# western great lakes region



# DARYL D. TESSEN

hroughout the Region, the warm, dry conditions of summer prevailed into the autumn. This continued into Oct., when some variability occurred as localized areas received good rainfall while others remained dry. The first part of Nov. saw a return to colder weather. An unbelievably intense storm passed through the Region Nov. 9-11. Winds averaged 50-70 mph, with gusts in the 90-100 mph range at various sites. It was characterized as an "inland hurricane-Category 3." Oddly, the only obvious result of the storm was the unprecedented number of Franklin's Gulls found in Wisconsin and Michigan. Thousands were found during and after the storm's passage, with some lingering through the month. The last half of Nov. saw a return to record-high temperatures, and the early-fall-like weather continued well into Dec. However, because many passerines, especially warblers, vireos, and flycatchers commenced their southward migration unusually early, the warm weather did not create an abnormal number of lingering birds or late departures. Instead the mild weather induced remarkable numbers of swans, ducks, Sandhill Cranes, and robins to linger into Dec. In the latter case, a bumper berry crop also enticed them. Rarities this autumn presented a mixed picture. For Wisconsin and Michigan, it was an excellent season, spiced with some truly outstanding finds. By contrast, Minnesota's fall was lackluster. The best included Green Violet-Ear, Long-billed Murrelet, Eurasian Collared-Dove, and Anna's Hummingbird in Wisconsin; White-winged Dove, Northern Wheatear, Smith's Longspur, and Rufous Hummingbird in Michigan; and Brambling and Eurasian Collared-Dove in Minnesota. Mixed in with these were the likes of Pacific Loons, *Plegadis* ibis, King Eiders, Barrow's Goldeneyes, Gyrfalcon, Ruff, Purple Sandpipers, Pomarine and Long-tailed jaegers, California, Black-headed, and Sabine's gulls, Black-legged Kittiwakes, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Mountain Bluebirds, and Western Tanager, plus a good passerine flight in two-thirds of the Region.

Abbreviations: H.R.N.R. (Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve, Duluth, MN); L.E.M.P. (Lake Erie Metropark, MI); M.W.S. (Muskegon Wastewater System, MI); P.M. (Point Mouillee State Game Area, MI); S.N.W.R. (Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, MI); U.P. (Upper Peninsula of Michigan); W.P.B.O. (Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, MI).

# LOOMS THROUGH IBISES

The W.P.B.O. staff tallied 535 Red-throated Loons Aug. 17-Nov. 14. In Wisconsin singles were seen Sep. 28-Nov. 24 in 4 counties, including an inland sighting at Tomah (DK). One was at Duluth Sep. 29 (KB). Three Pacific Loons were watched in Wisconsin: singles Oct. 17 at Superior's Wisconsin Pt. (RJ, SP), Oct. 29 just w. of Ashland (DB, KH), and Nov. 15 on Green L. (SL). In Michigan, one was at S. Haven Nov. 1 (JG). Minnesota had seven, including three at Duluth Oct. 18 (KB, PS), with singles also during Oct. in Aitkin, Lake, and Mille Lacs and a Nov. record at L. Winnibigoshish (KS, PS). Com. Loons commenced migrating early, as evidenced by one at New Buffalo, MI, Aug. 15 (JM). At W.P.B.O., 4311 passed Aug. 14-Nov. 15. Peaks included 1688 Oct. 20 on Mille Lacs L. (AH) and 1599 Oct. 21 at L. Winnibigoshish (KS, PS), both MN. With the mild weather, many individuals lingered well into Dec. in all 3 states. Piedbilled and Horned grebes also stayed into Dec., especially in Wisconsin. Early was a Horned at M.W.S. Aug. 16 (GW, ES). The W.P.B.O. staff counted 19,404 Red-necked Grebes Aug. 9-Nov. 15, of which 11,777 were during Aug.! Six Eared Grebes were present at M.W.S. Aug. 14 (KT), with five

lingering until Nov. 8 (m. ob.), and singles were in Ionia, MI, Sep. 10 & 28 (KT). In Wisconsin, five individuals were noted: Dane, Sep. 3-13 (PA, EH), Columbia, Sep. 11 (SR) and Oct. 31 (DG, TWo), Horicon NWR Oct. 15-24 (m. ob.), and Milwaukee Nov. 20+ (DG, MK et al.). Single W. Grebes were near Cleveland, WI, Oct. 1 (DT) and at Benton Harbor, MI, Oct. 11 (KT, DM, RB). A Clark's Grebe was on Thielke L., MN, Aug. 16 (KE et al.). Am. White Pelicans continue to be seen more frequently in the Region. Concentrations of several hundred were found at Green Bay and Horicon NWR, plus along the Mississippi R. on both the Wisconsin and Minnesota sides. Birds were still present Nov. 20 at LaCrosse. As expected, Double-crested Cormorants lingered

The Am. Bittern in Chippewa Nov. 30 was very late for the U.P. (LD). Late were Great Egrets Nov. 15 in Monroe, MI (WP), and Nov. 26 in LaCrosse, WI (DK). Four Snowy Egrets lingered at Green Bay until late Sep. (m. ob.). In Michigan one-five were in Monroe Aug. 9-Sep. 10 (JR, JC et al.), while singles were at P.M. Aug. 5 (KT) and in Bay Sep. 14 (AB, KT). Imm. Little Blue Herons were found at the Erie Marsh Preserve, MI, Aug. 8 (TW) and at the L. Bemidii outlet, MN, Oct. 7 (DJ, P&BD, ph.). Cattle Egrets were scarce in Wisconsin and Minnesota, with no records after mid-Sep. The only Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was at Milwaukee Aug. 29-Sep. 7 (MK, TWo et al.). Bolduc had one-two Plegadis ibis in Chippewa and Swift Oct. 18 and Lac Qui Parle Oct. 25, both MN.

#### **VULTURES**

## THROUGH WATERFOWL

Very late for the U.P. was a Turkey Vulture Oct. 26 near Gulliver (JY). Greater White-fronted Geese were seen in Michigan, with two each in *Berrien* Nov. 11 (JR, KM) and S.N.W.R. Nov. 13 (MW) and a maximum of 21 Nov. 14–30 at Allegan S.G.A. (m. ob.). In Wisconsin, one was in *Columbia* Oct. 26 (SR), with birds present in Dec. as well. Single Minnesota Ross's Geese were in *Clay*, *Dakota*, and *Rice*, with the latter bird lingering into Dec. In Wisconsin, two were initial-

**VOLUME 53 (1999), ISSUE 1** 53

ly found at Goose Pond, Columbia, Nov. 27, later joined by a 3rd here and at Middleton Ponds. With the mild weather, large Canada Goose flocks lingered late, and both Wisconsin and Michigan had unusually large numbers of the Richardson's (hutchinsii) form of Canada Goose. Unfortunately, good numbers of Mute Swan were noted in all 3 states, with Michigan the winner: 235 at Muskegon L. Nov. 19. Substantial numbers of Tundra Swan were found during Nov. and later: 3500 were near Bay Port Nov. 12 and 1050 at P.M. Nov. 29, both MI. In Wisconsin, 500 were at Goose Pond into Dec., but most impressive was a group of 8000-10,000 along the Mississippi River s. of LaCrosse into Dec. (DK, FL).

In addition to the unprecedented numbers of lingering geese and swan, ducks also remained late in substantial numbers. A nominate Green-winged Teal ("Common Teal") was found by Kuecherer and Houle Nov. 29 in Vernon, a Wisconsin first. Divers peaked at 428,000 on Nov. 23 along the Mississippi R. in the tristate area, mainly Wisconsin. These included 320,000+ Canvasbacks and 33,000+ Ring-necked Ducks (EN). A Canvasback at P.M. Aug. 9 may have summered (JR, AB, TW). Greater Scaup peaked at New Buffalo, MI, at 1500 Nov. 22 & 27 (AB, KT). Inland Greaters in Wisconsin appeared in Madison, Oshkosh, and Neenah. A total of six King Eiders were found in Wisconsin and Michigan. The first for Wisconsin was an imm. male discovered by Stover in Door Nov. 14. When Peterson and Tessen checked Nov. 18, a female was present. Brady (ABr), Verch, and others watched two females feeding just offshore w. of Ashland, Bayfield, Nov. 22 (ph.). In Michigan, a female was on the Tahquamenon R., Chippewa, Nov. 12-14 (LD, KB, ST, GL), while another was at Lakeside, Berrien, Nov. 15+ (m. ob.). Harlequin Ducks put on a good show in the Region, with five or more in both Michigan and Wisconsin and three-five in Minnesota.

The scoter migration commenced early in the Region, with both Surf and White-winged appearing in Aug. and Blacks arriving in early Sep. at W.P.B.O. There were numerous inland records of all 3 species, especially in the w. states, and first county records were established in Minnesota. A count of 230 on Mille Lacs L. Oct. 20 beat the old high count by 200 (AH)!

Unprecedented for Wisconsin and perhaps the Region was the Oldsquaw concentration at Point Beach S.F. n. of Two Rivers. Harriman and others discovered a raft Nov. 7 that blackened the water and air, conserv-

atively estimated at 20,000. By Nov. 9, the numbers had increased to 30,000 to 40,000 (DT)! Unfortunately, the powerful Nov. storm that struck the following day dispersed them. The male **Barrow's Goldeneye** returned for a 5th year to Wisconsin's Virmond Park Nov. 22+ (TWo et al.). Peak merganser numbers included 450 Hooded Nov. 21 in *Ramsey*, MN (KB), 3500 Commons Nov. 28 in *Midland*, MI (GZ), 2500 Red-breasted Oct. 4 in *Bay* (JS), and 2000 more at Holland, MI, Nov. 22 (AB). In Wisconsin, 5000+ Ruddy Ducks were on L. Maria in Sep.

## RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES

Generally, the raptor flight was poor, even moreso than in fall 1997. This was particularly true for the Broad-winged flight, which was terrible in all 3 states. The Swainson's Hawk flight was also poor, especially in Minnesota, where they are seen more often than elsewhere in the Region. Wisconsin had only one record, Sep. 5 in Ozaukee (DT). By contrast, the Golden Eagle flight was very good in Minnesota and Michigan but not Wisconsin, where only a few were noted. Merlins had a good flight in Minnesota and Wisconsin, with the richardsoni subspecies reported from 5 counties in the former. A Gyrfalcon was at Concordia College, WI, Nov. 23 (VB, BC). Minnesota had two Prairie Falcons: in Clay Aug. 16 (RO) and at Hemmepin Airport Oct. 19+, a returning wintering bird (TT et al.). Peak hawk flights in Wisconsin included Sharp-shinneds Oct. 19, with 1040 at Cedar Grove (DBe) and 1220 at Concordia College (VB, HC). Merlins peaked at 206 Oct. 18 in Ozaukee (DT) and 267 Oct. 19 at Concordia (VB, HC). The peak Peregrine passage was Sep. 26, with 27 at Concordia.

Gray Partridge observations were up in Minnesota, with 15+ counties reporting them. Family groups were noted in Waseca and Sibley/Renville, both MN. In Wisconsin, the opposite was true. A King Rail family (two adults with five young) was at Michigan's Maple R. S.G.A. into early Aug. (CP, RH, ph.). A Sora captured Oct. 20 in downtown Muskegon was released in a marsh (GW, ES). Very late was one Nov. 19 in Itasca, MN (SH), and likewise tardy a Com. Moorhen Oct. 27 in Dodge, WI (BD). Sandhill Cranes peaked late in the season, with outstanding numbers well into Dec. In Jackson, MI, 2767 were present Nov. 16 (JPo). In Wisconsin, the Great Storm caused an exodus and concentration into the s. counties that was spectacular. Between 2000 and 7000 birds were either noted moving S

or concentrating in the area owing to milder temperatures and available forage (PP et al.).

#### **SHOREBIRDS**

This group presented a mixed picture The general consensus was a lackluster flight, despite concentrations in Wisconsin (Rainbow Flowage in Vilas and Big Eau Pleine Res. in Marathon) and Minnesota (Minnesota L. in Blue Earth/Fairbault). Peak ployer numbers included Black-bellieds, with 90 Oct. 10 in Fairbault (JD) and 111 Oct. 31 in Monroe, MI (WP). Also in Fairbault were 200 Am. Golden-Plovers Sep. 12 (JD), while Monroe had 104 Semipalmateds Sep 5 (CPo, TW). Peak Killdeer were 182 Aug 9 in Anoka, MN (KB) and 256 Sep. 9 at S.N W R (DP). Single Piping Plovers were at W.PB O Aug. 27 & 31 (staff) and Sep. 7 in Fairbault (LE). Am. Avocets bucked the trend, with a good flight, including 17 birds in Michigan, five in Minnesota, and two record-late birds at Milwaukee Nov. 12 (DG, MK, CT) and Trempealeau N.W.R. Nov. 12-17 (LM), both in Wisconsin. Very late was a Greater Yellowlegs Nov. 29 at L.E.M.P. (WP), and similarly late birds were present in LaCrosse and inland in Monroe, with several lingering into Dec. (DK). Most impressive were Lesser Yellowlegs peaks in Minnesota, where 558 were present Sep. 6 in Fairbault (KB) and Michigan, where 1014 were at S.NWR Aug. 27 (DP). Belter had 140 Solitary Sandpipers Aug. 15 in Wisconsin's Marathon. Very late was one Oct. 12 at S.N W R (DP). The Willet flight typified the shorebird picture—poor—with only five birds in the Region. The 103 Spotted Sandpipers at M.W.S. Aug. 3 (JBo, EHo) was an unusually high count. The Whimbrel flight was also poor, with 10 birds from 6 sites mid-Aug through mid-Sep. (m. ob.) in Michigan, two at Duluth intermittently Sep. 5-23 (m. ob), and singles at Marinette Aug. 18 (PBr) and Manitowoc Sep. 6 (CS), WI. Hudsonian Godwits were found in all 3 states, Michigan with 11+, Minnesota 8+, while Wisconsin's solo bird accompanied an avocet at Trempealeau N.W.R. Nov. 12 (LM). The only Marbled Godwits were in Michigan, with two Sep. 7 at Thunder Bay (WG) and one Sep. 21 at Au Train L. (LT). Early were six Ruddy Turnstones Aug. 1 at P.M. (CPo, TW). There was a very good Red Knot flight, especially in Michigan (40+ birds) and Wisconsin (10+ birds). Aug. 1 found 762 Semipalmated Sandpipers at P.M. (CPo, TW, AB). W. Sandpipers appeared in Wisconsin Aug. 1-Sep. 9 (eight or so birds, all documented), while Michigan had five or

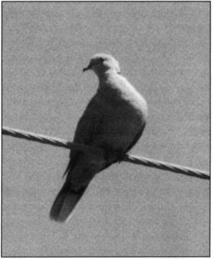
54 NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS

more birds, with a late one Nov. 9 at P.M. (CPo). Least Sandpiper concentrations included 300 Aug. 15 in Marathon (DB) and 141 in Fairbault (KB). Late was a Whiterumped Sandpiper Nov. 12 and a Baird's Nov. 23 in Ozaukee (DT). The latter species had a remarkable concentration of 105 Aug. 18 at the Rainbow Flowage (DT). Pectorals peaked in Minnesota at 350 in Fairbault Aug. 8 (KB) and 304 Oct. 14 in Polk (KB, PS). The bird in Ozaukee Nov. 23 was very late. In Michigan there were three Purple Sandpipers at Muskegon Nov. 5 (BM), with one at Tiscornia Beach Nov. 11 (KM). One was at Manitowoc briefly Nov. 28 (CS et al.). Early was a Dunlin Aug. 1 at P.M. (TW), while late birds were Nov. 29 in Monroe (DM, KT, MTe) and into Dec. at Sheboygan. Peak Stilt Sandpipers included 97 Aug. 8 in Fairbault (KB), 197 Sep. 6 in Big Stone (LE), while late were two Oct. 23-25 in Polk (m. ob.), all MN. There was an excellent Buffbreasted Sandpiper flight in Minnesota, with a total of 72 birds seen in 9 counties: 24 in Fairbault Aug. 16 (SRo), plus first county records for Blue Earth Aug. 13 (RJa) and Dodge Aug. 22 (DA, BE). Wisconsin's flight was also good, with 50-60 birds from 5 counties that included 23-28 birds at the Rainbow Flowage Aug. 17-18 (v. o.). Only Michigan saw a poor flight, with 12 birds from 2 counties. Michigan had two Ruffs, the first a female at L. Linden Sewage Ponds Aug. 13 (LB, AW), the other at P.M. Aug. 21 (CPo, TW, ESm). Short-billed Dowitchers were scarce in Minnesota but not in Michigan, where 133 were at P.M. Aug. 27 (WPO). Wisconsin had a below-average flight. Three Long-billed Dowitchers Nov. 17 in Ozaukee (TU) were record late for Wisconsin, while the one in Monroe, MI, Nov. 29 was considered only very late (DM, KT, MTe). This species peaked in Minnesota at 158 Oct. 16 in Fairbault (JD). Ninetyseven Wilson's Phalaropes were tallied by Ellwanger Aug. 9 in Big Stone, MN. The Red-necked Phalarope flight was poor Regionwide, but Minnesota had groups of 13-19 birds at 3 sites. Each state recorded Red Phalaropes. A juvenile molting into first-basic plumage was at Crookstone Oct. 23-24 for the 10th Minnesota record (PS et al.). Lubahn had one in Milwaukee on the L. Michigan shore Nov. 10. In Michigan Franke had two Nov. 15 at Grand Haven.

# JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS

**Pomarine Jaegers** were found in Michigan Sep. 2 (KB, GL) and Oct. 28 (AB, RP) at W.P.B.O., while in Wisconsin one was watched harassing gulls and Parasitic Jae-

gers during a strong NE wind at Wisconsin Pt. Sep. 26 (RJ, SP) and 27 (DT). Parasitic Jaegers were seen in all 3 states, with at least four at Superior (SP, RJ et al.) and Duluth (m. ob.) from Sep. to early Oct. A. Longtailed Jaeger was watched at W.P.B.O Sep. 14 (KB, GL). Unidentified jaegers included one at Lower Red L., MN, Aug. 27 (DJ) and 43 at W.P.B.O. for the season Aug. 22-Oct. 27, with a peak of seven Aug. 29 (staff). Single Laughing Gulls were in Michigan at New Buffalo Oct. 6 (RB), P.M. Oct. 9 (KT, RB), and Muskegon Nov. 12 (JW). The Franklin's Gull flight was unprecedented for Michigan and Wisconsin during and following the Great Storm Nov. 10-11. Over 1000 were observed in 26 Michigan counties, while in Wisconsin at least 1500-2000 were noted, mainly along L. Michigan (especially in Milwaukee and Ozaukee), but numerous flocks up to 50+ were inland for days after the storm. In both states, birds lingered until Dec. Pre-storm records came from Minnesota, with 3770 in Lyon Sep. 25 (RS) being the high count. Little Gulls are becoming harder to find, though all 3 states reported them, Michigan with four, Minnesota one, and Wisconsin three. A Black**headed Gull** accompanied a Bonaparte's Oct. 8 at Fischer Cr. C.P., Manitowoc, WI (DT). Another adult strayed from Iowa into Minnesota on Big Spirit L. Oct. 24-29 (DA, BE, AH). Up to 1500 Bonaparte's Gulls spent Nov. on L. Lansing, MI (BC). A 2ndwinter California Gull was seen in Charlevoix, MI, Nov. 4 (LD) and 7 (DJe). Thayer's Gulls were reported from all 3 states in Nov. and Iceland Gulls from Wisconsin and Minnesota, mainly during Nov., although one was at Wisconsin Pt. Sep. 24. Lesser Black-backed Gulls totalled four each in Minnesota and Wisconsin, whereas Michigan had 12, including a record-early bird Aug. 2 at P.M. (WP). Glaucous Gulls were more sparsely reported than normal, especially in Wisconsin. Great Black-backed Gull, becoming considerably more common in Wisconsin, was widely reported. Four-five juvenile Sabine's Gulls were found by Tessen at Superior's Wisconsin Pt. Sep. 23. Several of these lingered here and at Duluth through Sep. 26 (m. ob.). Michigan also had four, all singles: Sep. 21 at W.P.B.O (KB, GL, RP, JSc), Sep. 19-21 at M.W.S. (SM, JPo et al., ph.), Oct. 9 at Baraga S.P. (JY, LB, ph.), and Oct. 6-12 at W.P.B.O (m. ob.). In Wisconsin, single Black-legged Kittiwakes were noted at Wisconsin Pt. and Duluth's Park Pt. Sep. 24-25 (DT, RJ, SP, KH, DB, PS, AH), at Virmond Park Nov. 3 (two birds; SL), and Green Bay Nov. 14-23



Eurasian Collared-Dove continued its barnstorming of the continent, with first records in Maryland and Delaware this season. This plump invader was Wisconsin's second, in Buena Vista Marsh, Portage County, Wisconsin, August 1. Photograph/J. Polk

(JRe et al.). Five were seen at W.P.B.O Oct. 8-Nov. 15, with other Michigan singles in *Kalamazoo* Nov. 13 (JG), S. Haven Nov. 21 (JG), and Oval Beach Nov. 26 (JR). Com. Terns numbered 1000 at P.M. Aug. 9 (AB). The Forster's Tern in Milwaukee Nov. 26 was record-late for the state (DG). Two Least Terns were in *Cottonwood*, MN, Sep. 12 (PE).

# ALCIDS

#### THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

One of the "finds" of the season was a Long-billed Murrelet discovered by Lubahn at Wisconsin's Virmond Park Nov. 24, confirmed by Sundell later that morning and studied for 45 minutes but not relocated thereafter. The excellent sketches and written notes leave little doubt about the identification of the bird. Wisconsin and Minnesota each got 2nd records of Eurasian Collared-Dove: the bird at Buena Vista Marsh, Portage, WI, remained through Sep., while three-five birds were at Lyon, MN, Nov. 14+ (both m. ob.). Michigan had its 4th White-winged Dove record at W.P.B.O. Oct. 23 (ph. AB, ST, RP, BM et al.). Very late for the U.P. was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo Oct. 7 at W.P.B.O. There were very few Snowy Owls around in the fall, forecasting a poor winter, and likewise few Great Gray Owls, with only three or so each in Minnesota and Michigan and one in Wisconsin. Short-eared Owls were limited in the w. states but in above-average



A White-winged Dove, representing the fourth state record, was at Whitefish Point Bird Observatory October 24. This species, like its counterpart across the page, has been on the move in spring and fall all across the continent, with important records established in Nebraska, Kansas, Alabama, Illinois, Oregon, Colorado (where now breeding!), Oklahoma (new high count), and the District of Columbia. Photograph/Adam M. Byrne

numbers in Michigan. The only Boreal Owl noted was Oct. 23 at W.P.B.O. Good numbers of N. Saw-whet Owls were seen in Wisconsin. The Com. Nighthawk flight was considered poor in all 3 states, with a notable exception: Berger counted 7000 passing over Cedar Grove Station Aug. 23. Black-backed Woodpeckers were reported in all 3 states. H.R.N.R. had a total of eight migrating Sept. 15–Nov. 1 (FN et al.), above average.

# FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

A good Olive-sided Flycatcher flight was noted for Michigan. Late was an E. Wood-Pewee in *Dane* Oct. 19 (ME), as was a Great Crested Flycatcher in Door Oct. 26 (BS), both WI. A **Say's Phoebe** was watched by Tustison Sep. 3 at the Resurrection Cemetery, *Dakota*, MN. W. Kingbirds were noted

in all 3 states: Wisconsin had one Aug. 23 in Marathon (LO), Minnesota had sightings in 5 counties (overall numbers continuing low, as in the past 5 years), and Michigan had above-average numbers, with two Aug. 29 at the Maple River S.G.A. (TWh) and singles at W.P.B.O. Sep. 1, Seney N.W.R. Sep. 17, (LD), and in Huron Oct. 16, a very late date. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were found in Minnesota, with single birds at Tofte Sep. 29 (DS) and Grand Marais Oct. 24 (TBr, SRo). Michigan had one at W.P.B.O. Oct. 24 (AB, KB, ST, BM et al.). The only Loggerhead Shrike sightings came from Minnesota, with 15+ birds in 4 counties. N. Shrike sightings in Wisconsin and Michigan were considerably below normal.

A White-eyed Vireo was last seen Sep. 17 in *Hillsdale*, MI (JRei). Tardy Blue-headed Vireos were in Milwaukee Nov. 2 and Williamsport, MI, Nov. 4 (BA). Record late

was a Red-eyed Vireo through Nov. 21 at Concordia College, WI (BCo). Far s. of normal was a Gray Jay in Adams, WI, Nov. 21-22 (DH). At H.R.N.R. a total of 2039 Com. Ravens was tallied during migration (FN). Peak swallow concentrations included 10,000 Trees Sep. 14 at the Nayanquing Pt. S.W.A. (AB, KT) and 5500 Banks Aug. 2 at P.M. (WP), both MI. Late was a Barn Swallow at L.E.M.P. Nov. 29 (WP), North of normal were Tufted Titmouse in Alpena and Antrim, MI. Carolina Wrens were found in fair-to-good numbers in all 3 states. Very late wren sightings included a House Nov. 8 in Portage, WI (KH), and a Marsh Nov. 20 in Oconto, WI (J&KS). Very early was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Dane, WI, Sep. 2 (PA), and late for the U.P., a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher tarried at W.P.B.O. Oct. 24 (AB). Michigan had its 10th Northern Wheatear record this fall: one was photographed at W.P.B.O. Sep. 17 (RP, MPe, KB, GL, ST, DGa). Three Mountain Bluebirds were found in Minnesota: a male Sep. 21 in Kanabec (AH), a female Oct. 20 in Lake (KE, PS), and another female Oct. 23 in Chippewa (ABo). Two Mountain Bluebirds graced Wisconsin: a male in Door Oct. 23-24 (BS, BD, KH, R&CL et al., ph.) and a female in Tessen's yard in Appleton Nov. 14. Four Townsend's Solitaires were present in 3 Minnesota counties (Becker, St. Louis, and Stearns), while one at W.P.B.O. Oct. 20 was a rare find. Berner tallied 230 Swainson's Thrushes the night of Sep. 1 in Portage, WI. A male Varied Thrush was present in Crow Wing, MN, Nov. 4-25 (m. ob.). The excellent spring and summer N. Mockingbird show continued into the fall: about eight (including one family group of four) in Michigan, about three in Minnesota, and family groups in Columbia and Door, WI (PA; R&CL, JRe). Am. Pipit peaks included 157 Oct. 19 at M.W.S. (JPo, GW, EH) and 82 Sep. 18 in Door, WI (JRe). Very late was one Nov. 29 in Grant, WI (BD, KB).

Hummingbirds made big news, especially in Wisconsin, where the find of the season was a male Green Violet-Ear in LaCrosse, originally coming to Hayden's feeder Sep. 22–25. Despite Hayden's departure on vacation, the bird remained in the vicinity, feeding in flowers and on insects in a neighoring yard. On Oct. 27 it appeared at the Larson feeder, and the Larsons fortunately contacted a local birder (Lesher), who studied it the following day with Kuecherer and felt it might be a Green Violet-Ear, though foul weather hampered attempts to identify it. The next morning, a small group anxiously awaited the bird's appearance and was rewarded within minutes with a male Green Violet-Ear, a Wisconsin first and Regional 2nd. By Nov. 1, over 250 birders had descended on the gracious Larsons' household. On that date, the bird was so weakened by cold that it could barely fly to the feeder; it collapsed to the ground and was captured. It was then taken to rehabilitators in Antigo, where it died Nov. 4, apparently of pneumonia and injuries inflicted by a cat. Shortly thereafter, Wisconsin's 3rd Anna's Hummingbird appeared during the Great Storm at a feeder in Muskego. Apparently an imm. male, it was captured Nov. 15, with the intent of rehabilitating the bird for release in California later in the season. The Keweenaw Peninsula had a record-late Ruby-throated Hummingbird Oct. 14 (LB), and a male Rufous Hummingbird appeared near Williamston, MI, Sep. 25 through Dec. (ph. TB et al.).

Record late for Minnesota was a Sprague's Pipit at the Rothsay W.M.A. Oct. 24–25 (KE et al.). Bohemian Waxwings appeared in good numbers in n. counties of each state. Lesher had 300 Nov. 16 in Eagle River, WI. The first migrants were found at W.P.B.O. Aug. 14 (CB). An impressive 5100 Cedar Waxwings passed the Cedar Grove Station, WI, Sep. 6 (DBe).

#### **WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES**

Warblers began migrating early, perhaps because their spring flight had been directly to the nesting territory for most. The majority had departed by late Sep., unusual considering the mildness of the fall, and only a few record-late departures were noted. Wisconsin birders in particular commented on the good fall movement, but Minnesotans found the opposite true. A Lawrence's Warbler was banded at the Kalamazoo Nature Center Sep. 12 (JG), while a Brewster's was near Mayville Aug. 13 (ph. MW), both MI. Record-late by a month for the Keweenaw Peninsula was a Yellow Warbler near Copper Harbor Oct. 19 (LB); record late by over 2 weeks was a Magnolia in Dane, WI, Nov. 28 (PA). The exception to Minnesota's dismal warbler flight were records of Black-throated Blue Warblers, found in high numbers, including a Pennington first Sep. 28 (JJ). A late individual was in Otter Tail Oct. 10 (S&DM). Very early were Yellow-rumped Warblers at Stony Cr. Metropark Aug. 3 (PPo) and the Erie Marsh Preserve Aug. 15 (JC, TW), both MI. At W.P.B.O 350 Yellow-rumpeds were present Sep. 18, and an Audubon's Warbler was in Cook, MN, Oct. 31. Very late were three Black-throated Green Warblers in Shiawassee, MI, Nov. 2 (MPl). A Kirtland's Warbler was seen in Marquette Aug. 2 (MPI). Record late was an Am. Redstart Nov. 14-22 in Hennepin, MN (SC, LE). A Prothonotary Warbler was present in Aitkin, MN, Aug. 29-30 (WN et al.). Vinnedge found a Worm-eating Warbler Aug. 29 at Warren Dunes, MI, and a Kentucky Warbler was present Aug. 24 in Juneau, WI (WM). Single Hooded Warblers were found at Rosy Mound Park Sep. 3 (JPo), Warren Dunes S. P. Sep. 13 (WJ, JR), and in Hillsdale Sep. 17 (IRei), all MI. A Wilson's Warbler Nov. 27 in Hennepin, MN (SC), was record late.

A Summer Tanager was present in Two Harbors, MN, Oct. 17–19, and a male Summer commenced visits to Kearns' feeder in Green Bay Nov. 15, a few days after the Storm, remaining through Dec. 1. Lubahn watched a female **Western Tanager** in Mil-

waukee's Lake Park Sep. 22. Spotted Towhees appeared during early Oct. in Pipestone and Rock and Nov. 21 at Ramsey (JHo), all MN. Early-arriving Am. Tree Sparrows showed up as early as Sep. 11 at Marquette (LT). Minnesota had Lark Buntings Aug. 25 in Hennepin (TT et al.) and Sep. 28 in Duluth (SRo). A Savannah Sparrow lingered until Dec. at Port Washington, WI (TU). Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found in all 3 states, and the Harris's Sparrow flight was excellent in both Wisconsin and Michigan. Very early was a Lapland Longspur at W.P.B.O Aug. 30. Two Smith's Longspurs were found in the U.P.: W.P.B.O. Sep. 11 (KB, GL, ph.) and Copper Harbor Sep. 18 (LB). For Minnesota, out-of-range birds were watched at Duluth Sep. 26-Oct. 2 (MHe et al.) and Grand Marais Oct. 2-10 (m. ob.). Maximum for Snow Buntings was a count of 1000 at M.W.S. Nov. 5 (JPo). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak appeared in Manitowoc during late Nov., remaining into Dec. Several Dickcissels were seen in Wisconsin and Michigan, with a late bird at W.P.B.O. Nov. 23-24 (LD).

Michigan had its 4th **Brambling** at Hoyt Lakes Oct. 23 (AE, AH). Almost nonexistent were Pine Grosbeak, Com. Redpoll, and White-winged Crossbill, and the siskin flight was well below average. Quite good numbers of Purple Finches, Red Crossbills, Am. Goldfinches, and Evening Grosbeaks were noted but only very locally. W.P.B.O. staff banded a record-early Com. Redpoll Aug. 20, and Hoaries were seen there Oct. 26 and Nov. 9, unusual in a nonredpoll year.

Contributors: Brian Allen, Diane Anderson, Philip Ashman, Karl Bardon, Dan Belter, Dan Benson (DBen), Vic Berardi, Dan Berger (DBe), Murray Berner, Laurence Binford, Ted Black, Al Bolduc (ABo), Ryan Brady (RBr), Terry Brashear (TBr), Calvin Brennan, Peter Bridge (PBr), Rick Brigham, Paul Bruce, Kay Burcar, Adam M. Byrne, Steve Carlson, Allen Chartier (Michigan), Bruce Cohen, Hal Cohen, Bill Cowart (BCo), Julie Craves, Jeff Dains, Pat & Bob DeWenter, Bob Domagalski, Louie Dombroski, Kim Eckert, Bob Ekblad, Lane Ellwanger, Martin Evanson, Audrey Evers, Roger & Tammy Field, Chip Franke, DeLores Gavit (DGa), Marg Gibson, Jim Granlund, Bob Grefe, William Grigg, Dennis Gustafson, Dennis Haessly, Kent Hall, Ellen Hansen, Bettie Harriman, John Hayden, Mike Hendrickson, Anthony Hertzel, James Howitz (JHo), Sue Hutchins, Robert Janssen (RJa), Don Jenette (DJe), Margaret Jewett, Doug Johnson, Robbye

Johnson, Wendy Jones, Jeanie Joppru, Kevin Kearns, Cecil Kersting, Mark Korducki, Dennis Kuecherer, Ed & Marcella Larson, Steve & Laura LeValley, Fred Lesher, Greg Levandoski, Steve Lubahn, Roy & Charlotte Lukes, Lisa McCurdy, John McDaniel, Doug McWhirter, Steve & Diane Millard, Kip Miller, Steve Minard, Bob Moblo (BMo), William Mueller, Brad Murphy, Gary & Tess Nelkie, Eric Nelson, Warren Nelson, Frank Nicoletti, Michael North, Robert O'Connor, Lynn Ott, Patricia Parsons, Walter Pawloski, David Peters, Joyce Peterson, Mark Peterson, Michael Petrucha (MPe), Rod Planck, Marlene Planck (MPl), James Ponshair (JPo), Paul Poronto (PPo), Curt Powell (CPo), Caleb Putnam, Shaun Putz, John Regan (JRe), Jack Reinoehl (JRei), Sam Robbins, Steve Roman (SRo), John Rosenberg, Steve Santner, Jim Schei (JSc), Roger Schroeder, Ellen Slater, Ed Smith (ESm), Jerry & Karen Smith, Joe Soehnel, Charles Sontag, Dorey Spence, Barbara Stover, Jean Strelka (JSt), Roger Sundell (RSu), Karen Sussman, Peder Svengen (Minnesota), Louis Taccolini, Michael Tarachow, Mary Teesdale (MTe), Scott Terry, Daryl Tessen (Wisconsin), Carol Thomas, Kevin Thomas, Tom Tustison, Tom Uttech, Dick Verch, David Vinnedge (DVi), Mindy Walker (MWa), Arthur Weaver, Tex Wells, Thomas Wheeker (TWh), George Wickstrom, John Will, Myles Willard, Tom Wood (TWo), W.P.B.O. staff, Joseph Youngman.

**Daryl D. Tessen,** 3118 N. Oneida Street, Appleton, WI 54911.



57

Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T." or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout North American Birds are keyed on page 24.

VOLUME 53 (1999), ISSUE 1