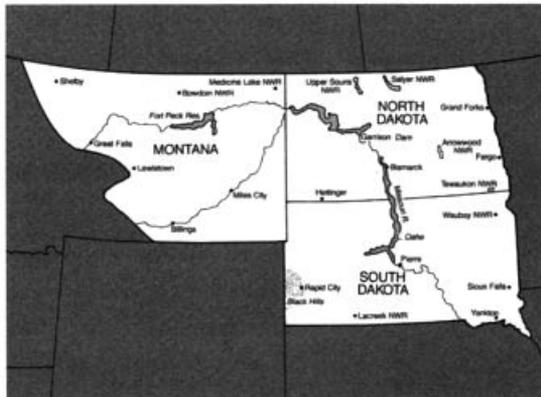


northern great plains region



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. Phoebes were present Nov. 7 in *Hettinger* (DAG), and Nov. 14 at E. Devil's Lake (EEF). North Dakota's 6th

record for **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was provided by a single Oct. 23–27 in *Stark* (JPL).

A Bell's Vireo heard at Lostwood N.W.R. in early Sep. furnished only the 2nd record for that month in North Dakota (*vide* GBB).

Accidental in e. North Dakota, a Clark's Nutcracker was at a feeder in *Grand Forks* Nov. 18 (KR). An incredible 1000 Black-billed Magpies were noted in *Pembina*, ND, Aug. 12–20 (LFM). Unusual Com. Raven sightings included one at Fort Peck, MT, Nov. 11 (CC) and one in Hettinger, ND, Nov. 16 (DAG, CG).

Casual in South Dakota, Carolina Wrens were in *Lake* Nov. 5–6, and in *Lincoln* Nov. 8 (JSP, RFS). A Winter Wren was unusual in Hettinger, ND, Nov. 1 (DAG, CG).

In Fargo, ND, Gray-cheeked Thrushes peaked at a new high of five Oct. 6, and the state's latest ever was noted there Oct. 25 (DPW). The latest on record for South Dakota, a Wood Thrush was in *Brown* Oct. 24–25 (DAT). Varied Thrushes were early Sep. 10 in *Hughes*, SD (RDO), and in *Grand Forks*, ND, Sep. 27 (GR).

WARBLERS THROUGH SISKINS

Providing Montana's 10th record, a **Cape May Warbler** was in Fort Peck Sep. 6 (CC).

Black-throated Blue Warblers made an unprecedented showing, with eight in South Dakota Sep. 6–Oct. 10 and four in North Dakota Sep. 11–Oct. 4. In Montana, an ad. male at Fort Peck Sep. 5 furnished the 6th record for that state (CC). Pine Warblers made an unusual showing this year. After two spring observations in North Dakota, the fall season provided a single far west at Lostwood N.W.R. Sep. 18 (GBB) and the state's latest at Bismarck Nov. 16–21 (TT, ET). In South Dakota, a single was in Beadle Sep. 8 (JCS), and the state's latest was studied in *Lake* Nov. 19–21 (JSP, RFS). A **Worm-eating Warbler** in *Brookings*, SD, Sep. 19 furnished the 2nd fall record for the state (JSP). Several MacGillivray's Warblers were noted at Westby, MT, Aug. 29 (CC). This location is a literal stone's throw from North Dakota, where they are seldom recorded. Providing only the 2nd fall record for South Dakota, a Summer Tanager was in *Stanley* Nov. 8 (RDO).

North Dakota's latest Field Sparrow frequented a feeder in Hettinger Nov. 12–15 (DAG, CG). Also latest on record was a Lincoln's Sparrow Nov. 13 in *Yankton*, SD (SVS). South Dakota's latest, and only the 2nd for Nov., a Rose-breasted Grosbeak was tallied far west in *Butte* Nov. 14 (RAS).

House Finches are now firmly established in the Chester, MT area (HM). Red Crossbills were widely reported in North Dakota, but White-winged Crossbills came in with only one observation. Com. Redpolls were very scarce, but a good movement of Pine Siskins was noted in late Sep. and early Oct.

ADDENDUM

A **Brambling** that hit a window in Bismarck, ND, the 2nd week of June was sent to the University of North Dakota; this is the first specimen and 2nd record for North Dakota (M. Olson).

Observers (state editors in boldface):

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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.