

Roseau, MN Sept 6 represented the 2nd-earliest arrival date (PS) The Harris' Sparrow flight in Wisconsin was unusually poor The Smith's Longspur seen briefly by O'Brien and Hughes at Milwaukee Oct 14 represented about the 10th Wisconsin record. One was seen by the WPB O. staff Sept. 21. Several impressive Snow Bunting flocks were noted, including 2000 at M.W.S., Nov. 17 (JP, GW), and 1200 in *Clark*, WI Nov. 29. A Bobolink in Milwaukee Oct. 14 was late (JO) A Bullock's Oriole was seen and photographed in Roger's City, MI (BGr).

Fair to good numbers of most finch species were reported. This was especially true for redpolls, siskins, and both grosbeaks At least finches were being seen, which was in contrast to last year.

Addendum

Minnesota recorded its 4th Green-tailed Towhee with one at a feeder near Ely Dec. 18, 1994.

Corrigenda

For Minnesota, delete the Lesser Black-backed Gull in *Ramsey* Jan. 1, 1995, and Prairie Warbler in *Cook* Oct. 15, 1994. The Mississippi Kite seen in fall 1994 was in *Clay*, not *Carver* (B. Spencer Meeks). For Wisconsin, the King Eider seen in March 1995 was in *Door*, not *Dane*.

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Middle-western Prairie Region

KENNETH J. BROCK

The words phenomenal, remarkable, unprecedented, and impressive occur frequently in this report, suggesting that Middlewestern Prairie Region birders enjoyed a superlative autumn migration Overall, the migration was somewhat late, producing a plethora of late departure dates, especially for passerines. From a group perspective, grebes, geese, ducks, gulls, and sparrows were recorded in unusually high numbers. Species receiving notes of concern included Green Heron, Turkey Vulture, Greater Yellowlegs, Purple Martin, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Yellow-throated Vireo. These birds warrant close scrutiny in the future. Among the rarities, western passerines were unusually well represented.

The season's weather patterns provided few birding surprises. Even 1995's record hurricane season appeared to have little impact on migration, though possible hur-



ricane waifs include frigatebird, Gull-billed Tern, and Sooty Tern. The early arrival of Red-breasted Nuthatches, Northern Shrikes, and selected winter finches raised hopes for a winter invasion of boreal species.

Abbreviations: Jax.P. (*Jackson Park on the Chicago lakefront*); H.B.S.P. (*Headlands Beach S.P., OH*); L. Cal. (*L. Calumet, Chicago*); O.N.W.R. (*Ottawa N.W.R., OH*); S.C.R. (*Squaw Creek N.W.R., MO*); Spfld. (*Springfield, IL*).

Loons to Ibises

The number of Pacific Loon reports from inland sites continues to increase. This fall's tally included a remarkable five from Iowa and two from Indiana. Pied-billed Grebes were unusually numerous with peak counts of 364 at Saylorville Res., IA Sept. 14 (SD), 200 in Decatur, IL Oct. 28 (MDe), and 108 at L. Rockwell, OH Nov. 18 (LR). The Red-necked Grebe count was also above normal, with six from Ohio, three from Indiana, and two in Illinois. The easternmost Eared Grebe occupied a Cincinnati gravel pit Nov. 14-19 (FR, m.ob.). An impressive 22 W. Grebes were recorded in Iowa, and two wandered E to Indiana where they appeared at L. Lemon Oct. 26-Nov. 15 (RTi, m.ob.) and Miller Beach Nov. 16 & 22 (JMc, JCd, m.ob.). A well-described Clark's Grebe was at Pleasant Creek L., IA Nov. 12-13 (†CE, †TK, †JFU, m.ob.). It was another fine season for Am. White Pelicans, with tallies exceeding 2000 from all 3 w. states; peak counts included 10,000 at Saylorville Res., IA Sept. 16 (SD, JDi) and >3500 at Mark Twain N.W.R., IL Oct. 28 (HW). A straggler wandered E to Brown, OH where it was seen Aug. 6 (JR, *vide* NK). A brownish-plumed, white-breasted frigatebird (presumably a Magnificent) was discovered flying along the Mississippi R. at mile marker 266 Oct. 13; the bird was seen flying over both *St. Charles*, MO and *Hardin*, IL (†MHU).

Although bitterns remained scarce, heron and egret numbers were generally quite encouraging. Noteworthy reports included a late Least Bittern at Illinois Beach S.P., Oct. 7 (ASt), a late Great Egret at Clinton L., IL Nov. 18 (RCh, m.ob.), 88 Snowy Egrets in *Alexander* and *Union*, IL Sept. 4 (JDu, ST), and 250 Little Blue Herons in *Monroe*, IL Aug. 10 (MDe). In contrast to most herons, Green Herons were scarce, especially in Ohio, where the peak count at Ottawa N.W.R. was only two (EP). An unexpected development was above-normal Yellow-crowned Night-



Considered overdue was this immature White Ibis, a first for Iowa, at Coralville Reservoir September 6, 1995. Photograph/T. H. Kent.

Heron numbers across the 4 n. states. Most noteworthy was the appearance of \geq three juveniles in *Lake*, IN (JMc, m.ob.) and an adult at Griggs Dam, OH Sept. 4 (RTh). Long overdue, Iowa's first White Ibis, an imm. bird, was discovered at Coralville Res., Sept. 5 and remained through Sept. 16 (JHu, †JFU, †TK, ph. †m.ob.). Perhaps even more remarkable was an astonishingly late ad. White Ibis at the Miami R. oxbow near Lawrenceburg, IN Nov. 4-7 (FR, LG, †MB, JMc, m.ob.), that provided the Region's first November record. The only identified White-faced Ibis was in Havana, IL Nov. 7-10 (KR).

Waterfowl to Cranes

White-fronted Geese were unusually widespread with numerous reports, including ten at H.B.S.P., Nov. 4 (EB) and four at Killdeer Plains, OH Nov. 12 (DO), where this species is casual in fall. Snow Geese were also plentiful, with glowing reports from all quarters. Accompanying the Snow Geese were small numbers of Ross' Geese; the easternmost report consisted of two at Fermi, IL Nov. 2 (PK). Two Brants at Sangchris S.P., IL Nov. 13 (†DBo) constituted the Region's only record. The Region enjoyed a very heavy duck migration that yielded fine counts of most dabblers. A ♂ Eur. Wigeon at De Soto N.W.R., Oct. 27 (†TK) provided Iowa's first fall record since 1933. Bay ducks also staged a strong flight; the single most impressive tally consisted of 48,000 Canvasback on a Mississippi R. (Keokuk-Nauvoo) aerial survey Nov. 13 (MG). As expected, Harlequin Ducks were restricted to the Great Lakes, where three were seen along the Indiana lakefront and two were found in *Lake*, OH. Following the pattern of recent years, small numbers of Oldsquaw and all 3 scoters appeared across the Region. Notable observations included 12

Black Scoters at Grand L., OH Nov. 11 (AF), three Surf Scoters on the Ohio R. near Warsaw, KY Nov. 23 (LMc), and an Indiana record count of 147 White-winged Scoters on L. Michigan Nov. 18 (JCd, JMc, m.ob.). Additional high counts included 248 Hooded Mergansers in Steuben, IN Nov. 24 (Haw *et al.*) and 2000 Ruddy Ducks at Clinton L., IL Oct. 29 (RCh).

An impressive 170 Black Vultures were reported at Rock Fork L., OH Nov. 5 (*vide* NK). In contrast, several correspondents noted declines in Turkey Vulture numbers. A downy Mississippi Kite was still in the Clive, IA nest Aug. 14 (JFu), and a juvenile and adult remained in the area until Sept. 10 (JCI). A juv. and two ad. Mississippi Kites were also reported from the traditional Indiana nesting area in Pike S.E., Aug. 23 & 30 (YL, †ML) and one was still present in *Jersey*, IL Aug. 26 (HW). Several mid-October days produced extraordinary hawk flights at Illinois Beach S.P., which is located on the L. Michigan shoreline n. of Chicago. Northern Harriers were well represented there, with excellent counts of 105 Oct. 15 (DJ *et al.*) and 81 Oct. 28 (WS). The site also yielded an Illinois record 531 Sharpshinned Hawks Oct. 15 (DJ *et al.*). The Region's 17 N. Goshawks was slightly above average for a non-invasion year. The peak Broad-winged Hawk counts consisted of 1576 in Oak Openings, OH Sept. 18 (TKp) and 440 in *Boone*, MO Sept. 22 (PMc). Swainson's Hawks performed well at the Hitchcock W.M.A., IA hawk watch, where a peak of 97 Oct. 27 contributed to a record season count of 245 (B&LP). Fine daily Red-tailed Hawk counts were logged at Illinois Beach S.P., where 389 were tallied in 2.5 hours Nov. 4 (JO) and 310 Oct. 29 (AS*t et al.*). Golden Eagles were more common than normal, with 21 birds scattered across the 4 n. states. By any standard Merlins staged an incredible flight. In addition to expected numbers across the Region, the phenomenal 97 Merlins observed migrating past Illinois Beach S.P., Oct. 14 (EW *et al.*) established an all-time high count for Illinois. Prairie Falcons were reported at Bays Branch W.M.A., IA Nov. 7 (SD) and at Monticello, IL Nov. 8 (RCh).

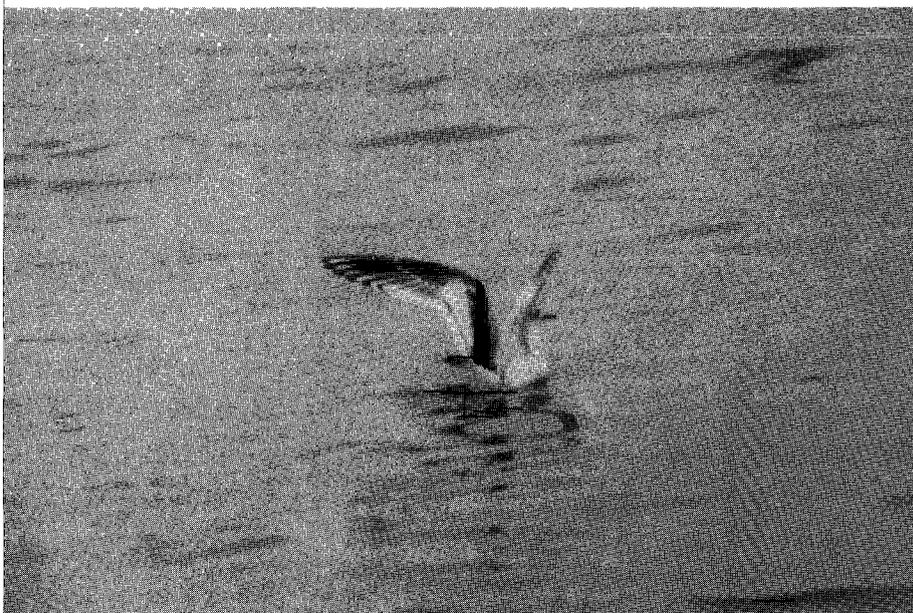
Yellow Rails were detected as follows: two at Snake Cr. Marsh, IA Sept. 28 (TK), one at L. Macbride, IA (JFu), and one in *Calloway*, MO Oct. 28 (†BJ, m.ob.). Two King Rails in *St. Clair*, IL Sept. 3 (DKa) constituted the Region's only report. Encouragingly, the 25 Com. Moorhens at Eagle Park, IL Sept. 17 (WR) and 15 young at Palatine, IL Sept. 19 (CFI) pro-

vided the best fall report in several years. The Sandhill Crane population continues to prosper, with excellent counts from every state except Missouri. Crane numbers peaked at 24,241 at the Jasper-Pulaski WM A., IN staging area (JBe).

Shorebirds

The latest among several tardy Lesser Golden-Plovers were singletons at Swan L., IA Nov. 27 (TK) and Switz City, IN Nov. 17 (RTi). Seeming to show a penchant for Ohio, Snowy Plovers were found Aug. 9 at Maumee Bay S.P., (†BC, †BWh) and Metzger Marsh Sept. 15 (TBa). Rosche believes this is the same bird reported in summer. The Region's largest Semipalmated Plover concentration was 250 in *St. Charles*, MO Aug 13 (WR). It was an excellent autumn for Piping Plovers, with 11 in Iowa, five in Missouri, five in Illinois, three in Indiana, and one in Ohio. A high count of 14 Black-necked Stilts (eight adults, plus six young) was made in *Jackson* and *Alexander*, IL Aug.10 (KM, TD). Three lingering stults were still present in the *Stoddard*, MO rice fields Sept.1 (PMc, BJ). The most remarkable report, however, involved a **Black-necked Stilt** that remained at Conneaut, OH Nov. 7–Nov.19 (†JPg, m.ob.). American Avocets were unusually common, with reports from every state except Missouri; the peak count was 38 at Saylorville Res., IA Oct.13 (SD) and a late bird lingered at Eagle Cr. Park, IN through Nov 7 (AB, m.ob.).

Several correspondents expressed concern about depressed Greater Yellowlegs numbers. The only sizable Willet concentration consisted of 32 birds at Miller Beach, IN Aug. 20 (JMc). Whimbrels staged a strong flight through the Region, with reports from every state except Kentucky. Most noteworthy among these were 2 Iowa sightings that provided the state's 4th and 5th fall records, and a bird in *St. Charles*, MO Aug. 22 (†MT), which provided the first August record for e. Missouri (*vide* DA). In contrast, Hudsonian Godwits were scarce, with two in Illinois, one in Ohio, and one in Indiana. It was an unusually fine fall for White-rumped Sandpipers; the maximum tally among several c. Illinois counts was a remarkable 60 at Rice Lake W.M.A., Sept.12 (KR). Baird's Sandpipers peaked at Rice Lake WM A., IL Sept. 1 when 120 were counted (KR). Early Purple Sandpipers arrived at Miller Beach, IN Oct. 26 (JMc) and H B S P, Oct. 29–30 (KMt *et al.*). It was a banner fall for Buffbreasted Sandpipers. In addition to numerous widespread reports, Buff-breasteds arrived early and in unusually high concentrations. The peak



Little Gull in first-winter plumage at Maryville, Missouri, November 6, 1995. Photograph/David A. Easterla.

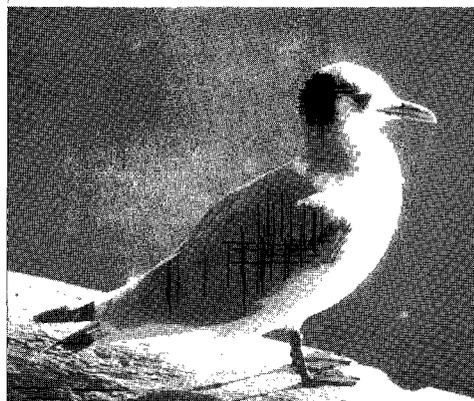
counts were at the Schneider Sod Farm, *Lake*, IN, where 47 (an all-time high for the state) were counted Aug. 5 (ASi, DM, JO) and in Momench, IL, where 43 were seen Sept. 2 (RCh). Ruffs were found at 3 locations: a male at Carlyle L., IL Aug. 3 (DKa), a male in *St. Charles*, MO Aug. 6 (†JZ), and an alternate-plumed female at Coralville Res., IA Aug. 21–26 (†TK, †CE, †JFU). Despite the presence of 327 Short-billed Dowitchers at L. Cal., July 15 (JL), this species was generally scarce. A Wilson's Phalarope at Lake Shattuck N.W.R., IL Nov. 24 (EW) was extremely late. The most noteworthy of the ten Red Phalaropes reported in the 4 n. states were singletons at Saylorville Res., IA Sept. 19 (†SD) and Oct. 22–26 (†SD, †m.ob.).

Jaegers to Terns

An extremely early juv. Pomarine Jaeger was identified at L. Spfld., Sept. 8 (†DBo). Four Parasitic Jaegers and nine unidentified jaegers were reported from Miller Beach, IN during the season. Another unidentified jaeger was seen at L. Manawa in w. Iowa Sept. 24 (B&LP). For the 2nd consecutive year two Long-tailed Jaegers were seen at Miller Beach, IN: an adult Sept. 9 (†RHu, JW) and a juvenile Oct. 29 (†JMc). In addition, a juv. Long-tailed was seen at H.B.S.P., Sept. 16 (†LR) and a probable juv. Long-tailed was discovered on a *LaSalle*, IL fish hatchery pond Sept. 17 (†C & JMc, ph.).

Laughing Gulls were well represented among the fall larids, with eight in Illinois, seven in Indiana, four in Iowa, and four in Ohio. Franklin's Gulls were unusually common. In addition to a mega count of 40,000 at Spirit L., IA Oct 7 (SD), excellent numbers were also recorded farther

east, with 220 at L. Spfld., Oct. 30 (DBo), 65 at Huntington Res., IN Oct. 24 (JMc), and 16 at Buck Creek S.P., OH Oct 14 (DO). Four Little Gulls were seen in both Illinois and Ohio; an immature wandered W to Maryville, MO, where it frequented the sewage lagoons and Mozingo L., Nov 5–14 (†DE, JHi, ph.). **Common Black-headed Gulls** were recorded again, with adults at Clinton L., IL Nov. 8 (†RCh) and Falls of the Ohio Nov. 15–16 (BPB, J&PB, †JMc). The latter bird was seen in both Indiana and Kentucky, providing the first state record for Kentucky. Lake Erie's expected Bonaparte's Gull build-up apparently shifted westward to L. Michigan, where >5000 were counted along the e Indiana lakefront Nov.14 (AB, KB). The



Exceptional numbers of Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen in the upper Midwest during the fall. This individual was at Lake Manawa, Iowa, September 26, 1995. Photograph/Loren Padelford.



An autumn surprise was this adult Ross' Gull at Eagle Creek Park, Indiana, November 4, 1995. A first for the state, it remained for a week, to be seen by many. Photograph/Scott F. Jackson.

only California Gull report consisted of a well-described first-year bird in Marion, IA Sept. 3 (†SD, †JS) and Sept. 5–6 (†TK, †JFU). Iceland Gull reports included a first-winter bird at Saylorville Res., IA Nov. 17, 18, & 30 (†SD, †TK, †JFu, ph.) and an ad. "Kumlieni" at L.Cal., Nov. 26 (JL). Phenomenal is the appropriate adjective to describe the autumn Black-legged Kittiwake flight. Illinois, Iowa, and Ohio each had 3 reports and, incredibly, 22 juveniles were seen in Indiana. All Indiana kittiwakes were seen flying past Miller Beach; 11 were counted Nov. 21 (RHu, JW) and ten more Nov. 28 (RHu, DM, JMc *et al.*), providing all-time-high daily counts for the state. To the delight of scores of birders, Indiana's first confirmed Ross' Gull, a basic-plumaged adult, was discovered at Eagle Cr. Park, Indianapolis, Nov. 4 (LP, SJ, ph. †m.ob.) and remained through Nov. 10. Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of the Arctic gull flight was an unprecedented Sabine's Gull invasion that produced sightings in every state except Kentucky. Distribution of the Region's 26 birds was as follows: 13 in Illinois, six in Iowa, five in Ohio, one in Indiana, and one in Missouri (Smithville L., Oct. 31; MR, CH). In contrast, the Region's previous maximum fall Sabine's total was 16. Multiple sightings included a remarkable seven at Carlyle L., IL Sept. 17 (DKa), one–two at Saylorville Res., IA Sept. 14–Oct. 8 (SD, TK, m.ob.), two juveniles at H.B.S.P., Oct. 15 (RHn, EB, †KMt), and one–two at Black Hawk L., IA Sept. 27–Oct. 14 (PE, JFu),

Indiana's 2nd Gull-billed Tern, a winter-plumaged bird, flew past the Miller Beach parking lot Aug. 31 in the company of 1500 Com. Terns (†JMc). The Region's largest Com. Tern concentration consisted of 1600 birds at H.B.S.P., Sept. 16 (RHn

et al.). More than 30 Least Terns were reported in Iowa, including 15 adults, two yearlings, four fledglings, and three downy young at Port Neal Aug. 5 (BHR). In addition, four Least Terns were reported at 3 Illinois locations and ten were at R.E.D.A., Sept. 12 (*vide* DA). The Black Tern picture appeared somewhat brighter this fall. In Iowa, Kent deemed this species common in mid- to late August, and a peak of 80 was counted at L. Shattuck N.W.R., IL Aug. 9 & 16 (KR).

SA A likely product of the potent 1995 hurricane season was the unexpected appearance of an exhausted Sooty Tern on the Osage R., near Painted Rock, Osage, MO Aug. 5 (†BB). The fatigued bird ultimately expired and the specimen was sent to the Kansas University Museum where Mark Robbins determined that it was an ad. male. This represented the Region's first Sooty Tern record.

Cuckoos to Woodpeckers

Among late nesters were a Black-billed Cuckoo in Wyandot, OH Sept. 3 (TBa) and a pair of Great Horned Owls, with two–three young, in Hart, KY in August (MS). The season's only Barn Owl was seen in Holmes, OH Aug. 22 (ES). It was clearly not a Snowy Owl year; the Region's only report consisted of a singleton at Spirit L., IA Nov. 13 (S. Peterson, *vide* ET). Long-eared Owl reports included four in Iowa, four in Indiana, and one in

Illinois. It was a fine autumn for Short-eared Owls with reports from all 6 states; peak counts included 11 at Illinois Beach S.P., Oct. 28 (ASt), ten at the Peabody Strip Mine, KY Nov. 26 (JPt), and eight at H.B.S.P., Nov. 1 (D&JH). It was a superb fall for N. Saw-whet Owls, with 13 birds scattered across every state except Iowa. Individual saw-whets pressed as far south as Hart, KY Oct. 23 (SK) and Eureka, MO Nov. 17, where this species is casual. The only large Com. Nighthawk movement consisted of >2000 birds in Decatur, IL Sept. 13 (MDe). A remarkably tardy Com. Nighthawk was seen in Evanston, IL Nov. 6 (†JE). The latest-calling nightjars were near Hanson, KY, where a Chuck-will's-widow was heard Sept. 6 and a Whip-poor-will Sept. 14 (BWe).

In c. Illinois, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds peaked between Aug. 20–Sept. 14, when >30 were counted at W. Frankfort feeders (LSt). Unidentified *Selasphorus* hummingbirds were at feeders in Cedar Rapids Nov. 4–25 (JDb, †JFU, †TK, ph. m.ob.) and s. of Bloomington, IN Nov. 7–11 (JVr, JHe, RTi). A poor Iowa acorn crop caused most Red-headed Woodpeckers to move s. into Missouri, where both acorns and woodpeckers were common.

Flycatchers to Warblers

A late Alder Flycatcher, identified by call note, was found in Boone, IA Aug. 31 (DT). Accidental in the Region, a bird identified as an imm. Ash-throated Flycatcher at Chicago's McCormick Place Aug. 31–Sep 2 (JO,



This juvenile *Myiarchus* flycatcher at Chicago at the beginning of September created excitement and a bit of controversy. It was identified as an Ash-throated Flycatcher, although juveniles are notoriously hard to identify, and most eastern records of Ash-throateds are later in the fall. Photograph/John O'Brien.

†DJ, Ph., †m.ob.) generated considerable local excitement. The only fall W. Kingbird e. of the Mississippi R. was seen Sept. 4 at Charleston, IL (BHt). A very late E. Kingbird was still at Springville Marsh, OH Oct. 28 (TBa). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported in Iowa, where one was in n.w. Linn July 31 (DD), and a very late bird lingered in n.w. Dickinson Oct. 16 (ET *et al.*).

It was not a good season for Purple Martins; only 2 modest concentrations were reported: 500 at L. Manawa, IA Aug. 11 (B&LP) and 247 at Jax.P., Aug. 26 (PC). Peak tallies of other swallows included 25,000 Tree Swallows at Spring Lake W.M.A., IL Sept. 21 (KR), 11,000 Bank Swallows at Havana, IL Aug. 11 (KR), 300 Cliff Swallows at L. Spfld., Aug. 26 (DBo), and 2000 Barn Swallows in n.c. Iowa Sept. 19 (TK). One-two Black-billed Magpies were observed in w. Plymouth, IA Nov. 9 & 19 (BHR). A count of 17,000 Am. Crows at a Lucas, OH roost Nov. 5 (TKp) provided Ohio's largest roost since 1956 (*fide* LR). Red-breasted Nuthatches staged a major invasion, with large numbers recorded in every state. It was a good season for Sedge Wrens, with reports from all 6 states; peak counts included 24 at Oak Grove Park, IA Aug. 4 (JVd) and 12 at Matanzas Prairie, IL Oct. 6-7 (KR). One lingered at the latter site until Nov. 7 (KR). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher numbers were down at Jax.P. (PC) and in Ohio (LR); a late migrant was seen at Montrose Harbor, Chicago, Oct. 1 (MM). One of the season's better discoveries was a ♂ Mountain Bluebird found in La Salle, IL Nov. 19 (†DBr, GR) and seen again the following day (MHo).

SA The south L. Michigan area was blessed with the appearance of three Townsend's Solitaires. To the delight of birders, all three set up winter territories and remained through the period. Each of the three displayed a marked penchant for juniper berries. The first arrived Nov. 12 at Lyons Woods, Lake, IL and periodically serenaded birders with full song (EW, †DJ, m.ob.). The 2nd appeared Nov. 17 at the Klehm Arboretum, Rockford, IL (†RM, AS†, JM, ph. m.ob.). The 3rd, a juvenile molting into first-winter plumage, was discovered Nov. 24 at the W. Beach unit of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (†JMC, †BET, †DG, †JCD, †m.ob. ph.) to provide Indiana's first confirmed record.

Late departing thrushes included a Gray-cheeked in Evanston, IL Nov. 1 (EW) and



A first confirmed record for Indiana was furnished by this Townsend's Solitaire at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore November 24, 1995. The bird still shows much of the spotting and scaling of juvenal plumage, surprising so late in the season. Photograph/John K. Cassidy.

a Wood Thrush at McCormick Place, Chicago, Nov. 10 (JO). The only reported Varied Thrush was a female at Cedar Rapids, IA Nov. 3 (JFu). Single Bohemian Waxwings were reported Nov. 18 in Jax.P. (†PC) and at W. Beach, IN Nov. 24 (JMc). Beginning in mid-October a major wave swept Northern Shrikes into every state except Kentucky. State totals included 20 in Iowa, ten in Illinois, six in Indiana, four in Ohio, and two in Missouri.

Late nesting White-eyed Vireos were detected at Carlyle L., IL Sept. 4 (KMc). Yellow-throated Vireos were unusually scarce; the Region's peak count was four in Jefferson, KY Sept. 24 (J&PB). Tardy migrant vireos included a Solitary at Carlyle L., IL Oct. 28 (DKa), a Warbling at Grammer Grove W.M.A., IA Sept. 27 (MP), and Red-eyes at Pigeon River W.M.A., IN Oct. 28 (Haw, MW) and H.B.S.P., Nov. 2 (D&JH). Though late in many areas, the warbler migration was judged better than average by most observers. Tennessees nudged the cusps on both ends of the migration envelope with two birds at Jax.P., Aug. 4 (PC) and one in Lucas, OH Nov. 12 (TKp). Notably late warblers included: a Nashville in Allamakee, IA Nov. 13 (DKo), a Black-throated Blue in Franklin, OH Nov. 19 (BM), a ♂ Pine in Hammond, IN Nov. 30 (JBo), an imm. ♀ Prairie at N. Chagrin Metro Park, OH Oct. 21-22 (KMt, m.ob.), a Black-and-white at Clear L., IA Nov. 4 (V. Eness, *fide* CFs), and a Kentucky at L. Monroe, IN Sept. 22 (RTI). The later warbler migrants peaked on the Chicago lakefront Oct. 14 when a remarkable >3000 Yellow-rumpeds and 800 Palms were counted in 2 hours (JL). Warbler rarities included three singing Ceruleans at Dol-

liver S.P., IA Aug. 27 (MK, LSc), a Worm-eating in Croton S.F., IA (RCu), and a Kentucky at H.B.S.P., Sept. 6 (RR).

Tanagers to Finches

A Summer Tanager in Hart, KY Sept. 19 (MS), provided a new late departure date for that state, and a very late Scarlet Tanager was seen in Chicago Nov. 25 (KH). Migrant Blue Grosbeaks were reported in Illinois, Iowa, and Kentucky; the latest was seen in Pulaski, KY Sept. 24 (DC). In Missouri, ♂ Painted Buntings wandered farther east than normal, with sightings at Rolla Aug. 22 (†MDo) and Jefferson City Sept. 21 (†KL). A late ♂ Dickcissel was seen in Boone, MO Oct. 28 (†PmC *et al.*). Clay-colored Sparrows were widespread with reports from the 4 n. states. LeConte's Sparrows were both numerous and widespread; the most exceptional count was 133 logged during the Oct. 28 sparrow survey in Boone and Caraway, MO (PmC *et al.*). Sharp-tailed Sparrows were also unusually common, with reports from every state except Kentucky; noteworthy among these were 15 at Rice Lake W.M.A., Oct. 3 (KR) and a singleton at Binder City Park, MO Nov. 4 (†JFo). Harris' Sparrows were also more common than normal, with 11 in Illinois (many in e. portions of the state) and three in Boone, MO Oct. 23 (†PmC). The Region's only Smith's Longspur was seen in Havana, IL Nov. 9 (KR).

Three Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Springville Marsh, OH Oct. 23 (TBa) were unexpected. Great-tailed Grackles continued their march eastward with 100 near Gilman City, MO Aug. 3 (*fide* DA). An ad. ♂ Bullock's Oriole at Red Rock Res., IA Sept. 3 (†SD) was noteworthy. The Purple Finch flight was deemed good to outstanding in every state except Ohio, where it was poor (*fide* LR). The Region's only crossbills consisted of a few White-wingeds reported in Illinois, Iowa, and Ohio. Common Redpolls fared much better, with modest numbers in every state except Kentucky.

Though the Pine Siskin flight was better than last fall, it was still below normal. Small numbers of Evening Grosbeaks were widespread, with observations in every state; peak counts consisted of 24 at Tannanbaum L., IN Nov. 16 (M&PS) and 21 in Jersey, IL Nov. 25 (HW).

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Central Southern Region

GREG D. JACKSON

The shop doors opened August 1 to a crowd of eager patrons. It wasn't a superstore; still, the selection was impressive. Shelves were bulging with waterfowl, inland shorebirds, and larids, with a glut of hummingbirds from which to choose. Other categories were more typical, though a moderate western theme was evident. Many selections, especially passerines, were obtained late, with extended hours at this emporium. Hidden among the usual items were several stellar finds, with lots of smiles at the checkout counter.

The weather picture this autumn was punctuated by two hurricanes. *Erin* arrived in early August and *Opal* in early October. Though neither resulted in phenomenal bird records, powerful, rapidly moving *Opal* left a few interesting species in its wake in the Florida Panhandle and eastern Alabama. Birding in coastal Alabama was productive for about two weeks

after this tempest. Rainfall in much of the Region was normal, except where the hurricanes deluged local areas. August was broiling, September and October showed normal temperatures, and November was chillier than usual. Best frontal passages for birding were September 21–23 and October 14 (excellent) and 28.

With sadness we note the passing of a man whose words graced these pages for many years. Alabama's dean of birding for decades, Dr. Thomas A. Imhof, departed in early July. His influence on Alabama and the Region was immeasurable; he will be missed by the multitudes he touched along the way.

Acceptable documentation of rarities must be received for inclusion. This rule applies to everyone, regardless of experience.

Abbreviations: b. (*banded*); C.P. (*Cameron Parish, s.w. LA*); I.C.P. (*Inland Coastal Plain Region, AL*); M.L. (*Millwood Lake, s.w. AR*); N.N.W.R. (*Noxubee N.W.R., e.c. MS*); O.U. (*Oakwood Unit, Overflow N.W.R., Desha Co., s.e. AR*); p.a. (*pending acceptance by the state bird records committee*); T.E.C. (*The Earth Complex, a.k.a. Ensley Bottoms, Shelby Co., s.w. TN*); * (*specimen to Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science, Baton Rouge*).

Loons to Ducks

Over 50 Com. Loons Nov. 11 in Henry (AMB) set a new I.C.P. maximum. Good numbers of Pied-billed Grebes appeared by early September. Locally early was a

