

# New Mexico

## SARTOR O. WILLIAMS III

New Mexico experienced a warm and dry autumn, with mid-September's hurricane *Ismael* providing only a brief interruption. Several rare waterbirds made news, particularly certain larids, while jays and other montane species staged lowland incursions. Three species new to the state were photo documented, but the origin of one or two may be in question.

Abbreviations: B.L.N.W.R. (*Bitter Lake N.W.R.*); Bosque N.W.R. (*Bosque del Apache N.W.R.*); L.V.N.W.R. (*Las Vegas N.W.R.*); R.G.V. (*Rio Grande Valley*); Zuni (*Zuni Indian Reservation*).

## Loons to Waterfowl

A Red-throated Loon stopped at Heron L., Oct. 13–14 (JEP, JO, CR, PRS), where there were two Pacifics Nov. 3 (JEP, JO); undetailed was a Pacific at L. Avalon Oct. 23 (TH, *vide* SW). A Yellow-billed Loon at Stubblefield L., Nov. 11 (JEP) provided the state's 4th report in 5 years and was the earliest yet. Small numbers of Horned Grebes were at 8 lakes from Heron and Caballo eastward, including early singles at Stubblefield L. (JEP) and Springer L., Sept. 28 (JEP, JO); westerly were singles at Farmington Oct. 16–23 (ph. TR) and Zuni Oct. 7 (JAT). A fair season for Am. Bitterns found one–two at Morgan L., Aug. 26 (TR), B.L.N.W.R., Oct. 13 (*vide* SN), L. Avalon Oct. 29 and Nov. 12 (TH, *vide* SW), and Jal L., Nov. 11 (ph. JO). One–two "calico" Little Blue Herons were at Palomas Aug. 26 and Sept. 2 (JEP, JO).



Immature Tricolored Heron at Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge, New Mexico, August 12, 1995. Singles appeared at four sites in the southern part of the state this season. Photograph/Jerry R. Oldenettel.



Three single Oldsquaws visited New Mexico sites during November. This one was at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge November 12, 1995. Photograph/Karen E. Copeland-Williams.

Tricolored Herons made a good showing, with singles Aug. 12–Sept. 9 at Palomas (JEP, JO), Holloman L. (CS, JEP, ph. JO), B.L.N.W.R. (JEP, BN, DE, ph. JO), and Brantley L. (JEP, JO). A newly-discovered Cattle Egret colony near La Union had 75 nests with large young Aug. 19 (BZ). White-faced Ibises were widespread and numerous in all quadrants Aug. 5–Nov. 18 (v.o.), including 400 at Lemitar Sept. 11 (T. Hibbitts), 200 near Bosque N.W.R., Sept. 10 (EL), and 165 at Holloman L., Sept. 21 (GE). The two Mute Swans still loitering about Caballo L. (v.o.) almost certainly originated from a local waterfowl "farm." Notable were 20 Wood Ducks at Santa Rosa sewage ponds Oct. 29 (JO); others away from usual haunts were one–three at Zuni (DC), Tyrone (EL), Texico (JO), and Portales (JO) Oct. 7–29. A brood of six Redhead ducklings was at Red L., McKinley, Aug. 19 (CR). One–three Greater Scaup were at Farmington Nov. 2–26 (ph. TR) and four at Crownpoint Nov. 5 (JO). Single Oldsquaws included a female at Bosque N.W.R., Nov. 12–17 (ph. K. Copeland-Williams; CR, GE), and males at San Jon Nov. 19 (ph. JO), and Brantley L., Nov. 11 (JO). Both Surf Scoters and White-winged Scoters made good showings, including a Surf at Farmington L., Nov. 8 (TR) and two White-wingeds there Nov. 3–4 (ph. TR). Other Surfs included singles at Navajo Dam Nov. 24 (ph. TR) and Clayton L., Nov. 22 & 25 (JO, CR, BN, DE) and an undetailed one at B.L.N.W.R., Nov. 17 (*vide* SN); other White-wingeds were singles at Maxwell N.W.R., Nov. 30 (JO) and Bluewater L., Nov. 5–6 (ph. JO; CR, PRS). A probable ♀ Barrow's Goldeneye was with five Commons at Heron L., Nov. 12 (JT).

## Raptors to Shorebirds

Osprey numbers continued to demonstrate this species' strong recovery, with

one–five at 22 sites statewide Aug. 18–Nov. 11 (v.o.), including one with a goldfish at Clovis Oct. 4 (W. Robertson); a record 53 passed the Manzano Mts. lookout Aug. 29–Oct. 16 (HWI). Single White-tailed Kites were near Rodeo Aug. 15 (D. Trently) and on Otero Mesa Nov. 28 (R. Meyer). An early Bald Eagle passed the Manzano lookout Oct. 19 (HWI). Harris' Hawks in the R.G.V. included two at Palomas Aug. 27 and Sept. 1 (BN, DE), and two at Radium Springs and one near Las Cruces Oct. 27–Nov. 4 (*vide* CS). Two Broad-winged Hawks, including a dark morph, were at L.V.N.W.R., Sept. 23 (CR); seven were counted at the Manzano lookout Sept. 10–Oct. 8 (HWI). A record 42 Merlins passed the Manzano lookout Sept. 6–Oct. 31 (HWI); elsewhere one–two were at 21 locales statewide (v.o.). A Blue Grouse was in sagebrush habitat near Stinking L., Oct. 14 (JEP, ph. JO); such occurrences may explain some "Sage Grouse" reports over the years. Montezuma Quail were considered "more visible" than usual at Timberon (ME). Sandhill Cranes were at Zuni in early October (JAT), where rarely recorded. A possible American Golden-Plover was at Stubblefield L., Oct. 1 (JT, MM). Late was a Snowy Plover at Holloman L., Nov. 27 (GE). Some 364 Mt. Plovers were counted at 4 sites in Union, Colfax, Torrance, and Valencia Aug. 21–24 (LSA). Above-average numbers of Solitary Sandpipers passed through the state August–September, with reports from at least 13 counties (v.o.). A Willet was at Abiquiu L., Aug. 5 (C. Cooper); *maxima* elsewhere were six at Holloman L., Aug. 9 (BZ, JNP) and seven at Brantley L., Aug. 26 (JO, JEP). High count for Upland Sandpipers was only 20 near Loving Aug. 26 (JEP, JO); one was west at Palomas Sept. 2 (JEP, JO). The only Red Knot was one that died at E.B.L., Sept. 10 (JEP, JO); \* to University of New Mexico). One–four Sanderlings were reported from 9 sites in as many counties (v.o.), including with photos at Morgan L., Nov. 5 (JO), Caballo L., Sept. 2 (JO), and Santa Teresa Sept. 12 (BZ). Five–ten Semipalmated Sandpipers were at B.L.N.W.R., Aug. 5–12 (v.o.); another was at Holloman L., Aug. 26 (BZ) and Sept. 9 (JO). Other sandpipers making strong showings were Pectorals in 6 counties, including 10 at Santa Teresa Sept. 17 (JNP) and a late one at L. Avalon Nov. 25 (JO); Stilts were in 7 counties, including 24 at B.L.N.W.R., Aug. 12 (SN), 14 w. to Farmington Sept. 9 (TR), and two at Bluewater L., Aug. 5 (DC). Single Short-billed Dowitchers were well-studied at Bosque N.W.R., Sept. 10

(JEP, JO) and Oct. 2 (JO) and at Palomas Sept. 10 (BN, DE, JNP). A remarkable autumn for **Red Phalaropes** found singles at Stubblefield L., Sept. 28 (JEP) and Oct. 22–23 (CR, ph. JO), Maxwell Sept. 28 (JEP), Ute L., Oct. 7 (CR), Blackrock L., Oct. 6 (JAT, DC), and Radium Springs Sept. 26 (EW, GE, ph. LSu).

### Jaegers to Goatsuckers

A **Long-tailed Jaeger** at Zuni's Pescado L., Aug. 5 (ph. DC) was a local first. Extremely rare in New Mexico, a first-winter **Laughing Gull** was at Brantley L., Aug. 19–27 (ph. JO; JEP, SW, DE, BN). High count for California Gulls was 75 at Stone L., Oct. 14 (JEP); smaller numbers of Californians were at 13 additional sites from *San Juan* and *Colfax* s. to *Grant* and *Sierra* (v.o.). **Sabine's Gulls** staged a spectacular showing Sept. 9–Oct. 8, with  $\geq 22$  at 12 sites in 9 counties (v.o.; ph. TR, BZ), including five at La Joya Sept. 23 (JEP, JO) and the only adult at Sumner L., Sept. 22 (JEP, JO). Perhaps unprecedented were reports of one–seven generally well-described Com. Terns at 8 sites from the middle R.G.V. eastward Aug. 20–Sept. 30 (v.o.); one–two were northwest at Morgan L., Sept. 29–30 (ph. TR). Two probable **Arctic Terns**, an adult and a juvenile, were at Maxwell N.W.R., Sept. 28 (JEP, JO); there is but one definite state record. **White-winged Doves**, now resident in Roswell, were joined there by at least one **Eurasian Collared-Dove** in September (ph. LM), the latter a New Mexico first. **Inca Doves** were n. to Roswell (LM) and e. to Tatum (PRS, CR) and continued to increase at Carlsbad (SW); Incas where rarely noted included singles at Deming Nov. 11 (BN) and Arrey Aug. 26 (BZ) and two at Tularosa Sept. 29 (CS). In sharp contrast to other doves, the **Common Ground-Dove** has practically disappeared from the state; this season produced but one, near Santa Teresa Sept. 24

(JNP) and Oct. 29 (DE). A small flock of very vocal parrots, presumably **Thick-billeds**, was heard in Clanton Canyon Aug. 12 (RS) but efforts to relocate them were unsuccessful (*vide* RS); there is no definite record of wild **Thick-billeds** in New Mexico. **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were feeding juveniles at Mangas Sept. 20 (RF) and Percha Sept. 17 (JO). A **Barn Owl** was at Zuni in October (JAT), where unusual. Northerly was an **Elf Owl** at Palomas Sept. 10 (JO). Late were single Com. **Nighthawks** at Zuni Oct. 6 (DC) and Mangas Oct. 14 & 19 (RF). An active Com. **Poorwill** was at Brantley L., Nov. 10 (JO). **Whip-poor-wills** are rarely seen in the lowlands, so noteworthy was one at Santa Teresa Sept. 9 (BN, DE).

### Swifts to Swallows

In the Jemez Mts., 4 **Black Swift** nests had young Aug. 20 (CR, MM), where one still in "pin-feathers" was rescued from rock-throwing boys Sept. 4 (K. Ramsey); unusual were two **Blacks** at San Ildefonso Aug. 9, (JO) while very late were five near Fenton L., Oct. 5 (PRS). A ♂ **White-eared Hummingbird** near Tijeras Sept. 5–Oct. 12 (J. Day- Martin, HS) possibly was the one banded there in July. Single **Blue-throateds** were at Mogollon Aug. 5 (JEP) and P.O. Canyon check Oct. 9 (RS). Two **Magnificents** were at Ruidoso in August–September; one left Oct. 18, but the other remained through November (D. Harris). At Las Cruces, the first *Anna's* of the season arrived Nov. 4 (GE). Easterly was a **Calliope** at Rattlesnake Springs Sept. 9 (CR, JO, JEP). **Lewis Woodpeckers** drifted s. in the R.G.V., with one at Las Cruces Nov. 13–14 (CS) and one in the Sunland Park area Nov. 22 (JNP) & 28 (DE) for the first *Doña Ana* reports in many years. A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was w. at Socorro Sept. 25 (PB). An ad. ♂ **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was in *Union* Nov. 23 (JO); **Red-naped**s far east included two in n. *Roosevelt* and five at Boone's Draw Sept. 30 (CR), plus one at Lovington Sept. 15 (CR). **Williamson's Sapsuckers** where rarely seen included singles at Alto, *Lincoln*, Sept. 9 (JEP, JO), and San Andres N.W.R., Sept. 14 (MW). Noteworthy for Zuni was a **Ladderbacked Woodpecker** Oct. 3 (JAT); a **Downy** was far south at Rattlesnake Springs Nov. 11 (JO). A possible **White-headed Woodpecker**, a species unconfirmed in New Mexico, was in the Animas Mts. in mid-August (A. Holycross). A **Least Flycatcher** was w. at Percha Sept. 10 (JO). Late for the north was a **Hammond's Flycatcher** near Mt. Taylor (HS). **Eastern Phoebes** far west included singles

at Santa Fe Nov. 11 (SOW), *Quarai Ruins* Oct. 19 (L. Hawkins), *Leasburg* Sept. 26 (*vide* CS), and near *Las Cruces* Nov. 16 (BZ). **Brown-crested Flycatchers** were again e. to *Sierra*, with two–three along *Las Animas Cr.*, Aug. 11 (JEP). Southeast-erly were single **Purple Martins** near *Carlsbad* Aug. 27 (SW) and *White's City* Sept. 10 (SW). **Nesting Cave Swallows** have increased in *Doña Ana*, with about 40 nests at 2 bridge sites near *La Union* Aug. 19 (BZ).

### Jays to Thrushes

**Blue Jays** invaded the R.G.V., with multiple sightings from Santa Fe and surrounding areas, the Albuquerque area, and Socorro beginning early October (v.o.). By early September, **Scrub Jays** had invaded submontane areas almost statewide, especially the Rio Grande and Pecos valleys and the e. plains; 14 were in desert areas near *Holloman L.*, Sept. 19 (BZ), and a partial albino was at *Farmington* Sept. 10–11 (ph. TR). Movement of *Steller's Jays* was less conspicuous, but six at *Navajo Dam* Oct. 8 (DC), two at *Watrous* Nov. 25 (CR), and one on the prairie at *Encino* Oct. 24 (WH) were noteworthy. Far s. were **Pinyon Jays** at *San Andres N.W.R.*, August–September, including 12 there Aug. 22 (MW). Single **Black-billed Magpies** were s. to *Madrid* Oct. 14 (LSa) and *Dilia* Oct. 13 (CR). Noteworthy were 16 **Am. Crows** e. to *Tucumcari* Nov. 26 (CR). North was a **Chihuahuan Raven** at *Corrales* Oct. 14 (BO); easterly Com. **Ravens** included one near *Clayton* Sept. 16 (CR), one at *Ute L.*, Nov. 7 (EL) and four there Nov. 26 (CR), and one at *Hobbs* Nov. 17 (SW). **Mountain Chickadees** joined in the lowland incursion, including at Zuni in October (JAT), *Rio Rancho* by Oct. 21 (WH), and near the Oklahoma line in *Union* (WC); highs were 10 at *Morgan L.*, Nov. 5 (JO) and five at *Tucumcari* Nov. 26 (CR). An active **Bushtit** nest was at Zuni on the late date of Oct. 2 (JAT). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** staged a heavy flight from the R.G.V. eastward to the Texas line (v.o.), including six at Boone's Draw Sept. 16 (JO) and three at *San Andrew N.W.R.*, Sept. 25–28 (MW); in the southwest, one at *Mangas* Sept. 23 (RF) was the first there in many years. A **Carolina Wren** was singing in s. *DeBaca* Oct. 1 (CR). **Winter Wrens** made a strong showing, with two–three at Zuni Oct. 2–5 (JAT), one at *San Andres N.W.R.*, Oct. 28 (MW), and one at *Rattlesnake Springs* Nov. 25 (ph. JO); unde-tailed were one–two at *Mangas* in late September (RF). Intriguing were 13 **Marsh Wrens** at *Sunshine Valley* near



**Common Tern at Elephant Butte Lake, New Mexico, September 24, 1995.**  
Photograph/Jerry R. Oldenettel.

Questa Aug. 25, including a "juvenile with gape" (CR); early were two at Tucumcari Aug. 4 (JO). An Am. Dipper at San Andres N.W.R., Oct. 27-28 (MW) provided only the 2nd local record. Golden-crowned Kinglets were on the e. plains after early October, including at Stubblefield L. (ph. JO), Conchas L, Tucumcari, n. *Roosevelt*, and Boone's Draw (v.o.). Far e. were three ♂ W. Bluebirds in the Dry Cimarron Valley Nov. 23 (JO); notable were 17 Westerns at 3 San Andres Mts. sites Oct. 25-28 (MW). A possible Wood Thrush was at White Sands N.M., Oct. 26 (*fide* CS).

### Thrashers to Warblers

Sage Thrashers lingered n. in numbers, including 12 at Zuni Nov. 18 (ph. DC). Single Brown Thrashers wandered w. to Zuni Sept. 25-27 (ph. DC), San Antonio in late October (ME), and *Doña Ana* Oct. 14 (JNP). The mimid of the season was New Mexico's first **Blue Mockingbird** at Las Cruces Aug. 7-8 (ph. S. Hill; EW, CS); excellent videotape footage left no doubt as to identity, but origin will be a records committee dilemma. A possible Sprague's Pipit was heard at L.V.N.W.R., Oct. 9 (WH); three at the Santa Teresa turf farm Oct. 21 (DE, BN) provided the only additional report. Two Cedar Waxwings at San Juan Pueblo Aug. 31 (SOW) probably summered locally; early Cedars elsewhere included three at Zuni Sept. 11 (DC), one-three at Percha Sept. 9 (JO), and one at San Andres N.W.R., Aug. 31-Sept.1 (WH, MW). Notably early was a N. Shrike at Farmington Oct 23 (TR), with the same or another present there Nov. 15-24 (ph. TR); other Northerns were one-two at Aztec (TR, BN, DE), Bluewater L. (JO), Raton and nearby L. Maloya (JEP, JO), and *Union* (JO) Nov. 5-24. A **White-eyed Vireo** put in an appearance at Percha Nov. 12 (BN, DE). Single ♂ Gray Vireos were still singing at 6 San Andres N.W.R. sites Aug. 22-31 (MW). Among several Solitary Vireos identified to race were single probable "easterns" in *Quay* Nov. 7 (EL), at Portales Oct. 29 (JO), and Boone's Draw Sept. 16 (JEP, JO). A Hutton's Vireo was e. to Percha Oct. 4 (*fide* CS) and Nov. 13-14 (CR, GE); one at Spring Creek S.P., Nov. 11 (BN, DE) was noteworthy for the Florida Mts. A possible **Philadelphia Vireo** was in *San Juan* Oct. 7 (TR); very late was a Red-eyed at Santa Teresa Nov. 1 (BZ). Rare in the lower R.G.V., a Lucy's Warbler was at Sunland Park Aug. 12 (JNP). It was an exciting season for stray eastern warblers, including single Chestnut-sideds at Moriarty Sept. 29 (JEP), Albuquerque Oct.



**Louisiana Waterthrush at Washington Ranch, Eddy County, New Mexico, n September 3, 1995. The large bill, broad white supercilium, and unmarked throat are all visible in this portrait. Photograph/Jerry R. Oldenettel.**

10-11 (BO), Bosque N.W.R., Sept. 24 (BN, DE), and Durling's Farm Nov. 4-5 (DE); single Magnolias at Santa Fe Oct. 14 (BF, J. Lenhard, M. Pitko) and Boone's Draw Sept. 23 (JEP, JO); single Black-throated Blues at Boone's Draw Sept. 23 (JEP, JO) and Percha Oct. 4 (EW, LSu); a Hermit east at Percha Sept. 10 (JNP, DE, BN); single Black-throated Greens in n. *Roosevelt* Oct. 29 (ph. JO), Boone's Draw Oct. 29 (JO), and B.L.N.W.R., Oct. 1 (CR, BE, BN); a Blackpoll at Zuni Oct. 4 (JAT); and single Prothonotaries at Corrales Sept. 14 (T. Bulow) and Percha Aug. 31 (EW, LSu). Stealing the limelight was a **Prairie Warbler** at the n. *Roosevelt* migrant trap Oct. 29 (ph. JO), the first definite record for New Mexico. A close 2nd for

warbler glory was a **Louisiana Waterthrush** at Washington Ranch Sept. 3 (ph. JO). Other warblers of note were single Black-and-whites at Corrales (CR), n. *Roosevelt* (CR), Mangas (RF), Dripping Springs (*fide* CS), and Washington Ranch (JEP, JO) Sept. 4-26, plus a late one in n. *Roosevelt* Oct. 29 (JO), and single Ovenbirds at Santa Fe in mid-October (M. Cooke), Albuquerque Sept. 12 (D. Leal), Hillsboro Sept. 9 (C. Dillingham), Durling's Farm Sept. 24 (JNP, DE, BN), and s. *DeBaca*, Oct. 1 (CR).

### Tanagers to Finches

A Scarlet Tanager was in n. *Roosevelt* Oct. 7 (JEP, ph. JO). Blue Grosbeaks were feeding fledged young at 6600 ft near Los Alamos Sept. 13 (PRS). A Lazuli Bunting at San Andres N.W.R., Aug. 31 (WH, *fide* MW) furnished a local first; Painteds were w. to Mangas Sept. 14 (RF), Socorro Sept. 10 (PB), and La Mesa Aug. 1 (GE). Small numbers of Dickcissels were at 12 sites from the R.G.V. eastward Aug. 21-Oct. 8 (v.o.); westerly were one at Tyrone Sept. 27 (EL) and two at Deming Sept. 16 (BN, DE). At least one juv. **Botteri's Sparrow** was in the Animas Valley Aug. 1 (SOW), where 14 of 15 territories visited still had resident adults (ph. SOW). American Tree Sparrows w. to *Rio Arriba* included an early one at Stone L., Nov. 4 (JEP, JO) and 19 at Los Ojos Nov. 24 (CR). Early Field Sparrows were one-two at Boone's Draw Oct. 21 (JEP, ph. JO) and Oasis S.P., Oct. 28 (JO). Late was a Lark Spar-



**Representing a recently-discovered breeding colony was this adult Botteri's Sparrow in the Animas Valley, New Mexico, August 1, 1995. Photograph/S. O. Williams III.**



**Golden-crowned Sparrow at Silver City, New Mexico, October 23, 1995. Surprisingly, five individuals were found in the state during the season. Photograph/Dale and Marian Zimmerman.**

row at Columbus Nov. 11 (BN), as was a Sage near Farmington Nov. 26 (TR); a Sage was e. to w. *Harding* Oct. 14 (HS). The only *Baird's Sparrow* was near Holloman L., Sept. 27 (C. Black). Rusty Fox Sparrows, apparently of the *zaborialiliaca* group, were singles at Bosque N.W.R., Nov. 26–27 (ph. JO; BN, DE), near Texico and Melrose Oct. 28–29 (JEP, JO), and at Rattlesnake Springs Nov. 11 (JO). Golden-crowned Sparrows, always a treat, included singles at Santa Fe Nov. 4 (BF), Bill Evans L., Nov. 11 (EL), and Silver City Oct. 22–Nov. 7 (ph. D&M Zimmerman), plus two at Three Gun Spring near Albuquerque Nov. 25–27 (WH, BN, DE). Single Harris' Sparrows were at Clayton (WC), Zuni Nov. 12 (ph. DC), Albuquerque Nov. 14 (ph. JO), and Lea Nov. 17 (SW). Early and far south was a Lapland Longspur at Santa Teresa Oct. 3–4 (DE, BN). A remarkable 16 *Rusty Blackbirds* at B.L.N.W., Nov. 26 (JO) provided the only report. Late Com. Grackles included 60 at Albuquerque through Nov. 10 (HS), and one at B.L.N.W.R., Nov. 26 (JO). Very late were single N. Orioles at Folsom Nov. 23 (ph. JO) and Las Cruces Nov. 27 (GE). Pine Grosbeaks were rarely reported were three in the Rito de la Presa area, *Mora*, Sept. 12 (G. Schmitt) and one at 7200 ft in Rinconada Canyon at the base of Mt. Taylor Nov. 11 (HS). Cassin's Finches were decidedly scarce in their usual haunts, but notable were several at Mt. Taylor Nov. 11 (HS). Red Crossbills were similarly scarce except in the Sacra-

mento Mts. (PES, GE; C. Benkman, *vide* CS), where cones were plentiful. Pine Siskins reportedly suffered a disease outbreak in the Los Alamos area (PRS); one was early at Rio Rancho Aug. 9 (WH). Very late were ad. Lesser Goldfinches feeding two begging fledglings at L.V.N.W.R., Oct. 9 (WH). Two early Am. Goldfinches were at Aztec Aug. 20 (TR) and one at San Andres N.W.R., Sept. 1 (WH, MW), as were two Evening Grosbeaks at Socorro Sept. 8 (PB).

**Initialed observers:** Pat Basham, David Cleary, Wes Cook, Marilyn Ellison, Doug Emkalns, Gordon Ewing, Ralph Fisher, Bernard Foy, HawkWatch International, Tommy Hines, William Howe, Eugene Lewis, Lee Marlatt, Martin MacRoberts, Sonia Najera, Bruce Neville, Jerry Oldenettle, Bruce Ostyn, John E. Parmeter, James N. Paton, Tim Reeves, Christopher Rustay, Lawry Sager, Catherine Sandell, Robert Scholes, Lorraine Schulte, Hart Schwarz, Patricia R. Snider, Paul E. Steel, Joyce Takamine, John A. Trochet, Mara Weisenberger, Steve West, S. O. Williams, Eleanor Wootten, Barry Zimmer.

—*Sartor O. Williams III, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504.*

# Alaska Region

**T. G. TOBISH, JR.**

Except for the relentless deposition of widespread heavy snow after November, Autumn 1995 was a copy of 1994. Mild conditions transposed the heavy snow cycles of last year to a series of weekly rain systems, as remnant extensions of an active North Pacific typhoon season. August through October was consistently warm and — between storms — mostly clear, which no doubt assisted migration. A fairly strong, early cold Arctic high pressure system crept over the Region in mid-November, ending what was characterized as an early departure fall out-migration. November was the driest, or nearly so, for the entire upper half of the Region! Most notable of this season's storms was typhoon *Oscar*, September 18–22, a moisture-rich tropical system that slowly tracked across the North Pacific, soaking a broad front that extended into the southern Bering Sea in inches of rain. The southern Kenai Peninsula was flooded in its wake. The Seward area received over 14 inches of rain in a 24-hour period and the Kenai River watershed flooded massively.

Departures for most long-distance migrants were earlier than average and, even with better-than-average coverage, few concentrations were noted from the two main out-migration sections, the central-eastern Interior and down the Pacific

