

idaho-western montana region

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Typical mild weather prevailed Region-wide in fall 1998. Bird migration, however, was unusual in Idaho. Good numbers of "eastern" warblers and other rarities stopped in the Gem State in Sep. Especially notable were Idaho's first records of Blackpoll and Prothonotary warblers. Dunn and Garrett's book *A Field Guide to Warblers of North America* notes that Idaho is the only w. state where these two species had yet to be recorded. We are pleased to report that these statements now need revision!

Abbreviations: A.F.R. (*American Falls Res., by American Falls, Idaho*); B.R. (*Bridger Ridge Hawk Watch, Gallatin Co., MT*); C.J.S.R. (*C.J. Strike Reservoir, Owyhee Co., ID*); I.B.O. (*Idaho Bird Observatory at Lucky Peak, near Boise, Idaho*); I.B.R.C. (*Idaho Bird Records Committee*); L.M.N.W.R. (*Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge, Ravalli Co., MT*).

LOONS THROUGH GYRFALCONS

A Red-throated Loon in breeding plumage at Coeur d'Alene L., *Kootenai*, ID, Nov. 6-8 (KB, CCm, CL) was seasonally late. Only seven Pacific Loons were reported in s. Idaho Oct. 17-Nov. 26 (m. ob.), about half of last year's total. Three Red-necked Grebes were tallied from s. Idaho locations Oct. 23-Nov. 20 (m. ob.), where they are unusual. Up to 11 locally rare Am. White Pelicans rested at Mann L., *Nez Perce*, ID, Sep. 9-Oct. 16 (m. ob.). Two pelicans at Ennis L., *Madison*, MT, Nov. 20 (MD, JP) were very late, as were two Double-crested Cormorants there Nov. 12 (JP). Cattle Egrets occasionally stray north in the Region, as one did near Moiese, *Lake*, MT, Oct. 21-Nov. 1 (JM, BW). A vagrant Green Heron visited Marsing, *Owyhee*, ID, Sep. 10 (JC).

About 10 Ross's Geese accompanied a flock of Snow Geese near Grangeville, *Idaho*, ID, Nov. 30 (CS). Eur. Wigeons are not reported every fall in Idaho, so singles at L. Pend Oreille Sep. 25 (TP); Boise Nov. 1-30 (DT), Marsing Nov. 17-30 (JG, RE), and Cascade Res., *Valley*, Nov. 20 (RLR,

DT) were unusual. Single Oldsquaws were below A.F.R. dam Nov. 12 (MCR, DT) and near Ninepipe N.W.R., *Lake*, MT, Nov. 12 (SSy, TT). Idaho's 4th **Black Scoter** was at A.F.R. Nov. 16-24 (†MCR, m. ob.), the 3rd consecutive year here. As usual, a few White-winged Scoters stopped in Idaho: six were reported Oct. 23-Nov. 22 (m. ob.). Both states observed Surf Scoters. One was at Frenchtown, *Missoula*, MT, Oct. 24 (*vide JM*), and another was below A.F.R. dam Nov. 23 (MCR, JPr).

Turkey Vulture, N. Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Cooper's Hawk counts were up dramatically at I.B.O. this fall (CF). Record counts were also made for N. Harriers and for Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed, and Rough-legged hawks at B.R. (JB). A stray **Red-shouldered Hawk** at I.B.O. Sep. 23 (†CF) furnished Idaho's 6th record. In Broad-winged Hawk news, 33 tallied at I.B.O. Aug. 28-Sep. 29 (m. ob.) and 20 at Bridger Ridge (JB) established new records. Four more Broad-winged were near Roseberry, *Valley*, ID, Sep. 12 (CSy), and one was in Boise Sep. 24 (JG). One-four Ferruginous Hawks were near Ronan, *Lake*, MT, Oct. 9-Nov. 30 (CO), where they are rare. Both states reported Gyrfalcons. One was at L.M.N.W.R. Nov. 17-18 (WT), one in the Helena Valley, *Lewis and Clark*, Nov. 21 (CC, GH, DSu), and another near Gannett, *Blaine*, ID, Nov. 30 (LB).

CRANES THROUGH GULLS

Sandhill Cranes are rare in n. Idaho, so one at Kootenai N.W.R., *Boundary*, ID, Sep. 14 & 28 (RD), and another at Mann L. Sep. 19 (CS, m. ob.) were significant. The Sandhill at Marsing Nov. 21-30 (JG) was very late. The 125 Black-bellied Plovers at A.F.R. Sep. 25 (MCR) tied a 15-year-old record. Only Idaho found Am. Golden Plovers; 22 were reported statewide Sep. 1-Oct. 27 (m. ob.). A locally rare Black-necked Stilt was at Ninepipe N.W.R. Aug. 25 (JBr). One-two Am. Avocets stopped at Mann L. Aug. 7 & Sep. 9 (CS, m. ob.), where they are seldom reported. Two late avocets were at Coldwater Jct., *Power*, ID, Nov. 8 (MCR, DT). Marbled Godwits rarely stray to n. Idaho, so eight at Mann L. Sep. 9 (CS) were



unusual. The Ruddy Turnstone at Ingram's Pond near Challis, *Custer*, ID, Aug. 14 & 15 (MCR, D&EF) was the state's 13th and the first for Latilong 13.

The Red Knot that graced Hubbard Res., *Ada*, Aug. 1 (JG, DL, m. ob.) was Idaho's 12th. Stilt Sandpipers were down from last year. About 13 were reported in Idaho Aug. 8-Sep. 12 (m. ob.), and one was in Montana Aug. 25 (JBr). Reports of the rare Short-billed Dowitcher are increasing in Idaho, with one near A.F.R. Aug. 6-14, one at Market Lake W.M.A., *Jefferson*, Aug. 10, and two at A.F.R. Oct. 1 (MCR, JPr).

Idaho's 6th **Red Phalarope** was at Mann L. Sep. 9 (†CS), and another was at Ketchum, ID, Sep. 28 (ph. JG). Idaho's 14th Parasitic Jaeger visited A.F.R. Oct. 3-4 (MCR, JPr, DT). Recently, Franklin's Gulls have strayed to n. Idaho. This fall, one was at Mann L. Sep. 9-12 (CS, m. ob.). An imm. **Little Gull**, Idaho's 4th, visited the A.F.R. area Nov. 4-14 (MCR, ph. CT, m. ob.). Mew Gulls are now annual but rare in n. Idaho. Three stopped at St. Maries, *Benewah*, Oct. 17 (CV, m. ob.). A rare Thayer's Gull was near Lewiston, ID, Oct. 24 (MK, m. ob.). Idaho's Sabine's Gulls were down slightly from last year. One was at Mann L. Sep. 18 (CS), and one-six were at A.F.R. Sep. 27-Oct. 17 (m. ob.).

TERNS THROUGH THRASHERS

Com. Terns are unusual away from s.e. Idaho, but one was at Coeur d'Alene L. Sep. 10 (BG), one-three were at Mann L. Sep. 9-18 (m. ob.), and two were at D.F.N.W.R. Oct. 3 (JG). Idaho's 16th Arctic Tern



Always carry a camera when golfing! While playing a round near Ketchum, Gatchet scored Idaho's seventh Red Phalarope, a juvenile molting into first-basic plumage, that obliged on his local golf course pond. Photograph/John Gatchet

stopped at A.F.R. Sep. 18 & 19 (MCR, JPr); the species is noted less than annually in the Region. A well-described **Least Tern** at C.J.S.R. Aug. 22 (†RK) furnished Idaho's 3rd record. Band-tailed Pigeons rarely wander to Idaho, so one seen below A.F.R. dam Oct. 13 & 14 (MCR) was noteworthy. A Snowy Owl, interesting both for its early date and unusual location, was along Meadow Cr., Idaho, ID, Oct. 14 (CG), furnishing the first record for *Latilong 8*. Five active Black Swift nests were located at Idaho's only known nest sites in the Coeur d'Alene Mts., *Shoshone*, Aug. 25 (KD, m. ob.).

In hummingbird news, Boise hosted two Anna's Hummingbirds. One was present throughout the period (TS), and another was seen Oct. 30–31 (MC, FK). Montana recorded its 11th Anna's at Arlee, *Lake*, Oct. 5–15 (RL, ph. TT, †ph. WT, m. ob.). Montana had two unusual woodpecker events: a Lewis's persisted in Hamilton Nov. 5–30 (CP), and a **White-headed Woodpecker** was in Helena Aug. 21–22 (GO) & Nov. 10 (EG). A rare Least Flycatcher that summered at Camas N.W.R., *Jefferson*, ID, was last reported Aug. 10 (MCR). Idaho's 6th **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**, first sighted near A.F.R. Sep. 20 (LW), was relocated below A.F.R. dam Oct. 9–14 (MCR, ph. †DT, m. ob.). Both states reported lingering Barn Swallows. Two were at L.M.N.W.R. until Nov. 30, and one–three were below A.F.R. dam Nov. 7–14 (MCR, m. ob.).

Blue Jays continue to increase Region-wide. In autumn, they are now almost common in parts of w. Montana (DC). In

Idaho, over 70 Blue Jays were reported (m. ob.), representing a 57 percent increase from last year. Rare and infrequent wanderers to w. Montana and s.w. Idaho, three Pinyon Jays strayed to Lolo, *Missoula*, MT, Oct. 5–30 (WL), and two others flew over I.B.O. Sep. 26 (CF). A flock of 17 Bushtits seen below A.F.R. dam Nov. 12–14 (m. ob.) was out of place. Bewick's Wrens continue to increase in parts of n. Idaho, but singles reported in Boise Sep. 6 & Oct. 2–22 (MC, FK, DT) were especially noteworthy. There are few fall reports of N. Mockingbirds in Idaho, so one near Fruitland, *Payette*, Sep. 6 (DL), and another near Coldwater Junction Nov. 21 (KF) were interesting. A Sage Thrasher near Lewiston, ID, Sep. 11 (WH, CV), and a Brown Thrasher at Hamilton, MT, Sep. 25 (AC) were both quite lost.

VIREOS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

A well-described Philadelphia Vireo at A.F.R. Sep. 1 (†MCR), if accepted by the I.B.R.C., will be Idaho's first. A rare Tennessee Warbler was at Missoula Sep. 24 (TT). Two Magnolia Warblers, representing Idaho's 6th and 7th records, were reported in the Boise area. One was seen Sep. 6–8 (MC, FK, RLR, †DT), and another was found Oct. 22 (†ph. MC, FK). Idaho's 7th Black-throated Blue Warbler was near Boise Sep. 6 & 7 (†MC, †JG, FK). The Palm Warbler at Hubbard Res. Oct. 21 (JG) was Idaho's 11th. In an event both exciting and perhaps overdue, Idaho's first Blackpoll Warbler was mist-netted at I.B.O. Aug. 29 (JC, SH, m. ob.). Amazingly, *three* others were caught there Aug. 31–Sep. 5 (JC, SH, ph. †CT, ph. JG, m. ob.), and still another was at Atomic City, *Bingham*, ID, Sep. 10 (†MCR). Am. Redstarts are infrequently reported in s. Idaho; nevertheless, eight were reported from several s. Idaho locations Aug. 10–Sep. 12 (m. ob.). Another long-awaited first for Idaho, a Prothonotary Warbler was near Boise Sep. 18–26 (†MC, MCR, FK, DM, †ph. DT). A locally rare N. Waterthrush was below A.F.R. dam Aug. 21 (MCR), in the same general area where both a Wilson's Warbler (D&EF) and a Com. Yellowthroat (MCR) lingered until early Nov.

An Indigo Bunting, especially rare in fall, strayed to Pocatello, ID, Sep. 3 & 4 (MCR, JPr, CT). A Brewer's Sparrow, unusual away from sagebrush country, was near Lewiston Sep. 11 (WH, CV). The Swamp Sparrow spotted below A.F.R. dam Oct. 31 (MCR) was Idaho's 13th and first for *Lati-long 27*. Reports of White-throated Sparrow were up this year, with 21 tallied in

Idaho Sep. 1–Nov. 21 and six in Montana Sep. 27–Oct. 23 (m. ob.). Idaho had a banner year for rare Golden-crowned Sparrows. *Nine* were captured at I.B.O. Aug. 31–Sep. 13 (m. ob.); three were near Boise Sep. 18–19 (DT, m. ob.); and one was near Moscow Sep. 25 & Oct. 3 (KD). Only five Harris's Sparrows were reported in Idaho Nov. 3–15 (m. ob.). Idaho's Great-tailed Grackle population is increasing. As many as four were reported from the A.F.R. area in Aug. and Oct., and up to 20 were in s.w. Idaho in Sep. and Oct. (m. ob.). Two Com. Grackles were reported at Atomic City Sep. 11 (MCR), and two others were in Carey, *Blaine*, ID, Sep. 20–30 (PWP). A total of 11 Lesser Goldfinches were tallied near Boise Nov. 15 (RLR, DT), where they are rare and local.

CORRIGENDA

A Red-shouldered Hawk reported at I.B.O. Oct. 18, 1997 (*fide* G. Kaltenecker) was inadvertently omitted from FN 52: 94. If accepted by the I.B.R.C., this will be the state's 3rd. Subsequent reports of Red-shouldered Hawks in FN 52: 94 and 228 would then represent Idaho's 4th and 5th records.

Observers cited (subregional editors in boldface): IDAHO: Larry Barnes, Kris Buchler, Corrine Cameron (CCm), Jay Carlisle, Marty Collar (MCR), Mark Collie (MC), Rich DelCarlo, **Kas Dumroese**, Ron Elam, Dave and Elise Faike, Kent Fothergill, Craig Fosdick, **John Gatchet**, Charles Green, Bill Gundlach, Sarah Hamilton, Winnie Hepburn, Robert Kibler, Florence Knoll, **Merlene Koliner**, Cynthia Langlitz, Dave Lawrence, Don Morgan, Jim Paruk (JPr), Theresa Potts, **Hadley Roberts**, R.L. Rowland, Tom Sarriugarte, **Shirley Sturts (SS)**, Colleen Sweeney (CSy), Charles Swift (CS), Dave Trochlell, **Chuck Trost**, Carole Vande Voorde, Linda Woods, **Poo Wright-Pulliam**. MONTANA: Jason Beason (JB), Jim Brown (JBr), Chris Carson (CC), **Dan Casey**, Adele Coon, Eric Grove, George Holton, Walt Lane, Rose Longacre, **Jeff Marks**, Gretchen Oleheiser, Chad Olson, **John Parker (JP)**, Colleen Powell, **Don Skaar (DS)**, Suzann Stickney (SSy), Dan Sullivan (DSu), Terry Toppins, Wayne Tree, Bob White.

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