

# The Fall Migration, August 1-November 30, 1975

## NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION /Davis W. Finch

The fall was a long, rich and varied season, not usefully summarized in a few lines. Surely it was impressive for the number and variety of birds found, but equally impressive was the effort devoted to finding them. Birding—need it be said?—has become immensely popular. Readers should understand that despite this fact, perhaps in a few cases because of it, some of the Region's province or state-wide records—gathering schemes are particularly shaky at this time: long since defunct in Maine, at least momentarily disabled in Newfoundland, New Brunswick, and eastern Massachusetts, and non-existent in Connecticut. In addition, the gathering of records in Canada this fall was considerably hampered by the long postal strike. Editors everywhere are overburdened and clearly the reporting process needs streamlining. Recognizing such problems, many observers sent their records directly, and though these were all welcome, they amounted to a vertiginous confetti varying from scribbled pages torn from notebooks to lucid typewritten analyses. Besides promptness, an important step towards streamlining would be the uniform reporting of birds in *check-list order*. This fall one particularly perverse Nova Scotian started his heavyweight xeroxed list of 175 species with Snow Bunting...

records of winter plumage birds must be treated with caution, but those made under good conditions seem quite credible. In Massachusetts, as many as 762 Red-throated Loons were counted during three hours on Oct. 19 as they passed by Rockport, almost certainly the most advantageous spot in the Region to view the fall flight of these birds. In the same state, a remarkable concentration of 1000+ Horned Grebes was noted gathering in rafts off Wareham in Buzzards Bay Nov. 15 (WRP).

**TUBENOSES, GANNETS** — During October and November, 12 reports of N. Fulmars off the New England coast totaled 43 individuals, 24 of them recorded on pelagic trips to Cox's Ledge, R.I., Oct. 11, 18 & 26. Cory's Shearwaters were again very few this fall: at Cox's Ledge, close to the supposed center of the species' abundance in North American waters, only 29 individuals were found, on 12 of 18 trips there Aug. 1 - Oct. 26. Of about 60 reported from Massachusetts, most occurred in Cape Cod Bay, where normally they are uncommon. Greater Shearwaters were decidedly scarce in the Bay of Fundy, numbers recorded on a series of late summer and fall boat trips off Brier Island, N.S. never exceeding 400, apparently because euphausiid shrimp remained inaccessibly deep (RGBB) and relatively few were reported from "Bluenose" Ferry crossings between Bar Harbor, Me. and Yarmouth, N.S. The occurrence of as many as 3000+ off Cape Cod between Truro and Provincetown on Nov. 14 (*fide* RPE), close to average "last dates" in the Region, raises questions of whence and whither, assuming a clockwise movement of birds in the North Atlantic. Where possible, observers should look for molt clues to the age of these birds, particularly late ones. Fall Sooty Shearwaters in the Bay of Fundy seemed a shade more numerous than usual, the effect perhaps heightened by the relative scarcity of Greaters, still a count of 70 from the Grand Manan ferry as late as Sept. 20 was probably notable (DWF *et al.*). Manx Shearwaters were virtually absent from the Maritimes (two observations, seven individuals), went unrecorded at Cox's Ledge, and yet occurred off Cape Cod, in two instances at least, in unusual numbers — 31 at Sandwich at the end of August and 30 at Truro Oct. 18 (*fide* RPE). Good counts of Leach's Storm-Petrels for Cape Cod Bay were 20 at Sandy Neck in Barnstable Aug. 31 (CAG) with five at First Encounter Beach in Eastham the same day (RAF,WRP), and 10 at Barnstable Oct. 19 (WRP *et al.*). The unusual abundance of Wilson's Storm-Petrels in the Bay of Fundy this fall was indicated by counts of 300+ daily off Brier Island in late August (RGBB,ELM) and 2000+, an all-time high, from the "Bluenose" Sept. 23 (DWF,WCR).



**LOONS, GREBES** — An Arctic Loon among Commons and Red-throateds off Dalvay Beach, P.E.I. was carefully studied Oct. 27 by Roger Burrows, familiar with the species in British Columbia and Britain. Sight

**HERONS, IBISES** — Only a very few "southern" herons seem to have appeared in the Maritimes this fall, though incomplete reports make such conclusions hazardous. Surely the most surprising heron of the season was a dark-phase adult **Reddish Egret**, studied under ideal conditions in direct comparison with an adult Little Blue Heron at Hammonasset State Park in Madison, Conn., Sept. 28 (NSP *et al.*). The only previous Regional record is that of a bird at Monomoy May 30 - June 3, 1953. Louisiana Herons were distinctly scarce in Massachusetts, two were present in the Westport area Aug. 30 - Sept. 13 (BAS *et al.*), and single birds were seen at Barrington, R.I., Sept 4 (*vide* SSD) and at Barn I. in Stonington, Conn. Aug. 27 - Sept 10 (RCD,KBK). In w. Connecticut a few were present in the Lordship area in late summer (NSP *et al.*) The only Yellow-crowned Night Herons reported north of Massachusetts were single immatures in the Lawrencetown area of Halifax County, N.S., Aug. 10-23 (EHC,ELM *et al.*), and in Maine at Isle au Haut July 26 - Sept. 6 (TCS *et al.*) and at Monhegan Aug. 28 - Oct 2 (ARK,JCY *et al.*). Four reports of single imm. White Ibises probably involved as many individuals; in Massachusetts, at North Beach in Chatham Aug. 19 (CAG,BN) and at Allens Pond in S. Dartmouth Aug. 23 - Sept 13 (RJO'H *et al.*), at Sakonnet Pt. in Middle Compton, R.I., Sept. 14 (perhaps the preceding individual—SSD *et al.*) and at North Greenwich, Conn., Sept. 1 (TBa,GGD). These records were, respectively, fifth and sixth for Massachusetts, third for Rhode Island and fourth for Connecticut.

**WATERFOWL** — As usual, a few Whistling Swans appeared in Massachusetts in November, flocks of seven at Nauset Nov. 1, eight at Salisbury Nov. 2, and a single bird at Acoaxet Nov. 23-39 (WRP *et al.*). The fall Snow Goose flight seems to have started around Oct 4, when flocks first appeared in e. Massachusetts and Rhode Island. In the period Oct 17-19, large flocks were reported from a number of localities across s. New England, with 1000 at Milford, Conn., Oct. 20 (MB *et al.*), but the largest single observation was that of 5000 passing Mt. Tom in Holyoke, Mass., late in the day on Oct 30 (Diane Hatheway, *vide* SK). A **Fulvous Tree Duck** photographed at Tignish, P.E.I., Aug. 17-18 was a first provincial record and one of very few for Atlantic Canada (BDMact,SIT). Much later in the season, two flocks appeared in coastal Massachusetts: seven at Marshfield during November (one shot by a hunter, specimen to M.B.O.) and 4 at Nauset Nov. 18 (*vide* RPE) Gadwalls, still quite rare north of Massachusetts, occurred at three localities in the Maritimes: four at Tignish, P.E.I., Sept. 16 (BDMact,SIT), three in the same province at Stanhope Oct. 24 (RB), and in Nova Scotia a peak of five at the Amherst Pt. Bird Sanctuary Oct 10 (RB). In New Hampshire a flock of 12 at Greenland Nov. 19 far exceeded previous counts in the state (LGP,EWP). A Eur. Green-winged Teal was found at Plum I., Mass., Nov. 30, and two were there a few days later (*vide* RPE). In the same state seven Eur. Wigeons were reported, four males at Nantucket Nov. 2 (EFA) and single birds at Cohasset, Monomoy and Westport during October and November (*vide* RPE);

two others occurred at Warwick, R.I., Nov 30 (FP,KBK *et al.*). About 15 N. Shovelers, scarce fall migrants in the Maritimes, occurred at five localities there Sept. 13 - Nov. 1. Two impressive concentrations of Ring-necked Ducks were 700+ at Lakeville, Mass., Oct. 26 (WRP) and 400 at Laurel Reservoir in Stamford, Conn., Nov. 8 (*vide* TB). Also at Lakeville Nov 8 was the season's only Tufted Duck (WRP). Barrow's Goldeneyes occurring at traditional localities in northern and inland New England were 26-30 on the Penobscot R. near Bangor, Me., Nov. 10 (EF,PV) and a young drake on the Androscooggin R. in Errol, N.H., Nov. 17 (VHH). Two Harlequin Ducks at Deer Isle, Me., Aug. 19-28 were doubtless summerers (WCT), early migrants were two at Brier I., N.S., Oct 7 (BDMact), a later bird occurring in Rhode Island at Newport Oct. 27 and two at Weekapaug Nov. 23-30 (KBK,EAS *et al.*). Single King Eiders were found at S. Portland, Me., Oct. 8 (DTB *et al.*) and in Massachusetts at Rockport and Barnstable during November (*vide* RPE), with others at Sachuest Pt. in Middletown, R.I., Nov. 11 (LOG) and at Lighthouse Pt. in New Haven, Conn., Nov. 22-29 (NSP). Scoters were not systematically tallied at M.B.O. this fall, but October totals were 3700 White-wingeds, 10,600 Surfs, 8900 Blacks (*vide* RPE). Ruddy Ducks in the Maritimes totaled 24 at seven localities Sept. 25 - Nov. 15; 104 at Nantucket Oct. 27 was an unprecedented count for the island (EFA).

**HAWK FLIGHTS** — Migrating Broad-wingeds were counted at many hawk-watching localities in New England virtually throughout September, daily totals of 100-500 being reported coincident with any acceptable flying conditions. A steep peak occurred on the second weekend of the month, however, with these counts on the 13th: 718 at Bristol, N.H. (SG,EWP) as well as smaller counts elsewhere in the state, and in Massachusetts 2236 at Mt. Tom (THG) and 2553 at Granville (DAH). The following day the long-established coastal Maine hawkwatch at the Harpswells recorded 1157 (exceeding ten-year *seasonal* Broad-winged totals there) and in Connecticut counts of 4728 and 2345 came respectively from N. Guilford (NSP) and Westport (RCD). The weekend total from three other stations in s.w. Connecticut and nearby Mt. Aspetong, N.Y. was as high as 17,342 (GGD,JZ *et al.*). A lower peak occurred the following weekend, with counts of 1489 at Center Harbor, N.H., Sept. 21 (JPM) and 5016 the next day at Granville, Mass. (DAH). A final flight, delayed by bad weather, was recorded the last weekend, with 1055 at Granville and 756 at Westport Sept. 27, followed the next day by 166 at Old Lyme, Conn., 2874 at Westport, and reports of "hundreds" over Rye, N.Y. (TB). The same conditions that prevailed for the final southwestward exodus of Broad-wingeds from inland s. New England triggered widespread coastal hawk movement. Occurring on a Sunday, it was unusually well monitored, with these reports, all Sept. 28: in Maine, 60-80 hawks per hour, mostly Sharp-shinneds, passing a lookout on Mount Desert I. (WCT); 389 hawks, mostly Sharp-shinneds, passing over Hermit I., near Bath in 1.5 hours (MHMcC *et al.*); 1286 hawks over the Harpswells,

including 548 Sharp-shinned and 8 Peregrine Falcons (equaling the ten-year *seasonal* high there); 411 Sharp-shinned passing Fort Foster at Kittery Pt. (DJA). Along the Rhode Island shore, observations from as many as ten localities produced a list, uncorrected for possible duplication, of 1268 hawks, including 662 Sharp-shinned and nine Peregrine Falcons (v.o., *fide* SSD,MD,CW). Although small hawks in particular are known to island-hop across the mouth of Long Island Sound, movement along the Connecticut shore is often spectacular; at Old Lyme, 462 hawks were counted (WGB), and farther west at Lighthouse Pt. in New Haven, well over 1000 Sharp-shinned were counted in the morning hours alone (GGD,JZ). In sum, it was a good season for hawk watching: the season's total at the Harpswells was more than 2.5 times the previous high (GNA), the Sept. 13-14 flight in s.w. Connecticut was "mind-boggling" (GGD) and the Sept. 28 flight on the Rhode Island coast was the "greatest in recent memory" (SSD,CW).

**VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES** — Single Turkey Vultures north of their usual limits were seen at Mt. Desert I., Me., Sept. 22 (*fide* WCT) and in Nova Scotia at Tiverton on Digby Neck Oct. 12 (BDMact). The 60+ Goshawks reported in New Hampshire, 38 of them over Bristol on nine dates Sept. 10 - Nov. 1 suggested a moderate incursion, although elsewhere only five were counted during the entire season at the Harpswells and 20 during September in the Connecticut Valley of Massachusetts. Goshawks are now resident almost everywhere in the Region, and incursions increasingly difficult to detect. Overall numbers of Sharp-shinned this fall, even allowing for effects of weather, weekends and observer coverage, seemed higher; of the total of 151 Cooper's Hawks reported, 96 were September migrants in the Connecticut Valley of Massachusetts. Confusion about these birds' identifiability clouds the issue; as many Cooper's Hawks were reported in New Brunswick as in Connecticut (*i.e.*, exactly three); rules regarding *accipiter* identification vary alarmingly from site to site. In Nova Scotia, where the species is rare, three Red-shouldered Hawks were reported at Brier I.: two on Aug. 31 (BDMact, IAMcL,ELM) and one on Oct. 4 (BDMact). A Broad-winged Hawk at Anglo, near Tignish, P.E.I., Aug. 21 was, perhaps surprisingly, a first provincial record (SIT). Most of the relatively few Broad-wingeds to occur as fall migrants in Nova Scotia are observed trapped in confrontation with water barriers, these birds often remaining markedly later than the last individuals recorded at New England hawk lookouts. At Cape Sable I., with clear skies and a moderate north wind on Sept. 29, a kettle of 115 (70% immatures) was watched circling repeatedly out over the ocean, returning each time after about 0.5 mile (SIT). At Brier I., small groups of Broad-wingeds have on occasion been seen even into December, and flocks of as many as 3000 have been observed actually departing across the Bay of Fundy in early October (AFN 23: 17). On Oct. 5, clear with light SW winds, a flock of 60 birds, mostly immatures, was seen descending from a great height in late afternoon, forming a kettle over the s.w. corner of the island and ultimately alighting. The following day was

cloudy with moderate SW winds, and the birds all left in a northeasterly direction up Digby Neck. A flock of 75 Broad-wingeds present at Brier I. Oct. 10 may have contained birds of the earlier observation (BDMact). Also on Oct. 10, two flocks totaling 75 birds were observed high over Southwest Head, Grand Manan, about 35 mi. n.w. of Brier and about 15 mi. from the Maine coast (MCE,KFE).

Five Golden Eagles were reported this fall, in New Hampshire immatures at Plymouth Sept. 22 (SG) and Andover Nov. 9 (LCR), in Rhode Island an adult, possibly two, in the Matunuck area Nov. 26-30 (*fide* CW), and in Connecticut immatures at Branford Oct. 16 (NSP) and Old Lyme Dec. 6 (WGB,GSB *et al.*) The season's three Gyrfalcons were, in Nova Scotia, a dark bird at Seal I. Oct. 11 (IMacG) and a gray bird at the Amherst Pt. Bird Sanctuary Nov. 9-19 (RB,CD) and in Massachusetts an immature of unreported phase at Monomoy Nov. 29 (*fide* RPE). The season's total of 102 Peregrine Falcons seems remarkable. Fewer than ten of them were reported by age.

**GALLINULES, COOTS** — A Purple Gallinule was reported at Pocomoonshine L. in Alexander, Me., Nov. 19 (Dudley, *fide* WCT). Although no Com. Gallinules appear to have reached the Maritimes this fall, Am Coot numbers there were above average: 50 at Saint John West, N.B., Nov. 16 (CLJ) and in Nova Scotia a peak of 141 at the Amherst Pt. Bird Sanctuary on the same date (SIT). A total of fifteen birds were reported at three other localities in the province.

**SHOREBIRDS** — Two rarities in Massachusetts were a Wilson's Plover at Plymouth Beach Oct. 3 (*fide* RPE) and a Eur. Whimbrel at Monomoy Aug. 3 (PID *et al.*). About 54 Baird's Sandpipers constituted an average flight, though the Maritimes' total of five was decidedly lower than in most recent falls. Certainly the shorebird of the season was the Region's first **Rufous-necked Sandpiper**, an adult in virtually intact breeding plumage on the Connecticut shore at Guilford, Aug. 25 (NSP). Curlew Sandpipers this fall were single birds at Newburyport, Mass., July 26 - Aug. 2 (WRP *et al.*), the same or another individual there Aug. 28 (MLG), and a breeding plumage adult at Lordship, Conn., Aug. 16 (DV). Four Long-billed Dowitchers were reported in the Maritimes, in Nova Scotia one at the Amherst Pt. Bird Sanctuary Oct. 9 (BDMact) and two at Crescent Beach, Lunenburg Co., Oct. 10-11 (SC *et al.*), and in New Brunswick one at Cape Jourmain Nov. 15 (CD,SIT *et al.*). Virtually all other Regional reports came from the Newburyport - Plum I. area of Massachusetts, where the highest count was 50 on Sept. 14 (*fide* RPE). Stilt Sandpipers reported this fall totaled about 180, 25 of them at six localities in the Maritimes. About 18 were reported from coastal New Hampshire and about 120 from Massachusetts, including highs of 70 at Monomoy July 22 (*fide* RPE) and 29 at Wellfleet July 30 (BGB). Only nine were reported from Rhode Island, and none from Connecticut, where perhaps they are considered routine enough to go unreported. Early fall concentrations of ad. Semipalmated Sandpipers are far more impressive in the southwestern Maritimes than elsewhere in the Region. Although no counts were re-

ported from Nova Scotia's Minas Basin this year, the carefully monitored flock at Mary's Pt., N.B. had reached 200,000 by July 26 (DSC) and briefly approached a million on July 29, the day after Hurricane *Blanche* (EMM). Despite persistent misconceptions about the occurrence of W. Sandpipers in the Maritimes, five individuals were expertly identified there this fall: in P.E.I., at Brackley Aug. 16 (RB *et al.*) and near Tignish Sept. 3-10 (SIT), and in Nova Scotia at Brier I., Sept. 3 (BDMact), at Three Fathom Harbor Sept. 21 (ELM) and at Cape Sable I., Sept. 26 (lighthouse kill, BJS). About 95 Buff-breasted Sandpipers occurred in the Region, 26 of them in the Maritimes and almost all abruptly on or shortly after Aug. 23, perhaps the flight that carried more than 50 to Britain. The larger flocks in the Region were, in New Brunswick, eight at Miscou I., Aug. 30 - Sept. 1 (J-PL), in Massachusetts seven at Edgartown, M.V., in late August (MBH) and 18 at Nantucket Sept. 3-4 (*vide* EFA) and in Rhode Island eight at Richmond Aug. 23-24 (DLK *et al.*). Of the rather high Regional total of 29 Marbled Godwits, 24 were in Massachusetts, including a gathering of 11 at Monomoy during August (JH *et al.*), the five others occurring in Rhode Island. The total of about 439 Hudsonian Godwits, no doubt artificially low because of incomplete reports and the failure of observers to discriminate juvenals in a second peak, still indicated a good flight. The larger flocks were 55 at Cape Jourimain, N.B., Aug. 13 (SIT) and in Massachusetts maxima of 120 at Monomoy Aug. 12 and 66 at Plum I., Aug. 16 (WRP). In Nova Scotia a flock of 119 juvenals was seen grounded in bad weather at Meteghan Center Sept. 24 (CB,OC,RC,DWF), and 90 at Monomoy on the same date may also have been juvenals. Two Hudsonian Godwits at North Hadley, Mass., Oct. 4-10 (RE *et al.*) were considered the best birds of the season in the Connecticut Valley (SK), this being a second record there. Of seven Ruffs reported, six occurred in Massachusetts and one, said to be a juvenal, at Exeter, N.H., Sept. 9 (MLG). Young Ruffs seem very infrequent in the Region. About 56 Wilson's Phalaropes were more than usually occur; 17 of these were in the Maritimes, and in Connecticut four were at Branford Aug. 24 (NSP) and as many as eight or nine at Lordship the same day (TB,JZ *et al.*).

**JAEGERS, GULLS** — Five Long-tailed Jaegers were reported, an adult from the "Bluenose" Aug. 19 (Rammels, *vide* WCT), an adult at Cox's Ledge, R.I., Aug. 30 (DLK) and four birds at First Encounter Beach at Eastham, Cape Cod, Aug. 31 (*vide* RPE). A Skua occurred at Brier I., N.S., Sept. 4 (BDMact), and single birds were reported from the "Bluenose" Aug. 23 (AK,GZ) and Sept. 1 (WCT), and five on Sept. 26, all the latter on the Maine side (DWF,WCR *et al.*). The suggestion based on variability of body color, that some of these birds might be South Polar Skuas seems unwarranted, since such variability is well known in northern hemisphere populations. A Glaucous Gull inland at Pittsburg, N.H., Aug. 21 was curiously unseasonable (PEN). Four Lesser Black-backed Gulls occurred; an adult at Castalia, G.M., Sept. 18 was a second New Brunswick record (CB,OC,RC,DWF), the bird of previous winters at Digby, N.S. had reappeared there by

Sept. 24, an adult off the New Hampshire coast at Jeffreys Ledge Nov. 16 was a first state record (DWF *et al.*), and another was photographed at Nauset, Cape Cod, during October (*vide* RPE). An ad. Black-headed Gull seen Aug. 16 at 57°02'N, 54°46'W, about in the middle of the Labrador Sea, was perhaps by a slight margin a northernmost Canadian occurrence (DWF), about 29 of these birds were reported from 12 localities in New England, Sept. 13 - Nov. 28. An imm Franklin's Gull present at Newburyport, Mass. during the last week of September was unique in the Region (*vide* RPE). A Little Gull at Borden, P.E.I., Sept. 14 was the only one reported in the Maritimes this fall (CGM), but some almost certainly occurred among the thousands of Bonaparte's Gulls off Deer I., N.B. In New England, two were present at Prouts Neck, Me., Aug. 13-19 (photographed, RS), five at Hampton, N.H., Oct. 14 - Nov. 7 and another at Jeffreys Ledge Nov. 16 (EWP *et al.*) and in Massachusetts about 12 birds were reported at six localities Aug. 2 - Nov. 28. The season's six Sabine's Gulls were single birds: an adult at Cox's Ledge, R.I., Aug. 31 (AJ), a juvenal about 10 mi. off Argentia, Nfld., Sept. 3 (BR,SKR) a juvenal about 4 mi. off Hampton, N.H., Sept. 21 (second state record—DJA,EWP,TR *et al.*), and on Cape Cod a juvenal at Sandwich Oct. 19 (TLL-E) and other birds at Eastham and Provincetown during the same month (*vide* RPE).

**TERNs, ALCIDS** — A Gull-billed Tern at Cherry Hill Beach, Lunenburg Co., N.S., Aug. 17 was a notable rarity there and the only one reported in the Region this fall (SJF). On Cape Cod, a storm-driven imm **Bridled Tern** seen at First Encounter Beach Aug. 31 was the Region's first in years (RAF,WWH,WRP), evidently birds in this light-headed plumage can suggest Long-tailed Jaegers when the forked tail and milky underwings are not apparent. Caspian Terns are vastly more abundant along the n. shore of P.E.I. than anywhere else in the Region; this fall birds were present there July 23 - Oct. 23, 200+ being recorded in the North Cape — Kildare area Aug. 15 - Sept. 22 with some daily counts close to 40 (SIT) and 43 were found in Prince Edward Island N.P. Sept. 6 (RB). Presumably from colonies in s.e. Québec, possibly w. Newfoundland, these birds were predominantly adults though a few juvenals appeared, mostly after Sept. 1 (SIT) The only other Caspian Terns reported in the Region were 31 occurring at nine localities in coastal Massachusetts and Rhode Island during late September and October. A count of 63 Black Terns at Barnstable, Mass., Aug. 25 was higher than average (DTB). The only significant numbers of alcids reported in New England were two Com. Murres and 40 Thick-billeds off M.B.O., Nov. 25, after a northeast storm (TLL-E,BAH *et al.*). Common Puffins south of Maine were a single bird off Star I., N.H., Nov. 16 (FO *et al.*) and on Cape Cod one at First Encounter Beach Oct. 21 and the rather high total of 15-20 there Nov. 28 (*vide* RPE).

**CUCKOOS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — Six Yellow-billed Cuckoos occurred in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Aug. 21 - Oct. 16; fall reports of this species in New England seemed very few. Snowy Owls

began appearing in late October, and by the end of the following month about 18 had been reported in the Region. The season's only Hawk Owl was seen at Fundy National Park, N.B., Nov. 24 (KHD *et al.*). A Chuck-will's-widow was picked up dead at Dartmouth, Mass. as late as Nov. 15 (*vide* RPE). Common Nighthawk migration was evident by late August, the peak in the Connecticut Valley coming apparently Sept. 4, when 1479 were counted at Holyoke, Mass. (MY). An imm **Selasphorus** hummingbird at Bar Harbor, Me., Sept. 8 was without precedent in New England (WCR), though an ad. ♂ Rufous Hummingbird was observed in Nova Scotia at Bedford, Halifax Co., Aug. 8-9, 1967 (AFN 22: 11).

**WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — Other than residents in s.w. Connecticut, Red-bellied Woodpeckers were reported only as single birds, in New Hampshire at W. Compton Nov. 4 and Holderness Nov. 9 (v.o., *vide* KCE) and at S. Natick, Mass. during the same month (*vide* RPE). About 34 Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported this fall, five of them in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia; the season's total was above average, despite a poor showing along the Connecticut shore. The season's 23 W. Kingbirds, five of them in Nova Scotia, were fewer than in several recent years. A **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** was present at Whiting, Me., Sept. 14-25 (photos; CWD *et mult. al.*); this was a third Maine record, and the fourth to occur in the Region since 1968 (*Am. Birds* 25: 29). Late Great Crested Flycatchers occurred at Matunuck, R.I., Nov. 16 (*vide* SSD,CW) and at Old Lyme, Conn., Dec. 7 (SAS *et al.*). Such late *Myiarchus* flycatchers deserve scrutiny: single **Ash-throated Flycatchers** occurred this fall at Bar Harbor, Me., Nov. 21 (WCR *et al.*) and at Orleans, Mass. the following day (*Fide*, RPE), being second records for both states and fourth and fifth records for the Region. For other records in the Northeast see *Am. Birds* 27: 28 and 26: 35 *Empidonax* flycatchers at Brier I., N.S. reached a very steep peak of 400 on Sept. 1 (ELM); in Massachusetts however, *empidonaces* banded at M.B.O. were very few, no more than 20 in the entire season. Strikingly late Rough-winged Swallows occurred at Monhegan I., Me., Oct. 4 (JCY *et al.*) and at Gloucester, Mass., Nov. 22 (*vide* RPE). The occurrence of as many as 230+ Purple Martins near North Cape, P.E.I., Sept. 14 was unprecedented in the province, the species being rare there and virtually unknown in fall (SIT).

**TITMICE, NUTHATCHES** — Starting in early September a pronounced southward movement of Black-capped Chickadees took place in e. and s. New England. On Sept. 7 flocks were noted on the Maine coast at Pemaquid Pt. (WSE), and on Sept. 11 as many as 700 birds were counted moving through New Hampton, N.H., where subsequent daily counts of 200-300 were made on seven dates Sept. 18 - Oct. 22, a "huge migration" (VHH). In w. Massachusetts the Black-capped Chickadee migration this fall at Pittsfield was termed "incredible", with hundreds seen on various dates moving at altitudes up to 300 ft. over a near treeless college campus (RLF). On the Connecticut coast the peak occurred in the first week of October, when hundreds daily were moving through Lighthouse

Pt. Park in New Haven (NSP). Curiously, the season's total of birds banded at M.B.O. was a moderate 957 (cf. 4537 in the fall of 1971), as though the movement had been primarily inland and southwestward. Probably only very indirectly related but interesting nonetheless was a movement of these birds detected in coastal s.w. Nova Scotia in late October and early November, migrating flocks being noted in Yarmouth County (CRKA) and as many as 500+ migrating birds being counted at Green Bay, Lunenburg Co., Oct. 25 (SC *et al.*). Migrant chickadees normally shunning offshore islands, the presence of 50+ at Seal I., Nov. 1-2 seems quite unusual, resident birds being very rare or nonexistent there (ELM,IAMcL).

The season also saw a Boreal Chickadee incursion in New England. In e. Maine the birds were unusually abundant during the summer and throughout the fall in the Bar Harbor area (WCT). In New Hampshire a "major incursion" was noted, the earliest appearing south of the breeding grounds about mid-September and about 18 individuals occurring at 11 southern localities by mid-November (KCE). In Massachusetts the earliest Boreal Chickadee was reported Sept. 18 in Lanesboro, Berkshire Co. (LM), 1-4 were reported at many places in the Connecticut Valley after Oct. 9 (SK), and on the coast the first reached Plum I. by Oct. 4, soon followed by reports from five other localities in the e. part of the state. October birds reported in Connecticut numbered about 17 at six localities, with as many as ten at Lighthouse Pt. during the first week of the month. This was seemingly followed by a lull of about a month until a second surge in the period Nov. 2-9, when 1-4 were present at 14 localities in e. Massachusetts, four occurred in Rhode Island, and about 20 were reported at eleven localities in Connecticut, most of them coastal. Again, the five birds banded at M.B.O. Oct. 13 - Nov. 20 were fewer than in recent flights (25 in 1969, 9 in 1971). It is difficult to quantify and delimit chickadee flights, but compared with the Boreal incursion of 1969 this fall's was clearly weaker in e. New England, while more widespread to the west and south (see AFN 24: 19).

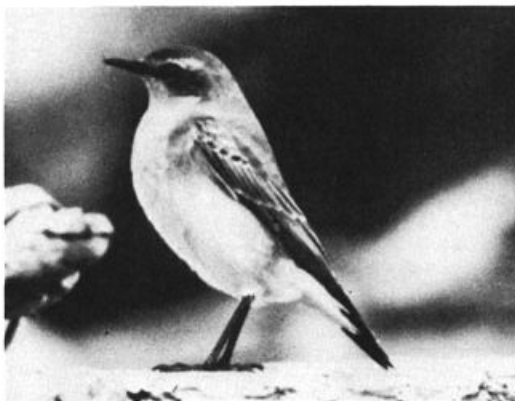
Red-breasted Nuthatches staged a good fall flight comparable to those of 1969 and 1972, observers at eight coastal localities from s. Maine to s.w. Connecticut reporting a first wave in the period Aug. 12-28.

**WRENS, THRUSHES, WHEATEARS, SOLITAIRES** — About 17 House Wrens occurred on Nova Scotia's s.w. islands Sept. 26 - Oct. 17, including as many as nine at Brier I., Oct. 5 (BDMact). In Massachusetts, a **Bewick's Wren** at Cuttyhunk I., Sept. 27 was perhaps only the fourth to occur in the state in over 20 years (WRP,BAS). Until recently unknown in Atlantic Canada, a Carolina Wren at Fredericton, N.B., Oct. 6-10 was a second provincial record (PAP *et al.*), and in Nova Scotia two were seen Oct. 15 at Seal I. (CRKA), where the first provincial sighting occurred last fall. Other individuals north of their usual limits were seen at Monhegan I., Me., Aug. 21 (ARK) and four at as many localities in New Hampshire, Aug. 8 - Nov. 5. Short-billed Marsh Wrens are rare but perhaps very slowly increasing in the Region, and possible late nesters might in some cases be mistaken for early mi-

grants. In Maine, four were seen at the Howland Game Management Area in early Sept. (PV) and another at Bridgton Oct. 4 (DTB *et al.*). In Massachusetts a singing bird was seen at Plum I. during September (*vide* RPE), another was found at Wilbraham Oct. 4 (RF), and a singing bird occurred at Sakonnet, R.I., Aug. 28 (RE). A Varied Thrush present at S. Tamworth, N.H. from Oct. 30 to early November was unique in the Region this fall (IAB). Three Wheatears occurring in the brief period Sept. 20-27 were single birds at Seal I., N.S., Sept. 26-27, the province's fifth sighting but the first to be photographically confirmed (ELM, IAMcL *et mult. al.*), at Nantucket Sept. 20-23 (JM, EP *et mult. al.*), and at Block I., R.I. Sept. 27, a first state record (JFK, RL *et mult. al.*). A **Townsend's Solitaire** at Mary's Pt. Oct. 25 was a second record for New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada, and the first to be reported in the Region in years (DSC, EMM).

**GNATCATCHERS, PIPITS, WAXWINGS** — Five Blue-gray Gnatcatchers appeared at three coastal localities in the Maritimes Aug. 27 - Oct. 29. In Maine, a **Sprague's Pipit** observed under excellent conditions at Lincoln Center, Penobscot Co., Sept. 8, was minute and convincingly described (PV). Although unconfirmed by specimen or photograph in the Northeast, recent sight reports have come from the Carolinas, Virginia and Ontario. The beginnings of a Bohemian Waxwing flight were apparent late in the season: in New Brunswick two reached Mary's Pt. as early as Oct. 19 (DSC). During November flocks appeared at at least seven other localities there and in Nova Scotia, while a few reached Maine, three small flocks totaling 26 were found in c. New Hampshire and six or seven appeared at three localities on the Massachusetts coast.

**PHAINOPEPLA, SHRIKES, VIREOS** — An imm. ♀ **Phainopepla** netted at Block I., R.I., Nov. 14 was doubtless the most startling event of the season; it was taken alive to the American Museum of Natural History and later transferred to the Bronx Zoo (EL, HL). This brought to light the fact that an ad. ♂ Phainopepla — unreported on the probably reasonable assumption it was an escape — had been present on Nantucket in February a few years ago (EFA). The Block Island bird, being immature, was undoubtedly an authentic vagrant, entirely unprecedented in the East. Northern Shrikes began appearing in mid-October in the n. part of the Region and about 40 were reported through November, seemingly a modest flight. The season's total of 21 Loggerhead Shrikes was about average. Single White-eyed Vireos, very rare in Nova Scotia, were reported at Seal I., Oct. 13 (EHC, SJF, IMacG *et al.*) and at Port Hebert Nov. 1 (RSW), and single Yellow-throated Vireos, somewhat less rare but still notable, occurred at Brier I., Sept. 13 (BDMact), at Halifax Oct. 3 (IMacG) and Petite Riviere, Lunenburg Co., Oct. 11 (CJC). The same province also recorded as many as 18 Philadelphia Vireo sightings at Brier I., some repetition possible, Aug. 28 - Sept. 14 (BDMact, ELM *et al.*) and four other widespread single birds Sept. 21 - Oct. 16; about 17 reported in New Hampshire Aug. 24 - Sept. 29 constituted "a fine showing" (KCE), and the birds were unusually abundant in e. Massachusetts, perhaps also s.w. Connecticut, during September.



*Wheatear, Seal Is., N.S., Sept. 27, 1975, first confirmed Nova Scotia record. Photo I.A. McLaren.*

**WARBLER MIGRATION** — Almost throughout the Region observers and particularly banders commented on the earliness of warbler movement this fall. Equally striking were the numbers of Tennessee, Cape May, and Bay-breasted Warblers, species responsive to spruce budworm outbreaks and unusually abundant breeders in infested areas in the north, at least un sprayed ones. In c. New Hampshire a few migrant individuals of each were detected as early as July 30 Aug. 1, followed by a modest wave involving other species Aug. 10 (KLE). In e. Maine 344 warblers banded during August on Mt. Desert Island at Somerville included 115 Tennessees and 84 Bay-breasteds (BP), and at Monhegan a good wave brought 40 Tennessees, 95 Cape Mays and 10 Bay-breasteds to the island on Aug. 19 (ARK), the date of the first Tennessee and Cape May captures at M.B.O. Immediately thereafter came notable counts from Cape Cod: 400+ Cape Mays and 100+ Bay-breasteds at Chatham Aug. 20, 75 Bay-breasteds there Aug. 23, 300 Cape Mays there Aug. 28, and 200+ Cape Mays on Monomoy Aug. 31 (CAG, BN, WRP), and on Martha's Vineyard large numbers of Cape Mays and Bay-breasteds were noted Aug. 20 (GGD). This period also saw the strongest wave of the month at Monhegan on the 28th, occurring simultaneously with an influx noted at Nantucket consisting mostly of Cape Mays and Bay-breasteds (EFA).

Other reports of strong August warbler movement at inland localities came from w. Maine (PAC), from Weston, Mass. (peak noted Aug. 20-21—LJR), and from the Connecticut Valley, where the warbler peak for the entire season reportedly occurred in late August (SK). The phenomenon was no less striking in the s.w. corner of the Region, where a Tennessee and three Bay-breasteds were banded at Westport, Conn. as early as Aug. 14 (RCD). The large numbers of Tennessees reported in Maine and New Hampshire were not reflected in banding totals from coastal sites in s.e. New England (*e.g.* 13 at M.B.O. for the entire season, and apparently few at Block I.) but the 51 banded at

Westport far exceeded the previous seasonal high there (6) August Cape Mays at M.B.O. totaled 40 (cf 1 last year) and the season total of 53 represented a 121% increase over mean captures in the last five years, while the season's 44 banded at Block I. was also a record high for that station (EL). August Bay-breasted at M B O. totaled 96 (cf. 0, 5, 17, 0 in August of the last four years), with the season's 122 representing an increase of 663% over the previous five-year mean (TLL-E), a superabundance confirmed by observers virtually everywhere in New England.

**RARER WARBLERS** — Eight Prothonotary Warblers were reported in e. Massachusetts Aug. 25 - Oct. 18, and another was banded at Block I. Oct. 9 (EL) At Grand Manan, a Golden-winged Warbler Aug. 26 was unique north of Massachusetts this fall and a fifth New Brunswick record (KFE), and an Orange-crowned Warbler Oct. 9 was of comparable or greater rarity there (RBI,DSC,SIT *et al.*). In Nova Scotia a Black-throated Gray Warbler at Brier I., Sept. 1 was the only western warbler reported in the Region this fall, and a fourth provincial record (CJC,SC), and a Cerulean Warbler at Cape Sable I. in mid-October was only a shade less rare (BJS *et al.*). The four other Ceruleans reported were single birds in Maine at Acadia N P Aug. 23 (WCR) and at Appledore I., Aug. 13 (banded, DWH,EWP), and in Massachusetts at Chatham Aug. 23 and Nantucket Aug. 19-20 (banded, EFA) Three Yellow-throated Warblers occurring in the Maritimes were single birds at Machias Seal I., N.B., Aug. 11, a first provincial record (photographed—RBI) and in Nova Scotia at Brier I., Aug. 27-28 (BDMact) and at Seal I., Sept. 28 (SIT), the only other birds being in Massachusetts at Nantucket Aug. 9 (banded, EFA) and at Wellfleet Aug. 30 (Richard Cunningham). At Brier I., N.S. a Kentucky Warbler Aug. 27-28 was unique in the Maritimes this fall (BDMact), except for a corpse found there Aug. 30, decayed and properly belonging to some previous season (IAMcL). In Maine single Kentuckys were banded at Somesville in late August (BP) and at Appledore I. Aug. 18 (DWH,EWP), and three others were found in Massachusetts including one banded at M.B.O., Sept. 10. Single Hooded Warblers at Monhegan I., Me. Aug. 28 (ARK) and at Sable I., N.S., Oct. 16 (IAMcL) were unique north of coastal Massachusetts, where about five were reported.

**ICTERIDS, TANAGERS** — About 17 Yellow-headed Blackbirds occurring in the Region were decidedly more than in recent falls. Northernmost were imm. males in New Brunswick at Machias Seal I., Aug. 26 (RBI) and at Martinon, Saint John Co., Aug. 31 (Evan Smith, *vide* DSC), and in Maine two birds at Monhegan Aug. 19-23, with three there in mid-September (ARK *et al.*). Farther south, 11 or more were reported at six localities in coastal Massachusetts from Aug. 10 through October, and another was banded at Block I., Sept. 30 (EL). An Orchard Oriole at Seal I., N.S., Sept. 26-29 was unique this fall north of Massachusetts (BDMact). Single Brewer's Blackbirds were reported on Cape Cod at Eastham Oct. 31 (VL) and Truro during October (*vide* RPE); the species is still not positively confirmed in New England. Five Scarlet

Tanagers in the North Cape area of P.E.I., Aug. 16-18 were notable, there being very few provincial records (SIT). In Massachusetts a W. Tanager at Plum I. in September and a Summer Tanager at Orleans Sept. 10 were the only ones to be reported in the Region this fall (*vide* RPE).

**FRINGILLIDS** — No more than eight Blue Grosbeaks were reported this fall; in Nova Scotia single birds were seen at Brier I., Sept. 22 (DWF *et al.*) and at Seal I., Sept. 28 (IAMcL,ELM,SIT), the six others occurring at four localities in coastal Massachusetts from Sept. 24 through October (*vide* RPE). The only Indigo Buntings reported in Atlantic Canada this fall were single birds at St. John's, Nfld., Sept. 27 (RJC) and at Dartmouth, N.S., Oct. 3-4 (IMacG,IAMcL) Fall Dickcissels totaled about 70, close to the average, though only about 18 of these were in the Maritimes Single Lark Buntings were reported in Massachusetts at Plum I., Aug. 28 (William Drummond, *vide* RHS) and at Plymouth Oct. 1 (*vide* RPE).

**"WINTER" FINCHES** — Remarkably early inland movement of Evening Grosbeaks was first apparent in New Hampshire, where they were noted moving south at New Hampton from July 26 on (VHH). In Massachusetts small flocks were noted in the Connecticut Valley and in the Berkshires as early as Aug. 15 (SK,RJG), and one individual reached N. Greenwich, Conn. by Sept. 3 (GGD). Peak numbers were reported in September and early October in New Hampshire, in mid- to late October in Massachusetts and Connecticut, the birds not being widespread in e. Massachusetts until November. Pine Grosbeaks built up to large numbers in e. and c. Maine from early October through November, modest numbers were reported in New Hampshire after Oct. 7, and farther south a few appeared in e. Massachusetts at the end of October and the w. part of the state in early November. Southernmost this fall were 15 on the Rhode Island coast at Quonochontaug Nov. 28 Common Redpolls moved into e. Maine in late October, and after mid-November appeared in modest numbers in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, a very few reaching Rhode Island. Widespread small flocks of Pine Siskins appeared rather abruptly in s. New England Oct. 3-4, larger numbers occurring in November A few Red Crossbills reached the Connecticut Valley and the Massachusetts coast after mid-August, but no particular movement was noted until late October and early November, when a strong flight developed, evident particularly at coastal localities in Rhode Island and Connecticut. A few White-winged Crossbills began appearing in Massachusetts the second week of November.

**SPARROWS** — Four Grasshopper Sparrows occurred at three localities in the Maritimes Oct. 11 - Nov. 1, and single Seaside Sparrows wandering north in late summer were seen at Machias Seal I., N.B., Aug. 13-15 (RBI) and at Monhegan I., Me., Aug. 18 (ARK) About 23 Lark Sparrows constituted a near average fall total in the Region; six of these were in the Maritimes Aug. 3 - Sept. 28. Single Clay-colored Sparrows were seen in Nova Scotia at Cape Sable I., Sept. 28 (BJS,SS) and at Seal I. Nov. 2, the latter bird photographed for a

first confirmed provincial record (ELM,IAMcL); six other Clay-colored were reported in coastal Massachusetts and Rhode Island Sept. 20 - Nov. 1. A Harris' Sparrow at Moultonboro, N.H., Nov. 10-17 was a fifth state record (KCE,HWP) and another occurred at Framingham, Mass., Oct. 11-12 (*vide* RPE). A heavy flight of White-crowned Sparrows occurring Sept. 28 brought many of these birds to Maine, New Hampshire and eastern Massachusetts; though hundreds occurred at Monomoy Oct. 3-4, only 35 were reported from Block I. at the same time, and the flight in Connecticut was said to be weak (NSP).

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PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS.

**QUÉBEC**  
/Normand David and Michel Gosselin

As expected, a good fall migration followed a successful breeding season. September and early October were unusually cold and rainy; this was the time of an early influx of northern species, which were less often encountered in later weeks. A mild period occurs in October almost every year; in 1975 it was later and warmer than average and it helped to set record late departure dates for some usually early migrants. November brought cold weather and several light snow storms.

It is important to remember that, although this regional report covers the whole province of Québec, only the southwestern corner (Hull, Montréal, Québec City) is thus far adequately pictured.

LOONS THROUGH BITTERNS — A good count of c.30 Common plus one Red-throated Loons was made in the immediate vicinity of Hull, Sept. 24 (TH), while a single Red-throated Loon was found in the Montréal harbour Nov. 11 (ND). A Greater Shearwater off the Magdalen Is., Aug. 28 (ND) and a Leach's Storm-Petrel at Maizerets (Québec City), Oct. 13 (JFG) were the only pelagics reported this fall. "Inland" cormorants included an imm. Great off Les Escoumins



(Saguenay Co.), Aug. 2 (MG) and an imm. Double-crested at Sherbrooke, Aug. 17 (*vide* RC). A single Green Heron at Frelighsburg, Oct. 25 (JB) and a Cattle Egret at Hull, Oct. 11 (BD,JH) were the latest ever in the province. In September, three Great Egrets fre-



quented the shores of the upper Richelieu R. until the beginning of the hunting season (*vide* GT).

**WATERFOWL** — The migration of Canada Geese was rather poor in southern Québec; the season's only Brant were at Bonaventure I., Sept. 24 (RB) and Cap Tourmente, Oct. 1-2 (CS). In previous years, the few fall Brant appeared in the Montréal area.

S. A.

The population of "Greater Snow Geese" (*C.c.atlantica*) stopping in the Cap Tourmente N.W.R. area, numbering 3000 in 1900, has increased ever since (10,000 in 1937, 130,000 in 1969) and reached a new high of 225,000 in 1975. With an open hunting season this year in the U.S., it will be interesting to follow future trends. Among these geese, along with the usual small number of "Blue Geese", was the second provincial record of a white-phased *C.C.caerulescens*, a bird shot at Cap-St-Ignace, Oct. 20 (*vide* RC). It must be noted that researchers of the Nat. Mus. of Canada recently edited a film on arctic birds disclosing the existence of blue-phased "Greater Snow Geese".

A **Ross' Goose** Oct. 19 (A. Reed, *vide* RC) recorded a second consecutive fall occurrence at Cap Tourmente.

Dabbling ducks seem to have left the Province quite early, their good breeding season being followed by a cold and rainy September; a notable exception was the Wood Duck, seen in fairly high numbers. Diving ducks, however, were in more normal numbers; Canvasbacks, for example, were seen as follows in the Ottawa R. valley: 70 at Pte-Fortune, Nov. 9 (GH); 25 at Rigaud, Nov. 26 (GH); 21 at Aylmer, Nov. 26 (BD,IN). A pair of Oldsquaws at Pte-St-Pierre (Gaspé Pen.) Aug. 17 (FB) was noteworthy as were the 350 Black Scoters on L. Deschenes Oct. 14 (BD) and the Harlequin Duck near Hull, Nov. 5-30 (RP,DB,DS). Granby, Maizerets, and Laprairie had several Ruddy Ducks in late October and early November.

**RAPTORS AND GROUSE** — Several observers conducted hawk surveys, especially in the Mt. St. Bruno area; a peak occurred on September 13 with 300 raptors there (DD,MT), and 250 at Ile Perrot (PM); the following day some 100 birds were counted at Covey Hill (MM); most of these birds were Broad-winged Hawks. A lone imm. Golden Eagle was in Mt-Tremblant P.P., Sept. 13 (MJ), three Bald Eagles (all adults) near McGregor L., Oct. 14-19 (*vide* RMP), and one imm. Bald over Laprairie, Oct. 23 (JC). The season's eight Peregrine Falcons ranged from Mt. St-Bruno to Bonaventure I. An ad. and three imm. Merlins at Ste-Christine (Johnson Co.), Aug. 18 (*vide* RC) suggest possible breeding in this area. Ruffed Grouse were termed "particularly numerous" in 1975.

**RAILS THROUGH PHALAROPES** — The presence of Yellow Rails outside the St-Lawrence R. Valley is once more attested to this fall by the record of a bird at Katevale Aug. 8 (*vide* RC); one of these rails was flushed at Cap Tourmente Oct. 26 (PLn), for the latest provincial record ever. Most fall occurrences of Am.



*Long-billed Dowitcher, Laprairie, P.Q., first confirmed Québec record. Photo/Pierre Mousseau.*

Coots were at extralimital locales, Chicobi (Abitibi Co.), Aug. 11 (*vide* RC), and Cap Tourmente Oct. 25-27 (CS). A Whimbrel at Lachine, Sept. 17 (FH) provided a rare sight for the Montréal area. Laprairie, formerly (until the mid-50s) the best area for shorebirds around Montréal, and now reduced to a patch of floating weeds, produced the season's two rarest shorebirds. A **Western Sandpiper** was photographed there by J. Steeves, Sept. 28; there are but two specimens and a handful of more or less detailed sight records for the Province. A dowitcher also found at Laprairie Sept. 17 (FH) was heard calling like the Short-billed Dowitcher it accompanied (JS,ND), and was studied at length until Sept. 21. The specimen showed it to be a winter-plumaged bird, the first confirmed Québec **Long-billed Dowitcher**. Although a bird photographed at Pike River, May 20, 1974 (AB 28: 781) was possibly this species, the photograph has never been available for examination. A single Stilt Sandpiper was at Maizerets, Sept. 1 (JLG) and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at the same locality, Aug. 24 (PLn). Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers were also at Ile du Moine, Aug. 23 - Sept. 6 (MM,SH), and one at Jonquiére Sept. 17-19 (NB,PLp). A Marbled Godwit on Magdalen Is., Aug. 23-26 (ND) is a first local occurrence, but 200 Hudsonian Godwits Aug. 10 (ND) were not unexpected in this locality. The rare Red Phalarope was found at Maizerets, Aug. 23-26 (PLn, RL, m.ob.).

**JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS** — An ad. dark-phased Pomarine at L. Deschenes, Sept. 21 (SO,RMP) and a single Parasitic near Québec City, Aug. 26 (RL) were the only jaegers reported. An ad. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (*L.f. graellsii*) appeared at Beauharnois, Nov. 16 (JS, m.ob.) and remained until December; J. Steeves secured excellent photographs showing the bird's yellow legs, and size compared to Herring Gull. A similar gull (the same?) had occurred there Nov. 18-25, 1972 (AB: 27, 32). An ad. **Thayer's Gull** was studied Nov. 23, also at Beauharnois; on Nov. 29 another adult was photographed, and a first year bird discovered Nov. 30 (JS,MG,m.ob.); see AB: 29, 51 & 669 & 1059, for further details on this problem species.

The first documented sight report of a **Mew Gull** in Québec is that of an adult showing all field marks and compared to Ring-billed Gull in the Magdalen Is., Aug. 23 (ND). A brown-bellied first-year gull, barely smaller than a Ring-billed Gull, and showing no trace of gray in its plumage was photographed at Beauharnois, Nov. 1 (JS, m.ob.), and is also thought to be a Mew Gull. Four Black-headed Gulls (2 adults, 1 second-year, 1 first-year) occurred in the Magdalen Is., Aug. 1-18 (ND); although the species is now regular on the Atlantic seaboard, this is only the ninth Québec record. Maizerets had two Little Gulls Aug. 23 - Sept. 3 (PLn), and Beauharnois produced up to seven birds (including one first-year immature) Aug. 8 - Nov. 2 (BB,SH,MM); an adult at Rigaud, Nov. 16 (GH) was the latest ever in Québec. Also in the Beauharnois "Gull Bonanza" was a Black-legged Kittiwake Oct. 19 (MM). The sighting of a **Sabine's Gull** off Magdalen Is., Aug. 28 (ND) suggests that this species may be more than just a straggler in the almost unbirded Gulf of St-Lawrence; an immature of this species visited Beauharnois, Sept. 7-14 and (the same?) one turned up at Lachine, Sept. 12-24 (MM,BB, m.ob.). In the same period, a Caspian Tern at Beauharnois, Sept. 9 (FB) was a first for this locality. Three Dovekies were closely observed off Magdalen Is. on the amazing date of Aug. 18 (JB).

**DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Out-of-range birds in this category included a Mourning Dove on Brion I. (Magdalen Is.), Aug. 11 (ND), and a Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Cap Tourmente, Oct. 1 (*vide* RC). At La Motte (Abitibi Co.), three Long-eared Owls were found feeding on a road-killed hare, Sept. 3 (PE). M McIntosh reported the banding of six Saw-whet Owls this fall. The Pileated Woodpecker was a rare sight at Rouyn (Abitibi Co., Oct. 12, JC), at the northern edge of the species' range. An ad. Red-headed Woodpecker was at St-Pie (Johnson Co.) Aug. 4 (DC) and an immature at Montréal on the late date of Oct. 29 (BB). At Girardville, Aug. 21, JMC witnessed an uncommon gathering of 15 Hairy Woodpeckers, 17 Downy Woodpeckers, and 16 Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers in a small burnt forest area. A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker reached Montréal Sept. 18 (*vide* BB), and, from Hull to Québec City, both Three-toed Woodpeckers staged a minor invasion early in October.

**KINGBIRDS THROUGH NUTHATCHES** — An E. Kingbird at St-Paul (St-Jean Co.), Nov. 26 (GT) set an all-time record late departure date. A **Western Kingbird** was discovered at St-Anicet, Sept. 8 (MM,JW) and was last seen at sunrise Sept. 22. Of the large aggregations of swallows, the 100 Rough-winged Swallows of St-Barnabé on Aug. 21 (DC) are noteworthy. The Gray Jay is said to have appeared in fair numbers in settled areas; one was at Cap Tourmente, Sept. 14 (SL), 20 in the Masson area, Sept. 27 (*vide* RMP), and one reached Montréal Oct. 4 (MJ). Common Crows are common crows (abundant, everywhere), but the 5000 that passed over L'Islet on Oct. 19 are worth a word; they flew parallel to the St-Lawrence R. in a southwesterly direction from 12:00 to 16:00 E.S.T. (JLG). Black-capped Chickadees poured through heav-

ily August-October and a good movement of Boreal Chickadees was also noticed in the Hull area at the end of September. Red-breasted Nuthatches maintained their summer abundance well into August, but they were scarcer than expected in the following months

**MOCKINGBIRDS THROUGH WARBLERS** — The Mockingbird is well established in the Province a nesting pair was at Rimouski in early August, and single birds at St-Fulgence and Québec City (*vide* RC), and at least seven birds around Montréal (*vide* BB). Gray Catbirds, Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes were especially numerous August through October. Groups of E. Bluebirds included five birds at Gatineau P.P., Sept. 28 and 15 at Philipsburg Oct. 18; the species is still uncommon. A **Townsend's Solitaire** (third provincial record) came briefly to a feeder at Cap Tourmente Nov. 18 (*vide* SL). The only Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, again at Cap Tourmente, Oct. 23 (CS) provided the latest record ever. Bohemian Waxwings showed up earlier than ever at Québec City Oct. 13 (RL) and at Montréal Nov. 9 (*vide* BB). Tennessee, Palm and Wilson's Warblers were noticeably more common this year; altogether, it was a good warbler migration. There were at least five well documented reports of Orange-crowned Warblers, all in the Montréal area Sept. 28 - Oct. 11. More abundant than ever was the Yellow-rumped Warbler, on Oct. 4, at Beauport (Québec City), P. Lane estimated 1000 in some fields where left-over pumpkins and cabbages probably attracted insects. A very late bird was feeding on the beach at Ste-Flavie (Rimouski Co.), Nov. 23 (*vide* RC).

**ICTERIDS, FRINGILLIDS** — The W. Meadowlark mentioned in the Spring Report at St-Anicet was last seen Sept. 13 (MM). Our Cardinals go undetected in summer but show up late in fall, usually at feeders, at least four birds were in the Montréal area in October and November (*vide* BB,PT). Two Dickcissels fed with various sparrows at a feeder in Cap Tourmente, Oct. 22 (CS). An important movement of Evening Grosbeaks and Purple Finches brought many birds into settled areas in August and September, but only average numbers remained afterwards. A Pine Grosbeak at Cap Tourmente Sept. 5 (SL) broke the previous record early arrival date there; Montréal also had the species on a record-breaking Oct. 13 (ND). Other early migrants were the ten Common Redpolls of Québec City Sept. 27 (JL); Redpolls and Pine Grosbeaks, although early, cannot be termed abundant. Le Conte's Sparrows were seen at St-Fulgence in late Aug., after having gone undetected at this breeding locality for the last four years (NB). Two inland occurrences of Sharp-tailed Sparrows were sufficiently documented to warrant their inclusion here: one at Ile du Moine Aug. 10 (FB) and one at Sherbrooke, Sept. 25 (RLu). The Province saw its second and third **Harris' Sparrows** this fall, Lakefield (near Hull) got the second when B Watt spotted an adult in molt Sept. 28; on Oct. 4 at Charlesbourg, R. Lepage was leading a field trip for beginners and the first bird he showed them was our third Harris' Sparrow, an unmistakable adult. Early Lapland Longspurs were at Lachine Sept. 17 (FH), and Snow Buntings at Maizerets, Sept. 10 (BH).

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## HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

/Robert O. Paxton, P.A. Buckley and David A. Cutler

Fall migration began precociously. A series of August cold fronts pushed migrants into the region at or near record early dates. Cold fronts on Sept. 13-14 and 22 produced major waves, but the principal weather feature of September was the aftermath of hurricane *Eloise* which poured rain on the region Sept. 23-26. The succeeding cold front on Sept. 27-28 released a deluge of pent-up migrants.



Rowlett visited Cape May Point, N.J., as the winds began to shift to NW on Sept. 27. "As I expected, there were few songbirds, since they had probably remained grounded to the north. By noon, however, an excellent flight of hawks, especially small falcons, developed...numerous shorebirds were in the meadow." Rowlett's journal entry for Sept. 28 recalls some of the big days described in Witmer Stone's *Bird Studies at Old Cape May* (1937):

"Watched moon (half moon) with scope at Higbee Beach between 1 - 4 a.m. A spectacular flight, running 300-400 birds/hr. Peak flight occurred between 0230 and 0300. The pre-dawn twilight was a sensation in a new dimension of birding. An incredible deluge of warblers, thrushes, grosbeaks, flickers, and waxwings.

Thousands of birds literally rained out of the sky all around me and swept past and out of sight. The sound of all the chips, chirps, zits etc. was mind-boggling...Hawk flight steady most of the day. More accipiters than falcons today. All shorebirds at meadow were gone."

During October and November, a protracted Indian Summer kept temperatures far above normal, without enough frontal activity to provide much drama.

DIVING BIRDS — Unusual numbers of Red-throated Loons visited the interior, with a maximum of 40+ on Oct. 25 at Round Valley Res., Hunterdon Co., N.J. (JDeM), a bird at Marsh Creek S.P., Pa., Nov. 2 (GUA), and a second fall record at Huntsville, Pa., Nov. 15 (WR,EJ).

A strange loon at Brigantine N.W.R. during October and November was finally identified as an oiled Red-throated thanks to superb close-up photos by JDD. The editors urge others to document obscure, puzzling, or disputed birds by submitting photos (preferably originals).

PELAGIC TRIPS — This region's new-found interest in birdlife far offshore continues unabated, despite the cold, seasickness, and long empty stretches of many pelagic trips. The picture of pelagic populations and movements is slowly being filled in.

Rowlett spent Aug. 11-15 aboard a Marine Science Consortium Research Cruise out of Lewes, Del. On station 73 mi. E of Rehoboth Beach, Del., a **Leach's Storm-Petrel\*** came aboard late at night on Aug. 11, and a **Harcourt's Storm-Petrel\*** made the same error in the night of Aug. 14. The Leach's is a first Delaware specimen. The Harcourt's is a first Delaware record, and apparently the first North American specimen taken at sea under "normal" conditions, the five previous records being moribund storm-borne birds picked up inland. How "normally" this e. Atlantic species wanders to our offshore waters remains to be seen. The common petrel, and indeed the commonest species of the entire cruise, was of course Wilson's Storm-Petrel, with a peak daily count of about 250 on Aug. 13.

Among shearwaters, as expected, Rowlett found scattered Greaters and Cory's 73 mi. out, and 130 Cory's further out, over the continental shelf, at 96 mi. The prize in this department, however, was four **Audubon's Shearwaters** around the ship while at anchor 73 mi. out Aug. 15. This species has proved regular in the Gulf Stream off the Carolinas, but its status off our coast remains to be clarified.

Table 1 summarizes the results of 29 other trips out of New York and New Jersey. The amount of



November coverage is unprecedented. But fuller late coverage alone does not account for increasing N. Fulmar reports. Having expanded in breeding distribution for years in the e. Atlantic, this species now appears to be beginning the same spread in the w. Atlantic; the first Newfoundland breeding birds were found in 1973 (AB 28, 16). Manx Shearwater was first recorded at Hudson Canyon last May; these November records, along with earlier observations off New York, confirm that it is regular in small numbers off our coast. This species, too, bred in North America in 1973, on Penikese I., Mass. (Auk 92: 145-147).

**BOOBIES, IBIS** — **Brown Boobies**<sup>†</sup> were observed repeatedly off Long Island, between Shinnecock Inlet and Jones Beach, Sept. 28 - Oct. 13 (m.ob., GSR in press) No more than two adults were seen at any one time, although unverified reports of two immatures leave open at least the possibility that more birds were involved. Unlike the three previous New York occurrences, the latest in 1949, these observations can not be conclusively related to an onshore tropical storm. Hurricane *Faye* (500 mi. e. of Montauk Pt. Sept. 27) had not crossed areas where the Brown Booby is abundant. The far weaker hurricane *Gladys* had, but it passed far offshore Oct. 2 after the first boobies had been reported. No other observation of tropical species was associated with these storms. Three more imm. White Ibis in New Jersey, two over Hardwick Aug. 21 (FW) and one at Brigantine N.W.R. Sept. 13 (WB *et al.*), add to a number of East Coast reports this summer and fall. Previously there were less than ten New Jersey records.

**SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS** — A few Whistling Swans continue to stop in late fall on e. Long Island coastal ponds (C&KMCK, GSR). The Gadwall population continues to build. "Hundreds" were in the Kearny section of the Hackensack Meadows (hereafter H M), N.J., in November (DS). Many areas reported above-average numbers of Redheads, with a maximum of 75-100 at Rudd Pond, Dutchess Co., N.Y. through November (*vide* FP). The perennial ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye returned for the seventh consecutive season to Shark R. Inlet, N.J., on Nov. 16, six weeks earlier than usual (RG *et al.*). The Delaware R. wintering population of Ruddy Ducks has not recovered from damage caused by numerous oil spills there. For the second season, the population is 75% below historic levels, with only 2500 being counted Nov. 17 at Floodgate, N J (JTMcN).

**VULTURES** — Black Vultures continue to be seen more frequently in e. Pennsylvania. The Haases had a first record for the Little Mt. hawk watch, Northumberland Co., Sept. 6, and singles were observed at L. Galena Nov. 22 (DH) and at Lansdale Nov. 29 (AC). More unusual were coastal sightings: one at Muttontown Preserve, on the n. shore of Long Island, Oct. 23 (BP) and another (or possibly the same) scrutinizing picnickers at Montauk Pt. Nov. 16 (JY *et al.*) and seen flying W later the same day. The bird at Sandy Hook, N J Nov. 23 (PWs *et al.*), a third county record, could have been the same individual, but probably not the Nov 11 bird at Montclair, N.J., a first record for that hawk watch (AB).

**HAWKS, EAGLES** — The new Hudson-Delaware Region makes it possible to assemble data from many hawk watches formerly scattered among regions. Table 2 summarizes results from ten hawk watches and two banding stations whose data was available and whose coverage was systematic.

As the table shows, hawk numbers set records this fall (record local totals are boldfaced, where similar coverage in past years made comparison possible). At part-time watches, the coincidence of cold fronts with weekends may have swelled the totals factitiously; but full-time watches confirm historic highs of Sharp-shinned and most *Buteos*. Goshawk numbers were impressive by old standards but far below the record incursions of 1972 and 1973. Rough-leggeds were low. Most of the Broad-wingeds passed on the fronts of Sept. 13-15, 22, and 27-28. More Merlins than usual followed the interior ridges, but this species' preference for the outer coast, along with Sharp-shinneds and Cooper's and Am. Kestrels, is confirmed by the table. Readers should resist the temptation to total the figures for each species in the table. Considerable duplication is likely. Raccoon Ridge, for instance, is only 22 mi. s of Sunrise along the same chain.

#### S. A.

Cooper's Hawks, whose catastrophic decline has been much noted in these pages, have shown some improvement in the last two years. New identification techniques at the hawk watches, where the field guides' square vs. round tail criterion is considered less reliable than the more massive and protruding head of Cooper's (see Alex Nagy and Jim Brett, *Feathers in the Wind*) may be encouraging more watchers to "call" more Cooper's. Any doubts about increased sightings are dispelled, however, by banding figures, where weighing precludes misidentification. Indeed trapping may yield disproportionately low figures for the warier Cooper's. There is room for guarded optimism here, especially since 95% of the 93 banded at Cape May were juveniles.

About 25 reports of Golden Eagles in n. New Jersey were judged "about average" (RK). In addition to those in Table 2, there were four reports from the region: two from Long Island, one at Muttontown Preserve, Oct. 23 (AL) and a first record at Jamaica Bay W.R. Oct. 31 (JDiC); one Oct. 23 at Navesink, N.J., a first confirmed Monmouth County record (PWS,RJS), and an adult at Harvey's L., Luzerne Co., Pa., Nov. 14 (WR). Bald Eagle figures were less reassuring. In addition to those in Table 2, we have only two other reports: an immature at Brigantine N.W.R. Nov. 8 (MH), and one at Little Mt., Northumberland Co., Pa., where there were six last year (F&BH). Osprey figures were mixed. Montclair, for example, had record totals, but Hook Mt. had fewer than in 1971 and 1973; both watches were covered daily. Up to five were found far offshore at Cox's Ledge (see Table 1), and there were

Table 2. Hawk Watches

Banding Stations

Observatory name	White horse Mtn.	Hook Mtn.	Rifle Camp Park	Monclair	Mt. Peter	Skyline Ridge	Sunrise Mtn.	Raccoon Ridge	Hawk Mtn.	Cape May Point	Cape May Point	Mecca Gap
Location	Cornwall-on-Hudson N.Y.	Nyack N.Y.	W. Paterson N.J.	Upper Montclair N.J.	Orange Co. N.Y.	Ringwood N.J.	Sussex Co. N.J.	Blairstown N.J.	Hamburg, Pa.	Cape May N.J.	Cape May N.J.	Sussex Co. N.J.
Topographical setting	Hudson Palisades	Hudson Palisades	First Watchung Ridge	First Watchung Ridge	Bearfoot Mtn.	Bearfoot Mtn.	Kittatinny Ridge	Kittatinny Ridge	SW ext of Kittatinny [Blue Mtn.]	Outer Coast	Outer Coast	Kittatinny Ridge
Goshawk	2	25		5	2	9	44	131	157	3	1	32
Sharp-shinned	559	6,018	736	3,282	828	1,908	1,030	2,584	8,232	11,014	1,613	416
Cooper's	24	52	4	24	18	18	20	83	153	553	93	23
Red-tailed	448	526	48	926	48	151	801	2,761	3,648	766	58	130
Red-shouldered	8	184	7	147	17	51	26	209	331	96	3	3
Broad-winged	7,384	10,585	6,317	15,186	5,241	504	4,527	25,530	16,781	730	6	11
Rough-legged		3					6	14	11	2	1	
Golden Eagle	5a	4			1	2	1	16	32(14i)	2	1	1
Bald Eagle	2i	7	7(3a4i)	1	1	2	3	19	28(5i)	6		
N. Harrier	44	267	31	161	47	87	120	182	431	638	43	7
Osprey	86	180	76	339	123	100	176	217	279	243		
Peregrine	2	2			4		4	12	10	27		1
Gyrfalcon								1 (dark)	1 (dark)			
Merlin	11	13	1	13	1	3	4	22	19	431	97	2
Am. Kestrel	234	668	238	1,176	421	278	186	341	523	6,400	1,193	20
Unident.		185	200			36	103	37	336			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,809</b>	<b>18,719</b>	<b>7,665</b>	<b>21,375</b>	<b>6,871</b>	<b>3,149</b>	<b>7,058</b>	<b>32,159</b>	<b>31,012</b>	<b>21,306</b>	<b>3,110</b>	<b>646</b>
Coverage	52 days	71 days 491 hours	22 days 89.5 hours (Sept. only)	81 days	28 days 185.5 hrs. (Sept.-Oct. (Sept. only)	26 days 71 hrs (Sept.-Oct. (Sept. only)	44 days	58 days	88 days	76 days	74 days	

some noteworthy seasonal totals away from the hawk watches, such as 34 at Muddy Run, Drumore, Pa., Sept. 2 - Oct. 22 (RMS). Peregrine numbers were disquieting. As usual, more followed the coast than the interior ridges, with maxima of ten at Cape May Pt. Oct. 2-5 (N.J. Audubon Weekend) and seven at Raccoon Ridge Oct. 7. In addition to those in Table 2, 26 were reported from coastal Long Island and a scattering elsewhere. Three hand-reared Peregrines fitted with quarter-ounce radio transmitters trailing an antenna were released at Barnegat last summer, in an experimental effort at reintroduction. One antennaed Peregrine was seen at Brigantine N.W.R. Aug. 23 (CL, TO'C); on Sept. 7 JAK saw a dark-plumaged juvenile "trailing about 12" of wire" take a Red Knot at Brigantine. Although the two dark-phase Gyrfalcons reported in Table 2 occurred in the same ridge system, they were probably different birds. The Hawk Mt. bird was seen Nov. 2 (JB) while the more northerly Raccoon Ridge record was Nov. 29 (Mills). A light-phase imm. Swainson's Hawk was banded and released at Cape May Pt. Nov. 17 (WSC) for the second confirmed New Jersey record. The first had been banded in the same spot by WSC Sept. 16, 1973 (Wilson Bull. 86: 284-5). A light-phase adult was well seen at Port Jervis, Orange Co., N.Y. Nov. 1 (HD, VA).

**GALLINULES, WADERS** — The small Delaware breeding population of Purple Gallinules is thriving. A pair and downy young were observed at Bombay Hook N.W.R., Aug. 3 (RAR, HW, SW et al.) and Aug. 8

(PGD) for the second successive year. JGR and RMS observed another adult Aug. 9 at Dragon's Run Marsh, Delaware City, where they have bred since 1974.

Waders are highly responsive to local conditions in this intensely urbanized region. Three sites attracted interesting wader concentrations this fall, despite (or even because of) human interference.



Swainson's Hawk, Cape May Point Banding Station, second confirmed New Jersey record. Photo/Robert Hogan.

(1) On the s. shore of Long Island, new spoil banks along the sewer outfall across Great South Bay at North Line I., s. of Wantagh, have provided a festival since last summer. On Nov. 9 AJL and BL found about 22,000 shorebirds still there, including 15,000 Dunlins, 5000 Black-bellied Plovers, 2000 Sanderlings, 50 Red Knots, and one each of the two godwits.

(2) In n. New Jersey, remnants of the Hackensack Meadows near N. Arlington produced a peak of 335 Lesser Yellowlegs on Aug. 3 (RK; the local record is 750), and a number of interesting records commented upon below.

(3) At Bombay Hook N.W.R., Del., Raymond Pool was drawn down for carp control and provided the best shorebirding "in five years". PGD observed about 14,000 waders of 23 species there Aug. 8, including 400 Semipalmated Plovers, 500 Greater Yellowlegs, 2500 Lesser Yellowlegs, 5000 Short-billed Dowitchers, and 2100 W. Sandpipers. The highest Am. Oystercatcher count was 42 at Tuckerton, N.J., Aug. 20 (RB).

Wader species that normally migrate offshore were abundant onshore, particularly in the aftermath of *Eloise*. Concentrations of American Golden Plover grounded by *Eloise* were found on Sept. 27-28: 50 at Sagaponack, L.I. (AJL), the season's local high of 225 at H.M. (RK,DR,HWA), and 85 at turf farms near Highstown, N.J. (RK *et al.*). The regional maximum, however, came earlier in the season, an astonishing 400 Sept. 7 at Plainsboro, N.J. (PhS). *Eloise* seems to have grounded the main migration of Hudsonian Godwits all along the e. seaboard. In the days immediately following, there were 29 at various s. shore Long Island points, one at H.M. 19 at Cape May Pt. (RAR), and a series of astonishing inland records: 15 at a rain pool near Mt. Holly, N.J. (LC), nine at Dover AFB, Del. on Sept. 27 (DLA), and up to 19 there Oct. 4-8 (DLA,RAR). After this interrupted migration, Hudsonian Godwits lingered in many places through October and abnormally late into November, including one at H.M. Nov. 17-20 (RK,MH), the latest ever there.

Northern Phalaropes, too, were abnormally frequent inland. A phenomenal 27 sightings at H.M. from early August through September with a peak of 13 on Aug. 7 (DR,PB), went far beyond the previous seasonal record total of five (RK). Two far inland at Tunkhannock, Pa., Aug. 17-Sept. 4 (WR, m.ob.) and at Pennhurst State School, Chester Co., Pa. (RWB); were both photographed. Later-migrating Red Phalaropes were recorded only far offshore (see Table 1).

By contrast, western prairie wader numbers were low this fall. Incredibly, eight White-rumped Sandpipers at Bombay Hook N.W.R. Aug. 8 (PGD) was the largest daily total to reach the editors from the entire region. Six scattered observations of Baird's Sandpipers from Long Island were good, and one at Croton Pt., N.Y. (WHH) and two at Sandy Hook, N.J. (RC,PWS) were unusual local records, but there were only four other reports from the rest of the region. Stilt Sandpipers were below normal everywhere except for one extraordinary count of 420 at Bombay Hook N.W.R. Aug. 8 (PGD). No concentrations of Buff-breasted Sandpipers appeared as last fall, though they were widely distributed in small numbers in late August and early September. The high count seems to have been nine at turf

farms near Highstown, N.J., Sept. 27 (RK *et al.*). Fifteen to 20 Marbled Godwits lingering at Brigantine N.W.R. seemed about normal. Wilson's Phalaropes came mostly in ones and twos, except for the remarkable count of 15 at Bombay Hook N.W.R. Aug. 8 (PGD). The exceptional Long-billed Curlew at Smith Pt. County Park, L.I. Sept. 12-13 (Ted Levin, Paul Stoutenburg), may have been the bird seen by throngs at North line I. in July (AB: 29, 952).

Post-breeding wandering Am. Avocets reached a maximum, predictably, at the s. end of the region, with 120 at Little Creek, Del. Aug. 19 (MB,JMA). Only one reached Jamaica Bay W.R. Aug. 19-28 (JA *et al.*). Similarly, the regional maximum for Black-necked Stilt was 41 at Bombay Hook N.W.R. Aug. 8 (PGD).

European waders were not exceptionally numerous. There were no groups of Ruffs to match concentrations of some past summers when Delaware seemed on its way to establishing a veritable lek. This season we have reports of seven or possibly eight birds for the region. Individual Curlew Sandpipers were reported only from H.M. Sept. 6 (ET,LH) and Port Mahon, Del., Aug. 9 (RMS).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS — Jaegers offshore are reported in Table 1 above. Many of them are not identified as to species, for a healthy caution about identifying all jaegers seems to grow with the number of hours spent offshore. The most seasoned pelagic observers believe, however, that almost all jaegers far offshore are Pomarine. They express doubt about Parasitics far at sea. On the other hand, most jaegers close inshore seem to be Parasitic. So, too, was one exceptional inland bird in dark phase at Muddy Run, Drumore, Pa. Aug. 27-31 (RMS,KR). This seems to be the fifth record for e. Pa. in this century. Only one Great Skua was reported. An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger was discovered at Cox's Ledge Aug. 30 (Doug Kraus), following several spring records there.

European gulls were somewhat fewer than in recent years. Two ad. Lesser Black-backed were reported, at the n.e. edge of the region: one at Massapequa Pk.,



Juvenile Arctic Tern, Montauk Point, L.I., N.Y., Nov. 23, 1975. Photo/P.A. Buckley.

L I Nov. 19-23 (AJL,BS *et al.*), and one Nov. 23 at Fresh Kills garbage dump, Staten I. (HF), a traditional locality. There were three reports of Black-headed Gulls from Long Island (JA,MHo,JC) and one from Cape May Pt. (JAK *et al.*). Six Little Gulls from Long Island (JA,AJL,BL,BS, m.ob.) and one from Brigantine (JDD) were normal. Increased coverage offshore produced two **Sabine Gulls**, one breeding-plumaged adult at Cox's Ledge Aug. 31 and a winter-plumaged adult in the same place Sept. 28 (RRa *et al.*). The "mystery gull" illustrated in *AB* 29:1, p. 37 returned to Brigantine Oct. 18 - Dec. 1 in somewhat changed plumage, suggesting that it had not been an adult. Photographs have been submitted to the British Museum. Local speculation centers on various hybrid possibilities such as Ring-billed x Black-headed or Mew x Black-headed.

S. A.

A juvenile **Arctic Tern** was photographed among lingering Commons at Montauk, L.I. Nov. 23 (PAB,ROP,JA,JC) and found again there Nov. 27 (THD *et al.*). This is the first confirmed sight record for New York State, though there are three old specimens, two from Long Island (1884, 1897) and one from Cayuga L (1916). To the best of our knowledge, it is the latest known fall occurrence of an Arctic Tern in e. N. America.

Elsewhere, on Oct. 25 and Nov. 12, FH and HHA independently observed what they were convinced was an ad. Arctic Tern† at Brigantine I, N.J. A detailed description by HHA concentrating upon tarsus and bill length makes this a highly probable record.

While other regional sight records of this species — including those published in this column — might well have been correct, they have always lacked sufficient detail to allow absolute certitude. Nevertheless, although a specimen or lucky photo is always preferable, Arctic Terns can be identified in all plumages with certainty provided observers have substantial experience with tern plumages and if they can produce a detailed description of all the salient field marks now worked out in several British and California publications. In fact juveniles may be easier to identify than adults, though the determination of age-class in itself is not to be tossed off lightly.

Several papers must be thoroughly digested before even an experienced observer attempts identification of Arctic Terns, especially extraliminally. Of prime importance are "Field Identifications of Juvenile Common, Arctic, and Roseate Terns," *British Birds* 62:8, pp. 297-299 (August 1969), with one plate; "The Up-perwing Pattern of Adult Common and Arctic Terns," *Ibid.* 67:2, pp. 133-136 (April 1974), with four pages of black and white photos; and "Uncompleted Molt in *Sterna* terns and the Problem of Identification," *Ibid.* 62:3, pp. 93-97 (March 1969), with one plate. Also essential are a paper in *California Birds* I, pp. 33-36

(1970); and the *Handbook of British Birds* (1941), V., pp. 24-40. Sadly, most modern field guides are of little help in this case, and often only confuse the issue.

Last summer's northward incursion of Gull-billed Terns had an echo on the Delaware R. at Essington, Pa., where a single bird was studied Aug. 6 for a second s.e. Pennsylvania sight record (F&BH,KR) The usual post-breeding dispersal of Royal Terns to Long Island reached a peak of 50+ Sept. 27 at Shinnecock Inlet (AJL). The latest were four at Montauk Nov. 8 (AJL,BL). More Caspian Terns were reported than usual, with a maximum of seven at two coastal Long Island sites Oct. 5 (m.ob.) and three at H.M. Aug. 3, where they are rare (RK).

OWLS —

S. A.

Banding at Cape May Pt. reveals most interesting evidence of Barn Owl migration. This fall WSC banded 47 in 22 nights between Oct. 7 and Nov. 19, as compared with 72 in 1974 and 56 in 1973. At times as many as 50 were in the air at once, hovering over the nets and bait. These results are all the more significant in that Bent (*U.S.Nat.Mus.Bull.* 170 (1938), 150) called this species a "permanent resident" through all but the "extreme northern portion of its range," and the *Handbook of British Birds* (1941), II, 344 treats the British population as "resident." Both authorities cite instances of fall movement, however, and three years' work at Cape May suggests that migration may be the norm, at least among young birds.

Snowy Owls were low, and most of the six reported from Long Island moved on, leaving only one at Jones Beach S.P. from Nov. 19 on; some duplication is possible. WSC also banded 32 Long-Eared and one Short-Eared Owl at Cape May Pt. Short-Eared Owls were well below last year's numbers in the H M, where the largest flock of 12 birds in Nov. compared with 26 at the same time last year (RK). As usual, Saw-Whet Owls turned up primarily in banding nets on the outer coast. DBF banded 50+ this season on Fire I, L.I., and WSC banded 49 in 19 nights between Oct. 27 and Nov. 23 at Cape May Pt. It is not clear whether the coast is their principal migration route, or whether they are simply more easily detected and caught there in isolated low pine plantations.

**HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS** — The mountain ridges concentrate other migrants than hawks, 109 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds passed Hawk Mt., Pa., this fall with the peak of 48 on Sept. 3 (AN). A ♂ **Rufous Hummingbird** turned up at a clump of pineapple sage in Devon, Pa. Nov. 6 (Mrs. John Donatone, m.ob.). On Nov. 14 the bird was captured for survival in the Philadelphia Zoo. Though there is a strong easterly component in this species' migration which carries some individuals annually to Florida and the Gulf Coast, there are only two other East Coast records plus a South Carolina specimen and one or two Maryland sight



records (C. Robbins, *Birds of Md. and D.C.* (1958), 189).

The importance of the outer beach as a Com. Flicker migration path was reemphasized this season following *Eloise*. More than 9000 passed the e. end of Fire I, L.I., on Sept. 28, three times the previous daily maximum in the area (THD *et al.*). On the same day, there was an "excellent" flicker flight at Island Beach, N.J. (JGr), and over 1000 passed Cape May Pt. (RAR). Red-Headed Woodpeckers were low on the coast, with only 14 reported from Long Island and the New York City area, but inland 15 were counted at Hawk Mt., Pa. during the season (AN).



*Rufous Hummingbird, Devon, Pa., Nov. 11, 1975.*  
Photo/Allan Brady.

FLYCATCHERS, CROWS, JAYS — Predominantly coastal as usual, E. Kingbirds followed an early cold front with counts of 250 at Larchmont, N.Y. (PL) and 140 in three hours at Tobay Pond, L.I. (ROP) Aug. 29. W. Kingbirds were unusually low. Only two were reported from Long Island (*vide* THD) and one from Sandy Hook, N.J. (RJS), although a more normal five were reported from s. coastal New Jersey. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at Cape May Pt. Oct. 28 (Evelyn M. Kramer *et al.*). A Say's Phoebe was photographed at Island Beach, S.P., N.J., Sept. 27 following the rains of *Eloise* (RJS *et mult.al.*). This is New Jersey's fourth record, though there are five for New York.

Nine Com. Ravens from the Kittatinnies (*vide* RK) and seven from Hawk Mt., Pa. (AN) are consonant with this species' expansion in s.w. New York and the c. Appalachians. A Gray Jay settled in at Moore's Mill, Dutchess Co., N.Y. Nov. 3 and remained throughout the period. This was the third county record (1961, 1963).

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES — Chickadees staged their first major invasion since 1969-70, and possibly the greatest of all time. Black-capped Chickadees were especially common inland, but even on the outer beach they picked through the *phragmites*. In New York City they foraged in plastic shrubbery at high windows and flew down N-S avenues; on Oct. 2 there were 43 at once in one sycamore on the Columbia U. campus. At Philadelphia, they appeared Oct. 3 and

thereafter "inundated feeders" (DAC). Unfortunately we have no systematic counts as in 1969-70 from points or promontories.

Boreal Chickadees moved south in the greatest numbers ever. The movement was almost entirely confined to the interior, and was most conspicuous on mountain ridges. Of 26 s.e. New York State records, only two were from Long Island. Five turned up in N.Y.C. parks. At least 18 were reported from Westchester County. In Dutchess County, where there are a few each winter, the population was the highest since 1961. Over 40 were reported from n. New Jersey, mostly from ridge tops in the northwest (*vide* RK). Two appeared at Wyoming, Pa., from Nov. 17 on, at the same spot where last recorded in 1961 (WR). Single birds were reported from Dallas, Pa. (*vide* WR), Bake Oven Knob, Lehigh Co., Pa. (RW), and Long's Pond, Monroe Co., Pa. (RW, WW). They reached their s. limit in this region in the Delaware Valley for the first time since 1961, with a bird at Broomall, Pa. Dec. 10 and one in Chestnut Hill Dec. 9 in what was believed the first Philadelphia "city" record (*vide* DAC).

Red-breasted Nuthatches, whose irruptions have often coincided with those of chickadees, staged a very strong early flight. They reached the non-breeding areas of Long Island and n. New Jersey Aug. 15-19 (ROP, DL, GSR, RK), and one bird came aboard ship 73 mi. e. of Rehoboth Beach, Del., Aug. 15 (RAR). They passed quickly through the region, however, and were not particularly apparent after mid-September.

THRUSHES, WARBLERS — Some encouraging E. Bluebird reports came from inland, where they were "quite common on the ridge tops" in n.w. New Jersey (*vide* RK) and "way up" at Kennett Sq., Pa. (JGr). One flock at Pound Ridge, Westchester Co., N.Y. comprised 32 birds on Sept. 14 (N. Shoumatoff).

Spruce-belt warblers arrived in the region early. Some unusual (though not record-breaking) first sightings include three Tennessees at Upton, L.I., Aug. 19 (DL), a Yellow-rumped at Croton Pt., N.Y., Aug. 24 (WHH), and a Wilson's at Dunderberg, Dutchess Co., N.Y. Aug. 21 (ET). Many inland observers commented upon the abundance of Tennessees, Bay-breasteds, and, to a lesser degree, Cape Mays this fall. The mix of species on the outer coast, however, was quite different, as is probably usual. At one inland banding operation, at Denville, N.J., MH found Tennessees, Bay-breasteds, and Blackpolls the commonest species. At Tobay Pond, L.I., ROP found Am. Redstarts and Cape Mays a strong third and fourth after the ubiquitous Yellow-rumped and Com. Yellowthroats, with only three Tennessees, three Blackpolls, and one Bay-breasted among just over a thousand warblers trapped. At Cape May Pt., Am. Redstarts outranked other warblers 15:1 in the great wave of Sept. 28 (RAR). A ♂ Yellow-rumped (*Audubon's*) Warbler was found at Robert Moses S.P., L.I., by THD Nov. 9. All four previous Long Island records were also in November. Weske provided a persuasive description of what may have been a ♀ Hermit Warbler complete with gray back and "eye prominent as a black dot against a yellow background," seen at Mianus Gorge, Westchester Co., N.Y., Nov. 22, but the bird could not be found again for confirmation as a first state record.

**ICTERIDS** — Although Bobolinks were a common diurnal migrant, no outstanding counts were received. As with most w. stragglers, Yellow-headed Blackbirds were not in much evidence, with two from L.I. Sept. 14 (AJL.SBD) and Sept. 17 (JA), but only one from n. N.J. (*vide* RK) and one from Bombay Hook N.W.R. Aug. 17 (*vide* DAC). A pair of **Brewer's Blackbirds** was carefully described by JG near Montauk, L.I. Nov. 5, for only the second detailed Long Island report. The expansion of this species around western feed lots has not produced the steady increase of eastern observations anticipated a few years ago.

**GROSBEAKS, FINCHES** — Winter finches made a poor showing, except for Evening Grosbeaks. They passed through the interior, but not along the coast, in large numbers during the middle two weeks of October. Maxima were from n.w. New Jersey, where 700+ were at Franklin Lakes Oct. 17 (RBF), and 600+ at Sunrise Mt. Oct. 26 (RK,FF). Pine Siskins, contrariwise, were relatively abundant on the outer coast after Sept. 28, with a peak of 2500 at Robert Moses S.P., L.I., Nov. 23 (DBF), but scarce-to-absent along the hawk watches and in the west of the region. Even on the coast there was nothing like the hurried, tight bunches of siskins overhead in August that presage a major invasion. Red Crossbills passed through quickly in the first two weeks of November, but were scarce after Nov. 15 except in the south of the region. Maxima were 5-600 Nov. 6 at Rockville Center, L.I. (AW), "huge flocks" at Cape May Nov. 6, and 250 at Jones Beach S.P., L.I., Nov. 15 (JDIC). There were only four reports of Pine Grosbeaks and three for White-winged Crossbills for the region.

A **Green-tailed Towhee** appeared at Mickelton, N.J. Nov. 20 and remained through the period, for a fifth state record (Mrs. Joseph Pigeon, *vide* DAC).

**SPARROWS, BUNTINGS** — The only Henslow's Sparrow reported was a bird at Riis Pk., N.Y.C., Oct. 4 (WHH). White-crowned Sparrows were far below last year's great flight. There were relatively few western stragglers among sparrows. Only four Lark Sparrows were reported from Long Island, five from n. New Jersey, and two from Cape May. Only five Clay-colored Sparrows were reported, two from Long Island and three from Island Beach, N.J. A ♂ Lapland Longspur at Sandy Hook, N.J., Oct. 4 (PWS) missed the earliest regional date by only one day. Snow Buntings were not limited to the outer coast but were observed along the hawk watch ridges in good numbers in November (RK).

**CORRIGENDA** — The report of a Great White morph of the Great Blue Heron at Brigantine N.W.R. (AB 29, 35) should be deleted.

Slides of the *Pheucticus* Grosbeak trapped at Den-ville, N.J. in May 1975 and reported as a ♀ Black-headed (AB 29, 832, 944) were submitted to Dr. David A. West of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University who has worked extensively with this genus and who had a series of specimens for comparison. Dr. West judged the bird an aberrant ♀ Rose-breasted with some secondary male characters. He ruled out a hybrid. This underscores the danger of assuming that any odd-

looking *Pheucticus* is a Black-headed, and serves as a reminder that these two populations are morphologically quite close.

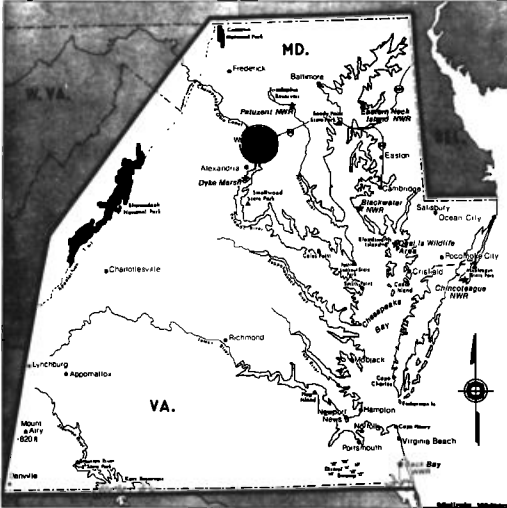
**OBSERVERS** — (sub-regional compilers in boldface): David L. Abbott, J.M. Abbott, Vince Abrattys, Jim Akers (JAK), Peter Alden, Anthony Amos, Ken Apps, Jim Ash, G.U. Atkinson, H.H. Axtell, Pete Bacinski, M.V. Barnhill, Andrew Bihun, Irving Black, Vida Blauvelt, Ray Blicharz, Robert W. Blye, William Boyle, Jim Brett, Maurice Broun, J. Bryan, Tom Burke, Tom Clauser, Robert A. Conway, Lawrence Corn, Joe Costa, William S. Clarke, Alan Crawford, Richard Cummings, **David A. Cutler** (s.N.J., s.e.Pa., Del; see below), John D. Danzenbaker, **Thomas H. Davis** (s.e.N.Y., L.I.: 94-46 85th Rd., Woodhaven, N.Y. 11421), C.F. Deed, John DeMarrais, S.B. Dempsey, Joe DiCostanzo, Howard Drinkwater, Paul G. DuMont, J.H. Epler, R.B. Farrar, Richard L. Ferren, Howard Fischer, Darrel B. Ford, Frank Frazier, John Gee, Robert Grant, Jesse Grantham (JGr), Franklin & Barbara Haas, Fred Hamer, Mike Hannisian, Dorothy Hartmann, Lawrence Holland, Marshall Howe, (MHo), William H. Howe, Aldro Jenks, Edwin Johnson, Cliff Jones, Kathleen Kaiser, **Richard Kane** (n.N.J.: New Jersey Audubon Society, Scherman Wildlife Sanctuary, P.O. Box 693, Bernardsville, N.J. 07924), W.W. Kelly, Georges Kleinbaum, Michel Kleinbaum, Douglas L. Kraus, Don Kunkle, Dave Larsen, Brook Lauro, Anthony J. Lauro, S.R. Lawrence, Jay Lehman, Paul Lehman, Allen Lindberg, Chris Loscalzo, Chris & Kay McKeever, J.T. McNeill, Philip Meisner, J.K. Meritt, Ed Mills, August & Judy Mirabella, John S. Moyle, Alex Nagy, Tim O'Connor, Roger Pasquier, Bill Paterson, Frances Perry, Eleanor Pink, Ted Proctor, Dennis Puleston, Richard Radus (RRa), Gilbert S. Raynor, Randy Reeve, **William Reid** (n.e.Pa.: 73 West Ross St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18702), Robert Ridgely (RRi), Keith Richards, Dave Roche, Richard A. Rowlett, Eloise Sanders, Robert M. Schutsky, Philip Sigler (PHs), Robert W. Smart, Don Smith, Robert J. Smith, P. William Smith, Barbara Spencer, Matthew J. Spence, Arthur Swoger, Fred Tetlow, Peter Tozzi, John P. Tramontano, Ed Treacy, Harry Wallum (HWA), J.S. Weske, Steve Whitcomb, Leroy Wilcox, Floyd Wolfarth, Alvin Wollin, Charles Wood, Hal Wierenga, W. Wilttrout, W. Winkelman, John Yrizarry, and Joe Zeranski. H.M. (Hackensack Meadows). Symbols used include \* (specimen) and † (detailed description on file). — **ROBERT O. PAXTON, 560 Riverside Drive, Apt. 12K, New York, N.Y. 10027, P.A. BUCKLEY, North Atlantic Regional Office, National Park Service, 150 Causeway St., Boston, Mass. 02114, and DAVID A. CUTLER, 1110 Rock Creek Drive, Wyncote, Pa. 19095.**

Boxes with the initials S. A. above them in Regional reports were ingeniously designed to lure readers into reports from other than their home Regions. The initials stand for the words Special Attention, and are pronounced appropriately, "Essay".

## MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

F. R. Scott

The "fall" migration in this region regularly lasts a full five to five and one-half months, and sometimes longer. The first movement of shorebirds is clearly evident by the first week of July and sometimes late June, whereas some waterfowl, gulls, and land birds



are often still moving in late December. And, of course, if postbreeding wanderers in June and south-moving Evening Grosbeaks after January 1 are included, the "fall" migration becomes a seven-month event. This report, then, is essentially a four-month slice out of the middle of the migration and also intrudes somewhat into the last part of the nesting season for some species.

Temperatures, except for September, averaged well above normal, becoming even more so in November when Washington, D.C. averaged 6.4° above the mean. Although land birds moved through fairly briskly in September, the migration became noticeably slowed during the rest of the season. After a wet early summer, rainfall was below normal in August, extremely excessive in September, and relatively normal the rest of the year. Washington, for example, recorded 7.02 inches above normal for the period, September totaling an unusual 12.36 inches. Needless to say, both stream flows and artificial impoundments remained in good shape throughout the period. There were no hurricanes, and the only tropical storm of note was *Eloise*, which, together with a stalled frontal system, caused considerable rain in the region September 23-26. The most widespread coastal bird flight of the fall occurred following this storm on September 28-29.

**LOONS THROUGH IBIS** — At Sandy Point S.P., Md. (S.P.S.P. below) two Red-throated Loons Oct. 25 and one Nov. 21 were unusual for this upper Chesapeake Bay locality (HW). A Horned Grebe at Dyke marsh, Fairfax Co., Va., Sept. 7-13 (JMA) was early, and the peak concentration of this species at Craney I., Portsmouth, Va. was 1500 on Nov. 15

(DLH). The only significant pelagic trip reported was on Sept. 7 and yielded the second Virginia record of the **Black-capped Petrel** some 72 mi. east of Chincoteague (RAR,PS,CPW *et al.*). Other species recorded on this trip included two Cory's and six Greater Shearwaters. The first Gannets reported were eight at Chincoteague N.W.R., Va. Oct. 5 (RAR *et al.*), and a Great Cormorant was first noted at Ocean City, Md., Oct. 19 (PGD *et al.*). A flock of 24 Double-crested Cormorants was apparently migrating over the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Va., Aug. 15 (FRS), and one was seen inland at Alexandria, Va., Aug. 23 (JMA). No outstanding heron concentrations were reported along the coast during the fall, but the Cattle Egret appeared inland in a number of localities. These included seven at Alexandria Sept. 7 (DFA), 24 at Anacostia Naval Air Station, D.C. (A.N.A.S. below) Sept. 26 (JMA & RAR), and one near Leesburg, Va., Oct. 14 (ADG & GAG). There were also several November records of this species, the latest being single birds at Suffolk Va., Nov. 26 (DLH) and Rock Hall, Md., Nov. 30 (LO & TO, *vide* CPW). Other inland records included two Snowy Egrets at Dyke marsh, Va., Aug. 10 (JMA) and single Glossy Ibis near Lynchburg, Va., July 28 (PEM) and A.N.A.S., Sept. 26 (JMA,RAR *et al.*), and there were still 12 Glossy Ibis at Chincoteague Ref., Nov. 30 (RPH). Single imm. White Ibis were reported twice, near Chincoteague Sept. 28 (PGD *et al.*) and Back Bay N.W.R., Va., Oct. 14 (GMW).

**WATERFOWL** — Mute Swans reached a record breaking peak of 35 at Chincoteague Ref. during the last week of October (NW, *vide* LKM), and one remained at Dyke marsh for the entire period (JMA *et al.*). Brant moved into the region early and in numbers, the first report being one at Chincoteague Sept. 28 (PGD *et al.*). Twenty-two at S.P.S.P., Oct. 31 were considered unusual (HW & MLH). An ad. **Barnacle Goose** was found at Remington Farms, near Chester town, Md., Nov. 22 (PAD, PGD *et al.*), and an unusual number of White-fronted Geese was noted during the fall. One was seen at Remington Farms Nov. 23 (CPW *et al.*), up to 35 were reported at Blackwater N.W.R. Md. in late November (refuge personnel, *vide* PGD), and an adult and three somewhat irregularly plumaged immatures were present near Green Springs, Louisa Co., Va. off and on Oct. 3 - Nov. 14 (JBB). Snow Geese arrived early and in numbers at Chincoteague Ref., with an estimated 2500 here Oct. 5 (RAR *et al.*), some 60% of the birds here during the fall were thought to be young (LKM). The first two Blue Geese were noted at Chincoteague Oct. 2, reaching a peak of 15 on Oct. 10 (LKM). A Eur. Wigeon appeared at Chincoteague Ref., Oct. 5 (JOP), and up to three males were noted here by many observers to the end of the period (BWK,LKM,CPW *et al.*). At S.P.S.P. two large flights of Oldsquaws were recorded totaling 4300 on Oct. 31 (MLH & HW) and 2500 on Nov. 15 (HW), and there were two reports of King Eiders, one at Ocean City, Md., Oct. 19 (MLH *et al.*) and one near Chincoteague Nov. 1-2 (RPH,BWK). A heavy migration of scoters occurred at Chincoteague Ref., Oct. 17 when Malone estimated 15,000-17,000 passing in three hours, and a count of 139 Hooded Mergansers at Craney I., Va., Nov. 15 was excellent (DLH).

**HAWKS THROUGH COOTS** — The best hawk flights of the season were reported from the S.P.S.P. area where Wierenga recorded 3750 Broad-winged Hawks Sept. 28, probably a record count for this region's Coastal Plain. Also of interest here were an early Cooper's Hawk Aug. 19 (MLH & HW) and four different Merlins between Sept. 15 and Oct. 1 (MLH & HW). Other Broad-winged counts of interest included 150 at Clifton, Fairfax Co., Va., Sept. 27 (JWE) and 90 at Bellevue, Md., Sept. 28 (HTA); most fall transients of this species, of course, migrate down the mountain ridges just west of this region. The best counts of Bald Eagles were two adults and one immature at Bellevue, Md., Sept. 14 (HTA) and at least two adults and three immatures near Westmoreland S.P., Va., Nov. 15 (JEJ *et al.*). Single immature birds were found in several localities, including Kerr Res., Va., Oct. 18 (RC & MRB). Ospreys were noted three times in early November, single birds at Bellevue, Md., Nov. 1-2 (HTA), Reva, Va., Nov. 8 (RH), and Lewisetta, Va., Nov. 9 (FRS). Forty-one Peregrine Falcons were banded on Assateague I., Va. and Md. during the fall (FPW, *fide* LKM), and there were many reports along the coast and few inland. Peak counts were 14 each at Chincoteague Ref., Oct. 2 and 10 (LKM). There were far more than the normal observations of Merlins, particularly inland, with the maximum count of nine occurring at Chincoteague Ref. on both Oct. 2 and 7 (LKM).

Late-breeding Bobwhite were noted at Bellevue Sept. 15 when Armistead found two adults and four small young, and Rowlett and others saw a female with a brood of downy young at Chincoteague Ref., Oct. 5. Sora peaked at 15 or more at Dyke marsh, Va., Oct. 19 (JMA), and Am. Coots were in high numbers in many parts of the region. At Chincoteague Ref. the coot population reached 11,590 at the end of October versus only 16 at the same time last year and 4225 in October 1973 (LKM).

**SHOREBIRDS** — This was a bumper year for shorebirds inland, completely overshadowing the coastal areas, where normally low impoundments had too much water to encourage large concentrations. Of particular interest was a recently impounded spoil area at S P S P. which yielded 31 species of shorebirds during the fall (HW, MLH *et al.*) and A.N.A.S. with at least 18 species (JMA, RAR *et al.*). A **Piping Plover** at S P S P., Aug. 16 (MLH) was a rare inland occurrence. American Golden Plovers were found in at least ten localities, the best counts being peaks of 80 near Centreville, Md., Sept. 28 (RAR), 62 at A.N.A.S., Oct. 18 (JMA), and 24 at S.P.S.P., Sept. 30 (HW). Also of interest were 30 seen flying over the Atlantic 60 mi. east of Ocean City, Md., Sept. 7 (RAR, CPW *et al.*). A peak of 23 Black-bellied Plovers at A.N.A.S., Sept. 26 (JMA) was possibly a record count this far inland. Elsewhere, one was found far inland near Green Springs, Va., Oct. 6 (JBB), and the maximum count at Kiptopeke, Va. was 560 on Oct. 25 (FRS). Wierenga and Hoffman found an early Ruddy Turnstone at S P S P., July 22, and the first Com. Snipe was seen at Chincoteague Ref., Aug. 25 (DFA); 40 of the latter Nov 10 at Green Springs (JBB) was unusual for the c. Piedmont. A **Long-billed Curlew** at Chincoteague

Ref., Aug. 7 (CPW) was apparently only the sixth record for Virginia. Among the late sandpiper reports were a Solitary near Hopewell, Va., Nov. 7 (MLW), an Upland at Kiptopeke Beach, Va., Oct. 9 (FRS), and a Pectoral at S.P.S.P., Nov. 22 (MLH & HW). Shorebirding at S.P.S.P. produced such interesting records or peak counts as 73 Lesser Yellowlegs Sept. 1 (MLH & HW), single Red Knots on Aug. 28 (HW), Sept. 1 (MLH *et al.*), and Sept. 7 (JWT), one to two Purple Sandpipers Nov. 4-21 (m.ob.), 18 White-rumped Sandpipers Sept. 25 (HW & MLH), single Baird's Sandpipers Aug. 19-28 and Sept. 4-9 (MLH *et al.*), and an Am. Avocet July 29-30 (HW *et al.*). Buff-breasted Sandpipers again appeared in at least six localities between Aug. 16 (S.P.S.P.—MLH & HW) and Sept. 26 (A.N.A.S.—RAR) with a peak count of 24 at Oceana, Virginia Beach, Va. about Sept. 10 (RLake). Inland records of Dunlins included a maximum of 16 at A.N.A.S., Sept. 25 (RAR *et al.*), two at Kerr Res., Oct. 20-21 (JML), and one at the same place Nov. 30 (KMF & PEM); on the coast, Vaughn estimated 10,000 Dunlins on Wallops I., Va., Nov. 22. In addition to the Baird's Sandpipers reported above for S.P.S.P., one was found near Centreville, Md., Aug. 8 (PGD) and another at Chincoteague Ref., Aug. 25 (DFA & JMA). The peak Pectoral Sandpiper count at A.N.A.S. was 60 on Sept. 26 (RAR *et al.*), an unusual Piedmont record of the Short-billed Dowitcher was obtained at Lilypons, Frederick Co., Md., Sept. 14 (RAR & SW), and the maximum count of Stilt Sandpipers at Chincoteague Ref. was 100 on Aug. 8 (MAB, CS, BWms). Marbled Godwits were present in the Chincoteague area at least during August and September, with a peak count at the refuge of 16 on Sept. 1 (LKM).

But it was really the Hudsonian Godwit that stole the show this fall. The clear, if irregular, increase in numbers over recent years, combined with an apparently fortuitous weather situation, produced the best concentrations and most widespread reports of this species on record. As noted in the nesting season report (AB 29 956), this species first appeared at Chincoteague Ref. in early July and then built up here to a summer peak of 16 on Aug. 9 (RAR). None were seen elsewhere in the region till *Eloise* hit in late September. After several days of easterly winds (east of a frontal system stalled over the region), Sept. 25 revealed 27 Hudsonian Godwits at A.N.A.S. (ten of which remained to Sept. 30—JMA, RAR *et al.*), certainly an inland record for this region, and 21 at S.P.S.P. (HW). It is, of course, pure conjecture as to whether or not the easterly winds intercepted an offshore flight of these birds and deposited them here at the edge of the front, but at the moment there are no alternative explanations. But these were not the only reports. One was found even farther inland near Seneca, Md., Sept. 26 (RAR), 12 were seen at Craney I., Va., Sept. 27 (DLH & RLake), and at Chincoteague Ref. 28 were found Sept. 29 (HA, GC & CSR) and 53 on Oct. 5 (RAR *et al.*), a record regional count. Inland birds apparently quickly moved on (last one seen at S.P.S.P., Oct. 2—HW), but at Chincoteague 31 were still present Oct. 24 (LKM).

Two Reeves were found at A.N.A.S., Sept. 19 (RAR), one at the same place Sept. 25 (DFA & JMA), and another at Chincoteague Ref., Aug. 17 (RLake,

RHP *et al.*). A Sanderling was observed far inland at Lilypons, Md., Sept. 14 (RAR & SW), and excellent concentrations were reported along the coast, with 2500 at Chincoteague Ref., Aug. 20-21 (CPW), 2000 at the same place Sept. 30 (RAR), and 10,000 at Wallops I., Oct 5 (CRV). In the Chincoteague area Am. Avocets seemed to disperse into the salt marshes rather than stick to the impoundments, so an accurate census was impossible. They were present in the general area throughout the period, however, and the peak count was 127 on Oct. 24 (LKM). A Black-necked Stilt near Chincoteague on Sept. 28 (PGD *et al.*) was not only the only regional report for the fall; it was also probably a record late date for Virginia.

A Red Phalarope at S.P.S.P., Aug. 31 - Sept. 1 and Sept 25 (HW,MLH *et al.*) was the only regional report, although Rowlett noted 32 unidentified phalaropes at sea off Chincoteague Sept. 7. Record-breaking numbers of Wilson's Phalaropes appeared in the Chincoteague area. Sixteen were first noted here Aug. 8 (MAB,CS & BWms), reaching a peak of 22 on Aug. 25 (JMA,BWK *et al.*), and at nearby Wallops I. a maximum of 14 was found Aug. 15 (CRV). Single N. Phalaropes were reported at Chincoteague Ref., Aug. 15 - Sept. 28 with two on Sept. 7 (BWK).

JAEGERS, GULLS — A few Parasitic Jaegers were found along the coast and offshore, but it was the upper Chesapeake Bay at S.P.S.P. that supplied the most surprising jaeger reports. During and following a northeasterly storm, Wierenga, Hoffman, and others observed one **Pomarine**, four **Parasitic**, and two unidentified jaegers here Sept. 1-4. There appear to be no previous records of these species this far up Chesapeake Bay, details of these important observations are expected to be published elsewhere. An apparently first-year **Glaucous Gull** was observed at Kerr Res., Nov. 29-30 (KMF,PEM,DP *et al.*), the first record for the Virginia Piedmont. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** continued to be reported with increasing frequency, and four probably different birds were observed this fall. A subadult found at Chincoteague Ref., Aug. 17 (RAR & CK) remained at least to Sept. 9 (LKM,CPW), and one was located at Kiptopeke, Va., Sept. 27 (PGD *et al.*). At Bowie, Md. an adult appeared Nov. 13 (HW *et al.*) only to be joined by a subadult Nov. 22 (MVB,JL,RAR *et al.*), both remaining at least to the end of the month. A Black-headed Gull at Ocean City Oct. 19 (PGD & RWS) was the only report of this species, and a possible first-year Mew Gull was observed at A.N.A.S., Oct 18 (DFA). Bonaparte's Gulls seemed in unusual numbers in the Richmond-Hopewell area, with a peak of 70 on Nov. 6 (MLW). The maximum at S.P.S.P. was 250 on Nov. 15 (HW), and one was found far inland at Green Springs, Va., Nov. 13 (JBB).

TERNs — Wierenga observed a Gull-billed Tern at S P S P., Aug. 31, the second year in a row for an August record, and the peak Com. Tern count here was 560 on Sept. 1 (MLH & HW). Roseate Terns were reported twice at Chincoteague Ref., one Aug. 27 (MA) and another Sept. 20 (LKM). A few Least Terns nested

at S P S P (an additional Chesapeake Bay site to those noted in the nesting season report), and a late nest with two eggs found here Aug. 12 was rained out two days later (HW).

#### S.A.

Contrary to what was published in the last report, Sandwich Terns *did* nest successfully in two locations. Two young were banded on Metomkin I., Va., June 29-30 (JSW), and five young and two eggs were found on Fisherman I., Va., July 15 (RBC & JSW). Unless there was some postbreeding northward movement from more southern colonies, however (cf. AB 29 959), the nesting season in this region was even more productive. Among the numerous early fall records of this species, two stand out. At New Point, Mathews Co., Va., Stinson located 24 Sandwich Terns Aug. 12-16, of which at least six were young begging and being fed by adults. This is the first concentration of this species ever reported from the w. shore of Chesapeake Bay. At Back Bay Ref., the species hit a maximum of 52 on Aug. 31 (DLH), a record state count

Two ad. and one begging imm. Caspian Tern were seen at Chincoteague Ref., Aug. 16 (FRS). At Lynchburg, Va. 16 Black Terns Aug. 14 were considered very unusual (KMF & JR), and late inland records of this species included one at A.N.A.S., Sept. 26 (RAR) and Alexandria Oct. 18 (DFA). The **White-winged Black Tern** at Chincoteague Ref. was last reported Aug. 25-27, when it was apparently joined by a second individual in a different molt stage (DFA & JMA)

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — Ake and Hughes observed a **Ground Dove** at Back Bay Ref., Aug. 24, and late Yellow-billed Cuckoos included single birds at Hog I. Ref., Surry Co., Va., Nov 8 (MAB & BWms) and Chincoteague Ref., Nov 10 (LKM). At Wallops I. an ad. Barn Owl had three young in the nest Aug. 17 (CRV *et al.*), and a Long-eared Owl was first noted at a favored wintering grove at S.P.S.P., Nov. 26 (HW). The Abbotts flushed an early Short-eared Owl at Bolling Air Force Base, D.C., Oct 13. The Com. Nighthawk migration passed essentially unnoticed; peak counts of migrating birds were only 655 at Clifton, Va., Sept. 2 (JWE) and 200 at Fort Hunt, Va., Sept. 6 (JMA). Two at Salisbury, Md., Oct 19 were late (CRV). P.G. DuMont and others observed a heavy reverse migration of Com. Flickers along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel Sept. 28, with a count of 385. This was rather early for a flight of this size. Peak E. Kingbird numbers were 110 at S.P.S.P., Aug 23 (HW) and 790 at Kiptopeke Beach Aug. 31 (FRS), and four reports were received of single W. Kingbirds S.P.S.P., Oct. 12 (MLH,HW *et al.*), Ocean City Oct 19 (PGD,RAR *et al.*), Kiptopeke Beach Oct 21 (RWF), both of the latter two being trapped and banded.

SWALLOWS THROUGH VIREOS — Unusually late Rough-winged Swallows were recorded at Bellevue, Md., Oct. 18 (HTA) and at S.P.S.P., Oct 27

and 31 (MLH,HW). Also late were five Cliff Swallows at S.P.S.P., Sept. 26 (HW) and an ad. ♂ Purple Martin at Newport News, Va., Oct. 5 (DLM *et al.*). Blue Jays had a extended migration at Clifton, Va. with many good days but no really great ones. The high count for the fall here was 1200 on Sept. 29 (JWE). Some 2000 or more were estimated moving over Kerr Res., Oct. 21 (JML), an unusual observation for a Piedmont locality with no obvious leading line. A single flock of 270 Fish Crows passed over Bellevue Oct. 9 (HTA), an unprecedented concentration for this area, and by the end of the period good numbers of Black-capped Chickadees had moved into Maryland (*vide* PGB). Four reported first at Green Springs, Va., Nov. 7 (JBB) were a first sight record for the c. Piedmont. A heavy migration of Red-breasted Nuthatches occurred throughout the region, with numerous records in late August, including Richmond Aug. 26 (FRS), Leesburg, Va., Aug. 27 (JPC), and Crownsville, Md., Aug. 28 (DB). By late September they were common in most areas. A Brown-headed Nuthatch at Green Springs Nov. 23 (JBB) was well out of its normal range.

A record 80 Winter Wrens were banded at Kiptopeke Beach Oct. 4-26 with 25 on Oct. 21 (RWF). Boatwright observed two Bewick's Wrens near Lynchburg Sept. 11, and a late Carolina Wren nest at Bellevue had four eggs Sept. 6 and young Sept. 20 (HTA). Extraordinarily early dates of Swainson's Thrushes were one at Salisbury, Md., July 23 (CRV), one at Arlington, Va., Aug. 16-17 (VK, *vide* JWE), and two banded at Crownsville Aug. 23 (DB). The July date perhaps indicates a summering bird. Armistead estimated 200 Swainson's at Bellevue Sept. 28, and Sept. 29 produced the best counts of all three transient thrushes at Kiptopeke Beach (CWH). Although this may seem surprisingly late for the Veery, relatively few were trapped after this date. At Bellevue, Armistead estimated 75 Veeries Sept. 10. Hughes found late Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Suffolk, Va., Nov. 16 and 29, and for the second year in a row kinglets were reported in excellent numbers by many observers. Ruby-crowneds were especially common, outnumbering Golden-crowneds at Green Springs, Va. (JBB) as well as at Kiptopeke Beach, where a record 695 were banded Sept. 22 - Oct. 26, with a remarkable peak of 245 on Oct. 3 (CWH *et al.*) At Chestertown, Md. Mendenhall banded 545 Ruby-crowneds during October versus only 136 Golden-crowneds. A Solitary Vireo at Newport News Oct. 29 (DLM) was somewhat late, and there were two reports of the Warbling Vireo in e. Virginia, which is a rare fall transient here. One was found dead at Kiptopeke Beach Sept. 9 (FRS), and two were seen near Mt. Vernon Sept. 14 (JMA).

**WARBLERS THROUGH ORIOLES** — A Black-and-white Warbler banded at Salisbury Nov. 7 (CRV) and a Parula Warbler at S.P.S.P., Nov. 9 (PGD) were late, whereas a Tennessee Warbler at Chincoteague Ref., Aug. 16 (TFW) and an Orange-crowned at Dyke marsh, Va., Sept. 14 (JMA *et al.*) were early. Two Yellow-rumped Warblers (one trapped and banded) were found at Kiptopeke Beach Sept. 9 (ML & FRS), the next record here being six on Sept. 28 (CWH), the same day that Bazuin reported "hundreds" at Green

Springs. A Cerulean Warbler near Lynchburg Sept. 19 (KMF) was the first local fall record, and ten Blackburnian Warblers were trapped at Kiptopeke Beach between Sept. 28 and Oct. 13, a surprisingly late period for this normally early migrant (CWH *et al.*). Both Bay-breasted and Blackpoll Warblers were in exceptional numbers during the fall, both at the Chestertown and Kiptopeke Beach banding stations as well as elsewhere. At Kiptopeke Beach, the peak Bay-breasted banding total was 27 on Oct. 3 (CWH), and Hoffman totaled 100 Blackpolls at Severna Park, Md., Oct. 6. There were numerous late warbler reports, including a Yellow-throated banded at Newport News Sept. 30 (DLM), a Blackpoll banded at Salisbury Nov. 3 (CRV) and one seen at Richmond Nov. 7 (FRS), a Kentucky Warbler on one of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel islands Sept. 28 (PGD *et al.*), a Mourning Warbler at Alexandria Oct. 11 (JMA *et al.*), and a Wilson's Warbler at Kerr Res., Nov. 1 (KMF & PEM). The last Bobolink was found at S.P.S.P., Oct. 23 (HW), and four different Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported, two banded at Laurel, Md. (*vide* RAR) and two different birds seen at Blackwater Ref. (*vide* PGD), all in late November. Peak N. Oriole counts included 20 at Chincoteague Ref., Aug. 28 (LKM) and 40 banded at Kiptopeke Beach Sept. 4 (JPC).

**FRINGILLIDS** — Chandler and others found a late Indigo Bunting at Kerr Res., Nov. 24, and a ♂ **Lazuli Bunting** was found at Norfolk, Va., Oct. 9 (RLand). There were only two Dickcissel reports, one at Chincoteague Ref., Aug. 9 (RAR) and another near Lynchburg Sept. 30 (MRB). Evening Grosbeaks appeared in some numbers beginning in mid- and late October, though there was one early September record near Salisbury, Md. (SHD). There were three early Purple Finch reports, one at Bellevue Sept. 14 (HTA), one banded at Kiptopeke Beach Sept. 18 (RWF), and one at Charlottesville, Va., Sept. 27 (CES). The first really persuasive evidence of the House Finch nesting in Virginia was obtained when an adult female with two young appeared at a feeder in Arlington Aug. 18, and one of the young was trapped and banded (AHF). There was a moderate flight of Pine Siskins beginning in late October, though Armistead had an extremely early one at Bellevue Sept. 29. Red Crossbills were first noted at Lynchburg Oct. 28 (RC), some appeared in n. Virginia in mid November (JWE), and they were first observed in the Salisbury area Nov. 30 (SHD).

Ten Grasshopper Sparrows on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel islands Oct. 7 (GMW,RLake & DLH) were an excellent count, and a Seaside Sparrow was noted inland at Dyke marsh Sept. 7 (DFA). Lark Sparrows were reported only from Chincoteague Ref., where one or two were seen on six different occasions between Aug. 14 and Sept. 21 (LKM). A White-throated Sparrow at Lynchburg Sept. 19 (KMF) was early, and very few Fox Sparrows were reported, they were "essentially nonexistent" in e. Maryland (PGB). A pair of Song Sparrows with 3- or 4-day-old young was seen in Norfolk Sept. 3 (RLand), and Lapland Longspurs were noted first at Craney I., Nov. 9 (RLake & DLH) and S.P.S.P., Nov. 23 (BC). Snow Buntings appeared first in the region at S.P.S.P., Oct

30 (HW), and they were found inland at Green Springs in November (JBB) and Kerr Res. on Nov. 24 (RC *et al.*).

**CORRIGENDUM** — The largest 1975 mixed herony located in the region was on Hog I., Northampton Co., Va., not Parramore I. (AB 29: 955).

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## SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/Robert P. Teulings

Mild conditions prevailed through October and November. All sections of the region received average or above-normal rainfall. Hurricane *Eloise*, a major storm affecting the region this season, moved inland from the Gulf of Mexico September 23 bringing heavy rains and winds up to 60 mph to interior Georgia. Ornithological highlights of the season were rather diverse and included an unusually good coastal raptor migration, an early and strong influx of Red-breasted

Nuthatches and winter finches and an interesting assortment of rarities from the north, south and west.

**LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS** — The first major influxes of Com. Loons and Horned Grebes were noted in the coastal sections in early November. However, a very early sighting of a Horned Grebe was recorded Aug. 3 at Charleston (TB), and a Com. Loon still in breeding plumage was seen near Manns Harbor, N.C., Aug. 8 (JSo). A rare inland Georgia sighting of a Red-throated Loon was recorded in Laurens County near Dublin Nov. 2 (TP,BT), and a Red-necked Grebe was a good find at Ocracoke I., N.C., Nov. 30 (RR). Pelagic observations by several parties in Gulf Stream waters off the North Carolina coast during the period from late August through early October indicated the presence of good numbers of Cory's Shearwaters, Audubon's Shearwaters and Wilson's Storm-Petrels. Small numbers of Greater Shearwaters were also seen. A single Black-capped Petrel was sighted 21 miles off Cape Hatteras Oct. 12 (RA,RR *et al.*). An out-of-range White Pelican was found on Carrot I. near Beaufort, N.C., Aug. 2 (EP), and elsewhere a flock of 12 was seen winging over Atlanta Nov. 15, the first inland occurrence recorded there in over 40 years (DH,SH, *vide JS*). Seven Brown Pelicans also turned up at the latter location Sept. 24 (GS), blown inland by the winds of Hurricane *Eloise* which passed over interior Georgia the preceding day. On the North Carolina Outer Banks an impressive concentration of 1500 Gannets was noted off the beaches of Bodie-Pea I. Nov. 29 (AD), and a massive flight of over 20,000 Double-crested Cormorants was seen moving past Ocracoke I. during the early daylight hours of Nov. 30 (RR). Thousands of cormorants were reportedly present in the Charleston area at the end of the period (PN).

**HERONS THROUGH IBIS** — Over 100 imm. Little Blue Herons were present at Swan Pond in Augusta, Ga., Aug. 24 (CB,TR). Following spring and summer reports of a Reddish Egret at Pea Island N.W.R., an individual was still present there Oct. 3 (MBo,RCh). Late nesting of Cattle Egrets was noted at a site near Dublin, Ga., where 122 nests with eggs were counted Aug. 9 (TP). Hatching began in mid-August but the last nestlings were not finally fledged until the second week of October. This instance of late breeding was described as occurring in a newly formed colony and was not indicated to be a second attempt after an earlier nesting failure. Fall appearances of herons and egrets were recorded at several interior locations in the North Carolina piedmont from Raleigh westward to Winston-Salem. These inland occurrences are typical of a post-breeding dispersal pattern noted in past seasons and are perhaps no longer worthy of special mention except where particular sightings represent first local records. Listed in that category were early August observations of up to five Great Egrets in Franklin Co., N.C. near Louisburg and a Louisiana Heron seen elsewhere in the same county Sept. 1 (EFP). Fifty Wood Storks were seen at Magnolia Gardens near Charleston Aug. 15 (TB) and a noteworthy count of 88 was recorded at Georgia's Okefenokee N.W.R. Nov. 6 (RB, *vide EC*). A large flock of over 200 Glossy Ibis was



seen at Bodie I, N C, Sept 22 (JOP), and unusual inland occurrence was noted at Sumter, S.C. where nine lingering visitors were present for nearly a month Sept 5 - Oct. 3 (ED). Good numbers of White Ibis were seen during the fall period at Okefenokee N.W.R. where a high count of 629 was recorded Nov. 6 (RB).

**WATERFOWL** — The reappearance of a free-flying and apparently wild Mute Swan was noted Oct. 17 at City Lake in Rocky Mount, N.C. where one was seen a year ago (LF). Birds of this introduced species may be beginning to range into e. North Carolina from established populations farther north. Whistling Swans arrived at Pea Island N.W.R. in early November coinciding with a heavy influx of Snow Geese. An estimated 2100 swans and 10,000 Snow Geese were present at the refuge by Nov. 15 (JH). Elsewhere nine Whistling Swans were seen as far inland as Gainsville, Ga., Nov. 30 (TM). The first incoming flights of Canada Geese were noted Sept. 28 at Winston-Salem (GB) and Sept. 29 at Pea I. (JOP,ET), and 6000 were present at the latter location by the end of the period (JH). An unusually large flock of 800 Brant was seen at Ocracoke Inlet on the Outer Banks Nov. 30 by Richard Rowlett. A Com Shelduck was observed twice at Pea I. in early November (JH), renewing the periodic appearances of this species there. Blue-winged Teal were seen at Charleston as early as Aug. 13 (TB) and reached a mid-September migration peak of 7650 at Pea I. (JH). A ♂ Eur Wigeon was found at the Pea I. Refuge Oct. 10 (JOP) and was later seen by other observers. As usual, the invasion of diving ducks came in November, highlighted by a strong influx of Redheads and Canvasbacks into the Outer Banks area. Counts of 7000 of each of the latter two species were recorded at Pea Island N W R. at the end of the period (JH). Inland, two Oldsquaws were present at Raleigh's L. Benson Nov. 15 (RH), one at Roanoke Rapids L. in Halifax County, N C, Nov. 23 (ML), and another well south on the Chattahoochee R. near Fort Gaines, Ga., Nov. 29 (RCh,SCh,MB). At Cape Point on Hatteras I., observers noted a ♀ **Harlequin Duck** Oct. 27 (PD), a Com. Eider Nov. 21 (JHu), and three **King Eiders** Oct. 27 (PD) An unusually early Aug. 23 sighting of Black Scoters was recorded at Yaupon Beach, N.C. by Jay Carter.

**RAPTORS** — Raptor movements along the coast during October were highlighted by unusually good numbers of Sharp-shinned Hawks (Table 1). There was also an inland observation of 150+ Sharp-shinneds passing in a conspicuous flight over Interstate 95 in South Carolina near the Georgia border Oct. 12 (JW). Although an Accipiter flight at Ocracoke I. Oct. 6 reportedly consisted entirely of Cooper's Hawks (EB; see Table 1), observers generally noted only small numbers of that species. Two dark-phase Rough-legged Hawks were seen together over a farm field near Rocky Mount, N C, Nov. 28 (LF), the only reported occurrence in the region this fall. More than a dozen separate sightings of Bald Eagles were recorded during the period, but only two were of immature birds. Without listing specifics, it can be reported that Peregrine Falcons were seen with encouraging frequency in the coastal area

with one observer recording an excellent single-day count of 14.

**Table 1. Coastal Raptor Counts**

	Sept. 23	Oct. 3	Oct. 6	Oct. 7	Oct. 11	Oct 25
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	158		99	520	18
Cooper's Hawk		2	134	1	2	3
Red-tailed Hawk	2		2	1		
Red-shouldered Hawk		1		1		6
Bald Eagle	1					
Marsh Hawk	2	3	3	3	2	13
Osprey	21	4	3	9	3	5
Merlin	1	3		2	3	8
Am. Kestrel	61	16		6	43	43

A. Sullivans I., S.C., 2 hrs. observation (SG)  
 B. Hatteras I., N.C., 6 hrs. observation at Cape Pt. (BL, DL, FS)  
 C. Ocracoke I., N.C., 1 hr. observation (EB)  
 D. Fr. Macon, N.C., 7 hrs. observation (DL)  
 E. Hatteras I., N.C., 8 hrs. observation at Cape Pt. (BL, DL)  
 F. Outer Banks, Duck to Pea I., N.C. (PD)

**CRANES THROUGH RAILS** — A flock of 36 Sandhill Cranes was seen migrating over Marietta, Ga., Nov. 28 (HDiG) and another flight of 40 was observed over Forsyth, Ga., Dec. 3 (TJ). North Carolina's first record for **Limpkin** was recorded at L. Waccamaw in Columbus County where an individual was briefly but well seen Sept. 7 (HW,MW). This species rarely ventures north of the Altamaha R. in Georgia. A Winston-Salem observer (SS) was startled to see a King Rail in the busy downtown section of the city during morning rush hour Sept. 6. The bird was chased off the street into a parking lot where it disappeared into a shrub hedge, hopefully managing to escape the asphalt jungle! A Clapper Rail was taken by a hunter at Townville, S.C., Sept. 13, far inland from its normal coastal locale. The specimen was examined and identified by Sidney Gauthreaux, documenting an apparent first record for the piedmont section of the state

**SHOREBIRDS** — Water levels were up and consequently fewer shorebirds were seen this season at L. Hartwell and other regularly monitored inland lakes and reservoirs. Nevertheless, observers reported an interesting assortment of uncommon to rare inland sightings. Quite unexpected, for example, was a Wilson's Plover seen feeding with Killdeer at a farm pond near Louisburg, N.C., Aug. 30 (EFP). A Ruddy Turnstone and three Sanderlings at L. Surf Aug. 31 were first records for the Southern Pines, N.C. area (JB,JC). Two Willets at Roanoke Rapids L. Aug. 3 (ML) and an individual at Merry Bros. Pond near Augusta Aug. 5 (CB) were unusual inland visitors, as was a Stilt Sandpiper which made a lingering stopover at Winston-Salem Sept 18 - Oct. 10 (FB,RS). Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers were present at Raleigh in early September (CM) and single birds were seen elsewhere at Clemson Sept. 25 (HL) and near Florence, S.C., Oct. 12 (JW). Baird's Sandpipers were rare visitors at Winston-Salem where as many as four birds were seen at one time at the city sewage treatment plant Aug. 19 - Sept. 16 (*vide* RS) A Wilson's Phalarope was found at Raleigh Sept 6 (RD,CM).



In addition to the inland occurrences noted above, small numbers of Buff-breasted Sandpipers were seen at five coastal locations from Kitty Hawk to Huntington Beach from late August through September with a peak count of five recorded at Shackleford Banks off Beaufort, N.C., Aug. 27 (HR). Two Oct. 27 sightings of single Baird's Sandpipers were recorded on the Outer Banks by Paul DuMont. Eleven Hudsonian Godwits were seen by the same observer at Bodie I. Oct. 25. A large flock of 950 Red Knots was seen at Ocracoke I. Nov. 30 (RR), while elsewhere a record 200 Purple Sandpipers were counted on the Charleston Harbor jetties Nov. 9 (TB). A few Red Phalaropes were seen in the Cape Hatteras area by offshore cruise parties in August, September and October and a crippled bird of this species was picked up on Ocracoke I. Nov. 29 (RR; \*U S N.M.). Several Wilson's Phalaropes were seen on the Outer Banks through late September and individuals were noted as rare transients at Morehead City Aug. 13 (JF) and at Little Cumberland I., Ga., Aug. 27 (Jane Moore, *vide* HDiG). An offshore sighting of 70 N. Phalaropes was recorded off Cape Hatteras Oct. 12 (RR)

**GULLS AND TERNS** — An unusual inland occurrence of the Great Black-backed Gull was reported from Franklin County, N.C., where an individual was seen near Bunn Oct. 30 (EFP). A Lesser Black-backed Gull was found at Cape Point on Hatteras I. Oct. 27 (PD). An imm. Iceland Gull was present in the same area Nov. 15 through the end of the period (JHu), and an imm Black-legged Kittiwake was also noted there Nov. 28 (RR). Elsewhere, an ad. kittiwake was seen at Wrightsville Beach, N.C., Nov. 17 (RH). Two Sooty Terns and seven Bridled Terns were sighted off Cape Lookout Sept. 7 (JM *et al.*) while a week earlier an unprecedented 57 Bridled Terns were seen in Gulf Stream waters off Cape Hatteras Aug. 31 (RA *et al.*). Least Terns unexpectedly appeared inland at Sumter, S.C., Oct. 12-15 (ED), and there were inland sightings of Com. Terns reported from Clemson, Winston-Salem and Raleigh. An estimated 3000 Forster's Terns were seen at Hatteras Inlet Nov. 29 along with eight late Sandwich Terns (RR). Black Terns were conspicuous migrants through the Region during August with both coastal and inland observations reported. Over 1000 Black Terns were seen at Bird Shoal near Morehead City Aug. 17 (JF), and lingering stragglers were seen elsewhere along the coast as late as Oct. 27.

**RAZORBILL** — One was seen Nov. 16 at Cape Point on Hatteras I., N.C. by Joe Hudick.

**DOVES THROUGH SWALLOWS** — Two Ground Doves were found as far north as Fort Macon, N.C., Sept. 29 (RH), and one was a good find at Athens, Ga., Nov. 9 where the species has not previously been recorded (SC). Major flights of thousands of Chimney Swifts passed through the Charleston area Sept. 15-16 and early movements of Com. Nighthawks and E. Kingbirds were noted there Aug. 3 (TB). Elsewhere a conspicuous migration of E. Kingbirds was observed at Raleigh Aug. 4 (MB). Western Kingbirds once again turned up on the Outer Banks this fall and single birds

were found inland at Southern Pines Oct. 3 (JC) and Raleigh Oct. 13 (JMu). A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was well photographed by Richard Rowlett at Ocracoke I., Oct. 27, and another notable rarity, a **Vermilion Flycatcher**, was seen Nov. 19 at Okefenokee NWR (HJ, *vide* EC). Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen this fall with rather surprising frequency in the piedmont and coastal plain sections of the Region where six sightings were recorded including a late individual at Columbus, Ga., Oct. 26 (first local record; SP). At Raleigh a late E. Wood Pewee was banded Nov. 9 (MB). A concentration of 300 Barn Swallows was seen near Louisburg, N.C., Aug. 16 (EFP) and good swallow flights were also reported from several other locations, topped by a massive movement of over 100,000 Tree Swallows at Capers I., S.C., Oct. 11 (PL,PN). At Townville, S.C. about 250 Bank Swallows were seen resting on wires Sept. 7 (HL). All six eastern swallow species were seen at Chapel Hill Sept. 3 (RC and party), and a late and unusual flight of equal variety was noted at Clemson Sept. 21 (HL).

**NUTHATCHES THROUGH WARBLERS** — Red-breasted Nuthatches arrived in numbers in the Region this fall. Their appearance at Raleigh Aug. 25 (GW) was the earliest ever recorded there, and numerous early September occurrences were noted elsewhere. A Bewick's Wren was an unusual find at Ft. Gordon, Ga., Oct. 8 (CB). A very early Water Pipit was found near Wilsonville, N.C., Aug. 31 (RC *et al.*) and Cedar Waxwings Aug. 1 at Atlanta (*vide* JS). Georgia's first records for **Bell's Vireo** were reported from Columbus where two individuals were separately seen Aug. 3 (WM) and Aug. 24 (SP). Philadelphia Vireos were noted as uncommon fall transients at seven scattered locations from the coast through the piedmont between mid-September and mid-October. A **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at Jekyll I. Oct. 18 (m.ob.; well photographed) was the outstanding warbler record of the season. The warbler migration was generally characterized as being fair to slow with few other highlights of special interest. Late stragglers of a dozen species were still present into November as weather conditions remained mild.

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SNOW BUNTINGS** — Four Yellow-headed Blackbirds were recorded in the region this fall with coastal sightings at Ocean Isle, N.C. (NM) and Jekyll I. (G.O.S.) and inland sightings near Louisburg, N.C. (EFP) and Augusta (CB). Brewer's Blackbirds were present before the end of the period at Charleston (TB) and at Townville, S.C. where a small flock of 15 was observed Nov. 27 (HL). On the Outer Banks a ♂ Black-headed Grosbeak was seen near Duck, N.C., Oct. 25 (PD). Evening Grosbeaks, Purple Finches and Pine Siskins were conspicuously abundant in several areas of the region by the end of November, seemingly presaging a good finch winter. Also a few Red Crossbills were noted at Atlanta, Durham, Southern Pines and Clemson before the period closed. A close and well described sighting of a **Green-tailed Towhee** at Bodie I., N.C., Nov. 28 was reported by Richard Rowlett. It is of interest to note that specimens have previously been taken in South Carolina and Georgia and that a bird tentatively identified as this

species was seen last May in the same locality as the presently reported sighting (GC, unpubl.). A Lark Sparrow was a feeder visitor at Pawleys I., S.C. in late September (FP) and another was seen Oct. 15 at Ocracoke I. (RR). A sparrow described as a possible Brewer's was observed near Oregon Inlet Coast Guard Station Aug. 31 (DA). There were no corroborating witnesses for this sighting and the identification is regarded as speculative in the absence of a specimen or definitive photographs. Clay-colored Sparrows are regular fall visitors on the Outer Banks, where one was seen Oct. 3 (MBo, RCh) at the same place as the preceding observation. A rare inland occurrence for the Clay-colored Sparrow was recorded in Franklin County, N.C. where a distinctly marked adult was well seen Oct. 23 (EFP). A Lincoln's Sparrow was seen Oct. 3 at Clemson and another there Oct. 25 (HL). Two coastal sightings of Lapland Longspurs were reported from the Outer Banks Oct. 11 (DL) and Oct. 25 (RR), and individuals were seen inland in the Clemson area Nov. 27 & 29 (HL). At Atlanta a rare and unexpected appearance of the Snow Bunting was recorded Nov. 23 where an individual was seen on the grounds of the Veterans' Hospital (RM *et al.*).

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## FLORIDA REGION

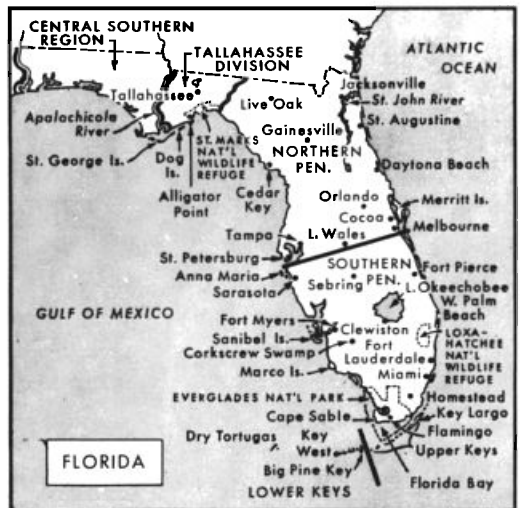
/John B. Edscorn

Avian rarities scintillated throughout the fall season, although apparent bird numbers were generally low overall. Photographed at close range were two "hypotheticals" for which there had been almost no prior sight records. Hurricane *Eloise* blitzed northwest Florida, but within the purview of this peninsular report there were no major windfalls of birds because the wind blew primarily from our region toward the storm farther west. Immediately afterward a sapsucker firstling arrived with the September 25 cold front, but later fronts were unspectacular. There was little unanimity among observers regarding bird "waves;" those in accord possibly reflecting the "weekend syndrome." By November's end I had noted an unprecedented scarcity in central Florida of Red-shouldered Hawks, kestrels, flickers (and all other woodpeckers except Pileateds and sapsuckers), Eastern Phoebes, Blue Jays, thrushes, bluebirds, "Myrtle" Warblers and Savannah Sparrows. Unhappily, I confirmed each decline (and a number of others) in four subsequent central Florida Christmas Bird Counts. On the brighter side, we welcome Ted Below as a contributor from southwest Florida, a significant area which has long been unrepresented in these pages.

Only other Regional Editors (and their families) fully appreciate how difficult the writing of a fall report can be. Throughout the entire holiday season I labored at

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terse presentation of the interesting items in an avalanche of reports — many of them insignificant, disorganized (*Check-list order*, please!) or inconsiderately late — and the result ran 50 per cent over its word limit! Cutting and rewriting long after deadline eliminated many interesting records, alas, and others (including space-consuming early/late Divisional records) were saved only via severely abbreviated condensations.



LOONS, GREBES — Earliest for the N. Peninsula (hereafter N. Pen.) was George Horel's Com. Loon on L. Thonotassassa, Hillsboro Co., Oct. 21. Near St. Marks Light was a very rare **Red-necked Grebe** Oct. 11 (CSG, BS). *Four Eared Grebes* found Nov. 1 on a Melbourne Beach sewage lagoon probably wintered there (RDB, MCB, JJ, HWK). For the fifth year Polly Sherman found one by St. Petersburg's Bayway (date?), and another was reported off St. Marks Light Nov. 29 (D&SL).

PROCELLARIIFORMES — Cory's Shearwaters were common from Cape Canaveral (hereafter Canaveral) to Mayport (summer Nov. 4; m.ob.), peaking at 300 off St. Augustine Sept. 4 (JPC). There were seven Greater Shearwater reports (Aug. 25 - Oct. 27) including 24 birds off Canaveral Oct. 27 (B&LA, RDB, JJ) and one over shallow Florida Bay Aug. 19 (SS, JB). Sooty Shearwaters were recorded, two each day, off Canaveral Aug. 9, Oct. 27 (JJ) and off Mayport Sept. 7 (BSO, CH, JW). Yet another **Manx Shearwater** was reported off Canaveral Nov. 30 (RDB, JJ), where five small dark shearwaters were seen Nov. 29. Audubon's Shearwaters — up to five per day — were off Canaveral on four days early and late in August (B&LA, RDB, JJ), and one off Alligator Pt., Franklin Co., Sept. 23 (*Eloise* day in w. Florida) was a first for the Tallahassee Division (Talla. Div.) if not for the entire peninsular West Coast (RLC, NOW). Barber saw another **Leach's Storm-Petrel** off Canaveral Sept. 21.

PELECANIFORMES — Seemingly moribund when found (Ponte Vedra Beach, Oct. 9; Ron Davin), but still "convalescing," the historic **Red-billed Tropicbird** photographed and identified by Sam Grimes *et al.*, constitutes Florida's first verifiable record, and one of extremely few for e. North America! Squally SE winds at Miami Sept. 19 (*Eloise* over w. Cuba) probably accounted for two White-tailed Tropicbirds in *Biscayne Bay* off Virginia Key (Nancy and Jerry Strickling)!

Prmed by gannet sightings, Florida Ornithological Society (F.O.S.) members too easily accepted as a "near adult" the white "gannet" with dark secondaries which, booby-like, flew straight for and over the boat off Canaveral Oct. 19. Sam Pate's photograph captured its wing-linings, bill, dark tail and the perfect "mask" of a Blue-faced Booby (latest N. Pen.)! Another was photographed at Homestead's Bayfront Park Oct. 31 (Jim Tiumont *vide* JCO; latest S. Pen.), and Ted Below reported one roosting near Marco I., Oct. 26. *Four Brown Boobies* were off Mayport Sept. 7 (BSO, CH, JW). A Wakulla Springs Anhinga nest held downy young Oct. 2, an exceptional date (HMS). *Four Magnificent Frigatebirds* were *inland* near Bronson (JEH) and (the same four?) off Alligator Pt. on stormy Sept. 23 (RLC, NOW).

HERONS THROUGH FLAMINGOS — On Aug. 19, an unusual date, two eggs were found in an Upper Keys (Cowpens) Reddish Egret nest (SS, JB). *Six Reddish Egrets* were flying south far off Canaveral Sept. 14 (B&LA, JJ, PWS). *Four Roseate Spoonbills* were inland at Zellwood Aug. - Sept. (m.ob.). Snake Bight, Everglades National Park (E.N.P.), hosted 26-30 Am.

Flamingos Aug. - Sept. (JCO)! Others, singly, visited Titusville Beach Nov. 24 (Reginald Hicks, George Murray), Cocoa Beach Nov. 29+ (DH), Charlotte Harbor Sept. 3 - Nov. 28 (Malcolm Simons) and Marco I., Nov. 23, 30 (THB).

#### S. A.

In a mid-river tide rip at Mayport Sept. 6, various herons and egrets were feeding with and in the manner of gulls and terns; even swimming at times — a Black-crowned Night Heron plunged in and swam for half a minute (JBE, CG, BK, TM, Vaughn Morrison, SP). In many areas experienced observers never see such behavior, however it is very common at Lakeland (near power plant cooling-water outlets), where even grackles constantly exhibit it, at times plunging in as the larger birds do far out on L. Parker.

WATERFOWL — Ralph Schreiber beautifully photographed a Brant in the surf near Englewood Nov. 8 (earliest S. Pen.; apparently only the third, and southernmost West Coast record, excluding Florida Bay) Noel Wamer saw one flying with Canada Geese off St. Marks Light Nov. 15, but there were no East Coast reports, where far more likely. Leon Neel saw six "Blue" Geese at Alligator Pt., Sept. 28 (earliest Florida). Of the many Fulvous Tree Duck reports, 15 birds flying N over Mayport Sept. 6 were noteworthy (JBE), and up to 20 Fulvous with 1-2 Black-bellied Tree Ducks appeared again at Zellwood July-September (m.ob.). Tallahassee's L. Jackson had two Mallards Aug. 14 (JMS); Stevenson considers them regular there in June and August now (July?). St. Marks Light area attracted a Mottled Duck Sept. 6+ (HMS, CSG), and Key West's Pintail of Oct. 10 was only the second recalled there in 30 years (FTH; earliest Lower Keys).

Two N. Shovelers at Zellwood Aug. 31 tied the earliest N. Pen. record (JBE *et al.*), and a Canvasback there Aug. 17 broke the earliest Florida date by over a month (JBE, Joe/Patti Greenburg, TM, SP, CT). Earliest for Florida was a Surf Scoter at Guana L., St. John's Co., Oct. 5 (m.ob.). On a Key West golf course pond Wally George found a ♀ **Masked Duck** Aug. 22, and a colorful male was photographed with it Aug. 30 (JHH, JEH, RWW)! An unusual 26 Red-breasted Mergansers were reported at inland Gainesville Nov. 24 (JHH).

RAPTORS — A "completely melanistic" Red-tailed Hawk was east of Orlando Nov. 23 (JHH, CHC, JJC, JEC). Very rare where seen was a Red-tailed at Tavernier Oct. 14 (JCO), and a Red-shouldered Hawk at Key West Oct. 4-5 (FTH). In c. Florida where Red-shouldered were common until the '70s, their numbers in many areas are now below those of somewhat declining Red-taileds which they formerly *greatly* outnumbered. Broad-winged Hawks were, as usual, sparsely seen except on the Keys; flocks of 175 (Oct. 20) and 500+ (Nov. 14) passed over Tavernier (JCO), and Frances Hames recorded movements at Key West from Sept. 26 (75) until Nov. 23 (50) with a peak

of 150 on Nov. 12. A Swainson's Hawk was at Flamingo Nov. 1 (Eva Dickie, Fabienne Haudry), and Key West had two Nov. 15 (FTH).

In many regions Marsh Hawks are no longer seen outside of very attractive, localized areas. Rare on the Keys were singles Oct. 28, Nov. 4 (Margaret Brown). Reports of endangered Peregrine Falcons once again outnumbered those of Merlins —by two to one!— with Sykes reporting half of the latter in one day. Dates, numbers and locations will be kept confidential until the trapping of falcons truly ends. Despite visitors' impressions of Am. Kestrel abundance along the Overseas Highway, an actual count (PWS) was enormously under mine of the same period in 1968. This bird's steady decline is conspicuous in less favored kestrel areas such as Lakeland, where late summer arrivals are now non-existent and once-common wintering birds are *decidedly uncommon*.

#### S. A.

Increased observer activity might have been a factor, but Sharp-shinned Hawks did seem even more conspicuous than in 1974 to most contributors. (Caution is appropriate; a recent widely-read article speciously cited increasing Christmas Count totals of many species, which actually could be attributed to greatly-expanded observer participation). Correctly identified Cooper's Hawks are definitely declining, in my opinion; some outstanding flight reports included only about 10 per cent Cooper's at best, and much more often none at all. Even at inland Lakeland we counted an unprecedented 25 Sharp-shinned and two Cooper's in about two mid-day hours Oct. 5, *often at great altitude* and all heading SE almost effortlessly, despite an E wind. Notable among the *many* East Coast reports was an "actual count" of 452 Sharpies and 56 Cooper's passing south over Key Biscayne Oct. 13 (PWS, Roy Plockleman). This whopping Cooper's count is enigmatic; Ogden reported only one in nine flights 40 mi. farther south, and the species is unrecorded in the Antilles (Bond, 1971)! Consider also Ogden's 1052 Sharpies (one Cooper's) passing uniformly over Tavernier for six hours Oct. 20, although no such numbers were reported on the Lower Keys, and Bond states that only a "a few" reach the Bahamas, and "perhaps" the Greater Antilles! One wonders: (1.) was 1975 an exceptional year (2.) do more of both species reach the West Indies than has been known (perhaps a recent development), or (3.) did most of these birds later make an undetected "reverse migration" such as Olson witnessed earlier (Oct. 12) in e. Dade Co.?

LIMPKINS, RAILS — An unseasonal Wakulla Springs Limpkin nest had two downy young Oct. 2 (HMS). An Alachua Co. "first" was inland Gainesville's Clapper Rail Sept. 11 (Dennis Golden; \*F.S.M.).

Earliest for the Talla. Div. was a Virginia Rail at WCTV tower Sept. 2 (already dead 1-2 days; RLC)

SHOREBIRDS — Single Am. Golden Plovers were near Talla., Aug. 14 (JMS: earliest Talla. Div) Zellwood Aug. 31 (JHH,JEH,RWW) Miami Oct 4 (CSO) and New Smyrna Beach Nov. 11 (RDB) Zellwood had seven Nov. 27 (RDB,JJ). "Black and beige" was Mary Davidson's Nov. 21 melanistic Killdeer at Jacksonville (Jax)! An Am. Woodcock Nov 14 in Dade Co. (PWS) almost tied the earliest S Pen record. I detected the last southbound woodcocks at my rural Lakeland home Nov. 27 - Dec. 1, when 3-5 birds —sometimes paired— moved generally SW at 3-60 ft over our hay field each evening about 30-40 minutes after sunset. Thereafter only 0-1 per evening were seen (normal winter number).

Extremely rare in the peninsular interior was Zellwood's Long-billed Curlew Aug. 30 - Sept. 3 (HPL *et al.*, NOW,JHH *et al.*). Another inland rarity was a Whimbrel there Aug. 30 (HPL *et al.*). Upland Sandpipers were widely reported, but not notably numerous, "rare" were two near Talla., Aug. 30 (GEM). Solitary Sandpipers were scarce. For the fifth year out of eight, Red Knots (five) appeared inland at Zellwood Sept 7 (JBE,CG,BK). The only notable Stilt Sandpiper report involved a single near Talla., Nov. 5 (GEM: latest Talla. Div.). For the third year in four an albino "peep" —probably a ♂ W. Sandpiper (past birds were almost certainly Semipalmateds)— visited Zellwood (Aug. 30; JBE,CG,BK).

Rare Buff-breasted Sandpipers were once considered as likely to be seen in England as in any e. American area (Nisbet; *British Birds*, 1949)! We now find them annually at Zellwood; from Aug. 12 until Sept 7 in 1975, with a record local peak of 45-48 on Sept 1 (m.ob.). One was near Talla., Sept. 9 (GEM,JP), one on St. Geo. I., Franklin Co., Sept. 16 (HMS) and Homestead had eight Sept. 14 (CSO). For the sixth consecutive year, inland Zellwood had a Marbled Godwit (Aug. 30; JBE,CG,BK). Wilson's Phalaropes peaked at a record 93 at Zellwood Aug. 17 (JBE, m.ob.), Tampa's McKay Bay had 20-30 Aug. 17-23 (D&SL, m.ob.) and five sojourned at Virginia Key Sept. 14 - Oct. 6 (Alan Bainbridge, Jim King, CSO) A peak count of mixed Red (67) and Northern (19) Phalaropes was reported Sept. 7 off Mayport (BSO,CH,JW), and Zellwood had a Northern Aug 15 (BSO).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS — Two "unidentifieds" off St. George I., Oct. 9 (JMS) were the locally rarest of *many* reported jaegers. In an hour 27 Pomarines, no Parasitics and 149 "unidentifieds" swept by Titusville Beach in the Nov. 2 nor'easter (RDB,JJ). Barber said that of all the jaegers seen this season (beginning Aug. 31) Pomarines outnumbered Parasitics "seven to one" (unidentified jaegers prevailed four to one overall), a Pomarine preponderance I recall off Florida even in my 1945-57 seafaring years, state bird texts to the contrary. Johnson reported another **Long-tailed Jaeger** off Canaveral Nov 24!

Schreiber's Sept. 28 Great Black-backed Gull at Pass-a-grille is probably (one summer record) the ear-

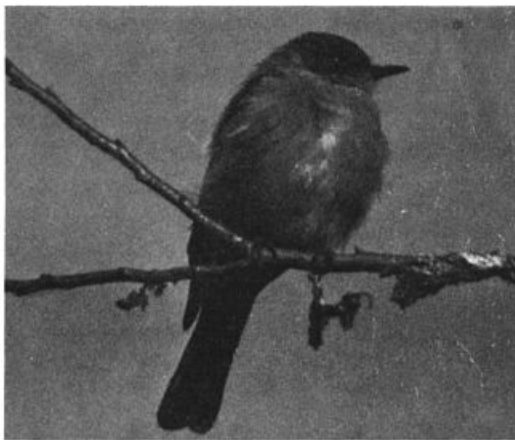
liest peninsular Gulf Coast arrival. Lesser Black-backed Gulls returned to Mullet Key Oct. 28 (WB,LH: earliest N. Pen.), Key West Nov. 19 (FTH) and Port Canaveral Nov. 20 (RDB). An imm. **Franklin's Gull** obligingly posed amid larger Laughing Gulls at New Smyrna Beach Nov. 11 (RDB; photos to HMS)! Inshore at Wabasso Nov. 1 was a Black-legged Kittiwake (RDB,MCB,JJ; earliest N. Pen.). Florida's third and latest **Sabine's Gull** was off Canaveral Nov. 4 (RDB,JJ). Bridled Terns were continuously reported off Canaveral July-Oct., peaking at an astonishing 107 on Aug. 22 (B&LA,RDB,JJ)! Unprecedented *inland* at Zellwood Aug. 31 were Sandwich Terns; an adult and a begging immature (NOW)! Alachua County had its first-ever Caspian Tern Nov. 8 (JJC,JEC; \*F.S.M.).

**PIGEONS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — Again White-crowned Pigeons were repeatedly seen near Miami (m.ob.) and one reached Hypoluxo I. (Lantana), Sept. 26 (AYA, Nancy Cooley, m.ob.). White-winged Doves were variously reported on the Lower Keys Oct. 11 (PWS) Nov. 28 (FTH). Jim Horner saw four Budgerigars at Cedar Key Sept. 23, and 6-8 Canary-winged Parakeets were reported at Sarasota Oct. 6 (L.E. Mathews) - Nov. 22 (Fred Lohrer). Single Black-billed Cuckoos were at Gainesville Sept. 8 (JEH), Lakeland Oct. 1 (PJF) and St. George I., Oct. 10-11 (JMS). Brevard County's earliest Short-eared Owl was inland of Titusville Oct. 3 (RDB). Dave Goodwin reported a ♂ Rufous Hummingbird at St. Pete., Aug. 7, (an unheard-of date; earliest for Florida by nearly two months); Virg Markgraf's Jax yard hosted one Sept. 18-19 (now 2nd earliest Fla. date); Alachua Co. had its first sight record Oct. 29 (JJC,JEC) and first specimen Nov. 23 (Brenda McGurn; \*F.S.M.).

**WOODPECKERS** — A beautiful albinistic Com. Flicker —white, with usual markings intact and yellow areas greatly exaggerated— was on n. Key Largo August-October (photos, James C. Major). As Starlings proliferate, only Pileateds among *all* woodpeckers are not seriously declining in badly infested areas. Late nesting, an occasional flicker defense, was also evidenced by Red-bellieds feeding an immature, Sept. 24 near Lakeland (Heidi Edscorn). The NW cold front which swept in behind *Eloise*, doubtlessly accounted for Florida's earliest-ever Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Talla., Sept. 25 (HMS).

**TYRANNIDAE** — An E. Kingbird at Winter Haven Nov. 24 posted Florida's latest recorded fall date (CG). Eagle-eyed Chuck Turner discovered the season's small bird prize: a **Say's Phoebe** near Apopka Nov. 21 - Dec.!) Yards of film were exposed by many birders at point-blank range, solidly verifying this third Florida sighting. WCTV had a Willow Flycatcher and first-ever Least Flycatcher Sept. 14 (RLC), and two other Leasts were on St. George I., Oct. 11 (JMS). One Vermilion Flycatcher was seen: in n. Leon Co., Nov. 22 (Eugene Driver).

**MIMIDAE THROUGH VIREOS** — Fifty-five Mockingbirds on part of Gulf Stream Golf Course, Palm Beach Co., Sept. 28, did indeed comprise an



*Say's Phoebe, Forest City, Nov. 22, 1975. Photo/ Brooks M. Atherton.*

“extremely high concentration for a species that is territorial all year (PWS).” The Talla. Div. had its earliest-ever Hermit Thrush Oct. 11 (St. George I.; JMS). Along an E. Bluebird route that I monitor each fall in Green Swamp, Polk Co., the normally outstanding numbers plummeted 61 per cent (Starlings invaded in 1975)! A Ruby-crowned Kinglet reached Lakeland Oct. 4 (LA, m.ob.; earliest N. Pen.). Three Water Pipits near Talla., Aug. 14 were the earliest in Florida history, (JMS,\*HMS). Earliest local dates were set by Cedar Waxwings at Gainesville Oct. 30 (JEH) and Lakeland Nov. 9 (BK,JBE, Henry Kittleson, Helen and Karen Edscorn). A *rara avis*, indeed, was a **Bell's Vireo** near St. Marks Light Oct. 10 (HMS,BS). Philadelphia Vireos —about ten individuals— were widely reported. Although an eastern bird, the **Warbling Vireo** at Titusville Sept. 18 vies in rarity with stray Bell's Vireos on the Florida peninsula (RDB).

**WARBLERS** — Numerous and widely reported were Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers —about two dozen of each— Alachua Co. reporting an amazing six and seven respectively on Sept. 9 (JHH,CHC,JEH)! Noteworthy were: WCTV's Tennessee Nov. 11 (RLC; latest Talla. Div.); Gainesville's Orange-crowned Oct. 19 (JEH; earliest N. Pen.); Winter Haven's Yellow Warbler Nov. 30 (CG; latest N. Pen.); WCTV's Magnolia Nov. 12 (latest Talla. Div.) and —very rare at WCTV in fall— a Cape May Oct. 3 (RLC). Also unusual away from the East Coast in fall were *four* Cape Mays at Mullet Key Sept. 30 (LH), and an unprecedented five at Lakeland Sept. 20 - Oct. 26 (latest N. Pen.; JBE *et al.*). No other contributors commented, but at Lakeland Black-throated Blue, “Myrtle,” Chestnut-sided, Kentucky and Hooded Warblers were scarcer than in any other year of recent history.

Jim Stevenson saw an early Yellow-rumped Warbler at St. George I., Oct. 11. Earliest for Brevard County was a Black-throated Green Sept. 14 (RDB,DH) and a Cerulean Aug. 9 (RDB; second Brevard record and earliest N. Pen.). Very few other Ceruleans were reported. Earliest N. Pen. records were set by a Blackburnian Aug. 10 at Jax (observer?), and two

**Blackpolls** Sept. 14 in Brevard Co. (RDB, HGC, AEE, SF, DM). There were several widely scattered Bay-breasted reports. Even rarer than Cape Mays away from the East Coast were **Blackpolls** at WCTV Sept. 29 (RLC), Gainesville Oct. 5 (JHH, JEH) and Mullet Key Oct 22 (LH). Seven early Palm Warblers were at St. George I., Sept. 16 (JMS).

Ovenbird singing was again noted near Lakeland this season—one bird which sang an unusual song at the same spot for over a month after Sept. 18 offered insight into the way some migrants dawdle in Florida. Maggie Bowman advises that she, too, has heard Ovenbirds sing in Florida, but thus far other observers have never reported it. Local rarities were lone Kentucky Warblers at Brevard Co., Sept. 19 (RDB; earliest of only eight records there), and at Tavernier Sept. 7 (JCO). Connecticut Warblers, always highlights in Florida, occurred singly at WCTV Sept. 14 (RLC; first WCTV fall record), at Gainesville Oct. 20 (JEH) and at Cocoa Oct. 13 (DH). Rarest of e. warblers (except Bachman's) in Florida is **Mourning Warbler**, yet WCTV tower killed *two* Sept. 15—in one night doubling its total of all the years (RLC)!

Rare Wilson's Warblers also made a memorable showing. A remarkable *three* were at Merritt I. Refuge Sept 14 (HGC, AEE, SF, DM)! Singles were at: WCTV Sept 16, Oct. 8 (RLC; only four prior records); Jax Oct 11 (SAG), Nov. 14 (MCD); St. Pete. area Sept. 26, Oct. 13, 26 (LH, Frances Smith); and Gainesville Nov 16-24 (banded; latest N. Pen.; Robert Repinning). Even rarer Canada Warblers—a total of six!—occurred in five widespread areas, beginning with Larry Hopkins' at Mullet Key Aug. 25 (earliest N. Pen.). Then there were singles at WCTV Sept. 15 and Sept. 29 (RLC; two in one season!); in Alachua Co., Sept. 14 Oct 4 (Carol Yokum, JHH, m.ob.); off Canaveral Sept 25 (JJ) and at Hypoluxo I., Oct. 12 (HPL, PWS *et al.*) Three times I saw Am. Redstarts caught in large, high spider webs this season (I recall only two prior instances); all escaped, one only weakly after long hanging upside-down by a foot tangled in tough, sticky web strands—much too high for rescue.

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH TANAGERS** — Yellow-headed Blackbirds seemed almost ubiquitous, occurring in, many areas from Talla. to the Lower Keys Sept 13 through November (m.ob.). Late Orchard Orioles were at St. George I., Sept. 24 (WWB, RLC, JMS, NOW; latest Talla. Div.), and at Mullet Key Oct. 30 (LH). Earliest for the Talla. Div. was a "Baltimore" Oriole at Talla., Aug. 29 (Mrs. H. W. Miller). Sykes saw 47 Spot-breasted Orioles leaving a Palm Beach Co. roost Oct. 27. A **Western Tanager**, harbinger of winter reports, was at Titusville Oct. 29 (RDB), and a Summer Tanager returned to Lake Wales Nov 16 (CG; latest N. Pen. fall date, though probably the same bird wintered in '74-75).

**FRINGILLIDS** — The Talla. Div. had its latest Rose-breasted Grosbeak Nov. 2 (GEM; Talla.); also its first-ever **Black-headed Grosbeak** Oct. 19 (CHW; Alligator Pt.), and six latest-ever Blue Grosbeaks Nov. 5 (GEM; Talla.). Although House Finches are now penetrating southeastern states, Florida is still awaiting its

first report. Only one Dickcissel was recorded; in Palm Beach Co., Oct. 20 (AYA, Marge Eaton, Gloria Hunter). While Am. Goldfinches seemed generally much later (and scarcer) than usual, two reached the Lantana area Oct. 12 (HPL; earliest S. Pen.). A Grasshopper Sparrow Hopkins reported near Lakeland Oct 10 was the earliest for the N. Pen. Up to three (or more?) rare Le Conte's Sparrows were reported variously in the Talla. Div., Nov. 6-28 (B&LA, WB, JMS *et al.*).

The only Lark Sparrow reports involved singles at Zellwood Aug. 27 (Becky Payne, Betty King), in Palm Beach Co., Sept. 28 (PWS) and on Mullet Key Oct 13 (LH). A very early Dark-eyed Junco reached St. George I., Oct. 11 (JMS). Clark Olson recorded a Clay-colored Sparrow near Flamingo Nov. 17. Earliest for Florida was a Fox Sparrow reported near Telogia Nov 1 (JMS). Another Lincoln's Sparrow was spotted on Mullet Key (Nov. 14; LA, Jim Lane). As in 1973, a **Lapland Longspur** provided a final fillip for Florida's fall report; this one—early and far south at Merritt I Refuge Oct. 19—was found and identified by Paul Fellers and Noel Wamer while scores of visiting F O S members were on hand to share it!

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This journal can reach subscribers on schedule only if observers, contributors and subregional editors meet their deadlines for submitting field reports. Please help us to get back on schedule by your cooperation. Due date for winter season reports to Regional Editors: April 10. Due date for Winter Bird Population studies to Ronald A. Ryder, 748 Eastdale Drive, Fort Collins, Colo 80521, is also April 10.

## ONTARIO REGION /Clive E. Goodwin

In the regularity of these summaries it is easy to forget the sheer enormity of the undertaking: only the very rash would be willing to generalize about bird movements over an area in excess of 400,000 square miles, and over a four month period! Some seasons the task seems even more foolhardy than usual, and fall 1975 was one of those.



The summer report discussed an exceptionally early start to fall migration, and we speculated that the warm early summer was the cause. The success of the breeding season was reflected in heavy movements throughout the period, in almost all groups, with young of the year forming the vast bulk of many of the flights trapped at observatories (Long Point Bird Observatory & Prince Edward Point; below L.P.B.O. and P.E.Pt. respectively).

In the south—some of the south—the warm early fall continued into a mild open late fall, with late records to match the earlier ones. But the pattern proved to be by no means consistent, and a review of the data reveals cooler and warmer periods in east or west, north or south, to suit anyone's preconceptions. Not surprisingly then, both early and late migrants continued to be recorded throughout the period from widely scattered localities, and by the same token doing these justice here is simply impossible. Early and late records below are only those that are exceptional, or that support major trends.

But what were the trends that could account for both an Audubon's Shearwater and a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, for reports of Scott's Oriole and two (one out of period) Townsend's Solitaires, for Swainson's Hawk and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, as well as a late December Phainopepla? Certainly there were no surface weather patterns which seem to explain these phenomena. Any interpretation is hindered by so many unknowns: had the bird come directly to Ontario or had it been wander-

ing elsewhere? When exactly did it arrive? What was the relationship between the ground winds and the winds aloft in the period prior to the bird's arrival? Maybe these accidentals are characteristic of periods when the winds aloft are particularly strong and influence directly the body of air in which the birds are moving: the products of freak meteorological events that our limited weather maps do not measure. It may be no coincidence that in all these occurrences but one the winds aloft were particularly strong, and from an appropriate direction. But of course very strong winds are usual at the 17,000 foot levels and we cannot associate bird displacements with them directly.

The heaviest and most widespread movements of the fall were typically following cold front passage: on Aug. 10-12 early warblers were widespread as a cold front was halted over the south of the Province; the two days following a front on Sept. 11 brought migrant waves to areas as widely separate as L.P.B.O., Thunder Bay (KD) and Simcoe County (JAS), and the period following the Sept. 19-20 front yielded the heaviest movement of fall with early arrivals of winter water fowl, hawk passage at Hawk Cliff (MHF *et al.*) and good numbers of later passerines such as robins and Yellow-rumped Warblers and sparrows. L.P.B.O. reported heavy passage from the 19th to the 27th and there was a noteworthy invasion of Hudsonian Godwits. The weather maps do provide some assistance in this case, as on Sept. 23 Hurricane *Eloise* moved in on the Gulf Coast, and for the next four days this low pressure area with its associated cloud and heavy rain moved up the East Coast. It seems plausible that some of the heavy movement later in the week, and the godwit invasion, could have been birds that normally would have moved further east, and were diverted west along the edge of the storm track.

As usual movement tapered off in October, but there was a particularly heavy movement following a strong front with widespread frost on Oct. 6-7, and as the weather cleared on Oct. 11 hawk flights were recorded and a heavy nocturnal passage of Saw-whet Owls at P.E.Pt.

**LOONS THROUGH PELICANS** — A late Com Loon nest was recorded in Quetico P.P. with two eggs Aug. 3 (SP). Lambton County did not have a particularly heavy loon flight this fall, with a maximum of only 116 on Oct. 27 (AR), but there were over 1500 at Mississagi Light on Manitoulin I. (below, M.L.) Oct. 5-30, with 650 on the 5th (JN). The Red-throated Loon at Puslinch L., Wellington Co., Nov. 27 (WHS,CAC), was the most noteworthy of a dozen reports of this species. Puslinch also had six Red-necked Grebes, and there were 18 spread along the south shore of Long Point Sept. 27 (GM); however, no large concentrations were recorded. Horned Grebes were everywhere along the lower lakes: counts of 100-200 birds were usual, with 100 passing Long Point in one hour Oct. 19 (GM). The even distribution of the birds invites extrapolation, which yields a probably conservative estimate of 3500 along Lakes Erie and Ontario. Three Eared Grebes were seen, with one at Quarry Pt., Manitoulin I., Aug. 23, the first there (JN). The first fall W. Grebes in ten years were at Ottawa Oct. 8 (JAM) and Cedar Pt., Nov. 6 (JAS).

An **Audubon's Shearwater** was considerable enough to drop dead on Sept. 8 in the one garden in Almonte where it had a chance for posthumous recognition: it was the first Canadian record and is now in the National Museum of Canada (SMcG, *fide* RAF). At least one White Pelican spent the fall along the lower lakes; records at Presqu'île P.P. from Aug. 14 (JBo), Pickering from Sept. 7 (PS *et al.*), Rondeau from Oct. 5 (KJB, PDP *et al.*) finally ending up at Goderich Nov. 28 (RC and NHM) whence it landed in Toronto Zoo!

**CORMORANTS, HERONS, IBIS** — This fall yielded some better counts of Double-crested Cormorants, with 125 Pelee I., Oct. 26 (JK) outstanding. A Green Heron at Chelmsford Aug. 14 (CB, CEG, JEG) was the first for the Sudbury region, and there were late reports to Oct. 27 at MacGregor P.P. (MP). The usual wandering herons included Little Blues at Dundas Nov. 2-4 (ARE *et al.*) and Ottawa Aug. 2 (BD, BG, JH), nine Cattle Egrets including four at Kingston and another at Ottawa, which also had a late Black-crowned Night Heron Nov. 20. Snowy Egrets were at Oshawa Sept. 30 (GAS), Collingwood Aug. 17 (DB) and Point Pelee N P (and environs, below, Pelee) Sept. 6-7 (JB). The highest count of Great Egrets was also at Pelee, with up to 25 (m.ob.). Finally, Oshawa had a Glossy Ibis Aug. 16-17 (m.ob.).

**SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS** — Confirmation is awaited on two new breeding records from James Bay; one of Whistling Swans with two cygnets (HL) and the second of **Ross' Goose**, when a ♂ Ross' mated to a Lesser Snow hybrid was seen with three young. (PP). There were 1400 swans, a good number, at Holiday Beach Nov. 22 (JPK) and a bird at Waterloo Nov. 2 (CAC *et al.*). The Canada Goose flight was light and protracted, with flocks between Aug. 8 at Meldrum Bay (VR) and Nov. 18 at Oshawa (DC). Eleven Brant were seen in the south in all, and the 150 Snow Geese on Wolfe I., Oct. 21 (AEB) were both the largest flock reported and a good number for the area: neither species is much given to pauses in Ontario once they have left James Bay. Duck records are, as usual, mostly high counts. In Oxford County Mud L. provided several record high numbers for that inland area (BP), but more generally noteworthy were 225 Gadwall at Pickering Nov. 9 (RGT), 115 Wood Ducks at Elmwood in late September (CMcL), 2500 Am. Wigeon off Wolfe I., Nov. 4 (AEH) and 250 Hooded Merganser on Manitoulin I., Nov. 15 (CB). Two N. Shoveler at M.L., Oct. 5 were late (JN) and a Ring-necked Duck in Darlington Twp. Aug. 25 (JK) early. The four Greater Scaup at Atikokan Nov. 19 were only the third-ever there (SP). The Ottawa Barrow's Goldeneye reappeared on Oct. 17 (m.ob.), and the Toronto and Oakville Harlequin Ducks from Oct. 28 (GBe) and Nov. 22 (CEG, JEG) respectively. Other Harlequins were at Bronte Nov. 26 (MJ), Darlington P.P. (GC, DMcR), Lambton Co., Oct. 20 (AR) and three at Fort Erie Nov. 29 (HHA), an unprecedented number as this species continues to increase in the region. Simcoe County has not previously recorded large flights of diving ducks, but this year Wasaga Beach had 1000 Oldsquaw on Nov. 6 and 2000 Nov. 10, and 100 White-winged Sco-

ter and 200 other scoters Oct. 15 (PV) with smaller movements on other dates, perhaps reflecting the presence of a regular observer there now. Scoters continue to set records: both Strathroy and Ottawa had all three species together in unprecedented numbers, the Ottawa aggregation including 125 Surf and over 350 Black on Oct. 14 (BD). Elsewhere Surf were widespread in flocks up to 20, with Black Scoter in characteristically smaller numbers; however, three sightings of Blacks in Algonquin P.P. with up to 22 birds were the first ever there (HC *et al.*), and birds at P.E.Pt., Sept. 14 (AEH, GW) and Chelmsford Nov. 21 (CB) were early and late respectively. Ruddy Ducks were also in exceptional numbers, particularly at Pelee with a high of 80 Nov. 2 (JAG) and an unprecedented 134 at Ottawa Oct. 25 - Nov. 4 (m.ob.).

**VULTURES, HAWKS** — Table 1 provides the results from the three cooperative hawk counting locations, which reflect a satisfying migration for this group. The figures are not comparable to one another directly, as the coverage varied and both Hawk Cliff and P.E.Pt. observers being also occupied in banding Turkey Vultures continue their success story: noteworthy but tardy nesting reports were from Gravenhurst in 1974 (DBr, CD) and L. Rosseau in the current year (H.N.C.), and the highest of many high counts were 100 at Rondeau Oct. 2 (m.ob.) and 140 Paris Sept. 5 (WHS, DG). Goshawk reports were about average—mostly one and twos—with no heavy movement this fall. Red-taileds did move in good numbers, with the Hawk Cliff peak Oct. 29-30 and 77 Pelee Nov. 22, which also had 52 Red-shoulders over the period (*fide* AHK). It was the best Broad-winged Hawk flight in years, particularly along L. Ontario where the appropriate dates and weather have not coincided for some time: Hamilton had 14,500 between Sept. 11 and 14, (RC *et al.*) and at Pickering a massive movement in two hours on Sept. 12 was estimated between 5000 and 10,000 birds (T.O.C.). The main Hawk Cliff movement was ten days later, Sept. 23-24 which coincided with a movement at Oshawa (*fide* DBa), but the banding station scooped everyone else on the 13th with an imm **Swainson's Hawk**, one of very few sightings for Ontario (MHF *et al.*). A light flight of Rough-legged Hawks started on the early date of Sept. 14 at Meaford and Sudbury (MGr, CB). There were six Golden Eagles seen including Kingston's first in 20 years on Wolfe I on Oct 18 (RKE, DI), but seven were reported shot in the Minden area this year (*fide* DMcR). Quetico P P had two Bald Eagle young fledged from three nests under observation there (SP), and there were 14 reported across the south in the period. Peregrine Falcon and Merlin numbers were encouraging, with 30 and 41 records respectively, mainly along the lower Great Lakes.

**GROUSE THROUGH COOTS** — Seven Spruce Grouse at Miller L., Aug. 28 (BJ) were the first reports in many years from the Bruce, although there is much suitable habitat there. Four Sandhill Cranes reappeared at Webbwood, where they had been seen last spring, on Sept. 7 (SW), but the bird at Pelee Oct. 28 (EAC) was a vagrant. Rail reports included a Virginia at Thunder



Bay on the late date of Nov. 22 (WZ) and a Yellow was picked up and subsequently died at Scarborough Oct. 29 (MB). An Am. Coot was at Wildwood, where they are rare in summer, June 14 (NMCD) and high migration counts included 110 Puslinch Oct. 8 (WHS) and 10,000 in Long Point Bay Nov. 19 (L.P.B.O.).

#### SHOREBIRDS —

S. A.

As usual in recent years there were many interesting reports of shorebirds, some undoubtedly a reflection of the relatively new habitat provided by sewage lagoons, and some the greater familiarity of observers with this rather difficult group. My own view, however, is that these alone are not enough to account for increased numbers of such species as Baird's, Stilt and White-rumped Sandpipers and there actually are more birds stopping off across the mudflats and shorelines of S. Ontario. This is a judgment matter, as some areas—Dundas Marsh, for example—have always been a magnet for shorebirds. To this observer the change started with the new habitat provided by algal masses along the shores of the lower Lakes, a well publicized effect of their rapid eutrophication.

Expectedly there were several late reports: the southwest had Semipalmated Plover Nov. 9, dowitcher Nov. 16, and a Black-bellied Plover as late as Dec. 6 (*vide* AHK); a Lesser Yellowlegs at Mud L., Nov. 8 was the Oxford Co. latest (BP); Hamilton had the latest of several late Solitary Sandpipers, Nov. 2 (JD); and Strathroy had both a Least Sandpiper Oct. 25 (DR) and Dunlin Nov. 22 (WRJ). The latter species was early at Copper Cliff Aug. 26 (JN) and one at Marmion L., Sept. 1 was the first in the Atikokan area (SP), where shorebird habitat is still scarce. A Ruddy Turnstone was also at Marmion L., Aug. 27 and there were up to 12 Baird's Sandpipers there (SP,DHE,DH). Silver Islet had an Upland Sandpiper Aug. 19 (JHe); the species is rare in the northeast. Apart from the Kingston area Am. Golden Plover were widespread in good numbers: many flocks exceeded 100 birds, and at Strathroy Golden and Black-bellied combined exceeded 1000 birds (WGG). Over 100 Com. Snipe at Pelee Nov. 16 (JPK) were typical of the heavy migration of this species. Of the less common fall migrants, six Whimbrels were seen and nine Purple Sandpipers, including the Sudbury region's first, at Chelmsford Nov. 11 (JN *et al.*). The shorebird of the fall was a **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** at Hamilton Nov. 26 - Dec. 5 which was accused of being several things before being identified by Chauncey Wood and subsequently seen by thousands on TV. [The active purplish spot on the screen could, alas, have been anything and it remains to be seen if any of the fuzzy photos taken prior to the wif's disappearance will provide satisfactory evidence of the bird's occurrence in Ontario. The first week of December experi-

enced a sharp freeze and the bird vanished after seeming to get progressively weaker.] It had a pronounced supercilary stripe, a strongly rufous crown and generally buffy appearance, fading towards the belly (*vide* RC). There was a string of Long-billed Dowitcher reports, most with unsatisfactory—or no—descriptions four at Hamilton Aug. 29 - Sept. 14 and three Ottawa Sept. 14-30 (m.ob.) were probably authentic. Two fascinating breeding records were of three pairs of Wilson's Phalaropes and a pair of **Marbled Godwits** breeding near Moosonee (GMO *et al.*, *vide* RJ); the latter will be the first Ontario breeding, although apparently the early literature had suggestive references to this species in the north. In migration it was a godwit fall! No less than 13 Marbled were seen in the south (six is the highest previous total I know of) but this was eclipsed by the invasion of the commoner Hudsonians, most of which appeared on Sept. 26 or shortly thereafter, with 61 at Dundas (JD,RC *et al.*) 22 Oshawa (DC), 46 Amherstview, and perhaps 149 in all. Of 20 birds banded at Amherstview roughly half were adults (*vide* RDW); some lingered to the end of October. The 31 White-rumped Sandpipers in Algonquin P.P., Oct. 15 were the first there since 1909 (RP,DBr,HC,JC) and both this species and phalaropes were widespread elsewhere. Groups of 9 to 17 N. Phalaropes occurred and smaller numbers seemed everywhere; and there were nine Red Phalaropes, plus six apparently seen at Ottawa from Aug. 30, a date more typical of Northernns (*vide* RAF).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS — It was not an outstanding jaeger year, although there were three Pomarines reported, and a Parasitic at Quarry Pt., Aug. 9 was the first for Manitoulin I. (JN). Gull records away from the Great Lakes were a Glaucous and two Greater Black-backed Gulls at Mattawa Nov. 30 (RP), an Iceland Gull at Kitchener Nov. 15 (CAC), and an unprecedented 22 Ring-billed Gulls at Lake of Two Rivers Aug. 30 (RGT). A hybrid Greater Black-backed X Herring Gull was recorded—one must presume collected—at Ottawa Nov. 22-29 (RAF,BD), and a number of the 11 Thayer's Gulls recorded there were taken as part of the study at the National Museum. Ottawa also had its first Black-headed Gull Sept. 27 - Oct. 1 (SO *et al.*). Small gulls were rather scarce this year, except for the continuing abundance of Bonaparte's Gulls, which were even in hundreds at Strathroy (*vide* WRJ). Only ten Little Gulls were reported — low for recent years—three Franklin's and one Black-legged Kittiwake: the exceptions were Sabine's Gulls, and the five reported were all seen from shore, quite an exceptional event. Two at the Wawa sewage lagoons Sept. 4 (HK,EK) were both the most unusual and most interesting sighting, as it may offer a clue to the origin of these birds on the Great Lakes. The other birds were at Ottawa Sept. 7 (MBr), Hamilton Sept. 24 and Niagara-on-the-Lake Nov. 16 (RC *et al.*)

There were nine Forster's Terns reported from the Niagara — L. Erie areas, and further east birds were at Oshawa Aug. 9 - Sept. 5 (GAS) and Pickering Sept. 7-8 (JMS *et al.*). The five Caspian Terns at Parkhill Sept. 16 (JMcC) were important for that area. On Sept. 1 a heavy movement of 1000 Black Terns occurred at Amherstberg (JPK), and there were late birds at Pimisi Bay Sept. 11 (LdeKL) and Colpo Bay Oct. 5 (LR)

**CUCKOOS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — A northerly Screech Owl was at Pimisi Bay Aug. 27 (LdeKL). A medium-sized flight of Snowy Owls started between Oct. 31 and Nov. 15, with most areas recording their first Nov. 9! They are still around at the time of writing. The only Great Gray Owl reports were birds in McGregor Twp. Nov. 21 (CEGa,BW) and Peterborough Nov. 5 & 12 (*vide* DCS). Isolated Long-eareds were seen, with 25 at Mount Pleasant Oct. 21-22 (DMcR) and two birds at M.L. Sept. 18 - Oct. 19 (JN) perhaps most noteworthy. At P.E.Pt. they were chasing Saw-whets but none were netted. The observatory did band 83 Saw-whets Oct. 11 - Nov. 8, with 30 the first day. As this only reprinted nine nights' coverage the Point appears to be a previously unknown migration focus for the species, and none could be found once daylight arrived despite diligent searching (K.F.N. *et al.*) Long Point had 21 in roughly the same period, with their peak eight on the night of Oct. 25-26 (L P B.O.), and there were good numbers on Toronto Islands (T.O.C.). Elsewhere two were at Ailsa Craig Oct. 17 (HCl, JCr). Late reports were of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Whitby Oct. 31 (DC); a Com. Night-hawk at Peterborough Nov. 13 (DMcR); and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Oakville Nov. 16 (JFR, *vide* DRG)

**WOODPECKERS** — Six Red-bellied Woodpeckers were seen at Durham July 14 (WF) and a strangely plumaged bird in downtown Waterloo, Sept. 26-29 (DS) was thought to be partly leucistic. Two Red-headed Woodpeckers were recorded in the Sudbury region and four on Manitoulin I. (*vide* JN). Downy Woodpeckers were thought to be down in numbers—there were none at Pimisi Bay in November, for example (LdeKL)—but Hairy Woodpeckers seem to have recovered from their collapse of a few years ago, if indeed that is what it was. There was a steady westward movement at Pickering Oct. 26, with ten in two hours (CEG,JEG). Three-toeds staged a medium-sized invasion with the largest numbers at Ottawa, as usual. In all five Northerns and 13 Black-backeds were reported, with the latter species at Novar as early as Aug. 1 (KC)

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — The Sudbury area was the place for flycatchers: there were W. Kingbirds within days of one another at Evansville Sept. 13 and M.L., Sept. 15-16, but the real find was a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** at Copper Cliff Aug. 29 (JN), the first for the area, although the species has been turning up almost annually in recent years. A flock of 400 E. Kingbirds Aug. 17 at P.E.Pt. was a good count (HQ,RDW). It also yielded a late sighting at Kingston Oct. 19 (MBn), where there was also a Great Crested Flycatcher Sept. 28 (RDW) and a Barn Swallow Oct. 12 (CEG,JEG). Noteworthy among many high Tree Swallow counts were 20,000 Port Perry Sept. 7 (JK,JM) and 10,000 P.E.Pt. Sept. 21 (K.F.N.).

**JAYS THROUGH WRENS** — There was a strong Gray Jay movement with 70 birds in all: birds began to appear south of the breeding grounds as early as Sept. 2 and the flight appeared to last through to mid-November, with the heaviest numbers typically in the

east. There were up to 15 at Ottawa and Manitoulin, and eight in the Bowmanville-Scugog area (*vide* JN,DBa,RAF) and birds west to L.P.B.O. and Stratford (*vide* GB). The species has been unusually common in the last few years and this movement does not compare to the invasion of 1972; however, prior to that one must go back to 1961 and 1964 to find flights of corresponding volume. Possibly the spruce budworm outbreaks which seem to be reflected in record numbers of Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers and Evening Grosbeaks are influencing this species' success also.

The lower Great Lakes had their usual massive Blue Jay movements in September with 68,930 recorded at Holiday Beach, in spite of the preoccupation of observers there with hawks (JPK *et al.*), and 38,910 on Sept. 23-24 alone (JHa). There were 9000 at P.E.Pt. Sept. 20-21 (K.F.N.) and smaller counts from areas in between. A Com. Raven at Doon Pinnacle Nov. 30 and a Black-billed Magpie at Parry Sound Oct. 11 (CAC,DLC) were well south and east of their ranges three magpies at Atkikokan were more usual but still noteworthy (SP).

This was a big flight year for Black-capped Chickadees, and they were accompanied by small numbers of Boreals. Movement started at M.L. about Sept. 14 and continued until Nov. 9 (JN), dates that correspond to those in the south, where Rondeau had 4000 in one hour on Oct. 14 (KJB) and the southwest probably the biggest flight in the history of the Detroit survey (*vide* AHK). At P.E.Pt. the movement was principally in October and 80% of the birds banded were young of the year (K.F.N.). The direction of movement was interesting: P.E.Pt. birds were usually moving south or west (although they must have moved east at some point to get there) and seemed to follow the lakeshore in a narrow band - at Pt. Petre they were turned north and were moving in a band no wider than 12 feet (CEG,JEG). At M.L. they moved N and NW (a typical direction there) and at Pelee some were taking off over L. Erie, a similar course to the bird seen well out in the middle of the lake east of the Main Duck Is. on the Kingston boat trip (K.F.N.). However, further east, near Morrisburg, Alan Bain (whose report got lost in the mail strike) saw them going east! About 100 Boreals were reported (but many more were seen) with birds as early as Aug. 9 at M.L. with the peak Oct. 12 and the last about Nov. 9 (JN) which again corresponds closely to the dates further south. This species' recent movements have paralleled those of the Gray Jays. Also moving with the Black-cappeds were Red-breasted Nuthatches in one of their best flights of many years. They too moved early and late, from Aug. 10 to Nov. 19, in small groups with the chickadees - and in marked contrast to last fall Algonquin had "almost none" (*vide* RP), perhaps an interesting commentary on how these flights generate!

Tufted Titmice were at Waterloo Oct. 21 (RB) and Toronto from Nov. 22 (JNn), and a late Long-billed Marsh Wren in Dereham Twp., Nov. 2 (BP).

**MIMIDS THROUGH SHRIKES** — Mockingbirds were north to Cochrane July 14 (MN), two at Moosonee (PP, *vide* MN), and Thunder Bay Nov. 29 (KD *et al.*) and many reports further south. A late Gray Catbird

was at Kettle Pt., Oct. 31 (AR) and a Wood Thrush at Scarborough Nov. 14 (DSc). Thrushes in general seemed to have an exceptional movement: early Swainson's and Hermit Aug. 10 and 20 respectively were at P E Pt., with 1000 Swainson's Aug. 28 and early Gray-cheeked at Stanley Sept. 2 (MC) and Lively Sept 23 (JL). A **Townsend's Solitaire** was 21 miles N of Killarney Nov. 16 (JN), the first there and the first of two in 1975; this is the most ever for Ontario, where there have been half a dozen good reports in the 60s and 70s Blue-gray Gnatcatcher reports included birds east to Ottawa Aug. 5 (MG) and north to Cape Robert Sept. 15 (JN). A Golden-crowned Kinglet with a white head and neck was at Purpleville Oct. 18 (GB). October yielded a heavy Water Pipit flight, with many flocks of 100 birds or over. A fair flight of Bohemian Waxwings started Nov. 2 at Ottawa (RAF) and extended east to Barrie and Toronto, with flocks up to 24 birds, and an average N. Shrike flight started Nov. 1 with single birds generally distributed. There were ten Loggerhead Shrikes at P.E.Pt., only four across the rest of the region.

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — The early and late aspects of the migration were nowhere clearer than with warblers, with the early start chronicled in the summer report. Apart from a record early Palm Warbler at L P B.O. Aug. 13 the same species mentioned last time continued to set arrival records. And very often the same species were late leaving. A Solitary Vireo at Oakville Nov. 9 (RC), Red-eyed at M.L., Nov. 2 (JN); a Yellow Warbler at Kingston Sept. 28 (AEH,WAH); Cape May, L.P.B.O., Nov. 20 (BJo,RCo); Black-throated Green, Walsey L., Oct. 26 (CB); Blackburnian, Lambton Co., Oct. 24 (AR); Bay-breasted, Hamilton Nov. 22 (KMCL); a Blackpoll at Eastbourne Oct 26 (EP); an Ovenbird at Thistle town to Dec. 18 (RS), and an Am. Redstart at Rockhouse Pt., Oct. 26 (RFA *et al.*). Really the dominant feature of the warbler migration was not lateness, earliness or rarity: it was abundance. We get used to heavy migrations of Yellow-rumped Warblers so they are commonplace, but Gerry Bennett's description of "overwhelming" fits this year's movement well. Starting in August and still present at the end of the period, they blanketed the woodlots, rose up in clouds from the old fields, masqueraded as pipits on the mud flats and in all provided a constant moving undercurrent to the rest of the migration. A Worm-eating Warbler at Rondeau Sept. 19 (KJB) was one of very few fall records. Rare for the areas were, from Manitoulin, a N. Parula Aug. 24, a Cerulean Sept. 6, a Prairie Oct. 12, and a Mourning Sept. 23 (JN *et al.*). Another Mourning was at Marathon Oct. 17 (NE), two Yellow-breasted Chats at L.P.B.O., and Ottawa's second Hooded Warbler was seen on July 30 (BD,JH).

**BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLE** — There were the usual huge flocks of blackbirds and starlings seen, particularly in the southwest, and the odd Brewer's Blackbird was picked out: one at Monument's Corners, Oct. 24 (JWJ), two at Kettle Pt., Oct. 14 (AR) and two in the Peterborough area Sept. 28 and Nov. 29 (DCS, GC,DMcR). The latest N. Oriole report was one at

Aldershot Nov. 9 (DKP,TP). Another southwestern species reported was a **Scott's Oriole** at Silver Islet Landing, Sibley P.P., Nov. 1 (T.B.F.N.); the bird was photographed and the shots reportedly are clearly diagnostic of this species (AM, *fide* KD). If accepted by the Records Committee the bird would be the first for Ontario and possibly for Canada.

**FINCHES, SPARROWS** — A late Cardinal nesting was a bird feeding young Oct. 10 at Terra Cotta (AS) Eight birds at P.E.Pt., Oct. 25 follow a pattern of previous years there (*fide* RDW) and suggest a late fall dispersal - also supported by sightings at Killarney Oct 16 (OB) and Vickers Height Nov. 30 (DCo). Peterborough had a Dickcissel Nov. 9-11 (GC,DCS,DMcR) Space precludes much detail on a good-average winter finch movement, but Evening Grosbeaks were probably more abundant than ever before: they have reached the stage where observers no longer bother mentioning them. They were exceptionally early—Aug. 1 in some cases—and are still present after the main movement in October. Purple Finches were scattered in small numbers; Pine Grosbeaks staged quite a good movement from late October on; Com. Redpolls were few and late, Pine Siskins spottily distributed, common in October in some areas and missing in others, and the same applies to Am. Goldfinches, which were in very heavy numbers at Holiday Beach (JPK *et al.*). Both crossbills appeared but there were only a few White-winged, and Reds were mainly in small flocks in late October and early November.

The increased sightings of Sharp-tailed Sparrows may be no more than a reflection of the increased willingness of people to plough through beds of beggar's ticks. There were at least four at Oshawa, five at Dundas, and two in the southwest including a bird banded at Bradley's Marsh at the mouth of the Thames R. Harris' Sparrows were seen at Guelph Oct. 25 (RCt) and—suggestive of the origin of these southern Ontario strays—Moosonee Aug. 17 (CEG,JEG). A Field Sparrow at Marathon Nov. 2 (NE) was well north of its normal range. The other records are of early arrivals a Dark-eyed Junco at Peterborough Aug. 16 (DCS), a Tree Sparrow, Toronto Sept. 14 (CEG,JEG), a White-throated in Lambton Co., Sept. 1 (AR) and a Lincoln's at P.E.Pt., Aug. 20 (K.F.N.). Both Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings were also early—Sept. 20 at P.E.Pt. (RDW) and Sept. 16 at Hay Bay (GBw)— and in quite good numbers thereafter.

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## NIAGARA-CHAMPLAIN REGION

/Douglas P. Kibbe

Although the season was generally mild, early movements of waterfowl, small passerines and some winter finches were widely noted. Tropical storm *Eloise*, which caused severe flooding in the southern half of the region in late September, forced migrant passerines to pile up in incredible concentrations on the Lake Ontario plains (literally thousands of birds per hundred acres in some choice habitats). After passage of the storm, hundreds of Blue Jays were observed as they passed south along the Finger Lakes of central New York and migrant warblers literally vanished overnight. Although the mass of the passerine migration ended by late September, late departure dates were prevalent, presumably due to the mild weather which continued through the end of the period.



Highlights of the season included an excellent shorebird flight (up to 29 species in the Rochester, N.Y. area alone), a good mix of warblers including huge numbers of Bay-breasted and Tennessee, a strong sparrow flight in eastern areas in mid-October, and, for your editor at least, increasingly good report coverage of the Adirondack and Green Mountains. Special mention should also go to the staff of the Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences (hereafter V.I.N.S.) who summarized their entire season's banding data in time for inclusion in this report.

**LOONS, GREBES, CORMORANTS** — Normal numbers of both Common and Red-throated Loons were reported, Red-throated not appearing until the third week of October. Few Red-necked Grebes, maximum 10 at Caspian L. in Greensboro, Vt. Oct. 17 (FO), were observed but numerous concentrations of Horned Gre-

bes were noted, including 300-400 on L. Champlain and Chautauqua L. in November (BG,RS) and an estimated 500 at Hamlin on L. Ontario at the unusually early date of Sept. 29 (CP). Single **Eared Grebes** were on Dunkirk Harbor Nov. 16 & 22 (RA *et al.*, *vide* B.O.S.) and Irondequoit Bay Nov. 23 (WL,MS, *vide* RO). Over a dozen widely distributed Double-crested Cormorants were reported, including one on L. Morey Nov. 29 (W&GE), a rather late date for Vermont.

**HERONS, WATERFOWL** — Open water and mild weather induced many waders to linger and produced a number of local late dates including four Great Blue Herons at Herricks Cove Nov. 16 (DC); Cattle Egrets at Varick, N.Y., Oct. 27 (MJ) and Hemlock, N.Y., Nov 6 (JT,EN); an ad. Black-crowned Night Heron at Montezuma N.W.R. Nov. 8 (MM, *vide* MJ) and a Least Bittern there Oct. 13 (JG). Just received is a report that Vermont had its first breeding pair of **Cattle Egrets** on Sister Is. in L. Champlain this year (Vt. Fish & Game, *vide* JP). Two imm. **Little Blue Herons** were sighted in late August, the first at Dead Creek W.M.A. (WN) and the second at Long Pond near Rochester (IJ, *vide* R.B.A.). The region's only Snowy Egret lingered at Braddocks Bay in early September (m.ob. *vide* Ro,R.B.A.). No details were submitted with a second-hand report (JS *et al.*) of an imm. White Ibis which spent two weeks on Grand Isle in early September. If correct, this would constitute Vermont's first record since 1878. Montezuma N.W.R.'s Canada Goose population peaked at 30,000, a new fall record (WB). A good flight of Brant was observed in w. New York in mid-October with several reports of 1000-2000 birds received from the Rochester area. Snow Geese appeared the second week of October with the greatest concentration, 1-10,000 birds, seen on L. Champlain through the end of the month. Good to excellent numbers of puddle ducks were found at Montezuma N.W.R., including 8000 Green-winged Teal Oct. 16 and 3000 Wood Ducks Oct. 1 (*vide* WB), both state record highs, the latter more than three times the previous record (also from Montezuma).

**HAWKS** — Fall hawk watchers throughout the e half of the region are learning much about raptor movements. Although s. Vermont will never match Derby Hill as a profitable area to hawk-watch, observers in Grafton averaged 100 birds per day Sept. 14 - Oct. 15, and were treated to incredible views of an ad

Peregrine Falcon which hung 30 ft. above them for a full minute Oct. 4 (DC). Watchers in the Champlain Valley noted an extremely high, southwestward movement away from the Green Mountains toward the Hudson Valley (AP). A summary of all the watch results, only a portion of which were received by this editor, is to be published elsewhere. Turkey Vultures were noted at numerous locations well into October, the last in Vermont a single bird over Herricks Cove Oct. 24 (DC) while New York's latest was a bird seen in Lancaster Nov. 25 (DF). Accipiters were well reported but without noticeable trends. Rough-legged Hawks were seen as early as the first week of October, but no buildup was evident anywhere in the region by the end of the period. A half dozen Bald Eagles were sighted throughout while a single Golden appeared at Times Beach in Buffalo Oct. 31 (RA *et al.*, *vide* B.O.S.). A remarkable concentration of some 40 Ospreys was noted in Leroy, N.Y. Sept. 13 (NI) feeding on bullheads. Seven or eight Peregrines were reported, three in Vermont and the remainder in c. or w. N.Y. The ten Merlin reports were also almost equally divided between the two states; four from Vermont, however, lacked details (convincing or otherwise).

**RAILS, SHOREBIRDS** — This summer, on June 3, a Yellow Rail responded to a tape at South Bay Marsh, Newport, Vt. (FO). This year's second record was an Erie County television tower fatality (AC). A Com. Gallinule lingering until Oct. 15 in the West Rutland marsh (WN) set a record late Vermont date. With at least five locations reporting 20+ species of shorebirds this fall, only the most remarkable observations are summarized here: one Whimbrel Aug. 29 at Long Pond (m ob *vide* R.B.A.) and three at an "urban renewal" lot in downtown Buffalo (DF); a Willet on the L. Champlain Westport flats Aug. 18 (DA *et al.*); a Purple Sandpiper on L. Champlain near Plattsburgh Oct. 29 (PHW), one of the few New York inland records away from the Great Lakes; an excellent flight of Baird's Sandpipers in late August and early September including 16 in the Rochester area (*vide* R.B.A.), up to ten at Montezuma N.W.R. (*vide* WB), and four at a tiny settling pond on Cornucopia Orchards in Niagara County (photo, DK); up to three **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** at both Northrup Creek near Rochester and Montezuma N.W.R. during this same time period; a lone **Marbled Godwit** at Chautauqua L. (RS *et al.*); up to 20 Hudsonian Godwits at Montezuma N.W.R. in late September; a single **Ruff** Aug. 6 at Braddock's Bay (CP); an **Am. Avocet** Sept. 6 at Long Pond (R.B.A.) and two at Times Beach Aug. 26 (DF); and a good number of phalarope observations, including four solitary Reds in w. New York, up to four Wilson's at both Long Pond in Rochester and at Montezuma N.W.R., and a widespread influx of Northerns, including up to 60 on the Niagara R., Sept. 22 (HA *et al.*). The most astonishing shorebird report, however, is of a Pectoral Sandpiper found under a tree on an Addison, Vt. lawn Nov. 29, surrounded by two inches of fresh snow (BP). Not surprisingly, the bird was described as sluggish.

**GULLS THROUGH OWLS** — The Buffalo area continued to lead the region in rare gull sightings with a

**Sabine's Gull** Sept. 22 (HA *et al.*, *vide* B.O.S.), with up to six Franklin's and 21 Little Gulls. Vermont's first **Little Gull** was an adult at Burlington Nov. 10-12 (WE). Rochester had a Pomarine and a Parasitic Jaeger in October (*vide* CP) and a Parasitic was also identified at Hamburg (RA, *vide* B.O.S.). Franklin's Gulls also appeared at Rochester, Ithaca and Chautauqua L., all in mid- to late September. Forster's Terns were noted in numbers near Rochester with a maximum of 12 on Aug. 11 (*vide* R.B.A.). Eighty Caspian Terns counted Aug. 15 along the Ontario lakeshore west of Rochester (ST, *vide* R.B.A.) is the second highest inland New York tally ever. The season's only Barn Owls were widely distributed but indicated no mass irruption although an Oct. 23 bird in Montpelier, Vt., (MFM) was early. Long-eared Owls frequented pine plantations on the L. Ontario plains in numbers, their local distributions again apparently determined by the abundance of meadow voles.

**SWIFTS THROUGH CHICKADEES** — The presence of 300+ Chimney Swifts on the U.V.M. campus in Burlington Sept. 28 (AP) is a good reflection of how mild the fall really was. Eight birds in the same area Oct. 14 exceeded their normal departure date by about a month and a half. Many observers commented on mass movements of Com. Flickers during the third week in September. Although the nest remains to be found, fully fledged young Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers seen being fed east of Island Pond July 6 (FO,WS) were perhaps the first definite record of nesting in Vermont. Seventy-eight E. Kingbirds counted Aug. 21 at Barcelona (RS) is a good tally for inland N.Y. Single **Western Kingbirds** were sighted at Bay View near Hamburg Sept. 7 (RA *et al.*, *vide* B.O.S.) and at Macedon Center Sept. 20 (M&TT *et al.*, *vide* R.B.A.). Twenty Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were retrieved from the base of the Elmira TV tower Sept. 19 following another record kill there on an evening of low overcast which left 800+ birds of 40 species dead (WH). A Yellow-bellied banded Oct. 16 at South Woodstock, Vt. (JV) exceeded all known late dates for the region. Common Ravens continue their steady increase in Winhall, Vt. (WN). A large scale movement of both chickadees was reported (e.g. 500-2000 Black-capped per day Oct. 15-28 at Pt. Breeze on L. Ontario—J&WL) and by December virtually every portion of the region had reported Boreal Chickadees. The movement of Boreals was unusually early, especially in Vermont where birds were noted at areas well removed from breeding areas by the third week of September.

**NUTHATCHES THROUGH THRUSHES** — Red-breasted Nuthatches were noticeably more common as migrants throughout the region with the best concentrations found on the Ontario Lake plains in late September while tropical storm *Eloise* raged to the south. A **Bewick's Wren** which has appeared sporadically since August at the Ayer's feeder in Cuba N.Y. (A&JA,RK *et al.*) provided the second regional record this year, the first being a bird banded and photographed last May in s. Woodstock, Vt. (SL,JV). Carolina Wrens continue to increase steadily throughout the region with a half dozen feeder reports in Vermont. A Long-billed Marsh Wren found near Burlington Nov. 12 remained

through the end of the period (WE,BE). Swanson's Thrushes staged a 'spectacular movement' in c. Vermont Sept. 8 (WN) when 69 birds were banded at V I N.S. (SL,JV). In Alfred, N.Y., one was banded on the rather late date of Oct. 24 (EB). A report of a family of E. Bluebirds in Horseheads, N.Y. leaving the nest Sept. 21 (WH) extends the New York late nesting date by some four days.

**KINGLETS THROUGH WARBLERS** — A strong flight of both Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets developed in October and 91 of the latter species were banded at V.I.N.S. on Oct. 21 near the peak of the flight in Vermont (JV). A few Bohemian Waxwings were noted in Londonderry (SA) and Burlington, Vt. (WE) but no irruption was apparent by the end of the period. Most remarkable of the six Loggerhead Shrikes reported was one "well seen" Oct. 28 in Keene, N.Y. (GR, *vide* JP) where locally unreported for over four years. The Elmira tower kill of Sept. 18-19 included 48 Red-eyed and 7 Philadelphia Vireos. Philadelphia Vireos were well reported in Niagara and Orleans Counties with daily counts of up to six individuals from mid-August to late September (DK). Early arrivals and late departures characterized the warblers this fall. The B.O.S. managed to locate 16 species on their Oct. 12 survey. Species whose numbers were most improved this fall included Bay-breasted (hands-down winner for warbler of the season throughout the region), Tennessee, Nashville and possibly Orange-crowned and Pine Warbler. The Elmira tower also yielded 22 species of warblers on Sept. 19 (WH), including 198 Bay-breasted, 110 Magnolia, 78 Ovenbirds and 37 Chestnut-sided Warblers. A tower in Erie County also yielded a rare **Kentucky Warbler** (AC *et al.*, *vide* B.O.S.). A Worm-eating Warbler was observed Sept. 8 at a Hamburg cemetery by Bourne (*vide* B O S.). A total of over 30 Orange-crowned Warbler reports were received including an Aug. 24 report from Braddocks Bay (CP, *vide* R.B.A.) and some 21 reports from Burlington, Vt. (WE BE), plus four banded at S. Woodstock (SL,JV). Since convincing details did not accompany any of the sightings there is room for considerable skepticism regarding the species' status. Unfortunately this is equally true of Pine Warblers, about 15 of which were reported Aug. 10 - Oct. 4. Five were also found dead beneath an Erie County TV tower Sept. 8 (AC *et al.*, *vide* B.O.S.). About ten Connecticut Warbler reports were received including two remarkably early birds at Clarence Center, N.Y., Sept. 7 (DF, *vide* B O S.). Unusually late warblers included: a Black-and-white at Durand Park Nov. 1 (PW, *vide* RO); a Nashville Nov. 4 at Burlington (WE); four N. Parulas banded Oct. 21 in S. Woodstock (JV); a Yellow Oct. 26 at Burlington (BE, *et al.*); Yellow-rumped Nov. 29 in Wallingford, Vt. (BW); Bay-breasted Nov. 9 at Buffalo (DF); and an Am. Redstart Nov. 10 in Essex, N.Y. (PM,JP).

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS** — An immature or ♀ **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was reported from Tonawanda W.M.A. Aug. 23 (BR, *vide* B.O.S.). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was sighted in Ellison Park near Rochester on the unusually late date of Nov. 9 (GD, *vide* RO). The fall's only **Dickcissel** remained a

week at an Elizabethtown, N.Y. feeder (GC). Last July [see *Am. Birds*: 29, 947] Evening Grosbeaks were noted moving south in Montreal, and their arrival in Vermont in early August might have been anticipated, but the reasons for this remarkably early, large influx remain unexplained. Despite several subsequent sizable movements no exceptional buildups were noted, the birds either continuing farther south or remaining dispersed under the mild open weather. With House Finches continuing to spread at a remarkable rate throughout the region one of the unanswered questions about this species is what segment of our local populations is migratory. When and if a severe winter finally strikes our region, will the non-migratory segment be able to survive it, even with feeders, or will the strategy of migrating prove to be evolutionarily advantageous? Pine Grosbeaks exhibited their first good movement into the region since 1972 with numerous arrivals the last week of October.

With the exception of 70 birds noted at Burlington, Vt. Nov. 22 (WE) only scattered small flocks of Com. Redpolls were noted. A few local concentrations of Pine Siskins were reported, the largest apparently in Schenectady where 384 were banded in November, the first ever banded there prior to Dec. 8 (RY) A Rufous-sided Towhee appeared at a Sudbury, Vt., feeding station on the last day of the period (AP). Movements of Dark-eyed Juncos, Tree Sparrows and White-throated Sparrows were generally considered very early this year throughout the region. Excellent flights of sparrows were noted Oct. 18 in Burlington when 11 species were tallied, including the regional high count (20) of Vesper Sparrows (WE), and Oct. 20 in Essex County, N.Y., when ten species were seen (*vide* JP) A strong flight of Lincoln's Sparrows reached Vermont in late September. The absence of snow made assessments of the Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting abundance difficult but numerous large flocks—max. 500 (JE)—of Snow Buntings noted on the Lake Ontario plains in late October may be portents of things to come this winter

**CORRIGENDUM** — Contra the statement in *Am Birds*: 29, 31, Ruddy Turnstones are regular migrants in Vermont.

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## APPALACHIAN REGION

/George A. Hall

It was not a normal fall season. The weather was mild, the migration varied from subpar to excellent at various places, the migrants were late some places and early at others, there were many rarities, and the 'northern' finches came in numbers, as did some other northern species. On second thought, maybe this mixture of events that defies generalization is actually a normal fall.



In the north both August and September were much wetter than normal, August slightly on the warm side, and September cooler than normal. October had normal weather, and November was much warmer than usual, and slightly on the dry side. At low elevations there were no hard frosts until after mid-October and very few for the season. There was no general snowfall during the period. Perhaps the warm "Indian Summer" weather of November is best represented by a Winter Wren in almost full song at Dalton, Ga. on Nov. 8.

There was a heartening increase in the number of observers afield during a fall season. One of the major events of an Appalachian autumn is the southbound migration of raptors along the mountain ridges. This year besides the longtime projects on Tuscarora Mountain in southern Pennsylvania, on Peters Mountain in southeastern West Virginia, and the Tennessee Ornithological Society's (T.O.S.) cooperative project in eastern Tennessee, observations came from a season-long watch on a series of lookouts along the Blue Ridge in Virginia, and from two locations in Somerset County, Pa. As in the past many of the quantitative data that follow come from the two major banding projects: Powdermill Nature Reserve (P.N.R.) in Westmoreland Co., Pa., and the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory (A.F.M.O.) in Grant County, W. Va. Another major banding project at Presque Isle State Park, Pa. is now included in the area but no data were submitted. Smaller projects are carried out at Raccoon Creek State Park, Beaver Co., Pa. and Bays Mountain near Kingsport, Tenn. This is the first report since the addition of

northwestern Pennsylvania to this Region. This area definitely not mountain or hill country, now provides some Lake Erie shore to our previously landlocked Region.

The migration started early with good flights of warblers from the boreal forest at Presque Isle in the second week in August (RBo) and in the Pittsburgh area in mid-August (PH). Early September had good numbers of migrants in the north, but the heaviest flights came after the passage of Hurricane *Eloise* on Sept 23-24. At A.F.M.O. heavy flights occurred on Aug 29, September 3-5, Sept. 9 & 11, with very heavy flights on Sept. 21-22 and Sept. 27-28. At Presque Isle Pa., there was a good flight on Sept. 12 but this was not reflected at A.F.M.O. Almost all areas reported good flights in the few days following *Eloise*, and it was at this time that the first migrants reached northern Georgia in any numbers. There were two periods of heavy migration in October, over the weekend of the 17-19 and the following weekend of the 23-25. This last movement generally emptied the Region of small birds, and November was rather quiet, with a subpar water fowl flight. At P.N.R. 5100 birds were banded in the four months of the period, about 20% below the average of the last five years. At A.F.M.O. the count for six-weeks operation was 3889, 13% above average but only about half of last year's count. At Marietta, O. the heaviest migration in recent years was reported (JS), but most observers deemed the flight average or a little below.

At Youngstown, O. a total of 1031 dead birds was picked up at a TV tower during the season, and at Pittsburgh an incomplete check showed 364 casualties for the season (KP). There was only partial correlation between the tower kills and other indicators of heavy migration. Tower kills generally came on rainy or foggy nights with winds between NE and SE and usually preceded, by one or two nights, days of large catches at the banding stations. In one case, Sept 24-25, there was a major kill at Youngstown and a major flight at A.F.M.O., but no great flight at P.N.R. Heavy kills at both Pittsburgh and Youngstown occurred on the night of Oct. 17-18, and a smaller kill occurred near Morgantown at a fire tower on a mountaintop at that time. P.N.R. had had a major banding day on Oct 16 and Oct. 19 was a major banding day at Morgantown.

**LOONS, GREBES AND HERONS** — Red-throated Loons were reported from Watauga L., Tenn., Nov. 15 & 17 (GW & DL *fide* GE) and Pymatuning L., Pa. Nov. 22 (RFL). Hawk watchers at Tuscarora Mt., Pa (CG) and Rockfish Gap on the Blue Ridge, Va. (RS) were treated to the sight of Com. Loons flying by. A Red-necked Grebe was seen at Presque Isle, Pa., Nov 1 (RFL,ML). The Horned Grebe was reported more frequently than usual and a count of 50 near Youngstown Nov. 11 was noteworthy (WB).

As during last winter it appeared that more Great Blue Herons than usual will spend the winter in the Region. Of interest is a report of 25-50 Great Blue Herons heard calling in about five minutes as they flew over Charleston, W. Va. on the night of Oct. 29 (KA, *fide* NL) and a flock of 18 flying over Wheeling, W

Va on the afternoon of Nov. 23 (NL). There were several rather late records for Green Herons: Oct. 29 at Butler, Pa. (FP), Nov. 17 at Watauga L., Tenn. (GE), Nov. 19 at Belpre, O. (WPC, *fide* JS), and late November at Lovettsville, Va. (DC). The only reports of Cattle Egrets came from Knox County, Tenn., eight on Sept. 19 and one at another location Sept. 21 (JBO). Great Egrets were reported from Presque Isle, Pa. Aug. 1 (DSt, *fide* RBo) and Pymatuning L., Pa., Aug. 2, four on Aug. 10 and three on Oct. 10 (RFL); and near Elizabethton, Tenn., Sept. 2 and Sept. 18-20 (GW,GE,LH), Beaver County, Pa., Sept. 23 (MK, *fide* PH), and L. Arthur, Pa., Sept. 27 (MG). Little Blue Herons were reported from Cohutta N. Fish Hatchery near Dalton, Ga., Aug. 31 (AH) and from Cook Forest S P, Pa., Sept. 20 (BDD, *fide* LC). A Yellow-crowned Night Heron was seen irregularly Aug. 10-Oct. 4 at Austin Springs, Tenn. (GE).

**WATERFOWL** — The waterfowl migration produced rather mixed results, probably because of the "bluebird" weather during November. Although there were a number of unusual records most areas saw rather few birds. However, at Presque Isle, Pa., Pymatuning L., Pa. and L. Arthur, Pa., where good flights are common, the numbers were not particularly low. There were two Mute Swans seen in Somerset County, Pa. in mid-October (PH) and one in Fayette County, Pa., Nov. 1 (VJ, *fide* PH). A Whistling Swan remained near Lock Haven, Pa. all summer (PS). Rather early migrants were seen at Warren, Pa. Sept. 26 (WH), but the main migration was a little late, coming around Nov. 20-23. On Nov. 16 over 2000 swans were counted on Cheat L., near Morgantown (RW & LB). The Canada Goose flight was perhaps lower than in other recent years. Rather early were 259 Canadas counted from the Tuscarora Mt., Pa. hawk lookout Sept. 27 (CG). The population at Pymatuning L., Pa., here the state operates a goose management project, was about 10,000 on Nov. 8 (RFL). A Snow Goose was with Canadas at Tuscarora Mt., Sept. 28 (CG). Other records were five at Lock Haven, Pa., Oct. 20-21 (PS), Pymatuning L., Pa., Nov. 8 & 22 (RFL), and Quemahoning Dam, Somerset Co., Pa., Nov. 15 (RSa). Four "Blue" Geese were at Charleston from Nov. 4 to late in the month (NG) and one was at Pymatuning L., Nov. 22 (RFL). A report of 2400 Canvasback (Blue-Listed) at Presque Isle Nov. 14 (CF, *fide* PH) was noteworthy. Canvasbacks are rarely seen in the s. part of this Region so reports from Waynesboro, Va., Oct. 30 & Nov. 26 (RS & MH) and from Watauga L., Tenn., Nov. 15 (GW, *fide* GE) are notable. It was an unusually good year for scoters. The White-winged was reported from Presque Isle several times (RBo), Pymatuning L., Nov. 30 (SF) and L. Arthur Nov. 8 (TM, *fide* PH) Surf Scoters were reported from L. Arthur, Nov. 2 and Pymatuning L. (two) Nov. 14 (CF, *fide* PH). A Black Scoter remained at Morgantown for about two weeks in mid-November (RW) and several others were seen there on one occasion (RSm). This rarely-reported species was also found at Presque Isle Nov. 23 (JB, *fide* RBo) and at Lock Haven Nov. 26 & 30 (PS).

**RAPTORS** — The organized hawk watching brought mixed result. At Tuscarora Mt., 88 days of counting listed 9335 hawks, the best season on record (CG), at Peters Mt., W.Va. the total for 10 days was 2739 (GHu), well below the average of 5200 for that count, while the T.O.S. Count was slightly below normal (TF). The counts of Broad-winged Hawks were Tuscarora Mt. 4462, Peters Mt. 2655, T.O.S. Counts 15,500 (Mendota Tower 3113), Blue Ridge, Va 14,830 (MM,W,M, *fide* TF), (Kennedy Peak 3944, Purgatory Mt. 3238) and Somerset County, Pa., 501 (GSa & RSa, *fide* PH). The peak of the Broad-winged migration was slightly on the late side. A very late Broad-winged was near the Pinnacles of Dan, s. Virginia Nov 8 (RK).

Black Vultures may be expanding their range a little, they outnumbered the Turkey Vultures at the Peters Mt., observation point (NL). Both Rough-legged Hawks and Merlins were reported more commonly than is usual. The report of 100 Osprey (27 on Sept 27) at Tuscarora Mt., (CG) was noteworthy. Tuscarora Mt reported 51 Golden Eagles for the fall (CG) Other reports of Golden Eagles came from w. Virginia near the intersection of the Blue Ridge Parkway and U S Route 60 Aug. 14 (RCC), Blackwater Falls S P, W.Va., Sept. 7 (GAH), Buncombe County, N C, Sept. 24 (JC, *fide* RRu), Gordonsville, Va., Oct 11 (DR), three at Waggoner's Gap, Pa. Nov. 6 (RB), and four seen from a glider near State College, Pa., Nov 28 (KS, *fide* MW). The August and early September records suggest possible breeding birds. Seven Bald Eagles were sighted at Tuscarora Mt. (CG) and other reports came from Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., Sept 6 and Dec. 7 (CH, *fide* PS), Shenango Reservoir, Pa., Oct 18 and Warren, Pa., Nov. 3 (DG, *fide* WH), Erie N.W.R., Pa., Oct. 25 and Pymatuning L., Pa., Nov 15 (RFL), State College, Pa. (MW), and Strasburg, Va., Nov. 27 (SH, *fide* RSi). Goshawks were reported from Elizabethton, Tenn., Oct. 4-Oct. 19 (LH, (LH, *fide* GE), Washington County, O., Oct. 15 (MO, *fide* NL), Pymatuning L., Pa., Oct. 2 & Nov. 2 (RFL), Waggoner's Gap, Pa., Nov. 6 (RB), and Warren County, Pa. in late November (DG, *fide* WH). Peregrines were reported from Jersey Shore, Pa., Sept. 23 & 26, Avis, Pa., in late October (PS), Presque Isle, Sept. 28 (RBo), Pymatuning Oct. 5 (SF), Roan Mt., Tenn., Sept 27 (GW & DL), and two records in Shenandoah County, Va. (RSi). Only two were seen from Tuscarora Mt (CG).

**SHOREBIRDS** — It was possibly the best year within memory for shorebirds in this land-locked area. Although the August and September rains left high water at many places, others had many waders in flooded fields. This was particularly true in n c Pennsylvania near Lock Haven where the rains associated with *Eloise* produced 16 species of waders in a few days. Overall a total of 29 species (plus one other possible) were reported in the Region. Of special interest was the large number of reports of Am. Golden Plover: Canaan Valley S.P., W.Va., Aug. 15 & 16 (RCC), Lewisburg, W.Va., Sept. 21 and three on Oct 16 (COH), Lock Haven, Pa. 120 listed after *Eloise*, Presque Isle, Sept. 27 (PH), two records of three birds



in Crawford County, Pa., Oct. 8, Nov. 8 (RFL & ML), L. Arthur, two in October (MG, *vide* PH), and State College late September (MMo *vide* WC). This species, which has seldom been reported away from L. Erie in this Region, was frequently accompanied by the more common Black-bellied Plover. Ruddy Turnstones were found at Lock Haven (first local record) after *Eloise* (PS), Presque Isle, Aug. 18 (DS, *vide* PH), Lake Arthur Aug. 3 (HC, *vide* PH), State College, Aug. 5 (MW), and Hendersonville, N.C. in September (RH, *vide* RRu). The usually rare sandpipers such as White-rumped, Baird's and Westerns were common enough to prevent individual mention, and good numbers of the more common species were on hand. A Red Knot was at Presque Isle, Pa., Aug. 23 (RFL), and Short-billed Dowitchers were reported from several places. A dowitcher on Oct. 9 at L. Arthur, Pa. was late enough to have been a Long-billed but certain identification was not possible (PH). The real rarities of the season were three records for **Buff-breasted Sandpipers**, Aug. 5 at State College (MW), Aug. 27 at Presque Isle (RBo), and Sept. 7 at Canaan Valley S.P., W.Va. (second state record—GAH), two reports of Hudsonian Godwits, 12 at Lock Haven, Pa. immediately after *Eloise* (PS) and one at State College Oct. 1 (MMo, *vide* MW), and a Marbled Godwit at Norris L., Tenn., Sept. 10 (JH, *vide* JBO). A Red Phalarope (most unusual for this Region) was at Presque Isle Sept. 14 (SR&WR, *vide* RBo) and another there Oct. 26 (RBo). Northern Phalaropes (not quite as rare but still noteworthy) were at Oneida L., Butler Co., Pa. Sept. 6 (BS, *vide* PH) and near Scotland, Pa., Sept. 28 (CG). Finally there were three records for Am. Avocets, all from the s. part of the Region which did not share in the spectacular shorebirding of the North: Nicklesville, Ga., Sept. 9-20 (DCr, *vide* AH), Troutville, Va., Oct. 11 (BK), and near Johnson City, Tenn., Nov. 22 (injured) (BKc, *vide* GE)

**GULLS AND TERNS** — One of the more unusual birds for this Region this fall was a Pomarine Jaeger found at Claytor L., Pulaski Co., Va. Oct. 3-9 (JV). A species rarely found in this Region prior to the addition of Erie County, Pa. was a Little Gull at Presque Isle Sept. 26 (RBo). A Franklin's Gull was also seen at Presque Isle Oct. 2 (CK, *vide* RBo). Both of these species are becoming rather regular at that station. A total count of 6500 Bonaparte's Gulls at Pymatuning L., Pa., Nov. 27 was noteworthy (RFL). There was an excellent flight of Com. Terns and most places that report on lake areas had good showings. Among the Commons were more than the usual number of Forster's Terns and many more than the usual number of Caspians

**CUCKOOS, OWLS AND NIGHTHAWKS** — Both cuckoo species had been generally scarce in the spring and summer and although some parts of the Region experienced moderately heavy outbreaks of the fall webworm the numbers of cuckoos seen remained low. A late nesting of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo was reported from Butler, Pa., Sept. 2 (FP) and a very late bird was banded at Morgantown Nov. 4 (GAH).

Two nests of the Barn Owl were reported from near Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE) but the only other report was from Waynesboro, Va. (RS). A Snowy Owl was seen near State College, Pa., Nov. 1 (CB, *vide* MW) and the seldom reported Long-eared Owl was found at Jennerstown, Pa., Nov. 29 (BM, *vide* PH) and in Beaver County, Pa., Nov. 30 (CF, *vide* PH).

The migration of Com. Nighthawks, which is normally a spectacular event of late August and early September was not as heavy as usual although perhaps more than usual numbers were seen in the south, e.g. 1500 near Hillsville, Va., Aug. 28 (RK) and "several hundred" in McDowell County, N.C., Aug. 20 (JHa, *vide* RRu). Usually this flight ends by mid-September, but this year there were some very late flights: 250 seen over Erie, Pa. Sept. 28 (RBo), good flight over Pittsburgh Sept. 30 & Oct. 1 (KP), and some last seen dates of Oct. 3 at Erie (RBo), Oct. 3 at Clarksville, Pa (RB), Oct. 8 at Pittsburgh (PH) and Oct. 16 at Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE).

**HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS AND FLYCATCHERS** — Only 47 hummingbirds were banded at P.N.R. compared with an average of 88 (RCL) but at Charleston an estimated 50 were seen feeding in one small area Sept. 14 (NG). Red-bellied Woodpeckers continue to spread northward. There were several reports from the State College, Pa. area where they have been scarce (MW,WC) and one was seen at Presque Isle Sept. 14 (WR&SR, *vide* PH).

Two W. Kingbirds were seen at Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., Sept. 20 (CS, *vide* PS), a species that is less common here than farther east on the coast. At P.N.R. a total of 59 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were banded, with the first a very early July 25 and the last a very late Oct. 16 (RCL). Other records came from Indiana, Pa., Aug. 23 (CW) and Johnson City and Elizabethton, Tenn., the latter on Oct. 1 (GE) as well as one banded at A.F.M.O. (GAH). The Least Flycatcher flight was good at P.N.R. with 179 banded and a late one on Oct. 7 (RCL). There was a very late Least Flycatcher banded at Morgantown Oct. 24 (GAH).

**SWALLOWS AND CORVIDS** — A few Tree Swallows and a Barn Swallow were still present in Crawford County, Pa., Nov. 8 (RFL). A night roost of Cliff Swallows numbering about 2000 in a cornfield near Lewisburg, W.Va. in early September was of interest (COH). There was no report this fall about the large Purple Martin roost at Charleston.

The Blue Jay flight along the Allegheny Front in West Virginia was lighter than normal (GAH). Com Ravens continue to increase in c. Pennsylvania, with reports coming from throughout the mountain counties, and it is no longer unusual to see them.

**CHICKADEES AND NUTHATCHES** — There was a very heavy southward invasion of Black-capped Chickadees. The earliest date was Sept. 16 at Strasburg, Va. (RSi), but this may have been a bird from the nearby mountains. The bulk of the flight was in the second half of October and early November. These birds, which are much larger than the Regional population of Black-cappeds, were reported at least as far south as Charleston, W.Va. (NG) and Bath County,

Va (RSi). At P.N.R. (in the Black-capped range) 333 were banded, while at Morgantown 56 were banded (GAH) and at Clarksville, Pa. 32 were banded (RB), both of these latter places being in the normal range of the Carolina. Along with these visitors from the north came a few Boreal Chickadees: Lock Haven, Oct. 23 (CHa), State College, at least two from Oct. 31 through early November (FS, *fide* MW), P.N.R., Nov. 8 (second local record (RCL), and Port Allegany, Pa., Dec. 8 (FW).

In late August and early September there was a major southward flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches. At A F M.O. the earliest catches were on Aug. 30 and 52 were banded (GAH). For a short period of time they were widespread and common; later in the season many had disappeared. On Roan Mt., the cone crop was a failure and no Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen in the heights. (GE).

**WRENS AND THRUSHES** — House Wren bandings were only 49% of average at P.N.R. (RCL) and they were thought to be below normal at many other places. Winter Wrens were in low numbers at both P.N.R. (RCL) and A.F.M.O. (GAH). The only Bewick's Wrens reported were at Lewisburg, W. Va., Sept. 6 & Oct. 6 (COH), A.F.M.O., Sept. 7 and Sept. 15 (GAH), and Johnson City, Tenn., Oct. 30 (PR, *fide* GE). Carolina Wrens continue to boom, and are now well established in such n. Pennsylvania locations as Erie (RBo), Port Allegany (FW), and Brookville (LC). Two Long-billed Marsh Wrens in a reclaimed strip-mine project at Jackson, Ky., Oct. 11 were unusual (PA).

Except for the Hermit Thrush which was captured in good numbers at P.N.R. (RCL) and Morgantown (GAH), the spotted thrush migration was on the light side. At P.N.R. only 144 Swainson Thrushes were banded (RCL), while at A.F.M.O. the total was 325 (GAH). A very early (for the location) Swainson's Thrush was found at Dalton, Ga., Sept. 15 (HD, *fide* AH) and later they were very common there. Gray-checked Thrushes were rather scarce, and Veeries were almost unreported.

**KINGLETS AND PIPITS** — There was a widespread and very heavy southward flight of Ruby-crowned Kinglets. At P.N.R. 442 were banded, with 119 of these coming on Oct. 19 (RCL). Golden-crowned Kinglets were in good numbers, but were much less abundant than the Ruby-crowns.

The flight of Water Pipits was unusually heavy, "best ever" at Lock Haven (PS), very good at L. Arthur (PH) with other reports coming from Allegheny N F in n. Pennsylvania (LC), Waynesboro, Va. (RS), Frederick and Clarke Counties, Va. (RSi) and a very early arrival at Jackson, Ky., Sept. 21 (PA).

**VIREOS AND WARBLERS** — A White-eyed Vireo banded at Presque Isle, Oct. 4 was the first local record (RFL) and was rather late as was one banded at A F M.O. (fourth local record) on the same day. The Philadelphia Vireo was much more commonly reported than usual; space does not allow mention of all the records.

The warbler flight brought the usual mixed bag of reports, but while some places had unusually good

flights the consensus was that there were fewer than normal. At P.N.R. 17 species were banded in below average numbers, only one (Connecticut) was banded in near average numbers, and none in above average numbers (RCL). On the other hand at A.F.M.O. only four species (Cape May, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, and Blackpoll) were banded in lower than average numbers, seven species in near average numbers and six species (Tennessee, Nashville, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Ovenbird, and Wilson's) were banded in above average numbers (GAH). For the first time in recent years the Blackpoll (378 banded) fell from first place, which was taken by the Tennessee with 661 banded at A.F.M.O. (GAH). The usually rare species such as the Orange-crowned and Connecticut were reported too often to list all the records. The flight began rather early with substantial numbers passing through Allegheny County, Pa., Aug. 23 (PH), but the major flight occurred as usual in the second half of September with good numbers of stragglers remaining as late as the third week in October. Most areas managed to compile very long lists of species seen even though numbers may have been low. In October the Yellow-rumped Warbler staged a major flight at most places. The banding total of 180 at P.N.R. was the best in the last four years there (RCL), but some idea of the numbers involved can be gained by noting that 365 were banded on a two-acre property at Morgantown Oct. 1-Nov. 30 with a one-day capture of 189 on Oct. 26.

Ovenbirds, which had been in rather low numbers, staged a good flight and about 350 were picked up at the Youngstown, O. tower kills (WB). A very late Am Redstart was at Meadville Pa., Nov. 29 (ML)

**ICTERIDS AND FRINGILLIDS** — There were two late reports of N. Orioles: Oct. 28 at State College (WC) and Nov. 18-26 at Jackson, Ky. (PA). Northern Orioles have been remaining in the north rather regularly but a report of an Orchard Oriole at Sheffield, Pa in November is more unusual (RSI, *fide* WH).

A pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** was found nesting in early August in Vinton County, O., the first Ohio nesting (AN). This species was also reported from Waynesboro, Va. on three occasions in August (MH & RS), and for several days at Austin Springs, Tenn. (GE)

A towhee of the subspecies *Pipilo erythrophthalmus arcticus* was taken at P.N.R., Oct. 16 (KP), second local record. Dark-eyed Juncos arrived at a normal time and had a good flight. The only report of an "Oregon" Junco came from Presque Isle, Pa., Nov. 1 (RFL) Tree Sparrows were in much lower numbers in s w Pennsylvania and n. West Virginia than they have been in recent years. At Morgantown, I have seen only two all fall. White-throated Sparrows staged a very heavy migration, which arrived a little early in the last week of September.

Several singing Henslow's Sparrows in August at Big Meadows in Shenandoah N.P., Va. were noteworthy (DCa). In view of the scarcity of Grasshopper Sparrows in recent years the report of four singing males along the Blue Ridge Parkway in s. Virginia is of interest (RK). A Clay-colored Sparrow was banded at Raccoon Creek S.P., Pa., Sept. 6 (NK), and a Harris' Sparrow was at a feeder at Erie Oct. 21 & 22 (CK, *fide* RBo)

“NORTHERN” FINCHES — The now-annual invasion of Evening Grosbeaks was the heaviest in the last few years, and probably ranks with major flight years in the past. There was a remarkably early record on Sept. 14 in Oteen, N.C. (EH, *fide* RRu), and there were a few records in late September but the bulk of the flight arrived in the last half of October, and by the end of the period they were found throughout the Region. There were three records for Pine Grosbeaks: Galeton, Pa., Oct. 25 (CPP, *fide* PS), Heart’s Content, Pa., Nov. 29 (HJ&CJ, *fide* WH), and State College, Dec. 2 (MW). Pine Siskins were found on Roan Mt., Tenn., Sept. 13 (GE) and at A.F.M.O., Sept. 27 (GAH) and in October a good flight occurred, particularly along the mountains, although there were few reports in the west. By the end of the period siskins seemed to be concentrated in large flocks at rather few locations. The Am. Goldfinch flight at P.N.R. was very poor (RCL). Purple Finches were not especially common anywhere, and they were absent from near Indiana, Pa. where they have been nesting in recent years (CW). The House Finch continues to move westward and southward with reports from Warren, Pa., Dec. 2 (BH, *fide* WH), Marietta, O. in November (JS), and Swannanoa, N.C., Oct. 25 (RRu). Other reports came from Blacksburg, Va. (JM), Strasburg, Va. (RSi), Inwood, W.Va., seven banded (CM) and Indiana, Pa. where 71 were banded during the period (CW). The only report of Com. Redpolls was from Indiana, Pa., Nov. 19 (CW).

An immature Red Crossbill was seen near Anthony, W.Va., Sept. 1 (NL), possibly a bird from the little understood local population. Other reports of Red Crossbills came from Warren, Pa., Nov. 16 (HJ, *fide* WH), State College, Nov. 22 (MMo, *fide* MW), Clarksville, Pa., Oct. 30 (RB), Shenandoah N.P., Oct. 31 (LT), Montgomery County, Va., Nov. 13 (JV), Knoxville, Nov. 29 (JBO), and Watauga L., Tenn., Nov. 22 (GW & DL). The Tennessee records may have been from the mountain population faced with a cone shortage, but several of the other records were of birds feeding in Virginia pine, which is suggestive of birds from the far west since the Appalachian race has too small a bill to feed on pine. The only report of White-winged Crossbill was from Irvine, Pa., Nov. 24 (RRI, *fide* WH).

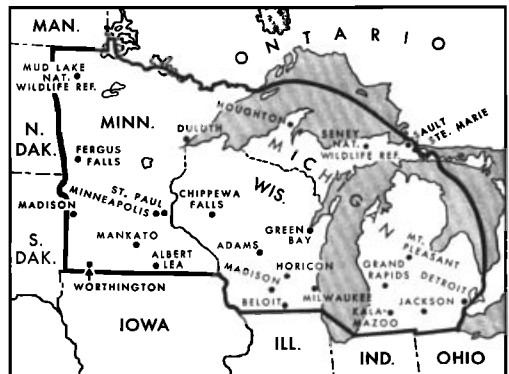
Snow Buntings were unusually numerous in the north, and this year there were reports all down the Great Valley from near Winchester, Va. (CM) to Staunton, Va. (RS), Daleville, Va. (JV), and Shenandoah N.P. (LT). They also made their appearance on the Roan Mt. balds in Tennessee (GE). Lapland Longspurs were reported from Presque Isle Nov. 1 (RFL&ML), and Nov. 5 (CK, *fide* RBo), and L. Arthur, Nov. 2 (PH), and near Stephens Va., Nov. 9 & 10 (RSi).

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## WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION /Daryl D. Tessen

Unique weather conditions characterized this autumn. The dry summer in Minnesota and Wisconsin ended with up to 10 inches of rainfall (in the western part of Wisconsin) during the last two weeks of August, with less precipitation elsewhere. For example there was a four to five inch rainfall in a 24-hour period that followed a west-east band across central Wisconsin from Red Wing, Minnesota to Green Bay, Wisconsin. Within two weeks parts of Wisconsin made a complete transition from drought to local flood conditions. September in all three states was notable for cool temperatures and generally drier conditions. The one exception was September 20 in Minnesota and September 21-22



in Wisconsin when a major cold front passed through. The intensity of this front diminished as it traversed Michigan. October brought unbelievably warm weather and dry conditions. Record high temperatures occurred in all three states with Minnesota and Michigan recording temperatures in the high eighties and several Wisconsin cities registering 90°F. Warm temperatures prevailed into early November and various spring flowers began blooming. On November ninth winter signaled its arrival with a snowstorm. By November tenth the entire region was suffering effects of a severe windstorm which caused an ore freighter to sink on Lake Superior. Several days later the weather again reversed and temperatures ranged in the 60s and high 70s. On November 20 a snowstorm swept across the region and by the 25th temperatures in some areas had plummeted to as low as -25°.

One result of such mercurial weather patterns was interesting birding throughout the region. Most notable was the major movement of many passerines from mid-August into early September. The major cold front that moved through the region on September 20-22 resulted in a spectacular flight of hawks, especially in Minnesota and Wisconsin; many thousands streaming through the Duluth area and all along the eastern half of Wisconsin. One hawk banding station in Wisconsin counted 15,000+ individuals, 13,000 of which were Broad-winged, passing over on Sept. 21. Then with the arrival of the exceptionally mild weather the migration proceeded at a leisurely pace, and established numerous record or near record late departure dates. With frequent strong southwest and northwest winds sweeping the region in October and November an unusual number of unexpected sightings occurred. The most outstanding were a Black-headed Gull in Erie Marsh, Mich., in late November, Sabine's Gulls in Minnesota. and Michigan, a California Gull and Common Eider in Michigan's Upper Peninsula (hereafter U.P.) and, an Ancient Murrelet, Groove-billed Ani and Burrowing Owl in Wisconsin. Townsend's Solitaires were reported from Wisconsin and Minnesota and a Long-tailed Jaeger and Say's Phoebe from Duluth. During the last half of the season all of the winter finches began moving into the region. However by season's end only Evening Grosbeaks were present in substantial numbers; the others seemed to have passed through.

**LOONS THROUGH HERONS** — Red-throated Loons were observed only in Wisconsin with seven in Ozaukee County Sept. 30 - Nov. 8 (EE,DG,DT) and one in Milwaukee County, Oct. 28 (EE). Red-necked Grebes were in Michigan Aug. 23, in Delta County (B&CT) and Sept. 24 in Muskegon County (HC) and in Wisconsin Aug. 14, in Burnett County (TB), until Sept. 9 in St. Croix County (CF,SR) and Nov. 5 in Racine County (LE). Horned Grebes were possibly wintering at the end of November in Dane (PA) and Waukesha (JBi) Cos., Wisc. The first U.P. record for Eared Grebe occurred along the L. Superior shoreline, Marquette Co. Nov. 10 (AR,PS). In Minnesota one remained at Duluth until Nov. 16. Western Grebes had good breeding success again in w. Minnesota with 203 counted on the Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall Co., Sept. 8, and 30 on L. Reno, Pope Co., Oct. 2 with a late bird at Duluth,

Nov. 9. Additionally a lone W. Grebe was observed in Wisconsin on the Crex Meadows N.W.R., Burnett Co., Aug. 26 (LL) and two in Muskegon Co., Mich. Oct. 7 (A&MH). White Pelicans were reported more frequently than is normal in the region. In Minnesota 200 in Faribault County Sept. 13, 2000 in Meeker County Oct. 6 and two birds were observed on L. Como in St. Paul during October and lingered into December Michigan had one at Shiawasee N.W.R., Saginaw Co., during the summer, which remained into early September, and another along the lakeshore at Escanaba Oct. 26 & 27 (B&CT). Two were present in Wisconsin in Wood Co., Oct. 20 (DF), six Nov. 2 two of which remained through Nov. 5 in St. Croix Co. (WN,CF) In Oconto Co., Wisc. a White Pelican was picked up by hunters on Green Bay in early November and brought to the Green Bay Wildlife Sanctuary where it recovered and departed on Nov. 20 (*vide* TE). A very late Double-crested Cormorant was observed in Port Washington harbor, Wisc., Nov. 30 (CFs). A Little Blue Heron was observed on the Oconto Marsh, Oconto Co., Wisc., Aug. 24 (SR) and an adult-plumaged bird was in Milwaukee County Sept. 16 (MD). Cattle Egrets were at their nesting site on the Oconto Marsh, until the end of August (DT,HL). An ill Cattle Egret found in Taylor Co., Oct. 31 died the following day (J&LF) In Minnesota 12 were noted in Lyon Co., Aug. 24 and a single bird was seen along the L. Superior shoreline n of Duluth Oct. 25. Cattle Egrets were also reported in Michigan; one Aug. 30 in Monroe County and one Nov. 28, in Wayne County (AM). The Snowy Egrets that nested on the Oconto Marsh, were present until mid-August. Single birds were also observed on the Erie Marsh, Aug. 9, 27 & 30 (JF,EK,AM) A **Louisiana Heron** was observed in Tuscola Co., Mich., Aug. 13 (CJ,HG,GM). The only Yellow-crowned Night Heron report came from Milwaukee. An immature bird was noted Aug. 18 & Sept. 16 along the Milwaukee R. (EE,MD). Late sightings of the Least Bittern occurred in Brown County, Wisc., Oct. 1 (ECI,BC) and Monroe County, Mich., Oct. 11.

**WATERFOWL** — Single Mute Swans were observed in Michigan, in Monroe Co., Sept. 20 (JAG) and in Livingston Co., Nov. 4 (RW). Two were also in Iron Co., Wisc. Nov. 17 (MBu). Whistling Swans were reported in fairly good numbers throughout the region with flocks varying from one to several hundred in Michigan substantial flights were observed in Muskegon, Ottawa (2450), Allegan and Kent Cos., on Nov. 22 (GW,BM). The Canada Goose fall flight through Wisconsin was again excellent. The first migrants began appearing with 300 at Horicon N.W.R. Sept. 9. A major state-wide migration occurred Sept. 23 & 24, when the number at Horicon swelled to 85,000. By mid-October the number there had doubled to 168,500 and continued to increase until the flight peaked Oct. 27 with 191,000+. Additionally there were 25-30,000 geese on lands surrounding the refuge bringing the approximate total to 220,000. Other state refuges had high peak numbers but all substantially below those of Horicon: 13,200 at Grand R., Marquette-Green Lake Cos., 11,300 at Pine I., Sauk-Portage Cos., and 7400 at Necedah N.W.R., Juneau Co. The White-fronted

Goose is a rare autumn migrant in this region, so the two Sept. 27 - Oct. 9 at Horicon N.W.R. (BF,DT,TS), and the one Nov. 18 in Douglas County (CF), both Wisconsin, are interesting. The major Snow Goose migration through Wisconsin occurred with minor stop-overs, Oct. 16 & 17. The only substantial 'stop-over' reported was by 1200 birds at Crex Meadows N.W.R., Burnett Co., Oct. 24 (JE).

A ♂ Cinnamon Teal was shot by a hunter near Cyrus, Pope Co., Minn., Oct. 25. The **Harlequin Duck** that summered in the Milwaukee harbor remained until Sept. 2 (EE *et al.*). One observed at Grand Marais, Cook Co., Sept. 30 represents the first Minnesota September observation. The second Michigan record of the **Common Eider** occurred this fall when an imm. male was observed and photographed Nov. 19, 20 & 29 along the breakwater in Marquette Bay (AR,PS,NI). The scoter flight through the region was excellent with all three species surprisingly abundant. In Michigan, the White-winged occurred in Muskegon, Ottawa, Marquette and Wayne Cos.; the Surf was seen in Berrien Co., three on Oct. 10 (RS), Ingham Co., one on Oct. 11, three on Oct. 25 (MBr,DM,TBI,BA), Muskegon Co. three on Oct. 18, (GW), Wayne Co. one on Nov. 6-8, (JAG) and Marquette Co. one on Nov. 9-11, (AR,PS,NI); the Black was noted in Berrien and Van Buren Cos., intermittently Oct. 2 - Nov. 23 with a peak of 45 on Nov. 2 (GS), Chippewa Co. seven on Oct. 23, (WG,BH), Wayne Co. two on Nov. 6-8, (JAG), Marquette Co. three on Nov. 9-11, (AR,PS,NI) and Muskegon Co. one on Nov. 28, (BM,HC). In Minnesota there was an interesting inland sighting at the Marshall Sewage Lagoons, Lyon Co. of two White-winged, 14 Surf and three Black Scoters Oct. 8. For Wisconsin there was an exceptionally early sighting of a White-winged on the Crex Meadows N.W.R., Aug. 12 (JE). Additional White-winged observations were made in Brown, Milwaukee, Ozaukee and Vilas Cos., with a peak of 60 in Ozaukee Co., Nov. 8 (DT). Two Surf Scoters lingered in the Milwaukee harbor Nov. 5-15 (EBs,DT) and two were in Ozaukee Co., Nov. 8 (DT). The Black was recorded in two Wisconsin counties, Ozaukee Oct. 26, (DT) and Milwaukee Oct. 24 - Nov. 15, (EE,MD,DT) with a peak of 14 there Nov. 7. Twenty-five thousand Ruddy Ducks were on lower Green Bay, Brown Co., Oct. 27 (JT).

**HAWKS** — At the Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve at Duluth a total of 59,141 hawks was counted passing over from August through October, including a 52,500 peak in September. Among the 15 species recorded there were: 321 Turkey Vultures, 81 Goshawks, 8869 Sharp-shinned, only 20 Cooper's, 43,900 Broad-winged, five Golden Eagles, 61 Ospreys, 12 Peregrine Falcons and only six Merlins. Peak movements occurred between Sept. 11-13 and Sept. 20-24. Other interesting Minnesota observations included two Turkey Vultures in Hubbard Co., Nov. 9 (a record late date for Minnesota); **Ferruginous Hawks** in Pipestone Co., Sept. 23, Minneapolis, Oct. 22 and Duluth, Nov. 3; a Golden Eagle in Kittson Co., Nov. 6; a Peregrine Falcon at Agassiz N.W.R., Sept. 23; and a **Prairie Falcon** near Moorhead, Clay Co., Oct. 8 (L&CF). Wisconsin too had an excellent hawk flight with the most common migrants being the Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed, and

Broad-winged. There were few sightings of the Cooper's and Merlin and good flights of Goshawks and Ospreys. Most notable was the spectacular Broad-winged flight that passed through e. Wisconsin, i.e., 1150 during a 15-minute period in Winnebago Co., Sept. 21 (DT), 1289 at the Cedar Grove Hawk Station, Sheboygan Co., Sept. 22 (DB), 4000 in Milwaukee and Ozaukee Cos., Sept. 22 (MD) and at the Little Suamico Hawk Station, Brown Co., 13,084 and 2463, Sept. 21 & 22, respectively (TE). Besides impressive numbers there were other notables in Wisconsin, including single Swainson's Hawks Sept. 27, at Horicon N.W.R., (DT *et al.*) and Dane Co. Nov. 16, (BF); record early fall Rough-legged Hawks, Outagamie Co., Aug. 16 (DT) and Price Co., Aug. 29, (MH); single Golden Eagles at Crex Meadows N.W.R., Oct. 12 & 27, Nov. 16 (CF,JE,WN), Ozaukee Co., Nov. 5 (JI), Cedar Grove Station, Sheboygan Co., Oct. 15 - Nov. 8 (total of four birds, DB) and Little Suamico Station, Brown Co., Oct. 15 & Nov. 8 (TE); gray phase Gyrfalcons in Wood Co., Nov. 26 (DF) and Eau Claire Co., Nov. 27 (TV); and single Peregrine Falcons in St. Croix (CF), Pierce (CF), Rock (JBS), Ozaukee (EE), Outagamie (DT), and Racine (EP) Cos., plus a total of five birds in Brown (TE) and ten in Sheboygan (DE) Cos. Michigan had a very early Rough-legged Hawk Aug. 11 Alcona Co., (RS,SS) and single Peregrine Falcons in Berrien Co., Oct. 6 & 10 (WB,RS), one of which was observed capturing a tern.

**GROUSE THROUGH COOT** — Spruce Grouse were observed in Oneida Co., Wisc. Sept. 3, (FM,RB) in Koochiching Co. and Cook Co., Minn. Aug. 30 and Oct. 12 respectively. In Minnesota the Ruffed Grouse continued its comeback in the n.w. and n.c. regions but remains very scarce in the northeast. Substantial numbers of Sandhill Cranes appeared in Michigan; 450 in Chippewa Co., Sept. 15 (B&CT), in Wisconsin, 400 at Necedah N.W.R., Oct. 14 (DS), 350 at Crex Meadows N.W.R., Oct. 19 (WN). The elusive Yellow Rail made a rare appearance, in the Juneau Park landfill in the Milwaukee harbor, of all places. One was flushed from and chased around the landfill for a ten minute period on Sept. 6 during which time it was observed to land in unique positions, including on its back and head (DT,MD,LD). [Harassment a cause?—Eds.]. A Com Gallinule was observed Oct. 27 in Wabasha Co., Minn which sets a record late departure date.

**SHOREBIRDS** — The fine fall shorebird migration that commenced during July continued through August and September. Substantial numbers were noted in all three states, as were many late observations. Minnesota had seven record late departure dates including Semipalmated Plover Oct. 5; Am. Golden Plover Nov. 18; and Black-bellied Plover Nov. 16 all at Duluth, Ruddy Turnstone Nov. 8 in Cook Co.; Red Knot Nov. 9 in Mille Lacs Co., Dunlin Nov. 16 in Duluth, and Sanderling Nov. 14 in Duluth. In Berrien Co., a Piping Plover was reported Aug. 27 (WB); single Whimbrels were reported from Presque Isle Co., Aug. 2 (BG,WG) and Alpena Co., Sept. 7 (WG,AV); Willets from Muskegon Co., Aug. 9 (GW) and Berrien Co. with 14 on Aug. 8 (WB) and single birds Aug. 20 & 26 (RS),

Red Knots in Berrien Co., Aug. 26-27, Sept. 10 & 19; **Purple Sandpipers** in Berrien Co., Nov. 8 (WB), Muskegon Co., Oct. 25 and two Nov. 28 (HC,BM) and Wayne Co., Nov. 28-29 (AM,TW); White-rumped Sandpipers in Monroe Co., Sept. 20 (JB) and a very late bird Nov. 6 (JAG); Baird's Sandpipers Aug. 8 & 21, Berrien Co. (WB), Sept. 14 & 20, Monroe Co. (DM,JAG); 1000 Dunlin at Erie Marsh, Monroe Co.; W Sandpipers Marquette Co., Sept. 9 (AR), Muskegon Co., Aug. 16 (HC,JP) and Oct. 6 (BB), Monroe Co., Sept. 20 and two Oct. 11 (JAG), Berrien Co., Oct. 15 (WB); Buff-breasted Sandpipers in Muskegon Co., two Aug. 16 & 27 (JP), Marquette Co., Sept. 13 (AR) and Washtenaw Co., Oct. 13 (TW); Hudsonian Godwits were unusually numerous with 5-43 present Oct. 5 - Nov. 6 in Monroe Co. (AM,TW,JAG,JK *et al.*); Am. Avocets in Muskegon Co.: six Aug. 9 (GW), seven Oct. 5, and five in Monroe Co., Oct. 11 (JAG,AM,TW); Red Phalaropes in Muskegon Co., Oct. 4-6 (HC,JP) and Berrien Co., Nov. 13-14 (WB,RS); N. Phalaropes with six Aug. 10, Berrien Co. (WB), 1-3 birds in late August, Monroe Co. (AM) and single birds Sept. 6, Ottawa Co. (HC), Oct. 7, Muskegon Co. (A&MH).

Unusual sightings in Minnesota included a single Hudsonian Godwit and an Am. Avocet in Lincoln Co., Oct. 18. For Wisconsin an injured Am. Golden Plover found in Price Co., Sept. 14 was fed worms and released in a gravel pit Sept. 22. After five more days of worm feeding it obviously still couldn't fly, and was recaptured, further cared for until successfully released Oct. 16 (MH,CK). Among the more impressive shorebird numbers recorded in Wisconsin were 55 Baird's Sandpipers at Green Bay Aug. 8 (JT), both dowitcher species at Horicon N.W.R., 180 Aug. 17 and 150 Sept. 19 (DT) and 50 Stilt Sandpipers at both Green Bay Aug. 16 (JT) and Horicon N.W.R. Aug. 17 (DT). Other sightings included two Whimbrels in Milwaukee, Sept. 1 (EBs,EE,MD); Willets in Milwaukee Aug. 2 (EE), St. Croix Co., Aug. 17 (CF), and Green Bay Aug. 8 (JT) and 24 (SR); Red Knots in Marinette Co., Aug. 26 (HL), Douglas Co., Aug. 30 (JT), Green Bay, two Aug. 13 & 26, one lingered Sept. 8-19 (DT,JT) and Milwaukee Aug. 5 - Sept. 16 (EE,DG *et al.*), single White-rumped Sandpipers at Green Bay Aug. 18 (DT), St. Croix Co., Aug. 27 (CF), and Rock Co., Aug. 26 & Sept. 25 (JBs); Baird's Sandpipers were reported from 11 counties until Oct. 1; W. Sandpipers, three Aug. 10, Door Co. (LE) and single birds Aug. 11, St. Croix (TB), Aug. 13, Green Bay (DT), Aug. 16 and 25, Milwaukee (DG,EE); Buff-breasted Sandpipers, St. Croix Co., two Aug. 14 (TB) one Sept. 9 (CF), Waukesha Co., two Aug. 21-22 (JB1), and single birds in Milwaukee Sept. 2, 5-6 and 20 (EBs,EE,DT); Marbled Godwits in Milwaukee and Green Bay Aug. 23 (DG,JT), St. Croix (CF) and Marinette (HL) Cos., Aug. 27 and an injured bird in Burnett Co., Nov. 8 (WN); single Hudsonian Godwits Aug. 17, Horicon N.W.R. (DT), Aug. 16-21, Green Bay (JT,DT), Aug. 21, Necedah N.W.R. (SR), two Sept. 27 at Horicon N.W.R. (DT,BF); eight Am. Avocets in mid-August in Rock Co.; and a good N. Phalarope flight with one at Green Bay, Aug. 26 (DT), five in Columbia Co., Aug. 30 (DT), one in Waukesha

Co., Sept. 6 (T&CB), until Sept. 10 in Milwaukee (DG), up to ten between Sept. 6-19 at Horicon N W R (DT) and one in Green Lake Co., Sept. 28 (K&JL)

**JAEGERS, GULLS** — Gulls again created much of the season's news. Jaegers were observed in two states, a Parasitic was seen on Freeborn L., Freeborn Co., Minn. Aug. 28 (RJ), a **Long-tailed Jaeger** was noted at Duluth Sept. 8 (MB) and jaegers (sp.?) were observed in Lake Co., Sept. 7 and Duluth Sept. 20. Michigan's contribution was an ad. Parasitic observed at St. Joseph, Berrien Co., Oct. 19 (DH). Glaucous Gulls were observed in Michigan at Marquette Sept. 16 (AR) and at Erie Marsh Nov. 29 (TW); in Wisconsin two were seen along the L. Michigan shoreline Nov. 12 (JGi). Great Black-backed Gulls were noted in Michigan where 1-3 birds were present after Sept. 19 at Grosse Ile (EP) and along L. Erie, Monroe Co. (TC,JAG) and in Wisconsin, an immature was closely studied in Brown Co., Oct. 12 (TE,JJ). Thayer's Gulls were carefully identified in Minnesota near Duluth Nov. 28 (JG) and Grand Marais Nov. 29 (JG,RJ) The first U.P. record of the **California Gull** occurred this fall when an immature was studied at leisure, often from as close as eight feet along L. Superior near Marquette between Sept. 10-12 (AR,IB,NI,PS) The bird appeared ill and consistently isolated itself from a nearby Herring Gull flock. If there was a major find this season, it had to be the the ad. winter-plumaged **Black-headed Gull** carefully identified in a flock of Bonaparte's at Erie Marsh, Mich., Nov. 23 (TW) It remained there and was observed by many birders for the period's duration. The **Laughing Gulls** that made summer nesting news in Wisconsin were present in August with one in Ozaukee Co., Aug. 3 (MD,LD), and three until Aug. 23 in Milwaukee (DG). Minnesota recorded its first Laughing Gull at Stony Point, St. Louis Co., Aug. 16. Franklin's Gulls were observed in Michigan in Monroe Co., three on Sept. 14 and two on Sept. 20 (JB,JAG) and intermittently at St. Joseph, Berrien Co., Aug. 18 - Nov. 11, with a maximum of 20 on Oct. 25 (WB). In Wisconsin they were observed in Barron (CF), Chippewa (SR), Douglas (CF), Winnebago (CS) Cos., plus about seven individuals in both Ozaukee and Milwaukee Cos. (RS,EE,DG) the latest on Oct. 24. As usual Bonaparte's Gulls lingered along the L. Michigan shoreline in Milwaukee and Racine Cos., Wisc. at the end of the period. The **Little Gull** was reported intermittently in Michigan Oct. 6 - Nov. 16, with a maximum of five Oct. 20 St. Joseph, (RS,WB) and in Wisconsin, intermittently Aug. 1 - Sept. 15 with a maximum of four in late August, Milwaukee Co., (EE,DG) and one Aug. 3 Ozaukee Co., (RS). A Black-legged Kittiwake was observed at close range in Muskegon Co., Mich., Nov. 28 (BM,HC). The second Minnesota record of **Sabine's Gull** was listed at Duluth Aug. 30 (KE,PE). Michigan also had an imm. Sabine's Gull at St. Joseph, Sept. 17 (WB).

**ALCIDS THROUGH KINGFISHERS** — An **Ancient Murrelet** was found dead 5 mi. w. of Barron, Barron Co., Nov. 12 by Jerry Perkins. The specimen was deposited with the Univ. of Wisc. (River Falls) where it was identified as an imm. female with no body fat This

represents only the fifth record (fourth specimen) for Wisconsin. A late Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen Nov. 1, in Muskegon Co., Mich. (BM,HC). Wisconsin also had its fifth record of **Groove-billed Ani**: a dead bird was found by Amy Klenitz, on her way to school Oct. 8 (Brown Co.). It was taken to the Univ. of Wisc. (Green Bay) where it was identified as a female (*vide* RCo,TE). Minnesota had its first Barn Owl record in several years from Murray Co., Oct. 20. Snowy Owls were observed in all three states with an unusually early date of Sept. 13 in Aitkin Co., Minn. Wisconsin had only its fifth record of **Burrowing Owl**, when one was discovered Nov. 8 on the Juneau Park landfill that juts into the Milwaukee harbor. The bird displayed all day and was observed by many birders (EE,EBS,MD *et al.*). In Minnesota, a pair of Burrowing Owls was reported on a farm in Lincoln Co., Aug. 25. Another bird was found injured near Bay L., Crow Wing Co., Nov. 20. It was caught, turned over to the Univ. of Minn. Raptor Rehabilitation Center, and is currently being treated. After full recovery, will be flown S and released. Both Long-eared and Short-eared Owls had unusually good flights in e. Wisconsin, primarily along the L. Michigan shore from late October through November. Thousands of Com. Nighthawks were observed migrating at Wisconsin Pt., Douglas Co., Aug. 30 (JT). A late Chimney Swift was in Itasca Co., Minn., Oct. 11. At St. Joseph, Mich. Aug. 28 there was a substantial Ruby-throated Hummingbird migration along the lakeshore with 750+ counted (WB).

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — In Michigan and Minnesota the Red-bellied Woodpecker continues its range expansion. In Michigan the movement is ENE and in Minnesota it is NW. A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was observed Aug. 19 in Oneida Co., Wisc. (DT). A late E. Kingbird was in Duluth Sept. 21. In Wisconsin four W. Kingbirds were perched on a telephone wire in St. Croix Co., Aug. 16. They remained in this area until Sept. 1 (CF). Nesting is suspected and the area will be closely watched next summer. Unusual and late were two **Scissor-tailed Flycatchers**; one perched on a wire for twenty minutes in Mason Co., Mich. Oct. 14 (GWO), the second was discovered near Duluth Oct. 26. Two days later this bird became a 'roadkill', \* Univ. of Minn. (Duluth) (ES) Most unusual was the presence of a **Say's Phoebe** in rural Duluth Sept. 24 (MC). In Wisconsin, Acadian Flycatchers were in Racine Co., Aug. 14 (LE) and Jefferson Co., Aug. 9 - Sept. 22 (CSt); in Minnesota, Houston Co., three on Aug. 20 and Goodhue Co., Aug. 24 There were several late observations of other flycatchers including a Yellow-bellied, Sept. 30 Door Co., Wisc., (LE) and a Least Oct. 12, Chippewa Co., Wisc. (SR). Michigan had two late sightings of swallows including a Rough-winged in Berrien Co. Oct. 22 (WB) and A Barn in Livingston Co., Nov. 7 (RW).

**JAYS THROUGH STARLINGS** — The Gray Jay was observed more frequently than is normal in the U P this autumn. The first record of this species in n e Michigan was of one seen at Rogers City, Presque Isle Co., Oct. 26 (BG,WG). There were excellent Blue Jay flights through Michigan with groups of 300-500

birds common from late September until Oct. 10 in Monroe Co.; in Muskegon Co. 500+ were counted Sept. 22 within only a few minutes; at St. Joseph 3000 passed through Sept. 24 and 4500 Sept. 28. Black-billed Magpies were recorded again in Minnesota, the first Sept. 21 in Marshall County, Mich., Oct. 22, far south of its normal range (EG), with additional wanderers Aug. 24 in Crawford and Emmet Cos. (NI). Autumn 1975 saw a fine Black-capped Chickadee migration in Michigan, especially in Berrien County where 1000 were noted Oct. 7-9, & 22 and 2200 Oct. 10 (WB) Boreal Chickadees occurred with more than usual frequency in the U.P. Unique was the observation of two Boreals in Emmet Co., Oct. 21 (WG,BH). Only Michigan experienced an excellent movement of Red-breasted Nuthatches, with all stations including the s counties, reporting substantial numbers, by late August. The Carolina Wren continues its increase throughout the region. Wisconsin had one in Dane Co., Nov. 2 (PA), another suet-feeding in Vilas Co., Nov. 4-18 (AMe), and a pair that raised two broods in Milwaukee County (LO); Minnesota had the first sightings in several years with one in Minneapolis Oct. 6 and another at Deerwood, Crow Wing Co., in early November; Michigan had one in Presque Isle Co., which became a window kill Sept. 5 (KP), another in Mason Co., Nov. 11 (EG) and several in Minnesota Four Mockingbirds were observed during the period, all in Michigan. Localities were Crawford Co., Aug. 21 (DM), Marquette Co., Sept. 7 (MS), Wayne Co (EC) and one dead from Oakland Co. (H&EC). The Curve-billed Thrasher is still doing well in Buffalo County but owing to the winter exodus of the Maiers the bird was captured and given shelter, enabling it to survive the winter. Varied Thrushes began appearing in Minnesota during late November, with one at Esko, Carlton Co. Nov. 21, another in suburban Minneapolis Nov. 24. There were several late sightings of other thrushes in all three states, including tardy Wood Thrushes Oct. 19 (state record) in Minneapolis and Nov. 20 (state record) in Brown Co., Wisc. (TE); Hermit Thrushes in Otter Tail Co., Minn., through Nov. 30 and in Racine Co., Wisc., into December (MS); two Swainson's Thrushes Nov. 7 in Marquette, Mich. (AR). A **Townsend's Solitaire** was observed in Price Co., Wisc., Aug. 11 (MH) and at Hawk Ridge in Duluth Sept. 22 (MC). Minnesota had a record late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Washington Co., Sept. 6, while the two birds observed in Alpena Co., Aug. 18 represent the first fall observation of this species in n.e. Michigan (JGa). Late November Ruby-crowned Kinglets were present in Minneapolis and in Shawno (MHof) and Dane (PA) Cos., Wisc. Water Pipits migrated through the Region in excellent numbers peaking at 300 in Muskegon Co., Mich. Sept. 27 (JP,HC). The rare Sprague's Pipit was recorded in Minnesota; Aug. 10, Mahanomen Co. and Oct. 3, Martin Co., in Wisconsin Oct. 20, Wood Co., (DF), (third state record), in Michigan Nov. 15, Munising, Alger Co., (RB). There were three sightings of Bohemian Waxwings, one each from Duluth, Oct. 27, Price Co., Wisc. Nov. 14, (AVi) and Marquette, 50 on Nov. 21 (WR). Again this fall N. Shrikes moved into the region in good numbers, especially in Wisconsin. The region's single, very late Loggerhead was in Fillmore Co., Minn. Nov. 27.

**VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS** — Vireos and especially warblers passed through the region in good numbers during late August and September. This movement was leisurely from late September through October as warm weather produced unprecedented number of record or near-record late departure dates. Late sightings in Michigan included: a Solitary Vireo, Berrien Co. Nov. 8 (WB); Nashville Warbler, Marquette, (U.P. record) Oct. 9 (GC,MS); Parula Warbler, Metrobeach Oct. 27, (JB); Yellow Warbler, Marquette Sept. 13, (AR); Magnolia Warbler, Wayne Co. Oct. 28, (JF); Cape May Warbler, Berrien Co. 1-3 birds from Oct. 24 into December, (RS); Black-throated Green Warbler, Wayne Co. Oct. 29, (JF); Blackpoll Warbler, Berrien Co., Nov. 5, (WB); Ovenbird, Oakland Co. Oct. 24; and the first Muskegon Co. record of Kentucky Warbler, banded Aug. 17 (LW). Minnesota: Philadelphia Vireo Cottonwood Co., Oct. 9; **Worm-eating Warbler** Cass Co. on the unbelievably late date of Nov. 15, (SB); Cape May Warbler, Lake Co., Nov. 16, two Black-throated Blue Warblers, Minneapolis Oct. 21; Pine Warbler, Nov. 1; Ovenbird and Com. Yellowthroat, Minneapolis Nov. 2; Am. Redstart, near Duluth, Nov. 13, Wisconsin: a Prothonotary Warbler, Milwaukee Co. Sept. 15 (ESt); Tennessee Warbler, Milwaukee Nov. 24, (state record date, EE); Nashville Warbler, Outagamie Co. Oct. 26 (DT); Parula and Yellow Warblers, Milwaukee Co. Oct. 2 (EE,ESt); Magnolia Warbler, Milwaukee Co. Nov. 6 (DG); Black-throated Blue Warbler, Milwaukee Oct. 18 (EBs); Chestnut-sided Warbler, Brown Co. Oct. 24 (MW); and Blackpoll Warbler, Aug. 9 (LE). Additionally a Yellow-breasted Chat was present in Racine Co., Sept. 9 (JR) and at least three Hooded Warblers remaining in Manitowoc Co., where they had nested until Sept. 1 (BBr), one in Milwaukee Co., Sept. 26 (MD). The latter record is a record late state departure date.

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS** — A late N Oriole was in Ramsey Co., Minn., Nov. 9. Several thousand Rusty Blackbirds were counted in Burnett Co., Oct. 12 (CF). Late Scarlet Tanagers in Racine Co. Nov. 1 (LE) and in Milwaukee Co. Nov. 10 set Wisconsin departure date records (EBs). In Minnesota the Cardinal range expansion continues with an individual found in Otter Tail Co. Nov. 18. Blue Grosbeaks were observed in Rock Co., Minn., until Sept. 14. Winter finches were present in good numbers this fall. Generally the movement started in October and peaked during November and the finches appear to have continued right on through, with only limited numbers of Purple Finches, Pine Grosbeaks, Com. Redpolls, Pine Siskins, Red and White-winged Crossbills remaining, except for Evening Grosbeaks which were present in excellent numbers, especially in the s. half of each state. The presence of 200 Red Crossbills at Muskegon S.P., Muskegon Co., Mich., Nov. 1 was noteworthy (BM). A Hoary Redpoll was carefully studied in Winnebago Co., Wisc., Nov. 27-28 (MD). Most unusual were single **Lark Buntings** in Milwaukee Sept. 5 (EE) and Duluth Sept. 20. Minnesota had a record departure date for Grasshopper Sparrow when one was seen in Rock Co. Oct. 4, Le Conte's Sparrows were found only in Wisconsin, with two in Milwaukee Sept. 6-7 (EBs),

and one at Washington I., Door Co. Sept. 20 (LE). The first Henslow's Sparrows for n.e. Michigan were recorded during this past spring and summer. Therefore it is no surprise that the first fall record also occurred this year with one in Alcona Co., Sept. 25 (LM,RS). No less than three, possibly four or five, **Sharp-tailed Sparrows** appeared in Wisconsin this autumn. One was at the Crex Meadows N.W.R., (TB); in Milwaukee, birds were present on Sept. 6-7 (DT,LD,MD,EBs), Sept. 12 & 21 (EE); one was found dead after hitting a tower in Price Co., Sept. 18 (MH). A Lark Sparrow in Marquette Co., Mich. Sept. 11 provides the first county record for this species (AR,NI). Migrations of both the Harris' and White-crowned Sparrows were poor this fall. Wisconsin had an especially good flight of Lapland Longspurs, initiated by a very early (Sept. 12) bird in Milwaukee (EE). The rare Smith's Longspur was found at the Minneapolis airport Oct. 26. Snow Buntings moved through Wisconsin, Minnesota and the U P in good numbers, commencing in late October and continuing throughout the period.

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## MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION /Vernon M. Kleen

It is often said that spring migration is hardly over when fall migration begins—especially for shorebirds; this year, it appeared that the situation farther north this summer was either so good or so bad that many more birds began their southward journeys early. Judging from the numbers of birds reported, most species had a successful nesting season; for the observers, that provided a joyous migratory season. The unseasonably mild weather of October and November prolonged the migratory period, adding further delight to the already excellent season.



Many reporters referred to the early movements of warblers, vireos and thrushes; commented about the increased abundance of waxwings, pipits, some warblers, both kinglets, and coots; noted late-departing warblers; approved of the invasion of winter finches,

nuthatches and chickadees; and wondered about the lack of noticeable hawk flights. There were several excellent days of birding, but no outstanding days unanimously reported as major migration waves nor any major catastrophes reported from television towers.

For persons living in cities or near well-travelled roads, it is usually impossible to hear night migration in process; however, I had my opportunity here in Springfield, Nov. 26. It had snowed most of the day and the snow accumulated to several inches by nightfall, but finally it stopped about 8:00 p.m.; by 10:00 p.m. the wind had died and all traffic noises had ceased. As long as I was outside, I could regularly hear Horned Larks, Lapland Longspurs and other species flying low overhead. I doubt that I will ever have that opportunity again from my backyard in the city.

In order to better verify observations, observers are now required to complete documentation forms for extraordinary sight records at the time of the observation, such documentations have been denoted by a dagger (†) before the observer's initials. Specimens have been denoted by an asterisk (\*). Records that may be valid, but which were not satisfactorily documented appear at the end of this report in the NON-CORROBORATED REPORTS section.

EXOTICS — One Mute Swan was present at Louisville, Ky. Sept. 13-14 (DP *et al.*); two were there Oct. 30 (DP). A pair stayed at the Pigeon River Wildl. Ref., Ind. all fall (LCs, MWe) and another pair (possibly the same pair returning from last spring) was found at Glencoe, Ill. Nov. 27 (C). A Ringed Turtle Dove was observed at Cleveland Aug. 11 (†D).

There were two exceptional reports of banded birds recovered this fall. The first, a Kirtland's Warbler, was a window-casualty in Cincinnati, Sept. 27; the bird was found by a seven-year old girl who presented it to Art Wiseman. Records indicate that the bird, a male, was originally banded as a nestling four years earlier s.e. of Mio, Mich.; was retrapped and color-banded in Michigan two years later and some 20 miles north of its hatching location; and had successfully mated. This record is apparently the first recovery of a banded Kirtland's Warbler outside of Michigan. Also, "Of particular interest was the capture and banding of a Blackpoll Warbler at Waite Hill (Cleveland) on Sept. 17. This bird was netted and released again on Sept. 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 30 and Oct. 1, 1975. This bird was recaptured at 11:20 a.m. on Oct. 24, 1975 at Kiptopeke, Va. where it was released, recaptured again on Oct. 25, and released." (AF).

**LOONS AND GREBES** — Common Loons were rather conspicuous regionwide; noteworthy arrivals included singles at Tiffin, Ohio, Sept. 25 (TBt); Columbus, Ohio, Oct. 16 (TT); St. Charles Co., Mo. Oct. 16 (JEa), and Rend Lake (Franklin Co.), Ill. Oct. 25 (BPj); most others appeared in early to mid-November (m.ob.); a high of 200 was counted at Bowling Green, Ky. Nov. 22 (DR). As last year, an Arctic Loon appeared at Decatur, Ill. Nov. 29 - Dec. 7 (†RSa, m.ob.). Red-throated Loons were identified at Columbus, Ohio, Oct. 19-27 (TT, no details—Ed.); Hancock Co., Ind. Nov. 26 (HWe); Glencoe, Ill. (2) Nov. 9 (C); and Palos, Ill. Oct. 26 (*vide* B). Single Red-necked Grebes were reported from Wilmette, Ill. Oct. 26 (C), Rend Lake, Ill. Nov. 22 (†MMo), and Decatur, Ill. Dec. 7-10 (RSa). Horned Grebes were quite numerous; maximum counts included: 55 at Rend Lake, Ill. Nov. 30 (BPj); 36 at Findlay, Ohio, Oct. 22 (BSt); 30 at Decatur, Ill. (no date—RSa); and 25 at Louisville, Ky. Dec. 7 (S,DSu); most birds arrived in very late September or throughout October (20+ observers). The scattered records of Eared Grebes included: four at Maryville, Mo. Aug. 25 (E), four at Davenport, Ia. Sept. 19 (P); two in Montgomery Co., Ia. Sept. 21 (MWi); one at Maryville, Nov. 1, 9, & 15 (E *et al.*); three at Columbia, Mo. Nov. 10 (IA); and one at Decatur, Ill. Nov. 29 - Dec. 4 (RSa). On Nov. 15 two W. Grebes were present at Rend Lake, Ill. (†BPj,MMo); another was documented at Ridgeville, Ind. Nov. 23 (†LCr). A large movement of Pied-billed Grebes came into Illinois on the night of Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 with 560 birds counted at Springfield, over 300 at Decatur and 210 at St. Louis the next morning (H,RSa,JCf, respectively) other large concentrations included 115 at Maryville, Mo. Sept. 4 (E) 119 and 146 at Madisonville, Ky. Oct. 31 and Nov. 15 respectively (JHn).

**PELICANS THROUGH IBISES** — No great flocks of White Pelicans were noted this fall; the largest group reported was 300 at Squaw Creek N.W.R., Mo.

(hereafter, S.C.) during the period; 36 were present at Red Rock Refuge, Ia. in September (GB); except for the two at Maryville, Mo. Oct. 15 (E) all other observations were reported as singles: one in Ohio, five in Illinois, one in Iowa and one in Missouri. More observers reported Double-crested Cormorants this fall; however, this may be because of the request for such information. Except for the high of 100 at Red Rock Ref., Ia. (GB) and 83 at S.C. Oct. 26 (NJ *et al.*) the others were reported as singles or in very small groups; Kentucky was the only state not reporting any. The most noteworthy reports of Little Blue Herons were of six at Springfield, Mo. as late as Sept. 30 (NF) and one at Cleveland, Aug. 23-25 (†M). Exceptional departures for Cattle Egrets were noted: Dec. 7 at Carlyle, Ill (CM); Nov. 23 in Dallas Co., Mo. (NG); Nov. 17 at Columbia, Mo. (IA); Nov. 8 in Mason Co., Ill (PW,RR); Nov. 5 at the Ottawa N.W.R., Ohio (hereafter, O.N.) (*vide* LV); Nov. 3 in Vermilion Co., Ill (MCA); Nov. 1 at Evansville, Ind. (WG); and three October dates. A Black-crowned Night Heron nest with two young (three-fourths grown) was observed at Waukegan, Ill. Aug. 12 (C). One **Wood Stork** appeared at Schell-Osage Wildl. Area, Mo. Sept. 14 (GS); another rested atop a Paris, Ky. home television antenna Oct. 27 & 28 before leaving (DC,RBr). A dark ibis (sp.?) was reported at Schell-Osage, Sept. 13-14 (GS).

**WATERFOWL** — A major movement of Whistling Swans was detected over n. Ohio the evening of Nov. 22 — large flocks were reported by several observers, some landed and were observed the next day: 1100 at Cleveland (M); six were noted in Greene Co., Ia. Nov. 21 (EM); three at Indianapolis, Ind. Nov. 14 (MR), three at Savanna, Ill. Nov. 15 (BSh); four at El Paso, Ill. Dec. 4 (DBi); one at a Montgomery Co., Ind. lake Nov. 22 & 29 (AB) and one downtown Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 28 - Dec. 8 (TT). There was a scattering of early-arriving dabbling ducks, but more often than not, they were late in arriving. There were several noteworthy records of diving ducks. Three Greater Scaup were identified at Maryville, Mo. Nov. 9; two were still there Nov. 30 (E). Oldsquaw moved inland as early as Oct. 30 in the Columbus, Ohio, area (*vide* TT) — up to nine present during the period; Nov. 2 (one) at Springfield, Mo. (NF); Nov. 4-5 (one) at Austin, Ind (JEL *et al.*); Nov. 26 (two) at Maryville, Mo. (E), and Nov. 27 (one) and Nov. 28 (two) at Springfield, Ill (H); three were taken by hunters at Montrose Ref., Mo during the week of Nov. 22, according to refuge personnel. The Chicago lakefront harbored two Harlequin Ducks; one or the other or both were present Oct. 11 - Nov. 28 (m.ob.). A White-winged Scoter appeared at Springfield, Ill. Oct. 28 (H); another at Maryville, Mo. Nov. 1 & Nov. 30 (E); and two at Davenport, Ia. Nov. 30 (*vide* P); this was the most common scoter on L. Michigan. The first seasonal Surf Scoter was detected at Maryville, Mo. Oct. 5 & 6 (E); seven were there Oct. 15 — one lingered until Nov. 7 (E); six were observed at Findlay, Ohio, Oct. 16 (BSt) and one arrived at Springfield, Ill. the same day (H); three were noted at Lima, Ohio, Oct. 31 (BSt) and one at L. Chautauqua, Ill. Nov. 8 (H) - Nov. 22 (RSa). Black Scoters were identified at Cleveland, Nov. 2 (M,

m ob ); St. Louis, Nov. 22 (JEa) and Springfield, Ill. (2) Nov. 27 (H). There was a "spectacular" flight of Red-breasted Mergansers past Cleveland Nov. 12 (CD); most birds were gone by the next day (only 5000 remained—D); a maximum of 50 was seen at Decatur, Ill (RSa) and 175 at Rend Lake, Ill. Nov. 23 (BPj).

**HAWKS** — No spectacular, or even large, hawk flights were observed this fall; since we know that there are concentrated flight passageways through the region, more observers should attempt to find and annually document the hawk migrations. A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was thoroughly studied at Willard (Greene Co.), Mo. Aug. 24 (CC, *vide* A). A very minor flight of Goshawks appeared (all reports were of single birds): Winnebago Co., Ill. Oct. 18 (LJ); Goose Lake Prairie S.P., Ill. (DBi); Vermilion Co., Ill. Dec. 6 (MCA); and W. Lafayette, Ind. in November (\*Rmu). A **Ferruginous Hawk** was documented at L. Chautauqua, Ill. Nov. 20 (†RSa). Golden Eagles continued to increase in numbers in the Region; an adult was noted near Richmond, Ind. Sept. 27 (JCp); at least one, sometimes two, immatures were present at the Monroe Co., Ind. reservoir between Oct. 25 and the end of the period; one was captured after losing a fight with a Great Horned Owl and has been temporarily kept captive at the Indianapolis Zoo (photo by SG) for future release; others appeared at Iowa City, Ia. Oct. 25 (MN), Pine Hills Ecological Area (Union Co.), Ill. (adult) Nov. 1 and Union County Conservation Area, Ill. (imm.) Nov. 16 (BPj). The earliest imm. Bald Eagle noted was at Iowa City, Ia. Aug. 23 (MN); another arrived at Findlay, Ohio, Sept. 4 (BSt). Ospreys were sighted Aug. 24 - Nov. 9 as follows: Ohio, 10; Indiana, 20 (ten at one time—AB); Kentucky, 1; Illinois, 31+; Iowa, 2; and Missouri, 11. There were more reports of Peregrine Falcons than usual, but only one bird at a time: Missouri, one; Ohio, three, possibly four; Kentucky, one; Illinois, eight. The same was true for Merlins (except for the four at Chicago, Oct. 10): Missouri, two; Iowa, one; Illinois, three more than cited; Indiana, three; and Kentucky, one.

**CRANES, RAILS AND SHOREBIRDS** — An early flight of Sandhill Cranes was noted at Des Plaines, Ill. (15) on Sept. 21 (C); singles appeared at S.C. Oct. 19 (*vide* BG) and L. Chautauqua, Ill. Oct. 29 (m.ob.); the latter remained until at least Nov. 12; larger flocks, 70+ and 84, flew over Danville, Ky. Nov. 10 (FL) and Illinois Beach S.P., Ill. Nov. 16 (GR), respectively; six birds were found at Schell-Osage, Mo. Nov. 22-25 (GS) and two at W. Lafayette, Ind. Dec. 3 (DA). Three imm. Yellow Rails "fell into the hands of men (one via a cat) in early October" in the Chicago area (B). There were several isolated occurrences of the less common shorebird species; owing to large numbers of reports, only the most noteworthy records have been recorded here. There were nine inland records of Piping Plovers, many regional reports of early and late arriving Am. Golden Plovers and Black-bellied Plovers; an Aug. 14 record of Com. Snipe at Louisville, Ky. (DP); two Whimbrels at Cleveland, Sept. 4-5 and four there Sept. 21 (JHo); more sightings of Whimbrels around Chicago than usual (*vide* B).

A maximum of ten Upland Sandpipers was recorded at Decatur, Ill. — in mid-August (RSa); lingering Greater Yellowlegs at Rend Lake, Ill. (two) Nov. 8 (BPj) and Orland, Ind. (four) Nov. 1 (Haw). At least seven Red Knots at O.N.W.R. Aug. 3 (LV); singles noted at Monroe Co., Ind. reservoir, Aug. 29-30 (SG, MB), L. Chautauqua, Ill. Aug. 23-26 (H,RSa,RP) and O.N.W.R. Sept. 7 (LV); there were also more sightings of this species around Chicago than usual (C). Single Purple Sandpipers were discovered at Cleveland, Nov. 11 (JHo) and Michigan City, Ind. Nov. 23 (†TMa). One W. Sandpiper was identified at St. Louis, Nov. 26 (JCf). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were "most everywhere" except Indiana where they were not detected; the largest group noted was 21 at L. Chautauqua, Ill. Aug. 23 (H *et al.*); ten at Louisville, Ky. Aug. 29 constitutes the largest number ever reported in Kentucky at one time (S *et al.*); extreme dates of fall occurrence were Aug. 2 (Iowa City, Ia.—NH) and Sept. 20 (L. Chautauqua, Ill.—H *et al.*) Four Marbled Godwits were among other shorebirds observed at L. Chautauqua, Aug. 23 (H,RSa,RP, m ob ), singles were noted at Iowa City, Ia. Aug. 2 (NH), O.N.W.R. Aug. 10 and Oct. 5 (LV); Monroe Co., Ind. Sept. 16 (†SG,MB); and Illinois Beach S.P., Ill. Aug. 31 (DeF,KW). At least 143 Hudsonian Godwits were counted at O.N.W.R. Sept. 28 (RCr) with 90 there Oct. 5 (LV) and three remaining until Nov. 2 (LV), one appeared at L. Chautauqua, Aug. 30 (H,RP) and two were there Oct. 1-5 (H); three were observed in Bureau Co., Ill. Oct. 5 (JHm) and another s. of Chicago, Oct. 21 (TC).

Observers found Am. Avocets widespread this year, they were reported from all states except Iowa, the largest reported flock was 25 at Springfield, Mo. Oct. 25 (NF *et al.*); groups of 14 were found at L. Chautauqua, Oct. 26 (H *et al.*) and Mendota, Ill. Oct. 27 (WB *et al.*); except for isolated instances, there seemed to be two migrations of avocets—the first movement in late September and the second in late October and early November; the extreme early arrivals were of single birds reported July 19 at Kankakee, Ill (FIS) and Aug. 10 at Illinois Beach S.P. (EC). Three Red Phalaropes were well-documented: Sept. 12, Monroe Co., Ind. (†SG); L. Chautauqua, Nov. 1 (†RSa,H), and Calumet Park (Chicago), Nov. 30 (C); two others were suspected in c. Illinois, but the observers could not approach the birds close enough to guarantee identification. Cleveland observers considered the Wilson's Phalarope there Aug. 9-10 quite exceptional (†M,RHa, m.ob.); at least 30 were present at L. Chautauqua Aug. 30 (H,RSa). The influx of N. Phalaropes was detected everywhere except Indiana; at least 15 utilized L. Chautauqua during the period; five were present at O.N.W.R. Aug. 3 (LV) and five others passed through Iowa City, Ia. this fall.

**JAEGERS, GULLS AND TERNs** — Only eight jaegers, probably all Parasitics, were observed along the Chicago lakefront this fall; none were reported elsewhere. Photographs of a **Thayer's Gull** in the Mississippi R. (both in Missouri and Illinois) near Alton, Ill. were satisfactorily identified by national experts (TBk). There were numerous inland reports of

Franklin's Gulls; 25 and 35 at Decatur, Ill. Sept. 12 & Oct. 13, respectively (RSa); 52 at Springfield, Ill. Oct. 22 (H); 500 at Maryville, Mo. Oct. 15 (E); 11 at Findlay, Ohio Nov. 11 (BSt); a peak of five at Rend Lake, Ill. between Sept. 1 and Nov. 5; four at Iowa City, Ia. Nov. 1 (NH); and singles at other locations. Little Gulls were observed at Cleveland (one) Aug. 18 (JHo), Michigan City, Ind. (one) Nov. 23 (TMa), and Chicago (two) Nov. 26 (RSa) and (one) Nov. 28 (H). Two Black-legged Kittiwakes were found, one at Waukegan, Ill. Nov. 28 (H) and one at Decatur, Ill. Dec. 3-7 (RSa). Three Sabine's Gulls were documented; interestingly enough, two were inland records Decatur, Ill. Sept. 11-12 (†RSa) and Rend Lake, Ill. Sept. 26 (†BPj *et al.* — the same bird?); the other, at Cleveland, Sept. 13 (†RHs). Least Terns were observed as late as Sept. 6 at Louisville, Ky. (S,FrS) and Aug. 26 at L. Chautauqua (RSa).

**DOVES, CUCKOOS AND OWLS — A Ground Dove** was observed at leisure at Springfield, Ill. Nov. 23 (†H) but could not be relocated for the benefit of other observers; another possible bird was reported earlier from Morgan Co., Ill. (RR). The last Yellow-billed Cuckoos of the season were noted at Okolona, Ky. Nov. 18 (JEl, *et al.*) and Hueston Woods S.P. Ohio, Nov. 17 (DO). Four Barn Owls were reported: Iola, Ill. Oct. 4 (DT); Kansas City, Mo. Oct. 19 (FGn); Nauvoo, Ill. Nov. 1 (EFr *et al.*); and Ft. Wayne, Ind. (PB). Saw-whet Owls were regularly reported in the extreme n part of the Region; the first arrived in Winnebago Co., Ill. Oct. 6 (LJ); thirteen were banded at Davenport, Ia. Oct. 11 - Nov. 5 (P); one had arrived at Springfield, Ill. by Oct. 31 (K) and O.N.W.R. by Nov. 2 (LV).

**NIGHTHAWKS, SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS** — The normal late-August and early September flights of Com. Nighthawks were not spectacular this year as in the past; however, late-September flights were noteworthy: 400 at Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 28 (BSt); up to 100 birds per group Sept. 20 - Oct. 5 at Cleveland (M), 30 in Vermilion Co., Ill. Sept. 27 (MCa); extreme stragglers were observed: Oct. 26, Danville, Ky. (FL); Oct. 23, Louisville, Ky. (JEl); Oct. 24, Cleveland (AF), and Oct. 14, Carbondale, Ill. (BPj). One Chimney Swift was still present at Louisville, Ky. Nov. 29 (DP). Late-departing Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were observed at St. Joseph, Mo. Oct. 19 (L); Danville, Ill. Oct. 10 (MCa); and Springfield, Mo. Oct. 9 (NF), a probable individual of this species glanced off of a windshield (but kept flying) near Angola, Ind. Nov. 6 (MCo).

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS AND CROWS** — The following late records were reported: Eastern Kingbird, Oct. 28, Tiffin, Ohio (TBt); Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Oct. 16, Springfield, Mo. (NF); Least Flycatcher, Oct. 25, Hancock Co., Ind. (HWe); Eastern Wood Pewee, Oct. 25: Louisville, Ky. (BPB), Danville, Ky. (FL) and c. Missouri, (RWd), and Oct. 19, Springfield, Ill. (H); Barn Swallow, Nov. 8, L. Chautauqua, (H) and Nov. 1 at both Crab Orchard N W R., Ill. (BPj) and Maryville, Mo. (E). How many

large roosts of Com. Crows remain active? Over 1000 birds were roosting near Gifford, Ill. Nov. 28 (MCa) and a flight of a few hundred was moving through the Mason County Forest, Ill. Oct. 29 (RK).

**CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES AND THRUSHES** — The Black-capped Chickadees apparently pushed southwards along with the other invading species, the heaviest movements were detected in Ohio on Nov. 1 & 2; one bird of this species was identified at Rend Lake, Ill. Nov. 15 (BPj) far into established Carolina Chickadee range. This was the biggest flight year for Red-breasted Nuthatches in many years; the species was first detected in Cleveland, Aug. 15 (M) but not until the first week of September Regionwide; it was not uncommon for observers to report 25 or more at one time in favorable areas. Most observers considered this an excellent year for migrating thrushes, especially Swainson's and Gray-cheekeds. A few stragglers were noted Wood Thrush, Nov. 12, Findlay, Ohio (\*BSt); Swainson's Thrush, Oct. 25-27, St. Louis (Jcf), Danville, Ky. (FL), and Louisville, Ky. (BPB), respectively, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Oct. 24, St. Louis (Jcf).

**GNATCATCHERS, PIPITS AND SHRIKES** — Lingering Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were noted: Sept. 27, Ft. Wayne, Ind. (Haw); Sept. 21, Davenport, Ia. (P), and Sept. 14, W. Lafayette, Ind. (DA). Some observers spent extra time combing the fields and were rewarded with the occurrence of Sprague's Pipits; it is possible that the species has a narrow time span for migration and can be easily overlooked; the birds were all reported between Oct. 18 and 23; 25 birds were found at Council Bluffs, Ia. Oct. 18-19 (MWi *et al.*); one w of Springfield, Ill. Oct. 19 (H); one in Mason Co., Ill. Oct. 20 (RSa); five n. of Springfield, Ill. Oct. 22 (H,K) and two at the latter location the following day. Only two N. Shrikes were reported: Lake Co., Ill. Nov. 28 (H) and Winnebago Co., Ill. Nov. 29 (LJ).

**VIREOS AND WARBLERS** — Excluding the banded Kirtland's and Blackpoll Warblers previously reported, most noteworthy were the stragglers; however, several species arrived in the Region earlier than expected or in larger numbers than normally encountered. Some early arrivals were: Tennessee, Aug. 8, Ft. Wayne, Ind. (Haw) and Aug. 12, Cleveland (AF), Yellow-rumped (Myrtle), Aug. 12 Waukegan, Ill. (C), Blackpoll, Aug. 8, Ft. Wayne, Ind. (Haw). Stragglers were: White-eyed Vireo, Oct. 25, Oct. 2 & Sept. 29, W. Lafayette, Ind. (TMa), (northwest) Ind. (LiS), and Vermilion Co., Ill. (MCa), respectively; Yellow-throated Vireo, Oct. 16, Decatur, Ill. (RSa); Black-and-white Warbler, Oct. 25, Cincinnati (DSt, IR); Tennessee, Nov. 14, Charleston, Ill. (LHu); Orange-crowned, Nov. 28, Chicago (H) and Nov. 8, Charleston, Ill. (LHu) and Columbia, Mo. (BG); Nashville, W., Nov. 16, Nov. 9 & Nov. 5, Indianapolis, Ind (CK), Charleston, Ill. (LHu), and Springfield, Ill. (H), respectively; Magnolia, Nov. 1, Columbia, Mo. (BG), Cape May, Nov. 22, Oct. 26 & Oct. 25, Bath, Ill (H,RSa,RP), Chicago (C) and Cincinnati (DSt,IR), respectively; Black-throated Blue, Nov. 8, Oct. 25 & Oct. 21 (2), Cincinnati (*vide* KMa), Davenport, Ia (P)

and Ft. Wayne, Ind. (Haw), respectively; Black-throated Green, Dec. 1 & Nov. 6, Bowling Green, Ky. (DR) and Terre Haute, Ind. (REr), respectively; Yellow-throated, Nov. 11, Springfield, Ill. (H); Chestnut-sided, Nov. 9, Louisville, Ky. (BPB); Bay-breasted, Nov. 2 & Nov. 1, Winnebago Co., Ill. (LJ) and Columbia, Mo. (BG), respectively; Prairie, Nov. 8, Cincinnati (*vide* KMa); Ovenbird, Nov. 9, Nov. 8, Oct. 31 & Oct. 25, Louisville, Ky. (LeB), St. Louis (JEa), Springfield, Ill. (H) and Cincinnati (KMa), respectively; N. Waterthrush, Nov. 11 & Oct. 25, Shelly Co., Ia (MWi) and Louisville, Ky. (BPB), respectively; and finally, Hooded, Sept. 26, Davenport, Ia. (P). More observers reported more Black-throated Blue Warblers during a more extended period this fall than usual; however, none was reported from Missouri or Kentucky; the normal September migration was preceded by an Aug. 27 arrival in Winnebago Co., Ill. (LJ) and prolonged by several October records and the previously cited November record. Three Magnolia Warblers stayed alive and healthy in a Louisville, Ky. grocery store Oct. 11-13 feeding on grapes in the store (LF).

**BLACKBIRDS, GROSBEAKS, FINCHES AND CROSSBILLS** — A weak Bobolink was found in Story Co., Ia. Nov. 25 and was unable to survive (\*JD); two were present in Monroe Co., Ind. Oct. 5 (SG); at least 35 were found in St. Charles Co., Mo. Sept. 6 (JEa). An ad. Brewer's Blackbird was feeding full-grown young at Chicago, Aug. 12 (C); small groups of these blackbirds were noted at Sullivan, Mo. Nov. 27 (JI), Maryville, Mo. Nov. 22 (E) and in n.e. Allen Co., Ind. Nov. 18 (Haw). The **Black-headed Grosbeak** caught, banded and photographed at Lake Spring, Mo. Oct. 29 constitutes the first permanent evidence of this species' occurrence in Missouri (GMB, *vide* A). The Evening Grosbeak invasion may have come from the Northeast if one looks at arrivals in our Region; the first birds were detected at O.N.W.R. Oct. 5, then at other Ohio locations from mid-to-late October; they pushed into c. Indiana and Illinois by late October (not yet reported in the n. parts of Illinois and Indiana) and were found Regionwide by the end of the first week in November; large flocks, 100+ were moving through many localities during the heavy flight period; only occasionally did the birds stop at feeders and then only for a day or two. After the grosbeaks came the Com. Redpolls; however, they were not so widely reported or in large flocks; they arrived in mid-to-late November and stayed primarily in the n. portion of the Region; their origin is probably different from that of the grosbeaks. Pine Siskins moved in medium to large flocks Regionwide between mid-October and mid-November; the earliest arrival was detected at Madisonville, Ky. Oct. 9 (JHn). The first Red Crossbills were observed on Sept. 1 at both St. Louis (*vide* JEa) and in Vermilion Co., Ill. (JSm); their origin is hard to determine; most other arrivals were reported after mid-October and only in small to medium flocks; none was reported from Iowa or Indiana. However, both Iowa and Indiana had White-winged Crossbills as did Illinois and Missouri; all five reports, except for the birds in Jackson Co., Ill. Nov. 9 (BPj), were of birds found during the last ten days of the period.

**SPARROWS, LONGSPURS AND BUNTINGS** — Few observers find more than one or two Le Conte's Sparrows during migration at one time; therefore, the eleven in Mason Co., Ill. Nov. 8 (H,RSa) and eight at Swan Lake N.W.R., Mo. Oct. 19 (BG) were quite noteworthy; smaller numbers were observed at Maryville, Mo. Nov. 26 & 30 (E). At least ten Sharp-tailed Sparrows were concentrated into a small area at Evanston, Ill. Sept. 20 (B); seven others were at Montgomery Co., Ind. Oct. 4 (AB *et al.*); singles were reported by four other observers Sept. 23 - Nov. 2. Two Bachman's Sparrows were documented in Jackson Co., Ill. Sept. 7 (BPj). Early-arriving Tree Sparrows were reported Oct. 16 at Pigeon River, Ind. (Haw), Oct. 17 in Winnebago Co., Ill. (LJ) and Oct. 25 at Maryville, Mo. (E). A small number of Harris' Sparrows were reported Oct. 6 - Nov. 4 as expected. A few Fox Sparrows were found rather early: one at Iowa City, Ia Sept. 25 (RD), and two (banded) at Springfield, Ill Sept. 27 (K). Large numbers of Lapland Longspurs moved into the Region during the last three weeks of the period; however, the two at Evanston, Ill. Sept. 21 (C) were exceptionally early and two at Maryville, Mo Oct. 17 (E) were also noteworthy. This has been an exceptional year for Snow Buntings and it was surprising that none were found in Kentucky; the flight practically coincided with that of the Evening Grosbeaks, however, their penetration was not as great. The earliest records were in n. Ohio in late October and then throughout the entire n. portion of the Region during the first week of November; six were found in St. Charles Co., Mo. by Nov. 15 and six others at Rend Lake, Ill. by Nov. 8 demonstrating the southern distribution of the birds.

**CORRIGENDUM** — The report of two Bell's Vireos at Bloomington, Ind (*Am. Birds*, Vol. 29: 981) should be changed to read Jasper Co., Ind. rather than Bloomington, Ind.

**NON-CORROBORATED REPORTS** — The following records may possibly be correct; however, evidence was lacking or insufficient to include them as part of the report. Red-necked Grebe, (six) Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 5 (KA). Swallow-tailed Kite, (one) 37 miles e of Terre Haute, Ind. Aug. 13 (OV). Red Phalarope, (one) Brookeville, Ind. Nov. 1 (DSt *et al.*). Little Gull, (one) Maryville, Mo. Nov. 30—this would be the first state record for Missouri (E). Black-throated Gray Warbler, (one) Champaign, Ill. Sept. 6 (JfK). Baird's Sparrow, (one) Evanston, Ill. Oct. 15 (†GR).

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## CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION /Robert D. Purrington

"Fall migration 1975 in Nashville may have been the best in memory; it was no less than spectacular...On the coast it would be common, but inland to see in one small dogwood forty warblers, three species in your binoculars at once or a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager, and a warbler sitting next to each other...it really is something very special and memorable." Thus wrote Michael Bierly on the season in middle Tennes-

see. And although the season was not seen in quite the same terms by other observers in the Region, it was nonetheless remarkable in a number of respects.

On the whole weather conditions seemed not to have played a crucial role in the season's results, although mild, wet weather in September and October did contribute to the spectacular migration in middle Tennessee. Hurricane *Eloise*, which went ashore near Panama City, Fla., on Sept. 23, while evidently responsible for a number of inland occurrences of strictly coastal species in Alabama and possibly some western species in northwestern Florida, yielded no unusual pelagic or semi-tropical birds.

Observers in the Florida section encountered an impressive array of western vagrants, including a presumed Tropical Kingbird, an Ash-throated Flycatcher, and four Western Tanagers. Yet the western contingent put on no such spectacular display elsewhere along the coast. There were the usual Western Kingbirds and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, at least three Vermilion Flycatchers in Louisiana, and the usual small flocks of Groove-billed Anis as far east as Florida. But except for Black-throated Sparrows at Shreveport, there was no additional support for the idea of an unusual western invasion.

There were the first indications of a moderate influx of boreal birds in some parts of the Region, though a pattern was difficult to discern. There were three reports of Saw-whet Owls, although one was unconfirmed and another in early December, and Red-breasted Nuthatches surged to the Alabama coast earlier than ever before. Purple Finches and Pine Siskins appeared early and in some numbers, and Evening Grosbeaks



showed signs of at least a minor invasion, with one reaching Pensacola in late November.

Among raptors, the small accipiters and the Osprey drew the most comment and the numbers in which they were reported suggest that all three species are at least holding their own. Certainly the increasing reporting of Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks in recent years reflects concern over their status, yet fall 1975 did seem a good one for them and at least no further decline was obvious.

**LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS** — A Common Loon, mentioned in the nesting season report, remained at Percy Priest L., Tenn. through Aug. 17 (MM), the first summering for the area. Although coastal in their normal wintering range, Red-necked Grebes are most frequently encountered in inland lakes in the Region. This year two at Nashville Sept. 7 (MPS) represented the second occurrence for that area. Belatedly reported were two from Wheeler N.W.R. Oct. 5, 1973 (DCH), the first Tennessee Valley record. As with the previous fall, Eared Grebes were early at several localities: Aug. 30, Evangeline Par., La. (JB), Sept. 24, Marion, Ala. (ALM,HHK, HBT,SFH), and Sept. 28, Lake Jackson, Fla. (CLK,MLM,EL,SL). The last pair of records were the first September observations for those divisions. One Eared Grebe at Nashville Oct. 4-9 (MLM, m.ob.) was apparently only the second for Tennessee. A W. Grebe seen and photographed at Birmingham's L. Purdy Nov. 21-29 (GRT, m.ob.) while the third record for Alabama, officially placed the species on the state list. Finally, a very early Horned Grebe at Old Hickory L., Nashville, was the first recorded in the area in the month of August since 1921.

As many as ten Greater Shearwaters off Panama City, Fla., Sept. 12 (JH) were the latest ever for n.w. Florida; one was accidentally snagged by a fishing line, was photographed and released. Clearly a product of Hurricane *Eloise*, a Wilson's Storm-Petrel on an inland lake near Marianna, Fla. Sept. 25 (MG,DS) was the latest record for the section by 18 days of a species rarely encountered but probably regular offshore in summer. Encouraging in view of concern over their breeding success were about 1000 White Pelicans on Blakely I., Ala., Nov. 19 (PFC) and 5000+ at Rockefeller Ref., La., Nov. 6. Brown Pelican numbers peaked at Port St. Joe, Fla. at 125 in mid-August, well above the summer count of 20, but subsequently declined, to only 40-50 by the end of the period. Once common in middle Tennessee, Double-crested Cormorants have declined to the point that they have been uncommon-to-rare in recent years, no doubt reflecting the general decline of the species. This fall several were seen in the Nashville area, prompting Bierly to express optimism over their return there. One at Gallatin, Tenn., Aug. 31 (DC,PC) was the earliest for the Nashville area by 20 days. Late and possibly wintering were four Anhingas in Tenas Par., Nov. 30 (REN,RP,LLG).

**HERONS, STORKS, IBIS, ANSERIFORMS** — Cattle Egrets, uncommon in fall in the Central Basin of Tennessee, were observed in some numbers from late

August to mid-November. Latest ever for inland Alabama was a Least Bittern on Wheeler Ref., Oct. 27 (DCH). Although the species are regular in s.w. Louisiana in early fall, the sighting of a group of 53 Wood Storks circling with 31 Anhingas at Miller's L., Evangeline Par., Sept. 28 (JBO) was interesting. White Ibis appeared in inland localities in Arkansas, Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi, where they are unexpected. Three near Decatur, Ala., Aug. 23 (DCH) were the first there in 10 years.

An individual of the *hutchinsii* race of the Canada Goose was present throughout the period at Oak Mountain L., Ala. (m.ob.). Apparently overwintering, a Brant was found on Hoover L., Birmingham Nov. 2 (HHK, m.ob.) and remained through the end of the period. This is the third record for Alabama, and is substantiated by excellent photographs. Although often reaching the coast somewhat earlier, a Snow Goose at Nashville Sept. 28 (ABG) was the earliest ever by 10 days. Among a number of early arriving species of ducks were: a Pintail at Gallatin, Tenn., Aug. 28 (DC,PC), earliest by 16 days, three Redheads at Wheeler Ref., Decatur, Ala., Oct. 7 (ENP,TZA,FO), a Greater Scaup at Wheeler, Nov. 9 (GDJ), the earliest inland record, two Buffleheads there on Oct. 19 (DCH), the earliest for the state, an Oldsquaw at Nashville Oct. 31 (MLB), and a Surf Scoter Nov. 12 at Birmingham (HHK,ALM,GDJ), the earliest inland record for the state. Surf Scoters were also seen on three Nashville area lakes in late October, involving at least five birds, and one was found on Petit Bois I., Miss., Oct. 19 (DRB). A White-winged Scoter on L. Pontchartrain Nov. 27-28 (NN, m.ob.) was the first record for New Orleans. Ruddy Ducks were early at Marion Farm, Ala., Sept. 24 (ALM,HHK,SFH), probably the earliest ever for the state, and at Nashville on Oct. 19 (MLB). Three separate observations of Common Mergansers along the peninsular Florida coast Nov. 28-30 were unusual and preceded by only three area records.

**DIURNAL RAPTORS** — Mississippi Kites ordinarily depart the Region by about Sept. 1; one seen in Evangeline Par., Sept. 28 (JBO) was unusually late. Reports of Sharp-shinned Hawks from Tennessee and Louisiana permitted no conclusions as to the recent success of the species but a count of 225 crossing the St. Joe peninsula Oct. 4 was certainly noteworthy. Cooper's Hawks drew attention, with five reports from Louisiana, and a count of 12 at St. Joe Oct. 12 (SS). On the other side of the balance sheet, none were seen by T.O.S. in middle Tennessee. A carefully described individual of the *harlanii* race of the Red-tailed Hawk seen at Gulf Breeze, Fla., Nov. 27 (BD) probably provided the first record for Florida. On the whole the c. Gulf Coast represents a hiatus in the large scale movements of Broad-winged Hawks, which are circum-gulf migrants. Indeed, in Louisiana large flocks, if encountered at all, are seen in the s.w. corner of the state. This fall 500+ were seen over New Iberia Sept. 24 and 150-200 at the same locality two days later. A flock of 4300 at Little Rock on Sept. 24 (GRG,SEC) represented the only major flock seen this fall there but was the largest concentration ever for the state. At least four (3a,1i) Golden Eagles were reported from middle Ten-

nessee in mid-October and one was shot by a hunter in the Pearl R. bottoms of Louisiana in late November. There were no previous records for s.e. Louisiana within memory. Of Bald Eagles there were at least 11 reports (6a,4i; 1 unspecified), two from Tennessee, one from Louisiana, three from Arkansas, and a surprising total of five from n.w. Florida from early October through the end of the period. In addition, an unidentified eagle was seen near Lacassine, La., Nov. 5 (RBH). Over 40 sightings of Ospreys were submitted, seemingly justifying a cautious optimism, now that the reporting of the species has been essentially total for several years. A minimum of ten was seen in the Nashville area from Aug. 24 on, seven were recorded on the n.w. Florida fall count Sept. 27, 11 were reported from Louisiana, and ten from Arkansas. Peregrine Falcons were seen in numbers which appear to be comparable to those of the most recent past, with about a dozen records having reached this writer. Imhof reported only "a few on the coast, none elsewhere," but Steadman described "the most sightings in recent years." There were at least four reported from coastal Louisiana from mid-October on. Of Merlins there were about a half-dozen records from Wheeler Ref. and the Alabama coast, two from Louisiana, and at least four from n.w. Florida.

**CRANES THROUGH LARIDS** — Sandhill Cranes were noted in middle Tennessee at the e. edge of their migration route Oct. 17 & Nov. 14 (TS,RH) and 25 were seen on Nov. 19 near Winchester, Tenn. (EDM,JBM) where they are said to winter. The elusive Black Rail was flushed from underfoot in a salt marsh on Dauphin I. Oct. 12 (HHK *et al.*), tying the late fall record for Alabama, even though the species winters along the w.c. Gulf Coast, at least. Two downy Purple Gallinule chicks at L. Jackson, Fla. Sept. 28 (MLM,CLK,SL,EL) were certainly of a late brood, and two adults on the weekend of Oct. 25-26 at Cameron (NNeI,MMM) were decidedly late. One Oct. 5 at Nashville (MLB) was only the sixth area record. The count of Am. Coots on Wood's Reservoir, Tenn. reached 16,400 on Oct. 28 (KD,LDun), the largest number ever recorded there.

An Am. Golden Plover at Mobile Sept. 12 (HMS) was the earliest ever for the state in fall and a late bird was in Plaquemines Par., La. Dec. 6 (DN). Earliest ever in fall for the Nashville area by 24 days was a Black-bellied Plover at Gallatin Aug. 5 (DC,PC); there were several other records in that area this fall. Ruddy Turnstones at two different middle Tennessee localities Sept. 27-28 were preceded by only a single record from that area, and a Whimbrel at Gallatin Sept. 26 (DC,PC,CP) was the fourth area record. Each of these sightings was near enough in time to Hurricane *Eloise* to be suggestive. A Dunlin at Gallatin Sept. 20 (DC,PC) was the earliest for the Nashville area by 22 days and the peak number of 56 on Oct. 16 (DC,PC) more than doubled the previous high. Willets, unusual inland at any season, were seen in Louisiana in Evangeline Par., Aug. 28 (JBO,RD,RL) and at the Bonnet Carre Spillway Sept. 20 & 27 (RJS,MW), one near Decatur, Ala., Nov. 8 (DCH) was the latest inland Alabama record. Three Pectoral Sandpipers in E. Baton

Rouge Par., Nov. 25 (JBO,BRu) were quite late and a Baird's Sandpiper at Marion Sept. 5 (GDJ) was the first record for Alabama's coastal plain except for the coast itself. Unprecedentedly late in fall for Alabama was a Stilt Sandpiper at Marion Nov. 5 (GDJ). Hudsonian Godwits, although not uncommon in the rice fields of s.w. Louisiana in spring, are quite rare in fall. One seen near Ville Platte Sept. 1 (JBO) was therefore of interest. Fall 1975 was unquestionably a banner season for Am. Avocets; they appeared in numbers all over the Region and in areas where they are seldom recorded. Although one summered at Mobile (*fide* TAI), the earliest fall sighting was of one Aug. 23-24 at St. Joe, Fla (SS,JH,CH). They were first seen in Alabama Sept. 5 at Marion and a count of 100 at Mobile Sept. 14 (BW,JW) was an impressive number so early in fall. Up to ten were seen at Gallatin in late September (DC,PC) where there were three previous records. Five at Hattiesburg, Miss. Sept. 21 (LJG) were unexpected, and other interior records came from Wheeler Ref. as late as Nov. 19 (RMB, m.ob.) Morehouse Par., Nov. 10 (DTK,WMcC) and from several Alabama localities. A count of 400 on Little Batteau I., Ala., Nov. 25 (PQ) was the largest concentration ever in the state. A Black-necked Stilt at Wheeler Ref. Nov. 14 (WCD) was the fourth inland record and the latest in fall for Alabama. A Red Phalarope was found injured at Navarre, Fla. Nov. 27 (EL,BJoh); the species of course winters offshore. A N. Phalarope at Wheeler Ref. Aug. 6 (DCH) was the earliest ever for Alabama, while one at Lonoke, Ark., Oct. 5 (EMH,HNH) was the latest for the state by one day.

A Parasitic Jaeger was seen on a sand bar Oct. 12 on Little Dauphin I. (TAI, m.ob.). For the third consecutive year the Black-backed Gull was encountered in n.w. Florida, this an adult at Destin Nov. 12 (BD). Two Herring Gulls at Nashville Sept. 26 (DC,PC,SF) were the earliest ever by seven days, and seven Bonaparte's Gulls there on Oct. 17 (SF) were early by five days. A Franklin's Gull at Nashville Nov. 15 (SF,WF) was the sixth record for that area. A Sooty Tern at Gulf Shores Sept. 24 in the aftermath of *Eloise* was the latest ever for Alabama (AN,MN), and a Least Tern at Little Rock Sept. 23 (GRG,AP) the latest ever for Arkansas. A Royal Tern, carefully observed near Birmingham Nov. 29 (JVP,HME) was only the second ever seen inland in Alabama. Caspian Terns were first seen at Gallatin on Aug. 9 (DC,PC), the earliest by six days, and peaked at the unusually large number of 22.

**CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Two young Yellow-billed Cuckoos in the nest Aug. 24-29 at Magnolia Springs, Ala. (PFC) represented the latest evidence of nesting for the state, and two at Ft. Morgan Nov. 15 (PFC,ANN,VDH) were the latest ever in fall for Alabama. On Sept. 20 the Birmingham fall count, under full moon, yielded 102 Screech Owls. Short-eared Owls were found on the Alabama and n.w. Florida coast in mid-November and two were seen in the Nashville area Nov. 27 (MM). There was an unconfirmed report of a pair of Saw-whet Owls in Washington Co., Miss. Aug. 6-7 (*fide* WHT), one was seen well in Reserve, La. in early December (RJS), and an injured bird was found in N. Little Rock Nov. 25



and kept until it died Dec. 2 (*vide* EMH). The latter was the fifth record for Arkansas. Latest ever by five days for n.w. Florida was a Chuck-will's-widow at Gulf Breeze Oct. 26 (LDun), while a Whip-poor-will at Venice, La Nov. 16 (DN) was probably wintering. Following last winter's discovery of Vaux's Swifts at Reserve, La., a patient search this fall yielded only one bird definitely of this species, Nov. 10-16 (RJS). Clearly observers should not discount the possibility of wintering swifts in appropriate sites near the coast. Again this fall good success was had in attracting hummingbirds to feeders in late fall, especially in the New Orleans area. By now Rufous Hummingbirds are quite standard and there must be dozens wintering around the city. A single bird was seen at Panama City, Fla., Sept. 19 (BA,LA), the first September record, and one was well inland at Alexandria, La., Nov. 20 (KCC).

#### S. A.

Aside from the return of the Buff-bellied Hummingbird which wintered in New Orleans last year (BRA), the big news involved the appearance of seven or eight Black-chinned Hummingbirds at three separate feeders in New Orleans suburbs (NNew,CB,RJN *et al.*). Until recently the species was considered a casual visitor to Louisiana in winter. Indeed, while the Ruby-throated Hummingbird has traditionally been slightly less common at s. Louisiana feeders than the Rufous, it was a surprise to see it apparently much less common than the Black-chinned this fall, though difficulties of identification make this judgement hazardous; the females and many imm. males go unidentified and one might presume them Ruby-throateds, yet this year the identifiable birds were mostly Black-chinned.

A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Birmingham Sept. 20 (GDJ) was the earliest ever for Alabama by one day.

FLYCATCHERS— Later than ever before and the second November record for Alabama was an E. Kingbird at Ft. Morgan Nov. 16 (JVP,TAI). A count of 30 Gray Kingbirds on Dauphin I. in August set a new high for Alabama; the species only occasionally nests further west, on Horn I., Miss. A *Tyrannus* flycatcher carefully identified as a **Tropical Kingbird** at Gulf Breeze Sept. 7 (SS,BJoh) would be the first record for the Florida section and the fourth for the state. The several W. Kingbirds observed in that area in mid-September and October were not in themselves unusual, but were an element in the "invasion" of western species experienced there. Elsewhere along the coast they appeared in something like normal numbers, as did Scissor-tailed Flycatchers; a flock of perhaps 18 Scissor-taileds and at least nine W. Kingbirds was seen Oct. 18 at Kenner, La. (NNew,RDP, m.ob.), for example, and several of those birds were wintering. A single W. Kingbird was seen in Little Rock Sept. 13 (GRG,SEC) and as many as 83 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers seen migrating down river at Little Rock Sept. 23

(GRG, m.ob.), the largest number recorded in c. Arkansas. An Ash-throated Flycatcher at Gulf Breeze Oct. 20 (BD) was only the third for n.w. Florida and the state. The only other western *Myiarchus* report was of a Wied's Crested Flycatcher at Cameron, La. in October In Louisiana, at least, and this is where most of the reports usually come from, the Wied's has recently been seen much more frequently than its relative, and there is little doubt that the identifications are correct. The promotion of the Willow and Alder Flycatchers to species rank has left gaps in our understanding of the movement of these transient *Empidonaces*, since many older records of "Traill's" Flycatchers failed to distinguish between the song types. Two Willow Flycatchers in Maury Co., Tenn., Aug. 1 (MM) were thus of interest, as were records from Magnolia Springs, Ala. Aug. 15 (PFC—heard) and Birmingham Sept. 15 (JVP—banded) which were, respectively, the earliest and latest inland records for the state. An E. Wood Pewee at Nashville Oct. 26 (MPS) was the latest ever there by a single day. Even later was one in Faulkner Co., Ark., Nov. 6 (DMJ), the latest for Arkansas by 19 days. In Louisiana Vermilion Flycatchers were found at Grand Chenier and Sabine N.W.R. headquarters, the latter a locality where one occurs almost annually.

SWALLOWS THROUGH VIREOS — A Bank Swallow seen at Wheeler, Ref., Nov. 2 (DCH) set an extreme late date for Alabama, a Rough-winged Swallow there Oct. 23 (CDC) was the latest inland, and two Barn Swallows at Ft. Morgan Nov. 15-16 (JVP,TAI) were the latest ever for Alabama. Cliff Swallows were seen in record numbers in n.w. Florida with 200 counted Sept. 20 at Port St. Joe and 150 three days later at Gulf Breeze. Five on Oct. 20 at Wheeler Ref (CDC,DCH) were the latest for inland Alabama. In the Nashville area, where Bierly reports that often only one species of swallow is recorded on the late September fall count, all six were seen. Ten Purple Martins in Baton Rouge Nov. 30 (HDP) were unusually late and a surprising number for such a date. Often an influx of Red-breasted Nuthatches into the Region is signalled by the unusually early arrival of the first individuals. This fall there was only weak evidence of an invasion, yet five arrived at Dauphin I. by Sept. 10 (GG), the earliest ever for the state, and others were early at Birmingham and in Arkansas and middle Tennessee as well. A Short-billed Marsh Wren was in Nashville Nov. 9 (MLB), the latest ever by five days. Also later than ever before, this by 22 days, was a Veery at Ft. Morgan Nov. 17 (TAI,JVP). A Swainson's Thrush at Spring Hill, Ala. Aug. 2 (MEM) was by 26 days the earliest ever for the state, but single birds at Mifflin, Ala. Nov. 15 (PFC, m.ob.) and in the Nashville area Nov. 23 (SF,WF) were the latest ever. Late by over a month for the Nashville area was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher there Nov. 7-9 (SF,WF). By nine days the latest ever for Arkansas was one in Hempstead Co. on Nov. 23 (CM) Unusual, even in proper habitat, was a Sprague's Pipit in Prairie Co., Ark. on Nov. 15 (GRG). The first Arkansas record of the White-eyed Vireo in November was of one in Little Rock Co., Nov. 23 (CM). Also unprecedentedly late were a White-eyed Vireo banded in the same area Oct. 27 (KAG), a Yellow-throated

Vireo at Pensacola Nov. 15 (BJoh), Red-eyed Vireos Oct. 27 at Nashville (KAG) and Nov. 27 at Santa Rosa I., Fla. (EL,BJoh), and a Philadelphia Vireo Oct. 26 (KAG) at Nashville.

**WARBLERS** — Early by 25 days and rare in n.w. Florida at best was a Nashville Warbler at Innerarity Pt., Sept. 3 (SG); another was seen at Port St. Joe Sept. 20 (BA,LA). A Magnolia Warbler on Dauphin I., Nov. 11 (REH,SBH) was the latest in fall for Alabama. Five Cape May Warblers were seen or banded in the Nashville area, where they are normally rare, and one Oct. 26 (KAG,SF,WF) was the latest ever. Another at Montevallo, Ala. Oct. 21 (GDJ) was the latest inland, but much later and further west was one at Oxford, Miss. Nov. 23 (WMD,SSD). A ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler in Metairie, La., Sept. 24 (LW,WW) was an extreme rarity for s.e. Louisiana, and one at Dauphin I., Nov. 11 (REH,SBH) was, except for a Nov. 25, 1960 record, the latest for Alabama. On the other hand, earliest ever was a Yellow-rumped Warbler at Nashville Sept. 13 (MLB,BJon,EH), a Blackburnian Warbler was by two weeks the earliest ever when seen Aug. 2 at Gulf Breeze (BD,LDun), and a Chestnut-sided Warbler at Dauphin I., Nov. 11 (REH,SBH) was the latest for Alabama. A late Bay-breasted Warbler was also at Dauphin I. on the latter date. A Blackpoll Warbler which met its demise at a Nashville TV tower Oct. 26 (MLB) was the latest ever by 10 days. Only the third ever seen in n.w. Florida, a Mourning Warbler was at Gulf Breeze Sept. 24 (LDun), while one Nov. 19 at Greenwood, Ala. (CWB) was the latest for the state by almost a month. While Yellow-breasted Chats sometimes winter along the coast, one in Covington, Tenn. into December was remarkably late for that inland locality. Wilson's Warblers were unusually common in late fall in s.e. Louisiana where they are considered uncommon winter visitors. One at Gulf Breeze Sept. 2 (BD,LD) was the earliest ever for the Florida section. Latest ever by three days for Arkansas was a Canada Warbler at Little Rock on Sept. 29 (GRG,AP).

**ICTERIDS, FRINGILLIDS** — A flock of 150 Bobolinks in middle Tennessee Sept. 13 (RJB) was unusually large, and a single bird at the Bonnet Carre Spillway, La., Sept. 20 & 27 (RJS,MW) was the first fall record for the well-birded Reserve area. An Orchard Oriole Sept. 8 at Birmingham (TAI) was the latest ever inland, except for two wintering records. Conceivably related to the appearance of Hurricane *Eloise* were four records of the casual W. Tanager in n.w. Florida subsequent to the storm: Sept. 23 (BD,EL) at Gulf Breeze, Sept. 24, Soundside (BJon) and Gulf Breeze (LDun), and Oct. 17, Ft. Pickens (BD). A Scarlet Tanager in Hempstead Co., Ark. on Oct. 11 (GRG) was the latest ever for the state by 11 days, and a late Summer Tanager was seen in Cookeville, Tenn., Nov. 7 (EH). Evening Grosbeaks arrived early in the Nashville area, the earliest Sept. 27 (WS,KW) equaling the previous early date, and scattered birds were reported from nearly a dozen places in middle Tennessee and in numbers at Jonesboro, Ark. One at Pensacola Nov. 25-26 (*fide* BD) was the first November record for the section. No reports were received from Louisiana or Mississippi, but the above records and a mid-November

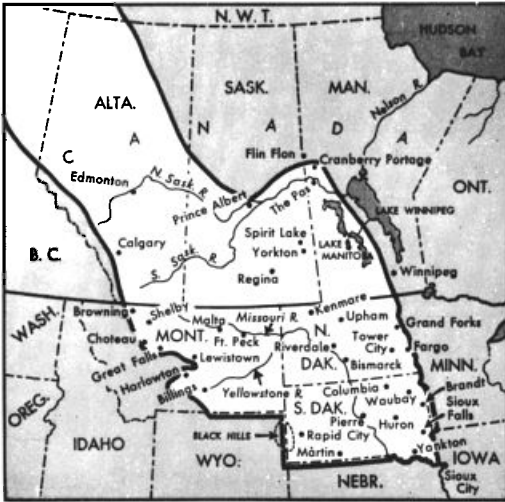
sighting in Alabama (*fide* WFC) suggest the possibility of an invasion. Purple Finches were early and in fair numbers. The earliest report was of one at Bon Air, Tenn., Sept. 20 (EH), while one in the Nashville area on Sept. 24 (SF) was the earliest ever by 13 days and two on Oct. 13 at Greenwood (CWB) the earliest for Alabama. There was some indication of a Pine Siskin "flight" on the basis of records from late October on in middle Tennessee and Alabama. An imm. ♂ Lark Bunting Aug. 23 at Ft. Morgan (JVP) established the fourth record for Alabama. A Vesper Sparrow at Wheeler Ref., Oct. 13 (CDC) equalled the earliest date for the state while a Lark Sparrow at Nashville Oct. 4 (MPS) was the latest for that area by 33 days. By ten days the latest ever for Arkansas was one Bachman's Sparrow at Little Rock on Sept. 25 (GRG); the fall movement of this species is poorly understood. The first record for Louisiana of the **Black-throated Sparrow** was established Oct. 27 when one was seen near Shreveport by R.A. Worley who showed it to Horace Jeter. Whether Clay-colored Sparrows are increasing in the east in fall, or observers simply becoming less reluctant to identify them, there are increasingly many records, mostly from Alabama and Louisiana. This fall one was seen Sept. 27 at Ft. Morgan (HME) and another in Cameron Par., Oct. 18 (RBH). Earliest ever for Alabama were two White-crowned Sparrows in Limestone Co. Oct. 3 (DC), while a Fox Sparrow at Marianna Oct. 31 (MG) was earliest by 14 days for n.w. Florida. Three Swamp Sparrows at Birmingham on Sept. 20 (PLT,HBT) were very early but not the earliest ever for Alabama. A Lapland Longspur, the fourth area record, was seen at Nashville Nov. 16-17 (MLB,RJM), and at the same locality, a Snow Bunting, the third area sighting, was seen Nov. 16 (MLB).

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**NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS**  
/Esther M. Serr

The open, mild weather that is typical of the area in the fall prevailed and moisture was almost nil. Fires on the prairies and in the Black Hills forests were held to areas of fairly heavy, dried vegetation. A severe snow storm battered eastern South Dakota during the last week of November.



Reports of vagrant species caused this editor to wonder, but they came from reliable observers. The discussion of "Changes in Bird Distribution" by the editors of the Southwest Region, (*A.B.* 29, 1014), did reassure this editor and lent credence to reports of the unusual. The Northern Great Plains has much the same situation—it is overall a dry, "desolate" area, but many large dams have been built on rivers and previously dry stream beds. Generally, bird life during the last ten years has been affected by these new areas of water. How long does it take "strays" to find these places? Well, they found them in numbers this fall. No less than 17 species of uncommon water birds, large and small, were recorded this fall, some for the first time. These were accompanied by the hawks, eagles and falcons that prey on them.

Availability of food at these dams is the most important reason for the influx of species and numbers. Might it also be that the water here is less contaminated?

**LOONS, GREBES** — An ad. Com. Loon was feeding a full grown immature at Kenossee L., Sask. Aug. 24 (LN) and ten were seen Oct. 26 - Nov. 6 at Bear Butte L., S. Dak. (JLM). A **Yellow-billed Loon**, ex-

remely rare, was recorded at Calgary, Alta., Nov. 3 (HWP). A single **Red-throated Loon** was noted with its up-turned yellowish-gray bill, Oct. 29 at Montreal L., Sask. above 54° N. (WCH,SML).

**PELICANS, IBIS** — Bowdoin N.W.R., Mont., reported 2500 White Pelicans and 1200 Double-crested Cormorants Aug. 15 (JRF). Green Herons were still present after the spring invasion. A Little Blue Heron was a rare find at Sand Lake N.W.R., Brown Co., S. Dak. (R.T. Larson). An imm. Cattle Egret was observed Oct. 13 at Oak Hammock Marsh, Man (RK,RFK). The total of **119** was a most unusual high number of Great Egrets along the e. border area of the Dakotas, and one was at Winnipeg Aug. 28 (DRMH) Bowdoin N.W.R. had 250 Black-crowned Night Herons Aug. 15, but elsewhere there were few. White faced Ibis are so common now that it would seem they are established visitors (possibly breeding) with a total of 28 reported in the Region.

**SWANS, GEESE** — Whistling Swans probably had the best season for production ever recorded, with 2229 adults and 608 young at Calgary Oct. 19 - Nov. 8 (RJB). They peaked at 10,000 Oct. 16 at Goose L., Sask. (JBG). Canada Geese were at a high Nov. 5 with 20,000 in the Glidden-Leader area, s.w. Saskatchewan (WCH), and 14,000 (three times the previous high) at Audubon N.W.R., N. Dak. (DCM).

A flock of 18 **brant, sp.** was observed flying as close as 50 yds. from the observer at Semans, Sask, Sept. 27 (WCH). The White-fronted Goose had a good year with a peak of 20,000 Sept. 27 at Seaman Sask. High count for Snow Goose was 37,000 in October at Bowbelles, N. Dak. (RAS). Near Leoville, Sask., 365 Ross' Geese were seen Sept. 12 (WCH,SML).

**DUCKS** — Two ad. ♂ **Fulvous Tree Ducks** were captured at J. Clark Salyer N.W.R., N. Dak., Sept. 25 (LAJ). One became a specimen by accident and will be placed in the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, Jamestown, N. Dak. (JTL,RES). A **Black Duck**, a rare transient, was at Regina, Sask., Aug. 31 - Nov. 13 (TMB) and singles were seen at four s.e. N. Dakota points (JRA,HAK). The Black Duck that was nesting north of Maidstone, Sask., June 21 was the second breeding record for the for the Province—the first being in 1934 (WCH).

American Wigeon, Redhead, Canvasback and Bufflehead showed small increases. Wood Duck peaked at 60 on Sept. 4 at Waubay N.W.R. (EJF) and 39 were at Yankton, S. Dak. Aug. 24 (WH). A ♂ Greater Scaup was seen Oct. 8 on a slough in the Wildlife Reserve of Western Canada (W.R.W.C.) n.w. Cochrane, Alta. (SJ). A ♂ **Barrow's Goldeneye** at Semans provided the third record for Saskatchewan, Nov. 9 (WCH). A ♀ Harlequin Duck with one young was noted near Millarville, Alta. (HDB).

All three species of scoter were observed in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and South Dakota. Species totals were: White-winged 18, Surf 14 and Black 15. Saskatchewan had 42 sightings of Hooded Mergansers, which have been considered uncommon transients in the Province (RD).

**VULTURES, HAWKS, FALCONS** — Saskatchewan had 11 sightings of Turkey Vulture with most of them at Round L., Qu'Appelle R. area, Sept. 17 (DF). Sharp-shinned Hawks were most often reported from Saskatchewan with the majority of 29 sightings in the unpopulated area up to Oct. 2 (WCH), and Bowdoin N.W.R. tallied 20 Sept. 1 - Nov. 17 (JRF). Cooper's Hawks reports increased with 18 at Bowdoin N.W.R. 15 over the populated area of Saskatchewan and nine from South Dakota.

No concentrated movements were noted in 200 sightings of Red-tailed Hawks. Broad-winged were few, only 12 were reported Aug. 4-28 from Saskatchewan. Swainson's Hawks seemed to concentrate in scattered areas. From Calgary east for 35 miles 60 were counted Aug. 6 - Oct. 9, and from Saskatoon southeast to Semans, there were over 80 sightings Aug. 11 - Sept. 27. At Ft. Peck, Mont., on Sept. 28, from one spot, 70 Swainson's were counted in migration. They rested overnight on telephone poles, fence posts, hay bales; most were sitting on the ground. There were so many in the fields they couldn't have been counted with any degree of accuracy (CMC). Rough-legged Hawks were largely unreported. Ferruginous Hawks are never very numerous; the 17 sightings were more than usual.

Golden Eagles seemed stable with about 100 sightings reported. The Slim Buttes area in Harding Co., S. Dak. had 12, Aug. 26 - Oct. 11 (JLM,RLH), and eight were noted in Lyman Co., near the Missouri R. (WCT). Seven Bald Eagles were in the Oak Hammock Marsh, and four at Kemnay, s.w. Manitoba, Oct. 13 Nov 29 (RFK,EF).

Marsh Hawks seemed fewer to reporters but the total reported was about 200. There were six Osprey reports from Alberta, five from Saskatchewan and three from South Dakota. At Banff, Alta. a single Osprey was noted Aug. 10 (GW) followed by a sighting of two adults and one young at Banff, Sept. 7 (MPP). The only **Gyrfalcon** sighting was at Reliance, S. Dak. near the Missouri R. The bird perched on top of a power pole where it could watch for pheasants that fed on grain spilled from trucks at a rough railroad crossing (WCT).

Prairie Falcon reports totaled 44, six at Regina, Sask., Aug. 31 - Nov. 6 (MB,EC) and the others widespread. Single Peregrine Falcons were seen at Semans, and Spring Valley, Sask. Sept. 28 (WCH,FB). In Alberta they were at Banff, Aug. 10 (GW) and Brant, Oct. 9 (RJB) with one in Union Co., S. Dak., Oct. 20 (WH). Two were near Oak Hammock Marsh Sept. 28 (RK,RFK). Saskatchewan led in Merlin sightings as 17 of that species frequented the campus and avenues in Saskatoon (CSH). Moose Jaw and nearby Spring Valley had ten, Aug. 26 - Nov. 14 (EWK,FB). The Am. Kestrel had its best numbers in Saskatchewan.

**GROUSE** — A total of 51 Spruce Grouse was found above 54°N. in Saskatchewan Aug. 13 - Oct. 22 (WCH). Ruffed Grouse showed a noticeable increase in the mixed wood section of Saskatchewan, with about 125 seen at 53° - 55° N. (WCH), and at Cavalier, N. Dak. they were still drumming Sept. 23 (DLK). A very unusual sighting of two **Greater Prairie Chickens** that were with Sharp-taileds was noted in the hills of Avonlea, Sask., Sept. 20 (DWR) and 37 young were counted in Grank Forks County, N. Dak. (RGR).

Sharp-tailed Grouse had a good year in Montana with over 1000 in the Ft. Peck Res. area (CMC,JRF) and there were good numbers in the s.w. Saskatchewan area Nov. 4 (WCH). Pheasants were very low throughout the Region and hunting seasons were accordingly reduced. The Gray Partridge seemed to be making a comeback but is still far from numerous.

**CRANES, RAILS, COOTS** — Alberta and Saskatchewan observers saw 49 Whooping Cranes including three young Sept. 13 - Nov. 6. Sandhill Cranes were a month later than usual and finally 15,000 were counted on Nov. 9 and 10,000 Nov. 19 as they flew over e. Custer County, and Rapid City, S. Dak (BMN,BES). Another 15,000 flew over the c. and e. Dakotas in mid-November (DCM,GLS,WCT).

Adult and young Virginia and Sora rails were seen Aug. 14 in Deuel Co., S. Dak., (BKH), at Leeds, N. Dak. (ACF) and near Grenfell, Sask. Aug. 3 (EKH) American Coot was on the increase with a peak of 49,000, Sept. 25 at Bowdoin N.W.R., Mont. (JRF)

**SHOREBIRDS** — Few American Golden Plover were reported but perhaps some, in their fall plumage, were overlooked. Four were at Whitewater L., Man. Oct. 19 (BR) and nine Sept. 16-27 in Saskatchewan where this species has been recorded for the last three years (WCH). Black-bellied Plovers were far more numerous; about 175 were found in the populated area of Saskatchewan, Aug. 31 - Oct. 4. There were 26 Com. Snipe found at Semans, Sask., Sept. 21 (WCH) and 25 in one slough at Waubay N.W.R., S. Dak., Oct. 23 (KFH). Greater Yellowlegs numbers were better than usual at Saskatoon (JBG), Regina (TMB) and Irricana, Alta. (RJB). Lesser Yellowlegs peaked at 7000 on Aug. 26 at Waubay N.W.R. (KFH). Red Knots are an uncommon bird in the interior yet eight were reported, with detailed descriptions. Two were in North Dakota at Golden L., Sept. 1-6 (DLK), and two at Fargo, Aug. 17-27 (EGA). Two were in McCook Co., S. Dak., Aug. 16 (*fide* KE) and two at Oak Hammock Marsh, Sept. 1 (RK,RFK). Long-billed Dowitchers were numerous in the area east of Calgary with 450 found Oct. 9 at Frank L., Alta. (RJB). Stilt and Semipalmated Sandpipers numbering 40 each were at Last Mountain and Quill Lakes, Sask., Aug. 31 - Sept. 3 (WCH). Four Hudsonian Godwits were seen east of Clavat, Sask. (WCH) and 12 at Porter L., Sask. (SJS) Wilson's Phalarope numbered 200 on Aug. 19 at Waubay N.W.R., and over 1000 on Aug. 31 at Moose Jaw (EWK). On Sept. 28, 200 N. Phalarope were observed at Fargo, N. Dak. (EGA). An Am. Woodcock was flushed from a spring area, Nov. 14, Marshall Co., S. Dak., (*fide* BKH).

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS** — One **Parasitic Jaeger** was seen by Jim Comfort at Williston, N. Dak., the third recorded in the state. A jaeger believed to be a Long-tailed was viewed three times within an hour at 220 yds. at Lacreek N.W.R., S. Dak. on Oct. 3 by Harold Burgess and his crew. The central tail feathers were noted to extend more than five inches beyond the others. Burgess is familiar with all three jaeger species

One **Glaucous Gull** was seen Nov. 5-6 at Calgary (HWP). A Herring Gull flock of 37 was seen at Gavin's Pt., Missouri R., S. Dak., Nov. 28 (WH). McGregor L., Alta. had 1300 Ring-billeds Oct. 13 (EFB). Franklin's Gull numbers seemed low generally but 20,000 sought protection at Bowdoin N.W.R. in August (JRF). Bonaparte's Gulls were above 55°N. at Ile-a-la-Crosse, Sask., in a sizeable group of 2000 on Sept. 17 (WCH). In Alberta, 2000 were at Gull L., Aug. 16 (RJB) and by Oct. 12, 300 were at Fargo, N. Dak. (MBW). A single **Little Gull** was at Deschambault L., Sask. Aug. 13 for the third provincial record (WCH).

Common and Black Tern numbers were very low but a few of both did seek out Waubay N.W.R., Aug. 26 - Sept. 2 (KFH). Seldom reported is the **Caspian Tern**. Six were seen Aug. 24 at Valeport, Sask. (FWL).

**CUCKOOS, OWLS** — Black-billed Cuckoos were as far north as Hanley, Hudson Bay and Kenaston, Sask., Aug. 13 - Sept. 6 (PLB, WCH) and three were seen in w. Perkins Co., S. Dak. Aug. 4-19 (AH). Nine Screech Owls were recorded in e. South Dakota (WH) Aug. 20 - Nov. 2 and one was heard, Nov. 18 at Joliet, Mont. (KH). Reporters felt Great Horned Owls were scarce. Snowy Owls are becoming regular below the border; a total of 63 was reported from mid-November. One Hawk Owl was found at Emma L., Sask. Oct. 2 (WCH). A Pygmy Owl was reported from Seebe, Alta., near the mountains, Oct. 13 (WJG). A special study was made on Burrowing Owls in the Saskatoon area July 1 - Oct. 5 and 248 were counted at 47 sites in and around Saskatoon (JAW). Three Barred Owls were recorded for Saskatchewan, Oct. 1 - Nov. 23, but one at Waubay N.W.R. Oct. 31 was uncommon there (EJF). A Great Gray Owl was at Little Amyot L., Sask. above 55°N. Sept. 16 (WCH) and one at Cremona, Alta., Sept. 27 (JMi). Three Long-eareds were seen in the Dakotas (JMa, RLH). Short-eareds were common, with 13 adults and two young at Moose Jaw Aug. 5 - Nov. 9 (EWK), and five at Oak Hammock Marsh (PS). A Saw-whet Owl was caught by hand Oct. 15, in Brookings Co., S. Dak. (NJH). In Alberta one adult and two young were at Bearberry, (JMi) Aug. 27 and one was being mobbed by kinglets at W.R.W.C., Sept. 21 (SJ).

**GOATSUCKERS, HUMMINGBIRDS** — One Whip-poor-will was at Hudson Bay, Sask., Aug. 27 (WCH) and another heard at Cavalier, N. Dak., Sept. 15 (DLK). Two Poor-wills were noted Sept. 12, in the S. Dak. Badlands (RAW) and one, Aug. 31 in the Theodore Roosevelt N.P., N. Dak., (GRAE).

South Dakota had an unusual 40 sightings of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and other unidentified hummers in the Black Hills Aug. 5 - Oct. 13. The rare Rufous Hummingbird was at Calgary Aug. 14-24 (DD m.ob.) and confirmed at Moose Jaw Sept. 20-22 (EWK).

**WOODPECKERS** — Three Pileateds were sighted above 53°N. in Saskatchewan (WCH), while in Alberta eight were at Sundre and Millarville (CR). Three Red-bellieds were recorded in Clay (KJH), Yankton (WH) and Brookings Cos. (ERE) S. Dak., Oct. 11 - Nov. 26. South Dakota reported a total of 64 Red-headededs. One

Black-backed and six Northern Three-toeds were seen between 53° - 55°N. Sask. (WCH, SML).

**FLYCATCHERS** — Five E. Wood Pewees, described in detail, were in Moose Mt. P.P., Sask., Aug. 21 (LN). A spectacular show of Purple Martins and other swallows was observed at Regina Waterfowl Park Sept. 1-4, with thousands perched on fences and telephone wires, and feeding on mosquitoes (RD).

**JAYS** — Gray Jay sightings numbered 47 above 54°N. in Saskatchewan (WCH) and their numbers are increasing in the Black Hills, S. Dak. (B.H.A.S.) Forty-seven Blue Jays were seen along a 40-mi. stretch of road between Big River and Chitek L., Sask. (WCH). In the Black Hills, three were observed at 5200 ft., a rather high altitude for this species (NRW). In the Saskatoon area, 300 Black-billed Magpies were seen Sept. 1 Nov. 15 (m.ob.). Common Ravens were mainly above 53°N., Sept. 16 - Nov. 23 (WCH), yet eight were on a deer kill at Yorkton, Sask., Nov. 23 (WA). Thousands of Com. Crows were feeding on grasshoppers at Kenaston, Sask., Aug. 14 - Sept. 22 (PLB) while nearly 10,000 were on the move through South Dakota Sept. 21 Oct. 25.

**CHICKADEES, WRENS** — Black-capped Chickadees have rebounded after the January 1975 blizzard in North Dakota. One eight-year-old bird was recaptured in s. Brookings Co., S. Dak., Nov. 9 (NJH). Numerous reports indicated that Boreal Chickadees were moving into s. Saskatchewan this fall, Aug. 7 - Oct. 27. One Mountain Chickadee was unusual at Bowdoin N.W.R., Mont. Nov. 17 (JRF).

Saskatoon had a strong movement of Red-breasted Nuthatches with a concentration of 97, Oct. 1-31, (MIH, CSH). Eight adults and two imm. Dippers were located on Black Hills streams (NRW, LRP). Seven Long-billed Marsh Wrens were seen Aug. 2 at Springfield, S. Dak. (WH). Rock Wrens showed an increase in w. North and South Dakota (B.H.A.S., GRAE).

**MIMICS THROUGH WAXWINGS** — Mockingbirds are probably recorded every fall but are still not a common species in Saskatchewan or Manitoba (WCH). One was observed Nov. 16 at Winnipeg (JN) and another was seen Nov. 23 in Stonewall, Man. (KG). Eastern Bluebirds made a definite increase in South Dakota with 27 sightings listed, and Mountain Bluebirds also were more numerous. Townsend's Solitaires were reported from every state and province as they continued to expand into any gully on the prairie where there were a few junipers. One was unusual at Brandon, Man., Nov. 13-15 (MMcC m.ob.). Alberta and Saskatchewan reported Water Pipits Sept. 10 - Oct. 6 as they came from their nesting grounds. Could identification problems be the reason there are not more reports?

Bohemian Waxwings were at Rapid City by Nov. 4 after several years' absence (BLG). South Dakota logged a total of 66 Loggerhead Shrike reports after a good nesting season. Northern Shrikes began to appear by mid-October, with 30 reported during the season.

**WARBLERS** — Saskatchewan compiled the best record for warbler sightings. Its observers listed 24 species and counted greater numbers than all other provinces and states combined. The Yellow-rumped Warbler was the most common followed by Wilson's. There were 40 sightings of the Palm Warbler, Aug. 5 - Nov. 19 over the region. A N. Parula, which is seldom recorded, was found at Fargo, Oct. 22 (ELD), S. Dak. Badlands, Oct. 1 (RAW) and (a male) at Winnipeg Oct. 11 (BAS). Most unusual were the total of 26 sightings of Canada Warblers Aug. 15 - Sept. 20 with nine in Saskatchewan, six each in Alberta and South Dakota and a few in North Dakota. A **Townsend's Warbler**, believed to be the first for Saskatoon and Saskatchewan, was reported Sept. 7 (SJS) and one was at Lethbridge Alta., nearer its range, Sept. 4-9 (HCS). Also unusual were the sightings of Black-throated Blue Warblers, with a female at Moose Jaw Sept. 9 (GSL), a male at Calgary Oct. 13 (WAm), another male in full plumage at Fargo (EGA) and a male in LaBarriere Park, Winnipeg Oct. 11 (RK). One Pine Warbler, was in Assiniboine Park, Winnipeg, Sept. 21 (RFK).

**BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES** — The highest Rusty Blackbird numbers came from 53° - 55°N., Sept. 17 - Oct. 27 (WCH) with a few others from s. Saskatchewan. On Sept. 28, fifteen Rustys gathered at a watering pan at Highmore, S. Dak., (JH) and 90 were at Hope, N. Dak., (DLK). Evening Grosbeaks came back in good numbers after being scarce for several years. Purple Finches were present in small numbers, and the Gray-crowned Rosy Finch was new to Ft. Peck, Mont., Nov. 15 (CMC). A small invasion of Com. Redpolls was evident below the border. Red Crossbills were common but White-winged moved southward in lesser numbers in lower Saskatchewan, and reached Sioux Falls, S. Dak. by Nov. 15 (KE). Pine Grosbeaks came southward, too, but 107 were counted above 53°N. (WCH,SML).

**SPARROWS** — Twenty-six species of sparrows, not counting two junco races, were in migration at some time during the fall season. Grasshopper Sparrows remained very scarce with a total of 20 reported from the entire region, Aug. 17 - Oct. 19. Only South Dakota reported Lark Sparrows and then just 30 but that might have been expected after a poor spring migration. Harris' Sparrows really exploded with reports totaling 400 from South Dakota and 200 from Saskatchewan. Otherwise sparrow reports were normal. Unusual were two Sharp-taileds, Sept. 21 at Semans, Sask. (WCH) and one at Watford City, N. Dak., Aug. 31 (GRAE). A very unusual count was forty Le Conte's with 32 in the s e tip of South Dakota, Sept. 27 - Oct. 26 (KE, WH). Eight were reported elsewhere. Eleven **Brewer's** were observed Aug. 31 in Butte Co., S. Dak., (RLH). **Field Sparrows** were present only in South Dakota with 14 reported from widespread areas, Aug. 18 - Oct. 15. For the doubtful, Golden-crowned continue to be reported: the total was 10. One was at W.R.W.C., Alta., Sept. 19, where it is expected (SJ) but eight were at Saskatoon, Sept. 9-18 (GH,JDH) and one at Rapid City, Sept. 14 (EAS). Lapland Longspurs began to appear in the region Sept. 5 and Snow Buntings Sept. 28 with 10,000 each in Saskatchewan. Four **Smith's Longspurs** were watched while feeding along the rocky shore of

Montreal L., Sask. Oct. 2 (WCH). A very good flight of this species in small flocks averaging 25 moved through Deuel Co., S. Dak. Oct. 21 - Nov. 7, (BKH)

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## SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS /Frances Williams

The fall season was very warm and very dry. With no cold fronts to urge the birds onward, there were many reports of species lingering long past their normal departure dates. There were only two periods of heavy migration: Sept. 12-14 and Oct. 14-16. The former produced a TV tower kill at Dallas of over 25 species, including four Canada Warblers (WP). On Sept 13 in Walker Co., Tex., a nocturnal fallout involved mainly Dickcissels, Indigo Buntings, Blue Grosbeaks, Common Yellowthroats and Soras (KBB). At the same locality on Oct. 16 hundreds of sparrows of seven species were present on the athletic field of Sam Houston State University.

Most contributors reported a very disappointing fall migration, but there was one "hot spot" in western Texas which had birders gasping and rare bird alerts ringing across the state. Two miles south of the town of Big Lake is a large playa of the same name. This intermittent lake covers about 1200 acres and is only about eight feet deep, and it is only a lake about one year out of twelve. It was filled by the heavy rains of late 1974 and early 1975 and was an oasis for thousands of water birds this fall. Five species of grebes and all three scoters were present when the period ended, as



well as all the common ducks, gulls and 10,000 American Coots. The story will be continued when the winter report is written, since the bird alerts are still sounding.

**LOONS, GREBES** — A Red-throated Loon was seen in Lancaster Co., Neb., Nov. 2 (DGi). A **Red-necked Grebe** remained at Big Lake, Reagan Co., Tex., Nov. 23 to the end of the period (AS, m.ob.). Horned Grebes again moved south of their usual winter range into n. and w. Texas. By the end of the period they had been recorded at Dallas, Hagerman N.W.R., Lake Meredith in the Panhandle, Muleshoe N.W.R., Lubbock and Big Lake. A pair of **Eared Grebes** was feeding four juveniles at Red Lake, Howard Co., Tex., Sept. 12 (M.N.), providing the first breeding record of this species anywhere in w. Texas. For the second consecutive year W. Grebes made news. They were present at Omaha, Neb., Jefferson, Wyandotte and Kearny Cos., Kans., Lubbock, Potter, Crosby, Midland and Reagan Cos., Tex. **Pied-billed Grebes** feeding three juveniles in Howard County in late August constituted another first nesting record for w. Texas.

**PELICANS THROUGH ANHINGAS** — White Pelicans were observed at 21 localities during the period. Some large concentrations were reported: 1500 at Irving, Tex., Oct. 16 (WP), 1800 at Keystone L., Pawnee Co., Okla., Oct. 26 (ES *et al.*), 700 in Lancaster Co., Neb., Oct. 5 (DGi). Double-crested Cormorants were sighted at 16 localities, with flocks of 1000 at Dallas Nov. 16 (PJ,HN), 1500 at Oolahah Reservoir, Rogers and Nowata Cos., Okla., Oct. 8 (SM) and 550 at Keystone L., Oct. 26. The Olivaceous Cormorants which summered in Canadian Co., Okla., remained until Aug. 23. This species was noted in Dallas Co., Sept. 10 (BV *et al.*) and at L. Somerville in Burleson Co., Tex., Aug. 30 (MH). About 12 Anhingas, including immatures, were observed in Madison Co., Tex., Aug. 25 and the same day in neighboring Burleson Co., ad.

Anhingas were at six nests, two of which contained eggs (DR,BD). Anhingas were also recorded at Ft Worth Aug. 7, Wise Co., Tex., Oct. 31 and Dallas Aug. 2 (PJ).

**HERONS THROUGH IBISES** — A Green Heron at Bellevue, Neb., Nov. 2 was unusually late. In Wichita Co., Tex., over 500 herons came to a salt cedar marsh each evening through August and September. Species present were Great Egret, Snowy Egret and Little Blue Heron, the latter being the most abundant. Three Little Blue Herons lingered until Nov. 2 in Wichita County and Nov. 1 at Perry L., Jefferson Co., Kans. Little Blue Herons were recorded at several localities where they are rarely seen: Lancaster Co., Neb., Tom Green, McLennan and Lubbock Cos., Tex. Cattle Egrets were more numerous than ever before in five w. Texas counties and four n.e. Oklahoma counties, and wandered beyond their normal range at Garnett, Kans., Lancaster Co., Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Tex., and Jeff Davis Co., Tex. Flocks of 50 to 75 Great Egrets were seen in Payne Co., Okla., Aug. 7 & 14. A Great Egret in Washington Co., Okla., Oct. 22 was late. At Bellevue, Neb., where this species is uncommon, 12 were sighted Oct. 7. One in Crosby Co., Tex., Sept. 28 provided a new county record (DS *et al.*). Three Snowy Egrets at Red Lake, Howard Co., Tex., Nov. 2 were late, as was a Louisiana Heron at L. Conroe, Walker Co., Tex., Oct. 31. A Louisiana Heron was reported at Hulah Res., Osage Co., Okla., Oct. 5 (EHi). Black-crowned Night Herons were seen at only 12 localities in the Region and most of these reported less than five individuals. Least Bitterns were sighted only in Canadian Co., Okla. and Wichita Co., Tex. An Am. Bittern spent the afternoon in a flower garden near a swimming pool in a residential back yard of Omaha Sept. 30. At the ten other localities where they were sighted they were in more conventional habitats. Wood Storks were seen at Dallas Aug. 28 - Sept. 24. Two White-faced Ibis at Oklahoma City Nov. 15 were late. Three White Ibis were reported in Caddo Co., Okla., Sept. 13 (JB).

**WATERFOWL** — Whistling Swans appeared Nov. 30 in Tom Green and Martin Cos., Tex. At Tishomingo N.W.R., Okla., 30,000 Canada Geese were present in late November (*vide* CRB). White-fronted Geese were reported at Hulah Res., Oct. 10, Keystone L., Tulsa Co., Oct. 21 and Midland, Tex. Oct. 25. Peak of Snow Goose migration at Plattsmouth Waterfowl Area, Neb., was November 28 when 162,000 were present On Nov. 8th 12,000 Snow Geese were in Harrison Co., Tex. Ross' Geese were noted in Coffey Co., Kans., Cheyenne Bottoms N.W.R., Kans. and Muleshoe N.W.R., Tex. throughout November. Eight Mexican Ducks were discovered feeding in an irrigated field in the Rio Grande Valley at El Paso Aug. 2. Black Ducks were sighted in Wichita, Kans., Oct. 29 & Nov. 1 and at Dallas Oct. 20 (HN,PJ). Wood Ducks were plentiful throughout the e. half of the Region and two wandered as far west as Midland Oct. 25 (GP,RMS). Common Goldeneyes were noted at Tulsa Nov. 18 & 22, Perry L., Jefferson Co., Kans., Nov. 16 and Plattsmouth Nov. 23. Oldsquaws were reported at Wakefield, Kans., Oct. 28 (*vide* BL) and Dallas Oct. 25 (HN,SCr).

Scoters were the highlight of fall waterfowl migration. White-winged Scoters were sighted at Kearny Co. State L., Kans., Nov. 2 (BL), Dallas Oct. 30 - Nov. 2 (BV *et al.*), Midland Nov. 8-11 (LBP, m.ob.), Big Lake Nov. 11-30 (CCW, m.ob.). Surf Scoters were found at Dallas Oct. 25 - Nov. 8 (PJ, m.ob.) and Big Lake Oct. 22 - Nov. 30 (CCW, m.ob.). Black Scoters were carefully identified at Loy L. near Denison, Tex., Nov. 28 (CRB,SW), Dallas, Oct. 25 (HN) and Big Lake Nov. 10-30 (CCW, m.ob.).

Hooded Mergansers were observed at Clinton L., Washita Co., Okla., Nov. 16 (K&JV *et al.*), Perry L., Jefferson Co., Nov. 16 (ESM), L. Cheney near Wichita Nov. 28 and Midland Nov. 18-20.

**RAPTORS** — The largest migrating flock of Mississippi Kites, comprising about 80 birds, was observed in Tarrant Co., Tex., Aug. 28 (JGe). Six Mississippi Kites in the Rio Grande campground, Big Bend N.P., Tex., Aug. 19 provided one of the few fall records at that locality (PB). Late migrants were at L. Thomas, Scurry Co., Tex., Oct. 14 (SCo) and Hale Co., Tex., Nov. 12 (FB). Goshawks were sighted in Grady Co., Okla., Nov. 26 (JGr) and Potter Co., Tex., Nov. 17 (RRo *et al.*). There were 19 reports of Sharp-shinned Hawks and 18 of Cooper's Hawks. All contributors noted that Red-tailed Hawks were much scarcer than last fall. A Red-shouldered Hawk in Archer Co., Tex., Sept. 20 provided a new county record. The only other reports of this species were in Linn Co., Kans., Nov. 22, Tulsa Oct. 25 and Dallas Nov. 8 & 16. Broad-winged Hawks were very scarce, with very few sightings and no large flocks. This may be an invasion year for Rough-legged Hawks, as they arrived in mid-September and by the end of the period had been sighted at ten localities. Two White-tailed Hawks were observed at El Paso Nov. 2 (GW). Golden Eagles at Plattsmouth were farther east than usual. The many reservoirs of the plains attract more wintering Bald Eagles each year. A total of 58 Ospreys was reported. Caracaras continue to be seen in Navarro Co., Tex., and one was sighted in Kaufman Co., Tex., Nov. 10 (KE). A Prairie Falcon at Piqua, Kans., Nov. 22 was far east of its normal range (KHo). Prairie Falcons were present in good numbers throughout the w. third of the Region. Only two Peregrines were reported. Usually Merlins do not appear in the Region until December, so the presence of 16 during the fall season is noteworthy.

**QUAIL THROUGH RAILS** — Montezuma Quail appear to be increasing — or perhaps there are just more birds in distant w. Texas to see them. On Oct. 26 two Montezuma Quail strolled across U.S. 67 two mi. s. of Marfa, Presidio Co., Tex. During the week-end of Nov. 21-22, at least half the 160 people attending a T.O.S. field trip in the Davis Mts. succeeded in seeing Montezuma Quail. October 28 was a major flight day for Sandhill Cranes throughout w. Texas. A Whooping Crane was flying steadily southward just east of Big Spring, Tex., Nov. 29 (CJM). King Rails were noted in the Oklahoma City area Aug. 17, Sept. 7, 14 & 20 and at L. Conroe, Walker Co., Oct. 11. Virginia Rails were present during October in Lyon Co., Kans., Lubbock and Midland. Yellow Rails were called out with a tape

recorder in Grayson Co., Tex., Sept. 6, providing a first county record. On Oct. 5 one was found dead on a highway near Sherman, Grayson Co. (CRB). Two nests of Com. Gallinules were found at Oklahoma City and half grown young were seen Aug. 20. Common Gallinules were seen at Ft. Bliss near El Paso Aug. 9 - Sept. 27, with a peak of 20 on Aug. 15.

**SHOREBIRDS** — The dry fall caused lowered lake levels and many mud flats, with the result that shorebirds were abundant. A Piping Plover was sighted at Hagerman N.W.R., Sept. 20. The only Snowy Plovers reported were in Wichita Co., Tex., Sept. 6 - Oct. 30. Mountain Plovers were sighted in Grayson Co., Sept. 17, 19 (KWH) and 27 (CRB), Concho Co., Tex., Nov. 29 (TM). American Golden Plovers were seen at Oklahoma City Oct. 29, Nov. 27 & 30, Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Sept. 23, McLennan Co., Oct. 15, Walker Co., Sept. 13. There were eight records of Ruddy Turnstone in the Region Aug. 30 - Sept. 27. One in Tom Green Co., Sept. 5 provided a first record there. An Am. Woodcock remained in Lyon Co., Kans. most of the period (RC,BG) and one was seen in Osage Co., Oct. 25 (H&DG). A concentration of about 1000 Com Snipe was located in Dallas Nov. 16 (HN,PJ). A Long-billed Curlew in Marion Co., Tex., Sept. 20 provided a first record there. At least 40 Willets were present at Hagerman N.W.R., Sept. 6 (CRB). An unusual number of Red Knots appeared during the period eight at Dallas Aug. 28 (WP,Jr.,WP), two in McLennan Co., Aug. 26 (LMB,YD) and single birds in Lancaster Co., Sept. 7 and Osage Co., Aug. 24 (EH<sub>1</sub>). A Pectoral Sandpiper in Cass Co., Tex., Sept. 14 constituted a first record. Dunlins occurred at Oklahoma City Oct. 9-29 & Nov. 29-30, Tom Green Co., Oct. 17, Howard Co., Oct. 26. Short-billed Dowitchers were identified by call in Tom Green Co., Sept. 21 (TM *et al.*) and Hagerman N.W.R., Sept. 13 (CRB). Buff-breasted Sandpipers and Sanderlings were unusually common throughout the Region.

**AVOCETS THROUGH TERNS** — American Avocets are uncommon in the e. third of the Region, but this fall were sighted in Lancaster Co., Neb., Lyon & Lin Cos., Kans., Payne Co., Okla., Marion & Kerr Cos., Tex. A **Red Phalarope** in Tom Green Co., Tex., Sept. 21 provided a new county record and another was seen and photographed at Oklahoma City Oct. 9 (JSh). Northern Phalaropes were sighted at Hagerman N.W.R., Sept. 3-30 (HMc,KWH), Oklahoma City Oct. 9 & 11 (JSh), El Paso Sept. 17 (KZ), Muleshoe N.W.R., Sept. 6 (BB). A jaeger at Oklahoma City Sept. 23-28 was identified as a Pomarine. If the photographs support the identification it will provide a first State record (JSh,JGN). Bonaparte's Gulls occur in larger numbers each fall. The largest flock this year comprised about 700 individuals at Mt. Creek L. near Dallas Oct. 26 (RRi). Four **Sabine's Gulls** remained at Red L., Howard Co., Tex., Sept. 19-27 (LBP, m.ob.). Forster's Terns were common throughout the Region and were still present at Hagerman at the end of the period. Common Terns were observed in Lancaster Co., Sept. 1, Oklahoma City Sept. 13 (JSh,JGN), Dallas Aug. 30, Sept. 5 (HN *et al.*), L. Somerville, Washington Co., Tex., Oct. 11. Least Terns were



numerous along the Arkansas R. in n.e. Oklahoma and others were sighted in Osage Co., Aug. 30, Wichita Co., Tex., Sept. 13 & 14, Hagerman N.W.R., Nov. 15-22, Dallas Sept. 3. Caspian Terns were reported at 15 localities and remained in Walker Co., Tex. as late as Nov. 19.

**DOVES THROUGH OWLS** — A White-winged Dove in Midland Sept. 30 (JH *et al.*), and Ground Doves in Ector Co., Nov. 13 (BE,PT) and Coleman Co., Oct. 25 (CS) all constituted new locality records. An Inca Dove in Caddo Co., Okla., Oct. 31 provided a second record for s.w. Oklahoma and one in Payne Co., Okla., Oct. 24-26 a new county record. Yellow-billed Cuckoos in Cass Co., Tex., Oct. 11 and Wichita Co., Tex., Oct. 22 were extremely late. Black-billed Cuckoos were sighted at Hagerman Aug. 11 (CRB) and Randall Co., Tex., Sept. 14 (KS). Groove-billed Anis wandered to Lubbock Sept. 16-20 (SS, m.ob.); San Angelo Oct. 17 (TM), Walker Co., Oct. 15 (RJ) and Midland Nov. 30 (BE).

#### S. A.

A golfer-birder at Midland relates that a Burrowing Owl jumped out of a hole on the golf course, grabbed the ball and disappeared down the burrow. One might be inclined to doubt this story but another birder, digging out some orphaned Burrowing Owls at the same golf course, found 23 golf balls in the burrow with the juvenile owls (WFn,ME).

The only Long-eared Owls reported were in Ellis Co., Kans., Nov. 24. Short-eared Owls were in Lancaster Co., Nov. 15-26, Cleveland Co., Okla., Oct. 28, Tulsa Co., Nov. 23, Reagan Co., Nov. 7.

**GOATSUCKERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — A nest of a Chuck-will's-widow containing a juvenile ready to fledge was found in a Sherman, Tex. residential area Aug. 5. Chuck-will's-widows were still calling in Johnson Co., Tex., Aug. 12. Near Jay, Okla., Whip-poor-wills were heard Aug. 15 - Sept. 10 but no Chuck-will's-widows were heard. Possibly the latter had already left. Both Com. Nighthawks and Chimney Swifts left the Region just ahead of a cold front Oct. 14. An Anna's Hummingbird arrived in El Paso Nov. 6 and was still present at the end of the period (GW). Rufous Hummingbirds are becoming so common in fall throughout Texas that they are no longer considered newsworthy. Calliope Hummingbirds were seen at El Paso Aug. 11 (BZ) and Chisos Mts., Big Bend N.P., Aug. 9 (WMC). A **Rivoli's Hummingbird** was found at El Paso Aug. 2 (GW,KZ). Pileated Woodpeckers were seen or heard daily near Jay, Okla. Six contributors noted that Red-headed Woodpeckers were present in good numbers. One Red-headed Woodpecker wandered southwest to Jeff Davis Co., Oct. 13. A ♀ Williamson's Sapsucker was seen in Potter Co., Tex., Oct. 9.

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — A Cassin's Kingbird was found in Howard Co., Tex., Sept. 26. An E Kingbird lingered in Harrison Co., Tex. until Nov.

25. Hundreds of W. Kingbirds were observed between Boise City and Kenton, Okla., Aug. 1 (KWH). A flock of 200 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers was seen in Wichita Co., Tex., Oct. 5. A Black Phoebe appeared at Lubbock Sept. 1 (SM,DS). Say's Phoebes were seen e to Coleman Co., Tex., Oct. 25 (CS) and Palo Pinto Co., Tex., Oct. 28 (TGo). An E. Wood Pewee remained at Omaha until Oct. 2. Olive-sided Flycatchers were noted at Jay Sept. 4-10, Oklahoma City Sept. 13, Tulsa Sept. 1-19, Johnson Co., Kans., Sept. 13-26. A Vermilion Flycatcher was sighted in Crosby Co., Tex., Oct. 5-23 (KH,RE). Violet-green Swallows continue to be reported from n.c. Texas by observers who are well aware how easy it is to confuse this species with Tree Swallow. This fall's report came from Sherman Sept. 15 (CRB).

**JAYS THROUGH CREEPERS** — Blue Jays were unusually common in w. Texas and wandered west to Ft. Davis. Scrub Jays were at Hueco Tanks S.P., El Paso Co., Tex. during September and October and appeared in El Paso in November. A flock of Piñon Jays was seen in Amarillo Sept. 24. Two Fish Crows were located at Keystone L., Pawnee Co., Okla., Oct. 24 (ES,EHa). A Mountain Chickadee was at Hueco Tanks Oct. 12 (KZ). A White-breasted Nuthatch was found in Crockett Co., Tex., Nov. 28 (GP). Red-breasted Nuthatches had been observed in 21 localities by the end of the period. Brown Creepers were also common

**WRENS, MIMICS** — Winter Wrens appeared at Lincoln Sept. 4 and by the end of the period had been seen throughout the Region. A Bewick's Wren at Ellis Co., Kans., Nov. 15 provided a first fall record there. Long-billed Marsh Wrens in McLennan Co., Tex., Oct. 12 constituted a new county record (KBB). This species remained at Hagerman until Nov. 22. Short-billed Marsh Wrens were seen in Lyon Co., Kans., Sept. 15 (BJ,JS). **Rock Wrens** were located at Lawrence, Kans., Oct. 7 (STP), and Van Zandt Co., Tex., Oct. 24 (DF). A Gray Catbird was seen at Plattsmouth on the late date of Nov. 9. Gray Catbirds were much more common than usual in w. Texas and were recorded at Amarillo, Coke Co. and Midland. A Long-billed Thrasher in Kerr Co., Oct. 21 provided a new county record.

**THRUSHES THROUGH PHAINOPEPLAS** — Wood Thrushes were seen at Tulsa Oct. 10, Midland Oct. 20 and Kendall Co., Tex., Nov. 16. A Hermit Thrush was found at Bellevue, Neb., Oct. 16. A Swainson's Thrush in Tom Green Co., Sept. 27 provided a first county record. Veeries were seen in Amarillo Sept. 14 (RRo) and Dallas Sept. 15 (HN). A Townsend's Solitaire was sighted at Norman, Okla., Aug. 12, a very early date (GMS). Golden-crowned Kinglets were common throughout the Region. Sprague's Pipits were sighted in Cleveland Co., Okla., Oct. 24 & 29 (JGr,WH), Iron Co., Tex., Oct. 31, Reagan Co., Nov. 8 and Concho Co., Tex., Nov. 25. Phainopeplas are usually hard to find in the Davis Mts., but during the T.O.S. trip there in late November, 30 a day were reported.

**SHRIKES, VIREOS** — Loggerhead Shrikes were feeding young just out of the nest at Ft. Worth on the

late date Oct. 12 (JKr). A Black-capped Vireo was seen in Tom Green Co., Sept. 9. A Red-eyed Vireo was found in Manhattan, Kans. on the late date of Nov. 6 (JZ) Red-eyed Vireos in Crosby and Lubbock Cos. Sept. 14 were noteworthy (RE,SM). Philadelphia Vireos were carefully identified in Walker Co., Oct. 31, Wichita Co., Oct. 22, Crosby Co., Sept. 16 and Midland Oct. 8.

**WARBLERS** — Warbler migration was poor throughout the Region. A Black-and-white Warbler was discovered in Culberson Co., Tex., Oct. 18 (JM). A Blue-winged Warbler stopped briefly in Garland, Tex., Aug. 27 (MF). Orange-crowned Warblers were late in Omaha Nov. 6 and Ellis Co., Kans., Nov. 3. Parula Warblers in Lancaster Co., Aug. 30 & Sept. 13 were unusual. There were five reports of Magnolia Warblers in the e. half of the Region. A Black-throated Blue Warbler was photographed in El Paso Sept. 28 (KZ). Other w. Texas sightings were in Lubbock Oct. 8, Culberson Co., Nov. 8 (JM) Davis Mts., Sept. 20, and Midland Oct. 24 (JKi). A Black-throated Gray Warbler was reported in the Davis Mts., Nov. 22. At least six Townsend's Warblers were seen in Potter and Randall Cos and others were noted in Culberson Co., Oct. 18 (JM) and Howard Co., Nov. 16 (SCo). Black-throated Green Warblers remained until late October at 12 localities. One at Tom Green Co., Oct. 18 provided a first record. Blackburnian Warblers were sighted in Ellis Co., Sept. 24, Walker Co., Oct. 16 and Johnson Co., Kans., Sept. 26. Pine Warblers were noted at Lincoln Sept. 8. A Prairie Warbler in Payne Co., Sept. 13 constituted a first fall record. Palm Warblers were sighted in Ellis Co., Kans., Sept. 27, Walker Co., Nov. 1, Grayson Co., Oct. 8 (CRB), and McLennan Co., Oct. 21 (FG). A Connecticut Warbler was seen near Jay Sept. 7. A Mourning Warbler at Omaha Oct. 16 was late, as were Wilson's Warblers in Cleveland Co., Okla., Oct. 26 and Howard Co., Nov. 16. A **Rufous-capped Warbler** in the Chisos Mts., Big Bend N P., Tex., Nov. 23 may indicate that the species is now resident there (TBF).

**ICTERIDS** — A Bobolink in Grady Co., Okla., Nov. 4 was very late (JGr). **Hooded Orioles** were seen in Walker Co., Tex., Sept. 30 (RJ) and Kerr Co., Tex., Aug. 30 & Sept. 12 (K&EM). A "Baltimore" Oriole was noted at Lubbock Sept. 5-14.

**FINCHES, SPARROWS** — A Cardinal was feeding fledgling young at Manhattan Oct. 30. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were observed at six localities. One at Midland Nov. 6 was late. Excellent details were submitted on an observation of a Lazuli Bunting at Bellevue Oct. 10 (MSB). An estimated 3000 Dickcissels moved through Walker Co., Sept. 13. Evening Grosbeaks were sighted at six Kansas localities and two localities each in Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas. A flock of **Com. Redpolls** comprising 50 birds was seen at Topeka Nov. 25 (OOR). Pine Siskins were present throughout the Region but no large flocks were found. Red Crossbills were in Manhattan Nov. 22 and Jay Nov. 1. The western race of Rufous-sided Towhee was common in Omaha in early October. Lark Buntings wandered east

to Cass Co., Tex., Oct. 11 and Young Co., Tex., Nov. 9. A Grasshopper Sparrow in Tulsa Nov. 4 provided new records in three w. Texas counties: Irion Nov. 7, Tom Green Nov. 13, Crosby Nov. 16. Sharp-tailed Sparrows were common in Lancaster Co., mid-September to mid-October and in Walker Co., Oct. 16-30. An estimated 100 singing ♂ Cassin's Sparrows were seen near Hueco Tanks S.P. in early August after the summer rain. The species had been absent from the area in June and July. The white-winged form of Dark-eyed Junco was observed in Ellis Co., Kans. in October and at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Nov. 30. An individual of the Oregon form which was netted and banded in Johnson Co., Kans., Oct. 26 was still present Nov. 28. Field Sparrows remained until Nov. 22 in Linn Co., Kans. (NJ). A Harris' Sparrow in Walker Co., Nov. 29 provided an unusual record for the piney woods area. Fox and Swamp Sparrows were unusually common in e. Kansas and Nebraska.

**LONGSPURS, SNOW BUNTING** — McCown's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs, which usually do not become common in w. Texas until December, were abundant by the end of November. Thousands of Lapland Longspurs were present in Kansas, and all four species were common at Norman, Okla. by the end of the period. Two Snow Buntings arrived in Lancaster Co., Nov. 30, a very early date. One was seen east of Geneseo, Kans., Nov. 23 (KHo).

**CORRIGENDUM:** *Am. Birds* 29: 872: Only two pairs of nesting Black Hawks were located in the Davis Mts., Tex., but five Zone-tailed Hawk nests were located.

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**OBSERVERS** — Bert Blair, Marvin S. Blair, Faye Brault, Jack Breathwit, Randy Clark, Sue Corson



nest, since a pair with five half-grown young were spotted at a stock tank in the Poth area Sept. 6 (WS). A count of 16+ near Sealy, Austin Co., Sept. 4 (HH), and 20 in Fort Bend County, Oct. 12 (CC & SCA), represent first known occurrences for those counties. Observation of 12 Fulvous Tree Ducks flying over Wilson County, Sept. 16 (WS), was a county first. "Exceptional" numbers of Mallards were seen on the upper coast, but the Pintail was the most common duck by early November, numbering hundreds of thousands (*vide* TBF). A flock of 20 Greater Scaup at Austin, Nov. 15 (BR & JR) was very unusual. Other noteworthy duck sightings at Austin's sewage ponds were an **Oldsquaw**, Nov. 15-20 (BR & JR), single Surf Scoters, Oct. 26 (JES) and Nov. 15 (BR & JR), and 29 Hooded Mergansers, Nov. 15 (BR & JR). A Surf Scoter was found at a sewage plant e. of San Antonio Nov. 15 (*vide* JAM).

**HAWKS** — A **Swallow-tailed Kite** passed southward over Austin Oct. 12 (EJS). Peak Mississippi Kite movements were noted in w. Harris County, totalling 65 there (DHH & MM), at Falcon Dam, with 100 circling over the river on Aug. 23 (JCA, EBK & SW), and at Alice, Sept. 2, when about 65 birds settled in trees in the residential area near sunset (KM). In the Kountze area of Hardin County, daily observations showed the first appreciable numbers of Broad-winged Hawks Sept. 14 (225), with highest counts Sept. 21 (3300) & 22 (6000), and dropping to 150 on Oct. 12 (EWM). At Baytown, Sept. 22, 10,000+ were reported (DD & JD), with "thousands" in the Rockport area, Sept. 23 (CK, *vide* DNW). A "huge flight" was observed in the Corpus Christi area Sept. 30 (*vide* KM). An imm. Gray Hawk was seen at Santa Ana N.W.R., Oct. 5 (ROA & MLS). The coastal Peregrine Falcon count, conducted in October by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept., dropped from 510 birds in 1974 to 223 in 1975. The census area extended along the beaches from the n. end of Matagorda I. to Port Isabel in Cameron County. The upper coast was not included this year, but few birds were lost through this deletion. It was suggested that the low count was owing to lack of strong cold fronts, combined with possibly low reproductive success. The adult-immature ratio supports the latter. Percentage for 1974 were 14 adult, 62 immature and 24 undetermined, while the 1975 count showed 33 adult, 50 immature and 17 undetermined (JCS).

**CRANES, RAILS** — The first Whooping Crane was found at Aransas N.W.R., Oct. 12, but most arrivals occurred between Oct. 31 - Nov. 14. By the latter date, 48 adults and 8 young were present, the largest population since 1971 (BH). A good way to see rails from the highway is to watch harvesting of the rice crop. On Oct. 20, two combines, working in a large rice field in w. Harris County flushed 117 Sora, 31 Yellow, eight Virginia and three King Rails (VLE).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Very unusual were a **Red Knot** in transition plumage, Aug. 17 (ABa & JWW), and a **Hudsonian Godwit**, Sept. 5 (EJS) at the Austin sewage ponds. American Avocets were unusually common there on occasion Aug. 25 - Oct. 23 (ABa *et al.*).

Single **Red Phalaropes**, presumably two different birds, were seen at two Austin sewage pond complexes Sept. 13 - Nov. 1 (BR & JR *et al.*). One was seen and photographed at San Antonio's Mitchell L., Nov. 15 (AH & GBH *et al.*), a first record for Bexar County

**JAEGERS, TERNS** — An ad. **Long-tailed Jaeger** was seen at an Austin sewage pond in late afternoon, Aug. 16, in grass, on water, and in flight (RAR & SW). There are only two previously recorded sightings for Texas for this usually pelagic migrant. A specimen was taken inland, at Nacogdoches, Sept. 5, 1973. A large migration of Com. Terns was noted on the S. Padre I beaches in October; 5000 were estimated, Oct. 17 (JCA). An imm. **Sooty Tern** was seen at the Port Aransas jetties, Sept. 18 (DNW & PY).

**DOVES, PARAKEETS, CUCKOOS** — An active nest of the White-fronted Dove was under observation at McAllen, Hidalgo Co., during the first week of December (JCA). A pair of Orange-fronted Parakeets (*Aratinga canicularis*), a species of w. Mexico, was seen at Santa Ana N.W.R., Nov. 8. These birds were free flying, noisy, and in perfect plumage. They were photographed on Nov. 15 as they fed on hackberries and leaves of the arboreal bromeliad, *Tillandsia recurvata* (JCA). A Mangrove Cuckoo was seen at Santa Ana N.W.R., Sept. 24 (JTK & PK), and reportedly on other occasions (*Am. Birds* 29: 877).

**SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS** — Late Chimney Swifts roosted overnight in the chimney of a downtown Houston building, Nov. 4-12, being last seen entering the roost on the latter date, following arrival of a cold front (NP). A **Green Violet-ear** (*Colibri thalassinus*) visited a feeder in the Wimberley area of Hays County, July 3 - Aug. 13 (HD & MD *et al.*). Habitat was generally similar to that frequented by a similar bird at Austin in 1969 (*Am. Birds* 24: 68), dwarf forest of juniper and live oak atop a steep hillside overlooking a water course—in this instance, the Blanco R. This was a fourth North American record, and 367 birders beat a trail to the Dunlap Ranch. A ♂ Black-crested Coquette (*Paphosia helenae*) was reported at Corpus Christi, Oct. 7 and 9 (RJ, *vide* KM). This was a replay of an Oct. 7, 1974 occurrence, with the bird at the same residence, again feeding on the small blue flowers of the duranta shrub (*Am. Birds* 29: 84). Anna's Hummingbird was reported as follows: a male on Live Oak Peninsula, Rockport area, Aug. 30 (RL & TL), an individual in Wilson County, Nov. 8-9 (WS), and an imm. male in Houston, Nov. 9 & 12 (MA). A Broad-tailed Hummingbird was at San Antonio, Oct. 1 (AH & GBH).

**KINGFISHERS, WOODPECKERS** — A **Ringed Kingfisher** was seen off U.S. 77 s. of Kingsville, Sept. 23 (JTK & PK), a first for Kleberg County. On the Guadalupe R. in n.w. Victoria County, a pair of Green Kingfishers was seen carrying food Aug. 23, and a male was ignoring two begging immatures Sept. 17 (GG). It was thought that an earlier nesting attempt was interrupted by flooding. A **Williamson's Sapsucker**, a first for the upper coast, was seen in the live oak woods at High I., Oct. 18 (ABarr *et al.*, *vide* KAA).

**FLYCATCHERS, JAYS** — A pair of **Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers** summered, and presumably bred, along the Rio Grande in Starr County (*Am. Birds* 29: 877); they departed about Aug. 20 (JCA). A **Black Phoebe**, a county first, was seen in n.w. Victoria County, Oct. 19 (GG). Blue Jays moved into the Kountze area from the north about Oct. 5, and for about 10 days several hundred could be found daily (EWM). Much smaller numbers appeared in the Corpus Christi area (*vide* PY). A **Brown Jay** was seen at the Norias "Rest Area" on U.S. 77, Kenedy Co., Sept. 25 (JTK & PK), after being reported there earlier; this is a first county record. The Starr County population is believed to be increasing and expanding; they may be found in woodlands along the Rio Grande below Santa Margarita (JCA).

**NUTHATCHES, WRENS, THRASHERS** — A Red-breasted Nuthatch was found on Galveston I., Sept. 24 (JH), a record early date. A Winter Wren, a rare bird, was seen at Santa Margarita Nov. 28 (JCA). Brown Thrasher numbers were very good on the upper and central coasts in October.

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — Vireo migration was good, especially the Philadelphia Vireo on the upper coast (*vide* TBF). Warblers received little comment, which leaves the writer to assume a mediocre showing. A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was seen at High I., Oct. 9 (JGM). Bay-breasted Warblers are usually scarce in fall, but five were seen at High I., Oct. 3 (TBF & ER) and there were several other reports from the upper coast. A **Prairie Warbler** was seen in Wilson County, Aug. 24 (WS), a county first. Wilson's Warblers were common on the upper coast in September and October, and a "big migration" was noted in the Rockport area, Oct. 4 (DNW).

**ADDENDUM:** — The tern photographed on the beach at Padre I. N.S., June 22 (*Am. Birds*, 29: 1004) has been identified "unquestionably" as a **Black Noddy Anous tenuirostris**, according to Marshall A. Howe, Acting Chief, Bird Section, National Museum of Natural History. This is a new species for Texas.

**FRINGILLIDS** — One Pine Siskin and one Am. Goldfinch, in Starr County and at Falcon Dam, respectively, were seen on Nov. 28 (JCA), but reports were few from other localities. Although the Rufous-sided Towhee is rare in the Rio Grande Delta, five were seen at Santa Ana N.W.R., Nov. 8 (JCA). Cassin's Sparrows were singing and apparently nesting in Starr County in late October and early November, in response to excellent habitat conditions (JCA). Notably early sparrow arrivals were Vesper at Austin, Oct. 6 (AMW), Chipping and White-crowned at Bolivar, Galveston Co., Oct. 4 (*vide* TBF), and Lincoln's at Austin, Sept. 24 (AMW & FSW). A "great flight" of White-throated Sparrows was reported on the upper coast with arrival of a cold front Nov. 1 (TBF). At San Antonio, two individuals appeared at the Hardings' feeder Nov. 2 for the second year (not known to be the same individuals) while at Kountze, two individuals banded in McDaniel's yard Nov. 9 & 10, 1974, were retrapped there Nov. 9.

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## NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

August was unseasonably cool and wet over most of the Region, with southern Idaho, eastern Oregon and the Bozeman area the exceptions. Snow was down to the 6000 foot level in the Canadian national parks of the Rockies before the end of the month. September was mild and very dry nearly everywhere. October, showing a sharp reversal, was cold and wet, with snow down into the valleys in western Montana. At Bozeman a severe storm with heavy snow and an east wind about October 12 was believed responsible for grounding a small flood of migrants including eastern vagrants. Another storm there ten days later had a similar effect.



Yet that area had a large number of record late dates, mostly after the storms. November was rather cold but precipitation was varied. In general the lowlands west of the Rockies got their first snows by mid-month but they did not stay. The rain shadow area along the Cascades was dry. The end of November brought heavy snow and falling temperatures to most areas. Crater Lake National Park, where most birds depart in August, was a world apart with repeated snows piling up to a four-foot depth by the end of the period.

The Whooping Crane foster-parent experiment was probably the most notable event of the season. Another highlight was Rick Howie's comprehensive report on the Yoho National Park area of British Columbia.

**LOONS AND GREBES** — Single Arctic Loons appeared in e. Washington, with two observations on Granite L., Spokane Co. Oct. 27 & Nov. 1 and two at Blue L., Grant Co. Nov. 10 (JA & WH). A **Red-throated Loon** was reported from the Nampa, Ida. area Nov. 5. A Red-necked Grebe on a lake at 9000 ft. elevation near Challis, Ida. Sept. 28 was Roberts' first for the species in that area. Yoho N.P., Canada had its first-ever Eared Grebe on Emerald L. Nov. 23 (BB & LW) Fifty W. Grebes were on Helena Valley Res. near Helena in late October and Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, Ida. had up to 100 in September and October.

**HERONS THROUGH IBISES** — Another record of the **Green Heron** was provided by an ad. bird seen along the Umatilla R. near Umatilla, Ore., in October (C&MC). The only egret reports were of single Greats near Lowden, Wash., in late August (MCo) and near Sisters, Ore. Sept. 25 (MS) and two Snowies at L. Helena from late August to late September. Trost had a band return for a young White-faced Ibis banded in June of last year, from Sinaloa, Mex., found there in April

**WATERFOWL** — The Turnbull N.W.R. Trumpeter Swan flock at Cheney, Wash. numbered at least 32, with at least 12 cygnets reaching flight stage. Up to 36 appeared at Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore. An imm. bird with a yellow neck band was at Three Forks, Mont. Oct. 26. White-fronted Geese were counted in unprecedented numbers in e. Oregon and Washington. A flock of 80 was at Tumalo Res. n.w. of Bend, Ore. Oct. 8-12 (JJ). In Washington, McNary N.W.R., Burbank, had up to 24 in late October and four were in the Richland area on two dates in October and November. In c. Washington one was at Stratford and Cold Springs N.W.R. near Boardman, Ore. had seven Oct. 4. Snow Geese were reported in numbers only at Salmon, Ida. where large flights passed over at the time of the first heavy snowfall Nov. 9-10. Five were recorded at Brisco, B.C. Nov. 3. They are rare migrants in that area (RRH). Two in blue phase appeared at Richland and two of 17 Snow Geese at McNary N.W.R. had plumage intermediate between white and blue phase. A single **Ross' Goose** was at Deer Flat N.W.R. Nov. 11.

At Malheur N.W.R. duck numbers, especially of Mallard and Pintail, were markedly higher than in the last three years. However, Mallard and Canada Goose numbers at McNary continued the decline they have

shown since the mid-sixties (OV). Deer Flat N.W.R. Pintail numbers peaked at 6100 in late August and were still at 5000 in late November. Mallards there reached 140,000 by Nov. 20. Three sightings of Gadwall added the species to the lists of Banff and Yoho N.P. (RRH) Waterfowl numbers at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. were up significantly over last year, ducks totaling over 124,000 in November. Geese peaked at 6000 there in October. A ♂ Mallard x Pintail was on the Columbia R. at Richland Nov. 25 (REW). A lone Com Goldeneye on the Yakima R. near Selah, Wash. Nov. 11 was noteworthy (EC). Two **Oldsquaws** at Columbia N.W.R. Oct. 31 were a refuge first. White-winged Scoter sightings were up. Medical L., Spokane Co., Wash. had up to five in late October and at that lake and nearby Willow and Reardan Lakes eight were counted Nov. 1. Five were still at Reardan Nov. 9 (JA & WH). One was on the Yakima R. at Richland in late October (EM) and Yoho N.P. had six Oct. 4 (CW & LW). Most unusual was one near Charlo, Lake Co., (CJH) and four killed by hunters in the Bitterroot Valley, Ravalli Co., Mont. (PLW). A ♀ Surf Scoter appeared at Richland Oct. 22 & Nov. 15 (PW & REW) and one was seen in Yoho N.P. Oct. 11 (C&LW) Up to five were on Medical L. in late October and Lenore L. in Grant Co., Wash. had one Nov. 16. Three Forks, Mont. had one Oct. 26-27 (ETH,RAH,PDS,SC) A Ruddy Duck at Fortine, Mont. Nov. 3 was the latest ever (WW). A ♀ Red-breasted Merganser was carefully examined with a 20X telescope in Yoho N.P. Nov. 3 (RRH) and another was at Richland Nov. 13 and again Nov. 28-29 (LH,REW).

**HAWKS** — A Goshawk in Yoho N.P. Nov. 9 furnished only the third record there (RRH). Rough-legged Hawks appeared in numbers in Idaho and e. Washington and in the Helena Valley. A dark phase Ferruginous Hawk was sighted at Kamiak Butte, Whitman Co., Wash. Sept. 14 and a light phase was there Oct. 16 (JWW). A dark phase bird was compared with a dark phase Rough-legged nearby, at Warwick, Klickitat Co., Wash. Nov. 29 (EH). The Bald Eagle gathering near West Glacier, Glacier N.P., peaked at 281 adults and 96 immatures Nov. 25, up slightly from last year (TJF *et al.*). Three Gyrfalcon and seven Peregrine Falcon sightings were reported. Prairie Falcon sightings were moderately encouraging in some localities but were completely lacking in many others.

#### S. A.

**CRANES** — Of the 14 **Whooping Crane** eggs substituted singly into nests of Sandhill Cranes at Grays Lake N.W.R. in s.e. Idaho, nine hatched, three were infertile and two were lost to predators. Six young survived to flight age. Foster parent family groups joined flocks gathering for migration and the families were seen departing between Oct. 8 and 22. The family leaving Oct. 8 at 10:30 a.m. was sighted the next day at 5 p.m. at Monte Vista N.W.R. in Colorado. On Oct. 25 the first family arrived at the wintering grounds at the Bosque del Apache N.W.R. in New Mexico. The young whoopers appeared to be doing well there (RD & RH).

**SHOREBIRDS** — A Semipalmated Plover at Fortine, Mont., Aug. 21 was a rare sighting (WW) and one in Yoho N.P. Aug. 24 was unusual. The **Snowy Plover**, rare in the region, appeared at Sunriver, Ore. Sept. 3 (JB) The Am. Golden Plover, always noteworthy in the region, appeared at Bowron Slough e. of Quesnel, B C Sept. 18 (KMB) and at Reardan, Wash. Sept. 27, (JA) both single birds. The species was near Bozeman, Mont. Oct. 29, a record late date by ten days (HC, SC & PDS). Richland had a surprising 17 around mid-October. Five Black-bellied Plovers at a lake near Fortine furnished the first record there in 55 years' observing (WW). Two Upland Sandpipers were found near Bowron Lakes P.P. Aug. 25 (VB, DO'B & KMB). One was seen for a few days in August at Nicholson, west of Yoho N.P. and a dead one was found in the park Aug. 24 for the first record there (RRH & CW). They were unreported elsewhere except for one overlooked for the summer report, 17 mi. s. of John Day, Ore. (AC *et al* ) At Richland two rarities showed up, a Red Knot Sept 30 - Oct. 1 (PW & REW) and a juvenile **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** Sept. 28 - Oct. 5 (CC, MC & REW). Single Dunlins appeared at Fortine Aug. 10 & 21 (WW). A very few Stilt Sandpipers stopped at Bowron Slough, Reardan and Richland and four were near Fortine, the second record there (first - 1941) (WW). Two Marbled Godwits were migrating as far west as Summer L., Lake Co., Ore., Aug. 28 (KRB). On the same date there 59 Black-necked Stilts were counted (KRB).

**GULLS AND TERNS** — Spokane had an imm. **Mew Gull** at the city dump Nov. 16 (JA). A sizable 500 Bonaparte's Gulls appeared at Klamath Falls Oct. 19 (SS) and the birds were very common at Kootenai N W R., Bonners Ferry, Ida. with flocks of 50 - 100, some remaining to mid-November. Twenty-six remained in the Rupert, Ida. area until November. A Sabine's Gull was sighted in September at Bowron Slough (KMB) and two were at Stinking L. on Malheur N W R. (CDL). At least one Com. Tern was at Golden, B C Sept. 2 (FK).

**OWLS** — The only Barn Owls reported were one found dead on the highway near Rupert, Ida. (WHS) and one on Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. Aug. 4 (WH). Just one Snowy Owl had appeared, in the Beaverfoot Valley near Yoho N.P. Oct. 18. Three Hawk Owls, perhaps a family group, were found Aug. 7 in Banff N.P. (GH) and a single was seen at Brisco s. of Yoho N.P. Nov. 16 (RRH & FK). A family group of four was observed near the summit of Mt. Revelstoke, s interior British Columbia at about 6500 ft. elevation Aug 17 (AB). Two Barred Owls were heard calling at Twin Lakes, Kootenai Co., Ida. Aug. 13-15 (P&RME). Two recently fledged Great Gray Owls Aug. 26 were the first sighting ever for Roberts in the Salmon, Ida. area. Another was found south of Crater Lake N.P. near the Fort Klamath dump. A Short-eared Owl was picked up dead in Yoho N.P. Nov. 19 (BBE & CW) and single Boreal Owls were seen there Sept. 25 & Nov. 16.

**POOR-WILLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — The only Poor-will records came from Ellis Creek in the vicinity of Penticton, B.C. Aug. 26 (RJC & MGS)

and from Rock L. s.e. of Sprague, Wash. Sept 4 (JWW). A group of Vaux's Swifts estimated at 1000 was along the Klickitat R. s.w. of Goldendale, Wash Aug. 24. A ♂ Braod-tailed and a ♂ Anna's Hummingbird were with other hummers at a feeder at Chiloquin, Ore. Aug. 2 (TC & JGi). A ♀ Anna's appeared at Missoula Oct. 26 (SSF & PLW) and when it continued to appear, Sid Frissell provided a feeder. It survived +10°F. weather with snow on the ground but fell out of a tree Nov. 25, was rescued and was doing quite well housed in a ten gallon aquarium tank! Two unidentified hummers were at a feeder at Invermere near Radium Hot Springs, B.C. until Nov. 7 when someone told the feeder operator to take the feeder down so the bird would go south, which was probably too late. Single birds remained at Yakima and Wapato, Wash into November. All these hummers were most likely Anna's. A ♀ Calliope was seen at Missoula on the preposterously late date of Nov. 19 (SSF).

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — The scarce Williamson's Sapsucker was reported from Crater Lake N.P. Nov. 19 and two were seen on Bamber Mt., Ferry Co., Wash. Sept. 6. The only sightings of the Ash-throated Flycatcher was of one in Richland, Sept. 5 and one at Deer Flat N.W.R. A massive gathering of Bank Swallows estimated at 3000 or more was at Medical and W. Medical Lakes, Spokane Co. Aug 17. An aggregation of Barn Swallows totalling 800 was observed at Deer Flat N.W.R. Sept. 17.

**JAYS THROUGH CREEPERS** — One or possibly more **Blue Jays** appeared at Bozeman Oct. 22 and stayed through the report period. At Nampa two were found Sept. 20 and at Deer Flat N.W.R. one was sighted Nov. 9. Single birds were seen at Big Fork and Swan L., Mont. (BBa, LG, ES, UW) and at Malheur N.W.R. (DG). About ten Com. Bushtits at Lyle, Wash Nov. 28 were considerably north of their normal range (EH). At Richland a White-breasted Nuthatch Nov 21 and one or two Pygmy Nuthatches Oct. 27 - Nov 30 were apparently the first records ever (REW, EM) Single Brown Creepers at Yakima Sept. 1 and Wapato, Wash. Nov. 21 were noteworthy.

**WRENS THROUGH THRUSHES** — Three Cañon Wrens were found at a new location, Mud L. 7 mi w of Naches, Wash. (GW). The Nampa area had a Mockingbird the last day of November and one was on Sunnyside Game Range near Mabton, Wash. Oct 17 (JS). A **Wood Thrush** studied carefully in the Bozeman Cemetery Oct. 16 was only the third for Montana (SC & PDS). A very late Hermit Thrush was at Lyle, Wash Nov. 28-29 (EH) and a Swainson's at Bozeman Oct 16 was 13 days later than the record late date.

**WAXWINGS THROUGH WARBLERS** — The first Bohemian Waxwing record of the season was of a single bird at Emerald L. in Yoho N.P. Sept. 12, but larger flocks did not arrive until the end of October, notably a flock of 1000 at Golden. They soon cleaned out the mountain ash berries and left. Bozeman had its first birds at the same time but Fortine had thus far been bypassed. By mid-November flocks of 2000 - 3000

were common in Missoula and the birds had reached LaGrande, Ore. in some numbers. A few had reached Spokane by Oct. 16. A very late Solitary Vireo was at Baker, Ore. Nov. 9 (AW). Richland had an apparently valid sighting of a **Philadelphia Vireo** Aug. 26 (EM, *vide* REW). A new Idaho record was made by a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at Pocatello Sept. 13-16 (EF & CHT) and one was reported at Malheur N.W.R. (CDL). An imm. **Bay-breasted Warbler** was a window casualty there Oct. 10 and was preserved as a specimen (CHT). Another of this species was closely observed at Bozeman Oct. 14 for Montana's second record (PDS). A Palm Warbler in Yoho N.P. Oct. 12 (C&LW) was the only one recorded in the fall for the Region. A window-killed Ovenbird at Bozeman Sept. 11, added to the Montana State U. collection, provided the first local specimen and one of very few local records (D&MQ & PDS). Another appeared at Rupert, Ida. Sept. 21 and was apparently the second record there (WHS). Twenty-six N. Waterthrushes were banded on Seventeen Mile Creek n. of Troy, Mont., mostly from late July to mid-August (KB). One appeared in Pocatello Sept. 17 (EF). The species is rare in s. Idaho; one at Richland Sept. 2 was the first ever there (EM). A very late ♂ Wilson's Warbler was in Missoula Nov. 18 (PLW).

**BOBOLINKS AND BLACKBIRDS** — A Bobolink was seen at Bozeman on the record late date of Oct. 14. The only other report for the species was of a very few at Baker, Ore., in August. Small numbers of Rusty Blackbirds appeared Oct. 12, furnishing the first record for Yoho N.P. (C&LW) and most were gone from that vicinity by Oct. 25, but singles appeared at Nicholson Nov. 1 & 15. There was a distinct gap on the calendar between the last Brewer's Blackbirds Sept. 27 and the first of the Rusties. Notably late dates for Brewer's were Nov. 2, one at Coeur d' Alene L. (BBa, SGS & ESt) and Nov. 18, eight at Saltess Marsh e. of Spokane (THR). Fifteen Brown-headed Cowbirds at Field, B.C. Sept. 19 (RRH) seemed remarkably late for so far north.

**FINCHES** — A few Rose-breasted Grosbeaks continued to appear. Bozeman had a young or fall plumaged male at a feeder Oct. 25-30 (ET&RAH *et al.*) and an imm. male at Field Oct. 26 furnished Yoho N.P.'s second record (RRH). One was seen in Banff N.P. in early November. A Black-headed Grosbeak at Missoula Oct. 10-14 was more than three weeks later than any previous record (RLH). Evening Grosbeaks were scarce or absent over most of the region, only Spokane and Walla Walla reporting them in numbers. A bird recovered at Spokane in May had been banded near Flagstaff, Ariz. Aug. 14, 1973. The only Pine Grosbeaks down from the mountains were in the Salmon, Ida area and on the U. of Montana campus, Missoula. Common Redpolls had reached Spokane, Salmon, Rupert, Helena and Missoula. A few Lesser Goldfinches were seen at a campground n. of Lyle, Wash. Aug. 26 (TW). White-winged Crossbills were found in four unusual localities and nowhere else. A group of at least eight at Davenport, Wash. were believed the first for Lincoln County (JA) and a few were noted in Missoula. Helena had a few at a feeder (FN) and Bozeman had them from Aug. 21 on.

**SPARROWS** — October 14 was a record late date for the Green-tailed Towhee at Bozeman; the previous last date was Sept. 18. The first record for the Region for the **Brown Towhee** came from Klamath Falls, Ore. where one was examined closely Oct. 19 by an observer very familiar with the species (SS). The lone Grasshopper and Sage Sparrow reports were for the Potholes Res area n. of Othello, Wash. (WH). Yoho N.P. had its first record of a Vesper Sparrow Aug. 25 (JH) An imm. Chipping Sparrow lingered at Pocatello until Nov. 3 (EF). The only report of the Clay-colored Sparrow was Aug. 22 for Yoho N.P., where it is rare (WM). Records of Harris' Sparrow sprinkled the reports rather generously. One or two were found at Nampa, Salmon (Roberts' first there) and Rupert, Ida, two to five were at Fortine, one appeared at Ennis and one at Missoula, Mont. Richland had a single sighting and the Spokane area had more records than ever before, beginning Sept. 25. One was seen at Calispell L., Pend Oreille Co., Nov. 28. Lavington, B.C. had one Oct. 4 through the remainder of the fall period. Indian Rock Scenic Area near Bates, Ore. was apparently a new locality for a Golden-crowned Sparrow (RAHu) White-throated Sparrows also made news, with one, Shillington's first, at Rupert; two at Pocatello (EF), one at Bozeman (SC & PDS), one or two at several places at Spokane (JA,WH,JR); one banded at Bend (GM) another seen at Spring R., (B&CG) and one at Baker, Ann Ward's first, all in Oregon. A record late Lincoln's Sparrow was at Bozeman Oct. 14, nearly two weeks after the latest previous date (SC & PDS). Kay Burk banded a surprising 17 of this species near Troy, Mont during September. A real rarity was an imm. **Swamp Sparrow** at Missoula Nov. 27 and later (PLW). Bozeman reported the only McCown's Longspurs Oct. 26 Lapland Longspurs were added to the Yoho N.P. list On one date three were seen perched in larch trees at 7400 ft. elevation! (RRH).

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## MOUNTAIN WEST /Hugh E. Kingery

Two remarkable sandpipers (Spotted Redshank and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper), seven Black Scoters, and a flock of 4000 Violet-green Swallows featured a generally dull yet diverse fall migration. The mild fall, with



no important storm until November 28-30, permitted birds to move through without great buildups. Although observers characterized the migration as dull, they turned up 367 species—312 in Colorado, 277 in Nevada, 216 in Wyoming, and 194 in Utah.

Bennett and June reported another hazard for migrating waterfowl in the Mountain West: evaporation ponds for large trona mines near Green River, Wyo., operated by Stauffer and FMC Chemical Cos. The ponds, 400-600 acres in area and saturated with chemicals after heavy summer evaporation, cause "a crystal formation called sodium carbonate decahydrate to form on anything in the [pond]." After wildlife agencies discovered

the severe mortality (mostly grebes, coots, and Ruddy Ducks), "the companies got involved in a rescue and rehabilitation operation. Both companies purchased air boats to help pick up the birds, and built special buildings to wash and warm the rescued birds. It was quite an operation and they ended up rescuing many more birds than expected." Of the 596 birds picked up this year, 502 survived; Bennett banded 140 Eared Grebes, 38 Western Grebes, 70 Ruddy Ducks, and 51 American Coots.

**LOONS** — Migrating loons increasingly use Mountain West reservoirs. This year, from Sept. 27 on, the region reported 75-100 Com. Loons, including 20 at L. Mohave, Nev. Bennett captured Wyoming's second **Arctic Loon**, a victim of the chemical company ponds, banded and released it. Colorado, with 15 previous Arctic Loon records, noted five this fall including one at Durango, and Nevada had one at Topaz L. Nov. 2 (Dér). The chemical ponds yielded a **Red-throated Loon** at Green R., Oct. 26, and Sheridan, Wyo., observers compared one with Commons Nov. 1-2 (PH †) probably Wyoming's first and second records. L. Mead also recorded one Nov. 24 (GA).

**GREBES TO IBIS** — Las Vegas observers found more Eared Grebes than in any fall migration season since 1970, with populations building to 2000 on L. Mead and to 4000 on L. Mohave by Nov. 30. At Cody, Wyo., some from the 50 nests which hatched young in early August remained into November. On Denver's fifth annual Fall Count Sept. 13, the 204 W. Grebes were double the average count. On L. Mead, the W. Grebe population had built up to 100,000 by Nov. 30. The 600 Pied-billed Grebes at Bear R. in Oct. marked the largest group recently reported in the region. Bear R. had 8000 White Pelicans in late summer, while scattered groups visited other parts of the region. An imm. Brown Pelican arrived at Las Vegas Bay on L. Mead and stayed one week (ph.). Latham Res., near Greeley, Colo., hosted six Cattle Egrets Aug. 7-Sept. 30. After six sight records, including two at Diamond Valley Aug. 19, Nevada obtained its first Cattle Egret photos Oct. 2-3 at Logandale. Colorado had few Snowy Egrets, but 20 visited Zion Oct. 3, and, in the Utah desert, Kanab had one Aug. 23 and six Sept. 21-27 Nevada had fairly good numbers including 50 at Ruby Lakes N.W.R. in late August. Logan, Utah, and Ft Mohave, Nev., had late November records. Numbers of White-faced Ibis in Nevada totaled less than ten percent of the fall numbers of five years ago, with the high count only 25 at L. Mohave Sept. 10-11; however understaffed Stillwater N.W.R. did not file a report. In Utah, Bear R. N.W.R. reported a population of 1000, and 1300 rested at Springerville Sept. 15 (WWB).

**SWANS, GEESE** — Whistling Swans peaked at 15,000 at Bear R. in early November, compared with 18,000, 22,000, 7800, and 28,000 the previous four years. Knopf reports a dramatic migration over the Cache Valley near Logan Nov. 7-12: "flocks of 6-200 swans passed over the marsh in continuing progression, at least one flock every two minutes." More swans than usual passed through n.e. Nevada, with 250 at Ruby L.

in November and 500 at Ely Nov. 30 (SPi). Ruby Lakes' Trumpeter Swans had only two successful nests; 17 adult and 5 young were there Oct. 16—the flock continues to subsist but not to increase. At Nat'l Elk Ref., Wyo., 16 were present Nov. 12. Snow Geese, built up to 4000 Nov. 15 at Bear R., flew "on the tails of the swans [near Logan]. First observed were a few birds among Vs of swans on Nov. 9; large flocks (up to 400) passed through the marsh Nov. 10-11." (FK). The first noticeable Snow Goose migration at Seedskafee N.W.R., Wyo., consisted of 300 birds headed west Nov. 3-4. Barr L., near Denver, had 135 on Nov. 8.

**DUCKS** — Mild weather determined unimpressive duck counts in the region. Barr L. had the best count in e. Colorado, with a 12,000 peak including 7600 Mallards. Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo., reported a similar movement with no real buildup. Bear R. totals mounted to 100,000 ducks Oct. 15-Nov. 1, including an encouraging 44,000 Canvasbacks (and 31,000 Green-winged Teals) on Nov. 1. Desert Lake W.M.A., Utah, had a normal flight with 5200 ducks and 4800 coots. Ruby Lakes had 5100 Mallards and 10,000 Pintails in mid-September. Sheridan discovered 19 Greater Scaups with 13 Lessers Oct. 20. Barrow's Goldeneyes returned to Nevada with two at Ruby Lakes Nov. 27 and 14 at Davis Dam (ph.) Nov. 28. Even Bear R. had five on Dec. 1. Oldsquaws drifted into Durango, Boulder, Las Vegas, and Ft. Mohave in mid-November. Scoters staged a Colorado flight, with single White-wingeds at Ft. Collins Oct. 25 and Boulder Nov. 29-30, two Surfs at Grand Junction Oct. 19, one at Longmont Nov. 18 to early December, and one at Durango Nov. 12-15 (first for s.w. Colorado). Most strikingly, the Denver-Boulder area recorded at least six **Black Scoters** present Oct. 26-Nov. 22 (BW,SM,JR,BA); the state had only four previous records. Then Hall found the second Wyoming **Black Scoter** Nov. 1 at Sheridan (†). Las Vegas and Davis Dam each reported, in late November, one White-winged and 3-4 Surf Scoters.

**HAWKS, EAGLES** — Seedskafee had a very late Turkey Vulture Nov. 10. Bald Eagles did not descend upon Durango as they did last year, but nine had collected there by Oct. 31. The bulk of the Region's Balds arrived in November; Bear R. counted 47 on Dec. 2. Was the Gyrfalcon flying and perching on alpine tundra in R.M.N.P. Aug. 9 (AC *et al.*) wild or escaped? Prairie Falcon observations increased, and Peregrine sightings remained unchanged.

**GROUSE, CRANES, RAILS** — Nevada game officials reported good reproductive success for Sage Grouse, with 1530 birds counted. At Reno Hanf saw 100 California Quail Nov. 25, and the game department counted 1149 in Nevada.

Monte Vista and the rest of the San Luis Valley held 10,000 Sandhill Cranes Oct. 21. Except for 250 at Ft. Collins, the e. Colorado plains saw few cranes. A flock of 100 moving over Logan Oct. 8-9 coincided with the opening of the duck season. Nevada had a few flocks, including one of 50 birds at Pahranaagat Oct. 18. At Bryce Canyon N.P. Sept. 22 a Virginia Rail flushed from under a fallen log in an unwatered piñon/juniper forest, at elevation 7100 ft. It flew about 50 feet, hid

underneath a piñon pine, then walked down the sandy slope to disappear in manzanita brush (KM). In mid-September Bear R. and Ruby L. had large populations of Am. Coots—46,000 and 27,500 respectively.

**SHOREBIRDS** — In general the shorebird migration generated little notice. Bear R. counted August peaks of 8000 Baird's, 12,000 dowitchers, 10,000 Marbled Godwits, 10,000 avocets, and 7000 Black-necked Stilts. It then attracted a late-season peak Oct. 22, with 6000 dowitchers, 5000 godwits, and 300 Baird's. Stray Piping Plovers visited Julesburg, Colo., Sept. 7 (VR,SL, †) and Crowley Co., Colo. Sept. 13-14 (banded, VAT). Utah had a Wandering Tattler at Farmington Bay—at the same location as one last year (B&DN, *vide* PA). Exhaustive details describe the **Spotted Redshank** "with a poor sense of direction" which stayed at Las Vegas Aug. 16-20, with comparisons with both yellowlegs and a Solitary Sandpiper (CSL,VM, *et al.* †). Red Knots visited Eads, Colo. Aug. 29 (SB), Las Vegas Aug. 20 & Sept. 12, and very late at L. Mohave Nov. 28. Consorting with Pectorals, a distinctly-marked **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** found by Conry and Webb at Lafayette excited many Colorado observers Oct. 26-Nov. 9 († C.F.O.). The Pectorals left



*Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Lafayette, Colo., Oct. 26-Nov. 9, 1975. Photo/Bruce Webb.*

two at a time, until the Sharp-tailed was alone by Nov. 7. *American Birds* has reported only three previous inland U.S. records, all, like this one, fall immatures (BA). Possible Sharp-taileds at Dubois Oct. 24 (MBA, note date—could this have been the Lafayette bird?—except that it was alone, not with Pectorals) and at Las Vegas Sept. 18 lacked the detailed descriptions necessary to document such rare occurrences. The White-rumped Sandpiper Oct. 15 at Dubois was the first record there. Stilt Sandpipers have become noticeably more common in e. Colorado in the past several years. This year flocks of 45-110 stopped over at reservoirs at Denver, Julesburg, and Crowley Counties. Sanderlings also seemed more common with 89 counted at three reservoirs in n.e. Colorado Sept. 9 (VR,SL). A spinning of phalaropes Sept. 7 at Cheraw, Colo., included 4000 Wilson's and 200 Northern's (HEK). Colorado, with six previous records, had two different Red Phalaropes at Barr L. Sept. 16 & 20 (BA; † C.F.O.; \*D.M.N.H.), and Las Vegas had one Sept. 18 (VM,BN).

**JAEGERs, GULLs, TERNS** — The eighth Colorado Pomarine Jaeger was at Denver Oct. 5 (JR,BA), while the state had three Parasitic Jaegers. A photographed imm **Parasitic Jaeger** at L. Mead Sept. 13 provided Nevada's first record (CSL,VM, ph.). Longmont had two **Laughing Gulls** Nov. 1 (DAG,SL,BA); the species seems to be occurring rarely but regularly in Colorado. The fall buildup of Franklin's Gulls reached 10,000 at Ordway, Colo., Sept. 28. On the same date, over 100 flew over the Continental Divide in R.M.N.P., flying west (DA). Denver had almost continuous reports from spring, with high counts later than expected: at Barr L. 5000-7500 present Oct. 11-25 left, and were replaced by 4000 Nov. 6. Bonaparte's Gull seemed not as numerous as usual this fall, although Longmont had 100 on Nov. 1. Nevada had its second **Heermann's Gull**, an immature Oct. 12 at L. Mohave (SPR). It also had its second **Sabine's Gull** Sept. 13, at L. Mead (CSL,VM; †). Common Terns apparently drift regularly through e. Colorado, but those at L. Mead Sept. 13 constituted the the second documented Nevada record (CSL,VM; ph.).

**OWLS TO HUMMINGBIRDS** — Short-eared Owl reports continue sparse, although Bear R. staff did estimate a population of 50. Reddall's dozen Black Swifts in the Snowy Range near Laramie, Wyo., Aug. 8-10 suggest a northward expansion by that sporadically-seen species. A ♂ Anna's Hummingbird was both noteworthy and late on Mt. Charleston near Las Vegas Sept. 26. Observers almost unanimously reported Rufous Hummingbird as scarce, gone early, or absent—it normally occurs commonly in August, pestering other hummingbirds at mountain feeders. Allen's Hummingbird reports came from Mt. Charleston and Las Vegas Sept. 2 & 19. Lawson discovered a **Rivoli's Hummingbird**, Nevada's first Aug. 28 on Mt. Charleston. Five ♀ and imm. probable Blue-throateds visited a feeder at Durango Sept. 7.

**WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS** — More in evidence than usual, Com. Flickers caused comment: staying at Jefferson, Colo., to Sept. 27; a migratory group of 56 at Prewitt Res. near Sterling, Colo., Sept. 28; an "infiltration" into Zion Canyon in mid-September; and "statewide abundance" in Nevada. Flycatchers seem to wander in the fall. This year we had odd records such as an E. Kingbird at McCoy, Colo., Sept. 15; Great Crested Flycatchers at Prewitt Res. Aug. 7 (WWB), Denver Oct. 2-7 (VW), and Boulder Oct. 13 (BA,SL); Ash-throated Flycatchers at Ft. Collins Aug. 25 (RB) and Ft. Morgan Sept. 7; E. Phoebe at Barr L. Oct. 14 and Ft. Morgan Oct. 22; Black Phoebe at 9000 ft. on Mt. Charleston Aug. 13-20; and, farthest from the normal range, Vermilion Flycatchers at Durango Oct. 20 (DT, ph.) and L. Mohave Oct. 22-23 (ph.).

**SWALLOWS** — Although swallows migrated generally unnoticed, on Sept. 20 Durango observers gawked at 4000 Violet-greens perched wing to wing on powerlines Latham Res. recorded 300 Banks on Aug. 13. Denver had a record 814 Barns on its fall count, 50 per cent above average. In the same place as last year, Durango noted three Purple Martins Aug. 14 & 28; Logan had two on Sept. 1.

**JAYS, NUTHATCHES** — The hybrid Steller's/Blue Jays still frequent Boulder, with at least five present this fall. Still expanding, Blue Jays strayed to Sheridan Oct. 6-8 and Durango Oct. 12. A few Steller's Jays dropped into the low country: Zion Canyon in mid-August, Longmont Sept. 1-Oct. 27 (26 banded), and Salt Lake City at the end of November. Common Crows assembled in larger-than-usual Mountain West flocks 131 at Sheridan Oct. 1; 1000 in Boulder Co., Colo., during October, including a flock of 250 flying from the plains to roost in the foothills (LM); 500 at McCoy Nov. 1. On Oct. 4 a group of 17 flew S at timberline, along the spine of the Gore Range, Summit Co., Colo. Red-breasted Nuthatches scattered throughout the mountains, plains, and desert, but in very small numbers.

**WRENS, THRASHERS** — In late fall a few Winter Wrens skulked into Colorado (three), Utah (Logan and Zion), and Las Vegas (two). On Nov. 1 Dubois found a Bewick's Wren, 100 mi. north of its range, in the same place as last May. Elsewhere, Pueblo saw five Oct. 5 plus some in November, and Zion and Kanab rated them common. Rock Wrens, which usually spread out into the Colorado plains in fall migration, were scarce, with none on the Denver Fall Count or at Zion. Cheyenne did discover one that stayed to Oct. 15, feeding on bird seed under a cattle guard, and one spent Nov. 1 in a Longmont yard (DEs). Gray Catbirds lingered to Sept. 14 at Dubois, Oct. 3 at Sheridan, and Oct. 30 at Denver. Unexpected Brown Thrashers appeared at Ward in the Colorado foothills Sept. 19, Sheridan Oct. 7, and Mercury, Nev., Sept. 20 (RC). Sage Thrashers spread wide over e. Colorado, from Aug. 15 at Ft. Morgan (early) to Oct. 19 at Denver

**THRUSHES, GNATCATCHERS** — Boulder, Colo., and Boulder City, Nev., each noted a Varied Thrush in mid-November (LH,CSL). Thirty W. Bluebirds at Durango Aug. 23 may signify the best hatch in years. From Aug. 20-Sept. 24 Mt. Charleston had 50-100, small flocks drifted through Nevada and others spent the fall at Zion. Mountain Bluebird reports declined, however, with Wyoming reporting the highest counts 100 at Sheridan Sept. 4, 35 at Yellowstone Aug. 11, also good flocks on Zion's Kolob Plateau Aug. 15. Townsend's Solitaires sang all fall, while appearing in high numbers, such as 100 at Cortez, Colo., Oct. 19 (RWS), 250 on Mt. Charleston Nov. 11, and 20 per day at Eureka, Nev., during the latter part of the season. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers straggled to e. Colorado for the second successive fall, with six seen on the Eastern Slope.

**WAXWINGS TO STARLINGS** — Nine Bohemian Waxwings drifted into Cody, Wyo., Oct. 28, 300 to Sheridan Nov. 15, and 25 to Logan Nov. 8. One somehow appeared at Las Vegas Sept. 4 (GA). Phainopepla built up to a concentration of 300 at Davis Dam Nov. 28 (CSL). Starlings began building up to large flocks, alarming observers throughout the Region. Lawson commented, "What are normal Starling populations? Most everyone says 'normal' but how many does this represent and for what period of time? What we need

are some accurate figures for 3 or 4 years to determine with a little more accuracy what 'normal' populations are. Would anyone like to count Starlings for a while?" Mountain West populations do not approach those in the East, but the bird has not lived here as long. Therefore we deplore the 1000 at Bear R. Oct. 20, 600 at Reno Nov 2, and flocks of 50-300 which roost in various Denver billboards. At Hotchkiss, Colo., a severe freeze Oct. 24 caught over 30 per cent of an overabundant apple crop still on trees. "The fruit was ruined beyond use and has not been picked. The Starling population has exploded, consequently, with 3000 at one time in our little family orchard. They are drunk and boisterous from the overripe, soured fruit and are ruining the new paint job on our house..." [Called S.A.A.—Eds.].

**VIREOS** — Solitary Vireos established one Wyoming, five Colorado, and one Nevada October dates. Red-eyed Vireos made single appearances at Yellowstone Aug. 21, Bryce Canyon Aug. 18 (W), and Salt Lake City Oct. 10 (EG, *vide* GK). Philadelphia Vireo records were up with three well-documented in e. Colorado.

**WARBLERS** — This fall echoed, very faintly, last fall's spectacular warbler display. Regionally we recorded seven Black-and-whites—L. Mohave Oct. 1-2, Dubois Oct. 21 (*vide* MBa), five Colorado birds from Grand Junction to Longmont including a late one Nov. 2 in the Denver foothills (PF, \*D.M.N.H.). Black-throated Blues echoed last fall's influx, with Sheridan having its first record Aug. 7 (PH †), plus four in Colorado and four in Nevada. Other Nevada rarities included its second **Prothonotary** at L. Mohave Oct. 11 (SPr, ph.); two Chestnut-sideds; a Magnolia at Las Vegas Oct. 18; and a Painted Redstart at Mt. Charleston Aug. 20. The 50 Yellows at Ft. Mohave Nov. 28 had lingered unusually late. Colorado notables included one Magnolia, eight Black-throated Greens, two Blackburnians, four Chestnut-sideds, two Bay-breasteds, four Blackpolls (the 7-10th fall records, all since 1969), one Palm, and one Hooded. Remsen's Pine Warbler at Pawnee Nat'l Grassland Sept. 12 was Colorado's eighth record († C.F.O.). Boulder attracted a N Parula Oct. 9 (BW, † C.F.O.) and a Canada Oct. 13-16 (AC, BW, BA *et al*; † C.F.O.). The Denver Fall count had average numbers of Orange-crowned, Wilson's, and Yellowthroats. Virginia's Warblers must migrate close to the foothills, since the fall count n.e. of Denver missed them on the same day that 18 migrants were counted s.w. of the city. In Wyoming, Casper logged a Chestnut-sided Sept. 11 (LL). Gniadek submitted supporting details on a June 16 observation of a **Cape May Warbler** at Tower, in Yellowstone—Wyoming's first record.

**BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS** — The Com. Grackle continues to push west; the one at Ruby L. from mid-October to Nov. 1 was one of Nevada's few records. Rare Summer Tanagers were at Mesa Verde N.P. Aug. 10 (DM); Durango Sept. 13; and Pawnee Nat'l Grassland Oct. 12 (JR).

**FINCHES** — Denver recorded its first Cardinal in 11 years, one which visited a Lakewood feeder only during snowy weather, Oct. 13-Nov. 30 (JJC). Two tardy Lazuli Buntings spent a week from Nov. 9 in Boulder Evening Grosbeaks spread widely through the Region, in Utah they visited Logan and Kanab but not Salt Lake City. Rosy Finches found the mild weather and alpine country agreeable, so that few came to feeders until the storm of Nov. 28-30, when first reports came from Summit Co., Casper, Dubois, and Durango. Scott predicts a big year for redpolls; Sheridan counted 75 Nov 20, Casper and Colorado Springs noted a few shortly thereafter. Lesser Goldfinches at Zion resumed nesting, as in previous years, in early September. One nest had fledged young by Nov. 10.

**SPARROWS** — Grasshopper Sparrows came to L. Mohave Sept. 10-11, Boulder Oct. 31 (\* *vide* BW), and Dubois Sept. 5-8; Dubois also hosted 2-4 Baird's Sparrows Aug. 26-28 in mixed sparrow flocks. Vesper Sparrow numbers plummeted on the Denver Fall Count (39 compared with a previous average of 342), but Zion and Reno reported good numbers. Zion had Rufous-crowned Sparrows through Oct. 11 and they remained at Baca Co., Colo., through at least Oct. 27 (HD) On Sept. 6 at Cassin's Sparrow was at Punkin Center, Colo. (JR). Dark-eyed Juncos arrived mostly in October. Many White-winged moved into the Denver piedmont and foothills: Barr L. found up to seven White-winged per day from Oct. 14 on. Gray-headed Juncos drifted out into the plains at Pueblo and Ft Morgan in September (the second fall record there) Lapland Longspurs arrived late in e. Colorado, in mountain parks, 15 occurred at Westcliffe Nov. 15 and two at Monte Vista Nov. 27. Nevada noted its sixth Chestnut-collared Longspur at Ft. Mohave Nov 28 (CL). A **Snow Bunting** perched on a fence outside Eyre's window at Diamond Valley to permit a good leisurely view of Nevada's first individual of the species.

**ADDENDUM** — The C.F.O. Records Committee has reviewed a number of records reported in previous Mt. West reports, and rejected the following: 29 94, Gyrfalcon at Ft. Collins; 29:95, Anna's Hummingbird, 29:96, Phainopepla; 29:889, Painted Redstart, and Scott's Oriole at Glenwood Springs; 29:1012, the previous state records for the Black Rail, so that the solitary state report is the sound record described (also delete the initials JD). The records of the Cape May and Kentucky Warblers mentioned at 29:888 are the state's tenth and fourth to sixth for the respective species

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**CORRIGENDA** — In the Summer report, the printer lost a column of type so that shrikes blended in with buntings. The following copy was omitted:

Sheridan, Salt Lake City, and Kanab reported Loggerhead Shrikes as fairly common, and Lawson counted 21 at Ruby L. July 23-24. Piñon pine locations reported Gray Vireos, including some with young on Mt. Charleston. Red-eyed Vireos, originally led west along the cottonwood stream bottoms, and lured into the cities by irrigated residential "forests," of late have seemed less common in the Colorado piedmont; obser-

vers report only a handful of summer records, from only 4 locations. At newly-covered Fort Mohave, Lawson on June 12 found 3 nests of **Bell's Vireos**, probably Nevada's first breeding records; many young were there July 6 (VM,JO). Hedges noted 5 at Santa Clara, Utah, July 5.

**WARBLERS** — Breeding warblers fared well in the Mt West. Most observers note the Yellow Warbler as stable or increasing (Cheyenne, Sheridan, Dubois, Logan, Longmont, Loveland) although a few note apparently small decreases (Denver, Jefferson, Jackson) and spraying for box elder worms again harmed them in Salt Lake City. Singing **Chestnut-sided Warblers** intrigued Colorado observers at Woodland Park (EW), near Denver, and Boulder during June; at Boulder Bosley found the second state nest—and watched this one, like the premier pair, ignominiously fledge a young cowbird. Additions to the string of spring rarities included a vagrant ♂ Black-and-white at Santa Clara July 5 (SH), Utah's fifth, and another at Denver June 1; Tennessees at Provo June 4 (WWB) and Sheridan June 2; a Blackburnian at Boulder June 1 (SL); Bay-breasted (Colorado records have *doubled* in the past 3 years) at Denver June 14 and Jefferson June 15, the latter feeding in an aspen grove at 10,000 feet.

**BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS** — Cheyenne's King ranch had 250 nesting pairs of W. Meadowlarks, with good numbers of young, and at Cody a pair occupied a territory at almost every hole on the golf course. Orchard Orioles have spread west (as well as north, Houston *Am. Birds* 28:918), with indications of breeding at three different Denver locations—about 75 miles west of their recognized range. Northern Orioles seemed conspicuously abundant throughout the Region. Brown-headed Cowbirds likewise were widely noticed; over 150 came into Boulder City, Nev., for the cicada hatch July 20. Western Tanagers remained reluctant to move into mountain breeding grounds, with records like 74 at Provo June 4 (WWB) and smaller numbers lingering in Boulder, Colorado Springs, Jackson and Cody. Early migrants had returned to the plains by late July, including a family of 2 adults and 2 young at Pawnee Nat'l Grassland Aug. 2.

**FINCHES** — Rose-breasted Grosbeak records continued into June at Zion, Dubois, Evergreen, and Denver, and into July at Boulder. Blue Grosbeaks increase in s e Colorado—at Pueblo (as they have since 1968) and Baca Co.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — \*: specimen; ph.: photograph; † written description on file, with Regional Editor unless otherwise indicated; : details to be published elsewhere; C.F.O.: Colorado Field Ornithologists; D M N.H.: Denver Museum of Natural History; R M N.P.: Rocky Mountain National Park.

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*Utah*: Bear River N.W.R.—Rod Krey; Desert Lake W.M.A.—Larry Dalton; Kanab—Steven Hedges, Logan (11)—**Ann Schimpf**; Salt Lake City—Gleb Kashin; Zion Nat'l Park (45)—**Peter Scott**; also, Paul Adamus, Elsie Geoghagen, Ken Kertell, Fritz Knopf, Keller McDonald, Bill & Diane Noice, Woods.

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## SOUTHWEST REGION

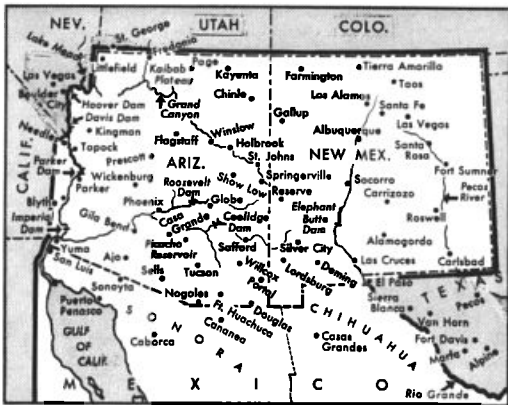
**/Janet Witzeman, John P. Hubbard and Kenn Kaufman**

The "climate" this fall was mainly one of anticipation — as everyone awaited the arrival of the transplanted Whooping Cranes, destined to winter with their foster-parent Sandhills in central New Mexico. The weather, in the literal sense, was rather ordinary. It seemed to have little ornithological significance for most of the fall. During a spell of bad weather early in September, central Arizona noted several eastern passerines — but since that storm system had come from the north, not the east, its effect (if any) was not clear.

The difficulties in analyzing weather's effect were never more apparent than this fall. Beginning early in the season Arizona recorded many shorebirds with coastal affinities, more than the usual Sabine's and Bonaparte's Gulls and Common Terns, a single very rare **Heermann's Gull**, and multiples of Greater Scaup and Oldsquaw. Both Arizona and New Mexico had **Surf Scoters** and, more notably, the first occurrences of **Black Scoters** in both states. (Records are detailed in the species accounts below). These coastal and pelagic birds arrived randomly over the period from mid-August to mid-November, and no correlations of any kind could be found between their appearances and local weather patterns. It may have been mere coincidence that these scattered records occurred in the same season as the most obvious weather-induced invasion in Arizona birding history, which might be termed:



*Surf Scoter invasion, Phoenix, Ariz., Nov. 28, 1975. Photo/Robert Witzeman.*



**THE PELAGIC INVASION** — Thanksgiving week brought mild weather to central Arizona, with breezes and humidity from the southwest. But on the night of Nov. 27 a major storm front moved in from the northwest, bringing heavy precipitation and, on the morning of the 28th, the highest wind velocities ever registered during November in the Phoenix area. That morning at dawn CS saw a Heermann's Gull fly in from the storm-ridden west and land at a pond near Phoenix. Alerted by phone, led on by flocks of scoters flying over the desert, a group of observers (ST,SM,JT,RW,JW) wound up spending the rest of the day checking all the ponds south and west of Phoenix. By nightfall they had tallied (even allowing for duplication at different ponds) no less than **eight Heermann's Gulls** (only about a dozen previous records for the state), **five Herring Gulls** (rare in central Arizona), two California Gulls (rare in central Arizona), **12 Greater Scaup** (rare in Arizona), and **39 Surf Scoters** (casual in Arizona). Of the previous records for Surf Scoter in the state, generally single birds, almost all had been female-plumaged — but 32 of the 39 that day were adult males.

Almost as intriguing as the appearance of these coastal birds was their prompt *disappearance*: by the following day, when the wind had abated, virtually all had left Phoenix. Unfortunately, it seems the ponds at Tucson were not checked on the 28th; on the 29th, HF found two Surf Scoters there, a tantalizing hint of what may have occurred the day of the storm.

**LOONS THROUGH HERONS** — Although the Com. Loon is generally rare in the Southwest, there were reports involving at least 14 — seven each in Arizona and New Mexico, all between late October and the end of the period. Single Horned Grebes were at Nogales Nov. 1-3 (PN,BJo,GG) and at Phoenix Oct. 22 - Nov. 4 (SB,SM,KA), while two remained at Las Cruces throughout November (BP); the species is rather scarce (and probably overlooked to some extent) in the Region. High counts of W. Grebes were 60-70 on Elephant Butte L., N. Mex., Sept. 13-14 (M. Lang), 50 on San Carlos Res., Ariz., Nov. 10 (PN), and 200+ on the Colorado R. at Parker, Ariz., Nov. 27 (BB).

Arizona saw the usual scattered flocks of Cattle Egrets, with numbers decreasing toward the end of the season. In New Mexico there were at least 26 individuals in four counties, including a new northeasternmost record of 11 at Clayton Lake Oct. 3 (A. Krehbiel). The **Louisiana Heron** is an extremely rare straggler in early fall to Arizona from the Gulf of California; incredible (but proven by photos) was one that appeared Nov. 2 at a lake at 7000 ft. in the mountains near Flagstaff (C. Beals).

**WATERFOWL** — Ross' Goose is quite uncommon in the Region away from its areas of regular occurrence in the Pecos, Rio Grande, and Lower Colorado River valleys. Single birds were reported from three localities in s.c. Arizona this fall: Nogales, Nov. 16 (PN), Willcox, Nov. 21-22 (DD *et al.*), and Arivaca Jct., Nov. 23 (PM,ER). With more observers watching for them, there were more reports of Greater Scaup in Arizona than in any previous season. Aside from those that appeared at Phoenix during the storm of Nov. 28, reports involved at least seven individuals at four s.c. Arizona localities, beginning Nov. 1 and extending into December (PN *et al.*). Most of these reports were considered probably to be correct. Single **Oldsquaws** in s.c. Arizona, not apparently connected with any storm activity, were at Willcox Nov. 1 (PN) and at Nogales from Nov. 16 through the end of the period (PN *et al.*).

The biggest news among the Anatidae involved the first confirmed records of **Black Scoter** in both New Mexico and Arizona. On Oct. 28 two were seen and one collected (\* to Smithsonian) at Bosque del Apache

N W R., N. Mex. (GRZ); there had been one previous hypothetical record for the state. On Nov. 3 one appeared at the Tucson sewage ponds (PN), establishing the first sight record for Arizona. This individual remained only through Nov. 4 (m.ob.), but on the latter date there were also *two* on the ponds at Phoenix (SD,HL). These two were joined by a third on Nov. 5, and the three remained at Phoenix through Nov. 11; photographs (JW) confirmed the record. The occurrence of six individuals at three widely separated points in the space of a week would seem to be more than coincidence, but no explanations were apparent. There were also an unusual number of **Surf Scoter** reports preceding the Nov. 28 invasion: one s. of Phoenix Oct. 26 (RBr), five at Sierra Vista, Ariz., Nov. 1 (PN), and two in San Luis Pass, extreme s.w. New Mexico, Nov. 9 (JPH,CGS); the species has been only casual in both states. All of these Black and Surf Scoters, incidentally were  $\emptyset$  plumaged (females or immatures).

In a category by themselves are the waterfowl records from Davis Dam, on the Colorado R. at the Arizona/Nevada border — that is the locality where Arizona's first Barrow's Goldeneyes (57 of them!) were recorded last winter (*Am. Birds* 29: 721,725). This fall, C S Lawson visited Davis Dam Nov. 28 and found 14 Barrow's Goldeneyes, two Oldsquaw, one White-winged Scoter and three Surf Scoters. The storm activity that prevailed on the 28th may have had little to do with the presence of these birds; the goldeneyes and Oldsquaw at least were still present a month later.

**RAPTORS** — Preliminary investigations directed by Murray Hansen and Bob Norton turned up the first evidence of regular concentration points for migrating raptors in Arizona. On Sept. 20 Norton counted 96 hawks, mostly accipiters, moving past Mt. Ord in the Mazatzals east of Phoenix. Where the hawks go from there is a mystery; no similar concentrations were noted farther south.

**GALLIFORMES** — Montezuma Quail were in high numbers in s.e. Arizona and s.w. New Mexico, particularly in the Silver City area, where birds were even seen twice within city limits (DAZ). On Nov. 15, some 25-30 Chukars were seen (APN *et al.*) near Farmington, where there are no recent reports or introductions of which we are aware.

**CRANES** — To reiterate briefly for those who have not heard: last summer, 14 Whooping Crane eggs were taken from Canada to Idaho and placed in the nests of Sandhill Cranes at Gray's Lake N.W.R., in an attempt to start a second population of Whoopers. This ambitious experiment may not have aroused much excitement elsewhere (e.g., it was not even mentioned in last summer's "Changing Seasons" writeup — *Am. Birds*, Oct 1975), but anticipation ran high in the Southwest, because color-marking projects had shown that the selected foster-parent Sandhills wintered in the Rio Grande Valley of c. New Mexico. Of the six Whoopers known to have been reared in Idaho, four had been accounted for in New Mexico by the end of the period. Their arrival dates: Oct. 25 — first at Bosque del Apache N.W.R.; Nov. 11 — one at Bernardo State

Game Refuge; Nov. 12 — one east of Los Lunas, Nov 29 — second at Bosque.

List-conscious birders pondered the question whether these 'introduced' birds would be 'countable.' Concerned biologists wondered whether the fostered young would succeed in establishing a new population of Whooping Cranes. But no one could question the excitement value of having free-flying Whoopers in the Southwest, and observers flocked to Bosque, where Refuge personnel set up a program to show off the birds without causing them undue disturbance. Aside from one unsatisfactory sighting in 1965, the Whooping Crane was known (previous to this autumn) in the area that is now New Mexico only by a vague reference in the early 1850s.

**GALLINULES** — An ad. **Purple Gallinule** was present 30 mi. s. of Tucson Aug. 17 - Sept. 5 (PM,ER, m.ob.). The species occasionally strays north into s.c. Arizona and s.e. New Mexico — probably from separate populations in the Pacific lowlands of Mexico and the Texas-Gulf region, respectively; this seems to be the first confirmed Arizona record since 1951.

**SHOREBIRDS** — Previous to this autumn there have been few records of migrant shorebirds in that area of New Mexico lying west of the Rio Grande and south of the San Juan Valley. However, this season hundreds of waders were present at Blackrock L., on the Zuni Reservation, Aug. 26 (JPH,MCC), and at the Lordsburg Playa in late September and early October; possibly it is habitat and observers, not shorebirds, that have been scarce in the past. In Arizona, many species recorded this fall were considered accidental a decade ago — but note that *all* reported sightings of the less common shorebirds in Arizona this season were made at artificial habitat (mainly sewage ponds) accessible to centers of birding activity. It appears that most shorebird species are capable of overflying the whole Southwest, and that they come down from the sky only where suitable habitat presents itself.

Single Am. Golden Plovers appeared at Phoenix Aug. 27 - Sept. 7 (ST *et al.*), near Willcox Oct 7 (GM), and Phoenix Oct. 18 - Nov. 15 (SH *et al.*), the first Phoenix bird provided the state's earliest fall record. A **Ruddy Turnstone** at Sierra Vista Sept. 6-11 (PN *et al.*) was only the third Arizona record, but the fourth turned up just one day later, Sept. 7-9 at Phoenix (RN,DD, m.ob.). An Upland Sandpiper was noted near Artesia Sept. 6 (MW) and five were at Jal Sept. 19 (P Pache); both localities are on the plains of extreme e. New Mexico, the only part of the Region where this species is at all regular. Single Red Knots, rare in Arizona, were s. of Phoenix Aug. 31 - Sept. 7 (RBo *et al.*), at Phoenix Sept. 6-7 (RBr *et al.*), and at Willcox Sept. 10 (PN). Sanderlings, formerly considered casual away from the Colorado R., made a good showing with ten at five locations in s.c. Arizona Aug. 27 - Sept 28, plus one at Bitter Lake N.W.R., N. Mex., Sept 3 (BWS). Northern Phalaropes came through in good numbers, with flocks noted at Phoenix and Willcox Sept. 10, two at Tucson Sept. 13, and one at Nogales Sept. 21 (all by PN); one was on the Lordsburg Playa, N. Mex., Oct. 8 (WSpf), and one was at Tucson the day after the heavy weather, Nov. 29 (HF).

**GULLS** — New Mexico's second record and specimen (to Smithsonian — identity confirmed by Dr. J. R. Jehl, Jr.), of **Thayer's Gull** was a juv. ♀ obtained near Hatch, Dona Ana Co., Oct. 28 (GS); the first record was an imm. ♀ taken at Caballo L., Jan. 7, 1973. Though traditionally thought of as an offshore migrant, Sabine's Gull is a rare-but-regular fall transient in the interior Southwest; Arizona has had one per autumn for the last five years. This fall the Region had four, all immatures: one at Morgan Lake, extreme n.w. New Mexico, Sept. 13-28 (APN *et al.*), two at Nogales Sept. 21 (PN), and one south of Phoenix Sept. 24 (RBr). As if to presage the invasion of Nov. 28 (see introduction), a single imm. Heermann's Gull appeared at Picacho Res., Ariz., Oct. 11 (RBo).

**CUCKOOS, SWIFTS** — An apparent **Groove-billed Ani** was photographed at Bosque del Apache N.W.R., Oct. 12 (L. Ditto), marking the second autumn in a row that an ani has been reported in the Rio Grande Valley of New Mexico. A report of two Chimney Swifts in Tucson Aug. 29 (B. Russell) adds to the series of probably reliable sight records in Arizona — there have been four such since May 1973; the only confirmed record involves a pair present in Tucson May-June 1952, which was eventually collected. The species could be of annual occurrence in Arizona, as it has proven to be recently in California.

**HUMMINGBIRDS** — Anna's Hummingbird, a recent invader to New Mexico, continued to be reported; single ad. males were at Silver City Aug. 18 (M. Mosely) and Nov. 4 (DAZ). Previous northernmost records for Violet-crowned Hummingbird have been at Tucson, where one was present Nov. 1970 to Feb. 1971 and another was seen in Oct. 1972. This fall one was present Oct. 11-19 about 200 mi. farther north, at Prescott, Ariz. (photos — V. Miller); evidently autumn is the time to look for this species north of its usual range. Another out-of-range hummer this fall was a ♂ Rivoli's at Pleasanton, Catron Co., N. Mex., Aug. 11 - Sept. 13 (L. Sumner). A ♂ White-eared Hummingbird at feeders at Portal, Ariz., Oct. 5-16 (SSpf) was about a month later than any previous record.

**WOODPECKERS** — Examples of yellow-shafted Com Flickers were reported from Silver City (one on Oct. 28 — O'Byrnes, *vide* DAZ) and from Phoenix, where careful checking revealed up to five during October and November (ST, DSj *et al.*). Specimen records from the past have established that this form is a sparse but regular transient in Arizona, and that "pure" yellow-shafted birds are more frequent than examples from the broad hybrid zone of the w. Great Plains. Single Downy Woodpeckers at Silver City Oct. 30 (DAZ) and at nearby Ft. Bayard Nov. 2 (B. Hayward) were at unusually low elevations and at the southern limit of the species' range. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker of the eastern form (*S.v. varius*) was collected in the Peloncillo Mts., s.w. New Mexico, Nov. 10 (JPH), for one of the few verified state records. This form — which may be a separate species from the red-naped form of the Rockies (*S.v. nuchalis*) — is known to winter in small numbers in s.c. Arizona; observers should watch for it elsewhere. (For details on identification, see Devillers, 1970. *Calif. Birds* 1: 47-76).

**FLYCATCHERS** — There were several reports of late-lingering kingbirds. A Thick-billed near Patagonia L., Sept. 30 (GM) provided a late record for Arizona, in New Mexico, late Westerns were one at Evans Lake near Silver City Oct. 25 (RAF) and two at Bosque Refuge Nov. 14 (J. Durrie). A single Cassin's Kingbird at San Luis Pass, s.w. New Mexico, Oct. 25 (JPH) was late but not as unusual. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was near Tombstone, Ariz., Sept. 24 - Oct. 5 (J. Marvin, photos — DD). This species now seems to turn up once or twice every year in Arizona, occurring any time between April and October. Records of E. Phoebes, scarce in the Region, were singles at Roswell Aug. 23 (MW), near Nogales Aug. 23 (PN, PBU), near Phoenix Oct. 24 (ST, JW), La Joya State Game Refuge near Socorro, N. Mex., Oct. 27 (OVV), and Arivaca Jct., Ariz., Nov. 1 (BH).

**CORVIDS** — Single Blue Jays, uncommon and irregular in s. New Mexico, strayed west to Rattlesnake Springs, Carlsbad N.P., Oct. 24 (BZ, KZ), and near Las Cruces Nov. 13 (R. Moffit, *vide* BP). As predicted by Dr. Russell Balda, Arizona's premier Piñon Jay authority, the general failure of the piñon-pine cone crop in n. Arizona and New Mexico touched off a major southward movement of these jays. This was most noticeable in the Silver City area, where numerous flocks were present throughout the fall (3000 in one flock Oct. 4 — BZ, KZ), some even moving out onto the desert-grassland near Hurley (DAZ). Other southward reports of Piñon Jays included 66 s. of Bowie, Ariz., Sept. 20 (SMR) and 80 near Sasabe, Sonora, Nov. 11 (SMR, GM), the latter being notable since there are few records for Sonora.

**WRENS THROUGH THRUSHES** — Winter Wrens, formerly considered rare in the Region, appeared in good numbers last winter, and there were indications that this season might produce even more records, by early December at least eight had already been reported from five Arizona locations. The first of these — found frequenting the ornamental plantings around a house in the desert n. of Phoenix, Sept. 21-26 (E. Radke, SD, JW) — was by two weeks the earliest fall record for Arizona. Although the Gray Catbird nests locally in both New Mexico and Arizona, autumn records of migrants are infrequent. Singles were reported this fall at Phoenix Oct. 7 (D. Burch, BB), at Tucson Nov. 5-9 (J. Huffman, GM), and at Las Vegas, N. Mex., on the late dates of Nov. 19-23 (WH). A Brown Thrasher at Pipe Springs Nat'l. Mon., Sept. 28 (SH), was the second record from extreme n. Arizona. A Bendire's Thrasher south of Farmington Sept. 6 (A. & G. Williams, *vide* APN) was near the species' northern limits in New Mexico.

Rufous-backed Robins appeared notably early, with at least four in Arizona by Oct. 29 (arrival/discovery dates generally have been in November or December) Seven had been noted by Nov. 27, exceeding the total reports for all of last winter.

**KINGLETS THROUGH STARLINGS** — For the second autumn in a row Golden-crowned Kinglets moved into the Arizona lowlands, where they are irregular. A total of eight was found in two locations near Phoenix (ST); exceptional was one banded far from the



mountains at Yuma, Oct. 26 (SSpt). The only Bohemian Waxwings reported were two at Cedar Crest, N. Mex., Nov. 16-19 (J. Sollenberger). Phainopeplas are generally rare in s.e. New Mexico; three seen during mid-November in the Guadalupe Mts. (KG) were among the few records for that range. An ad. N. Shrike was seen Nov. 27 at Los Alamos, N. Mex. (B. Lewis); the species is a very sparse winter visitant in the n. parts of the Region. A flock of 200+ Starlings was found at a roost above 7000 ft. at Centerfire Bog, Catron Co., N. Mex., where young were apparently raised in ponderosa pine stands.

**VIREOS** — Convincing details backed up a **White-eyed Vireo** at Phoenix Nov. 16 (DStj). There is only one good previous sight record for the state, but note that it was at the same time of year: Nov. 13, 1966, e. of Tucson. A Red-eyed Vireo at Roswell Sept. 9 (MW) was the only report received for this rare migrant.

**WARBLERS** — There were a number of interesting isolated records in the class of e. vagrant warblers. Single Tennessee Warblers, rare in the Region, were at Socorro Sept. 8-9 (PBA) and Phoenix Oct. 5 (ST). A Magnolia Warbler (casual in Arizona) was at Phoenix Sept. 5 (SD). At Silver City, where the first specimen of **Cape May Warbler** for New Mexico was obtained last year on Oct. 4, an ad. male was seen this year on Oct. 14 (DAZ,MZ). A ♂ **Blackburnian Warbler** at Phoenix Sept. 28 (ST) represented only the second sight record for Arizona. A ♂ Hooded Warbler was at Roswell Sept. 10 (MW) and another was tentatively identified at Phoenix Sept. 5 (RBr); the species is generally considered quite rare in the Southwest, but there have been at least four reports this year. Finally, a **Canada Warbler** in Sabino Canyon near Tucson Sept. 6-7 (C. Kangas, PN,DStz) was only the second record for Arizona.

Arizona has enjoyed a recent inexplicable abundance of Chestnut-sided and Black-throated Blue Warblers. Both of these "casual" species appeared more often this season than the "uncommon but regular" N. Parula. Arizona Black-throated Blues this fall were singles at Montezuma Castle Nat'l. Mon., Oct. 6 (B. Monroe), Baboquivari Mts., Oct. 22-23 (D. Ellis), Tucson, Oct. 25 - Nov. 11 (WD *et al.*), and two other individuals in the Tucson area Nov. 11 (DStz, M&DK, JV *et al.*). A sixth Black-throated Blue was just south of the border near Sonoita, Sonora, Oct. 17 (R. Wilt). Chestnut-sided Warblers in Arizona this fall were singles at Phoenix Sept. 24 (ST), Pinaleno Mts., \*Oct. 8 (GM), Tucson Oct. 15 (GM), and Portal Oct. 19 (SSpf). Another was at Estancia, c. N. Mex., Oct. 25 (RLT *et al.*).

Three N. Parulas were recorded in Arizona — an imm. male near Phoenix Oct. 5 (ST), one at Tucson Oct. 25-27 (GG,RS), and a male at Portal Nov. 28 (WSpf,SSpf). One in New Mexico (where the species is not recorded so regularly) was an immature at Evans L., Oct. 4 (BZ,KZ). Another e. warbler being found more often recently in Arizona is the Ovenbird. One was at Portal Oct. 6 (D. Bogle) and another was at Phoenix Oct. 8 (RN,BB). Five individual Black-and-white Warblers, five Northern Waterthrushes and eight Am. Redstarts were reported in Arizona — not unusual

for these regular transients.

Intriguing, especially considering the recent Texas records, was a report of a Rufous-capped Warbler Sept. 13 at Arroyo Cajon Bonito, Sonora (DD *et al.*). This locality is only five mi. s. of the border; there are no records yet for Arizona or New Mexico.

**ICTERIDS, TANAGERS** — A Bobolink was observed Sept. 27 in the grasslands at Davis Pond, the first record for s.e. Arizona (DD). The species has been noted as a sparse fall transient in w. Arizona, perhaps from scattered breeding colonies in the Great Basin. An Orchard Oriole was observed Oct. 2 at Phoenix (ST), providing another record for a species that is possibly overlooked to some extent in the Region. The "**Baltimore**" Oriole, previously known in New Mexico by only two recent records, was observed in the Clayton area: an ad. male Sept. 21 and possibly also Sept. 16 (Wes Cook). A late report was received from the same observer of a Baltimore male at a nest in the area during the past summer. These birds as described were well-distinguished from the Bullock's form; past specimen records from slightly farther east indicate that most N. Orioles there are intergrades between the two forms.

A Scarlet Tanager (probably an ad. male in winter plumage) at Tucson Nov. 2-5 (DStz,PN,GM) provided about the fifth Arizona record.

**FRINGILLIDS** — A ♂ Cardinal at Bosque del Apache N.W.R., Sept. 13 (*vide* RLT) was definitely out of range, since the nearest area of regular occurrence for the species is in the Gila Valley. Rose-breasted Grosbeak reports in Arizona numbered eight, the latest being one at Flagstaff Nov. 23 (RPB); apparently the only New Mexico report was one at Silver City Nov. 4-9 (DAZ,MZ). A Dickcissel was picked up dead in Tucson Sept. 4, and another seen alive there the next day (SMR); one at Phoenix Sept. 16 (SB) provided the first local record. The species is generally a scarce fall transient in the state. Two imm. Am. Goldfinches at Silver City Aug. 23 (DAZ) were exceptionally early arrivals. The presence of immatures on this date might be considered suggestive, since the species is known to nest in mid- to late summer; however, there are still no nesting records of the bird in New Mexico or Arizona. A Lark Sparrow seen Oct. 31 amid the coniferous forest at La Cueva, N. Mex. (MBS), was an indication that the species may wander to higher elevations during migration. At Shiprock, extreme n.w. New Mexico, a junco seen Nov. 26 (WSt) had two white wingbars but not the large size and pale coloration typical of the White-winged (Dark-eyed) Junco; it was perhaps an aberrant Slate-colored. Authentic White-winged Juncos were collected at several points in n.c. Arizona during the winter of 1936-37, but aside from that unexplained incursion this form has been recorded from the Region only in n. New Mexico. Reliable western reports of Clay-colored Sparrows were singles at Sabino Canyon near Tucson Sept. 8 (GM) and near Phoenix Nov. 27 (ST); this species could be regular in small numbers, as some winter normally in w. Mexico.

In October and November, longspurs abounded in the s. Animas Valley of New Mexico's southwest corner. Random netting at a waterhole near Cloverdale Nov

8-12 (JPH) yielded the following: 72 Chestnut-collareds, three McCown's, and one **Lapland Longspur**. Although McCown's Longspur wintered abundantly in the Southwest some decades ago they have become rather rare recently, and the 24:1 ratio of Chestnut-collared to McCown's reflects this. The Lapland Longspur is also rarely recorded in the Region; this represents only the third verified record for New Mexico, and the first in the s.w. section of the state.

**CORRIGENDUM** — The report of Spotted Owls found at two locations below Silver City, N. Mex. this past spring was an error (*Am. Birds* 29:892).

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## ALASKA REGION /Daniel D. Gibson and G. Vernon Byrd

Fall migration was orderly, unexciting, and on schedule in most areas. Winter arrived abruptly in much of Alaska at the very end of October (e.g., -30°F at Fairbanks Oct. 31), so it is of considerable interest that numerous late departure records were established in fall 1975.



**GREBES, STORM-PETRELS, HERONS** — A W. Grebe observed in Orca Inlet, Prince William Sound [hereafter P.W.S.], Sept. 29 (P&RI) is the first certain

record of this bird in south-coastal Alaska. Two **Pied-billed Grebes** arrived on Swan L., Sitka, Nov. 5 (CHJ, photo on file U.A.), and one of them remained through the close of the period. Characteristically, Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were recorded inshore at a number of Gulf of Alaska localities: 75-100 at Homer Oct. 5 (RD), one at Sitka Oct. 15 (FG); 20 in Glacier Bay—20 to 30 mi. from the open sea— Oct. 23 (BBP); and 12-15 at Homer Oct. 26 (MAM). A Great Blue Heron at Kodiak I., Oct. 8 (LG), provided the third record for the island

**DUCKS** — An eclipse ♂ **Garganey** observed at St Paul I., Pribilof Is., Aug. 28 (BFK) was the first recorded in fall in Alaska of this casual visitant from Asia. Ring-necked Ducks were apparently scarce this fall, but they were found at several interesting localities. A male near the Kodiak R. Aug. 18 (SOM) was the only Interior report. Two individuals were shot by hunters in November at Kalsin Bay, the first Kodiak records (*vide* RAM), and one male was seen at Eyak L., Cordova, Nov. 12 (PI), the first fall record in that area. Two pairs of Ring-necked Ducks arrived at Swan L., Sitka, Nov. 5 (CHJ), the Alaska wintering locality for this species. One Canvasback was observed at Womans Bay, Kodiak, Nov. 2 (L&JG), the first record for the island. A flock of seven at Sitka Nov. 5-10 (CHJ) were unusual at that locality. Two pairs of Hooded Mergansers arrived at Sitka Nov. 5 (CHJ), and one male at Eyak L., Cordova, from late October on was the only record of the species there this year (PI).

**COOTS, SHOREBIRDS** — One Am. Coot found on the Bartlett R., Nov. 4 is one of very few records for the Gustavus-Glacier Bay N.M. area (BBP). Five fall migrant coots arrived on Swan L., Sitka, Nov. 5 and remained in the area through at least the first of December (CHJ). The species has wintered in the latter area with some regularity. Twelve Semipalmated Plover

ers at Orca Inlet, P.W.S., Sept. 29 (PI) were the latest ever there by ten days. One **Mongolian Plover** observed at Buldir I., w. Aleutian Is., Aug. 15-18 (JLT & RD) is one of few fall records in the Region. Black-bellied Plovers are rare migrants in the Interior, so one bird at Fairbanks Sept. 10 & 13 (m.ob.) was of interest. Late records of this species included two birds at Kasilof Oct. 16 (MAM) and a flock of at least ten at Gustavus Oct. 23 (BBP). Another rare Interior migrant, a W Sandpiper was studied at Fairbanks Sept. 4 (DDG). Single first-fall peeps identified as Rufous-necked Sandpipers were seen at Buldir Aug. 13 & 18 (JLT & RD). There are few fall records in the Region of the species in this difficult-to-identify plumage. Two **Long-toed Stints** observed at Buldir Aug. 26-28 (JLT & RD) were the only fall report this year. One Baird's Sandpiper at Buldir Aug. 15 (JLT & RD) was the only one noted there, where the species is a rare fall migrant. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were reported first at St. Paul, three birds Aug. 28 (BFK). The species arrived at Kodiak Sept. 4, and an estimated 80 birds were seen at Womans, Middle, and Kalsin Bays Sept. 13. The last one at Kodiak this season was at Kalsin Bay Nov. 10 (RAM & WED). None was noted in the P W S -Copper River Delta [hereafter C.R.D.] area this fall (PI). At least one first-fall **Curlew Sandpiper** observed at Pt. Barrow Aug. 4-5 (RG & JPM) numbers among very few fall records of this species in Alaska, all on the Arctic coast. Single ♂ Ruffs were seen at Buldir Aug. 16 - Sept. 5 (JLT & RD) and at St. Paul Aug. 28-29 (BFK). Buff-breasted Sandpiper, another species for which there are few fall records in the Region, was noted at Pitt Pt., Arctic coast, up to ten birds Aug. 11-12, and at Pt. Barrow, eight birds Aug. 15-30 (RG). Stilt Sandpipers were also recorded at both Pitt Pt and Pt. Barrow, up to six birds Aug. 11-12 and up to four birds Aug. 14-20, respectively (RG). A Stilt Sandpiper studied at Cottonwood Pt., C.R.D., Sept. 13 (PI) is a first record for south-coastal Alaska. Two **Greenshanks** were seen at Buldir Sept. 4 (JLT & RD), the first fall record in Alaska and the sixth overall. An extralimital Lesser Yellowlegs was seen at St. Paul Aug. 28 (BFK), apparently the sixth Pribilof record. This species is an irregular visitant on the Bering Sea islands, beyond its taiga breeding range and not enroute to any known wintering areas. Regular in spring, Wood Sandpipers are scarce in fall; the only record this season was of at least three birds at Buldir Aug. 31 - Sept. 4 (JLT & RD). A maximum of three Polynesian Tattlers was seen at Buldir, where the species was noted regularly from Aug. 3 (early) through Sept. 5 (JLT & RD), and two or three Polynesians (of up to 40 tattlers present) were recorded at St. Paul Aug. 27-30 (BFK). The first fall records in Alaska of **Terek Sandpiper**, which species was not known at all in the state before 1973, were single birds observed at Buldir Aug. 26 - Sept. 2 (JLT & RD) and on the west coast of St. Lawrence I., Sept. 7 (PM; photo on file U.A.).

**GULLS** — A first-year Glaucous Gull at Fairbanks Oct. 21 (BK & DDG) provided one of few records for the Interior, where the species is a rare migrant on the large river systems. A casual visitant at the location, an ad Slaty-backed Gull was studied at length at Barrow

Aug. 10-17 (RG & JPM *et al.*). Thayer's Gull, a regular migrant on the n. Alaska coast, was rare at Pt Barrow from mid-August until freezeup in the third week of September (GJD & DDG *et al.*). There is almost no information on this species in Alaska between the Arctic coast and the Pacific wintering areas. Two ad. **California Gulls** were reported at Crawford Inlet, Baranof I., Oct. 19 (CHJ), the only s.e. Alaska record brought to our attention this year. Ring-billed Gulls were found at several south-coastal localities one bird at Cordova from mid-July through Sept. 28 (P&RI); one at Port Valdez Sept. 24 (PI & TJD), and another at Homer Oct. 5 (RD). A lone Black-headed Gull observed at Adak I., c. Aleutians, Oct. 27-28 (JLT) contributed the latest state record by over three weeks. It was also the only report this fall, at which season the species is not a regular visitant. A Red-legged Kittiwake seen at the Ugashik R. mouth, Alaska Pen. at the end of September (SRS) provided one of few Bristol Bay records. One Red-legged Kittiwake was observed in the Pacific, 50 mi. s. of Chignik Bay, Alaska Pen., Oct. 14 (RAM), and another was reported w. of this location, near the Sanak Is., in mid-September (*vide* RAM). Ross' Gull occurred early and in small numbers onshore in n. Alaska this fall. A small movement was noted Aug. 6-15, during which time maximum was six birds at Pt. Barrow Aug. 10 (RG), and few groups of more than 12 were seen onshore there later on. The species is rare along the Beaufort Sea coast, e. of Barrow, so scattered birds-of-the-year at Pitt Pt., Oliktok Pt., and Prudhoe Bay are of particular interest (RG,KB *et al.*).

**ALCIDS** — An extraordinary record was that of a Black Guillemot on a small lake at 4600 ft. in the *Alaska Range*, ca. 30 mi. w. of Paxson, Nov. 26 (JS). This bird was at least 450 mi. (720 km) inland from the nearest point in its fall and winter range — the Bering Sea pack ice, and it provides the first inland record of this species in Alaska. There are precedents for inland wandering of this bird in the Soviet Union, as far as 240 km from the sea (see Dement'ev *et al.*, *Birds of the Soviet Union*, Vol. 2, translation 1968). Crested Au-klets are uncommon pelagic visitants on the Chukchi Sea. Twelve birds on Elson Lagoon, Pt. Barrow, far north of the breeding range, Aug. 1-2 (RG) were thus of interest.

**DOVES, OWLS** — There were two records of Mourning Doves in south-coastal Alaska this fall: one bird at Cordova Oct. 14 (PI) and one on the Copper River Highway, e. of Cordova, Nov. 15 (*vide* PI). Hawk Owls were scarce in the Interior all year, and very few contributors mentioned having seen them at all this fall. One was reported at Kasilof, within the breeding range, Sept. 26 (MAM), and one was present at Gustavus, where the species only occurs in fall and winter, during October and November (BBP).

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — An **E. Kingbird** observed in the Potter Marsh area, Anchorage, Aug. 30 (AS) is only the second record for south-coastal Alaska. A W. Wood Pewee that spent the week Sept. 7-14 at Cordova (PI) may be the only September record for the state. Generally the last of the swallows to depart the

state, Barn Swallows were present in "scores" at Cordova until mid-September, and the latest records ever in the region were single birds at Cordova Oct. 1 (PI) and at Bartlett Cove, Glacier Bay, Oct. 11 (BBP).

**THRUSHES, WAGTAILS** — Late *Catharus* thrushes included single Hermit Thrushes at Juneau Oct. 11 (FG) and at Bartlett Cove Oct. 25 (BBP) and a Swainson's Thrush at Fairbanks during an Oct. 21 snow storm (FH,BK,DDG). Always few and far between, Townsend's Solitaires were reported from several localities this fall: single birds at Sanctuary R., Mt. McKinley N.P., Sept. 2 (WPN); Ester Dome, Fairbanks, Sept. 13 (GEH); and Cottonwood Pt., C.R.D., also Sept. 13 (PI). An ad. White Wagtail observed at Barrow Aug. 15 (RG & JPM) was the first n. Alaska occurrence of a fall visitor; heretofore it has been known only as a casual spring visitor on the coast n. of Cape Lisburne.

**WOOD WARBLERS, BLACKBIRDS** — An ad. ♂ Townsend's Warbler observed on the tundra at Pt. Barrow Sept. 16-17 (DDG & GJD) provided the first record of the species in n. Alaska. A N. Waterthrush seen at Cordova Sept. 14 (PI) was the latest on record in the P.W.S.-C.R.D. area and may have been the latest in the state. Very late Red-winged Blackbirds were three together at Eagle Beach, Juneau, Oct. 23 (FG) and a single bird studied closely at Anchorage Nov. 8 (JP; photos on file U.A.).

**FRINGILLIDS** — A lone ♂ **Brambling** closely observed in downtown Barrow Sept. 23-25 (MD & RG *et al.*) was listed as the first Alaska record of this rare migrant north of St. Lawrence Island. A casual migrant in s.e. Alaska, a single ♀ **Purple Finch** was well-described at a Juneau feeder Nov. 8 (FG). Single late Savannah Sparrows were recorded at Bartlett Cove Oct. 17 (BBP) and at Coho Nov. 3 (MAM). Three **Harris' Sparrows** that arrived at Juneau Nov. 10 were the only individuals recorded there this fall (RBW).

**CORRIGENDA** — Both of the following corrections relate to the 1975 nesting season column (AB: 29, No. 5). The date of the Barrow **Wood Sandpiper** was June 20, 1975, not July 20 as stated. The Attu I. record of 21 **Common Terns**, a result of observer-writer misunderstanding, must be deleted.

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## NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION /John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls

Heavy rains and high winds, particularly on the southwest and central Oregon coast the second week of November caused a marked incidence of windblown coastal and pelagic birds well inland into Lane and Douglas Counties. Weather patterns were otherwise nearly normal except for more than usual rainfall in the latter half of August.



**LOONS, GREBES, TUBENOSES, PELICANS** — Single and very early Yellow-billed Loons were found at Whidbey I., Wash., Sept. 13 (TW) and at Pt. Roberts, Wash., Oct. 19 (AS,KW, *vide* BK); another was at Eld Inlet in s. Puget Sound Nov. 28 (BE, *vide* GH). On Aug. 1 there were already 15 Arctic Loons in the n. Straits of Georgia at Campbell River, B.C. (HT); over 600 of these birds were at Active Pass in the Gulf Is., Nov. 26 (MS, *vide* VG). A few Red-necked Grebes were noted in the Straits of Georgia at Vancouver and at Campbell River in the first half of August; a concentration of 137 was near Victoria, B.C., Sept. 2 (RS, *vide* VG). More than 9000 W. Grebes were in the n. Straits of Georgia Oct. 20 (HT) and ca. 100 individuals were at Fern Ridge Res., Nov. 11 (LM).

Approximately 20 Black-footed Albatrosses were counted on each of three offshore trips from Westport, Wash., Aug. 17, 24 and Sept. 7 (TW). Northern Fulmars, however, were at a peak of 120 there Aug. 17, were down to 21 the following week, and on Sept. 7 were presented by only one (TW); two were seen at Westport, Nov. 9 (BT). Numbers of Pink-footed Shearwaters out of Westport started with 44 on Aug. 17, built to 62 the next week, and then jumped to 2286 on Sept. 7 (TW). A Flesh-footed Shearwater was seen out of Westport, Aug. 17, and three were seen Aug. 24 (TW). Between 8-10 New Zealand Shearwaters were

seen at sea Aug. 17 & 24, with 207 counted Sept. 7 (TW). The usual fall concentrations of Sooty Shearwaters were evidently missing this year, with "thousands" being mentioned only for Tillamook Sept. 6 (DF). A long-dead Short-tailed Shearwater was found at Westport, Sept. 13 (BT). More than 100 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were recorded off Westport Aug. 17 & Sept 7, but only a dozen were noted Aug. 24 (TW). The Aug. 17 boat trip turned up 66 Leach's Storm-Petrels, but on the following week, numbers were down to 13, with a single individual recorded for the Sept. 7 trip (TW).

#### S. A.

The storm system which moved inland Nov. 10 carried unprecedented numbers of Leach's Storm-Petrels with it into s. Oregon and the s. Willamette Valley, 100 and more miles inland; winds reached 145 m.p.h. at Cape Blanco, and exceeded 50 m.p.h. at inland points. At least 50 Leach's Storm-Petrels were picked up dead in the vicinity of Eugene and Cottage Grove where nearby Dorena Res. harbored 29 live birds immediately after passage of the storm. A dozen birds were found at Fern Ridge Res., Nov. 10, 17 birds were at Oakridge in the lower Cascades, and up to six birds were seen at Hills Creek Res., Dexter Res., at Roseburg, near Springfield, near Mapleton and along the Rogue R., near Grants Pass; a single bird was picked up alive from snow at 3000 ft. near Oakridge and was released at a lower elevation (TL,LM,SS *et al.*).

Brown Pelicans appeared on the Oregon coast in record numbers; 400 were estimated to be present in Tillamook Bay at times during August and September (*vide* HN); 250 birds were surveyed from Gold Beach s. to the California border, Aug. 17 (S&PS); 200 spent much of the fall at Yaquina Bay, where most of the birds were immatures (*vide* FR). Two Brown Pelicans were photographed at Neah Bay, Wash., Aug. 9 (BP,SR, *vide* PM).

HERONS, WATERFOWL — Three Cattle Egrets are said to have been at Coos Bay, Ore., for several days around Nov. 22 (HR). A single Cattle Egret was found near Saseenos, n. of Victoria, Nov. 23-36 (AW, V&MG *et al.*), at that place the first confirmed sighting for British Columbia was made two years earlier; another bird took up station about 3-1/2 miles away Nov. 24-29 (PEW, *vide* VG). Great Egrets continue to appear in increasing numbers; this fall northernmost occurrences were at Boundary Bay Oct. 3-8 (DA, MF, SV, *vide* BK), at Milnes Landing on s. Vancouver I., Nov. 11-12 (RF, *vide* VG) and at Ferndale, Wash., Sept. 14 & Nov. 12 (*vide* TW). All other sightings of Great Egrets were from twelve w. Oregon locations, with remarkable concentrations of 30 birds at Fern Ridge Res., Nov. 12 (LM), and of up to 140 birds at Coos Bay in October (HR, *vide* ACo). A Black-crowned Night Heron was

discovered at Grants Pass Nov. 17 (S&PS).

Up to 14 Trumpeter Swans were found at Campbell River (HT), at Milnes Landing, and at Upper Thetis L. on s. Vancouver I. (M&VG, MME, LR, MS *et al.*), and at L. Terrell, Whatcom Co., Wash. (TW), during November. An imm. Emperor Goose was at Willapa Bay for several days in early October before it was shot by a hunter Oct. 11; an adult was also there during October (JW, *vide* PM). A Ross' Goose was at Ankeny N.W.R., s. of Salem, from Nov. 1 to the end of the report period (DP, E&EE, *vide* FR).

A ♂ Eurasian Green-winged Teal was seen at Saanich, Nov. 15 (VG,RS). A pair of Cinnamon Teal was at Campbell River Aug. 27 (HT), and a very late one was at Reifel Refuge Nov. 4 (CR, *vide* VG). On Sept. 21, there were three Redheads at Nisqually N.W.R. (CS, *vide* PM); three were found at Seattle Nov. 15 (G&WH); and there were up to four at Cowichan, B.C., Nov. 10-18 (VG). A sub-adult Tufted Duck was found 2-1/2 miles offshore from Vancouver's Stanley Park Oct. 24, 26 & Nov. 2 (PMA, *vide* BK) It is curious that large numbers of Barrow's Goldeneyes consistently utilize the lake at Olympia's Capitol Park, a remarkable 1654 were counted there Nov. 13, but other counts in November never found fewer than 280 birds present (G&WH). A count of 200 Harlequin Ducks was made at Oak Bay, Victoria, Oct. 22 (MS, *vide* VG).

HAWKS, EAGLES, GAMEBIRDS — Migrating Turkey Vultures were much in evidence at Victoria Sept. 20-22; 45 were seen at Saanich Oct. 3 where a very late single bird was also observed Nov. 19 (VG *et al.*). A Turkey Vulture was still at Campbell River Oct. 29 (HT). An ad. White-tailed Kite appeared at Sauvie I., Oct. 3-10 (JB, RK, HN); the same or another was noted at Finley N.W.R., s. of Corvallis, Ore., Oct. 18 (B&KT, *vide* FR) and Nov. 26 (JA, RR, *vide* FR). Individual Goshawks were observed at four widely spaced locations in the Cascades from s. British Columbia s. to c. Oregon, at three lowland and at one coastal locations both in September and at the very end of the period. Aside from s. Vancouver I., there were 35 Sharp-shinned Hawk sightings from 18 locations between Campbell River and Grants Pass; 26 Cooper's Hawks were observed at 17 different localities. On s. Vancouver I., however, there were 40 reports for 53 Sharp-shinned and 26 reports for 28 Cooper's. Thus numbers for both species were about the same as 1974. Single Swainson's Hawks were noted at Crater Lake N.P., Aug. 19 and at Mt. Rainier N.P., Sept. 6 (CW). Rough-legged Hawks first appeared in the Vancouver area Sept. 24 and in Washington's North Cascades in early October.

Golden Eagles were noted three times in s.w. Oregon Sept. 13 - Nov. 23 (SS *et al.*), at Eugene Oct. 25 (IE, *vide* TL), in the San Juan Is., Oct. 18 (EH), and also three times on s. Vancouver I., Aug. 25 - Nov. 1. Twelve Bald Eagles were recorded for eight localities in w. Oregon and Washington during the report period, on s. Vancouver I. up to five birds would be found in a day's active birding August - November. Ospreys were reported with regularity on s. Vancouver I. until mid-October (VG); single birds were seen in Campbell



White-tailed Kite, Sauvie Is., Ore., Oct. 10, 1975.  
Photo/Ron Klein.

River, Oct. 10 (HT), at Deception Pass in Puget Sound Oct. 18 (EH), at Seattle Nov. 7-14 (D&JH, *fide* PM), at Ridgefield N.W.R. w. of Vancouver, Wash., Sept. 24 (DDS), at Tillamook, Oct. 18 (DF,HN), and near Corvallis, Nov. 29 (E&EE, *fide* FR). The only Gyrfalcon sighting this season was a dark phase bird found at Sea I, s. of Vancouver, Nov. 9 (W&HHe). A Prairie Falcon was at Mt. Rainier Sept. 11 (AC). Thirty-one sightings of Peregrines were made at fourteen localities from s. British Columbia to n. Oregon, which is slightly better than for 1974. Sixteen Merlin reports came from s. Vancouver I. and 13 sightings came from 11 other localities.

A ♂ Ring-necked Pheasant was observed at Courtenay, B.C., Nov. 17 (HT), near the northernmost limits of its range. On Sept. 4, 25 Sandhill Cranes flew s. over Cape Flattery (*fide* PM); two were at Victoria, Sept. 7 and 15 were there Sept. 17 (RS, *fide* VG); on Oct. 21, 300 birds were over Eugene (CW). Numbers of Sandhill Cranes were at Sauvie I. and Ridgefield N.W.R. through much of the fall (DDS); one was at Saanich Nov. 9 (MS,V&MG,J&DWi). Nine sightings of Virginia Rails were made in the Region during the period. Soras were noted in Vancouver Aug. 15-30 (BK) and at Seattle Aug. 16 & 31 (EG, *fide* PM) and Nov. 4 (EP, *fide* PM).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Snowy Plovers were reported only from LaPush, Wash., Sept. 14 (JWn) and from Honeyman S.P., near Florence, Ore., Sept. 27 (BT) — two individuals each. American Golden Plovers were recorded from Victoria s. to Bandon, Ore., and at six intervening coastal locations Aug. 23 - Nov. 9, the latter at Victoria (RS, *fide* VG). Maximum numbers were 60 birds in a day; a few were found at Iona I., Oct. 6 and at Sauvie I., Oct. 14. Long-billed Curlews were present from Ocean Shores s. to Tokeland, Wash., Aug. 15 (G&WH) - Nov. 9 (BT *et al.*), seven at the latter place on the late date; singles were also seen in the Bellingham-Anacortes area and at Victoria between those dates (*fide* VG,TW). Whimbrel were present at favored coastal points between Long Beach, Vancouver I., and Yaquina Bay, and around Puget Sound Aug. 14 Oct. 14; the 152 at Tokeland Aug. 16 (BT *et al.*) and

the 100 at Ocean Shores Aug. 15 (G&WH) were migratory concentrations. Lone Solitary Sandpipers were found this fall at Saanich Aug. 16 & 21 (V&MG,RS), at Seattle Aug. 23 (B&PEv, *fide* PM) and at Iona I., Aug. 31 (W&HHe, *fide* BK); however, at Ridgefield N.W.R., on the Columbia R., there were four present Aug. 16 (DF, *fide* HN) and five on Aug. 25 (TW). Eight Willets were at Yaquina Bay Sept. 7 (RB), one was at Coos Bay the next day, and 13 were at Bandon Sept. 16 (TL). Red Knots occurred at Victoria, at Iona I., and at nine coastal localities from Ocean Shores to Bandon Aug. 15 - Nov. 14, never exceeding eighteen at any one time. The earliest Rock Sandpiper of the season was one at Seal Rock, Ore., Sept. 13 (ACo). Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were reported in numbers up to three from different localities, including Campbell River (HT) and Yaquina Bay (RB), both new localities for this species, between Sept. 8 at Leadbetter Pt., Wash. (JBC) and Oct. 23 at Whidbey I., Wash. (NL). Pectoral Sandpipers passed through the Region Aug. 4 Oct. 4, peak counts being 60 birds on Oct. 4 at Iona I. (J&TI, *fide* VG) and Sept. 8 at Leadbetter Pt. (JBC). Baird's Sandpipers appeared again quite widely, from the Straits of Georgia, the Victoria area, Puget Sound, Sauvie I. and coastal points between Ocean Shores and Port Orford, Ore., in numbers up to 20; extreme dates were Aug. 2 - Sept. 21, both on s. Vancouver I. A Long-billed Dowitcher was recorded Sept. 21 at Campbell River, where it is said to be rare (HT); up to four Stilt Sandpipers were found at Iona I., Reifel Refuge, the fill near Aberdeen, and at Ridgefield N.W.R., Aug. 16 - Sept. 14. Up to four Semipalmated Sandpipers, were seen at Leadbetter Pt., Aug. 23 (HN), at Whidbey I., Aug. 25 (EH), at Iona I. Aug. 28 (MS, *fide* VG), at the Kent Valley sewage ponds s. of Seattle, Sept. 17 (EH) and around Victoria on four dates Sept. 11 - Oct. 14 (VG,RS *et al.*). Three imm. **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** were discovered Sept. 6 at the mouth of the Sixes R., Curry Co., Ore., and were still there Sept. 11; another was found Sept. 7 at Bandon (TL). These occurrences are further south on the Oregon coast than previous records known to us. Also on Sept. 6 an imm. Buff-breasted Sandpiper turned up at Ocean Shores (DP, *fide* TW; JWn, *fide* PM); an adult was found at Tillamook Sept. 19 (HN) and another was noted at Friendly Cove, Nootka I., B.C., Aug. 27 (J&DWi, *fide* VG). Marbled Godwits appeared in unprecedented concentrations, eclipsing those of last fall; high counts were 73 Sept. 6 at Tillamook (DF *et al.*), 70 at Coos Bay, Nov. 22 (BF, *fide* HR), 41 at Tokeland Aug. 16 (DC,DHa,BT), 30 at Leadbetter Pt., Nov. 29 (IB) but birds were also seen repeatedly at six other places throughout the period. A Hudsonian Godwit was seen at Reifel Refuge Aug. 28 - Oct. 11 (m.ob.); one was observed at Iona I., Sept. 1 & 11 (*fide* BK). Still another **Hudsonian Godwit** was found on the fill near Aberdeen Sept. 6-24 (G&WH *et al.*), the first record to our knowledge for the State of Washington. The Ruff which was present at Saanich July 31 remained two more days (VG *et al.*). Four Sanderlings on Fern Ridge Res. w. of Eugene, Nov. 10-14 (LM *et al.*) were obviously storm-blown vagrants, as were the eight Red Phalaropes there Nov. 11-16, and the one at Hills Creek Res., Nov. 10 (*fide* LM). A Wilson's Phalarope was at Vancouver Sept. 1 (BK) and at Salem Aug. 1 (RL). Up

to 60 N. Phalaropes were noted at Iona I., and at Tillamook in September, but Victoria recorded 2500 on Sept. 2; the last there were 100 on Sept. 19 (RS, *fide* VG)

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS — Jaeger occurrences for the boat trips from Westport (TW) were as follows:

	8/17	8/24	9/7
Pomarine	28	12	28
Parasitic	8	3	10
Long-tailed	1	5	55
Skua	7	3	7

The mid-November storms brought two Pomarines and three Parasitics to Fern Ridge Res., plus two of the latter to Dexter Res. and one more to Dorena Res. (LM *et al.*). The only other records for Pomarine Jaegers were of one at Vancouver Sept. 21 (BK) and one at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Sept. 6 (HN). Parasitic Jaegers, however, were seen in the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca, in Puget Sound all the way to Olympia and on the c. and s.w. coast of Washington to the Columbia R. from mid-August through Nov. 24 in numbers up to 25 per day! A Parasitic Jaeger was even seen following a plow in a field at Finley N.W.R., Aug. 31 (JG *et al.*)! The only additional record for a Long-tailed Jaeger was at Friday Harbor in Puget Sound, Oct. 18 (EH) and for Skua was one in the Straits of Georgia out from Tsawwassen, Oct. 6 (VG) and two 45 mi. off the c. Oregon coast Aug. 11 (DS).

A Glaucous Gull was at Yaquina Bay throughout November (FR,CW); one was seen at Victoria Oct. 14 (VG,RS). A huge concentration of 1000 Ring-billed Gulls was in a flooded field at Reifel Ref., Aug. 30 (KB, *fide* BK) and on Tillamook Bay Sept. 6 (DF). A Black-headed Gull appeared again at Victoria, being first discovered on Aug. 15 by John and Marian Steeves of Montreal; the bird was seen and photographed thereafter by many observers until Nov. 8 (VG *et al.*). A second Black-headed Gull appeared at Victoria Oct. 19 (MS,RS, *fide* VG) and also remained until Nov. 8 (MG, *fide* VG). A bird identified as a first year **Laughing Gull** was found Sept. 1 at the n. jetty of the Columbia R. (DDS,RSt,AWa), for the first supported Regional record known to us; De Sante has furnished two pages of detailed notes. Nehls saw a bird he was sure was an immature of this species at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., July 17, 1968, but he was alone at the time, so the record, although attested by a good description, has not heretofore been published. Eight Franklin's Gulls were seen at points from Campbell River to Olympia Aug. 9 - Nov. 13; singles were seen at the mouth of the Columbia R., Sept. 6 (HN), at Fern Ridge Res., Oct. 14 & Nov. 20 (DG,RF,LM) and near Gold Beach Nov. 15 (ACo,CJ). An estimated 1000 Bonaparte's Gulls were at Fern Ridge Res., Nov. 10-20 and 100 were at Oakridge in the lower Cascades, Nov. 11 (LM). Large numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls were seen on the s. Oregon coast, Nov. 15 (ACo,CJ), 400 were at Lincoln City, Ore., Oct. 25 (FS), and up to 200 were at Tillamook Bay Oct. 18 (HN). An estimated

5000 Bonaparte's Gulls were at Victoria Nov. 8-15 (VG,RS). Little Gulls were again discovered in the Region; an adult was at the Ocean Shores sewage ponds Sept. 21 (EH,DDS,BT,AWa); another was at Seattle Nov. 15 (EH,G&WH,DHn, *fide* PM). Oregon's first **Little Gull** was recorded by Harold Wierenga of Annapolis, Md. at Tillamook Bay Oct. 20 in company with about 100 Bonaparte's Gulls; the bird was found again at Bay City Nov. 4 (JB,JG,JJ). Black-legged Kittiwakes were prominent along the central and s.w. Washington coasts in September, 180 at the n. jetty of the Columbia R. (HN) Sept. 6 being the peak concentration; a few were seen in the Straits of Georgia and in Puget Sound during the period. From Nov. 10-14 four adult and one imm. Black-legged Kittiwakes were at Fern Ridge Res., where two individuals also were found dead (LM *et al.*). Between 4 and 13 Sabine's Gulls were seen on the three boat trips from Westport Aug. 17 - Sept. 7 (TW) and one was seen at Florence, Ore., Oct. 26 (CW). The mid-November storm brought single birds to Fern Ridge Res., Nov. 10-17, (LM *et al.*), to Eugene, Nov. 10 (ACo, *fide* LM), and caused one to be killed by a car in Douglas Co., Ore. (*fide* LM).

Common Terns were recorded in unusually high numbers in the s. portion of the Region from mid-August through the third week of October with nine reports of 40-200 individuals in a day, the top counts all from Victoria. Late records were single birds observed at Vancouver, Nov. 1-2 (BK), seven birds at Victoria Nov. 16 (RS), and three birds at Fern Ridge Res., Nov. 10 (LM). Brian Kautesk has furnished a detailed account of a black-billed, grey-black legged imm. Com. Tern found in Vancouver Harbor with other Com. Terns Sept. 20; he observed it at less than 80 ft with 10 X binoculars in sunshine, later concluded it was very likely the Siberian race, Nordmann's Tern, *Sterna hirundo longipennis*. Arctic Terns were seen Aug. 3 - Sept. 27 from Campbell River s. to Yaquina Bay, maxima being 170 off Westport Sept. 7 (TW) and 30 at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Sept. 6 & 13 (HN). A Caspian Tern was at Vancouver Aug. 23 (BK), the most — 200 — were at Leadbetter Pt., Aug. 16, and the latest (two) at Tillamook Bay Oct. 18 (HN *et al.*) A Black Tern was seen at Seattle Sept. 3 (WB, *fide* PM), and two Black Terns were found at N. Vancouver Oct. 4 (IM,GM, *fide* BK).

A nest of the Pigeon Guillemot was discovered on Aug. 4 in a Vancouver park, on a rock ledge ten feet above a much-used walkway (BK). Pigeon Guillemots could be found regularly in the vicinity of Victoria until November, after which only scattered singles and couples were observed; the peak count was 88 on Sept. 2 (RS, *fide* VG). Joseph R. Jehl, Jr. writes that in mid-August at Siltcoos State Beach, about 10 mi. n. of Reedsport, Ore., he picked up a dead **Craveri's Murrelet**; the bird was an adult male. The species has not previously been known to occur n. of Monterey, Calif.

Two Ancient Murrelets were recorded Sept. 14, Oct. 3 & 13 at Victoria (RS, *fide* VG); during November up to 15 birds were noted around Victoria (VG). Up to 60 Cassin's Auklets were observed off Westport on three boat trips Aug. 17 - Sept. 7 (TW); one was seen at Victoria Oct. 7 (J&DWi,EC, *fide* VG). Rhinoceros Auklets were seen intermittently at Victoria after Aug.

9, peak numbers for a day between 5 and 41 (MS,RS, *fide* VG). Counts out of Westport, Aug. 17, 24 and Sept. 27 varied between 21 and 326 (TW); 60 were in s. Puget Sound Aug. 13 (BT), and five were at Newport Sept. 7 (FR). Eleven Tufted Puffins were seen out of Westport Aug. 24 (TW) and nine were at Cape Meares Aug. 30 (DF,HN).

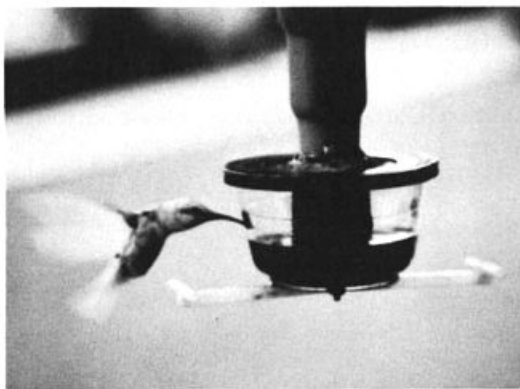
**OWLS THROUGH SHRIKES** — A Snowy Owl was seen in a logged area at 2000 ft. e. of Bellingham Oct. 30 (DB, *fide* TW) and one was at the Samish Flats Nov. 22 (TW). One was at Ocean Shores Nov. 23 (G&WH); three were at Ladner, B.C., by the end of November (BK). A Burrowing Owl was seen at the Eugene airport Oct. 12 and three were there Oct. 27 (LM). A Barred Owl was found at Manson's Landing, Vancouver I., Sept. 19 (M&TS,GS, *fide* VG). Thirty Short-eared Owls were at Nisqually N.W.R. in the last week of October (*fide* BT); small numbers were fairly widespread s. to Coos Bay after early October. Approximately 200 Com. Nighthawks were hawking for insects with Bonaparte's Gulls at Fulford Harbor, Saltspring I., B.C., Sept. 4 (*fide* VG). Up to a dozen Black Swifts were seen at various dates in the latter two-thirds of August n. of Victoria (V&MG,RS *et al.*); a few were seen in n. Washington during the last ten days of August (*fide* PM). On Aug. 30 there were 100 Vaux's Swifts at Tillamook (DF,HN). The species was surprisingly common at Portland in September and the first few days of October where over 1000 roosted in a chimney (*fide* DDS); five were rather late at Dexter Res., Lane Co., Ore., Oct. 12 (TL).

Portland and Coos Bay seemed to be the center for Anna's Hummingbirds, with at least six recorded at the former and "many" at the latter through much of the fall; up to five birds were at Corvallis (FR), Eugene hosted one in late September and on Oct. 13 two were at Seattle Oct. 4 (EH,PM), and 1-2 were at a feeder in Saanich through the period (V&MG). A Calliope Hummingbird was at Eugene Aug. 11 (CW).

Four Acorn Woodpeckers were seen n.w. of Salem Nov. 30 (FS). Lewis' Woodpeckers were virtually unreported, only four sightings having been mentioned, three from a 110-mile stretch of the Columbia R. valley and the other from Alsea, Ore., Sept. 5 - Nov. 15.

Individual E. Kingbirds were recorded at Samish I., Wash., Aug. 26 and at Skagit Game Range Aug. 31 (NL); another was noted at Victoria Sept. 1 (M&BMe, *fide* VG). A Say's Phoebe was on Chehalem Mt., near Newberg, Ore., Nov. 2 (HP). Young W. Wood Pewees were still in the nest at Salem Sept. 1 (TM, *fide* RL) where a bird of this species was still present Oct. 13 & 15 (RL).

An exceedingly late pair of Violet-green Swallows was seen in downtown Vancouver, Nov. 9 (BM, *fide* BK). A Tree Swallow was still at Campbell River, Nov. 2 (HT) and another was at Scappoose Nov. 17 (HN). Up to six Bank Swallows were noted in the Frazer R. delta Aug. 15, Sept. 23-24 (BM, *fide* BK, VG). Barn Swallows were seen this year at Sauvie I. Nov. 10 and near Ladner Nov. 26. The second nesting of Purple Martins at Fern Ridge Res. was 90% successful; 120 birds were there and 60 were on Sauvie I., in mid-August (TL). Up to 35 birds were at the



*Rufous Hummingbird (male, albino), Ashland, Ore. Aug. 30, 1975. Photo/V.F. Zauskey.*

colony near the Portland airport in September, the last date being Sept. 21 (TL,HP). A pair of Purple Martins fledged four young at Olympia Sept. 1 and were gone five days later (G&WH). Up to seven Gray Jays were found 15 mi. s.e. of Olympia Oct. 31 & Nov. 2 (G&WH). A Blue Jay was again found at N. Saanich Nov. 6 and it remained at least to mid-November (JWi *fide* VG). A Black-billed Magpie was on Cortez I. B.C., Oct. 25 (HT), one was seen at Glacier, Wash. Oct. 2 and another was at Bellingham Oct. 31 (*fide* TW). Sixteen Com. Ravens were at Ankeny N.W.R., s. of Salem, Sept. 1 (JG) and two were in Portland Aug 11 (DF). Single Clark's Nutcrackers showed up at surprisingly scattered lowland locations, mostly in late October, but also in November; six such reports were received from Vancouver s. to Newport, Ore.

A White-breasted Nuthatch was found at Olympia, where it is extremely rare, Sept. 14 (G&WH). Two Wrentits were seen at Finley N.W.R., Nov. 1 (MJ,FR). A House Wren was at Burnaby L., B.C., where it is always rare, on the late date of Oct. 11 (BK). A Rock Wren was found at Mt. Douglas, Saanich, Nov. 4 (JWi *et al.*); two were there Nov. 17 and one was still present Nov. 29 (*fide* VG). Mockingbirds appeared at Crescent Beach, B.C., Nov. 15 (*fide* BK) and at Corvallis Nov. 21 (*fide* FR). A ♀ Mountain Bluebird was seen at Campbell River Nov. 1 (HN), and another was found at Qualicum Beach, B.C., Nov. 11 (VG,RS); 12 were at Hills Creek Res., near Oakridge, Ore., Oct. 12 (TL). Single Townsend's Solitaires were recorded s. of Alsea, Oct. 26 (*fide* DM), at Sauvie I., Nov. 16 (DF), and at Seattle Nov. 17 (MP, *fide* PM). On Oct. 12 at 5500 ft. in the N. Cascades 35 Bohemian Waxwings were seen and on Nov. 23 six were at the Lummi Flats near Bellingham (JD, *fide* TW). A single Bohemian Waxwing was found at Corvallis Nov. 21 (ASK, *fide* FR). Northern Shrikes appeared at scattered locations in late October and early November; five at Nisqually N.W.R., Oct. 19 (BT) were in the vanguard, with one at Victoria Oct. 7 (J&DWi, *fide* VG) the earliest.

**VIREOS, WARBLERS, BLACKBIRDS** — A Red eyed Vireo was seen in Vancouver Aug. 31 (BK) and two were at Campbell River Sept. 6 (HT). An imm **Black-and-white Warbler** was found at the s. jetty of



the Columbia R., Aug. 13 (HN) providing the first w. Oregon record of this species; another individual was discovered at Ilwaco, Wash., across the Columbia, Oct. 12 (B&PEV, *vide* PM). Two ♂ **Tennessee Warblers** were seen well at Victoria's Beacon Hill Park Aug. 24 (RS *vide* VG); providing what is apparently the first record for Vancouver I. Three Nashville Warblers at Ocean Shores Aug. 15 and one at Ocean City S.P., Sept. 19 (G&WH) were additions to the very few occurrences on the Washington coast in migration. Two Hermit Warblers were at Cape Blanco, Curry Co., Ore., Sept. 16 (TL). Palm Warblers were found at Victoria Nov. 20 (BH, *vide* VG), at Ocean Shores where *three* were present Nov. 28 (BT), at Ocean Park on the Long Beach peninsula, Wash., Sept. 24 & Oct. 6 (IB), at Toledo, Ore., Sept. 22 (DFa), and at Yaquina Bay Nov. 18-20 (RO, *vide* FR). A ♀ or imm. Am. Redstart was at Cape Blanco Sept. 12; the next day there were 5-8 present (TL); one was also at Vancouver on the late date of Nov. 29 (MF, *vide* BK).

Three Bobolinks were found at Yaquina Bay Sept. 26 (DFa, BL, *vide* FR); one was there again Oct. 18 (BL *et al.*, *vide* FR). A ♀ Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen at the Westport jetty, Aug. 31 (EH); an imm. male was at Saanich Nov. 24 (RMG, *vide* VG). A dead N. Oriole was brought in by a dog Nov. 17 at Bellingham (TW)! On Oct. 11, there was a pair of Rusty Blackbirds at Saanich (VG, RS); a male was seen there Nov. 24 (JW<sub>1</sub>, *vide* VG).

**TANAGERS, FINCHES AND SPARROWS** — A late Black-headed Grosbeak was at Sauvie I., Oct. 14 (JG) Two ♀ Pine Grosbeaks were found at Manning P P., Oct. 3 (VG); there were three observations of individuals at Vancouver in late November (*vide* BK) and on s. Vancouver I. there were four sightings of up to 20 individuals Sept. 1 - Nov. 24 (*vide* VG). Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were seen at Bellingham Nov. 17 (JD, *vide* TW) and Nov. 22 when 20 birds were present (TW). Several sightings of Gray-crowned Rosy Finches also occurred at Vancouver and vicinity in November (*vide* BK); five were at Victoria Nov. 18 (JW<sub>1</sub> *et al.*, *vide* VG). On Nov. 28 two birds of the latter species and two Com. Redpolls were noted at Mt. Lazar, 8 mi. w. of Shawnigan L., s. Vancouver I. (BH, KTa, *vide* VG). Two Com. Redpolls were discovered at Snoqualmie Pass, e. of Seattle, Nov. 29 (DF). Many observers commented on the prominence and numbers of Pine Siskins sporadically throughout the Region. A **Lark Bunting** was found and photographed at W Vancouver Oct. 5, for the first coastal record for British Columbia (IM, BK). An imm. **Grasshopper Sparrow** was photographed in c. Saanich Oct. 8 (JW<sub>1</sub>, EC, *vide* VG) apparently providing the first Vancouver I. record of this species. A Vesper Sparrow was seen at Excelsior Ridge near Mt. Baker in n. Washington Sept. 11 (K&JWs, *vide* TW). On Nov. 8 a **Gray-headed Junco** was discovered and photographed by Neil Dawe at Qualicum Beach, Vancouver I.; it was seen on Nov. 10 by the Goodwills and Leila Roberts; it

is the first of the species recorded for British Columbia Two Tree Sparrows were recorded at Reifel Refuge, Nov. 26 (MS, *vide* VG); singles were found at Vancouver Oct. 12 & 18 (BK) and at Samish I., Wash., Nov. 14 (NL). Individual Harris' Sparrows were observed at Vancouver Oct. 12 & 19 (BK), at Scappoose Nov. 27 (JG *et al.*), and at Cottage Grove Nov. 28 (A&LWn, *vide* LM). White-throated Sparrows were noted at eight locations from Vancouver to Coos Bay Sept. 27 - Nov. 30. An early Lapland Longspur was at Iona I., Aug. 23 (BM, *vide* BK); during September up to 45 were seen at six localities from Ocean Shores to Bandon; the only October records were from Ocean Shores twice (with a maximum of 50), Campbell River and Blaine, Wash. In November, longspurs were seen at Seattle and in the vicinity of Bellingham. Snow Buntings were recorded at Campbell River Nov. 2 (HT), and at Iona I. Nov. 27 (VG), in the Bellingham area Nov. 4 & 6 (*vide* TW), and at Ocean Shores Nov. 28 (G&WH).

**OBSERVERS** — John Annear, Dick Asher, Ward Beecher, Dan Beighle, John Biewener, Ken Boyce, Robert Buchanan, Irving Burr, Arthur Campbell, Ernest Carhart, Alan Contreras (ACo), Deborah Cornett, John B. Crowell, Jr., A.R. Davidson, Dave DeSante (DDS), David and Mary Dudley, Jim Duemmel, E. & Elsie Eltzroth, Betty Estes, Bob and Pat Evans (B&PEv), Ianto Evans, Ben Fawver, Darrel Faxon (DFa), David Fix, Mike Forra, R. Fowler, Dan Gleason, Eugene Gerzenstein, Jeff Gilligan, Vic & Margaret Goodwill, Al Grass, John and Darcy Halloran, Dudley Harrington (DHn), Bob Hay, Dave Hayward (DHa), Werner and Hilda Hesse (W&HHe), Glen and Wanda Hoge, Eugene Hunn, John and Theresa Ireland, Martin Jacobson, Chip Jobanek, John Johnson, Brian Kautesk, Ron Klein, Gary Lee, Norman Lavers, Brad Livezey, Robert Lucas, Tom Lund, Bruce MacDonald, Don MacDonald, Greg MacDonald, Ian MacDonald, Peter Marshall (PMA), Phil Mattocks, R. MacKenzie-Grieve (RMG), Tom McCamant, Larry McQueen, Michael and Barbara Meiklejohn (M&BMc), Harry Nehls, Robert Olson, Bob Paine, E. Peaslee, Michael Perrone, Dave Potter, Hubert Prescott, Bill Rae, Fred Ramsey, Bill Reichert (BRe), Hilda Reiher, Steve Rissing, Leila Roberts, Richard Rodgers, Craig Runyan, Glen Ryder, Ron Satterfield, Allen Schultz, Floyd Schrock, Michael and Theresa Shepard, Carole Sheridan, David Simon, G. Sick, Aaron Skirvin (ASk), Rich Stallcup (RSt), Steve and Priscilla Summers, Keith Taylor (KTa), Howard Telosky, Bruce and Kathy Thompson, Bill Tweit, Steve Vida, Terrence Wahl, Ken Walton, Art Wang (AWa), Clarice Watson, Joe Welch, Ardiel Wickheim, Keith and Jan Wiggers (K&JWs), John Wingfield (JWn), Mrs. P.E. Wilford, Jack and Dorothy Williams (J&DWi), Al and Linda Winters (A&LWn) — **JOHN B. CROWELL, JR., 1185 Hallinan Circle, Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034 and HARRY B. NEHLS, 2736 S.E. 20th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97202.**

## MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION /Rich Stallcup and Jon Winter

Once again, a dry and balmy fall delayed departures of some typically summer birds and created very pleasant days for migrant watching along the coast. Waterfowl were late arriving in the Central Valleys (below C.V.) because of open water and food availability to the north. Those which did arrive during the period were concentrated on refuges and gun clubs, rather than being widespread. Unless some measurable rain soon comes to California to oxygenate standing water we may again expect outbreaks of botulism and fowl cholera, possibly in epidemic proportions.

Four species new to the region were found. They were Streaked Shearwater, Red-footed Booby, Mississippi Kite and Common Grackle.

All observations for the Farallon Islands (below F.I.) are to be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory.

An asterisk means that that observer has submitted an acceptable written description or photograph.



**LOONS, GREBES** — Common Loons (5) at Topaz L. and Bridgeport L. (3) Nov. 2 were gone by Nov. 27 (RS *et al.*). Ten others were found inland. Eight Arctic Loons found at mountain lakes and on the Sacramento R. doubled all previous inland records. They were: Oct. 19 - Nov. 30 at Redding (SAL,RS), Oct. 22-24 at Red Bluff (SAL,RS), Nov. 1 at Tule L. (BED), Nov. 2 at Topaz L. (DE,RS,JL,DRu), Nov. 12 at Collins L., Yuba Co. (RS,GM), Nov. 14 Modoc Refuge (RS,SAL *et al.*), Nov. 16 at L. Shastina (RS,SAL *et al.*) and Nov. 23 at Silver L., Mono Co. (TH). At least five of these are first county records. At Limantour, 55 on Sept. 4 were early fall arrivals. Another rare diver inland, the Red-necked Grebe, was carefully observed at Donner L. Nov. 23 (L. Ballard\*). Contrary to popular belief, Horned Grebes are very regular at lakes in foothills bordering the C.V. and inland in the n. counties. They often outnumber Eared Grebes through late November; 87 were reported there including a careful count of 38 on L. Shastina, Nov. 16 when only six

Eareds could be found (RS,SAL *et al.*). The usual "millions" of Eared Grebes on Mono L. Nov. 1 (RS,DE,JL,DRu) had nearly all departed by Nov. 30 (RS,JW *et al.*). A downy young W. Grebe at Tule L. Oct. 31 (BED) may be our mascot for this mild season.

**TUBENOSES** — Usual Black-footed Albatross numbers were noted from September through November with the high 15 counted to 25 mi. off Humboldt Bay Oct. 5 (TS,DRu *et al.*). A single Laysan Albatross was seen within 25 mi. of Humboldt Bay Nov. 16 (*vide* TS,DRu). Fifty N. Fulmars off Humboldt Nov. 1 (TS *et al.*) indicate a probable big winter for the species along the coast. A **Streaked Shearwater** (*Calonectris leucomelas*) was collected from a mixed flock of shearwaters on Monterey Bay Oct. 3 (V. Merejohn, *vide* BGE). This is, of course, the first record for California and probably for the e. Pacific. We may expect details to be published elsewhere. The only Flesh-footed Shearwaters reported were singles at Monterey Bay Sept. 27 (FAS,TL,DS) and 18 mi. w. of Eureka Oct. 5 (TS,RLeV *et al.*). As last fall, New Zealand (Buller's) Shearwaters were in good evidence and 600-800 in Monterey Bay Oct. 5 (TC,SFB,HLC) was the high estimate. An early Short-tailed Shearwater was seen near the F.I. Nov. 9 (TC\*,M.A.S.). Also early were Manx Shearwaters on Monterey Bay: one on Oct. 4 (C.F.O.) and two there Oct. 5 (G.G.A.S.). Two Fork-taileds were with the usual storm-petrel flocks on Oct. 5, 7 mi. w. of Moss Landing (TC,HLC). High estimates of storm-petrels off Moss Landing were: Ashy 5300, and Black 2700 on Oct. 12 (A.B.A.,RS). It is very difficult to estimate total numbers or species here as loose flocks are spread out over miles of ocean. Most observers agree that almost 10,000 individual birds were present this fall from mid-September to late October. Two or three Wilson's Storm-Petrels were seen in the flocks on Oct. 4 (C.F.O.) and Oct. 5 (G.G.A.S., M.D.A.S.) which is usual.

**PELICANS THROUGH HERONS** — Hurray! Brown Pelicans were present this fall in bigger numbers nearly everywhere on the coast with many (40-60%) immatures. At Honey L., 150 Double-crested Cormorants seemed high Sept. 12 (RS,GM). On Rte 37 through Napa and Solano Counties, Double-cresteds nested late on high power poles. On Sept. 6, 33 nests were occupied and young were still present on nests in mid-November. This seems to be a new (or temporary) location for nesting (LCB,BDP,RS,m.ob.). Before this period, the **Red-footed Booby** had not been recorded in the e. Pacific north of Mexico. This fall, however, two individuals visited the F.I., one of which came from a known subspecific population. The first, on Aug. 26 was captured by hand, banded and measured and was *Sula sula websterii*. The second, only seen flying by on Oct. 12 may have been *S.s. rubripes* of the Pacific population. Details on the first bird are in the *P.R.B.O. Newsletter December 1975: number 36* and details on the second are on file with the authors. Since boobies of all species are known for riding the rigging of ships, it is possible that one or both of these birds was a ship-board hitchhiker.

Another 100+ colony of Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets was destroyed in August by wood-chippers. The herony was on "private property" along Butte Creek about 1.5 mi. upstream from its confluence with the Sacramento R. in Sutter County. About 100 acres of dense, prime riparian habitat, known also to support the rare Yellow-billed Cuckoo was severely disrupted. Riparian habitat, now a mere relict of its former area, is very rapidly disappearing in both the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys of California as well as from countless other creek and river borders in North America. The wealth of flora and fauna in the riparians is nowhere equalled in the temperate zones and can only be compared to the tropics. There is still some of this beautiful habitat obtainable in California but if the money doesn't get together with the spirit soon ....say goodbye. (RS,JS).

Three Great and one Snowy Egrets at Tule L. Nov. 15 (RS,SS *et al.*) were late and again reflect mild conditions. The 44 Cattle Egrets reported were slightly above average. Only eight of these were inland including one at Modoc Ref. Nov. 14 (RS,GM,SAL,IL), a first county record. All were in November — the month for the species in this Region. Two Least Bitterns were seen at Gray Lodge Aug. 11 (SAL,PL,JH). Gray Lodge is the best place and late summer the best time to find this bird anywhere in the Region. Three Am. Bitterns together at Arcata Nov. 18 (DRu) was high for that locale. White-faced Ibis usually rare on the coast were noted as follows; one at Crespi Pond Sept. 14 (TS,JM), five at the Salinas R. mouth Oct. 10 (WR,RS), 12 flying SW over Moss Landing Oct. 11 (RS,A.B.A.), one at Moss Landing and one at the Salinas R. mouth Oct. 31 (VR,JM,DR). A single bird near Los Banos Nov. 23 (AE) was slightly early at this regular wintering locality.

**WATERFOWL** — Again this fall very few Whistling Swans were reported w. of the Sierras or s. of the Cascades. Six adults, ten immatures on L. Tahoe (WS,KK) and seven adults, seven immatures on Mono L. (RS,AC *et al.*) were at interesting locations.

Birders who care for more than just the list, may derive great pleasure and at the same time help save rare animal populations by noting field-identifiable subspecies. At least five easily recognizable forms of "Canada" Geese occur each winter in this region and among these are many of the very rare "Aleutian" Goose with a world population of less than 1000 birds. Because government agencies and birders were discriminating between the races and located actual wintering grounds for these birds, much of the w. side of the Sacramento Valley was closed to shooting of any Canada Geese for the entire season. Find out what identifiable races of our birds actually occur here and where they come from. Your birding joys will be greatly expanded.

Five Black Brant were with "Cackling" Geese at Tule L. Nov. 9, 10 (BED). Brant are very rare inland in this Region. White-fronted Geese arrived at Suisun Sept. 24 (BG) and at Gray Lodge Sept. 30 (BED). It is possible that these early arrivals are of the rare and poorly understood race known as "Tule Geese" (*A. a. gambelli*). The main flight of Snow Geese arrived at

Gray Lodge on the night of Nov. 10 when 22,000 there swelled to 138,000 (BED). Unlike last year when virtually no immatures were among the flocks, gray juveniles were very apparent this fall, sometimes exceeding 50% of the total (RS,BED,m.ob.). Two pink-dyed Snows from Siberia were at Sacramento N.W R. Nov. 20-26 (RS,SAL,LB), and two "Blue" Geese were at Gray Lodge Nov. 11 (BED). At least 18,000 Ross' Geese were at Gray Lodge Nov. 11 (BED), including many immatures.

According to the government agencies' September Waterfowl Inventory 1,278,000 ducks were tallied, which was an increase of 54% over last year and the highest population since 1960. Away from refuges, very little water had yet been spread on agricultural lands in the north, but the largest numbers at this time were on pre-irrigation water being pumped to fields in the Tulare Lake Basin. By Nov. 5, over 4,320,000 ducks were tallied by California Department of Fish and Game (below C.F.G.), 1,091,660 of which were on San Luis Reservoir. By the week of Nov. 19, over 5,104,000 ducks were present but with some more waters available in the C.V., the San Luis Reservoir number was down to 930,000.

Single Fulvous Tree Ducks were at Neary's Lagoon Oct. 6 (EM,RM) and at Grizzly I. Oct. 29 where one was shot by a hunter for the second refuge record (BG). Another Mallard X Gadwall was seen at Tule L. Nov. 10 (BED). At Limantour, 265 Gadwall on Nov. 25 was the season high there (P.R.B.O.). On Aug. 13 the first Pintail migrants arrived at Gray Lodge and on Aug. 18 the first Green-winged Teal (BED). European Wigeon arrived at Gray Lodge Sept. 30 (BED) and usual numbers (six) were reported from the coast (m.ob.) A single male was seen Oct. 1 at Tahoe Keyes (WS\*). First migrant Am. Wigeon were at Gray Lodge Sept. 15 (BED). Wood Ducks were seen in good numbers including 12 at two places near S.L. Tahoe where none could be found last year (WS).

In Southside Park, Sacramento, only five Ring-necked Ducks had returned by the end of the period "In the 1950s, November would see 60-100 on this lake. The freeway (I-80) cut two-thirds off of the area" (BK). Greater Scaup were found inland at seven locations as follows; three all fall at Chico (RS, m.ob.), Oct. 12, Little Indian Res., Lake Co. (TL), Oct. 22 - Nov. 30, Redding (SAL,RS), Oct. 22 Red Bluff (SAL,RS), Oct. 26, three Lewiston L., Trinity Co (PL,SAL), Nov. 2 one pair Topaz L. (RS,JL,DE,DRu) and three Nov. 15 Tule L. (SS,SAL,RS *et al.*). Our abilities to identify these birds, not their actual rhythm of occurrence has changed. Common Goldeneye were late in arriving and only eight Barrow's have been reported thus far. Buffleheads arrived at Gray Lodge Oct. 14, were "very common" at Tule L. in mid-November (BED) and clearly "up over previous years" in the Shasta Valley (MT *et al.*). Nine Oldsquaws were found including three inland. One was shot at Tule L. Nov. 14 (*fide* BED), one photographed there Nov. 22-24 (MT,RE\*) and one was at L. Christopher, El Dorado Co. Nov. 22-30 (WS\*,KK,GC). They are very rare inland but were perhaps slightly overshadowed by six Harlequin Ducks at Oroville Oct. 25 (PL,SAL). Harlequins formerly (and perhaps still) bred on rushing Sierra streams but have not been reported inland in

California for many years. These birds were thought to be a female and five young. An imm. ♂ King Eider was shot by a hunter Nov. 19 at the Eel R. mouth (*vide* TS). Four White-winged and four Surf Scoters were found inland, many more than normal. White-wingeds: Nov. 6-30 at Redding (RS,SAL,m.ob.), Nov. 7 at L. Mendocino (C.F.G., *vide* OJK), Nov. 15 at Tule L., Modoc Co (*vide* RS) and Nov. 22 at Tahoe Keyes (JR\*). Surfs: Oct 26, two females at Lewiston L. (PL,SAL), Nov. 2 at Heenan L., Alpine Co. (RS,DE,JL,DRu) and Nov. 9 at Greenhorn Res., 2 mi. s. of Yreka (RE, *vide* MT\*). Two Red-breasted Mergansers were at Tahoe Keyes Nov 22 (JR) & 24 (WS,KK,GC).

**RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES** — Fifty Turkey Vultures were seen "running and jumping after yellow and white butterflies" at Zamora, Yolo Co., Aug. 11 (SAL,PL). Hundreds of southbound migrants were seen mid-September to early October (m.ob.). An imm. **Mississippi Kite** was seen 3 mi. e. of Cape Mendocino atop Cape Ridge Sept. 6 (Clow\* *et al.*). It was watched for hours as it captured and ate dragonflies while hanging on the breeze. This is the first Regional record. White-tailed Kites continue to do very well and 75 at Merced N.W.R. Sept. 17 (BED) and 31 at the Salinas R mouth Oct. 11 (A.B.A.,RS) were high counts. Fourteen Goshawks were reported, all from usual mountainous haunts. Sharp-shinned Hawk (133), Cooper's Hawk (116) and unidentified accipiters (35) passed Pt. Diablo during 15 hours of observation Sept. 4 - Nov. 5 (LCB). Actual numbers passing in an entire fall must be very large. "High Voltage" the Ft. Barry albino Red-tailed Hawk has returned for its seventh consecutive winter (WMP *et al.*) and 91 Red-taileds passed Marin Headlands during 15 hours of observation this fall (LCB). Only ten Red-shouldered Hawks but 14 Broad-winged Hawks were noted at Pt. Diablo this fall (LCB *et al.*). A single imm. Broad-winged was seen at the Stockton Airport Oct. 29 (BGE\*) for the Region's first inland record. At least 45 Swainson's Hawks were reported, including four from the coast. One at Bodega Head Sept 13 (BDP,GLB,LCB) was the first Sonoma County record. Rough-legged Hawks were said by most observers to be "way down", "very low" or "quite scarce", with only 31 reported. Twenty-one Ferruginous Hawks were reported; singles Oct. 13-16 at Capetown (m.ob., *vide* TS) and Oct. 18 in the Eel R. Bottoms (PS) were the first Humboldt County records. One at Sacramento Nov. 27 was eating a Burrowing Owl (*vide* BK) and one at Etna, Siskiyou Co. was thought to be a bird wintering for the fifth consecutive year (MT). Sixty-five Golden Eagles and 82 Bald Eagles were reported including 63 on the ice at Tule L. Nov 30 (J&SL). Prairie Falcons 45, Merlins 21, and Peregrines 13 were encouraging numbers, being slightly above, in each case, the five-year average.

Four Turkeys were near Millville, Trinity Co., Aug. 18 (BKl). Blue Grouse were noted at Tioga Aug. 11 (AE), in the S. Warner Wilderness Area (three males) Aug 1 (SS,SAL *et al.*) and at Mineral King (7) Sept. 28 (*vide* RH). A pair of Ruffed Grouse at Orick Aug. 4 (*vide* TS) and one at Prairie Creek S.P. (DRu,KT) were the only ones seen. A ♀ and five imm. Sage Grouse were at 11,200 ft. in the White Mts. Aug. 4 (MC).

Sandhill Cranes were seen flying S over Gray Lodge Sept. 21 (BED) and Sacramento (BK) and by Nov 8 at least 1100 were at Thornton (RS,GM,BBe).

**SHOREBIRDS** — A color-banded Black Oystercatcher at Pt. Pines Nov. 23 (B&CY) had most likely flown to the mainland from the F.I. Twenty-five Semipalmated and no Snowy Plovers were seen inland. American Golden Plover numbers were above average with 61 reported and more than usual Black-bellied Plovers were noted in the C.V., frequenting the little available damp ground. A Ruddy Turnstone was at Clovis Sept. 14 (RH,KH,BW) for the first fall Fresno County record. Two Long-billed Curlews with two Whimbrels were near Tahoe Keyes Aug. 7 (WS\*) Seven Solitary Sandpipers were reported, all in late August and September, three from the coast, three from the C.V. and one from Honey L. A Wandering Tattler was well photographed near L. Winnemucca, Alpine Co. Aug. 24 for the Region's first inland record (JaW\*,PB). At Tahoe Keys 12 Willets was the high, on Aug. 7 (WS). Two inland Red Knots were of interest. One in breeding plumage was at Tule L. Aug. 3 (JG *et al.*) and one in winter plumage was just w. of Davis Nov. 16 (DAG). The previous latest fall knot for the C.V. was Aug. 22, 1968. A single Baird's Sandpiper was photographed at 10,400 ft. on Mt. Lassen Sept 6 (*vide* VR). Eight Short-billed Dowitchers were noted in the C.V. among the hundreds of Long-billeds, which is now normal. A Stilt Sandpiper was at Woodland Sept 1 (BS,PM) & Sept. 14 (DE). Four were present there Sept. 18 (RS). Singles were at Bodega Bay Oct 3 (DAG,DW\*) and at Alameda Oct. 4 (JM\* *et al.*) They are very rare but regular in fall. **Five Semipalmated Sandpipers** were reported with voluminous descriptions and several photographs. One was at Pescadero Aug. 2-4 (SFB\*,VE,m.ob.), two were at Arcata Aug 6-10 (m.ob.) and two others were there and photographed Sept. 3-14 (RLeV\*,GF,m.ob.). A **Bar-tailed Godwit** in near-breeding plumage was at Schooner Bay, Marin Co. Sept. 28 (F&GBu\*) for the fourth state record. A moulting white-necked **Ruff** was near Ferndale Sept. 8-10 (m.ob., *vide* TS) and a **Reeve** was at the Carmel R. mouth and sewage plant for several days beginning Sept. 13 (CH\*,DRu\*, JM,m.ob.) The latter bird was photographed. Three Sanderlings were at Woodland Sept. 18 (RS). At Bodega Bay Sept. 13 the 114 Am. Avocets (BDP) were the most ever seen there. On Aug. 5, 1974 two avocets at L. Earl were the first Del Norte County records. Nine were there and at L. Talawa in late Sept. 1974, two were at L. Talawa June 1, 1975 and two were present at L. Earl Aug. 28 - Oct 9 this fall (*vide* TS). A Black-necked Stilt at L. Talawa Nov. 20 was late and the first fall county record (Funderbunk, *vide* TS) and one at L. Merced Nov. 26 (m.ob) was the first S.F. County record. On Aug. 3, at Lower Klamath, 24 Stilts were present (JG *et al.*). Relatively few Wilson's and N. Phalaropes were reported and Red Phalaropes were, once again almost absent.

**JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS** — Jaegers were in their usual numbers offshore with 114 Pomarines and 34 Parasitics reported which is only slightly more than

a 3:1 ratio. A single ad. Long-tailed Jaeger was seen 18 mi w of Humboldt Bay Oct. 5 (TS\*,RLeV,m.ob.). Seven plus Skuas were seen Sept. 10 - Oct. 5 offshore from Humboldt to Monterey Counties. Those identified were *mccormickii* (m.ob.). Three inland Glaucous-winged Gulls were: one at Tahoe Keys Nov. 26 (WS\*), one ad at Rio Vista Oct. 17 (DE) and one at Clear L., Nov. 1 (JW). Herring Gulls returned to the C.V. in the third week of October (BED,SAL,RS) and were common by mid-November. Single Mew Gulls at the Mad R mouth Sept. 23 (TS) and at Pt. Pinos Sept. 17 (TS,SL,JM) were early and the first major influx (of 50) was noted at Princeton Harbor Oct. 23 (PM) which is about two weeks later than average. Single Franklin's Gulls at the Arcata Marina Aug. 10 (*vide* TS) and at King Salmon Aug. 16 (DE,JM *et al.*) were the only ones reported. Heermann's Gulls were far fewer than last fall but many more first year birds were present. Seventeen Sabine's Gulls were seen on pelagic trips. One at Horseshoe Cove, Marin Co. Sept. 21 (RS,GF) and one at King Salmon Nov. 11, 12 (*vide* TS) were onshore and, remarkably, one at Chico Sept. 14-16 (JS,RS\*,m.ob.) and one at Fresno Oct. 13 (RH\*) were inland for the second and third C.V. records. Common Terns were in good numbers (125) including one at Bodega Bay Sept. 13 (BDP) where they are thought to be rare. Only five Arctic Terns were seen on Monterey pelagic trips (low) and one was at the S.F.-Oakland bridge toll plaza Aug. 17-19 (SFB,JM). Three Least Terns were seen in S.F. Bay during August and September and one at the Arcata Marina Aug. 5-19 (m.ob.) was the fourth county record. Four Elegant Terns at Humboldt Aug. 16 were the earliest ever there (DE) and farther south a few lingered into November including one at Monterey Nov. 23 (JW). A Caspian Tern at the F.I. Sept. 26 was the second island record and two were at Tahoe Keys Aug. 5 where they are rare (WS). An imm Black Tern at Moss Landing Sept. 8 - Oct. 10 (RS,WR) probably accounts for rumors of other dark terns there. Only five Xantus' Murrelets were seen on Monterey Bay Sept. 16 (G.G.A.S.) and Oct. 12 (A B A.) which is far fewer than the five-year average. Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets were late and in relatively small numbers on Monterey Bay. Two Horned Puffins were at the F.I., one Oct. 2 and another Oct. 8. Two Tufted Puffins on rocks at Trinidad Aug. 17 were late there (JM).

**PIGEONS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS** — A significant movement of 258 Band-tailed Pigeons passed over Pt. Diablo Nov. 5 (LCB) and some 596 were banded this fall at the agricultural inspection station w. of Truckee where they were trapped while feeding on spilled grain (*vide* BK). The third Humboldt County record of a White-winged Dove was noted at Big Lagoon Sept. 22, and the bird remained until Oct. 1 (*vide* TS). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo, an increasingly scarce species throughout the Region, was found at Prairie Creek S.P. Sept. 2 (DW). A seasonal high of ten Barn Owls was found among the willows at Lower Klamath N.W.R. Sept. 14 (SS). Pygmy Owls were reported in good numbers in the Coast Range. Five Burrowing Owls were reported from the fields near Marina, Monterey Co., Nov. 2 (VR). Only two wintering Long-eared

Owls were reported. Single birds were found at Bolinas Lagoon (P.R.B.O.) and Neary's Lagoon (EM) both in November. The status of this species here is far from clear. At least 21 Short-eared Owls were reported this fall along the coast and inland: a high count of ten birds was at Willow Slough n.e. of Davis Nov. 20 (DAG,DS). A confused Saw-whet Owl appeared on the F.I. Nov. 18. A Poor-will was noted just w. of Davis Oct. 7 (DAG). This species is rare on the floor of the Sacramento Valley. The first Com. Nighthawk for the F.I. (see *Corrigenda*) was found Sept. 9-14. A remarkable 20 Lesser Nighthawks were found at the Kingsbury Sewage Ponds, Fresno Co., Aug. 9 (DE).

**SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — A large movement of 408 Black Swifts (in 9 flocks) was noted at Pt. Diablo Sept. 4 (LCB). At the same location some 555 Vaux's Swifts (in 30 flocks) were seen moving south Sept. 23 and the following day a massive movement of 1131 Vaux's (in 34 flocks) passed the point (LCB). Observations like these (X=28 swifts/flock) suggest that massive numbers of birds pass through the Region in small, sometimes unimpressive flocks the numerical significance of which often goes unnoticed. No nest could be found after the Davis Chimney Swifts departed (see AB 29:1027). A ♂ Costa's Hummingbird appeared in Nevada City, north of its normal range, Aug. 19 (*vide* BK). The Region's first November Caliope Hummingbird was seen at Crespi Pond, Monterey Co., Nov. 9 (Bob Hirt\*). The bird may have been present since Oct. 12 (BDP).

A significant movement of Red-shafted Flickers passed through Solano Co. Oct. 15-24. At least 100 were seen on Grizzly I. on Oct. 17 (BG). Eleven Pileated Woodpeckers were reported during the period, including a pair feeding young at Calaveras S.P. Aug. 8 (MK). A period high of 40 Lewis' Woodpeckers was counted at Jelly's Ferry Rd., Tehama Co. Nov. 22 (SAL,RS,GM), but they were noticeably absent in Yolo Co. throughout the period (DAG,TL).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — Tropical Kingbirds appeared along the coast this fall as usual. Two birds were found at King Salmon Nov. 19, and a single bird was seen at Fairhaven Nov. 23 (*vide* TS). A single bird was found at Pt. Reyes Oct. 7 (WMP) and at least two birds stayed on Pt. Pinos Sept. 27 - Oct. 15 (m.ob.). One of these kingbirds was seen eating a Pacific Tree Frog (*Hyla regilla*) that it had stolen from a W. Kingbird (VR,BDP)! It is interesting to question what becomes of Tropical Kingbirds along the coast, as spring records are practically nonexistent. They may go south with the first cold weather; perhaps they perish. Single E. Kingbirds were found at Benicia S.P. Sept. 27 (FKB) and at Pt. Pinos Sept. 26 (R Branson). A very tardy Ash-throated Flycatcher was found Nov. 23 at the U.S. Coast Guard Station near Samoa, Humboldt Co. (RLeV). An E. Pheobe was well described at the Carmel R. mouth Nov. 2 (VR\*,LCB,GLB,BDP). Willow Flycatchers were found to be fairly common in the riparian of Putah Creek in August (DAG). Two more Least Flycatchers were banded on the F.I.; on Oct. 1 & 21 (P.R.B.O.\*). This species has appeared there nearly every fall since 1969

A Gray Flycatcher remained on the F.I. Oct. 15-19 and was the only coastal report (P.R.B.O.). Apparently, unlike their spring migration, in fall they avoid the coast and move south mainly e. of the Sierra Nevada. A major movement of W. Flycatchers was observed on Pt. Reyes Sept. 14 where 21 were tallied (LCB); a single bird remained late at the Carmel sewage ponds Nov. 23 (B&CY). Casual in the Fresno area, an Olive-sided Flycatcher was found there Sept. 9-11 (*vide* RH). Some 43 Violet-green Swallows were found along the Pajaro R., Santa Cruz Co. Nov. 29 (EM).

Two Tree Swallows, rare during the month of November, were found at Arcata Nov. 27-29 (*vide* TS). Unusually late was a Bank Swallow at Moss Landing Oct 11 (A.B.A.). A large migratory movement of Barn Swallows passed through the C.V. in late September and early October. A flock estimated at 8800 was observed over fields e. of Los Banos Sept. 28 (RH) and "thousands" were seen over the Davis Sewage Ponds Oct 2 (DAG). Two interesting Cliff Swallow observations were reported; one of a pure albino noted at Chico Sept. 14 (RS,GM) and another of a single bird seen at 12,343 ft. at Sawtooth Peak, Sequoia N.P. Sept. 1 by Gordon Beebe which may be an elevational record for this species in the Region.

**CORVIDS THROUGH THRUSHES** — Odd was the presence of a Scrub Jay on outer Pt. Reyes Oct. 2 (DE,RS) They are rarely seen away from their preferred oak woodlands. A Black-billed Magpie at Lewiston Res., Trinity Co. Nov. 6 (SAL,RS,GM) was very interesting. One wonders what the status of this species might be in Trinity County; the area is not well birded. Yellow-billed Magpies made an appearance above the floor of the C.V. at Auburn, where five were seen Oct. 16 (BBA). Two Com. Crows were found at a rather high elevation at Crane Flat, Yosemite N.P. Oct. 14 (RS *et al.*). Seven Piñon Jays were found at Bridalveil Campground, Yosemite N.P. Sept. 19 west of the Sierran summit (TH). An impressive flock of 100 Clark's Nutcrackers was found in the Warner Mts. Aug. 31 (SAL,SS).

Red-breasted Nuthatches appear to be making a small invasion this fall along the coast where several observers noted larger-than-normal numbers. Single Dippers appeared at three coastal locations: at San Vicente Creek, Santa Cruz Co., Nov. 11 (EM), Bear Valley, Pt. Reyes N.S., Oct. 26 (T&ZC), and at Prairie Creek S.P., Aug. 21 (OJK). Mockingbirds appear to be firmly established on the north coast and are continuing to expand their range north. The proliferation of yard plantings is probably having a major effect as Mockingbirds are almost always associated with towns and suburbs. The Region's first mainland record of a **Ben-dire's Thrasher** was found at a feeder in Courtland, Oct 16 and has remained through the end of the period (AP,RS,m.ob.). A Brown Thrasher was seen by one visiting a feeder in Oakland Nov. 18-30. A single Sage Thrasher was found on F.I. Oct. 27-28, where a handful of fall records for this species have been noted. Varied Thrushes arrived on their wintering grounds the first week of October in good numbers. A wave of Swainson's Thrushes, termed "abundant", was seen passing through the cypress trees of Pt. Reyes Oct. 2

(RM). Records of Gray-cheeked Thrushes continue to mount on the F.I. where one was banded and photographed Sept. 12-14 and another unbanded bird was seen (no details submitted) Sept. 18. The Region's first mainland **Veery** was seen and described Oct. 6 on Pt Reyes (DR\*). This report will be submitted to the C.F.O. Records Committee. This species was the last of the North American *Catharus* thrushes to be recorded in California, which is remarkable in view of the fact that it breeds so far west. Townsend's Solitaires moved downslope and were found west of their normal range on Mt. St. Helena where 10-11 were seen Nov 14 (BDP,GLB,JW). Four birds seen just inside the county line provided the first records for Sonoma County.

**GNATCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS** — A surprisingly large number of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was seen migrating past Pt. Diablo this fall. Nineteen were noted on Sept. 4 and seven more on Sept. 23 (LCB) Golden-crowned Kinglets appear to be making an invasion along the coast with large numbers noted by many observers near the end of the period. A nearly homogeneous flock of 90 Bohemian Waxwings was found 15 mi. n. of Canby Junction, Modoc Co. Nov 29 and a single bird was seen at Susanville Nov 28 (J&SL).

Three N. Shrikes were reported along the coast in Humboldt (*vide* TS). Nine were reported inland, the earliest of which was Oct. 19 at Honey Lake (RS) and the most interesting of which was found at 9300 ft at Virginia Lakes Nov. 30 (RS,GM). A Loggerhead Shrike was found even higher at 10,400 ft. just e of Mineral King, Sequoia N.P. Aug. 31 (GBE).

A very late Solitary Vireo remained in Santa Rosa Nov. 11-24 (GLB). Three Red-eyed Vireos were banded on the F.I. Sept. 13-27, one was seen without a band Sept. 28 (P.R.B.O.) and single birds were found on Pt. Reyes Sept. 19 (RS,WMP) and Sept. 27 (DE,DR *et al.*). The seventh regional record of a **Philadelphia Vireo** remained at Fairhaven Sept. 16-22 (m ob \*) Apparently because of the temperate weather this fall, Warbling Vireos lingered longer than usual and one was observed Nov. 2 at the Carmel R. mouth (VR,LCB,GLB,BDP).

**WOOD WARBLERS** — "Hunting" for vagrant warblers along the coast of California has become something of a mania with the region's active birders. Although this fall's warbler migration was not up to last fall's remarkable numbers and diversity, persistent watching of the favorite vagrant "traps" turned up an impressive list of observations. The increased number of observer hours spent in key locations has undoubtedly contributed greatly to the numbers of all vagrant warbler records so that comparisons with estimates in past years must be undertaken with caution.

This fall witnessed an impressive number of Black-and-white Warbler reports. Fifteen were reported from coastal areas Aug. 30 - Nov. 9 and four were found inland at Honey L. Aug. 23 - Sept. 12 (RS,GM,SAL) This is far above normal. There are records of this species every month of the year in California. The region's fourth **Prothonotary Warbler** was seen and

well described at Pt. Reyes Oct. 3 (JM\*). One of the rarest Parulids in California, a **Worm-eating Warbler** was present at the north mouth of the Mad R., Humboldt Co., Sept. 14-15 (*fide* TS\*). Two (♀ and ♂) **Golden-winged Warblers** were found at Fairhaven Sept. 19-21 (DE\*, BC *et al.*). There are only three other records for this species in the region and all have occurred on the F.I. An all-time regional high of 49 Tennessee Warblers was reported all from coastal locations Sept. 11 - Nov. 23. Nashville Warblers stayed into November; single birds were found at the Carmel R. mouth Nov. 1-2 (VR) and at Ano Nuevo Nov. 15 (B&CY). A single Virginia's Warbler appeared on Pt. Reyes Sept. 27 (DR, DE *et al.*). This species is a far more common fall migrant in the Southern Pacific Coast Region. Two N. Parula Warblers were found; one was seen at Drakes Beach Sept. 27 (DR, DE *et al.*) and another at the Carmel R. mouth Sept. 13 (JM, TS, CH). Seventy-two Yellow Warblers were banded at Grizzly I., where the peak movement occurred Sept. 21 - Oct. 15 (BG). Although the numbers of Magnolia Warblers found were not up to last year's fall total they were, nonetheless, far above average. At least 21 were found between Humboldt Bay and Halfmoon Bay Aug. 30 - Oct. 24 (m.ob.). Cape May Warblers were found in good numbers along the coast. Two were banded on the F.I. Sept. 17 - Oct. 31 and single birds were found at Samoa Sept. 21 (DE), Fairhaven Oct. 1 (*fide* TS), Mad R. mouth Sept. 30 (TS), Rodeo Lagoon Sept. 27 (TC, SFB), and at Pacific Grove Oct. 4 (RS, SL). There are at least 16 previous fall records for this species. A total of 13 Black-throated Blue Warblers, all on the coast, were found between Samoa and Halfmoon Bay Sept. 16 - Oct. 12 (m.ob.). Several Black-throated Gray Warblers were reported considerably later than normal, remaining on the coast well into November. A very early Townsend's Warbler was found on Inverness Ridge Aug. 9 (JM). Interesting was the banding of an ad ♂ Townsend's X Hermit hybrid at Crane Flat Aug. 25 (DDeS). Another hybrid of the same type was observed here in late May 1975 (JW). Hybrids of these two species are known. A Black-throated Green Warbler was seen on the F.I. Sept. 12, and another was found at Fairhaven Sept. 15-17 where it appears to represent the first Humboldt County record (*fide* TS). At least four Hermit Warblers were noted along the coast well into November. Nine Blackburnian Warblers were found along the coast from Samoa to Halfmoon Bay Sept. 11 - Oct. 12 (m.ob.). At least 26 Chestnut-sided Warblers (7 on F.I.) were seen along the coast Sept. 10 - Oct. 20. Three Bay-breasted Warblers found their way into the region this fall; two were on the F.I. Sept. 27 & Oct. 1, and a single bird was seen by many observers Sept. 19-21 at Samoa. As expected large numbers of Blackpoll Warblers were found on the coast. At least 130 birds were seen spanning Sept. 7 - Oct. 31. Of this total some 53 birds were on the F.I. One bird at Secret Creek, n. of Litchfield, Lassen Co., Sept. 12 was most unusual as nearly all records are from the coast (RS, GM). This species, first recorded in California in 1961, occurs with such regularity in fall that it can hardly be considered "vagrant" but is best called a regular fall migrant on the coast in small numbers. The editors have more data on this species than many of our common migrants!! A Prairie Warbler was

seen Samoa Sept. 25-30 (*fide* TS) and another, quite late, was seen at the Carmel R. mouth Nov. 2 (VR\*, LCB, GLB, BDP). There are very few November records for this species. about 80 Palm Warblers were reported (25 from the F.I.) Sept. 16 - Nov. 28 including a specimen of the "Yellow" Palm Warbler (*D.p. hypochrysea*) picked up in Santa Rosa Nov. 20 (*fide* LCB). This subspecies is rare in California. Ovenbirds made an excellent showing with a total of 18 (13 on the F.I.) which is a new regional high count for fall. All birds were found on Pt. Reyes and the F.I. Sept. 10 - Oct. 2 with the exception of a single individual found in Santa Cruz Nov. 8-11 (EM\*, RM). There is only one other November record for this species in the Region. An unprecedented 18 (six on the F.I.) N. Waterthrushes records were submitted Aug. 25 - Oct. 23 which is a new regional high for fall (m.ob.), including one inland from Putah Creek Sept. 23-25 (TL). A single **Connecticut Warbler** was seen and described on the F.I. Sept. 29-30 (P.R.B.O.\*). Prior to last fall there was only one record of a **Mourning Warbler** in the Region. Another was found Sept. 19 at Drake's Beach (JW\*, CP, RS\*, WMP) which brings the current total to seven records. Because of the variations this species exhibits and the fact that it is known to hybridize with MacGillivray's Warblers in Alberta, one must exercise extreme caution when identifying it in the field. Wilson's Warblers were reported passing through the Bay Area "earlier this fall" than normal (DE) while a good wave was noted on Pt. Reyes Sept. 17 (LCB). Single Canada Warblers were found on the F.I. Sept. 10 & 18. Other reports included single birds at Pt. Bonita, Marin Co., Oct. 26 (LCB, VR, DR *et al.*) and Eureka Sept. 6 (SS\* *et al.*). American Redstarts were reported on the coast in large numbers, producing a new seasonal high count of at least 96 individuals (41 on the F.I.). There were only two reported inland, both at Honey L. Sept. 13 (RS, GM).

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH TANAGERS** — Two Bobolinks were on the F.I. Sept. 12 & Oct. 1, and a single male was seen on Pt. Reyes Oct. 2 (DE\*, JM). Yellow-headed Blackbirds made a coastal appearance this fall at Neary's Lagoon, Ano Nuevo, and Arcata, comprising 19 birds (JM, EM, SS) while a male lingered at Tahoe Keys until Nov. 24 (WS). Tricolored Blackbirds invaded the Santa Cruz coast where some 8000 birds were noted (RM). Two Orchard Orioles were banded and photographed on the F.I., Sept. 10 & Oct. 1. A female was found on Pt. Pinos Oct. 15 (PM\*, BS), and another was seen by many Sept. 22-30 at Fairhaven (*fide* TS). A "Bullocks" Oriole remained in Santa Cruz until Nov. 11 (EM). Always scarce in the Region, a Rusty Blackbird remained in Arcata Nov. 25-30 (*fide* TS\*). The Region's first **Common Grackle** was seen and photographed at Arcata Oct. 11 (*fide* TS\*). This species was long overdue in California, the first being recorded only last spring in Death Valley. A rather large concentration of 4500 Brown-headed Cowbirds was seen at the Chico Oxidation Ponds throughout October (RS *et al.*). The Region's fourth **Scarlet Tanager** remained on the F.I. Sept. 29 - Oct. 2 (P.R.B.O.\*). Western Tanagers appeared to have passed the S.F. Bay area "earlier this fall" than normal

(DE) while a good wave was reported on Pt. Reyes Sept. 14 (LCB). A ♂ Summer Tanager at Arcata Aug. 29 - Sept. 7 provided the second Humboldt County record.

**FRINGILLIDS** — Rose-breasted Grosbeak reports comprised a total of 14 birds (five on F.I.) Sept. 10 - Nov. 7 from Humboldt County to San Mateo County (m.ob.). Blue Grosbeaks were reported from several inland and coastal localities in encouraging numbers. A single imm. ♂ Indigo Bunting at Bodega Bay Oct. 5 appears to represent the first Sonoma County record (BDP, GLB) and a pair was at Eureka in early August (KT\*). An imm. ♂ **Painted Bunting** was banded on the F.I. Sept. 10 where it was the first reported for the island. This species has been reported in the Region several times but nearly all records are probably of escaped cagebirds. A single Dickcissel found its way to the F.I. Sept. 17. Evening Grosbeaks also appeared on the coast in small numbers at Carmel R. and San Mateo in November. They were reported as very common in the Sierra Nevada as well. Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were reported from two locations; two were seen at the Shasta Ski Bowl Nov. 16 (RS, SAL) and a flock of 50 (all Hepburn's forms) were found at Surprise Valley Nov. 29 (J&SL). Lawrence's Goldfinches were reported in usual numbers from known locations, however two birds at Crane Flat, Yosemite N.P. Aug. 16 was a most interesting location for them (TH, DDeS). Unusual on the coast was the presence of a Green-tailed Towhee at Wadell Creek, Santa Cruz Co., Aug. 20 (BGE). Two Lark Buntings were reported; one at Moss Beach, San Mateo Co. Sept. 6 (PM\*) and one on the F.I. Sept. 13. A Grasshopper Sparrow, quite late, found its way to the F.I. Nov. 5. A single **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** was seen at Crespi Pond, Pt. Pinos Oct. 12 (SAL\*). At least 12 Tree Sparrows were reported; four from coastal locations and eight from inland areas. Clay-colored Sparrows were seen at Pt. Reyes Sept. 13 (DE), and Sept. 29, at the Carmel R. mouth Sept. 28 (DE, J&SL), with single birds at each location, and three or four were on the F.I. Sept. 11 - Nov. 4. Unusual at such a late date was the presence of a Brewer's Sparrow at Coyote Hills Nov. 23 (LCB). A Black-chinned Sparrow was found at L. Mendocino Oct. 13, providing the second county record for this species (OJK). A Harris' Sparrow that wintered at a feeder in Berkeley last year returned Nov. 19, for another season (m.ob.). An early Swamp Sparrow was seen at Pt. Reyes Sept. 6 (RS, GM) and was followed by 14 more reports mostly from the coast. A single at Chico Oct. 18 was the first recorded in Butte County (JS\*). A maximum of 13 Lapland Longspurs was reported from Pt. Reyes Oct. 9 (VR) and 15 were seen at Honey Lake Nov. 28 (J&SL). Twenty Chestnut-collared Longspurs were seen on the same date at Honey Lake (J&SL) and a few appeared along the coast. Only two McCown's Longspurs were seen, both at Honey L. Oct. 16 (SAL). Snow Buntings, becoming fairly regular in Humboldt Co., were found at Arcata Bottoms Nov. 19, 20 (*vide* TS) at Fairhaven Nov. 7-17 (m.ob.) with single birds in each location and two were found at Samoa Nov. 4 (*vide* TS). Another was seen at Bodega Bay Nov. 16 by Dolores Westrick\*, and Robert Albright\*.

**CORRIGENDA** — In *AB*: 29,738 the Great Horned Owls was the Oakland CBC figure and was not, obviously, a count on Fickle Hill Feb. 18. Also on this page, Dec. 19 was the last date for the Thick-billed Kingbird—there was no Tropical. In *AB*: 29, 904 the Nighthawk on the F.I. was a Lesser not a Common In *AB*: 29, 1027, 1028 the mixed pair of sapsuckers should be *S. v. nuchalis* x *S. v. daggetti* not *S. v. ruber* In all issues Steven F. Bailey should read Stephen F Bailey.

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**77th Christmas Bird Count  
Official Count Period  
Dec. 18, 1976 — Jan. 2, 1977  
inclusive**



## SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION /Guy McCaskie

This appeared to be an average fall with the major movement of West Coast migrants moving through the Region between mid-August and the end of September with the now-expected flood of vagrants following later in the fall.



**LOONS, GREBES** — A few Com. Loons passed through the interior of the Region during late October and November with ten individuals reported from seven inland localities; one near Imperial Dam on the Colorado R. Sept. 22 (VR) had most likely summered locally. An Arctic Loon photographed at Desert Center, Riverside Co. Oct. 27 (PU *et al.*) represents one of the few documented inland records for California. The only Red-necked Grebe was one on Morro Bay Nov. 29 (EAC,SC). At least 12 Horned Grebes were found inland Nov. 20-30 including one at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley (hereafter F.C.R.) Nov. 28 (WS *et al.*), five near Palmdale, Los Angeles Co., Nov. 20 (LRB) and two at the north end of the Salton Sea (hereafter N.E.S.S.) Nov. 22-30 (MSZ). A W. Grebe at F.C.R. Nov. 7-16 (CL,TH,FH), another in Baker, San Bernardino Co. Nov. 9 (H&PB) and a third near Victorville, San Bernardino Co. the same day (H&PB) were all at localities on the Mojave Desert where it is scarce.

**ALBATROSSES, SHEARWATERS, STORM-PETRELS** — The only Black-footed Albatrosses were all far off shore beyond the Channel Is. in August and September (JD,LJ). A N. Fulmar near San Miguel I. Oct. 26 (LJ) was the only one seen in s. California waters this fall. Interesting was the presence of New Zealand Shearwaters around the n. Channel Is. in September with 12 reported Sept. 6-14. Leach's Storm-Petrels were numerous offshore in August and September, with 225 seen 30-60 miles s.w. of San Diego Aug. 6 (JD), 75 found 30-50 miles w. of San Diego Sept. 13 (C.F.O.) and 125 noted off the Channel Is. Sept. 9-13 (LJ), but they were much scarcer in October. Six Ashy Storm-Petrels seen off Santa Rosa and San

Miguel Is. Sept. 9 (LJ) were the only ones reported. The only Least Storm-Petrels seen this year were five off San Diego Sept. 13 (C.F.O.) indicating that few ventured north into U.S. waters this year.

**TROPICBIRDS, PELICANS, FRIGATEBIRDS** — All aboard the organized pelagic bird trip off San Diego were treated to the sight of four Red-billed Tropicbirds at the s. end of San Clemente I. Sept. 13 (C.F.O.), additional sightings were one on the Cortez Bank Sept. 11 (LJ) and another near San Clemente I. the next day (LJ). Numbers of imm. Brown Pelicans on the Salton Sea increased in August, with a high count of 30 made Sept. 1 (DRo *et al.*), but declined thereafter with two at N.E.S.S. Oct. 12 (JD) being the last seen; one near Imperial Dam on the Colorado R. Sept. 22 (VR) was the only one away from the Salton Sea. An imm. Magnificent Frigatebird was at the south end of the Salton Sea (hereafter S.E.S.S.) Aug. 9 (DVT) and another was at N.E.S.S. Sept. 1 (GSG,DRo); this species is now of annual occurrence on this inland body of water.

**HERONS, STORKS** — As usual Cattle Egrets appeared along the coast with over 50 individuals reported between Santa Barbara and San Diego including one on San Nicholas I. Nov. 14-16 (LJ); inland records of interest included one in the Saline Valley, Inyo Co. Sept. 9 (TH), one at F.C.R. Nov. 28-30 (WS,JD) and another at Desert Center Sept. 15 (PL). An imm. Cattle Egret near Imperial Beach Nov. 15 (PU) had been color marked during the summer in the nesting colony at S.E.S.S. (DWF). A Louisiana Heron at Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. Oct. 12 (GH) was farther north than usual but four or five at Seal Beach, Orange Co., Oct. 8 Nov. 30 (GSS), one or two at Newport, Orange Co. Oct. 3 - Nov. 30 (GSS) and one or two around San Diego Oct. 30 - Nov. 30 (PU) were expected; one at S.E.S.S. Sept. 18 (SC) was most unusual. Wood Storks remained around S.E.S.S. through September with one Oct. 12 (JD) being the latest; an immature in Santa Barbara Aug. 15 (LRB) was the only one found away from the Salton Sea.

**SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS** — A few Whistling Swans appeared in the Owens Valley during late November, as normal, but six at Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co. Nov. 29 (ERA) and five at S.E.S.S. Nov. 26 (DVT) were far south. Most interesting was a large dark White-fronted Goose at S.E.S.S. Nov. 13-30 (DVT) believed to be *A. a. gambelli*; this form is believed rare, and is previously unrecorded in s. California. At least seven "Blue Geese" were with the wintering Snow Geese at S.E.S.S. by the end of the period (DVT). Two Ross' Geese at Little Lake, Inyo Co., Nov. 15 (RHN) were unexpected since few if any documented records exist for this area of California.

A ♂ Eurasian Green-winged Teal was near Thousand Oaks, Ventura Co. Nov. 28-30 (SFB,JD); this form is quite rare in s. California. Two ♂ Eur. Wigeon were found on Morro Bay Nov. 29 (EAC,SC) and another was at F.C.R. Oct. 25 - Nov. 30 (PU,TH *et al.*); the latter was certainly unexpected. Wood Ducks were reported from throughout the Region with two near Imperial Beach Oct. 15-19 (D&BS) and another at S.E.S.S.

Nov. 15 (DVT) being the southernmost. The ♂ Tufted Duck that has spent the past three winters on L. Sherwood; Ventura Co. was again present after Nov. 19 (JAJ,H&PB) and joined by a female Nov. 28 (SFB). An Oldsquaw on Morro Bay Nov. 29-30 (EAC,SC) was the only one found on the coast, but two were shot at S.E.S.S. Nov. 22 (DVT); this species is rare inland anywhere in California. A ♂ Harlequin Duck was near San Simeon, San Luis Obispo Co. after Nov. 11 (FRT) where one or two regularly winter, and the male at Playa del Rey was still present at the end of the period. A Surf Scoter at N.E.S.S. Aug. 23 (EAC,SC) had probably summered locally, but one on Tinemaha Res. in the Owens Valley Nov. 30 (FH,LB) was undoubtedly a migrant; any scoter is rare inland in California. A Black Scoter on Morro Bay Nov. 29-30 (EAC,SC) was the only one reported, and White-winged Scoters were exceptionally scarce. Hooded Mergansers appeared more numerous and widespread than usual along the coast with at least 12 individuals reported from eight localities; two near Imperial Beach Oct. 25-28 (JD *et al.*) were the farthest south. Two Red-breasted Mergansers at Desert Center, Riverside Co., Oct. 27 (PU) were at an interesting locality.

**VULTURES, KITES, HAWKS, FALCONS** — An ad California Condor flying over the Ventura Freeway near Calibasis, Los Angeles Co. Aug. 20 (JD) was an unexpected sight. White-tailed Kites obviously disperse after nesting, with some individuals appearing in unusual localities such as one at the summit of Mt. Pinos Aug. 10 (BB), one near Lancaster, Kern Co., Oct. 26 (KG) and another near Big Pine, Inyo Co., Sept. 7 - Nov. 30 (TH). Red-shouldered Hawks are normally absent from the areas east of the Sierras and Coastal Mts. but this fall single individuals were found at Oasis, Mono Co. Aug. 20 (DDeS), Barstow, San Bernardino Co., Oct. 19 (EAC,SC), Desert Center, Riverside Co., Oct. 12 (KG,JD) and at N.E.S.S. Sept. 26 (PL); in addition one at L. Arrowhead in the San Bernardino Mts., Nov. 27 (KG) was unusually high in the mountains. An ad. Broad-winged Hawk was at F.C.R., Sept. 16 (PL,LB), another was found near Malibu, Los Angeles Co., Sept. 13 (H&PB) and an imm. was seen flying down Pt. Loma, San Diego Co., Sept. 30 (JD); this species is now found regularly in limited numbers as a migrant and winter visitor in California. Only six Swainson's Hawks were reported, but one of these was from the coast on Pt. Loma Sept. 9 (JD). Amazing were three imm. **Zone-tailed Hawks** with one on Pt. Fermin, Los Angeles Co., Nov. 14 (SW,J&DM), another in n.e. Orange Co., Oct. 18 (SJR) and the third near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co. Sept. 18-19 (RLP *et al.*); the origin of these birds is a mystery. A few Rough-legged Hawks appeared in November with single individuals at S.E.S.S. Nov. 8 & 29 (DVT) being the southernmost. Ferruginous Hawks are still appearing in average numbers with 20 individuals reported from ten widely separated areas. An imm. Bald Eagle was at S.E.S.S. in late November (DVT); this species is scarce in s.e. California. More than the average number of Peregrine Falcons were reported with ten individuals seen along the coast during October and November, and another at S.E.S.S. Aug. 23-3n (SC,DS). Over 20 Merlins were

reported from throughout the Region indicating a heavier than normal movement into this Region

**CRANES, GALLINULES** — A Sandhill Crane at Goleta, Santa Barbara Co., Nov. 8 (PL,BS) was unexpected and away from areas of normal occurrences. A Com. Gallinule was at Little Lake, Inyo Co., Oct. 31 (RHN); few records are known for this area of California.

**SHOREBIRDS** — An Am. Oystercatcher seen on Anacapa I. Sept. 6 (L.A.A.S.) and Sept. 14 (SFB *et al.*) was undoubtedly the individual that has been seen off and on at this locality since 1964. A Mountain Plover at S.E.S.S. Aug. 25 (DVT) was exceptionally early. American Golden Plovers appeared more numerous than usual with about 50 individuals reported, all were race *dominica* except for three *fulva* at Playa del Rey Sept. 14-18 (FH,JAJ) and another near Imperial Beach Nov. 27-30 (PU). Over 40 Solitary Sandpipers were reported, with most seen in the e. part of the Region; one near Imperial Beach Oct. 18 (PU) was exceptionally late. Ten Ruddy Turnstones were found at various points around the Salton Sea Aug. 14 - Sept. 15; this species is rare away from the coast in California. A dead Red Knot at N.E.S.S. Sept. 7 (DE) was the only non-coastal record. A few Sanderlings were found on the Salton Sea as appears normal; away from the Salton Sea inland records are virtually nonexistent in s. California. A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** carefully studied at S.E.S.S. Aug. 23 (BB,GSS) appears to represent the first fall record for s. California. As usual a few Baird's Sandpipers passed through the Region during August and September with 14 at Deep Springs, Inyo Co. Aug. 19 (DDeS) being the largest group reported. Over 100 Pectoral Sandpipers were found along the coast Aug. 30 - Nov. 7 with 18 near Imperial Beach Oct. 11 (JD,PU) being the largest flock; in addition one was at F.C.R. Sept. 9 (DE), another was at N.E.S.S. Sept. 25 (MSZ) and two more were there Sept. 26 (PL). Stilt Sandpipers were regularly seen at S.E.S.S. throughout the period with over 40 counted Aug. 16 (RLP,PU); this species is regular at the Salton Sea, but very rare anywhere else in California. An ad. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** photographed on Santa Catalina I. Aug. 30 (LJ) established the sixth record of this species for California. A ♂ Ruff was present near Imperial Beach Oct. 4-10 (PU,JD *et al.*); one or two are now found somewhere in California every year. Red Phalaropes were exceptionally scarce offshore, with only 11 seen during September and October, but two were at McGrath S.P., Ventura Co., Sept. 6-7 (JD,DE).

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS** — At least ten imm. Parasitic Jaegers were seen from various points around the Salton Sea Aug. 31 - Oct. 27 with four Sept. 15 (PL,LB,J&SL) being the highest count for a single day; this species occurs regularly every fall on the Salton Sea. An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger about 90 mi. off San Diego Sept. 11 (LJ) was the only one reported. Nine South Polar Skuas were seen in s. California waters Sept. 9-11 (LJ); there are only a few documented records of this species off s. California

Western Gulls (yellow-legged birds from the Gulf of California) remained on the Salton Sea through August with 65 counted Sept. 1 (FH, LB), but all had departed shortly thereafter. Laughing Gulls, postbreeding wanderers from w. Mexico, remained on the Salton Sea well into October with 15 counted at S.E.S.S. Oct. 12 (JD). The only Franklin's Gulls found inland were six at S.E.S.S. Oct. 12 (JD); along the coast one was in Santa Barbara Nov. 17 (LB), one was at Playa del Rey Sept. 7-14 (BB, JAJ) and another was there Nov. 15 (BB); a few of these gulls regularly migrate through s. California each year. Two imm. Heermann's Gulls were at N.E.S.S. Sept. 1 (DRo, JD); this species is extremely rare anywhere away from the coast. A Black-legged Kittiwake at Goleta Sept. 25 (LB), another in nearby Santa Barbara Sept. 5 (LRB), two at Malibu Aug. 30 (BB) and one more on Newport Bay Aug. 19 (JD) were all suspected of having summered locally; kittiwakes were rather scarce in November when the wintering population arrives in s. California waters. Sabine's Gulls were exceptionally scarce in our offshore waters this fall with only four individuals reported in September; one was found on upper Newport Bay Sept. 12 (PL, LB), and single immatures were seen at N.E.S.S. Sept. 15 (PL, LB) and Sept. 26 (TWB); sightings from along the shore are scarce and inland records are few indeed.

Arctic Terns appeared fairly numerous offshore in September with 50 seen off Oxnard Sept. 6 (L.A.A.S.). Black Skimmers reached a peak of 57 (including 11 juveniles) at N.E.S.S. Sept. 27 (GSG) and nine were still present as late as Oct. 27 (PU).

ALCIDS — A Com. Murre off Oxnard Oct. 17 (JD *et al.*) was the only one reported. A few Xantus' Murrelets were present in s. California waters in September. A Craver's Murrelet off Oxnard Sept. 6 (L.A.A.S.), two about 90 mi. off San Diego Sept. 11 (LJ) and one more near San Clemente I. Sept. 20 (L.A.A.S.) were the only ones identified.

DOVES THROUGH SWIFTS — A Band-tailed Pigeon in the Saline Valley, Inyo Co. Aug. 3-4 (TH) was out of range and away from normal habitat. A White-winged Dove at F.C.R. Oct. 18 (B&CY) was quite far north. As usual a few White-winged Doves wandered west to the coast during the fall with four at Montana de Oro S.P., San Luis Obispo Co., Nov. 15-30 (FRT),



Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Kern County, Calif., Sept. 13, 1975. Photo/Keith A. Axelson.

single individuals in Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. Sept. 30 (LRB) and Oct. 22 (LB) and five around San Diego Sept. 11-26. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo, rare in s. California away from the Colorado R., was photographed near Weldon, Kern Co. Sept. 13 (KA). Interesting were three reports of Barn Owls in the n.e. part of the Region with one at Oasis Sept. 6 (TH), another at F.C.R. Aug. 31 - Oct. 12 (DRo, FH) and the third near Trona Nov. 7 (SFB); there are very few records of this owl from that area of California. A Whip-poor-will (*C. v. arizonae*) at S.E.S.S. Aug. 23 (JD, EAC) was unexpected and establishes the first interior record of a migrant in California. Five Chimney Swifts were well seen and heard over Whittier, Los Angeles Co., Aug. 7 (MSM); it is likely these birds had been present in the area all summer since all California records are for the late spring and summer period, and the date of this observation is too early for a fall vagrant.

WOODPECKERS — At least 13 "Yellow-shafted" Flickers were reported from various parts of the Region indicating that an average number of these eastern birds wandered to California this fall. An Acorn Woodpecker on Pt. Loma, San Diego Co. Oct. 2 (JD) was away from normal habitat and at a coastal locality where it does not usually occur. A few Lewis' Woodpeckers appeared in the n.e. part of the Region in late September and throughout October but did not stay; eight at L. Arrowhead in the San Bernardino Mts., Nov. 16 (KG) and one in the Laguna Mts., Nov. 11 (PU, JD) were the only ones that appeared to be in suitable areas for wintering; one on San Clemente I. Oct. 2 (RLP) was unprecedented. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker believed to be *S. v. varius* was at F.C.R. Nov. 29 (DRo *et al.*) and another was at Santa Ysabel, San Diego Co., Nov. 11 (JD, PU); this form from the east is a casual visitor to California. A Williamson's Sapsucker at Oasis, Mono Co., Oct. 5 (TH) was at a lowland locality, and two on Figueroa Mt., Santa Barbara Co., Nov. 15 were in an area where the species is previously unrecorded. A Hairy Woodpecker at Oasis Aug. 30 (JD, DRo) was far from normal habitat, and another at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co. Sept. 20 - Oct. 12 (BL) was outside its normal range. A Downy Woodpecker at Wildrose in the Panamint Mts. Nov. 1 (RS) was far out of range and may have been the first ever found in this area of California. A Ladder-backed Woodpecker at Panamint Springs, Inyo Co., Nov. 4 (JD) was somewhat out of range and habitat. A Nuttall's Woodpecker on Pt. Loma Sept. 14 (JD) was believed to be on the move since no suitable habitat exists in the area. A White-headed Woodpecker in Santa Barbara Oct. 2 (GH) was away from its beloved mountains and on the coast where few records exist.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — Six E. Kingbirds were reported, with two in Goleta, Santa Barbara Co., Sept. 18-27 (PL, LB, LRB) one in Santa Barbara Oct. 2 (LB), one at Playa del Rey, Los Angeles Co., Sept. 5 (H&PB), one in Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co., Sept. 15 (J&SL) and the other at Desert Center, Riverside Co., Sept. 1 (JD, DRo); this species is a regular straggler to s. California every fall. As usual a few Tropical Kingbirds moved north along the coast with

nine reported Sept. 27 - Nov. 11, including four in the Santa Barbara area Oct. 24 - Nov. 11 (PL, LB, LRB), one at sea off Oxnard, Ventura Co. Oct. 17 (KG *et al.*), and four in the San Diego area Sept. 27 - Oct. 12 (PU, H&PB, BB); these birds are believed to come from w Mexico rather than from the much closer Arizona populations. A **Great Crested Flycatcher** on Pt. Loma, San Diego Co., Sept. 19 (GMcC) was only the fourth to be seen in s. California. Even rarer was the **Olivaceous Flycatcher** found at F.C.R. Nov. 29 (B&CY *et al.*); only the second ever seen in California. An E. Phoebe, a rare straggler to California, was at Oasis, Mono Co., Oct. 25 (SFB) and two were seen around San Diego Nov. 9 (GSS *et al.*). With more observers taking time to study *Empidonax* flycatchers passing through California, and learning how to identify these similar-looking birds, it is little wonder that a few **Least Flycatchers** are being reported; this fall one was in Goleta Oct. 21-22 (PL, LB, BS) and single individuals were found around Imperial Beach Sept. 28-29 (JD, EAC, SC), Oct. 1 (GMcC) and Oct. 15-19 (JD, PU *et al.*). Late Hammond's Flycatchers were in Pt. Mugu S P, Ventura Co., Oct. 26 (KG) and near Imperial Beach Oct. 24-25 (PU). A W. Wood Pewee at F.C.R. Oct. 31 (RS, DE) was exceptionally late, as was the Olive-sided Flycatcher at Oasis Oct. 18-19 (KG, WS). Vermilion Flycatchers were scarcer than usual on the coast with single birds near Imperial Beach Sept. 29 & Oct. 23 being the only two reported; a female near Lancaster, Kern Co., Nov. 8 (DG) and a male at F C R. Oct. 26 - Nov. 30 (PU *et al.*) were at interesting localities.

In recent years Purple Martins have become scarce and sightings of migrants have been few indeed; this fall two were seen at Desert Center Sept. 15 (PL) and nine were noted on Pt. Loma Sept. 11-14 (JD *et al.*).

**JAYS THROUGH DIPPERS** — A Scrub Jay at F C R. Sept. 21 (VR) was out of range. Mountain Chickadees were reasonably numerous in the lowlands around Santa Barbara and Los Angeles with one or two around San Diego indicating a down-mountain movement this fall. Most interesting was a Chestnut-backed Chickadee in Santa Barbara Oct. 24 - Nov. 30 (PL, LB, GH); this species has been expanding its range southward in recent years, but the area around Morro Bay is the southernmost outpost of normal occurrence known at this time. A Plain Titmouse on Pt. Loma Oct. 2 (JD) and another near Borrego Springs Nov. 11 (JD) were both unexpected. A few White-breasted Nuthatches were in the coastal lowlands in November. Some Red-breasted Nuthatches passed through the Region in September and October, but few appeared to stay. A few Brown Creepers appeared at interesting localities such as one at F.C.R. Nov. 4 (JD), another at N E S.S. Oct. 15 (MSZ) and one more on San Nicholas I Nov. 16 (LJ). A Dipper at Deep Springs Oct. 18 (DRo, KG) was initially at a small pool of water, but was seen to fly off into the surrounding sagebrush plains!

**WRENS, THRASHERS, THRUSHES** — Single Winter Wrens at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley Oct. 31 (RS, DE) and at nearby F.C.R. Oct. 18 (KG) were at oasis localities on the desert where only a few records

exist; one in Santa Barbara Nov. 19-30 (PL, LB) and another in Los Angeles Nov. 20-30 (KG) were the only two found in the coastal lowlands. A Cactus Wren at Lee Flat just south of the Saline Valley Sept. 24 (LSM) appears to represent the northernmost sighting of the species in California. A **Gray Catbird** was well seen at Deep Springs Oct. 6 (PS) and another was photographed in Santa Barbara Oct. 27-28 (PL, LB, BS); there are only three other fall records for the Region. A Brown Thrasher, a rare but regular wanderer to California, was at Oasis Oct. 17 (WS), another was at Emigrant Ranger Station in Death Valley Oct. 12 (FH) and one more was at nearby Eagle Borax Nov. 29 (RS). A Bendire's Thrasher near Imperial Beach Oct. 16 (JD) and another on Santa Barbara I. Oct. 17 (LJ, KG) were both at coastal localities where the species is rare. Varied Thrushes were exceptionally scarce this fall with six individuals reported from the e. part of the Region and only two on the coast, but one at N.E S S Oct. 3 (MSZ) was early and at a locality from which very few records exist. As usual a few Townsend's Solitaires were found in the e. part of the Region, but three around San Diego between Oct. 16 & Nov. 8 were the only ones reported from coastal localities.

**KINGLETS, PIPITS, WAXWINGS, SHRIKES** — Again Golden-crowned Kinglets staged a minor invasion into S. California with good numbers around Santa Barbara after mid-October, and smaller numbers reported south to San Diego County during November with single birds reaching San Nicholas I. Nov. 15 (LJ) and San Clemente I. Nov. 2 (LJ). Single Golden-crowned Kinglets at Panamint Springs Nov. 2 (H&PB), at Wildrose Nov. 1 (RS) and at Shoshone Nov. 1 (H&PB) were the only ones found in the e. part of the Region. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Pt. Mugu S P Aug. 30 (H&PB) was very early for a coastal locality. Unexpected was a **Sprague's Pipit** in Carson, Los Angeles Co., Oct. 23 (JD, PU) and another near Imperial Beach Nov. 22 (GMcC *et al.*); it was only last fall that the first record of this species was obtained for California. A single Bohemian Waxwing was seen in the Saline Valley Nov. 29 (KA). Four N. Shrikes were found in the n.e. corner of the Region with an early individual at Oasis Oct. 19 (WS), an adult at Westguard Pass Nov. 28 (RS) and single birds near Big Pine Oct. 26 (SFB) and Nov. 27 (TH); this species probably occurs regularly in this area.

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — A Bell's Vireo near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co. Oct. 28 (JD) was exceptionally late and its bright coloration indicated it may have been *V. b. bellii* rather than one of the two western races occurring in California. A Red-eyed Vireo, a rare wanderer to s. California, was near Big Pine, Inyo Co., Sept. 7 (TH) and another was on Pt. Loma, San Diego Co., Sept. 11 (JD). An unprecedented number of Philadelphia Vireos appeared during September and October with one at F.C.R. Oct. 25 (PU *et al.*) and another in Kelso, San Bernardino Co., Oct. 5 (SC) being at inland localities; on the coast one was in San Pedro, Los Angeles Co., Oct. 13 (J&DM), one was on Pt. Loma Sept. 19-23 (JD, PU *et al.*), another was near Imperial Beach Oct. 18-19 (PU, JD) and one more was on Anacapa I. Sept. 14 (SFB, BS).

An average number of Black-and-white Warblers occurred, with five in the n.e. part of the Region Sept. 15 - Oct. 5, and 20 more along the coast Aug. 21 - Nov. 30. Four **Worm-eating Warblers** were found with one in the Saline Valley Oct. 11-13 (CI,L&SS), one in Riverside Oct. 30 - Nov. 6 (EAC,SC), another near Malibu, Los Angeles Co., Nov. 27 (JD,BB) and one more on Pt. Loma Oct. 5 (*vide* JD); there are only four previous Regional records. Tennessee Warblers appeared in average numbers with two found in the e. part of the Region, 19 seen along the coast, and six more found on the Channel Is. Virginia's Warblers were scarcer than usual with only nine found along the coast Aug. 31 - Oct. 15; two more at F.C.R. Sept. 21 (VR) were unexpected. Amazing were five Lucy's Warblers on the coast with one at Otay Res., San Diego Co., Sept. 7-28 (RLP), single individuals near Imperial Beach on Oct. 4-12 (JD,H&PB), Oct. 19-25 (PU,JD) and Nov. 7 (JD), and another on San Nicholas I. Nov. 15 (LJ); this species is a very rare straggler west of the desert. Northern Parulas are normally extremely rare in California in fall, though occurring regularly in spring, so five sightings were unexpected, with one at Oasis, Mono Co., Sept. 9 (DE,TS), one on Pt. Loma Oct. 4 (H&PB), single birds at Imperial Beach Nov. 7-8 (JD,PU) and Nov. 16 (H&PB), and another near Otay Oct. 26 (H&PB). Five Magnolia Warblers were reported, with one at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley Oct. 10-16 (TWB,FH), and four around San Diego Oct. 4-24 (D&BS,PU,DRa,JD). The only Cape May Warbler was one near Imperial Beach Oct. 5-6 (PU,JD). Black-throated Blue Warblers were back down to an average number this fall with a male in Kelso Nov. 9 (H&PB), another male at Ft. Piute, San Bernardino Co., Oct. 8 (*vide* VR), a female near Daggett, San Bernardino Co., Oct. 19 (EAC,SC) and a male at N.E.S.S. Oct. 10 (MSZ) at inland localities, and a female in Imperial Beach Oct. 19 (JD,PU) being the only one on the coast. An interesting looking bird was a Townsend's X Hermit Warbler near Otay Oct. 10-11 (JD,PU).

We had more than our share of Black-throated Green Warblers with six in Inyo County Oct. 19 - Nov. 29, one near Gorman, Los Angeles Co., Oct. 26 (KG), another near Daggett Oct. 19 (SC) and six more around San Diego Sept. 30 - Nov. 1. Seven Blackburnian Warblers were reported, with two around Santa Barbara Sept. 28 - Oct. 20, and the other five around San Diego Sept. 21 - Nov. 8; this species is now found annually in small numbers. A Chestnut-sided Warbler was in Pt. Mugu S.P. Oct. 11 (BB,H&PB) and five more were seen around San Diego Sept. 10 - Nov. 9; a regular vagrant to California. The only Bay-breasted Warblers were single birds on Pt. Loma Sept. 12-14 (PL,PU) and Nov. 2 (JD). Blackpoll Warblers were noted Sept. 7 - Nov. 27 with 45 along the coast and single birds inland at Deep Springs Oct. 25 (SFB) and in the Saline Valley Nov. 27 (KA); this species is very rare away from the coast in California. About 30 Palm Warblers were found along the coast Oct. 5 - Nov. 29, and four more were seen in Inyo Co. Oct. 4 - Nov. 7. Eight Ovenbirds were reported with five along the coast Sept. 25 - Oct. 18, and three more in Death Valley Sept. 16 - Nov. 7. About 20 N. Waterthrushes were found in the n.e. part of the Region Aug. 30 - Nov. 16 with most occurring in September, and seven more were seen along the coast

Sept. 12 - Oct. 2. A ♀ Hooded Warbler was at Scotty's Castle Oct. 18 (JD *et al.*) and a male was at nearby Mesquite Springs Oct. 31 - Nov. 1 (RS,DE,TS); this is a very rare vagrant to California. Another rarity was the Canada Warbler in Pt. Mugu S.P. Oct. 9 (SW). Nearly 75 Am. Redstarts were reported with the majority being found in September as is usual. A Painted Redstart on Santa Cruz I. Oct. 10 (LJ) is the first to have been recorded on the Channel Is.

**BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS** — Bobolinks were found at seven localities along the coast Sept. 14 - Oct. 27 with high counts of 15 in Goleta Sept. 18-30 (PL), eleven at Whittier Sept. 28 (DWF) and ten near Imperial Beach Oct. 19 (JD,PU); one at F.C.R. Oct. 10 (TWB) and three at Little L. Oct. 4 (RHN) were the only ones found inland; it is obvious that a part of the Bobolink population is using a West Coast migration route. A total of nine Orchard Orioles appears to be more than normal with one at Mesquite Springs in Death Valley Sept. 15 (VR), one at Desert Center, Riverside Co., Oct. 12 (JD,KG) and another at Brock Ranch, Imperial Co., Sept. 8 (DE,TS) being inland, and the rest being seen along the coast Sept. 14 - Nov. 30. A Scott's Oriole at Playa del Rey Sept. 13 (JAJ) was the only one found along the coast. Nine "Baltimore" Orioles were reported Sept. 23 - Nov. 22 with one at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley Nov. 9 (ERA) being the only one found away from the coast. A Rusty Blackbird was at Deep Springs Nov. 15 (SC) and five more were in the Death Valley area Oct. 25 - Nov. 22 (SFB,RS,SW) which appears to be normal; however, three on San Clemente I. Oct. 31 - Nov. 2 (LJ) and another on San Nicholas I. Nov. 14-16 (LJ) were unexpected, since few are found along the coast.

Unexpected were three Scarlet Tanagers in the e. part of the Region with one at Panamint Springs, Inyo Co., Nov. 2 (BB,H&PB), another at F.C.R. Nov. 4-8 (JD,SFB,CH) and the other in Kelso, San Bernardino Co., Oct. 26 (PU *et al.*); this is a rare straggler to California. A ♀ Hepatic Tanager was found near Imperial Beach Oct. 30 (SS); this species is very rare away from known breeding localities in the s. California Mountains. As usual a few Summer Tanagers appeared along the coast with one in Goleta Sept. 18 (LRB), another at Pt. Mugu S.P. Oct. 18 (SW) and four around San Diego Oct. 12 - Nov. 22 (H&PB,JD); in addition one was seen in Kelso Sept. 16 (PL,LB) and another was at S.E.S.S. Sept. 21 (GMcC); all were probably vagrants from the east.

**GROSBEAKS, BUNTINGS, FINCHES** — Rose-breasted Grosbeaks appeared more numerous than usual with 12 found in the n.e. part of the Region Oct. 8 - Nov. 9, eight seen on the coast Sept. 15 - Oct. 26, and two more on San Nicholas I. Sept. 26-29 (LJ). A Blue Grosbeak in Santa Barbara Nov. 8 (PL,BS) was very late. A ♂ Indigo Bunting in Big Pine Aug. 21 (TH) and a female at Kelso Oct. 27 (JD) were the only two found in the e. part of the Region, but one was in Santa Barbara Nov. 19 (LB), three were seen around San Diego Oct. 10 - Nov. 22 (PU,JD) and two more were on San Nicholas I. Sept. 26-29 (LJ) to give us six records from the coast. An imm. **Painted Bunting** was

well seen on Pt. Loma Sept. 11 (JD,GMcC); this is very rare straggler to California. Three Dickcissels were found in the e. part of the Region with one at Deep Springs Oct. 25 (SFB), another in Kelso Sept. 16 (PL,LB) and the third at Desert Center Sept. 15 (PL,LB), and two more were seen on the coast with one at Goleta Sept. 25 (LB) and the other near Imperial Beach Oct. 2 (JD). A few Evening Grosbeaks moved south into the mountains of s. California with ten on Mt. Pinos Aug. 29 (FN) being the earliest and ten in the Laguna Mts. Nov. 3 (D&BS) being the southernmost; in addition a few individuals were found at oasis situations east of the mountains from Sept. 27 onward. A **Black Rosy Finch** was well seen with Gray-crowned Rosy Finches in Westguard Pass in the White Mts. Nov. 28 (B&CY); this species is rarely recorded in California but it is interesting to note that the rosy finches with which it was associating were not the local breeding race *dawsoni*, but were believed to be *tephrocotis* and/or *wallowa* with a few *littoralis* mixed in, and had undoubtedly all come from well to the north of California. Pine Siskins were commoner than normal this fall with fair numbers occurring south to Imperial and San Diego Counties. The appearance of 15 Red Crossbills on Figueroa Mt., Santa Barbara Co. Nov. 9 (PL,LB) and one more at L. Sherwood, Ventura Co., Nov. 28 (SFB) might indicate a small movement on the coast. The only Lark Bunting found this fall was one at F. C. R. Nov. 1-4 (RS,DE,JD) and another near Imperial Beach Sept. 27 (JD,PU).

**SPARROWS** — A dead Grasshopper Sparrow was found in Big Pine, Inyo Co. Oct. 16 (TH) and another was at F.C.R. Nov. 1-8 (RS,DE,SFB); this species is scarce in e. California. Two or three Sharp-tailed Sparrows were back at Newport Bay by Nov. 30 (VR *et al.*); this species has been found wintering regularly at this locality in recent years. A Black-throated Sparrow on Anacapa I. Sept. 14 (BS) was far from its desert habitat. The flocks of Dark-eyed Juncos present in October and November contained a number of "Slate-colored" Juncos as attested by reports of over 30 individuals from various parts of the Region. A "Pink-sided" Junco was on Pt. Loma, San Diego Co., Oct. 21 (JD), this form is rare along the coast. The only Gray-headed Juncos reported were single individuals at N E S.S. Oct. 6 and Nov. 11 (MSZ) and another near Imperial Beach Oct. 19-25 (JD *et al.*). A rather early Tree Sparrow was at F.C.R. Oct. 12 (FH) then one was at Oasis, Mono Co., Nov. 19 (CL), four were in the Saline Valley, Inyo Co. Nov. 27 (KA), one was near Darwin, Inyo Co., Nov. 8 (H&PB) and up to six were at F. C. R. Nov. 1-4 (RS,DE,JD); in addition a single bird was near Malibu, Los Angeles Co. Nov. 24-27 (JAJ) and another was on San Clemente I., Nov. 2 (LJ); Tree Sparrows occur regularly in the n.e. part of the Region but are most unusual anywhere on the coast. One or two Clay-colored Sparrows were at F.C.R. Oct. 25 - Nov. 1 (PU,RS,DE), and another was there Nov. 29 (RS *et al.*), one was in Kelso, San Bernardino Co., Sept. 16 (PL,LB) and another was at Desert Center, Riverside Co., Oct. 12 (KG,JD) to give us four inland records; along the coast one was in Santa Barbara Oct. 19 - Nov. 11 (PL,LB), one was on Pt. Fermin Sept. 23

(H&PB), five were found around San Diego Sept. 18 - Nov. 16, and three more were seen on the Channel Is. Sept. 26 - Oct. 14. About 30 White-throated Sparrows were reported during October and November with most being seen in the Death Valley area, but eight were found along the coast and one more on San Nicholas I. Swamp Sparrows were scarcer than normal with seven found in Inyo Co. between Oct. 18 - Nov. 29 being the only ones reported.

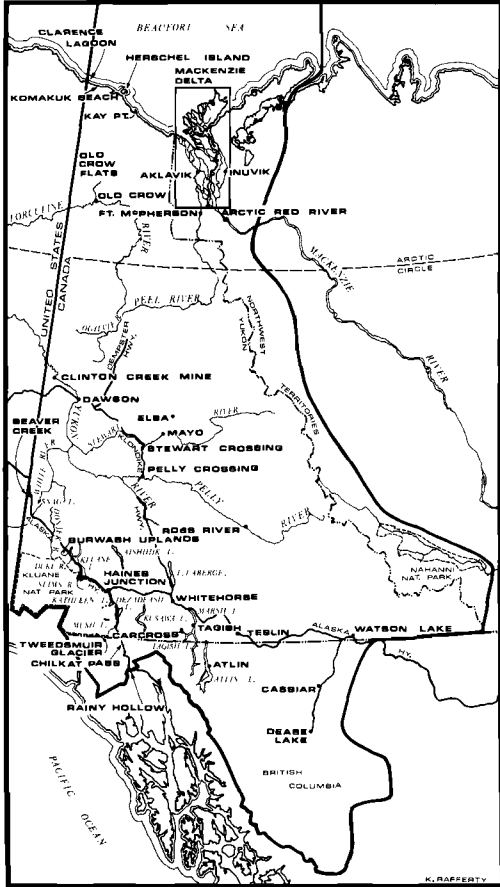
**LONGSPURS** — A McCown's Longspur was present in Carson, Los Angeles Co., Oct. 21-22 (JAJ, BB,GSS), one was seen near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co., Oct. 30 (JD), and up to two were there between Nov. 14 and the end of the period (JD,PU *et al.*); this is the rarest longspur occurring in California, and very few have been seen along the coast. Only six Lapland Longspurs were seen in coastal Los Angeles and San Diego Counties and another 12 were found on San Nicholas I.; the earliest was one near Imperial Beach Oct. 16 (JD) but most occurred in November and one or two were still present at the end of the period. What is probably an average number of Chestnut-collared Longspurs occurred Oct. 12 - Nov. 28 with 37 found in the e. part of the Region, 27 along the coast, and two more on the Channel Is.; one with a flock of rosy finches in Westguard Pass Nov. 28 (RS *et al.*) was keeping strange company in an interesting locality

**CORRIGENDA** — In A.B. 29:908, under Geese, Ducks, the statement beginning "A White-winged Scoter..." should be corrected to read "A White-winged Scoter at S.E.S.S. May 11 (EAC,SC) was the only scoter found away from the coast. Each spring a few Red-breasted Mergansers are found in the desert areas of e. California indicating a regular movement through the area;"

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## NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION /Wayne Neily

Since this is the first Nesting Season report to be prepared for this Region, it is not surprising to find that a new one-season high of 152 species was reliably reported, with documentation of two major range extensions (one a new species for Canada's list of breeding birds) and reports from outside the breeding ranges shown in the standard reference (Godfrey, 1966 *The*



*Birds of Canada*) for another 60 species, but without evidence of breeding. Suggested range extensions of some of these have been reported earlier, notably in "Birds of the Klauene Game Sanctuary, Yukon Territory", (Hoefs, 1973, *Can. Field-Nat.* 87(4): 345-356), and others known or suspected by local birders for some time, but not yet documented. Such records are indicated with a double asterisk (\*\*), so that a special effort might be made to check these in future summers. In order to provide baseline data for future comparisons, this report is much longer than would usually be expected; some data from Sachs Harbour on Banks Island, just northeast of the Region, are also included, since it is not yet in any reporting Region.

Overall, the season was abnormally wet, with the Beaver Creek area getting 7.4+ in. of rain. The critical month of June was not as wet as July, but was cooler than normal, mean temperatures ranged from 5.6°C in

the Chilkat Pass, to 14.7° at Dawson. July was warmer, with means from 8.7° to 17.3° at the same two stations

**LOONS, GREBES** — Common Loons were reported throughout the Region, Inuvik to Beaver Creek and in the Klauene area, but Yellow-billed Loons were not seen except for two at Sachs Harbour June 26 presumably owing to lack of coastal observers. Arctic Loons occurred throughout the n. half of the Region, from the Dempster area to Shingle Pt. (ET) and Inuvik, and at Sachs Harbour, but were unreported from the s. half except for one at Klauene L., July 30 in non-breeding plumage (RCa). Red-throated Loons were seen rarely in the Dempster area, but not elsewhere until one appeared at Klauene L., July 21. Red-necked Grebes were observed only in the s. half of the Region, the northernmost one at Hungry L., at Mile 65, Dempster Hwy., and one incubating June 1-3 at Davey Hall L. near Atlin, providing a representative record. Horned Grebes, by contrast, were scattered throughout, from Inuvik to the Atlin and Aishihik (SH,WN) areas.

**WATERFOWL** — Whistling Swans occurred across the north, from Shingle Pt. (ET), to Aklavik and Inuvik. "Extra-limital" records included one, June 5, at a pond south of Aishihik L.\*\* (RCa) (probably a straggler), and a pair, possibly with young, at Hungry L. in the Dempster area\*\*. Canada Geese were reported only from the Ogilvie, Peel, and Eagle R. areas (RF), and Black Brant only from Inuvik, where nine were seen June 6, and Sachs Harbour, where there were many June 25-26. Snow Geese, predictably, were reported only from Sachs Harbour.

Mallards were reported only from the n. half of the Region, but Pintails, Green-winged Teal, and Am Wigeon were fairly common from Inuvik to the Yukon-B.C. border. Northern Shovelers, surprisingly, were detected only in the Dempster area, and at the edge of their range at Inuvik (two, June 10). A Ring-necked Duck\*\* in a pond at the n. end of Aishihik L., July 5 (WN,SH) was well beyond the range shown by Godfrey. However, breeding records from interior Alaska and its regular occurrence here recently suggest a range expansion in the w. comparable to that so well documented for e. North America. It is surprising that its status as a breeder has *not* yet been confirmed here. Canvasbacks were seen near Beaver Creek\*\* (four, June 8) and Aishihik (six-seven, July 5-6, WN,SH) and a scaup (sp.) at Shingle Pt.\*\* July 31 (ET). Scaup continued as the Region's most frustrating identification problem, mainly because they are common but encountered on water where they cannot be flushed! Greater Scaup, however, were identified in the w. third of the Region, from the n. end of the Chilkat Pass north to Dempster area and west to Beaver Creek, while the Lesser was scattered from Inuvik to the Aishihik L. area (WN,SH). Both goldeneyes were fairly common in the Dempster area (outside the confirmed range for Barrow's) but the Com. Goldeneye was scarce or absent elsewhere. Barrow's was, however, common in the Aishihik-Klauene area (SH,DB,WN) and a male and two females were at Fox L., Mile 35, Klondike Hwy., June 7 (RCa). Buffleheads were reported mainly from the Aishihik-Whitehorse area (SH,JC,WN) and were rarely sighted in the Dempster area\*\* and n.w. of Burwash Creek\*\*; Oldsquaws were observed in the Dempster area\*\*, at Aishihik\*\* (WN), and frequently from

Shingle Pt. (ET) to Inuvik. Harlequin Ducks were rare in the Dempster area, and males appeared at Kluane L., two, June 28, building to 41 on July 3 and dropping to one July 21. Both Com. and King Eiders were reported only from Sachs Harbour. White-winged Scoters were widely distributed from Dempster to Atlin and the s.e. corner of Kluane N.P. Surf Scoters occurred from Inuvik south, with flocks of males at Aishihik and Kluane Lakes in early July. A ♀ Com. Merganser was displaying at Dezadeash L.\*\* June 16, and six more showed up for the Otter Falls Breeding Bird Survey (hereafter B B S.), (s. of Aishihik L., WN)\*\*. The occasional sightings from the Dempster area were at the edge of the species' range. Red-breasted Mergansers were more common in the same area.

**RAPTORS** — Sharp-shinned and Goshawk reports were sparse from the Dempster and Kluane areas (Burwash Creek, DB). From Dempster, the commonest hawk was the Red-tailed, mostly dark phased with a large proportion *harlani*. Swainson's Hawks were noted a few times only in the Dempster area\*\*. Rough-legged Hawks were reported only from the Whitehorse\*\* (SH), Chilkat Pass\*\*, and Kluane L.\*\* areas. All records for the latter species were in July except for two of the Chilkat Pass. Golden Eagles were frequently seen in the Kluane area, and occasionally in Dempster. Of ten Bald Eagle reports specifying age, four were adults and six immatures; this species was mainly observed in s. Yukon and n.w. B.C., with a few sightings from the Klondike Hwy. (RCa) and Dempster areas. Marsh Hawks were infrequently seen in the Dempster area, Chilkat Pass (DB), Aishihik L. area (WN), and at Aklvaik\*\* (one, June 29). An Osprey wandered N to Inuvik\*\* June 21. All falcons were scarce except the Am Kestrel; Gyrfalcons and Peregrines observed only in the Dempster area and a lone Merlin at Carmacks July 27 (SH).

**GROUSE** — The Blue Grouse was finally reported in the Yukon, one at its range edge at Elsa July 27 (SH), as well as at its most consistent location in the Region, Rainy Hollow, B.C.\*\* (DW,TP). Spruce Grouse populations appear to be coming back, with reports from the Dempster area to the Chilkat Pass, including a female with flying young near Dezadeash L. July 22, but the only Ruffed Grouse reported was along the lower N. Klondike R. (*vide* RF). All three ptarmigan occurred in the Dempster area, although the White-tailed was infrequently seen. Willow and Rock Ptarmigan were fairly common in the Kluane and Chil Chilkat Pass (D&SB,DW,TP) areas. The only Sharp-tailed Grouse reports were from the Tintina Trench (RF).

**CRANES, SHOREBIRDS** — A Sandhill Crane was seen at Sachs Harbour June 25. Six pairs of Semipalmated Plovers acting territorially were in the Chilkat Pass June 28, others ranged N to Inuvik. Killdeer\*\* reports came from the Chilkat Pass (DB) north to Dawson, repeatedly during the season (RF). American Golden Plover were in the Dempster area, and just n. of the Chilkat Pass\*\* (one, June 10), as well as at Sachs Harbour, where the only Black-bellied Plovers occurred. Lesser Yellowlegs were common north to the tree-line, while Solitary Sandpipers occurred in the Chilkat, Kluane, and Dempster areas, and Spotted were frequently observed along lakes and streams from the Yukon-B.C. border to their range limit near Aklavik.

Wandering Tattlers seemed common in their habitat in the Dempster area\*\*, and also occurred in the mountains just west of Kluane L. (HWE).

Bird of the season was the **Surf-bird**, whose status as a Canadian breeder was established by Bob Frisch who found and photographed a downy young July 4 in a colony of 6-8 birds. The location was a ridge 30 mi west of the Blackstone R. Bridge on the Dempster Hwy., 50 mi. north of Dawson. The possibility that it occurs throughout these mountains is suggested by other sightings by the same observer: a pair at the headwaters of the S. Tatonduk R., June 11, and three whose behavior suggested the presence of young, on a ridge 5 mi. east of the Dempster at about the same latitude. Habitat used was dry alpine (*Dryas-Cassiope-Carex*) from 4000-5000 ft. elevation.

Least Sandpipers occurred from Inuvik south, with breeding evidence in Aishihik (WN,SH), and Chilkat Pass areas. Another major range extension was established by the discovery of a Baird's Sandpiper and nest with 4 eggs on a ridge north of the s. Ogilvies, where the species is "fairly regular" (RF). Beyond their breeding ranges, Pectoral and Semipalmated Sandpipers at Giltana L.\*\* east of Aishihik L., July 5 (SHN,WN) were probably early migrants. Pectorals were at Sachs Harbour in late June and both species at Shingle Pt \*\* July 31 (ET). Sanderlings were at Sachs Harbour, while Upland Sandpipers were seen occasionally in the Dempster area\*\* as well as in the Kluane-Aishihik area. A Hudsonian Godwit, perhaps a migrant or stray, was seen July 15, in the Dempster area\*\* (E. Blackstone R.); Long-billed Dowitchers,\*\* outside their known breeding range, were at the n. end of Chilkat Pass June 10 and at Shingle Pt. (ET) and Kluane L. (RCa) July 31. Common Snipe, frequent throughout, included one seen at Shingle Pt.,\*\* (ET). Red Phalaropes appeared only at Sachs Harbour, but N. Phalaropes were scattered from the Yukon coast (ET) and Inuvik south to the Haines Hwy. (DB), and occasionally in the Dempster area;\*\* two males and a female displaying south of Aishihik L. June 5 (RCa).

**JAEGERS, GULLS AND TERNS** — Pomarine and Long-tailed Jaegers occurred at Sachs Harbour and the latter in the Dempster area. Parasitic Jaegers were spotted at Shingle Pt. (ET) and Aishihik\*\* (WN,SH). Glaucous Gulls were at Aklavik and Sachs Harbour. One **Glaucous-winged Gull**, a species previously unrecorded in the Region, occurred in the B.C. part of Teslin L.\*\* June 1 (DW,TP). No documented records of this species exist for the Y.T., but several reliable sightings do; Whitehorse dump in late summer (DM) and one in downtown Whitehorse, June 23, 1974 (EC *et al.*). More coverage will clarify its status. Herring and Mew Gulls were fairly common throughout the Region (WN,RCa), with a concentration of 40 Mews at Whitehorse (Wigan B.B.S.) July 1 (EK,WN). The Mew range extends south into Chilkat Pass, where three nests were found June 10, (two eggs June 27 and two young July 4). Bonaparte's Gull was common in s. Yukon to its range edge at L. Como. There one was incubating in a spruce tree nest at 20 ft. June 1-3. It was seen "rarely" in the Dempster area\*\* and, June 13, along the B.C. part of Haines Hwy.\*\* (DB). Arctic Terns were common and widely distributed throughout the Region and at Sachs Harbour.



DOVES THROUGH KINGFISHERS — As many as 12 Rock Doves were observed in Whitehorse\*\* over the summer (WN,EK). Our commonest owl, the Great Horned, was sparsely reported from the Dempster area south to the B.C. border, and other species showed relatively low populations. Snowy Owls were seen only at Sachs Harbour, where a pair was nesting June 26. A Hawk Owl was in the s. Richardson Mts. (RF), and a Short-eared Owl was at Shingle Pt., July 31 (ET). From June 7, Com. Nighthawks were fairly common in n.w. B C (SH) and extreme s.w. Yukon, occurring north to Mile 25, Klondike Hwy. (RCa) and east of Whitehorse to Wolf Creek (RCa). Their absence and that of Short-eared Owls was noted from the Dempster area,\*\* where they have been seen in previous summers. A pair of Hummingbirds (probably Rufous) was at Carcross\*\* in July, it apparently "nests in the village each year"(HWi); Belted Kingfishers were reported from throughout the Region.

WOODPECKERS — Common "Yellow-shafted" Flickers were common throughout the Region, from Inuvik south, a high of 22 occurring on the Aishihik B B S. (WN). By contrast, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers\*\* June 4 & 28, (WN,RCa), and Hairy Woodpeckers July 2, (DW,TP), occurred only in Haines Jct. area while Downies eluded everyone. Of Three-toed Woodpeckers, Black-backed was spotted only in the Dempster area\*\*, while Northern was scattered from there south to Kathleen L. (DW,TP).

FLYCATCHERS, LARKS, SWALLOWS — Say's Phoebes were common from Dempster south to Onion L \*\*, and Rainy Hollow area\*\* (DW,TP); a nest between Whitehorse and Haines Jct. (Stony Creek bridge) was found June 16 (JC), and another at the abandoned Aishihik airport contained newly-hatched young July 5 (WN,SH). Alder Flycatchers ranged from Aklavik and Inuvik south to near the B.C.-Yukon border west of the Haines Hwy., and Least Flycatchers occurred from Whitehorse (WN) to Donjek R. bridge\*\*, Alaska Hwy. A few Hammond's/Dusky (or "Damned Husky") Flycatchers were reported from extreme s. Yukon, and June 1, at Mile 592, Alaska Hwy.\*\* (WN). This last was an especially puzzling one, with a consistently two-parted "sleepjt-cjrr" song, unlike the standard descriptions or recordings for either species but most like an incomplete Hammond's song; the uniformly whitish underparts and pale grey back, along with the dry, mature mixed wood habitat could fit either, but not very well. Both W. Wood Pewees and Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported from the Dempster area\*\* (rarely) to the Kluane area (frequently).

In the alpine zones of the Kluane and Dempster areas, as well as at Sachs Harbour Horned Larks seemed common. Numerous groups of adults with young flying w. of the Burwash Uplands July 14 (WN,BL,MC) give a clue to time of nesting. All swallows were, within their ranges: Violet-green, Dempster area south and Whitehorse west; Tree, Bank, and Cliff, Mackenzie delta southwest to Kluane area; Barn, Haines Jct. south. A Barn Swallow nest at Neskatahin had 4 eggs June 17, and a colony of 50 Cliff Swallows were nest-building at Haines Jct. June 3 (DS,EK,WN).

CORVIDS, TITMICE — Gray Jays were abundant

and more conspicuous than Black-billed Magpies from Inuvik south, even in Kluane area where most sightings of magpies occurred. Five magpies at Carmacks July 30 (SH) were noteworthy as the most northerly summer report. Common Ravens were seen throughout the Region including one or more at the 10,000 ft. level of Mt. Logan (PS, *fide* RCh), surrounded by lifeless rock and ice for many miles in any direction, and one "stealing from Mew Gulls" at Fox L. (Mile 35, Klondike Hwy.), June 8 (RCa). A Clark's Nutcracker at Goatherd Mt.\*\* July 10 (MC) further supports the major range extension to Kluane N.P. suggested by records of Hoefs (*op. cit.*: 352) and others unpublished. The Black-capped Chickadee was scattered from Whitehorse (EK,WN) south and west, while the Boreal Chickadee was fairly common from the Dempster area to Kluane N.P.

DIPPER, THRUSHES — Dippers were scarce, a few reported from the Dempster area and one at Otter Falls. American Robins were very common, to the Yukon-B.C. border, and Varied Thrushes, widespread but scarce, except locally, were observed from Inuvik, the Dempster area, Otter Falls area and Kluane L. (SH,WN). *Catharus* thrush distribution needs more study, but this summer's data suggest changes in status, notably for Hermit Thrush. In general, this species was scattered thinly over the Region from the Dempster area\*\* to s.e. Kluane N.P., as is usual, but a surprisingly high 19 occurred on the Burwash Flats B B S, most of them concentrated east of the Donjek R., where no more than three had previously been counted. Throughout the same area, commoner, and more restricted to boreal and montane forests rather than sub-alpine zones, the Swainson's Thrush was reported mainly from B.B.S. routes, with a high of 103 on the Kluane L. route. Gray-cheeked Thrushes showed typically disjunct distribution; common in the extreme southwest from Rainy Hollow\*\* (DW,TP), through Chilkat Pass\*\* (DB) and Silver Creek-Neskatahin area (WN,CH,BL) to south of Mush L., as well as in the far north, from Dempster area to Inuvik. Mountain Bluebirds were common in the Kluane-Whitehorse area (v.o.) and one was as far north as Mayo (SH). Wheatear was regular in its alpine habitat in the Dempster area, but not elsewhere. Townsend's Solitaire was sparsely distributed.

KINGLETS THROUGH VIREOS — In spruce forests from Kluane N.P. northeast to the Dempster area Ruby-crowned Kinglets were fairly common, while Water Pipits were common in alpine and tundra habitat, and even more widespread, from Inuvik\*\* (one, June 4) to Chilkat Pass (DB). Bohemian Waxwings were widespread and common from Dempster area south, to the B.C. border, but N. Shrikes were reported only from the Dempster area. Starlings\*\* were reported only from Dawson (RF), and the Warbling Vireo only from the s.e. corner of the Region, just inside the Yukon at Mile 592, Alaska Hwy. (two, June 1, WN).

WARBLERS — A singing Tennessee Warbler at Haines Jct. June 13 was the only one reported, but the Orange-crowned was fairly common from the Dempster area through the s.w. Yukon. Yellow Warblers were common in the south, but also extended north to Inuvik and Aklavik, while "Myrtle" Warblers were com-

moner and widely distributed especially after July 1. Townsend's Warblers\*\* were again reported from the Dempster area, one each from N. and S. Klondike Rivers. Blackpolls occurred at Inuvik, rarely in the Dempster area, at Mayo (SH), and more commonly in the Whitehorse-Kluane areas (v.o.). Northern Waterthrushes were uncommon but present from Inuvik and Aklavik to Atlin and just inside the Region at Mile 46, Haines Hwy. (DW,TP).

Both McGillivray's Warbler and Com. Yellowthroat were recorded only on B.B.S.'s, both on the Burwash Flats B.B.S.\*\*\*, and the latter additionally on the Whitehorse and Otter Falls B.B.S.\*\* (WN,EK,SH). Wilson's Warbler was second in abundance to Myrtles, and just as widespread. But Am. Redstart was spotted only at Atlin in early June.

**BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES** — Red-winged Blackbirds were observed from the s. Klondike Hwy. (RCa,DS) west through the n. end of Aishihik L.\*\* to the Burwash Flats area\*\*, mainly within the breeding range extension demonstrated by Hoefs (*op. cit.*: 353). Rusty Blackbirds were fairly common in suitable habitat from Inuvik to the Chilkat Pass, while the only Brown-headed Cowbird reported was near Haines Jct\*\* July 11 (WN,MC).

Teslin's June 1 male was the only Purple Finch report this season. Pine Grosbeaks were uncommon but present from Inuvik south to the Whitehorse area (SH,EK,WN). Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were fairly common in alpine habitat from the Dempster area\*\* to Kluane N.P. and the Chilkat Pass (DB). A pair of Hoary Redpolls west of the Blackstone R. (Dempster area)\*\* in early June were the only ones identified, but Com. Redpolls were everywhere in sub-alpine zones and open taiga (DB,DW,TP). Pine, Siskins and Crossbills were concentrated in the Whitehorse area: the Whitehorse B.B.S. had 56 siskins, compared with two for the rest of the Region (Kluane and Aishihik areas), a pair of Red Crossbills appeared at Whitehorse June 15, and again, with young July 1-4 (DS) and three were seen north of the Alaska border along the Haines Hwy., June 21 (DW,TP), while White-winged Crossbills were more widespread, seen from the Dempster area to Kluane N.P., but with the high count 100+ east of Whitehorse June 27 (RCa).

**SPARROWS, BUNTINGS** — Those amazing Savannah Sparrows manage to find nesting areas even in vast boreal forests and occurred from Inuvik and Shingle Pt. (ET) south to Dalton Post near the B.C. border, Haines Hwy., but like all other species, they are outnumbered by Dark-eyed Juncos that dominate the avifauna of the Region's woodlands. Most of the latter are Slate-colored, but one at Bayshore, Kluane L., June 5 showed mainly *oreganus* characteristics (WN,F&KP). Tree Sparrows were abundant in shrubby sub-alpine and open taiga areas from Inuvik and Aklavik south to Chilkat Pass, where a nest with five eggs June 28 is a typical record. Chipping Sparrows were fairly common in the Whitehorse-Aishihik-Kluane areas (v.o.) and were seen once at Dawson (RF). Brewer's Sparrows appeared only once, three, July 1, above Motheral Creek, south of Dezadeash L., (DW,TP). Predictably, Harris' Sparrows were seen only at Inuvik\*\*, while White-crowns, just as predictably,

were ubiquitous and common, from there to the B.C. - Yukon border. A nest containing four eggs and one with three young in the same section of the Donjek R. floodplain July 15 was typical. Golden-crowns were scarce or locally common in alpine areas from the Dempster region to the Chilkat Pass (DB). Fox Sparrows showed a disjunct distribution, occurring at Inuvik and in the Dempster area, and not again until south of Dezadeash L.; they were not uncommon in n.w. B.C. (DW,TP,DB). Lincoln's Sparrows were fairly common in the Kluane-Aishihik area (v.o.), "occasional" in the Dempster area, and "probably nested" at Inuvik\*\* (HP), where one was seen all summer in the town, which tends to confirm the range extension suggested by Edwards and Weir (*Can. Field-Nat.* 86(1) 85, 1972). The only Song Sparrow was at Whitehorse\*\* June 2 (SH) and, in the absence of any reports from the Burwash Uplands, the Dempster area\*\* produced the only Smith's Longspurs, as well as the most southerly Lapland Longspurs except for a Chilkat Pass sighting in June (DB), although the Laplands also occurred at Shingle Pt. (ET) and Sachs Harbour. Except for a Sachs Harbour report, all Snow Bunting occurrences were, surprisingly, from south of their range, in the Dempster\*\*, Kluane\*\* and Chilkat Pass\*\* areas. With so much of this report, more questions are raised than answers provided, but at least it gives visitors and resident birders a better idea of what to look for next year.

**ADDENDUM** — To the Spring Migration report Convincing details have been provided on an observation May 23, 1975 between Dawson and the s. end of the Dempster Hwy. of a **Clay-colored Sparrow**, both seen and heard singing by Robert Frisch, along with a recent observation at a similar latitude east of the Mackenzie R. (to be published elsewhere), and in the context of recent range expansions to Ontario and Québec and first Atlantic coast records in Canada, this first Yukon record suggests the possibility of more to come of this active species.

**CORRIGENDUM** — Recent examination of a photo indicates that the Great Gray Owl reported in the last Fall Migration report for this Region (*Am. Birds* 29(1) 88) was probably a juvenal Great Horned Owl. Thus there has not been a definite report of the Great Gray Owl for the Region in the past three years.

Unless otherwise noted, observations from the Mackenzie Delta and Sachs Harbour are by Harold Pankrat; from the Ogilvie Mountains, s. Richardsons, and other areas from the Ogilvie and Peel Rivers south to the Klondike Hwy. (together referred to as "Dempster area") by Robert Frisch; from the Atlin area and Chilkat Pass by Dan Webster and Thomas Pray; from the Beaver Creek area by Maria Ledergerber; and from the Kluane region by the Regional Editor.

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