

central southern region



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A season of tempests and transients, windstorms and wanderers, Autumn 1998 was not your standard affair. Depending on the location, perceptions of this fall ranged from slow to spectacular. Migrant numbers were generally good in most areas; several vagrants rewarded the fortunate.

Overall, temperatures were warmer than usual, and precipitation away from storm tracks was decreased. Tropical turbulence assaulted the Region several times, transporting fascinating visitors, but it wrought havoc and subsequently hindered access to birding sites. Tropical Storm *Charley* skirted just s. of the area in late Aug. before striking the Texas coast. Hurricane *Earl* then made a pass traveling E, coming ashore near Panama City Sep. 2. With little respite,

Tropical Storm *Frances* plowed into the Texas coast again Sep. 11, transiting north after landfall. Tropical Depression *Hermine* doused s. e. Louisiana Sep. 20. The ultimate blow was Hurricane *Georges*. This Caribbean monster, a rare Category 5, raked coastal portions of Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana Sep. 27–28; after dallying in s. Mississippi, the degrading cyclone blasted E across the Florida Panhandle toward Georgia.

Reports of significant rarities not accompanied by convincing documentation have been excluded, excepting processed specimens.

Abbreviations: b. (*banded*); C.P. (*Cameron Parish, s.w. LA*); F.W.B.S.F. (*Fort Walton Beach spray field, Okaloosa County, FL*); M.L. (*Millwood Lake, s.w. AR*); N.N.W.R. (*Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, e.c. MS*); T.N.W.R. (*Tallahatchie National Wildlife Refuge, n.w. MS*); W.P. (*Western Panhandle [westernmost three counties], FL*); * (*specimen to Louisiana State University*).

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

Two Red-throated Loons made rare appearances beginning Nov. 8 at Pace Pt., *Henry, TN* (JRW, m. ob.). More unusual still was a **Pacific Loon** at this site Nov. 21 (JRW, J&SH); an Eared Grebe that day was noteworthy so far inland. A double dose of the

very rare W. Grebe was a surprise Nov. 28 in *Faulkner* (ph.) and *Pope, AR* (both K&LN)

Probably occurring regularly far offshore, **Cory's Shearwater** is rarely recorded in our Region; at most four records have been accepted in both Alabama and Louisiana. Two were observed 139 mi s. of *Cameron, LA, Sep. 15* (JRK), and a decomposed specimen, likely a casualty of *Frances*, was found the following day in C.P. (DLD *) Single Cory's were located 74 mi s. of *Baldwin, AL, Oct. 4* (GDJ, CMD) and 17 mi s. of *South Pass, LA, Oct. 13* (DLD et al., *). Louisiana's 2nd **Greater Shearwater** was a thrill 36 mi s. of *South Pass Oct. 13* (DLD, SWC et al.). An Audubon's Shearwater was discovered dead in C.P. Sep. 16 (DLD, SWC).

Scarce Masked Boobies were spotted s. of *S. Pass Aug. 8* (DPM, m. ob., ph. DP), found dead in C.P. Sep. 16 (DLD, SWC, *), and located 90 mi s.w. of *Venice, LA, Oct. 3* (RLK). Other Maskeds were seen 74 mi s. of *Baldwin Oct. 4* (GDJ, CMD) and 35 mi s. of *South Pass Oct. 13* (DPM et al., *). Much harder to find in our area is **Brown Booby**; immatures were noted Aug. 30 in *Santa Rosa, FL* (A&DF), and 17 mi s. of *South Pass Oct. 13* (SWC et al., *). The very rare **Neotropic Cormorant** appeared Sep. 5 in *Lake* (MAG).

Huge numbers of Am. White Pelicans arrived in late autumn, with a high tally of 2200 at *Sardis L., MS, Nov. 22* (WMD)

SA Ibises and storks and spoonbills, those stick-legged, strange-billed wanderers, provide a touch of excitement each year when they appear in odd locales or arrive *en masse*. These birds were particularly obvious in the Region this autumn, with both large numbers and wide dispersal noted. Vagabond White Ibis included immatures Aug. 9–13 in *Colbert, AL* (SWM, GDJ, DGJ), beginning Sep. 5 at two sites in w. Tennessee (MAG, WGC), and Sep. 13 in *Lafayette, MS* (WMD, GCK). Several reports were submitted of Glossy Ibis (and unidentified *Plegadis*) in areas where they are uncommon or rare. Two White-faced Ibis created a stir Oct. 27–Nov. 2 at *Blakeley I., Mobile* (PCT et al.), providing Alabama's 10th record; another was at F.W.B.S.F. Nov. 5–7 (PCT et al.), only the 2nd for the W.P.

A pink explosion occurred this fall. In recent years, Roseate Spoonbill has increased in incidence outside Louisiana and within that state has become more numerous as a visitor outside the s.w. breeding grounds. An even greater surge took place this year, and these brilliant waifs remained unusually late. I received 10 non-Louisiana reports totaling 31 spoonbills from all states but Tennessee. Increasing from a single bird this summer, four were noted in *Desha, AR, Aug. 16* (JC). In Mississippi, up to two were at N.N.W.R. Aug. 10–Sep. 29 (TLS, m. ob.), and an amazing 13 spoonbills appeared Aug. 15–16 in *Adams* (MS, WP). Alabama records included four near *Montgomery Sep. 16–Oct. 18* (CTS, m. ob.), and up to four, setting a new late date, Sep. 25–Nov. 24 at *Mobile* (SWM, m. ob.); single Roseates, possibly the same individual, were spotted Sep. 29 at *Gulf Shores* (ES, GL et al.), Oct. 4 at *Ft. Morgan* (GDJ, CMD), and Oct. 20–22 near *Dauphin I.* (MVH et al.). Rounding out the spatulate spree was a lone bird Oct. 3 in *Escambia* (PP), establishing a 2nd W.P. record.

Wood Stork usually disperses in large flocks to many parts of our Region in late summer and fall, and this year the visitation was exceptional. Peak counts included 250 Aug. 17 at N.N.W.R. (TLS, m. ob.), 504 birds, providing a state maximum, in w.c. Alabama Aug. 23 (GDJ, DGJ), 382 storks Sep. 12 in *Desha, AR* (K&LN), and over 1200 in *Calcasieu, LA, Oct. 8* (JPK, MG, DS). Particularly unusual sightings were of three storks at F.W.B.S.F. Aug. 22 (BG, DMW et al.), and a late individual Oct. 3 in *Blount, AL* (PHF).

Recovery of the Brown Pelican population continues, with 1500 birds noted Sep. 16 in C.P. (SWC, DLD). Displaced far inland by *Georges*, a Brown Pelican was an oddity Sep. 29 at Miller's Ferry Dam, *Wilcox*, AL (DBC). *Earl* and *Frances* resulted in many magnificent Frigatebirds in the New Orleans area, with peaks of 132 Sep. 2 (PHY, DPM) and 61 Sep. 11 (PHY). After *Georges*, six frigatebirds Sep. 29 in *Wilcox* (DBC), and another the next day in *Henry* (GEH, WDR), provided 2nd and 3rd far inland records for Alabama. Also exceptional was Mississippi's 4th noncoastal occurrence, well after *Georges's* rampage, when one appeared Oct. 7 at Columbus L., *Lowndes/Clay* (KK, TLS et al.). The Am. Bittern in *Lowndes* Sep. 27 (WMD) provided a first local autumn record. A Great Egret Nov. 14 in *Benton* (MM, DC) was the latest for n.w. Arkansas. As many as four Tricolored Herons were unusual beginning Aug. 28 in *Dyer*, TN (WGC, MAG, JRW).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

The Region was inundated with migrant geese in Nov. Greater White-fronted Geese appeared in unprecedented numbers in some areas. Reports Nov. 11 of 200 near Mobile (PCT et al.) and 103 at Ft. Pickens (RAD, LRD) provided new Alabama and WP maxima; at T.N.W.R., an outstanding 2090 were estimated Nov. 29 (GCK, SK). A White-fronted in *Putnam*, TN, Nov. 28–30 (BHS, SJS, WW) was a local first. Excellent numbers of Snow Geese also were recorded, with exceptional flights Nov. 11 of more than 7700 birds s.e. of Baton Rouge (JVR, RLK), 2600 at Ft. Pickens (RAD, LRD), and 3000 at F.W.B.S.F. (DMW). Ross's Goose continues to increase in our area. Of many reports, most notable were two birds at F.W.B.S.F., providing a first W.P. record, starting Nov. 18 (LRD, m. ob.), eight Ross's setting a new Alabama maximum in *Limestone* beginning Nov. 24 (CDC, RRR, m. ob.), and a first local occurrence Nov. 26–30 in *Putnam* (SJS, BHS, m.ob.).

Very rare in our area, an ad. male **Eurasian Wigeon** graced Wheeler N.W.R. Nov. 13–14 (KA, m. ob.), providing the 7th Alabama record. An ad. male Cinnamon Teal returned Nov. 7 to New Orleans (GO, DJL, m. ob., ph.). Unusual scoter reports included six Surfs Oct. 23 in *Dekalb*, TN (SJS, BHS), a White-winged Nov. 19–21 at Oxford, MS (GCK, SK, WMD, m. ob.), 23 White-wingeds at Ft. Morgan Nov. 26 (JL, PB), and three Blacks Nov. 15 at Pace Point (JRW).

Two Swallow-tailed Kites were surpris-

ing for n. Mississippi Aug. 23 in *Panola* (GCK, SK). An Alabama maximum of 35 Cooper's Hawks was noted at Ft. Morgan Oct. 23 (GDJ, DGJ). The imm. Swainson's Hawk Nov. 22 in *Lafourche* (DLD, SWC, m. ob., ph.) was rare, and late, for s.e. Louisiana. Rough-legged Hawks at 2 sites n. of Little Rock Nov. 29 (K&LN, one ph.) were unusual. The spectacular Golden Eagle is rare throughout the Region. Immatures were enjoyed Nov. 4 at Ft. Morgan (DCi, MD, SW) and Nov. 6 at F.W.B.S.F. (HH, DMW); an adult and an immature were at Pace Pt. beginning Nov. 8 (JRW, m. ob., one ph.). A Merlin Aug. 17 at New Orleans (PHY) was early.

Though regular in the Louisiana rice fields, a count of 22 Yellow Rails Oct. 31 in *Jefferson Davis* (SWC, DLD) was impressive. Very rare for n.w. Arkansas was a Virginia Rail Oct. 2 in *Washington* (DAJ). Unusual Sandhill Crane reports included four on the early date of Sep. 22 at Ft. Morgan (DCi) and up to nine beginning Nov. 6 at F.W.B.S.F. (NG, m. ob.).

SHOREBIRDS

The 3rd **Wilson's Plover** for Arkansas was in *Prairie* Jul. 25–Sep. 12 (K&LN, m. ob., ph.). Rare inland, two Piping Plovers were seen beginning Aug. 5 at N.N.W.R. (TLS, MHS), up to seven were located in *Prairie* Aug. 6–18 (K&LN, one ph.), and two appeared at Sardis L. Aug. 15–16 (WMD). High counts of far inland Am. Avocets included 22 in *Jefferson*, AR, Sep. 20 (HP, MP) and 18 at T.N.W.R. Oct. 25 (FB). Farther east, unexpected inland Alabama sightings were at Guntersville Aug. 17 (W&BB, LBR) and in *Limestone* Oct. 16 (HD). One avocet in *Dyer* Oct. 25–Nov. 30 (WGC) established a late date for Tennessee.

Nine Willets were noteworthy in *Shelby*, TN, Aug. 21–31 (CHB, m. ob.), and 120 at Dauphin I. Nov. 3 (GDJ, DGJ) tied the previous Alabama maximum. Mississippi's 3rd inland Whimbrel appeared Sep. 5–13 at T.N.W.R. (JRW et al., ph.). Particularly scarce in autumn, and with only a few W.P. records, a **Hudsonian Godwit** was surprising Sep. 19 in *Walton* (SM). Noncoastal reports of Marbled Godwit are rare; up to two were enjoyed at T.N.W.R. Aug. 16–30 (GCK, SK et al.), and another duo was in *Cross*, AR, Aug. 9 (MB, K&LN, ph.). Ten Sanderlings Sep. 5 in *Lake*, TN (MAG) were excellent inland. Baird's Sandpiper becomes scarce to the east, particularly away from the coast, so singles Sep. 6 in Montgomery (LFG) and the next day in Gadsden, AL (K&PW) were notable.

A count of 219 Stilt Sandpipers in *Dyer* Sep. 21 (WGC) established a new Tennessee maximum. Lingering Stilts included two at T.N.W.R. Nov. 20 (FB) and 24 in *Lafourche*, LA, Nov. 22 (SWC, DLD). Excellent numbers of Buff-breasted Sandpipers appeared this fall. Best tallies were of 85–100 birds Aug. 28–Sep. 7 in *Baldwin* (GDJ, DGJ, PCT, m. ob.), 31 at T.N.W.R. Aug. 29 (GCK, SK et al.), and 21 in *Lowndes* Sep. 11 (ES), the last providing a new inland Alabama maximum. A count of 1400 Long-billed Dowitchers in *Prairie* Oct. 17 (K&LN) was impressive. Very early were three Com. Snipe Aug. 14 in *Escambia*, FL (WWD). Locally very rare was a Wilson's Phalarope Sep. 30 in *Henry*, AL (GEH, WDR); another Oct. 25 in *Jefferson Davis* (DLD, SWC) was significantly late. A scarce Red-necked Phalarope was photographed Aug. 22 in *Prairie* (K&LN), and three were discovered Sep. 5 in *Lake* (MAG).

LARIDS THROUGH NIGHTJARS

Evidence suggests Pomarine Jaeger is more likely than Parasitic offshore in the n. Gulf, one was photographed s. of South Pass Aug. 8 (DPM, m. ob.). Much harder to find onshore, an ad. Pomarine was studied leisurely at Ft. Morgan Sep. 12 (GDJ, DGJ, SW et al.). A distant jaeger, thought probably a Pomarine, was a rare find 32 km inland in *Mobile* Sep. 29 after *Georges* (GDJ).

Scarce far inland Laughing Gulls were noted at 5 sites in n. Mississippi (GCK, SK), s.w. Arkansas (CM), and n. Alabama (SWM, GDJ et al.) Aug. 1–Nov. 28. Franklin's Gull reports from Alabama, where the species is usually scarce, included singles Oct. 30 in *Henry* (GRB), Nov. 1 in *Lauderdale* (SWM), and Nov. 21 at Dauphin I. (GDJ); six Franklin's Nov. 19 & 23 at Guntersville (RAR) set a new inland maximum for the state. Alabama's 3rd **California Gull** was a thrill Nov. 30 at Guntersville (GDJ, DGJ).

As expected now, multiple Lesser Black-backed Gull reports came from C.P. beginning Sep. 16 (SWC, DLD, m. ob.). More unusual elsewhere in the Region, but increasing steadily, Lesser Black-backed appeared Nov. 8 at Pace Pt. (JRW) and Nov. 28 in *Lauderdale*, AL (GDJ et al., v.t.) Sabine's Gull, a marked rarity in most of the Region, is rare but expected in autumn at M.L.; it was a bountiful season at that locale, with singles noted thrice: Sep. 17–18 (ph.), Oct. 3, and Oct. 24–25 (all CM et al.) With only 5 or 6 previous Louisiana records, discoveries of a **Sabine's Gull** Sep. 7 in *St. Charles* (PW), and two Sep. 16–17 in

Red River (PMD, HHe et al., one ph.), were exciting. Another cause for celebration was the Sabine's Sep. 13 at Sardis L. (GCK, SK et al., ph.), representing the first n. Mississippi record, and only the 5th for the state. A Black-legged Kittiwake was a rare find in C.P. Nov. 28 (PW et al.).

Surely related to *Georges* was a Gull-billed Tern Sep. 28 at Hattiesburg (TLS), providing the 3rd inland Mississippi record. A new W.P. maximum was furnished by 37 Gull-billeds Oct. 7 at F.W.B.S.F. (RAD, LRD); one lingered to Nov. 18 (RAD et al.), far past previous dates. Lone Royal Terns, refugees from *Georges*, set 5th and 6th inland Alabama records in *Barbour* and *Lee* Sep. 30 (GEH, WDR). A congregation of 350 Com. Terns at Ft. Morgan Sep. 23 (GDJ, DGJ) was the largest in decades in Alabama. Another high tern count was of more than 300 Forster's Nov. 18 at Sardis L. (WMD).

Frances-related Bridled Tern reports in C.P. included three seen Sep. 13 (KF, DBC) and four dead Sep. 16 (SWC, DLD). Two Bridled Tern reports were secondary to *Georges*; one was at F.W.B.S.F. Sep. 28–29 (DMW, HH), and another appeared in *Henry* Sep. 30 (WDR, GEH) for a first inland Alabama occurrence. Over 17 Bridleds 48–74 mi s. of *Baldwin* Oct. 4 (GDJ, CMD) provided a new late date; nine lingered Oct. 13 s. of South Pass (DPM et al.). In C.P., many Sooty Terns were seen Sep. 13 (KF, DBC) and found dead Sep. 16 (SWC, DLD); much more unusual was the appearance of an immature Sep. 16 at Shreveport (RS). Two Sooties occurred in the W.P. with *Georges*; an immature was at Pensacola Sep. 28 (PBa, PBe) and an adult appeared at F.W.B.S.F. the following day (DMW). Two Sooty Terns offshore Oct. 4 (GDJ, CMD) were the latest for Alabama. Extremely late were three Black Terns Nov. 10 in *Faulkner*, AR (HHW, BC). A storm-displaced Black Skimmer Sep. 30 in *Henry* (GEH, WDR) was only the 4th inland for Alabama.

Striking numbers of White-winged Doves appeared in the s. part of the Region. At Ft. Morgan, 15 broke the previous Alabama maximum Nov. 3 (SW). Just to the west in Gulfport, MS, a flock of 19 was seen Nov. 15 (SP, KK). Tallies at Grand Isle reached an outstanding 125 White-wingeds Nov. 22 (SWC, DLD, m. ob.). Six Com. Ground-Doves in n.w. Mississippi beginning Sep. 23 (WD, JLe, FB) were unexpected; one was rare in *Shelby*, TN, Oct. 25 (MGW). Groove-billed Anis appeared in small numbers beginning Oct. 1 in s. Louisiana and n.w. Florida, areas where the species is rare but regular in autumn.

SA

"To the legion of the lost ones, to the cohort of the damned."

—R. Kipling, *Gentleman Rankers*

One of the fascinating by-products of the LSU offshore migration study (described in the Spring Report) is an insight into species *not* expected to transit the Gulf. Multiple individuals of several such migrants were recorded at far offshore platforms this autumn, some over 208 km from land. These included Whip-poor-will, N. Flicker, E. Phoebe, Winter, House, Sedge, and Marsh (over 30) wrens, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned kinglets, N. Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Orange-crowned, Nashville, and Mourning warblers, Chipping and Lincoln's sparrows, W. Meadowlark, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Pine Siskin. All are either unrecorded (as migrants) or rare in the Yucatán Peninsula; those transiting or wintering in adjacent areas of s. Mexico have been thought to follow an overland route.

Other species recorded this fall, such as Prairie, Wilson's, and Canada warblers and Grasshopper and White-crowned sparrows, have been suspected of only limited trans-Gulf movement. White-winged Dove and "Traill's" Flycatcher are well-known migrants on the n. Gulf Coast, but extent of passage over the Gulf is unclear.

Many birds observed on the rigs may have overshot the coast on their southward journey, or perhaps were displaced by weather systems. The possibility exists that some of these species may make regular use of trans-Gulf pathways, especially flying southwest. Further offshore research may be revealing.

Three calling Long-eared Owls were a treat Nov. 27 in *Henry*, TN (JRW, MAG). Multiple reports were submitted of the erratic Short-eared Owl; tops by far were 33 birds in *Leflore*, MS, Nov. 30 (FB). Several tardy Com. Nighthawks were reported, the latest Nov. 29 in Little Rock (LP). The Chuck-will's-widow Nov. 22 at Grand Isle (DLD, SWC, m. ob.), and three Whip-poor-wills Sep. 19 in *Oktibbeha*, MS (TLS, MHS), were also behind schedule.

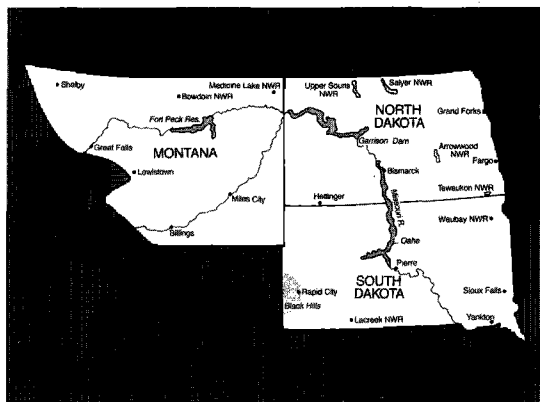
HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH KINGLETS

Mississippi's first **Broad-billed Hummingbird**, an imm. male, was a stellar find beginning Nov. 3 in *Jackson* (TG, BC, m. ob., b., ph.). Buff-bellied Hummingbird is rare away from Louisiana and s. Mississippi. One set a new W.P. arrival date Sep. 4, when a banded bird returned for the 4th winter to Pensacola (BK); another was in nearby Gulf Breeze Sep. 18 (RAD, LRD, JB, v.t.). Two male **Anna's Hummingbirds** in *Sevier* Oct. 16–26 (DA, ph.) and Oct. 26 (MP, ph.) established the 3rd and 4th records for Arkansas. Four or five Calliope Hummingbirds were amazing beginning Nov. 21 in *Iberville*, LA (DLD, SWC, JVR et al., ph., v.t.). A female **Red-naped Sapsucker** was described from Grand Isle Oct. 10 (PW, CS) for a 2nd Louisiana record.

Uncommon to rare in the fall, 9 reports of lone Olive-sided Flycatchers came from 4 states Aug. 13–Sep. 11. It was an exceptional autumn for *Empidonax*. Sixteen well-documented reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher came from Alabama alone Sep. 6–27 (GDJ, DGJ, DCi, MD, SWM); singles also were described Sep. 29 at N.N.W.R. (TLS) and Oct. 3 in *Shelby*, TN (JRW). Alder Flycatchers are rarely identified in the Region; vocalizing birds appeared Aug. 29 in *Washington*, AR (MM, DC), Sep. 22–24 in Birmingham (GDJ, m. ob.), Sep. 23 at Ft. Morgan (GDJ, DGJ), and Oct. 9–10 at Dauphin I. (JLD, K&LN, m. ob., ph.). Willow Flycatcher is not often identified in Alabama, so calling birds at Ft. Morgan Aug. 28 and Sep. 23 (both GDJ) were notable. An early E. Phoebe arrived Sep. 14 in C.P. (MAP, SF).

Seven uncommon Vermilion Flycatchers were observed in C.P. beginning Oct. 2; more unusual were reports of one near New Orleans Oct. 8 (PHY) and up to three birds starting Oct. 13 at F.W.B.S.F. (RAD, m. ob.). Two rare Ash-throated Flycatchers were detailed in the W.P.: one appeared Nov. 8 at Gulf Breeze (RAD, LRD, m. ob., v.t., ph.) and another returned Nov. 10 for the 3rd year to F.W.B.S.F. (LF, RAD, PCT). **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** is only casual in our Region, so the appearance of two this fall was extraordinary. One was described Aug. 8 at Ft. Pickens (PBa), setting a first W.P. record; another was collected Oct. 4 in C.P. (DFL *), representing the 4th for Louisiana. Also a rare prize, a silent **Tropical/Couch's Kingbird** was in C.P. Sep. 28 (RJB). A W. Kingbird in *Barbour* Nov. 29 (HHo) was rare, and the latest on record, for inland Alabama.

northern great plains region



RON E. MARTIN

It was a warm season with above-average precipitation: the first storm came the 2nd week of Nov. and much of the water froze, only to reopen by the end of the period as unseasonably warm weather covered the Region. The storm precipitated a major movement of waterfowl. Overall, the migration was protracted, and many species lingered into Nov. Several observers commented that it was a good warbler season. At Fort Peck, Montana, Carlson noted 17 species of warblers in his yard Sep. 5–8, a stellar number for e. Montana. Very few n. species were noted. Italicized dates indicate record-late or record-early birds.

LOONS THROUGH HAWKS

Pacific Loons made their best-ever showing. South Dakota's 3rd and 4th records were provided by singles Nov. 7 in *Fall River* (TJ) and Nov. 23–30 in *Stanley* (TJ, RDO, MMM, RFS). Furnishing North Dakota's 7th record was an individual at Garrison Dam Nov. 21–30 (REM, CDE, HCT, BD). In Montana, one was at Ft. Peck Oct. 30–Nov. 15 (CC), and a single was at Great Falls Nov. 6 (MBRC). There are now about 19 records for Montana.

Providing South Dakota's latest records were Great Egret in *Kingsbury* Nov. 7 (JSP), Cattle Egret in *Buffalo* Nov. 8 (RDO), and Green Heron Nov. 16 in *Day* (LH). In North Dakota, a Little Blue Heron at Devil's Lake Oct. 9 furnished the 3rd Oct. record for that state (HCT). Two Black-crowned Night-

Hérons Nov. 14 at Devil's Lake, ND, were only one day from the latest on record (EEF).

Trumpeter Swans were noted in North Dakota, with one Oct. 7 in *Grand Forks* and five in *Hettinger* Nov. 11 (DAG, CG, JS). There are now about 17 records for that state. Providing North Dakota's 10th record, and 2nd for the fall season, were two **Eurasian Wigeons** Oct. 2 in *Richland* (BSM). Also in North Dakota, a flock of four Black Scoters Oct. 25 was unusual in *Grand Forks* (DOL).

Casual away from Rapid City, a Barrow's Goldeneye was noted Nov. 17 in *Harding* (RAS).

A good concentration of 66 N. Harriers was in *Grand Forks*, ND, Oct. 3 (EEF). N. Goshawks made a good early showing, with three mid-Sep. observations in North Dakota and Montana. However, the species was not noted again until mid-Nov. A new peak of 36 Rough-legged Hawks was recorded Nov. 4 in CRP fields in *Grand Forks*, ND (EEF).

RAILS THROUGH CUCKOOS

Late Soras were in *Yankton*, SD, Oct. 18 (SVS) and in *Stark*, ND, Nov. 4 (JH). Both provided the 2nd latest records in those states. Whooping Cranes peaked at 17 in *Divide*, ND, Oct. 20 (TK, ME).

South Dakota's latest record for Black-bellied Plover was furnished by a single in *Charles Mix* Nov. 15 (RM). An impressive flock of 90 Mountain Plovers was recorded Sep. 30 in *Phillips*, MT (JG). Very late for Montana, an Am. Avocet was at Bowdoin N.W.R. Nov. 4 (DP). Providing only the 2nd fall record for North Dakota, a Whimbrel was noted Sep. 24 in *Grand Forks* (EEF). A Stilt Sandpiper Oct. 28 in *Ward*, ND, furnished the latest record for that state (REM). Am. Woodcock observations w. of their usual haunts seem to be on the increase. In North Dakota a single was at Sully's Hill NGP Sep. 30 (SW), and the state's latest was noted far west at *Lostwood* N.W.R. Nov. 7 (BM). In South Dakota, an individual was unusually far west Oct. 13 in

Stanley (RDO). Furnishing North Dakota's 11th record, a Red Phalarope was in *Grand Forks* Oct. 9 (EEF).

A dark-morph **Parasitic Jaeger** was studied Oct. 2 at *Gascoyne Res.*, ND, an 8th record for the state (DG,CG). South Dakota's 3rd **Little Gull** was at Fort Randall Dam Nov. 20 (DS), and a good peak of four Sabine's Gulls was in *Grand Forks*, ND, Sep. 21–25 (EEF). Probably the earliest on record for the Region, a single Sabine's was in *Kingsbury*, SD, Sep. 5 (RFS, JSP). In Montana, singles were at Benton Lake NWR in Sep. (HM), and at *Nelson Res.* Sep. 21 (DP). Three Black-legged Kittiwakes were noted Nov. 14 at *Oahe Dam*, SD (RFS, JSP), and a single was at *Garrison Dam*, ND, Nov. 21 (REM, HCT, CDE). Providing the latest record for South Dakota were two Caspian Terns in *Lyman*, Sep. 30 (JSP).

The **Eurasian Collared-Dove** in *Minnehaha*, SD, Sep. 2 furnished about the 5th record for that state (RFS). A **Common Ground-Dove** Oct. 31 in *Jones*, SD, would constitute the first state record if accepted by the records committee (TBW). The latest on record for South Dakota, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo was found Oct. 26 in *Stanley* (RDO).

OWLS THROUGH THRUSHES

Rarely reported, a Barn Owl was noted Oct. 3–4 in *Stanley*, SD (DAT, RFS). Snowy Owls were very scarce, and the species was not recorded during the season in *Grand Forks*, ND, for the first time in 11 years (EEF). A Burrowing Owl survey in *Phillips*, MT, in late summer and early fall produced 481 birds, an amazing number for a species generally considered to be decreasing regionally (JG).

North Dakota's latest Ruby-throated Hummingbird was photographed Nov. 9 in *Minot* sitting on a frozen feeder during the first snow storm of the fall (TL). A first for the Fort Peck area, a Rufous Hummingbird was present there for 2 weeks beginning Aug. 15 (CC).

Providing the first Nov. records for North Dakota, E. Phoebe were present Nov. 7 in *Hettinger* (DAG), and Nov. 14 at *E Devil's Lake* (EEF). North Dakota's 6th