

Southern Atlantic Coast Region

RICKY DAVIS

This fall's weather involved a relatively normal August, a warmer and wetter-than-normal September and October, and a cooler-than-normal November. Included in this were hurricane *Erin* in early August and a series of lesser but nonetheless wet tropical systems in August and September. Add the fact that there were more frontal systems this year than last, and you can understand why many observers in the Region reported one of the better migration seasons in recent memory (especially in the western Piedmont and foot hills)! Some of the avian events and highlights included a record Northern Saw-whet Owl migration, an encouraging thrush and warbler migration, and the beginning of a winter finch season (after several years!).

Abbreviations: B.R.C. (*Bird Records Committee*); C. Hatt. (*Cape Hatteras, NC*); E.L.H. (*E. L. Huie Land Application Facility, Clayton County, GA*); H.B.S.P. (*Huntington Beach S.P., SC*); KMt. (*Kennesaw Mt. Park, GA*).

Loons to Wood Stork

Red-throated Loons are rare inland migrants: Singles were at Falls L., NC Nov. 12 (RD) & 25 (HL); Sweetwater Creek S.P., GA Nov. 25 (PH); and L. Norman, NC late November (DW). The Com. Loon that summered on DeKalb Res., GA was still present until at least Sept. 11 (JS). Horned Grebes staged a large movement in the Raleigh, NC area Nov. 25 when >100 were at Falls L. (HL) and 110 were at Jordan L. (WC). Eared Grebes returned to their usual fall haunts at Goldsboro, NC Aug. 5 (ED) and Sumter, SC Sept. 11 (LG, EDa, CEI). This species was also found near Macon, GA Nov. 11 (TJ *et al.*), where numbers built to 11 Nov. 20 (PH). The season's only report of Red-necked Grebe involved one at L. Norman, NC Nov. 13 (DW) for a rare inland record.

The best count of Black-capped Petrel was 192 off Hatteras, NC Aug. 6 (BP *et al.*); the rare Herald Petrel was found off Oregon Inlet, NC Aug. 12 (AH *et al.*) and Sept. 3, when two (one intermediate, one dark phase) were found (BP *et al.*). Much rarer, the exciting Cape Verde Petrel was photographed off Hatteras Sept. 16 for North Carolina's first fall report (BP *et al.*). The best Cory's Shearwater count was >3000 off Oregon Inlet Aug. 12 (AH *et al.*), and unusual for fall was the >500 moving N past C. Hatt. point Aug. 26 (R&PT). An amazing count of Audubon's Shearwater was reported off Hatteras Aug. 5, when 1175 were seen (BP *et al.*). Hurricane *Erin's* passage in early August beached several Audubon's, with one at St. Simon's I., four on Sapelo I., and one on Jekyll I., all in Georgia (BW, GG). In South Carolina one was found at Harbor I. (J&GH, *fide* FN). The only report of White-faced Storm-Petrel was one seen in late August n.e. of Oregon Inlet from a charter fishing boat trip (AF, *fide* BP). The summer flurry of tropicbirds continued into the fall with White-tailed reports including three off Oregon Inlet Aug. 5 (AH *et al.*), three off Hatteras Aug. 5 (BP *et al.*), and singles off Hatteras Aug. 13 & 26 (BP *et al.*). Two rare Red-billed Tropicbirds were found, with immatures off Hatteras Aug. 27 and Oregon Inlet Sept. 2 (BP *et al.*). Masked Booby reports involved one off Hatteras Aug. 5 (BP *et al.*) and one, amazingly, from shore at Long Beach, NC Aug. 1 (RD). American White Pelicans made news this fall when one was found inland at E.L.H., GA Aug. 23 (CL), the 2nd

record for the area. Also unusual were the 20 seen flying N at H.B.S.P., SC Oct. 28 (B&BM). In Georgia, the Magnificent Frigatebird provided excitement, with individuals found at Jekyll I., Aug. 6 (LEd, *fide* TM), Buttermilk Sound Aug. 19 (DCo), McIntosh Aug. 20 (LT, BW, MC), and Tybee I., Oct. 7 (PJ).

Long-legged waders made news. The North Pond, Pea Island N.W.R., NC Great "White" Heron was still present throughout the period (m.ob.). Also, the rare intergrade Great Blue (Wurdeemann's) form was found at Youman's Pond, Liberty, GA Aug. 16 (GB *et al.*) for probably the first report for the state. Post-breeding dispersing waders seemed to be more common inland than usual, with good numbers of Little Blues, Tricoloreds, and Snowies. The Reddish Egret continues to increase in our Region. This fall produced \leq seven in North Carolina, \geq six in South Carolina, and \geq 11 in Georgia! With this species increasing the last decade or so, one wonders just how many will get into the Region in the future? There is also some speculation that breeding might not be out of the question in at least the s. portions! Unusual Cattle Egret records included a large flock of 250 in Bibb, GA Sept. 11 (RR, *fide* PJ) and a late individual at Goldsboro, NC Nov. 14 (ED). Roseate Spoonbills wandered out of their normal range several times. In Georgia two were at Eufaula N.W.R., Sept. 30 (BHu), one was near Thomasville, Thomas, Aug. 9–Sept. 10 (RCr), and one was in the n.e. Atlanta area Aug. 19–20 (JWi, *fide* TM). These last 2 reports produced first county



records for the species. One was also present at H.B.S.P., SC Oct. 15–Nov. 4 (m.ob.) for a very rare report. And, finally, the amazing total of 12 spoonbills in *Camden*, GA Sept. 28 (PS, CK) provided a record state count. Wood Storks were reported in relatively good numbers with the best counts being 200 in *Brooks*, GA Sept. 30 (GD, *fide* TM) and 50 at the usual Sunset Beach, NC spot Sept. 2 (ED).

Waterfowl to Sandhill Crane

Unusual and quite early were seven Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at Cumberland I., GA Sept. 2 (CF, *fide* TM), providing the only report for the fall. The “wildness” of Mute Swans in our Region is always open to question, but 2 reports were interesting nevertheless. One was still present (from the summer) at North Pond, Pea Island N.W.R., NC until late November (m.ob.) and one was at H.B.S.P., SC in late November (JP, HH, LG, MT, RC, CE). Small groups of Snow Geese turned up throughout the Region, with the best count being the six white-phase birds in *Laurens*, GA Nov. 25+ (TP). The rare Ross’ Goose was found once, at Mattamuskeet N.W.R., NC Nov. 19 (HW, JH). A Greater White-fronted Goose was with the six Snow Geese in *Laurens*, GA Nov. 25 (TP) for the only report. A Brant was rare at the Pitt St. Causeway, Charleston, SC Nov. 3–5 (GdB, BS, RC, CE, LG, MT). Other rare goose reports included a “Richardson’s” Canada at Mattamuskeet N.W.R., NC Nov. 12 (HW) and a “Lesser” Canada at Sweetwater Creek S.P., *Douglas*, GA September–Nov. 26 (JS). Dabbling ducks were slow in arriving this fall, but when they did, they came in good numbers. An example was 1500 Blue-winged Teal in *Camden*, GA Sept. 29 (PS, CK, PSc). Diving ducks showed a similar pattern, with Canvasbacks being hard to find inland early, but in good supply by late November. There were large numbers at Mattamuskeet N.W.R., NC (RD) and 11 at L. Juliette, *Monroe*, GA Nov. 18 (JS, CL *et al.*) was a good tally there. Redheads were scattered at inland sites, with a best total of 27 in n. *Greene*, GA Nov. 25 (PS). An Oldsquaw at Jekyll I., GA Nov. 15 (PR) & 24 (B&BDu, *fide* PS) was not only rare but provided a record-early date for the state. A ♀ Common Eider was locally unusual in Pamlico Sound, NC near Swan Quarter on the mainland Nov. 26 (ED). Inland Surf Scoter reports included seven at Goldsboro, NC Nov. 5 (ED), one–six at Jordan L., NC Nov. 5 & 23 (RD, CEL), and three at Falls L., NC Nov. 25 (HL). White-winged Scoters were found at Jordan L., NC Nov. 5 (RD) & 26 (MS, NB),

when two were present. One was at Rum Cr., GA Nov. 18 (JS, CL) for a very rare inland Georgia report. The flock of 3000 Black Scoters off Jekyll I., GA Nov. 17 (PH) must have been impressive. The best report of Com. Merganser involved a female (with several Red-breasteds) at Brunswick, GA Nov. 26 (B&BDu, *fide* PS) for a very rare record. Red-breasted Mergansers were found inland at several sites, with a best count of 45 at L. Juliette, *Monroe*, GA Nov. 16 (TJ). And, finally, Ruddy Duck numbers were higher than normal; consider >9000 at Mattamuskeet N.W.R., NC by November (KD).

Mississippi Kites made an impressive showing: Highlights included an amazing three different birds in *Durham*, NC Sept. 19 and Oct. 5 & 23 (JPI, WC); one in *McCormick*, SC Oct. 21 (PW) being very late; and one at Pea Island N.W.R., NC Oct. 2 (RD) for a locally rare fall report. The best report of Swallow-tailed Kite involved one at Morehead City, NC Aug. 27 (TJo, LB, *fide* JF). Bald Eagles continue to do well throughout the Region; inland Georgia had more reports than usual with ≥6 records received (m.ob.). An amazing tally of 750 Sharp-shinned Hawks passing Pea Island N.W.R., NC Oct. 2 (RD) came in about 5 hours and possibly set a one-day record for the area! Also Oct. 2 at Pea I., Davis saw three Broad-winged Hawks, quite rare fall migrants on the Outer Banks. Broad-wingeds passed the usual foothills migration spots in average numbers, but the 600–700 in a flock s. of KMt., GA Sept. 27 (TM, EC) represented the best total there in several years. The rare Rough-legged Hawk was reported once: A light-phase individual was at the Orangeburg Sod Farm, SC Oct. 29 (RC, CE). There is some debate as to the validity of earlier reports for South Carolina, therefore all reports of Rough-leggeds need thorough details sent to the B.R.C. Not only rare but quite early was the imm. Golden Eagle seen in Duke Forest, *Orange*, NC Sept. 28 (WC). Another good count of migrating birds was the 158 Am. Kestrels in one hour at Ocracoke, NC Sept. 20 (RG). Unusual Merlin reports included an early bird in *Chatham*, NC Aug. 31 (DS), a good inland total of three in *Orange*, NC Sept. 23 (SS, *fide* WC), and a good one-day count of seven at Pea Island N.W.R., NC Oct. 2 (RD). Peregrine Falcons moved through the Region in about average numbers, but one in n.e. *Laurens*, GA Aug. 3 (TP) was so early as to defy explanation.

In the amazing department was the late nesting of N. Bobwhite in *Camden*, GA Oct. 13, when Sykes observed five young

just able to fly! The only report of Black Rail was one heard near Darien, GA Sept 9 (BB, *fide* TM). Always noteworthy, Yellow Rails were seen near Mattamuskeet N.W.R., NC Oct. 11 (KD), and near Charlotte, NC Oct. 3 (TPI, *fide* DW); one near Durham, NC Sept. 1 (WC, JPI) was exceptionally early. Interesting Virginia Rail reports included good numbers in inland Georgia with ≤19 at a n. *Greene* marsh Oct. 28 (PS), and rare breeding evidence with the sighting of an adult with a downy chick at North Pond, Pea Island N.W.R., NC Aug. 20 (RD). Soras also were in good numbers at the n. *Greene*, GA marsh when 22 were found Oct. 14 (PS, B&BDu). The count of 6800 Am. Coots in *Camden*, GA Nov. 28–30 (PS, PSc) must have been impressive. Sandhill Cranes were reported to have moved through Georgia mostly during November and generally in average numbers. One of the best counts was 168 at KMt., Nov. 4 (GB, BD).

Shorebirds to Alcids

Shorebird numbers (and reports!) seemed up this fall. The Kings Bay Submarine Base, *Camden*, GA was surveyed by Sykes, Kepler, and Schoenfeld Sept. 29, with several amazing totals. They counted 1350 Black-bellied and 830 Semipalmated plovers, 8060 Semipalmated and 17,000 Western sandpipers, all possibly record state totals! The Am. Golden-Plover was reported a record number of times. Highlights included seven–eight at H.B.S.P., SC Sept. 16 (JP, TS); ≤eight at Orangeburg Sod Farm, SC Aug. 30–Oct. 8 (m.ob.); six at Cartersville Sod Farm, GA Sept. 2–18 (ND, *fide* TM); and one–two birds at various locations in all 3 states. The high count for Wilson’s Plover was 100 at Bird Shoal, Beaufort Inlet, NC Aug. 12 (JF), while the Piping Plover high was 63 at Portsmouth, NC Aug. 1 (TD). Very rare inland, a Piping was at Orangeburg Sod Farm, SC Sept. 24 (JC) for only about the 2nd inland South Carolina report. American Avocets were found in good numbers at several sites, including 77 in *Camden*, GA Sept. 28–29 (PS, CK), 100 near Brunswick, GA Nov. 15 (MC), and 275 at the Savannah R. Spoil Site, SC Sept. 23 (SC). The Willet is one of the least noted inland migrants in our Region. Thus of note were the astounding 21 found at E.L.H., GA Aug. 21 (TSE, *fide* TM) for an amazing record. Also, one was found in *Bulloch*, GA Aug. 10–11 (RCh) for another rare report. The best count of Upland Sandpipers involved the 70 at Orangeburg Sod Farm, SC Aug. 27 (LG, TH), a very good total. Long-billed

Curlews were found in all 3 states, with one at Fort Fisher, NC Aug. 19 (GHo) to Oct. 15 (CEI); two near Cape Lookout, NC Oct. 29 (TD); three at Cape Romain N.W.R., SC Sept. 27 (JC); one at St. Catherine's I., GA Oct. 17 (HP); and two on Ossabow I., GA Nov. 26 & 28 (BW, SK). Hudsonian Godwits were found at 3 sites. North Pond, Pea Island N.W.R., NC hosted this species from Aug. 6 to at least Oct. 8 (m.ob.), with a peak of five Sept. 24 (ST *et al.*). Two were at C. Hatt, NC Sept. 10 (R&PT, PM *et al.*) and one–two were at the Savannah R. Spoil Site, SC Sept. 10 (LG, CEI, TSm) and Oct. 6–8 (G.O.S., SC). Unusual Red Knot reports included one inland s. of Fayetteville, NC Sept. 16–17 (HB) and seven early at Jekyll I., GA Aug. 19 (BBI).

Other shorebirds inland at E.L.H., GA this fall included a Ruddy Turnstone Sept. 11–20 (CL, BHa); 35 Semipalmated Sandpipers Aug. 3 (JS); an early Dunlin Sept. 25 (CL); and 10 Stilt Sandpipers Sept. 24 (BBI *et al.*). The best count of inland Sanderlings was nine at Falls L., NC Sept. 26 (RD). Seven W. Sandpipers in *Jenkins*, GA Aug. 19 (RCh) provided the best inland total reported. Baird's Sandpiper was reported more than usual. Single Baird's were at Cedar I., NC Aug. 1 (TD, SB), North Pond, Pea I. N.W.R., NC Aug. 6 (HL, DC *et al.*), a sod farm in *Bulloch*, GA Aug. 23–25 (RCh, JPa), *Barton*, GA Sept. 6 (ND, *vide* JS), Goldsboro, NC Sept. 20 (ED), and Jordan L., NC Sept. 26 (RD, CEI). Impressive totals for Pectoral Sandpiper included 208 at a *Bulloch*, GA sod farm Aug. 25 (RCh) and 300 at the Orangeburg Sod Farm, SC Aug. 27 (LG, TH). Another excellent total was the 360 Stilt Sandpipers counted at the Savannah R. Spoil Site, SC Oct. 19 (SC). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported more than normal, with best counts of 10 at the Macon, GA Sod Farm Aug. 27 (NG, J&MA) and eight at the Orangeburg Sod Farm, SC Sept. 10 (LG, CEI). North Pond, Pea Island N.W.R., NC was the only place to record Curlew Sandpipers this fall. Birds were here from early August–early October (m.ob.), with a peak of three Aug. 7 (TPi *et al.*). The always noteworthy Ruff was found twice: a male at North Pond, Pea Island N.W.R., NC Aug. 15 (SD), and a female (Reeve) at the Savannah R. Spoil Site, SC Nov. 5–12 (SC). From one–five Long-billed Dowitchers at the Orangeburg Sod Farm, SC Sept. 24 (JC, RC, CE) provided a very good local record. Wilson's Phalaropes were reported more than usual from all 3 states, with the best counts being eight–nine at the Savannah R. Spoil Site,

SC Sept. 2 (L&CED, *vide* AW); a peak of three at North Pond, Pea Island N.W.R., NC Aug. 6 (HL, DC *et al.*); and one in n.e. *Laurens*, GA Oct. 3 (TP). The rare-on-land Red-necked Phalarope was found at the Savannah R. Spoil Site, SC with an amazing four–five there Sept. 2 (L&CED, *vide* AW), and one was still there Sept. 19 (SC). One was also at Goldsboro, NC Oct. 2 (ED). The even rarer Red Phalarope was found twice, with singles at Cane Creek Res., *Orange*, NC Sept. 23 (SS, *vide* WC) and Sneads Ferry, NC Nov. 13 (NM, JO). And, finally, in the absurdly late department was the nest with three downy Killdeer found at Goose Cr., *Berkeley*, SC Nov. 13 (EH, *vide* WP)! The young died and were salvaged as specimens to the Charleston Museum. This is about 4 months past the latest known nesting date for South Carolina—what was going on with these birds?

Very unusual was the presence of an ad. Long-tailed Jaeger at Stumpy Point, *Dare*, NC on the mainland side of Pamlico Sound Aug. 31–Sept. 2 (JF). This record is quite bizarre considering that there was no particular weather pattern to explain its appearance there. The only skua report was of one not identified to species off Hatteras Sept. 16 (BP *et al.*). Georgia had 2 records of Franklin Gull this season. One was at E.L.H., Oct. 28 (RW, PB, JS) for the 2nd Atlanta area record, and four were at Walter F. George Res. Dam, *Clay*, Nov. 11 (AB, *vide* TM) providing the state's 12th record. Inland gulls at L. Norman, NC included three Laughings Sept. 4 (DW) and an imm. *Sabine's Gull* Sept. 4–5 (DW, TPi). This was only the 2nd inland report for North Carolina. Other good gull reports included a Com. Black-headed at C. Hatt., Nov. 26 (R&PT), a *California Gull* at Oregon Inlet, NC Nov. 25 (J&PW), and two Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Sunset Beach, NC Sept. 26 (S&DD). One of these individuals appeared to be another one of the *intermedius* race, the dark-backed form seldom seen in North America.

Terns seemed to be more numerous inland. The best Caspian reports were four at Falls L., NC Sept. 26 (RD) and three at Ben Hall L., *Laurens*, GA Sept. 25 (TP), which provided only the 2nd county record. The most interesting Com. Tern report was of one very late individual at L. Norman, NC Nov. 13 (DW). This species is hard to come by that late in the season even at the coast! Forster's Terns were also in good numbers inland, with a highest count of 29 at Jordan L., NC Sept. 26 (RD). A Least Tern at Kill Devil Hills, NC was seen flying N on the very late date of

Nov. 11 (HW). The peak Bridled Tern count offshore was 13 Aug. 27 off Hatteras (BP *et al.*). Twenty-one Sooty Terns off Hatteras Aug. 27 (BP *et al.*) was the best pelagic total. Hurricane *Erin* (early August) and hurricane *Jerry* (late August) did produce some onshore sightings. After *Erin*, Sooties were found at Sunset Beach, NC (NC), Harbor I., SC (J&GH), St Simon's I., GA (\leq nine, BW), and Sapelo I., GA (BW). After *Jerry*, individual Sooties were seen at St. George, GA (*vide* SW), *Charleston*, SC (RC, CE), and at the Savannah R. Spoil Site, SC (*vide* AW). The rarest bird brought in by hurricane *Erin* had to be the **Brown Noddy** seen perched on some dead wood on Sapelo I., GA Aug. 4 (LF, *vide* BW). There are very few records of this species in Georgia. The best inland Black Tern report was the 20 at Goldsboro, NC Aug. 21 (ED) and the peak coastal count was 250 at Bear Island W.M.A., SC Aug. 26 (RC, CE). Of interest was the "small alcid" seen flying off Oregon Inlet, NC Nov. 25 (J&PW), the only alcid report this fall.

Doves to Vireos

The rare White-winged Dove was reported twice: One was on Kiawah I., SC Oct. 26 (DCh) and another was seen at Bennett's Point, SC during the fall (*vide* GdB). The Eur. Collared-Dove made news in North Carolina with the discovery of the northernmost established outpost for this species on the Atlantic seaboard. A group of birds was found at N. Topsail I., NC Sept. 9 (HB); \leq 11 individuals have been seen here (R&PT). After checking with local residents, it was found out that several had been in the area since the fall of 1994! How many other colonies of Eur. Collared-Doves are waiting to be discovered? Reports indicate that the species continues to spread in Georgia and South Carolina also. The enigmatic Com. Ground-Dove was found for the 3rd consecutive year inland at Orangeburg, SC this fall (*vide* RC); and one at N. Topsail I., NC Sept. 15 (RD) provided hope that this species will someday be regular in North Carolina again. The only Black-billed Cuckoo report was from KMt., GA Sept. 23 (JS, BDU, CSa). The Bainbridge, GA area still hosted one Burrowing Owl Sept. 9 (*vide* TM), obviously one of the birds from the past winter. Short-eared Owls moved in during November as usual, and the best count was six at H.B.S.P., SC Nov. 22 (JP, BM, PPro). One was very early there Sept. 5 (PN, *vide* JP) for a most unusual report. Northern Saw-whet Owls staged what must have been a record migration into the Region. One heard in

e. *Clarendon*, SC Nov. 26 (RC, CE) and one seen at C. Hatt., NC Nov. 18 (*vide* D&KA) could not even begin to express the magnitude of the movement. Enders at Halifax, NC netted this species in record numbers for the Region: 100 different individuals from early November–early December, with a peak of 15 birds Nov. 4. One wonders what caused this major migration. A late Com. Nighthawk was in downtown Fayetteville, NC Nov. 7 (HB). Late Whip-poor-wills included one heard in *Camden*, GA Nov. 28 (PS) and one seen at Cumberland I., GA Nov. 27 (SW).

Hummingbirds once again were reported across the Region. In Georgia there were over 10 *Selasphorus* hummers, with one banded near Macon Nov. 19 providing the state's 3rd record of *Allen's Hummingbird* (*vide* JS). There were almost as many *Archilochus* in the state. Both South Carolina and North Carolina had *Selasphorus* hummers and *Archilochus* type hummingbirds were especially numerous in North Carolina. There were from nine–fifteen *Archilochus* in the Buxton-Frisco area of the Outer Banks during November (m.ob.). The New Bern and Wilmington areas also hosted numerous birds. One wonders what the birds did before the practice of leaving up feeders began to take hold?

Olive-sided Flycatcher reports included singles at Eatonton, GA Aug. 11 (BDu), Athens, GA Aug. 30 (BDu), KMt., GA Sept. 19 (GB, PH), Atlanta, GA Sept. 23 (RE, *vide* TM), Jordan L., NC Aug. 18 (LP, KL, CEL, v.o.), Greensboro, NC Aug. 28 (HH), C. Hatt., NC Sept. 10 (R&PT, PM *et al.*), and L. Crabtree, *Wake*, NC Oct. 1 (KF, *vide* WC). *Empidonax* flycatchers were reported in average numbers, with highlights including a good count of three Yellow-bellieds in *Bibb*, GA Sept. 18 (PJ, NG *et al.*), and one Yellow-bellied, one Least, and three Willows banded at Jekyll I., GA during the fall (DCo). A calling Alder was found near Townville, SC Oct. 6 (PW) and, if accepted by the South Carolina B.R.C., it would place the species on the state's official list. The 2nd interior record of *Vermilion Flycatcher* for South Carolina was provided by two females near Townville Oct. 9 (PW, BM); most records involve one individual. Rare kingbird reports included two Westerns near the upper end of L. Thurmond, *McCormick*, SC Oct. 7 (RC, CE); a Gray at Ocracoke, NC Oct. 7 (ABr, JF, BL, J&PW); a Gray at H.B.S.P., SC Sept. 1 (FL); and a Gray at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC Oct. 8 (RC, CE). The only report of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was in

Houston, GA Sept. 3 (GG, *vide* TM). A Cliff Swallow was very late near Macon, GA Nov. 16 (BE, LJ, *vide* PJ). One hopes that the 2 races of Cave Swallow were completely ruled out when observing this bird; Cave Swallow is possibly more likely at this time of year!

Red-breasted Nuthatches appeared throughout the Region, although in a rather local and spotty pattern. Inland Sedge Wrens are sometimes hard to come by, but not this fall. Good counts were had at a KMt., GA marsh, where \leq six were seen Nov. 26 (GB, BHA); eight were at the Macon, GA brickyards Nov. 18+ (TI, PJ, K&AC); and six–eight were at Santee N.W.R., SC Nov. 10 (LG, S&JP). North Carolina's 4th (2nd in 2 years!) *Northern Wheatear* was at Ocracoke Oct. 6–7 (ES, BH, ABr, JF, BL, J&PW). The bird was hanging around the Coast Guard Station at the ferry terminal, and an E. Bluebird was nearby—a local rarity also! Thrush migration seemed to be slow as usual, with the exception of the w. portions of the Region. At KMt., GA, nocturnal counts of calling birds provided some impressive totals: 22 Veeries Sept. 27 (GB), 66 Swainson's Thrushes Sept. 28 (GB), and 36 Wood Thrushes Sept. 28 (GB). Needless to say, numbers of observed birds on the ground during the day were much less. Still, three Gray-cheekeds seen at KMt., Sept. 28 (GB) and four banded at Butler I., GA (DCo) were encouraging. In the late department was a Gray-checked near Townville, SC Nov. 17 (B&BM), and a Wood Thrush was singing (!) in *Union*, SC Nov. 4 (LG, MT). Warbling Vireos are very rare fall migrants in the Region: One at Yawkey W.M.A., SC Sept. 9 (PW, LG *et al.*) and one at KMt., GA Sept. 18 (CH) were thus notable. Philadelphia Vireos were reported throughout the Region, with the best count being the three at KMt., GA Sept. 28 (GB *et al.*). Some reports of this much-sought-after species are debatable and observers need to be aware of the variable and often similar plumages of Philadelphia's, Warblings, and Red-eyeds in the fall.

Warblers to Finches

The warbler migration was similar to the thrushes, spotty in the e. areas and quite good in the west. Some selected high counts were six Golden-wingeds at KMt., GA Sept. 19 (GB, PH); three Nashvilles at KMt., Sept. 27 (GB *et al.*); 29 Chestnut-sideds at KMt., Sept. 19 (GB); >100 Palms at Winston-Salem, NC Oct. 8–22 (m.ob., *vide* RS); 11 Blackpolls banded at Jekyll I., GA (DCo); and an amazing 32 Ceruleans at KMt., Aug. 13 (GB, BD).

BIRD SLIDES

5000 SPECIES
from all over the world



SLIDE SETS

Endangered species. Owls. Bird families. Eastern warblers. Herons. Raptors. Shorebirds. Waterfowl

INDIVIDUAL SLIDES

Selected from over 65,000 images and custom duplicated to suit your needs

Request our free North American catalog or send a list of species desired, indicating age, sex, behavior or color phase. Catalog slides are \$3.00 each, non-catalog slides are \$4.00 each, with a minimum order of 5 slides. Allow 4–6 weeks for delivery. (These slides are for non-commercial use only and may not be duplicated.)

VISUAL RESOURCES for ORNITHOLOGY

Write: VIREO/Academy of Natural Sciences
1900 Ben Franklin Parkway Phila., PA 19103

An Orange-crowned in Duke Forest, *Durham*, NC Sept. 15 (JPi) and one at KMt., GA Sept. 23 (JS) were quite early. Another very early warbler was the Black-throated Blue found in *McIntosh*, GA Aug. 2 (DCo). Some late records included a Tennessee near Dublin, GA Nov. 3 (GB, TP), a N. Parula at Durham, NC Nov. 28 (LP), a Yellow at Mattamuskeet N.W.R., NC Nov. 27 (RD), a Black-throated Green at KMt., GA Nov. 4 (GB, BD), a Bay-breasted at KMt., Nov. 1 (GB, KDa), an Am. Redstart at Lugoff, SC Nov. 6 (LG), and a Wilson's at Mattamuskeet N.W.R., Nov. 10 (R&PT). A Blackpoll Warbler at KMt., GA Oct. 3 (GB, KDa) provided a very rare inland report for the fall. Also, 11 banded at Jekyll I., GA (DCo) represented a very good total for that s. coastal area. Another rare warbler report involved the first records of N. Waterthrush at KMt., GA, with one Aug. 21 and two Sept. 18 (GB, BD). Connecticut Warblers were found in usual numbers, with singles at Pea Island N.W.R., NC Oct. 2 (RD); Buxton, NC Oct. 7 (ED); Maplevue, *Orange*, NC Oct. 7 (PBU *et al.*); and one was banded at Jekyll I., GA (DCo). The rarer Mourning Warbler was reported more often than usual, with one at Dawson Forest, GA Sept. 2 (JCa, JPg); one at Chatrahoochee R. National Recreation Area, GA Sept. 7 (TM); one in *Anderson*, SC Oct. 9 (BM); and two in *Greenville*, SC Oct. 12 (PW). One was netted in coastal South Carolina Sept. 27 (WP) and at Jekyll I., GA (DCo). Wilson's Warblers were reported widely,

with a best count of two in Duke Forest, *Durham*, NC Sept. 8 (WC, JPi).

A W. Tanager was found in *Lexington*, SC in early October (TH, RC, CE) and the Wilmington, NC ♂ Western returned for the 4th consecutive year (KK)! A record-late Scarlet Tanager was a male in *Forsythe*, GA Nov. 12 (JS, PB). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was also late in the Atlanta, GA area Nov. 8 (GM, *fide* TM). Dickcissel reports included a male at the VOA site in *Beaufort*, NC Aug. 11 (J&PW); one at Edisto S.P., SC Aug. 13 (SG *et al.*); one at Pea Island N.W.R., NC Oct. 2 (RD); one in n. *Greene*, GA Oct. 9 & 14 (PS); and one was netted on James I., SC Nov. 14 (WP). Clay-colored Sparrows were found in all 3 states. The best records included early ones at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC Sept. 14 (WP) and N. Topsail I., NC Sept. 15 (RD); and inland birds at Greenville, SC Oct. 12 (RC, CE) and Butner, *Granville*, NC Nov. 12 (JPi). In Georgia, ≤six different Clay-colored were in the Jekyll-St. Simon's-Darien area during October (D&DCo, B&BDu, PH)—an excellent total for that s. locality. Lark Sparrow reports included singles at Marietta, GA Sept. 2 (R&NCo, *fide* TM); Mashoes, *Dare*, NC Sept. 3 (HL, JPi); St. Catherine's I., GA Sept. 28 (HP); Pea Island N.W.R., NC Sept. 30 (TD); Ocracoke, NC Oct. 7 (ABr, JF, BL, J&PW); and one at Jekyll I., GA Oct. 16 (DCo, PH). Grasshopper Sparrows were found in average numbers, with the exception of the nine banded Nov. 10—early December in coastal South Carolina (WP). Rare reports of Henslow's Sparrow involved one at Bucksport, *Horry*, SC Oct. 17 (RC, CE), and one was banded at James I., SC in early December (WP). The always noteworthy LeConte's Sparrow was also found, with one in *Greenville*, SC Oct. 9–11 (PW), a very respectable five at Santee N.W.R., SC Nov. 12 (LG, MT), and two at Sneads Ferry, NC Nov. 18 (JPi, WC, CEI, JB). Very rare inland was the Sharp-tailed Sparrow found in *Greenville*, SC Oct. 9–11 (PW). What might be a record-early occurrence, a Fox Sparrow was found at H.B.S.P., SC Oct. 16 (RC, CE). Another very early sparrow was the Swamp found in *Forsyth*, NC Sept. 12 (RS *et al.*). Lincoln's Sparrows seemed to be down, with the only reports being two in n. *Greene*, GA Oct. 28 (PS), one in *Jasper*, SC Oct. 29 (RC, CE), and one in the Atlanta area Nov. 26 (BB). The only report of Lapland Longspur was of one near L. Phelps, NC Nov. 27 (RD). The best Snow Bunting report was of one at H.B.S.P., SC Nov. 23–25 (DSe, LG, HH). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found

twice: A female was at Georgetown, SC Aug. 27 (CE) and a male was on the n. side of L. Mattamuskeet, NC Nov. 27 (RD). The only Brewer's Blackbird report was of a flock of 25 near Dublin, GA Nov. 3 (GB, TP).

Winter finches definitely entered the Region this fall, giving hope that it would be a finch winter. One of the more unpredictable species, Red Crossbill, was at Snellville, *Gwinnett*, GA Sept. 4–13 (TW, *fide* JS) for an unusual record. Purple Finches were reported from many areas, and the male at Watkinsville, *Oconee*, GA Oct. 4–5 (BDu, *fide* PS) was very early. The best Pine Siskin record was of 15 in s. *Fulton*, GA Nov. 15 (*fide* JS). After last year's absence, it was refreshing to have Evening Grosbeaks again. Flocks were seen mostly in North Carolina, with the best totals being 60 near Halifax Nov. 18 (FE) and 40 at Duke Forest Nov. 27 (JPi).

Corrigenda

The report of "large numbers (hundreds!)" of Com. Loons on L. Lanier, GA (*AFN* 49:237) was in error and should be deleted. The Greater White-fronted Goose at E.L.H., GA (*AFN* 49:237) was seen on only 2 days, Mar. 3 and Apr. 1, not Mar. 3–22 as reported. The Baird's Sandpiper at E.L.H. (*AFN* 49:238) was seen May 1 & 2, not May 5–14 as reported. The Little Gull at Jekyll I., GA (*AFN* 49:238) was the first documented record, even though there was one previous hypothetical sight report.

Contributors: Jerry & Marie Amerson (J&MA), Lynn Barker, Giff Beaton, Gifford Beaton (GdB), John Bennett, Brad Bergstrom, Bill Blakeslee (BBl), Sue Brady, Patrick Brisse, Hal Broadfoot, Allen Bryan (ABr), Norm Budnitz, Peter Burke (PBu), Adam Byrne, Steve Calver, Derb Carter, Nancy Carter, Robin Carter, Jack Carusos (JCa), David Chamberlain (DCh), Ray Chandler (RCh), Mike Chapman, Ernie Clark, Ken & Arlene Clark (K&AC), Don & Doris Cohrs (D&DCo), Richard & Nancy Cole (R&NCo), Will Cook, John Cox, Robert Crawford (RCr), Evelyn Dabbs (EDa), Kevin Danchisen (KDa), Kelly Davis, Ricky Davis, Eric Dean, Trip Dennis, Steve Dinsmore, Susan & David Disher (S&DD), Nelson Dobbs, Bruce Dralle, Billy & Brenda Dunbar (B&BDu), Gena Dwyer, Caroline Eastman, Larry Edmonds (LEd), Barbara Edwards, Larry & Carol Eldridge (L&CEd), Chris Eley (CEI), Richard Ellenberg, Frank Enders, Craig Faanes, Kent Fiala, Allen Foreman, John Fussell, Sid Gauthreaux, Lex Glover, Nancy Gobris, Georgia Ornithological Society (G.O.S.), George Griffeth, Rich

Guthrie, Judy & George Halleron (J&GH), Bruce Hallett (BH), Tom Hankins, Herb Hendrickson, Armas Hill, Bob Holmes, Eddie Howard, Pierre Howard, Gene Howe, Chuck Hunter, Brock Hutchins (BHu), Jeremy Hyman, Ty Ivey, Lil James, Paul Johnson, Terry Johnson, Tom Jones (TJo), Cam Kepler, Kitty Kosh, Steve Kyles, Harry LeGrand, Bob Lewis, Fred Lochner, Ken Lundstrom, Bob & Barbara Maxwell (B&BM), Gordon McWilliams, Nell Moore, Pat Moore, Terry Moore, Frances Nelson, Perry Nugent, Jim O'Donnell, John Paget, Len Pardue, John Parrish (JPa), Hunter Patterson, Steve & Jill Patterson (S&JP), Tommy Patterson, Brian Patteson, Jack Peachey, Jeff Phippen (JPi), Taylor Piephoff (TPi), Will Post, Paul Raney, Paul Rogers (PRo), Rebecca Rogers, Chuck Saleeby (CSa), Paul Schoenfeld (PSc), Mike Schultz, Ted Sechinger (TSe), Don Scriff (DSe), Jeff Sewell, Doug Shadwick, Ed Shott, B. Smith, Tom Smith (TSm), Ramona Snively, Tonya Spires, Steve Stiffler, Paul Sykes, Lydia Thompson, Simon Thompson, Mike Turner, Russ & Patricia Tyndall (R&PT), Anne Waters, Russ Wigh, Haven Wiley, Tony Willbanks, Sheila Willis, Jim Wilson (JWi), Brad Winn, Pete Worthington, David Wright, John & Paula Wright (J&PW).

—Ricky Davis, P.O. Box 277, Zebulon, NC 27597