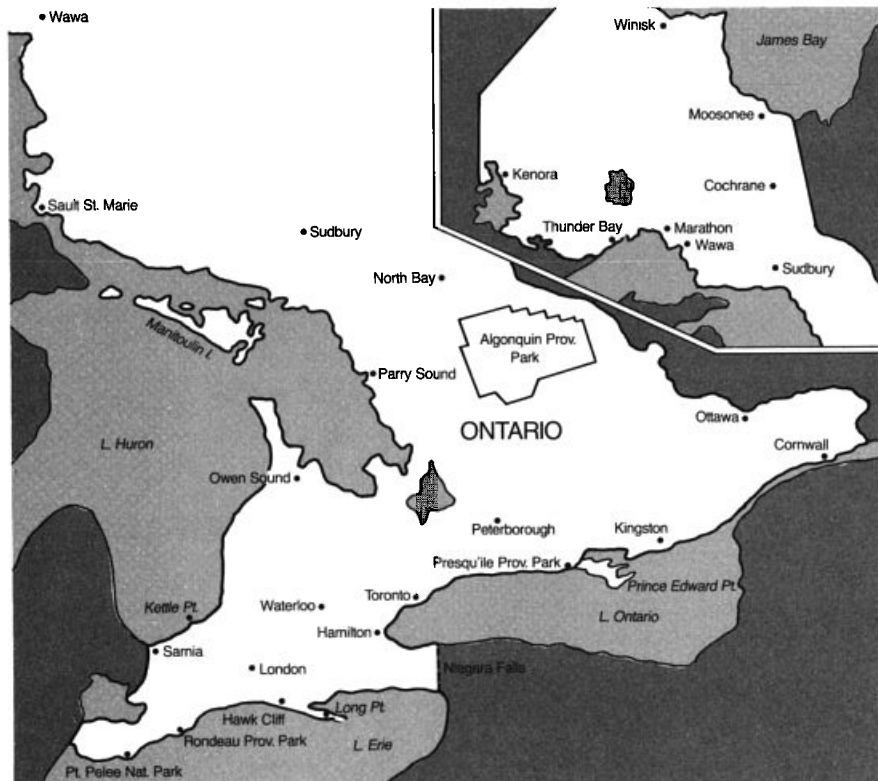


# ontario region



## RON RIDOUT

For the second consecutive year, weather during the fall across most of the Region was relatively benign, leading to a largely uninterrupted migration. Numbers of migrants at both established observatories were below average as a result of weather patterns conducive to an unswerving departure from the province.

The noteworthy event for the season was a noticeable movement of several "winter" finches. Early arrival dates in the south for several species of this group portended the larger invasion to come. Purple Finches moved through the Region in good numbers throughout October, and were largely gone by period's end, while siskins and redpolls moved into the south in big numbers in late October, and were still largely present at period's end. Other species, such as both crossbills and Pine Grosbeak, were present in smaller and more widely scattered numbers.

Stable weather patterns during the fall usually mean fewer strays, and this period was no exception. However, notable rarities

did include Ontario's first Greater Shearwater, plus White-winged Dove and Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch. All rarities mentioned in this report are subject to approval by the Ontario Bird Records Committee (O.B.R.C.).

**Abbreviations:** Pelee (*Pt. Pelee Nat'l Park and vicinity*); L.P.B.O. (*Long Point Bird Observatory, Norfolk*); T.C.B.O. (*Thunder Cape Bird Observatory, Thunder Bay*); P.E. Pt. (*Prince Edward Pt., Prince Edward County*); Algonquin, Presqu'ile, and Rondeau are Provincial Parks. Place names in *italics* refer to counties, districts, or regional municipalities.

## LOONS TO IBISES

Red-throated Loons passed through the Region in reasonable numbers, though somewhat lower than in recent years. The highest count was 30 at Hamilton Oct. 25 (RP, IS). A Pacific favored the L. Huron shore off Pinery P.P. Nov. 10–30 (AR). A tally of 200 Com. Loons at Big Rideau L. Nov. 15 (WB) was notable away from the Great Lakes. Seventy-five Pied-billed Grebes at Mountsberg,

Wellington, Sept. 14 (RD, BC) was an exceptional count. Counts of 110 Red-necked Grebes near Owen Sound Nov. 1 (PM) and 188 off Manitoulin I. Nov. 9 (CB) were the highest reported. Numbers off Manitoulin were well below recent years' tallies. Impressive counts of Horned Grebes included 200 at P.E. Pt. (K.F.N.), 208 at Presqu'ile Oct. 19 (BD), and 240 at Pelee Oct. 17 (TH). Sightings of Eareds included singles at Ridgetown Aug. 24 (SC), Blenheim Aug. 30–Sept. 17 (m.ob.), Burlington Sept. 1 (KM), Holiday Beach, Essex, Sept. 13 (RH et al.), Emburton Sept. 25 (BD), Thedford Nov. 2 (AR), Clarkson Nov. 2 (LF), and Leamington Nov. 6 (KM). A well-described W. Grebe at Orillia Oct. 28 (JM) was exceptional away from the Great Lakes.

Ontario's first **Greater Shearwater** was found starving along the Toronto waterfront Aug. 20 (BKM). It died soon after and the specimen was given to the Royal Ontario Museum. The only N. Gannet was seen off Vineland Oct. 26 (JL) and Stoney Cr. Nov. 1 (JF). Evidence of ever increasing Double-crested Cormorant numbers included 1950 at Oshawa Oct. 19 (RPy), 2830 at Hillman Marsh, Essex, Aug. 25 (AW), and 3000 at Hamilton Sept. 1 (RD, MM).

A count of 300 Am. White Pelicans at Shillabear L., Thunder Bay (BA), was exceptional. Great Egrets well to the east included lone birds at Vars Aug. 6 (BH); Loughborough L., Frontenac, Sept. 1 (LG); and Stirling Sept. 7 (DG et al.). Sightings of Cattle Egrets involved individuals at Presqu'ile Aug. 10 (DD), Long Pt. Sept. 7 (MT) and Oct. 27 (RB), and a bird at Meldrum Bay, Manitoulin, in mid-October (DB, TL). A flock of five *Plegadis* ibises at Long Pt. Oct. 14 (PP) was a large group for the province.

## WATERFOWL TO CRANES

A pair of Mute Swans at Hurkett Sept. 16 (AW, MJ) furnished a rare n. Ontario record, while a Tundra Swan at Toronto until Aug. 12 (m.ob.) provided a rare summer record in the south. Forty Tundras at Kingston Nov. 2 (K.F.N.) was a good count that far east. Fall sightings of Greater White-fronted Geese continue to rise, with individuals at Nonquon, Durham, Sept. 7 (m.ob.); Thunder Bay Sept. 7 (NE, JA);

Unionville Sept. 28–Oct. 18 (GF); Markham Oct. 14–19 (BB et al.); Pinery P.P., Lambton, Nov. 2 (AR); and Aylmer Nov. 16 (DM). Reports of the much rarer "Greater" Snow Goose included four birds at Lakefield Sept. 15 (PB) and a lone bird at Wildwood L., Oxford, Oct. 1 (JMH).

Matching recent trends, 2 sightings of Ross's Geese included lone birds at Thunder Bay Sept. 17 (AW, MJ), that district's 3rd record, and another at Cranberry Marsh, Durham, Nov. 7–13 & 23–30 (JMS et al.). Small Canadas felt to be *hutchinsii* involved individuals at Wildwood L. Oct. 1 (JMH), Pelee Oct. 1 (AW), and Kingsville Oct. 22 (AW). An imm. Brant at Pelee Oct. 31 (AW, v.o.) was unusual that far southwest, while along their normal route numbers peaked at 775 at Kingston Nov. 2 (K.F.N.).

High waterfowl counts included 5098 Am. Wigeon at Long Pt. Oct. 21 (SP), 520 Green-winged Teal there Nov. 9 (SP), 595 Green-wingeds at Dundas Nov. 2 (MM, CR), 6567 Mallards and 2946 Black Ducks at Long Pt. Nov. 18 (SP, RR), 35,954 Canvasbacks and 9057 Redheads at Long Pt. Nov. 9 (SP), 3100 Ring-neckeds at Kingston Nov. 3 (K.F.N.), 24,000 Greater Scaup at Kingston Nov. 2 (K.F.N.), 50,966 scaup at Long Pt. Nov. 9 (SP), 60 Black Scoters off Stoney Cr. Nov. 9 (KM), 180 Surf Scoters at Pelee Nov. 10 (AW), 12,500 White-winged Scoters and 350 Hooded Mergansers at Kingston Nov. 2 (K.F.N.), and 18,000 Red-breasted Mergansers at Pelee Oct. 25 (AW, v.o.) Ruddy Duck numbers dropped at Long Pt. after 1996's record high, but still

reached an impressive 3970 Nov. 9 (SP).

Rare ducks included a pair of Ring-neckeds at Blenheim Aug. 19 (KB, JB); a Tufted at Thunder Bay Sept. 17–Oct. 3 (AW, MJ); lone King Eiders at Pelee Nov. 7 (KM, AW), Pelee I. Nov. 9 (DWa), and an imm. male at Stoney Cr. Nov. 9–30 (KM) joined by a second Nov. 17–23 (RD et al.); a summering male Harlequin Duck at Toronto to Oct. 16 (m.ob.), another at Morrison I., Renfrew, Oct. 26 (BD), three birds at Toronto Nov. 8–9 (BR); and single Barrow's Goldeneyes at Stoney Cr. Nov. 15–23 (KM) and Ottawa Nov. 15 & 17 (MTa, RB).

For the first time in over 20 years, no official raptor count was conducted at Hawk Cliff. With no totals from this significant site, meaningful comparisons cannot be made with previous fall totals of several species. It is hoped that the resources can be found to resume the count in 1998.

Turkey Vultures appeared to congregating early at Wildwood L. with a count of 150 Aug. 16 (JMH). An early southbound Osprey was at Rondeau Aug. 4 (JB), while a quite tardy bird was at Amherst I., Lennox Addington, Nov. 29 (AB). Good news continued for the Bald Eagle, with a very respectable 154 birds reported throughout the province for the period. An immature which summered in the Dundas Marsh area might have been prospecting future breeding grounds. One observer in Ft. Frances was surprised to find three scapping over soup bones tossed out on a backyard feeding table (RS). Golden seemed to increase as well, with 83 birds reported.

A juv. N. Goshawk at Binbrook Aug. 10 (DGa, PW) almost certainly fledged locally, providing a rare breeding record for the Hamilton region. With an average of 2 observations per fall season, sightings of Swainson's Hawks more than doubled with 5 reports: individuals at Binbrook (JK, DS, AD) and Clappison's Corners (MS, MM, DC) Sept. 14 (the same bird?), Copper Cliff Oct. 9 (JN), and two at Hawk Cliff Oct. 17 (RH) & 28 (WC et al.). A rufous *calurus* Red-tailed Hawk was seen at Dundas Nov. 9 (MM, GP). A day's total of 12 Merlins at Long Pt. Sept. 3 (L.P.B.O.) was notable. Single Gyrfalcons were at Copper Cliff Nov. 4 (CB, JLe) and Thunder Bay Nov. 8 (JA), while one reported at Sandbanks PP, Prince Edward, Sept. 25 (SCu) was exceptionally early in the south.

A rare migrant Yellow Rail was seen at P.E. Pt. Aug. 15 (WF), and a calling King Rail at the tip of Long Pt. Aug. 17 (JMc) was unusual there. High counts of Am. Coots came from a variety of locations and included 1000 at Trenton Oct. 23 (AB), 1500 each at Kingston Nov. 2 (K.F.N.) and Mountsberg, Wellington, Nov. 2 (RvT), and 3500 at Rondeau Nov. 9 (KB, JB). Numbers of Sandhill Cranes continued to rise in c. Ontario. A total of 858 from Manitoulin I. Oct. 18 (m.ob.) was the highest count in decades.

## PLOVERS TO TERNS

Exceptional fall sightings of endangered Piping Plovers included singles at Pelee Aug. 9 (KM, RD, BC) and Wildwood L. Aug. 23 (JMH). A count of 400 Killdeers at Pittcock L., Oxford, Sept. 18 (JMH) was a notable inland count. The lone Am. Avocet of the period was at Long Pt. Aug. 11 (SM) Very late yellowlegs included a Greater at Barrie I., Manitoulin, Nov. 23 (CB), and two Lessers at Presqu'île Nov. 26 (J&JT) Lone Willets were at Amherst I. Aug. 10–22 (K.F.N.), Hamilton Aug. 14–Sept. 3 (RD, m.ob.), Brantford Aug. 28–29 (DGa et al.), and Cedar Cr., Essex, Aug. 31 (MSu, BS), while four birds were at Rondeau Aug. 10 (KB, JB). A flock of 45 Whimbrels at Long Pt. Aug. 17 (L.P.B.O.) provided a record fall count there. The passage of Hudsonian Godwits was light, with individuals at Amherst I. Sept. 27–28 (RS, AS), Long Pt. Oct. 11 (DBe) & 23 (GG), Blenheim Oct. 18–19 (SC), and Presqu'île Oct. 21 (DSh et al.). An injured bird at Hamilton Sept. 14 (KM) remained through the period, setting a record-late date in the process.

A Ruddy Turnstone at Presqu'île Nov. 6 (J&JT) was very late there A total of 300

**HAWK TOTALS AT TWO ONTARIO STATIONS, AUTUMN 1997**  
(Long-term averages are indicated for each station)

	CRANBERRY MARSH (1)—DURHAM		HOLIDAY BEACH (2)—ESSEX	
	1997	1990–1997	1997	1982–1997
Turkey Vulture	1434	1410	17,845	11,603
Osprey	140	80	154	115
Bald Eagle	30	20	85	40
N Harrier	230	222	1038	1037
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3905	1944	15,478	14,202
Cooper's Hawk	99	91	352	690
N Goshawk	13	28	48	41
Red-shouldered Hawk	61	83	1030	1109
Broad-winged Hawk	3004	5901	31,356	42,328
Red-tailed Hawk	1221	1164	7103	7397
Rough-legged Hawk	60	81	96	143
Golden Eagle	9	12	50	54
Am Kestrel	1050	762	2868	3783
Merlin	47	44	93	56
Peregrine	24	26	51	35
Unidentified	192	253	181	168
TOTALS	11,519	12,122	77,828	82,800

(1) JBa et al. 1997 Aug. 28–Nov. 27, 93 days

(2) PPr et al. 1997 Sept. 1–Nov. 30, 91 days

Sanderlings at Presqu'île Sept. 20 (JT) was notable, as were 300 Semipalmated and 500 Least sandpipers there Aug. 17 (RPi, JI). A Semipalmated at Pelee Nov. 2 was record late, while a Western there the same day furnished a rare record for the park (AW, SPi). Late White-rumped included one at Blenheim Nov. 21 (JB, KB) and a record-late individual at Presqu'île Nov. 27 (J&JT). High counts included 15 Baird's at Presqu'île Aug. 18 (JT) and 350 Pectorals at Wildwood L. Nov. 2 (JMH).

A Purple Sandpiper at Presqu'île Sept. 18 (JT, v.o.) was record early there. Reports of Buff-breasted came from the usual places and times in the south, while four at Gore Bay Sept. 7 (CB) were unusual for c. Ontario. Reports of Long-billed Dowitchers were widespread, with a peak of 12 birds at Blenheim Oct. 17 (KB, JB). A Wilson's Phalarope at Harrow Oct. 18–Nov. 6 (Jlr, v.o.) was exceptionally late for the province. Sightings of Reds totalled six with all, with one at Pelee Oct. 31 (AW), coming from L. Ontario.

Jaeger numbers returned to normal after the remarkable fall of 1996. Pomarine sightings tallied eight birds, with singles at Erieau Sept. 29 (KB), the middle of L. Ontario Oct. 11 (HC, WY), Fifty Pt., *Niagara*, Oct. 12 (RD), Ottawa Nov. 7 (BD), and Hamilton Nov. 14 (BW, RD, JO). Three were seen at Presqu'île Sept. 28 (RT et al.). Parasitics totalled 34 birds, all from Lakes Ontario and Erie, while unidentified birds totalled 22. No Long-taileds were reported.

Numbers of Franklin's Gulls seem to be rebounding a little the last year or two. Sin-

gle birds included a juvenile at Nonquon July 28–Aug. 2 (m.ob.), Long Pt. Sept. 4 (DBe), Pelee Sept. 7 (KS) & 28 (AW, SPi, JFl), Blenheim Oct. 10 (KM), and Kettle Pt. Nov. 2 (AR). Though numbers seem down a little in the past few years, counts of Little Gulls included an impressive 50 birds at Long Pt. Aug. 21 (DGe, GP) and 16 at Sandbanks P.P. Nov. 29 (AB), while one at L. Dore, *Renfrew*, Oct. 16 (BD) was notable there. The only Black-headed reported was at Pelee Sept. 11 (AW). Regional first Mew Gulls included *Kent's* first at Blenheim Aug. 27 (DM) and *Haldimand-Norfolk's* at Nanticoke Nov. 17 (BJ).

Niagara's now annual California Gull appeared at Queenston Nov. 23–28 (m.ob.). Lesser Black-backed Gull numbers dropped to 20, with the southwest as the hotspot. Pelee reported at least five (m.ob.) and Blenheim seven (KB) over the course of the period. A count of 387 Great Black-backed at Erieau Oct. 20 (SC) was noteworthy. Sabine's Gull sightings totalled 14 at Hamilton, with a peak of five Sept. 1 (RD, MM). Other reports included one at Pelee Sept. 10 (AW), two found dead at Long Pt. Sept. 19 (MF), one inland at L. Dore Oct. 16 (BD), and an exceptionally rare adult at Niagara Falls Nov. 1 (GC). All eight Black-legged Kittiwakes reported were at Hamilton's Van Wagner's Beach, with a very early juvenile seen Aug. 25 (RD).

High counts of Com. Terns included 2600 at Pelee Oct. 4 (AW) and 1200 at Long Pt. Sept. 7 (L.P.B.O.). Late Caspians were at Erieau Oct. 18 (KB) and Long Pt. Oct. 22 (L.P.B.O.).

#### DOVES TO CORVIDS

Ontario's 6th **White-winged Dove** visited a feeder in Lively Oct. 19–20 (DFe et al.). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Thunder Bay Oct. 4 (RM) was well n. of its usual range. Great Gray Owls left over from the last invasion could still be found throughout the summer and fall on the Bruce Pen. and Manitoulin I. The only N. Hawk Owl report in the south came from Kingston Mills Nov. 15 (CT, RSa). By period's end it looked like there would be no major southward movement of any owl species.

A *Selasphorus* hummingbird frequented a feeder at Tecumseh from Nov. 9 (C&GFr) through period's end, but remained unidentified to species. The Red-

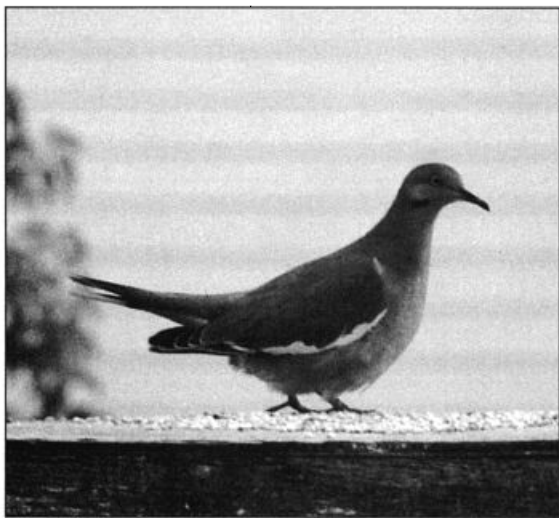
headed/Red-bellied Woodpecker outlook remained much the same. Red-headed reports were few and far between; 10 at Long Pt. Sept. 18 (DBe, JJ) was the highest count. Red-bellieds continued their expansion, with reports across s. and e. Ontario and singles as far north as Worthington Nov. 16 (DA), Carnarvon Twp., *Manitoulin* (MO), and Evansville (SCI) in November, and West Bay Nov. 24 (AC). A Three-toed Woodpecker at Kingston Sept. 28 (KC, JH) was unusual for the date and place.

Late flycatchers included a record-late E. Wood-Pewee at Pelee Nov. 3 (RSk, DW, DN), one at Erie Beach Nov. 2 (EJB), a record-late Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at P.E. Pt. Oct. 15 (A&ST), a late Alder at Algoquin Sept. 5 (MR), and not one, but three record-late Great Crested Flycatchers at Rondeau Sept. 21 (KB, JB, BM, SC). Acadian Flycatchers are rarely noted in fall migration, so one each at Long Pt. Aug. 23 (DGe) and Pelee Aug. 30 (KK, v.o.) were noteworthy. A Least banded at Holiday Beach, *Essex*, Nov. 8 (AC) was particularly late. Reports of W. Kingbirds just about matched the recent autumn average, with individuals seen at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham*, Aug. 13 (MB et al.) and Pelee I. Sept. 14 (JJa).

A tally of 3458 Horned Larks migrating S at Pelee Nov. 1 (FU) was exceptional. A count of 118 Tree Swallows at Pelee Nov. 4 (AW, KM) was noteworthy for the date. Forty Blue Jays heading S off the tip of Pelee Sept. 7 (TD, MH et al.) were record-early migrants. A Com. Raven at Port Hope Oct. 16 (RF) was noteworthy for the date and location.

#### WRENS TO WARBLERS

Early Winter Wrens were at Pelee Sept. 6 (FU) and Long Pt. Sept. 8 (L.P.B.O.), while a House Wren at Kingston Nov. 2 (K.F.N.) was record late there. One at T.C.B.O. Oct. 20 (JW) was exceptional for the date and location. Late Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were seen at Dundas Marsh Nov. 2 (MM, CR), Rondeau Nov. 9 (KB, JB), and Pelee Nov. 28 (MC). The only N. Wheatear of the season was seen at Ottawa Aug. 31–Sept. 1 (ET et al.). The only heavy nocturnal flight of *Catharus* thrushes occurred at Kingston Sept. 13, when 400 Gray-cheekeds and 12,600 Swainson's were recorded. Noteworthy numbers of Am. Robins involved 5000 at Woodstock Oct. 22 (JMH) and a record 14,000 at Long Pt. Nov. 5 (L.P.B.O.). Sightings of Varied Thrushes totalled an above seasonal average three, including one each at Thunder Bay Oct. 10 (JMn), Benmiller



**Furnishing a sixth record for the province was this errant White-winged Dove that discovered a feeder at Lively, Ontario, in October 1997. Photograph/Don Ferguson**

Nov. 16 (RRo), and Stratton Nov. 16 (RS).

A record-early Am. Pipit at Wildwood L. Aug. 29 (JMh) led off an outstanding season for this species across the south. High counts included 300 at Amherst I. Sept. 13 (JE, RDW), 350 at Oneida Nov. 2 (JMh), 500 at Bruce Twp., *Bruce*, Oct. 17 (B&DF), and 590 at Pelee Nov. 2 (AW, SPi). Widespread reports of Bohemian Waxwings across the province as far s. as Long Pt gave some indication that the coming winter would be a good one for sightings of this species. The same parallel could be drawn for N. Shrike, though in lower numbers, of course.

Single White-eyed Vireos at Pickering Nov. 1–6 (MD) and Etobicoke Nov. 5–6 (RY) were notable for the location. A Philadelphia Vireo was quite late at Thunder Bay Sept. 17 (AW, MJ). A Blue-headed Vireo at Rondeau Nov. 16 (SC) was late there, as was one at Holiday Beach Nov. 30 (FU), while a Yellow-throated was record late at Dundas Marsh Nov. 2 (MM, CR).

Northern Ontario's 4th Blue-winged Warbler was at Marathon Sept. 15 (AW, MJ). The only "Lawrence's" of the period was at Cayuga Aug. 13 (JMh). A very late Tennessee was seen at Long Pt. Nov. 6 (L.P.B.O.). Late Yellow Warblers were at Marathon Sept. 14 and Jackfish Bay Sept. 16 (AW, MJ), and Long Pt. Sept. 21 (L.P.B.O.). Other late warblers included a Magnolia at Mississauga Nov. 2 (LF), a record-late Yellow-rumped at Algonquin Nov. 28 (RT), a record-late Black-throated Green at Pelee Nov. 8 (AW), a Blackpoll at Rondeau the same day (BM), a record-late Louisiana Waterthrush at Long Pt. Sept. 30 (WM), and a provincially record-late Mourning Warbler banded at Long Pt. Nov 11 (L.P.B.O.).

A Yellow-breasted Chat at Pickering Nov 8–9 (PH) was noteworthy for the date and location. Warblers of note included "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped at Toronto Oct 3 (RY) and Thunder Bay Nov. 6 (NE); a Black-throated Gray at Aldershot Oct. 22–23 (MJ,v.o.), Ontario's 2nd in 1997; a "Yellow" Palm Warbler at Windsor Oct. 11 (FU); and Worm-eating Warblers at Toronto Aug. 27 (MMe) and Jerseyville in late August (RW). High counts included 350 Palm Warblers at Marathon Sept. 15 (AW, MJ) and 26 N. Waterthrushes at Pelee Aug 18 (FU).

**TANAGERS TO FINCHES**

Sightings of Summer Tanagers, the first fall season records since 1993, involved singles at Pickering Nov 10 (BH) and Toronto

Nov. 14–21 (RSm). A W. Tanager, the 5th for 1997, appeared at Toronto Sept. 10 (DBd). Very late Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen at Thunder Bay Oct. 23 (MCR, JW) and Oakville Nov. 2 (LM). A female Blue Grosbeak at Kingston Nov. 2–3 (ME, KE, v.o.) furnished an exceptional fall record and set a record-late date in the process. The only Dickcissels of the period were seen at Pelee Oct. 1 (AW) and Long Pt. Oct. 10 (RB). A male E. Towhee at Thunder Bay Oct. 16 (*vide* PL), the 2nd for the district this year, provided a rare n. Ontario record.

A pair of Clay-colored Sparrows were still feeding fledged young at P.E. Pt. Sept. 14 (JE, RDW), an exceptionally late date. The only Lark Sparrow of the period was at Algonquin Sept. 3 (CJ, MHO, RT). Very late Grasshopper Sparrows were recorded at Toronto Nov. 7 (PSS) and Pelee Nov. 7–10 (AW). A record six Le Conte's Sparrows were found at Pelee Oct. 1 (AW). Fox Sparrows seemed to be everywhere during October and well into November. Dozens were reported at feeders throughout the province. One very dark bird at Dunrobin Oct. 27 (SMc) was believed to be a "Sooty" Fox Sparrow.

A late Lincoln's Sparrow was at Cedar Springs Nov. 30 (JB). White-throated migration started early at Long Pt., with a bird there Aug. 11 (PV). The only Harris's Sparrow in the south during the period was at Gore Bay Oct. 20 (JH, TL). "Oregon" Dark-eyed Juncos were seen at Woodstock Oct. 1 (JMh) and Naughton Nov. 4 (LR). A record-early bird was at Presqu'île Aug. 21 (WG) and a Lapland Longspur at Rondeau Sept. 7 (KB, JB, SC) was record early there.

Wandering Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen at Long Pt. Aug. 25–28 (DSa) and Hamilton Sept. 7 (JG). A Brewer's Blackbird at Cobourg Sept. 13 (CG) was well e. of range. A female Bullock's Oriole reported at Toronto Aug. 16 (NM, CM) would be the 2nd this year for the province, if accepted by the O.B.R.C. Decisions on records of females and immatures of this species have been deferred until more is known on this difficult identification.

In keeping with all previous records, the northwest produced another **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch**, the 4th for the 1990s, this time at Thunder Bay Nov. 3 (CK). Numbers of Pine Grosbeaks were thinly scattered across c. regions by November. Forty birds at Bronte Nov. 22 (MJ) was a noteworthy count. Purple Finches moved through the south beginning in August and were largely gone by the end of the period

The first crossbills of a widespread but light irruption in the south included a Red at Long Pt. Aug. 30 (OA) and single White-winged at Ajax Aug. 16 (JG et al.), Long Pt. Aug. 19 (L.P.B.O.), and Pelee Aug. 28 (TH). Southward movement of redpolls and Pine Siskins was equally widespread, but much heavier in numbers. Four Com. Redpolls at Marathon Sept. 15 (AW) were record early there. Others were in the south by mid- to late October. Hoarys were scattered in with Commons across c. Ontario by period's end, while one reached Cobourg Nov. 22 (CG). Early Evening Grosbeaks at Long Pt (L.P.B.O.) and Cayuga (RL), both Aug 6, portended a good movement of this species throughout the period.

**Subregional editors (boldface), contributors (italics), and cited observers:**

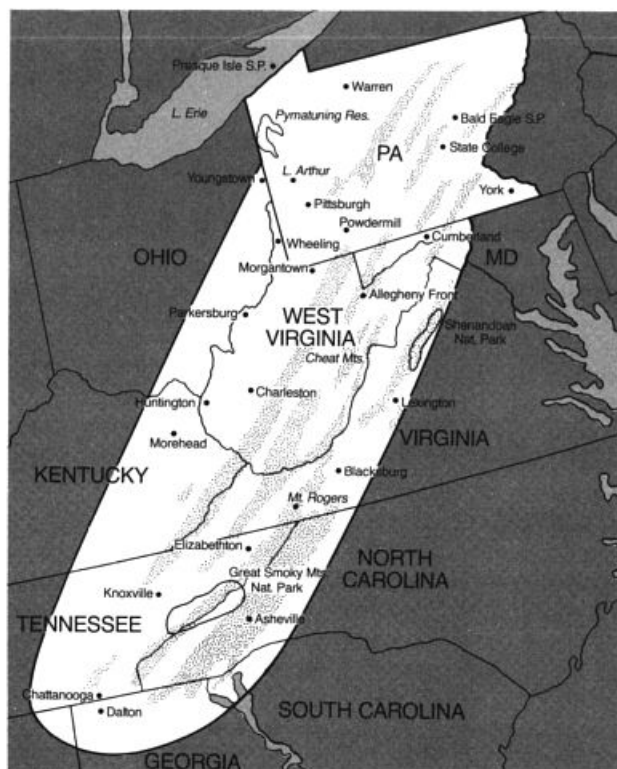
J. Allair, B Anderson, *R. Andrie*, D. Audet, D. Bailey, **M. Bain**, W. Barker, J. Barker (JBa), D. Beadle (Dbd), C. Bell, D. Bengtsson (DBe), R Boardman, A. Boisvert, R. Bracken (RBR), B. Brydon, *D. Bucknell* (DBu), E.J. Burk, J Burk, **K. Burk**, *P. Burke*, M. Carlson, *G Carpentier* (GCa), K. Cartwright, S. Charbonneau, B. Charlton, **T. Cheskey**, S. Clark (SCI), W. Clark, G. Coady, D. Copeland, A. Corby, M. Cryer (MCR), S. Culley (SCu), H. Currie, D. Davis, M. Deabreu, **B. DiLabio**, T. Dobbie, **R. Dobos**, A. Dobson, K. Edwards, M. Edwards, J. Ellis, **N. Escott**, J Fairchild, L. Fazio, D. Ferguson (DFe), B & **D. Fidler**, M. Fletcher, J. Flynn (JFl), C.&G Fraser (C.&GFr), G. Frechette, W. Frey, R Frost, D. Gardiner (DGa), J. Geale, D. Geale (DGE), G. Gibson, L. Gibson, W. Gilmour, *C. Goodwin*, J. Goulin (JGo), D. Guay, B Harrison, M. Heindel, J. Hiethkamp (JHi), T. Hince, P. Hodgson, M. Holder (MHO), **J.M. Holdsworth**, R. Horvath, J. Hoyle, *R Hubert* (RHu), J. Iron, J. Jalava (JJa), J. Jantunen, M. Jennings, B. Jones, C. Jones, K Kaufman, J. Keenleyside, Kingston Field Naturalists, C. Kivi, **S. LaForest**, J. Lamey, T. Land, P. Lein, **J. Lemon** (JLe), J. Lesser (JLr), **J. Macey**, B.K. MacKay, S. MacKenzie, R. MacKenzie, C. MacLauchlan, B. Mann, D. Martin, J. McCracken (JMc), S. McDonald (SMc), K. McLaughlin, W. McLeish, J McNally (JMn), **A. Mess**, M. Mesure (MMe), P. Middleton, **J. Miles** (JMh), M Mills, L. Mitchell, N. Murr, *J. Nicholson*, D Nuttall, M. Olacke, J. Olmsted, R. Peterson, *S. Petrie*, S. Pike (SPi), R. Pittaway (RPi), G Platt, *P. Pratt* (PPr), **P. Prior**, R. Pye (RPy), B. Reid, **A. Rider**, R. Ridout, L. Ross, R Ross (RRo), C. Rothfels, M. Runtz, R. Sachs (RSa), D. Salisbury, D. Salter (DSa), B Scott, A. Scott, D. Shanahan (DSh), R.

Simek (RSk), R. Simms, K. Slayton, I. Smith, **R. Smith** (RSm), J.M. Speirs, P. Stepien-Scanlon, M. Street, M. Sullivan (MSu), M. Tate (MTa), J.&J. Thomson, C. Thorpe, E. Ticknor, M. Timpf, **R. Tozer**, S. & A. Treganza, F. Urie, R. vanTwest, D. Ware (DWa), P. Walker, **R.D. Weir**, R. Westmore, **J. Wojnowski** (JWo), J. Woodcock, **A. Wormington**, D. Worthington, B. Wylie, R. Yukich, W. Yung.

**Ron Ridout**, Bird Studies Canada, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, ON, Canada N0E 1M0.



# appalachian region



generally better than in recent years. The passerine species expected in October staged a pretty good flight. In November, there was a heavier than average movement of waterfowl, including grebes and coots.

The uneventful periods were occasionally interrupted by a weather-induced "fallout." There was a sprinkling of rarities, including a Regional first record. Despite the late arrival of some migrants, few remained past their normal departure time. By the end of the period there had been a moderately good influx of winter finches, promising an interesting winter ahead. The fall migration in this Region is now being

## SHADE-GROWN COFFEE

SAVES TREES FOR MIGRATING BIRDS

## SONG BIRD COFFEE

saves critical bird habitat.

AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION

helps to fund ABA programs, including support for Partners in Flight.

CALL TO ORDER:

**800/648-6491**

Now sold in 38 states! Call for the location nearest you or visit [www.songbirdcoffee.com](http://www.songbirdcoffee.com)

## GEORGE A. HALL

If I may borrow a term from evolutionary biology, the 1997 Autumn Migration could be designated as a routine (dare I say dull?) season, punctuated by a few episodes of excitement. The weather as well as the birding was pretty much "ho hum." At the Pittsburgh Weather Station, August and September were cooler than normal and had slightly lower than normal rainfall. October had near normal temperatures, but was much drier than normal. All in all it was a mild, pleasant season which changed abruptly in November to much colder than normal, with a 3-inch excess of rainfall. By the end of the period there had been few heavy frosts and only the "snowbelt" in Erie County, Pennsylvania, had had snow.

The migration started slowly; a series of frontal systems in August and early September were not accompanied by any substantial bird movement. The main passerine migration peaked in the first week of October, and numbers of thrushes and warblers were

stations, but comparative data for analysis were submitted from only the two big stations. At Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, 6612 birds were banded in 109 days, giving a statistically average season of 63 species with numbers large enough to analyze. Three were banded in numbers two Standard Deviations (S.D.) above the average of the 1987-1996 period, 10 were one S.D. above average, and seven were one S.D. below average (RCL, RM). The Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, Grant County, West Virginia, banded 3843 birds in 68 days. Of 42 species analyzed, two were two S.D. above average, and two were one S.D. below average (GAH). At both stations, comparison with the average of the 1977-1986 period gives a much gloomier picture.

Many of the hawk watch stations submitted only fragmentary data. Another monitoring project is the Waterfowl Count, which has now operated for several years at Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania.

## ABA Sales

Basic Reference Books  
Regional Guides  
International Birding  
Multimedia  
ABA Publications  
and much more!

**800/634-7736**