah. Casper, WY had one Aug. 24 (J&VH), and Colorado had six Sept 25–Oct. 11.

Yellow-rumped and Wilson's warblers, usually common, seemed relatively scarce. Potter saw a movement of Yellow-rumped at Rifle, CO Sept. 22 and 140 were counted in

Lakewood Oct. 9 (VR). Highest counts of Wilson's were 67 in the Pueblo area Sept. 4 (BP) and 100+ at Fountain, CO Sept. 6.

Noteworthy warbler sightings included: ♀ Blue-winged at Pawnee Nat'l Grassland, CO Sept. 30 (JTb), N. Parulas at Denver and Boulder Sept. 17 and Oct. 7, Chestnut-sided at Tonopah, NV Sept. 25 (JB), six Magnolias in Colorado, a Cape May at Pueblo Oct. 31 (†MJ, †BP), a Black-throated Green Sept. 26 at Pueblo (†MJ), three Blackburnians (Ft. Collins, Colorado City, and Evergreen, CO), Grace's at Lovelock, NV feeding in a weeping willow (†DT), Pine back Oct. 31 for a 2nd year in Boulder, CO, Blackpolls on Sept. 4 at Ordway and Prewitt Res., CO, one Black-and-white at Las Vegas and six in Colorado, Ovenbird at Las Vegas Sept. 27, N. Waterthrush at Lovelock, NV Aug. 11 (†JW), Hooded at Longmont, CO Oct. 13 (BP), and a Canada at Ordway, CO Aug. 27 (†DBr).

A **Prairie Warbler**, Colorado's 10th, stopped at Ordway Sept. 12 (†DS, BD). A **Worm-eating Warbler** remained at the Tonopah, NV rest stop Oct. 14–16 and posed (or didn't pose) for a recognizable but not publishable photo (JB, †JTh ph). Denver's Wheat Ridge greenbelt had a Worm-eating Sept. 26 (D.F.O.), and another or perhaps the same one Oct. 8 (PE, VR). Detailed descriptions support the report of Colorado's 3rd **Connecticut Warbler** at Pueblo Oct. 10 (†PS) and a **Mourning Warbler** Sept. 5 at Ordway (Colorado's 10th, †MJ). Janos refers to this species as a common transient in e. Kansas, and uncommon in w. Kansas adding "nearly every other warbler that we consider rare or uncommon in Colorado has a similar status in Kansas." He concludes that Mourning's are a likely rare migrant in Colorado. At Dyer Sept. 8 an active, wary ♂ **Canada Warbler**, Nevada's 4th, flitted around willows (†JB).

SPARROWS TO SISKINS

A N. Cardinal skipped through Pueblo Sept. 18 (BP). At Carson L., NV Aug. 22 a Blue Grosbeak chased robins from ripening Russian olives (LN). There was a tardy report from Walden, CO of a ♂ Painted Bunting, Colorado's 12th, June 2 (†EP). Grand Jct. reported its 2nd Canyon Towhee Oct. 24 (CD). Casper had a series of special sparrows: a Baird's Aug. 25, followed by a LeConte's Oct. 3–6 (†GL, J&VH, 1st Lat.) Wyoming's first **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** was seen by many observers Oct. 6–16; two were reported Oct. 9 (†K&BR, †J&GL ph). The excellent descriptions evidenced careful ob-servations of both



Black-throated Blue Warbler at Tonopah, Nevada, in late October 1993. Photograph/John Brack.

LeConte's and Sharp-tailed. Western Nevada reported four Golden-crowned Sparrows, and Black Rock, a desert oasis near Milford, UT had one (ES, CK). A Bobolink Sept. 11 gave the Colorado City latilong a new species (†DS). A Black Rosy-Finch strayed to the Pawnee Grassland, CO Nov. 8 (JBb). A Pine Grosbeak spent 3 days in Cheyenne, WY Nov. 24–26 (JLk). Five Red Crossbills strayed to Lida and Dyer in the Nevada desert Aug. 22 (JB). Common Redpolls filtered to Casper Nov. 11 and Cheyenne Nov. 23. Pine Siskins continued their elusive scarcity in most of the Region. Only Cedar City had good counts, with flocks of 200 Sept. 1–Oct. 31.

EXOTIC SPECIES

Since Florida claims introduced parrots, doves, and bulbuls as part of its avifauna, Colorado probably should recognize the Peafowl as an established breeding species. In the Grand Valley around Grand Jct., Dexter estimates that 100 to 1000 pairs breed; a population has subsisted there for 20–30 years. The birds remain all year, thronging certain feeders and farmyards, and uttering their piercing cries throughout the county (CD, HEK).

Undocumented species: This account omits the following rarities for which neither the R.E. nor the state records committee received documentation: Lesser Black-backed Gull and Prairie Warbler in Colorado.

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ARIZONA REGION

Gary H. Rosenberg,
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Abbreviations: A.B.C. (Arizona Bird Committee); B.A.N.W.R. (Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge); L.C.R.V. (Lower Colorado River Valley); G.F.P. (Gila Farms Pond); M.F.L. (Many Farms Lake); N.I.R. (Navajo Indian Reservation); P.A.P. (Pinal Air Park); P.R.D. (Painted Rock Dam); S.P.R. (San Pedro River); S.T.P. (Sewage Treatment Plant)

LOONS TO WATERFOWL

A Pacific Loon present at P.R.D., Oct. 23 (DJo), two there Nov. 6 (TC *et al.*) with one remaining through Nov. 14 (MS), represented the only reports. A Horned Grebe at Willcox Oct. 23 (MS, B. Sutton *et al.*) was early for s.e. Arizona, where this species is casual. Numerous W. Grebes were present at P.R.D. throughout the period, with at least one juvenile Aug. 28; this is only the 4th nesting record for *Maricopa*. Scattered individuals were reported elsewhere, including a concentration of at least 25 on M.F.L., Sept. 9 (GHR), 12 remaining until Nov. 20 (CL). Clark's Grebe apparently bred on M.F.L.; at least 2 pairs with young were present Aug. 5 (CL). Other individuals were found at Tucson Oct. 21 (MS), and at P.R.D., Nov. 6 (DJo, TC *et al.*); this species continues to be scarcely reported away from the L.C.R. The build-up of Brown Pelicans at P.R.D. this summer peaked at 27 Aug. 2 (GHR, CDB *et al.*), with several still present Nov. 6 (DE *et al.*). One at Patagonia L. in late July was still present Oct. 20 (GM), and another found in Scottsdale Aug. 24 remained until late September. Five Double-crested Cormorants at M.F.L., Aug. 22, four there Oct. 3–10, and one on Black Mesa Sept. 15 (CL) were noteworthy.

Single Am. Bitterns at Page Springs Aug. 19 (O.K. Stephenson, M. Leitermann), and at Picacho Res., Aug. 25 (J. Gottlieb), were early migrants. A concentration of 58 Snowy Egrets at Cow Springs L., Sept. 13 (CL) was an unusually high number. One at Sunrise L., White Mts., Oct. 25 (GM) was late for this elevation. The ad. Little Blue Heron at P.R.D. in July remained until Aug. 18 (m.ob.); an immature was observed with the adult Aug. 2 (GMcC, B. Tweit *et al.*). An ad. Tricolored Heron was present at P.R.D., Aug. 2–3 (PL *et al.*); this represents the 6th record from *Maricopa*. Although Cattle Egrets have become somewhat regular in the fall in n. Arizona, 23 present at Cow Springs L., Sept. 13 (CL) was a high concentration.

Two Fulvous Whistling-Ducks, now considered a casual visitor, were at G.F.P., Aug. 7–8 (D. Fink *et al.*). Individuals were at Gilbert Sept. 6–18 (SGa), at Sun Lakes Sept. 11 (TC *et al.*), and at the Phoenix Zoo Oct. 26 (RJ, J. Jones); the proximity of these ponds to

G.F.P. suggests two wandering individuals in all of the sightings. Three different Ross' Geese were reported: singles at Willcox Oct. 25–29 (MS); P.R.D., Nov. 6 (RN *et al.*); and Green Valley Nov. 22 (LD). Two of the five Cinnamon Teal at Black Mesa Nov. 15 remained until Nov. 22 (CL), providing the only November record for the N.I.R. Single ♂ Eur. Wigeons returned to the Phoenix Zoo Oct. 23+ (RJ), for the 3rd consecutive year to ponds in Mesa Oct. 28+ (N. Eilerston, PB), and for the 2nd year to Nogales Nov. 25 (B. Davis, B. Jones, M. Hanson). Additionally, one male was present in Prescott Nov. 16–24 (CT *et al.*). The ♂ Tufted Duck that provided last year's first state record returned to the same pond in Mesa Nov. 13, and was seen through the period (SGa *et al.*). Very scarce away from the L.C.R. were two ♂ Greater Scaup at Chandler Nov. 12 (SGa), and one at L. Montezuma Nov. 14 (S. Roman). An irregular visitor to s. Arizona was an imm. Oldsquaw at G.F.P., Oct. 30 (DS *et al.*). After last fall's invasion of Surf Scoters, only one was reported, a single individual at Parker Canyon L., Oct. 26 (LD). More unusual, single White-winged Scoters were found at Willcox Oct. 23–24 (B. Sutton, S. Sams *et al.*), and at Kayenta (providing the 5th N.I.R. record) Nov. 29–30 (CL).

RAPTORS TO GALLINULES

Three pairs of Osprey, and one recently fledged juvenile, were found on the Salt R., n.e. of Phoenix Sept. 25, in an area where no nesting has been recorded since 1951 (P&B Wilson). Since the discovery of White-tailed Kite in Arizona in 1973, its numbers have fluctuated. Following a decline during the late 1980s, no fewer than 23 individuals reported this fall illustrate the dynamic nature of the species' population in the state. A first-year Bald Eagle at Cow Springs L., Aug. 21 (CL) was the earliest fall record for the N.I.R. by 2 months. Away from an area of normal occurrence, and out of habitat, was an imm. Com. Black-Hawk at Chino Canyon Aug. 28 (LD). Six Harris' Hawks (including 2 nests) found between San Simon and Bowie (DJa) were e

of their usual nesting range in the state. A late Gray Hawk was reported from Arivaca Oct. 16 (SGa). Intriguing was the report of as many as eight Broad-winged Hawks Sept. 18–25 during a hawk migration study from Lipan Point along the s. rim of the Grand Canyon (D. Perry; Hawkwatch International); historically, this species has been considered a casual migrant. An imm. Broad-winged was reported from Willcox Sept. 19 (MS). A Zone-tailed Hawk at Patagonia Oct. 30 (C. Cathers), and two at Chandler Oct. 31 (*fide* SGa), were most likely late migrants.

The ad. Purple Gallinule found at Roosevelt L. in July remained until Aug. 2 (GHR *et al.*). Another adult was found at Picacho Res., Aug. 8–14 (ph B.J. Rose), and a 3rd was reported from the upper S.P.R., s. of Hwy 90 Sept. 3 (M. Lynn, M. Denny); there are few recent records of this species.

SHOREBIRDS TO TERNS

One–three Black-bellied Plovers were present at P.R.D. until at least Oct. 10 (m.ob.). The only reports away from P.R.D. came from the north, with four early adults at Cow Springs L., Aug. 15 (CL), and a juvenile at M.F.L., Sept. 19 (CL). Now that "Lesser" Golden-Plover has been officially split into Am. and Pacific golden-plovers, it is even more important to carefully differentiate between the 2 forms, particularly in Arizona, where the Pacific is unrecorded. The only report of Am. Golden-Plover was one at P.R.D., Oct. 2 (SGa). Excellent shorebird habitat remained from the summer at P.R.D., resulting in unprecedented numbers of certain waders; among these were no fewer than 40 Snowy and 180 Semipalmated plovers Aug. 2 (PL, m.ob.). Another 13 Semipalmated Plovers at Cow Springs L., Aug. 15 (CL) was a high count for n. Arizona. Seven Black-necked Stilts at Cow Springs L., Aug. 18, and another six there Sept. 13 (CL) were high counts for n. Arizona. A Solitary Sandpiper at P.A.P. pecan grove Oct. 25 (JBo) was late. Also late was a Spotted Sandpiper at Kayenta Nov. 23 (CL). A Whimbrel was reported from Willcox Aug. 15 (R. Taylor); this species is uncommon in



s.e. Arizona. Another at Kayenta Aug. 27 (CL) was perhaps only the 2nd record for n. Arizona. Two Ruddy Turnstones remained at P.R.D. until at least Aug. 3 (GHR *et al.*), as did three Red Knots (m.ob.). Single Sanderlings were reported from various localities in n.e. Arizona in September, but a concentration of at least 15 at P.R.D., Aug. 2–3 (B. Tweit *et al.*) was certainly one of the highest state counts. One at Chandler Nov. 9 (RN *et al.*) was at a locality where this species has wintered. As many as seven individual Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported statewide Aug. 4–Sept. 12 (m.ob.); one reported from Sierra Vista Oct. 8 (JW; seen previously by TG) is perhaps the latest report ever for Arizona. Few ad. Pectoral Sandpipers are detected in Arizona, therefore one at P.R.D. on the early date of Aug. 2 (B. Tweit) was noteworthy.

Long overdue for Arizona was a juv. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** found at P.R.D., Sept. 26 (†DS *et al.*); Arizona was the only state without a sight record of this highly migratory species. Arizona Bird Committee policy is that all first state records require physical documentation (*i.e.* photograph, specimen, recording), and the circumstances surrounding this sighting precluded proper documentation; thus it will, unfortunately, be placed on the state's hypothetical list for now. The only Red Phalarope reported was a basic-plumaged adult at Green Valley Oct. 6–8 (LD).

The two ad. Laughing Gulls found at P.R.D., Aug. 2 remained into late August (†GMCC, †B. Tweit; ph. RW); further reports of this species into late September may refer to the Franklin's Gull present there Sept. 25–26 (LD, DJo, MS). No fewer than 40 individual Bonaparte's Gulls were reported between Oct. 23–Nov. 15, including 30 at P.R.D., Nov. 6 (DE *et al.*). A first-year Heermann's Gull was discovered at P.R.D., Sept. 25 (DJo, LD, MS), and probably remained until at least Oct. 27 (JBo). Ten Herring Gulls at P.R.D., Nov. 6 (RN, DT, DJo, TC), with six remaining until Nov. 14, represent a high concentration for this species away from the L.C.R. Elsewhere, one was at Tucson Oct. 21 (MS). This year was one of the best in recent memory for Sabine's Gull, with at least eight individuals Sept. 8–26, including three together at M.F.L., Sept. 19 (CL). An report of up to seven additional birds together at Willcox Sept. 7 (LD, J. White) was amazing.

Notworthy Caspian Tern records included three at Cow Springs L., Aug. 15, with one still present Aug. 18 (CL), and 12 at L. Montezuma Sept. 15 (S. Roman, B. Wells, D. Kappel). A well-described juv. **Arctic Tern** was reported from M.F.L., Sept. 19 (†CL); there are few definite state records. Fifteen Forster's Terns at M.F.L., Oct. 10 (CL) was a high count for n. Arizona at a late date. Twenty at P.R.D., Nov. 6 (RN *et al.*) was a big concentration for early November away from the L.C.R.

PIGEONS TO WOODPECKERS

Six Band-tailed Pigeons at Catalina S.P., n. of Tucson Sept. 16 (GM) were at an unusually low elevation. An Inca Dove was a surprise 2

mi up S. Fork, Cave Cr. Canyon Oct. 9 (JBo). One at Chino Valley, n. of Prescott Oct. 26 was also of interest; there are few extralimital records n. of this species' normal breeding range in s. Arizona. No fewer than 11 Ruddy Ground-Doves were found in s. Arizona. Records included a male at P.R.D., Aug. 6–12 (R. Hamilton), one s. of Charleston Aug. 20 (A&S Anderson), two males and two females Aug. 21 near Maricopa (RJ), one female at Paloma Oct. 9–Nov. 6 (m.ob.), one male at Tucson Nov. 9 (†M. Mathiessen), one female at P.A.P. pecan grove Nov. 20 (J. Andrews, D. Smyth), one male at Chandler Nov. 21–30, and a female there Nov. 30 (M. Scott).

A Barn Owl was found dead on the road at Kayenta Oct. 19 (CL) where this species is a sparse resident. At least 17 Burrowing Owls were located on the e. side of M.F.L., Aug. 2 (CL); this is the largest concentration of this apparently declining species in n. Arizona. A Long-eared Owl found dead near Kayenta Aug. 28 suggested local breeding. Northern Saw-Whet Owls continued to be located in n. Arizona, with one found dead on Black Mesa Aug. 6 (CL), and two found in the Chuska Mts., Oct. 2 (CL, TC, DT). One was located on Mt. Lemmon Aug. 7 (R. Haaseth, D&G Bladen).

A concentration of as many as 58 Vaux's Swifts were seen at Oro Valley, n. of Tucson, Sept. 13 (GM); this represents one of the highest counts ever in s.e. Arizona. Three Broad-billed Hummingbirds remained at Portal until Sept. 16 (DJa), where this species is a sparse visitor. One at Tuzigoot N.M., Clarkdale, Aug. 27–28 (J&J Reid, G. Romig) was well n. of its normal breeding range in the state. A ♂ White-eared Hummingbird appeared at Madera Canyon Aug. 8–9 (LD). The usual two–three White-eareds were at Ramsey Canyon into mid-September, again suggesting local breeding (SW, TW). An ad. Violet-crowned Hummingbird located in upper Aravaipa Canyon Aug. 12 (N. TapilaLuepke) represented one of few records n. of the Tucson Valley. Another returned to Bisbee Oct. 1 (K. Riggs) for its 4th winter. Three others were recorded in s.e. Arizona away from known breeding areas, at Madera Canyon Aug. 13–21 (LD), at Ramsey Canyon July 28–Sept. 3, and another there Aug. 22 (SW *et al.*). A Magnificent Hummingbird was located in Tucson Nov. 25+ (JBo *et al.*); there are very few lowland winter records for this montane species. Away from Portal, one–three Lucifer Hummingbirds visited a feeder at Jack's House in Bisbee Aug. 10–31 (JW), another was reported from Hereford Aug. 16 (PD), and a 3rd was present at Ramsey Canyon in mid-August (m.ob.). A ♂ Anna's Hummingbird was at Navajo N.M., Sept. 8 (GHR); this represents the first record for the N.I.R. A Costa's Hummingbird in Portal Aug. 10 (DJa) was e. of this species' normal distribution in the state. Calliope Hummingbird appeared more numerous, with many reports received from the s.e. Numbers appeared to peak in mid-August, with no fewer than 40 from the Portal area (DJa).

Remarkable was a calling ♂ Elegant Trogon

in Pima Canyon, Santa Catalina Mts., Nov. 19 (L. Nistas, *vide* B. Pollack). The only definite previous record for the Tucson area was in January 1953. Again, a ♂ Eared Trogon was seen erratically in Cave Cr. Canyon Sept. 30+ (RM, †DJa). The two Eared Trogons residing in upper Ramsey Canyon were reported (mostly heard) throughout the period (SW). At least six Green Kingfishers were reported from scattered localities around s.e. Arizona.

Lowland reports of Lewis' Woodpecker included one at the P.A.P. pecan grove Sept. 28–Oct. 3 (J. Gottlieb), and five at Happy Valley Nov. 7 (J. Forrester). Seemingly out of place was a ♀ Acorn Woodpecker at P.A.P. pecan grove Oct. 27 (DS, CDB). Six Williamson's Sapsuckers were found in scattered localities in the Chiricahua Mts. after Sept. 7 (m.ob.). One was at an unusually low locality at Camp Verde Oct. 17 (H. Haas). A Strickland's Woodpecker found along the upper S.P.R. near Hwy 90 Nov. 9–18 (S. Anderson, JWh) represented the first record there, and one of the few lowland records for Arizona.

FLYCATCHERS TO VIREOS

Lowland records of Greater Pewee this fall included one at Phoenix Sept. 3 (RBr), one at P.A.P. pecan grove Oct. 13–27 (CDB, GHR), and one in e. Tucson in mid-October (S Davis). Another lingered at a higher elevation in Madera Canyon through Nov. 18 (LD). A silent "Western" type Flycatcher was present along the Verde R., n.e. of Phoenix Oct. 11–Nov. 20 (TC); this may be the same bird that wintered there last year. Additional records of Buff-breasted Flycatcher from the Chiricahua Mts. include three present at Rustler Park during August (DJa), and another at Onion Saddle Aug. 22 (DJa). Eastern Phoebe was recorded at 3 localities, with one along the upper S.P.R., Oct. 12 (TG, S. Healy), one at Hereford in mid-October (DK), and another at Muleshoe Ranch Oct. 28 (JWh, TG). Two Dusky-capped Flycatchers were found again along the upper S.P.R. near St. David Aug. 6 (DK, PD); there are only a handful of records of this species from the S.P.R. Higher than average numbers of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported from s.e. Arizona, with one near Palominas Aug. 6–21 (ph. B.J. Rose, *et al.*), one n. of Douglas Aug. 6 (*vide* DJa), one at Sierra Vista Sept. 2 (J. Estes), and another at Snyder Hill S.T.P., Oct. 3 (GH, R. Stevens).

A major roost of Purple Martins in n. Tucson throughout August numbered at least 3000, with estimates as high as 7000 late in the month (m.ob.). Colorful documentation was received for what must have been a **Blue Jay** s. of Kansas Settlement Nov. 14 (†E. Winters); if accepted by the A.B.C., this would represent only a 5th or 6th state record. Both W. and Mt. bluebirds arrived in the lowlands in large numbers (m.ob.). Townsend's Solitaires also moved into s.e. Arizona, with large numbers reported from Cave Cr. Canyon beginning mid-November (DJa); an out-of-place bird was found in Tempe Oct. 1 (CBa). A **Wood Thrush**, representing only the 15th state record, was found on the U. of A. cam-

pus in Tucson Nov. 8 (S. Masta); the next day it was found mortally wounded (*U. of A.). A Rufous-backed Robin was present at the B.T.A., Oct. 28–Nov. 1 (DE, RBr *et al.*), where several have turned up over the years. The only Aztec Thrush reported was one seen briefly in Cave Cr. Canyon Sept. 4 (D. Thayer); subsequent searches were unsuccessful. A Gray Catbird, unusual in s.e. Arizona, was at the Spofford's feeder in Portal Oct. 9–10 (P&I Sheppard, JBo).

Three Brown Thrashers were reported in s.e. Arizona, singles in Tucson Oct. 20 (G. Gregg), Patagonia Oct. 20 (J. Cooper), and Pima Canyon Oct. 27 (E. Froelich). The Yellow-throated Vireo that returned to the upper S.P.R. for the 2nd summer, was last seen Sept. 20 (JWh). A 2nd individual, first found in July, was present at Madera Canyon until Sept. 14 (m.ob.). Hutton's Vireos were found at lower-than-normal elevations along Cienega Cr., Sept. 28, and along the upper S.P.R., Nov. 20–24 (JWh). The only Red-eyed Vireo was reported from Prescott Sept. 8 (BT); once considered a rare but regular migrant in early fall, there have been few records in recent years.

WOOD-WARBLERS

A Tennessee Warbler at P.A.P. pecan grove Sept. 30 (MS) was the only one reported. Similarly, only one N. Parula was found, a female at Marana Aug. 31 (CDB). Last year's much celebrated **Crescent-chested Warbler** that wintered at Patagonia returned to the same locality; it was first detected Nov. 13 (DJo). A Yellow Warbler at Kayenta Nov. 14 (CL) was very late for n. Arizona. A Chestnut-sided Warbler was in Phoenix Oct. 18–20 (RBr). Arizona's 13th **Cape May Warbler** was found at Tucson Nov. 24 (P. McQuary *et al.*); most records have involved wintering individuals. Six Black-throated Blues, an above-average fall count, were found. These records included singles at Cave Cr., n. of Scottsdale Sept. 29 (A. Cruse, *fide* E. Radke); Cave Cr. Canyon Oct. 4–6 (DJa, S. Laymon); Paloma Oct. 9–10 (†Cba *et al.*), along the upper S.P.R. at Hwy 90 Oct. 10 (S. Healy); in Pima Canyon Oct. 17 (CDB); and at Ramsey Canyon Nov. 26+ (m.ob.). A Black-throated Green Warbler was described from Portal Oct. 29 (ph. †DJa). A Yellow-throated Warbler, about the 18th occurrence for the state, was found at 6200 ft in Pine Canyon, Chiricahua Mts., Sept. 17 (†CDB). Coinciding with reports of record numbers of Palm Warblers in California, four were found: singles at B.A.N.W.R., Sept. 29 (GM), Tsaila L., Oct. 3 (CL, TC, DTr *et al.*), Marana Oct. 13 (GHR, CDB), and P.R.D., Oct. 23 (DJo).

Of the rare but regular warblers, there were five Black-and-whites, seven Am. Redstarts, and 10 N. Waterthrushes (including five at Patagonia Sept. 2 by DJo). Two separate Prothonotary Warblers were reported; one at Canyon de Chelly Sept. 6 (K&A Altman) providing one of the few records for the N.I.R., and one in St. David Oct. 7 (*fide* JWh). Two Ovenbirds, singles at Sullivan L.,

near Prescott Sept. 19 (P. Woodruff, *fide* CT), and Ramsey Canyon Nov. 7 (C. Dooley *et al.*), were the only reported. The Louisiana Waterthrush found again at Madera Canyon Nov. 7 (LD) was undoubtedly the same one returning there for the past several winters. A ♂ **Kentucky Warbler** was well described from San Bernardino N.W.R., e. of Douglas Sept. 4 (†L. McCloskey, K. Knittle); there are fewer than 10 fall state records. Also well described was an imm. **Mourning Warbler** from Florida Wash Aug. 31 (†L. McCloskey, K. Knittle); this is only the 7th Arizona sighting, and is being reviewed by the A.B.C. Two different ♂ Hooded warblers were seen, one at Patagonia Aug. 5 (†C. Sandell), and another near Prescott Aug. 6 (CT); this species occurs almost annually in s.e. Arizona during late summer. More unusual was a **Canada Warbler** found in Ida Canyon, Huachuca Mts., Sept. 4–9 (C. Green *et al.*), only the 8th state record. Unusual away from the mountains were single Painted Redstarts seen s. of St. David Sept. 3–15 (JWh), at P.A.P. pecan grove Sept. 28 (DS *et al.*), and along lower Camp Creek, n.e. of Phoenix, on the late date of Nov. 11 (J. Forrest). Three Olive Warblers located at Mingus Mt., s.w. of Cottonwood Sept. 4 (VG) were well w. of this species' known breeding range in the state.

TANAGERS TO ORIOLES

A ♂ Summer Tanager returned to winter at the Phoenix Zoo Oct. 31 (RJ) for a 3rd consecutive year. Details were received for an imm. ♀ Scarlet Tanager from Madera Canyon Oct. 10 (†J. Gilligan). The Flame-colored Tanager that returned for the 2nd year to Ramsey Canyon this spring, was last sighted Aug. 5 (*fide* J. Luce). Six Varied Buntings were located on the e. side of the Chiricahua Mts., Aug. 10–Sept. 29, where it has recently been suspected of breeding. As usual, three Painted Buntings were detected in s.e. Arizona, with one female found in Portal Aug. 16 (LD), one male in Pinery Canyon Aug. 21 (D. Fischer), and another male at Patagonia Oct. 26 (JBo).

As many as 11 Dickcissels were found, with four at Becker L., Springerville Sept. 11 (CBA, DE, B. Johnson), up to four seen and heard at P.A.P. pecan grove Sept. 18–24 (JK, CDB *et al.*), two at Granite Reef Dam Sept. 19–21 (RJ), and one n. of Portal Oct. 5–9 (S. Laymon); this species has become regular from mid-September through the first week of October. Golden-crowned Sparrows, scarce winter visitors to s.e. Arizona, were reported from Portal Oct. 20 (DJa), and from B.T.A., Nov. 13 (CT). One Harris' Sparrow, a species infrequently reported from s.e. Arizona, was at Tucson Nov. 21 (C. Jones). The Streak-backed Oriole that attempted breeding on the lower S.P.R. near Dudleyville were detected Aug. 2 (GHR, CDB, PL, SF), but could not be relocated later (GM). A ♂ Scott's Oriole at Paloma Nov. 6 (RN *et al.*) was present on a late date and at an odd locality.

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NEW MEXICO

Sartor O. Williams III

New Mexico's fall weather was unremarkable, however, the birding was anything but! Reporters are to be congratulated for exhaustively documenting most rarities, including two species new to the state.

Abbreviations: Bitter Lake (*Bitter Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge*); Bosque (*Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge*); E.B.L. (*Elephant Butte Lake*); L.V.N.W.R. (*Las Vegas Nat'l Wildlife Refuge*); P.O. Canyon (*Post Office Canyon*); R.G.V. (*Rio Grande Valley*); Zuni (*Zuni Indian Reservation*). Guadalupe, Skeleton, and P.O. canyons refer only to those portions in New Mexico.

LOONS TO IBISES

Pacific Loons were much in evidence, with three at Conchas L. by Nov. 20 (JP, CB), singles at Sumner L., Nov. 23 (LG) and Bitter L., Oct. 30 (*fide* PRS), and two at E.B.L., Nov. 6 (JP). Earliest Com. Loons were one at Morgan L., Oct. 23 (TR) and three each at Conchos L. (MP) and E.B.L., (JP, CB) Oct. 30; by November, there were one–three at Maxwell N.W.R. and Sumner L. (m.ob.). An apparent **Yellow-billed Loon** was at Storrie L., Nov. 14–27 (PRS, ph. LG), for the state's 3rd record in 3 years. Noteworthy were three Horned Grebes at Burn L., *Dona Ana*, Oct. 29–30 (LS, JP, CB); others, all from Oct. 24+, were one–six at Heron L., La Joya, Sumner L., and Conchas L. (v.o.). A possible **Red-necked Grebe** was seen briefly at E.B.L., Nov. 20 (PES, RT); the species is unverified in the state. *Aechmophorus* grebes were well-represented from Morgan L., Zuni, and Bill Evans L. eastward, but species identification was often lax. Adults with young were at L.V.N.W.R., Sept. 14 (L. Wiley, B. Morrison) and La Joya Nov. 18 (PES). Easterly were 11



Male Black Scoter at Sumner Lake, New Mexico, November 28, 1993. Second verified state record. Photograph/Steve West.

Am. White Pelicans at Tucumcari Sept. 30 (PRS, CR), while northerly-lingering Double-crested Cormorants were ten at Morgan L. (TR) and eight at Sumner L., Nov. 28 (SW, TH). Often overlooked, single Am. Bitterns were at Bosque Nov. 20 (CS), Bitter L., Oct. 10 (JP, LG), and Redrock Sept. 30. (RD, *fide* JPH). Late were three Great Egrets at E.B.L., Nov. 3 (JP), as were three Snowies in *Eddy* Nov. 11 (SW). The only Tricolored Heron was an adult at Avalon L., Aug. 19 (CB). There is one previous state record for *Reddish Egret*, so a possible sighting at Brantley L., Aug. 22 (SW) was intriguing, as were rumors of another—perhaps collected—elsewhere in the south. An ad. *Yellow-crowned Night-Heron* was at Bosque Aug. 2–Sept. 4. Migrant White-faced Ibises were found almost statewide, with highs of 40 at Farmington Aug. 31 (TR), 109 at Zuni Aug. 21 (DC), 50 each at Springer Aug. 26 (JPH) and Sumner L., Sept. 14 (JGH), 450 at Percha Sept. 4 (SW, RW) and 45 at Carlsbad Sept. 8 (SW); last was one at Bosque Nov. 21 (GE, CS).

SWANS TO FALCONS

An ad. Tundra Swan was at La Joya Nov. 6–19 (v.o.); the same or another was at Bosque Nov. 19+ (m.ob), where it was joined by an immature Nov. 26 (BN, A. Olivas). Westerly were two Greater White-fronted and five Ross' geese at Farmington Nov. 20 (TR), as were single blue- and white-morph Snows at Zuni Oct. 23 and Nov. 20, respectively (phs. DC). Wood Ducks continued to be widely reported, particularly in the R.G.V. from Albuquerque to Las Cruces; others were 12 at Farmington Nov. 20 (TR), two each at Las Vegas Nov. 14 (PRS) and Ft. Sumner Nov. 20 (JP, CB), three at Washington Ranch, *Eddy* Nov. 20 (SW, TH), and two at Jal L., Oct. 10 (CB). Single ♂ *Eurasian Wigeons* were at Storie L., Nov. 6 (JPH, J. Vaught) and near Radium Springs Nov. 3 (EW, LS). The only Greater Scaup were 20 at Conchas L., Nov. 20 (JP, CB) and three at Caballo L., Nov. 23 (CB). An ad. ♂ *Black Scoter* at Sumner L., Nov. 20–28 (JP, CB, ph. LG, SW) furnished the 2nd verified state record. A probable Surf Scoter was at Ft. Sumner Nov. 20 (JP, CB) and a White-winged was at Las Cruces Oct. 29 (LS *et al.*). Early were six Barrow's Goldeneyes on the San Juan R., Nov. 26 (TR), where there was also a westerly Red-breasted Merganser Oct. 23 (TR). A record 31 Ospreys passed over the Manzano Mts. lookout during the period (H.W.I.), while one–three at

24 other sites statewide (v.o.) suggested continued im-provement in this raptor's status. An *American Swallow-tailed Kite* that graced Socorro skies Sept. 6–18 (P. Basham *et al.*, ph. LG, SW, EW) was at the same site where one was documented in 1982; three earlier reports elsewhere date from the period 1859–1907. A few White-tailed Kites remained in evidence in the s.w., with singles near Buckhorn Aug. 19 (P. Boucher) and the Uvas Valley Oct. 16 (*fide* CS), plus one–two in the Animas Valley through Oct. 8 (v.o.). A record 27 N. Gos-hawks were tallied at the Manzano Mts. lookout (H.W.I.), where the previous high of 22 was set in 1985. A well-detailed imm. *Red-shouldered Hawk* was seen by many at Percha Aug. 29–Sept. 6 (BZ *et al.*). An incredible 7300 Swainson's Hawks streamed by the Manzano Mts. lookout during the period, the most ever counted in North America outside of Texas (H.W.I.). Single possible *Aplomado Falcons* were reported near Orogrande Sept. 17 (*fide* U.S.F.W.S.) and Carlsbad Nov. 23 (SW), but follow-up surveys at both sites were negative.

GROUSE TO TERNS

A White-tailed Ptarmigan nest with several hatched eggs, found in the Sangre de Cristo Mts. Barbara Peak Aug. 11 (D. Wolfe), was perhaps a state first. Northern Bobwhites continued to do well at their w. limits, including <20 near Ft. Sumner Nov. 12 (JPH) and 30 at Rattlesnake Springs Aug. 29 (SW). Black-bellied Plovers were at 4 sites from the R.G.V. e., Sept. 14–Oct. 16 (v.o.), including seven at Holloman L., Sept. 25 (GE). Snowy Plovers were not found in the Laguna Grande area during the period, perhaps due to dry conditions and/or continued pollution there (*fide* SW). Noteworthy Upland Sandpiper numbers were 13 at Ft. Sumner Aug. 29 (BV) and 21 near Arch, *Roosevelt* Aug. 20 (CR); 266 were tallied in *Eddy* Aug. 7–Sept. 14, including 55 on Aug. 13 (SW). The only Solitary Sandpiper was one at Bosque Aug. 14–26 (v.o.). Unusual were two Long-billed Curlews at Bill Evans L., Oct. 21 (RF). A probable Red Knot was at Holloman L., Oct. 15 (CS). High for Sanderlings was three at Sumner L., Sept. 14 (ph. JGH). A possible *Red Phalarope* was at Holloman L., Oct. 1 (BN, DE), where Red-neckeds were present Aug. 28–Oct. 1 (v.o.), including >20 Sept. 25 & 30 (GE); other Red-neckeds were three each near Springer Aug. 26 (JPH) and Bitter L., Sept. 19 (JGH) and one at Bosque Oct. 2–3 (PES). An extensively-documented imm. jaeger at Sumner L., Sept. 25–30 (JP, CB, GE, ph. LG) was believed by some to be a Long-tailed, but Parasitic could not be ruled out; certainly surprising was an adult probable *Long-tailed Jaeger* over mesquite-grassland near Portales Aug. 20 (CR). A Thayer's Gull at Caballo L., Oct. 24 (BN, DE) was the only report. As in 1991, imm. Sabine's Gulls staged an impressive fall showing Sept. 14–Oct. 16, with two at L.V.N.W.R. (T. Bulow), up to four at Sumner L. (JGH, JP, GE, ph. LG), one each at Ute L. (CR), Bitter L. (ph. JGH), and Caballo L. (JP, CB),

and up to three at Holloman L. (GE, CS). Rare terns included a Caspian at Holloman L., Sept. 11 (JP) and several (mostly undetailed) Commons at Sumner, Brantley, Avalon, and Caballo lakes Sept. 25–Oct. 9 (v.o.).

PIGEONS TO SWIFTS

Late Band-tailed Pigeons included ten in the Manzano Mts., Oct. 9 (HS) and one in low-land habitat at Percha Oct. 30 (JP). Inca Doves at their n. limits were singles at Zuni Oct. 20 (DC) and Albuquerque Oct. 23–Nov. 15 (*fide* HS) and three at Portales Sept. 11 (JGH); one at Mangas Sept. 24 (RF) was the first there in 4 years. Northerly was a Greater Roadrunner at Wagon Mound Nov. 6 (JPH); a prolific pair at Las Cruces produced its 4th clutch of the year in August; at least two fledged (GE). A Groove-billed Ani at Bitter L., Aug. 6 (ph. S. Buckman) was the state's first since 1991. A fledgling *Boreal Owl* near Pecos Baldy L., Aug. 2 (D. Stahlecker) provided the 2nd breeding locale for the state and the first for the Sangre de Cristo Mts. Five Black Swifts were at Jemez Falls Aug. 7 (BN), where at least 3 nests fledged single young by early September (HS). Chimney Swifts were described as "greatly diminished" at Clayton (WC); noteworthy were five at Tucumcari L., Aug. 8 (CR) and one at Percha Sept. 18 (JP, LG).

HUMMINGBIRDS TO FLYCATCHERS

New Mexico's incredible hummingbird year continued. The two *White-eared Hummingbirds* previously reported near L. Roberts remained into August (phs. D&MZ, LG), with the last there Sept. 1; two additional White-eareds were at Pinos Altos Aug. 29–Sept. 19 (ph. D&MZ), with one still there Oct. 3, while received late was verification of yet another far to the n. near Questa June 12–13 (ph. L. Smith). An ad. ♂ *Cinnamon Hummingbird* at Santa Teresa, *Dona Ana* Sept. 18–21 (BZ *et al.*, ph. BZ, LG, A. Kraynik, G. Luckner), a first for New Mexico, was only the 2nd United States record. An adult highly probable *Plain-capped Starthroat* at an Animas Valley feeder Aug. 25 (B. Brown *et al.*) furnished the 2nd state report of this still-unverified species. A Broad-billed Hummingbird near Las Cruces Oct. 19–Nov. 3 (ph. BZ) provided the 4th *Dona Ana* report; single Blue-throateds were at L. Roberts Aug. 3 (RF), P.O. Canyon Sept. 18–22 (RS), and Guadalupe Canyon Oct. 1 (AC). Single migrant Costa's reappeared at P.O. Canyon Aug. 7–10 (RS) and Guadalupe Canyon Aug. 3–18 (AC, NMC); the last Lucifers were singles at P.O. Canyon Sept. 24 (RS) and Skeleton Canyon Sept. 22 (SOW). On a more dramatic note, a hapless Rufous was captured at a feeder and eaten by a "praying mantis" at Mangas Aug. 20 (RF). A juv. *Elegant Trogon* being tended by an ad. male Sept. 22 (SOW) documented breeding in the Peloncillo Mts. for the 2nd consecutive year. Easterly was an Acorn Woodpecker in Union (*fide* WC); southerly was a Downey at Rattlesnake Springs Oct. 1 (SW). Noteworthy was a Williamson's Sapsucker at Cloudcroft Oct. 1

(BN). One—two N. Beardless-Tyrannulets at Guadalupe Canyon Oct. 4–18 (AC, NMC) were believed to be migrants from elsewhere, as summering birds were last seen there Aug. 2. Based largely on sonograms, an extensively documented flycatcher at Albuquerque Oct. 14–15 (CB *et al.*, ph. LG, J. Black, recordings LG) appeared to be New Mexico's first *Acadian Flycatcher*. Gray Flycatchers were feeding fledged young in the Magdalena Mts., Aug. 21 (DM). Noteworthy were four E. Phoebe at Conchas L., Sept. 25 (ph. JGH). Northerly was a Vermilion Flycatcher in *San Juan* Sept. 11 (TR). Single Great Crested Flycatchers were at Boone's Draw Sept. 25 (JP, CB), Bitter L., Sept. 21 & 24 (W. Radke), and Rattlesnake Springs Sept. 6 (BN, DE) and Sept. 12 (SW, CR). Unusual was a "nocturnal roost" of 20+ Cassin's Kingbirds in Guadalupe Canyon from early September—mid-October (AC, NMC). Far out-of-range were single Thick-billed Kingbirds at Cliff Aug. 19 (EW) and Percha Aug. 29 (CS, EW). Westerly E. Kingbirds were at Farmington Aug. 10 (TR), Morgan L., Sept. 12 (TR), and Zuni Aug. 1 (DC). The flycatcher of the season was a **Great Kiskadee** at Percha Aug. 28–Sept. 5 (CB *et al.*, ph. LG, BZ); the only verified state record was in 1984.

CORVIDS TO SHRIKES

Westerly Blue Jays included two—three in and near Santa Fe Oct. 12–Nov. 1 (LH, B. Huey), one—two at White Rock Oct. 16 & Nov. 23 (*vide* PRS), two at Corrales Nov. 17 (CB), and one at Sandia Park Oct. 4 (P. Tallman). Unusual was a Clark's Nutcracker report from San Andres N.W.R. in August (MW). Easterly were three Com. Ravens at Boone's Draw Aug. 20 (CR), with one—two there Nov. 12 (JPH). Rare in the Clayton area were a Brown Creeper Nov. 17 (WC) and a Golden-crowned Kinglet Nov. 6 (*vide* WC). Eastern Bluebirds in the n.e. were one at Monastery L., *San Miguel*, Nov. 30 (JPH), five at Conchas L., Nov. 2 (MP), and 40 at Ft. Sumner Nov. 20 (JP, CB). Both W. and Mt. bluebirds were widely reported; highs for Mountains included 100 at Conchas L., Oct. 30 (MP), over 100 at Mangas (RF), and over 200 in *Dona Ana* in early November (BN, DE). Migrant Gray Catbirds were in evidence in the e. plains and in the R.G.V. from Espanola to Percha (m.ob), with late ones at Ft. Sumner Oct. 23 (JP) and Bosque Nov. 20–21 (*vide* CS). Up to 10 Brown Thrashers were at Rattlesnake Springs Oct. 8–9 (CB); elsewhere,



American Swallow-tailed Kite near Socorro, New Mexico, September 7, 1993. Photograph/Larry Gorbet.

singles were at Ft. Sumner Nov. 12 (JPH) and Nov. 26 (PRS) and Tucumcari Sept. 30 (CR, PRS). Early was a Cedar Waxwing at Percha Sept. 2 (GE, CR); noteworthy were several in Guadalupe Canyon Oct. 1–19 (AC, NMC) and 39 at Farmington Nov. 28 (TR). Phainopeplas were seen at San Andres N.W.R. on several dates August–November (MW). The first N. Shrikes of the season were singles in *Taos* (JPH), *Mora* (JPH), and *Guadalupe* (JP, CB) Nov. 20–23.

VIREOS TO WARBLERS

Single *cassinii* Solitary Vireos were at Apache Creek Sept. 27 (JPH) and Rattlesnake Springs Sept. 6 (BN, DE), with a "blueheaded" Solitary at Conchas L., Sept. 25 (JGH). A well-detailed *Philadelphia Vireo* was at a *Roosevelt* migrant trap Sept. 25 (JP, CB); the only Yellow-throated was reported at Boone's Draw Aug. 20 (CR). Tennessee Warblers were relatively plentiful, with one—two at Springer Oct. 1 (CR, PRS), Boone's Draw Sept. 25 (JP, CB), Albuquerque Oct. 15 (CB, LG), and Percha Oct. 13 (CB). Other rare warblers included a N. Parula in *Bernalillo* Sept. 16 (BV), single ♂ **Black-throated Blue Warblers** at Percha Oct. 13 (CB) and White Sands N.M., Oct. 26 (JM), a **Black-throated Green Warbler** at Boone's Draw Sept. 25 & Oct. 2 (JP, CB), single Ovenbirds (rare in fall) at White Sands N.M., Oct. 16 (JM) and Carlsbad Oct. 6 (SW), single probable *Louisiana Waterthrushes* at Percha Sept. 17 (CS) and Rattlesnake Springs Aug. 19 (CB), a ♂ Hooded seen by many at Water Canyon Nov. 21 (M. Root *et al.*), and a *Canada Warbler* at Black River Village Sept. 14, (SW). Remarkable was a possible **Slate-throated Redstart** near Cloudcroft Aug. 10 (P. Ward), but even more remarkable was the discovery that another had been independently identified at almost the same site May 21 (S. Crandall); there is one previous state report, a specimen from the extreme s.e. in 1962.

GROSBEAKS TO FINCHES

Northerly Pyrrhuloxias were singles in Albuquerque Oct. 30 (P. McConnell) and at Ft. Sumner Oct. 23 (JP). Forty Indigo Buntings at Rattlesnake Springs Aug. 29 (SW) was surely a record. A ♂ Varied Bunting at Rock House S.P., *Luna* Sept. 6 (T. Tucker) was a local first; another male was feeding a juv. cowbird at Guadalupe Canyon Aug. 18–19 (AC, NMC), where the last Varied was seen Oct. 3. Northerly were two Painted Buntings at Boone's Draw Aug. 20 (CR); singles were at Percha Sept. 1 (BZ), Las Cruces Sept. 21 (GE), and Sitting Bull Falls Aug. 22 (SW, TH). A westerly Dickcissel at Guadalupe Canyon Sept. 19 (AC, NMC) was likely a local first. Canyon Towhees again invaded the lowlands of *Dona Ana* (CS) and *Eddy* (SW); up to five Abert's were at Redrock Sept. 29–30 (JPH, RD). A Field Sparrow was at Bitter L., Nov. 25 (P. Sunby) and three were at Hobbs Oct. 11 (CB). Early sparrows were a Sage at Percha Sept. 5 (SW), a Fox in the Pinos Altos Mts., Sept. 28 (RD, *vide* JPH), and a Swamp banded



An excited Great Kiskadee at Percha Dam State Park, New Mexico, September 1, 1993. Second verified state record. Photograph/Barry R. Zimmer.

at Albuquerque Oct. 3 (LG). Single Golden-crowned Sparrows were at Albuquerque (CB) and near Pleasanton (CR) Nov. 17; the only Harris' was in Santa Fe Oct. 23–30 (JPH, E. Espinoza). At least one fledgling Yellow-eyed Junco was in the Animas Mts., Sept. 9 (AC, NMC). Westerly was a Com. Grackle at Morgan L., Oct. 23 (TR); late was a Scott's Oriole at Columbus Nov. 23 (CB). Pine Grosbeaks are often hard to find, so noteworthy were singles near Questa Aug. 15 (DM) and Santa Fe Baldy Aug. 8 (BN) and up to 10 at the Santa Fe Ski Basin Nov. 26 (B. Foy). Cassin's Finches were at 2 sites in the Manzanita Mts., including 10 at Otero Canyon Nov. 22 (HS). Red Crossbills were relatively plentiful in the n. and c. highlands and in the Animas Mts.; an active nest at Bandelier Aug. 22 (C. Benkman) was one of few on record for the state. Eastward dispersing Pine Siskins included two at Conchas L., Oct. 30 (MP)—with five there Nov. 13 (MP)—and others at Ft. Sumner Nov. 12 (JPH). Early Am. Goldfinches were two at Zuni Aug. 21 (DC) and singles at Percha Aug. 30 (BZ) and Rattlesnake Springs Aug. 31 (SW, TH). One—two Evening Grosbeaks in *San Juan* Oct. 10 and Nov. 26 (TR) were the only n.w. reports; small to moderate numbers were in the n. and c. highlands, including south to Cloudcroft Oct. 2 (BN, *vide* PRS).

Corrigenda: In the published Fall 1992 report (AB: Vol. 47, No. 1), all male and female symbols were reversed, and only one (of an intended 20) species was boldfaced; computer problems in New York were at fault.

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ALASKA REGION

T. G. Tobish, Jr.

The year-long Regionwide trend of above-average monthly high temperatures and below-average precipitation, which became most pronounced through the summer season, continued at least into November. Freeze-up and first substantial snowfalls were scattered across most of November rather than in October which is standard, and coastal arrivals of Interior and montane species were very late. As evidenced in the summer, fall passage began and continued early throughout the State. All observers commented on a late waterbird migration and an even later arrival of typical saltwater winter species in southerly areas.

Regardless of the mild season, late departure dates were not particularly common. Rather, evidence continues to show that for at least the mainland north of the Gulf Coast, mild fall weather does not typically produce late records but instead simply allows for easier migration conditions and more widespread early departures. Chukchi Sea pack ice was very slow to develop, even in shore-fast areas, and the later migrating waterfowl in the northwest coast were generally later than average. Warmer than usual sea temperatures documented throughout the north Gulf of Alaska from the summer presumably lingered into the fall and must have been responsible for a host of very late records for several pelagics.

The first fall trip to Attu Island since 1983 produced an unusual mix of species for the mid-September to mid-October period and the first or second fall report for several species. The fall season, particularly after mid-September, remains the most poorly known in the western Aleutians.

LOONS TO RAPTORS

Single Pied-billed Grebes appeared at traditional sites, at Sitka Nov. 1–21 (MLW) and in Ketchikan Nov. 9–29+ (SCH). Western Grebes arrived late to traditional salt water winter sites in s. Southeast and peak counts were below average, maximum 237 near Petersburg Sept. 11 (PJW). A single W. Grebe at Juneau Nov. 11 (GVV) was the season's most northerly and one of few fall reports there. A nearshore W. Grebe flock in Sumner Strait near Petersburg, allowed Walsh to pick out and compare a clean *Clark's Grebe* Nov. 7 (PJW†), for the Region's first report. Although the British Columbia range of this form remains poorly delineated, it seemed only a matter of time before one was found in the winter grebe concentrations in s. Southeast. The Kodiak area's second 1993 report of Short-tailed Albatross, was an all brown immature located inshore near Cape



Chiniak Oct. 31 (MH). Kodiak area waters continue to produce nearly annual records of this rarest albatross between June and October. The season's only Mottled Petrel report was a rather late single 3 mi. off Kodiak's Narrow Cape Sept. 27 (JBA). A feeding flock of 400+ Sooty Shearwaters near Knowles Head in e. Prince William Sound Oct. 24 (REF) was notably late and an unusually high number so far inshore in the Sound. The same area produced one of the State's latest and Prince William Sound's first Pink-footed and Buller's Shearwaters, with singles of each there Oct. 19 (REF†).

Dispersed Great Blue Herons were located w. to Seward, "late Sept."–Oct. 31 (WS) and beyond to Kachemak Bay, with singles around Homer Sept. 8 (GCW, EW), Sept. 24 (MM), and Nov. 10 (WD *et al.*), and to Kodiak where one appeared Sept. 22 and joined two others in a roost near town through Nov. 28 (RAM, CM, BA). Most unusual was a single Great Blue well up the Copper R. at Chitna Aug. 25 (DD), one of very few Interior records. Two reports of single Cattle Egrets came in from Juneau Oct. 24 (PC), a first local record, and from Sitka Nov. 1 (MLW). There are now Cattle Egret reports from 5 falls in Southeast since the first record in 1981. The e. Interior Trumpeter Swan population continues to expand, as this year's late season survey censused near record numbers of broods and cygnets and the highest ever fall total of 442 birds Aug. 18–30 (TJD). Distinctly rare at any season at Kodiak, Snow Geese made an unusual showing during stormy conditions, with up to 122 in three separate flocks observed Oct. 2–8 (KW, RAM, MAM, PC). Peak geese counts from the w. Alaska Pen. lagoons centered near Cold Bay included 6246 Emperors Nov. 11, 159,833 Brant Oct. 23, and 70,527 Canadas Oct. 28 (CPD, CFZ). The main Brant departure was a very late Nov. 13 (CFZ). The recovering "Aleutian" Canada Goose continues to pioneer w. Aleutian Is. beyond known

breeding sites on Buldir and Agattu Is. This fall's counts from Attu produced up to 225 birds Sept. 23–Oct. 10 (ATTOUR). A group of four Wood Ducks made a brief appearance at Blind Slough, Mitkof I., Oct. 2 (PJW†), the State's 8th report and at least the 2nd from that locale.

The mild fall/late freeze-up conditions allowed Green-winged Teal to linger in intertidal areas of Upper Cook Inlet in high numbers and well beyond normal late dates which typically extend to the last week of September. Up to 400 were still present around Anchorage tide flats to at least Oct. 13 (TGT) and a few remained to at least the 20th. What was considered the same Spot-billed Duck from the spring season (q.v.) was refound at Attu Sept. 23–Oct. 5 (ATTOUR). Interesting coastal records of otherwise Interior *Aythya*, included up to six Redheads at Juneau Oct. 24 (GVV), where very rare especially in fall, another four at Sitka Nov. 21 (MLW), and a sub-ad. ♂ Ring-necked Duck at Kodiak Nov. 26 (RAM). Three Lesser Scaup at Delta's Clearwater L., Oct. 26 (TJD) constituted one the Interior's latest records. Late-forming shorefast and pack ice at Barrow allowed a drake King Eider and an Oldsquaw to linger in leads to Nov. 5 and Oct. 2 respectively (RS). There are actually a few Barrow area December King Eider records. According to most who commented, Buteo migration was protracted, probably due to later than usual significant snowfall. Extremely late was a Rough-legged Hawk at Cold Bay Nov. 9 (CFZ).

COOTS TO LARIDS

American Coots made an average showing scattered between Southcoastal, with a single in Anchorage Sept. 21–24+ (*vide* RLS), and Southeast, five at Petersburg Oct. 9 (PJW), and singles at Sitka Oct. 26 (MLW) and Juneau Nov. 3 (GVV). This year's peak e. Interior Sandhill Crane count reached 75,000

Sept. 17 (CM) over Dry L., in the narrow lowland funnel zone between the Tanana Highlands and the Alaska Range, e. of Delta. More typical fall peak day counts from this area are in the 15–30,000 range: previous fall peak day count was 51,000 (see B. Kessel, *Can. Field Naturalist*, 1984). Very late Sandhill Crane reports included 35 at Ketchikan Nov. 4 and a single at Sitka Nov. 28 (MLW), certainly the State's latest.

Shorebird migration was typically scant after August and the handful of highlights included: two Mongolian Plovers at St. Paul I. (no details) Aug. 23 (SS), one of very few fall reports there, Attu's 2nd fall **Common Ringed Plover** Sept. 30 (ATTOUR), and an ad. **Curlew Sandpiper** at St. Paul I., Aug. 7 (SS†). The first broad-based fall survey of shorebirds from the w. Alaska Pen. lagoons produced significant data to further delineate the importance of that area to staging Sanderling, Rock Sandpiper, and Dunlin. A notable count of 2050 Sanderling around Izembek Lagoon Nov. 30 (REG, CPD) represents one of the highest local tallies ever: many of these apparently remain all winter. A census of 170,000+ Dunlin Oct. 1 (REG), likely represented the majority of the w. Nearctic Dunlin population, staging in the estuarial bays between the Port Moller/Cinder R. complex and Izembek Lagoon. A peak of 23,785 Dunlin at Izembek Oct. 13 was easily that area's highest and further signifies the importance of Izembek Lagoon to staging waterbirds: there are essentially no Dunlin concentrations w. of there. Before last fall's surveys at Izembek, there were no fall reports of Bristle-thighed Curlew on the southern Bristol Bay shore. Numbers from this fall, up to eight at Izembek Aug. 31–Sept. 19 (m.obs., *fide* CFZ), likely represent what is probably a regular fall occurrence. Other noteworthy late shorebird records included a single Sharp-tailed Sandpiper Nov. 26 at Kodiak (RAM) and very tardy single Com. Snipe at Cold Bay and Kodiak Nov. 23 (CFZ), both the latest local records by a month.

Significantly late jaeger reports included two Pomarines at Kodiak Oct. 11 (RAM), and one each Pomarine and Parasitic in e. Prince William Sound Oct. 24 (REF). The season produced a very late **South Polar Skua** Oct. 8 off Kodiak (JBA), possibly the State's latest ever. For the second year in a row, a **Black-tailed Gull** appeared amidst the gull hordes in Southeast, this time on the Petersburg waterfront Aug. 1 (PJW†, ph), a 5th Alaska record. A third-year bird was documented at Ketchikan last fall (q.v.). Heinl was able to read the band numbers on a third year California Gull Oct. 23 at Ketchikan and the bird's history sheds new light on previous hypotheses of how California Gulls arrive to Southeast each July. This bird had been banded as a juvenile in the Great Basin at Silver Springs Nevada June 15, 1991. This information along with the known synchronous late summer arrival at Ketchikan, provides compelling evidence that the southern end of Clarence Strait and associated side

channels represent the northern end of the post breeding coastal northward dispersal range for Great Basin populations of California Gull. Since historic data placed the State's early California Gull records at Wrangell and Petersburg, and since small numbers were reported at the mouth of the Stikine R., it was traditionally surmised that this interior form reached Southeast *via* the Stikine and other interior-draining rivers. Gabrielson and Jewett's 1939 *Birds of the Pacific Northwest* originally described a northward late summer California Gull movement and these birds clearly continue beyond s. British Columbia annually in decent numbers to the Ketchikan area. Since Heinl has been in that city, his late summer counts always substantially outnumber any more northerly concentrations. A count of 30 California Gulls in the gull flocks feeding on late spawning salmon at the Chilkat R. Eagle Preserve near Haines Nov. 12 (CDE, PS) represents the Region's highest count n. of Juneau. Extralimital Slaty-backed Gulls included three around Ketchikan Oct. 27–Nov. 6 (SCH ph.) and a second-year bird up the Chilkat R., near Haines Nov. 12–13 (CDE†, PE), a first local report. The season's nearshore peak of Ross's Gull reached 485 at Barrow Sept. 20 (RS).

DOVES TO PARIDS

The season's only Band-tailed Pigeon report came from the Ketchikan area Aug. 22 (SCH). Four single Mourning Doves were about average, noted at 4 s. Southeast locales between Hyder and Kuiu I., Sept. 17–Oct. 25 (TH, JK, PJW). Snowy Owls made a modest showing into Southcoastal where a single was noted at Homer "October to mid-November" (*fide* GCW) and at least four were seen sporadically around Anchorage, where very rare in fall only, Nov. 3 into December (RM, TGT *et al.*). Anna's Hummingbirds appeared early and were well dispersed in the s. parts of the Region starting with a ♀-type at Aleknagik Aug. 27 (MN video, *fide* DDG), approximately 30 km inland from Dillingham and the Bristol Bay shore. This appears to be the Bristol Bay area's 2nd record. Another female made a brief feeder appearance in Juneau Sept. 11–12 (GVV) and was replaced by a male Oct. 17–Nov. 25 (GVV). Another male stayed one day only at a Ketchikan feeder Sept. 16 (JP). Three enticing "hummingbird" reports lacking details were received, singles from Kodiak Aug. 20 (*fide* RAM), Cold Bay Aug. 8 (SLT, SST), and west to the e. Aleutians at Herbert I. Aug. 15 (TAB, LKO). Every fall produces these extralimital "hummingbird" accounts more often than not without any details. A few Red-breasted Sapsuckers drifted W of their normal range to Kodiak, one Oct. 23 (IRM, MAM), and to Homer, two Oct. 25–Nov. 4, with one lingering to Nov. 5+ (DE). This Southeast breeder is a rare straggler west to at least Kodiak and a few have wintered in Southcoastal.

An average fall count of three Eur Sky-

larks were noted at Attu Sept. 24–Oct. 3 (ATTOUR). Given the mild fall, the only notably late swallow was a Tree Swallow at sea off Kodiak Sept. 27 (JBA). The lingering mild weather certainly contributed to the very rare occurrence of double brooding of Barn Swallows noted in both Petersburg and Ketchikan in early September (PJW, SCH). For the first time since winter 1974–75, a Siberian Tit appeared very briefly at a feeder outside of Fairbanks Oct. 3–4 (PDM). We still have no evidence that this very low density, localized northern treeline form wanders at all in the fall.

THRUSHES TO WARBLERS

A first in fall for the w. Aleutian-Commander Is. and the Region's 5th ever **Red-flanked Bluetail** was a female in the ravines at Attu Oct. 5–6 (ATTOUR). The only fall report of Mt. Bluebird came in from Southeast where it is probably annual, with three in Juneau Nov. 14–Dec.+ (RLS). Single **Eye-browed Thrush** and **Dusky Thrush** at Attu Sept. 30 and 28 respectively (ATTOUR) were the first Attu fall reports. The Dusky lingered to Oct. 8. Both are casual in fall in the Region. A very fresh ad. "white" wagtail hung around the buildings at Attu Oct. 4–8 (ATTOUR) and was judged an ad. White based on the bird's clean contrast between the pale gray back and black nape and a solid white patch on the greater coverts. Given the still poorly delineated differences between ad. ♀ Black-backed and White wagtails, and the fact that only Black-backed has been collected in the Commander Is. from fall, this record will remain equivocal. The w. Aleutian's 2nd fall Bohemian Waxwing was found at Attu Sept. 30–Oct. 4 (ATTOUR). Palearctic *B. garrulus centralasiae* has been collected at Attu in spring and the only prior fall Aleutian record was a specimen of Nearctic *pallidiceps* from Amchitka.

Most surprising was the Interior's first Warbling Vireo, banded near the Canada border along Scottie Creek Aug. 4 (TJD†). This form breeds as close to the e. Interior as the Atlin, B.C. area, s.e. of Whitehorse, Yukon. The mild fall coupled with good coverage at Ketchikan in early November produced several very late warblers, including a single Orange-crowned there Nov. 13, two Townsend's Nov. 12, the State's record late Yellow Warbler, also a single Nov. 12, and a Wilson's Nov. 13 (all SCH, RLS). It is only from the past 8 years that we have any November warbler records. The season's only **Magnolia Warbler** report came from Petersburg, where a single Aug. 15 (PJW) was a first in fall. Three separate **Palm Warbler** reports from Southeast were about average given the recent history of this fall straggler. Singles turned up at Petersburg Oct. 9 (PJW†, = 2nd local record), Juneau Oct. 18 (GVV, ph), and Ketchikan Nov. 13 (SCH†, RLS, = latest State record). An unfortunate **Ovenbird** that reached Fairbanks Oct. 23 likely succumbed soon after being briefly glimpsed on the 24th (DDR, DDG, JJ,

PDM) in snowy, near 0°F weather. There are now 3 Alaska records and one each from spring and fall in Fairbanks. The only true extralimital warbler account was a Wilson's at St. Paul I., Aug. 10 (SS). Although this widespread taiga breeder reaches the adjacent Bering Sea Mainland coast it had previously been unrecorded in the Pribilofs. Record late was a ♀ W. Tanager near Petersburg Oct. 31 (PJW) but significant was a female described at Cordova Oct. 14 (REF) representing Southcoastal's first in fall and 2nd ever.

EMBERIZIDS TO FRINGILLIDS

Given better fall coverage **Swamp Sparrow** is evidently annual in fall somewhere in South-east where this year a single was found at Ketchikan Nov. 9–December+ (SCH). Another possible was seen briefly at Cordova Sept. 10 (REF), but the early date and equivocal details kept the record unsubstantiated. This fall's White-throated Sparrows included a single at Homer Nov. 15–Dec. 2+ (BM) and two seen sporadically around Ketchikan Nov. 12–December+ (SCH). Eight years after Alaska's only previous report, also a fall bird, (see *AB*, Vol 45, ♀ 5), an imm. **Pine Bunting** was flushed into the open at Attu Oct. 6 (ATTOUR*, SF, ph). No other *Emberizas* were reported from the fall Attu trip. Two **Brewer's Blackbirds** again appeared at Ketchikan Oct. 25–December+ (SCH), where Heinl has more than doubled the previous total State records in the past 4 years. A total of 25 Bramblings at Attu Sept. 24–Oct. 7 (ATTOUR) was judged a below average fall tally for the w. Aleutians. Two **Oriental Greenfinches** at Attu Sept. 28 (ATTOUR) represented the Region's 2nd and latest fall report.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA/ YUKON REGION

Chris Siddle

August continued summer's cool, wet trend. September and October were more summer-like with a persistent ridge of high pressure producing a dry, warm Indian summer. By October's end temperatures returned to normal. November was warm and wet in the northern half of British Columbia and cool and dry in the south. A major arctic front occurred on November 21, retreating before a mild Pacific flow near month's end. The only weather/avian connection reported was heavy migration of passerines August 28–29 in Vancouver and the North Okanagan. The spring's bountiful production of wild seeds and fruits seemed to keep Pine Grosbeaks and other boreal species in the north. Red-breasted Nuthatches were unusually common all season in both Prince George and Vernon. The extensive southward flow of boreal irruptives reported in regions east of the province was generally not experienced in British Columbia with the exception of a localized and early influx of Snowy Owls.

An unusual array of vagrants kept listers happy: Little Blue Heron and Scrub Jay from the south; Slaty-backed Gull and Curlew Sandpiper from the northwest, and a Lesser Black-backed Gull from the east.

Abbreviations: PG (Prince George); Van. (Vancouver); Van. I. (Vancouver Island).

LOONS TO DUCKS

Very few Yellow-billed Loons were reported; a breeding-plumaged bird was with 100 Commons off Okanagan Mt. P.P., Oct. 9 (CC, m.ob.); and one was seen from the Prince Rupert-Skidegate ferry June 30 (†PJ, JDi). An immature was on Crooked R. near McLeod L., 140 km n. PG Oct. 3 (SK). In the s. Yukon where the species is rare, a Yellow-billed appeared at Schwatka L., Nov. 11–16 (CE, m.ob.). A Flesh-footed Shearwater, rare in British Columbia, was reported from the Skidegate-Prince Rupert ferry Aug. 17 (†PJ, AS). An Oct. 9 pelagic trip from Ucluelet to Barkley Canyon produced 20 Buller's Shearwaters, regular offshore in mid-autumn (PJ, m.ob.) An Am. White Pelican which summered in Van. was last seen Oct. 10 (m.ob.). An imm. Brown Pelican was in the Pt. Roberts area Aug. 2–13 (RT, B&PSP). Individual Double-crested Cormorants appeared at Tranquille, Kamloops Aug. 22 (SR) and Eaglet L., PG Sept. 22 (CA, HA, DR, EB, PB). The Prince George bird provided the area's 3rd local record and 2nd fall event. Two Double-crests, rare in the Yukon, were at L. Laberge through early Aug. (MCr, PSg). The season's only Great Egret was at Reifel I., Nov. 11 (JI). British Columbia's 2nd **Little Blue Heron** (an imm.) was photographed at the mouth of the Courtenay R., Sept. 19 (ph DWI). Cattle Egrets appeared in fair num-



Immature Little Blue Heron at Courtenay River, Vancouver Island, on September 19, 1993. Second record for British Columbia. Photograph/Doug Innes.

bers with one near Ft. Steele early Nov. (LJ), up to two at Nakusp Nov. 15–20 (BA, JP, GSD), three at Revelstoke Nov. 14 (DP) and one at Fraser L., Oct. 22 (RP). I am assuming a "great egret" associating with cattle ca. Nov. 10–11 at Barrett Station near Houston (*fide* DS) was instead a Cattle Egret. The Cattle Egret influx around Vancouver was light, with one at Reifel Oct. 27–29 (JI) and four at Iona Nov. 11 (RT, AJ, MW, DJ).

Trumpeter Swans staged in massive numbers on Fraser L., eclipsing all previous interior concentrations. By Nov. 9 there were about 1200 (CA, DR). The peak count was about 1300 thereafter with a minimal decrease by month's end (RP). Of the 20,000 Snow Geese arriving at Reifel I., almost 50% were juveniles (*vs.* 2% last year), indicating good summer production and survival. (JI, RJC). The Okanagan's first fall Eur. Wigeon, a male, was at Robert L., Nov. 4–11 (CC, m.ob.). Reports of Eur. × Am. Wigeons continue to increase on the s.w. coast where at least five birds were reported. Iona I. hosted a ♀ Tufted Duck Oct. 30–Nov. 21 (AJ). A ♀ King Eider at Stanley P., Nov. 6 (EM), provided the first s.w. record for the past 7–8 years. A Black Scoter on Eaglet L., Oct. 10 (MPh) and 11 (ph SK, LL) provided a first record for Prince George. Common Mergansers continue to congregate on Okanagan Valley lakes each fall. This season's largest assembly was 500 on Ellison L., Nov. 7 (JB, CC, DW).

HAWKS TO SHOREBIRDS

A fairly late Swainson's Hawk was at Osoyoos Oct. 11 (SRC). At least one Gyrfalcon was seen in the Vancouver area starting Nov. 22 (PY, JD, MW). Two Gyrs were seen along the Haines Rd., BC Aug. 29 (GK, LK) and one was at Swan L., YT Sept. 23 (CE, PS). There was only one Prairie Falcon reported: Boundary Bay Aug. 23 (JD).

Two thousand Sandhill Cranes passed over the upper Liard R., s.w. YT, Sept. 9 & 11 (JBb) and another 2000 passed the upper Nisutlin R., Sept. 19 (VE). Many observers in the Smithers and Kispiox areas noted the unusual absence of migrating Sandhill flocks. Possibly the fine weather allowed the birds to fly higher or further e. than usual (DS).

With official separation of Pacific Golden-Plover and Am. Golden-Plover, observers continued efforts to specifically identify the two. Number of primary tips visible past the tertials seems the most reliable way to sepa-

rate them. Single Am. Golden were at Kelowna Sept. 6 (CC, DB), Armstrong Oct. 16 (†CS) and Kamloops Sept. 19 (SR). Ten Am. Golden were found at Kamloops Sept. 26 (SR) and two Oct. 18 (SR). The largest single number on the coast was six at Iona Sept. 18 (MDP, AJ, MW). Three Pacific Golden were recorded at Kamloops Sept. 19 (SR) and one Oct. 9 (SR). Up to four golden-plovers at Prince George Airport Sept. 19, 27, & 28 (ph DR) showed strong though not conclusive indications of being Pacific Golden. The largest single number at the coast was two at Iona Sept. 18 (MDP, AJ). A Black-necked Stilt at Reifel I., Oct. 17 (JI) provided the first-ever fall record for British Columbia. A vagrant Bar-tailed Godwit lingered at Boundary Bay Sept. 21 (JL, ph DM, m.ob.) to Oct. 8 (HNM, JAM). A Willet, a Long-billed Curlew, and a Marbled Godwit reassembled as the "Three Amigos" at Blackie Spit during the early fall.

This locally famous trio has wintered at the Spit since 1989 though no one is sure how many of the original cast have been replaced over the years. Eight hundred Surf-birds at Wilson Ck., Sechelt, Aug. 2 (AS) were impressive though far below the historic high counts for this species in British Columbia. British Columbia's 9th Curlew Sandpiper appeared at Iona Sept. 15 to 28 (†MW, MT, ph ST, m.ob.). Stilt Sandpipers appeared in good numbers in the s.w. for a species formerly considered a vagrant, with one at Iona Aug. 12 (MT), three on Aug. 16 (LE) and three Sept. 13 (PJ), three at Reifel Sept. 5 (PJ), three at Beach Grove Aug. 21 (EM, BW), three at Tsawwassen Aug. 20 (GAP), and other scattered Vancouver records up to a juvenile at Iona Sept. 29 (MW). In the interior there were three at Tranquille, Kamloops Aug. 8 (SR), one at Tranquille Aug. 14 & 21 (SR) and one at Nakusp Aug. 29 (GSD). They were somewhat better represented in the Prince George area with the following numbers seen at Tabor L.: three Aug. 9, five Aug. 10, five Aug. 15, two Sept. 4, one Sept. 5 and one Sept. 7 (JB, m.ob.). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper, always rare on the coast, appeared at Blackie Spit Aug. 9 (TP) and another was found at



Juvenile Short-billed Dowitcher at Penticton, British Columbia, August 16, 1993. Photograph/S. R. Cannings.

Iona Aug. 23–24 & 26 (GSD, RT, m.ob.). It is likely that at least four Ruffs (most undescribed) occurred in the Vancouver area with one at Tsawwassen Aug. 25 (GAP), another at Reifel Sept. 11 (JF, MW, EW) a juvenile at Iona Sept. 28–30 (RJC, m.ob.) and one at Iona Oct 17 (VO). Prince George's first Short-billed Dowitcher was photographed at Tabor L., Aug. 15 (ph. NK). Three appeared Sept. 3 (CA, SK, LL). Penticton also had its first Short-billed Aug. 16 (ph. SRC). Two Upland Sandpipers, rare migrants to s. British Columbia, were at Vernon Aug. 17 (†CS, PG, MC).

GULLS TO SAPSUCKERS

As usual a scattering of Franklin's Gulls appeared mid August–late September. Individuals, mostly juveniles, were at Victoria, Aug. 31 (CC, GSD, CS), Iona Aug. 11 (GC), White Rock Aug. 17 (FC), Summerland Aug. 19 (SRC), and Kamloops Aug. 21–28 (SR). Three were at Kamloops Sept. 8 and one Sept. 26 (SR). Two immatures were at Adam's R., Sept. 5 (JBr). Thayer's Gulls were very uncommon but widespread with a high of 15 at Kamloops Nov. 7 (SR), three immatures at Vernon Oct. 17 (CS), and two imma-

tures at Kelowna Nov. 20 (CC). Here are 2 indications of how Glaucous-winged Gulls have increased in s. interior British Columbia over the last decade. The season's single-day high count was five at Deep Cr. near Peachland and three at Penticton on Nov. 6 (CC, m.ob.). Up to three Glaucous-wingeds were at Kamloops Sept. 8–Oct. 11 (SR). Vagrant gulls spiced up interior birding. The interior's first Slaty-backed Gull (and British Columbia's 4th) was discovered at Revelstoke Oct. 17, remaining until Oct. 20 (†PSu, ph. OG). This bird, an adult individually identified by a trace of third-year black on its lower mandible, reappeared at Vernon Nov. 11 (†CS, MC) and stayed at the local landfill until at least Nov. 14 (SC, PG, m.ob.). Just as exciting was British Columbia's 2nd Lesser Black-backed Gull (an adult) at Burton Sept. 26–Oct. 17 (†GSD, m.ob.). At the Yukon landfill surveys found a previously unrecorded movement of Thayer's Gulls through the Whitehorse area beginning Aug 1 with one adult and peak-

ing Oct. 15 with 93 first-winter birds and an adult. None were present after Oct. 30 (ph CE, PS). Among the Thayer's a first-winter Iceland Gull was photographed Oct. 6 (ph †CE, HG, PS) and remained until Oct. 20, providing the Yukon's 2nd record. The fall movement of Glaucous Gulls through the Whitehorse area peaked Oct. 15 at seven first-winter birds and one adult (CE, PS). The last Glaucous was seen there Nov. 6 (HG).

Over 1000 Com. Murres were drowned in salmon gill nets in the San Juan Is., washing up along Boundary Bay in mid-August (*vide* RJC). Many more late-summer records of Rhinoceros Auklets than usual were submitted for the area between Pt. Roberts and Iona jetty. A Thick-billed Murre, very local in the QCI's, was well-described from Luxana Bay on the e. coast of Kunghit I., Aug. 12 (†PJ, AH). Snowy Owls invaded the Vancouver area in force starting with one at Reifel I., Nov. 8 (JI). On Nov. 28 six were in Delta (MDP). A scattering occurred across the inte-



Recent surveys at the Whitehorse landfill have turned up new information about the occurrence of gulls in the southern Yukon Territory. This first-winter Thayer's Gull there on October 18, 1993, was part of a substantial movement of the species. Photograph/Cameron D. Eckert.



Curlew Sandpiper, apparently a juvenile, at Iona Island, British Columbia, on September 22, 1993. Photograph/Sharon Toochin.

rior, with an early Snowy in Kelowna Oct. 24 (SU) and another in Penticton Oct. 30 (JM). Another was photographed in pine forest (!) near Kelowna Nov. 15 (AB). Also early was one in a clearcut 30 km s.w. of Vanderhoof Nov. 4 (ND). Prince George's only other Snowy was road-killed 12 km n. of Prince George Nov. 30 (Min. of Environment, DKi). An unusual movement of Snowys through alpine areas was reported in the s. Yukon, with up to 5 different sightings (*fide* DMO). A Snowy was reported along the Haines Rd., Nov. 12–13 (RJ, CE, PS), a part of the province seldom reported on. A bird-of-the-year ♂ Anna Hummingbird frequented a PG feeder from Aug. 6–Oct. 30, providing the 2nd Prince George record (ph. SK, LL). A vagrant Red-naped Sapsucker was carefully described from Van., Sept. 28 (†MDP, AJ).

FLYCATCHERS TO FINCHES

How common can Alder Flycatchers be in the Yukon? Twenty-five were seen at Swan L., YT, Aug. 28 (CE, PS)! A Scrub Jay providing a 2nd record for British Columbia and Canada frequented Musqueam Nature Park, Vancouver July 28+ (†GS, TV, †AJ, m.ob.). Jaramillo's outstanding description indicates, through color of plumage, that the bird is a member of one of the West Coast populations of Scrub Jay. Two noteworthy sightings of Chestnut-backed Chickadees at the n. limit of the Interior Cedar/Hemlock wet belt included eight along Hungry Ck. road 70 km e. of Prince George Oct. 31 (MPh) and four–seven near McGregor 75 km n.e. of Prince George Nov. 7 (PGNC). A tiny flock appeared in W. Larches on Silver Star Mt., Vernon Aug. 28, where the species rarely strays from the Monoshees (CS). Big numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported from Prince George and Vernon this fall (JB). Intriguing but undetailed is a report of a N. Wheatear along the Haines Rd, BC Aug. 29 (GK, LK). Details are being sought. A cold front Aug. 28–29 coincided with passerine migration across s. British Columbia. Orange-crowned Warblers were especially common at Vernon and Vancouver (CS, RJC). Single Tennessee Warblers, very rare in the Okanagan, were seen at W. Bench Aug. 5 & Sept. 4, with two Sept. 3 (SRC). A Nashville Warbler at Pacific Rim N.P. was far w. of its usual range Sept. 4 (RT). Yellow Warbler migration was heavy around Van., Aug. 10 with 92 at Jerico Park (MDP). One might almost expect a vagrant Palm Warbler on the outer coast of Van. I. in the fall but six at Ucluelet Oct. 10 were outstanding (PJ)! Another Palm was at Iona Oct. 2 (†KM, MM). The most desperate Palm Warbler was one frantically searching for food in Whitehorse, YT, Nov. 11 (CE)! A Chestnut-sided Warbler appeared at Pacific Rim N.P., Sept. 4 (†RT) providing one of very few Van. I. records. A late W. Tanager was at Jerico Pk., Oct. 10 (KI, MDP). Four Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at Liard Hot Springs July 6 (GK, LK) make it 3 years in a row for this species at this unusual location



Providing a second record for the area of Prince George, British Columbia, was this Anna's Hummingbird found in August 1993.

Photograph/Sandra Kinsey.

n.w. of its normal range. An imm. Clay-colored Sparrow at Reifel I., Sept. 6–9 provided one of very few records for Vancouver (†MW). A Harris' Sparrow at Nakusp Sept. 25 (GSD) and one at Clearbrook Sept. 23 (SO) were a little earlier than usual (GSD). The only interior Swamp Sparrow was at Nakusp Oct. 3 (GSD) but observers on the coast reported several, all without details! A single observer sighting of a ♂ Lesser Goldfinch Sept. 6 at Van. was supported with convincing details (†MDP).

Corrigenda: A Chestnut-sided Warbler was erroneously reported as occurring in Revelstoke May 1993. In fact no such bird was seen.

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OREGON/WASHINGTON REGION

Bill Tweit and Jeff Gilligan.

This fall will be remembered for a spectacular flight of Palm Warbler on the coast, and otherwise average numbers of other vagrant warblers. The interior saw the second consecutive year of higher-than-average fall numbers of Cattle Egret. Several outstanding Oregon rarities were well documented and photographed: Tricolored Heron, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and Streak-backed Oriole. Washington was not as fortunate; the reports of Smew, Jack Snipe, and Black-throated Blue Warbler were not photographed and were mostly single-observer sightings.

The weather patterns remained anomalous. After an unusually wet summer, fall returned to drought conditions in all parts of the region. August through October were mild and dry, November was definitely cooler than normal but still quite dry.

Two consecutive summers of El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions on the ocean apparently resulted in southern hemisphere tubenose numbers that were even lower than last fall, with Sooty Shearwater numbers reaching record lows. Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, Common Murre, Cassin's Auklet and Tufted Puffin numbers were alarmingly low.

Abbreviations: Fields (*Fields, Harney, OR*); 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*).

LOONS TO DUCKS

Interior records of Pacific Loons totaled 25, apparently the highest number ever. The records included 15 on Coulee Lakes, *Grant, WA* Oct. 15 (AS) and six in e. Oregon including first *Baker* records at Phillips Res., Oct. 17–23 (PaSu). Four reports of Yellow-billed Loon included e. Washington's 2nd record at L. Chelan Nov. 17–20 (AS, †DSt ph.) and 3 westside records at Point No Point, *Kitsap, WA* Sept. 23 (VN), Florence, *Lane, OR* Nov. 15 (B&ZS) and S.J.C.R., Nov. 19 (MP). There was a jumble of Clark's Grebe reports, with five on the westside, primarily on the outer coast, Sept. 21–Nov. 14 (m.ob.) and seven in e. Oregon Aug. 21–Nov. 18 (m.ob.).

Counts were received from 10 pelagic trips off Westport, WA (TW) and 5 off various Oregon ports. Spectacularly high numbers of Black-footed Albatrosses included 900 off Westport Aug. 14 and 250 off Garibaldi, *Tillamook Aug. 21* (SR). One Laysan Albatross was found Oct. 3 off Westport. Northern Fulmar were found in good numbers all fall; peak counts were 1436 off Westport Aug. 14 and 450 off Garibaldi Sept. 18 (SR). No Flesh-footed Shearwaters were found off Westport and only one off Oregon Oct. 30 (SR); the last good fall for them was 1988.

Buller's were also scarce, with peaks of 66 off Westport Sept. 18 and 15 off Garibaldi Sept. 18 (GG). In comparison, the 1988 peak count was 448, but counts since then have been much lower.

Sooty Shearwater abundance and distribution were both abnormal. The peak pelagic trip count was only 4500 off Westport Aug. 7, with an average count of 1200 and the lowest was 207 Sept. 12. These counts are only 20% of normal. The only onshore concentration noted was a meager 10,000 at Tokeland, *Pacific*, WA Sept. 21 (SM). Sightings of 15 off Ediz Hook, *Clallam* Sept. 8 (MN) and one off Swantown, *Island* Sept. 12 (SM) indicate that small numbers entered the Strait of Juan de Fuca, an unusual event that also occurred last fall. As usual, a small number of Short-tailed Shearwaters were found off Westport, 11 or fewer on each trip during September and October, and in Puget Sound, with singles seen Oct. 30 off Seattle (RRO), Nov. 6 off Seattle (EH), and Nov. 7 off Dash Pt., *Pierce* (PtSu). With the exception of an unimpressive peak count of 160 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels off Westport Sept. 11, 60 or fewer were seen on the other trips. Fall records of Leach's Storm-Petrel are scarce: one was off Westport Sept. 11, and more unexpected were singles in the Strait of Juan de Fuca Aug. 3 (SSm) and off Seattle Nov. 4 (KA).

Counts of Am. White Pelican in the Columbia Basin were average for recent years, reaching 640 Aug. 8 (AS). The usual sprinkling of westside records included one at Vancouver L., *Clark*, WA Sept. 9–Oct. 10 (WC) and over 30 in s.w. Oregon (*fide* MM). Brown Pelican numbers on the outer coast were somewhat lower than 1992 numbers, but several Puget Sound records were very unusual. Three were at Point No Point Aug. 16 (VN), three were at Tacoma in August (*fide* TB), one was at Pt. Roberts, *Whatcom* Aug. 2–6 (*fide* WW), and two were at Clallam Bay Sept. 15 (*fide* D&SSm). Some remained later than normal on the outer coast: Nov. 13 eleven were at Tokeland, *Pacific*, WA and five at Westport, *Grays Harbor*, WA (SM), and ten were at Newport, *Lincoln*, OR Nov. 26 (AC).

An ad. Tricolored Heron at Ona Beach S.P., *Lincoln*, Nov. 11–13 (Sherrell m.ob.) was the 3rd Oregon record. The Cattle Egret flight in the interior slightly exceeded last fall's record numbers, but coastal numbers were much lower than in 1992. The 34 interior reports included: up to five at Malheur Sept. 25–Oct. 8 (*fide* SS), one at Waterman Flat, OR Oct. 16–17 for a *Wheeler* first (DL), two at Pasco, WA Oct. 17 (*fide* TG), four near Terrebone, OR Oct. 24 (TC) for a *Deschutes* first, up to 11 near Lawen, *Harney*, OR Oct. 25–31 (GI), two at Boardman, *Umatilla*, OR until Nov. 4 (CC), two in Finley, *Benton*, WA Oct. 26–Nov. 6 (TG), and seven at Burbank, *Walla*



Yellow-billed Loon at Lake Chelan, Washington, on November 20, 1993. Only the second record for eastern Washington. Photograph/Dan Stephens.

Walla, WA (MD) Oct. 31 with one still there Nov. 16 (BW). On the westside, two at Belfair, *Mason* Nov. 15 (Byer) were the only Washington report, compared to 60 last year. Fair numbers were found in w. Oregon, including three at Sauvie Oct. 16–Nov. 17 (JJ, DB, HN). Green-backed Herons are casual in e. Oregon, so singles at Rock Creek Res., *Wasco* Aug. 28 (DL), Malheur Sept. 20–24 (van den Broek) and Summer L., *Lake* Oct. 15 (MSL) were all unexpected. Four White-faced Ibises flying N over the ocean off Brookings, OR Oct. 27 (Munson) were baffling, and also a *Curry* first.

An Am. Wigeon brood was at Everett, WA Aug. 14 (SM); they are rare westside breeders. Eurasian Wigeon were less numerous than last winter in n.w. Washington (K&JW). In the interior, four were found in Washington and two in Oregon, about average levels. Lesser Scaup are very rare westside breeders: a brood of nine young was at Steigerwald N.W.R., *Clark*, WA Aug. 21 (WC) and a brood of eight was at Everett, WA Aug. 22 (SM). Reports of sea ducks in the interior included four Oldsquaw, 11 Surf Scoter, and 14 White-winged Scoters, all moderate numbers. On the coast, 2000 Surf Scoter were counted between Bob Creek, *Lane* and Yachats, *Lincoln* Sept. 19 (TM), which is a large number for the Oregon coast. A pair of *Smew* reported on Dungeness

Bay, *Clallam* Oct. 28 (†DeBolt) would be the 4TH Washington record if accepted by the Records Committee.

KITES TO PHALAROPES

White-tailed Kites were found at their regular Washington locations: Columbia White-tailed Deer Refuge, *Wahkiakum* Nov. 15 (KK) and near Francis, *Pacific* all fall (m.ob.). Kites are accidental in e. Oregon, so one at Paulina Marsh, *Lake* Aug. 21 (PaSu) was noteworthy. In w. Oregon, the usual small numbers were along the outer coast (m.ob.) and at least six were in the Rogue valley (*fide* MM). Out of range Red-shouldered Hawks included an immature at Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark*, Sept. 23–Oct. 16 (Houston, †RRO) for Washington's 4TH record and a subadult in e. Oregon at Paulina Marsh, *Lake* Aug. 22–Sept. 12. (PaSu, SS). Eight were reported from their regular range in w. Oregon, with one near Veneta, *Lane* Aug. 12 (TM) being the farthest n.

Two Gyrfalcon appeared in w. Washington and one on the eastside, normal for fall.

Observers are attempting to separate Am. and Pacific golden-plovers, which is commendable, but with predictable results. Two Pacific Golden-Plovers were reported, without accompanying details, from the interior, yet their occurrence there is hypothetical. On the outer coast, where neither species appeared in large numbers, different observers seemed to identify the same birds as either species. A total of 65,000 shorebirds were recorded on e. Oregon surveys during late August. Almost 35,000 of those were Am. Avocet on L. Abert, *Lake* (MSL, SS). Solitary Sandpiper reports totaled ten on the westside and 34 in the interior, average fall numbers. A *Wandering Tattler* at L. Abert, *Lake* Aug. 31–Sept. 8 (MSL, SS, ph.) is the 4th inland record for Oregon. Bar-tailed Godwits have occurred almost annually in the large godwit flock at Tokeland, *Pacific*, WA. One to two immatures were present Sept. 11 (Rose, BSu) to Oct. 29 (Morse). The Marbled numbers there peaked at 385 (SM). Pectoral Sandpipers were scarce on westside (JD, JG), but were in average or better numbers on the eastside (AS, BW, SS). There were only 4 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper reports, all on the westside (SM, Buckley, Grettenberger, Jagers). Stilt Sandpiper numbers were somewhat above average: 14 on the westside and 28 in the interior. It was the second consecutive "off" fall for both Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Ruff, with 15 of the former and two of the latter: a male at Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark*, WA Sept. 13 (WC) and one at Sauvie Oct. 7–8 (DB). A sight record of a *Jack Snipe* at Skagit W.M.A., *Skagit*, WA Sept. 9 (†K&JW) would, if accepted, be a first regional report. It could not be located subsequently. Phalaropes of both species were very scarce off Westport for the 4th consecutive

fall; peak counts were only 14 Red Phalarope Sept. 11 and 42 Red-necked Aug. 14 (TW). Point No Point, *Kitsap*, WA had high counts of 500 Aug. 16 and 28 (VN); also below average. In the interior, L. Abert, *Lake*, OR held 8500+ Wilson's and Red-necked phalaropes in late August. Together with the avocet total, they comprised 67% of the shorebirds censused in e. Oregon.

JAEGERS TO OWLS

All 3 species of jaeger and S. Polar Skua were found in below-average numbers this fall. Average numbers per trip off Westport were 13 Pomarine, two Parasitic, two Long-tailed and one S. Polar Skua (TW). The regional season total for all 4 species was lower than their peak daily counts in other years. An ad. jaeger (sp) migrating S over the Washington Cascades in *Kittitas* Sept. 14 († Carpenter) was very unusual; an imm. jaeger (sp) at the Yakima R. delta, *Benton*, WA Sept. 20 (BW) was in a more regular location for the interior. Again this fall, much smaller numbers of imm. Franklin's Gulls appeared on the westside than formerly, the peak count was only six at Everett, WA Sept. 18 (SM). An ad. **Common Black-headed Gull** at Everett, WA Aug. 17–Oct. 10 (†SM, m.ob.) was Washington's 7th record and the first to be photographed (Bird).



Flesh-footed Shearwater off Garibaldi, Oregon, on October 30, 1993. Photograph/Skip Russell.

An ad. Heermann's Gull at the Deschutes R. mouth, *Wasco* Oct. 31 (DL) was e. Oregon's 4th record. Even though more observers are looking for them, there are still few reports of Thayer's Gulls in the interior: an adult in Richland, *Benton*, WA Nov. 5–14 (Bartley, AS), with two first-year birds there Nov. 14 (AS). A first-year W. Gull at W.W.R.D. Oct. 10 (†AS) was well described; their status in the interior needs additional study. The peak count of Sabine's Gulls was 59 off Westport Sept. 11 (TW), a low count. Away from the ocean, five were found on the westside and six in the interior. The small Elegant Tern flight observed this summer fizzled out. Only 25 were found on the Oregon coast (m.ob.) and two on the Washington coast (KK, BW), so it was puzzling that at least two ventured into Puget Sound, at Oak Bay, *Jefferson* Sept. 24 (VN) and at Tacoma Oct. 1 (TB). More Com. Terns than normal were reported along the Oregon coast, with a peak count of 100 per hour passing Bandon, *Coos* Sept. 10 (HN). An imm. Arctic Tern at W.W.R.D., Sept. 12 (†AS) is one of very few e. Washington records.

After a disastrous breeding season, counts of post-breeding Com. Murres off Westport

averaged only 250 per trip (TW). As noted in the summer report, post-breeders moved into Puget Sound earlier than normal: 1600 at Point No Point Aug. 8, with 500–1200 remaining through September (VN). An unknown, but apparently substantial, number of Com. Murre were entangled in gillnet fishing in the Point Roberts, *Whatcom* area during August. Ancient Murrelets found at 2 locations in n. Puget Sound, near Vendovi I., *Skagit*, Aug. 11 and near Lummi I., *Whatcom* Aug. 13 (MN) added to an unusual number of summer records. However, winter numbers of Ancients in Puget Sound were lower than normal; the peak count at Point No Point, *Kitsap*, was 22 Nov. 20 (VN), a more typical peak is 100 to 200. Cassin's Auklets almost disappeared off Westport this fall, averaging ten per trip, until early October when the Alaska migrants increased numbers (TW). Continuing the summer trend of unusual numbers of Cassin's in Puget Sound were one off Point No Point Aug. 9 (VN) and one off Seattle Oct. 12 (†RRO). The Rhinoceros Auklet foraging pattern shifted to inside waters, larger than normal numbers were at Point No Point into mid-August, with a count of 540 Aug. 16 (VN). On the Oregon coast, more than normal were reported onshore and in estuaries (m.ob.). Tufted Puffins also virtually disappeared off Westport; they were found on only one of ten pelagic trips (TW). A Horned Puffin at Sekiu, *Clallam*, WA Oct. 26 († Norton) was very unusual in the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Snowy Owl numbers have been increasing over the last few winters. Eight westside reports included one on Dungeness Spit, *Clallam*, WA Nov. 1 on (fide D&SSm), up to three on Lummi Flats, *Whatcom*, WA Nov. 13 (JD) on, one in Seattle, WA Nov. 18 (Rose), one–two on Samish Flats, *Skagit*, Nov. 23 on (K&JW), and one at S.J.C.R., Nov. 13 on (MP). Six eastside reports included one Nov. 3 at L. Pend Oreille, WA (fide MK), one Nov. 7–16 at Bateman I., *Benton*, WA (fide TG, BW), one Nov. 8 at Umatilla N.W.R., *Morrow*, OR (CC), one Nov. 9 at Pasco, *Franklin*, WA (MD), one near Umatilla, *Umatilla*, OR Nov. 14 (CC), and one Nov. 26 near George, *Grant*, WA (Nunnallee). Boreal Owls were very difficult to find in their usual areas in *Okanogan*, WA, but they were found at 3 locations in the Wallowa Mts. during September and October (KK, MD, CC). They were also found at 2 locations where they were first recorded last fall, with two at Mt. Rainier N.P., WA Oct. 2 (EH) and one at Mt. Pisgah, *Wheeler*, OR Sept. 25 (DL).

SWIFTS TO FINCHES

A roost of 15,000 Vaux's Swift at Portland, OR late August–early October (Anderson) was a massive number. The ♂ Costa's Hummingbird at Florence, *Lane* Sept. 2–12 (B&ZS) was the 2ND 1993 record for this annual wanderer to Oregon. Lewis' Woodpeckers may have been on the move, with extralimital records from American Camp, *San Juan*, WA Aug. 14 (Mandel), near Granite Falls, *Snohomish*, WA Sept. 8 (Flavin), several in the Willamette val-



Adult Tricolored Heron at Ona Beach State Park, Oregon, November 13, 1993. Third state record. Photograph/Skip Russell.

ley in September (Ken Russell, Hall, JL) and over 20 in *Curry*, OR early October–early November (m.ob.). Say's Phoebe at Ocean Shores, *Grays Harbor*, WA Sept. 21 (SM) and three near Brookings, *Curry*, OR Sept. 22–26 (AB, Irle) are unusual on the outer coast in fall. Three Tropical Kingbirds is about average: at Tokeland, *Pacific*, WA Nov. 4 (†G&WH), Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln*, OR Nov. 7 (JJ, DB) and Cape Blanco, *Curry*, OR Nov. 16 (†CD, Kaplan). An ad. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Otter Rock, *Lincoln*, Nov. 11–20 (S. & O. Pierce, m.ob.) and an immature near S.J.C.R., Nov. 12 (†JL) bring the Oregon total to about ten records; the former is the first documented with photographs.

S.A.

Palm Warblers appeared in almost unthinkable numbers. Over 125 were found in the region; a normal fall would have generated a half dozen reports. The majority of the reports came from coastal Oregon, with 97 in *Curry* alone, and 15+ records along the rest of the coast. They were less common in w. Washington, which provided 10 coastal and four Puget Trough reports. Only one was found in the interior, at Fields Sept. 19 (Aldrich). The first record was one in the Willamette Valley at Salem on the remarkable date of Aug. 1 (†JL). The next reports were a month later: one at Seattle Sept. 13–16 (EN) and two at Nehalem S.P., *Tillamook*, OR Sept. 14 (Screen). The peak of the movement was in the first half of October when 12 were seen in one day at Gold Beach, *Curry* (CD et al). Some remained through the end of the period. The other non-coastal records were singles at Skagit W.M.A., *Skagit*, WA Sept. 17 (SM), North Plains, *Washington*, OR Sept. 29 (Gutman), Pt. Roberts, *Whatcom*, WA Oct. 2–7 (fide WW), and at Washougal, *Clark*, WA Nov. 11 (WC).

The Blue Jay near Salem, *Marion*, OR throughout November (BB, SR) was the only report. A Scrub Jay at Elma, WA Oct. 8 (G&WH) was a first *Grays Harbor* record and indicative of continuing expansion. American Crow populations continue to expand in formerly unoccupied areas in the interior. They were unknown in the Bend, OR area 5 years ago; 130 were counted Aug. 15 (fide TC). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher near the S.J.C.R., Oct. 30 (MP) is a first n. Oregon coast record. Five N. Mockingbirds were reported (KA,

CM, Skibby, Richard Smith), an average fall total. "Eastern" Solitary Vireos were described from near Summer L., Lake, OR Sept. 13 (†SS) and at Bend, OR Oct. 3 (†TC); their status in Oregon is uncertain.

A Tennessee Warbler at Harris Beach S.P., Curry, OR Sept. 22 (AB) was the only report. Concentrations of 120 Orange-crowned Warblers at Hatfield L., Deschutes, OR Sept. 3 (GG) and 100 near Enterprise, Wallowa, OR Sept. 17 (CC) were notable for our region. Frenchglen, Harney, OR held a Magnolia Warbler and a Cape May Warbler Oct. 3–5 (†JC, TM). There are about 10 Oregon records of Cape May. Another Magnolia was at S.J.C.R. Oct. 10 (Weinholt). A ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler at Richland, Benton Oct. 8 (†BW) is the 2nd documented record for Washington; both are single person sight records. The 1992 record (AB 46:474) was not accepted. An imm. Prairie Warbler at Harris Beach S.P., Curry Sept. 21–25 (AB, †CD, m.ob.) is about the 4TH Oregon record, all from the s. coast.

Blackpoll Warblers were described at Cape Blanco, Curry Oct. 1 (†CD) and Brookings Oct. 3 (AB, †CD); undescribed reports included one at Moxee, Yakima, WA Aug. 28 (BSu), 1–2 at Malheur Sept. 19–20 (SR, Janzen), and one at Astoria, Clatsop, OR Oct. 10 (Fay). An ad. ♀ Black-and-white Warbler was banded in Douglas, WA Aug. 13 (†DSt) and one was at Page Springs, Harney, OR Sept. 12 (C. & M. O'Leary); there are usually a couple of fall records. American Redstarts are not found annually on the westside, an imm. male was at Gold Beach, Curry, OR Oct. 4–5 (CD).

An imm. ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak, netted and photographed at S.J.C.R., Sept. 12 (MP), was the only report of this species which is usually found in fall in the interior. A Dickcissel at Eagle Point, Jackson Oct. 20–29 (Sands, ph.) is the first Oregon record since



Dickcissel at Eagle Point, Oregon, in October 1993. Photograph/Howard Sands.

the 1980's. Clay-colored Sparrows were reported from 6 different locations in Curry Sept. 23–Oct. 23 (†CD *et al.*); they are an-nual in fall in Oregon but 6 records is an excellent total. Swamp Sparrows were found in good numbers. The earliest westside report was an adult at Ocosta, Grays Harbor, WA Oct. 3 (BT); there were 6 other w. Washington reports and they were widespread in w. Oregon. In the interior, where they are less regular, an adult and an immature were at Hatch, Wallowa, OR Oct. 16–Nov. 12 (CC), one was at L. Abert, Lake, OR Oct. 30 (†CM), and three were at McNary N.W.R., Walla Walla, WA Nov. 9 (Wisman). It was clearly an above-average year for White-throated Sparrow reports: 28 were reported from the Brookings area alone and 12 were reported from e. Oregon, including five together at Malheur Sept. 30 (JC, TM).

Rare blackbirds included a Rusty Blackbird at Seattle Oct. 5 (EN), a Com. Grackle at Port Orford, Curry, OR Aug. 13–Sept. 14 (H. & A. Pfand), and a ♀ Great-tailed Grackle at Fields Sept. 27–Oct. 3 (SJ *et al.*). Most Oregon records of Great-taileds are of males in spring. A ♀ Hooded Oriole was at Hunter Creek, Curry Nov. 23–24 (†CD); they are almost annual in s.w. Oregon. An imm. ♂ Streak-backed Oriole at Malheur Sept. 28–Oct. 1 (SJ, Simmons, Herr, Herlyn, m.ob.) was a first

Oregon record, and the farthest n. record for the continent. Red Crossbills were very unevenly distributed. Small numbers were found in the Puget Trough and northern Willamette valley late August on (Lyles, K&JW, WC, HN) and along the e. slope of the Cascades (R&GR). They apparently moved around considerably, becoming locally common in Skagit, and around Portland in September (K&JW, HN), but were very scarce in the Okanogan highlands in October (AS). Both Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks were very scarce in all parts of the region that reported them (K&JW, G&WH, WC, AS).

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MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

David G. Yee, Stephen F. Bailey, and David Fix

Rare and unseasonally high numbers of seabirds persisted as a warm water trend along the West Coast continued. One of the major themes of the Fall was the surge of tropical species well into the northern portions of California, especially among landbirds. The Region also experienced major fallouts of eastern vagrants, primarily among vireos and warblers. It was a very poor fall for montane invasionary species such as thrushes, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and finches. Golden-crowned Kinglet was the exception, as they appeared everywhere *en masse*.

Abbreviations: B.S.O.L. (*Big Sur Ornithology Lab., Monterey*); C.C.R.S. (*Coyote Cr. Riparian banding Station, Santa Clara*); C.V. (*Cen-*

tral Valley); Cyn. (*Canyon*); F.I. (*Southeast Farallon Island*); H.S. (*Hayward Shoreline, Alameda*); P.R.B.O. (*Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory*); 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.

SHEARWATERS TO FRIGATEBIRDS

A Streaked Shearwater was picked up in a supermarket parking lot in Red Bluff, Tehama Aug. 5 (†BY, ph.SWH). Maybe this vagrant strayed into S.F. Bay and up the Sacramento R., then mistook the lot for water, perhaps at night. The bird flew from its release site, Humboldt Bay Aug. 13 (DFx). All other North America records are from Monterey Bay. The high count for Flesh-footed Shearwaters was 17 at Cordell Bank Nov. 6 (RS, DLSh, LLu).

The Manx/Townsend's/Newell's shearwater problem has been the most controversial in the history of the C.B.R.C., and no species has been accepted to date. But this fall Manx Shearwaters were definitively photographed

on at least 3 dates, and sight records reported on at least 6 others! Plumage differences proved that several birds were involved. All but one report came from Monterey Bay boats. Disgracefully, only 5 of the 9 claims were properly documented, despite the involvement of hundreds of birders! After photos of a "Townsend's" Aug. 29 proved to be Manx (DLSh, ph. RN, JMD), JMD discovered that a "Black-vented" photographed July 25 was also Manx. Photos helped reidentify a "Newell's" at F.I., Aug. 31 (†PP, †SNGH) as Manx. Manx were also described Sept. 22 (†JLD, †B. Behrstock, †D.J. Angell) and Oct. 25 (†DGY). Besides the 4 undocumented claims, DLSh, RT *et al.* have seen occasional "non-Black-vented" black-and-white shearwaters for years, but definitive characters have not been seen or appreciated. Adding the 2 recent Washington State records and prior California reports of Manx and Townsend's, it seems likely that Manx Shearwater is frequent along the Pacific coast.

Black-vented Shearwaters became abundant in October; in only 20 minutes 720 flew

N past Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo* Oct. 23 (PJM). Farther n., 40 p/h passed Laguna Pt., *Mendocino* Oct. 31 (DT) and three were one-to-two mi off Cape Mendocino, *Humboldt* Nov. 21 (GLF). There are very few records so far north.

Four Wilson's Storm-Petrels were at Cordell Bank Aug. 21 (RS), and one was in the Monterey Bay storm-petrel flock Sept. 4–Oct. 3 (DLSh, m.ob.). Two hundred Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels at Cordell Bank Aug. 21 (†DGY, RS) was a large concentration. An Ashy Storm-Petrel flying toward S.F. Bay at C.C.R.S., Nov. 10 (†MMR, †SCR) was the first for *Santa Clara*. Any storm-petrel is rare inside S.F. Bay, but most are this species. Up to four Least Storm-Petrels inhabited Monterey Bay Aug. 7–Oct. 16 (DLSh, SBT, RAE).

An ad. ♀ **Brown Booby** returned to its favorite rock of 1992 at F.I., Aug. 16–Oct. 18 (†PP). The last Magnificent Frigatebird of 1993 was a female flying down the coast at New Brighton State Beach, *Santa Cruz* Sept. 22 (DLSu).



park since 1940. Inland Red-breasted Mergansers were a female at Oroville, *Butte* Nov. 14 (TDM, AM, BWb) and two female birds at L. Shastina, *Siskiyou* Nov. 18 (REk).

RAPTORS

An imm. **Black Vulture** in the Arcata Bottoms, *Humboldt* Sept. 19+ (M. Schultz, D. Poole, †DFx, †m.ob.) provided the first well-documented record for California. The Golden Gate Raptor Observatory recorded its best year for weather and raptor numbers (CLF). Seasonal records included 22,737 total raptors, an average of 43 raptors p/h, 5456 Turkey Vultures, 5762 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 6502 Red-tailed Hawks, 90 Merlins, and 1301+ raptors banded. The 89 Broad-winged Hawks were 77% of the 1987+ average. Immatures at M.B.O.S.P., Sept. 26 & Oct. 3 (†SCR) were the 2nd and 3rd for *Santa Clara*; each was also seen in *San Mateo*. An ad. "Kriders" **Red-tailed Hawk** was carefully described at Joseph Grant County P., *Santa Clara* Nov. 20 (†SCR). *Both*

BITTERNS TO DUCKS

Token Least Bitterns for the season were at Colusa N.W.R., Aug. 26 (†JRa, M. Wolder) and the Salinas R. mouth Aug. 29 (JBo, TEa). Four ad. Little Blue Herons at Alviso, *Santa Clara* Aug. 29 (RJe) were a new high count at the only site in the Region where they are regular. An immature appeared at S.F. Bay N.W.R., *Alameda* Aug. 15 (EHa). *Monterey's* 2nd Little Blue, an immature, was at the Salinas R. mouth Oct. 24–27 (G. Meyer, †DR, †RC, REM, BHG). Another wandering immature was at Bodega Harbor, *Sonoma* Nov. 14 (W. Nelson, RAR *et al.*).

Of some 400 Cattle Egrets reported, 300+ were in the C.V. in late August. White-faced Ibis made a strong showing again in *Monterey*, with 20–22 at Elkhorn Slough and the nearby Salinas R. mouth Sept. 26–27 (BHG, JMHu, D. Osterbrook). The highest C.V. count was of 135 near Woodland, *Yolo* Aug. 22 (WEH). Thirty at Bridgeport Res., Aug. 22 (PJM) tied the *Mono* high count.

A notable appearance of Tundra Swans in the S.F. Bay area in mid-November coincided with sustained NE winds (m.ob.). Two ad. Trumpeter Swans Oct. 27 at Tule L., *Siskiyou* (†REk, JiD, K. Spencer) furnished a rare Regional sighting of unbanded birds. However, two collared and dyed Trumpeters Nov. 30 at Modoc N.W.R. (RLR) clearly were involved in a management project. A blue-morph Ross' Goose was reported from Sacramento N.W.R., Nov. 6 (DES). Two Brant far inland at Mono L. County P., Aug. 21 (PJM) were very rare there, and two at Tule Lake N.W.R., Oct. 31 were notable for the Klamath Basin (REk).

The sole report of a "Eur." Green-winged



This Streaked Shearwater was found alive in a parking lot at Red Bluff, California, on August 5, 1993, and later released on Humboldt Bay. Seventh North American record. Photograph/ S. W. Harris.

Teal was at Redwood Shore, *San Mateo* Nov. 25 (RSTh). Moonglow Dairy, *Monterey* continued to be a magnet for migrant Blue-winged Teal, with 36 there Sept. 27 (SFB). A count of 1600+ Gadwall Aug. 25 at the Sunnyvale sewer ponds, *Santa Clara* included 16 flightless broods (SCR). This duck continues its increase as a West Coast breeder. The earliest of about 35 non-C.V. Eur. Wigeons was detected Sept. 23 at Mt. View Forebay, *Santa Clara* (JM *et al.*).

A Tufted Duck found at the Alviso salt ponds Oct. 30–Nov. 21 (†SCR, †MJM, MMR, m.ob.) was the 2nd for *Santa Clara*. Singles were at Rodeo Lagoon, *Marin* Nov. 3–20 (S. Platt, JMR, JM, DSh), and Redwood Shores, *San Mateo* Nov. 14 (RSTh). Two broods of Lesser Scaup were found Aug. 25 at the Sunnyvale sewer ponds (SCR). Five Surf Scoters were inland. The earliest of 13 Oldsquaws, all coastal, was at Pt. Reyes Sept. 26 (ShH). A ♀ Hooded Merganser on the Merced R. in Yosemite N.P., Nov. 14 (LWb, †RHw, SMcA, D. von Bargaen) was the first sighting in the

reported "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawks were described: Patterson Pass, *Alameda* Nov. 27–30 (†RJr) and at Gridley Rd., *Colusa* Nov. 28 (†MJM).

Two *richardsonii* Merlins were reported: a female at Pt. Reyes Sept. 19 (RS) and an ad. male at Alviso Oct. 17 (†SCR). An imm. Gyrfalcon without jesses near Midway, *Alameda* Nov. 27 & 30 (†RJr, R. Cimino) was the southernmost ever in California.

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS

Three Black Rails at Doran Marsh, *Sonoma* Sept. 22 (JGE) were about at their n. limit on the West Coast. All but two of 77+ Pacific Golden-Plover reported were coastal. The largest flock was 40–50 birds in October in the Eel R. delta, *Humboldt* (†SMcA *et al.*). Only 36 Am. Golden-Plovers were distinguished, also with two inland, and with no large concentrations noted. A Mt. Plover in Sierra Valley Nov. 27 (†MMC, E. Sorenson) was thought to the first *Plumas* record.

An ad. Black-necked Stilt accompanied by two large young Aug. 18 at Moonglow Dairy (DEG) proved that at least one brood eluded foxes. Peak counts of 108+ Lesser Yellowlegs in *Santa Clara* Aug. 22 (SCR) and 55 at Bridgeport Res., *Mono* Aug. 31 (PJM) were high numbers. Twelve coastal Solitary Sandpipers were balanced by 12 inland, highlighted by five at 2 sites in *Mono* Aug. 22 (PJM). Two Wandering Tattlers in *Santa Clara* Aug. 29–Sept. 7 (RJe, PJM, SCR) were rare so far into S.F. Bay, as was the county's 2nd Black Turnstone at Alviso July 31–Sept. 19 (PJM *et al.*). Both "oddwits" were detected. The Region's 9th **Hudsonian Godwit** was at Horseshoe Pond, Pt. Reyes Aug. 8–9 (†RS,



Black Vulture [with Common Raven] over Arcata, Humboldt County, California, on September 21, 1993. This bird remained through the fall, and furnished the first fully documented record for California. Photograph/Ron LeValley.

†PP). A Bar-tailed Godwit at Drake's Estero, *Marin*, Aug. 12 (†P. Delastre) was followed by one at Crescent City Aug. 28 (ADB, †GSL, P. Spruance); what was suspected to be the latter bird was then found at the Mad R. estuary, *Humboldt* Sept. 5–6 (JBo, TEa, †DFx *et al.*). A Surf-bird at H.R.S., Aug. 18 (RJR) was well into S.F. Bay, where it is scarce in fall.

It was a good fall for Pectoral Sandpipers, with 3 groups of 60+ birds noted. Four Sharp-tailed Sandpipers Sept. 25–Oct. 16 fell below the recent average. The 15 Stilt Sandpipers Sept. 4–Oct. 15 appeared at only 5 locations. One at MacKerricher S.P., Sept. 9 was the first record for *Mendocino* (DT, AGM). Eight Buff-breasted Sandpipers occurred coastally Aug. 14–Sept. 29. Nineteen Ruffs at 13 sites, spanning the entire season, set a Regional record. Arrival of prospective wintering birds (four) was noted near Lemoor, *Kings* Nov. 29 (JSe).

LARIDS TO ALCIDIS

High counts were 90 Pomarine and 26 Long-tailed jaegers offshore Monterey Aug. 28 (DLSh). A juv. Long-tailed Jaeger at the Tulare L. basin, *Kern/Kings* Sept. 6 (†J. Wilson) was rare inland.

An ad. Laughing Gull resided at Seacliff State Beach, *Santa Cruz* Sept. 4–21 and Oct. 24–25 (K. Monahan, †DLSu, ph. S. Rovell). A first basic Little Gull at North Grasslands, *Merced* Nov. 20 (†RJR, LRF) was noteworthy since multiples no longer frequent the Stockton sewage ponds. An ad. **Common Black-headed Gull** at Alviso Nov. 15 (†SCR) was *Santa Clara's* first. Well described was a possible first basic Herring × Glaucous gull at Arcata, *Humboldt* Nov. 15 (†DFx). Hundreds of Sabine's Gulls were offshore Monterey in August (DLSh, SCR) and 500 were estimated at F.I., Aug. 31. Three were inland Sept. 13–Nov. 20. A very late adult was at Santa Cruz Dec. 1 (†DLSu).

Coinciding with Sabine's Gull, Arctic Tern peaks were 2500 off Monterey Aug. 28 (DLSh) and a Regional record 7500 at F.I., Aug. 31. An adult was far inland at Crowley L., *Mono* Sept. 19 (JLD). Two ad. Black Skimmers at the Salinas R. mouth Sept. 4 (AD, JM) fulfilled Monterey Bay's fall quota.

A Thick-billed Murre stopped at the usual location, off Cannery Row, Monterey, Sept. 19–28 (DLSh, ph. †JMa, †m.ob.). Others were 2 mi off Cypress Pt., *Monterey* Sept. 22 (†ph. JLD) and 3–4 mi off Pt. Bonita, *Marin*

Oct. 24 (†SBT). Eggshell fragments discovered in old-growth redwoods confirmed that Marbled Murrelets still nest in *Mendocino* (J. Dudley, *fide* RHw). Four of six Xantus' Murrelets at Cordell Bank Oct. 9 were *S. h. hypoleucus* (RS, SBT). An alternate-plumaged Ancient Murrelet was very early Aug. 7 at Pebble Beach, *San Mateo* (N. Lethaby). An Ancient strayed inland to San Pablo Res., *Contra Costa* Nov. 13–22 (RSa, JM, m.ob.).

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

A record 11 coastal White-winged Doves Sept. 4–Nov. 7 more than doubled the recent fall averages. One at Pt. St. George Sept. 4 (GSL) was *Del Norte's* first and the state's northernmost. Rarely observed over 6000 ft on the w. slope of the Sierra Nevada, a N. Saw-whet Owl was at 7100 ft in Perego Meadows, Yosemite N.P., Oct. 17 (DLSu). A road-kill fledgling Lesser Nighthawk in Peachtree Valley, *Monterey* Sept. 13 (DLSh) was the offspring of very late nesters. An unprecedented 14,545 Vaux's Swifts were recorded over the Marin Headlands this Fall (*fide* CLF). A stunning 9000 were recorded Nov. 12 alone; amazing not only for its magnitude, but also for the very late date. An imm. ♂ Broad-billed Hummingbird took its southern origins all the way up to Fairhaven, *Humboldt* Oct. 9–14 (S. Haux, †RHw, †LWw, †MHM *et al.*). The Black-chinned Hummingbird at F.I., Oct. 27–28 was only the island's 3rd, and very late.

Acorn Woodpeckers wandered widely along the c. coast as Pt. Reyes had up to seven Sept. 15–Nov. 13 (m.ob.), Golden Gate P. had up to 10 Sept. 9+ (m.ob.), and H.S. had its first Sept. 23 (RJR). Yellow-bellies continued to be the sapsucker of choice, as four coastally (one Oct. 23, three in November) were supplemented by two county firsts inland: Likely, *Modoc* Sept. 23 (JCS, †GjH) for a first from the Great Basin District, and Davis, *Yolo* Nov. 15+ (†MP, JMHu *et al.*). Single Red-naped Sapsuckers were at Bear Valley Marsh, *Marin* Oct. 27 (JGE) and Big Sur R. mouth Nov. 7 (B.S.O.L.). *Humboldt's* 4th Williamson's Sapsucker on Blake Mt., Sept. 17 (GSc, JEHu) was from the interior part of the county where they may prove to be regular.

FLYCATCHERS TO WRENS

Many observers commented on the paucity of migrant Willow Flycatchers. This state



Immature male Broad-billed Hummingbird at Fairhaven, Humboldt County, California, in October 1993. This bird furnished the northernmost record on the Pacific Coast. Photograph/Ron LeValley.

Endangered species needs to be closely monitored. Five coastal Least Flycatchers Sept. 9–24 and one migrant Hammond's Flycatcher at Pescadero, *San Mateo* Oct. 17 (RSTh) were well below recent averages. Coastally, eight Dusky Flycatcher Aug. 26–Oct. 6 and two Gray Flycatchers Sept. 4 & 28 were healthy totals, and included *Santa Cruz's* first Dusky at Natural Bridge S.P., Oct. 4–6 (†DLSu, †RMrr). A lone E. Phoege was at the Marin Headlands Nov. 13 (*fide* JM).

No Vermilion and only two Dusky-capped flycatchers came as a surprise, considering other tropical visitors. The latter two were at Trinidad, *Humboldt* Nov. 9–11 (GSc, †DFx, †RHw, †GSL, †LPL *et al.*) and Gazos Cr., *San Mateo* Nov. 20–21 (MFe, †RSTh, AME). One of the great tropical delights of the season was first Regional records of **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher**: Pt. Reyes Sept. 25 (Cwo, †JW, †DSg,



Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher at Pine Gulch Creek, California, October 10, 1993. Second record for northern California. Photograph/Stephanie Battiste.

m.ob.) and Pine Gulch Cr., *Marin* Oct. 6–10 (†KH, ph. m.ob.). A near-record 33 Tropical Kingbirds graced the coast Sept. 17–Nov. 6. For the 3rd consecutive fall, the Region had a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: Nicascio, *Marin* Sept. 25–Oct. 24 (†JM, ph. †m.ob.). Prior to 1991, there were only 4 fall records.

Blooming late, a pair of Pygmy Nuthatches was feeding young on Mt. Hermon, *Santa Cruz* Oct. 25 (RMrr). A Canyon Wren at Año Nuevo Pt., Aug. 12–Sept. 12 was *San Mateo's* first, and one at Bobelaine Sanctuary, *Sutter* Oct. 13–Nov. 6 (JCP, RBr, PDe) was one of the few for the C.V. floor.

BLUEBIRDS TO VIREOS

Eight W. Bluebirds above 10,000 ft at Tioga Tarns, *Tuolumne*, Nov. 5 (DLSu) were unseasonally high and late. Brown Thrashers were in Bolinas Nov. 8–11 (J., KH, m.ob.) and F.I., Nov. 10–11. They have been very rare recently. *Monterey's* first Bendire's Thrasher was at the Salinas sewage ponds Sept. 3–5 (†JMa, †DR, RC, m.ob.); there are less than 10 Regional records.

The Region's 8th **Yellow Wagtail** briefly visited H.S., Oct. 6 (†RJR), the state's first non-September sighting. Though well short of 1991 numbers, 12 Red-throated Pipits were impressive: eight at Pt. Reyes Sept. 26–Oct. 23 (JW, †SBT, †SCR, m.ob.), three on F.I., Sept. 30–Oct. 13, and one at Purisima Cr. mouth, *San Mateo* Oct. 24 (RSTh). Once again, an Am. Pipit showing characteristics of the Asian race *japonicus* was well observed: Bodega Bay Nov. 13–14 (†BBu, KB, RAR *et al.*).



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Nicasio, California, October 10, 1993. Photograph/Stephanie Battiste.

The only N. Shrikes reported were from the Davis sewage ponds Oct. 17–22 (JAM *et al.*), F.I., Oct. 18–21 (2nd island record), and Pt. Reyes Oct. 23 (JM, m.ob.). Vireos were quite the rage this season! For only the 2nd fall ever, Bell's Vireo was found: singles at F.I., Sept. 15 & 18–19 (first & 2nd island records) and Cosumnes R. Preserve, Sacramento Nov. 7 (†GML, †JML), first for the C.V. since 1977. All were strongly suspected to be the w. forms. Solitary Vireo raised all sorts of supercilii. Sixteen "Blue-headed" types reported Sept. 15–Oct. 31 was more than 3 times the previous high in 1991! Three at F.I., Oct. 6–10 (ph. PP) and one in the interior w. of Lodi, San Joaquin Sept. 18 (†DGY, WRH) were well documented, but of 12 along the c. coast, only two in Monterey were described (†Dr, †CHo). Care in distinguishing *solitarius/alticola* from bright fall *casinii* is encouraged, and documentation should be provided. Three plumbeous Solitary Vireos were also along the c. coast Sept. 15–Oct. 25. A record-breaking eight Philadelphia Vireos were seen: three in Monterey at the Big Sur R. mouth Sept. 17–18 (†NLe, †JDa *et al.*) & Oct. 9 (†CHo) and the Carmel R. mouth Oct. 7–14 (†DEG, †RC, †DR), one at Fairhaven Sept. 16–17 (†MHM, †TWL *et al.*), one at Pescadero Sept. 30–Oct. 17 (†RSTh, †JM, m.ob.), two at F.I., Oct. 6 & Nov. 9 (†PP), and one at Pine Gulch Cr., Oct. 7–16 (KH, †m.ob.). Eleven coastal Red-eyed Vireos Aug. 21–Oct. 17 established a fall record, as did five Yellow-green Vireos: Loleta Bottoms, Humboldt Oct. 14–15, (†SMcA, †RHw *et al.*), Pine Gulch Cr., Oct. 16–22 (JSC, †JM, m.ob.), Bolinas Lagoon Oct. 17 (J. Booker, †TEa), F.I., Oct. 26 (TPP), and Pt. Reyes Oct. 28 (JMHu, †RS).

WOOD-WARBLERS

As in 1991, the Region had another amazing fall warbler season that rivaled and even surpassed the great years of the 1970s. While there were some true rarities, it was the magnitude of our more regular vagrants that was mind-boggling. Most were coastal unless noted.

Warblers in record or near-record numbers included: 53 Tennessees Sept. 1–Oct. 20, with one late Nov. 24; six Virginia's Sept. 2–30; 37 Chestnut-sideds Sept. 5–Nov. 4; 31 Magnolias Sept. 8–Nov. 11, 18 Prairies Sept. 1–Oct. 27; 54 Black-and-whites Aug. 28–Nov. 25; 83 Am. Redstarts July 30–Oct. 24, with two late birds in November; and seven Prothonotaries Sept. 11–Nov. 11. Those in average to above-average totals included: five N. Parulas Aug. 15–Oct.

24; 12 Black-throated Blues Oct. 2–Nov. 9, with one late Nov. 20–Dec. 1; 14 Blackburnians Sept. 10–Nov. 7; four Bay-breasteds Sept. 30–Oct. 16; 15 N. Waterthrushes Aug. 12–Oct. 21; and three Canadas in September, with one in November. The only regular-occurring vagrants with low turnovers were 66 Blackpolls Sept. 3–Oct. 29, three Ovenbirds Sept. 19–Oct. 17, and two Hoodeds Aug. 22–Sept. 18.

Our 3rd and 4th Blue-winged Warblers in less than a year were at the Big Sur R. mouth Sept. 14 (B.S.O.L., †DR, †RC *et al.*) and Carmel R. mouth Sept. 27–28 (†RS, †DR, †SFB, m.ob.). A record four Lucy's Warblers provided southern flavor: singles at Big Sur R. mouth Aug. 26 (CHo, JDv), Carmel R. mouth Sept. 5 (DR, RC), Pescadero Sept. 19 (RSTh), and Ferndale Nov. 22–27 (GSL, †Dfx, m.ob.). Single Cape May Warblers were at Pescadero Sept. 23 (†C. Miller, J. Spitler), Pt. Reyes Oct. 6–8 (RS, m.ob.), and F.I., Oct. 26. The Region's first Pine Warbler in 7 years was at the Big Sur R. mouth Oct. 24, a Monterey first (REM, †DR, RC *et al.*).

S.A.

The landbird of the season had to be Palm Warbler, with its quake-shaking total of 882 (*conservatively!*)! This nearly triples the previous all-time high. Flocks up to 20 were regular. A total of 309 on F.I. alone was staggering. It was by far the most common "migrant" there, with Yellow-rumped Warbler a distant 2nd at 208 arrivals (PP). As expected, all but three were coastal, which probably helps justify their status as "vagrant." One at Laguna Cr. Beach, Santa Cruz Oct. 1 (†RMrt) was judged of the race *hypochrysea*.

A surprising Prothonotary Warbler at Sacramento N.W.R., Glenn, Nov. 2–11 (S. Adair, m.ob.) was the Sacramento Valley's first. All three *Oporonis* warblers graced the Region, with the most records on F.I.: one Kentucky Sept. 13 (†PP), single Connecticut Sept. 15 & Oct. 4–6 (†PP), and single Mourning Oct. 1, 4–5 & 6–7 (†PP). Exceptions were Monterey's first Connecticut at the Carmel R. mouth Sept. 27 (JCS) †GjH, †RFT *et al.* and the Big Sur R. mouth Oct. 2 (B.S.O.L.), and Mourning at Rodeo Lagoon, Marin Oct. 2–3 (†JM *et al.*).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

An above-average six coastal Summer Tanagers Aug. 8–Nov. 22 were overshadowed by a Scarlet Tanager at Pt. Reyes Oct. 23 (†JM, ph. EDG, m.ob.). The recent fall trend of high numbers of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks continued as 16 were found coastally Sept. 14–Nov. 13. The Blue Grosbeak at L. Alamanor, Plumas Aug. 12 (HG) was one of few Mt. records, and another near Scotts Valley, Santa Cruz Nov. 15–18 (ph. B&K Monahan, †DLSu) was very late.

Very rare Dickcissels were at Arcata Sept. 25 (SWH) and the Ferndale Bottoms Oct. 10–12 (BBA, †Dfx *et al.*). The only Am. Tree

Sparrow was at Pt. Reyes Oct. 5–6 (†JMR *et al.*). A record 80 Clay-colored Sparrows Aug. 18–Nov. 26 were observed, including one inland at Sierra Valley Aug. 18–20 (†LJ, KL), Plumas' first. Sparrows from the southwest invaded, as F.I.'s 2nd Black-chinned Sparrow Sept. 13 was followed by one at Pt. Reyes Oct. 9 (ALE, GFB), and Monterey's 2nd Black-throated Sparrow at the Big Sur R. mouth Sept. 6 (JDv, CHo) was supplemented by four at F.I., Sept. 5–Oct. 15 and one at Pt. Reyes Sept. 22–28 (RS, m.ob.). Swamp Sparrows were as common as White-throated Sparrow, as at least 130 primarily coastal birds were observed Sept. 21+.

MacKerricher's S.P. Great-tailed Grackle remained through the period (DT, ph. RJK, ph. P. Bauer *et al.*). Coastally, a modest five Orchard Orioles Sept. 5–Oct. 22, and a single N. "Baltimore" Oriole Oct. 31 at the Salinas sewage ponds Sept. 25 (BHG) were bolstered by the Region's 3rd and 4th fall Scott's Oriole at F.I. Oct. 27–30 & Nov. 10 (ph. PP). Four-hundred Lawrence's Goldfinches along Brickmore Cny., San Belito Oct. 11 had little Regional precedent; 94 were still present Nov. 24 (both DLSH).

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Scarlet Tanager at Point Reyes, California, October 23, 1993. Photograph/Ed Greaves.

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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Guy McCaskie

This fall was relatively dry and storm free, with no reported concentrations of migrant landbirds from along the coast or at desert oases, although the variety of migrant landbirds matched that of most recent years, and included two Asiatic species new to the Region. Mountain species (chickadees and nuthatches) did not appear in the lowlands as they frequently do, frugivorous birds (American Robins and Cedar Waxwings) were decidedly scarce, and finches (Purple Finches and Pine Siskins) were virtually nonexistent away from areas of normal occurrence, all making for a somewhat uneventful season. However, two totally unrelated species, Lewis' Woodpeckers and particularly Mountain Bluebirds, were more numerous and widespread than in recent years.

Abbreviations: C.L. (*China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme n.e. Kern*); E.A.F.B. (*Edwards Air Force Base, s.e. Kern*); F.C.R. (*Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Monument, Inyo*); N.E.S.S. (*north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside*); S.B.C.M. (*San Bernardino County Museum*); S.C.R.E. (*Santa Clara River Estuary near Ventura, Ventura*); S.E.S.S. (*south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial*). As virtually all rarities in s. California are seen by many observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying each bird are included. Documentation is on file with the California Bird Records Committee (c/o Michael A. Patten, P.O. Box 51959, Riverside, CA 92517) for all rarities listed in this report. Reports submitted without documentation are not published.

LOONS TO PELICANS

Single Pacific Loons on Tinnemaha Res. near Big Pine, *Inyo* Nov. 5 (T&JH) and Nov. 15–18 (T&JH), on L. Isabella, *Kern* Nov. 13+ (SAL) and at Castaic Dam, *Los Angeles* Nov. 20 (KLG) were inland where rare. An alt.

plumage Com. Loon in Baker, *San Bernardino* Sept. 5–6 (TC, MAP) was a very early migrant at an unusual location. A Red-necked Grebe on L. Isabella Nov. 13–19 (SAL) was only the third to be found inland in S. California and the first in *Kern*.

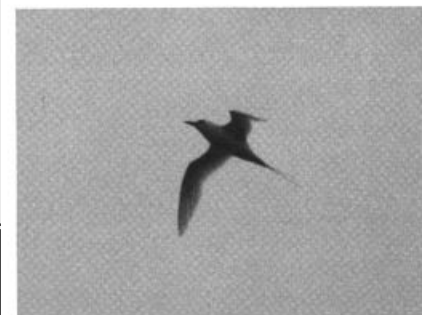
Four or five N. Fulmars off the coast in late August and early September (JEP, MH, GMcC) were believed to have summered locally as they do on occasions. More than 1500 Black Storm-Petrels found in the San Pedro Channel off *Los Angeles* Oct. 16 (KLG) was a larger than normal concentration. A Least Storm-Petrel near the Rodriguez Seamount off *Santa Barbara* Nov. 6 (MH) was later than normal.

Single Red-billed Tropicbirds, regular off S. California in small numbers, were seen close to Santa Barbara I., Sept. 11 (MH) & Sept. 18 (KL), and another was 25 mi n.e. of the San Juan Seamount off *Santa Barbara* Nov. 6 (MH). Two Red-tailed Tropicbirds photographed 25 mi w. of the Cortex Bank off *San Diego* Oct. 15 (RRV) were closer than normal to shore. A brown-morph Red-footed Booby within a mile of shore off La Jolla, *San Diego* Aug. 13 (HR) is the sixth reported in S. California waters. A Brown Pelican on a small lake in the mountains near

Frazier P., Aug. 10 (H&PB) was only the second to be found in *Kern*.

HERONS TO RAPTORS

A Little Blue Heron in Pico Rivera, *Los Angeles* Sept. 26–Oct. 17 (NJS) was the only one found away from the San Diego area. An imm. Tricolored Heron was at S.E.S.S., where considered a casual straggler, Aug. 15 (AME), and another was at N.E.S.S., Oct. 1 (RH). An ad. Reddish Egret on s. San Diego Bay Sept. 10–Oct. 27 (JLD) was the same bird with a partially deformed bill present here during each of the past 11 winters.



Adult Red-tailed Tropicbird off San Diego, California, on October 15, 1993. Photograph/Richard R. Veit.



A **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** seen briefly in flight at N.E.S.S., Aug. 20 (RH) was probably the same bird seen there July 12th. Single Tundra Swans near Cantil, *Kern* Nov. 7–9 (MTH), in Baker Nov. 25 (MAP) and at S.E.S.S., Nov. 11 (KJD) were all a little s. of areas of normal occurrence. Over 75 Blue-winged Teal along a short stretch of the Los Angeles R. in Long Beach, *Los Angeles* in mid-November (MH) was an impressive concentration. A Eur. Wigeon in Irvine, *Orange* Sept. 18 (DRW) was the earliest of the nearly 15 reported by the end of the period, but one in California City, *Kern* Nov. 9+ (MAP) was the only one in the e. part of the Region. Up to two Harlequin Ducks, rare in S. California, were at the Santa Ynez R. mouth, *Santa Barbara* Oct. 7–30 (BHi). A ♀ Black Scoter picked up on a highway in the Mojave Desert near Amboy Nov. 20 (PJ * S.B.C.M.) was only the second to be found in *San Bernardino*. Up to three Surf Scoters on Little L., *Inyo* Oct. 23–30 (RHN), another at C.L., Oct. 11 (DVB) and a fifth on L. Isabella Nov. 13 (SAL) were inland where unusual. A White-winged Scoter, now exceptionally rare s. of Pt. Conception, was inland on Apollo L. in Lancaster, *Los Angeles* Nov. 26+ (JKA).

A Broad-winged Hawk at Deep Springs, *Inyo* Sept. 27–28 (T&JH) was the only one reported. Most unusual were 62 Swainson's Hawks leaving a roost in San Marino, *Los Angeles* Nov. 2 (JG), since this species is now very rare along the coastal slope and few are found anywhere in California after October. More than the expected one or two Zone-tailed Hawks were reported along the coast, with single birds in Santee, *San Diego* Nov. 6–10 (WH, SP), Carlsbad, *San Diego* Aug. 23 (RT), Laguna Beach, *Orange* Aug. 15–Sept. 23 (AS), Irvine Nov. 13+ (JEP), *Orange*, *Orange* Nov. 26 (BED) and near Ojai, *Ventura* Sept. 6 (BS). A Ferruginous Hawk near Lancaster Aug. 28 (NH) was a little early.

CRANES TO SHOREBIRDS

A Sandhill Crane at the Piedras Blancas lighthouse, *San Luis Obispo* Oct. 15 (SD) was on the immediate coast where most unusual. Nine Am. Golden-Plovers along the coast Aug. 27–Nov. 7 was about average, but one at C.L., Sept. 13–20 (DVB) was inland where very rare. Thirty Pacific Golden-Plovers were reported from along the coast after July 27, with some remaining to winter as expected. Two juv. Mt. Plovers at E.A.F.B., Sept. 11–12 (MTH) were earlier than normal, and one in Goleta, *Santa Barbara* Oct. 30 (DK) was on the beach where most unusual. Two Am. Oystercatchers, very rare in California, were photographed on Middle Anacapa I., Sept. 4 (KLG). An ad. Little Curlew photographed at the mouth of the Santa Maria R., *Santa Barbara* Aug. 4–Sept. 20 (BH) was in the same area where North America's first was present Sept. 16–14 Oct. 1984 (Lehman and Dunn, *Am. Birds* 39:247–250, 1985), and where California's only other one was seen Sept. 23–24, 1988 (*Am. Birds* 43:167, 1989),



A species seldom found away from breeding areas, this Pileated Woodpecker was at Hart Park near Bakersfield, California, through the late fall of 1993. Photograph/John Wilson.

suggesting the same individual might be involved in all 3 occurrences; the only other North America occurrence was of one on St. Lawrence I., Alaska, in June 1989. An ad. Black Turnstone at S.E.S.S., Aug. 28 (MAP) was only the third to be found inland in fall. A Red Knot near Lancaster Aug. 8 (KLG) was the only one to be found inland away from the Salton Sea. As expected, small numbers of Sanderlings were found inland, including a rather late individual on Owens L., Oct. 28 (T&JH). About 30 juv. Semipalmated Sandpipers scattered throughout the Region Aug. 7–Sept. 19 was about as expected. A juv. Dunlin in Leucadia, *San Diego* Sept. 2 (PAG) was unusually early. Single Stilt Sandpipers at Pt. Mugu, *Ventura* Aug. 20 (BHe), in Leucadia Sept. 11 (JLD), and near Imperial Beach, *San Diego* Sept. 8 (GMcC) and Sept. 11–13 (GMcC) were along the coast where rare, and another at C.L., Oct. 17 (DVB) was inland and away from the Salton Sea where exceptionally rare. Three Buff-breasted Sandpipers, a casual straggler to S. California, were found, with one at the Santa Maria R. mouth Nov. 2 (BHi), and single birds near Oxnard, *Ventura* Oct. 1–4 (MH) and Oct. 14–16 (SMI). Six Ruffs were found along the coast with a juvenile on San Nicolas I., Sept. 17–Oct. 5 (WW, KLG), another at S.C.R.E., Sept. 17–19 (BS), an adult at Point Mugu Aug. 15–Sept. 11 (DD) joined by a second Aug. 21–28 (DD), another adult near Imperial Beach Aug. 31–Sept. 18 (WR) and the sixth in San Diego Nov. 6 (DWA); one inland near Lost Hills, *Kern* after Nov. 25 (JCW) was at a location where this species has wintered. A few Red Phalaropes evidently moved through the interior as indicated by two on Owens L., Sept. 22 (T&JH), six in e. *Kern* Sept. 11–Oct. 21 (DVB, MTH), one in Baker Oct. 3 (EAC) and another in Salton City, *Imperial* Nov. 2 (GMcC).

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

As usual, a few Parasitic Jaegers were present on the Salton Sea, with three seen there Sept. 6 (GMcC, TC), two more Sept. 26 (GMcC, MAP) and a somewhat late individual at S.E.S.S. for most of November (KLG). More unusual inland were a juv. Long-tailed Jaeger over the *King/Kern* line n. of Lost Hills Sept. 6 (JCW), another juvenile at S.E.S.S., Sept. 14 (JLD) and two adults in Salton City Sept.

26 (PAG, GMcC, MAP). A S. Polar Skua off Morro Bay Aug. 28 (BKS) and three more around Santa Rosa/Anacapa Is., Sept. 4 (MH) were at the time of the year most are found off S. California.

Franklin's Gulls appeared scarcer than normal with only four reported during August and September, but including an early juvenile at N.E.S.S., Aug. 2 (GMcC). A first-winter Little Gull photographed near Lancaster Nov. 28 (JH) was the first to be found in this well-birded area. Twenty-five Sabine's Gulls were found inland Sept. 15–Oct. 17, with nine at various localities along the Owens Valley in *Inyo* Sept. 16–28 (T&JH, JLD, A&LK), seven in e. *Kern* Sept. 13–Oct. 17 (DVB, MTH, SAL, REW), one near Lancaster Sept. 15 (JLD), another on L. Palmdale Sept. 20–26 (JKA), three together on E. Crones L., near Baker Oct. 2 (CMCG), another on L. Elsinore, *Riverside* Oct. 4 (WF) and three on the Salton Sea Sept. 26–27 (MAP, GMcC). An imm. Arctic Tern on L. Elsinore Oct. 3 (WF&WJM) was one of a very few to be found inland in fall. A Least Tern near Imperial Beach Oct. 9 (GMcC) was unusually late. Two Black Skimmers on Morro Bay Sept. 5 (RAA) and at nearby Avila Beach Sept. 27 (PM) were n. of Pt. Conception where rare, and one on San Nicolas I., Sept. 17 (WW) would appear to be the first to be found on the Channel Is.

The 16 Craver's Murrelets reported from boats off the coast, and along the shore, Aug. 9–Sept. 12 was about average. Single Ancient Murrelets dead on the beach at the Santa Maria R. mouth Nov. 14 (MAH) and in Goleta Sept. 10 (MAH), and live birds in Santa Barbara Nov. 14 (JH) and Seal Beach, *Orange* Nov. 1–9 (TLW) were farther s. than normal.

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

A White-winged Dove in San Simeon, *San Luis Obispo* Sept. 17–21 (RS) was the northernmost of the 20 reported along the coast Aug. 6–Oct. 27. Up to three Inca Doves were at F.C.R., Sept. 19+ (T&JH, MAP, KLG, GMcC), but went unreported from other such desert oases. A minimum of five Ruddy Ground-Doves visited F.C.R., Oct. 4+ (T&JH, MAP, KLG, GMcC), but were the only ones found in the desert, although a female was on the coast at Dana Point, *Orange* Nov. 4–5 (BED).



Great Crested Flycatcher in fresh plumage at Gaviota State Beach, California, October 3, 1993. Photograph/Brad Hines.



Red-throated Pipit at Hansen Dam, Los Angeles County, California, on September 18, 1993.
Photograph/Kevin Larson.

An influx of Broad-billed Hummingbirds resulted in five being found along the coast, with an imm. male in Goleta Sept. 6–22 (SEF), a male and a female together at a feeder in Camarillo, *Ventura* Nov. 12+ (J&HW), and a female in S. Coast Botanical Garden on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, *Los Angeles* Oct. 24+ (JI), joined by a male there in November (KL).

Eight Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers reported from various localities scattered throughout the Region Oct. 15+ was probably a normal number. A ♀ Williamson's Sapsucker in Sylmar, *Los Angeles* Oct. 9+ (DM), joined by a male after Oct. 13 (DM), were at a lowland locality where unexpected. A ♀ Pileated Woodpecker in Hart P. near Bakersfield, *Kern* Oct. 17+ (IS) was only the second to be found in this Region away from the limited area of normal occurrence in the S. Sierra Nevada Mts.

FLYCATCHERS

An Olive-sided Flycatcher in Santa Barbara Nov. 14 (LRB) was believed to be the same individual present here each of the past 8 winters. A Greater Pewee in San Diego Sept. 19–Nov. 7 (IM, TC) was at a location where one had been present in past recent winters. The only Least Flycatcher reported was one on Pt. Loma in San Diego Oct. 5 (REW). Three E. Phoebes were found, with one on Pt. Loma in San Diego Oct. 24–24 (PAG), another at the Iron Mt. Pump Station in s.e. *San Bernardino* Oct. 30 (MAP) and the third at Laguna L. in San Luis Obispo Nov. 20+ (JSR). Up to three Vermilion Flycatchers near Cantil Sept. 3–23 (MTH) were somewhat n.e. of their normal range. A Great Crested Flycatcher, a casual straggler to California, was at Gaviota, *Santa Barbara* Oct. 3 (BHi). A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher in Baywood P., Oct. 20 (VPJ) was the first to be found in *San Luis Obispo* and only the ninth in this Region. Eleven Tropical Kingbirds along the coast Sept. 26+ was a little below an average number. A Thick-billed Kingbird near Chula Vista, *San Diego* Nov. 2 (ERL) was suspected to be wintering, but the locality has restricted access and could not be revisited. Only three E. Kingbirds were reported, with single birds inland near Bishop, *Inyo* Aug. 27–28 (J&DP) and near Cantil Sept. 11 (DVB), and close to the coast in Encino, *Los Angeles* Sept. 21–22 (MK). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, a somewhat regular

straggler to California, was near Imperial Beach Nov. 1 (DP). A Purple Martin, now very rare anywhere in the e. part of this Region, was at F.C.R., Aug. 17 (T&JH).

BUSHTITS TO VIREOS

Two Com. Bushtits at F.C.R., Sept. 17 (T&JH) were at an unusual locality for a species normally considered sedentary. A skulking Dusky Warbler in Goleta, *Santa Barbara* Oct. 22–23 (SEF, PEL) was remarkably the fourth to be found in California, the previous being single birds on Southeast Farallon I., Sept. 27, 1980 & Oct. 14, 1987, and the other in Hayward, *Alameda* Sept. 28–29, 1984. A Swainson's Thrush near Cantil on the late date of Nov. 7–10 (MTH) was one of the olive-backed types from well to the e. of California.

Four Brown Thrashers were found in the e. part of the Region, with one at Mesquite Springs in Death Valley N.M., Oct. 18 (DG), another at nearby Stovepipe Wells Oct. 3–4 (JLD), one at F.C.R., Oct. 30 (TC) and the fourth at Ft. Piute in e. *San Bernardino* Nov. 25 (WF). A Bendire's Thrasher, casual along the coast, was in Point Mugu S.P., Sept. 20–23 (JN) and another was seen briefly in Costa Mesa, *Orange* Oct. 2 (BED); one in Salton City at least Sept. 14+ (JLD) was only the third to be found in *Imperial*. A California Thrasher n.e. of Twentynine Palms, *San Bernardino* Oct. 18 (RMCK) was far outside this resident species' known range.

A somewhat early Red-throated Pipit in Goleta Sept. 16 (SEF) and another photographed at Hansen Dam in Sunland, *Los Angeles* Sept. 16–19 (DA) were followed by one–two in Irvine Oct. 9–23 (BED) and another near Imperial Beach Oct. 13–14 (NL).

A Bell's Vireo on Pt. Loma in San Diego Oct. 16 (GMcC) was a late migrant away from any area of expected occurrence. Three Philadelphia Vireos were found with one in Los Osos, *San Luis Obispo* Oct. 10–13 (JSR) and another in Huntington Beach, *Orange* Oct. 11–14 (SML) being along the coast, and the third photographed at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley Oct. 14 (T&JH). The only Red-eyed Vireo to be reported was one in Gaviota Sept. 18 (BHi).

WOOD-WARBLERS

Although most observers considered numbers of migrant wood-warblers noticeably lower than expected, and most observers encountered fewer vagrants from the East than normal, a total of 38 species was reported, no doubt due to an increase in the number of observers in the field looking for vagrants.

Thirty Tennessee Warblers Sept. 12+ appeared to be about average, and included single birds at desert oases in Yucca Valley Sept. 25 (MAP), Morongo Valley Oct. 16 (MAP) and at Iron Mt. Pump Station Oct. 30 (MAP), and another high in the mountains on Pine Mt., in *Ventura* Oct. 30 (JEL). Thirteen Virginia's Warblers along the coast Aug. 24–Oct. 17 were certainly less than

expected 20 years ago. A few Lucy's Warblers reached the coastal slope as usual, with nine reported Aug. 7–Oct. 4; single birds at Holiday L. in the Antelope Valley Sept. 11 (KLG) and F.C.R., Sept. 19 (MAP) were unusually late for desert localities. Seven N. Parulas along the coast Sept. 18–Oct. 3 was close to a normal number, but one at S.E.S.S., Nov. 2 (MAP) was the only one found inland. Nine Chestnut-sided Warblers along the coast Sept. 12–Oct. 10, along with single birds inland at Galileo Hill Sept. 13 (RC), S.E.S.S., Oct. 9–16 (KCM) and in nearby Brawley Nov. 2 (MAP), was about average. Magnolia Warblers appeared a little more numerous and widespread than usual, with 15 found along the coast Sept. 16–Oct. 30, along with seven more scattered throughout the interior during the same time period. A Cape May Warbler, a rare straggler to California, was on San Nicolas I., Oct. 5–6 (WW, KLG), another was in Carson, *Los Angeles* Oct. 7 (JKA) and a third remained on Pt. Loma in San Diego Oct. 23–Nov. 18 (GMcC). As usual, a few Black-throated Blue Warblers strayed W to our Region, with 11 reported from various localities scattered throughout most of the Region Sept. 27–Nov. 7. A somewhat early ♀ Black-throated Green Warbler



Rusty Blackbird at Pepperdine Ponds in Malibu, California, on November 29, 1993.
Photograph/Brian E. Small.

in Carpinteria Sept. 13 (RAH), and another on Pt. Loma in San Diego the same day (REW, DRW), were followed by single birds at Malibu, *Los Angeles* Oct. 10 (KLG), in Apple Valley, *San Bernardino* Oct. 23 (CP) and near Bakersfield Nov. 13+ (JCW). Only four Blackburnian Warblers were found, with three on the coast of *San Luis Obispo* Oct. 2–Nov. 7 (JCS, KAR), and the other in Huntington Beach Oct. 28–29 (JEP). A Yellow-throated Warbler, very rare in California, was in Santa Barbara Oct. 24 (R&GG). A Grace's Warbler in Oceano Oct. 3–6 (KAR) was the first to be found in *San Luis Obispo* and the northernmost ever on the coast. A ♂ Pine Warbler on Pt. Loma Oct. 24 (GMcC) appeared to be an adult, and was the only one to be reported this fall. Single Prairie Warblers near Santa Maria Oct. 30 (JMC), at Gaviota Sept. 18–19 (BHi), in Manhattan Beach Nov. 1–4 (MH) and at Hansen Dam Nov. 7+ (DA), was slightly less than expected.

Palm Warblers were far more numerous and widespread than normal, with at least 145 found along the coast after Sept. 20, along with 11 more scattered throughout the

interior, and including single birds of the rarely encountered yellow race *hypochrysea* in San Diego Oct. 16 (GMcC) and Goleta Nov. 27 (SEF). Three Bay-breasted Warblers were found, with one in National City, San Diego Sept. 28–29 (CR), another in Westchester, Los Angeles Oct. 7 (MH) and a third in Los Osos, San Luis Obispo Oct. 17 (JSR). Fifty Blackpoll Warblers Sept. 11–Oct. 28 was an average number, but included an impressive ten scattered throughout the e. portion of the Region. About 40 Black-and-white Warblers and about 65 Am. Redstarts during the period were close to average numbers for this time of the year. The Prothonotary Warbler found in Carpinteria July 22 remained through Aug. 19 (DH); eight more were reported during the fall, including one photographed at Oso Flaco L., near Oceano Oct. 9 (KAH), single birds in Goleta Aug. 19–21 (PEL), Carpinteria Sept. 24 (RWH) and in Manhattan Beach Nov. 1–4 (MH) along the coast, and two together at F.C.R., Sept. 19 (PAG, MAP), one near Independence Nov. 2 (T&JH) and another in Ridgecrest, Kern Sept. 24 (JS) in the interior, for a better than average showing. An early Worm-eating Warbler in Carpinteria Aug. 16 (RWH) was followed by another early individual inland near Palmdale, Los Angeles Aug. 21 (KLG), and a third photographed on the coast near San Pedro Oct. 19 (KL). Ten Ovenbirds scattered throughout the Region Sept. 14–Oct. 21 was about average. As usual, small numbers of N. Waterthrushes passed through the Region during the early part of the fall, with at least 40 seen Aug. 15–Oct. 1. A Kentucky Warbler, always considered an exciting find, was in Goleta Sept. 12 (DH), another was on Pt. Loma in San Diego Sept. 21 (DWA) and a third was inland at Galileo Hill in extreme e. Kern Oct. 10 (H&PB). A ♂ Hooded Warbler found in the San Gabriel Mts. in July was still present Sept. 11 (NH); a male was on San Nicolas I., Sept. 17 (WW), another was in Montana de Oro S.P. near Morro Bay Sept. 7–14 (TME), a female was in nearby Oceano Sept. 25 (KAR) and a late female lingered at Desert Center, Riverside Oct. 24–Nov. 7 (MAP). Canada Warblers were evidently more numerous than usual, with 12 found along the coast Sept. 2–Oct. 25, and another seen inland near Cantil Sept. 25 (MTH). A Painted Redstart in the San Bernardino Mts. near L. Arrowhead Sept. 6 (KLG) could have been in this area most of the summer, and single individuals on Pt. Loma in San Diego Sept. 14 (DWA) and in Carpinteria Oct. 11 (JEL) were lost migrants.

TANAGERS TO ORIOLES

A ♂ Hepatic Tanager in Granada Hills, Los Angeles Oct. 5 (DM) is one of a very few to be found along the coastal slope that was not wintering. The expected number of Summer Tanagers wandered to the coast, with 18 reported there during the period, but single birds at Cactus City, Riverside Sept. 18 (MAP) & Nov. 20 (MAP) were the only two reported away from known breeding locali-

ties in the interior. Three Scarlet Tanagers, rare stragglers to California, were reported, with an imm. male in Granada Hills Oct. 17 (TEW), an imm. female near Imperial Beach Oct. 21 (DWA), and the third an imm. male on a boat at 32° 20'N 118° 30'W (about 100 mi w. of San Diego) Oct. 9 (RRV).

About 20 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks scattered throughout the Region Sept. 11–Nov. 21 was a little less than normal, and about 25 Indigo Buntings in the same area during the same time period was certainly less than normal. Single "female" Painted Buntings were on the coast near Imperial Beach Aug. 24 (DWA), and in Huntington Beach Sept. 3 (SMo) and Sept. 17–18 (JSB), and a fourth was photographed inland at F.C.R., Sept. 11 (MAP), this being more than is normally reported; the red on the underparts of an ad. male photographed at the Hole-in-the Wall in the Providence Mts., of e. San Bernardino Sept. 2–5 (BH) was washed out, matching that encountered on cage birds, thus casting doubt on the origin of this individual. Single Dickcissels were along the coast in Irvine Sept. 13 (RAE) and Santa Barbara Oct. 29 (PEL), one was inland at F.C.R., Oct. 30 (GMcC) and two more were there Nov. 17 (T&JH).

A Cassin's Sparrow at Death Valley Junction Aug. 14–16 (REW, T&JH) is the first to be found in Inyo and follows a summer when singing birds were present 120 mi s.e. of this locality. About 35 Clay-colored Sparrows scattered throughout most of the Region Sept. 5+ was an expected number. Since Black-chinned Sparrows are rarely encountered away from known breeding localities, and are most unusual along the coast in fall, the presence of one in Manhattan Beach, Los Angeles Oct. 11 (KLG) and another on Pt. Loma in San Diego the same day (PAG) were of interest. Nine Black-throated Sparrows along the coast Aug. 17–Oct. 2, including one on a boat w. of San Clemente I., Aug. 17 (RRV), was more than is usually reported. A Sage Sparrow outside normal habitat at Hansen Dam Aug. 28 (DA) was believed to be of the interior race *canescens*. Lark Buntings were clearly scarcer than normal, with one at Emigrant Ranger Station in Death Valley NM, Sept. 11 (MAP) and another in Costa Mesa Oct. 2 (RAH) being the only two found. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow in Cambria Oct. 8 (GPS) was one of a very few to be found away from a large tidal marsh, but two together on Morro Bay Nov. 12–14 (TME) were in a large tidal marsh suitable as winter habitat in this Region. Swamp Sparrows were clearly more numerous than usual as indicated by the nearly 60 reported after Oct. 2; White-throated Sparrows appeared to be present in normal numbers as indicated by the approximately 45 reported after an early individual Sept. 21, but Harris' Sparrows were decidedly scarce, with only four found, all being in the n.e. portion of the Region.

A group of three–four McCown's Longspurs at E Crones L., near Baker Nov

14 (RMCK) were the only ones found this fall. A Lapland Longspur on the Mexican Boarder near Imperial Beach Oct. 31 (GMcC) was followed by only five more scattered throughout the interior of the Region during November. Reports of Chestnut-collared Longspurs scattered throughout the Region after Oct. 12 included up to 70 in a field near Independence, Inyo Nov. 20+ (A&LK), and up to 14 on the Plano Trabuco in interior Orange Oct. 23–Nov. 9 (BED). A stunning Rustic Bunting photographed inland at a desert oasis near Cantil, Kern Nov. 7–10 (MTH) was the third to be documented in California, the first being at Stone Lagoon, Humboldt Jan. 7–8, 1984, and the second at Halfmoon Bay, San Mateo Nov. 25–26, 1988.

About 30 Bobolinks found at 9 locations along the coast Aug. 15–Oct. 29, and single birds inland at Galileo Hill Sept. 11 (MTH) and C.L., Sept. 30 (DVB), was certainly far less than reported a decade ago. Only two Rusty Blackbirds were found, with one inland near Cantil Nov. 20 (JCW) and the other along the coast in Malibu Nov. 25–28 (FH). A Com. Grackle, still a very rare straggler to California, was near Bishop, Inyo Sept. 29 (JF). The only N. (Baltimore) Orioles reported were an imm. male at F.C.R., Oct. 5 (T&JH) and a female in Irvine Nov. 20+ (JEP).

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observers who could not be individually acknowledged submitted reports this season.—GUY McCASKIE, San Diego Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, P. O. Box 1390, San Diego, CA 92112.

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

Robert L. Pyle

Fall rainfall continued below seasonal normals at most stations, making 1993 a very dry year from the start. An unusually diverse array of uncommon ducks and shorebirds were reported this season, perhaps related to a lack of ephemeral wet areas which could cause migrant waterbirds to be concentrated at the favored permanent ponds for observation.

Abbreviations: F.F.S. (*French Frigate Shoals*); H. (*Hawai'i I.*); J.C.N.W.R. (*James Campbell N.W.R.*); K. (*Kaua'i I.*); M. (*Maui I.*); O. (*O'ahu I.*).

ALBATROSSES TO FALCONS

The same two banded Short-tailed Albatrosses were back among the Laysans at Sand I., Midway this season, the sub-adult from Oct. 26 and the adult from Nov. 2. The two are never together, preferring territories about 0.25 mi apart. The sub-adult was observed sitting on an egg (of unknown origin) Nov. 9, and continued to "incubate" into December (SR). The egg was assumed to be infertile but, as the observer remarked, "this bird has some good ideas!"

A *Pterodroma* petrel collided with the mast of a Coast Guard cutter off Laysan I., Oct. 23. It was examined in the hand by F.&W.S. biologists and identified as a *Cook's Petrel*. It then escaped and flew off "strongly" to sea before it could be photographed (*vide BF*). Single *Cook's* were also reported at sea 120 km s.e. of Pearl and Hermes Atoll Aug. 13 and 90 km w. of Nihoa Aug. 19 (JM). One Black-winged Petrel was seen at sea 140 km e.n.e. of Lisianski I., Aug. 9 (JM), and seven were reported during a pelagic trip out to 30 mi s.w. of O'ahu Oct. 24 (BZ). A total of 1108 Newell's Shearwaters (*Threatened*) retrieved on Kaua'i in the autumn fallout period (120 dead, 988 alive, banded, and released) compares to 1051 last year when hurricane *Iniki* struck in September, and to 1500–2200 in the 5 prior years (TT). *Iniki* has left its mark on birds and habitats.

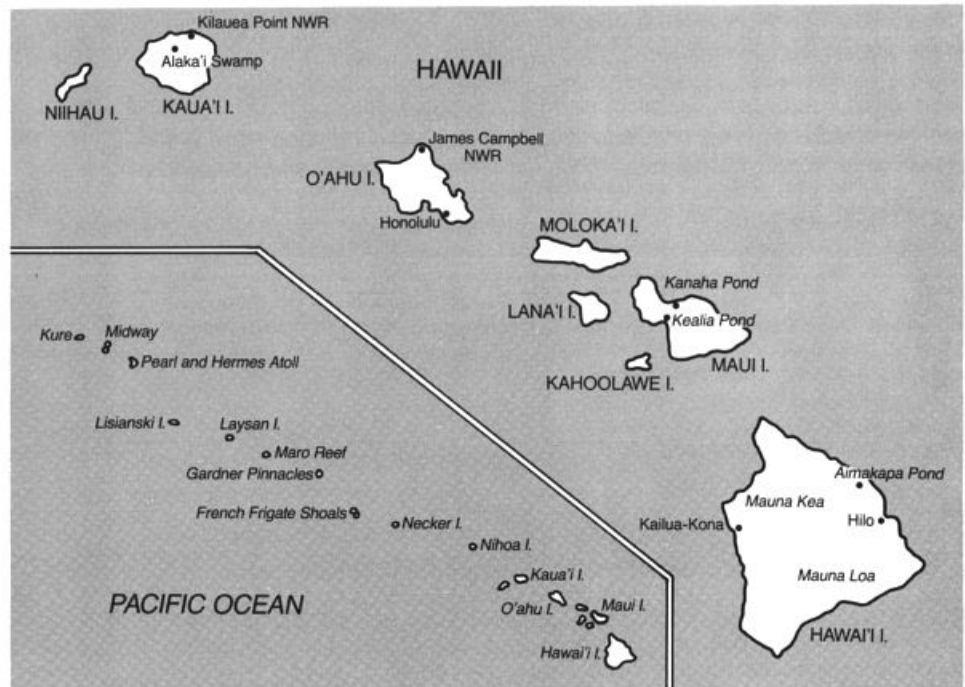
A remarkable 27 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels, including 2 flocks of eight and ten, were observed in the channel between Kaua'i and Ni'ihau July 28 (JM), and a single bird was seen 80 km w. of O'ahu Aug. 19 (JM). No other white-rumped storm-petrels would be

expected in the c. Pacific in summer.

Of the 16 species of migrant *Anas* and *Aythya* ducks recorded in Hawaii, 14 were reported this season. Among the less regular visitors, Garganey, Cinnamon and Blue-winged teal, Redhead, and Canvasback were all present at J.C.N.W.R. (numerous observers). A Garganey was at Laysan Sept. 8–Oct. 19 (*vide BF*), and up to four at J.C.N.W.R. (EV, PD); while three Eur. Wigeon were at Midway (SR) and one at Kanaha Pond, M. (BZ). Counts of 20 and 21 N. Pintails at Midway Oct. 9 & 27 (Mike Nishimoto, *vide SR*) were remarkably high

numbers for any of the n.w. Hawaiian Islands. Three pintails were on Laysan Sept. 26–Oct. 9 (*vide BF*).

Three imm. N. Harriers, vagrant in Hawaii, were reported in the islands this fall. One at Johnston I. first seen Oct. 23 (CD); one at Midway Atoll from Oct. 27 (SR), and one in the Paliku area inside Haleakala Crater, M. from Nov. 17 (P&HB). All were observed repeatedly into December. A Peregrine Falcon was also observed in flight at Johnston I., Nov. 2 (CD), and one was seen well, perched and flying, at Aimakapa Pond, H., Nov. 20 (RLP, LP).



S.A.

Bristle-thighed Curlews are considered rare over most of their range, but relatively large numbers may be found in any season on certain Pacific islands, notably Laysan, Lisianski, Midway, and others in the uninhabited n.w. Hawaiian Islands. This year an experienced curlew researcher (JM) visited Lisianski Aug. 2–8. On arrival he counted 75 on the beach alone, many of which may have been young birds which generally remain on Pacific islands through their first 2–3 years. Aug. 6 he counted 230 on the beach and in the interior, and estimated 300–400 Bristle-thigheds were present at that time on this small 1.3 × 0.5 mi island. Among them were at least 23 color-banded birds. He had banded 14 of these on Laysan in 1988–91, six on Lisianski in 1988, one on Midway in 1992, and two had been banded on the Alaska breeding grounds.

In the main Hawaiian Is. a few Bristle-thigheds pass through, usually from August–early October, and are seen mostly in the Kahuku area of n. O'ahu. This year, however, single birds were also reported at Kealia Pond, M., Aug. 27 & 30 (JO), and at Waipi'o Pen., O., Sept. 25 & 29 (PD, EV); and two were at Milolii on the s.w. coast of Hawai'i I., Oct. 9 (TS). Late birds were reported Nov. 19 & 28 at J.C.N.W.R. near Kahuku (PD, LT), and at Hanapepe airstrip, K., Nov. 27–30 (RR, DK). It was quite a fall for Bristle-thigheds in the main islands.

SHOREBIRDS TO KINGFISHER

It was a great fall for visiting shorebird species reaching Hawaii. The uncommon, but regular, species appeared at many favored sites in the main islands and in the n.w. Hawaiian Is., some in notably high numbers. Seven Semipalmated Plovers were at Kealia Pond, M., Sept. 23 (JO); 20 Pectorals at Kealia Oct. 8 & 9 (JO) and 11 at Midway Oct. 30 (SR); 15 Sharp-taileds at Waipi'o Pen., O., Oct. 27 (PD) and 12 at J.C.N.W.R., Oct. 30 (EV). Six other uncommon species were less widespread. Several other much rarer species also added spice to the fall season: Greater Yellowlegs at Kealia Pond, M. (JO) and Amorient Aquafarm, O. (EV, PD); Gray-tailed Tattlers at Kure (adult, breeding plumage) Aug. 27 (TS) and J.C.N.W.R., Oct. 28 (PD); Whimbrel at Waipi'o Pen. (BE); Bar-tailed Godwit at Lisianski Aug. 4 & 6 (prob. over-summered, JM); Red Knot at Kealia Pond (JO) and J.C.N.W.R. (PD, EV); W. Sandpiper at 4 localities including Kure; Rufous-necked Stint at Amorient and J.C.N.W.R. (PB, PD); Short-billed Dowitcher at Tern. I., F.F.S. (T.White, *fide* BF).

A winter-plumaged **Black Tern** (vagrant in Hawaii) was observed well at Kealia Pond, M., Nov. 1 but not thereafter (P&HB, †). Ten old nests of the Uniform (Gray) Swiftlet were found in its traditional nesting cave in upper N. Halawa Valley, O. (GW, PC) during a visit Nov. 29. The species was introduced in the 1960's and has been nesting in this cave since the 1970's. At least four swiftlets were seen at and enroute to the cave. A ♀ Belted Kingfisher, rare straggler to Hawaii, was reported along the Wailua R., K., Oct. 23 (KM), and was seen in flight at the same locality Oct. 28 by most members of a birding tour group (BZ *et al.*, excellent †).

PASSERINES

The five young Alala (Hawaiian Crow, critically *Endangered*) released in August at McCandless Ranch, H. continue to do well in the wild. In September avian malaria was confirmed in one bird, which was captured, treated, released a week later, and has recovered (Peter Harrity).

Single O'ahu Elepaio were reported near Kalua'a on the Honouliuli Trail (Waianae Mtns.) Sept. 15, and twice Sept. 19 on the Hawaii Loa Ridge Trail (Ko'olau Mtns.) near 1080' and 1540' elevation (all LP). This bird is currently a candidate for *Endangered* listing. The critically *Endangered* Puaiohi was again seen and photographed on the Mohihi Ridge in the Alaka'i Swamp, K., Oct. 25 (one bird) and Nov. 16 (two birds) (JD). A Eur. Starling was watched foraging on the Bishop Museum grounds, Honolulu, Nov. 3 (RLP *et al.*), but was not seen again. Perhaps the highlight of the season was the **Poouli** (very critically *Endangered*) observed well Sept. 12 & 13, at sites 300 meters apart, in the Hanawi Natural Area Reserve on Haleakala Mtn., M. (TP, Betsy Gagne). The last reliable sighting of this species was in the same locality in 1988.

S.A.

It is axiomatic in Hawaii that in the lowland areas the landbirds are exclusively alien species, while native landbirds are confined to higher forested areas in the interior mountains. Some aliens also inhabit the mountain forests and more are moving in, particularly on O'ahu where encroachment of alien plants has disturbed the native forests more than on other islands. A survey Aug. 28–30 along the crest of the Ko'olau Mountain chain (EV, *Elepaio* 53:79–80) provided a rare quantitative look at the extent to which alien species have invaded the high mountains of O'ahu.

During this 3-day trek from Pupukea Road to Poamoho Trail, total counts were highest for three alien species: Red-vented Bulbul (157), Japanese White-eye (149), and Com. Waxbill (101). Far behind in 4th place was the first native species, Apapane (52), followed by another alien, Yellow-faced Grassquit (47). Trailing still farther back were 3 more alien species and then the 2nd native, O'ahu Amakihi (7). Six more alien species, each with five or fewer, completed the list. No O'ahu Elepaio, O'ahu Alauahio (Creeper, *Endangered*) or Iiwi were seen or heard.

The white-eye has long been known as the dominant alien in the mountain forests. The bulbul has moved into O'ahu's higher mountains primarily in the past decade. The waxbill had been virtually unknown in the high mountains, while the grassquit had occurred locally in small numbers primarily in open alien vegetated areas at mid-elevations. The high counts of these last two species are the real surprises of this survey. These two species and the bulbul are found only on O'ahu, so that the survey results are not applicable to other islands.

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WEST INDIES REGION

Robert L. Norton

Observations made by some of the 100 members of the Society of Caribbean Ornithology (S.C.O.), who met in Havana, Cuba this past summer and early fall form a major portion of this report. However, a remarkable sighting of yet another European super-migrant in the Lesser Antilles provides more grist for analysts of avian dispersal patterns. Before skipping to the highlighted species, dig out Holland & Williams (*ABi* Vol. 32:1095–1105), review Bond (vagrants on pp. 240–243), and prepare yourself for a little mind bending.

STORM-PETRELS TO TERNS

Wilson's and Leach's storm-petrels were recorded (NG) from Antigua-Barbuda waters this season (no specific dates), and apparently represent new records for that area. Masked and Red-footed boobies were noted in the same waters. The former species has expanded its range in the n. Lesser Antilles and may be expected offshore locally. Perhaps Red-footeds are extending their range as they have bred locally in the Virgin Islands (RLN), where nesting was noted at Dutchcap Cay off St. Thomas Oct. 18 (JJD).

On Aug. 14 ten volunteers (NG *et al.*) excavating manatee fossils near St. John's, Antigua observed a large "white stork" from 300 meters. Locally, white herons or egrets are often called cranes or storks. After comparing this bird to a Great Egret, which it seemed to dwarf (NG), and obtaining close photos, the bird was identified as a **White Stork** (*Ciconia ciconia*). A "stork" had been reported earlier by 2 observers from nearby Barbuda (NG), but the observation was dismissed as a Wood Stork (*fide* NG). No bands or wing tags were reported on the bird. This represents the 1st record for the species from the New World. No Wood Storks were seen in Cuba during early August at Salinas or near Zapata N.P. (RLN). More than 100 Greater Flamingos were seen (S.C.O.) on the upper Las Salinas, Cuba Aug. 7.

At least four West Indian Whistling-Ducks were well seen at Las Salinas, Cuba Aug. 7. Blue-winged Teal had already arrived in Cuba by Aug. 3, noted at Los Canales and in other marshes and old rice fields (PW&SAS). The rare Gundlach's Hawk was noted twice in Cuba; one at Playa Hiron Aug. 2 (MM) and another at Helechal Aug. 4 (PW&SAS) and Aug. 6 (FS), where hardwood hammocks are surrounded by rice fields frequented by flocks of roosting and feeding blackbirds. Common Black-Hawks were numerous along roads surrounding Playa Hiron, Playa Larga, and Las Salinas, especially on Aug. 7 (S.C.O.). A Peregrine Falcon was noted at Dutchcap Cay, St. Thomas Oct. 18.

Two Spotted Rails were heard at a flooded