

Warbler 14 Dec in Two Harbors, *Lake* (JL) was a first winter record for Minnesota, as was one on 15 Dec on the Beloit C.B.C. (SC) for Wisconsin. An Ovenbird lingered in Michigan to 5 Dec in Detroit, *Wayne* (KO), and one on the Oconomowoc C.B.C. (*fide* BD) was Wisconsin's 5th winter record.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Summer Tanager at a feeder in *Outagamie* 27 Dec—15 Jan (DT, m. ob.) was a 3rd winter record in Wisconsin, as was one on 2 Dec in Duluth, *St. Louis* (*fide* KE) in Minnesota. In Michigan, the female Scarlet Tanager from the fall stayed to 7 Dec in *Berrien* (JW). A Spotted Towhee 15 Dec in *Dane* (GS, PSc) was the 8th state record in Wisconsin. Casual in Minnesota during the winter, a Chipping Sparrow was present 1-28 Jan at Whitewater W.M.A., *Winona* (CB, WB, m. ob.). A Vesper Sparrow 22 Dec in *Cass* (JW) was late in Michigan, while a Savannah Sparrow near Lawndale, *Wilkin* (SM) was only the 5th winter record in Minnesota. Minnesota had its 8th winter record for Lincoln's Sparrow, with one on 6 Dec in Minneapolis, *Hennepin* (TT), while in Michigan, where the species is less uncommon in winter, a single bird was present from to 1 Feb in Detroit, *Wayne* (JFo, KO). Wisconsin had 2 Lincoln's Sparrow reports, including one on 23 Feb in *Dane* (KBu) and another on the Stockbridge C.B.C. (*fide* BD). Michigan had single Harris's Sparrows on 16 Dec and 28 Dec—8 Jan, both in *Berrien* (JW). A female Rose-breasted Grosbeak appeared at a Wisconsin feeder in *Portage* 11-12 Dec (AY, KH). Very unexpected was an imm. **Painted Bunting** that appeared on 2 Feb and remained through the month at a feeder in Rogers City, *Presque Isle* (AP, EP, WG, m. ob.). The bird appeared after a day of strong southerly winds and was so weak it was thought it would succumb overnight; but it made a miraculous recovery and was enjoyed by many Michigan birders. It is the 9th state record and the first in winter. Equally astounding in that state was a **Bobolink** on the Rockwood C.B.C., *Monroe* (KO). This Neotropical migrant is rare on any North American C.B.C., though this bird provided a 2nd record for a Michigan C.B.C.! Also in Michigan's *Monroe* was a large winter blackbird roost with counts of 90,000 Red-winged Blackbirds and 135,000 Common Grackles on 15 Dec (AC). Equally impressive on the Monroe C.B.C. were 4,038 Rusty Blackbirds. Wisconsin also had big concentrations of Rusty Blackbirds, with 1,700 at the Waterloo W.A. on 14 Dec (KK) and 4,000+ on the Hutisford C.B.C. (BD). The previous winter high in that state was 337. The Hutisford C.B.C. also reported 1,200+ Brewer's Blackbirds, rather remarkable when one considers that all the previous winter records of this species

in Wisconsin numbered only 474! In Michigan, this species is extremely rare in winter, making one found 15 Dec in *Genesee* (KO) notable. Even rarer in Michigan was a Western Meadowlark from 19-27 Jan in Eagle Harbor, *Keweenaw* (MA, JK). Baltimore Orioles were reported in Wisconsin in *Dane* 10 Dec (DF) and in *Outagamie* 21 Dec (BH), and in Minnesota, a tardy Baltimore was seen 21 Dec in Duluth, *St. Louis* (PS). A highlight in Minnesota was a **Brambling** at Battle L., *Otter Tail* 16-30 Dec (EE, JE, m. ob.), the 5th record for that state. Wisconsin had a good winter finch year, with an average number of Pine Grosbeaks, good numbers of Common Redpolls, and a few reports of Hoary Redpoll. Michigan had a disappointing year for winter finches, despite the promising fall, but by winter, the numbers of all species were average to below average. Minnesota reported good numbers of White-winged Crossbills scattered throughout the state, including some in the s. portions of the state, whereas the rest of the winter finches were seen in unremarkable numbers.

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Middlewestern Prairie



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From his perspective in Iowa, a state that enjoyed its fourth warmest winter on record, Bob Cecil aptly characterized the season's weather: "Heavy coats remained in the closet, long johns in the drawer, and winter

was measured in days rather than months.” In Chicago, where the temperature failed to reach the dreaded zero, the winter of 2001-2002 was the warmest in 70 years. Snowfall was also quite light. The entire Midwest luxuriated in another joyously mild winter. This balmy Midwestern winter theme has been replayed so frequently over the past ten years that it raises the obvious question—have our winter bird populations also changed?

A warming climate might well have initiated changes in the Region’s birds, if one relies on correlation. A comparison of recent Middlewestern Prairie Region reports with those of two decades ago reveals some changes. Several species, such as Sandhill Crane, Least Sandpiper, Forster’s Tern, Palm Warbler, and Chipping Sparrow—formerly casual or accidental in the cold months—have become quite regular. The presence of these species season after season is perhaps a better barometer of winter avian population changes than are shockers such as the tail-bobbing Louisiana Waterthrush or nesting American Robin described in this report. Although the jury is still out on this issue, a substantial amount of empirical evidence now suggests that indeed “the times they are a-changin’.” *Note:* Due to an email malfunction, the Missouri report failed to arrive in time for inclusion in the Regional summary. That state’s highlights are appended.

Abbreviations: Carl. L. (Carlyle L. in *Clinton, Fayette, & Bond*, IL); D. N. R. (Department of Natural Resources); H.B.S.P (Headlands Beach S P, OH); L. Cal. (L. Calumet, Chicago); O.N.W.R. (Ottawa N.W.R., OH); R.E.D.A (Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, MO).

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Once again, Red-throated Loons were plentiful, with 5 in Kentucky, 3 in Illinois, 3 in Indiana, and one in Ohio. Common Loons were also widespread; the peak tally consisted of 125 in *Barren*, KY 8 Dec (DR). Daily Horned Grebe counts exceeding 70 birds were logged in Ohio and Illinois, but the maximum count came from Kentucky, where 130 were present in scattered flocks along the Ohio R. 8 Dec (BPB). Winter Red-necked Grebes were confined to the e states, with 4 in Indiana, 4 in Ohio, and one in Kentucky. The only Eared Grebe e. of the Mississippi R. was seen in *Taylor*, KY 21 Dec (BPB). A Western Grebe in *Dickinson*, IA 1 Dec (LAS) was overshadowed by the discovery of a **Clark’s Grebe** in *Spirit L.*, IA the following day (†LAS, ETh). The season’s most impressive seabird was an imm. Northern Gannet that appeared sporadically at Fairport Harbor, OH 21 Dec (TKe) and 29 Dec (EB).

The largest American White Pelican concentrations occurred in Kentucky, where 226 were found on Kentucky L. (where this species might have wintered) 15 Dec (BPB) and at Carl. L., where 150 were counted 1 Dec (DKa). Double-crested Cormorant numbers remained high; the peak count was 7000 at Rend L., IL 15 Dec (DKa). Surprisingly, American Bitterns, which are accidental in winter, were reported at *Prairie Ridge W.M.A.*, IL 1-7 Dec (LH), at Rend L., IL 15 Dec (LSt), and in *Muhlenberg*, KY 5 Jan (DOb, MB, HC, JCV). The latter provided one of few mid-winter records for Kentucky. Taking advantage of the mild weather, Great Egrets tarried in Illinois, providing rare winter records in *Carroll* 1 Dec (KJM, AF) and at *Horseshoe L.* 8 Dec (KAM). Lingering Black-crowned Night-Herons appeared in four states, the latest near Cedar Rapids, IA 8-10 Jan (JLF). Also capitalizing on the mild conditions, Turkey Vultures returned to the n. states in early Feb, and a record count was established in *Barren*, KY 9 Dec, when 850 were tallied (SS, DR).

WATERFOWL

Expansion of the Region’s winter goose population continued this season. Exceptional Greater White-fronted Goose counts included 4500 at Reelfoot N.W.R., KY in late Jan (CD), 3000+ at Lake Chautauqua N.W.R., IL 9 Feb (RTC), 2000+ in *Gibson*, IN 12 Jan (CMi, et al.), and 2000 at Carl. L. 9 Dec (DKa). The Kentucky and Indiana counts constitute record state tallies. Following suit, five Snow Goose reports, from three states, exceeded 20,000 birds; the maximum was 100,000 at Carl. L. 16 Feb (DKa). Ross’s Goose was also surprisingly plentiful, with one or more birds reported in every state. The most remarkable Ross’s Goose report consisted of an incredible 80 birds at Reelfoot N.W.R., KY 10 Feb (BPB, DR). Over the past decade, winter-period Brant have been quite rare in the Region; however, at least four birds were reported this season. These included 2 at H.B.S.P 5-7 Dec (KM, JWH), an imm. in *Black Hawk*, IA 16-19 Dec (†FLM, †MO), one at H.B.S.P 30 Dec (LRO), and one at Lakeshore Metropark, OH 24 Feb (JPG). Tundra Swans were also present in unusually high numbers, with 965 on Mississippi R. Pool 13 IL & IA 20 Dec (KJM, et al.) and 200 that wintered at O.N.W.R. (m. ob., *fide* RHa).

Both puddle and bay duck numbers remained at the high levels of recent years. Noteworthy reports included a male Eurasian Wigeon in *Johnson*, IA 25-27 Feb (DaF, †THK, †ABr, †CE, †MP, †MD), an American x Eurasian Wigeon hybrid at Reelfoot N.W.R., KY 10 Feb (BPB, DR), several Dec Blue-

winged Teal, including a female in *Hardin*, KY 4 Jan (BPB), and a phenomenal 87,470 Northern Pintails counted during an aerial survey at three w. Kentucky locations 5 Feb (*fide* BPB). The season’s only Harlequin Ducks were on the Illinois lakefront, where 2 were seen at Winthrop Harbor 1 Dec (AS, UG), at Evanston 29 Dec (JE, EW), and at Jackson Park in Chicago 20 Feb (PRC). Scoters were scarce on the Great Lakes, and White-winged Scoters were especially hard to find. Inland scoter and Long-tailed Duck numbers were near normal. The season’s best duck was a male **Barrow’s Goldeneye** at Port Neal 9-22 Feb (†WFH, †MO), which provided Iowa’s first report in six years. The 450 Red-breasted Mergansers seen on the Ohio R. in *Jefferson*, KY 8 Dec (BPB, DOB), provided an excellent inland count, as did the 3000 Ruddy Ducks at Carl. L. 8 Dec (DKa).

EAGLE TO SHOREBIRDS

Among numerous excellent Bald Eagle counts were 371 at Lock & Dam 13-15 on the Mississippi R. 15 Jan (KJM, PSb), 259 on the Ohio mid-winter survey (Ohio D.N.R., *fide* RHn), and 204 on the Indiana mid-winter survey (JSC). The peak winter Northern Harrier tally consisted of 35 birds in a reclaimed strip mine area of *Greene*, IN 24 Feb (BK, DRW). The Region’s total Northern Goshawk count was 16, which is slightly above average for a non-incursion year. The season’s Red-tailed Hawk log included a plethora of the more uncommon forms. The tally sheet included 6 “Harlan’s,” 2 “Kridler’s,” and a host of dark and rufous morphs. Several correspondents reported a dearth of Rough-legged Hawks this winter.

One to 8 Golden Eagles were reported in each state, including 2 in Ohio, where this species is casual. The season also yielded some 25 Merlins, a number that is in keeping with reports from recent winters. The easternmost Prairie Falcons were in Kentucky, where a juv was identified in *Fulton* 4-8 Dec (DR et al.) and an apparent ad. in *Muhlenberg* 15 Feb (MM, MV). Despite the mild winter, Northern Bobwhite numbers were low. This species was reported in “extremely low numbers” in Illinois (KJM), and counts were also down locally in Iowa. Sandhill Cranes lingered well into Dec in all states, and this species likely wintered in Iowa and Kentucky (and perhaps elsewhere). January Sandhill records included 407 in *Monroe*, IN 27 Jan (J & SH), 56 at Kentucky L. 19 Jan (HC), and 8 that wintered in *Hamilton*, IA (*fide* HZ).

Once again, good numbers of shorebirds were present; a dozen species were logged for

the season. Three Black-bellied Plovers lingered at O.N.W.R. until 4 Dec (VF) to provide the Region's first winter record in more than a decade. A winter profusion of Killdeer was evidenced by 300 appropriately at Killdeer Plains W.M.A., OH 20 Dec (BWh) and 200+ in *Parke*, IN 15 Dec (AB). Greater Yellowlegs tarried into Dec in three states; the latest record consisted of 2 in *Will*, IL 16 Dec (UG). Five Lesser Yellowlegs were still at Reelfoot N.W.R., KY 15 Dec (CS et al.). Least Sandpipers were reported in four states, with Jan records in Illinois and Kentucky. This species might have wintered in Ohio as, following several late Dec reports, 2 Least were at Buck Creek S.P. 16 Feb (DOv). Most surprising was a Pectoral Sandpiper in *Warren*, IA 2 Dec (†JSi), which provided that state's 2nd Dec and latest winter record.

It was a good winter for Purple Sandpipers on the Great Lakes. Four were at H.B.S.P. until 2 Jan (m. ob.), and one was seen irregularly at Waukegon, IL 8 Dec (DD), 23 Feb, and 1-2 Mar (†DBJ et al.). The most remarkable Purple Sandpiper, however, appeared at the Cinergy Gibson power plant, *Gibson*, IN 9 Dec (†G&LB, ph.), where it provided the state's 4th inland record (all at that site). Dunlin are becoming regular in the winter report. This year, a whopping 327 were found at O.N.W.R 4 Dec (VF), and one lingered at L. Macbride, IA until 20 Dec (†JLE, †THK) to provide an all-time late record for Iowa. Perhaps the winter's most extraordinary shorebird report involved 5 Long-billed Dowitchers at O.N.W.R 12 Dec (VF), which constitutes one of only a handful of winter records for the Region. Common Snipes, which regularly winter in small numbers, had a banner year with a state record 243 at Reelfoot N.W.R., KY 27 Jan (BPB, CS, JD). American Woodcocks heralded the mild winter by returning very early. The earliest arrivals were recorded in *Monroe*, IN 25 Jan (J&SH) and *Darke*, OH 27 Jan (RSh). A Red Phalarope, present at Huron, OH since fall, lingered until 15 Dec (m. ob.).

JAEGERS THROUGH OWLS

Up to 5 Pomarine Jaegers were visible simultaneously at Rocky River Park, OH on 1-2 Dec (SZ, TG), suggesting that this species is becoming a regular winter resident on L. Erie. Despite the mild winter, gulls were present in abundance. Single ad. Black-headed Gulls were at Lorain, OH 20-24 Dec (SZ, Jpg) and at Fairport Harbor, OH 30 Dec (†LRo, RHn, EB). The Region's peak Bonaparte's Gull count came from an unexpected location; 6000 were present on Kentucky L., KY 20 Jan (HC). Ring-billed Gulls peaked at 50,000 at Carl. L. 28 Dec

(DKa). California Gulls have become rare but regular members of the Region's winter gull throngs. This year, ads. were identified at Huron, OH 15 Dec (VF), Avon L., OH 20 Dec (SZ), and on the Chicago lakefront 5 Jan and 5 Feb (DBJ, SH, m. ob.). All four-year gulls were both widespread and plentiful. Noteworthy records included 4 Thayer's that were recorded throughout the winter at Barkley Dam, KY (BPB, m. ob.), an inland "Kumlien's" Iceland Gull at Carl. L. 18 Dec (KAM, SBa, CL), a maximum of 6 Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Kentucky L., KY 15 Dec (BPB, HC, et al.), a total of 4 Glaucous Gulls in Iowa (SJD, JLE, SFd), and a record 11 Great Black-backed Gulls at the Hammond Marina, IN 16 Mar (RHu). Late juv. Black-legged Kittiwakes appeared on the Indiana lakefront at Michigan City Harbor 1 Dec (JMc, m. ob.) and at Miller Beach 19 Dec (DGo, KJB).

A nonchalant Caspian Tern dallied in s. Illinois, where it was seen at Rend L. 15 Dec (LSt). Forster's Terns apparently wintered in Kentucky, where sightings were logged in each of the three winter months. Observations in Jan, all on Kentucky L., included 2 on 6 Jan (HC), 5 on 20 Jan (HC), and at least one on 26 Jan (ME).

Eurasian Collared-Doves continued to strengthen their foothold in the Region; winter nest-building was observed in *Fulton*, KY 16 Feb (MB et al.). Kentucky's 2nd **Inca Dove** appeared in Hickman, *Fulton* 9-11 Feb (ph. BY et al.). Single Great Horned Owls of the pale Arctic race appeared at two Iowa locations: in *Cerro Gordo* 1 Jan (PH) and in *Hardin* 18 Jan (MP). The fall Snowy Owl irruption was widespread, with some 32 birds reported. Several Snowy Owls pressed into s. reaches of the Region, with two records as far as Kentucky: an imm. female in *Henderson* 9 Dec (RSo, DOB, BPB) and a second-year male in *Pendleton* 22 Feb that lingered into mid-Mar (JHy, KC et al.). It was a typical winter for the "eared" owls, with multiple individuals of both species from all reporting states. Some 16 Northern Saw-whet Owls were reported across the Region, suggesting that it was a better than average winter for that species.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

A Northern Flicker of the *cafra* subspecies ("Red-shafted Flicker") wandered e. to Ames, IA, where it visited a feeder 1 Jan (JJD). The season's hummingbird roster included an ad. male Rufous at a *Bourbon*, KY feeder late Nov—1 Jan (VS, BPB). The Vermilion Flycatcher reported at O.N.W.R. last fall lingered until 12 Dec (KMl). A Loggerhead Shrike at Killdeer Plains W.M.A., OH 12 Dec—

11 Feb (TS, m. ob.) was most unusual for that location. The count of 27 Northern Shrikes reported across the Region was below the average of recent winters. A lingering Blue-headed Vireo in Ames, IA 15 Dec (†KH, et al.), provided that state's 2nd Dec record. Fish Crows are rarely reported in the dead of winter, consequently, the 4 at Horseshoe L., IL 21 Jan (KAM) were noteworthy.

A Tree Swallow in *Taylor*, KY 24 Feb (RDe, HC) was a bit early, but the Barn Swallow at L. Chautauqua N.W.R., IL 22 Feb (RBj, SBj) was thoroughly overzealous. For the 2nd time in three years, ne. Kentucky hosted Black-capped Chickadees; 3 were banded and 2 others seen in Blaine 6 Feb, and 3 more were observed 5 km farther n. (SFh, BPB, MM). Both of the Region's autumn Brown-headed Nuthatches lingered well into winter. The Illinois Beach S.P., IL bird was seen until 9 Feb (GAW, SH, DBJ, m. ob.), and the *Geauga*, OH nuthatch lingered until 15 Jan (LGi, JMc, ph. m. ob.)

The 5 House Wrens reported in Kentucky during the C.B.C. period made for an unusually high winter total. Townsend's Solitaire reports were up this winter, with one in *Cook*, IL 17 Dec (GB, *vide* KJM), a single bird in *O'Brien*, IA 8 Jan—16 Feb (DKo, †TNJ, LAS, ETh), and 2 in *Plymouth*, IA 11 Jan (†WFH et al.). Hermit Thrushes were plentiful, with 6 in Iowa, 5 in Illinois, and 3 in Indiana. Thousands of American Robins lingered well into winter, as evidenced by 8000 at Rend L., IL 15 Dec (DKa) and 3000 in *Henry*, IL 1 Feb (DJS). Incredibly, one even nested; a female was observed incubating two eggs in Chicago from 13 Dec—12 Jan (JPe). American Pipits were reported in good numbers across the Region, peak counts included 150 at Carl. L. 27 Dec (DKa) and 150 in *Warren*, KY 25 Jan (DR). Once again, Bohemian Waxwings were restricted to n. Iowa, where singletons were reported at Hawkeye W.M.A. 13 Dec (†JLF) and in *O'Brien* 2 Feb (†LAS). Cedar Waxwing counts were nominal this winter; the largest concentration consisted of 477 in *Winnebago*, IL 29 Dec (DWi).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

As has occurred in recent mild winters, a number of warblers lingered in the Region. Most noteworthy were a Nashville Warbler in Cleveland, OH 15 Dec (JT, RK) that provided that state's 3rd Dec record, and a female American Redstart in Columbus, OH 22 Dec (RR). Among the more "expected" winter warblers, Pines and Palms, were each reported in four states, whereas two states claimed Ovenbirds and Common Yellowthroats

More evidence that more Neotropical birds

SA The spate of recent warm winters has rendered many of the Region's birders accustomed to seeing warblers, and other tropical species, in December. However, the appearance of a Christmas-period **Louisiana Waterthrush**, on freshly fallen snow, would astonish even the staunchest global warmer. Indeed, on 29 Dec, a Louisiana Waterthrush was discovered in Twinsburg, *Summit*, OH (†LRo, JSe, CJ, ph. and six other observers). Identifiable photographs were obtained. This is the first confirmed winter record for Ohio (the previous latest date was in September) and a cursory examination of the literature revealed no other December records in the Region.

are wintering in the Region was offered by a Summer Tanager's presence at a Shipshewana, IN feeder 27 Dec—30 Jan (PSm, †DSt, ph. ML, PM).

The season's only Spotted Towhee was a female in Urbana, IL 1-2 Dec (SBa, m. ob.). Chipping Sparrow numbers were up this winter; the peak count consisting of 17 in Bowling Green, KY 29 Dec—late Jan (DR). Other noteworthy sparrow reports included a single Vesper at Peabody W.M.A., KY 7 Jan (MM) and an impressive 58 Savannahs in *Greene*, IN 24 Feb (DRW). Most unusual were single winter-period Lincoln's Sparrows in downtown Indianapolis 8 Dec (RHe, DGo, et al.) and in *w Fulton*, KY 10 Feb (BPB, DR). Harris's Sparrows were scarce, the only report e. of the Mississippi R. being of a bird in *Shelby*, IN 29 Dec—6 Feb (DGo, JMc, ph., m. ob.). Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings were present in typical numbers; peak counts were 500+ Laplands in *McLean*, IL, (MLR, LW) and 1000 Buntings in *Fulton*, OH 8 Jan (JY).

A male Indigo Bunting, which visited a *Daviess*, KY feeding station 18-26 Feb (MTo), added to the season's hefty winter list of Neotropical migrant passerines. Yellow-headed Blackbird reports included one in *Warrick*, IN 9 Feb (CMi), a female in *Woodbury*, IA 9 Feb (WFH), and 2 ad. males in *Union*, KY 27 Feb (BPB). Excellent blackbird counts were also logged; peak tallies included 1100 Rusty Blackbirds at Mermet L., IL, 31 Dec (KMA) and 200 Brewer's Blackbirds in Gibson, IN 12 Jan (CMi). A fine winter Great-tailed Grackle count of 22 birds was made 1 Jan in *Dickinson*, IA (LAS). Peak tallies of the more common blackbird species included 38,500 Red-wings at Rend L., IL 15 Dec (KAM), 50,000 Common Grackles at Carl. L. 1 Dec (DKa),

and 3000 Brown-headed Cowbirds at Carl. L. 23 Dec (DKa). The winter darkness was brightened by the appearance of 2 Baltimore Orioles. The first was in *Jo Daviess*, IL 12-29 Dec (RDo), and an ad. male was in *Cuyahoga*, OH on Christmas day (LGa, reportedly ph.).

Despite the guarded optimism generated during the fall flight, it was a mediocre season for winter finches. Purple Finches were deemed scarce in many states, but a peak count of 60 was logged in *Cerro Gordo*, IA 1 Jan (PH, et al.). Red Crossbills were reported only in Illinois and Iowa; the peak tally was 30 at Sand Ridge State Forest, IL 12 Jan (KAM, KR). White-winged Crossbills were more widespread, with observations in all five reporting states. The maximum count was 12 in *Carroll*, IA 29 Dec (RGo). Common Redpolls fared a bit better, with multiple reports from every state; the largest count, by a wide margin, consisted of 165 at Arcola Cr., OH, 2 Jan (JPg). Double-digit counts of Pine Siskins were recorded in every state (mainly in Dec), with a maximum of 75 in *Lucas*, OH 9 Dec (TA). The Region's Evening Grosbeak inventory consisted of 2 found at different Kentucky locations.

MISSOURI SUMMARY

For the most part, observations of the Missouri birders paralleled those in the other five states. Missouri provided the season's only **Pacific Loon**: a single bird at Fellow's L. 1 Dec (CB). Up to 40 Trumpeter Swans were at R.E.D.A. during the winter, and 30 were counted at that location 8 Dec (BR). In view of these high numbers, Brad Jacobs suggested that the status of this "non-established" species should soon be re-evaluated. This sentiment is shared by observers in several nearby states. At R.E.D.A., the winter gull population reached about 4000, of which about 80% were Ring-billed Gulls (BR). Rarities at R.E.D.A. included a Thayer's Gull 30 Dec (BR), a first-winter Glaucous 19 Jan (BR, m. ob.), and a Lesser Black-backed 6 Jan (MTe). The "Show-Me State" also added three Snowy Owl reports to the Region's tally (LL, JH, SK); all were in the ne. corner of the state and possibly represent the same individual. Most accommodating was the **Lewis's Woodpecker** reported last fall at Schell-Osage W.M.A.; the bird was seen in each of the three winter months (*vide* BJa). A Bewick's Wren at Prairie S.P. 23-24 Feb (†PMc, SK, LL, m. ob.) provided one of few winter records of this species, which is vanishing in the Midwest. The 18 Le Conte's Sparrows in *Nodaway* 14 Dec (DAE), represents a fine winter count. A lone Snow Bunting was observed by 45 birders at L. Mazingo 2 Dec (LL), and an impressive flock of 25 was in *Boone* 19 Jan

(†JMc). Great-tailed Grackles were plentiful, with three counts exceeding 50 birds, the peak tally was 100 in *Green* 21 Jan (GS) White-winged Crossbills were reported at three locations, and a Common Redpoll was in *Buchanan* 17 Dec (LL).

Addendum

The Bewick's Wren reported 25 Sep 2000 in *Franklin*, IL (*N. A. B.* 55: 60) was not accepted by the Illinois committee.

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Central Southern



there 2 Dec (DCu, RCu). One near Ft. Walton, FL 17 Dec (WWD, LD) and one at Moses Pier, Harrison, MS 20 Jan (SJD) were local rarities. In Tennessee, up to 2 were in the Pace Point area 23 Dec—23 Feb (JRW, HC, RD, JD, CAS).

Red-necked Grebes occur only sporadically in the Region; the only report was of one from Horn L., Desoto, MS 22 Feb (RH). Up to 2 Eared Grebes were at Guntersville, AL 1-5 Jan (LBR, RAR, DCu, RCu et al.), while singles were on Cross L., Caddo, AR 5 Dec (CLy) and St. Bernard, LA 23 Dec (DLD, SWC). Western Grebe, casual in Mississippi, was seen on End L., Yalobusha 1 Dec (SJD, WMD), while a **Western/Clark's Grebe** at Guntersville 24 Feb (p. a. DCu, RCu) was Alabama's 4th *Aechmophorus*.

A spectacular movement of American White Pelicans through the Region commenced 2 Dec. In Alabama, up to 22 were at W.N.W.R., Limestone (JWi, CDC et al.), where they are regular, and 35 were on Weiss L., Cherokee (SC), where they are rarely seen. Tennessee hosted 44 on Reelfoot L., Lake/Obion (m. ob.), with 20 remaining through 20 Feb; in Humphreys, 31 were seen 15 Jan (GBC). In Mississippi, 180 were on Columbus L., Lowndes/Clay 3 Dec, with 6 remaining through 25 Feb; 2 were at N.N.W.R., Noxubee 11 Dec—5 Jan, and one was recorded on Oktibbeha County L. 22 Dec (TS, MS, m. ob.). Up to 855 were on University L. in Baton Rouge, LA 4 Dec (MSw, JK). Neotropical Cormorants have been steadily expanding their range in Louisiana over the past few years. In what may be their northernmost breeding location, 15 pairs and a total of 50 individuals were in a rookery on L. Martin, St. Martin 17 Feb (JH).

Reddish Egrets occur sporadically along the n. Gulf of Mexico in winter. Singles in Little Lagoon Pass, Baldwin, AL 28 Dec (HHK, GA) and on the New Orleans C.B.C. 23 Dec (DPM, KVR, JWB) were noteworthy, as were 2 near Moses Pier in Mississippi 27 Jan (SWo, MC). Cattle Egrets lingered, with 20 on the W.N.W.R. C.B.C., Morgan, AL 15 Dec (m. ob.). In Arkansas, 7 were at Little River, Fomby 2 Dec (DA), one was at Lonoke, Lonoke 16 Dec (HP, MP), and 8 were in Stuttgart, Arkansas 26 Jan (HP, MP). White Ibis away from the coast were: one imm. along Browning Cr, Oktibbeha, MS 13 Dec (TS); 21 on the Texarkana C.B.C., Miller, AR (CM); and 12 at Millwood L., Little River, AR (CM). Seeing *Plegadis* away from the coast in Alabama during the winter is unusual; 2 on the W.N.W.R. C.B.C. 15 Dec (CDC, TP) and one at E.N.W.R., Barbour 23-24 Feb (LBR, RAR) were exceptional.

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While the calendar may have indicated it was winter, temperatures and lingering Neotropical migrants certainly did not. Most areas did not record freezing temperatures until mid-December, while the first major cold front arrived much later than is typical, in the first week in January. Overall, it was one of the warmest winters in recent memory. Waterfowl numbers were significantly below average, while 52 species of Neotropical migrants were reported, 18 of those warblers.

Abbreviations: E.N.W.R. (Eufaula N.W.R., AL), M.S.C.N.W.R. (Mississippi Sandhill

Crane N.W.R., MS), N.N.W.R. (Noxubee N.W.R., MS), p. a. (pending acceptance by appropriate state bird records committee), U.A.E.F. (University of Arkansas Experimental Farm), U.L.L.E.F. (University of Louisiana-Lafayette Experimental Farm), W.N.W.R. (Wheeler N.W.R., AL).

LOONS THROUGH IBISES

Red-throated Loons continue to be reported widely in winter. In coastal Alabama, one was recorded on the Perdido Bay C.B.C., Baldwin 22 Dec (RAD, LRD), and 2 were seen in Perdido Pass 29 Dec (DMW, RRR); in Florida, one was at Bayou Grande, Escambia 22 Dec (PB et al.). Inland, singles were at Guntersville, Marshall, AL 5-12 Jan (SWM, CDC, SG) and near Pace Point, Henry, TN 3-23 Feb (JRW, HC, RD, m. ob.). Pacific Loons were at Perdido Pass 29 Dec (3; RRR), and up to 3 were at Guntersville, AL 17 Jan—23 Feb (GDJ, DGJ, RAR, CDC, m. ob.), with a different bird