



Ron Martin

The season was marginally drier and warmer than average. A record snow-storm hit the northwestern half of North Dakota and much of northern Montana on 5 October. Thirty-eight cm of snow was common in many areas, but melting occurred quickly. Overall, migration was uninspiring, as migrant numbers were unimpressive, especially warblers. Exceptions were the scoter migration, lingering shorebirds, migrating hummingbirds, and late warblers. There was a good early movement of Rough-legged Hawks. As has been the pattern in recent years, gulls made a strong showing, with 13 species recorded in the Region.

## WATERFOWL THROUGH HERONS

Late duck nesting was widespread in North Dakota, with new broods seen into early Sep. A Harlequin Duck 14 Oct in Brown, SD would, if accepted, provide the 3rd record for the state (p.a., MAO). In North Dakota, a Harlequin Duck photographed in Grand Forks 4 Oct furnished about the 17th report for the state (p.a., EEF). An unusually strong scoter migration was noted in North Dakota. An early Surf Scoter was in Kidder 17 Sep (HCT), and a new high count was tallied 7 Oct in Grand Forks, when 21 were noted (EEF). Eight North Dakota White-winged Scoter reports spanned 6 Oct–14 Nov. Two reports were received from South Dakota, with a peak of 5 in Stanley 22 Oct (DB). The spectacular Black Scoter migration in North Dakota spanned 23 Oct–27 Nov, with eight reports. Tying the high count for the state, 5 were at Upper Souris N.W.R. 6 Nov (REM). A single at L. Audubon 27 Nov provided the 2nd latest record for the state (REM). A new high count for North Dakota, 2825 Buffleheads were on Devils L. 12 Nov (REM). Furnishing the 17th report for North Dakota, a male Barrow's Goldeneye was in Sheridan 18 Nov (p.a., CDE). Only three Red-breasted Merganser reports were received, all from Nov. The number of gallinaceous birds remained strong, with the exception of Gray Partridge, which continues to struggle in many areas.

The 9th report for North Dakota, a Pacific

Loon was at Upper Souris N.W.R. 6 Nov (p.a., REM, SDL, JPL, CDE). In the best movement of the species reported in recent years, 29 American Bitterns were at McKenzie Slough, Burleigh, ND 29 Sep (HCT). Rare but regular in Montana, a Great Egret was at Medicine Lake N.W.R. 14 Sep (SC). A new high count for North Dakota, 40 Snowy Egrets were in Kidder 25 Sep (HCT). Two Little Blue Herons were in Ramsey, ND 25 Sep (REM).

## HAWKS THROUGH TERNS

A Ferruginous Hawk was late 15 Nov in



Furnishing about the seventeenth report for North Dakota, this Harlequin Duck was in Grand Forks 4 October 2005. Photograph by Bob Freeberg.

Sioux, ND (DNS). A Semipalmated Plover was late 29 Oct at Kelly's Slough N.W.R., ND (EEF), as was a Solitary Sandpiper 15 Oct in Grand Forks, ND (GL). The latest ever for North Dakota and the first for Nov, a Marbled



A very rare migrant in North Dakota, this Western Sandpiper in Dickinson 26 August was one of three reported in the southwestern corner of the state in autumn 2005. Photograph by Jack Lefor.

Godwit was at Devils L. 7 Nov (EEF). A very rare migrant in North Dakota, 3 Western Sandpipers were photographed 26 Aug–4 Sep in the sw. corner of the state (p.a., JPL). The

2nd latest reported for North Dakota, and a rare fall migrant, 2 juv. White-rumped Sandpipers were at McKenzie Slough 30 Oct (DNS). Casual in w. South Dakota, a Ruddy Turnstone was in Meade 18 Aug (JLB). A rare migrant in Montana, 2 Ruddy Turnstones were at Medicine Lake N.W.R. 11 Aug (SC). Providing the latest record for North Dakota, 2 Stilt Sandpipers were at McKenzie Slough 1 Nov (HCT). A notable peak of 70 Buff-breasted Sandpipers was near the Fargo Lagoons, ND 7 Aug (KRC, DWR), and a late individual was in McHenry, ND 23 Oct (REM). The 16th and 17th reports for North Dakota, Red Phalaropes were noted 10 Oct in Grand Forks (p.a., EEF) and 20 Oct in Richland (p.a., MO).

The 6th report for South Dakota, a Laughing Gull was in Stanley 15 Aug (p.a., RDO). The 8th report for South Dakota, 2 Little Gulls were in Lyman 17–25 Sep (p.a., RDO). In North Dakota, Little Gulls were at Devils Lake 25 Sep (p.a., REM) and 24 Oct (p.a., EEF). Two Mew Gulls were reported from South Dakota, and a new high count of 3 was noted at Garrison Dam, ND 29 Oct (p.a., DNS, PRS). An individual showing the

characteristics of a Glaucous Gull × Herring Gull hybrid or backcross was at Garrison Dam, ND 19–28 Nov (REM, DNS, PHS). No fewer than 8 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported for North Dakota 22 Aug–27 Nov. A Lesser Black-backed was also in Kingsbury SD 1 Oct (p.a., DS). A Glaucous Gull 10–15 Nov at Minot, ND provided a first record for Ward (REM). Seven Sabine's Gulls were reported from the Dakotas, including the latest ever North Dakota record 6 Nov at Upper Souris N.W.R. (REM). Casual away from the Missouri R., a Black-legged Kittiwake 23 Nov provided a first record for Richland, ND (p.a., MO). Accidental in Montana, an Arctic Tern was at Ft. Peck 5–7 Oct (p.a., CC).

## DOVES THROUGH PIPITS

The 6th report for South Dakota, a White-winged Dove was in Huron 11 Jul–8 Aug (p.a., RSM). A pair of Eurasian Collared-Doves initiated their 3rd nesting of the year 15 Aug in Grand Forks, ND (DOL). All were on the same nest. A *Selasphorus* hummingbird photograph that appeared unexpectedly in the Bismarck Tribune 22 Sep provided the 4th



Up to eight Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported in North Dakota in autumn 2005, including this leucistic bird at the Bismarck Landfill 29 October. Photograph by Dave Lambeth.

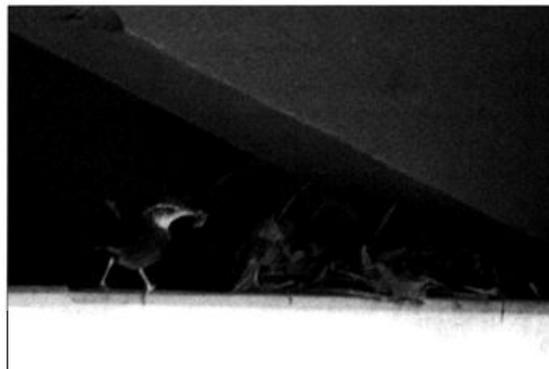
report for North Dakota. The bird was identified in the caption as a Ruby-throated Hummingbird (p.a., DNS). Phenomenal numbers of migrant hummers were reported from the Black Hills of South Dakota. In mid-Aug, hummingbirds were present at no fewer than 14 yards in Sturgis (RP). Most were *Selasphorus* hummingbirds. The 10th and 11th reports for South Dakota, Calliope Hummingbirds were in *Lawrence* 6–7 Aug (p.a., DGP) and in Pennington 14 Aug (p.a., RDO). A first for South Dakota, a *Costa's Hummingbird* was photographed near Nemo in *Lawrence*, SD 9–17 Sep (p.a., DGP, TJ, JSP). Numerous Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were also reported in the Black Hills.

A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was late near Westby, MT 23 Oct (TT). In South Dakota, a Red-bellied Woodpecker in *Butte* 9–12 Nov was well w. of normal range (JLB, VDF). A Common Raven on a sandbar in the Missouri R. s. of Bismarck, ND 4 Aug was unusual in time and place (HCT). Forty Northern Rough-winged Swallows at the Minot Lagoons, ND 8 Aug furnished a new high count for the state (REM). A Barn Swallow 12 Nov in *Steele*, ND provided the latest record for the state (DLK). *Carolina Wrens* fledged young in Aug in *Vermillion*, SD, the first nesting record for the state (p.a., MW). Another *Carolina Wren* was regular 11 Oct–30 Nov in *Aberdeen*, SD (DAT). A potential 2nd record for South Dakota, a *Bewick's Wren* was reported in *Lawrence* 29 Aug (p.a., DGP).

All three states reported Varied Thrushes but only one individual per state. A Northern Mockingbird 9 Sep in *Morton*, ND was the 10th reported this year in the state (DLR). The first Nov record for the state, a *Sprague's Pipit* was in *Sioux*, ND 15 Nov (DNS).

### WARBLERS THROUGH SISKINS

The latest record for North Dakota, an Orange-crowned Warbler was in *Grand Forks* 19 Nov (DOL). Two other record-late warblers in North Dakota were a Bay-breasted 23 Oct in



Constituting the first nesting record of the species for South Dakota, *Carolina Wrens* in *Vermillion* fledged young in late (here 27 August) August 2005. Photograph by Mark Wetmore.

McHenry (REM) and a Connecticut in Fargo 24 Oct (KRC). Late warblers also made a strong showing in Montana. A Yellow Warbler was in Ft. Peck 10 Nov (CC). A rare migrant in e. Montana, Cape May Warbler was re-

ported in Glasgow 29 Aug (DE, CC) and in Ft. Peck 11 Nov (JC). A Townsend's Warbler in Ft. Peck 8 Oct was well e. of normal range (CC). The 8th record for Montana, a Pine Warbler was in Westby 22 Sep (TT, TN). Another rare migrant in Montana, single Bay-breasted Warblers were in Ft. Peck 13 Sep and 14 Oct (CC). A Canada Warbler was far w. in Great Falls, MT 4 Sep (AN). A Blackpoll Warbler banded in Pierre, SD 24 May was recaptured in West Virginia in mid-Sep (fide DB).

A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow 15 Oct in n. Valley, MT was late and w. of the species' usual range (JC). The 13th record for Montana, a Golden-crowned Sparrow was in Great Falls 21 Sep (GS). Dark-eyed Jun-

cos peaked at 820 in *Grand Forks*, ND 13 Oct (EEF). A Dickcissel feeding young in *Burleigh*, ND 14 Aug provided a rare nesting record for the county (HCT, CDE). The 5th report for North Dakota and the first since 2000, a Great-tailed Grackle was at Long Lake N.W.R. 7 Sep (p.a., HCT). Only 2 Common Redpoll reports were received, and Pine Siskin numbers were low.

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