

(JCd, m.ob.) and on the Chicago lakefront Nov. 10 (RHu). Black-throated Blue Warblers were unusually plentiful, with seven reported in the St. Louis area (*fide* DA), which is well w. of their normal migration path; a male straggler was at Spfld., Nov. 1 (†DBo). Ohio continued its monopoly on **Black-throated Gray Warbler** records with the discovery of a bird at Sugarcreek Nov. 11–28 (†SH, †m.ob.). Indiana's first fall **Kirtland's Warbler** was discovered at Whiting Park Sept. 24 (EH, †KB, †JCd, CE, JMc). The sequence of colored bands sported by the bird indicated that it had been banded as an ad. female, on the Michigan breeding grounds, July 16, 1992. American Redstarts were abundant with a peak count of >150 at Urbana, IL Aug. 29 (RCh) and a lingering female at Lake City, IA Nov. 18 (DS). A Yellow-breasted Chat was located at Spirit L. in n.w. IA Sept. 24 (LSc).

### Tanagers to Finches

A tardy Summer Tanager lingered in *Johnson*, IL until Oct. 3 (TF) and four were still at Big Pond Sanctuary, K, Oct. 25 (KC). Black-headed Grosbeak reports included an ad. male in *Winnebago*, IL Sept. 17 (†ABh *et al.*) and an imm. female in *Clayton*, IA Oct. 1 (†FM). A pair of late-nesting Blue Grosbeaks (with three young) was noted at Clinton L., IL Sept. 10 (MD). Unexpected were three Dickcissels in *Seneca*, OH Aug. 15 (TBa). It was a great fall for LeConte's Sparrows, with reports from every state except Indiana. High counts included 22 near Columbia, MO Oct. 22 (PMc) and seven near Spfld., Oct. 17 (DBo). Extralimital reports came from Slough W.M.A., KY, where one was found Oct. 23 (DCt) and in *Lake*, OH, where an injured bird was photographed (JP, ph.). Perhaps even more remarkable was the Sharp-tailed Sparrow migration, which produced records in every state except Missouri. High counts included >20 along the Chicago lakefront Sept. 28 (DM) and 12 at Decatur, IL Sept. 14 (MD). Outside of the w. states Harris' Sparrows were confined to Illinois, where six singletons were reported. Large Lapland Longspur concentrations were restricted to Iowa, where a high count of 10,000 was logged in the northwest Nov. 11 (SD). Accidental in fall, the four **Chestnut-collared Longspurs** identified by call-note at the Rosecrans Airport, St. Joseph, MO Oct. 20 (†PL), were most noteworthy. One was still present Nov. 4–5 (†DE).

Four records, involving 44 birds, indicated that Great-tailed Grackles are continuing their range expansion into w. Iowa. Butressed by the observation of a flock of >300, Anderson noted that House Finches have gone from novelty to pest in e. Missouri. Following last fall's winter finch invasion, conditions returned to normal this year,

with only the expected sporadic Red Crossbill flocks, a smattering of Pine Siskins, and a single Evening Grosbeak at Big Pond Sanctuary, KY Nov. 21–22 (KC). White-winged Crossbills and Redpolls were not reported.

### Corrigendum

The >640 Black Terns reported in *Jackson*, IL, Sept. 25 (AB 48:116) should be deleted.

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# Central Southern Region

## GREG D. JACKSON

Santa came early to the Region, bringing lots of exciting gifts to smiling girls and boys. The sack on his sleigh was not particularly large this year, but many of the presents were of rare quality. Once here, he lingered in the warm weather, as did many who accompanied him.

— After the beginning of the season, temperatures were warm in most areas. Though rain was increased in some locales in October, other months showed normal or decreased precipitation. Most frontal systems were weak; the best birding along the coast followed low pressure areas in the Gulf October 2 and 9–13. The only tropical storm was *Beryl*, which quickly crossed the eastern Panhandle of Florida in mid-August; no related reports were submitted.

— Pelicans and allies seemed plentiful this autumn. Waterfowl were generally lagging in numbers in most areas. The raptor migration was average; shorebirding was outstanding at select sites. Though many passerines arrived early, even more were late in departing. Good numbers of flycatchers and swallows appeared in transit. Several early sparrows were noted, though numbers seemed behind by the end of the period, there were no reports of winter finches.

— Sightings of rarities without acceptable documentation have not been included.

**Abbreviations:** b. (*banded*); C.P. (*Cameron Parish, s.w. LA*); M.L. (*Millwood Lake, s.w. AR*); 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 Co., s.w. TN*); v. (*video-taped*); \* (*specimen to Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science, Baton Rouge*).

## Loons to Spoonbill

A rare Red-throated Loon was at Pace Point, *Henry*, TN Nov. 11–12 (JRW, MAG). Even more unusual was a **Pacific Loon** at the same spot Nov. 11–13 (JRW, MAG, TLR, RER, p.a.); this species is accidental in Tennessee, though it is now annual in the s.e. part of the Region. An early Com. Loon appeared Sept

18 at M.L. (CM); a count of 89 at the same location Nov. 11 was noteworthy (CM). The Horned Grebe in *Autauga* Aug. 28 (LFG) established a new early Alabama record; another was early Sept. 5 in *Coffee*, TN (ER). At least 10 Eared Grebes were unexpected in *Oktibbeha* and *Webster*, MS from as early as Aug. 22 (TLS); two early grebes were found Sept. 2 in *Washington*, AR (MM), and another Eared was rare for *Shelby*, TN Nov. 12–19 (JAZ, JRW, ph.). A storm-petrel (sp.) was a surprise observation from the beach at Gulf Shores, AL after a storm Aug. 8 (DJS).

It was a good year for migrant Am. White Pelicans, with flocks numbering in the hundreds seen at a variety of inland and coastal locations. The largest gathering was of 1800 pelicans Oct. 6 in *Pointe Coupe*, LA (SWC, DLD). Continuing to increase in s.e. Louisiana, 400 Brown Pelicans were in the Chandeleur Is., Aug. 18–19 (MLS). Alabama's 11th Great Cormorant was at Ft. Morgan Oct. 13 (GDJ, m.ob., p.a.). Several summering or early migrant Double-crested Cormorants were noted in August. The 214 birds in *Limestone* Sept. 18 (SWM) established a new inland Alabama maximum for recent decades; an impressive 5000 cormorants were located inland Oct. 6 at *Pointe Coupe*, LA (SWC, DLD). Anhingas are rare as far north as Tennessee, so single birds Sept. 9 in *Lauderdale* (DDP) and Nov. 6–29 in *Obion* (WGC) were notable. Three Magnificent Frigatebirds Oct. 2 in *Orleans*, LA (GO) may have been related to the low pressure area nearby in the Gulf that day.

A few Tricolored Herons are expected inland in late summer and fall. This year there were 4 reports of seven birds, including one at Arkadelphia, AR Aug. 15–21 (DH, DsH, WG). Three Glossy Ibis in the N.N.W.R. area Aug. 30–31 provided first local records (TLS); another Sept. 5 in Decatur, AL (MQ, SWM, m.ob.) was significantly early. Other noteworthy Glossy Ibis sightings included two beginning Sept. 22 in *Okaloosa*, FL (RAD, m.ob.), and a single bird in C.P., Oct. 30 (DLD, SWC).

**SA** White-faced Ibis is identified regularly in our Region only in s.w. Louisiana, where it is the expected species of *Plegadis*; this autumn produced several unusual reports from other states. Tennessee's 2nd record was provided by an adult in *Lake* Aug. 13–14 (JRW, WGC, MAG, BO, ph., p.a.). Another was in *Scott*, AR Sept. 25–28 (RG, JCN, m.ob., p.a.), and two were spotted Oct. 23 in *Jackson*, MS (TLS). The first record for Florida since 1965 was furnished by a White-faced at Ft. Walton Beach, *Okaloosa*, Oct. 26–Nov. 22 (PCT, RAD, CD, m.ob., v., p.a.).

A single imm. Roseate Spoonbill provided a 2nd record for Kentucky and a 3rd for Tennessee; the bird oscillated between *Fulton*, KY, and *Dyer*, TN, Sept. 12–14 (BPP, WGC et al., ph. JRW, p.a.).



Eared Grebe in Shelby County, Tennessee, in mid-November 1994. Photograph/ Jeff R. Wilson.

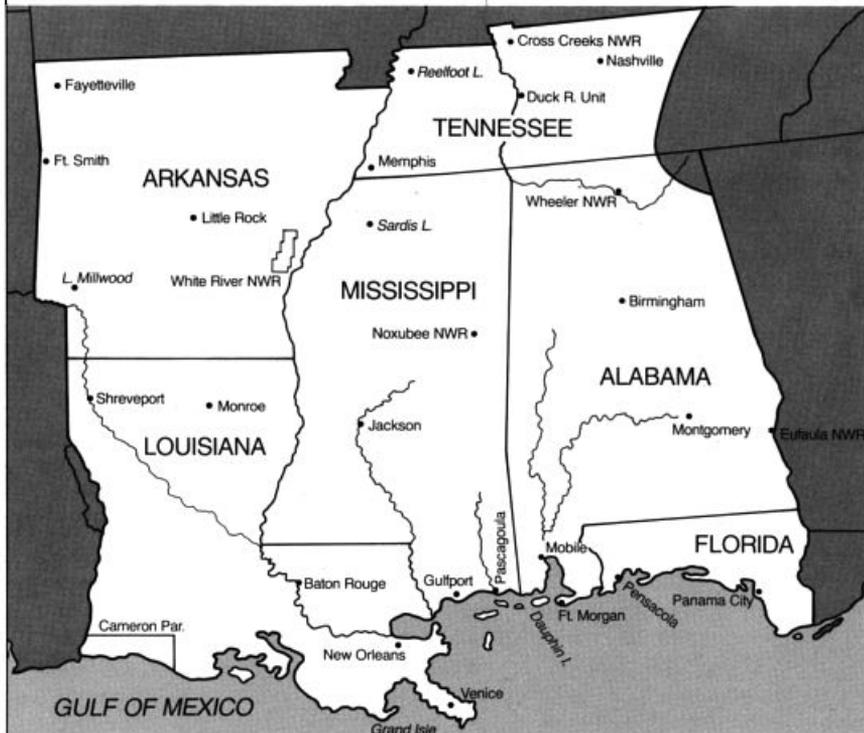


This immature Roseate Spoonbill provided a 3rd state record for Tennessee and a 2nd record for Kentucky as it haunted the border between the two states Sept. 14, 1994. Photograph/Jeff R. Wilson.

### Waterfowl to Rails

Two Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were rare finds in *Okaloosa*, FL Nov. 7 (RAD, DC). Of several wandering Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, farthest afield was an individual in *Washington*, AR Nov. 19 (RD, LN, JD). A spectacular concentration of an estimated 90,000 Greater White-fronted Geese in one field was enjoyed Oct. 28 in *Jefferson Davis*, LA (SWC, DLD). Reports of Ross' Goose from the e. portion of the Region are rare but now regular. One was in *Coffee*, TN Nov. 12–15 (DLD et al., ph.), and another Ross' established Alabama's 12th record Nov. 20–25 at Wheeler N.W.R., *Limestone* (GM, SRM, SWM, p.a.). A Brant, the 5th for Alabama, was a treat beginning Nov. 12 in w. *Colbert* (GNP, WJR, m.ob., ph. SWM, p.a.). The count of 70 Mottled Ducks Oct. 10 on the Mobile Causeway (GDJ, DGJ) was a maximum for Alabama.

Tennessee's 2nd Garganey appeared Sept. 3 at T.E.C. (JRW, GCK, MAG, p.a.), the site of the first record in 1978. The 1050 Blue-winged Teal Oct. 12 in *Okaloosa*, FL (RAD) furnished a new local maximum count. Sight records of extralimital ♀ Cinnamon Teal are controversial; a bird exhibiting the typical structure and feathering of this species was studied at T.E.C., Aug. 29–Sept. 6 (JRW, GCK). Twenty Greater



Scaup were early and unusual Oct. 25 in *Ok-tibbeha*, MS (TLS). Several early Oldsquaw reports were submitted, beginning with one bird Oct. 30 at Woods Res., *Franklin*, TN (SJS, JTS, ELC, JS). Black Scoters are rare inland; birding Nov. 11 yielded 11 in *Ok-tibbeha*, MS (TLS, MHS) and a single bird at Pace Pt., *Henry*, TN (JRW, ph.). Surf Scoter reports included a rare summering bird Aug. 9 at Grand Isle, LA (E&PH), and nine in *Ok-tibbeha*, M, Nov. 12 (TLS, MG).

American Swallow-tailed Kites are scarce fall migrants in Louisiana, but this season I received 5 records of 26 birds in the s. half of the state Aug. 13–Sept. 10. A lone kite was a rare surprise at T.E.C., Aug. 18 (JRW, ph.). The Swallow-tailed Oct. 2 at Ft. Morgan (DCi, SM, JC, MD) was exceedingly tardy, setting a new late date for the Alabama coast. White-tailed Kites are only occasional east of Mississippi; one was discovered in *Okaloosa*, FL, Oct. 29–30 (RAD, m.ob., v.). Mississippi Kites turned up in some odd locales. Single birds were spotted Aug. 20 in *Noxubee*, MS (MHS), Aug. 21 in *Shelby*, AL (ALM, ASC, HHE, JF), and as late as Oct. 10 in *Washington*, AR (DW).

The Sharp-shinned Hawk Aug. 3 in *Lafayette*, LA (PC) was very early, as was a Cooper's Hawk in C.P., Aug. 6 (SWC). A lingering Broad-winged Hawk was in *Plaquemines*, LA Nov. 11 (SWC, DLD, DPM). Unusually early was a Swainson's Hawk in *Benton*, AR Aug. 14 (MM). Scarce elsewhere in the Region, late Swainson's were discovered Nov. 12 in *Vermilion*, LA (AK, ph.), and Nov. 16 in *Acadia*, LA (DP, ph.). A rare Golden Eagle appeared Oct. 28 in *Jefferson Davis*, LA (DLD, SWC, ph., p.a.). Observers at a Ft. Morgan, AL banding site tallied 35 Merlins and 36 Peregrine Falcons Sept. 11–Oct. 31 (DCi *et al.*).

The Prairie Falcon at Enid L., *Yalobusha*, MS returned Nov. 6 for the 4th consecutive year (GCK, SK). Only a few Prairie Falcons have been reported in Arkansas, so one in *Little River* Nov. 13 (DCh, DA, p.a.) was a surprise. Up to two rare Yellow Rails were heard and seen Sept. 22–25 at Ft. Walton Beach, FL (RAD, DMW *et al.*); two also were calling at Ft. Pickens, *Escambia*, FL Nov. 13 (RLB, JWB). The Virginia Rail near Dauphin I., Aug. 2 furnished a new early date for Alabama (J&JP).

### Cranes to Shorebirds

Sandhill Cranes are rare and highly localized in much of the Region. Unusual were an individual Nov. 24 at Pine Bluff, AR (G&DL), five cranes the same day in *Noxubee*, MS (TLS, MHS), and two birds Nov. 25 at Wheeler N.W.R., AL (SWM). An Am. Golden-Plover in *Shelby*, AL Aug. 20 (ALM, ADM *et al.*) set a new local arrival record.

The 19 birds at T.E.C., Sept. 18 (JRW) were notable for this uncommon fall transient. A Snowy Plover Aug. 21 at Island No. 13, *Lake* (JRW, LVZ, JAZ, JSt) provided only the 4th Tennessee record.

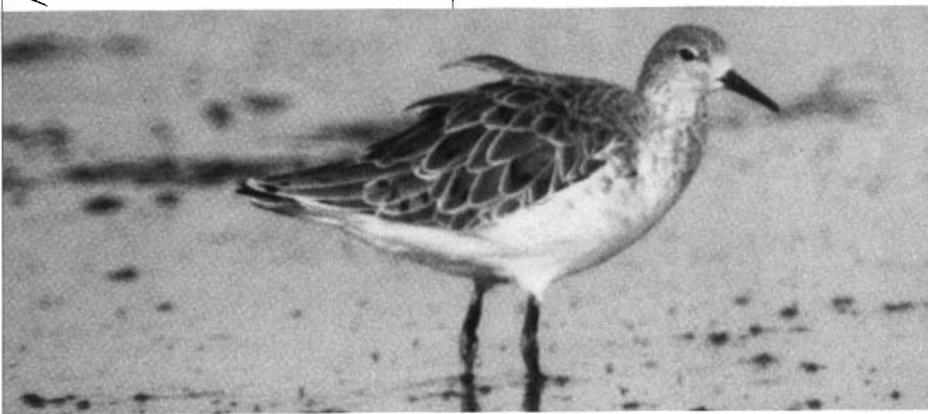
There were 11 unusual inland records of 34 Am. Avocets from 5 states Aug. 15–Nov. 19. Of several scarce inland Willets, the highest count was 13 in *Shelby*, TN Aug. 2 (JRW). Four Marbled Godwits were unexpected finds at 2 sites in *Lake*, TN Aug. 13–14 (JRW, WGC, MAG, BO, ph.). Six reports arrived of 10 non-coastal Ruddy Turnstones, including five at T.E.C., Aug. 5–6 (JRW). The tally of 160 Short-billed Dowitchers Sept. 23 in *Desha*, AR (HP, MP) was unusually high. A late Semipalmated Sandpiper was in C.P., Nov. 3 (JVR, DLD).

**SA** A juv. Rufous-necked Stint, the 2nd for Tennessee and the Region, was studied extensively Oct. 8–20 at the amazing ponds of T.E.C. (JRW, m.ob., p.a.). The previous record was of an adult in near-alternate plumage at the same location last year. Confident separation from Little Stint in juvenal plumage by sight alone is far from a casual affair, as both species exhibit considerable variation. However, the voluminous details and sketches from multiple observers seem sufficient to the task. Congeners can be excluded by the foot structure, primary extension, and exact patterns of the tertials, coverts, scapulars, mantle, and crown. In late September, an unusual pattern of high-level SE winds extended from the n.e. Pacific to the mid- and upper Mississippi Valley. It is only speculative to imply a link, but ¿quién sabe?

White-rumped Sandpipers are usually difficult to find in the autumn. Of several submissions, most impressive was of 30 birds studied Aug. 3 at Blakely I., *Mobile* (J&JP), establishing a new fall maximum for Alabama. A Baird's Sandpiper was locally late Nov. 7 in *Okaloosa*, FL (RAD). Record numbers of Buff-breasted Sandpipers were seen in n. Alabama this season; eight birds were in *Shelby* Sept. 2 (GDJ, JH) and nine appeared Sept. 7 in *Cherokee* (GLH). The Ruff is now almost expected at T.E.C., though it is casual elsewhere in the Region; a male was present Oct. 1–Nov. 28 (BF, JRW, ph.). A new local arrival date for Com. Snipe was furnished by an individual at N.N.W.R., Aug. 16 (GCK). Red-necked Phalaropes are rare but regular in early fall along the Mississippi R. in Tennessee; one was at T.E.C., Aug. 6–11 (JRW, GCK, ph.). More unusual was the Red Phalarope Nov. 20 in *Dekalb*, TN (SJS).

### Larids to Nightjars

Single Pomarine Jaegers were identified Sept. 21 at Dauphin I. (J&JP, p.a.) and 20 mi offshore Oct. 19 (CD, p.a.); there are only 10 previous Alabama records. A Parasitic Jaeger at M.L., Nov. 18–21 (CM, MW, RDr, DA, p.a.) was one of few for Arkansas. I received 4 reports of seven unusual inland Laughing Gulls Aug. 14–Oct. 23. An outstanding 47 Franklin's Gulls were at Arkabutla L., *Desoto*, MS Nov. 5 (JRW); normally visiting in small numbers, these birds were just ahead of a large front and low pressure area. The Bonaparte's Gull Aug. 16 at M.L. (CM) was very early. Louisiana's California Gull records continue to mount; an adult was studied in C.P., Sept. 24 (DLD, SWC, p.a.). Lesser Black-backed Gulls also have become expected in coastal Louisiana. Six were at Rutherford Beach, C.P., Sept. 24–25 (DLD, SWC, m.ob., ph., p.a.), with seven counted at that site Oct. 28–29 (DLD, SWC). The ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull Nov. 12–13 at Pace Pt., *Henry* (JRW, MAG, ph., p.a.) repre-



At the Ensley Bottoms, Shelby County, Tennessee, this Ruff stayed throughout October and November 1994. This is the only locality in the Region where the species seems to be found regularly. Photograph/Jeff R. Wilson.

sented one of Tennessee's few occurrences. An imm. Great Black-backed Gull Aug. 7 in Orleans, LA (RDP) was rare and out of season; another was detected Nov. 6 on Dauphin I., AL (J&JP).

**SA** A probable ad. Kelp Gull Aug. 19 on the mainland shore of St. Bernard (BR, AB, ph., p.a.) added fuel to a recent controversy in coastal Louisiana. Two-three possible Kelp Gulls, not officially recognized for N. America, were present in 1989 and 1990 (AB 44:1143-1147). This colonizing S. Hemisphere species recently has been described from the opposite side of the Gulf; at least two were reported from the n. Yucatan from 1991-early 1994 (HOWELL, S.N.G., J.S. CORREA, and J.B. GARCIA. 1993. First records of the Kelp Gull in Mexico. *The Euphonia* 2:71-80). The St. Bernard bird showed the very dark upperparts, bulbous-tipped bill, and greenish legs found in many Kelp Gulls. Stay tuned.

An imm. Black-legged Kittiwake was a rare treat Nov. 20 at Grenada L., MS (GCK, SK). Setting a local arrival date, a Caspian Tern was in w. Jefferson, AL Aug. 4 (TAI, LI, JFo, DG). The Least Tern in Benton Oct. 30 (MM) provided a new departure record for Arkansas. A noteworthy 102 Black Terns were in Oktibbeha and Noxubee, MS Aug. 21 (TLS). Sooty Terns occur rarely in n.w. Florida without tropical storms; one was at Pensacola Beach Sept. 16 (CT, RAD, WWD, PCT).

An early White-winged Dove was in Iberia, LA Aug. 28 (MJM), and up to eight birds Oct. 27 at Dauphin I. and Ft. Morgan (BS) tied the previous Alabama maximum. Two Inca Doves in Little River Aug. 30 (CM) furnished a scarce record for Arkansas. Just across the border, another Inca was a surprise Sept. 6 in Claiborne, LA (LDK). The Com. Ground-Dove at T.E.C., Aug. 28 (VBR) was unusual. A Groove-billed Ani was rare as far east as Ft. Morgan, AL Oct. 13 (GDJ *et al.*); the same could be said of the Burrowing Owl Nov. 12 in Plaquemines, LA (BR). Short-eared Owls are rare near the Gulf; one was in Vermilion, LA Nov. 18 (PM, DM). The latest Com. Nighthawk report was of two in Baton Rouge, LA Nov. 28-29 (MCH, DLD, SWC).

### Hummingbirds to Vireos

Regular visitors to s. Louisiana, two Buff-bellied Hummingbirds beginning Aug. 30 in St. John (SN, RJS, NLN) set a new state arrival date. A stellar addition to the Alabama list, and the 2nd for the Region, was

an ad. ♂ Magnificent Hummingbird in Camden, Wilcox, Sept. 4-5 (JSm, ph., v., p.a.). The Ruby-throated Hummingbird in Lonoke, AR Nov. 29-30 (PF, RC, b.) was far behind schedule. An ad. ♂ Calliope Hummingbird was a rare find Nov. 5 in St. Tammany, LA (NLN, B&EF, b., p.a.); another Calliope was discovered Nov. 12 in Iberville, LA (SWC, DLD, \*, p.a.). Three vagrant Broad-tailed Hummingbirds graced s. Louisiana this autumn (all p.a.); single birds were in St. John Oct. 25-27 (RJS, TS), in C.P., Oct. 30 (SWC, DLD), and in E. Baton Rouge Nov. 22 (PMK).

There were 9 reports Aug. 17-Sept. 24 of single Olive-sided Flycatchers, often difficult to find in our area. Eight Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, rare though regular transients, were at Ft. Morgan, AL Aug. 30-Oct. 31 (DCi *et al.*, b.). A tardy Acadian Flycatcher was in Iberville, LA Oct. 22-25 (JVR, DLD, SWC, \*). Transient Alder and Willow flycatchers are infrequently separated. Single calling Alders were in Washington, AR Aug. 13 & 31 (MM) and Sept. 1 in Oktibbeha, MS (TLS); a calling Willow was audio-taped Aug. 13 in Vermilion, LA (JCo, PC, p.a.). Banders at a Ft. Morgan site recorded 37 "Traill's" Flycatchers beginning Aug. 30, including the latest for the Alabama coast Oct. 28 (DCi *et al.*). Late for inland Alabama, a calling Least Flycatcher was in Shelby Oct. 30 (ALM, ADM).

Tennessee's 4th occurrence, a Say's Phoebe appeared in Lauderdale Nov. 25 (JRW, ph.). Adult ♂ Vermilion Flycatchers are always a delight; one returned Oct. 1 to a site in St. Martin, LA (PC), and another was in Terrebonne, LA Oct. 23 (MJE, TSE, JPO). Rare to the east, an imm. male was observed Oct. 22-23 in Hancock, MS (WT, TLS, MHS). A rare Ash-throated Flycatcher was studied Oct. 23 at Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa, FL (RAD, p.a.). Of only a few W. Kingbird reports, one was unexpected in Decatur, AL beginning Sept. 21 (SWM *et al.*). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was unusual at the same locale Aug. 22-Sept. 25 (SWM, m.ob). Scissor-taileds put on quite a show in the s. part of the Region in late October, curiously without a strong antecedent frontal system. An odd inland report came from Newton, MS, where a single bird appeared Oct. 20 (JMM). In C.P., 110 were tallied Oct. 23 (PW, CS, BMM). Farther east, 27 Scissor-taileds were counted Oct. 20-28 from Ft. Morgan, AL to Ft. Walton Beach, FL (RAD, PCT, BT, OEF *et al.*); eight marked a new Alabama maximum Oct. 22 at Ft. Morgan (LB, BE, MJT).

An estimated 1,000,000 Purple Martins blotted out the sun in late August on the Mississippi R. in Lake, TN (JRW, m.ob.). The tardy Bank Swallow Oct. 12 in Oktibbeha, MS (TLS) furnished a new local departure date. Another local record fell when

a late Barn Swallow was observed Nov. 16 in Washington, AR (MM, RD). There were 3 submissions for the now scarce Bewick's Wren; singles were spotted Oct. 5 & 11 at different sites in Washington, AR (MM), and another was in Oktibbeha, MS Nov. 26 (TLS).

A late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was in Hot Spring, AR Nov. 14 (DnH, GP). Also behind the departure curve were single Gray-cheeked Thrushes Oct. 16 at N.N.W.R (TLS) and Oct. 22 in Iberville, LA (JVR).

Bell's Vireo is a rare vagrant in much of our area. An individual was in Dyer, TN Aug. 22 (MAG), and two Bell's appeared at Ft. Morgan, AL Sept. 26-28 (DCi *et al.*, b., ph., p.a.). The Solitary Vireo Sept. 4 in C.P. (GB, PC, v.) was very early. Warbling Vireo is rare in the s.e. part of the Region; one was in Baldwin, AL Oct. 5 (VBF). A late bird was spotted Nov. 11 in Plaquemines, LA (SWC, DLD) Alabama's latest coastal Philadelphia Vireo was at Ft. Morgan Oct. 25 (DCi *et al.*, b.).

### Warblers to Blackbirds

The Blue-winged Warbler in C.P., Oct. 23 (CS, PW, BMM) was late, as was a Golden-winged Warbler at N.N.W.R., Oct. 15 (TLS, MHS). Three Blue-winged x Golden-winged hybrids, a rare pleasure, were reported this season. A "backcross Brewster's" appeared Sept. 13 in Oktibbeha, MS (TLS), and a "classic Brewster's" was in Limestone, AL Sept. 25 (GDJ, DGJ). Even more unusual was a "Lawrence's" Warbler Sept. 18 in Gibson, TN (MAG). The N. Parula in Plaquemines, LA Nov. 11 (DLD) was tardy. A Cape May Warbler, an e. transient in autumn, was late and unusual Nov. 2 at Ft. Pickens, FL (RLB, JWB).

It was an excellent season for another fall Atlantic Coast migrant, the Black-throated Blue Warbler. Reports were submitted Sept. 11-Nov. 11 from as far southwest as C.P. and northwest to Memphis. Banders in s. Baldwin, AL recorded 28 Black-throated Blues (DCi *et al.*); a peak of 10 birds Oct. 3 seemed related to the passage of a strong low-pressure area the prior day. Alabama's 10th Black-throated Gray Warbler was a popular attraction at Dauphin I., Oct. 14-17 (JT, m.ob., v. GDJ, p.a.). Locally early was a Black-throated Green Warbler Aug. 21 at N.N.W.R. (TLS). Scarce in Arkansas in autumn, lone Palm Warblers were noted Sept. 18-26 in Cleburne (MLB), White (KN), and at M.L. (CM). A lingering Black-and-white Warbler was located in Marion, AR Nov. 19 (BJ). Also behind schedule was a Prothonotary Warbler Oct. 1 in Iberville, LA (JVR).

Two Worm-eating Warblers Oct. 23-25 at Ft. Morgan (DCi *et al.*, b.) established a new departure date for Alabama. The Ovenbird Nov. 11 in Plaquemines, LA (SWC)

was also tardy. Mourning Warblers can be difficult to find in Alabama, so one on Dauphin I., Sept. 24 (J&JP) was noteworthy. A lingering Hooded Warbler was in *Iberville*, LA Nov. 2 (JVR). Early and late reports for Wilson's Warbler included single birds Sept. 5 in *Iberville*, LA (JVR) and Nov. 12 in *Benton*, AR (MM). A Canada Warbler was premature July 30 in Nashville, TN (GAF). To round out the late warbler parade, a Yellow-breasted Chat was spotted Nov. 9 in Montgomery, AL (LFG).

The Summer Tanager in Nashville, TN Nov. 5 (JSh) was late. A **Western Tanager**, only occasional far inland, was in *Dyer*, TN Aug. 21 (JRW, LVZ, JAZ). Very uncommon in Louisiana, one was spotted Oct. 12 in *Lafayette* (DP); the W. Tanager to the east Oct. 14 on Dauphin I., AL (SWM, JRW, p.a.) was rare but not unexpected. Rare and early, a ♂ Black-headed Grosbeak appeared in *Okaloosa*, FL Sept. 26 (DMW). A lingering Dickcissel was in *Benton*, AR Nov. 26 (MM).

Clay-colored Sparrows become scarce as far east as the Florida Panhandle; a late bird was at Ft. Pickens Oct. 28 (RLB, JWB, JB). Early Vesper Sparrows arrived Sept. 24 in C.P. (SWC, DLD, m.ob.) and Oct. 9 in *Washington*, AR (MM). A lone Savannah Sparrow Sept. 6 in *Okaloosa*, FL (DMW) furnished a new local arrival record, while the Grasshopper Sparrow in *Benton*, AR, Nov. 12 (MM) was significantly late. Reports of the elusive Henslow's Sparrow included singles Oct. 24 at Ft. Pickens, FL (RLB, JWB), in *Cleveland*, AR Nov. 5 (WMS, RC), and in *Shelby*, TN Nov. 8 (JRW). Sharp-tailed Sparrows are difficult to locate inland; one was spotted Sept. 25 in *Cleburne*, AR (MLB). An early Fox Sparrow appeared Oct. 9 in *Washington*, AR (MM). Harris' Sparrow is rarely seen in Florida, so one at Ft. Pickens Oct. 26 (RAD, PCT, CD, p.a.) was a surprise.

Smith's Longspur is expected in small numbers in the n.w. portion of the Region, though the 30–40 birds in *Prairie*, AR Nov. 25 (WMS, JLY) represented an unusual number. Yellow-headed Blackbirds are regularly seen rarities in s. Louisiana; this season there were 4 reports of nine birds Sept. 24–Nov. 19. In the same field in *Jefferson Davis*, LA as the concentration of Greater White-fronted Geese, there were 75,000 Boat-tailed Grackles Oct. 28 (SWC, DLD). Rare outside s.e. Louisiana, a Bronzed Cowbird was noted Oct. 13 at Ft. Pickens, FL (RAD, OEF, C&JH), and two were in *Jefferson Davis*, LA, Oct. 28 (DLD, SWC). Lone **Shiny Cowbirds** were (unpleasant) surprises Aug. 19 at Gulf Breeze, FL (RAD) and Oct. 9–10 at Grand I., LA (PW, CS, CK, GS, p.a.); there are few Regional records outside spring and early summer.

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# Prairie Provinces Region

**RUDOLF F. KOES AND PETER TAYLOR**

Unusually mild weather prevailed across the Region for most of the season; even at Churchill there was no snow until November. Small bodies of water remained open until mid-November, about three weeks later than usual. Rainfall was high in eastern Manitoba, and August was wet in the Calgary area; elsewhere, the season was mainly dry. One major blot on the weather map was a violent hailstorm near Boissevain, Manitoba in late August. Up to eight inches of hail accompanied a tornado, causing local devastation of birds from passerines to waterfowl to raptors in a 10-by-40 mile region.

In general, the mild conditions allowed migration to proceed unhindered, making the season a little dull at times. Uncommon migrant water birds from the Arctic were less numerous than usual, but there was some compensation from southern and western strays. The large number of late stragglers of a wide variety of species was especially noteworthy.

Abbreviations: I.B.S. (*Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Calgary*).

## Loons to Ducks

Seventeen Pacific Loons in Alberta, Oct 4–Nov. 2, was normal, but none was seen in Saskatchewan. A Yellow-billed Loon was observed 3 times at Ghost Res., Calgary Oct. 29–Nov. 16 (J&MM, RT *et al.*). At least 13 Great Egrets were reported in Manitoba in August and September, and three in Saskatchewan; one frequented the Airdrie-Calgary area, AB, Aug. 12–Sept. 2 (OD *et al.*). A Snowy Egret spent Aug 22–27 near Regina (*vide* RKr). Three Cattle Egrets were late wanderers to Nordegg, AB, Oct. 22 (JeD), coinciding with singles at Athabasca, AB, Oct. 23 (NE), and Steinbach, MB, Oct. 30 (DF). Twenty White-faced Ibises was an excellent total at recently refilled Frank L., AB, Aug. 10 (NA).