

plain the large numbers of sparrows seen during migration in s. Yukon and Northwest Territories. In Whse., a Porter Creek feeder hosted an impressive 32 Fox Sparrows 15 Sep, an imm. Golden-crowned Sparrow 24–27 Sep, and a peak of 90 Dark-eyed Juncos 10 Oct, along with a well-documented ad. male Oregon Junco 7–12 Oct (ph. CE, PS). Elsewhere in s. Yukon, a Canyon Cr. feeder had single White-throated and Golden-crowned Sparrows 26–29 Oct (RR); another White-throated Sparrow appeared at a Whse. feeder in late Nov and stayed into the winter (RE). To the east, hundreds of Dark-eyed Juncos, along with a few White-crowned and Fox Sparrows, were noted at a Norman Wells, NWT feeder 18 Sep (RP). The Yukon's long-awaited first-documented Harris's Sparrow, an imm., was banded at Watson Lake 25 Sep (ph. TMK). A flock of 300 Snow Buntings was at the Mendenhall R., sw. Yukon 21 Oct (CE). A male and a female-type Rose-breasted Grosbeak were at Albert Cr., about 150 km w. of the species' range, 31 Jul–1 Aug; the begging and quivering wings of the female-type raised the possibility that it was in fact a young bird (RB,



This adult male Brewer's Blackbird at Whitehorse provided the Yukon Territory's first fall record 30 October 2004 and lingered through the season to establish the first winter record as well. Photograph by Cameron Eckert.

TMK). A tardy but noteworthy report was of a male Yellow-headed Blackbird near Little Atlin L., s. Yukon 9–11 Jul (ph. KG, SG). The fall build-up of Rusty Blackbirds at the Whse. landfill peaked at 150 birds 12 Sep (CE); a flock of 50 was noted at Albert Cr. 6 Sep (TMK). An ad. male Brewer's Blackbird that lingered in Whse. from 30 Oct into winter (ph. CE) provided the Yukon's first fall and winter records for the species. An imm. Gray-crowned Rosy Finch was at Summit L.,

sw. Yukon 25 Aug (JB); a single interior-race bird was at a feeder at Horse Cr., L. Laberge, Yukon 9 Nov (CM, KO). A leucistic Pine Siskin was seen at a feeder at Haines Jct., sw. Yukon 14–21 Oct (ph. ET). Equally eye-catching was an albino Evening Grosbeak seen in Ft. Smith, NWT in late Nov (ph. MB).

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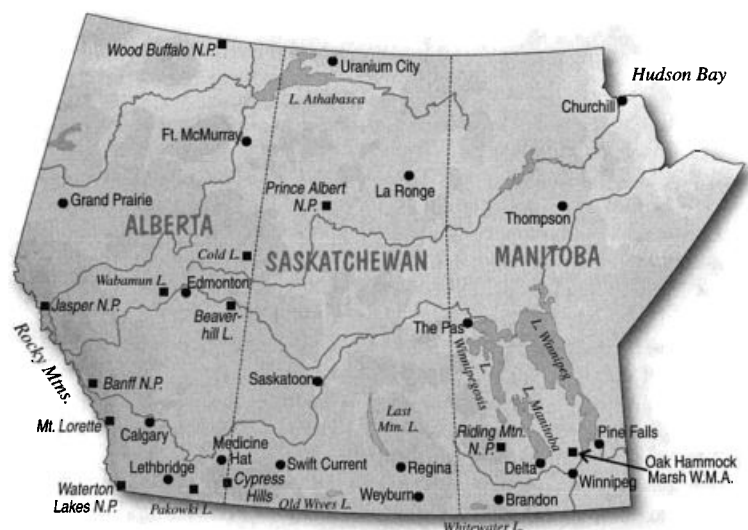
August and September continued wet and cool, after one of the coldest and dampest summers on record. October and November were more normal, but fields remained waterlogged and many crops were spoiled or could not be harvested, creating a feast for many geese, swans, and dabbling ducks. Breeding success in the north had been miserable during the summer, and this was reflected in the low percentage of young geese and shorebirds seen on migration. The season was highlighted by numerous rare gulls, a notable incursion of some owls, and a string of rare and lingering warblers. Among passerines, *Catharus* thrushes, Brown Creepers, and White-crowned Sparrows stood out by their scarcity.

Abbreviations: B.R.D. (Brady Road Dump, Winnipeg, MB); L.M.L. (Last Mountain L., SK).

LOONS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

It was a poor season for observing loons, the only Yellow-billed Loon being one at Wabamun L., AB 13–18 Nov (SG, DN, TT, m.ob.). An Eared Grebe at Clear L., AB 27 Nov was late (TK), as were 4 American White Pelicans at Lockport, MB 28 Nov (GM). Besides 5 Great Egrets seen in Manitoba, there were 2 at Weyburn, SK 13–19 Sep (MB, CB, JW), 2 at Condie Res., SK 14–25 Sep (m.ob.), and one at Taber, AB 15–19 Sep (LB). A Snowy Egret

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This juvenile Green Heron visited Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Calgary from 19 (here 25) September through at least 6 October 2004. It provided about the tenth report for Alberta. Photograph by Terry Korolyk.

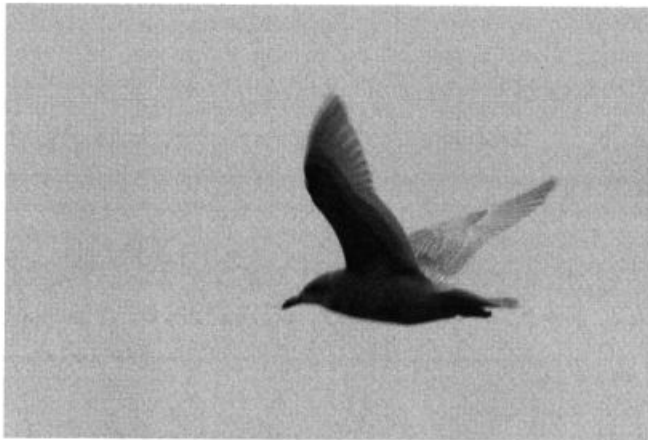
graced Whitewater L., MB 28 Aug (MY, MR).

A Little Blue Heron report from Grand Beach, MB 22 Sep was not documented (RWi). Cattle Egrets peaked at 100+ near Whitewater L. 2 Sep (GM); one at St. Labre, MB 6 Nov was tardy (CF). Two possible Green Herons were at Wascana Marsh, SK in early Aug (BE); one at Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Calgary 19 Sep–6 Oct was about the 10th for Alberta (DE, JB, m.ob., ph.). An astounding 85 White-faced Ibis were in the Frank L., AB area 21 Aug (HM, RWo), and the species was reported from Whitewater L. through 2 Oct (m.ob.).

A pair of Greater White-fronted Geese with two half-grown young near the mouth of the Seal R. in n. Manitoba 5 Aug provided the province's first known breeding report (DF). Snow Geese arrived late in sw. Manitoba, and flocks contained few young (CC, RWa). They peaked at 500,000+ at Nickle L., SK 7 Nov (MB, CB). From Luck L., SK came a report of "several" blue-morph Ross's Geese 27 Sep (TB). A Black Brant at Regina, SK 30 Oct–4 Nov was locally rare (m.ob., ph.). Indicative of the unusually wet conditions, up to 146 Tundra Swans fed on unharvested grain in flooded fields near Grosse Isle, MB in late Oct, behavior that is normally restricted to spring migrants (KG). Harlequin Ducks, all singles, were near the mouth of the Caribou R., MB 4 Aug (DF), at Assiniboine Park, Winnipeg, MB 25–27 Sep (CA, A&LL, m.ob.), at Delta, MB 9 Oct (LV, AW), and at Buffalo Pound L., SK 12 & 24 Oct (LV, BL). Scoters were well represented in s. Alberta (*fide* TK). A congregation of 5000 Buffleheads at Glenmore Res., AB 16 Oct was notable (TK, m.ob.).

Swainson's Hawks massed in the Weyburn, SK area in late Sep, with a peak of 1100+ on the 24th (MB, CB). A Golden Eagle at Mt. Lorette, AB 27 Aug was the earliest ever fall migrant at this now-famous site; a total of 1097, including many ads., was tallied there in Sep. This early migration suggested a poor breeding season in Alaska and the Yukon. The highest daily count was 573 on 15 Oct (*fide* PS). Five Gyrfalcons were also noted there in Oct (*fide* PS); other singles were at Lumsden, SK 4 Nov (BL) and at Stony Mountain, MB 27 Nov (WC, MW).

A freshly dead Virginia Rail in Winnipeg 6 Nov was late (SC), as was a Sandhill Crane at Oak Hammock Marsh 21 Nov (GG). Some 10,000 American Coots thronged Kitsim Res, AB 4 Sep, while 20,000 were at Murray L., AB 6 Sep (both



This bird at the Brady Road Dump, Winnipeg, Manitoba 29 and (here) 30 October 2004 was identified as a first-winter Glaucous-winged Gull. If accepted, it would represent the third record for the province (there are two specimens from Churchill). Photograph by Christian Artuso.

TK). Shorebird migration was good in Jul and early Aug, when ads. moved through, but poor thereafter. Of note were Lesser Yellowlegs counts of 600 at L. Macdonald, AB 7 Aug (TK) and 535 at Langdon Res. 26 Sep (AS), 500 Hudsonian Godwits near the mouth of the Seal R. 5 Aug (DF), 1700 Semipalmated Sandpipers at L. Macdonald 14 Aug (TK), at least 2 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers at Langdon Res. 27 Sep–11 Oct (RWe, m.ob.), up to 25 Purple Sandpipers at Gordon Pt., near Churchill, MB in mid-Oct (RKn, BCh), and lone Red Phalaropes at Calgary 11–17 Sep (TK, RWo, BW, m.ob.) and at Brant, AB 12 Sep (KA, BWr).

JAEGERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Lone Parasitic Jaegers were at Blackstrap L., SK 12 Sep (THa) and L.M.L. 14 Sep (BL), while 3 different birds were in the Calgary area 27 Sep–9 Oct (m.ob.). Single Little Gulls visited Condie Res., SK 7 Sep (BL) and Blackstrap L. 11 Sep (THa, KW, J&SS). Record-late were up to 5 California Gulls at B.R.D. 29–30 Oct (AW, CA), while several lingered at Cold L., AB through the end of the period (THi et al.). There were five reports of Thayer's Gull from B.R.D. 29 Oct–6 Nov (AW, m.ob.) and about 12 reports from s. Alberta (*fide* TK). An Iceland Gull was at Calgary 1 Nov (TK, JP). At least 3 Lesser Black-backed Gulls frequented B.R.D. 1–6 Nov (RK, m.ob.), and what was likely s. Manitoba's first Glaucous-winged Gull, a first-winter bird, was there 29–30 Oct (AW, CA, ph.), along with 4 different Glaucous Gulls 29 Oct–13 Nov (m.ob.). Elsewhere in s. Manitoba, 2 Glaucous Gulls were seen, while Alberta sightings included 6 at Cold L.

29 Nov (THi) and 2 in the Calgary area (TK). A Great Black-backed Gull was at Buffalo Pound L. 24 Oct (BL). Unprecedented numbers of Sabine's Gulls thrilled observers in the Calgary area 3–29 Sep. The maximum daily count was 9 on 15 Sep, and a few dozen may have been present over the period (RB, TK, BW, RWo et al., ph.); Saskatchewan sightings came from Nickle L. 20 Sep (MB, CB), L.M.L. 6 Oct (BL), and Regina 21–23 Oct (m.ob., ph.). A Ross's Gull at Nickle L. 20 Sep was apparently seen well (MB, CB).

New locations for Eurasian Collared-Dove were established, with 2 near Pierson, MB late Sep–early Oct (RW, MW, *fide* KDS, CC), one at Lethbridge, AB 20 Nov (D&TD), and a probable bird at Brandon Hills, MB in early



A notable influx of Sabine's Gulls in Alberta and Saskatchewan in September and October 2004 included this adult at Regina, Saskatchewan 22 October. Photograph by Jared Clarke.

Sep (RA, *fide* CC). Snowy Owl numbers in s. Manitoba and s. Saskatchewan were substantial in Nov (m.ob.). Northern Hawk Owls were prominent in the Calgary area, with 6+ reported, and in se. Manitoba (m.ob.). Hardly ever recorded e. of the Rocky Mts., a Northern Pygmy-Owl was heard repeatedly and seen once at Cold L., well e. of the Rockies, 14–20 Nov (DH, *fide* THi). Great Gray Owl numbers started to build up at the edge of the boreal forest in se. Manitoba around 11 Oct, after a total lack of nesting success due to scarcity of small rodents (JD, m.ob.). During the fall, 177 migrant Northern Saw-whet Owls were banded at Delta Marsh B.O., Delta, MB, with a peak of 31 on the evening of 5 Oct (HdH, *fide* CC).

A Chimney Swift at Minnedosa, MB 27 Aug was a local rarity (CC). Out-of-range Rufous Hummingbirds were at Snow Lake, MB in late Aug (LL, *fide* GG) and at Portage la Prairie, MB 15–22 Sep (H&CB, m.ob., ph.), the latter being the first “twitchable” individual in the province in many years. A Red-headed Woodpecker brood in a nest at Elie, MB was being fed peanut butter by the ads. 6 Sep (DSi). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Winnipeg 29 Oct was record late for Manitoba (RK).

PASSERINES

Mt. Lorette had its overdue first Blue-headed Vireo 1 Sep (PS). Clark's Nutcrackers were reported at Porcupine Plains, SK in late Sep (*fide* BL) and at Lumsden, SK in mid-Oct (*fide* GK), without documentation. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Winnipeg 5 Nov was very tardy (GB), while a Western Bluebird at Mt. Lorette 19 Oct was rare (*fide* PS). Townsend's Solitaires near Steinbach, MB 26 Oct (JK) and at Spruce Woods P.F. 9 & 26 Nov (KDS) were good finds. Except for a good nocturnal passage of Swainson's Thrushes over Winnipeg 3 Sep (RK), the *Catharus* thrush migration was dismal in s. Manitoba (KG, m.ob.).

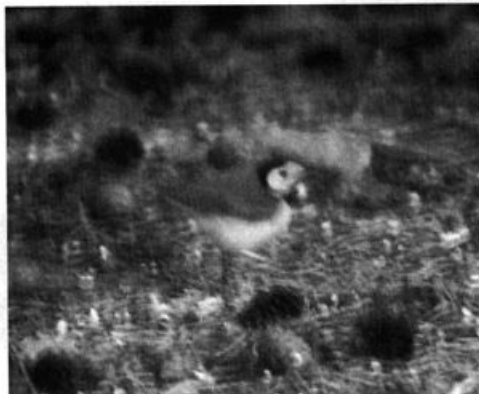
Weather systems were responsible for notable warbler waves in Winnipeg 27–28 Aug, 3–6 Sep, and 21 Sep. The latter was the largest on record for such a late date, and involved particularly Tennessee Warblers, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and American Redstarts (RK, GB, GG, m.ob.). Lingering warblers included a Chestnut-sided at Winnipeg 10 Oct (GB); Cape Mays at Winnipeg 19 Nov (RK), Oakbank, MB 21–27 Nov (SH), and Pike L., SK 27 Nov (DS); 2 Yellow-rumpeds at Gordon Pt. 19 Oct (RKn et al.); a Blackburnian at Calgary 13–15 Oct (TK et al.); Bay-breasteds at Winnipeg 10 Oct (GB), Mt. Lorette 16 (2 birds; GH) & 20 Oct (PS), and Regina 8 Nov (THE); a doomed Blackpoll at Churchill 1 Nov (BS et al.); and single Wilson's at Mt. Lorette 18 Oct (PS) and



This male Rufous Hummingbird at Portage la Prairie, Manitoba 15 (here 16) through 22 September 2004 was the first in the province since 1987 to be seen by more than a single observer. Photograph by Christian Artuso.

Calgary 20–28 Nov (JBl).

Other warbler highlights included a high count of 9 Townsend's Warblers at Calgary 29 Aug (RWO), Black-throated Blue Warblers at Winnipeg 21 Sep (GG) and 24 Oct (RC) and at Sylvania L., AB 24–27 Oct (MP, m.ob.), Manitoba's 5th reported Prothonotary Warbler at St. Ambrose P.P. 11 Sep



Alberta's fifth Hooded Warbler was this long-staying male, present at Calgary from 3 October until at least 7 December 2004 (here 27 November). Its long stay permitted observation by more than 100 birders. Photograph by Terry Korolyk.

(WC, BC, LdM, MW), and Alberta's 3rd Hooded Warbler, a male at Calgary, enjoyed by many 3 Oct–7 Dec (PB, m.ob., ph.). An unusual warbler that struck a window in Dauphin, MB 2 Aug (BWY, ph.) appeared to be a hybrid *Vermivora* (likely Tennessee) x *Dendroica* (Bay-breasted?).

A window-killed imm. male Summer Tanager at Lethbridge 9 Nov provided Alberta with its 3rd record (*fide* MH). A Spotted Towhee was far n. at a Fort McMurray, AB feeder 6–20 Nov, in the same yard where one overwintered in 2001–2002 (L&ME,

fide THi). A Lark Sparrow at Patricia Beach, MB 10 Oct was extremely late (AC, GHo, RS). Also at Ft. McMurray, a Northern Cardinal 26 Sep was the farthest-north ever in the Region (*fide* THi). A possible Eastern Meadowlark was at Mt. Lorette 20–21 Oct (PS, m.ob.). Large Common Grackle flocks have become rare in Manitoba, but 1000+ were noted at Grosse Isle 20 Sep and 7 Oct (KG). A Baltimore Oriole at Elie 9 Oct was about a month later than normal (DSi). Yet another feeder highlight at Ft. McMurray was a Gray-crowned Rosy Finch around 7 Nov (J. Fraser, *fide* THi).

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