

Warbler was banded at Beaverhill L., AB, in late August (EJ). Budworm warblers were banded in high numbers: 1100 Tennessees at Delta (PG) and the most-ever Cape Mays and Bay-breasteds at Beaverhill L. (EJ). Major Manitoban highlights included a **Hooded Warbler** at Steinbach Sept. 12 (AR *et al.*) and the province's first confirmed **Kentucky Warbler** near Winnipeg Sept. 18 (BS, GG, PG). A possible Kentucky Warbler was also reported in Winnipeg Sept. 14 (JS). Rare in s. Alberta were two Nashville Warblers at Taber Sept. 12–13 (LB). Over 100 Wilson's Warblers decorated the bushes at I.B.S., Aug. 23 (TK).

➤ Rufous-sided Towhees were conspicuous near Stonewall, MB, with up to six seen per day Aug. 31–Sept. 29 (KG). Lone Field Sparrows reached Edam, SK, Sept. 19–21 (MC, TT) and St. Adolphe, MB, Sept. 26–27 (AC). A Fox Sparrow was extremely early at Taber, AB Aug. 21 (LB). Twenty-four Orchard Orioles were banded at Delta, including three late birds Sept. 5 (PG).

➤ Single Gray-crowned Rosy Finches strayed to Lac La Biche, AB, Oct. 10 (RT, MV), Elma, MB, Nov. 18 (MM), and Edmonton Nov. 26 (BR, TT). An unfortunate Pine Grosbeak was banded at Water Valley, AB at 4 p.m., Nov. 6, and found dead 40 mi away in Calgary at 745 a.m. the next day (GrB). Eighty House Finches were estimated at Weyburn, SK, feeders (*vide* GBo), but Alberta records were again limited to one–two pairs in Calgary (SBr, JeD, RDu).

➤ Modest numbers of both crossbill species (mainly groups of <10 birds) were noted in s.e. Manitoba. Redpolls were scarce in most areas. Pine Siskins thronged cone-laden white spruce trees in s.e. Manitoba around the end of August. Escapees from the boreal-forest feeder belt were eight Evening Grosbeaks at Medicine Hat Oct. 16 (PH) and 20 at Calgary Oct. 30 (DC).

Observers (subregional compilers in boldface): Neil Almond, Janice Ayre, Dennis Baresco, Lloyd Bennett, Susan Bennett (SB), Peter Blokker, G. Bobbit (GBo), Graham Booth (GrB), Susan Braggs-Marshall, Stewart Brown (SBr), Doug & Helen Brunson, G. Buckle (GBu), Muriel Carlson, Bonnie Chartier, Graham Clarke, Doug Collier, Andy Courcelles, R. Deschanev (RDe), Ross Dickson (RDi), Ed & Margaret Driver, Olga Droppo, Jack Dubois (JaD), Jean Dunn (JeD), Rodger Dunn (RDu), Norman Ecker, Dennis Fast, Bob Frew, Ken Gardner, Mike & Bernie Gollop, Gordon Grief, Paula Grief, David Hatch, Joe Hildes, George Holland, Phil Horch, Jean Horton, P. Irving, Edgar Jones, Rudolf Koes

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Northern Great Plains Region

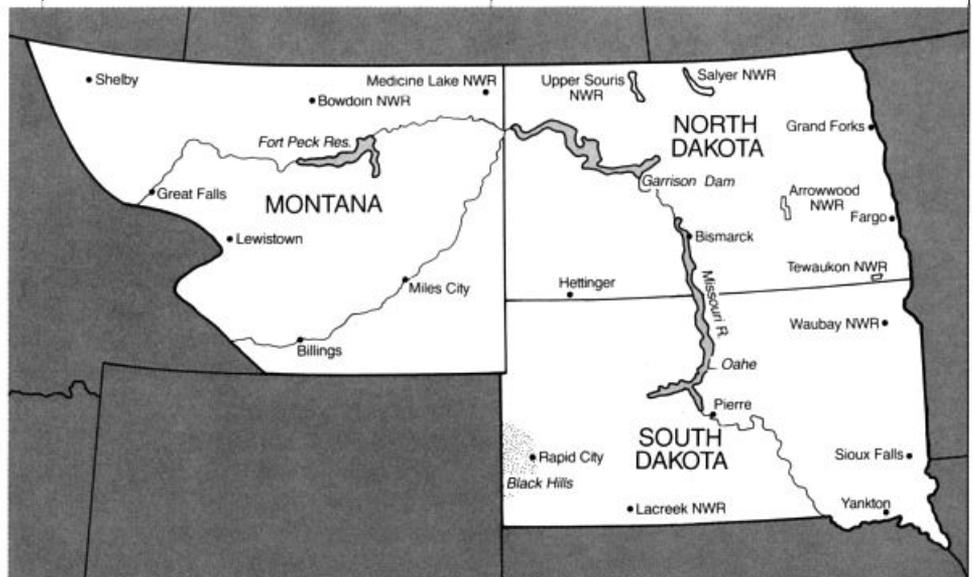
RON MARTIN

Mild weather Regionwide contributed to a long migration season, with some early dates and many late lingerers. Major rains in October in the Dakotas virtually guaranteed good spring water levels. Freezeup was late, with most water areas open until Thanksgiving. Record late dates for the first fall frost were noted in many areas; for example, October 24 at Fargo, North Dakota.

Few vagrants were noted and peak numbers of many species were not impressive. The season was highlighted by a Yellow-billed Loon in Montana, first fall records of Prothonotary Warbler in North Dakota and Hooded Warbler in South Dakota.

Loons to Raptors

A **Yellow-billed Loon** photographed at Ft. Peck Nov. 11–25 furnished a first Montana record (CC). A late peak of six Red-necked Grebes was recorded in *Grand Forks*, ND Oct. 20 (EF), and W. Grebes remained to late November in all 3 states. Mixed pairs of Western and Clark's grebes with young were at Des Lacs N.W.R., ND and in *Phillips*, Montana.



Great Egrets made another good showing, with 88 in *Grand Forks* Aug. 25 and 40 in *Deuel*, SD Aug. 28 (BKH). A Great Egret at Bowdoin N.W.R., Nov. 6 was unusual and late (DP). Cattle Egret peaks in North Dakota included 87 in *Benson* Sept. 29 and 30 in *Pierce* Sept. 24 (GBB). Two in *Benson* Nov. 17 were the 2nd latest for North Dakota. The waterfowl migration was generally unimpressive, with low numbers of Tundra Swans and most ducks. Only Medicine Lake N.W.R. bucked the trend with good numbers of ducks (LK). Wood Ducks continued their long-term increase with 350 at Minot, ND Oct. 1, the most ever there. Not often reported in fall, a Cinnamon Teal was at Minot Aug. 28, and five were in *Harding*, SD Sept. 17. Rare in e. Montana, a **Greater Scaup** was shot by a hunter at Bowdoin Nov. 5. Also at Bowdoin, a ♂ **Harlequin Duck** was unusual Nov. 9–11 (KE). Only the 2nd refuge sighting, males usually leave mountain breeding areas for the Pacific coast by late July. Casual in Montana and South Dakota, two **Black Scoters** were in Billings Sept. 23 (BH, HC), and a single was in *Deuel* Oct. 28–29 (BKH).

Bald Eagle migration had not peaked by the end of the period, presumably because of widespread open water to the north. An adult Aug. 1 in *Grand Forks* added to the increasing number of sightings outside the normal migration period. Hopefully new breeding sites are being established. Northern Goshawks were moving into n. areas of the Region by early October and were common at Bowdoin by the end of the period.

Tying the record high, 300 Swainson's Hawks were in *Stark*, ND Sept. 17 (JH). A late peak of 170 Red-tailed Hawks was in *Ward*, ND Oct. 22. Record early for North Dakota was a white-morph Gyrfalcon in *Ramsey* Oct. 5 (EF).

Grouse to Woodpeckers

Gray Partridges remained scarce, but several observers noted good numbers of Sharp-tailed Grouse. Following the banner nesting season in North Dakota, 2 reports of **Yellow Rails** were received from South Dakota, where less than 10 records exist. One was in *McPherson* Aug. 10 (JRK), and two were noted in *Brown* Sept. 27 (BT, DA). Shorebird numbers were generally unspectacular, but the mild weather contributed to a number of latest-ever dates for the Dakotas. In North Dakota Lesser Yellowlegs remained to Nov. 15 in *Grand Forks*, and Marbled Godwit to Oct. 1 in *Ward* (REM). In South Dakota Solitary Sandpipers were in *Brown* Nov. 12 (EdM), a Ruddy Turnstone in *Deuel* Oct. 10, and White-rumped Sandpipers in *Brown* Oct. 22 (JCS). A new record high of 300 Dunlin was noted in *Walsh*, ND on the early date of Aug. 25.

The 8th North Dakota record for **Iceland Gull** was furnished by a first-year individual at Garrison Dam Nov. 19–Dec. 3 (REM, GBB). At Devil's Lake, ND, Com. Terns were late Oct. 11, and Forster's were latest ever Oct. 15. Also latest on record for South Dakota were six Forster's in *Kingsbury* Oct. 29 (JSP).

The Burrowing Owl in *Cass*, ND Nov. 17 was the latest ever by 7 days (ELP). Common Nighthawks were unusually tardy in *Brown*, SD Oct. 8, and at Medicine L., Oct. 30 (MR). If accepted by the South Dakota Records Committee, a **Rufous Hummingbird** in *Edmunds* would provide the 2nd record east of the Missouri R. (MZ). Two October sightings of Pileated Woodpecker in the Devil's L. area raise speculation of a possible nesting population.

Flycatchers to Warblers

A W. Kingbird in *Brown*, SD Oct. 10 was the latest ever by 11 days (DAT). A Blue Jay invasion in e. Montana began in late September. In Chester, 19 were recorded Sept. 29 (HM). The species was numerous in the Malta area, and many sightings were recorded in Billings and other towns along the Yellowstone R. Probably unrelated was a high count of 52 in *Grand Forks* Nov. 29. After last year's major invasion, very few Red-breasted Nuthatches were noted. An early Golden-crowned Kinglet was in *Brown*, SD Sept. 9, and a late Ruby-crowned was in Fargo Nov. 5 (DDW). Eastern Bluebirds peaked at 82 in c. North Dakota Oct. 1 (CHT), and a late Mt. Bluebird was in *Benson* Dec. 6 (ECA). Swainson's Thrushes staged another dismal migration, but eight Hermit Thrushes in *Grand Forks* Oct. 12 was a new peak for North Dakota. A **Northern Mockingbird** appeared near Chester Aug. 15 and was still present at the end of the period. Only 4 Bohemian Waxwing reports were received, with a total of 26 birds.

The vireo and warbler migration was uninspiring except along the extreme e. edge of the Region. A few vagrants were found and the migration was very protracted, with warblers seen from early August–mid-November. In Montana, rare finds at Ft. Peck were single Magnolias Aug. 29 and Sept. 29, and a very late **Cape May Warbler** Nov. 6–7 (CC). The 4th state record for **Pine Warbler** was furnished by an individual seen by most members of the Montana Bird Records Committee Nov. 5 at Great Falls. A new fall high of 40 Tennessee Warblers was in *Grand Forks* Aug. 13. Six Black-throated Blue Warblers in the Dakotas was a respectable fall total. The **Prothonotary Warbler** at a bird bath in a farm yard near New Town Aug. 23 provided the 9th record for North Dakota (BCH).

Notable early warblers included Blackpoll Aug. 3 at Hope, ND (DLK), and Blackburnian Aug. 11 and N. Waterthrush Aug. 6, both in Day, SD (DRS). With the exception of Yellow-rumped, November warbler sightings are rare in the Dakotas. This fall a Palm was in *Grand Forks* Nov. 2 (EF), a N Parula in *Edmunds* Nov. 14 (MZ), and a Com. Yellowthroat in *Tripp*, SD Nov. 15 (RAP). A **Hooded Warbler** in *Edmunds* Oct. 27–31 furnished a first-ever fall record for South Dakota (JDW).

Sparrows to Finches

A Fox Sparrow at Chester Oct. 10–12 was of one of the e. races. Unusually high numbers of White-throated Sparrows were noted at Chester and Ft. Peck, MT and 145 at Minot, ND Sept. 25 was a nice fall peak. Bobolinks lingered in North Dakota, with 3 reports as late as Sept. 24–25. A Rusty Blackbird was early at Minot Sept. 5, and two Orchard Orioles were pushing the w. edge of their range at Malta, M, Aug. 7.

Four November reports of Pine Grosbeaks were all from the n. edge of the region. Very few Purple Finches were noted, but House Finches continued their assault on the n. plains. Banded birds moved into the Chester and Malta areas, and 3 North Dakota observers reported flocks away from towns and feeders. Very few crossbills were seen, and only 2 Common Redpoll observations were received.

Corrigendum

The eight Surf Scoters reported in *Roberts*, SD Sept. 29, 1993 (*AB* 48:12) were seen by Bruce Harris, not Jerry Stanford.

Cited observers (State compilers in bold-face): Montana: Charles Carlson, Helen Carlson, Kathleen Erickson, Bill Hansen, Lane Krumwiede, Harriet Marble, Dwain Prellwitz, Mike Rabenberg. North Dakota: Eldon Anderson, Gordon Berkey, Eve Freeberg, Justin Hoff, Bernice Houser, Don Kubischta, David Lambeth, Ron Martin, Eric Pueppke, Clark Talkington, Dennis and Diane Weisenborn. South Dakota: Dave Azure, Bruce K. Harris, Jon Kieckhefer, Ed Mitzel, Jeffrey S. Palmer, Richard A. Peterson, Jerry C. Stanford, Dennis R. Skadsen, Dan A. Tallman, Brett Tully, Jay David Williams, MyRon Zimmer. Many other individuals who could not be personally acknowledged also submitted notes to the state compilers.

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