

The Winter Season

December 1, 1975 - March 31, 1976

NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION /Davis W. Finch

This report was written under deadline pressure without centrally-compiled records from Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island or New Brunswick and with less than complete records from Maine, Massachusetts and Connecticut. The New England Christmas Bird Count summary (*Am. Birds* 30:163) includes many isolated records and a few seasonal trends not repeated here.



LOONS, GREBES, TUBENOSES, CORMORANTS

— An Arctic Loon was identified at Gooseberry Neck, Mass., on the Newport-Westport CBC Dec. 20 (RB, NPH *et al.*) and two others were carefully studied at Lawrencetown, Halifax Co., N. S., Jan. 31 (EHC) and again nearby Feb. 8 (RRA, SC *et al.*). The season's two Eared Grebes were found at Block I., R. I. on the CBC there Dec. 20 (RA, SRD *et al.*) and on Cape Cod at Sandy Neck in Barnstable during January (*vide* RPE). Nine Pied-billed Grebes found on seven CBCs in n. New England and Nova Scotia were more than usual and probably reflected the mild late fall. Single N. Fulmars at the n. tip of Newfoundland at L'Anse-aux-Meadows Nov. 15 & Jan. 2 were considered very late at that locality (BDMact); off the New England coast the only reports were of single birds on the Cape Cod CBC Dec. 21 (CAG, JH), at Jeffreys Ledge, N. H., Jan. 25 (DJA *et al.*) and at Cox's Ledge, R. I., Mar. 20 (DLK). Rather early was a Greater Shearwater on Georges Bank off the Massachusetts coast in the period Mar. 2-8 (*vide* RPE) and surprisingly late was a Sooty Shearwater at Sandwich, Cape Cod Dec. 21 (RP). Seven Double-crested Cormorants on four CBCs in n. New England and Nova Scotia were noteworthy; winter Double-crests deserve careful identification in this area.

HERONS — A number of white herons lingered into early winter in the Region; single imm. Little Blues were found at Great Cranberry I., Me., Dec. 17 - 27 (when found dead—*v.o.*, *vide* DDC), at Falmouth, Mass., Dec. 8 (A. Clarke, B. O. E. M.), and in Rhode Island at Galilee Dec. 14 (DLK) and Block I., Dec. 19 - 20 (DB, SRD). Two Great Egrets occurred as far northeast as Fourchu, Cape Breton Dec. 13 (René Haldane *et al.*, *vide* ELM) and four other December individuals along the s. New England coast are enumerated in the CBC summary. In Massachusetts late Snowy Egrets were present at Falmouth Dec. 1 - 12, at Eastham Dec. 14 - Jan. 8, and at Nantucket Dec. 28, another occurring at Block Island Dec. 19. A Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Eastham, Mass., Dec. 19 provided an unusual winter record for the Region (WB).

SWANS, DABBLING DUCKS — Seven Whistling Swans were seen at Lockeport, N. S., Dec. 29, the species being seldom reported in Atlantic Canada (RSW, *vide* CRKA); the only others this season were single birds at Acoaxet, Mass., Dec. 20 (Newport-Westport CBC) and at Old Lyme, Conn., date unspecified (Judy Burt, *vide* WGB). A Fulvous Tree Duck, hitherto hypothetical in Nova Scotia, was shot at Bon Portage I. Jan. 15, providing a first provincial specimen (wing to N.M.C.). Two Gadwalls at Saint John Dec. 27 were unprecedented on New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada CBCs, and good early-winter counts in s. New England were 120 at Concord, Mass., Dec. 18 (J. Hines, B. O. E. M.) and 125 at Newport, R. I., Dec. 12 (DLK, KBK, FP). Unique this season was a Eur. Green-winged Teal at Perryville, R. I., Feb. 23-29 (SSD, EAS *et al.*). Late Blue-winged were single birds occurring in Nova Scotia at Halifax Dec. 20 (Hfx. E. CBC) and at Glace Bay, C. B., Jan. 2 (SMaL). would-be winterers were individuals at Falmouth and Hingham, Mass. during January (*vide* RPE), and an early one appeared at Biddeford, Me., Feb. 21 (KCE, CEJ). Besides six Eur. Wigeons noted on three CBCs in Massachusetts and Connecticut, single birds were found at three localities in Rhode Island Jan. 1 - Feb. 21 (*v.o.* *vide* CW) and another was seen at Glace Bay, Mar. 17 (SMaL, GS).

DIVING DUCKS — A count of 483 Redheads at Nantucket Dec. 28 was the highest CBC total there in more than a decade; at the end of January a sudden influx raised numbers to an estimated 1000, all of which reportedly departed Feb. 1 (EFA, Linda Loring). Canvasback counts of 2500 at Assonet, Mass., Dec. 13 (NPH) and 2106 at L. Saltonstall in E. Haven, Conn., Jan. 1 (NSP) were high for the Region but not unusual at these particular localities. Canvasbacks occurred abruptly and unseasonably at a few open-water inland New England localities: on the Connecticut R. at Agawam and Turners Falls, Mass., birds appearing Feb. 4 reached a peak of 30 on Feb. 20 (SK *et al.*), and in New Hampshire

Tudor Richards gathered records of about 24 individuals at four localities in the Lakes Region and eight birds on the Merrimack R. at Bow, all occurring in late January and early February, the total easily exceeding previous inland New Hampshire counts from any season. It seems reasonable to speculate that these birds had been dispersed by the freezing of waters elsewhere, perhaps to the west. Possible related to this puzzling event was the fact that during the normal migration period Canvasbacks were unusually abundant in Maine, occurring at five localities during March, including 52 at Portland throughout the month (DRW).

The Tufted Duck of at least one previous winter at Salisbury, Mass. was this year apparently seen only Jan. 1-4 (*vide* RPE). No counts of Barrow's Goldeneyes were available from the important wintering areas in Prince Edward Island and n. New Brunswick; elsewhere in the Region reports totaled about 53 individuals at 21 localities, perhaps somewhat fewer than in recent winters. Interesting were three at St. Pauls Bay, Nfld., Dec. 30 (DWF, JEM *et al.*), the species being seldom recorded in the province, except for the past few winters at least at that precise locality. Similarly rare in Nova Scotia, two Barrow's Goldeneyes were found at Pugwash Dec. 2 - Feb. 21 (RB, SIT) and another wintered near the Annapolis causeway (PRH *et al.*), these also being recently discovered wintering spots. Nine at Portland, Me., Dec. 9 were a good count there (DRW) and near the s edge of the birds' winter range were individuals at Sachuest Point in Middletown, R. I., Dec. 12 - Jan. 6 (DLK, KBK, DW *et al.*) and at L. Watrous in Woodbridge, Conn. in late March (NSP *et al.*). A very impressive early-winter estimate of Oldsquaws was 73,500 at Nantucket Dec. 13 (RRV). Harlequin Ducks this winter numbered something like 249 individuals at 23 localities, or more than usual; in Nova Scotia, where the species now seems much less rare than a few years ago, 17 were found at Cherry Hill Jan. 3 (Broad Cove CBC), nine at Port Hebert on the same date (RSW) and 12 at Jones Harbor, Shelburne Co., Mar. 20 (GDP *et al.*). In Massachusetts the higher counts were 23 at North Beach, Chatham during January, 11 at Magnolia Jan. 9 (*vide* RPE) and 14 at Nantucket Feb. 14 (EFA, HC). Although these are respectable New England totals, they were entirely eclipsed by a count of 130+ in waters around Isle au Haut, Me., Mar. 7 (PV *et al.*), almost certainly a Regional record. At the n. tip of Newfoundland hunters reported hundreds of King Eiders with thousands of Commons off L'Anse-aux-Meadows in late December (*vide* BDMact) but south of Newfoundland remarkably few were reported this winter: only 19 at 16 localities, and none south of Massachusetts.



Smew, Newport, R.I., Jan. 8, 1976. Photo/K. P. Able and R. L. Ferren.

S.A.

SMEW — An adult drake Smew discovered in Middletown, R. I., Jan. 3 by Robert M. Bushnell and Hugh Willoughby remained in the Newport-Middletown area through Apr. 2, to be seen by many observers, photographed and extensively chronicled. Free-flying, wary and unbanded, rare in captivity and untraceable to any aviary in the Northeast, the bird seemed above suspicion, although the theories to account for its occurrence might just as well have included the polar route. In Alaska the species was first found in 1960 at St. Paul Island (Pribilofs), and since 1969 has been recorded annually within the period October — June in the central and/or western Aleutians, mostly at Adak, records appearing in *American Birds* now amounting to about 15 and involving perhaps 27 individuals, only 13 being adult drakes, with at least four specimens taken. Elsewhere in North America single Smews have been recorded at Buffalo and the Niagara River, Ont. (1960), at Brantford, Ont. (1973), and three times since 1970 in the Vancouver area, all the just-mentioned records falling in the period November—March and only one bird being an adult drake. To these records could be added older and less satisfactory ones mentioned in the A.O.U. "Check-list" (1957; 646) and Palmer's *Handbook of North American Birds* (1976; 446-7).

VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES — One of several recent records there, a Turkey Vulture at Brier Island, N. S., Jan. 1, was remarkably unseasonable (DWL, *vide* PRH). These birds winter annually in certain areas of w Connecticut, as many as 30 doing so this year at Redding (NSP), and CBC totals at Lakeville-Sharon and Hidden Valley being 16 and three respectively. *Accipiters* occurring on New England CBCs are discussed in the CBC summary. An ad. **Broad-winged Hawk** well seen at Martha's Vineyard on the CBC there Dec. 30 was perhaps the most unusual raptor of the season (ABD *et al.*). A Golden Eagle at Riverside-Albert Jan. 1 was new to New Brunswick CBCs; the season's four others were single birds in Massachusetts at Rowley Dec. 5 (immature-DCA), and at Dartmouth Dec. 7 (RAF, KSH) and in Connecticut an adult at New Haven Dec. 20 (CBC) and an immature at Woodbridge Jan. 29 (NSP). Bald Eagles reported in Nova Scotia this winter numbered at least 83, nearly half of those reported by age being immatures (RDL); 19 birds on New Brunswick CBCs were the highest total ever there (DSC), and in c. Massachusetts as many as 12 (nine adults, three immatures) were present at Quabbin Reservoir in mid-February (THG). In Rhode Island late Ospreys were seen at Middletown Dec. 20 (Newport CBC — RMacl *et al.*) and at Barrington Dec 24 (Janet Bryan, *vide* CW). Five Gyrfalcon sightings (three dark, one light, one white) at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld. in the period Nov. 9 - Jan. 1 probably represented average winter numbers at that locality (BDMact); farther south single birds were seen at Yarmouth, N. S. during the second week of February (MWH *et al.*) and in Massachusetts the previously reported Cape Cod bird was seen periodically through January (WB, RPE, CAG), and single white birds were

present at various localities in Hampshire County Jan. 7-28 (four observers, *vide* SK) and at Essex Mar. 12-18 (PKD *et al.*). Aside from a few probable migrants in March only four Peregrine Falcons were reported this season, in Nova Scotia, Massachusetts (two) and in Connecticut. Fourteen Merlins on ten New England CBCs were more than usual.

PARTRIDGE, RAILS, COOTS — Gray Partridge occur in the Region exclusively in certain agricultural areas of the Maritimes, and this winter were reported only on CBCs at Wolfville, N. S., (19 on Dec. 27) and at Hillsborough, P.E.I. (11 on the same date). The species has gone unrecorded on New Brunswick CBCs since 1968, and may well be in decline. In Connecticut a CBC King Rail at New Haven Dec. 20 was the only one reported anywhere this winter, and a count of 50 Virginias at Old Lyme-Saybrook Dec. 30 was surprisingly high. In Nova Scotia a Sora at Conrad's Beach, Halifax Co., Dec. 20 was unique north of s. New England (ELM), and single Am. Coots were found as late as Dec. 13 at Amherst (CD), Dec. 15 at Yarmouth (MWH) and Dec. 27 at Halifax (EC).

SHOREBIRDS — In Massachusetts single late shorebirds were Semipalmated Plover at Manomet Dec. 23 (KSA), Am. Golden Plover at Lincoln Dec. 14 (RAF). Spotted Sandpiper at Chatham Dec. 19-31 (RVC) and Lesser Yellowlegs at Rowley Dec. 14 (JB). Four Red Knots lingered at Cape Sable Island, N. S. to Jan. 29 (BJS *et al.*), others wintered at N. Scituate, Mass. (*vide* RPE) and two to four were present in w. Rhode Island at Weekapaug and Napatree Pt. to Feb. 19 (RAC, DLK, EAS). Other late shorebirds were a White-rumped Sandpiper at Cape Sable I., N.S., Dec. 31 (BJS), a **dowitcher** (sp.) on the Buzzards Bay, Mass., CBC Dec. 20 (RHS, RRV), a Semipalmated Sandpiper at Cape Sable I Dec. 31 (BJS) and two at Nauset, Cape Cod, Dec. 19 (WB), two W. Sandpipers on the Cape Cod CBC Dec. 21 (MLG, CAG), a Marbled Godwit at Nauset Dec. 1-17 (*vo*, B.O.E.M.), eight Sanderlings at St. Pierre et Miquelon, France, Dec. 30 (CBC), and three Red Phalaropes at Eastham, Cape Cod, Dec. 21 (CBC - WB, RPE).

JAEGERS, GULLS — In Massachusetts a dark imm. jaeger (sp.) was seen at Tuckernuck Is. as late as Dec. 13-15 (RRV) and a N. Skua was reported on Georges Bank during the period Mar. 2-8 (*vide* RPE), this being one of few winter records in the Region. In Newfoundland a gathering of 1317 gulls around the fish plant at Port-au-Choix Dec. 30 contained about 1100 white-winged gulls, 15 Glaucous to Iceland (DWF, JEM, DM, JW), and elsewhere in the province good counts of Glaucous Gulls were 150 at L'Anse-aux-Meadows Jan. 2 and the same number in Cabot Strait Mar. 4 (BDMact). Both white-winged gulls were more abundant than usual this winter in Massachusetts (RPE) and Connecticut (WGB, NSP); maximum counts of Icelanders in Massachusetts were 100+ around the n. end of Plum I., from early February to early March and 85 at Cape Ann Feb. 15 (*vide* RPE). As many as four **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were found this winter; besides the traditional bird spending a seventh consecutive winter at Digby, N. S., three occurred in Massachusetts, single birds at Nauset, Cape Cod Dec. 7 (CAG, VL, BN), inland at Chicopee Dec. 20 (Springfield

CBC-JC, RL), and at Newburyport Jan. 7 (GSB, FO, RAR, TW). The latter bird, closely studied with Great Black-backed and Herring seemed no less dark-mantled than the former and was identified as nominate *fuscus*, a race unconfirmed and almost unreported in North America. An imm. **Mew Gull** carefully examined at Lawrencetown, Halifax Co., N. S., Feb. 7 was considered nominate *canus* on the basis of its almost unmarked head and breast and clean-edged black tail band (IAMcL); there is a single previous provincial sight record of this species (Sable I. 1969) which has been reported in all the Region's states and provinces except New Hampshire and Prince Edward Island, with *canus* confirmed in Massachusetts (twice) and Newfoundland. As in several past winters a Mew Gull was present at Newburyport and Salisbury, Mass., from late December at least through January (AA, MA, RPE) and some observers thought there might have been two individuals (TB *et al.*). In Atlantic Canada 54 Black-headed Gulls were recorded on five CBCs and a count of 45 at Cole Harbor, N. S. during late February was the highest reported (*vide* RGBB); in New England a total of about 57 was reported at 16 localities this winter, maxima at traditional spots being 22 in Boston harbor during February (*vide* RPE) and 15 at Watchemoket Cove in East Providence, R.I., Mar. 17-23 (HW *et al.*).

The occurrence of as many as 3000 Bonaparte's Gulls at Nantucket Feb. 14 was entirely unprecedented there and even greater numbers apparently occurred later in the month (JCA, *vide* EFA); with them was the island's first Little Gull, an immature seen Feb. 8 - Mar. 31 (EFA, HC). Elsewhere in New England a total of 11 Little Gulls occurred at seven localities this season. At the northern tip of Newfoundland a total of 22 Ivory Gulls occurring around L'Anse-aux-Meadows on five dates Dec. 16 - Jan 9 eclipsed all recent Regional records but was not unusual at that precise locality; Bruce Mactavish considered them the most savory of locally esteemed avian fare. In a winter which saw as many as nine of these birds in southern Canada and the U.S., Regional occurrences were of single immatures at Cape Tormentine, N. B., Dec. 20 (CBC - ADS), at Salisbury, Mass. Dec. 22 - Mar. 5 (CLS *et al.*, *et mult.*) and of an apparent adult over Hartford, Conn., Dec. 21 (CBC - SAS). Typically tame and frequenting a very limited area, the Salisbury bird was one of the season's greatest ornithological attractions. Higher Black-legged Kittiwake totals were 2700 at Brier I., N. S., Dec. 23 (CBC - RRA *et al.*), 1350+ at Nantucket Dec 28 (CBC - SP *et al.*) and 1000+ in Cabot Strait Mar 4 (BDMact).

ALCIDS — It was seemingly a very poor season for these birds almost throughout the Region. A scattering of Razorbills from Cabot Strait to Cox's Ledge, R I amounted to no more than 80 individuals, 30 of them at Lepreau, N. B., Jan. 2, this part of the Bay of Fundy being an important wintering locality (CBC). Common Murres went unrecorded on Regional CBCs and the only ones found in New England were five individuals in Massachusetts: four (two oiled) at Nantucket on four dates Dec. 17 - Mar. 14 (EFA) and an oiled bird at Provincetown Feb. 13 (BN). About 150 Thick-billed Murres in Cabot Strait Mar. 4 were a fair count for that crossing (BDMact); farther south about 39 occurring during the winter at five localities in Massachusetts,



Ivory Gull, Salisbury, Mass., Jan. 9, 1976. Photo/Davis W. Finch

including 22 on the Cape Cod CBC, were unique in New England. The *seasonal* New England Dovekie total appears to be no more than 19 individuals at seven localities and the only Com. Puffins were one at Jeffreys Ledge, N.H., Jan. 25 (DJA *et al.*) and a corpse at Nauset, Mass., Jan. 1 (*vide* RPE).



Ivory Gull in flight, Salisbury, Mass. Jan. 6, 1976. Photo/W. Ervin.

OWLS, WOODPECKERS, SWALLOWS — Snowy Owls were fairly common at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld., Nov. 9 - Feb. 5 with occasional counts of six to eight per day, and at least seven or eight known to have been shot (BDMact). In Nova Scotia Bob Lambertson gathered records totaling nine individuals in the province this winter and in New Brunswick at least nine were present during CBC period, and as many as ten birds apparently return migrants, were found on the Tan-tramar Marshes at Sackville Mar. 29, the highest count ever at that locality (SIT). In Regional New England 11 Snowy Owls on seven CBCs indicated a slight decline from last year's low peak, and a crudely figured total of about 52 occurred at 36 localities during the entire season most of them in Maine and Massachusetts. A Hawk Owl remaining at Lee, Me., Jan. 17 - Mar. 26 was discovered and virtually hand-tamed by Peter Vickery, and seen by a great many observers; unconfirmed reports of two others came from the same state, at Holden and Sorrento during February (*v.o.*, *vide* WCT). An unmistakable **Great Gray Owl** easily observed at Berwick, N. S., Mar. 26 was unique this winter, and only the third to occur in the province, previous records dating back to 1882 and 1903 (GRB, RMacD, PP).

A Red-bellied Woodpecker at Barrington N. S. Nov. 2 was one of very few records for Atlantic Canada (VS); in New England seven were reported at five localities in Massachusetts this winter, and four Connecticut CBCs totaled as many as 27. Red-headed Woodpeckers numbered about 22 at 17 Regional New England localities, a better than average season, and early-winter Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were unusually numerous. A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker at N. Wareham

Mass. Dec. 1 was unique south of the breeding grounds (RM), and single N. Three-toed Woodpeckers at North West River, Lab., Jan. 3 (CBC) and at Rangeley, Me., Mar. 22 (Sparks, *fide* PAC) were the only ones reported. Notably early Tree Swallows were two at N. Hampton, N.H., Feb. 25 (HWP), one at Longmeadow, Mass., Feb. 28 (Bill Natti, *fide* SK), and one at Cape Sable, N. S., Feb. 28 (NC *et al.*).

JAYS, TITMICE, THRUSHES — In Massachusetts single Gray Jays at Pelham Dec. 19 (JS) and Athol Mar. 14 - 15 (RC) were unique in s. New England this winter but after the remarkable fall flight Boreal Chickadees were widespread there. A Varied Thrush on the CBC at Hammond River-Hampton, N. B., Jan. 3 was one of very few records for the province (DSC) and in Connecticut one at Lakeville Dec. 27 - Mar. 20 was a third state record (*v.o.*; photographed, NSP).

WHEATEAR, SOLITAIRE, GNATCATCHER, KINGLETS — A **Wheatear** closely observed by Erik Hauge at Happy Valley, Lab. in early January was startling at this season, and unprecedented in the Northeast except for one on the St. Anthony, Nfld. CBC Jan. 1, 1975. Birders are so few in n. Newfoundland and Labrador, not remote from the birds' breeding grounds, that occasional Wheatears attempting to winter there could well have gone undetected for years. A **Townsend's Solitaire** appearing at a feeder in Wolfville, N. S., Dec. 29 or 30 was a first provincial record (collected; Sherman Blakeney, *fide* PRH). Single solitaires had occurred during the fall in Québec and New Brunswick. Strikingly late were a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at Duxbury, Mass., Dec. 4 (H. Kelley, B. O. E. M.) and a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld., Nov. 12 (BD Mact). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were *very* scarce throughout the Maritimes and in New England except for the south coast. Normal numbers, however, were present in Newfoundland.



Varied Thrush, Lakeville, Conn., Jan. 1, 1976.
Photo/Noble Proctor.

WAXWINGS, SHRIKES — This winter's Bohemian Waxwing flight, comparable in timing and extent to those of the past decade, was clearly the largest yet, so much so that subregional editors in many cases were unable to quantify it. The following figures, to be understood as strictly minimal, will give some idea of the volume involved: 677 birds in the nine largest flocks reported in Nova Scotia, 93 on four New Brunswick CBCs, 308 at ten localities in Maine, 296 at seven localities in New

Hampshire, and in Massachusetts 13 at Athol Dec. 28 and three at Wayland during March. It was a fair-to-good season for N. Shrikes, 15 individuals being reported in Nova Scotia, 28 on 12 New Brunswick CBCs, and 43 on CBCs in Regional New England. In recent years the winter peak in Maine and New Brunswick has occurred in March, when local birds are briefly augmented by returning migrants. This appeared to be the case this season in Maine at least (PAC, WCT) but reports were unavailable from New Brunswick.

LATE WARBLERS — These included, in Massachusetts, **Black-and-white** at Nantucket Dec. 10 (EFA), **Worm-eating** at Sandwich Dec. 6 (BN, VL *et al.*), **N. Parula** at Orleans Dec. 12 (VL) and two **Cape Mays** at S. Wellfleet Dec. 1-29 (WB *et al.*), another **Cape May** occurring at Broad Cove, N. S., Nov. 23 (LEN). In boreal New England single **Yellow-rumped Warblers** survived at Bethel, Me., to Dec. 29 (CKG) and, farther north, to Dec 20 at Pittsburg, N. H., the latter bird, even suet-fueled, unable to meet the metabolic challenge of -35° F its final night (Thibeault, CBC). Single **Ovenbirds** were found at Portsmouth, R.I., Dec. 20 (photographed, RLF;—Newport-Westport CBC) and in Massachusetts at Bourne Dec. 21 (BAS—Plymouth CBC) and Framingham Jan. 3 (*fide* RPE); in Nova Scotia an **Am Redstart** appeared in Ian McLaren's Halifax garden Dec 3.

ICTERIDS — Four **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** occurring in a curious series were single immatures at Storrs, Conn., Dec. 21-29 (photographed, RCr, EG), at Cape Sable, N.S., Feb. 14 (NC), at Tolland, Conn., Mar 19 (TP, *fide* RLN) and another (age?) at Ipswich, Mass., Mar. 20 (*fide* RPE). Two unquestionable **Brewer's Blackbirds** at Katama, Martha's Vineyard Jan. 2 - Feb 16 could not be photographed or collected, the species remaining unconfirmed in New England (GGD, ARK *et al.*). A **Brown-headed Cowbird** was found as far north as Norris Point, Nfld., Dec. 29 (RA *et al.*, Gros Morne CBC).

FRINGILLIDS — At least five **Cardinals** were known to be present at four localities in Nova Scotia this winter and six were found on three New Brunswick CBCs; the species is a very recent arrival in the Maritimes. A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** wintering Nov. 30 through March at a feeder in Barrington Passage, N. S. was remarkable (BB), four others were reported in New England during the season. A **Black-headed Grosbeak** present after Jan. 25 at Durham, N. H. was a first state record (TFB, DJA); in Massachusetts one was present at Littleton Dec. 22-28 or longer (JB) and another wintered at Amherst (*v.o.*, *fide* SK). The season's total of **Dickcissels** for the entire Region was only 22.

WINTER FINCHES — The general picture can be derived from the fall migration report and CBC summaries for Atlantic Canada (RDL) and New England (DWF). In January a marked diminution of redpolls in New Brunswick coincided with a moderate influx in New England, followed by several pulses detectable at least in Maine. **Hoary Redpolls** were reported in that state at Littleton (two on Dec. 3 — Macklem, *fide* WCT) and Danforth (six on Jan. 2—CBC), and in Massachusetts two were present at Weston Feb. 29 - Mar. 14

(photographed; WD, LJR *et al.*) and two were reported at Petersham during March (*vide* RPE).

SPARROWS, BUNTINGS — In Maine a **Green-tailed Towhee** at Biddeford Pool Dec. 18 - Apr. 28 was a first state record (CR *et mult. al.*). A Grasshopper Sparrow at Plymouth, Mass. Dec. 21 was unique this winter (BAH *et al.* — CBC), and in Nova Scotia a Sharp-tailed at Conrad's Beach, Halifax Co., Jan. 10 - Feb. 14 (IAMcL, ELM, BDMact) and a Seaside on the Halifax East CBC Dec. 20 (SJF *et al.*) were both unusual. In Connecticut a Lark Sparrow at Westport Dec. 20 was the only one reported this winter (CBC), as was an imm. **Harris' Sparrow** present at S. Windham Jan. 1 - Mar. 31 or later, one of very few state records (photographed, WSG *et mult. al.*). A ***gambelii* White-crowned Sparrow** present through Mar. 26 at Cowesett, R. I. may provide a first Regional wintering record for this race (KBK). In Nova Scotia Phyllis Dobson reported Snow Buntings as widespread and abundant this winter, in New Brunswick David Christie termed their numbers exceptional, the birds being reported on 25 of 27 CBCs with as many as 1600 at Moncton, and in e. Maine Bill Townsend noted distinct coastal influxes in mid-January and again in mid-February.

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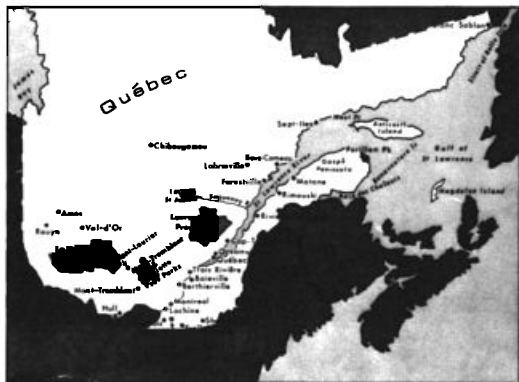
QUÉBEC

/Normand David and Michel Gosselin

A Fieldfare, good numbers of Bohemian Waxwings, a scarcity of Red-breasted Nuthatches and Evening Grosbeaks, and early occurrences of migrants in March are the features of this winter season. December and January were unusually cold and brought many 5-15 cm. snowfalls. Then February, mild and often rainy, put an end to what might have been a long and severe winter. Two snowstorms in early March did not delay the first spring migrants, as very mild weather prevailed afterwards; of some 41 migrant species recorded in March, eight were noticed at record arrival dates, 22 somewhat or much earlier than average, and the remaining 11 were on schedule. Increased coverage can probably account to some extent for such early records.

We would like to explain that this regional report is compiled from records obtained mainly from the Ottawa Field-Naturalists Club (Hull area), the Province of Québec Society for the Protection of Birds (Montréal area), and the Club des Ornithologues du Québec (Québec City and various other regions). The data processing of the C.O.Q. (through daily field check-lists)

produces rough figures for each month, providing a basis for comparison (in this report, see for example, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Bohemian Waxwing and Evening



Grosbeak). Of course such figures cannot be used to measure the true variations of bird populations; they will be presented here only as information additional to the reports already gathered.

GREBES THROUGH WATERFOWL — A Horned Grebe picked up on a highway at Québec City Mar. 8 (*fide* RC), set a record spring arrival, while a single Pied-billed Grebe at Sherbrooke Feb. 13 (RL, RT), appears to be the first February occurrence of this species in the Province. Another out-of-date and out-of-range Pied-billed Grebe was caught at Mont-Joli, Mar. 27 (*fide* JPL); a Gannet at Ste-Flavie, Mar. 25 (ML) was quite unusual. A grand total of 96 Great Cormorants was counted along the south shore of Gaspé Peninsula Feb. 2 (AB, GC). Snow Geese were at Stanbridge East Feb. 11 (BT, *fide* MM), and an unprecedented flock of 14 Brants arrived at Ste-Flavie Mar. 27 (ML). A White-fronted Goose appeared at St-Paul-Ile-aux-Noix Mar. 31 (GM). Two Gadwalls at Sherbrooke Jan. 31 (GL), still present Feb. 15 (C.O.Q.), establish the first wintering record for the species—birds having been noted only in January and March over the previous years; another first was the record-breaking arrival of N. Shovelers at Richelieu Mar. 21 (CL, m.ob.). Good numbers of Canvasbacks (actually the best spring figures ever) were at Beauharnois (60) Jan. 27 (MH), Sherbrooke (16) Jan. 31 (GL), Cap-Rouge (2) Mar. 24 (C.O.Q.), St-Paul-Ile-aux-Noix (800) Mar. 27-28 (FB,DD), and Ile-Perrot (500) Mar. 28 (MM). A ♂ Lesser Scaup was identified at Montréal-Nord Jan. 11 (M. Julien). Waterfowl counts in Eastern Québec provided interesting figures on some species this winter: although the numbers of Com. Goldeneye in the Tadoussac area (239) Jan. 13-14 (AR, AB, GC), and e. Gaspé Peninsula (296) Feb. 2-5 (AB, GC) were similar, Barrow's Goldeneye and Bufflehead numbered 1156 and 33 at Tadoussac, and 82 and 1 in Gaspé. Oldsquaws showed the reverse pattern: 2794 near Tadoussac, compared with 44,112 along the E. Gaspé Peninsula. Two Harlequin Ducks were also seen near Tadoussac in the same survey, and the bird noted in the Fall Report was present at Hull until Jan. 17 (*fide* RMP). Only two Com. Eiders were counted in the Tadoussac area: for an account of the discovery of an overland flight of the local birds to their wintering "grounds" in New England, see *Ornis Scand.* 6 (1):41-47; Percé recorded 750 of these eiders Jan. 6 (RB), plus 14 King Eiders, 85 Surf and five Black Scoters Jan. 2 (*fide* RB).

RAPTORS, PTARMIGANS — Very few Goshawks were seen, but Sharp-shinned Hawks were found at Québec City Dec. 21 (C.O.Q.), Lennoxville Dec. 27 (*fide* PvL) and Hudson December through February (JW). B. Barnhurst reported a rare dark-phase Red-tailed Hawk at Coteau-Landing, Mar. 6 and a Red-shouldered Hawk at Hudson Dec. 27; a good count of 40 Rough-legged Hawks was made at Mt-St-Bruno Dec. 21 (FM). Among the rarer raptors, a Golden Eagle was found in a wolf trap at St-Urbain, Charlevoix Co., Mar. 30 (C.O.Q.); imm. Bald Eagles were at Québec City Jan. 2 (*fide* C.O.Q.) and Cote-Ste-Catherine Feb. 21-Mar. 20 (*fide* MM), and an adult at Cap-Tourmente Mar. 27 (DB). A Gyrfalcon appeared in e. Gaspé in early February (AB, GC), and one

at LesEscoumins, Mar. 14 (GT). Peregrine Falcons always rare in winter, were noted at Granby Dec. 30 (C.O.Q.), Percé Jan. 5 (RB) and Charlesbourg Mar. 25 (C.O.Q.). As in most years, Willow Ptarmigans did not go much farther south than Radisson (James Bay), very few stragglers reaching Matagami (*fide* RP).

COOT THROUGH OWLS — An Am. Coot at St-Jean-Iberville Mar. 20 broke a record for early spring arrival (FB). A Glaucous Gull near Sherbrooke Dec. 27 (RL) was a rare inland occurrence, and some 170 Iceland Gulls were reported from Rimouski Mar. 30 (JPL). Still present at Beauharnois Dec. 2 was the **Lesser Black-backed Gull** mentioned in the Fall issue (MH, JW). A Bonaparte's Gull seen at Cote-Ste-Catherine Mar. 28 (JS) was the earliest migrant ever noted there. Beauharnois' first Ivory Gull was turned up Jan. 17 (CL, JL); at least three immature birds were observed there the next day allowing people to approach within a few feet of them (JS, m.ob.); the last sighting occurred on Feb. 1 (PL). Some ten Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen from the Matane-Baie-Comeau ferry Dec. 6 (MG). A report of 22 Razorbills at Percé Jan. 2 (*fide* RB) is noteworthy although common in summer this species usually goes unrecorded in winter. Three Dovekies at Percé in early December were the only ones recorded this season (RB)



Ivory Gull, Beauharnois, Qué., Feb. 1, 1976. Photo/J.B. Steeves.

A belated report of a well-described Barn Owl killed by a car near Huntingdon last fall was received from R. Younie. Snowy Owls appeared in fair numbers at the usual localities. At Villemontel, Abitibi Co., Jan. 3, P. Ethier spotted the only Hawk Owl of the season. Barred Owls were numerous in s. Québec, and a single Great Gray Owl was reported from Aylmer Mar. 2 (*fide* RMP). Short-eared Owls have been unusually common around Montréal, with a maximum of 15 near Mt-St-Bruno Mar. 7 (FM). The tagging of Saw-whet Owls since November in a small suburban woodlot indicates the following occurrences: One in December, one in January, two in February, 10 in March (MH, m.ob.). Our only reported Boreal Owl was seen at Québec City Mar. 20 (DB, AH)

WOODPECKERS THROUGH MIMIDS — A ♀ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at St-Hyacinthe Mar. 29 (D.Cyr) is the earliest provincial record ever. Both three-toed woodpeckers were virtually unreported after December. The several Gray Jays found in the Montreal and Hull areas were only a few more than usual. Blue Jays, Com. Crows, Black-capped Chickadees and White-

breasted Nuthatches maintained their numbers within the limits of usual winter variations. On the other hand a real scarcity of Red-breasted Nuthatches was noticed by all contributors; figures supplied by the C.O.Q. show that the species was roughly one fourth as common as average. Brown Creepers were also notably scarce in s.w. Québec (*vide* MM & RMP). Except for one in 1958, all provincial Carolina Wrens occurred since 1971, relatively mild winters being probably responsible for the survival of some individuals. It is not known if any of the birds seen this winter survived the severe conditions of January; they include birds at St-Laurent Dec. 20 (MH), St-Lambert Dec. 18-Jan. 12 (SJH), and Philipsburg in early January (*vide* MM). One however appeared in the Aylmer area Mar. 12 (MB). Single Mockingbirds were at Arvida Dec. 2 (C.O.Q.), Québec City Dec. 18 (C.O.Q.), Dorval Dec. 20 (GH) and Mt-St-Bruno Mar. 16 (FM). It is felt that these records reflect lower numbers than usual, especially in the Montréal area. A Brown Thrasher at Aylmer Mar. 27, may have been a bird wintering in that general area (*vide* RMP).

TURDIDS — The regular visits of Guy Huot at the feeders of the Rigaud area were rewarded by the discovery of a **Fieldfare** on Jan. 4. In the following weeks, hundreds of birders had the opportunity to see this bird as it fed in its favorite apple tree; it established the longest stay in North America ever recorded for a Fieldfare (see *AB* 27: 590; 29: 846 and *Condor* 72: 480). A careful check by local observers assured that the bird bore no band. It was last seen Mar. 20 (MM). The **Townsend's Solitaire** mentioned in our last report was turned up again at Cap-Tourmente Jan. 25 by J. Boulva, an observer already familiar with the species.



Fieldfare, Rigaud, Qué., Jan. 4, 1976. Photo/N. David.

KINGLETS THROUGH WARBLERS — Golden-crowned Kinglets were totally absent until the arrival of the first migrants at the end of March. If the numerous reports of Bohemian Waxwings do not reflect a real

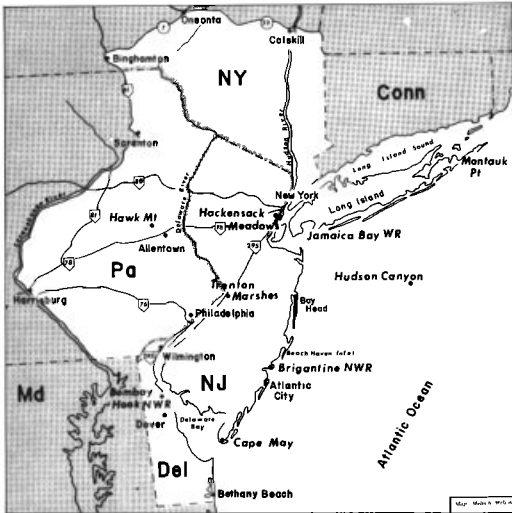
invasion, the species was however more conspicuous than usual. As a rule, these waxwings reach peak numbers in our area in February; but this winter they were equally numerous in December, January and February. The biggest flock congregated on Mt-Royal (Montréal) with a maximum count of 250 on Feb. 14 (CL). Their numbers dwindled considerably in March. Only two reports of Cedar Waxwings were received, both from Hull area (*vide* RMP). The hardiness of Starlings is exemplified by reports of eight at Percé Dec. 31 (RB), eight at Villemontel Jan. 3 (PE), and 15 at St-Michel-des-Saints Dec. 31 (PL). The species is also a regular winter resident in most villages and garbage dumps in the southern parts of the Province. A healthy and very late Yellow-rumped Warbler was at Sherbrooke Dec. 21 (RL); another was a record early migrant at Aylmer Mar. 26 (JD).

ICTERIDS, FRINGILLIDS — The E. Meadowlark at Nun's I., Mar. 6 (RP), was the earliest ever there. Cardinals established their stronghold in the Montréal area in the mid-60s (see *AFN* 20:405; 21:400); no fewer than 25 birds were reported this past season (*vide* MM). Other Cardinals included two pairs in the Hull area (*vide* RMP), a female at Granby Dec. 21-Mar. 14 (PT, m.ob.), a third consecutive winter occurrence in the Québec City area (*vide* RC), and a first record for the Lac St-Jean area, at Chicoutimi Dec. 6-Feb. 7 (NB). Evening Grosbeaks were less numerous than in previous years. Many feeder-owners commented on their overstock of sunflower seeds, and no flock of more than 90 birds was reported. For each of the four months, the species was mentioned in 16, 24, 15, and 11 per cent of the reports (average of the three previous years: 30, 35, 37 and 31 per cent) (C.O.Q.) Purple Finches, Pine Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins and Am Goldfinches also appeared in reduced numbers. On the other hand Com. Redpolls, Tree Sparrows and Snow Buntings were within the limits of their usual abundance. Other worthy-of-note reports in this category include three Hoary Redpolls in the Montréal area (*vide* MM) and a White-crowned Sparrow at Lévis Dec. 26 (*vide* RC).

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HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION
/P.A. Buckley, Robert O. Paxton and
David A. Cutler

The cycle of extended and mild falls typical of the last several years continued in 1975, with most observers commenting on the abrupt change to very cold weather in time for Christmas Bird Counts. The chill upon the earth continued, deeping in mid to late January — setting record lows in much of the region around the 20th-21st —



and was finally ameliorated with a vengeance in mid-February when equally record high temperatures were recorded. March had a few cold days but generally continued February's pulse of warmth. As will be discussed in the Spring season analysis, this warm trend peaked in unprecedented fashion in mid April. Precipitation, alas, was generally in a reverse lock-step with the mercury, rising as temperatures fell, and reversing the happy snow-free trend of the last several years. Most areas experienced above-normal precipitation, mostly as snow.

There was a bewildering amalgam of unusual birds this winter, even more than one would expect with a reporting period spanning late fall and early spring migration, plus the winter nadir. Certainly worthy of mention here were several Barrow's Goldeneyes; Gyrfalcon; Sandhill Crane; Ivory Gull; Rough-winged Swallow; Tennessee Warbler; Audubon's Warbler; Green-tailed Towhee; Hoary Redpoll and Golden-crowned Sparrow. Perusal of the text will reveal species which in other years would have been singled out for early mention but which this year are eclipsed by those just listed.

GREBES THROUGH IBIS — Red-necked Grebes continued to be scarce in our region, most reports being of northbound birds in breeding plumage during March. Unusual inland in winter was a Horned Grebe at Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Jan. 16 (WR, SB). Eared Grebes were only reported thrice: Mar. 13 at Longport, N.J. (JD), Dec. 20 at Gardiner's Island, L.I. (TB, SS), and Mar. 6, Montauk Pt. (GSR, AJL *et al.*). The only N. Fulmar report was of

one 45 mi. e. of Barnegat Inlet Feb. 5 (TK). The same observer reported a maximum of 5000 N. Gannets in the vicinity of the foreign fishing fleets 60-100 mi. off the New Jersey coast in late January and early February, and 500 from shore at Cape May Jan 24. Whether due to the mild early weather or not, Double-crested Cormorants were recorded in almost unprecedented numbers on Long Island (but not in coastal New Jersey) this winter. For example, 42 were recorded on CBSs; in many years none is seen, or at least reliably; by the mid-January New York State waterfowl census, 35 were still present. One at Highland Falls, N.Y. Dec. 27 was the first Orange County CBC record in 17 years (*vide* JPT). Coastally most apparently wintered successfully. At the same time Great Cormorant continues its southward expansion, and on the Lewes/ Cape Henlopen, Del., breakwaters is now *the* winter cormorant, peaking at 26 on Mar. 30 (K. Seager)

Late records and/or attempts at wintering in the n. and w. parts of the Region by a variety of "summer" herons was another winter feature. More CBCs than ever recorded more species than ever, including Glossy Ibis Outstanding were a **Least Bittern** in the Hackensack Meadows (H.M.), that wintered successfully for the fourth year (DS *et al.*), one on the Lakehurst, N.J., CBC Dec. 28, at Calverton, L.I. Dec. 27 (GSR); and a Yellow-crowned Night Heron the same day at Mastic, L.I. (DM) Green Heron is now assuming a "rare but regular" winter status in the Region, this year occurring on six CBCs as follows: Pennsylvania 1, New Jersey 3 and Long Island 2 Yet another was found at Tobay Pond, Jones Beach Jan 8, (AW) where it was found dead Feb. 8, just before the excessively warm spell that probably would have seen it through (S&KM). Most, if not all, egrets and ibis left Long Island in late December or early January, and about the same time in s. New Jersey, returning in the late February warm spell, when one Glossy made it to Washington Boro, Pa. Feb. 22 (Ted Hake). We do not know of any summer herons or Glossies that over-wintered anywhere in the Region.

WATERFOWL — Whistling Swans continue their expansion as winterers in the Region. While only a dozen were recorded on Long Island CBCs, an impressive 655 were tallied in N.J., the maximum being 290 in the Brigantine N.W.R. area. Some 5000 at Washington Boro, Pa. Feb. 28 (CJ) were described as part of an early migration owing to the warm spell. One at Newburgh N.Y. was the first Orange County CBC report in 17 years (*vide* JPT). Less than a dozen wintered again on e. Long Island. Two "White-fronted" geese of doubtful lineage as well as provenance were seen on Long Island, but one genuine article appeared at North Wales, Pa. Feb. 14 possibly a winterer from the Eastern Shore (AM). Three small Canada Geese, probably *hutchinsii*, were seen with a flock of 60 standard-sized birds at New Ringold, Pa Mar. 24 (M. Broun) and 50 mi. north three hours later by Betty Harris.

A single Fulvous Tree Duck was seen at Tiana Beach L.I., Feb 7 (M. & L. Scheibel) while a flock of 23 made a one-day appearance at Bombay Hook N.W.R., Feb. 15 (R. Keel). The approximately 11,500 Black Ducks in the Long Island-extreme lower Hudson Valley on the mid-January N.Y.S. waterfowl census was the first figure below 16,500 (1975) in the period 1969-76; the significance of this drop remains to be determined. Single

♂ Eur. Green-winged Teal were reported from Brigantine N.W.R., Mar. 23 (JA), Sagaponack Pond, L.I., Mar. 7 (AJL) and Tobay Pond Mar. 14 (RKE). Up to four ♂ Eur Wigeons wintered at Mecox Bay, L.I., (m.ob.), but only one other, a single, was noted elsewhere. Excellent counts were: 200 Redheads, Clinton, N.J. Mar. 3, 5000 Canvasback Dec. 4, Old Sam's Pond, near Asbury Park, N.J. (both HD), 1100 Oldsquaw at Longport Mar. 20 (HTA), 4100 Ruddy Ducks on the Gloucester County (N.J.) CBC, and an impressive 17,000 on the Glenolden (Pa.) CBC. Three ♂ **Tufted Ducks** were seen this winter: one at its accustomed location in the East River under the Triboro Bridge, N.Y.C., from Dec. 6 to at least Jan. 31 (Jose Machado *et al.*), one on the Lower Hudson CBC Dec. 21 (Joseph Kularich), and another, the first inland Regional record, on Rockland L. Rockland Co., N.Y. Feb. 29-Mar. 7 (E.R. Brown *et al.*).

The Shark River, N.J. **Barrow's Goldeneye** came in sometime during November for the first time, remaining through the period, but most unexpected were two from e Long Island, a female on L. Montauk Jan. 31-Feb. 12 (THD, T O'C *et mult. al.*) and a male at Montauk Pt., Mar. 21 (JA, JC). As more observers see ♀ Barrow's in New England and elsewhere, they are learning it is no harder to identify them, under adequate conditions, than it is to separate female eiders or scaup. Both eiders and Harlequins were widely but exceedingly thinly spread over the Region, with none of the large eider flocks of recent years reported anywhere. Several accumulations of scoters in the low thousands were reported from s. New Jersey, but were eclipsed by the mass of some 60,000 at Montauk Pt. in late March, having built up from 20-30,000 in January and February. About 90% were White-wingeds (m.ob.).

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS — Observers in the n part of the Region commented on the numbers of wintering or attempted wintering Turkey Vultures, as well as on the many early arrivals with the late February warm spell. Up to 22 Black Vultures wintered in three roosts in Pennsylvania, with up to ten at French Creek S.P. (R.E. Cook). After a lag, this species seems to be joining the other southerners expanding their breeding and wintering ranges northward; New Jersey and New York breeding records are probably not too far in the future. Two Ospreys were reported from Delaware, one on the Rehoboth CBC and one in the Count week at Wilmington. Not so many years ago, winter Ospreys were all but unknown; now there are several each winter. Bald Eagles were thinly scattered with no concentrations reported. The breeding pair at Bombay Hook N.W.R. was at its nest towards the end of the period as was New Jersey's only known pair (location suppressed); second and possibly third prospecting pairs were also in New Jersey.

Golden Eagles were not frequently noted this winter. The pair returned to Stissing Mtn., Dutchess Co., for the winter, and one or two wintered along the coast of New Jersey near Brigantine N.W.R. One each at Raccoon Ridge Dec. 7 and Phillipsburg Dec. 28 (*vide* FPW) might have been late migrants. Winter Merlins increase in number each year, but six on the Orient, L.I., CBC must be a Regional high. Five Peregrine Falcons plus one during Count week were found on Regional CBCs; one wintered in midtown Manhattan with occasional forays

to H.M. to add duck to a steady pigeon diet and one (same?) was seen on a building in downtown Newark, N.J. Dec. 8 (D. Crocco). A gray **Gyr Falcon** was approached closely on the ground and in flight at Tobay Pond Dec. 6, but disappeared thereafter (GSR, DL)

S.A.

Goshawks continue to be widely reported, and in some areas have even become backyard feeder-eaters. Their increase, apparent change in habits and southward breeding range extensions seem directly tied to the simultaneous decline in numbers of Cooper's Hawks. Although veteran observers are seeing almost no Cooper's Hawks, they continue to be reported, especially on CBCs, by those less than familiar with them. Great caution is urged in accepting identifications, and detailed descriptions should be required. And while on the subject of identification, winter Broad-wingeds are still reported annually curiously, once again almost never by veteran observers. That the bird does occur occasionally in winter we know; but unless photographic evidence is submitted to the appropriate Regional Editor, we shall not accept any future reports.

Only one Sora was reported, on the Boonton, N.J. CBC, and only one King, from Sussex Co. N.J. Jan 1 (JZ). A **Black Rail** flushed at Island Beach S.P. Dec 6 (TK, TV) became one of few Regional winter records. A northbound migrant **Sandhill Crane** was seen clearly and well described † from Raccoon Ridge, N.J., Mar 27 (Peter Dunne), and three were seen the same day (first Del. record) over Wilmington (A.E. Conway) more in the growing list of recent reports of this bird unknown in the Region 20 years ago.

SHOREBIRDS — Am. Oystercatchers remained at Oak Beach Marsh, L.I., until Dec. 4 (K. Feustel), and at Beach Haven Inlet, New Jersey at least until Jan 16 (BCH), if not through the winter. Northbound returnees arrived in the vicinity of Oak Beach Marsh Feb. 29, (DP), the next day at Shinnecock Inlet (LW); in N.J. first arrivals were Feb. 28 at Brigantine I. (JAK, JD) and Longport Feb. 29 (JD). A few Piping Plovers wintered in s. New Jersey, but apparently none on Long Island.

Late-lingering shorebirds included the following Semipalmated Plover, five on Jan. 8, Jones Inlet (AW), Spotted Sandpiper, Culvers L. N.J., Dec. 21 (Jack Padalino *et al.*); Willet, to at least Feb. 5, Jones Inlet (SSt, AW *et al.*) and Dec. 21, Cape May CBC; Red Knot, scattered flocks, the maximum being 150 that survived at Longport (JD); Least Sandpiper, Jamaica Bay W.R., Dec. 21 (THD *et al.*); Com. Snipe, widespread, with 70 on the Trenton Marshes Jan. 24 (RB, RW); variously determined, scattered peep, all south of Long Island except for eight honestly identified only as "*Calidris* sp." on the Central Suffolk CBC Dec. 27; up to a dozen Marbled Godwits at Brigantine N.W.R. to mid-December (JAK *et al.*); Long-billed Dowitcher to Jan 4, Tobay Pond (m.ob.), H.M., Dec. 20 (RK *et al.*), and three on Dec 12 at Brigantine N.W.R., where there were also two Short-billeds (JAK); Red Phalarope Dec. 7, Sunken Meadow S.P. on Long Island Sound (M. Lindauer), and

an unidentified (but almost certainly Red) phalarope off Atlantic City, N.J. Dec. 20 (*vide* JM). Northbound returnees were a changing ♂ Ruff at Bombay Hook N.W.R., Mar. 20 (Phyllis Hurlock *et al.*) and two Am. Avocets at Brigantine N.W.R. Mar. 7 (DK).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS — Jaegers have not been considered normal winter fare, but winter pelagic work by the hardest of the hardy is discovering them "out there." Most reports have been of Pomarines, so it is not surprising that a light-phase adult and a dark-phase immature at Jones Beach Dec. 13 were identified as that species (THD, TB, J. Gee). Actually offshore, Al Lorenzetti had a single **Great Skua** six miles s. of Fire I. Dec. 6, and Koebel estimated five Pomarines and 15 Great Skuas around the foreign fishing fleets 60-100 mi. off the New Jersey coast in late January and early February. We assume that winter "Great" Skuas are arctic *Catharacta skua*, but that assumption might be open to question as far as spring and summer skuas go. We feel the question is still wide open, and that *C. macconnicki*, the South Polar Skua, might prove to be regular in our waters in its contranuptial season.

White-winged gulls were on the low side of average, with no dramatic concentrations, and the usual sprinkling on inland reports. Only two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were noted: Massapequa Park, L.I., late Nov. to Dec. 9 (AJL, m.ob.), and on the H.M. Dec. 21 (RR). A high count of 24 Black-headed Gulls came from Caven Pt., N.J., on the Lower Hudson CBC Dec. 21; others and Little Gulls were scattered along the s. shore of Long Island at virtually every inlet, but practically none was seen south of Long Island. Laughing Gulls wintered at several s. New Jersey locales, while one at Shinnecock Inlet Feb. 12 (BS, BC) is almost unique on Long Island for mid-winter. The Brigantine I., "Mystery Gull" (see AB, 29-37) departed this year on Dec. 4 (JAK), its identity no closer to being revealed than when it first appeared.

About one bird there was no mystery, only all-consuming envy on the part of the very many who did not see it soon enough. We refer to the immature **Ivory Gull** found at Southold, L.I. Feb. 8 by Paul Stoutenburgh — who took the extraordinary photo on p. 676. Seen the next day by a few local observers, it was found dead the morning of the 10th by THD, DWF *et al.* who, it is rumored, were overcome by grief at the discovery of the emaciated corpse, now lying in state in the Am. Museum of Natural History. This first Long Island record since a specimen was found dead at nearby Orient Pt., Feb. 14, 1945 would have caused an even bigger commotion had Newburyport, Mass. not just struck again. Perhaps next year

Two Com. Terns were seen on the Lower Hudson CBC Dec. 21, and the last two of the flock that harbored the November Arctic (see AB, 30: 43) were found dead at L. Montauk Dec. 20 (ROP). A winter-plumaged Forster's Tern in a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls at Fire I. Inlet Feb. 23 provided the first mid-winter report ever for Long Island (J. Bloss, S. Birnback); three at Beach Haven Inlet Dec. 12 apparently left soon thereafter (BCH).

Alcids were very light this winter. Noteworthy were an oiled Razorbill at Barnegat Inlet Dec. 18 (BCH) and a Thick-billed Murre at Brigantine I., Jan. 17 (JAK). Two exhausted **Com. Puffins** were captured alive on the beach at Water I., Fire Island, in early December (Karen Blumer). One died (spec. to A.M.N.H.), and the other

was released several days later. Offshore, a CBC found two about 22 mi. e. of Shark River Inlet, N.J. (RR *et al.*) and Koebel had up to eight 60-100 mi. off the New Jersey coast.

OWLS THROUGH CHICKADEES — Few Snowy Owls were reported this winter, the maximum being three at J.F.K. Int'l Airport (S. Chevalier). On Dec. 12 one reached Price's Corner, Del., where it spent the day sitting on a shopping center building (Betty Burroughs). No major aggregations of Long-eareds were reported, but a roost of eight Short-eareds in Bedminster Twp., Bucks Co., was an excellent inland count (R.W. Blye, Jr.). The first definite Orange County winter records for Barn Owl included one nesting pair at Warwick, N.Y. (*vide* JPT), three were discovered "in residence" in a Belford, N.J. fish factory, and another possible pair was in Atlantic City, N.J. (JAK). As many as 11 wintered in abandoned army buildings on David's I., New Rochelle, N.Y. (L. O'Dell, *vide* RA). Incredibly high counts (if not typos) for Screech Owls on CBCs included 35 on Northwestern Hunterdon County, 42 on Bethlehem, Pa., 80 on Glenolden, and an unbelievable 118 on Upper Bucks County. This may explain where they have all gone.

S.A.

A late **Whip-poor-will** was mist-netted at Cape May Point Nov. 19 (J. Grantham), but more startling was one found freshly dead at Brookhaven, L.I. Dec. 24 by Dennis Puleston. He reported that it had just died, was plump, and when autopsied was found with an empty stomach. He points out that while torpidity is known for Poor-wills, it is not known for Whip-poor-will, although this incident raises the possibility. There is no previous Regional record so late in the winter; in fact that Cape May report above is the closest date!

A wide scattering of wintering Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers was highlighted by an amazing 12 on the Northwestern Hunterdon Co. (N.J.) CBC; there were likewise a few Red-headed. No Three-toeds were found. Very few E. Phoebes could be located, but late-lingering W. Kingbirds were at Barnegat Inlet Dec. 14 (MH) and one was on the Cape May CBC Dec. 21. The warm air pulse in late February was doubtless directly responsible for the unprecedented **Rough-winged Swallow** † at Cold Spring Harbor, L.I. Feb. 19-20 (T O'C *et al.*); last year one was seen on Long Island in the first week of March, at that time setting a new arrival date by several weeks. A count of 500 Fish Crows at the Tincum Refuge roost Feb. 11 (John C. Miller) was also unprecedented that far inland. During January and February two different **Gray Jays** were seen by many observers in Verbank and Salt Pt., Dutchess Co., N.Y., site of the three previous N.Y.C. area records.

Chickadees of two varieties poured south from northern forests this winter. Boreal attracted most attention, and CBCs give a good indication of the relative center of winter abundance. Our Region's portion of N.Y.S. had ten, New Jersey had 14, while Pennsylvania had one, plus one during Count week. Kane estimates some 40 wintering in n. New Jersey. Along with them (or,

rather, the other way 'round) came thousands of Black-capped — into Carolina country. It is illuminating to read the number of CBCs with both species; someone should plot the winter overlap bandwidth. More importantly, people should have been on the lookout for interspecific interactions (the species separation problem momentarily aside) and should be on the alert for possible mixed pairs this spring. The contact between the two species is indefinite in our area, having never been studied.

WRENS THROUGH ICTERIDS — Single Short-billed Marsh Wrens on Dec. 27 at Calverton (JCI) and Mastic (M. Osmond, DM) were the first in winter on Long Island in years for this now-extirpated breeder; one was also seen on Brigantine I. Jan. 25 (JAK). It will be interesting to see how more northerly populations of Carolina Wrens fared in this bitter and snowy midwinter, but we will be especially monitoring those within the circle of the Wilmington, Del. CBC, this year numbering a stupendous 200! The E. Bluebird colony at Longwood Gardens, Pa. had 13 pairs established by the end of the period, a heartening increase since the single pair in 1972 (JG) Two Varied Thrushes wintered, an ad. male 300 ft. over the Connecticut line from Dutchess County (R T W.B.C. *fide* EP), and a probably imm. male Dec. 18-Jan. 29, Sandystown Twp., Sussex Co. N.J. (m.ob.). A late Wood Thrush was at Brigantine N.W.R., Dec. 6 (JD), and one was found on Shelter I. Dec. 29 (JCI). At least three others were reported, without details, on New Jersey and Pennsylvania CBCs. Record early Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were seen Mar. 27 in Central Park, N.Y.C. (K Berlin), and Mar. 28 in Bronx Botanical Garden (M. Scheckman, J. Oswald). Northern Shrikes were distinctly uncommon this winter, even in the n. part of the Region. To the south, Loggerheads were scattered, although the only proven overwintering occurred on Long Island, at Jamaica Bay W.R. (m.ob.).

A Black-and-white Warbler frequented a feeder in Lawrenceville, N.J., Dec. 1-21 (William LaTourette), and another was seen on the Tuckerton CBC Dec. 27. Orange-crowned Warblers were seen in Rye, N.Y. Dec. 6 (TB), Shinnecock Hills, L. I., Dec. 20 (GSR), Jones Beach S.P. Jan. 4 (ROP), on the Boonton CBC Dec. 28, at Matawan, N.J. Dec. 6 (WS), and at Beach Haven Inlet, Jan. 4 (RK *et al.*), a better than usual number. The Parulid prize went to a **Tennessee Warbler** found on the Lower Hudson CBC (RK, DS, TP†). This is not as unprecedented as it might seem at first blush, as this species was a regular November nettee at Fire I. Lighthouse in the late 1960s-early 1970s (PAB, pers. comm.) and one frequented an Ossining, N.Y., feeder Jan. 12-30, 1955 until its demise (specimen in A M N.H.). An **Audubon's** (Yellow-rumped) **Warbler** was photographed in color at a Poughkeepsie, N.Y., feeder Feb. 5-9 (S.&J. DeOrsey; photos examined by PAB), one of an increasing number of recent, very late fall and winter reports for this bird. Returning Pine Warblers came back early with the February warm spell, the earliest being Feb. 28 at Robert Moses S.P., L.I., Feb. 28 (D Wimpfheimer); several Long Island, New Jersey and Pennsylvania records followed in the next week. No chats were reported during the entire winter.

Very few orioles were found this winter, and all were "Baltimores." Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported from W. Nyack, N.Y., Mar. 25 (Mr. and Mrs. Berne

Sickels), the H M., Dec. 13-21 (DS *et al.*) and in a yard in nearby N. Arlington in February (*fide* Irving Black), Paulsboro, N.J., Mar. 6 (J.T. McNeill); Ridley Park, Pa., Mar. 25-31 (Wm. Stocku); Wyomissing, Pa. Mar. 26 (W.W. Kelley, Jr.); and New Castle, Del. Feb. 26 (*fide* Keith Richards) — an astonishing number of reports for this (usually) autumn wanderer. The errant flock of 20 or so Brewer's Blackbirds wintering at Bombay Hook since the winter of 1957-58 could not be located on the CBC, but was of course seen almost daily thereafter.

FINCHES — Confirmed imm. ♂ Black-headed Grosbeaks were at feeders in the Bronx, Jan. 26 - through period (John Gillen *et al.*) and Tuckahoe, N.Y. Feb. 13-through period (Mrs. Richard Forrest; photographed in color). Confirmed ♀ Rose-breasted were at Laverock, Pa. Dec. 5 through period (Heroert and Elizabeth Cutler *et al.*) and "all winter" at various feeders in Brookhaven, L.I. (DP, GSR *et al.*); an imm. male was at Darien, Conn., feeders for a week following Feb. 16, until it succumbed to "cat attack and general emaciation" Its present whereabouts, if a specimen, are unknown, hopefully it is preserved (*fide* Arno Schulman) Two Indigo Buntings were found this winter, the 2nd and 3rd at that season for N.Y.S., respectively: an imm. male in the Bronx Botanical Garden Dec. 21 (T. Peszel) and one at the Prichard feeder in Pleasant Valley, Dutchess Co. Jan. 13-19 (Marion Van Wagner *et al.*). Six feeder Dickcissels (L.I. 2; N.J. 2; Pa. 2; Del. 1) were about average.

Except for the now-ubiquitous Evening Grosbeaks, winter finches were thin and scattered (Red Crossbill) to locally abundant (Com. Redpoll) to almost non-existent (White-winged Crossbill). Pine Grosbeaks pretty much kept to the mountains in n.w. New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Carefully described † was a **Hoary Redpoll** from Dallas, Pa., Feb. 9 in a flock of 900 Commons; several other suspicious, "frosty" birds in the same flock could not be seen clearly (WR). Another was reported from the same area three weeks later, by other observers, but a description was not furnished. Single **Eur. Goldfinches** were at Long Island feeders in Seaford (*fide* AJL) and Centerport (Huntington Aud. Soc.). Cf. comments in *AB*, 29: 954.

A high count of Ipswich (Savannah) Sparrows was 25 on Brigantine I. Jan. 25 (JAK). Also high was a count of 18 wintering Vesper Sparrows from Cumberland County, N.J. (DK). Oregon (Dark-eyed) Juncos were reported from Demarest, N.J. Mar. 12-22 (Mrs. Frances Buch, photos examined by PAB) and from Lawrenceville, Elwood and Eatontown but without details or photos. An imm. Clay-colored Sparrow was studied from as close as two feet Dec. 6 at Island Beach S.P. (PWS, Kenneth Prytherch). New Jersey's third Harris' Sparrow was at a Cranbury feeder Jan. 13 (J. Applegate *et al.*). New Jersey's fifth Green-tailed Towhee, which arrived at a Mickleton feeder Nov. 20 remained through the entire period and was seen by hundreds of observers. White-crowned Sparrows occurred in considerable numbers in the s part of the Region this winter. While only 13 were seen on New York State counts, 190 were found on New Jersey counts (maximum: 53), 202 on Pennsylvania counts (maximum 32), and only five Delaware counts had 84. One feeder alone in Belle Mead, N.J., had 22 (RW) making one doubt the A.O.U. check list wintering range as "from

North Carolina south, casually north to Ontario". Possibly related to the White-crowned numbers was New Jersey's third **Golden-crowned Sparrow**, an immature at a Boonton feeder from Jan. 9 through the period (Charles Reeves, RK *et mult. al.*; color photos examined by PAB). Two Lincoln's Sparrows were seen by experienced observers this winter: Dec. 25, Harrisburg, Pa. (CJ), and Jones Beach, L.I., Jan 4. (A. Dignan). Record inland Snow Bunting counts included 1000 each at Cranbury Neck Farm, N.J. Feb. 7 and Fleetwood, Pa., Feb. 8; and 2000 each at Harveys L. Pa. Feb. 1 (E. Johnson) and Bethlehem, Pa., Feb. 15 (Mrs. Thomas Mutchler). Few Lapland Longspurs were noted, and no flocks of any consequence.

EXOTICS — A pair of Black Swans frequented the New Jersey side of Delaware Bay; by May they were incubating eggs on an impounded pond near Heislerville (PAB) A Crowned Crane (sp. ?) survived since September in s. New Jersey marshes and pastures at least until Feb. 2 (DK). A Yellow-headed Parrot (*Amazona ochrocephala*) in Wilmington, Del., Feb. 18 was probably one of two that survived the previous winter eating crabapples. The only Monk Parakeet was one on the Northwestern Hunterdon Co. CBC; has something happened to them, or are people no longer reporting them? The Bronx-Westchester CBC counted 10 Rose-ringed Parakeets, down from last year; one more was seen on the Long Branch CBC. A small plague of Chukars seems descending on the Region, with singles at Jamaica Bay W.R., eight in N. Greenwich, Conn., and most strangely of all, one (supported by a color photo) on an 18th floor window ledge in a downtown Manhattan building (RKe). Nice try, Rich, but the Rhode Island Red-billed Tropicbird still retains a tight grip on first place in the windowledge sweepstakes. Ringed Turtle Doves were reported from Long Island (1) and N.J. (three singles). Finally, a Red-crested (Brazilian) Cardinal survived a second winter in Riverton, N.J. (Joseph Taylor).

INCERTAE SEDIS — Two reports (Pennsylvania and New Jersey) were received of White-winged Junco, a bird not known positively to have ever occurred along the

East Coast. While both might well have been correct, no descriptions, let alone photos, were furnished although the New Jersey bird was enigmatically reported to have been trapped, photographed in hand and compared with museum specimens, a fact unable to be confirmed by the museum authorities. The bird is not difficult to identify, especially in the hand, but field guides do not stress the large size and very pale coloration typical of *aikeni*. Moreover, we have seen several "white-winged" juncos that were merely Slate-colored with excessively white wing-bars, or perhaps hybrids or introgressants with *aikeni*. Suffice it to say any putative White-winged Juncos anywhere in the East should preferably be collected, but failing that, photographed in color and black and white, and measured by those familiar with mensural techniques. Species or subspecies, it ought to occur in the East at least occasionally, and should be looked for.

OBSERVERS — (sub-regional compilers in boldface) Jim Akers, R. Arbib, Harry T. Armistead, Jim Ash, Ray Blicharz, S. Brent, Tom Burke, J. Clinton, Barbara Conolly, Joe Costa, **David A. Cutler** (s. N.J., s.e. Pa., Del.), John Danzenbaker, **T.H. Davis** (s.e. N.Y., L.I.), Howard Drinkwater, Jesse Grantham, Mike Hannisian, Ben C. Hiatt, Cliff Jones, **Richard Kane** (n. N.J.), Rich Kelly, Tim Koebel, Don Kunkle, Dave Larsen, A J Lauro, D. Mackenzie, Stan & Kathy Majlinger, Jim Merritt, August Mirabella, Tim O'Connor, Eleanor Pink, Dennis Power, Ted Proctor, Gilbert S. Raynor, **William Reid** (n.e. Pa.), Richard Ryan, William Sandford, Don Smith, P. William Smith, Robert Smith, Barbara Spencer, Sue Stappers, Si Stepinoff, Tim Vogel, Leroy Wilcox, Richard Wiltshire, Floyd P. Wolfarth, Al Wollin, John P. Tramontano, and Jim Zamos, H.M.=Hackensack Meadows, N.J.; (N) W.R.=(National) Wildlife Refuge; R.T.W.B.C.=R T Waterman Bird Club; †=complete description on file — **P.A. BUCKLEY, North Atlantic Regional Office, National Park Service, 150 Causeway St., Boston, Mass 02114, ROBERT O. PAXTON, 560 Riverside Drive, Apt. 12K, New York, N.Y. 10027, and DAVID A. CUTLER, 1110 Rock Creek Drive, Wyncote, Pa. 19095**

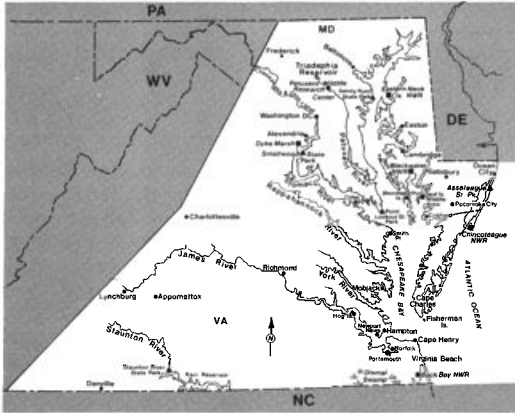
MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION /F. R. Scott

For the sixth successive winter temperatures in this region averaged well above normal, with only January being below the long-term mean. Following a warm fall, a mild December set up a fantastic Christmas Bird Count (CBC) season, although as usual there was little follow-up later in the winter to see how many of the southern stragglers survived the three-week cold spell in January. Temperatures in February set many records, with Washington averaging 9.6°F. above normal. Although the season began with more than adequate moisture, the last two months were relatively dry, and there was little or no snow in most of the region.

The warm, open winter resulted in southern stragglers remaining into the winter in even more numbers than during the warm winters of recent years. Although the

spring migration beginnings were certainly fairly early in comparison with the past few years, they were not as early as might have been anticipated by the weather.

POLLUTION EFFECTS — Two pollution problems beset the region during the period. From information that is still gradually coming to light, it appears that waste products from the manufacture of Kepone, a chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticide ingredient, were dumped into the James River at Hopewell for perhaps eight or more years until stopped by government action last August. As a result, the river was closed to most fish and shellfish harvesting after tests showed appreciable amounts of Kepone in these organisms. One wonders what effect this chemical may have had on the decline and disappearance of the Bald Eagle and the Osprey as breeding birds along this river, although it would appear that the decline began well before Kepone manufacture began here.



The second problem was a major spill of 250,000 gallons of heavy No. 6 fuel oil in the Chesapeake Bay near the mouth of the Potomac River on Feb. 1. Driven by strong northwesterly winds, most of the spill floated across the bay and ended up on the beaches and marshes of Accomack and Northampton Counties, Va. An estimated 50,000 water birds were killed over the following few weeks, mostly Oldsquaws but also including many loons, grebes, scoters, and other diving ducks. Long-term damage to the bottom fauna of the bay and the affected marshes has yet to be assessed. Cleanup operations were still in progress in April.

GREBES THROUGH GANNETS — An excellent concentration of Horned Grebes in the Chincoteague area totaled 2269 on Dec. 27 (PAD *et al.*). A series of four pelagic trips was led by R. A. Rowlett out of Ocean City, Md. to the edge of the continental shelf and Baltimore Canyon about 60-70 mi. to the east and southeast. Among the choice results of these trips were 76 N. Fulmars on Mar. 7 and 12 on Mar. 20 and single Greater and Manx Shearwaters on Dec. 6, the latter well photographed and seen by about 43 observers. Both the fulmers and the Manx Shearwater were observed in both Maryland and Virginia waters. Good concentrations of Gannets were found along the coast with peaks of 1227 at Back Bay Ref., Va., Dec. 29 (PWS *et al.*) and 500 off Ocean City Dec. 6 (RAR *et al.*).

HERONS, IBIS — The Chincoteague CBC reported record numbers of herons and ibis on Dec. 27, including 303 Great Blues, 86 Little Blues, 215 Great Egrets, 109 Snowies, and 132 Louisianas (KMF *et al.*) and 27 Glossy Ibis (PP *et al.*). Forty-seven Cattle Egrets at Back Bay Dec. 29 (PWS *et al.*) were a winter state record by far, and Am. Bitterns seemed to be everywhere, with record counts of 11 at Ocean City Dec. 29 (*vide* CSR) and 24 at Chincoteague Dec. 27 (JMA *et al.*). There were numerous other record heron counts, and Green Herons were reported from five localities along the coast and on Chesapeake Bay. Inland, a Great Egret was noted on several occasions at Kerr Res. up to Jan. 3 (PEM *et al.*). Among the first "spring" arrivals were 15 Yellow-

crowned Night Herons at Virginia Beach, Va., Feb. 27 (RLA) and 12 Glossy Ibis at Chincoteague Ref., Feb. 18 (LKM).

WATERFOWL — Whistling Swans appeared again in small numbers in many inland localities, and Chandler found a Snow Goose (white morph) in Amherst County, Va., Dec. 7. A White-fronted Goose remained at Blackwater N. W. R., Md. through December (KK & MLH), and an adult and three immatures reappeared at Green Spring, Louisa Co., Va., Mar. 7 and 14 after being absent since mid-November (JBB). Although there were only 122 Blue Geese at Blackwater Dec. 31 (*vide* CSR) numbers here had increased to 450 by Jan. 31 (HTA & CPW). Fulvous Tree Ducks appeared twice, one at Blackwater Dec. 7-11 (RAR, MLH *et al.*) and four at Berlin, Md., Feb. 4 (LKM). Blue-winged Teal arrived early in areas in which they did not winter, early dates being Feb. 24 at Sandy Point S.P., Md. (S.P.S.P. below — HLW) and Feb. 28 at Chincoteague Ref. (LKM). Three ♂ Eur. Wigeon wintered at Chincoteague Ref. and were seen by numerous observers (BWK, LKM, PWS *et al.*). No doubt encouraged by the lack of appreciable ice, ducks in general were in excellent numbers inland as typified by 158 Green-winged Teal and 409 Am. Wigeon near Kerr Res., Jan. 3 (KMF *et al.*). Oldsquaws were in good numbers along the coast with a peak count of 2485 at Chincoteague Dec. 27 (PAD *et al.*), and there were several inland records. Up to three were present in Albemarle Co., Va., Dec. 12-28 (RSM & CES), one was noted at Fort Belvoir, Va., Jan. 3 (PGD), and three were seen at Kerr Res., Jan. 3 (KMF). Up to three Harlequin Ducks were present along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Va. from late December to late February (CRB RC, DLM *et al.*), and single White-winged Scoters were found inland in Campbell Co., Va., Dec. 23 (MRB) and Amherst Co., Va., Jan. 25-Feb. 8 (JHD, TD & MRB). Hooded Mergansers remained unusually common in much of the area; some of the locally high counts were 95 in the Blackwater Ref. area Dec. 31 (*vide* CRV), 250 at Cape Charles, Va., Dec. 28 (*vide* HTA), and 80 near Richmond Dec. 24 (FRS). A count of 487 Com Mergansers at Fort Belvoir Jan. 3 (PAD *et al.*) was outstanding.

HAWKS, RAILS — A Goshawk was reported in lower Kent Co., Md., Dec. 28 (*vide* MP), and another was seen at Bellevue, Md., Feb. 14 (HTA). McKnight found a Rough-legged Hawk inland at Brooke, Va., Dec. 23, and the peak Bald Eagle count at Blackwater Ref. was six adults, three immatures, and three unspecified on Jan. 31 (HTA & CPW). There were only two "winter" records of Ospreys, one at Hampton, Va., Dec. 20 (MAB *et al.*) and two at Cape Charles Dec. 28 (DDG *et al.*); singles in Talbot Co., Md., Feb. 11 (GF) and Feb. 17 (BH) were probably early transients. An inland Peregrine Falcon was noted near Hopewell, Va., Jan. 25 (CRB & MBO), and there were many winter Merlin records, peak CBC totals being five at Chincoteague Dec. 27 (JMA *et al.*) and four at Ocean City Dec. 29 (*vide* CSR). At S.P.S.P. peak counts of migrating Am. Kestrels were 29 on Mar. 13 and 26 on Mar. 19 (HLW).

One of the features of the season was the high counts of wintering rails along the coast and Chesapeake Bay. Among the best were 57 King Rails at Back Bay Dec. 29

(PWS *et al.*), 159 Clappers at Chincoteague Dec. 27 (PP *et al.*), and 141 Clappers at Cape Charles Dec. 28 (HTA *et al.*) The Blackwater-Elliott I. area, Md. was clearly the place for Virginia Rails, with peaks of 66 on Dec. 31 (*vide* CSR) and 38 on Jan 31 (HTA & CPW). Sora occurred on at least eight of the CBCs along the coast and in Chesapeake Bay, including two at S.P.S.P., Dec. 28 (HLW) and a peak of 14 at Back Bay Dec. 29 (*vide* PWS). The latter also recorded the region's only Black Rail this winter (DEP & RHP) and the region's peak Com. Gallinule count of 18 (*vide* PWS). Inland records were also of note with eight Virginia Rails and two Sora at Kerr Res., Jan. 3 (RS *et al.*), a Sora in Albemarle Co., Dec. 21 (PM & TFW), and a Com. Gallinule at Lynchburg Dec. 20 (PEM). American Coots were in unusual numbers in many inland localities, and the 18,200 recorded at Back Bay Dec. 29 (*vide* PWS) indicated that any harm the die-off of last winter did to populations here was not critical.

SHOREBIRDS — Shorebird numbers were excellent during the winter near the coast, though there were few record counts. Thirteen Semipalmated Plovers on the Wicomico R. in Salisbury, Md., Dec. 28 (GS *et al.*) were a unique record here, and a Killdeer had one egg at S.P.S.P. on the record date of Mar. 8 (HLW), later abandoned after a 3 in. snowfall the following day. As in recent years, Am. Woodcock wintered in good numbers on the Eastern Shore, maximum CBC counts being 83 at Cape Charles Dec. 28 (*vide* HTA), 27 at Ocean City Dec. 29 (*vide* CSR), and 24 in s. Dorchester Co., Md., Dec. 31 (*vide* CSR). Ten far inland at Kerr Res., Jan. 3 were unusual (*vide* KMF), and a nest with eggs was located at Laurel Md., Mar. 22 (BM). Other peak counts of interest included 163 Willets and 65 Marbled Godwits at Cape Charles Dec. 28 (HTA *et al.*), 265 Purple Sandpipers at Ocean City Dec. 29 (*vide* CSR), and 2011 Sanderlings at Chincoteague Dec. 27 (PAD *et al.*).

Two late Hudsonian Godwits were noted at Back Bay Dec. 6 (BW, RAB *et al.*), and Dunlin wintered up the Chesapeake Bay at least as far north as Hooper's I., Md. (HTA & CPW), with one at S.P.S.P. remaining to Dec. 28 (HLW). A late Least Sandpiper was seen at S.P.S.P., Dec. 15 (HLW), and two appeared inland in w. Charles City Co., Va., Jan. 25 (FM & FRS) where they have wintered previously. This winter, however, they could not be located here prior to or subsequent to this date. Early spring arrivals included a Pectoral Sandpiper at S.P.S.P., Mar. 7 (HLW) and a rare **Stilt Sandpiper** near Chincoteague on Mar. 28 (BWK & BAL). A few Am. Avocets remained at Chincoteague to Jan. 1 (BWK), reappearing again Mar. 28 (BWK & BAL), but they apparently wintered in numbers at Craney I., Portsmouth, Va., with at least 260 reported Feb. 21 (CRB). The only other report was two seen at Lynnhaven, Virginia Beach Feb. 26 (RLA). The pelagic trip off Ocean City Dec. 6 recorded 273 Red Phalaropes, and a single was found here Mar. 7 (RAR *et al.*).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — At least 20 jaegers were found off Ocean City Dec. 6, of which the only ones positively identified were five Pomarines and one Parasitic, though a possible imm. Long-tailed Jaeger was also seen (RAR, PP *et al.*). One or more **Skuas** were observed on all four of the pelagic trips out of Ocean City, with a peak of six on Feb. 1 (RAR *et al.*). Of the numerous

white-winged gulls recorded, of most interest were a **Glaucous Gull** previously reported at Kerr Res., which remained at least to Jan 3 (KMF, JHD, TD *et al.*), and an **Iceland Gull** at Richmond Jan. 24 (CRB *et al.*) In addition, a possible imm. Thayer's Gull was photographed at the Ocean City inlet Feb. 8 (RAR, PGD, RWS *et al.*), and an ad. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was seen at Virginia Beach Dec. 31 (PWS & TRW). A Herring Gull at Lynchburg Dec. 20 (KMF *et al.*) was unusual this far inland, and another (or the same bird?) was picked up injured here the next day (JH). Kerr Res. recorded 22 Herring and 1584 Ring-billed Gulls Jan. 3 (KMF *et al.*), probably record counts for the Virginia Piedmont Bonaparte's Gulls were in relatively low numbers in midwinter along the Virginia coast, although the Ocean City CBC recorded a record 1059 on Dec. 29 (*vide* CSR) Inland, however, the Hopewell, Va. area had an excellent peak of 38 on Dec. 20 (FRS *et al.*), and 43 were counted at Kerr Res., Jan. 3 (KMF *et al.*). The spring migration brought a record flight of 550 to S.P.S.P., Mar. 21 (HLW). Three ad. Little Gulls wintered at Ocean City (MLH, RAR *et al.*), and a Black-legged Kittiwake was observed along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel Dec. 26 (RC & MRB). The latter was recorded on all the pelagic trips with a maximum of 600 on Dec. 6 (RAR *et al.*). These trips were also highly productive of alcids Single Razorbills were noted Dec. 6 and Feb. 1; Dovekies were recorded on all four, the best totals being 73 on Dec. 6 and 51 on Feb. 12; and **Com. Puffins** were observed on two trips, one on Dec. 6 and seven on Feb. 1 (RAR *et al.*) Inshore, a Dovekie was noted swimming in Broad Bay, Virginia Beach Dec. 31 (RLA & DEP), and another was picked up (and later released in good condition) on a dune at Chincoteague Ref., Dec. 27 (JHD & TD).

OWLS THROUGH MARTINS — Counting nocturnally migrating Barn Owls seems a rather new and esoteric activity to most of us, but Wierenga recorded 30 flying over Annapolis, Md., Mar. 14-31 with a peak of 11 on the night of Mar. 20-21 (10 p.m. - 1 a.m.). On the same night Hoffman recorded six overhead at nearby Severna Park between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m. In recent years observers have clearly been trying harder to census the owls on their CBCs, an activity that involves mainly a loss of sleep, and appropriate weather. Some interesting CBC totals this year were 67 Screech Owls at St. Michaels, Md., Dec. 21 (*vide* JR) and 54 at Lynchburg Dec. 20 (*vide* MPM) Impressive Great Horned Owl totals were 62 at St Michaels Dec. 21 (*vide* JR), 54 at Crisfield, Md., Dec. 30 (*vide* CRV), and 32 each at Ocean City Dec. 29 and s. Dorchester County, Md., Dec. 31 (*vide* CSR) Two young Great Horneds were in the nest at S.P.S.P. at the end of March (MLH). Up to eight Long-eared and four Saw-whet Owls wintered in the National Arboretum in Washington (HLW & MLH), and a few of both of these species were found elsewhere in the region, but mainly in the n. portion. An unidentified *Empidonax* was observed near Kerr Res., Jan. 3 (HL) and was thought to be a Least Flycatcher because of call notes, grayish back, and lack of yellow on underparts. Early swallow arrivals included a Tree at S.P.S.P., Feb. 15 (HLW) and Purple Martins in two places in the Lynchburg area Mar. 9 (MC & LF, *vide* RSF).

MAGPIES THROUGH THRUSHES — Eike observed a **Black-billed Magpie** in Fairfax Co., Va., Feb. 18,

and there were other unconfirmed reports in the same area, undoubtedly of the same bird. Common Ravens continued to increase slowly in the upper Piedmont of Virginia with several records as far east of the Blue Ridge as e Appomattox County (DP, JBB *et al.*). The Black-capped Chickadee flight brought impressive numbers to parts of e.c. Maryland and a few to the s.e. part of the state. On the upper Piedmont of Virginia single birds were well recorded in Amherst Co., Dec. 5 and Jan. 7 (RC), Charlottesville Dec. 28 (RSM), and Louisa County, Dec. 2 (JBB). These appear to be the first acceptable records of this species in this section of the state. Red-breasted Nuthatches were in the highest numbers ever recorded in this region in winter. Record CBC totals included 61 at Kerr Res., Jan. 3 (KMF *et al.*), 66 at Ocean City Dec. 29 (CSR *et al.*), 194 at Chincoteague Dec. 27 (PWS *et al.*), and a fabulous 236 at Lynchburg Dec. 20 (MPM *et al.*). A Brown-headed Nuthatch count of 215 at Chincoteague Dec. 27 (PWS *et al.*) was a record here, and farther inland two were found at Hopewell, Va., Dec. 20 (KPL) and one in e. Appomattox County, Mar. 14 (DP). Marsh wrens were in exceptional numbers along the coast and on Chesapeake Bay. Back Bay, for example, totaled 57 Long-billed and 79 Short-billed Dec. 29 (*fide* PWS). The inland records were almost unprecedented. A Long-billed was found at Kerr Res., Jan. 3 (RC), and Short-billed were noted in three localities on the Piedmont, two at Lynchburg Dec. 20 (PEM *et al.*), two near Charlottesville Dec. 28 (KL), and five at Kerr Res., Jan. 3 (JML *et al.*). A Wood Thrush at Newport News Mar. 27 was quite early (DLM).

KINGLETS THROUGH WARBLERS — Both kinglets were in good numbers, and many CBCs reported record or near-record concentrations. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was noted at Hopewell Dec. 20 (FRS *et al.*), two at Annapolis Dec. 28 (*fide* HLW), and two at Cape Charles Dec. 28 (RC, PGD *et al.*). First arrivals were noted at S.P.S.P., Mar. 26 (MLH) and at Richmond Mar. 28 (FRS). Water Pipits were unusually common in Virginia, especially on the Piedmont, where the species frequently goes unrecorded in midwinter. Cople *et al.*, for example, counted 120 at Darlington Heights Jan. 1. A Solitary Vireo was observed at Virginia Beach Dec. 31 (RLA & DEP). There were a number of interesting warbler reports, among which were Black-and-whites in five localities in e. Virginia and Maryland, a **Cape May** at Chincoteague Dec. 27 (KMF *et al.*), and another **Cape May** collected at Richmond Jan. 23 (CRB). A δ **Bay-breasted Warbler** near Milton, Albemarle Co., Mar. 18-24 (JLR, TA, JBB & TFW) was a unique record of an apparently wintering bird, and the DuMonts and others totaled an amazing 487 Palm Warblers on the Cape Charles CBC Dec. 28. Common Yellowthroats were found on the Piedmont in at least two localities, one in Albemarle Co., Dec. 21 (ES & CES) and five at Kerr Res., Jan. 3 (KMF *et al.*). Other unusual winter warblers included a **Wilson's** at Cape Charles Dec. 28 (PGD) and an ad δ **Am. Redstart** at Tilghman I., Md., Dec. 21 (GK & LK). Early spring arrivals included many Pine Warblers singing in several parts of the region by Feb. 29 (JR, FRS *et al.*), a **Prairie Warbler** at Lynchburg Mar. 30 (RC), and three Louisiana Waterthrushes in Wicomico County, Md., Mar. 27 (CRV *et al.*).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS — Single ad. δ Yellow-headed Blackbirds were noted near Blackwater Ref., Dec. 7 (RAR, PGD *et al.*) and at Kingston, Md., Dec. 30 (CRV), and a **Blue Grosbeak** was photographed at a feeder in Virginia Beach Feb. 27 (RJT). Evening Grosbeaks were in moderate numbers, whereas Pine Siskins made a poor showing in the region. Common Redpolls were reported in three localities, two at Cape Charles Dec. 28 (PGD) and singles at Ocean City Dec. 29 (*fide* CSR) and Feb. 8 (MLH *et al.*) and at Charlottesville Jan. 15 (TA, MB & CWS). The highlight of the northern finch flight was the Red Crossbill, which appeared in virtually all parts of the region and was common in parts of the Eastern Shore. Some of the CBC totals included 243 at Crisfield, Md., Dec. 30 (CRV *et al.*), 103 at Cape Charles Dec. 28 (*fide* HTA), and 64 at Kerr Res., Jan. 3 (KMF *et al.*). The only White-winged Crossbill report was one at Annapolis, Md., Mar. 4 (HLW). Two **Lark Sparrows** were found at Back Bay Dec. 29 (GAG *et al.*) and confirmed by many observers the next day (*fide* PWS), and a **Bachman's Sparrow** was reported at Cape Charles Dec. 28 (DFA), a first winter record for Virginia. A count of 54 Lapland Longspurs near Ocean City Dec. 29 (RAR, BSB & EE) was apparently a record for Maryland. Snow Buntings were in normal numbers along the coast, and unusual inland observations were two near Brooke, Va., Dec. 23 (AAB *et al.*) and five near Kerr Res., Jan. 3 (KMF), the latter present since November.

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SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION /Robert P. Teulings

It was an unusually mild winter in the Region, the warmest on record in some areas. There were periods of sub-freezing weather in December and January, but February was unseasonably warm and temperatures remained above normal through March. The season was highlighted by the appearance of Glaucous and Iceland

Gulls in the Carolinas in numbers not heretofore seen. The presence of the white-winged gulls was the most newsworthy event of the season and attracted the attention of many observers.



GREBES THROUGH CORMORANTS — Horned Grebes were unusually abundant during the winter period at several of the larger inland reservoirs, topped by counts of 168 at Roanoke Rapids L. and 116 at L. Gaston in Halifax and Warren Counties, N. C. Dec. 27 (ML). During March at least 300 dead, dying or disabled Horned Grebes were found along the beaches of Bogue Bank near Morehead City, N. C. (*vide* JF & SB). Several of the birds were sent to the wildlife disease diagnostic laboratories in Madison, Wis. to determine what had killed them. Preliminary diagnosis indicated the birds died of multiple, needle-like puncture wounds on their legs, lower abdomen and, on some birds, in the shoulder region. The wounds were the type that fish — particularly bluefish — might inflict (SB). Two Eared Grebes were sighted in the Region this winter, one in mid-December at L. Wheeler near Raleigh (CM, JM) and one at Salvo on the North Carolina Outer Banks Jan. 25 (RLA). A sighting of a Red-necked Grebe outside Charleston harbor highlighted an offshore cruise sponsored by the Carolina Bird Club Jan. 31 (SG *et al.*). Earlier, two Great Cormorants (an adult and immature) were seen at the Charleston shipyards Jan. 3 (JB). On Jan. 10 an estimated 10,000 Double-crested Cormorants were seen massed in Pamlico Sound by an observer aboard the Hatteras-Ocracoke I., N.C. ferry (JHu).

EGRETS, IBIS AND WATERFOWL — Three Cattle Egrets were seen near Powells Point in Currituck County, N. C. Jan. 28. (DL) and several remained through the winter in the Morehead City area (JF). Inland, late individuals were seen at Chapel Hill Dec. 6 (WW) and Jan. 9 at Raleigh (DG, DM). At Okefenokee N. W. R. 540 White Ibis were recorded in a late-winter census Feb. 23 (WM). Whistling Swans were seen in increased numbers in the Region again this season, continuing an apparent upward trend; some wintered as far s. as Savannah, Sylvania, Thomaston and Atlanta, Ga. A small white goose believed to be a Ross' was present at Reidsville, N. C. from late January through the end of the period (EB). Up to 16,000 Snow Geese were present at Pea I. N. W. R. in late December along with 8000 Canada Geese and large

numbers of ducks including 3000 Redheads and 3000 Canvasbacks (JH). A flock of 48 Fulvous Tree Ducks was found at Savannah River N. W. R. Jan. 16 (*vide* PY), and at Charleston a flock of 2000 Greater Scaup was seen in the harbor Feb. 7 (EF). Sightings of 150 Canvasbacks at L. Anne near Raleigh Feb. 4 (CL) and ten Com Goldeneyes at a pond near Murfreesboro, N. C., Dec. 27 (HL *et al.*) were two unusual inland observations.

RAPTORS — A roosting flock of 40 Black Vultures was noted Jan. 4 near Chapel Hill (SA, AD). Another roost of nearly 200 Black Vultures was found along the Roanoke R. in n.w. Bertie County, N. C., Mar. 11 by Merrill Lynch, who also observed 23 Red-shouldered Hawks during a 35-mile float trip down river from Scotland Neck. A close sighting of Krider's Red-tailed Hawk was recorded near New Bern, N. C. Dec. 22 (HL, EL, ML), and single Rough-legged Hawks were seen near Wilmington, N. C., Dec. 27 (JAL) and Mt. Pleasant, S. C. Feb. 1 (JC). A pair of nesting Bald Eagles with young was noted on Sullivan's I. near Charleston Feb. 7 (TB), and the presence of two adults and a juvenile at Savannah River N. W. R. late in the period indicated nesting may have occurred there (JD). An imm. Golden Eagle was seen at Okefenokee N.W.R. Jan. 21 (*vide* EC). At Atlanta a Prairie Falcon took up temporary residence in early December and was seen regularly there by many observers through early January (*vide* JS). Another sighting of possibly the same bird was later recorded Apr 5 about 20 mi. from the original location (WD). Following an unusually heavy fall flight, Merlins were commonly seen through the winter on the North Carolina Outer Banks (10 recorded on the Bodie-Pea I. CBC), and there were reports of wintering Peregrines at several coastal points.

CRANES AND RAILS — Censuses at Okefenokee N.W.R. showed 269 Sandhill Cranes present Jan. 21 (JE) and 130 Feb. 23 (WM); seven were also noted Feb. 20 at Forsyth, Ga. (TJ). This year no Yellow Rails or Black Rails were flushed out during the annual burnoff of grass at the Beaufort, N. C., Airport in mid-February (JF). This site had been a haven for both species in past winters (AB, 25:564). Elsewhere, however, a Black Rail was seen at Bulls I., S. C. Dec. 30 (EF) and a Yellow Rail at Wrightsville Beach, N. C. Jan. 20 (JSH).

At Townville, S. C. single Virginia Rails were seen Dec 5 & Feb. 21 (HL). This species has probably been overlooked as a winter resident at other inland locations. Observers might do well to check out likely habitats in the manner described by Robert Hader of Raleigh. Playing tape recorded calls, he found two Virginia Rails at L. Benson Dec. 6, the same two again Dec. 20, one at Greenview Farm Mar. 13 and two at Dorothea Dix cattail marsh Mar. 12. In responding to the taped calls, the birds ventured into open areas where they were easily seen.

SHOREBIRDS — A Long-billed Curlew was present until Dec. 21 at Morehead City, (EL) and another was seen near Charleston Mar. 27 (PN). A Solitary Sandpiper was unusually early near Thomasville, Ga. Feb. 24 (RLC). More than 100 Purple Sandpipers were noted Dec. 7 on the Charleston harbor jetties (TB), and "hundreds" of Am. Avocets were seen in the harbor there Dec. 13 (LJ, TF). A large flock of at least 100 avocets was

also seen at Morris I. near Charleston Dec. 2 (CL) and a like number at Savannah River N. W. R. Jan. 10 (JD). Least Sandpipers wintered inland at Raleigh (RH) and Clemson (HL), and a Dunlin remained at the latter location until mid-December (SG, HL). At the end of the period two Baird's Sandpipers were seen at Charleston Mar 29 (PN).

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS — White-winged gulls made news in the Carolinas this winter beginning with the sighting of an Iceland Gull at Cape Point on Hatteras I., N C Nov. 22 (BW; photo). On Jan. 17 five **Glaucous** and three **Iceland Gulls** were found at that location among thousands of Herring, Great Black-backed and Ring-billed Gulls grounded on the beach by bad weather (JHu). Elsewhere a Glaucous was found dead on the Beaufort-Morehead City causeway Mar. 4 (JF; *N.C.S.M.), and another white-winged gull of uncertain identity, probably a small Glaucous, was present for nearly a month on the Pamlico R. near Aurora, N. C. (m.ob.). An Iceland Gull in second-year plumage was seen at Charleston Feb. 15 (DF), and another was reported inland at L. Hartwell Feb 3-8 (HL).

Inland appearances of Bonaparte's Gulls were noted at Clark Hill Reservoir, L. Hartwell and Raleigh's L. Wheeler during the December-March period, and an unusual inland occurrence of a Great Black-backed Gull was noted at Winston-Salem Jan. 17 (CF). Most observers who went to see the Pamlico River white-winged gull also reported seeing an imm. Black-headed Gull which lingered in the vicinity of Hudles Cut ferry landing during most of February. Reports of alcids in the Region this winter were of two Doviekies seen on the Bodie-Pea Island CBC Dec. 30 and a Razorbill found dead at Huntington Beach, S. C. Jan. 9 (FP, MBA).

DOVES THROUGH PIPITS — Two Ground Doves were locally unusual near Forsyth, Ga. Feb. 4 (TJ). Two noteworthy finds in the Charleston area were a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** Dec. 16 (DF) and a **Burrowing Owl** Dec. 30 (PN). Single late-lingering Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were seen in the coastal area near Atlantic Beach, N. C. Dec. 6 (JF) and at Mt. Pleasant, S. C. Jan 19 (GH). A Bewick's Wren and a Long-billed Marsh Wren were reported to have overwintered in the Townville, S. C. area (HL), while elsewhere early arriving House Wrens were noted at Winston-Salem Feb. 29 (CF). Red-breasted Nuthatches, although apparently widespread, were generally less common than most observers expected after their strong early showing during the fall period. They were, however, abundant throughout the winter at Southern Pines (JC) and Clemson (HL). A Sprague's Pipit was a rare find at South Carolina's Santee N. W. R. Feb. 21 (PN *et al.*).

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — Raleigh observers indicated that Solitary Vireos, Black-and-white Warblers and a Prairie Warbler were present throughout the winter in that area (RH, CO, JM), and an Orange-crowned Warbler was a regular feeder visitor there December - March (*vide* RH). January sightings of one, possibly two, Cape May Warblers were noted at Durham (WBD, RC, SA), and elsewhere out-of-season Blackburnian Warblers were seen at Macon, Ga., Jan. 2 (*vide* HDiG) and Brunswick, Ga., Jan. 25 (JW). Two Prairie Warblers

were seen Feb. 1 near Charleston (SG, HL) and another at Augusta Jan. 22 (CB). A Wilson's Warbler showed up in downtown Atlanta Mar. 6 and remained there through the end of the period (JL).

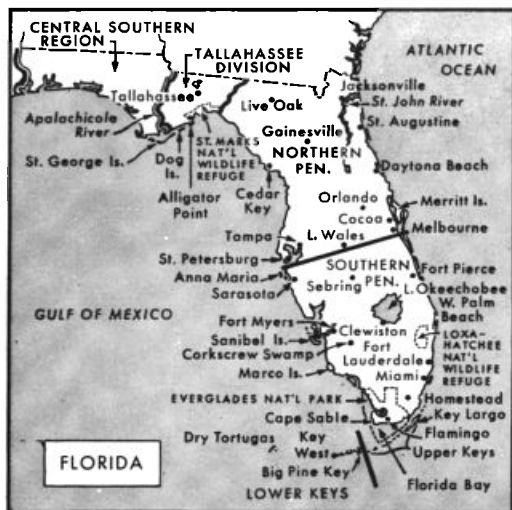
FRINGILLIDS — A Painted Bunting was seen Dec 24 at Morehead City (JF) and another Jan. 25 at Brunswick, Ga. (JW). An Indigo Bunting was present Jan. 6-12 at Long Beach, N. C. (ST), and a Dickcissel was seen Dec. 2 at Wrightsville Beach (CW, PW). Although it was far from a record-breaking season for winter finches, Evening Grosbeaks were fairly abundant in the Region, as were Pine Siskins. Especially noteworthy was the report of 24 **Pine Grosbeaks** seen at Clemmons, N.C near Winston-Salem Mar. 27 (GG, MG, *vide* RS). A Com Redpoll was a rare feeder visitor at Winston-Salem Feb 13-26 (*vide* RS), and a White-winged Crossbill turned up at a feeder in Raleigh Dec. 17 (MB). Red Crossbills were seen in scattered areas in small numbers, indicating only a light influx of that species. A very unusual inland occurrence for a Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow was recorded at Belews Creek L. in Forsyth County, N C where an individual was well studied Feb. 5 (FB, RS) The bird was found in the company of Savannah Sparrows and Snow Buntings. A Tree Sparrow made an uncommon winter appearance at Winston-Salem where it was observed several times at Reynolds Park Feb. 9-13 (CF, RS). Georgia sightings of Lincoln's Sparrows were recorded in late January near Brunswick (CH) and Mar 21 at Atlanta (TM). The species was also noted at Charleston where an individual was regularly seen at a feeder through the season (PN) and another was seen at Magnolia Gardens Feb. 17 (EF).

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FLORIDA REGION /Henry M. Stevenson

The pattern of departures from average temperature this winter was almost ideal for determining correlations between temperature and the geographic origin of wintering birds. October was mild, November only slightly above normal, December well below normal, and January very cold. (Probably an eight-weeks average



from late December through early February would prove the lowest in many years in north Florida). Could most species be expected to "decide" where to winter during the normal time of their southward migration (the mild fall) or during the subsequent, more rigorous winter? With the exception of the western component (if pertinent), the determining factor appeared to be the mild fall. As in other recent (though milder) winters, numbers of Green and Yellow-crowned Night Herons, White Ibis, Purple Gallinules, Laughing Gulls, and other cold-sensitive species increased in north Florida, and about 25 species of warblers spent some part of the winter months (Dec. - Feb.) in some part of the Region. Some of these were recorded farther north than ever before.

February was relatively warm after the first week, as March was believed to be (data not available). Correlating with this change, and more southerly air flow, were several quite early spring arrivals, and some other species nested early. The total of 56 birds killed at the WCTV tower in March was only moderate, and 40 of these were found on the last four days (RLC).

CONTINUING DECLINES — My field counts beginning with September 1975 are not fully comparable to those made before that time, as a smaller number of routes (though longer ones) are now covered almost identically each month. Some of these routes are entirely new, some others partly so. However, these more recent results can be used on either of two conditions. They may be considered reliable whenever they agree with results obtained in other recent years or when they agree with comments on comparative abundance made by other field workers. (Too few of the latter are yet available for

optimum comparisons). In order to evaluate low counts of birds in the Tallahassee Division for 1975-76, December-March, the species involved were compared with their relative abundance for the same months in 1974-75. A poor performance in 1975-76 *only* was assumed to be due to the change in coverage, but subnormal abundance in both winters was deemed significant. The usual breakdown of the data into Leon County and the coastal counties provided 8 months of record for most species. In most instances, only those species that were well below normal in 7 of the 8 months are included here unless other workers (*) considered them low also. The following species proved low in all 8 months: *Gadwall, *Pintail, Black Vulture, *Cedar Waxwing, *Palm Warbler, Red-winged Blackbird, Other species were low in 7 months (7/7= only 7 months of record): Black Duck (7/7*), Wood Duck (7/7*), *Hooded Merganser Brown Thrasher, E. Bluebird, Golden-crowned Kinglet (7/7), and Chipping Sparrow Low in 6 months were the *Mallard, *Ruddy Duck, Hermit Thrush, and *Yellow-rumped Warbler. Three additional species mostly or entirely restricted to the coastal counties were decidedly low there: Brown Pelican, *Am. Goldeneye, Black Skimmer.

WESTERN SPECIES — Although comparisons are not readily available, the 16 species in this report that I consider essentially western in origin is thought to be an unusually high number. Among them are the first **Black-throated Sparrow** known to Florida and the first **Say's Phoebe** proven to occur here.

LOONS AND GREBES — A Red-throated Loon (possibly two) was seen at St. Marks Light Dec. 13 (Ath and Steve Stedman). Two of the Eared Grebes reported at Melbourne Beach last fall remained to Dec. 27 (MCB), and one remained at St. Petersburg until Mar. 6 (WB) — its fifth consecutive year of occurrence there. A Least Grebe was reportedly found dead by a zoo attendant at Miami Jan. 13 and discarded (EJF); there is still no tangible evidence of Florida occurrence.

SHEARWATERS AND CORMORANTS — Alfred Bartleson found a dead Audubon's Shearwater near Vero Beach Mar. 4 — a remarkably early date (*U.S.F.). An observer (JB) with previous experience with Great Cormorants reported one at Naples Jan. 6.

HERONS THROUGH FLAMINGOS — A pair of Green Herons in n. Polk County had four eggs by the early date of Mar. 20 (JBE). Several observers found increased numbers of Cattle Egrets wintering in the Tallahassee Division, where the species has been rare in recent years. A Black-crowned Night Heron was unusual at Key West Jan. 4 (AJR), and a Yellow-crowned was early on Alligator Pt., Mar. 9 (JMS). The second mid-winter record of the Wood Stork in Leon County was that of one seen near Lake Jackson Jan. 22 (JMS), and a high winter count of 85 White Ibis was made there on Dec. 5 (HMS). Unusual locations for the Glossy Ibis were Stock I. (Lower Keys) Dec. 13 and Feb. 18 (FTH) and near St. Petersburg Dec. 26 - Jan. 13 (CB, WB, LH). American Flamingos appeared widely, and once in numbers; single birds were seen throughout the period at Charlotte Harbor (Charlotte Co.; MMS, Bill Sloat), and Marco I

(Belows), and a high count of 24 was obtained on Jan. 19 — appropriately, near Flamingo (Paul DuMont, Harvey Mudd, John West).

DUCKS — The invasion of Fulvous Tree Ducks was apparently greater than usual. Numbers ranging from 35 to 100 were reported from Dunedin Beach ("Rosses"), Myakka River S. P. (Maces), Paynes Prairie (near Gainesville; JHH, Steve Nesbitt), near Ft. Pierce (HWK), Guano L. (near St. Augustine; Steve Sutton, FWW), and 20 mi. off Jacksonville Beach *flying N* Jan. 24 (JHH). Smaller numbers (one-four) appeared at St. Petersburg (LH) and Stock I. (FTH). The few Mottled Ducks at St. George I. still are unrecorded in winter; this year a pair reappeared on the early date of March 28 (JMS). Rare in the Lower Keys, one to four Green-winged Teal were at Key West Dec. 13 - Jan. 23 (EC, RC, FTH). Three Cinnamon Teal were reported: near Corkscrew Swamp Dec. 26 (J. Hansen, L. Riopelle), Myakka River S. P., Feb. 3 - Mar. 26 (Maces), and at Loxahatchee N. W. R., Jan. 23 (Ronald Snyder and Ned Hollenbach). Another Key West rarity was the Ring-necked Duck, four of which remained from Dec. 13 to the end of the period (FTH). A **Harlequin Duck** was at Lake Worth Dec. 25 - Feb. 1 (John and Barbara Ribbles, RHP [photograph], m.ob.). Of four Oldsquaw records, two were inland and one far offshore: one at St. Petersburg Dec. 20 - Jan. 19 (the Paul Engburgs, Butler Durham); L. Iamonia (Leon Co.), one shot by hunter Dec. 20 (EHS, HMS); one at Sebring Jan. 27 and Feb. 1; and two seen 38 miles off Melbourne Mar. 28 (JJ). Four White-winged Scoters were at Dunedin Beach Jan. 22 (the Ken Ireys), two Surf Scoters at Reddington Beach Dec. 13 (LH), and a Black Scoter at Dunedin Beach (WB & LH). Five competent observers saw a **Masked Duck** near Ft. Lauderdale Jan. 6. A large concentration of Red-breasted Mergansers near St. Marks Dec. 6 was estimated at 1500 (EHS).

KITES THROUGH FALCONS — One of the few known winter records of the Swallow-tailed Kite in Florida was made at Gainesville Dec. 17 (Richard Bradley). Two more rarities for the Lower Keys were a Cooper's Hawk at Stock I., Dec. 1 (Thompson G. Marsh), and a Red-tailed Hawk at Key West Jan. 18 (PJF). One of the **Com. Black Hawks** at Virginia Key (*Am. Birds*, 29:962) was seen Jan. 29 (MT). Most Swainson's Hawks in Florida are seen south of Miami and on the Keys, but one was seen in s.w. Charlotte County Jan. 12 (MMS). Single **Golden Eagles** were reported from e. Orange County Feb. 20-28 (DH, JJ, RDB, Ath.), near Gainesville Jan. 4 (JEC), and one that was "attacked by vultures," captured, and caged on an unknown date in Highlands County (*vide* HWK). Of two reported Bald Eagle nestings, one near Hastings fledged young by Mar. 4 (MCD, FWW); one on Cudjoe Key was probably unsuccessful (MB). Three young Ospreys fledged on Summerland Key Mar. 15 (MD). There were only two reports of Peregrine Falcons.

CRANES THROUGH COOTS — Eleven Sandhill Cranes migrating over Alligator Pt., on the late date of Dec. 12 (HMS) were thought to be the largest concentration known to the Tallahassee Division. Also rarely wintering on the Lower Keys is the Sora, but one was seen on Boca Chica Jan. 27 (MB and RC). Northerly winter

records of the Purple Gallinule came from Gainesville Jan. 12 (James E. Horner) and Wakulla Springs (ad. & imm. throughout period; Bubas, J. B. HMS *et al.*). Peter Terry reported six **Caribbean Coots** at Miami, but John Edscorn points out that careful inspection of most coot concentrations in the Peninsula reveals a few individuals of that type and suggests that these may well be variants of the Am. Coot that spend their summers in the North — where observers are urged to watch for them

SHOREBIRDS — An Am. Golden Plover was recorded on the causeway to St. George I., Mar. 22 (JMS). Single Solitary Sandpipers (a redundancy?) wintered as far north as Lakeland and Bartow (PJF, CG, JBE *et al.*), and one reappeared near Panacea on the early date of Mar. 9 (JMS). A Willet was a rare winter visitor inland near Gainesville Jan. 31 (JEC & JJC). Purple Sandpipers ranged as far south as Naples Jan. 4 - Mar. 5 (Belows, MMS *et al.*) and Sebastian Inlet, Dec. - Jan (MCB, HWK, Ruth Troutman); the former bird was photographed. Lakeland, earlier holding a near-monopoly on wintering Stilt Sandpipers, had a very high migration count of at least 90 on Mar. 25 (JBE). An unusual winter record was that of ten at Jack Island S. P., Jan. 3 (HWK and Richard Roberts). A Ruff, associating with dowitchers, was "carefully studied" at Sanibel I., Feb. 12 (Wm. C. Russell). A N. Phalarope was identified there on Jan. 21 (K. C. Emerson).

GULLS AND TERNS — New Smyrna Beach had records of both Glaucous Gulls (Dec. 6, two on Jan. 3, RDB, MCB, JT) and Iceland Gulls (Feb. 1; Ath.). Lesser Black-backed Gulls continued to increase: Port Canaveral Nov. 20 - Jan. 9 (RDB, JJ *et al.*), New Smyrna Jan. 3 - 10 (RDB, MCB, JT), St. Petersburg Dec. 20 - January (LH, CG, CB, DG); Key West had an adult Jan 14 & 20 and a second-year bird (identifiable?) Jan. 20 (FTH).



Belcher's Gull, Naples, Fla., Jan. 13, 1976. Photo/Noble Proctor.

S.A.

A **Band-tailed Gull** remained at Naples Jan. 5-early March (Belows, JBE, m.ob). Sykes presented evidence, based largely on slides, that two of these birds were present. In addition to the differences he pointed out in bill and head markings, there appeared also to be a great difference in bill size, especially thickness, leading me to wonder if some other species of gull with similar markings might have been present.

Two Laughing Gulls paid a rare visit to inland Gainesville Dec. 1-28 (JEC & JJC). Bonaparte's Gull, previously rare in Leon County in January, increased this year — six at L. Jackson Jan. 11 (NOW) and eight at the sewage disposal ponds Jan. 18 (GEM); other increases were numbers up to 30 at Key West Jan. 1 - 18 (FTH) and 50 near Miami Dec. 26 (JMK). Associating with this species, a **Little Gull** was identified 10 mi. off Canaveral Jan. 25 (JJ). A Roseate Tern was reported off Cape Canaveral on the early date of Mar. 29 (JJ), but excellent details were provided for a *winter* record at Key West (Jan. 5, AJR). Also rare in winter, two Bridled Terns were seen off Canaveral Dec. 1 (JJ). An early date for the Sooty Tern on the *Upper Keys* was Mar. 24 at Tavernier (JCO).

CUCKOOS, ANIS, NIGHTJARS — All field marks were observed on a Black-billed Cuckoo that came aboard a boat off Canaveral Mar. 26 — ten days earlier than any other Florida record (JJ). Tavernier had a winter record of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo Jan. 30 (JCO & SS). Smooth-billed Anis expanded their range northward both inland and on the West Coast; one was at Gainesville Dec. 2 (Dorothy Baer), two at Venice Mar. 2 (Blanche Mink, MD *et al.*), and one to three at St. Petersburg Mar. 20 - Apr. 2 (LH). A Chuck-will's-widow was early in n. Gadsden County Mar. 10 (GEM), and single Ruby-throated Hummingbirds wintered as far north as Jacksonville Dec. 17-18 (MCD) and Jan. 8 (same bird, VMM). Rufous Hummingbirds appeared at Gainesville again Jan. 29-Feb. 20 (Ann H. Little, JHH) and for the first time at Lakeland Mar. 19-20 (m.ob., photographed). A complete account of the latter species' occurrence in Florida will appear in an early issue of the *Florida Field Naturalist*.

WOODPECKERS AND FLYCATCHERS — Two Pileated Woodpeckers were near the edge of their range at Tavernier Mar. 1 (MB), and one was incubating near Tallahassee as early as Mar. 28 (HMS). Edscom points out that the record of the putative Golden-fronted Woodpecker in Florida has now been followed by four or five other xanthic (yellow-crowned) Red-bellies. Two species of flycatchers were removed from Florida's Hypothetical List by clear photographs. A **Loggerhead Kingbird** appeared at Miami Mar. 7-14 (Robert Pittell, m.ob.) and was well photographed (*WJB, to T.T.). Also, a **Say's Phoebe** remained at Apopka until Jan. 14 (m.ob.; *Ath., to T.T.), and there is some question as to whether one seen 20 mi. ENE on the 16th (Becky Payne and Betty King) was the same bird. A few Great Crested Flycatchers in late February in the Tampa area, and at Lakeland Feb. 21 (JBE), were considered early arrivals, but the species winters almost, if not quite, that far north. Records of the very rare Wied's Crested Flycatcher were made at Islamorada Jan. 5 (AJR) and in s. Dade County Jan. 15-Mar. (JMK). Any wintering *Empidonax* in north or c. Florida is of interest; one at Titusville Feb. 14 (RDB) was not identified as to species. An early E. Wood Pewee reached n. Leon County by Mar. 30 (NOW).

SWALLOWS AND NUTHATCHES — Early records involved a few Purple Martins at Vero Beach Jan. 15 (Patrick B. Lyons) and a Barn Swallow at Cedar Key Mar. 23 (JHH). Possibly influenced by weeks of warm weather, a pair of Brown-headed Nuthatches near

Kissimmee Feb. 8 indicated by actions that their nest was already occupied (JBE), and White-breasted Nuthatches were feeding young in the nest in n. Leon County Mar. 30 (NOW).

MIMIDS, THRUSHES, PIPITS — Some of my previous reports have mentioned anomalous migrations of Gray Catbirds. This species' fall migration normally ends by early November here and the spring migration begins by mid-April. However, a much earlier movement in s. Florida some years may have sent a few early individuals to the Tallahassee Division. In 1976 three areas regularly covered throughout fall and winter suddenly had one or two catbirds Feb. 1 & 7 (GEM), Feb. 8 (GEM), and in my yard Feb. 18 to date. Further obfuscating the picture, a catbird was felled at the WCTV tower Jan. 14 (RLC). A very early Wood Thrush was at St. George I., Mar. 17 (HMS & JMS), and a Sprague's Pipit was collected on the causeway to that island Mar. 22 (JMS).

VIREOS AND BANANAQUITS — A Yellow-throated Vireo remained at Key West Jan. 31 - Feb. 11 (FTH, WG), where it rarely winters; early individuals were found at Cape Canaveral (dead; RDB, DH) and on the Withlacoochee R. (near Lakeland), both on Mar. 6 (JBE). Two early Red-eyed Vireos were also at the latter locality on the same date (JBE). Hollywood had a Bananaquit Feb. 10 - 19 (Helen Laemle, PWS *et al.*)

WARBLERS — Very unusual were two winter records of the Prothonotary Warbler — Jan. 22 near Palmdale (Carole Cobourn, RHP) and Jan. 24 at O'Leno S P (Suwannee Co.; Elizabeth Ball & Joyce Williams) The same Palmdale observers had a Blue-winged Warbler associating with the Prothonotary, other wintering Blue-wingeds were found near Bartow Dec. 27 - January (PJF *et al.*) and at Key West Jan. 31 (FTH). A Tennessee Warbler at the WCTV tower was very late on Dec. 2 (RLC). Northerly winter records also involved a Yellow Warbler near Auburndale Jan. 4 (JBE) and a Cape May Warbler at Merritt I., Mar. 4 (JJ), although the latter may have been a very early migrant. A Black-throated Green Warbler wintered at Mandarin (near Jacksonville) Dec. 3 - Mar. 4 (Peggy Powell) and possibly at Titusville Mar. 9 - 19 (RDB; early migrant?). Another record of a Pine Warbler came from Big Pine Key, where there is no resident population, Jan. 10 (EC & RC); a pair in n. Leon County had young in the nest as early as March 30 (NOW). A Prairie Warbler near L. Jackson Jan. 22 (JMS *et al.*) constituted the first winter record for inland Leon County; an early one appeared on St. George I., Mar. 17 (HMS & JMS). A very early Louisiana Waterthrush was at the Withlacoochee R., Feb. 29 (JBE), and a Mourning Warbler was at Ft. Lauderdale Jan. 2-6 (Ath., m.ob.), the latter is one of Florida's rarest warblers. Wintering Wilson's Warblers were chronicled at Gainesville Dec. 16 (JHH) and Mar. 5 (RP; same bird?) and Jacksonville Nov. 14 - Mar. 21 (MCD; photographed).

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS — The only Yellow-headed Blackbird was reported from Ochopee Feb. 1 (MT). A N. Oriole was very early on St. George I., Mar. 2 (JMS *et al.*); wintering birds considered "Bullock's" were seen again at Mrs. Frank Stoutamire's

feeder in Tallahassee (dates?) and one netted, banded, and photographed at Homestead Feb. 5 (EJF). About 20 Brewer's Blackbirds were seen 12 mi. n. of Homestead Jan. 24 (Ian Nisbet). A ♀ Stripe-headed Tanager was at Ft. Lauderdale Dec. 11 - Jan. 6 (WG, WJB), and W. Tanagers near Tampa Jan. 3 (JBE, DG) and Ft. Lauderdale Dec. 17 - Mar. 21 (Ann Buckley, Ted Hendrickson, PWS, m.ob.). A Summer Tanager wintered near L. Wales (CG *et al.*).

GROSBEAKS AND BUNTINGS — Wintering Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen at Homestead, a male Dec. 28 and a female Jan. 24 (EJF), at Sarasota Dec. 23 - end of period (Maces), and four throughout the period near Wabasso (*vide* MCB). A Blue Grosbeak was seen near Auburndale Dec. 26 - 28 (JBE *et al.*) and a pair from mid-March into April near Ft. Pierce (*vide* HWK). A late or wintering Indigo Bunting was on Alligator Pt. Dec. 12 (HMS), and two appeared at St. George I. on the early date of Mar. 17 (HMS & JMS; 1*, T.T.). Winter records of single Dickcissels were made at Rockledge Feb. 11 (Helen Cruickshank), Merritt I., Dec. 23 - 25 (JJ), Coral Gables Dec. 10 (JMK), and Gainesville March 2 (RP).

FINCHES AND SPARROWS — A Purple Finch seen at Islamorada Jan. 16 (JCO) and previously is probably the southernmost Florida record. The Lark Sparrow, rare on the Keys, was seen at Key West March 21 - 28 (FTH). A more detailed account of Florida's first **Black-throated Sparrow**, found at Tallahassee Feb. 4 (GEM), has been submitted to this journal for later publication; the bird was collected Feb. 8 (HMS, *T.T.). A Dark-eyed Junco, caught and banded at Ft. Myers Dec. 13, was unusually far south (the Jalmar Nelsons). A

Clay-colored Sparrow was "carefully studied" at Lake Worth Jan. 15 (RP). White-crowned Sparrows wintered in small numbers at three locations near Tallahassee (GEM, JMS *et al.*), and a **Lapland Longspur** was collected at St. George I., Jan. 31 (JMS, *T.T.).

CORRIGENDUM — A. W. Grebe photographed at Tampa in May 1975 was referred to (*Am. Birds*, 29:840) as the "only extant proof of record.. in Florida." More recently I have learned that the Jacksonville bird of 1965 was also photographed, but the fact seems not to have been publicized at that time.

OBSERVERS (Area editors in boldface) — Brooks and Lynn Atherton (Ath.), Chas. Burman, Jim Berry Margaret Brown, Margaret C. Bowman, **Robert D Barber**, Wesley Biggs, Wm. J. Bolte, **Ted and Virginia Below**, Eric Cooper, Jesse E. Connor, Jack, J. Connor, Ruth Cooper, Robert L. Crawford, Mary C. Davidson, Mary Dennis, **John B. Edscorn**, Erma J. Fisk, Paul J. Fellers, Chas. Geanangel, Dave Goodwin, Wally George, Dan Heathcote, **Frances T. Hames**, **John H. Hintermister**, Larry Hopkins, Johnnie Johnson, **Herbert W. Kale**, Gail E. Menk, **Virginia M. Markgraf**, Donald and Grace Mace, **John C. Ogdén**, Robert Pепенning, Ray H. Plockelman, Jr., Alan J. Ryff, Ernest H. Stevenson, Jas M. Stevenson, Malcolm M. Simons, Ruth Simons, Paul W. Sykes, John Treadway, Mark Trafton, Jr., Fred W. Wetzel, Noel O. Wamer. *Other abbreviations and symbols* — U.S.F., Univ. of S. Fla.; T.T., Tall Timbers Research Station; *, collected specimen or photograph — **HENRY M. STEVENSON**, Tall Timbers Research Station, Route 1, Box 160, Tallahassee, Florida 32303

ONTARIO REGION /Clive E. Goodwin

It was a severe, cold winter, contrasting sharply with the astonishingly mild season just a year before. Some meteorologists suggest that we are entering a period of great variability in weather, and the topsy-turvy weather in the past few years seems to confirm their views. The season was variable in itself, with an exceptionally mild spell in February which brought March migrants a full month ahead of their normal arrival dates. However, the season was more noteworthy for its cold than its warmth, and by the middle of December record-low temperatures were being set in northern Ontario.

The early winter had its usual share of birds that hung on past normal migration departure times, but relatively few warrant special comment, and apart from the Southwest, by the time Christmas Bird Count time had rolled around possibly fewer than normal remained. The severe weather of January seemed to eliminate most of these, and the later winter was very quiet. As in previous years, this report will not repeat CBC data unless particularly noteworthy.

February 23 saw the beginning of a period of very mild weather which lasted until the end of the month and which even brought crocuses into bloom in Toronto. The month had been warmer than average from about the

10th, but the surge of early migrants mainly appeared in the record-breaking warmth of the last week. There were so many that listing them would be both tedious and a waste of space. Toronto had about 15 species that arrived early in this period, and the story is almost identical for areas to the south and west with large flights of blackbirds



and good numbers of waterfowl comprising the bulk of the reports. Woodcock were even active on territory on Feb. 25 at Ancaster (RC) and Feb. 28 at Komoka (WRJ). Many northern birds moved out at the same time.

Winter returned at the beginning of March with unusual cold, and the month was characteristically unsettled with snow and a severe ice storm on Mar. 2-3 which crippled the Southwest and must have been devastating to many birds. In spite of this early arrivals continued to be reported in the milder spells, and another warm period commencing on March 22 carried the early arrivals further north and east, with 13 record-early species reported from Manitoulin-Sudbury (*fide* JN) and early reports from North Bay, Virginiatown and Ottawa (HP, PWR, RAF), in addition to newcomers in areas further south. In summary it can be said that in the south most of the regular March migrants appeared in February and many species that normally arrive in April were seen in March!

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — Scattered Com. Loons were recorded north to Warton Jan. 15 (PM) and inland a bird Dec. 1 at Peterborough was the latest-ever there (DMcR). An Arctic Loon was picked up by Ministry of Natural Resources personnel at Lindsay Dec. 20 and later released (*fide* JM). Five Red-throated Loons were reported: they included a bird inland at Puslinch L., Nov. 27-28 (WHS, CAC) and one at Hamilton as late as Jan. 18 (JC, JH, PW). Kempenfelt Bay had five Red-necked Grebes Dec. 7 (DS) and the 35 Horned Grebes there, Dec. 14, were a good count (CJM, EAW). This species was exceptionally widespread along the lower Great Lakes during December, and there were very many early reports. Pied-billed Grebes also featured in the early influx, with other noteworthy sightings at Listowel Dec. 31 (M & JVD) and Kingston Feb. 15 (RDW). A Double-crested Cormorant was at Hamilton Jan. 2 (CE). There was only a scattering of Great Blue Herons: one late bird inland was at New Hamburg Jan. 30 (DAS *et al.*).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — Whistling Swans were both late and early: at Shrewsbury there were 219 Dec. 2 (GB) and returning birds were back in late February, following their pattern of recent years of spreading widely in small flocks to feed in fields. Twelve were north to Manitoulin I., Mar. 23 (E & GG). Canada Geese also moved in numbers from Feb. 24 on (m.ob.). Late geese were a Brant at Kingston Dec. 4 (MHE, RR) and four Snow Geese at Port Royal Dec. 5 (GB). There were the usual dabbling ducks wintering in favoured places along the Lower Lakes: most species could be found in ones and twos. Elsewhere Green-winged Teal were north to Mindemoya Dec. 13 (CB), and the late March push brought Pintail, Gadwall, Canvasback and Redhead to the Manitoulin area (CB, JN, DF). There were three Redheads in Colpo Bay to Jan. 29 (LR, PM) and a good count of 380 at Whitby Dec. 7 (DC). The only "regular" Barrow's Goldeneye now remaining is the Ottawa bird, which was present throughout (*fide* RAF) but another bird was at Meaford Jan. 20 (MG *et al.*) and a bird at Peterborough Mar. 11 could have been a possible hybrid from the description given (GC). Harlequin Ducks were present at Oakville and Toronto throughout (m. ob.), one at Fort Erie to early January (HHA *et al.*) and a bird at Darlington P.P., Feb. 28 (GC). The only King Eider seen was at Ottawa Dec. 3 (RMP, BD). White-winged Scoters

were reported north to Manitoulin Dec. 13 (CB) and Meaford Jan. 22 (MG) and a bird inland at Peterborough Dec. 11 (DMcR); a good early count was of 110 Hamilton Feb. 20 (RC, AW *et al.*). A late Surf Scoter was at Kingston Dec. 27 (AEB) and a Black Scoter was on the Niagara R. to Jan. 25 (m.ob.). The peak Cornwall area numbers for Com. Mergansers were over 5000 in January (AB).

HAWKS, EAGLES — Goshawk numbers were about average, with some twenty birds reported over the period Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks yielded about 30 reports each, almost all from southern regions and again about average. Red-taileds were in rather low numbers in the traditional areas, although Malton trapping yielded 25 over the period (JAM) and the 17 on the Barrie CBC was high (*fide* CJM). An all-white bird was present in Vaughn Twp. for the fifth consecutive winter (GB, AD), and a bird at Espanola Feb. 7 may have been a very early migrant (JN). The real migration came at the end of March when Beamer Pt. recorded 800 Red-taileds and a most encouraging 397 Red-shoulders, with the peak movement Mar. 24-26 (*fide* RC). Kingston had a late Red-shouldered Hawk Dec. 21 (MHE *et al.*) and there were some fourteen wintering reports from further west along the lakes. A moderate Rough-legged Hawk flight had the heaviest concentration in the Malton area, where numbers built up from 17 at the end of October and 20 at the end of November to a peak of 54 on Dec. 30 (JAM). There were only half a dozen on Wolfe and Amherst Is (*fide* RDW).

Algonquin Park was again the centre for Golden Eagles, although it did not repeat its phenomenal numbers of other species this year: up to four birds were present in late January (RP *et al.*). Elsewhere Golden were seen at Bethany Dec. 24 (DP), Pelee Dec. 24 (JPK *et al.*), Burlington Mar. 7 (WS, BW *et al.*) and Ottawa Mar. 27 (MB). Some eleven Bald Eagles were reported with as many as four in the Stratford area (GGi). Wolfe I. did have a Gyrfalcon Dec. 21 (FP *et al.*) and another was at Whitby Jan. 21 (EP *et al.*). A remarkable five Peregrine reports along the lower Great Lakes conceivably could have been one wide-ranging bird. There were six Merlins the Thunder Bay bird, long a regular in winter there, and others south to Waterloo County.

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Sharp-tailed Grouse were recorded at Atikokan Feb. 7 (SP). Virginia Rails are rare at Thunder Bay so the one on Mission I. Nov. 22 (WZ) was noteworthy. Erieau had over 700 Am. Coots on Dec. 2 (GB), a high count for such a late date. Shorebirds yielded some surprisingly late dates: Killdeer at Kingston Jan. 27 (K.F.N.) and Peterborough Jan. 28 (DMcR); an Am. Woodcock at Bronte Dec. 31 (AW, MJ, BW); a Purple Sandpiper at Toronto Dec. 14 and a Dunlin there Dec. 17 (JAK); a Red Phalarope at Niagara-On-The-Lake Dec. 21 (AES, ARC) with earlier birds at Cobourg (ERM) and Toronto (HK). March arrivals included a Dunlin at Simcoe Mar. 23 (H & SI) and a Spotted Sandpiper at Wroxeter Mar. 29 (DR).

GULLS — Glaucous Gulls were again in good numbers and particularly widespread. Highest single counts were 15 Ottawa, 13 Sudbury and 12 Burlington with smaller numbers in many other locations from Lake

Huron south along the lower Great Lakes. The dates are intriguing, as Ottawa and Sudbury had peaks in December, L. Ontario numbers peaked as usual in the early New Year, and numbers seemed to decline after that except at Marathon, the only L. Superior station reporting, which had eight on Mar. 28 and 17 on Mar. 31 (NE), probably return migration. The Iceland Gull pattern was rather different: most areas had good numbers in December but the Toronto peak was in February and one of the largest counts ever for this species was 26 in the Morrisburg area Feb. 9 (AB). Snyder held that the L. Ontario Icelanders are chiefly *kumlieni*, although few ever have the grey wing tips sometimes present in this race; however, several of the Toronto birds this year showed grey in the wing tips (AW, CEG), which created some confusion with an ad. Thayer's Gull which was also present, but which had black wing tips (DEP, JL). Unusual spring reports of Icelanders away from the Lakes were at Strathroy Mar. 19 (WRJ) and Ottawa Mar. 27 (RW). Cornwall had an astonishing 1240 Great Black-backed Gulls Jan. 11 (AB *et al.*) reconfirming this area as a major wintering concentration point for the species. Some scattered reports of smaller gulls were noteworthy: two Franklin's at Toronto Jan. 25 (DCS); 12 Bonaparte's at Cobourg Dec. 5 (ERM) and one at London Dec. 18 (GM), a Little Gull at Queenston Jan. 1 (FMR) and a Black-legged Kittiwake at Hamilton Dec. 26 (JBM).

S.A.

DOVES — Mourning Doves continue to establish themselves as a wintering species. Good numbers were reported at feeders north and east to Stratford, Waterloo and Toronto; however, 150 at Ottawa Jan. 1 (RT *et al.*) was a record high there, and particularly noteworthy. According to R. Alison, winterers are principally young birds, and tend to be very susceptible to frozen feet. Their gradual expansion from the cornfields of southwestern Ontario into colder and less hospitable areas of the Province may reflect the evolution of a hardier, northern breed of this species.

The incredible fall influx of southwestern species continued into early winter. Ontario's first **White-winged Dove** was found at Albany in 1942 and its second was a bird at Belleville, Dec. 14-19, which was visiting a feeder and was photographed (RSM). It seemed unlikely that the bird was an escapee, but the Collared Dove at a Kitchener feeder Jan. 8-11 (*vide* NC) likely was one; however, in the light of the strange season and this species' history of expansions elsewhere its occurrence seems worth noting.

OWLS — A Barn Owl was found dead at Listowel in December (M & JVD). Six injured Screech Owls were handled by the Owl Rehabilitation Research Foundation over the period, and they had six Great Horneds (KMCK); 15 birds of this species were live-trapped at Malton Airport and released elsewhere (JAM). A moderate Snowy Owl flight occurred: high counts were 25 at Ottawa, 15 on Wolfe I. and 11 at Toronto, but most of the widespread reports were of individuals. It was not an outstanding year for other owls. Hawk Owls were seen at Atikokan Feb. 10 (SP), Espanola Dec. 18-20 (CB, JN)

and Keene Jan. 4-28 (m. ob.) and Great Grays at Paudash L., Feb. 21 (R & EL, P & JW) and Massey Dec. 20 and Feb. 4 (*vide* KM). The latter bird was feeding on a cat which it was believed to have killed. Most noteworthy of several Barred Owl reports was from Vaughn Twp., Feb. 8 (AD, GB). Ottawa had a Long-eared Owl Feb. 8 and a Short-eared a week later (SiG, StG); both species are rare there, but widespread in small numbers in their more normal winter haunts. Four Boreal Owls and the same number of Saw-whets were seen: southernmost of the Boreals was a bird at Claireville, Feb. 8 (AS, *vide* GWh)

WOODPECKERS — There were scattered Red-bellied Woodpecker reports; one at a feeder in Whitevale from Dec. 9 (JK, JM, m.ob.) and another in Barrie, Dec 6 - Jan. 4, (CJM) were outside the species' limited range in the Province. Red-headed Woodpeckers wintered north to Hope Bay and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers north to Wiarton. Typically all these reports are of scattered individuals visiting feeders, and it emphasizes the impact that the practice of winter feeding must have on some species that normally do not winter in Ontario. In the case of largely resident birds such as the Red-bellieds and Tufted Titmice, feeders may be a major key in maintaining the species' sometimes tenuous hold in the Province.

There was a light three-toed woodpecker flight: maybe a dozen Northerns and a few more Black-backed — or perhaps reporters have ceased mentioning the latter! Southernmost Northern reports were from Peterborough (RD) and Palgrave (VT).

LARKS THROUGH TITMICE — Eighteen Horned Larks were on Sudbury Downs from Jan. 17 on (CB) A light flight of Gray Jays penetrated south and west to King Twp., and Presqu'ile P. P., and about 20 birds in all were reported. A Black-billed Magpie wintered at Atikokan (SP). Common Ravens continue to press south and west in winter with birds to Collingwood Feb 22 (DS) and Mara Twp., Jan. 4 (AM, CH, CJM).

The big movement of Black-capped Chickadees continued into early December in the Morrisburg-Cornwall area, with flocks numbering into thousands of birds moving east on a three-mile front (AB, JVR, SF, EM). It was a good chickadee winter in the south, although many observers noted an exodus in late February (GB *et al.*). Boreal Chickadees were widespread: there were at least 14 birds reported, from Thunder Bay south to London and east to Kingston, where there were four on Feb. 28 alone (*vide* RDW) This also represents the latest date the species was reported Pairs of Tufted Titmice wintered at Oakville (DRG), Ancaster (RC) and Windsor (*vide* AHK).

NUTHATCHES THROUGH KINGLETS — A White-breasted Nuthatch was at Nym L. from Dec 25, and Red-breasted Nuthatches were in good numbers there (SP); however, they were scarce elsewhere and virtually absent in Algonquin P. P. (*vide* RP). Carolina Wrens were north and east to Paudash L. Dec 28-31 (JW) and at Millbrook throughout (HW); there are some suggestions that the population to the south fared badly over the winter. Simcoe County's first successful Brown Thrasher wintering was a bird at Barrie throughout (HH). A Hermit Thrush at Mississagi Light, Mar. 27, was

a full two weeks earlier than the previous record (JN). Three and possibly four more **Townsend's Solitaires** were seen: two at Toronto, one from Dec. 8 for about a week (JR *et al.*) and another Mar. 11 for a few days (SB, *vide* GB); a bird at Ancaster Feb. 16 (SW); and one at Cedar Springs Mar. 25 (KJB). All this from a species that had been seen half a dozen times in the Province prior to 1975!

PIPITS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS — Several Water Pipits were seen in December, all eclipsed by the 45 at Rondeau Dec. 2 (GB). The last of the exotics from the



Phainopepla, Elgin County, Ont., Dec. 29, 1975.
Photo/Marshall Field.

Southwest was the oddest of the lot: a **Phainopepla** was found at Wallacetown Dec. 27 (RPo, MHF, LDA) and remained until about Jan. 17 (m.ob.). It was well photographed and is the first Canadian record. Presumably the same bird - surely there were not two! - yielded two independent reports from London Feb. 29 - Mar. 1, immediately prior to the ice storm (KCH, SCS). It was not an outstanding year for winter incursions, but Bohemian Waxwings staged one of the heaviest invasions of this century: it probably equalled the flight of 1961-2 although numbers were smaller than in the huge movement of 1958-9. Typically heaviest numbers were in the East although Ottawa, which usually has hundreds when the rest of us feel lucky with ones and twos, had only a moderate flight. The first reports came at the beginning of December, and flocks of 15 to 50 birds were widespread by mid-January, with the peak numbers coming too late for most of the CBCs. Perhaps a dozen of the flocks reported exceeded 100 birds, and there were sightings south and west at least to Hamilton and Meaford. Few were seen after early March and the last was at Oakville Mar. 23 (CW). By contrast Cedar Waxwings were much scarcer than in recent winters.

Northern Shrikes appeared in moderate to good numbers: the centre of abundance seemed to be in the south-central parts of the Province, and as usual they became scarce in mid-winter only to increase again later, when the Thunder Bay region recorded its first (*vide* KD). Some five early Loggerhead Shrikes were seen in the late March "push". Migrant Starlings are always early: this year a bird reached Algonquin P. P. by Feb. 11 (D & CM) and four arrived on Manitoulin I. Feb. 21 (KDi). About ten Yellow-rumped Warblers tried to winter: the most reckless were birds at Kingston Feb. 24 (RDW) and Gore's Landing to Jan. 10 (ERM), where a N. Oriole was also seen Dec. 17 (NM). Ron Scovell's Ovenbird at Thistletown finally vanished Dec. 20. Point Pelee had a Louisiana Waterthrush Mar. 28 (JWi).

Blackbirds wintered north to Marathon, where three species were seen at feeders, Brown-headed Cowbirds surviving to at least Feb. 27 (NE). Enormous blackbird numbers were recorded from late February.

FINCHES — The Cardinal success story continues. Ottawa had its best winter ever with at least 13 at feeders, Kingston had at least 26, there were over 34 at Meaford and 8 on Manitoulin I. Even the Lakehead had one, with a bird at Vickers Heights to Mar. 14 (C & HR). Winter finches offered the usual mixture of abundance and scarcity. Evening Grosbeaks were present in small to moderate numbers throughout and were particularly common in eastern Ontario during the early winter. Purple Finches were virtually absent, with only a few small flocks reported. Pine Grosbeaks, on the other hand, staged one of their better movements during December and January, with flocks of up to 80 birds as far west as Waterloo, but there were few after early February. For the first time since the winter of 1971-2 redpolls were widespread in large numbers, with the influx coming in late January and lasting to the end of the period. Prince Edward Pt. staged some kind of migrational coup with heavy redpoll migration off the Point on Jan. 1 (RDW, FC)! Flocks were into hundreds, although relatively few reached the Southwest. The flocks included good numbers of Hoaries — under 1% in Ottawa banding, but at least 50 other reports - and a few of the distinctive "Greater" race of the Common species. Both Pine Siskins and Am. Goldfinches were spottily distributed, very common in some areas but thinly scattered in most others, and with no particular pattern to the reports. Crossbills were equally scattered, but only small numbers were recorded and many areas had neither species.

SPARROWS — Until receiving Alice Kelly's report this summary was going to conclude that wintering sparrows were fewer than usual, but apparently the Southwest had record numbers in some areas, particularly up to Christmas. The CBCs reveal these best, although a Henslow's and a Lincoln's Sparrow at Pt. Pelee Dec. 3 (GB) were not found on the Count. In fact wintering sparrow numbers are difficult to assess, as many reporters approach commoner winterers such as Song and White-throated Sparrows with a rather "ho-hum" attitude, and this can extend to the less usual species as well. Hence some are reported, others not. Observers to the north and east tend to be less blasé: Ottawa had its first ever successful Rufous-sided Towhee wintering (*vide* RMP), Manitoulin had a Dark-eyed Junco to Dec. 20 (JN) and two Song Sparrows wintered (KDi), and there were three Tree Sparrows at Rosslyn in January and February (EK). Everyone reports Harris' Sparrows, but only one occurred this winter, at Meaford to Jan. 31 (MG). Algonquin had an early Song Sparrow on Mar. 5 (RTo). Lapland Longspurs were in small numbers with Snow Buntings, which were in very large numbers at times. Ron Weir mentions "impressive flocks" at Kingston throughout: 100 of these birds was commonplace, several flocks of over 1000 were seen, and in March over 10,000 were estimated along four miles of road north of Woodstock (SH).

If the above account does not include your favorite sighting maybe it arrived too late to be included. Five reports arrived after the manuscript was largely complete, including one from a key reporter. The area compilers

depend on the observers to be able to get their material in on time. If, as in this season, some reports do not arrive at the compilers until almost two weeks after the season ends their efforts become hopeless. I greatly regret having to omit interesting material but if it arrives too late I have no alternative. Many thanks to the vast majority of observers and area compilers who did get their material in on time, and thanks particularly to the many observers who cannot be listed by name but whose observations are essential to form the broad picture of the season.

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NIAGARA - CHAMPLAIN REGION

/Douglas P. Kibbe



The winter started innocuously enough with a continuation of the mild fall weather which enticed numerous species to linger to Christmas. Then bitter cold and a moderate to heavy snowfall, which struck the third week of December and lasted through early February, caused the demise of many of these half-hardies. The remainder of February was exceptionally warm with temperatures which surpassed 60°F in many areas, triggering mass early movements of waterfowl and Icterids. Winter returned briefly in early March but soon succumbed to another massive warm front which brought spring migrants into even the most mountainous areas. Many unusual winter records were established but apart from a general scarcity of winter finches no widespread trends were obvious. Consequently this was variously termed the winter of the Boreal Chickadee, Bohemian Waxwing, Dickcissel, Pine Grosbeak, or Common Redpoll depending upon whom you asked. All were unanimous, however, in terming 1976 the year of the early return, as record arrival dates were set everywhere.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — Six Red-throated Loon reports in December and January

included single birds grounded in Wallingford, Vt. (KU, PU) and Lewis County, N. Y. (LC). Mild weather induced numerous birds to linger in the Rochester area including two Double-crested Cormorants until Dec. 6 (WL *et al.*), five Great Blue Herons in the Genesee River Gorge Dec 21 (M & TT), and an Am. Bittern at Mendon Ponds which finally succumbed to the cold in early January (all *vide* R.B.A.). Canada Geese returned in force several weeks early as exemplified by an exceptional estimate of 75,000 between Pt. Breeze and Oak Orchard Feb. 28 (CP, AS). A total this high is more typical of late March. A Brant was noted on L. Ontario Jan. 11 (*vide* R.B.A.) and sixteen were counted on Button Bay in Ferrisburgh Dec 23 (BG *et al.*). The latter is an extraordinary total for a species which has not been recorded on a Vermont CBC in the past 30 years. Waterfowl migration was widely noted the third week of February in w. sections of the region but a month passed before another warm front brought most puddle ducks back to Adirondack and Green Mountain areas.

An immense flock of Redheads on Seneca Lake was estimated to comprise 50,000 birds ("100 birds by 500 birds covering 7 - 8 acres") Jan. 28 - 29 (JW, *vide* M.J). The difficulties of accurately estimating rafts of divers are

obvious and some scepticism may be warranted since the tally exceeds the previous state maximum (5000) by an order of 10 but it was, in any event, an extraordinary flock This winter's sole **Barrow's Goldeneye** was a carefully identified female in Essex Harbor on L. Champlain Mar. 6 (JP *et al.*). Immature **Harlequin Ducks** were noted at Russell Station on L. Ontario (J & WL, *vide* R.B.A.) and the Niagara R. (m.ob. *vide* B.O.S.). Braddock Bay held two **King Eiders** Dec. 12 (WL, *vide* R B A) while a third was observed Feb. 9 on the Niagara R with 375 White-winged Scoter (HA, *vide* B. O. S.), a local high White-winged count but well below the Regional all-time high. A number of late Ruddy Ducks were reported including one through Dec. 17 at Herrick's Cove for that area's first record (DC) and 15 on Conesus L Jan 13 (JC & JS, *vide* R.B.A.), considered a "ridiculously" high count.

HAWKS THROUGH RAILS — Turkey Vultures appeared at two locations in Vermont on Mar. 24, more than a month early, and numerous birds were observed for the rest of the month (*vide* V. I. N. S.), a reflection of this species phenomenal increase in the Northeast. Accipiters wintered in numbers, with over a dozen Goshawks, more than 40 Sharp-shinned, and some 30 Cooper's Hawks being tallied during midwinter. A Red-shouldered Hawk which appeared in Winhall on the very early date of Feb. 25 (WN) was just one of several species setting record local early arrival dates in the Green Mountain State. A Broad-winged Hawk identified in Ferrisburgh Mar. 25 (B & TG) is exceptionally early for Vermont, arriving only one day later than last year's record Although down in numbers in most areas, 37 Rough-legged Hawks were found in the Chamont Bay area Jan. 17 (RW, *vide* FC) and 44 were located on Pt. Peninsula in Jefferson County Jan. 30 (TC & DM, *vide* LC), the latter a record midwinter tally.

The seven Bald Eagles reported included four at Oak Pt in January (*vide* LC). A new winter high count of Marsh Hawks was set Dec. 14 when eleven were tallied in Romulus, N.Y. (MJ). Unusual falcons included a possible gray phase Gyrfalcon seen briefly in Burlington Feb 25 (AP *et al.*), two Peregrines (*vide* B.O.S. & BG) and one acceptable [of 6 reported] Merlin. The only **Gray Partridge** reports came from Jefferson Co., N.Y., with coveys of up to 19 birds on Cape Vincent (*vide* LC). Wintering Virginia Rails are probably more common than a single report from Iroquois N.W.R. (JM, *vide* B. O. S) would indicate. The number of wintering Am. Coots continue to increase yearly with nearly 5000 on Chautauqua L. until mid-December (RS) and 1000 on Conesus L. through the month (*vide* R.B.A.).

SHOREBIRDS, GULLS — One of the first of many early Am. Woodcocks was a bird found, surprisingly enough, in Washington County, N. Y., Feb. 21 (*vide* GS). At least seven December and January reports of Com. Snipe were received. Other wintering shorebirds included at least four Purple Sandpipers and two Dunlin at Niagara Falls through February (*vide* B.O.S.), another Purple Sandpiper at Irondequoit Bay Dec. 21-22 (AK, ST, *vide* R.B.A.), and a White-rumped Sandpiper lingering at Braddock Bay until Dec. 5 (m.ob. *vide* R B A). Another rarity observed at Braddock Bay during this same time period (Dec. 2-4) was a **Red Phalarope** (NH, WL, *vide* R.B.A.). Both yellowlegs had

returned to the Buffalo area by late March as had an unusually early pair of Pectoral Sandpipers noted at Hanover Center on Mar. 21 (FR, *vide* B.O.S.).

The Niagara River, which has reigned supreme for many years as the top gull observatory in the Region, was dethroned this winter by the Robert Moses Power Dam on the St. Lawrence R. where 29 imm. Iceland and 1240 Great Black-backed Gulls (JV, *vide* LC) set Regional and in the first instance New York state records. A total of 33 Glaucous Gulls (JV) also seen there is a total second only to last winter's count of 44 at Niagara Falls. The Falls managed to salvage a piece of this year's action with an imm. Little Gull Dec. 7 (DF) and a **Black-legged Kittiwake** later in the month (HA *et al.*, *vide* B.O.S.) A Com. Tern at nearby Beaver Island S. P. Dec. 7 (JT, *vide* B.O.S.) is exceptional, there being only two comparable winter records for the Region, both also from the Buffalo area.

OWLS THROUGH CORVIDS — All three Barn Owls reported were from previously known locations in w. New York. Although widespread in w. portions of the region, Screech Owls were reported from only two Vermont locations. While Barred Owl reports outnumbered Great Horned by 4:1 in Vermont, Great Horned prevailed in western New York by more than ten to one. Both Long-eared and Short-eared Owl numbers were down considerably from recent years. In fact, all Long-eared were single birds except for a roost of nine near Barker, N. Y. which had dispersed by the end of January. Red-bellied Woodpeckers appear to be continuing their northeastward expansion with Schenectady's first wintering report (*vide* GS). Numerous reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers were received including two in the L. Champlain valley where they are uncommon at any time of year. The only out-of-breeding-range three-toed woodpecker was a Black-backed in Buffalo (m ob *vide* B.O.S.).

In contrast to the early arrival pattern set by waterfowl few E. Phoebes or Tree Swallows appeared prior to their normal arrival dates. A Gray Jay at Massena, N. Y., Dec 30 (JV, *vide* LC) was considered very unusual. The number of Com. Raven reports from Vermont (90+) seem to indicate that this species is doing much better in the Green Mountains than in the Adirondacks where only a handful of single birds were reported. Four ravens were also reported from the small Finger Lakes population Ithaca's **Fish Crow** returned earlier than ever, on Feb 22 (KR, *vide* EK). Despite a heavy fall movement of Boreal Chickadees only moderate numbers were reported (except for the Finger Lakes which had 17) and no return flight was apparent. Only 22 Boreals remained behind in Vermont's "Northeast Kingdom" to be tallied on the Island Pond CBC after a cone failure turned that area into a avifaunal desert despite promotional claims to the contrary prior to the count. A **Carolina Chickadee** closely observed and identified by call in a flock of some 20 Black-capped at the Tanglewood Nature Center in Elmira (WH) must, unfortunately, remain on the New York hypothetical list. Recent studies have indicated that chickadees in the zone of overlap between the two "species" may give both calls alternatively and banders there will attest to the difficulty of identifying birds in the hand since measurements overlap and no clear cut plumage differences exist.

NUTHATCHES THROUGH THRUSHES — Both Red-breasted Nuthatches and Brown Creepers were down in numbers and only four wintering Winter Wrens were noted. Vermont's first **Bewick's Wren**, banded last May 27 in Woodstock (see *Am. Birds* 29 [4]:830), is in the news again. This will be its final appearance, however, because the bird was found dead in Paragould, Arkansas Dec 31 (FT, *vide* SL). Despite the coldest winter in recent years and predictions to the contrary, Carolina Wrens continue to thrive everywhere including birds in at least three areas in the L. Champlain valley. A Long-billed Marsh Wren which lingered in Burlington until Dec. 10 (BE, WE) may be Vermont's first winter record. Mockingbirds also continued to do well with at least eight birds wintering in Vermont and several reports from northern New York. Vermont's winter proved to be too much for Brown Thrashers, however, as evidenced by the demise of two birds at feeders (FKT, RS). Only two Gray Catbirds were seen both in early January (*vide* R.B.A. and B.O.S.). An extraordinary **Swainson's Thrush** was closely observed and fully described in Essex, N. Y. Dec. 20 (JP, DA, PT). Equally unusual was a sickly **Veery** observed at leisure in Geneva, N. Y. Dec. 28 by two competent bird banders (PTR, CW). While midwinter records of these thrushes are generally considered unacceptable, the experience of the observers involved and the completeness of their reports leaves little doubt regarding the validity of these observations. A zealous pair of E. Bluebirds commenced nesting Feb. 26 in Horseheads, N. Y. only to have their eggs destroyed by Com Grackles. (WH).

KINGLETS THROUGH WARBLERS — Perhaps because of the exceptional cold (to -40° F. in some areas), both kinglets were remarkably scarce. Water Pipits left late, Dec. 28 at Conesus L. (CP, AS), and returned early, Feb 25 at Braddock Bay (TT *et al.*). Bohemian Waxwings staged an invasion of some magnitude in the n e portion of the region with at least 14 Vermont reports and several from upstate New York including a flock of about 400 south of Watertown Center (RW, *vide* LC). It was a good year for N. Shrikes with well over 80 locations reported. Three early returning Loggerhead Shrikes were spotted One at Braddock Bay Feb. 24 (CP) was exceptionally early while the two late March reports from the L Champlain valley are an encouraging sign of this species which has all but disappeared from the Region as a breeder. In addition to the usual reports of wintering Yellow-rumped Warblers, a **Pine Warbler** was reported from Batavia Jan. 10 (*vide* B.O.S.) and a **Cape May** frequented a Penn Yan feeder from late December through early January (ML, m.ob., *vide* WB). This is the second consecutive winter that the latter species has attempted to winter at a feeder in the Region.

BLACKBIRDS, FRINGILLIDS — An imm. **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was seen by many at a Montour Falls, N Y feeder (JB *et al.*, *vide* MJ) while another bird was seen at Iroquois N. W. R. Mar. 7 - 10 (JM, *vide* B.O.S.). An imm. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** noted at a Penn Yan feeder Jan. 25 through mid-February (ML, *vide* WB) provided the third Regional winter record. Dickcissels were considered the bird-of-the-season in Rochester where up to three were observed (*vide* R.B.A.). A dearth of Purple Finches, Pine Siskins, Am. Goldfinches, and crossbills in northern areas was compensated for by a

mild invasion of Pine Grosbeaks and an early, massive invasion of Com. Redpolls. Bob Yunick was particularly emphatic in his description of an immense flight, and well he might be, because he banded over 2200 at his feeder traps in Schenectady before pausing to mail in his report and on at least two dates had handled over 300 birds. Surprisingly, he observed no Hoaried, although eight were reported in the region [one with details].

A Rufous-sided Towhee reported to be of the western spotted race spent February in Chili, N. Y. (Myers & JS, *vide* R.B.A.). This is believed to be only the fourth record of this form for New York and the first for the Region. Four Savannah Sparrows were observed in the Region in December while a **Grasshopper Sparrow** in Saxton's River Dec. 20 (DK *et al.*) provided Vermont's first winter record. An imm. ♂ **Harris Sparrow** spent most of the winter at a Chatham, N. Y. feeder (WT, *vide* GS) and unusual numbers of White-crowned Sparrows congregated in the Rochester area (e.g., over 35 January reports). Although numbers of Swamp Sparrows occur regularly on w. New York CBCs, a single bird found in Londonderry Dec. 23 (DK) was only this species' fourth occurrence on a Vermont CBC in 30 years. No exceptional concentrations of Lapland Longspurs were reported, but a tally of 2000 Snow Buntings in Youngstown Jan. 12 (Klabundes, *vide* B.O.S.) was only one of several large flocks reported.

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APPALACHIAN REGION **/George A. Hall**

The winter season was divided into three distinct parts, a prolongation of the mild autumn, true winter which was very short, and one of the earliest springs in recent years. December was unusually mild, slightly on the wet side, and had little snowfall. In January the weather turned quite cold, and remained so all month. At Pittsburgh the month showed a 134 day-degree deficit in temperature. Precipitation was slightly deficient but in the north there was plenty of snow. The ground remained snow-covered all month, and the larger bodies of water froze. By late January a total of 85 inches of snow had accumulated at Warren, Pa. However, from central West Virginia south

there was little or no snow. The cold weather continued until mid-February when a remarkable warming trend started. At Pittsburgh both February and March showed temperature excesses of about 230 day-degrees. Precipitation was about normal. Although there were short periods of freezing weather after March 1 spring conditions prevailed from that time. Many plants blossomed much earlier than usual and some fruiting may have been destroyed by subsequent frosts in April.



As a result of the mild December most areas had very successful Christmas Bird Counts, and there were many stragglers from the fall migration still present in the Region. The very cold January sent most of these on their way, but with the early return of warm weather the spring migration started quite early and there were many early arrivals. Except for Evening Grosbeaks which had come in numbers in the fall it was not a really good winter for northern invasion species, although many were present in small numbers.

LOONS, GREBES AND HERONS — Red-throated Loons were seen in Frederick Co., Va., Dec. 10 (RS) and at Presque Isle, Pa., Dec. 28 (DS, *fide* RBo). A Red-necked Grebe in Buncombe, Co., N.C., Feb. 21 was the first local record and may have been blown in by a storm on the 18th (RP, *fide* RRu).

The fall season report had noted the unusually large numbers of Great Blue Herons remaining in the Region. These birds remained through December in unusual numbers, as for example, 18 on a CBC at Pymatuning L., Pa. (RFL) and 12 on a CBC near Weirton, W.Va. (RRi). Many of these birds left during the cold weather but winterers remained at State College, Pa. (MW) and South Charleston, W.Va. (NG) as well as a few other places in the north. There were late December records for Green Herons: Dec. 11 at Waynesboro, Va. (RSn), Dec. 12 Lovettsville, Va. (DC), and Dec. 27 at Charleston (NG). Reports of Great Egrets from Warren, Pa., Mar. 25 (HJ, *fide* WH) and L. Oneida, Pa., Mar. 27 (PH) were rather early. Five Cattle Egrets were found at Newcomerstown, O. during Christmas week (ES).

WATERFOWL — The southbound migration of waterfowl was still going on during December and most

CBCs recorded good numbers including several species that normally are not present. In the north these birds all departed at the freeze-up but good numbers remained in the south. The northward flight began in mid-February and reached its peak much earlier than usual. By the end of March most of the waterfowl had left the Region. Most places found that the flight was light, although in e Tennessee (GE) it was better than in recent years. This may have been owing to the nature of the weather—long uninterrupted periods of warm weather—but even considering that, it seems apparent that waterfowl populations continue to decline in this Region.

The Whistling Swan flight began in late February and the birds apparently used the direct route over the Region, as few reports came in from any but the usual stations. The only large concentration reported was 1000 seen at Edinboro L. in n.w. Pennsylvania Mar. 2 (RBo). These birds were apparently forced down by an ice storm along the L. Erie shore 20 mi. to the north. The Pymatuning L. CBC listed 10,000 Canada Geese (RFL) Blue morphs of the Snow Goose were at Presque Isle Feb. 21 (DS, *fide* RBo), while white morphs were at Pymatuning L. through the period. On Mar. 20 a possible hybrid between the "Blue" Goose and a Canada Goose was seen at Pymatuning (RFL). White morphs of the Snow Goose were seen near Lewisburg, W.Va., Dec. 27 the first local record (COH).

Oldsquaws, once rarely reported from this Region, have become regular in e. Ohio and w. Pennsylvania, and this year were more widely reported than ever. However, 12 at Watauga L., Tenn., Jan. 17 (LH) and one at Boone L., Tenn., Feb. 5 (SG & MD, *fide* GE), were more unusual. The only reports of White-winged Scoters came from Nelsonville, O., Dec. 27 (BS), Presque Isle, Dec. 28 (JeS), Somerset County, Pa., Dec. 20 (GRS), and Watauga L., Tenn., Jan. 17 (LH). The best duck of the year was an imm. Barrow's Goldeneye at Presque Isle Mar. 21, apparently the second county record (JeS).

HAWKS AND EAGLES — It was an outstanding season for several raptor species. A Golden Eagle was caught in a muskrat trap in Gilmer Co. W.Va. in February, and was ultimately cared for and turned loose by the State D.N.R. On Mar. 4 three and possibly five Golden Eagles were seen feeding on sheep carcasses (possible bear kills) in the mountains of Randolph County, W.Va. (EO), and a state game protector reported two in Pendleton County, W. Va. Another Golden Eagle was seen in December in Warren County, Pa. (WH). Bald Eagles were reported from Pymatuning L. where they nested, and Conneaut L., Pa. (RFL) and State College Pa. in December (MW), along the Shenandoah River in w. Virginia, Dec. 20 (JP), near Roanoke, Va., Jan. 31 (NM) and at Seneca L., O., Mar. 23 (MJS). A surprising number of Sharp-shinned Hawks wintered, with reports coming from all parts of the Region. The Cooper's Hawk was also reported more commonly than usual. Goshawks were reported from Pymatuning L., Pa., Jan. 1 (RFL), Powdermill Nature Reserve, Pa. (hereafter P.N.R.), Jan 18 & Feb. 9 (RCL), four other undetailed sightings in the Pittsburgh area (PH), Shenandoah N.P. CBC, (DCa), Columbia County, Va., Dec. 29 (SS), and Watauga L., Tenn., from Dec. 14 to at least Mar. 6. (GE). Both Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks were in good numbers (ten Red-tails seen flying over one location in s.w

Pennsylvania, Feb. 23 (RBe). Rough-legged Hawks were in unusually high numbers in the north and were reported as far south as Marietta, O. (JSt), Carlisle, Pa. (RPF), and Clark County, Va. (RS). Many more N. Harriers wintered in the Region than we are accustomed to. A Merlin was present all winter near Chambersburg, Pa. (RPF), there were four reports from the Pittsburgh area, including a CBC first (PH); and one at Leeper, Pa. Jan. 30-Feb. 1 (LC). Peregrines were reported in Washington County, Pa., Dec. 7 (JMC), Westmoreland County, Pa., Jan. 18 (GKM) and Erie Pa., Jan. 16-Feb. 16 (RBo). An unusual number of Black Vultures was present in a roost along the Shenandoah River in w. Virginia where 500 of the 1500 vultures using the roost were Blacks (KR). At Shenandoah N. P. the CBC listed 72 Blacks and 292 Turkey Vultures (DCa), while a roost near Bristol, Tenn., had 20 Blacks and 125 Turkeys (GE). The only raptor migration data for the season came from the s. shore of L. Erie where 218 birds (76 Kestrels, 71 Red-shoulders, and 53 Red-taileds) of eight species were counted in five hours on Mar. 20 (JB).

CRANES AND RAILS — A Sandhill Crane was present near Kingsport, Tenn. from Jan. 9 to at least Feb. 21 (m.ob.), the first Tennessee record east of the Knoxville area. A Virginia Rail at Butler, Pa., Dec. 13-18 (FP) and a Com. Gallinule at Presque Isle, Dec. 8 (RBo) were late.

SHOREBIRDS AND GULLS — It would appear that more Com. Snipe wintered in the Region than ever before, with reports from Lock Haven, Pa. (PS), Berkeley and Jefferson Counties, W.Va. (CM), Greenbrier County, W.Va. (COH), Charleston, W.Va.—23 on CBC—, Roanoke, Va. (NM), and Dalton, Ga. (AH). A few Am. Woodcock also remained during the winter. The early spring brought a few early reports of migrant shorebirds. Killdeer had arrived in numbers in the north by mid-February. Other early reports were Spotted Sandpiper at Elizabethton, Tenn, Mar. 15 (GE), Dowitcher (probably Long-billed) at Shippensburg, Pa., Mar. 12 (BB, *fide* CG), Greater Yellowlegs at Pymatuning L., Mar. 14 (RFL), and Pectoral Sandpiper at Scotland, Pa., Mar. 27, (CG). The best shorebird record of the season was an exhausted **Red Phalarope** captured and banded at St. Albans, W.Va., Mar. 7, providing the third record for the state (JRA).

Two **Glaucous Gulls** were at Presque Isle, Jan. 2 (DF, *fide* RBo).

DOVES, PARROTS AND OWLS — Mourning Doves continue to increase as wintering birds even in the north

A Budgerigar survived the coldest weather in the wild at Waynesboro, Va. (RSn), and there was another report from the Shenandoah Valley of what was probably the same bird (RS). There were two sightings of a Monk Parakeet at Waynesboro, Jan. 11 & 30 (*fide* RSn).

Four pairs of Barn Owls were nesting near Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE), and other reports came from Clarksville, Pa. (RBe), Lock Haven, two on CBCs, first local records (PS), and Bethany, W.Va. (AB). The seldom reported Long-eared Owl was found at Jersey Shore, Pa., in January (PS), in Clarke and Warren Counties, Va. (KR), and a nest was found in Chickamauga N.M.P.,

Ga., Mar. 5. Four Short-eared Owls were present at State College, Pa., in January and February (MW), two were at Presque Isle Mar. 27 (JeS) and one in Frederick County, Va., Feb. 24 (KR). At least four Saw-whet Owls were heard calling at World's End S.P., Pa., in late March (SS). Snowy Owl reports came from Canton, O., Dec 18 (PW), Presque Isle Jan. 28 (DS), and a photograph of one appeared in the Harrisonburg, Va. newspaper in January

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS — Red-bellied Woodpeckers continue to spread northward as records came from Warren, Pa., Jan. 3 (TG), Presque Isle (third record) Mar. 27 (JeS) and four on the Linesville, Pa. CBC (RFL). There were more than the usual number of reports of wintering Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, but both Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers were in reduced numbers at most places.

The early spring brought a rash of early arrival dates for the E. Phoebe, with the earliest being Feb. 26 at Clarksville, Pa. (RBe). There were three reports of E Kingbirds in w. Pennsylvania in March, remarkably early if the identifications were accurate.

Tree Swallows arrived about at the normal times with most arrival dates being in the last few days of March. The arrival dates of Purple Martins ranged from Mar 10 at Elizabethton, Tenn. to Mar. 26 at Clarksville, Pa., about normal, while a Barn Swallow at Bristol, Tenn Mar. 31 was somewhat early (GE).

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES AND CREEPERS — The fall invasion of Black-capped Chickadees produced some high winter counts: 299 on the Lock Haven, Pa. CBC, about one third as common as the Carolina in n.w. Virginia (RS), and more Blackcaps banded than Carolinas at Marietta, O. (JSt), the latter two locations in the normal range of the Carolina Chickadee. However at P.N.R. Blackcaps were believed to be in below-normal numbers (RCL). Boreal Chickadees were reported from five Pennsylvania localities: two at Indiana, Pa. from mid-December to February (EB); two at Caledonia S.P. from Dec. 18 to April (MH, *fide* CG), one at Bradford from Dec. 27 to Jan. 28 (LP, *fide* WH), one in Clarion County, Feb 22-Mar. 9 (JC) and four at State College in December and January (MW).

White-breasted Nuthatches continue to be in low numbers but slight uptrends were noted at Lock Haven (PS) and Morgantown (GAH). While the early fall flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches had been particularly heavy, not many individuals remained in the Region through the winter, although reports came in from all areas, including 18 on the Linesville, Pa. CBC, the only high count. Brown-headed Nuthatches continue to do well at Dalton, Ga. (AH), but the habitat where they recently appeared at Buncombe County, N.C. is being destroyed and the birds were not there (RRu).

WRENS, MIMIDS AND THRUSHES — It was a very good year for Winter Wrens as indicated by an all time high of 34 on the Great Smoky Mountains N.P. CBC (JBO), and numerous reports from elsewhere. Until the first of the year the Carolina Wren population continued its boom, although in two w. Pennsylvania localities (Pittsburgh and Clarksville) the CBCs were down slightly from last year. The prolonged snow cover and cold

weather in the north caused some mortality but apparently was not catastrophic as it has been in the past. The only reports of Bewick's Wren came from Dalton, Ga. (AH) where one came regularly to a feeder, and two at Murrysville, Pa., Feb. 9 (AW, *fide* PH).

Brown Thrashers arrived very early, Mar. 24 at Clarksville, Pa., (RBe) and Mar. 27 at Morgantown (GAH). A few thrashers had been noted as usual during the winter and a Gray Catbird was found on the Linesville CBC (RFL). Mockingbirds continue to go northward with three reports from the Warren, Pa. area (WH).

In the north the number of wintering robins was below normal. At P.N.R. E. Bluebirds had the best spring migration in years (RCL) and a bluebird was found nesting at Clarksville on Mar. 31 (RBe). Most remarkable was a Swainson's Thrush at a feeder in Warren, Pa., in late December and early January (WHi, *fide* WH).

KINGLETS, WAXWINGS, PIPITS AND SHRIKES — Ruby-crowned Kinglets were somewhat more common than usual this winter, but Golden-crowneds were less common. Cedar Waxwings were scarce at most places but a large concentration was noted in Clarion County, Pa. in mid-March (LC). Water Pipits were widely reported and were in numbers as far south as Kingsport Tenn. (GE) and Shenandoah N.P. (DC). A N. Shrike was seen in Shenandoah N.P., Va., Dec. 20 (*fide* DC), and two were seen at Edinboro, Pa., Mar. 1 (JeS).

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — Solitary Vireos were reported from Botetourt County, Va., Feb. 14 (NM), Elizabethton, Tenn., Mar. 20 (GE) and Charleston, Mar. 23 (NG).

The mild December and the warm March combined to give an unusual number of out-of-season records of warblers: Black-and-white, Waynesboro, Va., Dec. 4 (RSn) and Johnson City, Tenn., Dec. 7-14 (DL, *fide* GE); Orange-crowned, Dalton, Ga., Dec. 20 (AH), Cape May, Bristol, Tenn. from November to Dec. 28 (GE), Johnson City, Tenn., Dec. 24 (PR, *fide* GE), Meadville, Pa. (banded), Dec. 2 (RFL), Waynesboro, Va., Dec. 10 (RSn), and Youngstown, O. (found dead) in January (WB), yellowthroat, State College, Pa., Dec. 2 (killed by a cat) (MW), and Am. Redstart, Meadville, Pa., Dec. 2 (RFL). Yellow-rumped Warblers wintered for the first time at P.N.R. (RCL) and were recorded on the Lock Haven CBC for the first time (PS). This species was normally abundant in the south. In the spring Pine Warblers arrived very early, for example Feb. 25 in w. Kentucky (DCo), and were reported from many more places than usual. Prairie Warblers had arrived in e. Kentucky in late March (PA).

BLACKBIRDS — Red-winged Blackbirds and Com. Grackles arrived at places where they had not wintered in the last week in February, a week to ten days early. Grackles wintered at Indiana, Pa., for the first time (CW). Brewer's Blackbirds were reported from the Shenandoah Valley, Va., Mar. 15 (KR) and from the Tri-Cities Airport in e. Tennessee Jan. 11 (GE). There were wintering N. Orioles at Lovettsville, Va., Feb. 25 (DC), Middlebrook, Va., Dec. 6-17 (RSn), and at Dalton, Ga., Jan. 2-Feb. 18 (AH).

FINCHES AND SPARROWS — Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported from Youngstown, O. (WB),

P.N.R., Dec. 20 (RCL), and Knoxville, from Dec. 18-Feb. 22 (JBO) while an Indigo Bunting (possibly injured) was coming to a feeder in Knoxville after Jan. 20 (JBO). Dickcissels were in Frederick County, Va., in late December (KR), and at Dalton, Ga., Dec. 24 (AH).

It may have been the biggest year on record for Evening Grosbeaks. They occurred in numbers at all places west of the mountains and as far south as e. Tennessee. East of the mountains they were less common, and were missing from some places. At Morgantown the large numbers of January declined in late February and early March, but then increased again in late March and early April. The only reports of Pine Grosbeaks were from Leeper, Pa., Feb. 16 & Mar. 6 (LC). Purple Finches were thought to be in lower-than-normal numbers at most places, but a congregation of 200 at Johnson City Dec. 2 was exceptional (GE). House Finches remain common at Indiana, Pa. (CW) and at Lock Haven, Pa. (PS). They are now quite common throughout the Great Appalachian Valley south through Virginia. West of the mountains they are still only casual but were reported this year from Elkins, W.Va. (EO) and Knoxville, Tenn. (JBO). At Morgantown they were absent most of the winter but in March many appeared on the University Campus where they nested last year. Common Redpolls were numerous, with some flocks of 200 or more north of a line drawn approximately from Canton, O. to Pittsburgh to Lock Haven, Pa. South of that line there were only a few scattered reports: Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia, one on CBC (CM); Milton, Pa., Mar. 23 (SS) and on the Skyline Drive in Shenandoah N.P., Jan 25 (DC). At State College, Pa., an individual of the subspecies *Acanthis flammea rostrata*, sometimes called the "Greater Redpoll" was banded Feb. 28 (DB).

Pine Siskins were quite common at Dalton, Ga. (AH) but elsewhere were scarce or absent. The only reports of Red Crossbills came from the Ohio side of Pymatuning L., Dec. 28 (RFL), and from Washington County, Pa., of a small flock in February and March (RMH, *fide* PH), Shenandoah N.P., March (DC), Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia, Feb. 20 (MHe & RSn), and several records at Watauga L., Tenn. (GE). None of these reports involved large numbers. There were no reports of White-winged Crossbills.

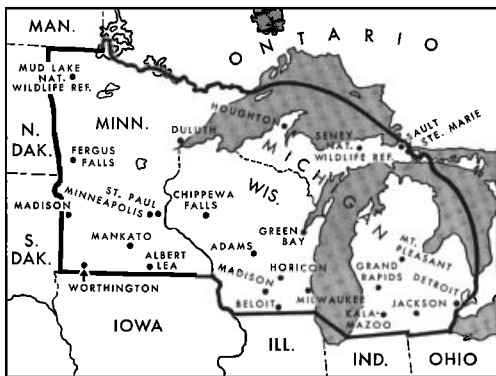
Tree Sparrows were unusually scarce at most places but Lock Haven, Pa., P.N.R., and Marietta, O. reported more than the usual numbers. A Chipping Sparrow wintered successfully at P.N.R. (RCL). White-throated Sparrows continue to increase in the northern part of the Region as wintering birds, as for example a record count of 1340 on the Pittsburgh CBC. There were two reports from e. Tennessee of Harris' Sparrows: one near White Pine all winter (JBO) and one regularly from Jan. 1 at Morristown (GE). Fox Sparrows were more common in the spring flight than usual and arrived quite early Feb. 15 at Marietta, O. (JSt), Feb. 22 at Pittsburgh (PH) and Feb. 23 at Morgantown (GAH).

Lapland Longspurs were reported from Gatlinburg, Tenn., one injured bird on Dec. 2 (AS, *fide* JBO), n. Shenandoah Valley, Va., five on CBC Dec. 20 (RS), and 100 at Waterford, Pa., Mar. 21 (JeS). Snow Buntings were common as far south as Youngstown and Lock Haven, Pa. with a few reported in n. Virginia Dec. 20 (RS) and Ohio County, W.Va. (AB).

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WESTERN GREAT LAKES /Robert B. Janssen

The winter in this area is always interesting. The winter of 1975-76 was one of contrasts, very difficult to summarize both from the standpoint of weather and of birds. It was a mild winter across the region, but there were exceptions.



The mild weather of the fall continued until mid-December, when winter gave us a preview. In the Twin Cities, a thunder storm struck on the 14th; rain changed to snow when the temperature hit 35°F. and the thermometer plummeted to -6° on the morning of the 15th. However, the latter half of December was mild, providing generally good conditions for Christmas Bird Counts. January was bitter cold across the whole region with below zero readings in many areas, especially at the beginning and end of the month. A prediction of things to come occurred at the end of the month when southern

areas of the region began to warm. For example, on the 27th it was a -31° near the Twin Cities while in the southwestern parts of Minnesota temperatures "soared to 33° above a few hours later.

February was one of the mildest on record with above normal temperatures all across the region. Temperature records were set with highs in the 50s and 60s in many areas. These mild conditions appeared to trigger one of the earliest migrations on record. Ducks and geese were moving into southwestern Minnesota by mid-month and flocks of blackbirds, grackles, meadowlarks, some shorebirds and other early species were entering the southern parts of the region by the end of February.

March brought about a temporary return to winter. What was called "the most devastating ice storm ever recorded", hit southern Wisconsin and Michigan during the first few days of the month. Many large communities were without power for more than a week and trees were down over a wide area. By mid-month spring returned suddenly, especially in Wisconsin. On the 19th a record high of 76° was recorded in Madison. The rest of the month was mild. These mild conditions brought many migrants and record early migration dates were recorded for many species. Many lakes in southwestern Minnesota were free of ice by the latter half of the month which is at least two to three weeks ahead of normal.

It is most difficult to summarize the bird activity against such a varied weather background. I believe Daryl Tessen's statement best summarizes the situation. He states, "Ornithologically the season was deceiving. Birds seemed noticeably harder to find (as a result of actual scarcity?) although certain groups/species proved notable exceptions."

A summary of several groups of species will give an indication of the diversity. Waterfowl were present in about "normal" numbers, although normal is a difficult word to define. More waterfowl each year linger or overwinter because of the increase in open water areas. Hawks as a group were generally scarce. Gulls continued to make news with large numbers wintering, especially in Michigan, and many rare species were recorded. It was not a Snowy Owl year, but scattered individuals were seen by many observers. Hawk Owls were very scarce with only two records, but Short-eared Owls were recorded in unprecedented numbers in Wisconsin. Generally there was no invasion of the so-called "winter finches". Pine Siskins, both crossbills, Evening Grosbeaks (except in Michigan), goldfinches and Purple Finches were relatively scarce. However, it was definitely a Tree Sparrow and Common Redpoll year. The former species was present in large numbers, especially in Minnesota and Wisconsin throughout the period. In addition, large numbers of Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs moved across the area during December and March. All across the region many overwintering sparrows were recorded. The number of individual Field, Harris', White-crowned, White-throated and Fox Sparrows showing up at feeders was far beyond numbers recorded during any previous winter.

The highlights of the season included the Ivory Gull recorded at Duluth on January 1, the wintering Black-throated Sparrow near Milwaukee and the Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Pt. Mouillee, Michigan in December.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — A Com. Loon wintered at Virginia, Minn., for only the second state

winter record. A Red-throated Loon was present Dec. 20 - Jan. 12 on L. Erie, in Monroe County, Mich., and migrants were early in Ozaukee County, Wisc., Mar. 20 and Berrien County, Mich., Mar. 23. A Red-necked Grebe was seen on L. Superior, Lake Co., Minn., Jan. 31. Two White Pelicans were present in St. Paul until Dec. 21, a very late date for this species. Black-crowned Night Herons remained in the Detroit area until early January and one wintered through February in LaCrosse County, Wisc.

WATERFOWL— Mute Swans are being recorded more frequently in the area during the winter, with four reports from Wisconsin, and at least a dozen individuals from various localities in Michigan. Canada Geese wintered in large numbers in the area; up to 24,000 at Silver L., Rochester, Minn., and 21,000 lingered at Horicon Marsh, Wisc., until late December. Migrants were in s. Minnesota and Wisconsin, during late February. Encouraging was the count of 10,000 Canvasbacks on the Detroit R. in late January (JPK). A Harlequin Duck was observed in Racine County, Wisc., Dec. 4 and a pair was in Manitowoc County Mar. 26. Eiders are very rare birds on the Great Lakes: one **Common Eider** was seen near Marquette, Mich., Feb. 6 (NI) and a **King Eider** was present in St. Clair County, Mich., during January and early February (JAG). Many observers from Michigan reported good numbers of White-winged and Surf Scoters on L. Michigan, the Detroit R. and L. Erie. Only two reports came from Wisconsin, both these were of White-winged. Only one report came from L. Superior, that of a Surf Scoter at Grand Marais, Cook Co., Minn., Dec. 10.

RAPTORS — The first wintering record for Turkey Vultures in Wisconsin occurred when two remained in Marinette County all season. Goshawks, Sharp-shinned, and Cooper's Hawks were scarce all across the Region in contrast to the previous several winters. The same was true for Rough-legged Hawks which were generally scarce in all areas. Golden Eagles were reported from four localities in Wisconsin, and three in Minnesota. Bald Eagles wintered in normal numbers (30-40) at Reads Landing, Minn. A substantial movement of Bald Eagles occurred Feb. 28 along the Mississippi R. in Wisconsin, when 67 were counted between Ferryville and LaCrosse. Among the most interesting reports of the winter are the well documented observations of two **Ospreys** seen in Minnesota. The first was an individual seen on the Rochester CBC on Dec. 27, and another was seen along the open Mississippi R. near Hastings, Dakota Co., on several occasions during January and February (JD). The latter bird was seen to take fish from the open river in the same area that was used by six ad. Bald Eagles. Most observers reported good numbers on Am. Kestrels all across the region.

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Spruce Grouse were resident throughout the period at Babbitt, Minn. One of the more unusual records of the season was of a Sandhill Crane flying over Madison, Wisc., Jan. 11. There were five December reports of Virginia Rails in Wisconsin, two early January reports from Michigan, and what was probably a wintering bird seen in Hennepin County, Minn., from mid-February to early March. An Am. Woodcock was reported on the Kenosha, Wisc.

CBC Jan. 3 and birds arrived on the record early date of Feb. 28 in Wayne County, Mich. With the mild weather of late March a number of shorebird species showed up exceptionally early, for example on Mar. 24, Killdeer, an Am. Golden Plover, Am. Woodcock, Com. Snipe, Lesser Yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpipers were seen in Goodhue County, Minn. An exceptionally early Greater Yellowlegs was seen at Mason, Ingham Co., Mich., Feb. 26 (DM). A Purple Sandpiper was late on Dec. 6 at Pt. Mouillee, Monroe Co., Mich. (JAG).

GULLS — Gulls continue to be one of the most interesting groups for birders in this Region. Glaucous Gulls were present on the Great Lakes in good numbers with up to ten reported Feb. 1 between Duluth and Two Harbors, Minn. At least nine were reported in the Detroit area in December and January, and at least four were reported from the Wisconsin side of L. Michigan. There were four reports of **Iceland Gull**, from Minnesota (Duluth, Feb. 1), Wisconsin (Milwaukee, Jan. 20, Mar. 2) and Michigan (Detroit R., Jan. 25, Muskegon L. Mar. 7). Great Black-backed Gulls continued to be reported in good numbers; 100 at Pt. Mouillee, Mich., in late December, and one in Racine County, Wisc., Dec. 3. On the Lower Rogue, Mich., CBC 15,000 Herring Gulls and 6000 Ring-billed Gulls were counted. Thayer's Gulls were well documented from Dakota County Minn., Jan. 2 and Duluth, Feb. 1. A **Black-headed Gull** was seen on L. Erie, in Monroe County, Mich., Dec. 6 (JAG). A Franklin's Gull was on the Detroit R., Dec. 6 and Bonaparte's Gulls were reported from Benzie County, Mich., Dec. 20 and Berrien Co., Mich., Jan. 4. A Bonaparte's Gull was present throughout the period in Milwaukee. An **Ivory Gull** was seen for about three hours in the Duluth harbor Jan. 1 (DS). A Black-legged Kittiwake was observed at New Buffalo, Berrien Co., Mich., Jan. 4. (RS).

OWLS — A single Barn Owl was seen at Pt. Mouillee, Mich., Dec. 27 (JPK). Snowy Owls were present throughout the Region, but, in smaller numbers than last year. It appeared that the birds that were present moved farther south than usual. A number of reports were received from southern counties, especially in Minnesota. Only two Hawk Owls were reported, one at Grand Portage, Cook Co., Minn., Dec. 16 and one at Washington I., Door Co., Wisc., Jan. 20 - 21. There was one report of a Great Gray Owl in Minnesota (Otertail County) and two from Wisconsin (Price County and Bayfield County). Short-eared Owls were unusually common in Wisconsin, being reported on 12 CBCs with 18 birds in Ozaukee County, and 36 in Kenosha County At Pt. Mouillee, seven to nine birds were present into early January.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SHRIKES — Red-bellied Woodpeckers appear to be expanding northward in Minnesota. One wintered near Battle Lake, Otertail Co., and this species is reported increasing in the Detroit area of Michigan. Eastern Phoebe were reported as late as Dec. 11 in Milwaukee and Dec. 21 in Waukesha County, Wisc. Tree Swallows had returned in good numbers to s. Minnesota and s. Michigan, by the last week in March. Black-billed Magpies were reported only from Minnesota, with 12 at Agassiz N.W.R., several in Hubbard County Feb. 13, one in Clay County Feb. 29, and on the same date in Aitkin County. Boreal

Chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported as scarce or absent from most areas in the region. It is very encouraging to report the increase in numbers of Carolina Wrens. They were reported on five Wisconsin CBCs and also five CBCs in Michigan with 11 birds in s. Monroe and Wayne counties. Mockingbirds were reported from many areas in Michigan, but were unreported in Wisconsin and only one reported in Minnesota, that from Minneapolis during January and February. Varied Thrush reports were down from previous winters; only one was reported in Minnesota (Ramsey County) and three from Wisconsin, (Milwaukee, Door and Shawano counties). The Hermit Thrush has been a rare wintering bird in this region. There was only one previous wintering record for Minnesota, but this winter at least three birds came to feeding stations in December and January, one each in Hennepin, Mower and Ottertail counties. In Wisconsin one successfully wintered in Milwaukee County, and another in Racine County. Eastern Bluebirds overwintered in s. Wisconsin and s. Michigan and remained until mid-December, in s. Minnesota. Mountain Bluebirds were again reported in Minnesota, with a single bird seen at Agassiz N.W.R., Mar., 28 - 29. The only Townsend's Solitaire report came from Wisconsin, of a single bird at Green Bay from Jan. 26 to the end of the period (TE). Water Pipits were exceptionally early in Wisconsin with two in Milwaukee County, Mar. 21, and two even earlier in Michigan, at Pt. Mouillee, Mar. 13. Bohemian Waxwings reports were few and far between across the whole of the region. It was certainly not an invasion year. About the same could be said for Northern Shrikes, scarce across the whole region.

WARBLERS THROUGH ICTERIDS — This region is not known for its wintering warbler population, so the few reports of these species are noteworthy. A Cape May Warbler remained in Lake County, Minn., until Dec. 21. Yellow-rumped Warblers were reported on three Wisconsin CBCs with an additional bird overwintering at Appleton, remaining until mid-March. Yellow-rumped Warblers were early at Duluth with two seen on Mar. 31. Common Yellowthroats were reported on the Madison, Wisc CBC and another was in Berrien County, Mich., on Jan 4. There were the usual reports of scattered wintering meadowlarks, blackbirds, grackles and cowbirds. There were 74 Brown-headed Cowbirds counted on the Winona, Minn. CBC. This is an exceptionally high number for this area. Both species of meadowlark, Red-winged and Rusty Blackbirds, and Com. Grackles were common migrants across the region by mid-March.

FRINGILLIDS — A single Rose-breasted Grosbeak visited a feeder in suburban Minneapolis during late December and early January. Another individual was at a feeder in Milwaukee throughout March. There was a clear pattern for occurrence of Evening Grosbeaks, consisting of excellent numbers present in all areas in December but decreasing markedly by mid-January. The largest number reported was 1500 - 2000 in an old sunflower field in Chicago County, Minn., Dec. 13. By February, birds were totally absent in most southern areas. Purple Finches were very scarce with most observers reporting few birds. They were virtually absent from Michigan. Pine Grosbeaks were reported as

common in n. Wisconsin, and c. Michigan. Common Redpolls were found in excellent numbers, especially in Minnesota and Wisconsin, with lesser numbers reported in Michigan. Along with the influx of Com. Redpolls, the number of Hoary Redpolls reported was much larger than in previous years. Many observers reported single birds in flocks of Com. Redpolls. Pine Siskins were down, with almost every observer reporting sub-par numbers. Scattered flocks of Red Crossbills were reported across Minnesota and Wisconsin, but were reported as scarce in Michigan. White-winged Crossbill reports were confined to a few across northern parts of the region. A **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** was carefully identified at Pt. Mouillee, Dec. 27 (JPK), a first winter record for Michigan. Vesper Sparrows were reported on two Wisconsin, CBCs. The second state record for a **Black-throated Sparrow** was of an individual that appeared at a feeder in Milwaukee County, Wis., in late February and remained throughout March. (DT). This was the winter of the Tree Sparrow in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Birds were literally everywhere all winter across southern areas of the region and were more abundant than ever before, in this writer's opinion.

Late Chipping Sparrows were recorded in Olmsted County, Minn. (specimen) Dec. 6 and one was banded Jan. 10 at Howell, Mich. Field Sparrows overwintered in Minneapolis, were present on three Wisconsin CBCs one overwintered in Waukesha County, Wisconsin, and one wintered in Howell, Mich. Harris' Sparrows were reported from two localities in Minnesota, and one in Michigan. Two White-crowned Sparrows wintered in Hopkins, Hennepin Co., Minn., and White-throated Sparrows again wintered in downtown Minneapolis. Fox Sparrows were reported on five Wisconsin CBCs and at least three birds wintered in the Minneapolis area. In the marshes along L. Erie, near Detroit, 28 Swamp Sparrows were counted on the CBC, an unusually high number. The above reports indicate an unusually large number of sparrows wintering in this region, whether this is an indication of changing winter ranges or an isolated case for this relatively mild season remains to be seen. Snow Buntings were reported in unusually high numbers especially during December and again in March. Flocks of 500 to 1000 and more birds were seen by a number of observers in all three states.

CONTRIBUTORS — A record 260 observers, 118 from Michigan, 80 from Minnesota and 62 from Wisconsin contributed records for this report. Listed below are the Regional Editors, plus those individuals whose initials are used in the text. Joanne Dempsey, Tom Erdman, J. A. Greenhouse, N.J. Ilnicky (Upper Peninsula, Michigan), **Robert B. Janssen** (Minnesota), **Alice Kelley** (s.e. Michigan), J.P. Kleiman, **Alan Marble** (Benzie Co., Michigan), **Doug McWhirter** (c. Michigan), **James Ponshair** (w.c. Michigan), Dean Schneider, **Roy Smith** (s.w. Michigan), **Daryl Tessen** (Wisconsin) — **ROBERT B. JANSSEN, 14321 Prince Place, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343.**



MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION /Vernon M. Kleen

The only word that could adequately describe this season is "variable." Iowa reported the mildest and driest season on record; central Ohio reported great contrasts: the coldest and snowiest January on record followed by an exceptionally warm February where new record-high temperatures were set on 10 days—one as much as 9° F. higher than the previous high. Basically, the season was mild, as much as 10° above normal; the warm trend,



which began about Feb. 10, triggered much early activity. Ducks and geese moved through in excellent numbers two to three weeks ahead of anticipated schedule; swans by-passed many traditional stopping places because of open water farther north; woodcock arrived and began courting and nesting; Mourning Doves nested; Pine Warblers began singing; and Snow Buntings retreated. March was more normal, although remaining mild.

Observers noted a good season for Rough-legged and Marsh hawks; Long-eared and Short-eared owls; gulls and winter finches. They appreciated the early warm weather and found some birds returning earlier than previously recorded. A good berry crop allowed great concentrations of robins and smaller numbers of bluebirds and waxwings to stay all winter. Some species pushed far inland compared to their more regularly reported locations and others, which should have been gone, were reported throughout the season. A second wave of early migrants appeared during the last week of March, again establishing many new early arrival records.

Since this season included the Christmas Bird Counts (hereafter CBC) most records from those counts have not been repeated; however, a few exceptional observations, which may otherwise be missed by the readership, have been included.

In order to better verify observations, observers are required to complete documentation forms for extraordinary sight records at the time of observation; such documentations have been denoted by a dagger (†) before the observer's initials. A total of 80 documentations (not including those for CBCs) were submitted for this report period (Illinois, 33; Indiana, 7; Iowa, 6; Kentucky, 5; Missouri, 16; Ohio, 13); in addition, 12 documentary photographs were received. Where positive identification is available it has been denoted by an asterisk (*).

EXOTICS — For the third consecutive year a pair of Mute Swans returned to Steuben County, Ind.; they

arrived Feb. 29 (RPx); another bird was present at Brookville, Ind. Feb. 10 (JC). One Bar-headed Goose—thought to be an escapee—was present at the Ottawa N.W.R., Ohio (hereafter, O.W.R.) Feb. 28—Apr. 6 (m.ob.). A Barnacle Goose (no reference to possible status) was found at Squaw Creek N.W.R., Mo (hereafter, S.C.R.) Mar. 25 (LG, m.ob.).

LOONS, GREBES, PELICANS AND CORMORANTS — There were several Com. Loons reported in December; a few lingered into January. One Red-throated Loon was closely studied in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, Dec. 28-30 (†M, m.ob.). A Red-necked Grebe was present at Decatur, Ill. Dec. 7-10 (†RSa); another appeared at Springfield, Ill. Mar. 19 (H) and remained through the end of the period; three were found at Louisville, Ky. Jan. 1 (DSu). December records of the Eared Grebe included singles at Louisville Dec. 7 (†DSu) and Springfield, Ill. Dec. 18 (H); the next reports were of spring arrivals at Dayton, Ohio (at least one, possibly two) Mar. 13 (RPo); E. St. Louis, Ill. (1) Mar. 13-16 (JEa); and Columbia, Mo. (3) Mar. 27 (WG *et al.*). The only W. Grebe reported was found at Louisville Dec. 17 (DP) and was probably the same bird observed three miles away Jan. 12-21 (CR, m.ob.). A single White Pelican was noted near Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 29 (SK), one wintered at Cordova, Ill. (first observed Dec. 27, EF, m.ob.); spring arrivals were first seen at S.C.R. Mar. 23 (L) and Schell Osage Wildlife Area, Mo. (hereafter S.O.W.A.) Mar. 27 (m.ob.). Lone Double-crested Cormorants lingered near Louisville Dec. 11—Jan 2 (DP, m.ob.); Springfield, Ill. through Dec. 21 (H); and Alton, Ill./St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 1-10 (JEa); spring arrivals were noted in Gibson County, Ind. (1) Mar. 13 (CM *et al.*); S.O.W.A. (2) Mar. 27 (NJ, m.ob.); and S.C.R. Mar. 30 (L).

HERONS — A concentration of 94 Great Blue Herons was still present at O.W.R. Dec. 7 (*vide* LV); 16 birds and 19 nests were observed in Pope Co., Ill. Mar. 16 (JS). At least 28 ad. Little Blue Herons had returned to the E. St. Louis, Ill. heronry by Mar. 27 (JEa). An exceptionally early Cattle Egret was reported Feb. 22 near Hickman, (western) Ky. (JEI, DP); another had arrived at E. St. Louis, Mar. 27 (JEa). One Great Egret lingered near Columbus until Dec. 23 (ER); one had returned to E. St. Louis by Mar. 27 (JEa). The mild winter was favorable for several Black-crowned Night Herons: as many as 11 were at Louisville Jan. 31 (DP, m.ob.); six at Fremont, Ohio, Jan. 11 (Tbt); and one near Cleveland Dec. 20 (M)

SWANS, GEESE AND DUCKS — Winter records of Whistling Swans included singles at or near: Columbus as late as Dec. 22 (TT); Iowa City, Ia. (plus another illegally killed, but violator arrested) Dec. 13-16 (†MN, NH, m.ob.); Montgomery Co., Ind. Dec. 20 (AB); Whitewater S. P., Ind. Dec. 27 (*vide* LCT); Rend Lake, Ill. Jan. 10 (†BPj); and Bowling Green, Ky. Feb. 4-7 (HS); transients arrived at Dayton, Ohio, Feb. 21 (and remained through the period, RPo); Cincinnati, Mar. 7 (DSt, IS) and O.W.R. (no date; apparently because of the early thaw, large concentrations of swans did not build up there as usual). White-fronted Geese drifted somewhat eastward to the delight of many observers; six at Brookville, Ind., Feb. 12-16 (JC, BW); five at Cincinnati Feb. 16 (DI); two at Killdeer Plains, Ohio, Mar. 10 (BST); 25 in Alexander

County, Ill. Feb. 15 (BPj *et al.*), two in Knox County, Ill., Feb. 18 - Mar. 24 (RHo); three at L. Sangchris, Ill. Mar. 19 (H) and 25 there Mar. 31 (K); 11 in Mason County, Ill. Mar. 20 (H); one near Iowa City, Ia. through late February (NH) and a maximum of 70 there Mar. 27 (MN) four in St. Louis Feb. 28 (JS); the birds were reported as very common in w. Iowa and Missouri (m.ob.). A concentration of up to 12,000 Snow Geese (both forms) wintered at the Ballard County, Ky. Waterfowl Ref. (JMo); three (two white, one blue) were found at Brookville, Ind., Feb. 16 (DSt *et al.*); two (blue) were noted at Dayton Jan. 15 (RPo) and one remained all period near Cleveland (M). As noted in the introduction, most of the ducks began their spring migrations from two to three weeks ahead of anticipated schedule; these movements were detected Regionwide. On Mar. 28 two Cinnamon Teal were observed at Council Bluffs, Ia. (MWi *et al.*); four were noted at S.C.R. Mar. 31 (E). There were fair numbers of wintering Canvasbacks; a "stable flock" with a maximum of 183 remained near Louisville Jan. 17-Feb. 14 (S, FS, Lbc); 123 at Madisonville, Ky., in February (JHa); up to 30 during the period at Bloomington, Ind. (SG); 27 at Mt. Pulaski, Ill., Dec. 11 (MC); "more than usual" in the Chicago (C, m ob) and c. Illinois (H) areas; late - winter or early spring concentrations included 1000 and 5000 at Sandusky, Ohio, Feb. 14 (TT) and Mar. 9 (Tbt), respectively; and 60 at Council Bluffs, Ia. Feb. 22 (MWi *et al.*) Inland observations of Greater Scaup have been increasing; records included: one at Maryville, Mo., Dec. 1 - 11 (E); one at Springfield, Ill., Jan. 1 (H); up to 10 at Rend Lake, Ill., Jan. 17 - Feb. 1 (BPj, MMo); one at St. Louis Jan. 17 (JEa, TBk); a maximum of 24 at Fairfax, Ind., Mar. 13 (SG, MB); and one at Iowa City Mar. 20 (†NH). There were also a few inland records of Oldsquaw: two at Springfield, Ill., Dec. 1, but only one Dec. 27 (H); one at St. Louis Jan. 10 (JEa, TBk); which stayed through the period; and one in Montgomery Co., Ind., Jan. 24 (AB); around Cleveland the expected L. Erie population was in "poor evidence compared to normal." (M) Three (one male and two females) Harlequin Ducks were seen at Chicago, Jan. 3 (C); two, a female (Dec. 7-21) and a male (Jan. 24 - Feb. 8) were present at Cleveland (†M), another male (or the same one?) was found in Fairport Harbor, Ohio Mar. 17 (DKi). As usual, a few White-winged Scoters were found inland; the first at St. Louis, Dec. 7 (JEa); two there Feb. 14 (JEa, TBk); another (a different bird) there Mar. 27 (JEa, m.ob.); two at Fairfax, Ind., Jan. 23-Feb. 21 (MB *et al.*, †SG); one at Springfield, Ill., Feb. 11 (H); one at Lexington, Ky., Feb. 15 - 21 (DC); one at Cincinnati Feb. 8 (DSt); and one at Dayton Mar. 21-30 (RPo, SP, m.ob.). The only Surf Scoter reported was observed at Waukegan, Ill., Jan. 25 (C) Two Black Scoters were found, one at Rend Lake Dec. 5-13 (†BPj) and one at Springfield, Ill., Dec. 12 (H).

VULTURES, HAWKS AND EAGLES — For the most part, Turkey Vultures do not regularly occur here before mid-February; however there seem to be small "pockets" of these birds wintering in the Region, especially in e.c. Illinois and w.c. Indiana (Haw); in addition, six were found near Lebanon, Ohio, Dec. 30 (MSc); early migrants had arrived in n. portions of the Region by Feb. 21 (DeKalb Co., Ind. — Haw), and Feb. 23 (Toledo—ET). Along the Ohio R. in s. Indiana

(Harrison and Crawford counties) two Black Vultures were observed Feb. 12-24 (HB). Only a few Goshawks advanced into our Region this winter; two were reported St. Louis, late December through Jan 16 (on CBC), and DeKalb Co., Ind., Feb. 21 (*fide* Haw). A "kettle" of 20 Red-tailed Hawks on Jan 2 and 17 more on Jan 3 were quite unexpected in Mason Co., Ill. (RKn); a "Kriders" form was studied well at the Kickapoo Forest Preserve, Ill. Jan. 31 (C). Are Red-shouldered Hawks actually increasing in numbers? Wintering birds of this species were reported from: Montgomery Co., Ind. through Dec 23 (AB); Indianapolis Dec. 22 (SG); Fairfax, Ind., Jan 7-Feb. 15 (SG); Hancock Co., Ind., Jan. 15-Feb. 28 (HWe), Stillwater Marsh, Ind., Mar. 6-28 (SG); Toledo Feb. 14 & 19 (ET); St. Charles Co., Mo., Jan. 24 (JEa) and Feb. 22 (TBk); Chicago Jan. 1 (DE) and six migrants at Loraine, Ohio, Mar. 20 (D, MSt). Rough-legged Hawks, including the dark phase, were very common this season More Golden Eagles were found: Kentucky — one at Land Between the Lakes Dec. 20 (CP); Iowa — one at Iowa City Dec. 6 (†MN); Illinois — several from CBCs, including Mason Co. Dec. 20 (H); Indiana — one adult and one immature at Fairfax Jan. 18 - Mar. 21 (SG, MB, TA); Missouri — four in March at S.O.W.A (NF), singles at S.C.R. Dec. 7 (E), Jan. 1 (L) and Jan. 24 (RM) The early February thaw, especially along the Mississippi R., allowed roosting and wintering Bald Eagles to drift northward somewhat earlier than hoped for, the disappointment was sadly detected by the absence of eagles on the traditional one-day eagle census in mid-February throughout the Region. The census was held Feb. 14 this year (EF, m.ob.). Several observers remarked that there were more Marsh Hawks than usual this winter.

TURKEYS, CRANES AND RAILS — Wild Turkeys were observed all winter in Montgomery County, Mo., however, the one-time high of 54 was noteworthy (RW) The last Sandhill Cranes to leave the Region were observed Dec. 18 (2) at Stillwater, Ohio (PK *et al.*), 25 were flying S at Louisville Dec. 15 (BPB); 325 were still present in Gibson County, Ind., Dec. 6 (CM) and another 100 in Harrison County, Ind., the same day (HB), spring arrivals were first seen in Lafayette, Ind., Feb. 25 (DA) and in other Indiana and s.s.w. Ohio areas through mid-March (m.ob.). A Virginia Rail was found Dec. 23 in Mason Co., Ill (H) and in Alexander Co., Ill., Jan 3 (H *et al.*); one Sora was "flushed" in Gibson Co., Ind., Jan 1 (†CM).

SHOREBIRDS — The observation of a Snowy Plover at S.C.R. Mar. 31 was exceptionally early (LG) American Golden Plovers were also noted rather early — especially in Illinois — Feb. 29 at Mark Twain N W R (JEa). Most reporters indicated that Am. Woodcocks were early this year; they were found regionwide by Feb. 20, many areas between Feb. 13 & 16; there were at least 16 nests with young in the Cincinnati area by Mar. 8 (KM). Of the 40+ Least Sandpipers found at Rend Lake, Dec. 5, 15 were still present Dec. 13 (BPj); one was found at Maryville, Mo., Dec. 6 (E). At least 25 Dunlin and five W. Sandpipers were also present at Rend Lake Dec. 5 (BPj, MMo). The first spring Am. Avocet was found at S. C. R. Mar. 27 (E).

GULLS — Who said you had to go all the way to the East Coast to see an **Ivory Gull**? Just ask Cleveland observers — one adult Dec. 17 - 19 (photographed, †JHO, m.ob.) and Iowa observers — one immature in Appanoose County Dec. 20 (†CA *et al.*). Where was the hotline? Many Regional birders who could not get all the way to the East Coast could have seen these birds (with the possibility of many birders diligently combing the areas on following days, the bird(s) may have been relocated and further valuable notes assembled. Do not wait several days to inform others of such observations; it would be most helpful to initiate a Regionwide hotline *immediately!*) Both Glaucous and Iceland gulls were well inland — especially in the St. Louis area where four of each were present between Jan. 10 & 17 (JEa *et al.*, m ob), other Glaucous records included one at Louisville Jan 1 (†LaS); one at Chicago Jan. 31 (C); two at Crab Orchard N.W.R., Ill. (hereafter, C.O.R.) Feb. 4 - 7 (†BPJ *et al.*); and one at Fulton, Ill., Feb. 28 (BSh *et al.*). Other Iceland records included singles at L. Chautauqua, Ill., Dec. 13 (†H) and Fulton, Ill., Feb. 28 (BSh *et al.*). Regular numbers of Great Black-backed Gulls stayed around Cleveland; at least 50 were reported from O.W.R. Dec 7 (*vide* LV); one was found at C.O.R. Feb. 5 - 8 and photographed (†BPJ, m.ob.). Two outstanding descriptions and subsequent verifications of **Thayer's Gulls** were received: one, an immature at L. Chautauqua, Ill., Dec. 13 (†H) and the other in St. Charles Co., Mo., Feb. 7 (†JEa). One confirmed and one probable **California Gull** were reported; notes from "gull" experts verified the one at St. Louis, Mar. 7 (†TBk) and suggested that the other at Rend Lake Feb. 1 (†BPJ, †MMo) remain "probable" because certain minute details that would have helped verify the observation were not reported. One ad. Franklin's Gull was observed at Cleveland Mar. 17 (DKi) Little Gulls were found in normal numbers (up to three) during the period around Cleveland (M) and one bird was present at Rend Lake Nov. 29 (†MMo). One Black-legged Kittiwake remained around St. Louis Jan. 15 - Feb. 14 (TBk, JEa, m.ob.).

DOVES, OWLS AND WOODPECKERS — The onset of warm February weather induced some species to nest early; four Mourning Dove nests were located by Feb 20 at Findlay, Ohio (BSt). Five Barn Owls were observed in the Region this winter: Onawa, Ia. in early December (EG), Lexington, Ky. (on CBC), Sparta, Ill., Jan 27 (DT), Sangamon Co., Ill., Mar. 2 (*vide* K), and Cleveland, Mar. 27 & 30 (†JHO). A minor flight of Snowy Owls penetrated deep into the Region; these notables included singles in Wright Co., Mo. Dec. 21 (*vide* HWu); Rend Lake Dec. 31 - Jan. 3 (†BPJ, m.ob.); Red Bud, Ill., Mar 10 and later (photographed, *vide* TMa); McLean Co., Ill., for 10 days in mid-February (m.ob., *vide* DBi); and L. Rathbun, Ia. in January (*vide* GB); others were found at Chicago Dec. 28 (DE); Calumet, Ill., Jan. 23 - 24 (LJ, DMA); and Cleveland Dec. 1 & 13 (M). Many observers suggested that there were more Long-eared and Short-eared Owls than usual. One Long-eared was noted as far south as Rend Lake Mar. 20 (BPJ) and 4 - 5 others in Montgomery Co., Ind., Feb. 28 - Mar. 27 (AB). Large numbers of Short-eareds included a peak of 30 in St. Charles Co., Mo., in late December (JEa); up to 15 regularly found at S.C.R. (L); up to 12 during the period at Kansas City, Mo. (m. ob.); 13 in Marion Co., Ill., Jan.

22 & 28 (MH) and four at Rend Lake Feb. 21 through the end of the period (BPJ, MMo). Several Saw-whet Owls were located in February and March; although probably present, none were reported from Kentucky or Indiana, six were banded during the period at Cincinnati (RA) The Red-headed Woodpecker was an uncommon to very common winter resident this year throughout the Region, most contributors do not believe this species should be on the Blue List.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS AND CORVIDS — Half-hardy E. Phoebes were noted on three Kentucky CBCs; one was in Gibson Co., Ind., Jan. 24 (CM), Acadia, Mo., (two) Dec. 27 (JEa); and in Jackson and Johnson counties, Ill., Jan. 11 & 18, respectively (BPJ), the one at Natural Bridge S. P., Ky., Feb. 25 was probably an early migrant (DC). Unidentified *Empidonax* flycatchers were observed at: Louisville, Dec. 2-12 (JE1) and Dec. 7 (BPB, DP) at different areas; and Springfield, Mo., Mar. 26 (NF). An early-arriving Cliff Swallow was detected at Columbia, Mo., Mar. 27 (WG *et al.*) One Black-billed Magpie was observed at Indianapolis Jan 10 (†CK *et al.*)—the observers thought it might be an escaped bird. Three Fish Crows were heard calling near St. Louis as early as Mar. 7 (JEa, TBk).

CHICKADEES THROUGH THRUSHES — The fall invasion of Black-capped Chickadees remained evident throughout the winter; it was particularly noted in Ohio Red-breasted Nuthatches were well-distributed and in good numbers in the southern part of the Region, but in sporadic numbers in the north. Bewick's Wrens were reported from five Kentucky CBCs; the only other winter records were in Missouri: Acadia, Dec. 27 (JEa) and Montgomery County Feb. 20 (RW). At least five Carolina Wrens wintered near Iowa City, Ia., (NH) and the species was reported as increasing in the winter around Toledo (ET). As expected, marsh wrens were reported during this mild winter — I'm surprised that more were not located. One Long-billed Marsh Wren was seen at S.C.R. Dec. 26 (E *et al.*) and two Short-billed in Jackson County, Ill., Jan. 10 - 11 (†BPJ). Many Brown Thrashers wintered in the Region; 42 were tallied on Kentucky CBCs; one was present at a Woodstock, Ill most of January (DFi) for an extreme record, only Indiana was without winter thrashers. Everyone, including non-birders, reported large numbers of wintering robins; some flocks numbered near or over 1000 birds. A Townsend's Solitaire was found singing at Barnard, Mo., Dec. 31 (E).

PIPITS, WAXWINGS, SHRIKES AND WARBLERS — Kentucky has few winter records of Water Pipits; therefore, the three at Prospect Dec 22 (DP) and 50 in Oldham County Jan. 17 (S, FS) were considered noteworthy. Four Bohemian Waxwings were seen; three at St. Louis Jan. 1 (†TBk) and one in Iowa City, Feb. 1 (†RD). The only N. Shrike reported was found Dec. 31 in Winnebago County, Ill. (H) Loggerheard Shrikes wintered in good numbers in w Missouri and s.w. Iowa; one was present at Chicago Mar 19 (KB). Two Orange-crowned Warblers were located, one at Ft. Wayne, Ind. Dec. 20-21 (Haw) and the other at C.O.R. Jan. 4 (†BPJ). A Yellow Warbler visited a Montgomery County, Ind. feeder Dec. 23-25 (AB) Yellow-rumped Warblers survived the mild early winter

in several areas; one was still present at Toledo, Ohio, Jan 19 — at 7° F. and with 10 in. of snow on the ground; Iowa also reported more wintering birds than usual. An early-arriving Black-throated Green Warbler was present in Menifee County, Ky. Mar. 27 (LaS). Although a few Pine Warblers regularly winter here, it appears that the "heat wave" of February stimulated spring migration and/or singing activity; birds were found in four locations, two in Kentucky, one in Illinois and one in Missouri, between Feb. 22 & 28. An unusual number of Palm Warblers was found in December; four on the Bowling Green, Ky. CBC; another at Louisville Dec. 21 (BPB), one in Wabash County, Ind., Dec. 13 (†Haw); one at Winchester, Ind., Dec. 28 - Jan. 2 (LCT); and one at Tiffen, Ohio, Dec. 20 & 31 (JK *et al.*); other individuals were found in Warren Co., Ky. Jan. 24 (HS) and Oxford, Ohio, Mar. 4 (*SB). One Ovenbird was present at Prospect, Ky. Dec. 20-21 (DP, JE1). There were four December records of Com. Yellowthroats: Cleveland Dec 5 (AF); Muscatatuck N.W.R., Ind., Dec. 13 (JE1); Pigeon River Ref., Ind., Dec. 27 (Haw); and Chicago Dec 17 (TC); three were present in Jackson County, Ill., Jan 11 (BPj, MMo).

WEAVERS, BLACKBIRDS AND ORIOLES — The first Chicago area Eur. Tree Sparrow was recorded Mar. 28 (†MM1, m.ob.). Three Yellow-headed Blackbirds were detected at S.C.R. Feb. 8 & Mar. 14 (L). One ad. Orchard Oriole appeared at Cobden, Ill., Nov. 30, was caught, banded and photographed, Dec. 6 (TMe). Five N. Orioles held over into the period; one at Springfield, Ill., Dec 11 (H); Chicago Dec. 24 (C); Warren, Ohio, Dec. 20 - Jan 5 (NA); Cincinnati, during two weeks in mid-January (*vide* KM); and Columbus no date (TT, m.ob.). What new can be added about the winter roosting of blackbirds? Many roosts were reported and several flocks wintered farther north than usual.

FRINGILLIDS — The second winter record of Rose-breasted Grosbeak (photographed) was received from the Chicago area, Dec. 24 (C) & 27 (LY). Three **Black-headed Grosbeaks** spent part of the winter here; one at Louisville Dec 21-30 (†BPB, BM); one at Cincinnati, January through March (†W, MG); and one (photographed) at Salem, Ill., Jan. 29 - Mar. 26 (MH, m.ob.). Single Indigo Buntings were noted at Ottawa, Ill., Jan. 16 (†JMc); Sterling, Ill., Feb. 28 - Mar. 1 (BSh); and Bowling Green, Ky., Jan. 23 (*HS). Evening Grosbeaks were well-distributed, even in Kentucky; most arrived in mid-late December; although it was a good year, many observers, especially in the north, did not believe it was the best year; the species was reported from 95 of Iowa's 99 counties. Purple Finches were also well distributed, but somewhat scarce in some areas. Two **House Finches** were present at a Cleveland feeder from Jan. 10 through the end of the period (†RHa, m. ob.) another, photographed, was found in Indianapolis beginning Mar. 28 (†CK *et al.*). One Pine Grosbeak was documented for Louisville Dec. 21 (†S); from 8-12 were observed (no date given) near Sheldon, Ia. (*vide* GB) and there were apparently reports of the species at two other n. Iowa locations. Three possible Hoary Redpolls visited a Kansas City, Mo., feeder Feb. 8-Mar. 11—one bird, banded Feb. 24, and photographed was either a pure Hoary or an intermediate (†MMY, m.ob.). Common Redpolls were scattered throughout the Region; however, it was not a major invasion; there was a

peak of 150 in Iowa City during the CBC (NH), 35 at O.W.R. Feb. 1 (*vide* LV); 14 in Sangamon Co., Ill., Jan 15 (H); most others were small groups or singles from mid-January to about Mar. 20-23 (m.ob.). There was a good - to - excellent flight of Pine Siskins through most of the Region; an obvious contrast was the one bird found in Ft. Wayne (Haw) all winter compared to over 300 banded at Indianapolis (CK); as many as 600 at one time were observed at Columbus. Red Crossbills were also widespread, but only in small groups; the largest flocks ranged from 10 to 20 birds and were most apparent between mid-December and late February; two nests were found during the last half of March in Springfield, Ill., (H) — unfortunately, neither lasted very long. There were as many reports of White-winged Crossbills as Red Crossbills and they were found in all states except Iowa, most flocks consisted of less than ten birds, however one flock of 20 was found in Columbus Jan. 31 (CT); the most southerly records were Bernheim Forest, Ky., (four) Dec 28 (DP); C.O.R., (seven) Dec. 7 (BPj); St. Louis (one) Dec. 9-21 (JEa); and Cincinnati, (up to five) Dec. 22 - Jan 1 (WR). Le Conte's Sparrows were detected somewhat farther north during the winter than usual: Nodaway County, Mo. (three) Dec. 20 (E); S.O.W.A. (seven) Feb 16 (KH); St. Charles Co., Mo. (one) all winter (JEa), and Rend Lake (several) all winter (BPj). The first Bachman's Sparrows of the season were located at Caulfield, Mo., (three) Mar. 29 (†RT). The only slightly out-of-range wintering Harris' Sparrow was at a Danville, Ill., feeder Dec. 29 - Apr. 10 (*vide* MC). Several Lincoln's Sparrows attempted to survive the winter; three were found on Kentucky CBCs; four on Illinois CBCs; a few at Springfield, Mo., during the period; four at S.O.W.A., Mar. 7 (NJ); and one at each of the following locations Independence, Mo., Feb. 23 (TBk); Maryville, Mo., Dec 20 (RR); Grafton, Ill., Mar. 10 (H). There were excellent flocks of Lapland Longspurs; Kentucky observers indicated, though, that they were not too easy to find, four were noted at Cincinnati — the first in several years. The earliest Smith's Longspurs had returned to Springfield, Ill. Mar. 6 (H); another was present at Rend Lake Mar. 20 (BPj) for the first s. Illinois record. Snow Buntings were found in every state; they were most prevalent during January and February; six were found at Prospect, Ky. Jan. 10 (DP, m.ob.); flocks of over 500 were found in Indian (Lafayette), over 5000 in Hancock County, Ohio, 600 in Shelby County, Ill. only singles were reported from Missouri: Maryville Dec. 7 (E) and Columbia Feb. 2 (†IA).

NON-CORROBORATED REPORTS — Those reports which may be correct but for which there was insufficient evidence to confirm them have been included in this section. (Eur.) Green-winged Teal — Columbus Mar. 18-30 (JFy, m.ob.) Eur. Wigeon — Columbus Mar 30 (TT). Glaucous Gull — Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 23 (*vide* L). Com. Flicker (Red-shafted) — Kansas City, Mo., all winter (L); Marshall Co., Ill., Mar. 24 (*vide* VH) Kentucky and Canada warblers — Oxford, Ohio, both during the last week of March (*vide* DO). Yellow-headed Blackbird — Cincinnati, four at a feeder Feb. 8-12 (LSc)

ADDENDUM — One **Thayer's Gull** was reported from St. Louis, Oct. 11, 1975; it was thoroughly documented and photographed; through initiative of the observer, the record has been verified by appropriate national experts (*TBk).

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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

/Robert B. Hamilton

The weather this past winter has been somewhat variable. December and January were colder than usual throughout the Region but February and March were warmer than usual and we had an early spring. Precipitation was below normal through February but March was wetter than usual. There were minor invasions of some boreal species such as Evening Grosbeaks and Red-breasted Nuthatches. The effect of the early spring could not be gauged because many observers have not yet reported their spring migration records.

Louisiana, Alabama, and Northwest Florida reported new birds for their lists when an Allen's Hummingbird, Arctic Loon, and Sage Thrasher respectively were found.

LOONS THROUGH IBIS — The largest number of Com. Loons reported was the 26 at Sardis Lakes, Panola Co., Miss., Dec. 5 (BBC & LC). An **Arctic Loon** was found in Shelby County, Ala., Dec. 27 - 31 (TI, GJ, HK, et al.). This represented the first Alabama record. The rarely seen **Red-throated Loon** was reported in Pensacola Jan. 20. (BJ). The **Red-necked Grebe** found and photographed at Cameron on the Sabine N.W.R. CBC Dec. 20 (JHe & HDP) provided only the second Louisiana record. Maximum numbers of Horned Grebes reported were the 140 at Sardis L. Dec. 5; there were 120 there Jan. 18 (BBC & LC). They were found on five Arkansas CBCs with a high of 33 on L. Millwood

(CHM). The Eared Grebe, primarily western, was reported at three locations in Mississippi: Sardis Dam (MD), Hattisburg CBC, and Washington County CBC, at Gulfshores, Ala., Jan. 3 (PFC) and at Fairhope, Ala. Feb. 15 (AN & MNo). The rare **Western Grebe** was found at Reelfoot L. Tenn. CBC Dec. 20 and at Sardis L. Jan. 3 10, & 24 (MD). Single White Pelicans were found inland at Wheeler N.W.R., Ala., from mid-November to Jan. 31 (TZA) and at Ross Barnett Reservoir, Miss., Dec. 15 (CB



ET & FW). The Jackson County, Miss., CBC reported one Brown Pelican present during count period and three were on the Dauphin I. count. The 105 reported at St. Joe, Gulf Co., Fla., Mar. 27 is encouraging (BJ & SS). The ad. **Blue-faced Booby** seen in company of three Gannets at Santa Rosa I., Fla., Mar. 31 provided the first winter record for that area (BJ). The Brown Booby, which is considered casual in the area, was reported Mar. 26 at Pensacola Beach (CK); this made the first March and second winter record there. Anhingas were reported at eight different locations in Louisiana this winter and five were found on the Texarkana CBC (CHM). A late Magnificent Frigatebird was found Dec. 16 at Dauphin I. (DB & RH). The Little Blue Heron reported at Pensacola Dec 20 was the first in December there (KB & CM). Cattle Egrets seemed to be wintering in increasing numbers. Approximately twice as many (2000) wintered at Miller's L., Evangeline Par., this winter as last (BO). It was also reported at scattered locations in Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana. The tendency for Reddish Egrets to winter seemed to be increasing, with records at Dauphin I., Jan. 18 (LA & LRT) for the first January and third winter record there, Panama City, Fla. (B. C. A. S.) Dec 20 for the second December record, and four on the Sabine CBC Dec. 20. The two imm. Black-crowned Night Herons at Wheeler N.W.R., Ala., Jan. 13 (JG, AM & CS *et al*) was the first local January record. The Glossy Ibis also at Wheeler, Dec. 2 - 18, (RMB, WCD, CS & EW) marked the latest fall record there. White Ibis were north of the coastal zone at Natchitoches Dec. 21 (CV); near Starkville, Oktibbeha Co., Miss., Dec. 23 (JJ); and on the Natchez, Miss., CBC Jan. 3.

WATERFOWL — Fifteen Whistling Swans were at Hatchie N.W.R., Tenn., Jan. 3-24 (JGu & JL). There were scattered records south of usual locations of Canada Geese this year, perhaps indicating that they will again migrate to the coast. The flight at Pensacola Dec. 18 (EB & HB) represented the first December record. They were also reported on the Gulf Shores, Ala., CBC.; the Baton Rouge CBC; 11 at St. Gabriel, E. Baton Rouge Par. (TS & KSm), Mar. 12; and eight at Miller's L. Evangeline Par., Jan. 10 (BO). The Brant present at Birmingham from Nov. 2 to end of period (HK, m.ob.) made only the third Alabama record and the first s. of the Tennessee Valley. The two Fulvous Tree Ducks collected in Limestone County on Jan. 8 (DV) marked the second Alabama record for the Tennessee Valley and the first local one. The first reported spring migrants were at Miller's L. Mar. 13 (BO). The Black Duck on L. Millwood, Little River Co., Ark., Dec. 14 & 20 (CHM) provided only the fourth local record. The two Cinnamon Teal on the Sabine CBC were the only ones reported. The 4000 Canvasbacks reported at Porter L., Crittenden Co., Ark., were the largest number seen in Memphis area since 1928 (BBC). Greater Scaup were reported on seven Christmas counts in Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Tennessee. Common Goldeneye were seen at higher numbers than usual in scattered locations in the Region, according to several contributors. There were scattered reports of Oldsquaws on the s. part of our Region: in Alabama, one on the Tuscaloosa CBC Jan. 3 (JCT); in Arkansas, three on Sardis L. Dec. 26 - Jan. 18 (MD, TOS), in Mississippi, 15 in the Gulf of Mexico off of Biloxi Feb. 20-21 (HV); and in Louisiana, one male on L.

Pontchartrain, St. Tammany Par., Jan. 4 (JWB, MN & RN) and one female at the same location Jan. 6-7 (ML, PM, SM, DPM & JM). All three scoters were reported in the Region this winter. The 24 at Cameron Dec. 20 (BO) as well as the eight on Timbalier Bay, La., Mar. 23 (BO) were unrecognizable as to species. One White-winged Scoter was found on the Buffalo R., Tenn., CBC, three were seen in Terrebonne Bay, La., Mar. 23 (JP & BO) A Surf Scoter was also found on the Buffalo R. CBC and one was found during the count period at Nashville The fourth inland record in Alabama for the species occurred near Decatur Feb. 3-7 (SHo, MMc, AM & CS). At Biloxi were 20 on Feb. 20-21 (HV). The only Black Scoters were the three at Panama City Dec. 19 (BJ & SS) & 20 (CH & JH). On Mar. 7 at Gum Cove, Cameron Par., a ♀ **Masked Duck** was found (JHe, MN & RN). This is sixth Louisiana record. There were only scattered reports of Com. Merganser this winter. It was only found on one of sixteen Arkansas CBCs. The female at Eutaula Refuge Jan. 3 (FL *et al.*) was noteworthy. On the other hand Red-breasted Merganser was found on 15 of 58 CBCs in 1975-76 and only 10 of 58 in 1974-75.

HAWKS THROUGH GALLINULES — Swallow-tailed Kites returned somewhat early this year; one was seen on Mar. 3 at Pensacola (BJ) and at Dauphin I (RH & RiH). Scattered records of Sharp-shinned Hawks and Cooper's Hawks indicate numbers of both were low A pure albino Red-tailed Hawk in Randolph County, Ark., Nov. 10 & 14 (SB) was of interest. An indication of Red-tailed abundance in Louisiana this winter was the 181 reported on the 110-mi. stretch of I-10 w. of Baton Rouge (RK, NO & BO). The Broad-winged Hawk at Fairhope, Ala., Feb. 27 (AN & MNo) may well have been wintering, the one on the New Orleans CBC certainly was. The tenth Swainson's Hawk for Alabama was recorded Feb 3 in Bullock County (JK). There were fewer Rough-legged Hawks reported this year than last. Golden Eagles were seen at scattered locations: one at Wheeler N.W.R., from late November to mid-January (TZA); two on the White River N.W.R., Ark., CBC, one at L. Millwood Dec 14 (CHM); one at Spring Bayou, Madison Par., Jan. 17 (HJ, RN, DK *et al.*); and two on the Reelfoot Lake CBC The Bald Eagle situation is encouraging. This species was reported on 15 CBCs this year and only 13 last. The total number of adults was 39 this year and 41 last; however, there were 53 immatures this year and only 31 last This year (1976) there were eight active nests in Louisiana, which fledged nine young (RAY); last year there were only six known nests and seven young. There was one known nest in Mississippi this year which fledged one young (RAY). The first regular occurrence in Panama City area in many years was reported (JH & SS) with unconfirmed reports of a nest. At least one adult and one immature seem to have survived the winter. An adult was found dead after being shot at Deerpoint L. Dec. 24 (JH & SS) The maximum number reported this winter was 51 (24 ad.) at Reelfoot L. Ospreys were reported on the Ashland City, Tenn. CBC; at Dauphin Island Jan. 23 (RiH & SH), at L. Pontchartrain Dec. 13 (RDP) and Feb. 1 (MMY & NN); at L. Cameron Parish e. of Rockefeller Ref. Feb. 16 (RN, AD & BB); and at Venice, Plaquemines Par. Mar 22 (JWB, BC & RN). Single Peregrine Falcons were seen near Mamou, Evangeline Par., Dec. 23 (BO); near Hackberry, Cameron Par., Feb. 1 (BC & RN); and at

Santa Rosa I., Fla., Jan. 25 (BJ). Merlins were reported on the Jacksonville, Ala., Baton Rouge, Sabine, and Reelfoot L. CBCs. Singles were seen in New Orleans Dec. 16 (NN), and Sabine Jan. 10 (JWB, MN & RN). The high count for the wintering Sandhill Crane flock near Cheneyville, Rapides Par., was 29 (RN *et al.*) Birds arrived Dec. 13 and stayed till at least Mar. 18 (DM). The habitat was changed by an irrigation project in Alabama where cranes normally winter. Only six were present this year, the number is usually about 30 (TI). Two were seen near Slidell Jan. 4 (HDP) and one at Holla Bend N.W.R., Ark., Jan. 17 (EdH & HH). A Yellow Rail was observed on the Sabine CBC (PMc) and a **Black Rail** was seen at Alabama Port on Christmas Day (BSi) for the first Alabama winter record.

A Purple Gallinule with the right wing missing was at Sabine N.W.R. Dec. 26 (MJM). The one at Garcon Pt., Santa Rosa Co., Fla., Dec. 27 was the third winter record there (DT) and one at Gulf Shores Jan. 3, (GJ & BCr), was first Ala. winter record.

CHARADRIIFORMES — The first reported Am. Golden Plovers were in late February at Mobile (TI); three were at Miller's L., Evangeline Par., Mar. 3 (BO). The 307 at Lonoke Mar. 26 (EdH, HH, HP & MP) was a good count. The Whimbrel at St. Joe S. P., Fla., Dec. 31 (CH, JH, BJ & SS) was the first local winter record; two were found on the Sabine CBC. The Solitary Sandpiper seen at Magnolia Springs, Ala., Feb. 15 (HK) and Mar. 14 (PFC, ER & RRR) was probably wintering. Nine Pectoral Sandpipers were inland at Morgan County (DCH) Dec. 18; this is latest Alabama fall occurrence and only the third inland winter record. The locally rare Baird's Sandpiper was found in Baton Rouge Mar. 19 (BCr & GG). The 30 Dunlin found at Wheeler N.W.R. Dec. 20 were the latest on record locally (DCr, HE, AM *et al.*) On the inland Marion CBC there were five W. Sandpipers. Three Am. Avocets were seen inland in Evangeline Parish Nov. 26 - Dec. 6 (CGu & HG); one was at Wheeler N.W.R., Dec. 3 (RMB & VVM) and three were n. of Decatur, Ala., Dec. 12 (DCH). A Wilson's Phalarope was observed on the Jackson County, Miss., CBC. A Parasitic Jaeger was found at Dauphin I. Dec. 20 (RiH). The casual Great Black-backed Gull was found Feb. 8 at Fort Pickens, Fla., (StL & SL). A second year Glaucous Gull was reported (RN) on the Sabine CBC; the first ever on a Louisiana count. On L. Millwood one Franklin's Gull was found Jan. 4-7 (CHM) and two on Mar. 21 (CHM). An ad. **Little Gull** was found below Sardis Dam Jan. 3 & 10 (MD), providing the second Miss. record. The rare **Black-legged Kittiwake** was found at same site Dec. 26 (MD), Jan. 3 (MD, LC & BC) and Jan. 10 (MD). Twenty Gull-billed Terns at West Bay, Fla., Mar. 14 were first winterers there. Single Black Terns were found at Alabama Pt., Jan. 3 (HK, ER *et al.*) and on the Sabine CBC.

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Six White-winged Doves were in Jefferson Parish Jan. 18 (RN, NNe *et al.*). One was shot Dec. 24 near Huntsville (*fide* TZA) — the fourth inland Alabama record and first n. of the coastal plain.. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen w. of Creole, Cameron Par., Dec. 21 (RJS). The two *anis* (species uncertain) in Mobile County Dec. 20 (BW & JW) was only the second Alabama record. In Florida Groove-

billied *Anis* continue to be seen regularly: one at Panama City Dec. 20 (B.C.A.S.) and two at Fort Pickens Jan. 1 & 4 (RD & SS). There were eight reports for s. Louisiana, the largest number was 8+ at Reserve (RJS & MW) The Burrowing Owl at Cameron Dec. 19 & 20 (RK, PMc *et al.*) was the only one reported. Shore-eared Owls were present at scattered locations: seven at Stuttgart AFB, Ark., in early December; four on Eufaula CBC; one at L. Millwood Dec. 14 (CHM); one on the Sabine CBC (PMc & BO); and at least four at Rockefeller Refuge, Cameron Par., all winter (BR, RN, KZ *et al.*). The very rare **Saw-whet Owl** was at Reserve, La., Dec. 9-16 (RJS & LV)

The Reserve CBC found a Chuck-will's-widow while the Dauphin I. and Gulf Shores count found one Whip-poor-will each. Another Whip-poor-will was found in Lafourche Par. Dec. 29 (BO & FZ). The Com. Nighthawk seen at Navarre, Fla., Mar. 21 (BJ) was the earliest arrival there; two apparently wintered in s. Mississippi, as they were seen on Jackson County CBC. The Lesser Nighthawk found at Johnson's Bayou, Cameron Par., Mar. 21 (BCr, RN & MN) made the first Louisiana March record. A Vaux's Swift was again found at LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Par. One was seen Nov. 10, 16, & Dec. 17 (RJS & MW). I (RBH) heard them on several occasions in Baton Rouge in early December. The swift observed on L.S.U. campus Feb. 3 (BCr) was probably Vaux's. Hummingbird reports seem to become more numerous each winter. Two apparently *Archilochus* sp. were at Magnolia Ark., Dec. 27 & Jan. 3 (FC & HC). Another was found in Baton Rouge Jan. 2 (RN & PMc). A ♂ Ruby-throated Hummingbird wintered at Reserve (RJS). A ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird arrived in Baton Rouge in late September approximately two months earlier than previous records, and stayed through December (RA). At least five ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbirds wintered in Metairie, Jefferson Par. (NN, RN, MN *et al.*). *Selasphorus* sp. were present at Reserve from Sept. 25 until the end of January, two males & two females were present (RJS & MW) The **Rufous Hummingbird** which wintered and was photographed at Hattiesburg represented the first Mississippi record (LG). There were six at Dauphin I. and one at Bayou La Batre Dec. 25 - Jan. 13 (RiH, RH, CSp & LRT)—the most ever for Alabama. At Pensacola one was seen December 1 (JuM) and one from Dec. 15-Feb. 15 (LT, *fide* BJ); four apparently wintered at Metairie (NNe, RR, RN *et al.*). A male apparently wintered at Monroe, La. (MC & DK). The ad. ♂ **Allen's Hummingbird** at Reserve Oct. 8 - Mar. 16, proved to represent the first Louisiana record and probably the first record for the Region. For the second consecutive winter a Buff-bellied Hummingbird wintered at a feeding station in New Orleans (RR, RN *et al.*).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, NUTHATCHES, THRASHERS — At least nine W. Kingbirds spent the early part of the winter at Kenner, Jefferson Par. (RDP), one was still present Jan. 18 (RN). At least nine Scissor-tailed Flycatchers attempted to winter in the same place (RDP); one survived till March. One was also seen at Fairhope, Ala., Jan. 5 (LA). The only Wied's Crested Flycatcher reported was further north than usual at Miller's L. Jan. 4 & 6 (BO). This is the fifth occurrence in Louisiana; bird was sighted Jan. 1 (RN, MN, BCr & PMc) and Jan. 11 (DF). An *Empidonax* was found near L. Pontchartrain Dec. 13 (RDP) and another on the

Atchafalaya Basin CBC. The E. Wood Pewee found at Starkville, Oktibbeha Co., Miss., Mar. 6 (TD) was early. A Vermilion Flycatcher apparently wintered at Fountainbleu S. P., near L. Pontchartrain; it was seen Dec. 13 (RDP) and Feb. 1 (MMY & NN). An imm. male at Pelham, Shelby Co., Dec. 1-2 (RoS) was the first recorded n. of the Alabama coastal plain. The male at Magnolia Springs, Jan. 21 - Feb. 28 (PFC) was one of a few late winter records. It was found on several area CBCs. The two Tree Swallows at Shelby County, Ala., Feb. 22 (AM, BS, CoS) may have been wintering. The **Bank Swallow** reported on Atchafalaya CBC (RK & HRP) made the first Louisiana winter record. One at Ft. Morgan Mar. 27 (PFC) was a very early migrant. Earliest Purple Martin records were Jan. 10 at Pensacola 2 (PK) and Jan. 13 at Dauphin I., (JLD).

This was a moderately good year for Red-breasted Nuthatches. They were found on 36 CBCs, compared with only 24 last year. Several observers commented that they were present but not in high numbers, especially in Louisiana, where there was only one Count period record. The **Sage Thrasher** found at Ft. Pickens, Mar. 28 (LD, m.ob.) provided the second Florida record and the first for n.w. Florida.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — The Yellow-throated Vireo at Magnolia Springs on Feb. 28 (PFC) was probably an early migrant, but may have been wintering. The Mar. 23 arrival of a Red-eyed Vireo at Little Rock (EdH) ties the early arrival time at that location. An Orange-crowned Warbler was seen at Wheeler N.W.R. Dec. 20 (HK); one was nearby Feb. 14 (DC). A **Magnolia Warbler** was seen at Venice, Plaquemines Pa. during the Christmas count period (RDP). A ♀ **Cape May Warbler** present at a feeder in Memphis Dec. 2 - Jan. 3 (EC, BBC *et al.*) represented the first w. Tennessee winter record. The two ♂ Blackpoll Warblers at Marianna, Fla., Mar. 21 (MG, MGr, DS, MS) were 22 days earlier than any previous record. The Ovenbird found at Peveto Beach Woods Dec. 26 (MJM) was the only one recorded this winter. The N. Waterthrush on Dauphin I. Jan. 15 (DN & LRT) was the second recorded in winter in Alabama. Louisiana Waterthrushes arrived five days early at Gulf Breeze, Fla., Mar. 3 (LD, RD, SD & StD), and also early at Lovick, Jefferson Co., Ala., Mar. 4 (DH). At Covington a Yellow-breasted Chat was observed Nov. 25-Dec. 6 (AS), constituting the fourth w. Tennessee record. One was at Hattiesburg, Miss., Dec. 14 (LG). Dan Purrington commented that Wilson's Warblers were quite common in the New Orleans area. The female seen at Baton Rouge Mar. 19 (KZ & RZ) is one of very few ever found in the area in spring. The male at Birmingham Mar. 25 - 29 (RRR, FS & JWS) was a month earlier than previous records.

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS, FINCHES — A flock of 20-30 Yellow-headed Blackbirds was reported Mar. 21 at Abbeville, Vermilion Par. (SC, LL & EP); such large numbers are unusual in Louisiana. There seemed to be more than the usual number of wintering oriole reports. A "Baltimore" was seen and photographed at Crossett, Ark., Dec. 15-Feb. 27 (MMC). A ♂ "Baltimore" was at Montgomery Feb. 28-Mar. 8 (JK), a female at Birmingham Jan. 30 (MLM), and a female wintered at Jackson, Miss., (CB). A ♂ "Bullock's" was seen at

Metairie Dec. 30 (MK, DPM & JM). One was seen at Bon Secour, Ala., Jan. 3 (PFC & VH). Another was found Dec. 19-Mar. 28 at Pensacola (JM, *vide* CK) where it is considered accidental. One was also seen at Cameron Dec. 20 (SR) and Eunice, St. Landry Par., Feb. 11 & 21 (HG). The 63 Great-tailed Grackles found on the Sabine CBC seem to indicate the species is regular in winter in Louisiana. There were also several reports of up to four being seen throughout the winter in Evangeline Parish. A Bronzed Cowbird was reported Feb. 8 in Metairie (DPM). A ♂ W. Tanager was found at Shreveport Dec. 22 (PL & BMc) and one on the Atchafalaya CBC (PMc). A ♀ Summer Tanager was present at feeder in Little Rock for two months (DRH) and one was found during the Count period at El Dorado, Ark. For the second consecutive winter one was at a suet feeder in Marianna, Dec. 1-Dec. 27 (JMc & ElW, *vide* MGr). A female was at Jackson, Miss., after Christmas and a female was there Jan. 1 (BEG & WT). Individuals were also reported at four other widely scattered locations in Louisiana. The two ♀ grosbeaks in New Orleans Dec. 20 were Rose-breasted (WW). Black-headed Grosbeaks were reported one at Panama City Dec. 20 (NR); one at Rison, Cleveland Co., Ark., Feb. 9-Mar. 1 (PA); 1 female in Jefferson Parish Feb. 21 (NN & NaN); and a female in Evangeline Parish, Feb. 29 - Mar. 29 (HG). Two Blue Grosbeaks were found on the Baton Rouge CBC and one was at Covington, St. Tammany Par., Jan. 25 (RN). Female-plumaged Painted Buntings were found at New Orleans Dec. 20 (MMY); near St. Francisville, W. Feliciana Par., Jan. 17 (MN & PMc); and at Gonzales, Ascension Par., Jan. 26-Feb. 15 (TH). The one at Gulf Shores Mar. 12 (WFR *et al.*) was two weeks early but probably an early migrant. A ♀ Dickcissel was found at Jefferson County, Ark., Dec. 27 (JS) for the first county winter record. The one reported in Lauderdale County, Tenn., Dec. 27 (H1D) was the first county winter record. One was at feeder in Natchitoches in January (KS & HW) and a male was at feeder in Baton Rouge in early Feb. (RN *et al.*). This was a fair Evening Grosbeak year, but the birds did not get as far south as in some previous years. High concentrations were at Tallapoosa County, Ala., 200 on Mar. 13 (BD); at Tuscaloosa, 300 on Mar. 14 (JCT); and at Birmingham well over 500 (*vide* TI). In Arkansas there were 31 reports, mostly from the n. part of state. The largest reported flock was about 80 at Jonesboro (EJ). In Louisiana the highest concentration was at Campti, Natchitoches Par., where up to 40 were present after Feb. 21 (JT, RN *et al.*). The largest Mississippi group was about 80 at Starkville during February and March (JJ). There were a few more scattered Pine Siskin records this winter than last — it was present on 23 CBCs this year; 13 last. There were several birds reported from Natchitoches (CV), Shreveport (HJ), and Evangeline Parish (HG & JD). On the other hand there were probably thousands around Starkville in late March (JJ). Two **Red Crossbills** were reported at Homochito National Forest, Miss., in February (RHo). There were up to 11 at Noxubee N.W.R., Winston Co., Miss., after Feb. 29. Amazingly at least one pair nested and produced three young (TD, RHo & JJ). The **Green-tailed Towhee** at Bon Secour in January (PFC, m.ob.) provided the second Alabama record. Tree Sparrows were found on Natchez (1), Ashland City, Tenn., (1); Buffalo River, Tenn., (3), and Fayetteville (5) CBCs. Harris' Sparrow were found at

Texarkana and Shreveport CBCs. One was photographed at Harrisburg, Poisett Co., Ark., during its presence from December to February (SG).

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NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS /Wayne C. Harris and Sheila M. Lamont

The weather this winter was mild with little snow in most areas. On the Canadian Prairies a cold spell the first two weeks of December drove many of the tardy migrants south. A week at the beginning of January was also cold but there were no heavy snowfalls until March. Montana and the n. two-thirds of North Dakota had normal to mild weather. South Dakota and s. North Dakota had cold temperatures throughout December and January with moderation in February. The early snow cover in the southern parts of the region resulted in reduced wintering populations of waterfowl over much of the area.

WATERFOWL — An Eared Grebe at Regina Dec. 26-28 and a W. Grebe at Wabumun L., Alta., Dec. 27-Jan. 17 were unusual (TMB, GRAE). Two Canada Geese arrived at Bowdoin N.W.R., Mont. Feb. 10, earlier than usual (JRF) while wintering numbers increased to 1250 at Regina (LS). Mallards reached their lowest wintering numbers in many years at Ft. Peck, Mont. with 600 in early January (CMC). Wintering populations at Regina and Calgary numbered 450 and 400, respectively (LS, RJB) while at Bismarck, N. Dakota 800-1000 were on the

Missouri R. (RNR). Black Ducks were present at Gavin s Pt., S. D., with one Jan. 9 and five Feb. 3, and singles near Pierre Feb. 22 & 27. At Oak Hammock Marsh, n. of Winnipeg, 100 Mallards, three Pintails and one Com Goldeneye wintered on natural open areas fed by springs



(HWRC). Four Barrow's Goldeneyes were present at Calgary Jan. 25 and six wintered at Ft. Peck (RJB, CMC). There were 2860 Com. Mergansers at Yankton, S. D., Dec. 5 (GLS). A Red-breasted Merganser Dec. 20 at Fargo, N.D., was unusual (EGA). Hooded Mergansers were seen in South Dakota in Yankton County Mar. 18 and in Gregory County Mar. 21-27 (GLS).

HAWKS AND EAGLES — Goshawks were well represented with 14 reported in Alberta, 22 in Saskatchewan, four in South Dakota and one in each in Manitoba and Montana. Both Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported farther north than usual with single Sharp-shinned in Saskatchewan at Shell L. and Ravenscrag (WCH, SML, MAG) and a single Cooper's at Calgary (HWP). A total of 164 Golden Eagles were reported, with only Montana having fewer than normal. Good numbers of Bald Eagles were seen with Alberta reporting 23, Saskatchewan 17, Manitoba 6, North Dakota 2, South Dakota 64 and Montana reporting eight Dec. 6 and one to five during the rest of the season.

FALCONS — Gyrfalcons were seen at Ft. Peck with one Dec. 14, followed by one adult alone and two immatures together, all three Feb. 1 (CMC). There were also reports of singles from Saskatchewan at Ravenscrag, Mar. 1 and White Bear once in October and once in March (MAG, SOJ). Prairie Falcons were reported from five Saskatchewan, five South Dakota, three Alberta and one Montana localities. Single Peregrine Falcons were reported from Bruce, Alta., Jan. 25 (RP), Calgary Jan. 13 & Mar. 7 (DBG, PS), n. of Cochrane, Alta., Dec. 2 (SJ), near Carrot R., Sask., Jan. 1 (S. Riome), Medora, N. D., Dec. 20 (JS), Dunn Center, N.D., Jan. 24 (FJC) and Ft. Peck during December (R. Shupe). Merlins were reported throughout the area all winter.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS — Sharp-tailed Grouse and Gray Partridge numbers still have not fully recovered in Saskatchewan where fewer than normal were reported from Moose Jaw, Eastend, Grenfell and Kindersley (EWK, MAG, EKH, JMH). Numbers of both these species were down in South Dakota, but above average in Montana with Sharp-tailed numbering 56 (normal 15-20) at Ft. Peck (CMC). About 20 Turkeys wintered along the Sheyenne R., north of Valley City, N. Dak. (DEG).

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — A **Virginia Rail** flushed from a warm spring in Jones County, S. D., Jan. 25 (RLH) was apparently the first winter record for the state (GLS). Two Com. Snipe wintered at Joliet, Mont. (CMC), while in South Dakota there were three at Rapid City, and singles at Rapid Valley, Meade County, and Minnehaha County (JLM, EMS, EEM, GWB). A Wilson's Phalarope at L. Sharpe near Pierre Feb. 21 was unusual (JLM, HJM).

DOVES AND OWLS — Mourning Doves remained unusually late, with one Dec. 26 at Regina, three Dec. 28 at Round L., Sask. (TMB, DF), three Jan. 2 at Glenboro, Man. and one at Winnipeg Jan. 14 (PS, RL). Nine Snowy Owls in 35 mi. was the most ever at White Bear, Sask. (SOJ), but they were absent at Sheho and Spirit L., Sask. indicating an uneven distribution. Overall there were

totals of 111 sightings from Saskatchewan (WCH), six from Manitoba (HWRC), 31 from S. Dakota (GLS), 79 from Alberta (SJ, FAS, GRAE, RJB), 21 from N. Dakota (JTL) and 11 from Montana (CMC). The rarely recorded Pygmy Owl visited a feeder at Banff, Alta., Dec 13-27 (WER, DW, LW), where it was catching House Sparrows, and another was seen Feb. 6 and heard calling Mar. 28 near Cochrane, Alta. (SJ). The one report of a Barred Owl was at Fargo, N. Dak., Jan. 16 (EGA).



Glaucous Gull, Fort Peck, Mont., Dec. 6-7, 1975
Photo/Charles M. Carlson.

—S.A.—

GLAUCOUS GULL — The highlight of the season for this area was the number of reports of Glaucous Gulls. In South Dakota at Gavin's Pt. there were two Dec. 17 with at least one until Dec. 24 and a single bird Mar. 19 (GLS), while Ft. Randall Dam at Pickstown had one Jan. 15 (Y.B.C.) and a first-year immature Jan. 24 (KE). At Ft. Peck a single first-year immature was seen Dec. 6-7, constituting the third or fourth state record (CMC). The fifth record for Saskatchewan was a sighting of three second-year immatures Dec. 22 at Gardiner Dam near Cutbank (WER, BCG, D. Renaud). [Excellent details-ED.] The frequency of sightings of Glaucous Gulls has been increasing over the past few years, and in most cases observations are at dams where water is kept open artificially during the winter months. With the increasing number of dams, winter observations of Glaucous Gulls may become a more common occurrence at inland locations.

WOODPECKERS — Common Flickers were unusually common with midwinter reports of singles from Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Brandon, Man.; Regina and Saskatoon. Six were in Moose Jaw all winter, two at Ft. Peck and Clifford, N. Dak., seven at Joliet, and five at Fargo. A **Red-bellied Woodpecker** appeared in Winnipeg Dec. 19-21 (ARL); another spent December and January at Bismarck (RNR) and six localities reported them in S. Dakota (GLS). A Red-headed Woodpecker in full ad plumage was observed Jan. 18 at Burke, S.D. (GLS).

CORVIDS AND CHICKADEES — A Gray Jay throughout the winter in Winnipeg was unusual (PH)

One Com. Crow was seen in mid-winter at Bowdoin, Mont., where they are rare in winter (CMC), two Jan. 2 at Calgary (GW) and singles Dec. 15 (BF) and Feb. 15 (RMD), two Feb. 7 at Morley, Alta. (MSL), Dec. 27 at Banff, Alta. (GRAE) and Jan. 22 at Regina (RBD). Over 185 Clark's Nutcrackers frequented a backyard feeder in Banff, Alta. Black-capped Chickadee numbers were above average in Saskatoon and Regina, while in North Dakota their numbers had recovered from the 1975 blizzard (DEG, DLK). Bowdoin reported a single Mountain Chickadee (JRF).

NUTHATCHES — Red-breasted Nuthatches were well above normal with eight observations n. of Cochrane (SJ), four in the Edmonton area and six at Calgary. Twenty were recorded Dec. 7 at Lac du Bonnet, Man. (RFK, RK), a single in Winnipeg Feb. 27 (HWRC) and 24 individuals from seven localities in south Dakota (GLS). In Saskatchewan a record 34 were recorded on the Saskatoon CBC (PON), with above-normal numbers at Regina (TMB) and Indian Head (MS) as well as a substantial number of sightings within the forested regions and away from feeders at Emma L. (BCG, JKG), Prince Albert and Maidstone (WCH, SML).

CREEPERS — Brown Creepers were above normal in Alberta and Saskatchewan especially near the forested regions. There were single birds at Edmonton Jan. 1 (RP), Jan. 14 (DW, LW) and Feb. 7 (LP) and at Calgary Feb. 5 (JI). Within the forest at Emma L., Sask. there were four Dec. 20, five Dec. 21, one Dec. 25 and two Dec. 26 (BCG, JKG). Saskatoon had one or two all winter and Regina had at least one all winter. In South Dakota there were reports from Clay County, Pierre, Hurley, Brookings, Burke L. and from most Rapid City feeders.

DIPPERS THROUGH BLUEBIRDS — Dippers were reported from Calgary, Bow R., Alta.; n. of Cochrane and from Rapid City. A **Long-billed Marsh Wren** apparently wintered at a warm spring in Jones County, S.D. (RLH). A Mockingbird seen several times at Winnipeg earlier in the month disappeared Dec. 24 (RFK). A Brown Thrasher seen Jan. 25 in n. Jones Co., S. Dak. apparently wintered (RLH) while another was present at Winnipeg Dec. 12-13 (HWRC). Robins wintered throughout the region. An unusually late E. Bluebird was present at Moose Jaw Nov. 23-Dec. 10 (EWK, m.ob.).

SOLITAIRE — Townsend's Solitaires were in above normal numbers with two at Banff Dec. 26 (GRAE), one at Jasper, Alta., Feb. 26 (HC), one at Calgary Jan. 11 (JD), one each at Moose Jaw (EWK) and Regina (TMB) all winter, three at Ft. Peck during December and January (CMC), eight at Medora Dec. 20 (RNR), 20 at Bismarck Jan. 4 (RNR), one in w. Perkins County, S. D., Dec. 7, Mar. 12 and two there Jan. 10-20 (AH), two at Belle Fourche, S.D., Dec. 5 (IW), one at Rapid City all winter (B.H.A.S.), five daily in Sturgis, S.D., Jan. 10 - Feb. 10 (EEM), one at Burke L., S. D., all winter and three there Mar. 22 (GLS). One in Roberts County, S. D. Dec. 24 was a first for the county (*vide* BKH) as was one in Brookings County, S.D., Dec. 25 - Jan. 10 (NJH).

KINGLETS THROUGH CARDINAL — A Golden-crowned Kinglet at Bowdoin Nov. 28 was the first for the

refuge (JRF). Bohemian Waxwings moved south in good numbers, with a peak at Saskatoon of 460 birds per observer over the ten day period Dec. 29-Jan. 8 (PON). They were reported absent only at Monarch, Alta. (FAS). Northern Shrikes were reported in lower numbers than normal on the Canadian Prairies with six sightings from Manitoba, 25 from Saskatchewan and eight from Alberta except near Cochrane where they were more numerous than usual with 20 observations (SJ). Montana reported four sightings (CMC) while there were ten from South Dakota (GLS) and none from North Dakota (JTL). The only Cardinal reports were from Pine Falls, Man. where one visited a feeder daily (DH) and S. Dakota with eleven sightings (GLS).

GROSBEAKS, FINCHES AND SPARROWS — Evening Grosbeaks moved into the area with above-normal numbers reported throughout with a peak at Saskatoon of 290 birds per observer over the ten day period Mar. 2-12 (PON). Of special interest was the occurrence of an almost pure white grosbeak in the Winnipeg area. It had a slight yellow tinge on the breast, a pale yellow crescent or vee across the nape and a few small gray spots on the upper back. It was first noted Dec. 2 at a bird feeder near Oakbank, 12 mi. e. of Winnipeg (DB) and after being observed several times in the city it was last reported near Oakbank Mar. 27. A ♂ Evening Grosbeak having dull brownish primaries and tail feathers was banded at Seven Sisters, Man. (HWRC). Purple Finch numbers were higher than normal at Bismarck with 194 banded (RNR) and with single birds at Ft. Peck (CMC) and Erskine, Alta. (LL) being unusual. A sight record of a **House Finch** Feb. 6 at Saskatoon was the third record for Saskatchewan (PON). Another was seen at Rapid City through the winter (LAW). Pine Grosbeaks were absent in Manitoba and the Dakotas, with few reports from anywhere else in the Region except along the forest fringe in Saskatchewan. Gray-crowned Rosy Finch numbers were above normal throughout. They were reported at Eastend, Sask. from Oct. 27 when 53 were seen to Mar. 14 when seven were seen, with a high of 100 on one day (MAG). White Bear, Sask., reported up to 22 during the winter (SOJ). One was at Regina Dec. 1-21 and a first record for Spring Valley, Sask. was one Dec. 17-20 (FB). There were up to 25 n. of Cochrane, Alta. through the winter (SJ), 40 at Ft. Peck Jan. 3 (CMC), 50 at Cochrane, Alta., Jan. 24 (KM), 200 at Medora Dec. 20 (JS) with flocks at Rapid City (EMS) and in the South Dakota Badlands (RAW). Common Redpolls were common throughout with a peak at Saskatoon of 289 birds per observer over the ten day period Nov. 16-26 (PON). Hoary Redpolls were reported from all states and provinces except Manitoba. Both Red and White-winged Crossbills were virtually absent with very few numbers anywhere except in the forested region of the Canadian Prairies where hundreds of White-wingeds were reported from Lac du Bonnet and Sandilands in Manitoba and up to 200 at Emma L., Sask. (JKG). A Rufous-sided Towhee was seen at Moose Jaw Dec. 1 (GAZ). Tree Sparrows were reported in greater numbers than usual for the winter season with reports north to Regina (RBD), Skull Creek, Sask. (H. & R. Schuler), Calgary (RJB) and north of Cochrane (SJ). Song Sparrows were seen at Ravenscrag, Sask., Jan. 8 (MAG), Ft. Peck Jan. 3 (CMC) and Fargo Dec. 20 (EGA). South Dakota reported Song Sparrows from four localities.

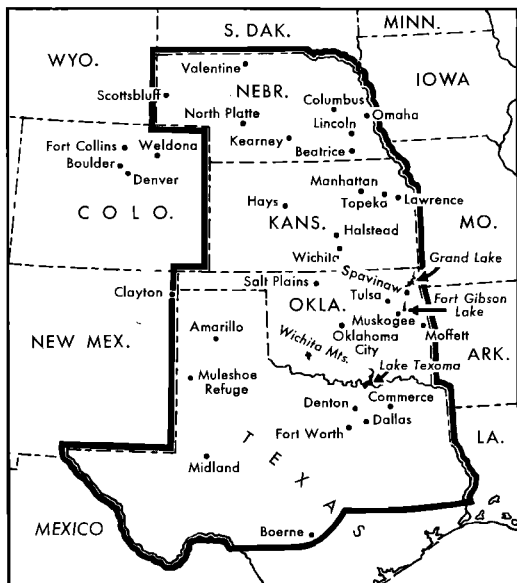
CORRIGENDUM — The observation of 52 Bonaparte's Gulls, Birds Hill P.P., Man., (*Am. Birds* 29: 869) should have read May 11, not Apr. 11, 1975.

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SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS /Frances Williams

It was another warm, dry winter on the plains, with very little snow cover even in Nebraska, and lakes remained open most of the season. As a result many species overwintered that usually do not, others remained longer into the season than customary and many spring migrants were far ahead of schedule. Dry conditions resulted in many prairie fires and birders were reminded that recently burned areas are very attractive to birds - roasted insects and weed seeds are easily secured from the bare ground.



GREBES THROUGH ANHINGAS — A Horned Grebe in Kerr County, Tex., Mar. 26 provided a first county record (K&EM). The wandering of W. Grebes noted in the fall report continued, with additional records coming from Coffey County, Kans. (H&ER, m.ob.) and Wilbarger County, Tex. (NM, LS, m.ob.). Eared Grebes at Plattsmouth, Neb., Mar. 27 were more than two weeks early White Pelicans are rare inland in winter but this season they lingered through December at Great Salt

Plains N.W.R., Okla., Tulsa, Osage County, Okla., Hagerman N.W.R., Tex. and Wichita County, Tex Double-crested Cormorants were present in Crosby County, Tex., Dec. 1-Jan. 14 (PD, RE), providing a first winter record. Seven Anhingas were observed at Dallas Feb. 29 (HN, L&DB).

HERONS — So many herons and egrets were sighted during the winter that only a few can be noted here: Little Blue in Wichita County, Tex., Dec. 17, Cattle Egrets throughout Texas, Great Egret at Waco, Tex., Jan 16, Snowy Egret at El Paso Feb. 28, Black-crowned Night Heron at Midland Dec. 15-Jan. 3, Am. Bittern in Washington Co., Okla., Jan. 18-Feb. 1.

WATERFOWL — There were eight records of Whistling Swans in w. Texas, those in Crosby and Gray Counties constituting first county records (MT, JW) A White-fronted Goose was observed in Hudspeth County, Tex., Mar. 16 (KZ). Three Ross' Geese remained at Hagerman N.W.R., Feb. 21-Mar. 16 (JF, KWH, m ob) A Fulvous Tree Duck in McClennan County, Tex., Jan 1 provided a new county record (M&JB). Black Ducks were banded at Hagerman N.W.R. during December (JF) and were also seen in Angelina County, Tex., Feb 13 (DF) and Dallas County Feb. 14 (HN, SC). Cinnamon Teal in Nacogdoches Co., Tex., Mar. 12-13 provided a new locality record (DF). This species was also sighted at Dallas Feb. 21&29 (WP) and Oklahoma City Feb 28 to end of period (JGN). Wood Ducks wintered in Delaware County, Okla. (FMB, MB). Six Oldsquaws were sighted in Lancaster County, Neb., Dec. 7 (DG) and one was at Big Lake, Tex., Dec. 6 (LBP, et al.). A White-winged Scoter was photographed in Angelina County, Jan 23 (LD, CM), providing the first record for the pineywoods area of Texas. All three species of mergansers were common throughout the Region; the largest flock comprised over 1000 Com. Mergansers in Linn County, Kans., Jan. 30 (ESM). The ever-increasing number of reports of Hooded Mergansers may reflect an increase in number and expertise of birders rather than an actual increase in population of the birds.

VULTURES THROUGH FALCONS — Turkey Vultures wintered in Delaware County, Okla. (FMB, MB) and returned very early to Comanche County, Okla., Feb. 13 (RMK) and Linn County, Feb. 28 (ESM) There were three sightings of Goshawks in the

pinewoods of e. Texas (DF, KBB, DD) but the only other report came from Midland in w. Texas (JK). A Broad-winged Hawk in Pecos County, Tex., Jan. 2 had strayed far west and was very late (JM). A dark phase Swainson's Hawk in Lancaster County, Neb., Dec. 20 was also late (DG). White-tailed Hawks were north of their normal range in Burleson Co., Tex., Jan. 28 (TGa) and Dallas Co., Jan. 24 (JH, HN). Rough-legged Hawks were abundant in the Texas Panhandle and Oklahoma but south of the Red R. there were few sightings. A late report, but well worth including, stated that there were at least eight active nests of Harris' Hawks in one w. Texas county last summer (*fide* KZ). The Com. Black Hawk had returned to the Davis Mts., Tex., by Mar. 14 (TGa). In the e. part of the Region Golden Eagles were seen in Linn County in March (ESM) and Grand Island, Neb., Mar. 21 (AS).

It was a banner winter for Bald Eagles on the plains, as they were reported in good numbers at most major reservoirs. High counts included 24 at Great Salt Plains N.W.R., 16 in Linn County, 27 at Flint Hills N.W.R., Kans., 15 in Potter County, Tex., 14 in Randall County, Tex. The Tulsa Audubon Society conducted public tours to see Bald Eagles at Keystone L., drawing an estimated 500 sightseers during January and February.

Ospreys were sighted in Marion County, Tex., Dec. 20 (LR) and Tulsa Mar. 9 (ES *et al.*). Caracaras were reported in four Texas counties: Navarro, Kaufmann, McLennan and Hood. Prairie Falcons visited Lyon County, Kans., Jan. 23 & Feb. 1 (JHS), Washington County, Okla., Feb. 22 (ED) and wintered in c. Oklahoma. There have been recent observations of Peregrine Falcons in the Chisos Mts., Big Bend N.P., Tex., and climbers have been barred from cliff areas which might provide nesting sites for the rare raptors. A lone Peregrine was sighted at El Paso Mar. 7 (GOW). Merlins were reported at eight localities in the Region, providing first county records in Crosby, Fannin and Johnson Counties, Tex.

QUAIL THROUGH RAILS — A Gambel's Quail near the Rio Grande in Big Bend N.P., Mar. 8 was the first seen in the park in many years (BHK). Montezuma Quail continue to spread and were seen in the Vieja Mts., Jeff Davis Co., Tex., in December (JM). Sandhill Cranes also made a rare appearance in Big Bend N.P., Feb. 3, Mar. 3 (TB, VBB). An unusual winter record of this species was reported in Lyon County, Kans., Feb. 13 (BG). A Yellow Rail provided a new record for Big Bend N.P., Jan. 31 (RL). Details will be published elsewhere.

PLOVERS THROUGH PHALAROPES — A **Piping Plover** at L. Rayburn, Nacogdoches County, Tex., Feb. 6 constituted a very rare winter record for any inland area (DF). Two **Snowy Plovers** were sighted in Lancaster County, Neb., Mar. 28. This species is accidental anywhere in Nebraska (DG). Three **Mountain Plovers** were sighted Mar. 13 in Osage County, Okla., feeding with Killdeer and pipits in a burned area (SG, ED). Woodcocks were reported from six areas including Coffey County, Kans., Feb. 29 and Lyon County, Kans., Mar. 12 (BG). Dunlins were observed in Oklahoma City, Dec. 13, Feb. 6, 7, 8 & 14 (JGN), Wichita County, Tex., Dec. 1, 18, Jan. 5, 7 & 9 (NM), Hagerman N.W.R., Dec. 20 - Mar. 31 (KWH, m.ob.). A **Red Phalarope** was

sighted at Big L., Reagan Co., Tex., Jan. 8 (CCW) Wilson's Phalaropes wintered at El Paso (KZ *et al.*).

GULLS, TERNS — Eight Glaucous Gulls were sighted in the Region, an amazing number of inland records in one season: Coffey County, Kans., Feb. 1 (JHS, m.ob.), Linn County, Kans., Jan. 30-Feb. 8 (ESM), two in Alfalfa County, Okla., Jan. 17 (VJH RSK), Osage County, Okla., Jan. 20 (DG, m.ob.), Oklahoma County, Jan. 1-Feb. 11, with a second bird Feb. 8 (JGN, HW), and a very late bird in Canadian County, Okla., Mar. 25 (JG). Herring Gulls were photographed in El Paso County, Jan. 31 (KZ) and were also reported in Rogers County, Okla., Jan. 10 (K&DS) This species is rare inland during winter. A bird believed to be a Thayer's Gull was carefully studied at Dallas Jan. 24 (HN, JH). A Laughing Gull was present at Dallas Mar. 13 (HN, SC). A **Heermann's Gull** at Big L., Reagan Co., Tex., provided a new state record. Bill Edwards of Odessa found it Dec. 2 and Terry Maxwell of San Angelo photographed it Dec. 4. Full details will be published elsewhere. Black-legged Kittiwakes visited Big L., Dec. 5-24 (IW, m.ob.), Wichita County, Tex., Dec. 29 (FC, m.ob.), Randall County, Tex., Dec. 21 (SS, PA). Six Forster's Terns remained at Hagerman N.W.R. most of December (CRB). A Caspian Tern wintered on L. Livingston, Walker Co., Tex. (KBB).



Glaucous Gull (imm.), Oklahoma County, Okla., Jan. 30 1976. Photo/John Shackford.

DOVES THROUGH GOATSUCKERS — Ground Doves wintered in Coleman County, Tex. (CS) and were reported from the pinewoods of e. Texas in February and March (DF, RR). Inca Doves remained at a feeder in Wichita, Kans., Nov. 11 until the end of the period (N&GM, *fide* DV). These two dove species are spreading northward, with more extra-limital reports each year. The only Monk Parakeets reported were in Cleveland County, Okla. (JG, DC). Banded Owls astounded observers by appearing in city backyards in broad daylight at Cushing, Okla. (DI) and Denton, Tex. (JY) Long-eared Owls wintered at Bellevue, Neb. (MW) and in Lancaster County, Neb. (DG). Short-eared Owls were

abundant only in Ector County, Tex. (BE, m.ob.). A Saw-whet Owl was present in Big Bend N.P., Mar. 7, 9 (PFA) Another in Lyon County, Kans., Jan. 24-Mar. 21 provided a new county record (BG, DR *et al.*). A Whip-poor-will at College Station, Tex., Feb. 29 was the earliest ever by 23 days (DaF). A Poor-will found dead at Waco, Tex., Mar. 12 provided a first county record (FG).

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — White-throated Swifts wintered in far w. Texas, where they were seen at Hueco Tanks S.P. in January and February (KZ) and Indian Hot Springs, Hudspeth Co., Feb. 22 (GOW, EW) A ♀ Ruby-throated Hummingbird remained at a feeder in Nacogdoches, Tex., Dec. 21-Jan. 9. An **Anna's Hummingbird** arrived at Tulsa sometime in the fall (WR) but was not brought to the notice of Tulsa birders until Jan. 2 (PK). It was then seen by 30 members of the Tulsa Audubon Society, appeared on KOTV and on the front page of the *Tulsa World*. It was last seen Jan. 11. Contributors in the eastern-most parts of Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma were all enthusiastic about the large numbers of Red-headed Woodpeckers present in their areas. A **Lewis' Woodpecker** was discovered at Eisenhower S.P., Grayson Co., Tex., Dec. 26 (L&MB). Three Williamson's Sapsuckers were located at El Paso Mar. 7 (GOW, EW, KZ) and one at Midland Mar. 25 provided a new county record (GH, GP, m.ob.).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — The warm winter was probably responsible for the following occurrences of flycatchers and swallows. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was found near Junction, Tex., Jan. 2 (BM, LH). Eastern Phoebe wintered in several Oklahoma localities. A Black Phoebe provided a new county record in McClennan County, Tex., Dec. 20 (M&JB, BH). An *Empidonax* (sp?) was seen Dec. 19 in Nacogdoches Co. (DF). Most amazing was the discovery of a wood pewee (sp?) at Midland Feb. 22 (EB). Vermilion Flycatchers wintered at five Texas localities north and/or east of their normal range. Violet-green and Tree Swallows and Purple Martins were in Hudspeth County, Tex., Feb. 22 (GOW, EW) Early Tree Swallows were noted in Linn County, Kans., Mar. 13 (ESM), Sherman, Tex., Feb. 17 (CRB) and Tulsa Feb. 26 (LR, MK).

CORVIDS THROUGH WRENS — Blue Jays and Scrub Jays wintered in Big Bend N.P., where there were few previous records of either species. Scrub Jays also wintered at Hueco Tanks S.P. (KZ). Blue Jays were building a nest in Cleveland County, Okla., Mar. 11, eight days earlier than any previous nest-building date in the state (GMS). Seven Fish Crows were sighted at Caddo L., Harrison Co., Tex., Feb. 7 (LR). A Mountain Chickadee was observed at Hueco Tanks Jan. 4 & Mar. 17 (KZ). Red-breasted Nuthatches were present throughout the Region, but were nowhere numerous. A Bewick's Wren remained at a feeder in Hays, Kans., Nov. 15-Apr. 1 (MER). A Cactus Wren in Potter County, Tex., Feb. 8 until the end of the period provided a first county record (PA) Short-billed Marsh Wrens were seen in Big Bend N.P. (RL) and Washington County, Tex. (OG). The number of Canon Wrens at Hueco Tanks S.P. increased greatly but the number of Rock Wrens declined (KZ). Rock Wrens were reported in Collin County, Tex., Feb. 8 (MRo).

MIMICS, THRUSHES — A Mockingbird was seen in Lancaster County, Neb., Feb. 15 & 22 (DG). A Gray Catbird wintered in Lubbock, Tex. (D & FG). Brown Thrashers wintered as far north as Nebraska and as far west as Presidio County, Tex. A Long-billed Thrasher remained in Big Bend N.P., Mar. 10-31 (R&JJ, m ob) A Curve-billed Thrasher banded at Hays, Kans., remained at a feeder throughout the period (MER). A Crissal Thrasher was sighted in Irion County, Tex., Dec. 4 (CCW) and a Sage Thrasher was seen in Kerr County Mar. 18 (E&KM). Both these species were east of their normal range.

A massive Am. Robin invasion occurred in the Sherman, Tex., area during November and December. Thousands swarmed over the county and each evening about four o'clock began arriving in the city to roost. Observers were stationed in various parts of the city to estimate numbers of birds in the flocks and a reliable total of 500,000 robins was obtained. The birds dispersed by early January (CRB *et al.*).

Varied Thrushes were observed at Scottsbluff, Neb., Dec. 4 (AK, JB) and Arkansas City, Kans., Dec. 20 & Jan. 11 (D&KS, WC, *vide* DV). A **Western Bluebird** was studied carefully in Wichita, Kans., Jan. 3 (M&NL, DK) Mountain Bluebirds were present in the Wichita Mts., Comanche Co., Okla., Jan. 31 (O.C.A.S.), Nacogdoches, Tex., Feb. 2, Mar. 15 (DM, m.ob.), Hardeman County, Tex., all winter (NM). Two Townsend's Solitaires at Denton, Neb., Dec. 21, one in Lincoln, Jan. 18 (DG) and one in Jackson County, Okla. (JWA) were noteworthy observations.

KINGLETS THROUGH SHRIKES — A few Ruby-crowned Kinglets wintered at Hays. Sprague's Pipits were observed in Cleveland County, Okla., Feb. 18 to mid-March (JG). Bohemian Waxwings were present in Lincoln Jan. 5, 7 & 18 (SD), Omaha Mar. 25 (MW), Midland Feb. 13, 23 (ME, MC). Phainopeplas wintered at Hueco Tanks S.P. A N. Shrike observed in Wichita County, Tex., Dec. 1-29 was found dead Jan. 5 (NM) It is now at the Dallas Natural History Museum. This species was also reported in Randall County, Tex., Dec. 26, Jan. 25 (KS, PA), Midland Dec. 24-Jan. 1 (ME, m.ob) and Lincoln (no date given — SD). A pair of Loggerhead Shrikes which built a nest in Linn County, Kans. on the early date Mar. 20 lined their nest with rabbit fur — an anthropomorphic observer might say the birds knew that some more cold weather was due.

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS — Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers wintered in Kansas and were abundant in the Dallas area in February. A Yellow-throated Warbler in Ft. Worth Mar. 19 was early (MP) Western Meadowlarks were present in Rogers County, Okla., Feb. 20-Mar. 31 (K&DS) and were more numerous in e. Texas than usual. A ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird wintered in Midland (m.ob.), a female was sighted in Omaha Feb. 9 (MW) and a female visited a feeder in Tarrant County, Tex., Dec. 31 (L&AB) A ♀ Orchard Oriole was seen in Ft. Worth Dec. 26 (J&MRL) Hooded Orioles arrived in El Paso Mar. 7, an early date (GOW, EW). Northern (Bullock's) Orioles were seen in Huntsville, Tex., Dec. 20-Jan. 4 (KBB) and Nacogdoches, Tex. throughout January (DA). In Linn County, Kans., 25 Brewer's Blackbirds were observed

Dec. 6. Great-tailed Grackles were abundant in Amarillo all winter. An ad. ♂ Summer Tanager was seen in Nacogdoches Jan. 20 (DF).

FRINGILLIDS — A Dickcissel visited a feeder in Lyon County, Kans., Dec. 8 (JHS). Evening Grosbeaks were present throughout the period in Lancaster, Douglas and Sarpy counties, Neb., Lyon & Johnson Counties, Kans., Comanche, LeFlore, Washington and Osage Counties, Okla., Palo Duro Canyon S.P., Tex.

Common Redpolls were really "common" in the Region. The species was reported by the only three observers in Nebraska who submit reports and were possibly present elsewhere in the State. The species appeared in greater numbers than ever before throughout Kansas. In Oklahoma there had been only one previous sight record of Com. Redpolls. This year they were reported at feeders in Norman (H&MF) and Tulsa (AB, ECH, m.ob.) and at least six photographers took pictures at the latter location.



Common Redpoll, Tulsa, Okla., Mar. 6, 1976. Photo/ John Shackford.

This was probably the biggest invasion year ever for Pine Siskins. Professor Ely at Hays banded over 300 during "casual" banding and Mary Louise Myers banded over 550 in Johnson County, Kans., Dec. 15-Mar. 30. She reported that thistle seed feeders and thistle seed hit an all-time sales record at local feed stores. Many feeders in Lubbock, Wichita Falls and Tulsa had 40 or more siskins coming daily and a flock of 50 was present at Hueco Tanks S.P. in late winter. Several observers noted that when siskins are present goldfinches go elsewhere, but in the Texas Panhandle, in fields of commercially grown sunflowers, there were thousands of both, although siskins were the more abundant.

Several Red Crossbills were seen irregularly through the period at Hays (MER) and one visited a feeder in Pontotoc County, Okla., Jan. 5 (WHD, KJG). A **White-winged Crossbill** which frequented a feeder in Lubbock Dec. 28-Mar. 8 was photographed, providing the first verified Texas record (GJ, m.ob.).

Lark Buntings wintered in Jackson County, Okla. (JWA) and in Wichita County, Tex. (LS), both localities somewhat north of the usual winter range of the species. Lark Buntings in the Dallas area in late March were noteworthy. Just where Baird's Sparrows winter in w. Texas is a long-standing mystery. Some were located in Brewster County in November, but when three days were



*White-winged Crossbill, Lubbock, Tex., Mar. 8, 1976
Photo/G.W. Jury*

spent netting in the same area in January no Baird's were caught.

Le Conte's Sparrows were seen in Linn County, Kans Feb. 28 (ESM), Osage County, Okla., Dec. 6-Jan. 17 (EH) and Waco, Tex., Dec. 22, 29 (KBB). Joe Gryzbowski censused three grassland plots of 100 acres each in Cleveland, McClain and Grady counties, Okla. Le Conte's Sparrows wintered in all three plots but were most numerous in lightly grazed areas. Henslow's Sparrows were sighted in Marion County, Tex., Feb. 22 (LR). Lark Sparrows were present in Stephens County Okla., Jan. 13-Feb. 12 (JC) and lingered until late December at Tishomingo N.W.R., Okla. (CRB). A singing ♂ **Cassin's Sparrow** was present at Nacogdoches Mar. 27-Apr. 2, the first time this species has been recorded east of Dallas (DW, DF).

The White-winged form of Dark-eyed Junco was observed at Hays Dec. 30 (CAE). Gray-headed Juncos were regular feeder visitors at Lubbock and Midland Tree Sparrows were abundant as far south as Briscoe and Crosby counties in w. Texas, a few were seen in n. c. Texas and record numbers were present at Tulsa. Swamp Sparrows were observed at El Paso Jan. 18, Feb. 1 (KZ) Palo Duro Canyon S.P., Dec. 21 (KS), were common all winter at Tulsa and e. Nebraska.

It was a good longspur year, with 16 contributors commenting on one or more species. McCown's were present from Jeff Davis County east to Johnson and Brazos counties, Tex. Lapland Longspurs were common at Hays early in winter, moved out in January and returned during an early March snowstorm. This species was recorded in c. Texas from Wichita County south to Brazos County, Chestnut-collared Longspurs swarmed throughout w. Texas and were reported east to Dallas and Johnson County, Tex. A flock of Smith's Longspurs appeared at Tulsa in early December (DS), large flocks visited Terrell, Tex., Jan. 25-Feb. 12 (*vide* WP) and a flock in w. Presidio County, Tex., Feb. 22 & 24 provided a first county record (JM). All four species were present at Dallas and at Norman, Okla.

CONTRIBUTORS AND INITIALED OBSERVERS

— **Nebraska:** Joyce Brashear, Shirley Doole, Daryl GIBLIN, Alice Kenitz, Andy Saunders, Melba Wigg, four additional observers.

Kansas: Ivan L. Boyd, Wallace Champeny, Charles A Ely, Bob Gress, Don Kilby, Mike & Nancy Lesan, Natan and Geula McDonald, Earl S. McHugh, Mary Louise Myers, Marvin E. Rolfs, Dennis Ronsse, Helen &

Edward Ryan, Jean H. Schulenberg, David & Kent Seibel, Donald Vannoy, 11 additional observers.

Oklahoma: John W. Ault, F.M. & Marguerite Baumgartner, Pat Bergey, Alice Blevins, Charles R. Brown, Don Carruth, John Craythorne, Ella Delap, Wm. H. Dixon, Hubert & Mable Frings, Steve Gast, Dotty Goard, Kathy J. Gresham, Joe Grzybowski, Elizabeth C. Hayes, Victor J. Heller, Elizabeth Hicks, Deloris Isted, Polly Keating, Rodney M. Kemper, Robert S. Kennedy, Mary Korthase, Robert M. Laval, Janet M. McGee, John G. Newell, Oklahoma City Audubon Society, Wanda Robinson, Lois Rodgers, John Shackford, Dick Sherry, Eleanor Sieg, Kathleen & Dick Stuart, George M. Sutton, Jack D. Tyler, Henry Walter, 30 additional observers.

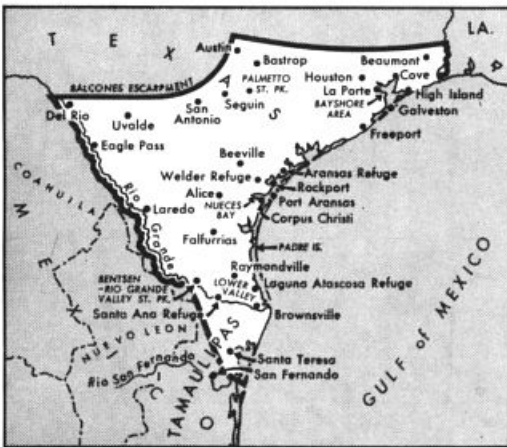
Texas: Bill Adams, Don Adams, Peggy Acord, Philip F. Allan, Keith A. Arnold, Larry & Martha Ballard, Landon & Ava Beaver, Ethelene Bizilo, Liz & Duncan Boeckman, Charles R. Brown, Lillian M. Brown, Virginia B. Brown, Tim Brush, Kelly B. Bryan, Mary & Jerry Bush, Fred Collins, Mary Crockett, Sam Crowe,

Pat Davenport, Louis Debetaz, David Deuel, E.W. Easley, Bill Edwards, K. Elrod, Rosemary English, Midge Erskine, Pansy Espy, David Fischer (DaF), Dean Fisher (DF), Jeffrey Fleischer, Orlyn Gaddis, Tony Gallucci (TGa), Gayla Gatling, Fred Gehlbach, Tim Gollob (TGo), Don & Florence Gum, Bessie Hall, Karl W. Haller, Louis Hejtmank, Kelly Himmel, Gail Hodge, Jenny Huey, Robert & Joan Jefferson, George Jury, Berton H. Kaplan, June Kingon, Rich LoBello, Joe & Mary Ruth Lowe, David Manry, Terry Maxwell, Jody Miller, Bob Moncrief, Carrol Moore, Nancy Moore, Kay & Ernest Mueller, Hazel Nichols, Margaret Parker, L.B. Paul, Georgia Porter, Warren Pulich, Midge Randolph (MRa), Robert Reeves, Lin Risner, Margaret Roddy (MRo), Chuck Sexton, Ken Seyffert, Layfette Stankewitz, Stelle Stevens, Max Tgaweek, Ed White Geth O. White, C.C. Wiedenfeld, Iris Wiedenfeld, Jack Williams, David Wolfe, J. Yoss, Kevin Zimmer, 50 additional observers. — **FRANCES C. WILLIAMS, 3307 Neely, Midland, TX., 79701.**

SOUTH TEXAS REGION

/Fred S. Webster, Jr.

Winter was very dry and rather mild. After meager rainfall in December and almost none in January and February, March gave faint hope for a break in the drought in some localities. Barren pastureland and dried-up stock ponds were a common sight throughout South Texas by late winter. With grass grazed to the ground in many places and growth of winter crops retarded,



ground-dwelling seedeaters became hard to find. In some instances Mockingbirds resorted to feeding on sunflower seeds, and warblers and orioles took sugar water from hummingbird feeders. In Wilson County, Sekula observed Loggerhead Shrikes preying on smaller birds more than usual. While plowing a dry field on March 24, he noted that seeds and insect forms turned up by the plow were attracting Killdeer, Mountain Plover, Mockingbirds, Water Pipits, Great-tailed Grackles, Brown-headed and Bronzed Cowbirds, and Savannah,

Grasshopper and Lark Sparrows. At Kenedy, in adjacent Karnes County, Starlings in the cattle troughs made feeding the animals difficult. (RR). Blacklock remarked that at Welder Wildlife Refuge winter passerine populations were unusually low in riparian and live oak chaparral communities. At Aransas Nat'l Wildlife Refuge much natural waterfowl food was not utilized as low places failed to receive rainfall. (BH). While the upper coast, which has the greatest average annual rainfall in this Region, was unusually dry this winter, low areas around Galveston Bay continued to be inundated as depletion of subterranean water reserves caused the land to sink. In consideration of fluctuating water levels, it could be expected that bird populations would shift accordingly, and the presence or absence of unusual numbers of a species in a particular locality would not necessarily reflect a population explosion or depletion in general. For instance, the scarcity of Least Sandpipers on San Antonio's Mitchell L. (JAM) and plover and sandpiper species in the Rockport area (DNW) was credited to a lack of moist feeding flats; and the presence of "huge" flocks of Willets and Marbled Godwits resting close to shore at Rockport was thought to be owing to the shallow condition of the bays (DNW). On the other hand, receding lake levels at Welder Refuge encouraged shorebird activity in late winter (GWB). As usual, an insufficiency of reports from representative localities precludes any Region-wide assessment of population numbers.

An Arctic air mass which penetrated the Region on January 7 provided the coldest weather of the season, freezing temperatures reached as far south as the Rio Grande Delta. Fortunately the cold spell was not prolonged, and a pattern of unseasonably high temperatures dominated the remainder of the season.

LOONS, GREBES — Common Loons were down in numbers along the coast. A bird thought to be an Arctic Loon was seen at Rockport Mar. 13, with Com. Loons (EIS). A **Red-throated Loon**, found at Texas City Dec. 31 (CC), remained through February. Eared Grebes were

abundant in the surf off n. Padre I. but down in numbers generally; however a great increase in numbers was noted at Texas City Dike in late February.

IBISES, SPOONBILLS — White Ibis numbers continued to drop in the Rockport area. (DNW). Good numbers of Roseate Spoonbills were found in Chambers County marshes although this species more often moves southward in fall.

WATERFOWL — Geese and ducks, as well as other waterbirds, were abundant in flooded fields and adjacent higher land on the Mexico side of the Rio Grande Delta. In spring this area produces a huge volume of small grains. A **Brant** was found at Aransas Refuge Jan. 2 (WLDW) and was seen by other observers on subsequent days. Three Fulvous Tree Ducks were seen in Fort Bend County Jan. 22 (MA, MJ & TPJ); in modern times it has been very unusual for this species to appear in winter this far north on the Texas coast. Northern Shovelers were very common inland, notably at Austin and San Antonio. Redheads were reported in very small numbers on the coast, but the presence of Canvasbacks attracted some attention. It should be stated that one hundred Canvasbacks would be considered an excellent count nowadays. Lesser Scaup, once observed in the hundreds of thousands on the upper coast, were seldom seen in four-digit numbers. Common Goldeneyes seemed more common than usual on the coast; for example, a count of 50+ in Chambers County Jan. 1 (DTD). Several could be found at the mouth of Nueces Bay, Corpus Christi area, in February (*vide* KM). Two ♀ Oldsquaws represented a "first" for Aransas Refuge (LB). Scoter species rewarded the efforts of birders who have turned to surf watching. The **Common Scoter**, rarest of the three species in this Region, was found in the surf off n. Padre I. — 28 on Feb. 8 (RL & TL *et al.*) and lesser numbers subsequently. Three **Masked Ducks** in female plumage wintered at Santa Ana N.W.R. An individual was observed at roadside on the outskirts of Corpus Christi Jan. 2 (DEM). One was seen at Manor L., Brazoria Co., Dec. 7 (JKR & BR).

HAWKS — The birder who did not hear of the **Hook-billed Kites** (*Chondrohierax uncinatus*) at Santa Ana Refuge is probably rarer than the birds. This species, resident in humid lowland forest and marsh of tropical America, ranges northward to the adjacent state of Tamaulipas where it is considered rare. In May 1964 this species was discovered nesting at Santa Ana Refuge, a first U.S. record. On Dec. 16, 1975, five birds were seen by Shifflett, and individuals were seen into March by many observers. Red-tailed and Marsh Hawk and Am. Kestrel numbers were down in western and southern areas, probably reflecting a dearth of small prey. A **Harlan's Hawk** wintered at San Antonio (SH, *vide* JAM). A **Gray Hawk** was seen frequently at Santa Ana Refuge. An apparently ad. **Com. Black Hawk** was reported there on Mar 24 (JK). An Osprey, scarce winter resident on the c. coastal plain, was present in n. Victoria County from mid-January to mid-March (GG). Three Merlins were observed at Welder Refuge (GWB).

CRANES, JACANAS, SHOREBIRDS — The count of Whooping Cranes at Aransas Refuge remained at 57

— 49 adults and 8 young — on Mar. 23 (BH). Sandhill Crane counts were generally up, particularly on the central coast. Jacanas continued in residence at Manor L. The late summer population was believed to number around 35 birds (*vide* TBF), although recent sightings have involved just a few. Boat excursions are most likely to produce Jacanas, although some have been seen from the bridge this winter. Manor L. is a private hunting and fishing preserve of Brown and Root; arrangements for hiring a boat can be made through Pat Kirland, phone 676 - 4204. Am. Woodcocks were reported more frequently than usual, and in such unlikely spots as Port Aransas, and a golf course at Corpus Christi at mid-day (KM). Several were present at Welder Refuge (GWB), and one was seen on leafy forest floor at Santa Ana Refuge, where it is rare, Dec. 29 (JD). A **Purple Sandpiper** was discovered at the Freeport jetties, Mar 7 (LB *et al.*), and an individual was seen feeding on the spillway below Falcon Dam, Dec. 15-16 (PJ & RP)

GULLS, TERNS — Unusual gull species continue to brighten our winters. A **Glaucous Gull** was seen at Texas City Dike Jan. 7 (MJ & TPJ), and one on Bolivar Flats at Galveston Mar. 9 (VLE *et al.*). A sub-adult gull, generally agreed to be of the Iceland species, was found in company with other gull species on a sand flat near the south jetty at Port Aransas Feb. 28 (TL). After being observed by many birders and frequently photographed on following days, the bird was collected sometime between Mar. 14 - 17, much to the consternation of both those who had played the game of "what is it?" and those who were thereby denied the opportunity of participating. Two **Great Black-backed Gulls** were described from the Freeport jetties Jan. 4 (LB & MB). An ad. **Roseate Tern** a vagrant species, was seen at Texas City Dike Mar. 12 (RVDiO). A winter ad. **Black Tern** was observed at the Port Aransas jetty Dec. 27 (GRG *et al.*); there are very few late December records for this migrant species.

HUMMINGBIRDS — Winter hummingbird watching continues to improve in quality and quantity, possibly this winter was the best ever. More persons are responding to the realization that a few hummers will winter over if feeding stations are maintained. Something should be said for this relatively mild winter, but it should be noted also that most wintering hummers are western species which, we assume, are accustomed to lower temperatures. In this Region, flowering plants in sheltered places often survive all but the most severe winter storms. That insect life is an important supplement to the sugar water and nectar fare was suggested by Mrs Anderson who observed hummers persistently hawking insects on sunny days; on cold or rainy days the same hummers perched in protected places when not visiting feeders. The Houston and Corpus Christi areas were hummingbird centers this winter, with a sprinkling elsewhere. While a few ♂ Ruby-throateds, Black-chinneds and Broad-tailed were observed, Anna's and Rufous Hummingbirds were more numerous. Since the Rufous is not a novelty, comments centered around Anna's which seems well on the way to being a winter regular. The following tally of Anna's reached this compiler: Houston 1, Lake Jackson 1, Freeport 1, Victoria 2, San Marcos 3, Port Aransas 1, Kingsville 1, and Hidalgo County 1. Presumably only males are included. The composite Anna's arrived in later

November, was singing by January, and departed in February. The individual in Houston attained adult plumage during its sojourn (MA). In San Marcos, an adult male was seen in courtship display (*vide* WS).

S.A.

The **Allen's Hummingbird** has been reported in the greater Houston area on several occasions since 1958, and in each instance identification was supported by careful observation and/or photography. Other individuals, although having the plumage of ad. ♂ Allen's — in accordance with illustrations in the standard field guides — were not officially reported on the basis of a prevailing notion that the green back may not, after all, be diagnostic. Despite or because of the above, Allen's remained on the hypothetical list for Texas. But no longer, we trust, for around mid-March 1976 an ad. male was found dead at a residence in w. Houston where it had fed for almost three months (*vide* RB). In addition to this specimen, another individual in s.e. Houston was well described and photographed in January and February (NP *et al.*).

KINGFISHERS, FLYCATCHERS — Green Kingfishers, locally resident along certain streams in western and southern parts of the Region, were more widely reported than usual, including the Austin, San Antonio and Corpus Christi areas. Of particular interest were observations in the town of Refugio, Refugio County, where two males and a female were seen on different occasions in February and March (GC, WMC, DTD *et al.*). This appears to be a county first and provides one of the easternmost records. An Ash-throated Flycatcher was seen near Roma, Starr Co., Dec. 29 (JD, PL, & GM); this is a winter first for the county. Eastern Phoebe numbers were down on the central coast and at San Antonio.

JAYS, CROWS — Brown Jays frequented the usual locality near Roma. Green Jays showed a sharp increase in the Falfurrias area (AWO) and seem to be expanding northward. Several were seen at Corpus Christi (*vide* KM), and two visited a feeder at Dinero, s. Live Oak Co., in December (RK & MT) for a new county record. The Brownsville City dump continued to be the best place to find the Mexican Crow; here they were likely to be seen with the larger White-necked Ravens.

VERDINS THROUGH WAXWINGS — The Verdin is disappearing from the Falfurrias area as brush-clearing continues unabated (AWO). Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers and House and Winter Wrens were reported below normal in a majority of localities, while Brown Thrashers numbers were up in the northern half of the Region. Reports of high Am. Robin numbers were centered around the central coast. A Rufous-backed Robin (*Turdus rufopalliatu*s) a bird of the Pacific slopes of Mexico, was found along the Rio Grande near Roma, Dec 29, by observers previously acquainted with this species (JD & GM). A **Clay-colored Robin** frequented the Santa Ana Refuge headquarters area through February, and one was reported at Brownsville. Hermit Thrush

counts were up on a line from Austin to the upper coast. A Swainson's Thrush, rare in winter, was seen at Aransas Refuge, Dec. 27 (GRG *et al.*). Eastern Bluebirds and Cedar Waxwings numbers were generally down.

WARBLERS, ORIOLES — The Olive-backed Warbler (Tropical Parula) could be found at Santa Ana Refuge during the season. One was found at Falcon Dam, Dec. 27 (CWE). Numbers of Yellow-rumped Warblers were reported low along the coast but high inland. A few Black-headed Orioles were found as far north as Alice and Beeville and were occasional visitors to Dr. O'Neil's yard in Falfurrias. Good hunting places for this and other South Texas specialties are those roadside rest areas in heavily wooded (live oak) localities s. of Kingsville on U.S. Hwy. 77. Other winter oriole visitors to Dr. O'Neil's yard were N. Orioles (both Baltimore and Bullock's) and a Hooded Oriole; some of these were attracted to sugar water.

FRINGILLIDAE — Pyrrhuloxias were exceptionally numerous in Starr County (JCA). This was not a good year for northern finches; Purple Finches, Pine Siskins, and Am. Goldfinches were all "down" in most localities. Lark Bunting numbers exceeded normal in Starr and Wilson Counties, the only areas reported. Populations of Savannah, Vesper, Chipping, Field and Lincoln's Sparrows appeared to be good in northern counties and down in some southern counties, although we must offer this as merely a generalization. Populations of Le Conte's Sparrows were reported good, but Lark, White-throated and Song Sparrows were definitely down in most reported localities. Clay-colored and White-crowned Sparrows were in good numbers in Starr County early in the season, but we received no information concerning the latter days. Longspurs were holding up in Travis County, mostly Chestnut-collared, with a few McCown's and Lapland identified.

CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS — Margaret Anderson, John C. Arvin, Larry Ballard, Martha Ballard, Alma Barrera, Randy Beavers, Gene W. Blacklock, Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Campbell, Glenn Cureton, Wesley M. Cureton, David T. Dauphin, Robert V. Di Orio, Jon Dunn, Charles W. Easley, Victor L. Emanuel, T. Ben Feltner, Mrs. A. H. Geiselbrecht, Gary R. Graves, Gerry Green, Steve Hawkings, Bill Hawthorne, David R. Hunter, Peter Jenkins, Margaret Jones, T. Paul Jones, John Kelly, Ruby Knight, Edward A. Kutac, Paul Lehman, Ray Little, Terry Little, Guy McCaskie, Kay McCracken, Dale E. Merkord, James A. Middleton, James G. Morgan, Dr. A. W. O'Neill, Noel Pettigell, Alan Pounds, Robert Powell, Mrs. Raymond Regmund, Barbara Ribble, John K. Ribble, Mr and Mrs. S. Eugene Sankey, Willie Sekula, Wayne A. Shifflett, Elton I. Stilwell, Mary Taylor, Bruce L. Tedford, Doris N. Winship, W. L. D. Winship. — **FRED S. WEBSTER, JR.**, 4926 Strass Drive, Austin, Texas 78731.



NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

The entire Region had a mild winter with generally below-normal precipitation and with little snow in the lowlands. Crater Lake N. P. had five feet less snow depth than normal. Eastern Washington had a normal snowpack in the mountains, however. Only March was unseasonably cold.



Bird activity was characterized by many lingering fall migrants and the wintering of species that normally move out of the Region. Similarly many spring migrants were early. Incursions of Am. Robins and Bohemian Waxwings in the western part and Com. Redpolls over the Region were impressive and wintering waterfowl were plentiful.

LOONS, GREBES — An Arctic Loon appeared on Gordon L. near Selah, Wash. Dec. 1 (Y.A.S.). The "Valley Birders" of the Lewiston-Clarkston (Idaho-Washington) area had a Com. Loon near Asotin Creek, Asotin, Wash. Jan. 17 and one bird was at Shuswap L. in the n. Okanagan of British Columbia Dec. 21. Sightings of Red-throated Loon were obtained in the Nampa, Ida. area Dec. 14, two birds; Feb. 14, two, and Feb. 17, one (G.E.C.). Several Red-necked Grebes were seen throughout the winter on Okanagan L. at Vernon and Penticton, B.C. The Horned Grebe was reported "on all the open lakes" in the just-mentioned area through the winter and an Eared Grebe was seen all winter at Ravalli N.W.R., Stevensville, Mont. (CK). Three were still in the Nampa, Ida. area Dec. 5 (G.E.C.). Western Grebes wintered in very small numbers on Okanagan L. A single bird was on a pond near Yakima Jan. 10 and six were seen in the "Tri-cities" (Pasco-Richland-Kennewick), Wash. area Jan. 29 (Y.A.S.).

PELICANS THROUGH HERONS — A White Pelican was on the West Gallatin R. south of Manhattan,

Mont., on the record late date of Dec. 7. Six Double-crested Cormorants remained at the Yakima R. mouth until Jan. 24. Forty were counted in the Nampa area Dec 1 and two, Jan. 10. Nineteen Black-crowned Night Herons were seen in the Tri-cities area Dec. 19-Jan. 18 and six wintered at Rupert, Ida. The species appeared at Nampa and at Toppenish Game Reserve, Wash., in late March. An Am. Bittern at Rock L. in n.w. Whitman Co., Wash., Mar. 13 furnished an early record (JWW).

WATERFOWL — A Mute Swan was at Central Park, s. of Manhattan, Mont., Mar. 20. The Trumpeter Swan population at Red Rock Lakes N. W. R., Lima, Mont., peaked at 327 Mar. 2. The mid-winter tri-state aerial survey in that area Feb. 23 revealed 623 adults and 102 cygnets, about the same total as last year but with 20% fewer cygnets. The Helena area had four Trumpeters flying over Helena Valley Res. Mar. 25 (PMcK), and Ennis, Montana had a few (ETH & RAH). Wintering Trumpeters at Malheur N.W.R. numbered about 30. Two appeared Feb. 14 along the Cheney-Spangle road, Spokane Co., Wash. (JA). Up to 20 were on the Crooked R. 40 mi. n. of Prince George, B.C. An Idaho Fish and Game Dept. aerial survey Jan. 5 of Pend Oreille R. and L., Coeur d'Alene L. and the lower St. Jo R. showed 84 Whistling Swans. Four were seen in the Richland, Wash. area Jan. 29 (ZB), and one was at Nampa Dec 1 (G.E.C.). The Kootenai Valley in n. Idaho had about 800 by mid-March. The S. Thompson R. between Kamloops and Pritchard, B. C. had 331 Jan. 25, and over 700 wintered at Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore. The migrational peak there was nearly 11,000 at mid-March.

Wintering Canada Goose numbers were up at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash., where the peak was 27,000 in mid-December and mild weather prevented the usual mid-January decline. Increased grain stubble feeding area at Malheur N.W.R. brought wintering numbers of Canadas to over 3000. The species peaked at 3000 at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., in January. The Nampa area had nearly 10,000 in late December. Twenty-one Cackling Geese were reported at McNary N.W.R. Jan. 18 (MC & SM) and some were still there at the end of March (OV). A peak of 189 White-fronted Geese was reached Mar. 12 at Malheur N.W.R. One wintered on Skaha L., Penticton, B. C., Jan. 4 - Mar. 21 (SRC) and two were in the Nampa area in late January and early February. Two to five were found in Spokane Co. on three dates in February and March and ten tardily reported birds were near Lowden, Wash. Oct. 26 (NFM). A single Snow Goose was at Rupert, Ida. Jan. 1 and Nampa had 10 in early December and two, Mar. 12 Malheur N.W.R., which attracts practically all the w part of the Region's Snow Geese, had its peak—52,100—Mar. 15. McNary N.W.R. had a Blue Goose on two dates in January (B.M.A.S.; CS) and a bird intermediate between a Snow and a Blue was found in the Coulee City, Wash. area Feb. 8 (WH).

Ducks wintered in above normal numbers in e Washington (JS). At McNary N.W.R. a peak of 39,500, mostly Mallards, occurred in November and December At Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. the peak of 113,670 decreased slightly in January. The Nampa area had nearly 500,000 Mallards at the end of December. Peak numbers at Malheur N.W.R. were reached the week of Feb. 29 - Mar. 6 at 76,000 and Pintail numbers peaked

the following week at 63,000. Two late Mallards lingered in Yoho N.P., B.C., until Dec. 20 and Gadwall wintered much more commonly than usual on Okanagan L. A ♂ Mallard X Pintail hybrid was captured Feb. 10 during banding operations at Columbia N.W.R. Four Cinnamon Teal were seen in the Nampa area Dec. 21. Single Eur Wigeons showed up near Spangle, Wash. Mar. 14-15 and at Reardan, Wash., Mar. 20 (JA & WH). Six to eight Wood Ducks wintered on a creek one mi. w. of Vernon, B.C. and one was at Walla Walla through the winter. One was on a pond at Helena from November to late January (SM) and one in the Salmon, Ida. area Dec. 4 was unusual (HBR). Near Pocatello, where the species is rare in spring, a male was seen Feb. 28 and a female Mar. 7 (CHT).

The aerial waterfowl survey over n. Idaho Jan. 5 revealed 50 Canvasback (RR). A few wintered on Okanagan L. and several were found in the Richland area Jan. 29. (Y.A.S.). One at Livingston, Mont., Feb. 22 probably wintered (PDS). Two ♀ **Oldsquaw** frequented the Kennewick, Wash. sewage ponds Dec. 21 - 27 (EB; REW) A **White-winged Scoter** was photographed about Dec. 15 on Lower Granite Impoundment between Clarkston and Asotin, Wash. (JW). A few Ruddy Ducks wintered in the Okanagan; four were on the Okanagan R. near Vaseux L., Mar. 8. The Jan. 5 n. Idaho aerial survey showed 990 Com. Mergansers. A Red-breasted Merganser stayed in the Tri-cities area Nov. 13 - Jan. 24 (REW).

VULTURES, HAWKS — Malheur N.W.R. had a Turkey Vulture Feb. 28; average arrival date: Mar. 19. Goshawk sightings were up somewhat but Goshawks were certainly not plentiful. There were probably a few more Cooper's Hawks than usual but they must be considered rather rare in the Region. The Harlan's subspecies of Red-tailed Hawk appeared twice in the Spokane area, (JA) singles, and 1-2 were seen at Kamiak Butte, Whitman Co., Wash. (JWW). Sight records of Swainson's Hawk came from the Yakima area, one Dec. 25 and from Toppenish Game Reserve, two Feb. 25 (Y A S). Rough-legged Hawks were generally numerous and widespread. Baker, Ore. had a Ferruginous Hawk, Dec. 5, and one flew over the lodge at Crater Lake N.P. Jan. 17 (GTM). On the Jan. 5 survey in n. Idaho, Bald Eagles totaled 106 adults and 13 immature birds. In the Pocatello, Ida. area 33 (12 immature birds) was the highest number, Feb. 7. Numbers were up along the Spokane R. (JS). Smaller numbers appeared at many other localities as they did for the Golden. A number of remarkable Osprey sightings came in. An adult was at a pond on Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. Dec. 12 (JR). One bird was over the Snake R. at American Falls, Ida. Jan. 21 (MRC) and one, at the s. end of Flathead L. in w. Montana, Feb. 28 (RL). The species was reported at Priest L. in n. Idaho Mar. 19 (KBr) and one was in the canyon s. of Ellensburg, Wash. Mar. 7 (SL). Three were in the Nampa area Mar. 17 (G.E.C.) and one south of Nicholson, B. C. Mar. 18 was two weeks early (RRH). The only Gyrfalcon sighting for the Region was of one in s. Idaho, where a local falconer is trying to induce the state to legalize the species for falconry. It would seem that a letter to Idaho Fish & Game Dept., 300 S. Walnut, Boise, 83706—pro or con—would be in order. Total

sightings of Peregrine Falcons came to six for the Region. One was of an apparently escaped bird with jesses, in e. Washington. What's going on? Merlins were reported from six localities.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS — Blue Grouse were reported only from Sawtooth Nat'l Recreation Area, Ketchum, Ida. and Spruce Grouse only from L. Louise, Banff N.P. The only Sharp-tailed Grouse reported were four near Kamloops, B. C. and up to 26 near Sinking Creek in Lincoln Co., Wash. Sage Grouse were reported only for the Salmon area and at Yakima Firing Range of 18 birds. One Mountain Quail was sighted along the Grande Ronde R., Asotin Co., Jan. 10 and eight were found there Feb. 11 (JWW). Fifteen Turkeys were sighted in the Nampa area Dec. 1 & 13, Mar. 28 (G.E.C.)

CRANES THROUGH GULLS — Sandhill Cranes appeared at Malheur N.W.R. Feb. 21 and increased to 235 breeding pairs. They were returning to Bear Lake N.W.R. and the Pocatello area in s.e. Idaho and in the vicinity of Sprague, Wash. during the latter half of March. An apparently wintering Virginia Rail was found Jan. 13 in the Ellensburg area (Y.A.S.) and one was "singing" at McNary Park in Umatilla, Ore. Mar. 21 (CC). The most northerly wintering of Killdeer was at Prince George, B. C. along the Nechako and Fraser Rivers (JC) and one had reached Nicholson, B.C. by Feb. 25 (RRH). Single very late Spotted Sandpipers were reported at Nampa Dec. 21 (G.E.C.) and Salmon, Dec. 24 (HBR) and a Greater Yellowlegs straggler was at the Yakima R. delta Dec. 24 (REW).

Another in a snowstorm near Spangle, Wash. Mar. 28 was two weeks early (WH). Even more surprising were two Lesser Yellowlegs examined by telescope at Umatilla, Ore. Jan. 9 (CC). Least Sandpipers lingered at the Yakima R. delta until Jan. 11, when 31 were found (REW) and 21 were found Feb. 21 at Scootenay Res. in the Yakima area (CC & REW). Two Dunlin were still at the Yakima delta Jan. 11, then disappeared with the coming of high water, 12 birds reappearing Mar. 27 (REW). Malheur N.W.R. was the only locality reporting arrival of the Long-billed Dowitcher, Mar. 26, and Am Avocet, Mar. 29.

A first-year Glaucous Gull again appeared at Coeur d' Alene Feb. 28-29 (JA & WH) and a second-year bird was at Wanapum Dam below Vantage, Wash. Mar. 21 (BH). A few Herring Gulls at Flathead L. in W. Montana were apparently the first ever recorded in that area (DS,RL). Two were sighted at Nampa Dec. 21 and one was at Rupert Mar. 7. A few were on Lower Crab Creek w. of Othello, Wash. Mar. 21 (BH). An imm. bird was on the Snake R. near American Falls (CHT) and ten adults dropped into a feeding flock of Ring-billed Gulls in the Pocatello area Mar. 26 (MRC). The species wintered much more sparingly than usual in the Okanagan. A few California Gulls wintered at Penticton, B.C. (SRC) and one was seen at Umatilla, Ore. Jan. 10 (CC). Ring-billed Gulls wintered at Richland and were preparing for nesting on the Columbia R. islands there. A Mew Gull was identified at the Spokane dump Feb. 29 (WH). On the same date a Black-legged Kittiwake was sighted along the Snake R. at Clarkston, Wash., making the first record for that area (BR, *vide* JWW).

DOVES, OWLS — Libby, Mont., had 13 wintering Mourning Doves (EE & RE). Barn Owls are on the increase and spreading east in the Region. Four road kills were reported at Touchet, Wash.; singles were seen near Yakima on three dates; one or two were seen in the Umatilla area in December and January; two were sighted in the Asotin-Silcott, Wash. area, and three were found in the Pullman-Moscov area. The Nampa area had two, Dec. 27; a roost was located at Rupert, and Baker, Ore. had one in December. It was another good year for seeing Snowy Owls in the Reardan - Davenport area of e. Washington, where up to six per day were found. The birds were reported elsewhere from the Okanagan Valley, at McNary N.W.R.; near Somers, Mont., and at Sawtooth Nat'l Recreation Area. Belatedly reported Hawk Owls were reported for L. Louise, one on Nov. 8 (GW), three at Prince George Airport Nov. 3 (JB), and one on Tabor Mt., Prince George, Nov. 15 (JB). One was sighted at Rainy Hill Campground on the Coeur d' Alene R. in n. Idaho, Dec. 6 (WM). A few Burrowing Owls wintered at McNary N.W.R. A Barred Owl slept in a weeping willow in a yard at Kalamalka L. near Vernon Jan. 22 (KB) and one was heard in Yoho N.P. Mar. 10 (RRH). One appeared on Lewis & Clark State College campus, Lewiston, Ida., Jan. 17 (McV) and one was taken in December near Ennis, Mont., (SP), making the first record for that area since 1909. One was heard in Colorado Gulch in the Helena area in late January (GN & NN). An observation was obtained for the Great Gray Owl in mid-winter in the Bozeman area (JM) and one was reported near Klamath Agency, Ore., Mar. 4. Boreal Owls were regularly seen or heard in Yoho N.P. during the entire winter (BB, RRH). The only Saw-whet Owls were found at Rupert; near Pullman, Wash.; at Parson, s. of Yoho N.P., and near Vernon, where people hearing the bird thought a UFO had landed and was signaling!

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Two ♂ Anna's Hummingbirds were present most of the winter in the Wenatchee, Wash. area and up to four visited feeders at Yakima, where the latest observation was of one Jan. 4 (JRo). The Belted Kingfisher wintered as far north as Prince George (JC). The appearance of two Pileated Woodpeckers near Salmon Jan. 4 was unusual. A few Lewis' Woodpeckers wintered in the Summerland-Penticton, B.C. area (SRC). Two very early birds were sighted in the Portneuf gaps of Pocatello Feb. 8 (MM) and one at Pullman Mar. 5 was the earliest ever there (B). Thirty-eight along the Klickitat R. and Rock Creek were found in Klickitat Co., Wash. Dec. 28 (DJ). Three White-headed Woodpeckers visited a feeder at Naramata, B.C. throughout the winter (SRC). The species was also found Dec. 20 in the Blue Creek area of the Blue Mts. e. of Walla Walla. The N. Three-toed Woodpecker went undetected except in and near Yoho N.P. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were reported only along Green Mt. Road, Penticton and in a recent burn w. of Spokane.

SWALLOWS, JAYS — A very early Cliff Swallow was at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., Mar. 28. A Blue Jay wintered in Bozeman and was last seen Mar. 22 (PDS). Eight of the birds were reported wintering in a yard in Kennewick, Wash. (TH) and single birds were seen occasionally until Mar. 21 (CC; DF; NW & REW). One at Bigfork, Mont., has been a resident there for a year

(WJ). Up to six Black-billed Magpies wintered in Yoho N.P., where they are very rare at other times. Clark's Nutcracker were common in the vicinity of Field, Golden, and Nicholson, B.C. and a group of 20 was along the Spokane R. below Spokane Mar. 15.

CHICKADEES THROUGH WRENS — Two Com Bushtits were positively identified at Westbank near Kelowna, B.C., Dec. 28 (RC & SiC), and six appeared s. of Baker, Ore., Dec. 10 (AW). Bewick's Wren was common in the Yakima area and was reported near Richland (B.M.A.S.) and near Blue Creek in the Blue Mts. east of Walla, Walla (B.M.A.S.). At least seven Cañon Wrens, some singing, were found at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. Mar. 20 and two pairs were seen often during the winter at Vaux L. in the s. Okanagan Valley. A Rock Wren was found near Asotin Jan. 24 and a migrant appeared along the Grande Ronde R. south of Asotin Feb. 8 (JWW). At nearby Silcott four seen Feb. 21 (V.B.).

MIMIC THRUSHES, THRUSHES — A Mockingbird was seen well on Trail Creek just w. of Pocatello Dec. 20-21 (MRC; TR). A Sage Thrasher stayed in a Tri-cities yard eating Russian olives Dec. 2 at least through Dec. 11 (EM). Am. Robins wintered at Spokane and the Tri-cities in very large numbers and were very common at Yakima. Larger numbers than usual were reported for the Vernon area and wintering numbers were high at Coeur d' Alene. Some 5000 were seen in the Snake R. area e. of Baker Jan. 2 (JBr). Elsewhere their numbers appeared about normal. At least three wintered in Helena. Hermit Thrushes wintered at the Tri-cities.

PIPITS THROUGH STARLINGS — In Idaho, where winter Water Pipit records are rare, one was at American Falls, Feb. 8 (MRC). Large flocks of Bohemian Waxwings appeared at Wenatchee, Yakima and Walla Walla. Record numbers were at Baker, and Spokane had possibly the greatest concentrations on record; one flock was estimated at 7000 there in early January. The birds penetrated as far south as Rupert and Nampa in Idaho. Numbers elsewhere were unimpressive. A few Starlings wintered at Field and Golden and some even at Prince George, B.C.

WARBLERS, BLACKBIRDS — A few Orange-crowned Warblers stayed at the Tri-cities Dec. 2 - Feb. 29 (CC; EM; REW). A few Yellow-rumped Warblers wintered from s. Idaho across s. Washington to the Wapato - Parker area and one was at a Missoula feeder in mid-winter. One of the Myrtle race ate bread regularly at a feeder in Richland Jan. 24 - Mar. 30 (REW).

Red-winged Blackbirds wintered as far north as the Okanagan Valley. Oliver, south of Penticton, B.C. had 1500 Dec. 31. Several Rusty Blackbirds were seen at Westbank near Kelowna, B.C. Dec. 28 (RC & SiC) and in the Helena Valley two appeared Dec. 21 (SMa) and 13 on Mar. 17 (BM), the first records for the area. Brewer's Blackbirds again wintered at Prince George (JC). A ranch near Othello had at least 300 Brown-headed Cowbirds around it Mar. 21-24 and other ranches in the vicinity seemd to have similar numbers (BH). Two were seen in the Helena Valley Dec. 25 (SMa).

FINCHES — Evening Grosbeak numbers were about average. A Purple Finch visited a Bozeman feeder Dec. 27 (ETH, EH, CH & JP). A very few Cassin's Finches were reported in the Kamloops, Vernon and Pentiction areas during the winter. House Finches wintered as far north as Kamloops and continued to increase in numbers at Missoula, Mont. Pine Grosbeak sightings were mostly in the Okanagan and the vicinity of Yoho N.P. but Fortine, Mont had a few appearances; Spokane, two; Nampa, one, Helena, one, and Canmore, Alta., one. Rather high numbers of Gray-crowned Rosy Finches appeared from the Okanagan south into c. Washington and as far south as Minam, Ore. and east to Nampa. Bozeman noted them. Up to 57 visited a feeder at Prince George (JC). Ten Hoary Redpolls were seen at Prince George Jan. 2 (JB) and one was closely observed at Bigfork, Mont. Feb. 25 - Mar. 3 (RL). The Com. Redpoll invaded in vast numbers over nearly every part of the Region. A few got as far south as Fields, Ore., (CSL) but they seemed to miss the area just east of the Cascade Mts. Flocks of several thousands and a few between five and ten thousand were reported in the vicinity of Bigfork, Mont. (DS). Pine Siskins wintered commonly at Revelstoke, B. C. and were rather abundant at Spokane but elsewhere their appearances were rather sparse. Am. Goldfinches appeared to winter mostly from the Okanagan south through e. Washington into n. Oregon. Red Crossbill reports were scarce or nonexistent, the only exception being the Spokane area, where flocks of five up to 140 were regular. Moderate numbers of White-winged Crossbills wintered at Glacier N.P., Revelstoke N.P. and Yoho N.P., B.C. and single birds frequented a feeder in Pentiction. A few appeared in the vicinities of Bozeman, Helena and Missoula and in Spokane, the Davenport, Wash, cemetery and at Priest L., Ida.

SPARROWS — A few Rufous-sided Towhees wintered as far north as Pentiction and Vernon, B.C. A **Gray-headed Junco** was observed at length in Bozeman Mar. 21 (PDS). Harris' Sparrows wintered in small numbers, often at feeders, from the Okanagan south through e. and c. Washington to s.c. Oregon, s. Idaho and S C Montana. One that wintered at Swan L., Flathead Co., Mont. was worthy of special note (EJ). Up to eight were near Richland and one at Pullman was the only one in recent years (IB). White-crowned Sparrows remained until late December at Pentiction and Vernon. Two Golden-crowned Sparrows were seen Mar. 20 near Umatilla, Ore. (CC). Single White-throated Sparrows wintered at Bozeman (LM *et al.*), Livingston (UC), and Missoula (AB.). Supposedly wintering Fox Sparrows were observed in the Yakima area along Konnewoc Pass Road, two birds, Jan. 3 (Y.A.S.); along Asotin Creek near Asotin, four birds, Jan. 17 (V.B.), and at Silcott, w. of Clarkston, four Feb. 21 (V.B.). A lone Lincoln's Sparrow was found near Malheur N.W.R. Mar. 19 (DD). A Swamp Sparrow visited a Missoula feeder all winter (PLW). Two Song Sparrows wintered at feeders at Prince George (JC). At least two Lapland Longspurs were found along Asotin Creek Jan. 17 (V.B.) and the species was seen Mar. 28 at Missoula (HZ) for the only records. Lake Louise in Banff N.P. had 150 Snow Buntings Jan. 4 and up to 1500 were sighted in the Davenport, Wash., area but the birds were rather scarce or absent elsewhere.

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MOUNTAIN WEST **/Hugh E. Kingery**

"Ordinary birds in usual numbers" summarizes the Mountain West winter. Mild, dry, warm weather characterized the Region, except for northern Utah and western Wyoming where a few storms left normal snowfall in the mountains. The low temperature at Jackson, Wyo., was only -35° F., at Bear River N. W. R., Utah, only 1°, and at Las Vegas the temperature dropped below 30° only once. Despite the mildness few southerly species overwintered, and because of it not many northern birds came in, except for Bohemian Waxwings and Com. Redpolls. Abundant natural food kept birds in the forests and fields; most feeders had fewer birds than usual. Nonetheless Christmas Bird Counts found good



species diversity and good totals. (The party-hour counts below exclude Nevada this year.)

The Great Salt Lake has risen to a record level. Rising water, coupled with a new dike to an island lacking adequate culverts, has created a large bay of salt water west of Farmington Bay W. M. A., higher than the main lake; the waters lap at the refuge.

For records of water birds unsophisticated as to political boundaries at Davis Dam (half in Arizona, half in Nevada), see the Southwest Region report on Common and Barrow's Goldeneyes, Oldsquaws, Glaucous-winged, Herring, Thayer's, California, and Bonaparte's Gulls, and Black-legged Kittiwake, all of which occurred in both states this winter.

LOONS, HERONS — Nevada observers counted four Arctic Loons at L. Mohave Dec. 4, and single birds were at L. Mead Dec. 11 & 21 and Feb. 13. A Horned Grebe wintered at Boulder, Colo., and birds began returning to the prairie reservoirs as soon as they became ice-free in late February. The s. Nevada Eared Grebe population improved slightly over last year, with 5000 wintering at L. Mohave and 1000 at Las Vegas Bay, L. Mead. Aerial surveys detected enormous concentrations of W. Grebes on L. Mead, the peak mounting to 50,000 the second week of December. Most moved out during late December, leaving a wintering residue of 7000 - 10,000. On Dec. 4, L. Mohave had another 6000. The mild winter induced a number of Great Blue Herons to winter outside their usual range; the lone heron at Monte Vista N. W. R., Colo., "at times looked awfully lonely." One wintered at a hot spring in Jackson, Wyo., and an early arrival at Dubois Mar. 30 perched in sagebrush. Reno had fewer than usual Black-crowned Night Herons winter, but two appeared in Denver Jan. 5 and Feb. 9-10 for new winter records (MOS, TG).

WATERFOWL — At Bear R., the last fall Whistling Swans left Jan. 1, and the first spring birds arrived Feb. 26, with a peak Mar. 31 of 3000, up from a dismal showing last year. Ruby Lakes N. W. R., Nev., had 450 the same day. About 250 wintered at Sunnyside W. M. A., Lund, Nev. Scattered birds dropped into e. Colorado. Colorado's second **Trumpeter Swan**, banded in Grand Prairie, Alberta, Sept. 9, 1975, spent one day at Denver Dec. 1; the normal wintering grounds would be the Snake River of Idaho (WG). Bear R., where the bird sometimes does appear, had two Mar. 28, and Ruby Lakes had ten Mar. 30.

Colorado Div. of Wildlife's 23rd annual count in January reflected the state's highest total ducks since 1972 and the highest ever of Canada Geese. The ducks, 95 - 98 per cent Mallards, totaled 298,000 geese totaled 135,000 Farmington Bay had 9600 wintering ducks, which increased in March to 84,900 including 34,700 Pintails Bear R. had a peak of 58,000, but Pintails peaked at 30,000 Mar. 20, half of normal, since the refuge remained largely frozen. Ruby Lakes shared in the Pintail bonanza with 6500 Mar. 30. Provo, Utah, had 18,000 Pintails Feb 18 (WVB), and three even reached Dubois, Wyo., Mar 7-22. Nevada refuges reported good totals of Canvasbacks, with 3030 at Ruby Lakes; 3492 at Sunnyside and 2000 at Pahrangat Lakes near Alamo. At Alamo the total wintering ducks reached 8700.

Greater Scaup reports came from Denver Feb. 28, Overton, Nev. Mar. 5, and Boulder Mar. 20. Goldeneyes



*Oldsquaw, Farmington Bay, Utah, Mar. 5, 1976
Photo/T. Provan.*

seemed scarce at the normal locations. The **Oldsquaw** at Farmington Bay Mar. 5 represents Utah's first record in 20 years (*TP). Denver, on Feb. 26, also had a mid-winter Oldsquaw (BA), and two White-winged Scoter records Dec. 6 (HH) and Mar. 21 (D. F. O.). Hooded Merganser reports increase, with pairs wintering at Jackson and Reno. Common Mergansers shifted their winter habits scarce at normal places like Dubois and Sheridan, Wyo., McCoy, Colo., and Bear River, an unusual 200 at Logan, Utah, Dec. 26, and over 500 in s. Nevada all winter.

HAWKS — Christmas Count *Accipiters* (not including Nevada) maintained the level of the past three years, while counts of Red-tailed Hawks dropped 18 per cent and Rough-legged Hawks increased about the same. At Seedskaadee N.W.R., Wyo., the Rough-legged population revolved with the storms; apparently the birds moved back and forth due to weather as much as 100 miles. The Colorado Div. of Wildlife estimated a healthy 500 in the San Luis Valley, and a January hawk count east of Denver by Andrews showed an increase of Rough-leggeds to 44 from 31 last year. In n. and e. Nevada Lawson's 1875-mile trip Dec. 17-21 yielded a paucity of hawks with a low percentage of immatures. He suggests several factors: warm weather, few jackrabbits, poor breeding success last spring. Lucas reported many *Buteos* in the e. Nevada mountains at 8000-10,000 feet in mid-January, when they normally drop into the valleys. He reported a dramatic increase in raptors in the valleys after the first real storm in early February.

EAGLES, FALCONS — A Div. of Wildlife aerial census found 280 Golden and 200-250 Bald Eagles wintering in Colorado's San Luis Valley, with the Rough-legged

Hawks — an unusual concentration attributed in part to the ban on predator poisoning, and to a decline in illegal shooting. Although at Casper, Wyo., the Jackson Canyon roost was almost all Balds, Wyoming apparently had satisfactory wintering Golden populations. At Sheridan, Hall identified two different Gyrfalcons, on Jan. 5 and Mar. 18. Nevada tallied over 40 observations of Prairie Falcons, where they appear to hold their own. In Colorado the Div. of Wildlife opines that the population has reached its optimum, with every available nesting site occupied.

PTARMIGAN, CRANES — On their annual quest, Evergreen Naturalists found 51 White-tailed Ptarmigan on Guanella Pass, Colo., Feb. 29. At least four of the Grays Lake, Idaho, imm. Whooping Cranes passed through Monte Vista in February with 15,000 of their foster Sandhill relatives; almost as many people came to see them. Whooping Crane reports also came from Jackson, Wyo., Mar. 27 and Randolph, Wyo., Mar. 30, probably Grays L. birds, if the reports are accurate. Another migration of Sandhills passes through e. Nevada; up to 305 reached Hiko Feb. 25, 497 to Lund Feb. 27, and they arrived at Ruby Lakes Mar. 16.

SHOREBIRDS, GULLS — First spring shorebirds arrived at Farmington Bay, Utah, Feb. 24 — Am. Avocets, N. Phalaropes, and Lesser Yellowlegs. Mountain Plover arrived early in Colorado, with the first bird at Pawnee Nat'l Grassland Mar. 19, another at Colorado Springs Mar. 28. Three Com. Snipe wintered near Aspen, Colo. Bear R. had 100 Long-billed Curlews by Mar. 31. At Fort Mohave, Nev., a flock of 100 Pectoral Sandpipers collected on Jan. 9 — Nevada's largest reported winter flock. At Saltair, Utah, Mar. 25 were a Dunlin and five Sanderlings (WWB). Bear River's Am. Avocets first arrived Mar. 10, with 5000 by Mar. 31. The usual handful of Glaucous Gulls visited e. Colorado; one at Boulder Jan. 5 - 19, one at Prewitt Res. near Brush Feb. 8 and one at Longmont Mar. 7 - 23. In addition to the six Nevada Thayer's Gulls, Denver had one on its CBC and another Feb. 22 (JR). Herring Gulls penetrated as far south as Washington County, Utah Mar. 4 (SH), as well as the s. Nevada tip. California Gulls returned to Utah in late February; Bear River counted 1300 Mar. 31, along with 3000 Ring-billed.

PIGEONS TO SWIFTS — A colony of 30 wild Rock Doves now inhabits a cliff near Dayton, Nev. which "Ridgway visited between 1867 - 1869 and found Black Swifts, but no Rock Doves." (CSL). This year's winter visit did not present an opportunity to check present-day usage by summering swifts. Mourning Doves wintered only in small numbers throughout the Region, although Grand Junction had 800 Jan. 20 (WWB). A Snowy Owl visited Bonny Res., Colo. Feb. 7 - 13 (DP, *vide* M & PM). Pygmy Owl reports ran about normal, with seven Colorado and two Zion Nat'l Park reports. Winter Burrowing Owls showed at Las Vegas Jan. 7 and L. Mohave Jan. 18; they had returned to Reno by Mar. 10 and Bear River by Mar. 16. Long-eared Owl reports increased noticeably, perhaps because of better observers. Winter reports ranged from Cheyenne south to Colorado Springs, and included a nesting bird with 5 eggs Mar. 27 at Denver (HH). Bear R. had 30 Short-eared



Immature Glaucous-winged Gull. Photo/C.S. Lawson

Owls in December, but none since; they did return to Logan, Utah by Mar. 27. Casper has had none for a year and a half. An early Poor-will was at L. Mead Mar. 7-11 Over 500 White-throated Swifts wintered at Davis Dam, Las Vegas also had a few during the winter.

WOODPECKERS TO LARKS — Although Sheridan and Dubois found Com. Flickers only on CBCs, Casper, Aspen, and Colorado Springs seemed to have above-average numbers wintering. Gila Woodpeckers wintered at Ft. Mohave, the first confirmation of that in the state, and were digging nest holes by Mar. 31. The sparse Hairy and Downy reports included low numbers at feeders, normal to low numbers in the forest. CBC counts declined slightly for the Hairies, were average for Downies. Many ponderosa pines in the Colorado foothills have fallen victim to pine beetles; at the same time reports of N. Three-toed Woodpeckers have increased — three years in a row on the Denver CBC, two years at Boulder, plus scattered winter reports. Because of their quiet demeanor, many more must have found the beetle country, unnoticed. A few Ash-throated Flycatchers and Black and Say's Phoebe wintered in the s. Nevada tip. A Gray Flycatcher at L. Mead Mar. 7 - 11 had arrived extremely early (PL, BO, L.J). Horned Lark numbers on two hawk-counting trips seemed low Andrews' hawk line Jan. 24 tallied 622 compared with 2100 last year, and Lawson counted an unbelievably low 104 on a 4-day trip in n. Nevada in December. Las Vegas had the largest Nevada flock, 1200 in December. Perhaps the mild winter affected the wintering habits of this abundant western species.

S.A.

SWALLOWS — How do you estimate a million birds? Austin, Baepler, and Blake visited Davis Dam on Mar. 31, at different times of the day each without knowledge of the others' presence. They estimated that in a 5-7 mile stretch along the Colorado River 750,000 - 1 million Tree Swallows had assembled. Lawson explains: "This species moves slowly up the Colorado River during early March and stages in the area from Davis Dam along the river to Topock Swamp area near Needles (Cal.). During the last 5 - 7 days of March the population could easily exceed 2.5-3 million birds."

JAYS TO NUTHATCHES — Gray, Steller's, and Scrub Jays and Black-billed Magpies deserted feeders for wild habitats, where each was abundant. Michael noticed this particularly in the Aspen-Glenwood Springs area, although it was less true in Summit County, Colo. CBC counts for magpies and Steller's were average. Several locations had large December flocks of Com. Crows: McCoy, Sheridan, and Washington County, Utah (SH). They wintered at Laramie, Wyo., an unusual occurrence. Like the jays, both Black-capped and Mountain Chickadees and White-breasted Nuthatches found enough natural food to decrease their numbers at feeders. CBC reports showed Black-capped up 30 per cent over the last two years, and Mountains down 40 per cent (1.11 and 1.28 per party-hour respectively). Neither Mountain Chickadees nor White-breasted Nuthatches reached the e. Colorado plains.

DIPPERS, WRENS, THRASHERS — Most reporters thought Dippers scarce, although one sang Jan. 26 from the Truckee R. in downtown Reno. Except for CBC reports, we heard of only two Winter Wrens, in Denver and Colorado Springs. Mockingbirds lingered in Boulder Dec. 2 - 10 and Sheridan Dec. 28 and later; an obscurely-marked bird puzzled Reno observers Feb. 2, as it lacked white almost entirely. They wintered at Las Vegas, and began nesting in March. Denver and Loveland, Colo., reported winter Brown Thrashers, the pair at Loveland wintering although one died after striking a window. Sage Thrashers moved through s. Nevada in late February and early March as usual, reaching Reno by Mar. 21. The only other reported was at Ft. Morgan, Colo., Mar. 25.

THRUSHES — Large numbers of Am. Robins populated the Region from Aspen and Logan west and south. Back's neighbor, Edith Brown, saw one at Dubois feeding daily beside and *in* Warm Springs Creek. "It waded in warm water up to its breast, ducked its head under and came up with tidbits, She thought sometimes hellgramites. We wonder if it watched Dippers and got ideas from them." Boulder had two Hermit Thrushes during much of March (NS *et al.*), and Swainson's Thrushes appeared out-of-season at Colorado Springs Dec. 2 (SS) and Logan Jan. 2. A few W. Bluebirds wintered in the Nevada tip. They arrived as usual at Kanab in February and at Aspen, Glenwood Springs, Colorado Springs, Denver, and Cheyenne in late March. A few Mountain Bluebirds probably wintered in the Region, but not many. Nevada's largest flock all season was a paltry 12 on Mar. 8 at Cold Creek. Observers uniformly reported very low numbers. A few February reports came from the mountains (Fairplay, Ward, and Aspen, Colo.); perhaps the birds moved more directly than usual to their nesting grounds. Like other mountain birds, Townsend's Solitaires kept to the mountains and did not spread out on the plains. They suffered a sharp decline in a Sheridan cemetery also inhabited by Sharpshinned and Cooper's Hawks.

KINGLETS TO SHRIKES — Though regionally rare this winter, one flock of 13 Golden-crowned Kinglets appeared in the desert at Ft. Mohave Dec. 10. Several hundred Water Pipits wintered at Bear R., and a few wintered at Cottonwood Cove, Nev. Colorado had January flocks at Boulder and Loveland. Bohemian

Waxwings did invade in large flocks — to Wyoming in December, then south to Reno, Salt Lake City, and Aspen in January, and to e. Colorado in February. Large flocks included over 1000 in Reno Feb. 12-Mar. 2, 800 at Green River, Wyo. Feb. 12, 500 in Aspen and Cody, Wyo most of the winter. Small flocks of Cedar Waxwings strayed through the Region irregularly. Fort Mohave had 100 Phainopeplas winter; by Feb. 25 the population reached 300, and some were carrying nesting material. A few more N. Shrikes than usual wintered. The pattern of winter distribution of shrikes seems to show Northern in Wyoming and e. Colorado; both species in w. Colorado and Utah; and Loggerheads in Nevada.

VIREOS, WARBLERS, BLACKBIRDS — A Gray Vireo appeared at Davis Dam Mar. 14 (N & BG), Nevada's earliest record. It and a Bell's Vireo at Ft Mohave Mar. 10 (plus a Solitary Vireo Dec. 4, 1974) constitute the Region's only winter vireos in four years. After last year's wintering warblers in e. Colorado, the Denver/Boulder area attracted none this mild winter. Good numbers of Lucy's Warblers returned to Ft Mohave in March, and were carrying nest material by month's end. Yellow-rumped Warbler reports came from Ogden in January, Logan Feb. 10; a few wintered at Kanab, Davis Dam, Las Vegas, and Reno. The Townsend's Warbler Jan. 15 in Reno seemed most unusual (BP), as did Ft. Mohave's Grace's Warbler Feb. 25 (CSL) and Painted Redstart Feb. 25-27 (*, CSL, BB, VM). The mild winter benefited House Sparrows, which maintained good numbers, especially where aided by feeders. Several February reports of Yellow-headed Blackbirds came in, from Ft. Collins, Barr L., and Logan. A Bullock's Oriole which began coming to a Denver feeder about Dec. 20 was found dead Jan. 2 (*D.M.N.H.) The e. Colorado piedmont had a handful of wintering Rusty Blackbirds. Ten Great-tailed Grackles wintered at Las Vegas, the first time in the Region. Com. Grackles strayed to Aspen Jan. 1, Prewitt Res. Feb. 8, and Cheyenne Feb. 22.



Male Painted Redstart, Fort Mohave, Nev., Feb. 25-27
Photo/C.S. Lawson.

FINCHES — Although most feeders lacked their usual customers, they did attract two oddities: in Denver a Cardinal wintered, using the Coopers' feeder during bad weather, and a Reno feeder drew a Black-headed Grosbeak Jan. 14. Evening Grosbeaks wintered throughout the Region, although not in great numbers. Eastern Colorado and e. Wyoming collected a variety of Purple Finch reports, most unsupported by details. The

status of this species from Sheridan to Boulder is uncertain; reports have jumped in the past two years and include some well-documented observations by well-informed observers. Cassin's Finches were numerous in Aspen-Glenwood Springs through the winter, and a tremendous cone crop east of Laramie attracted many. They moved through the valley and piedmont towns in late February and returned to their mountain nesting sites like Summit County by mid-March. Aspen had good numbers of Pine Grosbeaks, which moved into the foothills in early winter. Feeders drew fewer rosy finches, although modest flocks occurred throughout the Region. They probably found food on meadows and tundra spots blown bare of snow. Black Rosy Finches drifted as far south as Escalante Canyon in s.e. Utah, with 40 there Mar 21, and Dubois had its first record of Brown — capped since 1964, with three Mar. 22-31.

Com. Redpolls invaded, particularly Wyoming and e. Colorado. Flocks occurred south to Colorado Springs; Denver had daily counts of as many as 100. Sheridan had 100-150 from Dec. 5-Mar. 1. Jackson, Dubois, Cody, and Aspen hosted them, and Salt Lake City had two December reports. Dec. 5-9 at Sheridan, Downing found two Hoary Redpolls which "stood out among the Commons." The large flocks at Casper had "a scattering of what appear to be Hoary Redpolls present the last week of 1975" (OKS). Pine Siskins and Am. Goldfinches were scarce. Red Crossbills probably often find their essential cone crops at places not visited by our observers. This winter's only reports came from Wyoming CBCs, a tourist at Cedar Breaks Nat'l Mon., Utah, a Reno feeder, and from Laramie, of a flock feeding on the abundant cone crop. The Cedar Breaks and Laramie observations imply that the birds follow the cone crop to places remote enough not to attract bird watchers during the winter. With the Cedar Breaks flock were two White-winged Crossbills, Mar. 30 (PL). A Green-tailed Towhee appeared at Barr L. Feb. 26-28.

SPARROWS, JUNCOS — Early Savannah Sparrows arrived at Logan Mar. 6, with others Mar. 18 and at Bear R Mar. 28. Abundant Vesper Sparrows flocked around Hiko, Nev., Mar. 16 and a few arrived in n. Utah the next week. A stray Lark Sparrow was found at Fernley, Nev. Jan 11 (VM). At Cottonwood Cove 150-200 Black-throated Sparrows wintered, and small numbers of Sage Sparrows wintered throughout s. Nevada. Early migrants included birds at Logan Mar. 6 and 28 and one at Laramie Mar. 31. According to CBC reports, we had more juncos and Tree Sparrows this year, up 20 per cent over last year; juncos measured 6.06 per party-hour, Tree Sparrows 2.87 per party-hour. White-winged Juncos apparently staged a flight from Cheyenne to Colorado Springs, mostly in the foothills. White-crowned Sparrows spread out, with none at Colorado Springs but higher numbers at Kanab than last year and many at Reno. The late February storm affected their movements in the Nevada tip: 500 at Davis Dam Feb. 25 dwindled to 50 Feb. 27. Five White-throated Sparrows made winter appearances in four Colorado piedmont cities. The only Snow Bunting reports came from Sheridan and Cody.

ABBREVIATIONS — *: photograph or specimen; CBC Christmas Bird Count; D.F.O.: Denver Field Ornithologists; D.M.N.H.: Denver Museum of Natural History.

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SOUTHWEST REGION

/Janet Witzeman, John P. Hubbard and Kenn Kaufman

DEJA VU — Avian events this season showed several unexplained similarities to the winter of 1952 - 53. In that season, as in this, the Region received unusual numbers of Eastern Phoebes, White-throated Sparrows, and eastern race Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (*S. v. varius*); several Brown Thrashers were noted, and Lawrence's Goldfinches (our traditional invader from the west) were virtually absent. This combination of trends may be entirely coincidental, but the implication is of a light invasion from the east — an impression strengthened by the numbers of Eastern Bluebirds (possibly of eastern races) in the lowlands, and several interesting eastern vagrants.

A new hot spot in southern New Mexico was Percha Dam State Park, on the Rio Grande south of Elephant Butte Dam and Caballo Lake, the site of many significant records this season. But top honors went to the Tucson sewage treatment plant: after an autumn which had

produced, among other things, Scarlet Tanager, Bay-breasted (early Dec.) and Black-throated Blue Warblers, and Arizona's first Black Scoter, this memorable locality ended the year with an adult male **Scarlet-headed Oriole** — the bird of the season.



DAVIS DAM — This locality on the Arizona-Nevada border, "discovered" just last winter, again hosted an array of species that, until recently, has been considered rare to accidental in Arizona. The productivity of this spot cannot be attributed merely to the presence of water in a desert region, for the huge expanse of Lake Mead lies just to the north; rather, something about the Davis Dam spillway itself seems to provide acceptable artificial habitat for certain species. Chief items of interest there this winter were **Barrow's Goldeneyes**, **Oldsquaws**, and seven species of gulls, including **Black-legged Kittiwake**.

The Barrow's were a repeat performance, having made their first Arizona appearance last winter with 57 at Davis Dam. Evidently the birds last winter were part of a general movement, since southern California had its third record, northern California had "by far the most ever," and west central Colorado recorded unusual numbers (see *Am. Birds* 29: 741, 737, 721). Possibly a similar movement occurred this year. Numbers at Davis Dam this season did not peak until January (the largest count: 43 on Jan. 9; CSL, VM) suggesting that birds were gradually 'discovering' the favorable habitat of the spillway during the early winter. However, the Barrow's moved around more this year than last, leaving exact counts open to question; counts at different hours on the same day varied by as much as 80 per cent.

More location-specific were the Oldsquaws. One was present by Dec. 10, three by Dec. 23, and five by Jan. 9; these five Oldsquaws were at the spillway constantly to the end of February. A lone individual found three miles downriver on Feb. 3 (VR) never showed up at the spillway! These waterfowl were exceptionally far south; such a concentration of Barrow's and Oldsquaws at an equal latitude on the California coast would be phenomenal. All had vanished at the end of February, coinciding with the big departure of Common Goldeneyes that occurred about Feb. 25-27.

Gull numbers on the lower Colorado vary markedly from winter to winter. Yuma, for example, had far more Ring-billed than usual this year and a few Californias, not usually noted there. This abundance was reflected at Davis Dam, with a remarkable seven species recorded

during the winter. Numbers in the spillway area were about as follows: Ring-billed, 300 all winter; California, numbers peaked at 65 on Feb. 13 (VR), many present all winter; Herring, at least one all winter, peak of four on Jan. 17 (KK *et al.*); **Thayer's**, peak of three first year birds Jan. 17 (KK *et al.*); **Glaucous-winged**, one second year bird present all winter; Bonaparte's, single immatures seen sporadically all winter (CSL, VR). Perhaps the most interesting gull species at Davis Dam this winter was the **Black-legged Kittiwake**. Two immatures were recorded in early December (CSL, GM) and an adult and immature Feb. 25 (CSL).

(Most of the above Davis Dam data was provided by CSL; also KK, GM, VR *et al.*)

LOONS, GREBES, CORMORANTS — Four Arctic Loons were on Lower L. Mohave, above Davis Dam Dec 11 (GM). The species has been fairly regular in small numbers on L. Mead, just to the north, in recent winters (*vide* VM). Slightly more Horned Grebes were reported than usual: four at Colorado R. points and three at the less typical localities of Tucson and Nogales (m.ob.). An Olivaceous Cormorant was at L. Patagonia Feb. 28 (Jon Dunn, GMcC, VR); by Mar. 21 there were two individuals present (Rod Norden). There are about five previous winter records for Arizona, all in the vicinity of Nogales. A likely source is the Sonoran population: 45 birds and a possible breeding colony were discovered at Presa del Novillo, only 170 mi. s. of the Arizona border Mar. 17 (RPR). In New Mexico, two were found at Elephant Butte Res. and one downriver at Caballo Res, Jan. 31 (BP), indicating that at least some of the Elephant Butte breeders overwinter in the state.

WATERFOWL — Whistling Swans winter uncommonly on the lower Colorado R. A flock was reported at nearby Painted Rock Dam on the lower Gila R., Dec. 7 (Allen Guenther). But more uncommon were 26 east of Apache, Ariz., Dec. 5 (*vide* SSpf.); and six at a tank s. of Sells, Ariz., Jan. 10 (*vide* WD). Two Ross' Geese were taken by a hunter near Columbus, s. w. New Mexico, Jan 17 for a new locality record (*vide* BP). The Fulvous Tree Duck has been a rare summer visitor in recent years to s Arizona; one found at Phoenix last summer remained as late as Dec. 15 (KK, Tim Barksdale). Single Wood Ducks were present during the winter at Phoenix (m.ob.) and Mar. 10 n.w. of Globe Ariz. (BJa) where they are considered unusual. Arizona records of this species follow few consistent patterns, and some observers believe that a high percentage of those reported in the state are probably feral. Scaup identification continued to cause problems. Several Greaters were reported, however, the only ones that stayed around to be examined — two males at Tucson — were, by consensus (KK, GMcC, TP) not Greaters, but probably scaup sp. x Ring-necked Duck hybrids. A ♂ **Barrow's Goldeneye** on a pond w. of Springer, n.e. New Mexico, Dec. 7 (Brent Giezantner) represented one of only a handful of records for the state. The species is listed as hypothetical in New Mexico. A postscript to the Surf Scoter numbers of the fall was one female at Evans L., s.w. New Mexico, Dec. 2 (Bert Ross, *vide* DAZ).

RAPTORS — Lowland reports of Goshawk in the Region were singles at Farmington, N. Mex. (APN) Bitter Lake N. W. R. (Barnet Schrank) and in oaks near

Sonoita, Ariz. (Seymour Levy). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** appeared Dec. 20 at Redington Pass east of Tucson (Ross Chapin) and remained through mid-March (m.ob.). On Jan 15 the bird was trapped for photography and examination (Rich Glinski, WD); there were no indications that it had ever been a captive. Apparently this represents the first confirmable Arizona record. A Ferruginous Hawk at 8000 ft., over the snow-covered grassland at Valle Grande, Jemez Mts., n.w. New Mexico, Feb. 28 (Pat Snider) was at an exceptionally high elevation for this species to be surviving the winter. A rash of reports of Black Hawks from s. Arizona was received, none fully verified; the species is not to be expected in mid-winter. An Osprey at Bitter Lake N. W. R., N.Mex., Dec 20 (Delbert Boggs, Jodi Corrie) was not seen subsequently and thus was probably just a very late migrant; the species is rare in winter in New Mexico. Caracaras, resident in southwest-central Arizona, wandered to peripheral localities: one at Nogales Jan. 4 (M & DK) and one near Phoenix Jan. 8 (ST).

CRANES, SHOREBIRDS — The four young Whooping Cranes in the Rio Grande Valley (see fall report) wintered successfully, and left for the north with their foster-parent Sandhills Feb. 15-22 (GZ).

An exceptional record was the presence of three Sempalmated Plovers at L. McMillan, s.e. N. Mex., Jan. 17 (MW); this species is virtually unknown in winter in the Region. For the second consecutive year the (or a) Long-billed Curlew remained through the period at the Phoenix sewage ponds along with two additional individuals that joined it this winter. A Red Phalarope was at Nogales Feb. 6 (DStz, M & DK). This species, rarest of the three phalaropes in migration in the Southwest, is the only one at all likely to be seen in winter.

GULLS — An addition to the New Mexico list was a first year **Glaucous Gull** at Ute L., n.w. New Mexico in late March and early April, with definite photographs obtained (Keith Giezantanner). There are no previous records for the state, but the species has been verified in adjacent states of Colorado, Oklahoma, and Texas. A possible **Thayer's Gull** was reported near Las Cruces Mar 6 (BP) and three were at Elephant Butte L. Feb. 27 (CGS). There are two previous records for this species in the state. Single first year Glaucous-winged Gulls were reported at Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, Mex., Feb. 28, 29 (DStj) and south at Puerto Lobos Mar. 15 (RPR). Convincing details submitted for both records eliminated the possibility of their being Thayer's. The species is considered casual in Sonora; there are about five previous records for n. Gulf of Calif. (see Devillers *et al.*, 1971. *Calif Birds* 2:23). An odd isolated incursion, apparently from a pelagic source, brought to Nogales a Heermann's Gull Feb. 5 (CM, BB) and up to seven Bonaparte's Gulls Feb 5-9 (DStz *et al.*). For other gull records, see above under Davis Dam.

DOVES, OWLS, HUMMINGBIRDS — A very early (or wintering?) White-winged Dove was at Percha Dam S P, Feb. 29 (KZ *et al.*); four had arrived by Mar. 21 (BP) Owls such as Barn and Short-eared that hunt in open country seem to be frequent victims of highway traffic. Five road-killed Barn Owls were found during December and January in the Deming area alone (WB).

Rivoli's Hummingbirds are half-hardy; normally they withdraw from s.e. Arizona in winter, but with the aid of feeders one will occasionally remain through the winter in the mountains; the Spofford's feeders at Portal sustained one this season. Apparently less hardy was an ad ♂ Rufous that attempted to winter at the same feeders, it survived long enough to provide the first winter record for the mountains, but was found dead in the snow Jan 8

KINGFISHERS, WOODPECKERS — There are a couple of records of Belted Kingfishers in winter in the cold Transition Zone of the White Mts.; about equally unusual was one at 7000 ft. at Rose Canyon L. in the Santa Catalina Mts., n. of Tucson, Feb. 24 (GM) The ♀ Green Kingfisher on the Nogales CBC was there from Dec. 8 to at least Jan. 1 (Virginia Cechmanek, MH *et al.*) Another (or the same) was at the upper end of L. Patagonia, a few miles away Feb. 5-Mar. 27 (GM, Bill Roe *et al.*).

Red-headed Woodpeckers, scarce and local as summer residents in New Mexico, are quite rare in winter, noted this season were singles at Las Vegas (WH) Bosque del Apache N. W. R. (C. Hundertmark) and Percha Dam S P. (WB, BP). The eastern race Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*S. v. varius*) collected in s.w. New Mexico in November (see fall report) presaged a minor invasion of vagrant sapsuckers to s.c. Arizona. Individuals of the eastern race were found at Nogales, Patagonia, Phoenix, and Garden Canyon in the Huachuclas (KK, ST). A probable *S. v. varius* was at Bosque del Apache N.W.R., Jan. 31 (BP) Birds of the red-breasted races (*S. v. daggetti* and *S. v. ruber*, from California and the Pacific Northwest) were found at Madera Canyon, Phoenix, and two locations near Tucson (m.ob.). This seems to be the largest invasion on record since the winter of 1952-53, when several eastern form and two red-breasted form sapsuckers were collected in Arizona. In the fall report we noted that a Downy Woodpecker had straggled down slope to the Silver City area. Further records at remarkable low elevations were: one near Las Cruces Dec. 20 (Bruce Patterson) was at the southern limit of the species' range (if it had gone a few miles to the southwest it would have been the first record for Mexico); one in riparian willows near Phoenix Jan. 2-15 (RBr, PN, ST *et al.*) provided the first local record; and one was s.e. of Tucson Dec 4 (Ed Chalif). This species is very rare in the lowlands in Arizona, probably in direct correlation to its general scarcity in the mountains of the state.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — An Ash-throated Flycatcher was well described from the west slope of the Sandia Mts., e. of Albuquerque Feb. 2 (O. van Buskirk), there are few winter records for New Mexico, although another was in the Albuquerque area two years ago. One was in Las Cruces Mar. 2 (BP) which would have been exceptionally early for a migrant. Eastern Phoebe appeared at Las Cruces Dec. 23 (BP, FE), Guevavi Ranch north of Nogales Jan. 1 (Meteers, St. David, s Arizona, Jan. 24 (DD), Patagonia Feb. 8 (MH *et al.*), and Percha Dam Feb. 29 (KZ *et al.*). These, with the five reported during the fall, add up to far more than usual for the season. The only Coues' Flycatcher of the season wintered quite successfully at Phoenix, being still present when the first migrants returned to their mountain habitat; one wonders why this species, which winters as far north as Sonora, Mex., should be so rare in the U S

in winter. A Vermilion Flycatcher, uncommon in New Mexico in winter, was at Percha Dam Feb. 29 (WB, BP, KZ). A Purple Martin at the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson Mar. 6-7 (SA) was the earliest spring record ever for Arizona — most arrive in late April and May. This is an interesting contrast to similar latitudes in the eastern U. S., where martins return in late winter.

CORVIDS — The Blue Jay found near Las Cruces in November (see last report) remained in the same general area through February (BP). A minor invasion of Scrub and Steller's Jays around Las Cruces was extremely localized (BP). The only other lowland record was of a single Steller's at Roswell Mar. 26 (MW). Common Crows are known to wander somewhat in winter in the Southwest. Unusual locality records this winter were 16 at Havasu N.W.R., extreme w. Arizona, Feb. 5 (VR), two s e of Phoenix Feb. 28 (RBo), two at Shiprock, n.w. New Mexico, Feb. 19 (WS) and at least 150 in the nearby La Plata Valley in January and February (APN, CGS). Virtually no movement of Clark's Nutcrackers was noted this winter — which suggests that the single exception, a bird in residential Tucson during February and March (SA *et al.*) might have been an escaped pet.

CHICKADEES THROUGH WRENS — Up to six Bridled Titmice were present from December through March at Percha Dam S. P. (WB, BP *et al.*). Although the species breeds in the s. end of the Black Range, some 20 mi to the west, there is apparently only one previous record for this section of the Rio Grande: late May 1973, upstream at Caballo L. (Barbara Escher, Charles Hyder). Coincidentally, up to six Mountain Chickadees were also present at Percha Dam this winter (BP). A Dipper was present in the Organ Mts. e. of Las Cruces Dec. 19 - Feb. 14 at the same dammed up spring where it was found last winter (BP, WB). A Winter Wren near Cliff, s.w. New Mexico, Dec. 27 was also in the same area where one was recorded last winter (WB); this individual was more richly colored than the eastern race *hiemalis* (*vide* DAZ) — the only form yet verified in New Mexico — and presumably represents the western *pacificus*. A House Wren at Las Cruces Dec. 19 (WB) was unusual, although this species may winter regularly in small numbers in the southern part of the state.

THRASHERS — The Gray Catbird is virtually unknown in the Region in winter, so one at Las Vegas, N. Mex., Dec. 1-13 was notable (WH). Brown Thrasher reports in Arizona this winter numbered four, far more than usual; singles were at Sabino Canyon, Santa Catalina Mts. (PN); Patagonia (BJo); s.w. of Tucson (Linda Rosenthal); and Boyce Thompson Arboretum near Globe (Nora Barry *et al.*). One in New Mexico was at Las Cruces (BP). Most of these birds remained for extended periods (i.e. up to the entire season) as seems to be usual for the few that appear here in winter. Phillips *et al.* (in *Birds of Arizona*, 1964) commented that the movements of the Sage Thrasher were poorly understood, and the statement still applies. Wintering populations vary considerably and Christmas Bird Count data may be misleading, since the fall migration is protracted and stray individuals continue to turn up in atypical habitats through the end of December. A concentration of northward migrants in mid-March has been known for some years in the Phoenix area, and the

same timing was noted this year at Yuma, where four were banded and others seen Mar. 13 (SSpt).

THRUSHES THROUGH SHRIKES — At least one of the Rufous-backed Robins reported during the fall remained at the Tucson sewage plant to Feb. 4, providing a bonus for observers who came to see the Scarlet-headed Oriole. Except for the invasion of Varied Thrushes (fall, winter '72, '73) the species is rarely recorded in the state, thus two reports of singles in s. Arizona were unusual. In Madera Canyon Dec. 18 (Noble Proctor), and at Tucson Dec. 28 (Marguerite Krause, WD). Eastern Bluebirds appeared at a number of unusual locations, including eight at Roswell Dec. 12 (MW), up to 12 near Las Cruces Feb. 7-Mar. 29 (BP, KZ *et al.*) and small flocks at scattered points in the lowlands around Tucson and Arivaca, Ariz. (BH, PN *et al.*). Possibly all of these were part of a general movement from the east: the few that have been collected around Tucson in winter have been of the eastern race *sialis* rather than *fulva*, the race that breeds in the border ranges of Arizona. Western Bluebirds occurred in good numbers in the Phoenix area, but few were recorded in the lowlands of s.e. Arizona. Mountain Bluebirds, which were abundant last winter across s. Arizona and New Mexico, were virtually absent from those areas this season; this species seems much more erratic in occurrence that its congeners.

A single Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Page, extreme n. Arizona, Dec. 24 (SB, KK) was probably an exceptionally late lingerer, since the species is not known to winter anywhere in the n.e. half of the state. Sprague's Pipit again wintered at Phoenix (KK *et al.*) strengthening the thesis that they are regular there, not 'casual' as formerly supposed; they must have been simply overlooked prior to last winter. Northern Shrikes were noted in about normal numbers and locations, i.e., singles at Shiprock (WS) and near Clayton, N. Mex. (Dolf Krehbiel) and a couple in the Doney Park area near Flagstaff (Steve Carothers).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A Solitary Vireo at Percha Dam Mar. 7-20 (Alan & Laurie Hahn *et al.*) may have been wintering there. A very late Yellow Warbler was near Phoenix Dec. 8 (ST); there are about four previous December records for Arizona, all of which we consider lingering migrants rather than 'winter records'. A **Bay-breasted Warbler** at Tucson Dec. 7 (Maurice Barnhill, DStz) was the third Arizona record. Orange-crowned Warblers and yellowthroats are among those species which winter regularly at low elevations in Arizona, they are quite rare in winter in New Mexico, probably owing in part to the fact that the latter state has no elevations below 2800 feet. Single Orange-crowns at Las Cruces in late December (BP, FE) and upper Guadalupe Canyon Mar. 3 (JPH) may have represented winter records or extreme dates for migrants. An imm. ♂ Com Yellowthroat wintered successfully at Las Cruces (WB, BP). A MacGillivray's Warbler, for which there are very few winter records in the U. S., was found near Phoenix Jan. 3 (DSjt).

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS — Yellow-headed Blackbirds seem to be wintering increasingly in New Mexico, and new localities included ten near Rodeo Dec 30 (RS), 100 near Kirtland Jan. 10-11 (WS), 1-2 at Las Vegas Feb. 2-6 (WH), and two near Logan Feb. 5 (MCC)

Great-tailed Grackles in New Mexico are not known to wander to any extent in winter, so noteworthy were records of 22 near Rodeo Dec. 27 (RS) and 25-30 at Portales Feb. 2 (JPH) — both localities unknown as breeding or wintering sites for the species.

An adult ♂ **Scarlet-headed Oriole** brought national fame and hundreds of birders to the Tucson sewage plant, Dec 17 - Jan. 12 (Roland Mercer *et al.*). There were about five previous Arizona records, all near Tucson, three of them during a relatively short period in the late 40s and early 50s. That concentration of records was probably due in part to the presence of Allan Phillips, who had the proper qualifications for identifying this species — keen senses and a collecting permit; *contra* the superficial treatment in *A Field Guide to Mexican Birds* (Peterson and Chalif, 1973) ♂ -plumaged Scarlet-headed of the northern race are extremely similar to ♂ -plumaged Northern Orioles. Remarkably, it seems the famous Tucson bird was not the only individual reported this season. A probable Scarlet-headed thought to be an imm. male was seen at L. Patagonia Dec. 7 & 25 (PN). And amazing was the report of a probable *pair* near Phoenix Apr 4 (ST, SB); the female's identity must remain tentative, but both birds were carefully described and were giving typical calls of the Scarlet-headed.

Winter records of Scott's Orioles in the Region occur at, and because of, feeders which provide the means for them to survive. This winter individuals were at feeders near Silver City (Stuart O'Byrnes), two at Portal (DB, SSpf), and at Tucson (Bernard Weideman). A pair of Hepatic Tanagers was at Patagonia Jan. 1 (W & WM), and a male was at Phoenix Jan. 20 (HL, SD); the species wintered fairly regularly in the Sonoita Creek area during the late 40s, 50s and early 60s, but recent records have been few.

FRINGILLIDS — Cardinals are typically resident in their New Mexico haunts, so a male present Mar. 12-31 at Rodeo (RS) — where the species is not resident — was unusual. Pyrrhuloxias in New Mexico show a tendency opposite that of Cardinals and regularly wander in winter; two northern peripheral records for the season were one at Roswell from Jan. 24 through the end of the period (MW) and two at La Joya State Game Refuge, Socorro Co., Mar. 19 (Jim Sands). Evening Grosbeaks were notably absent in most parts of the Region, although a small flock was at Portal from mid-January to mid-February (SSpf). Inexplicable was the presence of one at Covered Wells, in the desert of the Papago Indian Reservation, s.c. Arizona, from Jan. 23 to the end of the period (Amadeo Rea). Purple Finches are rare in s.e. Arizona, even during winters when there are invasions of other finches. This winter at least two pairs were at feeders in Portal (DB, SSpf). Even more unusual was a ♀ Purple Finch at Percha Dam Feb. 29 (KZ, photo verified by DAZ) — one of only a few records for New Mexico. Rosy Finches appeared several times in New Mexico, including a flock of 60 Brown-capped and one Black at Abiquiu Dam, n.w. N. Mex., in January and February (MCC, JPH), two Blacks and 24 *Leucosticte* sp. on Sandia Peak Dec. 20 (Ross Teuber *et al.*), and a flock of *Leucosticte* sp. near Las Vegas Feb. 22 (WH).

After having been "excessively abundant on the San Francisco Peaks" of n.c. Arizona last fall (RPB), Red Crossbills appeared in small numbers in the mountains and the conifer-clad city parks of s. Arizona during the

winter. Exceptional was the presence of a pair feeding a *recently fledged young* in Encanto Park, Phoenix Mar 26 (KK, JW). The juvenile was not yet flying strongly, and had obviously hatched somewhere nearby. We know of no previous evidence of the species' breeding at such a low elevation (\pm 1000 ft.: lower Sonoran zone!) in the Southwest, although Red Crossbills have been observed year 'round in some Phoenix neighborhoods; nesting has been observed only in the Santa Catalina Mts. of Arizona and suspected in several ranges in Arizona and New Mexico.

Single White-winged (Dark-eyed) Juncos, local and irregular of occurrence in New Mexico, showed up during December at La Cueva (Marjory Swain), Taos (WH), and Santa Fe (JPH). The only Harris' Sparrow reports this winter were singles near Flagstaff, near Sedona (Marilyn Watson), near Phoenix (RN) and at Patagonia (SB).

We have become accustomed to seeing a few White-throated Sparrows in recent winters, but there were more this year than at any time in the last two decades. They even appeared in flocks: seven together near Patagonia Feb. 28 (GMCC, VR) and about 20 at Percha Dam late in the winter (BP). Having mentioned these White-throateds (in the introduction) as evidence of movement from the east, we must admit the anomaly that Arizona received unusual numbers of Golden-crowned Sparrows (which normally winter west of us). Largest numbers were around Tucson; most remarkable was the presence of three (along with two White-throateds) at the Spofford's feeder on the east slope of the Chiricahuas at Portal. The simultaneous 'invasion' of eastern and western *Zonotrichias* is analogous to this season's Fox Sparrow situation: generally uncommon, Fox Sparrows were somewhat more common than usual in the Region this winter, and eastern and western races figured about equally in the reports.

At least ten McCown's Longspurs were recorded at a waterhole in the high elevation grasslands of s.w. New Mexico, Mar. 3 (JPH, CGS). During the winter Chestnut-collared Longspurs were abundant again in this area, as well as in the same habitat in s.e. Arizona. At least two Chestnut-collareds were present near Ft. Union, n.e. New Mexico, Feb. 4 (JPH) where rarely reported in winter.

CORRIGENDA — In the last report the printer omitted part of the copy pertaining to Northern and Red Phalaropes, thus making incorrect some of the material printed. The following is the correct account for these two species: Northern Phalaropes came through in good numbers, with flocks noted at Phoenix and Willcox in September, and 50 at Blackrock L., N. Mex., Aug 26. Red Phalaropes, comparatively quite rare in the Region, were reported as follows: one at Tucson Sept. 6, one at 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).

Also in the Fall Report we implied that the only records for White-winged (Dark-eyed) Junco in Arizona occurred in 1936-37. A junco collected Feb. 23, 1971 at Flagstaff was, although not entirely typical, believed to be of this form (Carothers *et al.*, 1973, M. N. A. Tech. Ser. No. 12, p. 45).

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ALASKA REGION

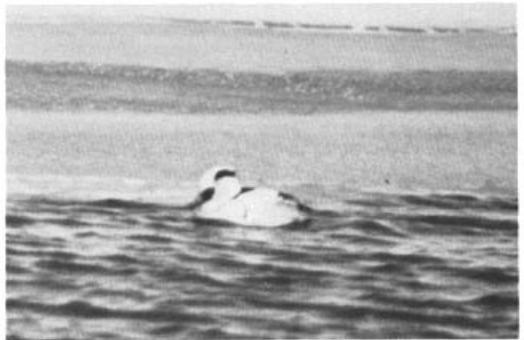
/Daniel D. Gibson and G. Vernon Byrd

Winter 1975-76 was relatively mild throughout Alaska. It began cold in the Interior (e.g., temperatures of -45° to -50° F at Fairbanks during the first week of December), but it did not remain so, and, although it was cold again in early February, -50° was not seen again at Fairbanks nor were any cold records set. It was a normally bitter winter



on the Pacific coast, but late February and March brought near-record snowfall and long sub-freezing periods to the Aleutian Islands. In most mainland areas the most prominent characteristic of the winter was very little snowfall.

WATERFOWL — Up to five Whooper Swans were seen at Adak I. from Feb. 13 on (GEH and others), and at least nine birds were present at Amchitka I. during March (GVB and others). A Blue-winged Teal seen at Homer Dec. 10 (LG) provided the first Alaska winter record. Up to three Eur. Wigeon were seen at intervals at Adak from mid-January to mid-March, and three Am. Wigeon were seen with them on Feb. 29 & Mar. 14 (AWW). Ten N Shovelers at Amchitka Dec. 2 (RHD) was a good Aleutian count at any season. Adak's wintering flock of Canvasbacks (see previous winter reports) failed to appear this year; a single bird on Jan. 10 (AWW) provided the only record. One Canvasback seen at Amchitka Dec. 6-7 (RHD) was the first Aleutian sighting west of Adak. Lesser Scaup were seen at Kodiak I. several times during the period; maximum count was five males Jan. 11 (RAM & WED). One Lesser Scaup was recorded on the Eyak R., Cordova, Jan. 3 (PI). Up to nine Tufted Ducks were recorded at Amchitka in early December (RHD), and two or three were seen occasionally at Adak during the winter (AWW, JLT, GVB). An ad. ♀ Tufted Duck at Eyak L., Cordova, Jan. 18-22 and Feb. 22-25 (PI), represented the first record of the species on the Pacific coast of Alaska east of Adak and helps to begin to fill the gap between the regularly-occurring Aleutian birds and recent southern B.C. - Washington records. At the eastern end of the winter range, Steller's Eiders were abundant at Chiniak Bay, Kodiak, this winter. Rafts of up to 300 were seen regularly during the period (RAM) Birds were reported near Anchor Pt., Kenai Pen., in late winter (DM), and up to 41 (CBC) were seen at Homer during the period (MAM). One female was present at Cordova during February and March (PI). King Eiders were common at Kodiak in rafts of up to 200 birds (RAM) and the species was recorded at Homer in small numbers (MAM). One ♀ King was present at Cordova during March (PI), and a subadult male was observed as far east as Pt. Louisa, Juneau, Mar. 8-9 (FG & VL). One ♀ -plumaged Smew observed at Amchitka Dec. 9 & 14 (RHD) provided the only Aleutian record during the



Smew, Kodiak, Alaska, March, 1976.
Photo/W. Donaldson.

period. An ad. ♂ Smew present with a flock of Com. Goldeneyes at the Bushkin R. mouth, Kodiak, from Mar. 7 through the close of the period (RAM & WED, *et mult. al.*; photo U.A.M.), provided only the fourth Alaska record of an ad. male and was like the Cordova Tufted Duck, the first Alaska observation of the species on the Pacific coast east of Adak.

RAPTORS — A Marsh Hawk at Adak Jan. 9 (GEH) and a male there Feb. 14 and 17 (AWW) number among few Aleutian records, most in winter. A white Gyrfalcon was observed at Adak Jan. 10 (GVB, JLT, GEH), and at least two dark birds were present at Amchitka during March (GVB and others). Short-eared Owl is not a regular winter bird in the Region, so the following are of interest: up to three at Amchitka Dec. 2 and 14 (JTC, EPH), one at Adak Jan. 6 (GEH), and up to four at the Mendenhall wetlands, Juneau, Jan. 31 (FG & FT). Boreal Owls were first reported calling Feb. 28 at both Anchorage (AS) and Fairbanks (DDG & JJ).

SHOREBIRDS — Two wintering Surf-birds were seen at Kodiak Jan. 3 and 31 (RAM) and Black Turnstones were recorded there several times; maximum count was 25 on Feb. 14 (RAM).

CHICKADEES — All but unknown in Alaska, **Mountain Chickadees** were recorded again in the Juneau area this winter, following the occurrence of at least one bird at a downtown feeder during winter 1974-75. Two were banded and four to six were present at Auke Bay Mar. 12-24 (RBW, RSH). Another very rare winter visitant in s.e. Alaska, a **Boreal Chickadee**, was observed at North Douglas Jan. 4 (FG).

STARLINGS, BLACKBIRDS — One Starling at Cordova from early December to early January was the first to winter locally (PI). A Brown-headed Cowbird feeding about Auke Bay banding traps on Feb. 20 (RBW) represented one of a very few winter records of a species that is rare in Alaska at any season.

FRINGILLIDS — A Gray-crowned Rosy Finch seen at a University of Alaska, Fairbanks, parking lot from late November to Dec. 18 (CMB, RSH, DDG) was by far the latest for the Interior. Common-type redpolls were numerous in s. Alaska, from Southeastern (maximum count, 1000+ at Juneau Jan. 24, RBW) to South-central (1659 on Anchorage C.B.C., Dec. 20, DD *et al.*). They were less numerous in the Interior (m.ob.). Hoary-type redpolls were not numerous anywhere, but a few were seen as far south as Adak (AWW, GVB, JLT) and Juneau (RBW).

White-winged Crossbills were apparently present all winter throughout much of forested Alaska. Small numbers were reported in the Interior (Fairbanks — DDG and others) and inland in s.c. Alaska (Palmer — DKP), but the species was abundant at Kodiak (RAM) and common on the Kenai Pen. (Homer and Kasilof — MAM), in the Prince William Sound region (Cordova — PI), and in Southeastern (Juneau — FG, and CBCs — Klukwan and Haines, both RF *et al.*). Red Crossbills were abundant in Southeastern (Juneau — FG, and CBCs — Sitka, AJ and others; Glacier Bay, BBP *et al.*), and a few were seen as far west as Prince William Sound (PI) and Kodiak (RAM). Pine Siskins were abundant at Kodiak (RAM) and locally common east of there.

Two or three Harris' Sparrows, all banded (and all probably by RBW), were seen at irregular intervals during the period at Auke Bay, Juneau, from November on (RBW). Wintering White-crowned Sparrows were recorded at Kodiak (one throughout the period, DF & LF, RAM), at Cordova (one on CBC, Jan. 2, *et al.*), and at Juneau (one on Jan. 14, RBW). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** closely observed at Kodiak on Feb. 1 (RAM & WED photo U.A.M.) provided the first winter record of the species in the Region. It is only the third recorded at Kodiak at any season. A flock of 15 Lapland Longspurs at Adak Jan. 9 (GEH) provided only the second Aleutian winter record. McKay's Buntings were reported seen regularly in flocks of 10-12 at St. Michael during February and March, and small flocks were also seen at Unalakleet Feb. 15 and Mar. 15-17 (TW).

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

The winter season was generally mild in the Region except that the first half of February and much of March had lower-than-normal temperatures. Snow was limited to higher elevations, although a late November



snowstorm followed by a heavy snowfall on Dec. 12 hit Vancouver, B.C. Total precipitation was higher than average, at least in the southern portion of the Region. In late February and early March numbers of pelagic birds were found dead on Washington and northwestern Oregon beaches; some were oiled, but most had died from another unknown cause.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — Single Yellow-billed Loons were recorded repeatedly at Port Gamble, Wash., and at Eld Inlet at the s. end of Puget Sound through the winter season; other individuals were noted once at Pt. Roberts on the international border and at Saanich Inlet, Vancouver I., in mid-winter. On Jan. 3 there were 95 Red-necked Grebes at Tofino, B.C., (MS, GS, *vide* VG), a remarkable concentration. Up to four Eared Grebes could be found during the season around Victoria (VG); a few individuals were also noted in the vicinity of Vancouver, B.C., and along the n. Oregon coast from late December to mid-February. Several concentrations of up to 5000 W. Grebes were noted at various times during the winter around s. Vancouver I.

A recently dead Black-footed Albatross was found on the beach s. of the Nehalem R., Ore., Mar. 27 (MK, HN). A 'wreck' of N. Fulmars occurred on the n. Oregon and Washington coasts late in February and early in March with 40 to 80 dead birds for each mile of beach in some places, the heaviest concentration seems to have been in ten mi s. of the Columbia R. On Feb. 28 there were 50 Sooty Shearwaters at Ocean Shores (G & WH). On Mar. 6, two dead Scaled Petrels were found on the beach by Jack Smith of the Washington Dept. of Fish & Game --- one at Moclips, Wash., the other near Twin Harbors S. P., the first was badly decomposed, but the latter was in condition good enough to be preserved; it is promised to the Univ. of Puget Sound (G & WH). On Feb. 28 the Hoges had a brief view close at hand in heavy westerly winds of a bird in flight at Ocean Shores, Wash., which they later deduced was a Scaled Petrel. That same day they found three Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels. Single birds of this species were observed s.w. of Pt. Roberts Feb. 16 (TW), and at Fitzhugh Sound, B.C., Mar. 23 (MS). A dead Leach's Storm-Petrel was on the beach at Sunset Beach, Clatsop Co., Ore., Mar. 6 (DF, HN). An estimated 1100 Brandt's Cormorants wintered at Active Pass in the Gulf Is. on the s.e. side of Vancouver I. (*vide* VG), the same number was present on Greater Chain I., near Victoria, Mar. 6 where 800 Pelagic Cormorants were observed ten days later (RWC, *vide* VG). Single Cattle Egrets were seen at Harrisburg, Ore., Dec. 3 (JG, *vide* HN), at a point four mi. w. of Grants Pass, Ore., Jan. 17 (S & PS), at Longview, Wash., Mar. 7 to the end of the report period (MC, *vide* PM), and at Cloverdale, Ore., where three were present Jan. 23 (JB, HN). Up to eight individual Great Egrets at one locality or another wintered from the Columbia R. bottoms w. of Portland, s. through the Willamette and Rogue R. valleys and w. the coast. A Black-crowned Night Heron was seen at Seattle Dec. 10 & Feb. 8 (*vide* PM), and at Grants Pass Mar. 9 (SS); a number were recorded at Coos Bay and at Medford on Christmas Bird Counts (CBC). An Am. Bittern was at Seattle Mar. 6-7 (*vide* PM), and single birds were at Reifel Refuge s. of Vancouver, Feb. 5 (VG) and at Victoria Feb. 25 after a night of high winds (*vide* VG); two Am. Bitterns were at Tillamook, Ore., for the CBC.

WATERFOWL — Hundreds of Whistling Swans, as usual, wintered in the lower Columbia R. and in the Willamette Valley. Up to 175 Trumpeter Swans were at both Port Alberni, B.C. (HT, JW), and near Mt. Vernon, Wash., on Jan. 21 (BB, *vide* PM); eleven wintered at Duncan, B. C. (JCo). Up to five adult Trumpeter Swans were seen and heard at Ridgefield N. W.R. and across the river at Sauvie I. from December through February (JG, HN *et al.*). An estimated 7000 Canada Geese wintered in the lower Willamette Valley, with others remaining all winter at Sauvie I. A half-dozen Black Brant passed the winter at Sauvie I. (NM *et al.*); Jan. 17, there were 25 at Boundary Bay (BK, RP). An Emperor Goose was at Sauvie I., Dec. 7 to mid-January (SJ *et al.*). A few White-fronted Geese were at Campbell River, s. Vancouver I., Seattle, Tacoma, w. of Portland and in the Willamette Valley refuges at various times during the winter. Two Snow Geese wearing orange neck-bands reportedly placed on the birds at Wrangel I., Siberia, in July 1975, were at Westham I., in the Fraser R., delta, B.C., much of the winter (RWC *et al. vide* VG); two "Blue" Geese Dec. 8 (JG), were with the numbers of white Snow Geese which wintered on Sauvie I. (NM). A Ross' Goose was seen repeatedly at Ankeny N.W.R., s. of Salem, Ore., during the winter (FR *et al.*). A single Black Duck was noted a number of times at Seattle from late December through January (*vide* PM); two individuals of this species were discovered at Pacific City, Ore., Feb. 2 (JG *et al.*). There is considerable reason to believe that these are escapes from game farms. Six Gadwall at Ocean Shores Dec. 20 & 24 at Newport, Ore., the last ten days of December provided unusual records. One of two Eur. Green-winged Teal were noted at Vancouver all winter (BK), at Victoria in January and February (VG *et al.*), and at Nisqually N. W. R. near Tacoma, Feb. 27 - Mar. 18 (BH-T). A **Blue-winged Teal** was recorded ten miles s. of Campbell River Jan. 17 (HT). A Cinnamon Teal at Scappoose, Ore., Feb. 14 (LN) was a surprising occurrence; three at Brownsville, Ore., Feb. 24 (HTa, *vide* LN) were very early migrants. A N. Shoveler at Campbell R. Jan. 3 was also a surprising winter record (*vide* HT). Two pairs of Wood Ducks wintered at Duncan, B. C. (JCo). A concentration of 70 Redheads on a pond at Walterville, e. of Springfield, Ore., Feb. 1 (CJ, *vide* LM) was an unprecedented concentration for this Region; up to a half-dozen of these birds were on s. Vancouver I. (V & MG, RS) and at Salem (RL) much of the winter. Over 1000 Canvasback were on Alsea Bay, Ore., during December (LN); 600 were at Tillamook Bay Jan. 31 (HN). The ♂ Tufted Duck found in November at Vancouver was seen periodically until mid-January, continuing to prefer salt water habitat (BK, RP, MS). Oldsquaw numbers were at a peak of almost 300 birds in the Victoria region early in the winter; a few birds penetrated to the s. end of Puget Sound, and as many as a dozen at Ocean Shores in mid-December were not extraordinary. It was, however, unusual that there were six records of Oldsquaw on the Oregon coast all the way to Gold Beach, with 12 individuals at Yaquina Bay Mar. 21 the peak count (TC, *vide* HN). On Feb. 13 a **Steller's Eider** was found at Sidney, Vancouver I., for the third record of the species in British Columbia (JW, *vide* VG); the bird was thereafter seen repeatedly and was photographed until Mar. 27. A ♀ **King Eider** was discovered at Garibaldi on Tillamook Bay Mar. 10 (DDS, ES) for the first Oregon record of this species, it



Steller's Eider, Sidney, B.C. Photo/J. Williams.

was there the next day (TC, HN) and on Mar. 20 (JBC *et al.*).

RAPTORS — A Turkey Vulture was seen in the vicinity of Victoria on the surprising date of Jan. 10 (RS, *fide* VG); one was seen near Albany, Ore., Feb. 7 (GG *fide* FR). The White-tailed Kite which appeared last fall at Finley N.W.R., s. of Corvallis, remained there all winter (FR *et al.*); one was also discovered for the Coos Bay CBC. Lone Goshawks were observed at Dungeness in January (S & DSm) and in March, at Saanich in mid-January (V & MG), and on the Tillamook CBC. Aside from CBC records, there were up to a score or more of sightings for both Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks from more than a dozen localities in the s. half of the Region. An ad. Swainson's Hawk was seen at Saltspring I., B. C., Mar. 7 (RS, *fide* VG). Although they were to be seen readily at favored places, Rough-legged Hawks for the second successive winter were recorded with less frequency than they had been in the preceding year after a number of exceptionally good years. Up to two ad. Golden Eagles were seen repeatedly on s. Vancouver I. throughout the report period; individuals were also seen at Burnaby, B. C., the first week in March, at Sauvie I. through the winter, at Baskett Slough N. W. R. w. of Salem, Feb. 22, and around Medford in early January and late February. Bald Eagles were widely reported from the Puget Sound-Willamette Valley trough and on the Oregon and Washington coasts in number up to four individuals at any given locality; on s. Vancouver I. and in the Gulf Is. 30-40 birds were seen in a day several times, but peak counts occurred at Squamish, B. C., when 127 were noted Dec. 15 (JI, *fide* VG) and at Campbell R. when 75 were recorded for the CBC. Adults usually outnumbered immatures on such occasions, but not always. The s. Willamette Valley CBCs had particularly good counts of Marsh Hawks. Single Ospreys were noted at six locations in the s. half of the Region during the report period, with four of the sightings being made in March. There were five reported sightings of Gyrfalcons from as many localities in N. Washington and s. British Columbia from mid-December to mid-February. Six Prairie Falcons showed up on the Medford, Corvallis and Sauvie I. CBCs combined; one was seen repeatedly near Shady Cove on the Rogue R. in late February and early March (MM, *fide* JH), and another was at Baskett Slough N.W.R. Feb. 22 (JG, MK, *fide* HN). Exclusive of CBC, Peregrines were reported from only four localities with seven birds involved in the sightings. Merlins were better reported, from Campbell R. s. to Eugene with 14 or more birds involved, not including CBCs.

GAMEBIRDS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — There appeared inexplicably on the Vancouver campus of U. B. C. in late November until Dec. 5 a **Rock Ptarmigan** in winter dress! The bird, thought to be a male, allowed a close approach for photographing, but was able and willing to fly (GGu, PMa, *fide* BK). In late December



Rock Ptarmigan, U.B.C. campus, Vancouver Photo/V.P. Marshall.

until mid-January a bird identified as a female was at White Rock, B.C. (MS, BK *et al.*). It is possible, but seems improbable, that the birds were once captive and had been released.

At least 40 Sandhill Cranes wintered at Sauvie I. (JG, HN *et al.*); hundreds stopped there in migration after mid-March (TC, JG). Approximately a score of Virginia Rails spent the winter at various points on s. Vancouver I. (JC, V & MG, RS). A pair of Snowy Plovers were seen Mar. 20 on the bay-ocean spit at Tillamook Bay, (MK HN). One or two Ruddy Turnstones were at nine different coastal localities from Vancouver to Gold Beach at various times during the winter, but mostly in the latter half of December. A Whimbrel was at Victoria for the Dec. 27 CBC. A Wandering Tattler at Yachats, Ore., Jan 2 (TC) was out of place for that mid-winter date. Greater Yellowlegs were to be found in numbers up to ten (except for the 30 recorded by the Victoria CBC) at favored spots between Seattle and Bellingham and on s. Vancouver I. up to the first half of January. A migratory movement was evident for this species in the s. Willamette Valley after Mar. 1 (LM). Two Red Knots were at Crescent Beach, s. of Vancouver, Dec. 14-16 (ESi, *fide* BK). Between 50-60 Rock Sandpipers on jetties at Ocean Shores all winter was a large concentration for this species. Three Short-billed Dowitchers were found at Dungeness Spit, e. of Port Angeles, Wash., Mar. 25 (DB). After December, Long-billed Dowitchers were reported only from Victoria, Reifel Refuge, Nisqually N. W. R. Salem and Grants Pass in numbers up to seven. Six W Sandpipers were still at Iona and Sea Islands s. of Vancouver on Feb. 5 (VG). A Marbled Godwit photographed at Dungeness Spit Mar. 24 (DB) is the only March occurrence for that species in this Region known to us. A Red Phalarope at Ocean Shores, Mar. 10 (BH-T), was likewise highly unseasonal.

GULLS, ALCIDS — There were numerous records for the report period of Glaucous Gulls, mostly from the vicinity of the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca and from Puget Sound, but also a few coastally as far south as Newport. Cause for great wonderment indeed is supplied by Dave DeSante's dramatic account and infinitely detailed description of a bird seen in flight by him and a companion, Marty McMahon, for less than a minute but at one point within 20 feet and which can only have been an **Ivory Gull**. This remarkable observation occurred Dec 20 at the base of the north jetty to Gray's Harbor, Washington; the A.O.U. Check-list of N. Am. Birds (5th ed) p 229, mentions other accidental occurrences in W. N. America, but this is the first for the State of Washington. Western Gulls occurred repeatedly and California Gulls appeared several times at Vancouver and at Victoria during the season (BK, VG). There were 300 mostly ad. Herring Gulls at Skincuttle Inlet, Queen Charlotte Is., in n. British Columbia, Mar. 27 (MS). About two dozen Bonaparte's Gulls spent the entire winter at Burrard Inlet, Vancouver; they have always disappeared before by mid-winter (BK). Another winter-plumaged ad. Little Gull showed up at Clover Pt., Victoria, Feb. 27 this year (V&MG *et al.*). A Heermann's Gull was at Victoria Dec. 4 (RF, MG, *vide* VG); representatives of this species were also recorded on the Bellingham and Gray's Harbor CBCs. Numbers of Black-legged Kittiwakes were found inexplicably dead on ocean beaches from Tillamook n. to Vancouver I., from late January through March; the largest concentration was 60 per mile at Sunset Beach, s. of the Columbia R., Clatsop Co., Ore., Mar. 9 (DDS). Live kittiwakes congregated in numbers up to 300 at Ocean Shores and at the mouth of the Columbia R. in late February, and at Hecate Strait in n. B.C., Mar. 26.

A Caspian Tern was found at Ocean Shores on the record-setting late date of Dec. 19 (DH, EH).

Small numbers of Ancient Murrelets were in waters south and east of Vancouver I. until March; on Mar. 26, 10,000 were in the Skincuttle Inlet area, Queen Charlotte Is. (MS). On the Oregon coast, one Ancient Murrelet was found dead at Sunset Beach Mar. 9. (DDS) and two were seen alive at Yaquina Head, Lincoln Co., Mar. 21 (TC, *vide* HN). An estimated 1600 Cassin's Auklets were counted near Kelp Head, Queen Charlotte Sound, B.C., Mar. 23 (MS); three oiled dead ones were on the beach at Sunset Beach, Mar. 6, where four oiled dead Rhinoceros Auklets and three oiled and dead Tufted Puffins were also found (DF, HN). Up to six Rhinoceros Auklets were seen at Victoria during the winter (VG *et al.*) and one was noted at Vancouver Mar. 14 (BK). A Tufted Puffin was seen at Cape Alava, on Washington's Olympic Pen., Mar. 1 (DBe, *vide* GH).

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A half-dozen or more Snowy Owls were on the Lummi, Samish, and Skagit flats in the vicinity of Bellingham and Mt. Vernon, Wash., throughout the report period (m.ob.); a dozen were concentrated at Ladner, B.C., Feb. 14 (*vide* BK). Elsewhere, one or two Snowy Owls were recorded at Seattle, Dungeness Spit, Elma, Ocean Shores and Westport, Wash., and at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., variously from mid-January to early March. A Pygmy Owl was heard calling at Security Cove, 53°N 132°W, on Mar. 30, for the first record of this species in the Queen

Charlotte Is. (MS). At least one Burrowing Owl wintered at the Eugene airport (LM); one was also found for the Gold Beach, Ore., CBC. A Barred Owl was found Dec 26 in N. Vancouver where it remained for a week to be photographed and seen by many (BBo, *vide* BK); another was heard hooting at Cortes I., B.C., Dec. 17 (AD, *vide* VG). Short-eared Owls returned to normal winter numbers on the Samish and Skagit Flats (NL) after the low numbers last year. The estimated 30 Short-eared Owls wintering at Baskett Slough N.W.R. and 20 at Ankeny N.W.R. (RL *et al.*) were examples of the unusual numbers present in the Willamette Valley this season. Seven pairs of Saw-whet Owls responded to a six mile survey route s. of Eugene in early February (LM), one was calling on Samish I., Wash., Mar. 8 (NL) and one was recorded in January and early February at Olympia (*vide* GH); see also the Regional CBCs for additional records of this species and the next.

Anna's Hummingbirds again were much noted. At least eight spent the winter at Campbell R., seven at Vancouver, six at Bellingham — four at one feeder — four at Saanich, one at Bella Colla, perhaps as many as two dozen at Portland, and up to half-dozen at Salem and Eugene. An Acorn Woodpecker was seen near Banks, Ore., Mar. 14 (TC, JG). Aside from CBC records, two Lewis' Woodpeckers were on the Washington side of the Columbia Gorge Mar. 21 (DDS), one was at Finley N.W.R. Jan. 1 (LN), and two were there Mar. 15 (GG, *vide* FR). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker of the *nuchalis* race was at Stanley Park, Vancouver, Mar. 2 (BK); one of the *ruber* race ten miles n. of Campbell R., B.C., Dec 26 added an unusual winter period record (HT). A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was found Mar. 27 on the e. side of Oregon's Mt. Hood (*vide* DDS).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRUSHES — A **Black Phoebe** was noted at the new northern station of Yaquina Bay, Jan. 3, for the CBC; another was at Grant's Pass, Jan. 4 (SS). Single Say's Phoebes were observed at Sooke Harbour, B.C., Mar. 19 - 20 (V&MG,RS), and in the Klickitat Valley w. of Goldendale, Wash., Mar. 21 (DDS). A shockingly early Olive-sided Flycatcher was heard in N. Seattle, Mar. 5 and then was seen on Mar. 13, it was noted thereafter to the end of the report period (EP, *vide* PM). Up to 35 Sialkings were counted in the Victoria area during the winter (VG *et al.*). A Violet-green Swallow was at Duncan, B.C., on the early date of Feb 27 (JCo). Ten Tree Swallows at Scappoose, Ore., Jan 24 (DDS) were the first of the season. Early Rough-winged Swallows were seen at Tillamook Bay Mar. 10 (DDS, ES) and at Salem Mar. 30 (RL). A late Barn Swallow was at Seattle Dec. 26 (MG, *vide* PM), and an early one was at Fern Ridge Res., w. of Eugene, Mar. 21 where several Cliff Swallows were present a week later (TL). A single Cliff Swallow had been recorded there Mar. 26 (LM). A Blue Jay appeared in N. Saanich Jan. 10 and remained in the same vicinity to the end of the report period (VG *et al.*). Six Black-billed Magpies spent the winter in w. Whatcom and Skagit Counties, Wash., (TW); a pair was at Quandra I., B.C., for five days commencing Jan 3 (HT). Single magpies appeared at Seattle in early March (SG, *vide* PM), at Ocean Shores Mar. 30 (DC, *vide* PM), and at Portland Mar. 31 (TC, *vide* HN). A Clark's Nutcracker spent several months at Ferndale, Wash (TW); another was at Banfield, B.C. (KS, *vide* VG) and

yet another remained at Eugene from the end of December into February (LM). Single Mockingbirds were at Crescent Beach, B.C., Dec. 5 (AG, GR, *fide* VG), at Victoria Dec. 3 - Feb. 18 (VG *et al.*) and at Duncan, B.C. for the winter (JCo); the species was also found on the Dallas, Ore., and Gold Beach CBCs.

Fourteen W. Bluebirds were found at Tacoma Feb. 14 (*fide* PM); the species was more common at Wolf Creek than in recent past winters (EPu). Both the Medford and Corvallis CBCs recorded encouraging totals of W. Bluebirds. On Mar. 19, nine of these birds were in the territory n. of Victoria (V&MG). A Lone Mountain Bluebird was on the Samish Flats s. of Bellingham, Dec. 7 (NL); a large flock of Mountain Bluebirds was in Medford, Ore., Mar. 31 (JH). Townsend's Solitaires were recorded three times in the vicinity of Victoria and in the Gulf Is. in December and January (*fide* VG); one was at White Rock, B.C., in mid-January, another was at Bellevue, Wash., Mar. 13-29 (*fide* PM), one was observed several times in Corvallis, Ore. Nov. 29 - Mar. 6, and one showed up on the Tillamook CBC.

WAXWINGS THROUGH WARBLERS — Small flocks of up to 17 Bohemian Waxwings were seen four times in the vicinity of Campbell R. from early December until mid-February (HT); one to three individuals were seen at Victoria or nearby on four occasions in late January and early February and modest flocks were at Bellingham for about a month after mid-December (TW). Nine Bohemian Waxwings were at Seattle Feb. 21 (*fide* PM), 50 were at Rockport e. of Sedro Wooley, Wash., Feb. 16 (DW *fide* PM), and a small flock was at Trail in s. Oregon, Feb. 29 (MM, *fide* JH); single individuals were seen in the s. Willamette Valley between mid-January and the end of March (*fide* LM, FR). One or two N. Shrikes spent the winter at Victoria, Dungeness and at Ankeny N.W.R.; others were observed in seven locations at various times during the winter from n. Washington s. to Eugene and w. to Tillamook. A Loggerhead Shrike was identified at Eugene Mar. 25 (LM) and another was said to be near Elma, Wash., Mar. 30 (DC, *fide* PM). A Black-and-white Warbler was discovered at Longview, Wash., Dec. 27 (JD, *fide* PM) — the seventh record for w. Washington in the last ten years. Aside from CBC records, Orange-crowned Warblers were found at seven locations in w. Washington and Oregon up to early March when a few additional sightings may have been of early returning migrants. Single Nashville Warblers were reported from Coos Bay on the CBC, from Newport Mar. 3 (E & EE, *fide* FR), and from Albany, Ore., Mar. 12 (GG, *fide* FR). "Myrtlebon" Warblers were widely evident in the s. half of the region, including Vancouver I. in March. A ♂ Black-throated Gray Warbler was at Mapleton, Ore., Feb. 5 (*fide* LM), a bird of this species was at Corvallis Mar. 14 (JF, *fide* FR), and several females were at Cape Blanco, near Port Orford, Ore., Mar. 20 - 21 (LM). Between 15 and 20 Townsend's Warblers were found several times during the winter at Cannon Beach, Ore. (TC, HN *et al.*). Individual Townsend's Warblers were recorded, other than on CBCs, at or in the vicinities of Seattle, Tacoma, Olympia and on s. Vancouver I., mostly in December. The number of records for Palm Warblers was surprising; three were found at Ocean Shores Nov. 28 (BH - T, *fide* PM), and five were there on Dec. 20 (J & ADA); three were at

Victoria in early February (DN, *fide* MS) and again in mid-March (KT, *fide* MS), and one or two were at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Feb. 7 - Mar. 6 (HN *et al.*) Single Palm Warblers were also noted at Portland Dec. 2 (*fide* HN), at Victoria Dec. 6 (TB, RS, *fide* VG) and Mar. 5 (MS), and at Yaquina Bay, Ore., Jan. 24 (RO, *fide* FR) Lone Com. Yellow-throats were at Fern Ridge Res., w. of Eugene Dec. 31 (TL, AP, *fide* HN), and at Sauvie I., Jan. 17 (DDS, JG), as well as at Corvallis for the CBC. One Hermit Warbler and two Wilson's Warblers were reported on the Coos Bay CBC. A Hooded Warbler was found at Discovery Park in Seattle Dec. 31 (LD) and remained until Apr. 4, during which time it was seen by scores of observers and was photographed (*fide* PM); it is the first record for Washington known to us.



Hooded Warbler, Seattle. Photo/E. Spragg.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS — A subadult ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird appeared at Sidney, B.C., Feb. 16 (J & DWi, *fide* VG); another bird of this species was in Victoria, Mar. 3 (VGu, *fide* VG). One or two Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen off and on during the winter at Vancouver (BK) and at Sidney (VG *et al.*). A ♂ W. Tanager was discovered at Sauvie I., Jan. 18 and allowed a close view (JB, RCu, *fide* HN); it constitutes one of very few winter records of this species in the Region and may be the first for January. An imm Indigo Bunting was seen at Alton Baker Park in Eugene Nov. 29-30 and was last seen Dec. 4 (TL); the bird at a Leaburg, Ore., feeder for a month last winter is now thought by McQueen to have been an Indigo, rather than a Lazuli as reported in *Am. Birds* 29:734 (*fide* TL). It was generally agreed by observers that Evening Grosbeaks were present in the Region from Vancouver, Bellingham and Vancouver I., s. to Eugene in larger winter numbers than have been present for years. The 36 Purple Finches at Saanich Feb. 28 (RS, *fide* VG) was an unusual winter season concentration, as indeed was the 13 birds at Duncan, Jan. 24 (MS, *fide* VG). A Cassin's Finch was identified on the campus at Corvallis Feb. 5 (WH, *fide* FR). A pair of Pine Grosbeaks was observed at Bellingham Jan. 25 (DMc, *fide* TW), two were at Saanich on Feb. 26 (E & ARD, *fide* VG), eight were at Seattle Mar. 18 (DC, *fide* PM), and 30 were at Oakridge, Ore for the CBC. Up to three Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were seen at Oyster Bay, Vancouver I. (HT), at Seattle

(*vide* PM), at Ocean Shores with Snow Buntings (JDa, *vide* GH), and at Yaquina Head, Ore. (*vide* FR) during the winter; scattered flocks were to be found on flats in Skagit and Island Counties, Wash., also (NL). Two redpolls were found at Warm Beach, Snohomish Co., Wash., Jan. 12 (*vide* TW), one was at Saanich, Jan. 22 - 25 (RM - G, V & MG), four were at Sea I., s. of Vancouver, Jan. 25 (*vide* BK), and one was at Medford Mar. 3 (JH). Pine Siskins were widely abundant and much commented upon. Sixty Am. Goldfinches at Victoria, Jan. 10 (E & ARD, *vide* VG) was an unusual winter-time concentration there. Lesser Goldfinches were reported only from Corvallis where three were seen Feb. 20 (LN) and two were observed Mar. 28 (FR). Red Crossbills were observed at only six locations and in small numbers from Campbell R. s. to Cottage Grove, Ore., but both the Victoria and Tillamook CBCs listed in excess of 200 individuals.

A Savannah Sparrow was at a Bella Coola, B.C., feeding station, Feb. 21 (A & LK, *vide* VG). A Tree Sparrow was seen at Bella Coola, Jan. 11 (A & LK, *vide* VG), two were at Sea I., Jan. 19 (BK), and individuals were noted at Samish I., Wash., Feb. 5 & Mar. 13 (NL); one was also found at Ankeny N.W.R., Feb. 15 (JG, MK). An early migrant Chipping Sparrow was at Medford Mar. 29 (JH), and another Harris' Sparrow was at Burnaby, B.C., Feb. 29 & Mar. 2 (IR *vide* MS). Besides CBCs, White-throated Sparrows were noted at one time or another during the winter at four localities from Portland n. to Bellingham. Lincoln's Sparrows were reported at six localities, in addition to showing up on a number of the Region's CBCs. A Swamp Sparrow, first found on the CBC, was seen again at Fern Ridge Res., Dec. 31 (TL, AP, *vide* LM); another was seen at Ankeny N.W.R., Feb. 22 (JG, MK). Up to ten Lapland Longspurs sent the winter on the Montlake fill at Seattle (PM *et al.*); single birds were at Dungeness, Wash., after Feb. 14 (DSM), at Victoria Dec. 6 (RS, *vide* VG), at Medford,

Jan. 4 (SS), and a small flock was heard at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Feb. 13 (DDS). Up to a dozen Snow Buntings were observed at one time in the vicinities of Vancouver, Bellingham and Victoria, at Campbell River, Ocean Shores, the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Yaquina Bay and at Portland, mostly after December.

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MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION /Rich Stallcup and Jon Winter

This, the driest winter in decades, formally qualified as a drought. Many waterfowl never arrived in their usual winter strongholds but remained on open water to the north. Many of the birds which did arrive were killed or weakened by botulism and cholera caused by stagnating water. Waders were concentrated at permanent seepages as occasional ponds went dry. Vernal pools for the most part never appeared.

Again, because of mild weather many summer and eastern passerines remained and provided some first regional records. Others were produced by waterbirds. The Mottled Petrel was, this season added to the regional and California state lists.

LOONS THROUGH STORM-PETRELS — Five Yellow-billed Loons were reported Dec. 20 - Jan. 25, which is high (m.ob.). An Arctic Loon was still present at Redding Jan. 3 and a Red-throated was a L. Hennessey Dec. 7 - Mar. 13 (WS, BDP). Both species are rare inland as is the Red-necked Grebe, one of which was seen in



breeding plumage on Topaz L. Mar. 13 (JD,PU). Numbers were higher than average along the coast. Horned Grebes continue to be common inland and 49 were reported there. Western Grebes were in very high numbers at usual coastal locations. At Los Banos, 340 Pied-billed Grebes on one pond was an incredibly high concentration Jan. 25 (LCB, B&CY). Five Laysan Albatrosses; one from the Eel R. canyon Jan. 18, one off Monterey in early December and up to three at the Cordelle Banks in January and February seems high, but as winter pelagic trips increase we may find them more regularly Northern Fulmars were very numerous at sea throughout the period, with dark birds outnumbering white by about 13:1. The P. R. B. O. Beached Bird Survey (below B.B.S.) reported heaviest dieoffs during the last week of March with 14 dead birds per km. of beach from Pt. Reyes south but considerably fewer to the north. A **Mottled (Scaled) Petrel** *Pterodroma inexpectata* was picked up dead on Pt. Reyes Beach Feb. 25 by BM and AR The skin is deposited at the Calif. Academy of Sciences and is the first record for California (B.B.S.). A Pink-footed Shearwater was seen on Monterey Bay Feb. 15 (C F O.). The species is rare in winter. First winter records of Buller's Shearwaters were received for one Dec 14 on Monterey Bay (PK) and an aberrant, beached individual at Marina Feb. 25 (B.B.S.). Sooty and Short-tailed Shearwaters were reported throughout the winter. Five Short-tailed were the most on any one trip but ten beached dead birds were picked up between Monterey and Marin Counties (B.B.S.). A Fork-tailed Dec. 13 and Ashy Storm-Petrel Dec. 14, both at Monterey, were the only petrels seen alive and a Fork-tailed at Marina Dec 13 and an Ashy at Pigeon Pt. Feb. 5 were dead on beaches (B.B.S.).

CORMORANTS THROUGH IBIS — On the Oakland CBC 438 Brandt's Cormorants were far above the two-year average of 91, with equal coverage. Similarly, Pelagic Cormorants were double the two-year average on the Oakland CBC with 29 on Dec. 21 (*fide* DE) Largest reported number of egrets in the Central Valley (C.V.) was 80 Greats at El Macero Mar. 1 (DAG) and 75 Snowies at Willows Dec. 29 (JS). Over 50 Cattle Egrets were found, all but two of which were coastal. A careful count revealed 56 White-faced Ibis at Los Banos Jan. 25 (LCB). A single was near Willows Mar. 16 (*fide* SAL) and six were at Grizzly I., Dec 23 (*fide* DR).

WATERFOWL — Of an estimated 35,500 waterfowl non-hunting deaths in the C.V., 30,000 were from cholera, 4500 from botulism and 1000 from lead poisoning. Most were dabbling ducks but geese and swans were also seriously affected. The lack of rain necessary to aeriate standing puddles is thought to be responsible for the diseases.

From Dec. 7 until late February 3000 swans were present at Victoria I. At least two had bills which exactly match the pattern of **Bewick's Swan** and an additional ten birds had varying amounts of yellow but more than extreme Whistling Swans (m.ob.). It appears that we are dealing with numerous hybrids. Another typical ad. Bewick's was with 1000 Whistling at the Chico Sewage Ponds Dec. 28 (RS). Huge numbers of Black Brant were noted passing north in the last week of March and into April Highest was 3530 from Pigeon Pt. Mar. 25 (BS).

Another Brant was at Humboldt Bay for three days in the second week of March (*fide* TS). Eleven blue Snow Geese were reported. It appears from current studies that the population estimates for Ross' Goose are low by about half and there may be truly near 100,000 (*fide* RS) Several small "blue geese" were seen this winter, suggesting that either blue Snows are crossing Ross' or more outrageous that the Ross' actually has a blue morph. Ah, the obvious things we've never noticed.

Possibly because of very scarce water inland all dabbling duck species were in very high numbers at coastal estuaries and reservoirs (GP, P.R.B.O., BS) Only one (Eur.) Green-winged Teal was reported, which is lower than any in the last six years. It was at Arcata Feb. 20 (*fide* TS). Of 21 Eur. Wigeon noted four were at Bolinas (P.R.B.O.). Two obvious hybrids with Am Wigeon were noted.

All *Aythya* were low along the coast except Canvasbacks which were normal, and scaup which were far above usual numbers with 91,072 on the Oakland CBC (*fide* DE). The Ring-necked x Tufted Duck hybrid (of last winter) was seen again at Rodeo Lagoon Dec. 27 (RS*, DW *et al.*). Goldeneye were in average numbers, with over 70 Barrow's reported. Oldsquaws were triple the average with 41 reports. The White-winged Scoter remained through Mar. 10 at Redding (BED) and another was at June L., Dec. 7. Black Scoters were high Over 100 Hooded Mergansers reported is higher than usual. A male Red-breasted Merganser at Palicines Res., Feb. 14 (DE) is probably a first county record.

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS — White-tailed Kites continue towards a common status throughout the C V and along the coast. None is more deserving a population boom in this era of withdrawal and extermination. Nine Goshawks, all from the Sierra and Cascade ranges, was a good showing. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were widely reported, as is usual, with Sharpies more common on the coast, and Cooper's more common in the C.V. Six "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawks, three from the n. C.V. and three from Lassen and Modoc counties, are slightly more than the five-year average. Swainson's Hawks returned to the C.V. in early March (RS, GM) and one over Golden Gate Park Mar. 30 was a first record there (LCB). Rough-legged Hawks were all but missing from the coast and C.V. but were in usual good numbers in the Basin Ferruginous Hawks were in good numbers December through February but none were reported after Mar 7 Golden, 46, and Bald Eagles, 92, were again reported more often and from more new localities than ever before. Marsh Hawks and Ospreys were also more common than ever in most reported areas especially late in the period when migrants began moving through. Over 50 Prairie Falcons, 37 Peregrines and 30 Merlins were all encouraging totals as were 307 Am. Kestrels on the Pt. Reyes CBC alone! A banded female Am. Kestrel returned to the Farallon Is. for the third consecutive winter. It does not summer there (P. R. B. O.).

Reintroduced Turkeys were at: L. Wildwood, Nevada Co. 25 on Feb. 1 (JH), Mines Road, 21 on Feb. 15 (AE) and on the Eel R. in S. Humboldt Co., four on March 28 (*fide* TS). A well-known Sage Grouse lek near Honey L held only 15 males this winter, where about 100 is normal

Another lek at Crowley L. is in fine shape. It is probably a natural relocation owing to human disturbance rather than a reduction in population, however the situation should be carefully checked by government biologists.

Sandhill Cranes at Honey L., 350 on Mar. 7 (m.ob.) and in Surprise Valley, 16 on Mar. 6 (RS, JW *et al.*) were early returnees. Migrants in the C.V. were noted Feb. 22 and Mar. 1 (DAG). Virginia Rails apparently wintered in the Honey Valley as different singles were there found Dec. 31 and Jan. 2. (WS, KK). The Pt. Reyes CBC totaled 66 which is high. Four Black Rails at Kehoe Marsh Dec. 20 (RS, BV *et al.*) and three at Benecia S. P. Dec. 28 (JR) were the only ones reported. At Bolinas, 2726 coots was above the four-year average there (GP, P.R.B.O.).

SHOREBIRDS — At Shields Marsh, 32 Semipalmated Plovers Dec. 9 (DS) must have been fall migrants since the Pt. Reyes CBC total Dec. 20 was only 21. Snowy Plovers were noted as only one-half or one-third normal numbers at the Pajaro R. mouth (J&RW) but were well reported elsewhere. A total of nearly 3000 Killdeers was counted on the Pt. Reyes and Crystal Springs CBCs combined. That is an impressive number. Mountain Plovers were in usual places but generally very low in numbers this period, the most being 35 in Merced Co. Feb. 22 (TC). Only 26 Am. Golden Plovers were reported, which is less than half the number in a good year for them. On the Pt. Reyes CBC 827 Black and 34 Ruddy Turnstones were good numbers and probably reflect a representative ratio. On the Oakland CBC however, 32 Blacks was only about half average there. Common Snipe were clearly up in numbers reported, perhaps owing to many usual haunts being dried up, concentrating the species at permanent seepages. Like snipe, both species of yellowlegs were highly reported because of their concentrations at available puddles.

The usual four or five Rock Sandpipers were at Bodega Head (m. ob.) and one Jan. 18 (WS, KK) then two on Mar. 14 (GMcC, DR) were near Bean Hollow Beach. One or two also wintered on the Humboldt jetties (*vide* TS). Least Sandpipers, Dunlin, Marbled Godwit and Am. Avocets were in highest numbers of the past four years at Bolinas (P.R.B.O.). Two Black-necked Stilts on the Pt. Reyes CBC Dec. 20 (RS, GM) were further evidence that the species is spreading north along the coast. Single N. Phalaropes found dead at Pajaro Dunes Dec. 13 & 22 (B.B.S.) and an injured individual at Moss Landing Feb. 14 (JS) are all unusual winter records. Only 15 Red Phalaropes were noted.

JAEGERS AND GULLS — Twenty Pomarine and only three Parasitic Jaegers were reported, all from Monterey Bay. Five Western x Glaucous-winged Gulls were reported from the coast. They are likely quite common and often misidentified as other species. Fourteen Glaucous Gulls were reported, representing at least ten individuals. About 100 Thayer's Gulls were reported from the coast plus one on the Feather R. at Oroville Dec. 29-Feb. 27 (RS, DW, P.R.B.O.) for a first county record. Twenty-eight Mew Gulls from six inland locations was above average. Normal hundreds were on the coast. Black-legged Kittiwakes staged a major invasion along the coast, comprised mostly of adults

(m.ob.). The peak dieoff was in late February and early March when five per km. were picked up (B.B.S.)

TERNs AND ALCIDS — Forster's Terns wintered at more places and in larger numbers than ever. A Com. Tern was carefully studied and described on the Oakland CBC Dec. 21 (WMP) for the latest regional record. On the Oakland CBC 251 Com. Murres dwarfed the previous high of 7. Forty-two Pigeon Guillemots on the Pt. Reyes CBC was very high. The first regional winter record for Xantus' Murrelets was of three off Pt. Pinos Feb. 15 (C.F.O.). Ancient Murrelets and Rhinoceros Auklets were high in number but Cassin's Auklets were low especially on trips from Monterey. Two Horned and one Tufted Puffins were found beached (BBS) and a Tufted on Monterey Bay Jan. 10 (RS, F.A.S.) was the only other one reported.

PIGEONS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS — A White-winged Dove, rare anywhere in the Region, appeared in Palo Alto Feb. 14 (TC). Nearly all the records are for fall and winter. An unusually high concentration of 40 Mourning Doves was found at Willow Creek, Humboldt Co. Dec. 28 (*vide* TS). A Ground Dove was found at Half Moon Bay Dec. 11 where it remained until Mar. 14 (PM*, BS). Another was seen 20 km. south of the Half Moon Bay at Pigeon Pt. Nov. 29. (AB*) Both records may be of the same individual. There are at least five previous records for the Region (reference in *Am. Birds* 28,690,1974 is in error). In recent years the pattern of extralimital occurrences of this species suggests the true vagrants are most likely to turn up in the fall.

The Oakland CBC recorded 52 Great Horned Owls which is down considerably from their high of 146 on last year's count (*vide* DE). Most remarkable was the presence of 70 Burrowing Owls at West Newark Dec. 28 (GZ, EM). High count for Short-eared Owls during the period was 13 birds near Davis Feb. 22 (RS *et al.*) In general owls were reported in good numbers throughout the region.

Several Poor-wills, scarce in winter, were seen near Bolinas in January (DS, BM, RS).

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird was found on the Sacramento CBC Dec. 27 (*vide* BK). There are very few winter records for this species. Two ♂ Costa's Hummingbirds were reported. One returned to a feeder near Loomis for the third winter in a row on Dec. 5 (*vide* BK), and another was seen frequenting a feeder on the Oakland CBC, Dec. 21 (*vide* DE). Both Rufous and Allen's Hummingbirds were present in the region by the end of January, which is normal for Allen's but a little early for Rufous.

Lewis' Woodpeckers were found in a large concentration consisting of about 300 birds s.e. of Redding near Battle Creek Mar. 8-12 (BED). The observation of a Williamson's Sapsucker 10 km. west of Trinity Center Jan. 24 is noteworthy since the status of this species in Trinity County is uncertain (*vide* TS). An excellent description of what appears to be a Downy x Nuttall's Woodpecker (*D. pubescens x nuttallii*) hybrid was recorded Mar. 26 in n.e. Contra Costa county (JM*, DE*, DR). Hybrids between the two species are known but they are fairly rare.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — An Ash-throated Flycatcher was found on the San Jose CBC at Alviso Dec. 21 (B&CY*). There are very few acceptable winter records for this species. The Region's first **Olivaceous Flycatcher** was found on Dec. 7 and remained throughout the period at the Carmel R. mouth (GZ*, RD, m.ob.). There are only three previous state records for this species, all from the Southern Pacific Coast Region. Two and possibly three E. Phoebes were found during the period. A single bird was found at Palicines, San Benito Co. Jan. 24 (JM*) and remained until Feb. 22, and another found on the West Sonoma CBC at Bodega Bay Jan. 3 (m.ob.*) and was last seen Feb. 7. This bird or a third individual was found Dec. 14 at Salmon Creek, Sonoma Co. about 3½ km. n.e. of the spot where the bird at Bodega Bay was found (JM*, RD, GZ). A few Say's Phoebes appear to have wintered in the n.e. part of the region. A Dusky Flycatcher was caught, banded, and photographed at Putah Creek, Yolo Co., Jan. 27 (DAG*). This is the first winter record for the Region. A **Coues' Flycatcher**, the second for the Region, was found at New Brighton Beach S.P., Santa Cruz, Dec. 6 and remained, to the delight of many observers, until Feb. 18 (RM* EM*, Robert Ramer).

Violet-green Swallow wintered in rather larger numbers. A flock of 140 was found Jan. 3 at Pescadero Marsh (RM).

CORVIDS THROUGH THRUSHES — A Yellow-billed Magpie, west of its normal range, was noted when a single bird was found on Bay Farm I. Dec. 21 (AE, GB). A rather noticeable flock of 235 Piñon Jays was seen at Eagle Lake Mar. 6 (LCB *et al.*). Blue List Bewick's Wrens were reported as "common" during the period in both Sutter and Yolo Counties (JH). The Bendire's Thrasher reported last fall remained throughout the period at Courtland (AP). The Brown Thrasher reported in Oakland last November remained through the end of the period (m.ob.). A Sage Thrasher, west of its normal range, was seen near Oroville Dec. 28 (P.R.B.O.). The Soquel CBC reported a high count of 18,000 robins (*vide* RM). Varied Thrushes appear to have wintered in smaller numbers. A Hermit Thrush, rare in the Great Basin in winter, was seen near Standish, Lassen Co., Jan. 1 (DE). Swainson's Thrushes reported in winter in the Region usually are unidentified Hermit Thrushes, however a well-described Swainson's was reported on the Palo Alto CBC at Searsville L. Dec. 23 (CY*). Following last fall's movement, Townsend's Solitaires appeared on the count; single birds were found on the Ano Nuevo CBC Jan. 3 (*vide* BS), and on Martin Grade Rd., Santa Cruz Dec. 21 (JM, EM).

WAXWINGS THROUGH VIREOS — Bohemian Waxwings staged a major invasion of the state; the largest since the winter of 1968-69. They reached their southernmost penetration at Angwin, Napa Co., where a single bird was found Jan. 24 (Glenn Clifton). At least 25 reports were received; the largest concentration was of some 3200 birds at Janesville, Lassen Co., Feb. 26 (RS, GH). Nearly all the reports were limited to the northeastern part of the state. There were no reports from the coast. Northern Shrikes wintered in normal numbers. Two appeared south of their normal coastal range; one was found at Bodega Bay Jan. 10 (LCB) and another was

seen at Nacassio Res., Marin Co., Feb. 18-23 (WMP, JM). A wintering Warbling Vireo was found on the Crystal Springs CBC Dec. 27 (*vide* BS).

WOOD WARBLERS — Owing to the temperate weather throughout the period, warblers overwintered in substantial numbers, providing some rather remarkable records. At least eight Black-and-white Warblers were reported along the coast from Humboldt Bay to San Francisco Dec. 3 - Jan. 6 (m.ob.). Four Nashville Warblers were reported from Petaluma to the Carmel R. Mouth Dec. 7 - Jan. 3 (RD, DE, GP, GLB). A single Yellow Warbler was seen at Gray Lodge N.W.R. Dec. 23 (RS, BED) and most amazing was the presence of a **Cape May Warbler** at Santa Cruz from Feb. 1 through the end of the period (WG, m.ob.*). This record is the first winter occurrence for the state. An apparent Townsend's x Hermit Warbler (*D. townsendi* x *occidentalis*) hybrid was captured, photographed and banded at Palomarin Mar. 18 (P.R.B.O.). Hybrids of these two species are known. Hermit Warblers wintered in remarkable numbers. At least 14 individuals were found from Sebastopol to San Mateo County, Dec. 20 - Jan. 11 (m.ob.). At least six Palm Warblers were found from Bodega Bay to Santa Cruz Dec. 21 - Feb. 21 (PM, JW, WG, LCB, etc.). A single N. Waterthrush was present Dec. 1 - Feb. 1 in the Carmel R. mouth (m.ob.). Single Wilson's Warblers were found on the Crystal Springs CBC Dec. 27 (*vide* BS), and in Claremont Canyon, Berkeley Dec. 21 (*vide* DE). An ad. ♂ Am. Redstart was present throughout the period in Sebastopol (m.ob., *vide* CP).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH TANAGERS — Small numbers of Yellow-headed Blackbirds appeared to have wintered in the northeastern part of the Region, while 125 were found at Jersey I., Contra Costa Co. (DE, JM, DR). Two Hooded Orioles were seen in Fresno Dec. 2 - Jan. 21 (*vide* RH). Single "Bullock's" Orioles were seen Feb. 2, in Golden Gate Park (LCB), Fresno, Feb. 18 (RH *et al.*), and at Soquel Jan. 26 (RM). A Rusty Blackbird was found at Indian Creek Res., Alpine Co. (WS*, KK*). Most of the records for this species in the Region are along the Coast. A few W. Tanagers wintered, which is normal for this species.

FRINGILLIDS — Single Black-headed Grosbeaks were reported from Grazos Creek, San Mateo Co., Dec. 2 (JR), Asilomar Dec. 14 (GMcC), and San Leandro Res., Oakland Dec. 21 (*vide* DE). Incredible was the discovery of a ♀ -plumaged Blue Grosbeak on the Redding CBC Jan. 3 (RS, DT *et al.*). There are no previous regional winter records for this species. A rather large flock of 450 Evening Grosbeaks was seen at Fredonyer Summit Dec. 28 (P.R.B.O.). Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were reported in good numbers from the n.e. part of the Region. Most noticeable was a flock of 107 Hepburn's Rosy Finches (*L.t. littoralis*) just north of Cedarville, Modoc Co. Jan. 10 (SFB). An out-of-range, out-of-season Green-tailed Towhee was seen at Kehoe Marsh, Marin Co., Jan. 4 (L. Stenzel). A single Lark Bunting was found along West Butte Rd., Sutter Co. Feb. 29 (P.R.B.O., RS). Very rare in winter, a Grasshopper Sparrow was seen in Coyote Hills Park Dec. 4 (DE).

At least 22 Tree Sparrows were reported, which would indicate that this species probably wintered in substantial

numbers. Most of the records were from the n.e. part of the region where a large flock of 11 birds was seen on Jan. 10 at the s.e. corner of Tule Lake N.W.R. (SFB). There were two reports from the coast; a single bird was found at Half Moon Bay Dec. 11-30 (PM,BS) and three birds were present at Sears Pt., Sonoma Co., Feb. 15-Mar. 13 (L. Stafford, *m.ob.*). The winter distribution of Chipping Sparrow is somewhat of an enigma throughout the region. Winter records of this species can be virtually non-existent in one coastal area and a few km. away a regular winter visitor. The bird is difficult to find in Marin County in winter, but at least four birds were present just to the north near Santa Rosa Dec. 14 (GLB, BDP). The second regional wintering **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found at Pt. Reyes Station Jan. 10 (LCB, BDP, GLB). Harris' Sparrows were present at Olema Marsh in good numbers where at least ten were found on the Pt. Reyes CBC Dec. 20 (RS, JW *et al.*). A handful of Lapland Longspurs wintered along the coast, but a rather large flock of 55 was seen in the Arcata Bottoms the last week in January (*fide* TS). Fifteen Chestnut-collared Longspurs were found at Honey Lake Jan. 1, and two McCown's Longspurs were present there on the same date (*m.ob.*)

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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION /Guy McCaskie

The winter was exceptionally mild and dry. There were few northern land-birds but N. Fulmars and Black-legged Kittiwakes were abundant on the ocean. A Bar-tailed Godwit and a Broad-billed Hummingbird in the Los Angeles area were the outstanding finds of the season.

LOONS, GREBES — Two Arctic Loons were on Ramer L., Imperial Co., Dec. 22 - Jan. 25 (CE, DVT *et al.*) and another was seen near Imperial Dam, Imperial Co., Jan. 31 (WS); this species is very rare away from the coast in California. A Red-necked Grebe, rare anywhere in s. California, was photographed at Goleta, Santa Barbara Co., Jan. 9 - 19 (PL), one was present in Oxnard, Ventura Co., Mar. 19 - 22 (GSS) and another was seen at Malibu, Los Angeles Co., Jan. 16 (GSS). Horned Grebes have been considered rare away from the coast in California, but records in recent years indicate that they do occur rarely but regularly inland; this winter 5-6 were present on L. Cachuma, Santa Barbara Co., (LB, GH); at least ten individuals were found on and around the Salton Sea (EAC, HC, JD) and a migrant was in Baker, San Bernardino Co., Mar. 29 - Apr. 1 (PL).

ALBATROSSES, SHEARWATERS, STORM-PETRELS — Two Black-footed Albatrosses near San Clemente I. Mar. 29 (PU) were the only ones reported. N. Fulmars reached s. California waters in numbers during early January and were still present at the end of the period; many were visible from shore, with 50 seen from

La Jolla, San Diego Co. Mar. 3 (JD), and were more common off shore, with 235 counted off Ventura Co. Jan 15 (LJ) and 80 around San Clemente I. Mar. 29 (PU). The only Pink-footed Shearwater seen all winter was one near Anacapa I. Feb. 11 (LJ). A Short-tailed Shearwater, very rare and sporadic in s. California waters, was well seen near Catalina I. Feb. 15 (LJ), three were seen from shore in La Jolla when strong NW winds were blowing pelagic birds up against the shore on Mar. 1 (JD, VR), and two were seen at Goleta under the same conditions the following day (PL, LB, BS). A freshly dead New Zealand Shearwater found on the beach near La Jolla Feb. 19 (JRJ-*S. D. N. H. M.) represents the first winter record



for California. Manx Shearwaters were present in coastal waters, as indicated by the sighting of two from Montana de Oro, San Luis Obispo Co., Feb. 1 (PL, VR), one from Goleta Feb. 6 (PL), ten from La Jolla Feb. 9 (JD, VR) and 60 from there Mar. 1-3 (JD, VR). A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel seen from shore in La Jolla Mar. 3 (JD) was unexpected since there are no recent records of the species in s California waters and it is unrecorded farther south. An Ashy Storm-Petrel at La Jolla Mar. 1 (JD, VR) was interesting, since winter records are few indeed.

HERONS — As usual a few Cattle Egrets were present along the coast with up to six in Ventura County in January (CMcB) and up to eight in San Diego Co. throughout the winter (JD *et al.*); three in Redlands, San Bernardino Co. all winter (EAC, SC) were at an interesting locality, although the species is still increasing here in California. Up to five Louisiana Herons were at Seal Beach, Orange Co., throughout the winter (GSS), one was still present on Newport Bay, Orange Co., Mar. 21 (FH) and another remained near San Diego until at least Feb. 21 (PL); this species regularly winters in coastal s California.

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — A few Whistling Swans were present in the Owens Valley all winter, as usual, but one near Tecopa, Inyo Co. Nov. 15-Jan 4 (JT), one at Baker, San Bernardino Co. Jan. 5 (VR), another near Riverside during January and February (EAC, SC) and seven at the north end of the Salton Sea (hereafter N E S S) Dec. 7 (DVT) were all of interest; along the coast three were at L. Cachuma, Santa Barbara Co., Jan. 3 - Feb 6 (PL, LB), one was near Newport, Orange Co., Jan. 20 (GSS) and another was seen in flight over San Diego Bay Jan. 2 (NS).

A Canada Goose shot from a family group of six at the south end of the Salton Sea (hereafter S.E.S.S.) Dec. 3 (DVT) proved to be of the small race from the Aleutian Islands (*B.c.leucopareia*). A Brant was present with Black Brant on San Diego Bay Dec. 13 - Jan. 10 (GMcC, VR); one or two of these birds appear in this area every year. A Black Brant on Tinnemaha Res., Inyo Co., Mar. 6 - 31 (TH) was at a most unusual locality and totally unexpected. Three or four "Blue Geese" were present with the 18,000 Snow Geese wintering at S.E.S.S. (DVT); this form is found regularly in limited numbers here each winter. Ross' Geese were more numerous than usual at S E S S with 600-700 present December-mid-March (DVT). Three Ross' Geese at Goleta Dec. 23 - Feb. 17 (PL, LB) and another in San Diego Jan. 29-31 (GMcC) were interesting, since the species is casual on the coast of s California.

Two Fulvous Tree Ducks shot at S.E.S.S. Dec. 24 (DVT) may have been attempting to winter locally. A Blue-winged X Cinnamon Teal was at Santee, San Diego Co., Jan. 21 (JD); this hybrid occurs regularly and is best looked for when the spring influx of Cinnamon Teal, along with a few Blue-winged Teal, appear in mid-January through March. Six Eur. Wigeon were reported, with single birds at Goleta Mar. 13 (NM), on Newport Bay Mar. 13 (LAS), in Oceanside Jan. 3-Feb. 21 (JD, VR, PL), at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley (hereafter F C R) Dec. 1-Mar. 21 (M&NP), on Puddingston Res. Dec 1-Jan.15 (DG), and at S.E.S.S. Dec. 22-Mar. 6

(DVT). A Greater Scaup at Menton, San Bernardino Co., Dec. 20 (EAC), another at N.E.S.S. Jan. 30 (GSS) and ten near Imperial Dam on the Colorado R., Jan. 24 (VR, JD) were all noteworthy since the species is rare inland. The ♂ **Tufted Duck** that appeared on L Sherwood in November remained to late February (GSS). The only Oldsquaw reported was one in San Diego Dec. 19 - Jan. 2 (JD). A ♂ Harlequin Duck at San Simeon, San Luis Obispo Co., Jan. 25-31 (LB, VR) was probably wintering locally and the male at Playa del Rey was still present on Mar. 29 (FH). White-winged Scoters were exceptionally scarce along the coast south of the northern Channel Is. and Morro Bay with only two or three individuals reported; two at S.E.S.S. Feb. 22 (DVT) were unexpected since inland records are few and far between. A Black Scoter at Goleta Mar. 11 (PL), one on Anaheim Bay Dec. 14 (VR), and another at nearby Seal Beach Jan. 2 (BB) were the only three found this winter. Hooded Mergansers were present along the coast in small numbers with about 15 reported between Santa Barbara and San Diego including five near Oceanside, San Diego Co. Jan. 23 (JD).

VULTURES, KITES, HAWKS, FALCONS — An ad. California Condor seen near Calibasis, Los Angeles Co., Dec. 6 & Feb. 22 (GSS) may well have been the same individual seen here Aug. 20. A Turkey Vulture over Big Pine, Inyo Co. Jan. 18 (TH) was at an unexpected site since the species is normally absent in the Owens Valley after September. A White-tailed Kite near Brawley, Imperial Co., Dec. 7 (GMcC) was east of its normal range. An imm. Broad-winged Hawk in Santa Barbara Mar. 12 (LB) and another on the San Diego CBC Dec 20 (JD *et al.*) were the only two reported this winter. A few Rough-legged Hawks were present with up to three as far south as L. Henshaw, San Diego Co. Feb. 14 - Mar 28 (JD, JRJ) and two around S.E.S.S. Jan. 26-Mar 1 (DVT, H&PB). Some 25 Ferruginous Hawks were reported from various parts of the Region. A few Bald Eagles were present around areas of open water with nine at L. Mathews, Riverside Co. Jan. 11 (EAC, SC) being the largest concentration reported. Reports of Peregrine Falcons included three individuals on the Channel Is Feb. 13-Mar. 21 (LJ), one at Playa del Rey, Los Angeles Co., Dec. 15 - Feb. 13 (PL), another around the nearby Palos Verdes Pen., all winter (SW) and a third in San Diego all winter (JD *et al.*). Only ten Merlins were reported during the period.

CRANES — Only two Sandhill Cranes were seen on the Carrizo Plain Jan. 25 (H & PB) and it is believed the dry conditions existing in the area had forced the normal wintering population of this area to go elsewhere, however, up to 94 were regularly seen near Brawley in December and January (DVT).

SHOREBIRDS — The Anacapa I. Am. Oystercatcher was still present on its favorite rock Mar. 7 (FH *et al.*) Two Snowy Plovers at Owens L., Inyo Co., Jan. 11 (TH) were a surprise since winter records away from the coast and the Salton Sea are unknown. As usual a few Am Golden Plovers were present along the coast with up to nine on San Nicholas I., Jan. 24-Mar. 28 (LJ), one at Goleta, Santa Barbara Co., Mar. 10-28 (PL, LB) and up to three near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co., Dec. 1-Feb 1 (GMcC, JD); one on San Nicholas I. Jan. 24-25. One of

the birds near Imperial Beach was of the Asiatic race *fulva*, the rest being of the nominate form *dominica*. On Feb. 11 Bob Margolis discovered a **Bar-tailed Godwit** feeding in a concrete-lined drainage channel at Playa del Rey, and it was subsequently seen by hundreds of observers before disappearing Mar. 2 (GSS, BB); this is the first to be found in s. California and only the fourth to be reported in California. A few Lesser Yellowlegs do winter in s. California as evidenced by one near Imperial Beach during January (JD) and six at S.E.S.S. Jan. 25 (VR). Up to seven Sanderlings were to be found at Salton City during the winter, indicating that the species may regularly winter on the Salton Sea. A flock of 50 Dunlin on Owens L. Jan. 11 (TH) was at an interesting locality for that time of the year. Stilt Sandpipers were regularly seen at S.E.S.S. with five on Feb. 7 (JD, VR) being the largest number reported.

A Wilson's Phalarope near Imperial Beach Feb. 1 (GMcC) was probably wintering locally; this species is very rare anywhere in California between mid-November and late March. A flock of about 30 N. Phalaropes spent the winter near Imperial Beach as usual; this appears to be the only place in North America where phalaropes regularly winter. Most interesting was the presence of Red Phalaropes offshore throughout most of the winter. Virtually none were seen last fall, so 79 counted off Ventura and Los Angeles counties Jan. 14-18 (LJ) came as a surprise. Thirteen were counted in s. California waters Feb. 11-15 (LJ), 184 were found there Mar. 17-21 (LJ) and 150 were seen off Los Angeles Mar. 30 (PU); in addition one was seen from shore at Goleta Mar. 2 (PL), three were noted from La Jolla Mar. 3 (JD) and another was picked up dead on the beach there Feb. 19 (JRJ - *S.D.N.H.M.). A few late fall Red Phalaropes occasionally linger in s. California to mid-January but then disappear until late April when spring migrants appear off the coast.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS — A few Pomarine Jaegers spent the winter offshore as indicated by the presence of seven between Oxnard and Anacapa I. Feb. 22 (VR *et al.*) and 37 counted off s. California Mar. 28-31 (PU); in addition seven sightings were made from Goleta Pt. during the winter (PL) and one was seen from Malibu Dec. 20 (H & PB). A number of Parasitic Jaegers were reported from along the coast with three around Goleta all winter (PL), two near Santa Barbara I., Mar. 21 (LJ), one or two around Huntington Beach throughout the period (R & MW) and a few around San Diego with an amazing 16 counted in La Jolla Mar. 1 (JD, VR).

An imm. Glaucous Gull, a rare but regular wanderer to the s. California coast, was at Goleta Jan. 6 (PL, JD), another was at McGrath S.P., Ventura Co., Jan. 15 (LB) and a third was at Otay, San Diego Co., Dec. 20-23 (GMcC, JD); most unusual was an immature at S.E.S.S. Feb. 7 (JD, VR) since inland records are few indeed. Three Glaucous-winged Gulls were seen in Riverside Dec. 6 (VR) with one remaining until Feb. 23 (SC); this species is rare this far inland. An imm. yellow-legged W. Gull was at S.E.S.S. Jan. 25 (JD, VR) and another was at Salton City Feb. 7 (JD, VR); this distinct-looking bird normally occurs as a post-breeding visitor to the Salton Sea between late June and early September with virtually no others recorded outside that period. Inland sightings of

Thayer's Gulls include up to three imm. birds in Riverside Dec. 6-Feb. 23 (VR, SC) and an immature at Salton City Feb. 7 (JD, VR). Mew Gulls appeared to be commoner than usual along the coast with "hundreds" as far south as San Diego; an immature in Riverside Dec. 6 (VR), an adult at N.E.S.S. Mar. 27 (EAC) and an immature at S.E.S.S. Jan. 25 (JD, VR) were noteworthy since few true inland records exist for s. California. An imm. Laughing Gull at S.E.S.S. Jan. 10 (DVT) appears to be the first recorded here in winter. Black-legged Kittiwakes became abundant along the coast in late January with numbers such as 1500 between Santa Cruz I. and Anacapa I. Feb. 14 (LJ), 1790 there on Mar. 20 (LJ) and 300 near San Clemente I., Mar. 29 (PU) being seen offshore, and numbers like 250 at Goleta Mar. 2 (PL) being reported along the coast; one at El Monte, Los Angeles Co., Mar. 6 (H & PB) was the only truly inland record although a few were seen 2 or 3 miles inland from the beach in both Santa Barbara and San Diego counties. Over 99% of the birds present were adults.

An imm. Com. Tern on San Diego Bay Jan. 2 (JD) was probably a late fall straggler and not a wintering bird. Eleven Elegant Terns at Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co. Dec. 13 (PL, LB) were exceptionally late. A Black Skimmer found near Imperial Beach Feb. 29 (B & CY) was still present at the end of the period and probably wintered locally; this is the third time this species has wintered in this area.

ALCIDS — A few Com. Murres reached s. California as evidenced by 67 counted near Santa Rosa I. Mar. 20 (LJ) and 30 seen of Ventura Mar. 31 (PU), but one off San Diego Mar. 3 (JD) and another there Mar. 28 (PU) were the only ones found in the s. part of the Region. Three Pigeon Guillemots at San Miguel I. Feb. 12 (LJ) were the first spring arrivals and numbers had built up 450 by Mar. 18. Two Ancient Murrelets off Morro Bay Feb. 26 (BED) were in an area of normal occurrence; two seen from Goleta Pt. Feb. 29 (PL) were less expected, and one found dead in La Jolla Mar. 12 (JRJ - *S.D.N.H.M.) was at the s. extreme of its known range. Seven Tufted Puffins near Santa Cruz I., Jan. 14 (LJ) were unexpected since the species is rare in s. California.

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — A White-winged Dove in Claremont, Los Angeles Co. Mar. 25 (LAS) was the only one reported during the season. Five Long-eared Owls on San Miguel I., Feb. 12 & Mar. 18 (LJ) were at an interesting locality. A **Whip-poor-will** in Riverside Jan. 10-28 (SC) was only the second to be found in California during the winter; it is unfortunate the race could not be determined. Up to 15 Vaux's Swifts were regularly seen near Oceanside, San Diego Co., throughout the winter (GMcC *et al.*), and an unidentified *chaetura* was at El Monte, Los Angeles Co., Jan. 4 (NS) and Feb. 5 (HK); Vaux's Swifts are known to winter occasionally along the coast but all identifications must consider the possibility of Chimney Swifts. A ♂ **Broad-billed Hummingbird** was the star attraction at Dan and Lee Trimmer's feeder in the Mt. Washington area of Los Angeles Jan. 21 - Feb. 18; there are only five previous records for California (*Calif. Birds* 1:111-112, 1970).

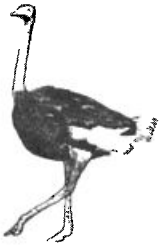
WOODPECKERS — A few "Yellow-shafted" Flickers were seen, but interest in this bird has waned



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since it was demoted to subspecific standing. Surely the bird has not changed its appearance, and the same interest should be generated when found today as it would have ten years ago; how can a person's reaction to a bird be effected by professional ornithologist's decisions on nomenclature? A Lewis' Woodpecker near Santa Isabel, San Diego Co., Nov. 28 - Mar. 15 (JRJ) was the only one reported in the s. part of the Region. A bird believed to be the eastern race of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*S. v. varius*) was photographed at Avalon on Santa Catalina I., Jan. 2 (LJ) and another was seen at Brock Ranch, Imperial Co., Jan. 4 (EAC, SC); this form is a casual straggler to California. A Williamson's Sapsucker in the Mid Hills of e. San Bernardino Co., Mar. 26 (VR) was in an area from which only one previous record is known; one near Julian, San Diego Co. Dec. 21 - Mar. 22 (*vide* PU) and two at nearby Cuyamaca S. P. Mar. 21 (JD, PU) were outside their known normal range. Four Ladder-backed Woodpeckers were found at the n. extremity of the species range in Inyo County with one in the n.e. part of Death Valley Jan. 9 (RAH) another in Cottonwood Canyon Mar. 7 (M & NP), a third at Wild Rose Dec. 30 (RAH) and one more near Tecopa Dec. 15 - Feb. 16 (JT).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** at Chiriaco Summit Jan. 30 - 31 (JPR) was a real surprise since the species is rare at any time of the year and there are only two previous winter records. An Ash-throated Flycatcher in Santa Barbara Jan. 3 - Feb. 10 (PL, NM) represents one of the few believable winter records for California. The **Olivaceous Flycatcher** found at F. C. R. on Nov. 29 was last seen Jan. 4 (RAH, M & NP). Four E. Phoebes were reported with one in Santa Barbara Jan. 2 - 26 (PL), one at Pt. Mugu S.P., Ventura Co., Jan. 15 (LB), another at Santee, San Diego Co., Jan. 9 - Mar. 3 (JD *et al.*) and the fourth in Kelso, San Bernardino Co., Dec. 4 (VR, JA); certainly more than expected. A Gray Flycatcher, rare during the winter in California, was in San Bernardino Dec. 21 - 22 (EAC, SC) and another was at S.E.S.S., Feb. 22 (B & CY). A Dusky/Hammond's Flycatcher in San Diego Dec. 6 - Feb. 1 (JD), a W. Flycatcher in Riverside Dec. 6 - 13 (VR) and another in Whittier Jan. 7 (HK) were the only *Empidonax* flycatchers reported. Unexpected was a Coues' Flycatcher in Riverside Dec. 19 (SC), another in Oceanside Jan. 3 - Mar. 10 (GMcC, BS), and a third in San Diego Feb. 9 - 23 (JD, VR); there are only nine previous records for California but most of these have been during the winter.

A Bank Swallow near San Diego Jan. 26 (JD) was unexpected, since few winter records exist. Rough-winged Swallows were seen along the Colorado R. valley and at S. E. S. S. throughout the period indicating small numbers are present in these areas in winter. A Barn Swallow at S. E. S. S. Jan. 31 (WS) had probably wintered locally.

JAYS THROUGH SHRIKES — A Scrub Jay near Tecopa, Inyo Co., Dec. 15 - 17 (JT), another at Lost Lake, Riverside Co., Mar. 27 (PL), and a third at S.E.S.S., Feb. 1 (BB) were all outside their normal range. A Com. Crow at Kelso Dec. 4 - Jan. 29 (VR, EW) was unusual, and a flock of up to eleven was at S. E. S. S., Dec. 6 - Feb. 15 (DVT, SC, HK). Small numbers of Mountain

Chickadees were present in the coastal lowlands, and one or two were seen in the Providence/New York Mts of e. San Bernardino County during February and March (VR); there are very few records for the latter locality. The Chestnut-backed Chickadee found in Santa Barbara Oct. 24 was last seen Mar. 10 (GH). Three Winter Wrens around Santa Barbara all winter (PL) and another near Arcadia Dec. 24 (GSS) were the only ones reported from the coastal slope; one at Piute Springs, San Bernardino Co. Dec. 4 (VR) was at a desert oasis. A **Curve-billed Thrasher** was found at Finney L., Imperial Co., Jan. 25 (JD, VR), a second was found there Jan. 31 (H & P, WS) and both were still present Mar. 22 (HK); this species is very rare in California and there is only one previous record for the Imperial Valley. Varied Thrushes were virtually non-existent with a single bird on the Palos Verdes Pen. all winter (SW), one in Arcadia Dec. 8 - 24 (GSS) and another at Deep Springs Mar. 27 (SC) being the only ones reported. A few Golden-crowned Kinglets were present along the coast with one in Santee Jan. 21 (JD) being the farthest south; three in the New York Mts Jan. 6 (VR, EW) were at an interesting locality. Two **Sprague's Pipits** in San Diego Dec. 19 (JD *et al.*) were well heard and seen; there are only three previous records for California and they are all for the fall period. Single imm. N. Shrikes were seen at Big Pine, Inyo Co. Jan. 4 & 19 (TH), and an adult was in nearby Bishop Feb. 22 (TH), this species probably reaches the Owens Valley in small numbers every winter.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A Solitary Vireo in San Diego Jan. 2 (JD, GMcC) was a gray bird of the *plumbeus* race. Two Warbling Vireos remained in San Diego through most of December (JD) but could not be found thereafter; it has long been suspected that some fall migrants linger into the early winter and that many December records do not pertain to truly wintering individuals.

Two (♂ and ♀) Black-and-white Warblers spent the winter at Mission Dam near San Diego (PU *et al.*) and another female was seen near Westmorland, Imperial Co. Jan. 25 (VR); this species is rare in California. A late Tennessee Warbler was found in San Diego Dec. 6 (JD, PU). A Nashville Warbler at Fort Tejon, Kern Co., Dec. 22 (TS) was probably a late fall migrant, but one in Los Angeles Jan. 6 (LJ) and another in Long Beach Dec. 30 - Mar. 15 (SW) were wintering birds. A Yellow Warbler at Finney L., Imperial Co., Jan. 25-Feb. 22 (VR, H & PB) was the only one reported wintering. Unexpected was a Cape May Warbler at Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co. Dec. 7 (H & PB) and a female at Brock Ranch, Imperial Co., Jan. 4 (EAC, SC); neither were seen again, and both are best treated as very late fall migrants. Seven Black-throated Gray Warblers were reported during the period, but three of these were seen in December and were probably tardy fall migrants, so the three in Riverside all winter (EAC, SC) and one in Santee Feb. 22 (FH) were the only wintering individuals. A Hermit Warbler, rare in s. California during the winter, was in Cambria, San Luis Obispo Co., Dec. 1-Jan. 16 (FRT) and another in Santa Barbara Dec. 1-Jan. 22 (PL) were the only two reported. A Palm Warbler in Goleta to Dec. 17 (PL) another in nearby Santa Barbara to Jan. 20 (PL) and a third near Imperial Beach Dec. 6 (JD) all appeared to be lingering fall migrants. A N. Waterthrush, very rare in California during the winter, was in Tapia Park near Malibu Dec. 15

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- Jan 17 (GSS, H & PB) and another was near Imperial Beach Dec. 20 - Jan. 11 (GMCC). The only Wilson's Warblers reported were one near Santa Barbara Jan. 18 (PL) and another in Long Beach all winter (SW). Two or three Am. Redstarts were present around Finney L., Imperial Co., all winter; this species regularly winters in this area in small numbers.

ORIOLES, BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS — A ♂ Orchard Oriole was at a feeder in Northridge, Los Angeles Co., Jan. 29 (GSS); one or two of these birds are found in s. California every winter. Amazing was the presence of up to five Scott's Orioles in Morongo Valley Dec 28 - Mar. 9 (SC, MP, GSS); this is the rarest oriole to be found in California during the winter. A "Baltimore" Oriole was in San Diego Dec. 6-13 (JD) and 12 "Bullock's" Orioles were found along the coast between Santa Barbara and San Diego during the period. Six Rusty Blackbirds on Santa Catalina I. Jan. 2-4 (LJ) were unprecedented; one at Kelso, San Bernardino Co., Mar. 25-26 (VR, KHB) was undoubtedly a spring migrant moving through the area. Two Great-tailed Grackles at Ramer L., Mar. 22 (HK) were the only ones found away from the Colorado R. valley. Nine W. Tanagers along the coast between Los Angeles and San Diego during the winter were about average; one near Bishop Dec. 13 (LSM) was exceptionally late for this locality. A Summer Tanager was in Goleta Jan. 6 (PL, JD), another was in Northridge Feb. 15 (GSS), and a third was in San Diego Dec 20 - Jan. 2 (JD); small numbers regularly winter in s. California.

FINCHES — A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was in San Diego Dec. 6 (JD) and another was in Arcadia Dec. 23 (GSS); this species is found virtually every winter in s. California and is more likely than the Black-headed Grosbeak. A Black-headed Grosbeak in Big Pine Dec. 14 (TH) was exceptional for that locality. Most interesting was an Indigo Bunting in Goleta Feb. 17 (PL) and another at San Marcos, San Diego Co. Mar. 9 (JK); there are few winter records indeed. A flock of 15-30 Cassin's Finches in the Laguna Mts of San Diego Co. during March (JK, JD) and one in the Granite Mts. of e. San Bernardino Co. Mar. 24 (VR) were of interest locality-wise. Pine Siskins were more numerous than usual along the coast and in the coastal lowlands. Up to 200 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were present in Westguard Pass of the White Mts., Inyo Co., throughout the winter (TH); this species clearly occurs regularly as this locality. A few Red Crossbills moved into the area as evidenced by two near Arcadia Jan. 3 (GSS), two on the Palos Verdes Pen. Mar. 16 (GSS) one in Rialto Dec. 16 (SC) and a flock of ten in the Cuyamaca Mts., Mar. 21 (JD, VR).

SPARROWS, LONGSPURS — A few Green-tailed Towhees were found in the southern portion of the Region as expected but one in the New York Mts. of e. San Bernardino Co., Jan. 7 (VR, EW) was unusual. Two Lark Buntings near Irvine, Orange Co., Jan. 12 (MP) were the only ones reported. Up to three Sharp-tailed Sparrows were present on Newport Bay Dec. 1 - Mar. 14 (GSS, MP *et al.*). "Slate-colored" Juncos appeared to be commoner than usual among flocks of Dark-eyed Juncos and a "Pink-sided" Junco was seen in Niland, Imperial Co., Jan. 25 (VR). Seven Gray-headed Juncos were

reported including one in the New York Mts. Dec 3 (VR). A Tree Sparrow remained in San Diego Dec 13-21 (JD); this is unusually far south for this species. A Clay-colored Sparrow, very rare in California during the winter, was in Santa Barbara Nov. 5 - Feb. 13 (PL, LB) and another was photographed at Newport Bay Jan 2 (DH). A Harris' Sparrow remained in Goleta all winter (PL), one was in Claremont Jan. 5 (DG) and at least 12 were seen in Inyo County during the period. White-throated Sparrows appeared to be present in average numbers with 15 individuals reported. Single Swamp Sparrows were in Goleta Dec. 15 - Feb. 18 (PL), Riverside Dec. 6-21 (VR, SC), Anaheim Feb. 17 - Mar. 1 (FEB, HK) and at F.C.R. Mar. 14 (VR); one or two are reported every winter.

A McCown's Longspur was still present near Imperial Beach Dec. 6 (JD) and two were found near Westmorland, Imperial Co., Jan. 25 (JD, VR). A Lapland Longspur was at F.C.R. Jan. 17 (LSM), two were at Dominguez Hills, Los Angeles Co., Jan. 1 - Feb. 10 (FH, GSS), two more were found near Newport Jan. 13 (LJ) and up to eight were noted around Westmorland Jan 25-Feb. 7 (JD, VR); a few of these birds are found in the Region every winter.

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Siskin plumages

To the Editor:

I noted the SA in *American Birds* (28:644, 1974) relative to the supposed European Siskin reported from Wisconsin. The description indicated that it was probably a male. What is not apparently generally known is that, although the Pine Siskin usually has hen-feathered males, once in a very long time it produces a cock-feathered male. Such a bird might well be taken for a European Siskin or for a Pine Siskin-goldfinch hybrid. The only specimen I have ever seen is in the collection at the Agassiz Museum, in Cambridge, Mass. It was vetted by Ernst Mayr.

Charles H. Blake