

Southern Great Plains Region

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Fall is a season of vagrants. Populations are at the front end of annual cycle highs. Inexperienced young of the year and adults trudging from one place to another provide the best annual opportunities for scatter beyond the two standard deviation units of error normally expected for 99% of their populations. This scatter will be best represented for those populations that are at high points in their longer-term cycles, or for populations under stress—i.e., needing to get out of a bad situation.

This season was a generally good one for such events, and several groups of observers made special efforts to reveal patterns in bird distribution and migration. Some truly outdid themselves in pursuing their state's less well known avifauna. Multiple individuals of many rare species were discovered, and observers in *Finney*, Kansas may be changing the range maps for hummingbirds in the Southern Plains.

The Region's water, marsh, and shorebirds are still benefiting from the continuing

wet cycles of weather now in their fourth or fifth year. Western Grebes, Virginia Rails, and Black-necked Stilts were among noteworthy benefactors. In addition, lingerers were also plentiful, so much so that room prevented the publication of many worthwhile records.

Perhaps also noteworthy among this plenty was the almost complete absence of Rocky Mountain drifters. After a superabundance for Red-breasted Nuthatches last winter, their virtual absence this season indicated that a lot of them likely "bit the dust."

Abbreviations: Cheyenne Bottoms (*Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Barton Co., KS*); Fontenelle Forest (*Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy, NE*); McConaughy (*Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., NE*); Quivira (*Quivira N. W.R., Stafford Co., KS*).

Loons to Waterfowl

A Red-throated Loon was reported from *Jefferson*, KS Oct. 30–Nov. 4 (BF, m.ob.). One–two Pacific Loons were observed in *Reno*, KS Nov. 16–19 (SP, MT, DV). The >100 Com. Loons Nov. 12 at L. Tenkiller in *Sequoyah*, OK (J&MN, JH) indicated the continued attraction of this species for this clear lake.

An amazing 720 Pied-billed Grebes observed Sept. 23 in *Washington*, NE (JJ) accented the peak period of fall migration for this species in Nebraska. Horned Grebes noted in *Garden*, NE Sept. 8 (LKM) were possibly the same present in summer. Certainly not an annual occurrence, two Red-necked Grebes appeared in *Noble*, OK Oct. 31 (JA), and one was reported from *Jefferson*, KS Nov. 4–6 (MBe, MP).

Western Grebes made a splash across the Region. McConaughy appeared to be a staging area, with 2400 estimated Aug. 6, and 2000 still present Nov. 5 (SD, WRS). The W. Grebes nesting in Cheyenne Bottoms numbered 11 adults and 5 chicks Aug. 8 (*vide* LM). By late October and November, W. Grebes were seen on many lakes in Kansas and Oklahoma, perhaps the best showing ever reported. Several appeared in e. Nebraska. One Clark's Grebe was present at McConaughy Nov. 5 (SD); two others were present in *Lincoln*, NE, also Nov. 5 (SD), and one was identified in *Russell*, KS Nov. 25 (MR).

About 6500 Am. White Pelicans created a spectacle at *Quivira* Sept. 19 (MR). Brown Pelicans, exceptional 10 years ago, are becoming annual; one adult was watched Nov. 13–30 in *Reno*, KS (CG, m.ob.). An imm. Neotropic Cormorant was present in *Coffey*, KS Aug. 14–21 (MM), and an adult was noted in *Bryan*, OK Sept. 22–23 (JWe). Anhingas spread to *Pontotoc*, OK June 18 (WAC *et al.*) and *Johnston*, OK July 16 (MD *et al.*) and Aug. 28 (DB).

Great Egrets that wandered out to *Dawes*, n.w. Nebraska were last observed Sept. 9 (RCR). One even later was noted in *York*, NE Oct. 14 (LKM). Snowy Egrets were observed as late as Sept. 7 (two) in *Garden*, NE (LKM); six were present Aug. 6 in *Washington*, NE (JJ). Four very tardy Snowy's danced in *Alfalfa*, OK Oct. 21 (J&EM), with another remaining in *Tulsa* until Oct. 30 (m.ob.). About 450 Cattle Egrets were counted Aug. 8 in *Buffalo*, NE (N&IR), a good number for Nebraska; the latest were seen Nov. 1 in *Scottsbluff*, NE (AK), and Nov. 10 (three) in *Mayes*, OK (DvT).

A Tricolored Heron in *Oklahoma* was spotted erratically through the summer; possibly the same bird was last observed Oct. 3 (JGN, DN). Others were observed in *Johnston*, OK Aug. 13–17 (CG, PS *et al.*), *Alfalfa*, OK Aug. 28 (five; JA *et al.*), and *Marshall*, OK Sept. 16 (JWe). Two vagrant Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were noted Aug. 22–23 in *Kearney*, NE (LRa, RH). An imm. Roseate Spoonbill appeared in *Bryan*, OK Aug. 10–16 (JWe, CG, MG, m.ob.), and two were present Aug. 19 in *Johnston*, OK (JK). Small-to-modest sized groups of Wood Storks have been appearing in recent years in the Red R. Valley. This season 14 were spotted in *McCurtain*, OK Sept. 8 (BH), and 10 in *Johnston*, OK Sept. 9 (CG). The reintroduction of Trumpeter Swans onto the LaCreek N.W.R in South Dakota has clearly been successful. Breeding birds have now spread into at least 5 counties in w. Nebraska. Birds from these groups apparently depart these counties, the latest being observed Nov. 6 in *Grant*, NE (SD, WRS). Tundra Swans now appear to be the less common swan in the Region with 6 reports, the earliest of two in *Cimarron*, OK Oct. 24 (J&EM).

A Brant at *Washita*, OK, Nov. 12 (m.ob) was an exceptional find. Several summer stragglers of Greater White-fronted Goose and Snow Goose were noted in Nebraska (*vide* WRS). Although Wood Ducks appear to have retreated from of the some ground gained in the last 10 years in the w. portions of the Region, at least a few pockets persist in *Scottsbluff* (LKM) and *Dawes*, NE, with 60–65 observed in the latter during August (RCR, DJR).



The only Am. Black Duck reported was one at *Miami*, KS Nov. 18 (LM). Interesting were six Mottled Ducks Aug. 25 (JR) at Quivira, and one Sept. 5 (PJ) at Cheyenne Bottoms, the uniquely persisting area of continuing observations for the Region. Some 54,000 Mallards were counted Nov. 22 at the North Platte N.W.R. *Scottsbluff*, NE (LK). One-six Cinnamon Teal were observed Aug. 10–24 in *Garden*, NE (LKM), and one in basic plumage was identified among Blue-winged Teal Aug. 19 in *Oklahoma* (JAG).

Given recent concerns, a group of 3000 Canvasback Nov. 5 in *Garden*, NE (SD, WRS) was encouraging, as were 3292 Red-head Nov. 10 in *Scottsbluff*, NE (LK). Likely one of the summering birds reported earlier was a Ring-necked Duck Sept. 10 in *Scottsbluff*, NE (LK). Eight Greater Scaup were identified Oct. 31 in *Noble*, OK (JA).

Among the "sea ducks" were Oldsquaw Nov. 5 in *Lincoln*, NE (SD, WRS) and Nov. 25–26 in *Johnston*, OK (CG, MG, DS). The only Surf Scoters reported were in *Douglas*, KS Nov. 4 (DW), *Douglas*, NE Nov. 14–27 (1–3; JJ), and Nov. 26 in *Coffey*, KS (MM). White-winged Scoters were observed Nov. 22 in *Lancaster*, NE (JJ) and *Reno*, KS (DV, DK), and Nov. 27 in *Washington*, NE (JJ) and *Douglas*, NE (N&IR).

The 1700 Bufflehead observed in *Garden*, NE Oct. 26 (LKM) accented an apparent peak migratory time. An imm. Bufflehead Sept. 10 in *Sheridan*, NE (RCR, DJR), had not been detected earlier. Two undocumented reports of Barrow's Goldeneyes were received. Common Mergansers were still concentrated in the n. portions of the Region at the end of the period with thousands in *Knox*, NE, Nov. 25 (RCR, DJR).

Raptors to Terns

Adding to the observations of Mississippi Kites in Nebraska from this past summer and farther to the north was one in *Thomas*, NE Sept. 11 (LKM). A Sharp-shinned Hawk noted Aug. 21 in *Scottsbluff*, NE (LKM) was early. The pair breeding in *Saunders*, NE, were apparently successful in raising at least one young (TH). The only N. Goshawks reported were early at *Jefferson*, KS Oct. 2 (LM, MM) and *Russell*, KS Nov. 25 (MR).

Harris' Hawks fed hot-line fever. Four were reported for the fall, including single birds in *Tulsa*, OK beginning Oct. 26 (MRu); *Douglas*, KS Oct. 30–Nov. 11 (BB, m.ob.; believed by some an escape); *Oklahoma* beginning Nov. 11 (KB; earlier glimpsed and dismissed by Neil Garrison); and *Jackson*, OK Nov. 23 (JDT). The *Tulsa* bird was first observed June 15 (MRu). While s. Texas is a virtual bastion for the species, the drought persisting in the southwest this summer made that population as or more likely a source for these birds.



Harris' Hawk in Tulsa County, Oklahoma, Nov. 6, 1994. This southwestern hawk was reported at 4 different sites in the Region this season. Photograph/Patricia Seibert.

At least one Prairie Falcon crossed the Region, a bird in *Douglas*, KS Oct. 31 (*vide* LM). Only five Merlins were reported, fewer than in years past. Five–six Peregrines were reported for Kansas and four in Oklahoma, the earliest being two immatures observed at Quivira Aug. 15 (JR). An imm. gray-morph Gyr Falcon, always of note, was identified in *Dawes*, NE Nov. 5 (SD, WRS).

Intriguing were two adults and two sub-ad. Sandhill Cranes in *Clay*, NE Aug. 20 (JJ), a date implicating local breeding. About 70–80 Sandhill Cranes skirted E to *Dixon*, NE Oct. 23–24 (JJo). A high count of 65,000–70,000 occurred at Quivira Nov. 19 (MR). Up to 35 Whooping Cranes were distinguished at Cheyenne Bottoms between Oct. 13–Nov. 29, up to 16 at one time at Quivira (*vide* LM).

The metapopulation picture for rails continues to be good. New reports included King Rails in *Cimarron*, OK Sept. 19 (JM) and a Black Rail Sept. 15 in *Jefferson*, KS (PW). A Yellow Rail Oct. 8 in *Johnson*, KS was among very few for the Region, but within the expected migratory window.

Migrant Piping Plovers were reported Aug. 4 in *Cleveland*, OK (NK), and Aug. 8 (three; GS) and Sept. 19 (one; MR) at Quivira. Others were noted Aug. 28 in *Johnston*, OK (two; DB), and Aug. 31 in *Oklahoma* (JGN). Drained L. Yahola, *Tulsa*, attracted about 1000 Killdeer Nov. 1 (JA).

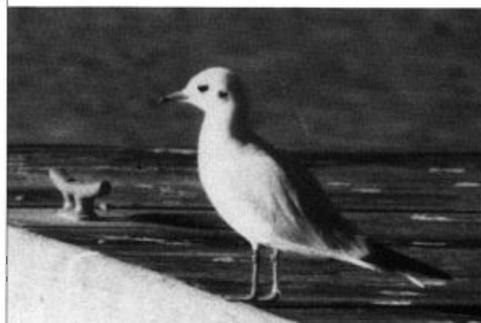
The increase in Black-necked Stilt populations expressed itself in more observations during fall, including seven Aug. 26 at Quivira (JA *et al.*), five Aug. 28 in *Alfalfa*, OK (JA *et al.*), two Aug. 30 in *Sheridan*, NE (LKM), and three Sept. 15 in *Jackson*, OK (JDT). Perhaps benefiting from better con-

ditions farther north, Marbled Godwits were also more common. Sixteen was the high count Aug. 6 in *Keith*, NE (SD, WRS). Six Marbled Godwits delighted many in *Oklahoma* through September (JGN, m.ob.), and were the last observed. The find of the season was undoubtedly a juv. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper Sept. 8 in *Sheridan*, NE (LKM); this potential 2nd Nebraska record will undergo review by the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Bird Records Committee.

Among late departing shorebirds was a Spotted Sandpiper Nov. 12 in *Tulsa* (JW). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were more frequently reported this fall, with a high of 38 at *Tulsa* Sept. 15 (JA). Six reports of Red-necked Phalaropes were received; delimiting observations included three Aug. 24 in *Garden*, NE (LKM), and one Sept. 21 in *Alfalfa*, OK (JM). Much more exceptional was a Red Phalarope Oct. 26 in *Douglas*, KS (LM).

Some serious comments by observers on Franklin's Gulls indicate a significant overall decline. Nonetheless the half million estimated in *Coffey*, KS Oct. 16 (MM, BF) was one of the highest counts known for the Region. The 10,000 Aug. 6 at McCaughy (SD, WRS) was exceptional for that date. Two imm. Laughing Gulls were present Aug. 28 (CO, JO) to Sept. 18 (MM *et al.*) at Cheyenne Bottoms, and one in 2nd-winter plumage was found at *Reno*, KS, Nov. 17–20 (DK, DV). Yet another immature was observed Oct. 16 in *Bryan*, OK (JWe).

It's great news to have even one Little Gull report, as almost none was ever reported before 1990. But this season, Little Gulls were reported at 4 locations in Kansas and one in Oklahoma: immatures Oct. 11 in *Bryan*, OK (JWe) and Oct. 23 in *Russell*, KS (MR); a bird in first-winter plumage in *Reno*, KS Nov. 12 (PJ); and adults Nov. 17–18 in *Kingman*, KS (DK, DV), Nov. 21 in *Jefferson*, KS (LM), and Dec. 3 in *Coffey*, KS (LM, MM). Another very rare gull in the Region, Common Black-headed Gull, was reported from *Jefferson*, KS Oct. 8 (D&LB, MW); *Douglas*, KS Oct. 16–19 (LM, GP); and *Reno*, KS



Common Black-headed Gull at Clinton Lake, Douglas County, Kansas, Oct. 19, 1994. Photograph/Lloyd D. Moore.

Nov 12–21 (PJ, m.ob.). Large numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls were also observed, with 1500 in Coffey, KS Nov. 30 (fide LM). A Bonaparte's Gull Sept. 2 in Scottsbluff; NE was very early (LKM).

California Gulls, mostly adults, built up in numbers at McConaughy with 40 present Aug. 6 (SD) and 146 Nov. 5 (SD, WRS). In Kansas only one first-winter California Gull Nov. 23 in Sedgwick (PJ) and one adult Nov. 26 in Osage (MM) were noted. Two Thayer's were reported from Kansas, in Douglas Oct. 26 (LM) and Wyandotte Nov. 18 (LM). More frequently reported in previous years, the only Sabine's Gulls observed included one surprising adult in Jefferson, KS Oct. 2 (LM, MM), and one immature Oct. 15–16 in Bryan, OK (JWe).

Common Terns were reported Aug. 7 at McConaughy (SD, WRS), Sept. 7 in Garden, NE (LKM), and Oct. 8 in Bryan, OK (JWe). Four in Douglas, KS Oct. 16 (LM) were somewhat tardy.

Doves to Swallows

Perhaps the trailings of the recent surge, a few Inca Doves were still being reported, including one Oct. 1 & 2 in Jackson, OK (IM), and another Oct. 7 in Finney, KS (LR). Six Black-billed Cuckoos Sept. 4 in Otoe, NE (LF) is several years accumulation for most birders in the Region. A seriously late nesting Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen feeding young Oct. 13 in Muskogee, OK (KK, JM). A Short-eared Owl Aug. 8 at Quivira (GS) likely summered.

A Com. Nighthawk reported Oct. 17 in Scottsbluff; NE (LKM), was rather late. Common Poorwills Oct. 11 and Nov. 11 in downtown Tulsa (JA) were surprising; another was found Nov. 8 in Jackson, OK (JC). Chimney Swifts lingered until Oct. 18 in Sarpy, NE (B&LP).

Many of secrets of the fall distribution of hummingbirds are now being disclosed by feeder watchers. A ♂ Calliope Hummingbird was captured by a dog around June 23 in Sioux, NE (fide WRS), for only the 4th Nebraska record. Ruby-throateds were reported w. to Finney, KS Aug. 18–Oct. 19 (several; T&SS et

al.) and Morton, KS Sept. 15 (SP, MM). Adult ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbirds were observed in Finney, KS Aug. 1–20 (MO, LR, BR). Unthinkable was not one, but three Anna's Hummingbird reports; an imm. male in Finney, KS Oct. 6–Nov. 11 (T&SS, LR, BR); a male in Cowley, KS Nov. 21–22 (JS, MT), and a 2nd, different bird there Nov. 24.

Single Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were noted in Scottsbluff, NE Aug. 7 (LKM) and Morrill, NE Aug. 14 (ECT). A ♀ Broad-tailed was identified in Riley, KS Sept. 10 (PF, TC). Heart throbs and gasps went to the possible 10 Broad-taileds identified in Finney, KS Aug. 11–Sept. 9, along with only six Rufous over the period from Aug. 1–Nov. 12 (T&SS, L&BR, MO). Other Rufous Hummingbirds were observed in Harvey, KS Aug. 25 (D&DB); Seward, KS Sept. 15 (SP, MM); and in Pontotoc, OK Nov. 7–22 (J&BH). Bird Record Committee files may place some perspective on these records of Broad-taileds, when documented.

Reports of Red-naped Sapsuckers in Morton, KS Sept. 16 (SP, MM) and Oct. 2 (SP, GP), and in Finney, KS Oct. 1 (m.ob) add to the developing pattern of migration for this recently distinguished species. Cassin's Kingbirds appeared in Dawes, NE, with eight Aug. 27 and three Sept. 9 (RCR). Several were noted in Morton, KS Sept. 15 & 30 (SP, MM).

MAPS banders are documenting some of the early fall Empidonax migration. Because the keys to identifying Alder and Willow flycatchers were developed for populations of those species outside the mid-continental areas, there may be reason to dispute distinctions between these flycatchers. Nonetheless, birds captured in Wagoner, OK July 30, and Aug 6 & 13 were identified as Alder; the earliest Willow was Aug. 13. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was also captured Aug. 6 (DVR). No details were provided for one Dusky Flycatcher Sept. 1–4 and three Cordilleran Flycatchers Sept. 15–Oct. 2 in w. Kansas. A late Olive-sided Flycatcher was observed Oct. 9 in Tulsa (JA, JL, PS). Late Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were noted Nov. 8 in Geary, KS (CO), and Nov. 14 in Muskogee, OK (MDa). Also quite late were a Tree Swallow Nov. 20 (CO) and a Barn Swallow Nov. 24 (DLS), both in Geary, KS.

Jays to Vireos

Black-billed Magpies wandered E to Lancaster, NE Oct. 16 (LE), and Wayne, NE Nov. 13 (LF). No small surprise was a Tufted "Black-crested" Titmouse carefully documented in Otoe, NE (LF). A Com. Bushtit in Morton, KS Oct. 8 (SS) wandered outside its normal haunts.

Worse than stock market fluctuations were the numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches. Plentiful last winter, they were almost un-

heard of this fall. Brown Creepers may breed in the Pine Ridge of Nebraska; several were observed during late August in Sioux (LKM, RCR, DJR), well before normal fall arrivals.

Carolina Wrens were found n. to Cumming, NE (MB) and west to Kearney, NE (LRa, RH), both extralimital. A Bewick's Wren in Otoe, NE was the first during fall in 30 years (LF, fide WRS). The 20 Sedge Wrens observed Aug. 15–20 in Saunders, NE (B&LP) may have been part of a nesting group. Early were Golden-crowned Kinglets Sept. 24 in Sheridan, NE (RCR, DJR), and Sept. 28 in Lancaster, NE (LE).

A Wood Thrush Oct. 2 in Scott, KS (D&LB et al.), was exceptional for date and w. location. A Hermit Thrush of e. affinity graced Dawes, NE Sept. 30 (RCR). Two Curve-billed Thrashers worked their way E to Morton, KS Aug. 7 (PJ) and Sept. 15 (BP et al.). Two Water Pipits arrived in Sheridan, NE Sept. 10 (RCR, DJR). Probably under-reported, but still heartening, was a report of ≤ 50 Sprague's Pipits in Pawnee, KS during the peak of their migration (SS). The first N. Shrike was noted Oct. 8 in Sheridan, NE (RCR, DJR). Two were reported from Kansas. A Loggerhead Shrike Nov. 4 in Dakota, NE (JJo) was tardy. Phainopepla (yes, plural) were noted in Morton, KS Sept. 3–6 (JR et al.), and Finney, KS Sept. 25–30 (LR), with two (yes, two!) described for Haskell, KS Oct. 3 (KT, fide LM).

Not many of the "Plumbeous" Solitary Vireos are reported. The careful Kansans noted birds at 2 different locations in Morton Sept. 4 (LM, GP) and Sept. 10 (SS, MR). One "eastern" Solitary Vireo Nov. 22 in McCurtain, OK (BH) may join with others from previous years in establishing the n. bound of the winter range for this species. Certainly tardy was a Yellow-throated Vireo in McClain, OK Oct. 15 (PB). Certainly west of most Philadelphia Vireos was one in Morton, KS Sept. 16 (SP, MM).

Warblers to Finches

This was a better-than-average fall for warblers. Among the hot Vermivoras—even in the spring, more so in the fall—were Blue-wingeds noted Aug. 29 in Wyandotte, KS (LM), and Sept. 1 in Dakota, NE (BHu), and a Golden-winged Sept. 2 in Fontenelle Forest (B&LP). A Virginia's Warbler in Stanton, KS Sept. 16 (SP, MM) was on the fringe of its normal migratory route. A N. Parula lingered until Sept. 18 in Fontenelle Forest (B&LP).

Eastern warblers included a Black-throated Blue in Morton, KS Sept. 17 (MM), with another in Meade, KS Sept. 17 (TF); Pine Warblers Aug. 20 in Finney, KS (BC), and Oct. 14 in Harvey, KS (GF); and a Palm Warbler Oct. 8 in Sheridan, NE (RCR, DJR). Other "western easterners" were Black-and-white Warblers Aug. 27 in Sioux, NE (RCR, DJR), and Sept. 4 in Finney, KS (L&BR); Ovenbird Oct.



At a migrant-trap oasis in downtown Tulsa, Oklahoma, this Common Poorwill paused Oct. 11, 1994. Photograph/James W. Arterburn.

3 in *Comanche*, OK (J&LM); and Hooded Warbler Sept. 4 and Oct. 1 (possibly different birds) in *Finney*, KS (MO, m.ob.).

— Among other unusual e. warblers were a Chestnut-sided Warbler in Fontenelle Forest Sept. 4 (B&LP *et al.*), and a Blackburnian Warbler Aug. 31 in *Oklahoma* (JGN). Magnolia Warblers were more prominently reported this fall, with birds in *McClain*, OK Aug. 8 (PB; early); Fontenelle Forest Aug. 29–Sept. 2 (B&LP); *Muskogee*, OK Sept. 1 (JM); and *Stanton*, KS Sept. 16 (SP, MM, GP). Three Yellow-rumped Warblers Sept. 10 in *Sheridan*, NE may have been part of local post-breeding dispersal or very early migrants (RCR, DJR).

— Few fall records of Yellow-throated Warbler exist. One was noted Aug. 13 in *Johnston*, OK (PS *et al.*), and another Sept. 18 in *Tulsa* (PS, JL). A Pine Warbler in *Sarpy*, NE, Oct. 10 (B&LP) was tardy. Among the latest fall dates of Bay-breasted Warblers for Nebraska were one Oct. 11 in *Lancaster* (TL) and another Oct. 12 in Fontenelle Forest (JAL). Several scattered reports of Blackpoll Warblers were received, including one Oct. 1 in *Sheridan*, NE (RCR), and another Oct. 9 in *Dawes*, NE (LKM).

— Western warblers included Townsend's Sept. 3 in *Cimarron*, OK (SM), Sept. 10 in *Sheridan*, NE (RCR, DJR), Sept. 16 in *Stanton*, KS (SP, MM, GP), several Oct. 1 in *Finney*, KS (m.ob.), and two in *Morton*, KS Oct. 2 (SP, GP). Far from annual, a Black-throated Gray Warbler livened up the scenery in *Cimarron*, OK Sept. 3 (SM).

— Also pushing the season was a N. Waterthrush Nov. 2 in Fontenelle Forest (B&LP). Perhaps the best warbler find of the season was a **Connecticut Warbler** Sept. 3 in *Tulsa* (JL, PS). A tardy Wilson's Warbler Oct. 16 in downtown *Tulsa* may have been one earlier stunned on building windows and released (JA *et al.*).

— A Scarlet Tanager in *Sheridan*, NE Sept. 24 was the first in fall for the Nebraska panhandle (RCR, DJR). Northern Cardinals held out for another year in *Scottsbluff*, NE (AK), having arrived 2–3 years prior. An Indigo Bunting at Fontenelle Forest Oct. 13 (B&LP) was tardy. A Green-tailed Towhee Sept. 30 in *Morton*, KS (SP) was e. of most reported.

— A Lark Sparrow lingered to Nov. 7 in *Otoe*, NE (LF). A late nesting Grasshopper Sparrow was attending two juveniles Sept. 10 in *Sheridan*, NE (RCR, DJR). A daily high count of 62 occurred Aug. 10 in *Scottsbluff*, NE (LKM).

— For some birds, it's just a matter of looking in the right place. Having a good year, or more regular than previously suspected, two–three Sharp-tailed Sparrows were located in *Saunders*, NE Oct. 2 (JJ) & 3 (B&LP). Six were found in *Washington*, NE Oct. 16 (JJ). Still others were observed Oct. 14 in *Gosper*, NE (LKM) and Oct. 21 in *Russell*, KS (MR).

— Early migrant White-crowned Sparrows appeared Sept. 9 in *Dawes*, NE (RCR). Also early

was a Lincoln's Sparrow Aug. 22 in *Dawes*, NE (LKM). A Swamp Sparrow Aug. 10 and Sept. 7 in *Garden*, NE probably summered (LKM). Very early was a Chestnut-collared Longspur Sept. 5 in *Morton*, KS (SS), with >20 in *Pawnee*, KS by Sept. 21 (SS). A Snow Bunting Nov. 5 in *Douglas*, NE (N&IR) was unusual.

— Among the earliest departing breeders, an Orchard Oriole Sept. 3 in *Tulsa* (TM) was tardy. A Purple Finch arrived in *Dixon*, NE Sept. 29 (JJ). Pine Siskins were generally scarce, but widely scattered. The only report of Red Crossbill outside the Nebraska panhandle, where they were not common (RCR), was of 15 in *Douglas*, NE Nov. 9 (N&IR). Much rarer was a White-winged Crossbill Nov. 7–8 in *Scottsbluff*, NE (AK). Only 2 observations of Evening Grosbeaks were reported, both for *Dawes*, NE (RCR, DJR).

Corrigendum

An editing error miscredited the author of *Birds of the Lake McConaughy Area and the North Platte River Valley, Nebraska*. Richard Rosche is the author.

Cited observers (area editors boldfaced):

KANSAS: Dave and Donna Baker, Mike Beck (MBe), Dave and Linda Bryan, Bill Busby, Ted Cable, Barbara Campbell, Bob Fisher, Tom Flowers, Pat Freeman, Greg Freisen, Chet Gresham (CGr), **Pete Janzen**, Dan Kilby, Dan LaSelle, Mike McHugh, **Lloyd Moore**, Marie Osterbuh, Chuck Otte, Sebastian Patti, Brandon Percival, Mark Pheasant, Galen Pittman, Mike Rader, John Rakestraw, Betty Rich, Leonard Rich, Scott Seltman, Tom and Sara Shane, Guy Smith, Joe Steiner, Max Thompson, Kevin Tunis, Don Vannoy, Phil Wells, Mike Whited, Dan Williams. NEBRASKA: Jim Alt (JAL), Mark Brogie, Stephen Dinsmore, Larry Einemann, Laurence Falk, Robin Harding, Thomas Hoffman, Bill Huser (BHu), Jan Johnson (JJo), Joel Jorgensen, Alice Kenitz, Lucy Koenig, Tom Labeledz, Larry K. Malone, Babs and Loren Padelford, Lanny Randolph (LRa), Neal and Izen Ratzlaff, Dorothy J. Rosche, **Richard C. Rosche**, **W. Ross Silcock**, Edna Clair Thomas. OKLAHOMA: Jim Arterburn, Karen Barker, Pat Bergey, David Brotherton, William A. Carter, Jay Cross, Margie Davis (MDa), Mike Duggan, Cynthia Goddard, Mike Goddard, Joseph A. Grzybowski, Jim Harmon, Berlin Heck, John and Betty Hohl, Kenn Kaufman, June Ketchum, Nathan Kuhnert, **Jo Loyd**, **Janet & Louis McGee**, **Jeri McMahan**, Ina Mery, John and Emma Messerley, Steve Metz, Terry Mitchell, **John G. Newell**, Dorothy Newell, Jim and Marion Norman, M. Rugg (MRu), Pat Seibert, Dave Stanbrough, Jack D. Tyler, Don Varner (DVr), Jeff Webster (JWe), Jim Woodard. —*Joseph A. Grzybowski, 715 Elmwood Drive, Norman, OK 73072.*

Texas Region

GREG W. LASLEY, CHUCK SEXTON, MARK LOCKWOOD, AND WILLIE SEKULA

Although almost all regions in the state reported mild to unseasonably warm temperatures, this was yet another season of the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer as for rainfall. The Trans-Pecos suffered its third straight parched summer and fall, while east and southeast Texas had heavy rains which mounted to torrential proportions in October. Heavy flooding made national news in the southeast corner of the state in late October. The heavy precipitation extended west to Austin, where nearly 24 inches of rainfall for the four-month period put them way above their annual total.

— An early mild cool front moved into central Texas August 8, bringing a few of the regular early migrants such as Black Terns and Yellow Warblers. Other fronts pushed progressively farther south about August 20 and September 23. The first strong cool front raced through the state October 7–10 and was perfectly timed to prompt some major hawk movements. Hawk watchers perched on high hills west of Austin October 9 missed the hawks but witnessed one of the most spectacular flights of Monarch butterflies in memory.

— There were more exciting finds on deep-water pelagic trips August 20 and September 24. Why did we in Texas wait so long to start doing this! These mounting pelagic observations have completely, if not unexpectedly, rewritten the book on our understanding of offshore avifauna. We were gratified to see a whole new set of names interspersed among our list of regular contributors statewide this season, suggesting to us the continuing value of this particular communication venue for birdwatchers across this vast state.

Abbreviations: Ft. Bliss (*Fort Bliss sewage ponds, El Paso*); G.M.N.P. (*Guadalupe Mountains N.P.*); L.R.G.V. (*Lower Rio Grande Valley*); S.S.W.T.P. (*South Side Water Treatment Plant, Dallas*); T.B.R.C. (*Texas Bird Records Committee/Texas Ornithological Society*); U.T.C. (*Upper Texas Coast*). The following are shortened names for the respective county, state, or national parks, wildlife refuges, etc.: Anahuac, Aransas, Atwater, Bentsen, Big Bend, Buffalo Lake, Hagerman, Kickapoo, Laguna Atascosa, and Santa Ana.