

Appalachian Region

GEORGE A. HALL

In toto it was a great fall migration. While some areas were disappointed by some phases, the Region as a whole had everything: "Northern Invaders," good hawk flights, unusual shorebirds, early arrivals, record-late departures, and rarities, including several new locality records.

June and July had been hot, but were only a prelude to an extremely hot August, the hottest on record in northeast Tennessee with 21 days of better than 90° temperatures, and a temperature excess of 232 day-degrees at Pittsburgh. Rainfall was 1.46 inches short for the month at Pittsburgh. September was slightly warmer than usual and still deficient in rainfall. October was warmer than normal, but had near normal precipitation. The weather changed in November; Pittsburgh accumulated a 119 day-degree deficiency in temperature. November precipitation was near normal. There was light snow, even as far south as Tennessee, November 12–14. Hurricanes *Erin* and *Opal* brought some interesting birds to the extreme south of the Region.

The migration started slowly in late August and gradually built up during September. There were quite a few early arrivals, particularly of waterfowl, but the warbler flight never became heavy. The peak hawk flights came about September 18–20. Almost all of the October migrants—in particular the sparrows and finches—had very heavy flights, and there was a long list of late departure dates. By the end of the period the first full scale "northern finch" invasion in recent years was in full swing. Besides the finches, Northern Saw-whet Owls, Black-capped Chickadees, and Red-breasted Nuthatches came south in numbers. To add the final touch, there were more-than-the-usual number of rarities reported.

The fall migration is now being studied by a number of organized projects. In addition to the two major banding stations, there are approximately a dozen organized hawk watches on the eastern mountain ridges, and the Waterbird Count tallies migrants on Lake Erie at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie*, Pennsylvania.

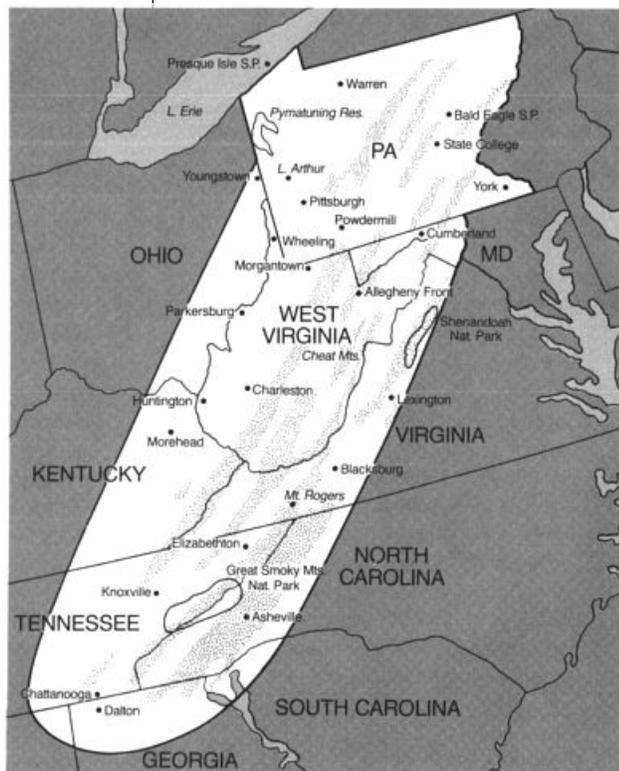
There was great contrast between the

results reported from the two big banding stations. Powdermill Nature Reserve had its second highest season, with 9638 bandings, according to Mulvihill and Leberman. But the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory banded only 3181 birds, its third poorest season, Hall reported. The disparity between the two stations was not as great as it appeared, since much of the Powdermill total was made by late-October and November migrants, which were not sampled by Allegheny Front. The capture ratio at Powdermill was 53 birds per 100 net-hours, while at Allegheny Front the ratio was 42 birds per 100 net-hours. Of 66 species analyzed at Powdermill, 32 were one or more standard deviation above the ten-year average, 31 were average, and only 3 were more than one standard deviation below average. On the other hand, of 40 species analyzed at Allegheny Front, 20 species were one or more standard deviation below average, 17 were average, and only 3 were more than one standard deviation above average.

Abbreviations: A.F.M.O. (*Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, Grant Co., WV*); B.E.S.P. (*Bald Eagle State Park, Centre Co., PA*); G.B.W.M.A. (*Green Bottom W.M.A., Cabell County, WV formerly known as Glenwood Swamp*); H.W. (*Hawk Watch Station*); K.C.P.P. (*Kyger Cr. Power Plant, Gallia Co., OH*); M.C.F.H. (*Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County, KY*); P.I.S.P. (*Presque Isle State Park, Erie Co., PA*); P.N.R. (*Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland Co., PA*); R.C.B.L. (*Robert C. Byrd Locks, Ohio R., Mason Co., WV formerly known as Gallipolis Locks*); Y.C.S.P. (*Yellow Creek S.P., Indiana Co., PA*).

Loons to Wood Stork

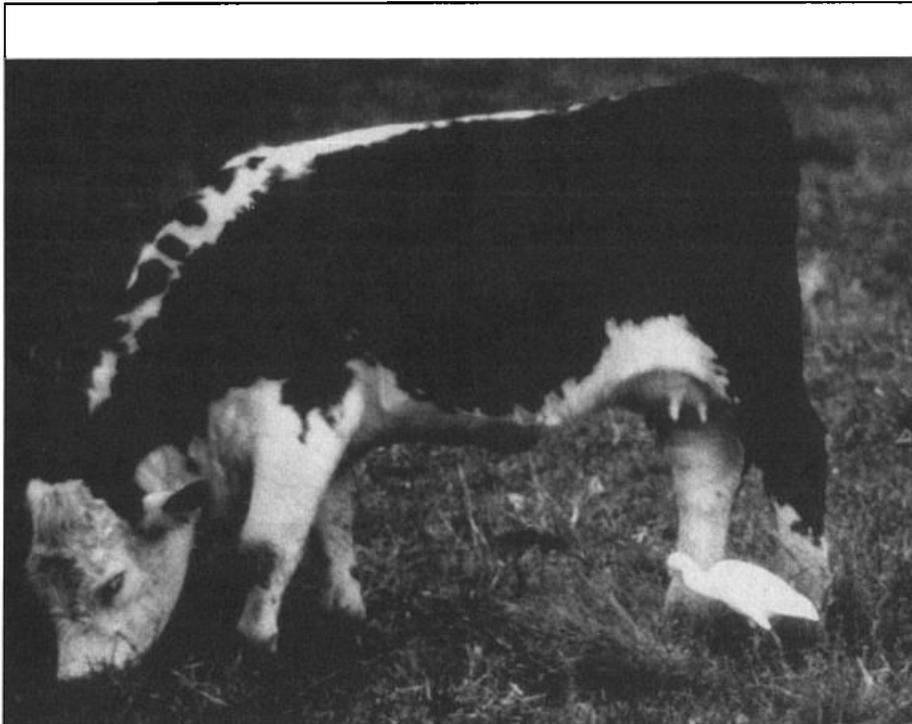
Red-throated Loons were at P.I.S.P., where 15 were seen through Oct. 21–Nov. 21 (JM). One at Stone Valley L., PA Nov. 25 (GY) was more unusual. At most places the Com. Loon flight was much better than in recent years. The Waterfowl Count at P.I.S.P. tallied 455 for the season (JM). At Mosquito L., OH the peak count was 60 Nov. 17 (D&JH). A seasonal total of 159 was counted at the Town Hill



H.W., MD with a peak of 70 Nov. 24 (JPa). Both the Pied-billed and Horned Grebe were in larger-than-usual numbers. There were high counts of 80 Pied-billeds at Y.C.S.P., Oct. 21 (MH) and 315 Horned Grebes at Pymatuning L., PA Nov. 19 (RFL). One–two Red-necked Grebes were at P.I.S.P., Nov. 5–30 (JM) and one was seen at Rose Valley Res., *Lycoming*, PA Nov. 24 (G&PS). An Eared Grebe at S. Holston L., TN Oct. 2 was joined by others, and ≤ 12 were present at the end of the period (RK, WC). Eared Grebes were also seen at P.I.S.P., Oct. 7 (†EK) and Nov. 9 (JM).

The Am. White Pelican first noted in February in *Washington* and *Sullivan*, TN was still present through the fall period (RK). Eleven Am. White Pelicans delighted hawk counters on Soddy Mt., TN Oct. 16 (*vide* JPk). The Double-crested Cormorant migration was spectacular. Almost all areas with large lakes reported them in numbers, but the peak was 1050 at the Woodpecker Ridge Nature Center H.W., *Botetourt*, VA Nov. 8 (DHo, BK). Large flocks were also seen from the hawk watch stations on Tuscarora Summit, PA (CG), Town Hill, MD (JPa), and Harvey's Knob, VA (JA).

Great Egrets were in unusually high numbers and were reported from more places than normal. A high count was 105 in *Cocke*, TN Sept. 18 (RK). Snowy Egrets were reported from *Cumberland*, PA Aug. 21 (DHe), *Lyndhurst*, VA Sept. 25



Two Cattle Egrets (with their usual companions) at Ashton, West Virginia, November 2, 1995. Photograph/Wendell L. Argabrite.

(A&YL) and *Cocke*, TN Sept. 18–24 (RK). Twelve Little Blue Herons were in *Cocke*, TN Aug. 10 (LN, JR), two in *Cumberland*, PA Aug. 21 (DHe), and one at Lyndhurst, VA Aug. 28 (Y&AL). A Tricolored Heron was seen in *Cumberland*, PA Aug. 21–Sept. 6 (†D&RHe). Two Cattle Egrets were at Ashton, WV Nov. 1–4 (ph. WA *et al.*) A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was reported from Roanoke, VA Sept. 17 (KD).

A White Ibis was seen at the hawk watch on East River Mt., WV Sept. 3 (AM), one was seen in *Greene*, TN Aug. 27 (JR), and one–two were in *Cumberland*, PA Aug. 24–Sept. 9 (†DHe). An imm. *Plegadis* (sp.?) was seen at K.C.P.P., Oct. 5 (WA). A Wood Stork was present at Salem, VA for the first 2 weeks of August (*vide* JF).

Waterfowl

The waterfowl flight brought mixed reports, with many places reporting good flights and others having low numbers. In the north at P.I.S.P. (JM), Pymatuning L. PA (RFL), and L. Somerset, PA (AM) there were many early arrivals. But south in the Roanoke area (JF) the birds were late.

The Tundra Swan flight peaked in the first week of November with some big totals of 480 at Y.C.S.P., Nov. 4 (MH), 350 at Conneaut Marsh, PA Nov. 4 (AM), and 350 in *Butler*, PA Nov. 5 (SB). At the Town Hill H.W., MD, 1365 were counted for the season, with 466 Nov. 8 (JPa). Two Greater White-fronted Geese at Fish-

ersville, VA Nov. 17–21 made the 2nd *Augusta* record (A&YL). Snow Geese were more numerous and widespread than normal with reports as far south as Swoope, VA (Y&AL), R.C.B.L. (WA), and Cave Run L., KY (FB). Early dates came from *Wood*, WV Sept. 14 (KC) and Swoope, VA Sept. 19 (Y&AL). A highlight of the season in *Montour*, PA was a Ross' Goose Oct. 28–Nov. 2 (ph. C&GS). As usual, the Canada Goose picture is obscured by the burgeoning local introduced population, but at Pymatuning W.M.A. the population built up from 1500 Oct. 21 to 8500 (slightly below normal) at the end of the period (RFL).

Dabbling ducks were in fairly good numbers with Gadwall, N. Pintails, and N. Shovelers being reported in unusually high numbers. A Eur. Wigeon was at Pine

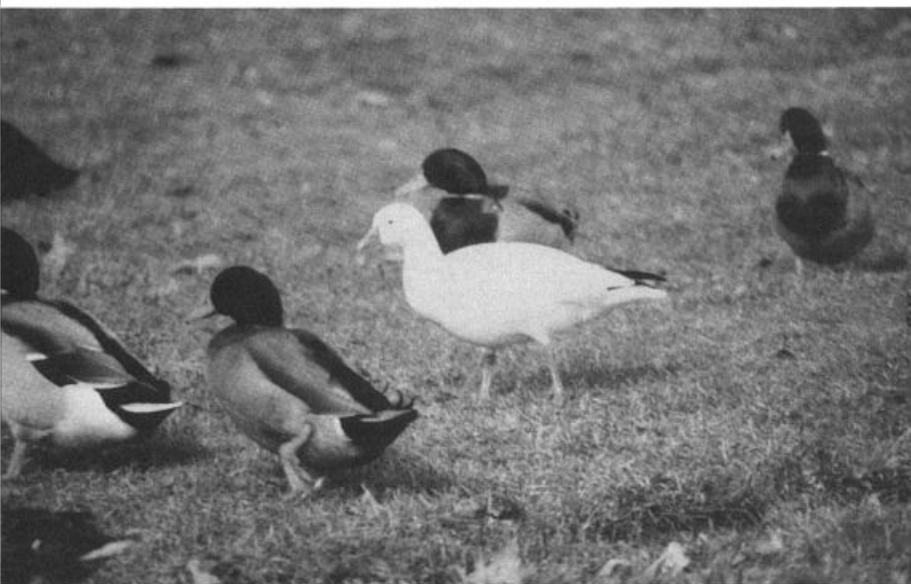
Lake, OH Oct. 30–31 (JH). There were some high numbers of diving ducks reported: 10,000 Lesser Scaup at P.I.S.P., Nov. 5 (JM), 450 Com. Goldeneyes at Pymatuning L., Nov. 5 (RFL), and 520 Ruddy Ducks at L. Arthur, PA Nov. 19 (PH, S&CGa). Ruddy Ducks were unusually common, with one-day counts of >100 coming from 6 locations. The Hooded Merganser continues to be one of the most abundant ducks in the Region, with the many reports topped off by 4200 on Pymatuning and Tamarack L., *Crawford*, PA Nov. 23 (RFL).

Of the rarer species, Oldsquaw were reported from Woodcock L., PA Nov. 5 (RFL), Rose Valley Res., Nov. 3 (P&GS), and a season total of 152 for the Waterbird Count at P.I.S.P. (JM). Black Scoters were reported from P.I.S.P., which tallied 15 for the season (JM), Colyer L., *Centre*, PA Nov. 2 (DDu), and Acme Dam, *Fayette*, PA Oct. 29 (M&EW). The Waterbird Count at P.I.S.P. also had 28 White-winged Scoters and 88 Surf Scoters for the season (JM). Seven White-winged Scoters were at Acme Dam, PA Oct. 29 (E&MW), nine were at L. Somerset, PA Nov. 24 (AM), and one was seen in *Meigs*, TN Nov. 4 (Jpk). Surf Scoters were also reported from North Park, *Allegheny*, PA Nov. 2–12 (JHo, MF); Rocky Gap S.P., MD Oct. 29 (MT), and S. Holston L., TN Nov. 23 (WC). Another highlight of the waterfowl season was a King Eider at P.I.S.P., Nov. 9 (†JM).

Raptors

Most organized hawk watches had good counts. Table 1 summarizes the results

Ross' Goose (with Mallards) in Montour County, Pennsylvania, October 28, 1995.
Photograph/Paul W. Schwalbe.



from 7 of these stations. The data submitted from several other watches were not complete enough to include in the table, but significant results are given below. An innovation this year was the "Longitudinal Hawk Watch," in which counts were made at 11 stations in an east-west transect across the mountains roughly paralleling Route 250 in Virginia. An interesting finding was that more of the 10,000 raptors counted Sept. 23 were concentrated in the valleys than on the ridges (JI).

Three Black Vultures in *Centre*, PA Sept. 17 (J&BPe) were noteworthy. It was a good year for Ospreys with seasonal totals of 187 at Harvey's Knob, VA (JF) and 168 at Rockfish Gap, VA (JI), as well as many lowland reports. One in *Sullivan*, TN Nov. 23 (WC, LM) was quite late. Of special interest were records of **Mississippi Kites** at the Town Hill H.W., MD Aug. 27 (*vide* JPa) and on the Blue Ridge Parkway, *Alleghany*, NC Oct. 17 (WCo). Besides the 119 Bald Eagles counted at the formal hawk watch stations, 36 were reported from lowland areas. Several reports were of imm. birds accompanying adults. Recent seasonal reports have noted the upsurge in N. Harrier populations, which continued to be evident in the migration. Two adults with recently fledged young in mid-August in *Erie*, PA constituted the first county breeding record (JD). There was a night roost of 16 birds in *Allegheny*, PA Nov. 9 (CT). A total of 18 N. Goshawks were reported, five away from the mountain stations. Broad-winged Hawk numbers varied widely from station to station. The 11 stations of the "Longitudinal Hawk Watch" logged 9871 Broad-winged Sept. 23 (JI), but the one-day high count at a single station was 6900 Broad-winged at A.F.M.O., Sept. 19 (JG).

Red-tailed Hawks were in good numbers, although most formal counts cease before the main Red-tailed flight occurs. Two high seasonal counts were 812 at the Woodpecker Ridge Nature Center, *Bote-*

tour, VA (JF) and 825 at Bald Eagle Mt., PA (DB). By the end of the period Rough-legged Hawks were more numerous than usual across the n. Pennsylvania areas. The only reports from the south were one at the Rockfish Gap H.W., Nov. 22 (JI) and one at Fishersville, VA Nov. 24 (AL). A Golden Eagle at P.N.R., Oct. 8 (RM, RCL) was the only one reported from the lowlands. The mountain stations logged 205, with a high one-day count of 20 on Bald Eagle Mt., PA Nov. 28 (DB). Thirty-eight Merlins were counted from the mountain stations and 19 were reported from various lowland stations, including single birds in 4 e. Tennessee counties (RK *et al.*). One reporter remarked that this was "the year of the Peregrine," and indeed it was with 94 at hawk watch stations and 21 at lowland stations. Hess had the experience of seeing a Peregrine stoop to his suburban Pittsburgh feeder.

Rails to Gulls

Twenty-three Com. Moorhens were at Hartstown Marsh, *Crawford*, PA Sept. 9 (RFL, AM) and four were at G.B.W.M.A., Sept. 9 (WA, KP). In w. Pennsylvania counts of Am. Coots were the highest in years: *maxima* of 1200 at Y.C.S.P. and 1000 at L. Arthur in early November (PH), and sizable flocks at B.E.S.P. and Rose Valley Res. (P&GS). At P.I.S.P., >5000 were counted from mid-October–early November (JM). There were scattered sightings of Sandhill Cranes in *Whitfield*, GA (HD); 75 were seen in *Hamilton*, TN Sept. 25 and 522 at the Soddy Mt., TN Nov. 8 (*vide* JPk). More unusual were three flying by the Rockfish Gap H.W., Sept. 1 (MC, PB), 200 in Rowan, KY Nov. 21 (LK, MH), and two at Erie N.W.R., PA Nov. 11 (JB, IF). In Lawrence, PA the nesting pair and two young of the year were joined by three adults, presumably the offspring of the previous nestings there (PH).

The shorebird migration was rated as average or a little below at most places as suitable habitat was limited by the

drought. Still, a very respectable list of species was reported. Black-bellied Plovers were mentioned only from Pymatuning L., PA Sept. 9 (RFL, AM), Roanoke, VA Sept. 2 & 23 (MS, JA) and *Cocke*, TN Sept. 13 (RK). There were more than the usual reports of Am. Golden-Plovers, which were found in small numbers at 10 locations, from P.I.S.P. on L. Erie to *Cocke*, TN. At P.I.S.P. an ad. Piping Plover was seen Aug. 5 (GR) and one–two juveniles were seen Aug. 6–11 (JM, WS). A concentration of 200 Killdeer at the Grand River W.M.A., OH Sept. 7 was noteworthy (D&JH). American Avocets were reported from P.I.S.P., Aug. 15 (PT); Imperial, PA Aug. 23–26 for an *Allegheny* record (CT, MF, WS); K.C.P.P., Sept. 30 (WA, KP); and Chickamaugh L., TN Nov. 2 (*vide* JPk).

As expected, P.I.S.P. turned up a long list of the rarer *scolopacids*: Willet Aug. 20 and Sept. 3 (JM), Whimbrel Sept. 3 (JM), Red Knot Sept. 4 (DS), and Purple Sandpiper Nov. 12 (JM). Other noteworthy reports were: Upland Sandpiper at Imperial, PA Aug. 13 (WS); Hudsonian Godwit at Chickamaugh L., TN Nov. 2 (*vide* JPk), Ruddy Turnstone at S. Holston L., TN Aug. 5 for a 5th area record (WC), Sanderlings at K.C.P.P., Sept. 9–Oct. 5 (WA *et al.*), Roanoke, VA Sept. 17 (JF), M.C.F.H., Oct. 1 and Nov. 17 (FB), and 3 locations in n.e. Tennessee (*vide* RK), Baird's Sandpiper at Pymatuning L., PA Aug. 12 (RFL) and seven there Aug. 22 (MF, JHo, WS), Y.C.S.P., Aug. 26, Imperial, PA to Oct. 31 (*vide* PH), Grand River W.M.A., Aug. 22–25 (D&JH), K.C.P.P., Sept. 30 (WA, KP), M.C.F.H., Aug. 27–Oct. 1 (FB), *Washington*, TN Sept. 12–13 (RK), and *Cocke*, TN Sept. 28 (RK); White-rumped Sandpiper at *Erie*, PA Sept. 14 (JS), P.I.S.P., Oct. 16 (IF), Mosquito L., OH Sept. 11 (D&JH), *Cumberland*, PA Sept. 23 (DHe), K.C.P.P., Oct. 8 (WA, KD), and *Cumberland*, MD Oct. 21 (MT); Stilt Sandpiper at Pymatuning L., PA Aug. 9–20 (MF, JHo, EK), Mosquito L., Oct. 13 (J & DH),

Table 1. Hawk Watch Results

	Days Obs	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Broad-winged Hawk	Broad-winged High (date)	Bald Eagles	Golden Eagles	Total
Stone Mountain, PA (GG)	48	823	846	not given	7	45	3759
Bald Eagle, Mountain PA (DB)	76hr	271	56	not given	5	57	1376
Tuscarora Summit, PA (CG)	51	1234	1750	811 (Sept. 14)	7	16	4226
Town Hill, MD (JPa)	75	1019	1382	462 (Sept. 19)	21	37	4121
Rockfish Gap, VA (JI)	92	1106	90122	not given	29	6	12,821
Hanging Rock, WV (JRD)	43	274	4428	2256 (Sept. 20)	14	8	4926
East River Mt. WV (AMc)	34	67	2129	537 (Sept. 15)	5	3	2407

Imperial, PA Aug. 20 (WS), *Cumberland*, PA Aug. 31–Oct. 6 (DHe), K.C.P.P., Sept. 9–Oct. 7 (WA *et al.*), M.C.F.H., Sept. 25 (FB), and *Cocke*, TN Sept. 13 (RK); Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Mosquito L., OH Sept. 18 (J&DH), K.C.P.P., Sept. 9 & 10 (WA *et al.*), and Roanoke, VA Sept 2 and later (JA, MS); and Wilson's Phalarope at *Crawford*, PA Aug. 26 & 27 (RFL *et al.*) and Roanoke, VA Aug. 20 (JF). Short-billed Dowitchers were reported from Pymatuning L., PA (MF, JHo, EK), Tamarrack L., PA (RFL), Ligonier, PA (DSm), K.C.P.P. (WA), and Cumberland, MD (MT), but eight Long-billed Dowitchers at Pymatuning Oct. 7 (†) constituted one of the very few documented Regional records for this species. A Long-billed Dowitcher report with no details came from M.C.F.H., Oct. 1 (FB).

A Pomarine Jaeger was found at Nickajack L., TN Oct. 5, presumably a contribution of hurricane *Opal* (Jpk). *Opal* also brought a Laughing Gull to downtown Chattanooga, TN (Jpk). Other Laughing Gull records included three at S. Holston L., TN Aug. 5 after hurricane *Erin* (WC) and one at P.I.S.P., Nov. 1 (JM). As usual, P.I.S.P. had more unusual gulls: Little Gull Oct. 21 (DBo); Iceland Gull Nov. 3 for a first November record (JS); Lesser Black-backed Gull Nov. 24 (EK); Glaucous Gull Nov. 20–25 (IF, JF); and **Sabine's Gull** Oct. 15 (JM) and Nov. 3 (JS). Pymatuning L., PA had heavy concentrations of common gulls: 3200 Bonaparte's Gulls Oct. 29, 14,900 Ring-billed Gulls Nov. 19, and 75 Herring Gulls Sept. 9 (RFL).

Caspian Terns were found at 11 locations, from Mosquito L., OH in the north to several places in n.e. Tennessee. Common Terns were seen at Y.C.S.P., Oct. 24 (MH), *Cumberland*, MD Sept. 17 (MT), and Nickajack L., TN after *Opal* (Jpk). Forster's Terns were reported from Y.C.S.P., Aug. 24 (GL), Greenlick Dam, PA Sept. 16 (M&EW), Boone L., TN Oct. 5 (DH), S. Holston L., TN Oct. 15 (RK). There were 156 Forster's Terns on the 4 n.e. Tennessee lakes Sept. 24–25 (RK). Black Terns were at Y.C.S.P., Aug. 22 (MH), Prince Gallitzin S.P., PA Sept. 14 (Jsa), R.C.B.L., Sept. 30 (WA, KP), S. Holston L., TN Aug. 6–19 (WC), and Boone L., TN Oct. 5 (DH). Another contribution of *Opal* was Tennessee's first live **Black Skimmer** at Nickajack L., Oct 5 (*vide* Jpk).

Owls to Wrens

Two Snowy Owls were seen at the Jack's Mountain H.W., *Centre*, PA Nov. 10 (GG), and two were at Belleville, PA Nov. 19 (MK). A Long-eared Owl was at



B.E.S.P., Nov. 6 (*vide* JPe), and three–four were at P.I.S.P., Nov. 11–23 (DD). Ten Short-eared Owls were on recovered surface mines in *Jefferson*, OH Oct. 26 (MA), eight were at Imperial, PA Nov. 19 (CT), eight at Volunt, PA Nov. 21 (LW), and single records came from P.I.S.P., Oct. 19 and Nov. 10 (JM). There was a major movement of N. Saw-whet Owls through the Region. A total of about 300 was banded in *Garrett*, MD (SH), 13 were banded at A.F.M.O. (GAH), and one was banded at Johnson City, TN Nov 17, providing the 2nd lowland record there (WC). A total of 16 were listed at P.I.S.P., Oct. 15–Nov. 23 (DD). At 8:30 a.m. Nov. 21, while counting waterbirds, McWilliams observed a N. Saw-whet Owl make landfall after its flight from Canada across L. Erie. Other records came from Morgantown, WV (SS) and Pittsburgh (*vide* PH).

No great concentrations of Com. Nighthawks were reported, but 500 Chimney Swifts was made in *Trumbull*, OH Sept 22 (D&JH). Swifts at Meadville, PA Oct. 10 (RFL) and Toftrees, PA Oct. 15 (ST) were late. At P.N.R., 1987 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were banded (RM, RCL), while 487 were counted flying over the A.F.M.O. station during the season (RB), and a one-day count of 35 was made at Slippery Rock, PA Sept. 3 (RC). A late date for Ruby-throated was Oct. 21 at *Wood*, WV (NO). By the end of the period there were at least five Rufous Hummingbirds in the Chattanooga, TN region and one in nearby Cohutta, GA (Jpk). A Rufous Humming-

Juvenile Piping Plover at Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania, August 11, 1995.
Photograph/Jerry McWilliams.

bird was at Unaka, NC in August (DF), and one was coming to a feeder on the Virginia-West Virginia border in *Hampshire*, WV for a 4th state record (RS). There was positive news for Red-headed Woodpeckers, with more sightings than in most recent years at Pipestem S.P., WV and e. River Mt., WV (JP), and reports from Ashton, WV (WA) and Mosquito L., OH (CB).

More Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported than usual: P.N.R., Aug. 27 (RCL, RM); Prince Gallitzin S.P., PA Sept. 8 & 21 (Jsa); A.F.M.O., Sept. 3 (banded, GAH); Roanoke, VA Sept. 26 (KS), and *Cocke*, TN Aug. 10 (LN, JR). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were more widely reported than usual and 64 were banded at P.N.R. (RM, RCL), but the other *Empidonax* species were not very common. A record high 202 E. Phoebes was banded at P.N.R. (RCL, RM). An unusual 25 E. Kingbirds was seen at Willow I., WV Aug. 12 (SM). A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was seen at Union City, *Erie*, PA Aug. 5, providing a 2nd *Erie* record (†BB).

There were some good concentrations of Tree Swallows: 10,000 at Pymatuning L., PA Oct. 14 (RFL) and 500 in *Cocke*, TN Sept. 24 (WC). At Elkton, VA the usual fall concentration of N. Rough-winged Swallows built up to a maximum of 1200 Aug. 30 (MGS). A flock of >350 Barn Swallows was seen at P.N.R., Aug. 21

(RCL). Some late swallow dates were: Tree Swallow Nov. 25 at Daleville, VA (JA, TF) and Rough-winged Swallow Nov. 5 at Carter, TN (FA). There was a very heavy migration of Blue Jays. At A.F.M.O. the season count was 6459 fly bys, with 2306 counted Sept. 26 (RB). Common Ravens are usually thought to be birds of the wilder areas, so one at a Pittsburgh suburb, Natrona Heights, Oct. 12 (PH) was unusual. Raven numbers are increasing in n. Georgia (JPK, DF).

Black-capped Chickadees staged a major southerly irruption. The movement was detected as early as Aug. 8 in Elk, PA (LC), but the major movement came in late October and early November. At P.N.R., 254 were banded, 2 standard deviations above the 10-year average (RM, RCL). The southernmost record was *Botetourt*, VA (BK). Red-breasted Nuthatches also made a major southward irruption, which started in late August; by the end of the period small numbers were found throughout the Region. Several reporters commented that the White-breasted Nuthatch was also in above-normal numbers. Brown-headed Nuthatches were coming to a feeder at Dalton, GA in October (HD), and a pair with young were found at the Kingston Steam Plant, TN, representing a new population and the 2nd for the state (DT, JHa). Still another n. species, the Brown Creeper, was also in unusual numbers at most places.

Carolina Wren populations have not yet recovered from the winter losses of 2 years ago, but records in the north at Meadville, PA (RFL) and *Trumbull*, OH (CB) were good news. At P.N.R., a record-tying 71 House Wrens and a record-high 42 Winter Wrens were banded (RCL, RM). Winter Wrens were unusually numerous throughout the Region. Sedge Wrens were reported from *Trumbull*, OH Aug. 9 (D&JH), *Lawrence*, PA early August (GW), Ashton, WV Oct. 8 (WA), *Washington*, TN Sept. 30, *Sullivan*, TN Oct. 7, and *Roane*, TN Oct. 22 (RK). There were 6 records of Marsh Wrens in the Pittsburgh region (PH), and other reports came from Ashton, WV Oct. 8 & 23 (WA), Daleville, VA Oct. 9 (BK *et al.*), *Johnson*, TN Sept. 15, and *Washington*, TN Sept. 30 (RK).

Thrushes to Warblers

The thrush migration was considered poor in n.e. Tennessee (RK) and at A.F.M.O. (GAH), but was better than in recent years at P.N.R. (RCL, RM). Gray-cheeked Thrushes were scarce at most places, but birders (as opposed to banders) found Swainson's Thrushes in better numbers

than in recent years. Typical of the series of late dates was a Swainson's Thrush in *Botetourt*, VA Nov. 19 (JF). Most stations reported good numbers of Hermit Thrushes. At Roanoke, VA (JF) and Morgantown, WV (GB, GAH) several large flights of Am. Robins were noted. There were several late dates for Gray Catbirds, but no reports of potential wintering Brown Thrashers. A N. Mockingbird was in *Erie*, PA Nov. 6 (MN), and the border population just n. of Pittsburgh is increasing (PH).

A single Bohemian Waxwing was seen at Fairview, *Erie*, PA Nov. 24 (JM). American Pipits were reported in small numbers at 7 locations from *Trumbull*, OH to *Washington*, TN. There were 2 rather early records for N. Shrikes: Oct. 22 at P.I.S.P. (EK) and Oct. 25 at Grand River W.A., OH (J&DH). Other records came from P.I.S.P., Nov. 10–30 (JM), *Conneautville*, PA Nov. 23 (AT), Fairview, PA Nov. 26 (JM), and *Conneaut Marsh*, PA Nov. 19 (RFL). The usual stronghold of Loggerhead Shrikes is in the Great Valley, but this year there were only 6 reports from n.e. Tennessee (RK), while it was thought that there were 3 pairs in the *Botetourt*, VA area (BK). Singles were reported from Woodcock L., PA Nov. 19 (RFL), and *Whitfield*, GA Nov. 21 (HD). There were more reports than usual of the often overlooked Philadelphia Vireo.

The warbler flight brought its usual mixed bag of reports, but more areas thought the flight to be above average than the contrary. However, the general feeling was that while the flight was the best in recent years, numbers were still below historic values. At P.N.R., 9 species were more than one standard deviation above the ten-year average and 14 were at that average (RM, RCL), while at A.F.M.O., 9 species were at the average, 9 were more than one standard deviation below, and none above. Though numbers varied, most areas compiled good species lists. At P.N.R., both Hooded Warblers and Com. Yellowthroats were at all-time highs. The Bay-breasted Warbler was thought to be low at most places. Of the more unusual species, the Orange-crowned and the usually hard-to-see Connecticut were more widely reported than usual. A Kirtland's Warbler was seen on the Blue Ridge Parkway in *Allegheny*, NC Sept. 23 (WCo, m.ob.). A "Brewster's" Warbler was banded at P.N.R., Aug. 31 (RCL, RM). There were many late dates, with numerous late-October sightings and a Nov. 3 Hooded Warbler at P.I.S.P. (JM), a Nov. 11 Com. Yellowthroat at *Centre*, PA (JPe), and a Nov. 20 Nashville Warbler in *Allegheny*, PA (MF).

Grosbeaks to Finches

A ♂ Black-headed Grosbeak was present in the Pittsburgh suburb of Wexford Sept 1–Nov. 12 (ME, JHo, RSc). Five Blue Grosbeaks, including 2 immatures, were present in August at the *Allegheny* station where they nested in June (PH). An Indigo Bunting at Slippery Rock, PA Nov. 18 (GW) was notably late.

Rufous-sided Towhees were present in late November at Ridgeway, PA (*vide* LC) and *Shenandoah*, VA (DDa). Most of the sparrows were in good numbers. The Am Tree Sparrow was more numerous than in most recent years, and its arrival at Natrona Heights, PA Oct. 23 was notably early. A few Chipping Sparrows were present in the north at the end of the period. Another late record was a Grasshopper Sparrow (at a feeder!) in Greencastle, PA Nov 12 (CG). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was banded at P.I.S.P., Oct 28 (RFL), and one was seen near Stuart's Draft, VA Oct. 29 (CC). A skulker like the Lincoln's Sparrow is often reported only by banders, but birders reported many more than usual this year. At P.N.R., 74 Lincoln's and 270 Swamp sparrows were banded (RM, RCL). White-throated Sparrows were early in arrival and unusually numerous. At P.N.R., a record-high 875 were banded, compared with an average of 263 (RM, RCL). An "Oregon" Dark-eyed Junco was at P.I.S.P., Nov. 25 (†JF). Lapland Longspur reports from such n. locations as *Trumbull*, OH (D&JH), P.I.S.P. (JM, EK), and *Lawrence*, PA (SB) were not unexpected, but sightings at Swoope, VA Nov. 29 (AL) and Daleville, VA Nov 19–25 (JF *et al.*) were noteworthy. Snow Buntings were also seen near Swoope Nov 29 (AL) and near Daleville Nov. 18–25 (MS, BK, TF), but the only other records came from the n. Ohio and Pennsylvania stations. A probable Smith's Longspur was described well from near Winchester, VA Nov. 24 (EM, *vide* RS).

A Bobolink at Ashton, WV Oct. 23 was rather late (WA) and there were only 2 reports of Bobolinks in the Johnson City, TN region (RK). In *Erie*, PA, a flock of >35 E. Meadowlarks Oct. 20–25 (JS) was unusual. A Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Chattanooga, TN Sept. 8 (*vide* JPK). Two Brewer's Blackbirds were at Slippery Rock, PA Oct. 24–30 (GW).

Purple Finches staged the best flight in recent years. A small flock of Red Crossbills was at A.F.M.O. (where they may have nested) in late August (GAH). Other reports came from Natrona Heights, PA Oct. 29 (PH), Cook Forest S.P., PA during most of October (*vide* PH), and *Rockingham*, VA Dec. 3 (CBa). Up to 20 Com

Redpolls were seen at P.I.S.P., Nov. 20–25 (DD) and three were seen at Pymatuning S.P., Nov. 23 (RFL). There was a very heavy flight of Am. Goldfinches, with 250 seen at McConnell's Mills, PA Nov. 2 (LW). At A.F.M.O. the flyover count of goldfinches was a record-high 4788 (RB). Very early Pine Siskins were at *Indiana*, PA Aug. 23 (CK), A.F.M.O., Aug. 13 (GAH), and *Elk*, PA Sept. 13 (LC). At the end of October and through November siskins were at almost every reporting location, although never in large numbers. The Evening Grosbeak flight was the best in several years. One was seen at A.F.M.O. in early September (*vide* GAH) and starting in early November small flocks began to turn up. Distribution was spotty, and they did not remain for any length of time in any given location.

Contributors: Fred Alsop, Michael Arabia, Wendell Argabrite, Jim Ayers, Carole Babyak (CB), James Barker, Cricket Barlow (CBa), Ralph Bell, Dan Bogar (DBo), Basil Bombera, David Brandes (DB), Peter Brask, George Breiding, Nancy Brundage, Fred Busroe, Suzanne Butcher, Christa Cabe, Kathy Cain, Linda Christenson, Wallace Coffey (WC), Marlene Condon, Will Cook (WCo), Ruth Crawford, Dave Darney (DD), David Davis (DDa), J.R. Davis (JRD), Kent Davis, Julie Dell (JD), Harriett DiGioia, Daniel Dunmore (DDu), Jeanette Esker, Mike Fialkovich, Isaac Field, Tad Finnell, Jim Flynn, Carl Garner (CG), Cindy Gaulin (CGa), Steve Gaulin (SGa), JoAnn Graham, Greg Grove, Jerry Hadder (JHa), John Heninger, Don Henise (DHe), Robyn Henise (RHe), Paul Hess, Margaret Higbee, David Hochadel (DH), Judy Hochadel (JH), Joyce Hoffmann (JHo), David Holt (H), Dan Huffine (DHu), Steve Huy, Margaret Kenep, Carol Kerr, Barry Kinzie, Rick Knight, Lewis Kornman, Ed Kwater, Gloria Lamer, Allen Lerner, YuLee Lerner, Robert C. Leberman (RCL), Ronald F. Leberman (RFL), Anthony Marich, Ed Mathews, Sally Maxwell, Larry McDaniel, Ann McRae (AMc), Jerry McWilliams, Robert Mulvihill, Mildred Nodes, Linda Northrop, Nina Ott, Johnny Park (JPa), Jim Paulus (JPa), Becky Peplinski (BPe), John Peplinski (JPe), Keith Peters, Jim Phillips (JP), Margery Plymire, Geoff Robinson, Joanne Routledge, John Salvetti (JSa), Regis Schultz (RSc), Larry Schwab, Glenna Schwalb, Paul Schwalbe, Walter Shaffer, Robert Simpson (RS), Dennis Smeltzer (Sm), Michael G. Smith (MGS), Mike Smith (MS), Donald Snyder, Ruth Snyder, Sally Stebbins, Jean Stull (JS), Kent Sum-

mers, Chuck Tague, Paula Teats, Andy Troyer, David Trently, Scott Turner, Mary Twigg, Linda Wagner, Evalen Watko, Mike Watko, Gene Wilhelm (GW), George Young.

—George A. Hall, P.O. Box 6045, West Virginia University, Morgantown WV 26506–6045.

Western Great Lakes Region

DARYL D. TESSEN

August was hot and humid, especially in Michigan and Wisconsin. In the latter state the abnormally dry conditions that prevailed during the summer abruptly ended. By the end of the month much of Wisconsin had recorded rain totals of seven–fourteen inches. For Michigan the heavy rainfall was more localized, *i.e.* the southeastern section, resulting in flooding of prime shorebird habitat. September was considerably drier, with temperatures proving more variable. October temperatures were generally mild. However, in Wisconsin a major cold front passed through during mid-month. This caused a spectacular hawk flight for several days along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Substantial rain fell during the last half of October, continuing into the first week of November. Many areas in Wisconsin had five–ten inches of additional rainfall during this period. Almost overnight the weather changed from Indian Summer to winter. Unusually cold temperatures pre-

