

were noted at Bowdoin N.W.R., MT May 23 (SJD). Cape May Warblers were widely reported in North Dakota with a peak of 14 in Pembina May 25 (NDBS). Another unusual warbler in w. South Dakota was a Black-throated Blue in Butte May 21 (PFS). Yellow-rumped Warbler numbers were noted as unusually low at Ft. Peck, Minot, and Grand Forks, but the species remained to the end of the period at several locations. North Dakota's 2nd nesting record for "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warbler was provided by a completed nest in Pembina May 25 (NDBS). A Blackburnian Warbler May 24 at Medicine L., MT, furnished about the 8th state record (DZ). A Pine Warbler was at Fargo May 24, providing the 20th North Dakota record (CDE, HCT). A Worm-eating Warbler was documented in Lake, SD May 23 (JSP), and photos of a Mourning Warbler seen May 23 were received from Bowdoin N.W.R., MT (SJD). The Hooded Warbler at Fargo May 15 furnished the 16th record for North Dakota (L.S).

Tanagers to Goldfinches

A W. Tanager and a Summer Tanager were in the same Grand Forks, ND cemetery May 18 (EEF, BR). In South Dakota, a Summer Tanager was reported in Meade Apr. 25-27 (NBH). Following last years lead, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were again unusually numerous at feeders in w. North Dakota and at Ft. Peck, MT (CC). Eastern Towhees were at Minot May 12 (REM), and at C. Salyer N.W.R., May 19 (GGB) & 22 (GAE). Spotted Towhees were in Grand Forks May 16 & 18 (DOL, BR).

The peak of 400 Am. Tree Sparrows in Grand Forks, ND April 28 was about one month late (EEF). Baird's Sparrows were again noted as unusually common in the w. portions of North Dakota and in Montana. Le Conte's Sparrow numbers remained very high in North Dakota for the 3rd consecutive year. Numerous May reports of Dark-eyed Juncos were received from the Dakotas, with the latest May 28 in Hughes, SD (EDS).

The 4th state record for **Great-tailed Grackle** was furnished May 16 in Clay, SD (DS). White-winged Crossbills were nest building in Fargo, ND May 5. A good spring peak of 2000 Com. Redpolls was in McLean, ND Apr. 16 (REM, GGB), and the species remained to May 7 in North-Dakota, and to May 10 in Meade, SD (NBH). Of the 5 April reports of Hoary Redpoll in North Dakota, the one in Mandan Apr. 15 tied the 2nd-latest date for that state (HCT). Several observers in Montana and North Dakota commented on how numerous Am. Goldfinches were

this spring. A Lesser Goldfinch was reported May 23 in Glasgow, MT, and another, probably the same bird, was reported from 5 mi w. of Glasgow May 26. Photos were eventually obtained, documenting the first state record for Montana (CC).

Cited observers (area editors in boldface):
MONTANA: Charles Carlson, Stephen J. Dinsmore, Layne Krumwiede, Harriet Marble, Dan and Karen Sullivan, Derrick Zwickl. **NORTH DAKOTA:** Kristine Aske-rooth, Gordon B. Berkey, Lee Blaschke, Corey D. Ellingson, Gary A. Eslinger, Eve E. Freeberg, John A. Heiser, David O. Lambeth, Ron E. Martin, Mel Nenneman, Gary E. Nielsen, Connie M. Norheim, North Dakota Birding Society, Kim Risen, Barb Roberson, Linda Schoener, Carol A. Spurbeck, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. **SOUTH DAKOTA:** Doug Backlund, Kurt Dean, Vic and Donna Fondy, Bruce K. Harris, LaCreek NWR Staff, James D. McLaird, Ron Mabie, David Naugle, Northern Black Hills Bird Club, Jeffrey S. Palmer, Paul F. Springer, Jerry C. Stanford, Eileen Dowd Strukel, David Swanson, Dan A. Tallman, Nathaniel R. Whitney.

—Ron E. Martin, Rt. 1, Box 59-A, Sawyer, ND 58781.

Southern Great Plains Region

JOSEPH A. GRZYBOWSKI

Ahhh! Fall birding—the time of the highest numbers of birds, the greatest number of inexperienced immature birds, greatest likelihoods of navigational errors, the best probabilities for the exceptional, and front after front to help crisp the air after the stale, dry summer lull. Such it was this year, though not every year.

Birds are expected to move with fronts, and they did. The annual end-of-October parade proved to be a spectacle again this year, providing a major incursion of waterfowl and several exceptional species. But other significant cold fronts preceded it to the end of September, and also followed.

Loons, grebes, scoters, gulls, and hummingbirds provided a significant portion of the remarkable records. Gulls are now expected to do so, but the numbers of exceptional species outdid even expectations, particularly Sabine's Gulls at the end of September and Black-legged Kittiwakes at the end of November. Pacific Loons were a rage a few years ago; this season, we received more than our fair share of Red-



throated Loons. Western Grebes blew expectations of even exponential growth; while this author has listed many of the records in previous seasonal reports, there were 100 this year from areas away from western Nebraska; and the staging at McConaughy was probably unprecedented.

While the above provided some excitement, sparks also came from some Rocky Mountain birds wandering out onto the plains. These were more mini-invasions, but included Mountain Chickadees, Steller's Jays, Cassin's Finches, and Red Crossbills. Missing in more than just recent years has been a good outbreak of Pine Siskins or even goldfinches, and Purple Finch reports have sadly been sagging as well.

With each report from regional compilers comes concerns for documentation. These have been stated previously in this column. What seems to be emerging are those who are helpful and inclined towards the goals of bird records committees in providing central repositories of information and legitimizing the reliability of sight records, and those birders which form more social groups with varying levels of sophistication. While I am a chairman of one bird records committee, and would prefer to see more cooperation and acceptance in gathering documentation, I am uncertain how to encourage this. I know that such committees need to work hard to develop and maintain their legitimacy. I know that personalities can play roles which are not easily overcome. I know that some birders are pure hobbyists, and documentation is not part of their fun or interest. I believe that honesty and communication are more successful than indirect approaches, which may have only short-term success. *Field Notes* is at the crossroads of these interests. I have voiced some of my concerns in the past—I would also like to hear alternative sentiments, concerns, and potential reconciliations for the purpose of long-term reliability of contributions.

Abbreviations: Cheyenne Bottoms (*Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Barton Co., KS*); Crescent Lake (*Crescent Lake N.W.R., Garden Co., NE*); Fontenelle Forest (*Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., NE*); K.B.R.C. (*Kansas Bird Records Committee*); McConaughy (*L. McConaughy, Keith Co., NE*); N.O.U.R.C. (*Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee*); North Platte (*North Platte N.W.R., Scotts Bluff Co., NE*); O.B.R.C. (*Oklahoma Bird Records Committee*); Quivira (*Quivira N.W.R., Stafford Co., KS*).

Loons to Waterfowl

Red-throated Loons merited attention from reporters, and not simply the high-

lights. Sightings included singles at 3 locations in *Lancaster, NE* Oct. 30–Nov. 3 (JS, m.ob.), Oct. 31–Nov. 3 (JGJ, WRS), and Nov. 3 (WRS), with others in *Sarpy, NE* Nov. 12 (WRS), in *Sedgwick, KS* Nov. 16–29 (PJ), *Miami, KS* Nov. 18 (LM), and *Pawnee, OK* Nov. 18 (JWA); an undocumented observation was reported for *Gosper, NE* Nov. 3. Pacific Loons were noted in *Russell, KS* Nov. 3 (MR), in *Lancaster, NE* Nov. 17 (JGJ, GJ), in *Sedgwick, KS* Nov. 17–23 (PJ), *Douglas, NE* Nov. 17–24 (JGJ *et al.*), and in *Osage, KS* Nov. 18 (LM). Several Com. Loons summered at *Keith, NE* Aug. 3–11 (SJD, m.ob.), with others at Dawes, NE through Aug. 16 (RCR, DJR) and *Tulsa* through Sept. 19 (m.ob.). A **Yellow-billed Loon** studied Nov. 17–22 in *Lancaster, NE* (JGJ *et al.*) provided the first record for Nebraska; another documented in *Sedgwick, KS* Nov. 23 (PJ) will only furnish the 2nd Kansas record, if accepted.

Red-necked Grebes also made an outburst, relatively speaking, with reports Sept. 26–27 in *Lincoln* (SJD *et al.*), Oct. 20 in *Renol/Kingman, KS* (two; PJ), Nov. 17 at Lake, KS (LM) and *Douglas, KS* (DK), and Nov. 24 in *Russell, KS* (three; MR). Undocumented reports occurred for McConaughy Oct. 13, and *Sherman, NE* Nov. 17. Western Grebe reports keep increasing in the Region. Perhaps unprecedented, 7000 were noted at McConaughy Sept. 28 (SJD *et al.*), with another 780 at North Platte Oct. 11 (LKM). A tally of 36 were noted in e. Nebraska (*vide* JGJ, WRS), ≥ 56 from Kansas (*vide* LM), and ten from Oklahoma. Two ad. W. Grebes, each with a chick on its back, were observed Sept. 12 in *Kearney, KS*, providing only the 2nd known breeding locality for Kansas (*vide* LM). Among the Westerns were a sprinkling of Clark's Grebes, with 13–20 noted at McConaughy through Sept. 28 (SJD *et al.*), three in *Lincoln, NE* Sept. 26–28 (SJD), five at Crescent Lake Aug. 2 (JJ), and one in *Sedgwick, KS* Nov. 16–17 (PJ). Possible hybrids with dark lores and "bright orange bills" were observed Sept. 27 at McConaughy (SJD).

Four Am. White Pelicans Nov. 30 in *Lincoln, NE*, may attempt wintering (RCR, DJR). The only Anhingas reported were five in *Bryan, OK* Aug. 26–Sept. 5 (JW). Neotropical Cormorants were noted in *Marshall, OK* July 16–Aug. 21 (two; JW), in *Douglas, KS* July 28–Aug. 10 (SA, EP), at Quivira Aug. 10 (two; MRo), in *Comanche, OK* Aug. 25 (two; K&SM), and in *Mitchell, KS* Sept. 10 (MRo).

American Bitterns were observed as late as Nov. 13 at Crescent Lake (MF); only three others were reported for Nebraska.



A first for Nebraska was this Yellow-billed Loon (in first-winter plumage) in Lancaster County on November 21, 1996. Photograph/Joel G. Jorgensen.

Up to 56 Am. Egrets CHECK were recorded in Nebraska's Rainwater Basin (s.c. and s.c. Nebraska) Aug. 11–Sept. 2 (JGJ), with 12 at McConaughy Sept. 7 (RCR). Among vagrant herons, a Little Blue Heron wandered N to *Otoe, NE* Aug. 5 (LF, CF), with two in the Rainwater Basin Aug. 4–18 (WRS, LR, RH). An imm. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was seen at Crescent Lake (a w. location) Aug. 30 (LKM). Of the Tricolored Herons present at Quivira since May, one was still there Sept. 13 (m.ob.). An estimated 2000 White-faced Ibises were counted at Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira Sept. 1 (BF).

Trumpeter Swan numbers continue to increase, with ≤ 10 birds noted at *Keith, NE* (RCR, DJR), one of 4 Nebraska localities. A tally of only 11 Ross' Geese were reported from Nebraska (*vide* JGJ, WRS).

A Black-bellied Whistling Duck Aug. 10 at Quivira provided the 4th accepted record for Kansas; another was documented in *Marshall, OK* Aug. 21 (JW). Although rare, reports of Am. Black Ducks have clearly declined in recent years. The only one reported was in *Sarpy, NE* Nov. 28 (BP, LP). A token Mottled Duck was identified Aug. 10 at Quivira (MRo). Among high counts for waterfowl were 54,687 Mallards at North Platte Nov. 30 (LK).

Unusual as summer vagrants were a Canvasback at Crescent Lake Aug. 13 (LKM) and a Ring-necked Duck in *Sheridan, NE* Aug. 17 (RCR, DJR). Appearing (reported) more frequently in recent years is Greater Scaup; unusual this season were the only 2 reports for Nebraska, and 2 for Kansas, and one report of two birds in Oklahoma (in *Pawnee, OK*, on an early date of Oct. 25; JWA). An ad. ♂ **Tufted Duck**, quite a surprise in Sedgwick, KS Oct. 27 (JN), is undergoing review by the K.B.R.C. An Oldsquaw appeared in *Lancaster, NE* Oct. 31 (JGJ), with four others reported for later dates in Nebraska (*vide* JGJ, WRS), and two in Kansas (*vide* LM).

This was a good fall for scorers. The

rarest, Black Scoter, was documented at North Platte Oct. 28 (WRS), with others in *Douglas*, KS Nov. 10 (MM), *Johnson*, KS Nov. 13 (ML) and *Pawnee*, OK Nov. 18 (JWA). Three Surf Scoters were located at 2 locations in *Lancaster*, NE Oct. 31 (JGJ), with three in *Sedgwick*, KS Nov. 16 (PJ), and one in *Miami*, KS Nov. 22 (AS). White-winged Scoters were noted at *Sedgwick*, KS Nov. 2 (PJ, JN), *Lancaster*, NE Nov. 17 (JS), and *Douglas*, KS Nov. 22–23 (LA). The tally of Red-breasted Mergansers in Nebraska, from mostly e. reservoirs, was 137 beginning Oct. 27 (*fide* JGJ, WRS); an even earlier bird was documented in *Pawnee*, OK Oct. 25 (JWA).

Raptors to Rails

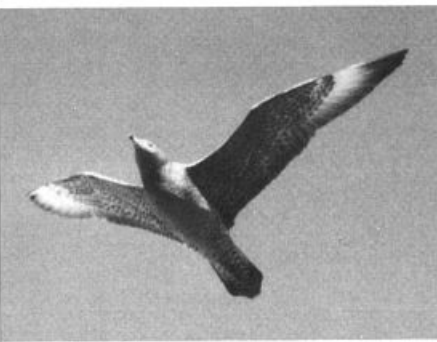
The Mississippi Kites at *Keith*, NE, included eight adults, one pair of which had downy young present in a nest Aug. 11 (SJD, BP, LP). Sharp-shinned Hawks in *Sioux*, NE Aug. 2 (SJD) and *Scotts Bluff*, NE Aug. 4 (AK) suggested nesting. A Broad-winged Hawk at *McConaughy* Sept. 27 (SJD *et al.*) was the first reported for this w. locale.

The Merlin tally for the Region was 14 from Nebraska (*fide* JGJ, WRS) and four from Oklahoma. Nine Peregrine Falcons were reported from Nebraska (*fide* JGJ, WRS) and two from Oklahoma. With the strong cold front in late October, several groups of ≤ 33 Sandhill Cranes were noted in *Lancaster*, NE Oct. 31 (LP, BP, JGJ); 50,000 were estimated Nov. 2 at *Quivira* (MR). At least 40 Whooping Cranes were tallied from *Cheyenne Bottoms* and *Quivira*; an immature had wandered E to *Douglas/Shawnee*, KS Oct. 31–Nov. 1 (DM).

Plovers to Terns

Three Piping Plovers were noted at *McConaughy* Aug. 3; others were at *Platte*, NE Aug. 25 (MB) and *Lancaster*, NE Sept. 9 (LE)—fewer than the norm. A Snowy Plover lingered to the end of the period in *Oklahoma* (NK, m.ob). Marking a peak period for migration were 350 Killdeer in *Cleveland*, OK Nov. 9 (NK). American Avocets lingered to Oct. 31 in *Platte*, NE (JGJ), and Nov. 1 in *Burt*, NE (JGJ). Lesser Yellowlegs lingered to Nov. 10 at *Scotts Bluff*, NE (LKM); W. Sandpipers to exceptional dates of Oct. 28 (one bird) at *Clay*, NE (WRS) and Oct. 29 (eight) at *Crescent Lake* (LKM). Also tardy was a Pectoral Sandpiper at *Richardson*, NE Nov. 20 (LF, CF).

Seventeen Willets observed in *Cherokee*, OK Aug. 17 (JM, JI) represented an unusual number for the Region. Among few fall reports for Ruddy Turnstones were singles at *Quivira* Aug. 11 (MR), *Cherokee*, OK Aug. 17 (JM, JI), and *Cass*, NE Sept. 8



Juvenile Pomarine Jaeger [one of two individuals discovered in late November] in Tulsa County, Oklahoma, on December 2, 1996. Photograph/Steve Metz.

(BP, LP). Red Knots, expected but rare, appeared at *Quivira* Aug. 11 (MR), in *Rogers*, OK Sept. 9–22 (one–three; JWA), and *Cass*, NE Sept. 23 (WRS, m.ob.). Dunlin were more frequently reported, with 6 reports of four–ten birds Oct. 17–Nov. 1 in Nebraska (*fide* JGJ, WRS). Short-billed Dowitchers were reported in *Kingfisher*, OK Aug. 3 (JWA), with a collection of immatures observed in Nebraska Aug. 24–Sept. 10 (*fide* JGJ, WRS). One and two Com. Snipe in *Tulsa* Aug. 21 and 23, respectively (JWA), were early. The high count for Buff-breasted Sandpipers was >200 Sept. 17 in *Wagoner*, OK (J&MN, DG). A spectacle was about 1600 Wilson's Phalaropes at *Crescent Lake* Aug. 13; six lingered to Oct. 9 (LKM). Forty-five Red-necked Phalaropes were present in *Sheridan*, NE Sept. 21 (RCR), with 16 at *Crescent Lake* Sept. 26 (LKM), two–four at *Quivira* Aug. 31–Sept.

13 (BF, LM), and singles in *Rogers*, OK Sept. 9 (JWA), *Cass*, NE Sept. 20 (BP, LP, RB) and *McConaughy* Sept. 28 (SJD *et al.*). Much rarer, Red Phalaropes were noted in *Osage*, KS Oct. 13–14 (BF) and *Miami*, KS Oct. 18 (AS).

Two Pomarine Jaegers thrilled observers with their antics in *Tulsa* Nov. 29–30 (JWA, m.ob.). One Nov. 17 in *Butler*, KS, was identified as a Parasitic (TH), and is under review by the K.B.R.C.

Dedicated to gulls: A 2nd-winter Laughing Gull wandered far afield to *Lincoln*, NE Oct. 28 (WRS); two were noted in *Cherokee*, OK Aug. 17 (JM, JI), one–three in *Rogers*, OK Sept. 6–12 (JWA), and singles in *Mitchell*, KS Sept. 10 (MRo) and *Sedgwick*, KS Nov. 10 (PJ, JN). Reminiscent of earlier times, and encouraging amid bleaker news in recent times, >85,000 Franklin's Gulls were estimated in *Lincoln*, NE Sept. 28 (SJD *et al.*); groups of 20,000–35,000 were also noted at other localities.

Early was a Bonaparte's Gull in *Lincoln*, NE Oct. 5 (RCR, DJR). Providing only the 2nd state record was a juv. Little Gull at *Lancaster*, NE Oct. 3–5 (JGJ, m.ob.). Adult Little Gulls were observed in *Mitchell*, KS Sept. 9 (MRo), and *Rogers*, OK Oct. 13–20 (two; JCH, JM, m.ob.). Common Black-headed Gulls were reported at *Douglas*, KS Oct. 6 (MM), and *Osage*, KS Oct. 13 (MM, GP).

Numbers of California Gulls built to 148 at *McConaughy* Aug. 4–11 (SJD *et al.*); eight were present Oct. 18 (LKM). Away from *McConaughy*, an ad. Califor-



A small influx of Black-legged Kittiwakes reached the southern plains. This first-winter bird was one of two discovered November 29, 1996, at Tuttle Creek Reservoir, Riley County, Kansas. Photograph/Lloyd Moore.

nia Gull was photographed in *Oklahoma* July 31–Aug. 14 (MO, m.ob.). A first-winter Thayer's Gull was noted Nov. 17 (WRS) and again Nov. 25 (BP, LP) at *Lancaster*, NE; another was photographed in *Jefferson*, KS Nov. 10 (MM, LM) and two others were reported. A 2nd-winter Lesser Black-backed Gull at *Lancaster*, NE Nov. 17 (JGJ, GJ) was the only fall report for a species beginning to appear more frequently in the Region. The first of several Glaucous Gulls in Nebraska arrived Nov. 24 (WRS). Most noteworthy was a first-summer Great Black-backed Gull documented at a very unexpected date of Aug. 4 at McConaughy (SJD).

Immature Black-legged Kittiwakes appeared at several locations in the Region near the end of the period. One was noted at *Cherokee*, OK Nov. 20–27 (JM); two were present in *Riley*, KS Nov. 29–30 (LJ, m.ob.); and one in *Tulsa* Nov. 30 (PS *et al.*). A report of an imm. Sabine's Gull is expected somewhere in the Region each fall; numbers this season, however, were exceptional, and included seldom-reported adults at *Mitchell*, KS Sept. 9 (MRo) and Quivira Sept. 22 (DV); an immature and adult in *Lincoln*, NE Sept. 26 (SJD, JGJ) and Oct. 5 (imm. only; RCR, DJR); one-two at 2 locations in *Tulsa* Sept. 27–28 (JWA, BC) and Sept. 30–Oct. 2 (CB, JL); two at Quivira Sept. 27–Oct. 12 (HM, m.ob.); one at McConaughy Sept. 28 (far from shore; SJD, WRS, JGJ); one in *Oklahoma* Oct. 7–12 (JGN *et al.*); and one at *Knox/Cedar*, NE Oct. 26–Nov. 6 (BFH, MB).

Caspian Terns lingered to Oct. 7 at Cunningham L., NE (JGJ), and Oct. 25 in *Noble*, OK (JWA), with one w. to *Dawes*, NE Sept. 5 (RCR). Common Tern reports windowed the period Aug. 18–21 in *Tulsa* (JL, PS, JWA) and Sept. 2–29 in Nebraska (*vide* SJD, WRS). Forster's Terns lingered to Oct. 28 at *Lincoln*, NE (WRS), Nebraska's latest fall record, and Nov. 9 in *Cleveland*, OK (NK).

Doves to Pipit

What could be the first acceptable Nebraska record of Band-tailed Pigeon, if approved by the N.O.U.R.C., was a bird in *Morrill* Oct. 1 (ECT). An Inca Dove visited feeders in *Dawes*, NE Sept. 11–Nov. 23 (RCR, DJR, ZU); another was noted in *Delaware*, OK Sept. 10 (VH). A Eur. Collared-Dove noted this summer in *Tulsa* was observed through Sept. 4 (m.ob.); its origin is uncertain. Late were 20–25 Chimney Swifts present in *Lincoln*, NE Oct. 5 (RCR, DJR). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo in *Leavenworth*, KS Oct. 16 (LM) was tardy, as was a Com. Nighthawk in *Tulsa* Nov. 5 (JC).

The proliferation of hummingbird feeders is the equivalent to garbage dumps for gulls. The results are reshaping our knowledge, or distribution, of hummingbirds. This season a ♀ *Archilochus* was noted Aug. 4 in *Kimball*, NE (SJD), a w. locale where either Ruby-throated or Black-chinned would be exceptional. Ruby-throateds were identified in *Finney*, KS Aug. 27 (T&SS), and *Dawes*, NE Sept. 29 (female; RCR, DJR). A probable Black-chinned Hummingbird constructed a nest and incubated a non-fertile egg in *Morton*, KS July 12–Aug. 10 (*vide* LM). With cautions and caveats of individuals being "boldly identified," four Broad-taileds were reported; one female/immature was documented in *Kimball*, NE Aug. 2 (SJD, WRS), with three others at more expected Nebraska panhandle locations Aug. 21 (ECT), Sept. 9 (SL), and Sept. 12–17 (RCR, DJR). A ♂, and possibly ♀, Calliope Hummingbird(s) noted in *Morton*, KS July 20–25 (L&RS, T&NG) is under review by the K.B.R.C. Ten Rufous (not all distinguished from the much less likely Allen's) were reported Aug. 2–26 in far w. Kansas and Nebraska (*vide* LM, JGJ, WRS). Sadly, reports of Anna's, Broad-tailed, and Allen's hummingbirds—as well as additional records of Black-chinned and Calliope hummingbirds from w. Kansas—were either not documented or not submitted to archive to support these important records for study and historical record (*vide* LM). An exceptional first for the Region was a Green Violetear that visited a yard in *Cleveland*, OK Sept. 2–5 (BT, DC, m.ob.); it is currently under review by the O.B.R.C. While specific identification is certain, details are being checked to validate subspecific, thus origin, issues (VR).

A tardy Olive-sided Flycatcher was present in *Keith*, NE Oct. 5 (RCR, DJR). An E. Phoebe wandered W to *Frontier/Red Willows*, NE Aug. 11 (SJD). Three Great Crested Flycatchers were noted in *Sioux*, NE Aug. 2 (WRS), a westernmost breeding location. An Ash-throated Flycatcher Aug. 31 in *Morton*, KS (M&EC), is among few for Kansas. A tardy-migrating Barn Swallow graced *Comanche*, OK Nov. 17 (JCr).

Four reports of eight Steller's Jays in *Scotts Bluff*, NE, from Aug. 11–Nov. 26 (*vide* AK) represented a mini-invasion of sorts. Blue Jays are now regular as far west as *Scotts Bluff*, NE, with six present Sept. 21 (AK). Rosches reported unusually high number of Pinyon Jays in the Pine Ridge of Nebraska during late September and early October. Black-billed Magpies wandered E to *Lancaster*, NE Nov. 25 (BP, LP) and *Jefferson*, NE Oct. 5 (LF, CF). Mountain Chickadees, a very rare visitor to

Nebraska, appeared in *Scotts Bluff* by Oct. 5 (LKM).

Eastern Bluebirds were sighted w. at *Sioux*, NE Sept. 23 (SL), with one-three Oct. 5–12 (LKM, AK) and ten Oct. 27 (LKM) in *Scotts Bluff*, NE. A Varied Thrush in *Kearney*, KS Nov. 8 (MOs) was the first for the Region in several years. Sage Thrashers may have had an outbreak, with 26 reported for s.w. Nebraska (*vide* JGJ, WRS). An Am. Pipit in *Rogers*, OK Sept. 9 (JWA) was unusually early.

Vireos to Warblers

A Bell's Vireo stayed in *Otoe*, NE, until at least Oct. 8 (LF, CF), an exceptionally late date. Philadelphia Vireos are more regular in tower kills than sight records would predict, thus they are considered "rare;" reports included singles at Quivira Sept. 13 (LM), Willis, NE Sept. 14 (BFH), *Sarpy*, NE Sept. 15 (WRS), and *Johnson*, KS Oct. 2 (SA).

"Golden-winged" discoveries were singles at *Otoe*, NE Sept. 11 (LF, CF) and Fontenelle Forest (SJD); three were reported from Kansas (*vide* LM), and one was salvaged in downtown *Tulsa* Sept. 17 (JWA). Northern Parulas were reported to Sept. 14 in *Dixon*, NE (MB, DH). Among few Magnolia Warblers reports was one in *Keith*, NE Sept. 7 (RCR) and another in Fontenelle Forest Sept. 11 (SJD, BP, LP). Rare in w. Nebraska was a Chestnut-sided Warbler Sept. 7 at McConaughy (RCR).

Blackburnian Warblers were reported in good numbers for fall in e. Nebraska. Palm Warblers were reported from *Sheridan*, OK Sept. 28 (RCR, DJR), and *Buffalo*, NE Oct. 13 (LR, RH), and two Prairie Warblers were noted in *McClain*, OK Sept. 12 (PB). Real "zooties" were a ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler in *Johnson*, KS Sept. 13 (CH), and a female-type in *Sheridan*, NE Sept. 21 (RCR). East of most was a Townsend's Warbler in *Morton*, KS Aug. 31 (m.ob.).

An early migrant Wilson's Warbler was noted Aug. 13 at Crescent Lake (LKM). Tardy in departing was a Hooded Warbler Oct. 1 in McCurtain (BH).

Tanagers to Finches

Coincidental Scarlet Tanagers Nov. 10 in *Gosper*, NE (LR, RH), and *Finney*, KS (BCm), were both west and exceptional for date. The easternmost W. Tanagers were two in *Finney*, KS Aug. 27 (L&BR).

Brogie reports the dividing line for Eastern and Spotted towhees in Nebraska centers on *Cedar*. Few Spotted Towhees breed e. of a line connecting *Dakota*, *Dodge*, *Platte*, *Hall* and *Harlan*, NE,

although migrants begin to appear in s.e. Nebraska in early October (*fide* JGJ, WRS). Pushing the season were Field Sparrows, with a recently fledged young Sept. 6 in *Pontotoc*, OK (WAC).

Few Baird's Sparrow are reported, many fewer documented. One report in North Platte Sept. 27 (LKM) was submitted to the N.O.U.R.C. Five Henslow's Sparrows in *Linn*, KS Sept. 2 (LM) may have been at a breeding site. Tardy was a Grasshopper Sparrow in *Saunders*, NE Nov. 3 (THo). Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were located at *Lancaster/Saunders*, NE Sept. 15 (WRS) through Oct. 20; an amazing nine were found in *Clay*, NE Oct. 16 (SJD).

West of most White-throated Sparrows was one in *Sioux*, NE Oct. 12 (MB). Early were Harris' Sparrows in *Cherry*, NE Sept. 28 (LR, RH), and *Thomas*, NE Sept. 29 (LR, RH). Ten Chestnut-collared Longspurs in *Morton*, KS Sept. 28 (SS) were early.

Gray-crowned Rosy Finches wandered into *Sioux*, NE, with one present Nov. 9 (RCR, DJR, VC) and 12 Nov. 24 (LKM, HH). Perhaps a species being displaced, only six Purple Finches were reported for Nebraska, including a female Nov. 15 at *Scotts Bluff* (AK), where it is normally rare. A Cassin's Finch appeared Nov. 10 in *Finney*, KS (T&SS)

The surprise outburst of Red Crossbills during the summer continued into August, with birds noted at scattered locations mostly across Nebraska and Kansas, e. to *Sarpy*, NE Aug. 21 (BP, LP). Many were immatures; the best counts were 250 in *Sioux*, NE Aug. 2 (SJD), near where they breed; 60 in *Morton*, KS Nov. 10 (*fide* LM), and >25 in *McCurtain*, OK Aug. 10 (BH *et al.*). Exceptional was an imm. White-winged Crossbill in *Sioux*, NE Aug. 8 (MB). Only one Com. Redpoll was reported for the season, in *Scotts Bluff*, NE Nov. 10 (AK). A modest scattering of Evening Grosbeaks appeared towards the end of the season in Kansas and Nebraska (*fide* JGJ, WRS, LM).

Cited observers (area editors boldfaced): KANSAS: Steve Addinall, Laura Allen, Mark & Elaine Corder, Barbara Campbell (BCm), Bob Fisher, Terrell & Nelda Giddens, Tyler Hicks, Chris Hobbs, Pete Janzen, Lowell Johnson, Dan Klusa, Mark Land, Harold McFadden, Mick McHugh, **Lloyd Moore**, Dan Mulhearn, John Northrup, Marie Osterbuhr (MOs), Eric Preston, Galen Pittman, Mike Rader, Leonard & Betty Rich, Mark Robbins (MRo), Scott Seltman, Tom & Sara Shane, Lawrence & Ruth Smith, Art

Smallwell, Don Vannoy. NEBRASKA: Roland Barth, Mark Brogie, Virgil Couch, Stephen J. Dinsmore, Larry Einemann, Carol Falk, Laurence Falk, Marlin French, Robin Harding, Dave Heidt, Thomas Hoffman (THo), H. Hughson, Bill F. Huser, Jan Johnson, G. Jorgensen, **Joel G. Jorgensen**, Alice Kenitz, Lucy Koenig, Sandy Lemmon, Larry K. Malone, Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, Lanny Randolph, Dorothy J. Rosche, **Richard C. Rosche**, **W. Ross Silcock**, John Sullivan, Edna Clair Thomas, Zee Uridil. OKLAHOMA: James W. Arterburn, Pat Bergey, Charles Brown, Dick Clapp, J. Cross (JCr), Jeff Cox, Bill Carrell, William A. Carter, David Gill, Vicki Hatfield, Berlin Heck, James C. Hoffman, Jay Isbell, Nathan Kuhnert, **Jo Loyd**, **Louis McGee** (LMc), Jeri McMahon, Kurt & Sharon Meisenzahl, John G. Newell, Jim & Marion Norman, Mitchell Oliphant, Van Remsen, Pat Seibert, Barbara Tarbutton, Jeff Webster.

—Joseph A. Grzybowski, 715 Elmwood Drive, Norman, OK 73072.

Texas Region

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

Sufficient to abundant rains blessed much of Texas, especially in the first half of the season, but in most instances this moisture just moved local totals from "extreme" annual deficits of the summer to only moderate deficits. In far west Texas, the abundant growth of grasses portended excellent habitat conditions to come. Rains associated with a frontal passage in the first week of October created good fallout conditions on much of the coast, the best autumn grounding in some years. A six to eight-inch snowfall in late November was the only notable weather event in the Panhandle.

Any ornithological effects of hurricane *Dolly*, which made landfall in northeast Mexico August 23, were subtle at best. Rains in south Texas derived from *Dolly* were probably responsible for the pile up of Mississippi Kites on the Coastal Bend in late August; *Dolly* may have also contributed to the substantial numbers of

