

Summer Tanager was seen briefly in Port Hope, *Northumberland*, 19 Oct (EK) and an imm. male was a first for Sudbury 24–26 Oct (EG, CBL, JLe).

An E. Towhee visited Marathon 10 Nov (CV, PC). A Field Sparrow at Algonquin P.P. 24 Oct (AB, DG) was rare there and record-late. A Lark Sparrow was at P.E.Pt. 12 Sep (RDW). The only Henslow's Sparrow report was from Rondeau 10 Oct (KJB). Single Le Conte's Sparrows were at the traditional long-grass site at Two Rivers Airfield in Algonquin P.P. 7–9 Oct (CJo et al.) and Rondeau 11 Oct (KJB). Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were sparse at usual migration spots. Hundreds of Snow Buntings moved through the Atikokan area 19–30 Oct (DHE), a major movement unlike anything seen there before. N. Cardinals contin-

ued their expansion in *Thunder Bay*, with four at Marathon 2–8 Nov (BCI) and singles at Pine Bay 8 Nov (S&BI) and Rosspoint 12 Nov (DSp). Atikokan had its third, a male 10 Nov (DHE). A Dickcissel was banded at T.C.B.O. 19 Sep; another was seen but not banded 2 Oct (*vide* NGE). There was a heavy flight of Pine Siskins through s. Ontario in Oct but birds did not stay. Com. Redpolls arrived early in n. areas; hundreds were in Atikokan 16 Oct (*vide* DHE). A Hoary Redpoll was at a feeder with Com. Redpolls at Hanmer, *Sudbury*, 18 Nov (CBL, CW).

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**SA** The big excitement was the unprecedented influx of **Cave Swallows** into s. Ontario in early Nov after a strong low-pressure system with sw. winds came up from the Gulf of Mexico, followed by a strong cold front sweeping in from the west. Ontario had two previous records of Cave Swallows, both singles at Pt. Pelee, the first 21 Apr 1998 (AW) and the second 7–9 Dec 1998 (AW et al.). At Pt. Pelee, 2 Nov brought five to the Visitor Center and W. Beach at Pt. Pelee (KML), followed the next day by 25 flying s. off the tip in the morning (KML) and three there in the afternoon (KML et al.). Also 3 Nov, two were at nearby Sturgeon Creek (GTH) and four were at Long Pt. (IR). Also at Pelee, two roosted in a Barn Swallow nest at the Visitor Centre 3–4 Nov (GTH et al.)—one died and will go to the Royal Ontario Museum—three birds were at the Marsh Tower and Sanctuary Pond 4–5 Nov (MBk et al.), and two were flying s. off the tip 5 Nov (KML, WGW, HW, MTt). Meanwhile, L.P.B.O. reported up to 25 at Old Cut and 13 at the tip 4 Nov (*vide* JW), for a total of at least 44 seen 3–10 Nov (*vide* JW). Rondeau P.P. recorded its first, with three at Erie Beach 3 Nov (JTB) and six at Erieanu 4–6 Nov (SC et al.). Port Burwell, *Elgin*, had one 5 Nov (DM et al.) and L. Huron had one at Gallimere Beach, *Lambton*, 6 Nov (JLs, CO). This tidal wave of Cave Swallows swept on through Quebec and the northeastern states to the Eastern Seaboard.

# appalachia

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**D**ry, summer-like conditions extended over the entire Region through August and into September, during which time there were few notable fallouts of migrants. Heavy rains associated with hurricanes *Dennis* and *Floyd* skirted the eastern edge of the Region, followed by good waves of passerines in the West Virginia mountains. Heavy rainfall during the long Thanksgiving weekend produced a good fallout of waterfowl in western Maryland and Pennsylvania. Otherwise the season was marked by generally weak cold fronts. Nearly every contributor summarized the migration as being just average—the Regional editor concurs.

Quantitative data generated by the Region's two large, long-term bird-banding sta-

tions support this impression. At Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, *Grant*, West Virginia, an average 5,662 birds were banded 15 Aug–16 Oct (*vide* GH). Only two species were netted in numbers well above average (i.e., more than 2 standard deviations [SD] above average), the Philadelphia Vireo (33 banded) and Hooded Warbler (23). An average total of 6,136 birds was banded at Powdermill Nature Reserve 1 Aug–30 Nov, where only the Hermit Thrush (72) and American Goldfinch (813) were two SD above average (RCL, RM).

Much attention focused on northern invaders, particularly the Red-breasted Nuthatch and Pine Siskin, found early and throughout the Region and possibly would-be harbingers of a large-scale winter presence.

**Abbreviations:** A.F.M.O. (*Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, Grant Co., WV*); P.I.S.P. (*Presque Isle S.P., Erie Co., PA*); P.N.R. (*Powdermill Nature Reserve, Rector, Westmoreland Co., PA*); T.R.M.O. (*Three Rivers Mig. Obs., Raleigh and Mercer Cos., WV*); Y.C.S.P. (*Yellow Creek S.P., Indiana Co., PA*).

#### LOONS THROUGH HERONS

A highly successful waterbird count at P.I.S.P. tallied 144 Red-throated Loons 11 Oct–30 Nov (JM); the only reports away from L. Erie were of two at Pymatuning L. 31 Oct (RFL) and one at Quemahoning L., *Somerset*, PA 20–21 Nov (SBA). There were few notable counts of Com. Loons, but 18 flew down the Allegheny R. past Brady's Bend Hawk Watch, *Clarion*, PA, 15 Nov (MM) and 40 were on Pymatuning L. 31 Oct (RFL). The best Pied-billed Grebe count was 81 at Y.C.S.P. 12 Oct (SK). A Red-necked Grebe was on Kahle L., *Venango*, PA, 7 Nov (GE); in *Somerset*, PA one was at Quemahoning L. 24 Nov (*vide* TF) and two near Mt. Davis in late Oct (JT). Two Eared Grebes were at P.I.S.P., where now nearly annual, 15–25 Nov (JM, JHo) and at least two were at S. Holston L., TN, where they have been found for six consecutive years (*vide* RKn).

An Am. White Pelican was at Greenlick Dam, *Fayette*, PA, 7 Nov (SRG, MEW). Double-crested Cormorants continue to be increasingly common as migrants; maximum counts were 130 at Donegal L., *Westmoreland*, PA, 24 Oct (DSm) and 286 at Pymatuning L. 6 Nov (RFL). Although Great Egrets were widespread, most northerly reports were of single birds, an exception being nine at Mosquito L., *Trumbull*, OH, 4 Sep (DH). An ad. Little Blue Heron was a rare find at P.I.S.P. 16 Aug (JG).

Single Cattle Egrets were reported from near Morgantown, WV, 22–27 Nov (*vide* GB) and Plain Grove, *Lawrence*, PA, 14 Nov (BD, CG). An imm. Black-crowned Night-Heron was in Erie 10 Aug (DBo), two were in *Mahoning*, OH, 29 Sep (NB), and one was at Sandy Cr. Marsh, *Wood*, WV (JE, NO) 17 Nov.

#### WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

A convincing report was received of 97 **Greater White-fronted Geese** flying low over Y.C.S.P. 6 Nov (SGr, DJ, *vide* MH), a total unprecedented for the Region! Sightings of singles near Bristol, TN, on three dates in Nov may have represented more than one bird (RKn). Snow Geese were widely reported; better counts included 15 at Peters Mt., *Monroe*, WV, 14 Nov (JPh), 440 at Soddy Mt. Hawk Watch (WH) 14 Nov, and 300 elsewhere in *Hamilton*, TN the same date (MP). In Pennsylvania, single Ross's Geese were at Luxor, *Westmoreland*, 20–21 Oct (DL, ph. MM), Saltsburg, *Indiana*, 22–30 Nov (MDD, ph. RH), and Indian L., *Somerset*, 26 Nov (SBA). A record count of 75 Brant was at P.I.S.P. 14 Oct (JM). An unmarked Trumpeter Swan frequented L. Arthur, *Butler*, PA all season (WS, m.ob.) and two were at Big Beaver Marsh, *Beaver*, PA 29 Aug (BH). Thirteen Tundra Swans on L. Somerset, PA were early 23 Oct (AM), as were 14 at Brady's Bend Hawk Watch (MM) and 152 at Green Ridge S.F., *Allegany*, MD, 24 Oct (JC). A heavy waterfowl fallout 25 Nov included over 3,000 swans in the Laurel Highlands of sw. Pennsylvania (m.ob.).

Most contributors thought the puddle-duck migration was lackluster, but there were a few interesting counts, such as 120 Wood Ducks at Beaver Borough wetlands, *Lawrence*, PA, 4 Sep (BD), 97 Gadwall at Y.C.S.P. 26 Oct (MH) and 88 at Pymatuning 31 Oct (RFL), over 2,200 Mallards at Pymatuning 14 Aug, and 16 N. Shovelers there 23 Oct (RFL). Among divers, an early Canvasback was at P.I.S.P. from early Aug–6 Sep (JM). Sixty Redheads landed on Indian L., *Somerset*, PA, during heavy rains 25 Nov (JPa), as did 200 Greater Scaup on L. Somerset 26 Nov (AMa). An imm. male **King Eider** flew past Sunset Point 16 Nov (JM) and a female was also at P.I.S.P. 18 Nov (JHr). Over 600 Buffleheads put down on Donegal L. 25 Nov (DSm). The P.I.S.P. waterbird count for Surf Scoter was 111 from 7 Oct–30 Nov; eight were at Indian L. 24 Nov (JPa). In Maryland, one was at Rocky Gap, *Allegany*, 26–27 Nov (RKi) and three at Broadford Res., *Garret*, 5 Oct (FP). The Black Scoter count at Erie was 88 from

8 Oct–30 Nov (JM). On 25 Nov a raft of 250 Long-tailed Ducks was on L. Somerset (AMa). Com. Goldeneyes peaked at 1,200 at Pymatuning 13 Nov (RFL, IF), where there were 2,750 Hooded Mergansers 30 Oct (RFL). A raft of 2,000 Ruddy Ducks was on Greenlick Res. 25 Nov (DBy, DSm).

Hawk watchers reported some high seasonal totals for Bald Eagles, e.g. 44 at Rockfish Gap, VA (YL), 22 at Brady's Bend (MM), and 31 at Allegheny Front, *Somerset*, PA (TD). The N. Harrier flight was strong, with 118 spotted at Stone Mt, *Huntingdon*, PA (GG), 62 at Brady's Bend (MM), and 111 at Allegheny Front (TD). N. Goshawks staged a major invasion, with a record tally of 43 at Allegheny Front (TD), and 15 at Rockfish Gap (YL). A late date for an imm Broad-winged Hawk near L. Arthur, PA (RSt) was 24 Oct. A Krider's Red-tailed Hawk was an exciting find at Soddy Mt, TN, 23 Oct (WH). It was also a good fall for Rough-legged Hawks, with one as far south as *Bledso*, TN, 28 Nov (BJ). Allegheny Front's Golden Eagle total was a record 144 birds (TD); 92 passed by Stone Mt. (GG)

A first for *Erie* was a juv. **Purple Gallinule** at P.I.S.P. 14–16 Oct (RN, ph. JM) By early Nov Am. Coots peaked at 5,000 at P.I.S.P. (JM), 1,700 on L. Arthur (PH), and 1,500 at Y.C.S.P. (MH). In e. Tennessee, the first Sandhill Crane sighting was of two at Soddy Mt. 25 Oct (WH); at Hiwassee WR numbers reached 3,000 by season's end (KC). A lone crane was at Erie NWR, *Crawford*, PA, the first half of Nov (HB)

#### SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

There were up to 14 Am. Golden-Plovers at Hooper Lane, *Henderson*, NC, 5–19 Sep (WF) and nine at Shenango Res., *Mercer*, PA, 12 Sep (JS). At Pymatuning the maximum Lesser Yellowlegs count was 132 on 27 Sep (RFL). A late Solitary Sandpiper was at Independence Marsh, *Lawrence*, PA, 5 Nov (BH). Single Willets were at P.I.S.P. 2 Sep (TJC) and 12 Sep (DR). A total of six Whimbrels was reported from P.I.S.P. 14 Aug–16 Sep (*vide* JM), with one at Pymatuning 7–22 Sep (JHo, m.ob.) and one at S. Holston L., TN, 30 Jul (WC, AJ) In late August one to two Marbled Godwits were at Upper Douglas L., TN (*vide* WC), where the species has been seen for three consecutive years. Single Red Knots were at P.I.S.P. 5 Sep (DBo) and Tamarack L., *Meadville*, PA, 6 Aug (RFL). Four White-rumped Sandpipers in a flooded grassland near Tablers Station, *Berkeley*, WV, 8 Sep provided a new county record (SM). Four Purple Sandpipers were listed on the P.I.S.P. waterbird count 12–28 Nov (JM). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were at

P.I.S.P. 26 and 28–29 Aug (DS, JM), two were at Shenango Res. 6 Sep (JS), and at least 12 were at Hooper Lane 19 Sep (WF). A Long-billed Dowitcher was a rare find at Sandy Cr. Marsh, WV, 14 and 20 Aug (JE, WA). A Red Phalarope was at Y.C.S.P. 29 Aug (MH, RH) and another believed to be this species was at P.I.S.P. 28 Nov (TJC).

Up to four different Parasitic Jaegers were spotted 28 Oct–7 Nov on the P.I.S.P. waterbird count (JM, MF). A Laughing Gull at Staunton, VA, 7 Sep (YL) represented the first fall record there. Lone Franklin's Gulls appeared at P.I.S.P. 29 Oct (JM) and Shenango Res. 14–15 Aug (RSa, MM). An imm Little Gull was at P.I.S.P. 18 Nov (JF). A **Black-headed Gull** was an unexpected find along the Ohio R. at McKees Rocks, PA, 3–21 Nov (ph. SK, MF, JHo). At Mosquito L., OH, Bonaparte's Gulls increased from 500 on 15 Nov (DH) to over 1,000 by 29 Nov (CB). Rare s. of L. Erie, three Great Black-backed Gulls were flying down the Allegheny R. past Brady's Bend 14 Nov (MM). Two Forster's Terns were near Ligonier, PA, 14 Sep (RCL), one was at Y.C.S.P. 29 Sep (MH), and a late bird was at P.I.S.P. 23 Oct (JM). Nineteen Black Terns were spotted at Donegal L., PA, 25 Aug (RSt), two were at New Castle 26–27 Aug (BD), and ten were at L. Somerset 25 Aug (SBa).

## DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

Eurasian Collared-Dove populations continued to grow in *Hamilton*, TN, with a record count of 12 at Chattanooga 2 Oct (KC). Mourning Doves seemed increasingly abundant throughout the Region; a flock near Ligonier, PA 9 Aug contained  $\pm 500$  birds (RCL). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was still in *Wood*, WV, 30 Oct (JBe). Twenty-two Short-eared Owls were reported from seven sites in Pennsylvania; one was at Hooper Lane, NC, 18 Nov (FW, BM). The N. Saw-whet Owl flight was heavy; three were banded at P.N.R. 15 Oct–6 Nov (RCL, RM) and five at A.F.M.O. 29 Aug–11 Oct (*fide* GH). Two at P.I.S.P. 29 Oct, finishing their crossing of L. Erie, were quickly surrounded by Ring-billed Gulls. Within 100 feet of land two crows also began harassing them, causing the owls to become disoriented and land exhausted on the beach. After recovering they flew into nearby woods (JM).

An organized Com. Nighthawk watch along the Allegheny R. at Pittsburgh on 25 evenings 5 Aug–6 Sep tallied 1,775 birds, including a high count of 672 on 27 Aug (SK). Late nighthawks were in Pittsburgh 20 Oct (KS) and Fishersville, *Augusta*, VA, 23 Oct (YL). The Ruby-throated Humming-

bird flight was heavy: 207 were banded at P.N.R. 5 Aug–17 Sep (RCL, RM) and 92 were liberated from nets at T.R.M.O. (RC). An imm. male Rufous Hummingbird appeared at a feeder near Grantsville, MD, 4–7 Sep (ph. FP, v.o.); one was at Bluefield, *Mercer*, WV, 15 Oct–30 Nov+ (AMR) and an imm. male was at Signal Mt., *Hamilton*, TN, 29 Nov+ (JSL, banded CSL). Two additional *Selasphorus* hummingbirds (sp. as yet undetermined) appeared near Brevard, *Transylvania*, NC, 13 Oct–30 Nov (*fide* NS). A Jul–Aug survey of Red-headed Woodpeckers in one of their last strongholds in Pennsylvania revealed a "tenuous foothold" maintained in *Lawrence* and *Mercer*; 62 birds, including 16 young, were located (BD).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher records came mostly from the banding stations, including 43 at P.N.R. 19 Aug–29 Sep (RCL, RM), singles at Mt. Nebo W.M.A., MD, 23 Aug and 10 Sep (CSk, FP), and four at A.F.M.O. 9 Sep–1 Oct (*fide* GH). Two Alder Flycatchers were still singing on Roan Mt., TN/NC, 4 Aug (SS). An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** at Hooper Lane 28 Oct (v.t. WF, RSe) was not only new for *Henderson*, NC, but represented one of the few records for the Appalachians. N. Shrikes began appearing in Pennsylvania the last week of Oct, where they were widespread, with records from at least seven counties.

A **Bell's Vireo** reported 10 Aug from Barkcamp S.P., *Belmont*, OH (detailed description, MAP) provided one of few records for the entire Appalachian Region—the species nonetheless remains unconfirmed by any photographic, specimen, or multiple-observer record for the Region. Ten Yellow-throated Vireos was considered an exceptional count at Jackson Park, NC, 22 Sep (WF, RSe); a late bird was at Booker T. Washington S.P., TN, 31 Oct (KC). The Blue Jay flight was impressive along many mountain ridges; 18,706 were counted at A.F.M.O., peaking at 8,297 on 3 Oct (RB, GH). Good numbers of Com. Ravens were reported, including 66 flying past Peters Mt., WV, in one group 14 Nov (JPh). A Purple Martin roost at P.I.S.P. contained 100,000 birds in mid-Aug (JHi). High counts of Tree Swallows included 5,140 at Pymatuning L. Aug 14 (RFL); 3,000 were at Mosquito L., OH, 11 Oct (CB). A late date for ten N. Rough-winged Swallows at Edinboro, PA (JHi) was 9 Oct. Two late Bank Swallows were at P.I.S.P. 7 Oct (JHi). There was a minor flight of Black-capped Chickadees, with 147 banded at P.N.R.; one banded at Bristol, TN, 21 Nov was the first

well-documented record for the ne. corner of the state (RLw, *fide* RKn). Nearly every contributor mentioned the abundance of Red-breasted Nuthatches; surely it was one of the heaviest flights in years. A quick informal survey of Brown-headed Nuthatches in e. Tennessee (FR) located ten birds scattered over three different sites. Sedge Wrens were at Glades State Game Lands, *Butler*, PA, 4 Sep (SBu, RC) and Hooper Lane 3 Oct (WF); up to four were at Brainerd Levee, TN, 28 Sep–16 Oct (KC). Gray-cheeked Thrushes were widely reported in small numbers. A Bicknell's Thrush was banded at P.I.S.P. 4 Sep (RFL) and two were banded at T.R.M.O. 24 Sep (RC).

## WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Opposite the usual trend in the Region, Golden-winged Warblers were "far more numerous" than Blue-wingeds this season in *Henderson*, NC, where six were found 18 Sep alone (WF, ST). A late Blue-winged Warbler was at McDonough W.R., *Wood*, WV, 26 Sep (JBe). A Brewster's Warbler was banded at P.N.R. 8 Aug (BS, RCL, RM) and one was in *Hamilton*, TN, 25 Sep (TR). A Yellow Warbler at Mill Creek Park, *Mahoning*, OH, 8 Sep (NB) was late. A total of 1,035 Black-throated Blue Warblers was banded at A.F.M.O., with 87 on 24 Sep (*fide* GH); many observers commented on their abundance this fall and a late bird was on Bald Eagle Ridge, *Centre*, PA, 30 Nov (KE). A late Yellow-throated Warbler was banded at T.R.M.O. 27 Sep (RC), and a Yellow Palm Warbler was a good find at P.N.R. 13 Oct (RCL, RM). Lingered Ovenbirds were near Berlin, *Somerset*, PA, 4 Nov (JPa) and Elizabethton, TN, 30 Nov (HL). A Louisiana Waterthrush in *Allegany*, MD, was unusually late 18 Sep (RKi).

A Summer Tanager along the Blue Ridge Parkway 19 Aug represented just the second fall record for *Augusta*, VA (YL); late birds were in *Wood*, WV, 20 Sep (SR) and at Jackson Park, NC, 25 Sep (WF, RSe). A **Western Tanager** at Natrona Heights, PA, 3 Oct (PH) represented just the second record for the Pittsburgh area. At Hooper Lane, single Clay-colored Sparrows were found 2 and 10 Oct and two were there 7 Nov (WF, ST). A Lark Sparrow was an unexpected find at Moraine S.P., PA, 24 Sep (DY, DDr, BD, RSt). Infrequently reported from the Appalachians, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were observed at Mutual, *Westmoreland*, PA, 9 and 21 Oct (DL, m.ob.) and Y.C.S.P. 12 Oct (MH et al) and two were at Hooper Lane 8–16 Oct (v.t. WF, m.ob.). Good numbers of Lincoln's Sparrows were reported; 41 were banded at P.N.R. 15 Sep–11 Oct, a total

of 19 at Mt Nebo W.M.A. (Csk, FP), 12 at T.R.M.O. 12 Sep–17 Oct and about 20 were at Hooper Lane during late Oct (WF). The White-crowned Sparrow migration was widely reported as average. There were two reports, however, by experienced observers, of imm. Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows, in Butler Twsp., Butler, PA, 28 Oct (DY) and at Shelocta, Indiana, PA 14 Oct–30 Nov (MH, RH). A late Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Natrona Heights, PA, 14 Nov (PH) and an Indigo Bunting frequented a feeder in E. Brainerd, TN, through Nov (*fide* KC). The only Dickcissel reports were of birds at McDonough W.R., WV, 4 Sep (JBe) and Brainerd Levee, TN, 21 Oct (KC).

Two Brewer's Blackbirds were at Moraine S.P., PA, 24 Oct (PH, v.o.), two were near Volant, Lawrence, 13 Nov (RSt), and over 20 were at Darlington, Beaver, 19–21 Nov (BH). Large flocks of Purple Finches passed through the n. half of the Region, especially in Oct; 525 were banded at P.N.R. (RCL, RM) and 101 at Mt. Nebo W.M.A. (Csk, FP). Just a scattering remained in Pennsylvania by season's end. Four Red Crossbills were on Mt. Mitchell, NC, 5 Aug (SS, MC); in the north, the first arrival was reported at Delmont, Westmoreland, PA, 9 Sep (KB) and they were widely reported in small numbers by mid-Nov. At least six White-winged Crossbills were at W. Salisbury, Somerset, PA, 9 Nov (JPa) and like Red Crossbills, they, too, were well distributed across the state by mid-month. Flocks of up to 100 Com. Redpolls frequented P.I.S.P. by 10 Nov, and smaller numbers were seen at a few other Pennsylvania localities; one had reached Shenandoah, VA, by the last week of Nov (DDa). Pine Siskins staged a heavy invasion throughout the Region; an exceptional total of 706 was banded at T.R.M.O. 13 Oct–20 Nov (RC); however, only 61 were banded at P.N.R. during the same period. Flocks of "migrating" Evening Grosbeaks appeared in the n. by mid-Oct, but few lingered at feeding stations; over 20 were on Roan Mt., TN, 28 Nov (RKn).

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# western great lakes



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**W**hile mild summer weather continued unabated, abundant rainfall that characterized preceding months suddenly stopped in mid-August. Most of the Region recorded little precipitation: by early December many areas were 5–10 inches below normal. Results were dramatic, especially on the Great Lakes. Levels dropped two to four feet, placing them dangerously close to record lows. For example Squaw Bay in Michigan's Alpena was characterized as a marshy field, while the s. end of Green Bay in Wisconsin's Brown became one large mudflat. Inland lakes saw similar reductions. If the upcoming winter and spring do not have ample precipitation the Region will approach summer under drought conditions, which would impact many nesting species.

Abnormally mild weather affected the waterfowl flight. Birds did not need to depart the north so many species trickled into the Region. The raptor flight was better than last fall, spectacular in a few instances, but still variable between the three states. Shorebirds were found in excellent numbers when suitable habitat was present. The thrush flight was without doubt one of the poorest on record. Most species were seen

in exceptionally low numbers or totally missed. Warblers commenced migrating early, undoubtedly due to yet another early nesting season, with most exiting by mid-Sep (extremely early). A few individuals lingered, some record late. The sparrow flight also was poor. Thankfully, winter finches appeared in fair to good numbers; however, the pattern proved irregular.

What the "standard" migrants lacked the rarities had. This was an excellent season for the unexpected, resulting in quality birding in all three states. Especially gratifying was the fact that many rarities lingered, allowing many birders to enjoy them. Headliners for Minnesota were Black-headed and Glaucous-winged Gulls, Ancient Murrelet, Band-tailed Pigeon, Williamson's Sapsucker, Painted Bunting, and Great-tailed Grackle. Michigan's contributions included Black Vulture, Gyrfalcon, White-winged Dove, Rufous Hummingbird, Cave Swallow, Lark Bunting, and Chestnut-collared Longspur.