

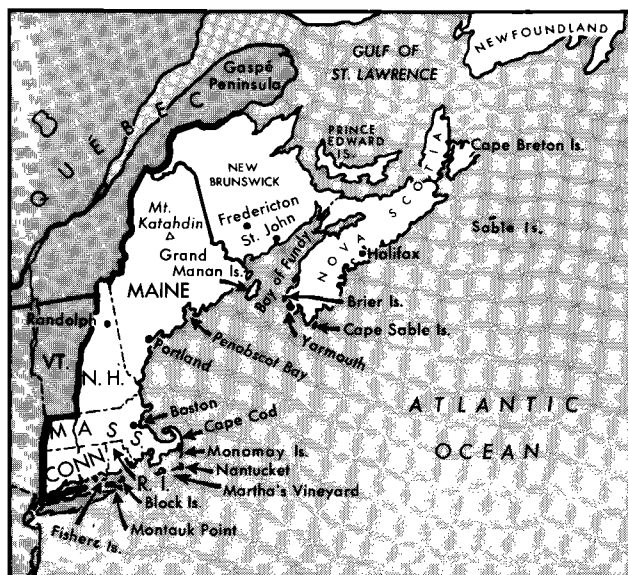
The Autumn Migration

August 1 - November 30, 1978

NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

/Peter D. Vickery

Birders in the Region will be very sad to learn of Bob Smart's death February 3. Known throughout New England and more recently in New York, Bob will probably be best remembered for his unrivalled sense of humor and good wit and his gifted ability as an observer. Perhaps fittingly, Bob passed away as he was about to venture forth on a wintry boat trip off Ocean City, Maryland. Several of his observations are included in the fall season. I'm sorry there won't be any more letters from Bob. Invariably I'd open them



first, just to see what Bob Smart had seen or what he'd been up to. Everyone will miss his hearty laugh and his great warmth.

Cool and dry weather predominated throughout much of September and October. Beginning September 8, Massachusetts recorded a 43-day stretch of decidedly colder-than-average weather. This period of northerly cold fronts, unremitted by any major Northeast storms or extended warm fronts, had the obvious effect of pushing migrants through the Region at a rapid clip. By mid-October passerines were remarkably scarce everywhere. The first hard freeze occurred November 13 and with it three widely scattered Cattle Egrets promptly disappeared.

Cape Cod experienced another disappointing migration. It seems impossible that in a fall's birding an active birder could see 0 Hermit Thrushes, 2 Swainson's Thrushes, 1 Veery, 4 Winter Wrens, 28 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 8 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 3 Sol-

itary Vireos, 3 Scarlet Tanagers and 2 Fox Sparrows, but that is precisely what happened to one Cape Cod native. Manomet, too, experienced a poor fall season. *Empidonax* flycatchers and *Catharus* thrushes were again well below normal. Manomet banded more Tufted Titmice than ever before and this incursion was noted as far north as New Hampshire and southern Maine.

Several sub-regional editors have mentioned that local contributors have shown varying levels of concern that their names and initials are not included in the text. The reason all direct observer names are generally not included should be clear — over 400 people take the time to send their notes to sub-regional editors or to this editor directly. To include all these names would occupy far too

much space, which is already critically limited. Please understand that such widespread contributions are appreciated very much. Such complete coverage supplies essential information, the volume of which is sometimes frightening, but that in the end makes editorship a greatly satisfying task.

LOONS, GREBES

— A single **Arctic Loon** carefully identified at Waterside, Albert Co., N.B., Aug. 18 (Gordon Pringle, *vide* DSC) perhaps provided a first Provincial record. In Maine, an **Arctic Loon** in full breeding plumage, closely studied off Kittery Oct. 7 represented only the second state record to be confirmed by three or more observers (DJA, DWF, PDV). Interestingly, the state's first acceptable sight record came from this precise locality October 1974. A **Western Grebe** in New Haven harbor, Conn., from late October - Nov. 30+ was a notable rarity for that state (*vide* NSP). The **Western Grebe** at Reid S.P., near Georgetown, Me., Nov. 17-30+ was only a second state occurrence and was almost certainly one of the two grebes at that locality last winter (DD *et al.*).

TUBENOSES — Again this fall N. Fulmar appeared by late September; 40± fulmars were seen 8-10 mi e. of Chatham, Mass., Sept. 24 (CAG, BN *et al.*) while 51 off Jeffrey's Ledge, N.H., Oct. 7 was a notable figure for that state (CKs). Curiously, a boat party there the following day observed no fulmar but 900+ Greater Shearwaters, which was unprece-

dent for New Hampshire waters (DJA, DWF, PDV *et al.*). In late September Greater Shearwaters seemed to move about in nomadic fashion in the Bay of Fundy. Not a single Greater was observed from the "Bluenose" ferry Sept. 26 and only two were noted on the same crossing Sept. 27 (PKD, PDV *et al.*). Two weeks later an impressive pelagic flight was witnessed from Seal I., N.S., at the mouth of the Bay of Fundy; 15,000+ Greaters, three Sooty, one Manx and numerous *Stercorariidae* were seen flying S (*vide* RGG). Generally fair weather conditions produced no impressive flights along the Cape and Cory's Shearwaters were considered very scarce (BN) Off Nantucket, 10,000+ Greaters and 30+ Cory's were noted Sept. 11 (EFA *et al.*). Scattered numbers of Cory's Shearwaters were seen throughout the summer off Sable I., N S (IAMcL) but more surprising was a single Cory's 200 mi s.e. of Cape Race, Nfld., at 44° 46' N 50° 07' W, Aug. 31 (BMacT). Notably late was a single Sooty Shearwater e. of Newfoundland at 49° 19' N 52° 09' W, Nov. 4 (BMacT). A small black and white shearwater seen from Sable I., Aug. 27 may have been either an Audubon's or a Little Shearwater (Arnet Sheppard, *vide* RGG). The numbers of Cory's seen off Sable I., suggest the possibility of Audubon's which follow the Gulf Stream but Little Shearwater cannot be discounted, there being a previous 19th century specimen — one of two for North America — from that locality. Further s. one, possibly two, Audubon's Shearwaters were observed 20 mi s.e. of Block I., R.I., Aug. 26 (TD), this record was again associated with the movement of warmer Gulf Stream water into the Cox's Ledge area.

PELICANS, HERONS — Quite remarkable this fall were the occurrences of three **White Pelicans** in as many New England localities. Single individuals were found at New Haven, Conn., Oct. 1-2 (*vide* NSP), Little Compton, R.I., Nov. 11-18 (*vide* CW) and at various Cape Cod localities Oct. 31 through November (v.o., *vide* BN).

Southern herons n. of their usual limits included a Little Blue at Antigonish, N S, Aug. 13 (*vide* IAMcL) and another Little Blue Heron at Cape Verde, Nfld., Aug. 21 (*vide* MMP). Notably late Cattle Egrets found in late October - early November included single birds at Penniac, N.B., Cole Harbour, N S, Bangor and Brunswick, Me. The New Brunswick and two Maine birds were last seen Nov 12 and had departed (expired?) before the frigid weather of the 13th. Single juv. Yellow-crowned Night Herons were found at Sable I., N.S., Aug. 6 - Sept. 10 (IAMcL) and Scarborough Marsh, Me., Sept. 2 (DJA, PDV) Snowy Egrets flying to roost at Plum I., Aug 26 numbered an incredible 985 individuals, easily a Regional high (RSH). One or two adults and two juv. Louisiana Herons at Plum

I, Sept 10 suggested the possibility of local breeding, perhaps in Boston harbor (*vide* RSH).

WATERFOWL — Particularly impressive this fall were the numbers of Whistling Swans to occur in the Region. No fewer than 36 individuals were reported. These included: 25 at Hammonasset S.P., Conn., Nov. 25 (*vide* DAS), one in Ipswich, Mass., Nov. 19-30+ (*vide* RPE), eight in Brunswick, Me., Nov. 26 - Dec. 25 (CL *et al.*), three near Halifax, N.S., in late November (*vide* SIT). In Connecticut 700 Brant briefly present near Guilford Oct. 23 was an unusual concentration for the state (DAS). The occurrence of White-fronted Geese in the Region inevitably raises questions concerning the origin of such birds. A single adult on Plum I., Sept. 23 was not subspecifically identified while an adult shot in Frenchboro, Me., Oct. 30 was identified as *gambelli* (WCR, *SG). Although not absolutely certifiable, the Frenchboro White-fronted was almost certainly wild. Probably the Plum I. bird was too. Some 1100 Snow Geese in Monroe, N.H., Nov. 10 were about average (*vide* KCE) while in New Brunswick 23 Snow Geese were considered above average (*vide* DSC).

Ten Fulvous Whistling Ducks present at Plum I., for just one day, Nov. 7, appeared just a day later than last year's flock of ten (*vide* RPE). Seven Eur. Wigeon were about average; five occurred in Rhode Island (*vide* CW), one in Connecticut (*vide* NSP) and a single bird was shot in Nova Scotia (*vide* CRKA). In the same province N. Shovelers were reported on the increase and 4-6 Redheads were notable rarities at Antigonish Oct. 22 (*vide* CRKA). Although there are minor annual fluctuations, there seems little question that Canvasbacks have increased their numbers in s. New England, 700 at the E. Providence Res., R.I., Nov. 18 was perhaps a Regional high (*vide* CW). Barrow's Goldeneyes at the Bangor Dam, Me., peaked at 28 birds, a lower-than-average fall (*vide* PDV). Along the n. shore of Massachusetts, three flocks of Com. Eiders totaled 11,000+ individuals and was the largest concentration in the state in recent years (RSH). At least nine King Eiders were reported. Again this fall enormous numbers of Red-breasted Mergansers were observed in Cape Cod Bay. This year's 12,000+ seen off Truro Nov. 5 easily eclipsed the 8000 seen November 1977 (WRP).

VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES — **Black Vultures** continued to draw attention. Three individuals this fall brought the Region's 1978 total to six. A Black Vulture was shot in Madran, N.B. (*vide* DSC, *N.B.M.), a single bird was seen in flight over Cushing, Me., Nov. 13 (BC) and a bird seen over Sandwich, Mass., Oct. 10 (PAB) and near S. Plymouth, Mass., Oct. 10 (*vide* TLL-E) was quite likely the same individual. The season's total of at least 17 Golden Eagles, perhaps as many as 12 in Connecticut, possibly involved a number of misidentified juv. Bald Eagles. Closely scrutinized and carefully detailed Golden Eagles were a subadult over Pownal, Me., Oct. 2 (DN) and singles over Mt. Tom, Mass., Sept. 17 & 19 (RS) and an individual at Oyster Pond, Halifax Co., N.S., in late September (AL, *vide* IAMcL). Some of the other reports may be correct but details are not at hand.

HAWK FLIGHTS — Concerted hawk watching in New England, as elsewhere, has become so widespread and the information so voluminous, adequate coverage in this short space is impossible. Readers seeking detailed figures covering fall and spring migrations should contact the New England Hawk Watch and the Hawk Migration Association of North America.

Particularly encouraging were the 13 carefully identified Cooper's Hawks seen in e. Massachusetts in September (*cf.* 2, 5, 4, 6, 9 September totals since '73). A notable highlight this fall was the passage of 139 Ospreys over Lighthouse Pt., Conn., Sept. 23 (AR *et al.*), undoubtedly a Regional high for a single day. Perhaps more significantly, all watchers reported high Osprey numbers.

S.A.

Especially interesting was the observation of 10,086 Broad-winged Hawks over Mt. Wachusett, Mass., Sept. 13 (PMR *et al.*). Seeking possible explanations weather research disclosed a unique situation. The remains of a low pressure system over the Maritimes and a second low pressure system over the Great Lakes created two large pockets of heavy cloud cover — one over n.e. New England and the Maritimes and the second over n.w. New England and New York. Between these two cloud banks a corridor of sunny skies with N-NW winds produced a funnel effect which may have sucked the Broad-winged through e. and c. Massachusetts in unprecedented numbers. On the same day Mt. Tom experienced its heaviest flight with 3822 Broad-winged counted. The effect of this system was equally apparent the following day when Hawk Mt., Pa., observers counted 21,000+ Broad-winged, apparently twice their previous high. Finally, the tail end of this system had an apparent effect farther w. Some 33,000 Broad-winged were counted near Duluth, Minn., Sept. 15. Predictably, few Broad-winged were seen after this flight (PMR).

In Nova Scotia, 43 Red-tailed Hawks at Digby Neck Nov. 11 was perhaps surprising (SIT). Regional Peregrine Falcons numbered between 80-90 individuals, a better-than-average fall but not up to last fall's 149 birds. Merlins on Seal I., N.S., peaked at 25 on Oct. 8; ten were noted at the same locality Oct. 16 (BMacT, IAMcL *et al.*).

RAILS, GALLINULES — In Massachusetts a King Rail was observed at Plum I., Oct. 14-17 while two Clapper Rails were noted at the same locality Sept. 23 (*vide* RSH). In w. Massachusetts a juv. Purple Gallinule at Longmeadow Oct. 24-25 marked only a second Connecticut River valley record (*vide* SK).

SHOREBIRDS — American Oystercatchers were more numerous than ever along coastal Massachusetts; maximum counts included 27 on Monomoy, 12 at Nantucket, 10 on Tuckernuck I., 6 at Nauset, singles at Duxbury and Chatham. Three oystercatchers remained on Block I., Aug. 5 - Sept. 25 and in the same state a late individual was seen at Napatree Nov. 11 (*v.o.*, *vide* CW).

Apparently many high Arctic breeding shorebirds experienced a very poor, if not disastrous nesting season. Observers across

the Region witnessed numbers, sometimes impressive numbers, of early migrants. Quite likely these birds were heading S after first nest failures. However, many shorebirds apparently attempted second nestings as the general migration seemed one-to-two weeks late. Nova Scotian observers felt that fair weather conditions caused few birds to linger "They just kept going rather than stopping in Nova Scotia" (ELM). This pattern seemed to be reflected across the Region. A notable exception occurred on Seal I., Sept. 1 when poor weather conditions produced a remarkable fall-out of 22 shorebird species, including: Am. Golden Plovers, Pectoral, White-rumped, W. sandpipers, Hudsonian Godwits and Wilson's Phalaropes (ELM). Perhaps significantly, the 250 Am. Golden Plovers over Seal I., Sept. 1, the only sizable flock in the Region, never landed but circled the island and continued S. In New England, golden plovers were few with no more than 85 individuals reported Aug. 8 - Oct. 29. A single golden plover at Cherry Hill, N.S., Nov. 11 was very late (*vide* ELM). Semipalmated Plovers peaked some 7-10 days late; an early migrant was particularly notable at Matthew's Lake, N.S., July 1. Equally unusual was a very late bird at Crescent Beach, N.S., Nov. 10 (*vide* ELM). In Massachusetts, higher Whimbrel counts were 80 at Monomoy Aug. 14 and 70 at S. Wellfleet in August, these figures generally below average (*vide* RSH). A flock of 40+ Whimbrels was noted near Cutler, Me., Aug. 8 while 31, including a single white-rumped Whimbrel of one or another Old World race, were seen at Biddeford Pool (*vide* PDV). Late individuals included single Whimbrels at Quicksand, R I (*vide* CW) and Salisbury, Mass. (RSH) both Oct. 21 and a Whimbrel at Matthew's Lake, Oct. 22 (*vide* ELM).

Although they have been suspected of nesting for two years, Willets were confirmed breeders only this year at Hammonasset S P and Old Lyme, Conn. (*vide* NSP). A Willet of w. origin, *inornatus*, was noted at Salisbury, Mass., Nov. 12 (RSH). White-rumped Sandpipers experienced a good flight in Maine, 200+ birds were noted at Lubec in late August (NF). Large numbers lingered late, 20-50 were seen at Amherst Pt., N.S., Oct. 29 - Nov. 4 (SIT) and at least one White-rumped remained on Mt. Desert I. to Nov. 30 (WCR). Forty-four Baird's Sandpipers July 31 - Oct. 21 were about average. A Least Sandpiper at Amherst Pt., N.S., Nov. 4 was very late indeed (SIT). Three Curlew Sandpipers in Nova Scotia were extraordinary. Singles occurred on Sable I., Aug. 24; Cape Sable Sept. 24; Matthew's L., Oct. 22 (*vide* ELM).

Short-billed Dowitchers peaked early: 2200 were seen at Newburyport July 18 while 1600 were more or less on schedule at Monomoy Aug. 5 (*vide* RSH). Notably late was a single Short-billed on Plum I., Oct. 9 (*vide* RSH) but more exceptional was a critically identified individual at Amherst Pt., N.S., Nov. 11 (CD, *vide* ELM). In Nova Scotia, ten Long-billed Dowitchers Aug. 26 - Nov. 11 were unusually numerous. The Plum I. concentration of 42 individuals peaked early Aug. 19 and was fewer than in previous years (*vide* RSH). Three Long-billed were reported in Rhode Island and Maine respectively. June 22 was quite certainly an unprecedented early arrival date for a Stilt Sandpiper at Three Fathom Harbour, Halifax Co., N.S. (IAMcL, ELM). Elsewhere

in Nova Scotia, at least 26 individuals, the latest Oct. 1, were above average (*vide* ELM). New England Stilt Sandpipers figured some 78 individuals, 53 on Plum I. in July. Ten Stilt Sandpipers at Wells, Me., Aug. 2 was an unusual concentration (PDV). Although exact figures were not available, the enormous Semipalmated Sandpiper concentration at Mary's Pt., N.B., apparently reached only 10-20% of its normal level (*vide* ELM). If correctly identified, strikingly late Semipalmated Sandpipers in Nova Scotia included: three at Martinique Beach Nov. 5, one at Antigonish Nov. 8, and one there Nov. 20 (*vide* ELM). A critically examined Semipalmated Sandpiper at Plum I., Nov. 30 was remarkable (RSH). Forty-two Buff-breasted Sandpipers at 18 localities Aug. 29 - Sept. 19 were average. Massachusetts Marbled Godwits totaled 29 individuals, notably 12 at Nauset, Aug. 4 - Oct. 9 (*vide* RSH). Elsewhere at least six were seen in Connecticut and one each was recorded in New Hampshire and Maine. Two Marbled Godwits at Kelly's Beach, N.B., Aug. 5 - Oct. 4 were rare provincial occurrences (RTB).

Certainly the rarest shorebirds of the fall were the three **Bar-tailed Godwits** in New England, there being only five previous New England records. A basic-plumaged individual was seen and photographed at Pine Pt., Me., Aug. 31 - Sept. 8 for a first state record (LL *et al.*) A Bar-tailed in full breeding plumage was seen at Plum I., Sept. 4-7 (PAB *et al.*) while another in partial breeding plumage remained at Nantucket Sept. 23 - Oct. 21 (*vide* RRV). Speculation that the Plum Island and Nantucket birds may involve the same individual seems questionable.

Maximum counts of Hudsonian Godwits include 150 at Monomoy in August (*vide* RSH) while 63 on Seal I., Sept. 1 was without precedent for the Province (ELM). Four Ruffs in Nova Scotia brought the fall migration total to six. Incredible. Noted in the Breeding Season report were two on Sable I. in July. Added to these was a Reeve in West Lawrencetown Aug. 11, present two weeks, a Reeve on Sable I., Aug. 23, another at Cherry Hill Aug. 28 and a juv Ruff on Sable I., Sept. 1-2 (*v.o.*, *vide* ELM). In late August Red Phalaropes off Brier I., N.S., routinely number some 20,000 birds. This August 2000 was a maximum daily count (RGG). Nine Red Phalaropes were notably rare at Old Lyme, Conn., Oct. 2 (DAS). The Deer I., N.B., N. Phalarope concentration never developed; no more than

15,000+ birds were noted in the immediate area (PDV *et al.*). Apparently the failure of *euphausiids* to swarm in Passamaquoddy Bay forced the phalaropes elsewhere. Regional Wilson's Phalaropes numbered a remarkable 46 birds, including 23 at 15 Nova Scotian localities July 29 - Oct. 7 (*vide* ELM).

JAEGER, SKUAS — One of two especially interesting reports was received from BMacT who made seabird observations for the Canadian Wildlife Service aboard the "Gadus Atlantica" off the e. coast of Newfoundland and s. Labrador July 29 - Sept. 1. During this period 168 Pomarine, 43 Parasitic and 211 Long-tailed jaegers (plus 12 unidentified) were observed, these ratios and totals being normal for the area. Undoubtedly the voyage's most fascinating observations surrounded the 253 skuas observed. Some 200 skuas were seen Aug. 26-30 off the e. and s. edge of the Grand Banks. About 60%, thought to be juv. Great Skuas, were "very dark birds with shorter, more rounded wings, and greatly restricted white patches, and were much tamer and more aggressive toward each other." Notably these 'dark skuas' seem to be restricted to a relatively small area. Other interesting sightings by BMacT included a Lesser Black-backed Gull Aug. 26, 130 mi e.n.e. of St. John's, Nfld., five Sabine's Gulls Aug. 9-11 near Hamilton Bank, s.e. coast of Labrador, a Bay-breasted Warbler Aug. 21, 110 mi e.s.e. of Battle Harbour, Lab., and a Cape May Warbler Aug. 31, 140 mi s.e. of Cape Race, Nfld.; the two warblers being very rare for their respective localities. [!—Ed.] MacTavish also noted an impressive seabird flight from L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld., Sept. 13. During 40 knot NE winds 429 Pomarine, 82 Parasitic, one Long-tailed jaegers (100+ jaeger sp.), three skuas (presumably Great) and 10,000+ kittiwakes were observed. The difference in ratios of the three jaeger species observed at sea and from land was particularly interesting.

The second fascinating report comes from Rhode Island where a pelagic trip to Cox's Ledge Sept. 24 listed 14 Pomarine, one Parasitic, five Long-tailed jaegers (all adult), two Great Skuas and one South Polar Skua (CW *et al.*), the number of Long-tailed Jaegers remarkable for New England waters. Elsewhere in New England, five Pomarine Jaegers off Jeffrey's Ledge, Oct. 8 was without previous precedent for New Hampshire (DWF *et al.*) while eight Pomerines off First Encounter Beach on Cape Cod Nov. 24 was notable for

the date (BN *et al.*) Cape Cod birders considered Parasitic Jaegers to be below average. There were no sizable flights all fall (BN), though two at Eastham Nov. 11 were very late (WRP). Single Long-tailed Jaegers were noted off Nantucket Sept. 11 (*vide* RPE) and Monomoy Oct. 10 (*vide* RPE).

As ever, skuas remain problematical. Three Great Skuas were carefully noted from Seal I., N.S., Oct. 8 (ELM *et al.*) while in New Hampshire two probable Great Skuas were seen on Jeffrey's Ledge Oct. 7 (EWP *et al.*). Other than the previously mentioned Cox's Ledge skua the only other South Polar Skua was seen on Stellwagen Bank, Mass., on the interesting date of Oct. 17 (M.B.O. staff, *vide* TLL-E) Elsewhere only five skua sp. were reported.

GULLS, TERNS — At least six Lesser Black-backed Gulls were noted in the Region, four along coastal Massachusetts (RRV *et al.*), the Digby, N.S. bird was present by mid-October (SIT) and BMacT noted an adult e.n.e. of St. John's, Nfld., Aug. 26. New England Black-headed Gulls totalled only eight individuals. A **Franklin's Gull** on Sable I., July 23 - Sept. 13 represented only a second Provincial record (IAMCL *et al.*). Bonaparte's Gulls at Deer I., like N. Phalaropes, did not materialize in numbers comparable to previous years; no more than 15,000 individuals were noted (NF, PDV *et al.*). Little Gulls in New England numbered some 14 birds. In Massachusetts, single Sabine's Gulls off Stellwagen Bank Aug. 27 (DJA, SAP *et al.*) and Nantucket Sept. 10 (*vide* RPE) were about average but were a fraction of last fall's extraordinary 11 birds. An ad. Sabine's Gull was notably rare at Sandy Pt., R.I., Aug. 15 (*vide* CW).

— S.A. —

While conducting a seabird survey BMacT observed an unidentified gull Nov. 22 at 54°52'N 54°45'W. The gull appeared notably similar to an ad. Glaucous Gull with an identical bill (shape and color), similar shape and size of head, body, tail and wings. The significant difference in this gull was the mantle color which was twice as dark as an ad. Herring Gull, seemingly very similar to the mantle color of Lesser Black-backed Gull (*I.f. graellii*). White wing tips and border on the edge of the wing were noted to "contrast beautifully." The underside of primaries and secondaries were a slate gray lighter than the mantle and were in marked contrast to the white underwing coverts. Flight was "strong, fluid and slightly graceful," precisely as in Glaucous Gull. The description suggests a possible Glaucous × Greater Black-backed Gull but BMacT feels that the lack of any dark spots in the primaries and graceful flight preclude such a possibility. Suggestions as to the possible identity of this gull are solicited by the Regional Editor. MacTavish would love to know the identity of his "Slaty-backed Glaucous Gull."

Forster's Terns were well above average, some 23 were noted in c. Massachusetts (*vide* RSH), eight occurred in Rhode Island (*vide* CW) while in Maine, three Forster's Terns in Portland Sept. 2 and a single bird at Pine Pt., Sept. 2 were notably rare for the state (DIA, PDV *et al.*). An enormous flock of 10,000+

Shorebirds — Newburyport and Plum Island (B.O.E.M.)

	Aug.					Sept.					Oct.				
	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-31	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-30	7	25	
Semipalmated Plover	100		250	500			100	320	250			80		12	8
Black-bellied Plover	8		400	650	500			850	1000			375			125
Greater Yellowlegs	50	34	60	40			50	50	275			82	25		80
Lesser Yellowlegs	400		450	500					300			12	18		
Red Knot	12			12			100		5	17			26		
White-rumped Sandpiper	1		5	10				5	25	5	50	16	8	20	
Dunlin	2			1					2		40	1200			2500
Short-billed Dowitcher	250		425	170				45	70		30	20	4		
Long-billed Dowitcher	1			42			26	10	30		35	20			12
Stilt Sandpiper	35		8	14				2	6	2			3		
Semipalmated Sandpiper	2508		5000	9500					1200			350			2
Hudsonian Godwit	42		56	54				12	6		6	3	1		

Com Terns must have been a spectacular sight as it circled over Tuckernuck I., Mass., Sept. 24. The terns were noted kettling higher and higher until dusk when they were seen heading S (RRV *et al.*). Not surprisingly, the Region's 11 Royal Terns were restricted to s. New England; four in e. Massachusetts (*vide* RPE) and seven in Rhode Island (*vide* CW). Single Sandwich Terns were rare occurrences at Tuckernuck I., Aug. 21 (RRV *et al.*) and Monomoy Sept. 9 (*vide* RPE). Only 22 Caspian Terns were noted from the three s. New England states while a Black Tern was surprisingly late off Provincetown Oct. 9 (RSH, RRV *et al.*).

ALCIDS — For the second consecutive year alcids were few. A small flight occurred along coastal Massachusetts, Nov. 22-24; 23 Razorbills were seen off Provincetown (RSH), 20 were noted off First Encounter Beach (BN *et al.*), further n. 19 occurred off Rockport (*vide* RPE). Seven Thick-billed Murres were seen at Sandy Neck, Barnstable, Nov. 18 while four were seen at Rockport Nov. 23 (*vide* RPE). Dovekies were also very scarce. No doubt the most unexpected occurrence was a single Dovekie in Sharon, Conn., Nov. 17, at least 50 mi from the nearest salt water (AG). A single breeding-plumaged Dovekie was a rare occurrence off Brier I., N.S., Sept. 2. A single Com. Puffin off Rye, N.H., Oct. 4 was very early (EWP, *vide* KCE) while late summer puffins off Brier I., N.S. were more numerous than ever. A peak count of 121 puffins Aug. 28 suggested that they might be experiencing a population increase in the Bay of Fundy (RGGB).

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Vagrant Yellow-billed Cuckoos were about average with seven in Nova Scotia and five on Mame's islands. A freshly dead Yellow-billed Cuckoo was a rare find in Taylor Place, Nfld., Oct. 11 (JM, *vide* MMP), Black-billed Cuckoo was one of few passerines which occurred in excellent numbers on Cape Cod, 14 at Sandwich Aug. 16 being the highest day's total (*vide* BN). Snowy Owls were a bit more numerous this fall: at least six were reported in November. The mid- to late-October migration of Saw-whet Owls was again well documented this fall: 13 were banded on Bon Portage I., N.S., Oct. 21-22 (*vide* IAMcL), seven Saw-whets were noted at Monomet Oct. 17 - Nov. 7 (*vide* TLL-E) and two birds were captured on Block I., R.I., Oct. 16-21 (HL). Very late hummingbirds, presumably Ruby-throated but not certainly so, were seen on Nantucket Nov. 17 (*vide* EFA) and Guilford, Conn., Nov. 22 (DAS).

At least 13 Red-headed Woodpeckers reported from the Connecticut R. valley in w. Massachusetts were well above average (*vide* SK). Elsewhere numbers seemed about as usual, 4-5 were noted on Cape Cod (BN) and at least six were noted at as many coastal localities in Maine (*vide* PDV). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were especially numerous on Monhegan I., Sept. 30; some 50-60 individuals were noted (DWF, PDV *et al.*). Two N. Three-toed Woodpeckers at Amherst Pt., N.S., Nov. 11-30+ marked perhaps only the fourth Provincial record for this species (CD, *vide* IAMcL). Considerably further s. a Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was notably unusual at E. Kingston, N.H., Nov. 7 (DWF, *vide* KCE).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, JAYS — Western Kingbirds were well above average this fall with at least 47 individuals reported. Two W. Kingbirds in Truro, Mass., Nov. 24 were impressively late (WRP). A Great Crested Flycatcher at Fundy N.P., N.B., Oct. 23 was notably late (DSC). This season's two **Say's Phoebes** both occurred in Maine; the first was easily studied in S. Thomaston Oct. 4 (EK, *vide* JC) and the second was seen in Bar Harbor Oct. 30 (WCR *et al.*). The only Acadian Flycatcher n. of Massachusetts was banded on E. Egg Rock, Me., Aug. 11 (*vide* SKr). In recent years the species has been regular on one or another of Maine's islands. Late Barn Swallows include the following: 6 at Plum I., Nov. 4; 9 in New Brunswick, Nov. 6-13; 4 on Brier I., N.S., Nov. 11; 1 or 2 on Monomoy Nov. 19. This was the third consecutive fall for such a November influx.

Starting in mid-October and continuing through November large numbers of Gray Jays emerged from their spruce-fir habitat. Twenty to thirty birds a day were routine in the Sackville, N.B., area and were almost as numerous elsewhere. These numbers in such atypical habitats as farmyards, open fields, along marshes, open deciduous woods and even along a breakwater seemed to indicate an impressive fall migration. But few birds were reported s. of their normal range. Possibly a temporary food shortage forced the jays from their coniferous habitat. By late November they were no longer obviously apparent.

RAVENS, TITMICE, WRENS — Following a pattern of S expansion developing over the last 6-10 years two Com. Ravens were carefully observed at Mt. Riga, Salisbury, Conn., Nov. 3 (MR, *vide* NSP). This was the second consecutive fall ravens were noted at that Connecticut locality. This fall Tufted Titmice experienced the largest flight ever witnessed in New England. Beginning in October unprecedented numbers ranged N into c. New Hampshire and s. Maine. At least 200+ titmice were reported in s. Maine n. to Portland and Brunswick, the northernmost as far as Old Town in mid-October (*vide* WCT). New Hampshire experienced its largest influx ever with many reports of 3-5 birds coming to feeders in the s. part of the state. A single titmouse occurred n. to Littleton (*vide* KCE). Apparently this incursion originated s. of the Region as Manomet banded 113 titmice, by a wide margin their largest season's total (*vide* TLL-E). An examination of New England CBCs should give some indication as to the longevity of this incursion. A Carolina Wren in St. Andrew's, N.B., Sept. 14 was only a fourth provincial record (*vide* DSC) while in N.S., single Short-billed Marsh Wrens were found on Seal I., Sept. 25 and Oct. 8 respectively (ELM, IAMcL *et al.*).

WHEATEAR, SOLITAIRE — Six Regional Wheatears were decidedly above average. A single bird was seen at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld., Sept. 16 (BMacT). Single Maine Wheatears were found in Damariscove Sept. 10 and inland in Raymond Sept. 23 (*vide* PDV). Massachusetts Wheatears occurred at Salisbury Oct. 15-17 and particularly rare was another inland individual at Quabbin Sept. 1 - 7 (*vide* SK). A Wheatear on Grand Manan, N.B., Sept. 4-5 was only the Province's fourth (DWF *et al.*). A **Townsend's**

Solitaire in Warren, R.I., Nov. 11-30+ was only the eighth Regional occurrence, the fifth since 1976 (R. Bowen, *vide* CW). Previous records include 3 sight records for New Brunswick, a 1976 specimen from Nova Scotia and a somewhat problematical 1976 New Hampshire sight record. Added to this are two previously unpublished Rhode Island sight records, both in December, 1957 (*vide* CW). It is unclear whether these recent sightings reflect a higher incidence of vagrancy or increased winter birding coverage. Probably it is the latter.

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES — Notably unusual were two single Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Mary's Pt., N.B., Sept. 18-19 and Oct. 30 (DSC *et al.*). Migrant Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets appeared to have at least partially recovered their numbers. Both were reasonably common throughout the fall in c. Maine. Netting operations on Block I., totalled 31 Golden-crowned (0 in 77) and 23 Ruby-crowned Kinglets (7 in 77) (HL). However Manomet still considered numbers to be well below normal. The first Bohemian Waxwings appeared more or less on schedule with singles at Tide Head, N.B., Oct. 16 and Fundy N.P., Oct. 29 (*vide* DSC). In Maine, 15 Bohemians were noted in Bancroft in late November and 40-60 were seen in Orono by month's end (*vide* PDV). In late October and throughout November N. Shrikes staged an impressive flight across New England. By late November numbers on the Cape had dwindled (BN). The Region's three Loggerhead Shrikes all occurred in Massachusetts, at Plum I., Aug. 19 (*vide* RPE), Sandwich Sept. 21 (*vide* BN) and Westhampton Oct. 23 (*vide* SK).

RARE VIREOS AND WARBLERS — Juvenal White-eyed Vireos on Seal I., Oct. 6 & 9 were, because of slightly different eye color, thought to be different individuals (BMacT, SIT). Southern warblers on Sable I. this fall were again remarkable. These included ♂ Pine Warbler Aug. 12-14, 7 Prairies, Louisiana Waterthrush Sept. 8, Kentucky Warbler Sept. 2, Connecticut Warbler Sept. 9-13, 10 Yellow-breasted Chats, 4 Hooded Warblers Sept. 1-16 (IAMcL, *vide* PRD). Elsewhere in the Region a Prothonotary Warbler was seen on Cape Cod at Chatham Sept. 10 (*vide* BN). A freshly dead Worm-eating Warbler was notable on Seal I., Oct. 14 while a Blue-winged Warbler was observed there Aug. 25-26 (*vide* PRD). A single Blue-winged was unusual at Appledore I., Me., Aug. 23 (*vide* KCE). Six Orange-crowned Warblers on Seal I., were fewer than average, although four on Monhegan I., Sept. 30 was a surprising daily total (DWF *et al.*). Single Cerulean Warblers were noted in Massachusetts at Tuckernuck I., Aug. 18 (RRV *et al.*) and Nantucket Sept. 3 (EFA). Three Pine Warblers at as many Nova Scotia localities Aug. 12 - Oct. 9 were average while in New Brunswick a Pine Warbler at Fundy N.P., Oct. 26 was notably rare as was a Prairie Warbler at Mary's Pt., Oct. 16 (DSC). Kentucky Warblers were unusual in Massachusetts at Manchester Aug. 21 and at Nahant Sept. 5 (*vide* RPE). Five Connecticut Warblers banded at Manomet were about average (*vide* TLL-E). Again this fall the warbler rarity was a **MacGillivray's Warbler**, on Nantucket Nov. 23 (RRV *et al.*). Distinctive

features included a "white throat without any trace of yellow, prominent white partial eye-ring and dusky, suffused streaks on throat" (RRV). Only a second Regional occurrence, the previous record was discovered just last year in Lexington, Mass., Nov. 13-28 (AB 32: 179). [The putative 1972 MacGillivray's Warbler specimen proved to be a Mourning Warbler (RAF).] In Newfoundland, a Cape May Warbler 140 mi. s.e. of Cape Race Aug. 31 (BMacT) and a Canada Warbler at Oxen Pond Sept. 20 (*vide* MMP) were both rare, as was a Bay-breasted 110 mi. s.e. of Battle Harbour, Lab., Aug. 21 (BMacT).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — Although few figures were noted, New England observers felt there was a good fall flight of Philadelphia Vireos. The first heavy movement of Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers Aug. 11 was startlingly early: Cape Cod and Nantucket both noted sizable numbers (EFA, BN), Nantucket also experienced a major flight Aug. 21 and smaller waves Aug. 27 and Sept. 3 and later pulses Sept. 8 - 10 and Sept. 20 (EFA). Not surprisingly, warblers connected to the spruce budworm infestation were all particularly numerous. Typical counts included 450 Cape Mays on Green I., Me., Aug. 25 (ICTN, *vide* RAF). Notably late warblers were a Black-and-white at Manomet Nov. 29 (*vide* TLL-E), a Cape May on Nantucket Nov. 26 (EFA, RRV *et al.*), a Wilson's on Cape Cod at Sandwich Nov. 17 (*vide* BN) and an Am. Redstart on Nantucket Nov. 25 (EFA, RRV *et al.*).

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS — Some 13 Yellow-headed Blackbirds occurred Aug. 26 - Oct. 25: Nova Scotia (5), Maine (1), Massachusetts (4), Rhode Island (1), Connecticut (2). A single Orchard Oriole was very late on Sable I., Sept. 28 (*vide* IAmcL) while in Massachusetts single Brewer's Blackbirds were noted on Nantucket (EFA) and at Truro Nov. 4 (BN *et al.*). Single W. Tanagers, more typically late fall vagrants, were observed in Truro, Mass., Sept. 17 (*vide* BN) and on Block I., Sept. 30 (PKD *et al.*). The fall's three Summer Tanagers were individuals at Manomet Aug. 28 (*vide* TLL-E), Nantucket Sept. 5 (*vide* EFA) and Hammond River, N.B., Sept. 10 (*vide* DSC), the New Brunswick record being notably rare.

FRINGILLIDS — A **Black-headed Grosbeak** photographed at Martinon, St. John Co., N.B., Oct. 10 provided a first confirmed Provincial record (*vide* DSC) while another sporadically present at a S. Portland, Me., feeder from late September - Nov. 30+ was also photographed for a third Maine record (*vide* PDV). Blue Grosbeaks totalled some 12 individuals, the most unusual being an inland bird in w. Massachusetts at Amherst Oct. 7 (PY *et al.*). An Indigo Bunting was impressively late at Fundy N.P., N.B., Oct. 23 (DSC).

For the second consecutive fall Dickcissels were decidedly scarce; fewer than 30 were reported. Four Regional **Lark Buntings** was the largest number ever seen in one season. A bird photographed and banded at East Haven, Conn., Oct. 8-25 provided a first confirmed state record (*vide* NSP) while a ♀ type on Monhegan I., Sept. 30 - Oct. 3 (DWF, CM *et al.*) provided a fourth (the second confirmed) state record. In Massachusetts a ♀ type was observed in Truro Sept. 17-18 (BN *et*

al.) and a molting male lingered at Salisbury Sept. 27 - Nov. 30+ (*vide* RPE).



Lazuli Bunting. Monhegan I., Me. Oct. 5, 1978. Photo/Tom Martin.

S.A.

Unquestionably the rarest bird of the season was the ♂ **Lazuli Bunting** present on Monhegan I., Me., Oct. 4-6 (DWF *et al.*). Photographed, the bunting provided a first confirmed Regional occurrence. Interestingly, there is a previous Maine sight record for Mt. Desert I., October, 1974. Distinctive features separating this Lazuli Bunting from Indigo Bunting included two well defined, broad wingbars, a notable buffy orange breast and a complete absence of any streaking on the lower surface. Other confirmed records e. of Illinois include single birds photographed in Florida Mar. - Apr., 1977 and Pennsylvania Jan. - Mar., 1975. There is a single sight record for Virginia Oct., 1975.

"WINTER" FINCHES — Evening Grosbeaks appeared as usual in September and October. Otherwise "winter" finches were essentially non-existent anywhere in the Region but Nova Scotia, where large numbers of White-winged Crossbills were apparent since July (*vide* PRD). Especially interesting in such a flightless autumn were the remarkably early occurrences of single Com. Redpolls at Truro, Mass., Oct. 1 (RSH) and Seal I., Oct. 11 (BMacT). The Truro redpoll was by at least two weeks a record early date for Massachusetts.

SPARROWS — In Nova Scotia, Grasshopper Sparrows numbered some 15 individuals, 13 on Seal I., with a peak of five Oct. 16 (BMacT). MacTavish points out that Grasshopper Sparrows seem to follow a pattern similar to three other regular w. vagrants: W. Kingbird, Dickcissel and Lark Sparrow. He suggests that fall Grasshopper Sparrows might possibly be of w. origin. Such common s. New England breeding species as House Wren, Indigo Bunting, and Rufous-sided Towhee are not especially numerous on Seal I., either spring or fall. Spring Grasshopper Sparrows are rare indeed on Seal I.; these would, presumably, be s. overshoots. Perhaps netting efforts would help answer the question. Also on Seal I. was a **Henslow's Sparrow** Oct. 9, for only a second Provincial record (BMacT). In e. Massachusetts a Henslow's Sparrow was closely scrutinized on Plum I., Sept. 14 (RRV). The season's total for Lark Sparrows was 25 (15 in 1977, 31 in 1976) while 16 Clay-colored Sparrows at 10 localities were

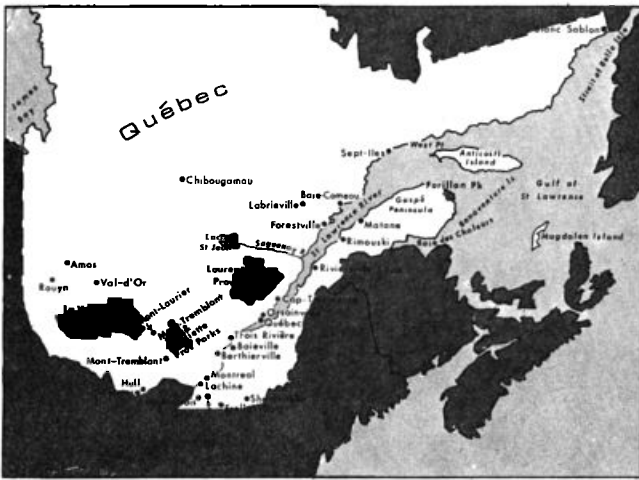
also about average. The only "*gambelli*" White-crowned was also reported from Seal I., Oct. 18 (BMacT).

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QUÉBEC REGION /Normand David and Michel Gosselin

Weather conditions did not vary much from the average throughout the season. It was noticed, however, that September was somewhat rainy and cool, and October was generally sunny and largely free of gusty easterly winds. November was cold and, as usual, brought winter conditions by the end of the season. This report also includes noteworthy nesting records received too late for their inclusion in our breeding season report.

FULMARS THROUGH BITTERNs — Record numbers of pelagics were reported during the summer-fall season: 160 N. Fulmars were at Blanc-Sablon June 16 (JLD), and 12 at nearby St-Paul Aug. 5 (PC); 978 Greater Shearwaters at Blanc-Sablon June 16 (JLD) and 175 Aug. 4 (PC), one in Sainte-Marie I., July 21 (KAB), and one from the Trois-Pistoles ferry Oct. 6 (JHy *et al.*). Also at Blanc-Sablon were 375 Sooty Shearwaters Aug. 4 (PC); two **Manx Shearwaters** were turned up there Aug. 4, and two at Natashquan Aug. 6 (PC *et al.*). Locally rare cormorants included an imm. Great at Lauzon Sept. 10 (PBr) and an imm. Double-crested at Bagotville Sept. 2 (YG). Inadvertently omitted from last season's report was an ad. **Little Blue Heron** at Barachois June 3 (RB, m. ob.).



A late Black-crowned Night Heron was at Jonquièrre Nov. 12 (*vide* NB), and an Am. Bittern's nest was found at Schefferville June 23 (RH).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS — A White-fronted Goose stopped at Cap Tourmente Sept. 23 - Oct. 7 (BH); the mystery of the Ruddy Shelduck continued, with a bird at Chambly Sept. 8-10 (MM *et al.*), a likely location for an escapee (see AB 32:331, 1141). A Mallard was at Harrington Harbour June 30 (KAB), and a nest of Lesser Scaup was found at Schefferville June 28 (RH), which represents a tremendous range extension. A Harlequin Duck at Lasalle Nov. 18-19 (PBa, m.ob.) was the first Montreal record in nearly 10 years.

Single Turkey Vultures were reported from Luskville Aug. 10 (HM, JAM) and Masham Oct. 28 (MW). Noteworthy eagle records included a Golden Eagle at Aylmer Sept. 19 (BD, JHs), and one at both Rigaud and Hébertville Nov. 7 (JW, NB), plus a Bald Eagle at Arthabaska Aug. 17 (AL). Two or three Gyrfalcons moved into the Arvida-Jonquièrre area in October (NB), and an Am. Kestrel was present at Schefferville July 23 (RH).

CRANES THROUGH JAEGERS — A report was received of a Sandhill Crane at St-Fulgence Oct. 5 (DC, *vide* NB). Purple Sandpipers were noticed more than usual, six being present at Cap Whittle Aug. 22 (AR), one at LaBaie Oct. 15 (GS), one or two at St-Fulgence Oct. 21-28 (*vide* NB), and four at Pointe-au-Père Oct. 30 (GG). An outstanding 24 Stilt Sandpipers were at Gentilly Aug. 6 (BB, MM), plus two at Cacouna Aug. 19 (MG) and one at Aylmer Sept. 19 (BD, JHs). Rare waders also included a Willet at Carleton Aug. 12 (WB, LL), a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Québec City Sept. 4-15 (MG, m. ob.), and a Marbled Godwit Aug. 21 (RS). Single Red Phalaropes were at Gentilly Sept. 9 (BB, MM) and Québec City Oct. 4-27 (RS). Out-of-range Wilson's Phalaropes were at Montmagny Aug. 19 (MG), and Sherbrooke Aug. 25-26 (YA). As in the summer season, jaegers were numerous: an imm. Pomarine at Québec City Oct. 23 - Nov. 11 (RS), a Parasitic at Québec City Aug. 1 (AD) and a dark one at Beauharnois Nov. 11-12 (BB, MM), and an ad. Long-tailed from the Trois-Pistoles ferry Aug. 23 (GG, JRP).

GULLS THROUGH NIGHTHAWKS — An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull found at Gatineau Nov. 30 (RF) was subsequently photographed and seen by many; the first Thayer's Gull was at nearby Aylmer Oct. 29 (BD, JHs). Black-headed Gulls were widely noticed: Les Escoumins Aug. 6-7 (AB *et al.*), Magdalen Is., Aug. 18-19 (LH), Rimouski area Aug. 22-30 (GG, JRP), and Beauharnois Nov. 25 (BB, MM). An ad.

Laughing Gull was at Lasalle Oct. 2 (PBa), and Forster's Terns were at Beauharnois July 28 and Aug. 25-26 (BB *et al.*) and Aylmer Sept. 21 (BD, JHs). A Little Gull was present at Les Escoumins Sept. 17 - Oct. 28 (AB, JHy). Four Razorbills found July 13 sitting on a rocky islet named Pilier de Bois, in Montmagny County (JLD), raises the possibility of this species nesting within 80 km of Québec City. Strayed Razorbills were at Québec City Nov. 12 (CS) and L. St. Francis in early November (*vide* RMP), while a Com. Puffin was sighted from the Trois-Pistoles ferry Oct. 6 (JHy).

Four Hawk Owls at Arvida in early November (NB), a Great Gray Owl at Duchesnay Oct. 21 (DB) and another found dead near Arvida Nov. 1 (NB), plus a Boreal Owl found dead at Sacré-Coeur in October (AB) forecast a winter movement of these birds. A Com. Nighthawk at I. des Soeurs Oct. 11 (PBa) was a record late departure.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SPARROWS — A Red-headed Woodpecker found near Rigaud Nov. 4 (MG) remained in the area through the end of the season (GH); engaged in food-catching activities, the bird will probably attempt to winter. Gray Jays were spoken of as somewhat more numerous than average, at least in the St. Lawrence valley. A Townsend's Solitaire was observed at length at Chandler Nov. 19, and thoroughly described (RB, PP); this report is the first for the Gaspé Pen. (and the fifth for the Province). A highly interesting summer report was that of a Bohemian Waxwing at Otter L., Gatineau Co., Aug. 6 (BD). The ♂ Kirtland's Warbler discovered in the Gatineau R. valley (see Spring Report) was feeding . . . a young Yellow-rumped Warbler at the very beginning of the period (*The Shrike* 3(5):1). Two unprecedentedly late warblers were recorded this fall: a Black-throated Blue at Lac Malbaie Nov. 5 (LM) and a Wilson's at Senneville Oct. 22 (BB). A pair of Cardinals raised three broods at Hull (*vide* BM). In an "off-year" for Com. Redpolls, a bird at Calumet Sept. 13 (RMP) was surprisingly early. One of the best finds of the season was the well-described Lark Bunting at St-Fulgence Oct. 6 (CA, PBR); there are only two previous Regional occurrences, both in May. A Field Sparrow positively identified at Rimouski Oct. 28 (JRP, m.ob.) was a first local occurrence.

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

By almost unanimous consent, this was one of the dullest fall migrations in memory. Subjective impressions of empty skies and quiet thickets were borne out by banding statistics. One Long Island bander trapped 0.83 birds per net hour during September in net lanes where, in September 1976, he had trapped 1.80. To make matters worse, winter finches and other irruptive species — except Northern Shrikes and Purple Finches — were all but absent.

The past two harsh winters do not readily explain this dearth, for tropical winterers were as scarce as species subjected to our winter. Low numbers may have resulted simply from the absence of the northwesterlies that normally pile up migrants. The jet stream carried high pressure cells to the north this season, producing easterlies here.

Some superlative rarities afforded compensation, including Arctic Loon, White Pelican, Sandhill Crane, a possible Ferruginous Hawk, California Gull, Spotted Redshank, Wheat-ear, and Fork-tailed Flycatcher.

LOONS, PELAGICS — It is not clear why Red-throated Loons should be so much more exclusively coastal in migration than Com. Loons, although that is what current evidence indicates. This fall's largest loon count was 1500, mostly Red-throated; passing Townsend's Inlet, Cape May Co., N.J., Nov. 15 (DW). Although no inland groups were as large as the 30-40 of 1975, two Red-throated Loons at Beltzville Lake S.P., Carbon Co., Pa., Nov. 15-18 (RW, BM) constituted a first locality record. Common Loons followed the ridges abundantly, as usual, although Hawk Mt.'s 353 for the season (AN) has been surpassed on occasion in a single day there (*e.g.*, 488 Nov. 13, 1977).

A gratifyingly certain Arctic Loon, usually a problem species, was studied alongside both other species at Round Valley Res., Hunterdon Co., N.J., following Nov. 17 (†GH, RK, m.ob., ph.). Pale feather edgings giving the back a scalloped appearance (absent in Red-

throated Loons) indicated a first year bird, and head shape as well as bill eliminated even the smallest Com. Loon.

There was less pelagic coverage this fall than in the innovative mid-1970s, and only sparse remnants of the summer's abundant shearwaters and storm-petrels were encountered on the five sea trips of which we have knowledge. It is possible that the departure of the foreign fishing fleets has dispersed such scavengers as N. Fulmars. Late summer eddies of warm water shoreward provided record numbers of Audubon's Shearwaters, however. One and possibly two encountered in an area of 72°F water ca. 20 mi. e. of Montauk Pt., L.I., Aug. 26 (THD, AJL, BS, ROP *et al.*) and an unprecedented five reported at Hudson Canyon, 85 mi. e.s.e. of Barnegat, N.J., in 73° water Sept. 1-2 (A. Lorinzetti) suggest that this warm-water procellariid should be looked for yearly under similar conditions. As in several recent years, the two Manx Shearwaters seen from shore were late, Oct. 15 (PWP) & Nov. 10 (JA), both off Montauk Pt.

PELICANS TO FLAMINGOS — A White Pelican remained at Brigantine N.W.R., N.J. (hereafter, B.N.W.R.) after Sept. 6 (JDD, BME, m.ob.). Double-crested Cormorants continue to increase in this Region. Unprecedented concentrations in the lower Delaware R. estuary reached 700 at Floodgates, Gloucester Co., N.J., Aug. 25 (JTMcN) and 300 at Henlopen, Del., Oct. 22 (BF). The lower Hudson R. peak was 107 in late September at Piermont, Rockland Co., N.Y. (RFD).

Singles at B.N.W.R., Aug. 13-15 (JKM, HG), Cape May Pt., Aug. 20, and Stone Harbor, N.J., in September (H. Axtell *et al.*) were the only White Ibises, faint reminders of the 1977 invasion. An Am. Flamingo of uncertain provenance, but in good plumage, frequented the Brookhaven, L.I., area for at least two weeks after Nov. 11 (GSR).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — The main Whistling Swan flight took place Nov. 18, according to remarkably concordant observations. On that day 150 passed Waggoner's Gap, Pa. (T. Hake), 200 arrived at B.N.W.R. (PH), 40 flew over Griggstown, N.J. (LM, JS) and 84 passed Avalon, N.J. (DW). Eight at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge (hereafter, J.B.W.R.) L.I., Nov. 17 (WW) were rare there, although the usual stragglers turned up farther out on e. L.I.

White-fronted Geese turn up ever more regularly. In addition to an adult Oct. 25 at J.B.W.R., probably of the Greenland race (H. Recher, W. Kurau), two each were at Tabernacle, Burlington Co., N.J., Oct. 9 (K. Tischner), Bombay Hook N.W.R., Del. (hereafter, B.H.N.W.R.) Nov. 11 (RL), (LM, JS) and L. Ontelaunee, Pa., Nov. 19 (M. Spence). Although fewer Brant were grounded inland than usual, one Nov. 4 at Green Lane Res., Montgomery Co., Pa., provided a second record there (BM, RBr), and three Nov. 6-12 at Middle Creek W.M.A., Lebanon Co., Pa. (*vide* CJ) were a first occurrence there. Since several good breeding seasons are needed to replenish this species, WW's count of 11% immature among 12,000 at J.B.W.R., in early November was disappointing.

Only two Eur. Wigeon were reported: Sagonack, L.I., Nov. 5 (JA) and after Nov. 19 in

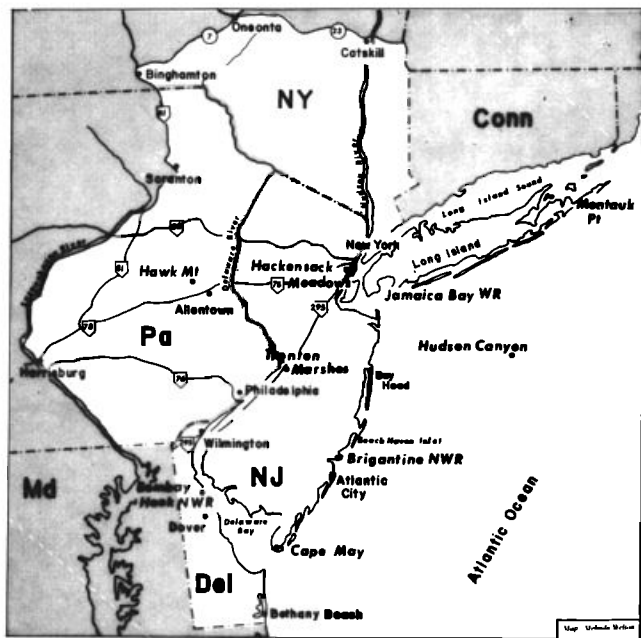
the Spring L. Shark R., N.J. area (G. Godley, IB, PWS). Wood Ducks continue to flourish in parts of the Region, such as Orange County, N.Y., where they were "our most numerous dabblers this fall away from the Hudson River" (JT).

Instead of the sustained seawatching now practiced in California and Europe, we have only isolated counts (see loons also). The best scoter count was 4100 passing Townsend's Inlet in three hours Oct. 30 (DW). Inland Black Scoter groups were smaller than last year's. The biggest were of 50 each at the traditional sites of Culver's L., Sussex Co., N.J., Oct. 15 (GH) and at Green Lane Res., Pa., the same day (RBr), and another 50 passing Raccoon Ridge, Warren Co., N.J., Oct. 24 (FPW). Two White-winged Scoters, rarer inland, were at L. Struble, Chester Co., Pa., Oct. 19 (JHG). Inland scoters usually move on at once, but three Surf Scoters, rarest inland, remained at Harvey's L., in n.e. Pennsylvania Nov. 19-27 (E. Johnson, K. McGuire). The historic Delaware R. Ruddy Duck flock at Floodgates, N.J., reached only 5000 Nov. 20 (JTMcN), the same figure as last year, following three recent oil spills. This flock had reached 17,280 Nov. 16, 1976, still far below the 40-50,000 of the 1950s.

VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES — Black Vultures' continued increase in s.e. Pennsylvania was illustrated by 40 at Muddy Run, Drumore, Lancaster Co., Pa., Sept. 1 (RMS). Up the Delaware R., one was at Woodstock, Salem Co., N.J., Oct. 1 (J. Blasioli) and two Nov. 18 at Bull's L., Hunterdon Co., N.J., where two (possibly the same) had summured.

Hawk concentrations were greater this fall over inland ridges than along the coast. Hawk Mt.'s stunning 62,155 (AN) was its highest seasonal total ever, as were 30,378 at Skyline Ridge, Oakland, N.J. (ST). Raccoon Ridge, Warren Co., N.J., had its second best season with 20,450. By contrast, Cape May's 48,356 were well below last year's record 81,145, although about the same as in 1976 (see tables AB 30:42, 32:185). Since last fall's extraordinary Cape May total was due in part to an exceptional coastal Broad-winged Hawk flight (over 12,000 *cf.* the usual 1000±), it is tempting to attribute the decline to this fall's absence of northwesterlies. September 1977's weather was rather similar, however, and we remain ill-informed about migrant raptors' choice of routes.

Accipiters fell short of last year's record totals at six of the seven hawk watches from which we have reports (alas, not all), the exception being a 20-year high of 1073 Sharp-shinned Hawks at Mt. Peter, Orange Co., N.Y. (*vide* ST). Nevertheless Hawk Mt.'s 8951, Raccoon's 4040, Hook Mt.'s 4720, Montclair's



4362, and Cape May's 32,611 were second only to last fall's record counts. Similarly, Cooper's Hawk totals of 216 at Hawk Mt., 160 at Raccoon Ridge, 64 at Hook Mt., and 668 at Cape May have been exceeded only in 1977. Goshawks, however, returned to levels far below the great flights of the early 1970s, after an ephemeral upturn last year. Raccoon Ridge had 35 (60 last fall, 202 in 1972) and Hawk Mt., 63 (110 last fall, 428 in 1972). We cannot tell whether Goshawks are genuinely diminished or remained in the n.

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It is of course dangerous to try to prove too much with such comparative figures. We have received some pertinent comments from Maurice Broun, Director Emeritus of the Hawk Mt. Sanctuary. He doubts that recent high counts are historic highs because so many migrant raptors were shot in earlier days. "It is a miracle that we saw as many as 8529 Sharp-shinned over the Sanctuary in 1939, for at the dozen or more shooting blinds e. of Hawk Mt., the gunners consistently knocked down four out of five Sharp-shinned. I saw many mounds of dead birds, some of them 3-4 ft deep. It boggles the mind to contemplate the actual numbers of these birds — perhaps over 35,000 that occurred along the ridge in the fall of 1939."

Broun also calls attention to potential duplication introduced by the very popularity of hawk-watching, in that multiple-observer counts are being compared to older counts by a single observer. Whatever relation today's high Sharp-shinned Hawk totals bear to the 1939 population, it seems beyond doubt that the trend of the last two decades has been steadily upward, a trend due perhaps in part to the maturation of eastern second-growth hardwoods, but surely also to the protection which Maurice Broun pioneered.

The main Broad-winged Hawk flight was remarkably concentrated Sept. 13-14, without a cold front. The peak of Broad-winged passage fell Sept. 13 at Hook Mt., with 4378, and Skyline Ridge with 9497. On Sept. 14 Hawk Mt. nearly doubled its previous daily record (11,349 Broad-wingeds on Sept. 10, 1948) with a stunning 21,447; 3200 Broad-wingeds passed Sunrise Mt., N.J. (FT), and 3000 passed low from Scott's Mt., over Phillipsburg, N.J., 8:20-10:00 a.m. (JE, J. DeMarrais). Some of the Sunrise birds may have reached Raccoon Ridge later the same day, as "a spectacular gathering of hawks" crossed the ridge moving *due west* before a cumulus cloud mass advancing on light s.e. winds. The day's total there was a record 6414 Broad-winged Hawks, 4000 of which passed in the hour before noon (FTi).

An imm. Swainson's Hawk was trapped, banded, and photographed Nov. 19 at Cape May (WSC). Two other possible sight records there are under study (PJD). Now that this western Buteo has occurred every fall except one since 1973, and at Hawk Mt., as well (1977), Swainson's Hawk can be considered a regular migrant in small numbers in this Region (*cf. AB 32:185*). Rough-legged Hawks began auspiciously with two very early at Cape May Oct. 8 (PJD), but hawk watch totals were only slightly above average (Raccoon 13, Hawk Mt. 14). Photos and detailed descriptions of a possible Ferruginous Hawk at Cape May Nov. 26 are under study here and in Colorado. More westerly and far rarer everywhere than Swainson's Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk only accidentally reaches Minnesota and Illinois.

Golden Eagles were within the norms of the past decade with 17 at Raccoon and 34 at Hawk Mt. The fact that 25 of the latter were immature was a healthy sign. The more dispersed Bald Eagle figures were harder to interpret. There were some tentative grounds for optimism in 17 (10 imm.) at Raccoon Ridge, a count exceeded only once since 1971, and 33 at Hawk Mt., more than in recent years, although only 11 of the latter were immature. Elsewhere we learned of 14 from other inland ridges, at least seven of which were immature (*fide GH, ST*), as well as seven scattered singles (5 imm.) in n. New Jersey (JE, FPW, SA, FT, D. Schwenker, K. Apps) and in s.e. Pennsylvania (W. Kelley). Coastally, Bald Eagles were no more numerous than in recent years. Several late November observations of an immature on Long Island were quite possibly the same bird, and ten at Cape May (nine in 1977, 12 in 1976, six in 1975) were at least no worse than before. The Osprey climb may be levelling off. Although some of the ridges achieved new highs (Hawk Mt., 497, Raccoon 225), others slipped a bit, and 793 at Cape May was well below the 1000± of recent years.

Overall Peregrine figures offered some cautious encouragement. Hawk Mt.'s 15 was the best in recent years, although other ridge counts were poor or nil. Cape May's 149 was splendid in an otherwise "off" year (61 last fall, 105 in 1976, 27 in 1975), although we do not know how many repeats of circulating birds this count may include. Nor do we have age data for Peregrines. Coastal Long Island, where a daily hawk watch is sorely needed, provided some good scattered observations such as five at Robert Moses S.P. (hereafter, R.M.S.P.) Oct. 7 (D. Powers). Merlins were in

good numbers inland Nineteen at the Montclair, N.J., hawkwatch tied the earlier record (AB), and three were at Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Oct. 1-27 (WR); 717 at Cape May was slightly down.

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An imm. ♀ Peregrine Falcon banded the previous July in Greenland was recaptured Oct. 12 at Cape May (WSC). This dramatic event was not without precedent, for a similar recapture took place Oct. 13, 1974, at Cape Charles, Va. There are, in addition, old records of Greenland-banded Peregrines killed in Ontario, Cuba, and Bolivia, and, in the other direction, a Peregrine banded some years back at Assateague I., was subsequently recaptured in Greenland (F.P. Ward, pers. comm.).

CRANES TO SHOREBIRDS — Sandhill Cranes are now seen almost annually somewhere in this Region. This fall there may have been two. One over Hawk Mt., Oct. 11 (S. Benz, *fide AN*) may have been the same photographed two days later near Palmerton, Pa. The description of a possible Sandhill Crane high over Huntington Bay, L.I., Aug. 19 (T. O'Connor) has been submitted to N.Y.S.A.R.C. Downy young Clapper Rails were observed Sept. 24 at J.B.W.R. (M. Kleinbaum). A Yellow Rail was carefully described Nov. 24 by the assistant refuge manager at Great Swamp, Morris Co., N.J. (H. Laskowski, *fide IB*).

American Oystercatchers continue to thrive, and to linger late. A Brigantine I., count of 250 Aug. 11 (J. Akers) was not far short of a record, and 109 on the Line Is., s. of Freeport, L.I., Sept. 3 (P. Gillen) were remarkable. Twenty-five were still at Nummy's I., N.J., Nov. 29 (DW). A Wilson's Plover was reported Sept. 2 at J.B.W.R. (M. Hemmerick). As usual, the best Am. Golden Plover localities were in the e. Long Island potato fields: 100 were at Sagaponack and 150 at Southampton Sept. 16 (JA). Another favorable site only recently studied is Stewart Airport, Newburgh, N.Y., where there were 130 Oct. 15 (BSg). Elsewhere the best count was 50 Am. Golden Plover at the Philadelphia sewage treatment plant Sept. 23 (JGr); the usually productive New Jersey sod farms had reportedly been sprayed for grasshoppers (*fide RJB*). A Ruddy Turnstone at Exeter, Pa., July 31 provided a first fall record there (WR). The best Upland Sandpiper count, 20 on Aug. 21 at the Columbus sod farms, Burlington Co., N.J. (AM), was only about a third of the recent maximum (1976).

The most satisfying shorebird of the season was a Spotted Redshank in winter plumage found at B.N.W.R., Sept. 14 (CTC, PF) and subsequently studied by hundreds (E. Breden, ph.), the first photographically confirmed Regional record.

It is hard to draw conclusions about general shorebird numbers, for, as usual, they gathered wherever habitat was favorable. For the second year in a row, draining the East Pond at J.B.W.R., created a shorebird bonanza. About 9000 shorebirds gathered there in late August, and 37 species were identified during the season, 25 of them Sept. 3-4 (WW, THD);

B.N.W.R. had a massive 15,000 Dunlin Nov 25 (GF)

Red Knots were exclusively coastal, with 1300 at J.B.W.R., in early August (WW) and 725 at the Longport, N.J., sod banks in mid-August (JDD). In the absence of rain-flooded fields that provided such spectacular shorebirding last fall, prairie waders were found mostly in coastal lagoons. The best Pectoral Sandpiper count was a modest 64 at B.N.W.R., Oct. 8 (JDD), and the best White-rumped Sandpiper count was a good 42 there the same day (JDD). Noteworthy inland Baird's Sandpiper reports include one at Marsh Creek S.P., Chester Co., Pa., Oct. 19 (JHG) and another at Green Lane Res., Pa., Oct. 30 - Nov. 11 (RW, ph.), the first photographically confirmed record for e. Pennsylvania. The only Curlew Sandpiper recorded was of a bird in winter plumage at J.B.W.R. Oct. 1-3 (THD, m.ob., ph.). A Stilt Sandpiper Aug. 24 at Wyoming, Pa., was the first recorded for that area (WR); they peaked on the coast in mid-August with 75 at J.B.W.R., and one was still there Nov. 6 (WW). Buff-breasted Sandpipers did not repeat their spectacular concentrations in the Long Island potato fields. Only eight were at Sagaponack Sept. 15-16 (JA) and the best New Jersey count was five at the Columbus sod farms Sept. 9 (CVA).

Marbled Godwits were few and entirely coastal, the maximum being four at Townsend's Inlet, N.J., Oct. 4 (DW). One remained exceptionally late to Dec. 2 at J.B.W.R. Hudsonian Godwits were in good numbers, especially during a nor'easter Sept. 1 when 18 were at J.B.W.R. (WW) and eight at Cape May (PJD). Ten at B.N.W.R., in mid-September (JDD) were notable, but one inland at the E Brunswick dump, N.J., Oct. 29 - Nov. 11 (WW *et al.*) was very rare there, and one wonders whether the 18 at Stewart Airport, Newburgh, N.Y., Oct. 5 (BSg) were moving up the Hudson Valley or down it. Ruffs were far below their numbers of the early 1970s when late summer concentrations in Delaware suggested that the species was about to "take off" in North America. Five were on L.I., Aug. 13 - Oct. 17 (E. Levine, AW, JA, H. Hirschbein, A. Oliveri), two at Cape May in September (CS *et al.*), and one at B.H.N.W.R., Sept. 9 (HG).

Up to 90 Am. Avocets at B.H.N.W.R., with 65 still there Nov. 11 (RL) were a bit below recent years. Their usual wandering up the coast carried them no farther than the Hackensack Marshes, N.J., (five during the season, RK, TK, TV, IB), but exceptional inland stragglers reached Pine Run Res., Doylestown, Pa., Aug. 20-26 (T.M. Shaffer, F. Mears), Middle Creek W.M.A., Pa., Sept. 1-10 (*fide CJ*), and the E. Brunswick dump Oct. 17-25 (C. Leck, WW *et al.*). A Black-necked Stilt was unprecedentedly late Nov. 3 at Halesville, N.J. (*fide DK*). All three phalaropes were at J.B.W.R., Sept. 11 (J. Gee) and at B.N.W.R., Sept. 14-15 (CTC, RK). Unusual inland N. Phalaropes were at L. Struble, Pa., Sept. 10 (JGr), Green Lane Res., Pa., Sept. 17 (AM), and Round Valley Res., N.J., Sept. 19 (GH). No more than two or three Wilson's Phalaropes were in the usual coastal lagoons at any one time, and none was reported inland.

GULLS, TERNS — Good numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gulls seem to have more to

do with the number of intrepid garbage dump searchers than with discernible population trends. Up to three were in the E. Brunswick dump, N.J. (WW), four other adults on Long Island, Oct. 13 - Nov. 30 (A. Cooley, D. Puleston, AJL, P. Bernarth), and one at Rockland County S.P., N.Y., Oct. 6 (AJL, ph.).

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This small recreational lake strategically near the Hudson R., was also the setting for the greatest discovery of many a season, an ad. **California Gull** found Oct. 4 (BW) and eagerly accepting handouts with the Ring-billed Gulls throughout the season. Since this species normally moves W to its Pacific coast wintering area, one would expect vagrancy mostly farther w., and it has indeed reached Hawaii (A.O.U. Check-list, 5th ed., 223). We know of only one other North American record e. of Michigan verified by specimen or photograph (Florida, April 1978, AB 32:995), although sight records were reported in 1967 from Virginia and New Jersey (AFN 21:403, 554). [But see this issue, p. 170].

As usual, more Little Gulls were reported (one on Staten I., HF; three on Long Island) than Black-headed Gulls (one on Long Island, GSR; one at Manasquan Inlet, N.J., TK, TV), although neither came near the numbers of some past years. Two Royal Terns at Shinnecock Inlet Nov. 24 were a late Long Island record (*vide* THD), although they are occasional into early December on the Jersey shore. Caspian Terns were numerous. On Long Island, eight were at Mecox Sept. 23 (m.ob.) and 12 at Sagaponack and Georgica Ponds Sept. 30 - Oct. 1 (JA). The highest coastal count farther s. was 18 at Henlopen, Del., Sept. 12 (BF). Although Caspian Terns are not abnormal inland like Royal Terns, one at Tinicum N.W.R., Philadelphia, Sept. 8 (JCM), eight at Muddy Run, Drumore, Pa., Sept. 1 (RMS), and 20 at Bridgeport, Gloucester Co., N.J., Oct. 9 (S. Harty) were noteworthy.

OWLS TO FLYCATCHERS — Four Snowy Owls appeared briefly: B.N.W.R., Oct. 28 (A. Sexauer), Moriches, L.I., Nov. 11 (J. Clinton, *vide* GSR), Kearny, N.J., Nov. 11 (killed by train — Michael Ellegood), and E. Rutherford, N.J., Nov. 26 (RK). Fewer Ruby-throated Hummingbirds pass Hawk Mt. each fall. There were 50 this season, 91 last fall, and 109 in 1976. The irregular Red-headed Woodpecker was scarce on the coast, and only 17 passed Hawk Mt. (63 last fall). A good 21 were found in n. New Jersey however, Sept. 6 - Nov. 19 (*vide* GH, IB, RJB), and a pair at Cornog, Pa., fledged its second brood Sept. 16 (JGr). Twenty-two W. Kingbirds on the coast (14 on L.I., two on Staten I., HF, R. Clermont; 7 in coastal N.J.) were good but far below last fall's 39+. Far more unusual was an inland record at Doylestown, Pa., Oct. 17 (DH).

A **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** at Cape May Oct. 11 (D. Crowe *et al.*, ph. S. Lauer) was approximately the eighth New Jersey record. A superficially similar bird at Sandy Hook in Septem-



Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Cape May, N.J. Oct. 11, 1978. Photo/Steve Lauer.

ber proved to be a Pin-tailed Whydah (*Vidua macroura*), an African weaver commonly kept as a caged bird. Two **Scissor-tailed Flycatchers** appeared on Long Island: one at Spring Creek P., Queens Co., Oct. 22-27 (R. Kelly, J. Costa, THD, ph.) and another at Moriches Inlet Oct. 26 (GSR). There had been at least 11 previous Long Island records.

CORVIDS TO SHRIKES — A Black-billed Magpie, a species no longer frequently kept in captivity, was at Fresh Kills, Staten I., Nov. 26 (HF). Common Ravens continue to prospect the gap between the New England population and the exploding s. Appalachian population. Six ravens passing Hawk Mt. were slightly below the seven of the last two falls, but there were up to three around Raccoon Ridge-Millbrook Gap, N.J., in October (FTi, FPW, H. Darrow). Two near Dallas, Pa., Sept. 3, provided a first fall record there and the fifth in 15 years (WR).

The supposedly sedentary Tufted Titmouse population surged. In New York City over 75 were in Central Pk., Oct. 11 (PWP) and birds flew down N-S avenues in the manner of chickadees in flight years. They pushed into coastal habitats and even salt marsh at Cape May, Sandy Hook, and J.B.W.R. (first refuge record Oct. 21, W. Reilly, G. Dadone). The archelusive Short-billed Marsh Wren seemed established in two new localities. One was singing up to Aug. 15 at L. Struble, Pa., the first Chester County record in years (JGr), and one was near Goshen, Orange Co., N.Y., Aug. 20 for the second successive year (BSg). Single migrants were at the Lincoln Park gravel pits, N.J., Sept. 13 (TV) and R.M.S.P., Oct. 25 (PAB). **Wheatear** turned up for the third year in a row, this time twice: Cape May Sept. 23 (AM *et al.*) and R.M.S.P., Oct. 19-20 (L. Feldman, FF, ph.).

A second consecutive N. Shrike flight began early with an immature banded at Raccoon Ridge Bird Observatory Oct. 6 (D. Hughes), one at Hook Mt., Rockland Co., N.Y., Oct. 25 (BW), and one the same day at Tuckerton, N.J. (PF). Six November records were evenly divided between the coast (three on Long Island, Nov. 18-30, WW, GSR, m.ob.) and the interior: an unbanded immature near Raccoon Ridge, at Yard's Creek Nov. 9 (J. Zamos), one at Dimmock, Pa., Nov. 10 (J. Tripp), and one Nov. 26 in Dutchess County, N.Y. (M. Van Wagner). By contrast with last year, only 7+ Loggerhead Shrikes were reported from L.I. and none elsewhere.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A Bell's Vireo was carefully studied Sept. 4 at Sandy Hook,

N.J., but remained unconfirmed by specimen or photo (PWS); banding records indicate that this species should be looked for in coastal thickets in early September. A Yellow-throated Vireo, rare on the n. coast of this Region at any time and especially in fall, was banded on Great Gull I., off the n.e. tip of Long Island, Sept. 24 (JDC). Warbler migration was underway as usual in August, when 18 species were banded there (JDC). The best of these by far was a Prothonotary Warbler Aug. 12, a species which breeds into upstate New York but is recorded only exceptionally on the n. coast in fall. See AB 32:179 for suggestively parallel September 1977 records from Sable I. Other warblers near their n. limit here which are rarely found after late summer included a Cerulean Warbler banded Sept. 10 at L. Success, N.Y. (J. Pion) and a Kentucky Warbler at Rye, Westchester Co., N.Y., Aug. 26 (TWB).

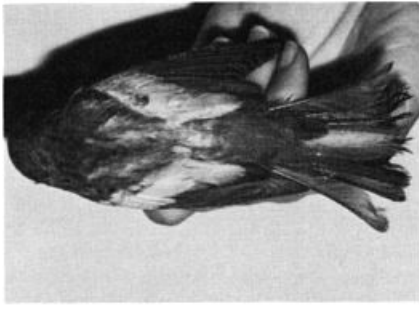
ICTERIDS TO TANAGERS — Only a few Yellow-headed Blackbirds reached the coast, one and possibly two females at B.N.W.R., Aug. 6 to at least Sept. 23 (JDD, m.ob.), and a male at Cape May Oct. 8 (JGr). In addition to the traditional flock near B.H.N.W.R. (eight there Nov. 12, HG), four ♀ **Brewer's Blackbirds** were at the E. Brunswick dump, N.J., Nov. 5-23 (WW, ph., T. Proctor, A. Keith, S. Keith, M. Gochfeld). Because some hoped-for Brewer's Blackbirds have turned into Rusties on closer examination, this second conclusive regional photograph is gratifying (*cf.* AB 32:188). The only Boat-tailed Grackle reported n. of their usual Barnegat, N.J., limit was a female Oct. 20 at Riis Pk., N.Y.C. (O. Dunning, S. Yeaton). The season's only W. Tanager was a female at Freeport, L.I. (CW).

FINCHES, SPARROWS — In view of the Blue Grosbeak explosion in Delaware, three lingering at the Montauk dump, L.I., Sept. 23 - Oct. 9 (*vide* THD), one on Fire I., Oct. 21 (*vide* BS), and late birds Oct. 21 & 28 at Cape May (JDD) were not surprising. By contrast, Dickcissels went nearly unreported, except for one at Island Beach, N.J., Sept. 2 (JCM) where 15 were considered low in fall 1975, and one Oct. 20 at Lincoln Park, N.J. (RK).

S.A.

The House Finch expansion continues. R. J. Middleton had banded 746 this year by the end of November at Norristown, Pa. Some House Finches at New Jersey and Pennsylvania feeders showed white in the wings, some having entirely white secondaries. Some consider this condition the result of molt, or it may result from the inbreeding of local birds, perhaps even an evolutionary change among the introduced eastern population. This condition deserves mention not the least because it can lead to mistaken reports of Lark Buntings (*cf.* N. J. Audubon IV:55).

Winter finches were all but absent, after last year's massive flights, with the exception of good numbers of Purple Finches inland and a few Evening Grosbeaks. The only Red Crossbill was one at Island Beach, N.J., Oct. 15 (RJB). The only White-winged Crossbill was



Leucistic House Finch. Denville, N.J. Photo/M. Hannisian.

one at Windsor, N.Y., near Binghamton Nov. 17 (WR).

Since the Ipswich race of Savannah Sparrow is seldom hunted down nowadays, JDD's count of 18 at Brigantine I., Nov. 10 is worth recording. JA submitted a convincing description of a Le Conte's Sparrow, a problem bird in this Region, from Montauk Pt., Oct. 21. Six Lark Sparrows were all coastal: four on Long Island, Sept. 4 - Oct. 17; two in coastal New Jersey, both Oct. 21 (GW, L. & P. Warwick); and two at Henlopen, Del., Oct. 11 & Nov. 24 (R. P. Hilton, BF). Three Clay-colored Sparrows were reported: Little Creek, Del., Sept. 28 (D. Broughton), Cape May Oct. 11 (JDD), and Lincoln Park, N.J., Oct. 20 (RK).

MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/F. R. Scott

Except for October, temperatures averaged moderately above normal for the period, and rainfall was deficient overall, although it picked up a bit in November. Water levels were quite low in both rivers and coastal impoundments, and there were no significant coastal storms. Although a light snowfall hit the northern part of the region November 27, it was gone quickly, and by the end of the period Richmond, Virginia had not had its first killing frost.

How good the migration appeared depended on where one was. For the coastal banders at Kiptopeke Beach, Virginia, it was an exercise in patience, as a lack of good strong cold fronts kept the few flights relatively small. The most intense flight here occurred October 15-18 when 2778 birds were trapped and banded, 31% of the entire fall total. Yellow-rumped Warblers comprised 69% of this four-day total.

LOONS THROUGH ANHINGA — There were record Piedmont counts of Com. Loons. These included 43 in Carroll Co., Md., Nov. 17 (RFR), 40 at L. Anna, Louisa Co., Va., Nov. 18 (JBB & BWK), and an amazing 624 flying SE into the Piedmont over Monument Knob, Md., Nov. 25 (HLW & RAR). A Red-throated Loon at Loch Raven Res., Baltimore Co., Md., Nov. 24 (MR) was unusual. Several pelagic trips produced some interesting records. Six Cory's Shearwaters and one Wilson's Storm-Petrel off Ocean City, Md., Oct. 28 (PGD, RAR *et al.*) were late, and a **Manx Shearwater** was recorded here the same day (m. obs.). **Audubon's Shearwaters** were reported twice,

UNCONFIRMED REPORTS — A description and photograph of a bird identified as a European Sparrow Hawk (*Accipiter nisus*) at Cape May Oct. 24 are under study here and in England. Although not without parallel to the European Kestrel's previously banded at Cape May, this report, if confirmed, would constitute a new North American record.

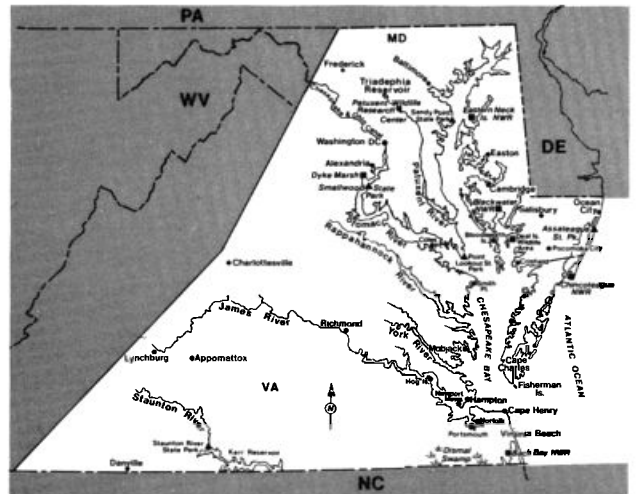
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three off Ocean City Aug. 6 (ph. — PGD, RAR *et al.*) and 11 off Cape Henry, Va., Aug. 27 (RLAk, DLH *et al.*), the latter a record count for the state. Some peak counts included 27 Cory's Shearwaters and 922 Wilson's Storm-Petrels off Cape Henry Aug. 27 (RLAk, DLH *et al.*) and 14 Greater Shearwaters off Ocean City Oct. 28 (PGD, RAR *et al.*). A **White Pelican** at Craney I., Portsmouth, Va., Oct. 5 (TRW) was only the third recent state record, and there were two observations of Brown Pelicans, nine at Fisherman I., Va., Aug. 5 (MRB *et al.*) and seven at Back Bay N.W.R., Va., Nov. 15 (BA). Late in the season the Gannet became common at Virginia Beach, Va., with 650 there on Nov. 25 (DFA). Great Cormorants again appeared along the coast, and 12 were counted on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel islands, Va. (C.B.B.T. below) Nov. 25 (JHD & TD). Inland near Alexandria, Va., up to two were present from Sept. 23 - Nov. 30+ (DFA, JMA, OEF *et al.*), the first records for Fairfax County. The oddity of the season was a ♀ **Anhinga** soaring with an imm. Bald Eagle and an Osprey high over Bellevue, Talbot Co., Md., Sept. 2 (HTA & MEA).

HERONS THROUGH FLAMINGOS — Postbreeding heron concentrations were good at Chincoteague N.W.R., Va., but even there num-

bers were not outstanding. Peak counts at Hooper I., Md. were 65 Great and 130 Snowy Egrets Sept. 29 (HTA & JR), and the last Green Heron at Sandy Point S.P., Md. (S.P.S.P. below) was on Nov. 3 (HLW). At Kiptopeke Beach, Cattle Egrets peaked at 605 on Sept. 8 (FRS), and a white-phase **Reddish Egret** was found at Chincoteague Ref., Sept. 21 (JHB), the fourth sight record for Virginia. Six **Wood Storks** were at Craney I., Va., Aug. 8 (DLH), and seven Glossy Ibises were seen far inland at Lynchburg, Va., in late August (PG). In marked contrast to 1977, this was a poor year for White Ibis, and there were only two reports, an adult at Fisherman I., Aug. 5 (MRB *et al.*) and an immature at Back Bay Ref., Aug. 13 (RLAn). An **American Flamingo** appeared at Chincoteague Ref., Oct. 17 (MG) and remained into December. It was seen and photographed by many observers. Although the bird was in good plumage and flew well,



there were no obvious weather conditions to account for its presence.

WATERFOWL — Although some geese arrived in this Region early or at least at normal dates, most ducks, especially divers, seemed late, no doubt owing to the warm weather, and many species were still in poor numbers at the end of the period. Mute Swans peaked at 150 at Eastern Neck I., Md., Sept. 12-27 (JR), and there was a heavy, Regionwide migration of Whistling Swans Nov. 18, with comments from Baltimore s. to the North Carolina border at Back Bay. In Mathews County, Va., on the w. side of Chesapeake Bay, Baker reported that the movement began about 3 p. m. and lasted most of the night. A White-fronted Goose had returned to Blackwater N.W.R., Md., by Nov. 25 (RFR). Eight Snow Geese were at Chincoteague Ref., Aug. 17 (JBB & BWK), and the first arrivals at Blackwater Ref. appeared Sept. 23 (*vide* HTA). Unusual for the Piedmont was a white-form Snow Goose present at Green Spring, Louisa Co., Va., Sept. 29 - Oct. 15 (JBB). Vaughn reported an excellent concentration of 1000+ "Blue" Geese at Blackwater Ref., Nov. 4 with about 300 white Snows, and a **Fulvous Whistling Duck** was seen at Craney I., Sept. 19 (TRW), the only report of this species. A N. Shoveler appeared Sept. 23 at Dyke marsh, Fairfax Co., Va. (JMA) where it is quite rare, but at Craney I. the fall concentration reached a peak of 3000 on Nov. 14 (TRW), possibly a state record. Eighty Wood Ducks at Dyke marsh, Va., Nov. 5 (JMA) was a good count here, and a Lesser Scaup was present in York County, Va., Aug. 18 - Sept. 3 (BW). A **Black Scoter** at Lake Anna, Va., Nov. 11 (BWK *et al.*) was only the third recorded observation from Piedmont Virginia. Small numbers of both Com. and King Eiders appeared along the C.B.B.T. islands in late fall, and early records included one Common here Sept. 14 (FRS) and two Kings on Assateague I., Md., Aug. 5 (PGD & RAR), though the latter could have been summering. A count of 72 Ruddy Ducks at L. Anna Nov. 18 (JBB & BWK) was a record number for Piedmont, Virginia.

VULTURES THROUGH COOTS — There were several reports of good vulture concentrations. D. F. Abbott counted 400 Turkey and 15 Black Vultures at Georgetown Res., D.C., Nov. 16, and at a roost at Loch Raven, Md., the peak counts were 1800 Turkeys Nov. 24 (MR) and 400 Blacks Nov. 25 (EATB). Two hundred Blacks at Virginia Beach Sept. 18 (RJT) were also good. The fall hawk migration was, on the whole, not as good as last year's, probably at least partially owing to the lack of strong cold fronts and accompanying NW winds. Records were kept for 28 days in September and October at North Pt., near Baltimore, and 2901 hawks were totaled (EATB *et al.*). Of these, 2305 were Sharp-shinned and 47 Cooper's Hawks. Peak counts here included 329 Sharp-shinned Oct. 14 and 99 Am. Kestrels Sept. 19. Farther inland, 29 Sharp-shinned at Green Spring Oct. 7 (JBB) were notable. At S.P.S.P. a Rough-legged Oct. 18 was early, and high counts included 28 Red-shoulders Oct. 21 and 1290 Broad-winged Sept. 10 (HLW). The only other sizable Broad-winged flights were 2500 at North Baltimore Sept. 10 (HK) and 650 in Albemarle Co., Va., Sept. 24 (BWK & SW). The latter location was on the Piedmont e. of the Blue

Ridge, the mountains being under a cloud cover at the time. An apparent light-phase ad. **Swainson's Hawk** was reported at Chincoteague Ref., Aug. 21 (RNd) and was well-described. This is a first sight record for Virginia. Single imm. Golden Eagles were found at Kiptopeke Beach Sept. 24 (PGD) and Oct. 29 (MAB & GG), and late Ospreys were five at Fisherman I., Nov. 14 (MAB, DD & GMW) and singles at L. Anna Nov. 18 & Dec. 2 (JBB & BWK). Reports of Peregrine Falcons continued to increase along the coast, and up to Oct. 31, 259 had been seen (and 64 trapped and banded) on Assateague I., Md. and Va. (FPW). Peak numbers at other locations included 12 at Wallops I., Va., Sept. 16 (CRV) — somewhat early for this number — and 13 at Fisherman I., Oct. 12 (MAB, RAB & DD). One returned to downtown Norfolk Oct. 17 (DLH). Merlins also showed up well along the coast, and there was a surprising number of inland records. In ten days of observation in the Kiptopeke Beach area, Williams and others totaled 55.

DuMont carefully observed three **Sandhill Cranes** flying S near Snow Hill, Md., Sept. 24. At Dyke marsh, the peak Sora count was 35 on Oct. 15 (DFA), an excellent number this far inland, and 1205 Am. Coots at L. Anna Nov. 15 (JBB) was a record count for the Virginia Piedmont.

SHOREBIRDS — Black-necked Stilts appeared in several locations beginning with six at Assateague I., Md., Aug. 5 (PGD) and one at Chincoteague Ref., Aug. 19 - Sept. 8 (NCM, LT, CPW *et al.*). Others were one at Fisherman I., Sept. 4 (GWB & IA) and two at Craney I., Sept. 24 (DLH). The Am. Avocet flock at Craney I. increased rapidly in early August and reached a record 782 in September (DLH). A Piping Plover was present near Baltimore Sept. 2-11 (RFR), and excellent numbers were reported at Chincoteague Ref. with a peak of 150 on Sept. 16 (DFA), probably a record count for Virginia. American Golden Plovers, though widely reported, were in smaller numbers than in most recent years, the only sizable concentrations being 43 at Chincoteague Ref., Sept. 14-15 (CPW) and 100 or more in Kent County, Md., Sept. 28-29 (FLP).

Aside from one Hudsonian Godwit at Craney I., Sept. 19 (TRW), all reports for this species were from Chincoteague Ref., where they were present July 21 - Nov. 10 with a high of 44 on Sept. 6-7 (CPW *et al.*). Marbled Godwits, on the other hand, were seen in seven localities, with inland observations including three at Baltimore Aug. 6 (HB) and one at S.P.S.P., Sept. 21 (HLW). Maximum numbers were again at Chincoteague Ref. with 21 on Sept. 16 (DLH *et al.*). Lesser Yellowlegs seemed unusually common; at Craney I., 3000 were estimated Aug. 9 (RLAn), and the maximum at S.P.S.P. was 70 on Oct. 4 (HLW). One near Hopewell, Va., Nov. 19 (FRS) was late for an inland locality. The big fall 1977 flight of phalaropes was not repeated this year, and only token Wilson's and N. Phalaropes were found. The only Red Phalarope was one along the C.B.B.T., Sept. 24 (PGD *et al.*).

Perhaps the feature of the season was a bird thought to be a Great Snipe seen by three different parties at Dyke marsh, Sept. 9-16 (JMA, AC, PC *et al.*). Common Snipe were noted several times in August, the earliest

being one at Anacostia, D.C., Aug. 2 (DFA) Dowitchers, which were too far away to be specifically identified, were noted far inland at L. Anna in November, 11 on Nov. 5 (JBB) and three Nov. 15-18 (JBB & BWK). The dates suggest Long-billeds, but any dowitcher on the Piedmont this late would be notable. At Chincoteague, Sanderlings peaked at 11,130 on Aug. 18-19 (CPW) and peep on Sept. 2, when D. F. Abbott estimated 50,000 Semipalmated and 15,000 W. Sandpipers. Four Baird's Sandpipers at Chincoteague Sept. 23-24 (CPW *et al.*) was a record state count, and there were numerous other reports, including two near Seneca, Md., Sept. 9 (RFR), two at Alexandria Sept. 10 (DFA, JMA & OEF), and two at S.P.S.P., Sept. 13 (HLW). A **Curlew Sandpiper** was present at Chincoteague Ref., Aug. 16 - Sept. 2 (JBB, KB, BWK *et al.*), probably the seventh fall record for the state. Six different localities had Buff-breasted Sandpipers during the period, all but one near the coast. The only Piedmont report was of seven near Seneca Sept. 30 (PGD); the 50 at Chincoteague Sept. 23-24 (CPW) was a record number for Virginia. The previously reported Ruff at Chincoteague remained to Sept. 15 (CPW), and another was seen at Craney I., Sept. 12 (TRW). The warm weather produced several late shorebird records. Among these were a Solitary Sandpiper at Baltimore, Nov. 11-12 (HK & JLS), a Spotted Sandpiper in Carroll Co., Md. through Nov. 18 (RFR), a Pectoral at Gainesville, Va., Nov. 10-30 (PM), and a record late Stilt Sandpiper at S.P.S.P., Nov. 18-28 (DB & HLW).

GULLS THROUGH SKIMMERS — Some ten species of gulls were reported in the Alexandria area during the fall in the greatest concentration of gulls ever observed here. The buildup, particularly in Ring-billeds, began in early August, and record numbers of the common gulls were recorded Sept. 14 with 600 Great Black-backed, and 5000 Laughing Gulls (DFA). Numbers were back to normal by mid-October. An Iceland Gull at Back Bay Oct. 15 (IA *et al.*) was curiously the only white-winged gull reported during the fall. A Lesser Black-backed Gull was noted first at Chincoteague Sept. 2 (DFA) and near Alexandria Sept. 10 (DFA & JMA), and at the latter location up to three were seen at one time up to Nov. 8, though D. F. Abbott thought there were as many as five different birds here. One to two were also present on the C.B.B.T. islands from Sept. 17 to the end of the period (JHD, DLH, FRS *et al.*).

The rarer gulls at Alexandria included single **Thayer's Gulls** Sept. 10 and 16 and Nov. 5, a second-year **California Gull** Sept. 10, and a second-year **Mew Gull** Sept. 14 and 30 (DFA & JMA). A count of 494 Ring-billed Gulls at L. Anna Nov. 15 (JBB) was highly unusual for the Piedmont in fall, and another Piedmont record of interest was of a Laughing Gull at Clifford, Amherst Co., Va., Oct. 23 (SC). There was an influx of about 5000 Laughings at S.P.S.P., Oct. 26 (HLW). Single **Franklin's Gulls** were noted at Anacostia Aug. 6 (DFA, OEF *et al.*), apparently the first D.C. record, at Baltimore Sept. 3 & 25 (different birds — EATB), and at S.P.S.P., Oct. 17 (HLW). An ad. Black-headed Gull was at Baltimore Nov. 19 (EATB), and Little Gulls were reported from three localities, a subadult at Alexandria Nov. 12 (DFA & JMA) being the first really

inland record for Virginia Six Black-legged Kittiwakes off Ocean City Oct 28 (PGD, RAR *et al.*) were considered early.

A Com. Tern at L. Anna Sept. 1 (JBB) was the only Piedmont report, and an ad. **Sooty Tern** was observed under excellent conditions 55 mi e. of Wachapreague Inlet, Va., July 22 (BT) Four **Bridled Terns** off Cape Henry Aug. 27 (ph. — RLAK, PGD, DLH *et al.*) represented only the second Virginia record, and an ad. Least Tern at Alexandria Nov. 12 (DFA) was both incredibly late and unusually far inland. The C.B.B.T. islands continued to be the best place to observe concentrations of Sandwich Terns in the early fall, and a maximum of 111 was found here Sept. 2 (FRS). There was more than the usual number of Caspian Terns reported on Piedmont Virginia with a peak of six at Lynchburg Sept. 22 (WB). On the Coastal Plain the maximum number was 120 at Baltimore Aug. 29 (EATB), and late individuals were noted at Alexandria Nov. 4 (JMA) and Jamestown, Va., Nov. 26 (BW). Inland Black Skimmers were noted Aug. 27 at both S.P.S.P. (HLW) and Baltimore (EATB), and the concentration at Craney I. reached 1000 on Sept. 29 (TRW).

DOVES THROUGH BLUEBIRDS — A **Ground Dove** was seen at Back Bay Ref., Aug. 25 (IA), and a Long-eared Owl at Kiptopeke Oct 31 (JWD & FRS) was early. Good numbers of Short-eared Owls were found locally in November on the Piedmont in Louisa County, Va (JBB & BWK), and Byrd and others counted 12 on Fisherman I., Nov. 26. Over 12,000 Chimney Swifts were estimated flying S over Dyke marsh Oct. 9 (JMA), and a late one was seen at Annapolis Oct. 23 (HLW). Western Kingbirds were found near the coast five times in September and October, and an imm. **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** was seen at S.P.S.P., Sept 23 (HLW, SJM & WK), for probably a first Regional record. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Green Spring Sept. 25 (JBB) and a single singing Alder Flycatcher at Dyke marsh Aug 29 (DFA) were both first local records, and an Olive-sided Flycatcher at Dyke marsh Sept 30 (DFA) was late.

An impressive early swallow migration occurred at Chincoteague Ref., Aug. 10; estimated totals included 10,000 Barn, 5000 Tree, and 3000 Bank Swallows (JMA). Among these were at least four Cliff Swallows, rare on coastal Virginia. There were far more than normal late reports of Rough-winged Swallows Among these were 12 at S.P.S.P., Oct. 9-10 and one here Oct. 18 (HLW) and two at Chincoteague Oct. 21 (DFA). A late Barn Swallow flew by one of the C.B.B.T. islands Nov 26 (MAB). The best Blue Jay flights were reported from Green Spring, where Bazuin recorded 23,182 in 102 hours of observation Sept 25 - Oct. 10. Peak daily totals were 4014 Sept 26 and 3204 Sept. 30. An outstanding event was the trapping and banding of an apparent **Black-capped Chickadee** at Kiptopeke Beach Oct. 13 (WPS), extending the known records of this species s. along the coast by some 60 mi. Careful wing and tail measurements were of course taken. Peak banding totals at Kiptopeke Beach included 154 Gray Catbirds Oct. 15 and 66 Hermit Thrushes Oct. 21 (CWH), and at Green Spring the height of the Am. Robin migration seemed several weeks late with a maximum of 1800 Nov 13 (JBB). A Veery at Baltimore Oct. 22

(RFR) was late, and PM reported good numbers of E Bluebirds in the Manassas, Va., area Oct. 30 - Nov. 5, with flocks of 50 or more.

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH FRINGILIDS — Late Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were at Alexandria Nov. 12 & 18 (DFA & JMA) and at Back Bay Ref., Nov. 17 (DLH), and an imm. **Northern Shrike** was present at Chincoteague Ref., Nov. 24 - Dec. 2 (BWK, MPM, YL *et al.*). A very late White-eyed Vireo seen in Charles County, Md., Nov. 13 (WK) was probably the same one found freshly dead here Dec. 3 (DB). An "**Audubon's**" Warbler, complete with yellow throat, was seen at Dyke marsh Oct. 28 (DFA, JMA & OEF), and the migration of the Yellow-throated Warbler was nicely bracketed by one seen on Assateague I., Md., Aug. 3 (TFW) and one in Carroll County, Md., Sept. 20 (RFR). Among the late warbler reports was a Magnolia at Sycamore Landing, Md., Oct. 22 (PGD), two Cape Mays at Baltimore Nov. 19 (RFR), and a Bay-breasted found freshly dead at Richmond Oct. 28 (*vide* CRB). The first N. Waterthrush was banded at Baltimore Aug. 2 (BR) and the last at Kiptopeke Beach Oct. 21 (CWH); similar extremes for the Mourning Warbler were one seen at Dyke marsh Aug. 19 (JMA) and two banded at Baltimore Oct. 15 (JLS). Reese and Krantz estimated 10,000 Bobolinks in the Choptank R. marshes of Talbot County, Md., Sept. 5, and 50 N. Orioles at Clifford, Va., Sept. 10 (SC) was a good count as were 20 at Green Spring Sept. 3 (JBB). Two Brewer's Blackbirds were seen at Baltimore Nov. 24 (MR).

A **Black-headed Grosbeak** was present in Harford County, Md., Oct. 26 - Nov. 1 (CG *et al.*), and late Blue Grosbeaks included two at Green Spring Oct. 15 (JBB) and one at Tangier I., Va., Oct. 22 (HTA & FM). The only Dickcissel report was of one at Oxon Hill, Md., Nov. 4-5 (RNv, PB & JMA). Northern finches were notable mainly for their absence, and there were only a very few reports of Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins. A Savannah Sparrow singing at Back Bay Ref., Aug. 13 (RLAn) was well out of its summer range but also extremely early for a transient. Keelan had a late Grasshopper Sparrow at L. Anna Nov. 5, and the Lark Sparrow was recorded in three localities, including one inland at Dyke marsh Sept. 21 (OEF). DuMont reported 35 White-crowned Sparrows on Assateague I., Md., Oct. 29, an unusual number for the coast, and seven Lincoln's Sparrows banded at Sandy Spring, Md., Sept. 27 (JSW) was an impressive number for this normally rare bird. Locally rare were single Snow Buntings in Kent County, Md., Nov. 19 (JR) and near Easton, Md., Nov. 30 (NB).

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SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

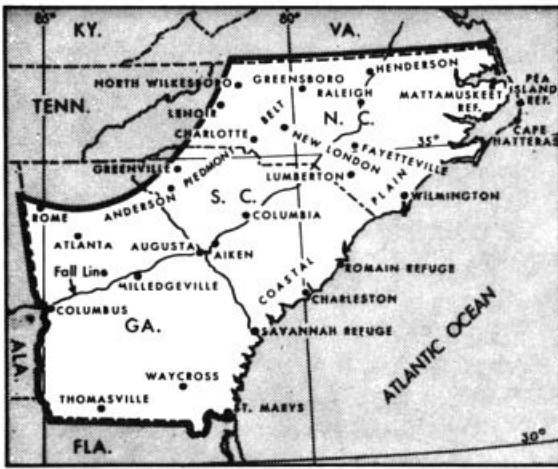
/Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

The fall of 1978 was characterized by very mild weather lingering through the end of the period, and most localities had not even recorded their first freeze by November 30. The fall was also very dry in most sections, leaving the major reservoirs several feet below normal pool level. The first major front passed through the Region in late September; thereafter, many cold fronts moved through, but nearly all were weak and had little rain or cool temperatures associated with them.

From the birders' point of view, it was not a particularly exciting season. The major reason for the mediocrity was the scarcity of strong fronts or other unsettled weather, conditions that tend to force down migrants, pile up birds into "waves", and blow them hundreds of miles off course. Hurricane *Ella* passed far off the coast of the Carolinas in early September, and it did not push any pelagic birds to shore. The passerine migration was fair-to-average in most areas. Those observers who were afield several times a week, or more, were able to record most of the usual migrants; once-a-week birders complained about a poor migration, a complaint that fell on deaf ears. (A Regional Editor must assess a migration season on the comments from observers in the field more frequently than just one day a week.) The mild weather lingering throughout the period was responsible for many late records of summer resident and transient species; however, as a consequence of the warm temperatures, waterfowl were slow in arriving. Even-numbered autumns usually see little movement of winter finches and Red-breasted Nuthatches from their boreal breeding grounds, and 1978 proved no exception. The major highlights in the Region were the continued "pelagic push" off the North Carolina Outer Banks, led by Dave Lee, and the excellent shorebird coverage by Brent Ortego of Eufaula Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in Georgia.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS —

An excellent inland count of 108 Com. Loons was noted at Roanoke Rapids L., N.C., Nov 8 (ML). As usual, nearly all pelagic trips originated from North Carolina Outer Banks, in addition, two trips in early September from this area were cancelled by "no good" Hurricane *Ella*. Two **Northern Fulmars** collected Oct. 1 off Oregon Inlet, N.C., were rare and very early (AF), and Lee observed two more fulmars in that area Nov. 14, one of which was a dark-phase individual. Other highlights of



the Nov. 14 trip were six Cory's Shearwaters, 16 Greater Shearwaters, and two Black-capped Petrels, all quite late. Topping the trip were two or four **Little Shearwaters** (*Puffinus assimilis*). Lee noted the very rapid, almost acid-like wingbeats and the nearly tailless appearance; he has considerable experience with Audubon's and Manx Shearwaters and easily recognized these birds as distinct from the latter two species. The only previous Regional record, and one of only several for North America, was one found dead at Sullivan's I., S.C., in August 1883 (*South Carolina Bird Life*, 1970, p. 62). Another notable pelagic trip, out of Hatteras, N.C., Oct. 8, provided high numbers for several shearwaters: 152 Cory's, 42 Greaters, and 204 Audubon's (PGD *et al.*).

S.A.

"Capping" this trip was an astonishing 40+ **Black-capped Petrels**, apparently the largest-ever count of the species in North American waters recorded, 27 mi offshore s.e. from Hatteras, N.C., on Oct. 8 (PGD *et al.*). Small, loose flocks were in sight off and on from 9:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The most birds in view at one time was 12; the sum of a dozen different counts made in the time period was 66. All birds may have been different — they were all moving SW; 20-30 knot NNW winds kept them aloft and visible for very long distances. But the gut feeling was that some of the birds did circle back and get recounted. Based partly on grouping the sighting times and locations and partly on estimate, there may have been as many as 40 different **Black-capped**s (PGD). This species has clearly increased in North Carolina waters over the past few years, and this increase in sightings is not owing to its being overlooked before 1972, nor to a rise in pelagic trips; an actual population boom (as with the fulmar) might possibly be the answer.

Other notable pelagics for the season, all off Oregon Inlet (DL), were two **Leach's Storm-Petrels** Oct. 10, single **White-tailed Tropicbirds** July 25 and Sept. 11 (*N.C.S.M.), and an accidental species of gadfly petrel in August (note to be published in this journal). A **White Pelican** near Beaufort, N.C., Oct. 8, was an excellent find (JF, DB), as were up to two imm. **Great Cormorants** present at Wrightsville

Beach, N.C. from early September + (RN, GB, JFP *et al.*).

WADING BIRDS

— Ortego *et al.* observed 200 Great Blue Herons and 206 Great Egrets at Eufaula N.W.R., Ga., Oct. 14, both excellent inland counts. Very late breeding of the Cattle Egret was noted at Phillips I., near Morehead City, N.C.; several nests with young were seen Sept. 8, and another was reported Sept. 16 (TLQ). A total of 21 birds near Atlanta Aug. 27 was high for the Piedmont (TM). A **Reddish Egret** at Eufaula N.W.R., Nov. 12-15 was quite unusual (BO, MB, DC); there are only several previous Georgia records, and this is apparently the third inland record for the Region. Single Louisiana Herons inland were seen at Beaverdam Res., in n. Wake Co., N.C., Aug. 27 (JOP, ET), near Clemson, S.C., Sept. 10 (HL, SG), at Augusta, Ga., Sept. 2 & Oct. 21 (AW), and at Fayetteville, N.C., Oct. 6 (PIC). An unusual event was the capture of an apparently uninjured **Black-crowned Night Heron** on a street corner in Southern Pines, N.C., July 24 (TH). A few imm. **Yellow-crowned Night Herons** were noted inland at Winston-Salem, N.C. (KH, RS), Pendergrass, Ga. (JV), and Atlanta (RP) in the period Aug. 9-18; another immature walking in a street and in yards at Doraville, Ga., Nov. 7-14, is certainly worthy of mention (FM)! Rare inland records of the **Glossy Ibis** were an adult at Fayetteville Aug. 14 (PIC, JMo, LP), an immature there Aug. 17 (PIC, JBC), and one at Augusta Sept. 2 (AW). As expected, imm. **White Ibises** dispersed inland throughout the Region, but the peak seasonal count inland was only eight, near Pendergrass, Ga., Aug. 11 (JV).

WATERFOWL — An out-of-season Brant was very early at Pea I., N.C., Aug. 19 (BK), and Eufaula again had **White-fronted Geese**, two birds Nov. 5-25 (BO, DC). For the third consecutive winter, a ♂ **Cinnamon Teal** was seen at Augusta, with a flock of **Blue-winged Teals** Nov. 18 (*vide* AW). A **N. Shoveler** at Pendergrass Sept. 17 was quite early (JP), and a **Redhead** at Eufaula Oct. 28 (BO, MB) was the earliest record for Georgia. On Sept. 10 Bob Holmes found a dead imm. **Black Scoter** at Ft. Macon, N.C., and saw another immature waddling from a beach to the nearby sound. These immatures, plus several nearby adults, have led him to believe that the species may have bred in this locality. This idea may seem far-fetched, but the **Red-breasted Merganser**, which also frequently spends the summer along the coast, has been known to breed on several occasions along the North and South Carolina coasts. Other very early waterfowl were a ♀ **Ruddy Duck** at L. Surf, near Vass, N.C., Sept. 5 & 15 (TH), and a **Com. Merganser** in Chatham County, N.C., Oct. 29 (DA, BR).

HAWKS — Two imm. **Mississippi Kites** seen harassing a crow in Franklin County,

N.C. Sept. 14 (EP), provided a very rare record for the state's Piedmont. Late individuals were noted Oct. 8 at Capers I., S.C. (PN), Oct. 14 at Columbus, Ga. (RM), and Nov. 11 near Dillon, S.C. (RNa). An imm. **Goshawk** was very early and unusual at Ft. Fisher, N.C., Sept. 30 (RD); the bird swooped at a **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** perched in a dead tree. The best **Sharp-shinned Hawk** counts were 46 tallied along the coast at Salter Path, N.C., Oct. 15 (CTC), and 150 noted moving N over the s. end of Jekyll I., Ga., Nov. 4 (D.A.S.). Birders from Winston-Salem observed over 800 **Broad-winged Hawks** migrating past Pilot Mt., in North Carolina's n.w. Piedmont Sept. 22-26. The fall flights of this species essentially bypass the Region; even along the w. edge of the Piedmont large flocks are seldom seen, and the birds are usually noted extremely high overhead gliding SW on n.e. winds. A remarkable five reports of **Golden Eagles** were received: an adult in Charleston Co., S.C., 4.5 mi n.e. of Moore's Landing Sept. 7 (JBA), an immature at Clemson Nov. 1 (HL), an immature at Jekyll I., Nov. 4 (D.A.S.), one of unreported age at Atlanta Nov. 8 (AnF), and an immature at L. Mattamuskeet, N.C., Nov. 12 (KH). **Bald Eagle** reports were too numerous to mention specifically, and it is gratifying that eight of the nine reports were immature birds, probably the highest immature:adult ratio in recent years for the Region. Very early **Marsh Hawks** were seen in Atlanta Aug. 8 (VJ), and at Beaverdam Res., Sept. 3 (CO), whereas an **Osprey** was quite late at Atlantic Beach, N.C., Dec. 1 (JF).

S.A.

For the second consecutive fall, H. LeGrand observed a **Prairie Falcon** in the Clemson area; this year an individual was seen near Townville Nov. 19. The 1977 bird, with different markings on the wing linings, was observed Nov. 26 near Pendleton. Both were flushed from extensive plowed fields and were carefully studied as they soared overhead. There are now approximately six records for the Region; no photographs or specimens have yet been taken.

A **Peregrine Falcon** at Beaverdam Res., Aug. 27, was rare and very early (EG *et al.*); the only other inland reports were individuals at Eufaula Sept. 24, 30 & Nov. 12 (BO, MB, DC). A **Merlin** was also present at Eufaula Sept. 30 (BO), and another was seen at L. Wheeler near Raleigh Oct. 10 (JM).

CRANES THROUGH PLOVERS

— Twelve **Sandhill Cranes** seen between Cartersville and Cedartown, Ga., Aug. 6, were extremely early (D&DC), as were four migrating through n.e. Habersham County, Ga., Sept. 25 (FM); the bulk of the SSE flight through the state occurs in November. Stragglers reaching South Carolina were one at Johns I., Oct. 29 (TB, SL), and four flying over I'On Swamp near Charleston Dec. 2 (JS). A **Purple Gallinule** was very late at Savannah N.W.R., S.C., Nov. 20 (JO), and 3028 **Am. Coots** counted at Eufaula Oct. 29 (BO) might be a record for the Region. The **Piping Plover** is casual inland; thus, one at Beaverdam Res.,

July 28 - Aug 13 was exceptional (B&MW, RJH, CO) Inland Am Golden Plovers were noted at Clemson Sept. 26 — Oct. 22 (peak of two Sept. 30 — HL), L. Mattamuskeet Nov. 12 (KH), and at Eufaula Oct. 21 - Nov. 25 (peak of seven Oct. 29 — BO). A few Black-bellied Plovers were also found at the latter site Oct. 14 - Nov. 25 (BO, MB, DC). Eufaula was also the home for a Ruddy Turnstone Aug. 5 (BO) and another Oct. 28 (BO, MB); still another was a good find at Winston-Salem Aug. 9-11 (KH, RS).

SANDPIPERS — The Long-billed Curlew at Bird Shoal near Beaufort, N.C., was first noted this fall Sept. 9 (JF *et al.*), and another was reported at Mt. Pleasant, S.C., Nov. 5 (PN) Among the many noteworthy shorebird sightings from Eufaula N.W.R., were six late Solitary Sandpipers Nov. 6 (JLD), a Willet July 22 (BO, IR), and two Red Knots Sept. 24 (BO). Good late fall counts of Pectoral Sandpipers were made at Pea I., where 17 were noted Nov. 11 (JF, KH), and at Eufaula, where ten remained until Nov. 25 (BO). Rare inland White-rumped Sandpipers were observed at Pendergrass Aug. 11 (JV), Roanoke Rapids, N.C., Oct. 3 (ML), and Eufaula Oct. 29 (BO); three were late at Bodie I., N.C., Nov. 11 (JF, KH) A truly remarkable count was the Regional record 27 **Baird's Sandpipers** at Eufaula Sept. 24; in addition, three were there Aug 19 (BO). Much to the writer's surprise, there seem to be no previous Georgia records (not listed in *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds*, 1977). Also there on Sept. 24 were 665 Least Sandpipers (BO). One or two Dunlins were reported inland at several localities Oct. 26 - Nov. 30, but these numbers were no match for the 313 tallied by Ortego Nov. 5 at Eufaula, certainly the premier inland birding spot in the Region.

Other highlights of Ortego's excellent shorebird coverage at this refuge include Long-billed Dowitchers Oct. 29 - Nov. 26 (peak of 12 on Oct. 29), six late Stilt Sandpipers Oct. 14, three Semipalmated Sandpipers until Nov. 24, three Buff-breasted Sandpipers Sept. 24 and one extremely late Oct. 28, a peak of 16 Sanderlings Nov. 5, an Am. Avocet Nov. 3 seen by Gus Saville, a Red Phalarope Nov. 5, and as many as five Wilson's Phalaropes Sept. 30 - Oct. 14! Elsewhere, and particularly along the coast, shorebirding seemed rather uneventful, despite low water levels in most reservoirs. The fall's dearth of strong fronts, unsettled weather, and nighttime rainfall allowed most of the rarer shorebirds to migrate over the inland sections without need to put down at lakes and ponds. However, Eufaula's two plus sq. mi of mudflats this fall, according to Ortego, were too tantalizing for many shorebirds to fly over without a visit. Three Long-billed Dowitchers were unusual at L. Mattamuskeet Nov. 12 (JF), and Fussell also observed two late Semipalmated Sandpipers at Bodie I., N.C., Nov. 11. Buff-breasted Sandpiper sightings this fall were very widespread; the higher counts, as expected, were coastal, with 11 at Oregon Inlet Oct. 3 (JOP, ET), ten at Bodie I., Sept. 2 (PGD *et al.*), and five near Charleston Sept. 18 (PN)

Marbled Godwits were surprisingly common for late fall on the Outer Banks, as witnessed by 72 at the e. end of Ocracoke I., Nov. 24 (CW), and 49 at Bodie I., Nov. 25 (RLA). Dave

Lee's pelagic trips turned up eight Red Phalaropes off Oregon Inlet Nov 14, and a peak of 13 N. Phalaropes there Oct. 10. Another Northern was observed on S. Pond at Pea I., Aug. 21 (JB, BK, SW). The latter trio of birders tallied 18 Wilson's Phalaropes at Pea I., Aug. 21, and 13 at nearby Bodie I., Aug. 18. In addition to those at Eufaula, other inland Wilson's were single individuals in Sumter County, Ga., Aug. 24 (CE, RH), and near Dublin, Ga., Sept. 12 (TKP).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — Pomarine Jaegers were seen on nearly all of the pelagic trips off the Outer Banks, with a peak of nine off Oregon Inlet Nov. 14 (DL); however, not a single Parasitic was seen on the trips. On Nov. 19 Davis observed a Pomarine, two Parasitics, and five unidentified jaegers from shore at Carolina Beach, N.C. An imm. Black-legged Kittiwake off Oregon Inlet Oct. 14 was quite early (ML, HL); also reported were an adult and three immatures in this area Nov. 14 (DL). Inland Forster's Terns, pairs in each case, were noted near Dublin Aug. 12 (TKP), Beavertown Res., Sept. 3 (CO), and Chatham County, N.C., Sept. 4 (DA). A flock of 26 Com. Terns near Raleigh Aug. 30 (JM) was an excellent number. Perhaps offshore Bridled Terns are no longer worthy of mention in this column; nevertheless, eight were seen off Charleston Aug. 4 (SG, HL), and 19 were noted off Oregon Inlet Aug. 20 (DL). Numbers of migrating Black Terns in the Region in recent years have taken a sharp dive, both coastally and inland. It is now a rare bird on inland lakes in fall, and it is not the abundant coastal migrant it was ten or more years ago. The only inland sighting of note was of ten near Raleigh Aug. 10 (JM).

CUCKOOS THROUGH SWALLOWS — A Yellow-billed Cuckoo lingered at least until Nov. 2 at Winston-Salem (BW), and the very uncommon Black-billed Cuckoo was reported at Raven Rock S.P., N.C., Oct. 15 (DA), and near Raleigh Sept. 17 (two birds — JM). Departure dates for Chuck-will's-widows and Whip-poor-wills throughout their ranges are poorly known because of the birds' nocturnal nature; a "Chuck" at Southern Pines was undoubtedly late Sept. 18 (TH). Single "Whips" heard at Manteo Nov. 10 and Emerald Isle Nov. 16, both along the North Carolina coast, might represent individuals attempting to winter (*vide* JF). An excellent flight of Com. Nighthawks passed over Winston-Salem at dusk Aug. 31, with several thousand birds seen (m.ob.). Approximately 275 seen in the w. Coastal Plain in Hoke County, N.C., at dusk on an unspecified date (JHC, PDD, TS) was phenomenal for so far to the east. Another individual was late at Chapel Hill Oct. 29 (JOP, ET). Several observers noticed good numbers of Red-headed Woodpeckers in swamps and bottomlands in the Region, and it seems that wintering populations have increased the past two or three years. Few of the woodpeckers breed in these swamps, however; it would be of great interest to know where (geographical region and habitat) these birds are nesting. Very early was a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Morehead City Sept. 13 (JF, II). Western Kingbirds appeared to be in low numbers this fall, with only six reports, all coastal, Oct. 8 - Nov. 21, and the peak count was just three. Single Least Fly-

catchers were noted near Bunn, N.C., Sept 21 (EP), and at Augusta Sept 26 (AW), this species peaks in late September, after most other *Empidonax* species have departed the Region. The very rare Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen in e. Chatham County, N.C., Sept 4 (DA), and at Clemson Sept. 17 (SG, HL) Excellent numbers of swallows were reported from several localities, with 4200 Trees and 2550 Rough-wingeds at Eufaula Oct. 7 (BO, MB). Good Bank totals were 200 at Edisto I., S.C., Aug. 6 (HL), and 500 at Long Beach, N.C., Sept. 2 (MT, KH). At the latter site these observers tallied over 5000 Barns Sept. 2 and 2000 Sept. 3. A group of 50 Rough-winged Swallows Oct. 21 at Augusta was very late (AW), as was a Barn Swallow Nov. 11 at Kure Beach, N.C. (RD).

WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS — A Winter Wren was surprisingly early at Atlanta Oct. 5 (RP). On the other hand, a Swainson's Thrush lingered until Nov. 11 at Southern Pines (JHC, EC), and two Yellow-throated Vireos, one singing, were extremely late Nov 14 near Jamesville, N.C. (ML). Single Philadelphia Vireos were noted at seven localities Sept. 17 - Oct. 11: Augusta and Jekyll I (banded) in Georgia, Savannah Ref., and Townville (singing and calling) in South Carolina, and Chapel Hill, the Outer Banks, and Charlotte (tower kill) in North Carolina. Although Philadelphia's are rather rare fall migrants in the Region, they perhaps outnumber Warbling Vireos 100:1; the latter species completely avoids this area in fall, and *not a single* tower killed individual seems to have been reported. Fall sight records of Warbling Vireos thus must be treated with extreme caution, and the only accepted one was at Eufaula Oct. 14 (BO).

The outstanding passerine highlight of the season was the remarkable number of warblers observed by DuMont and several other birders along the Outer Banks Oct. 7. Their noteworthy warbler totals were: three Tennessees, seven Nashvilles, 200 N. Parulas, three Magnolias, 260 Cape Mays, 91 Black-throated Blues, 60 Black-throated Greens, seven Blackburnians, four Chestnut-sideds, eight Bay-breasteds, 192 Blackpolls, 427 Palms, one Ovenbird, two Canadas, and 193 Am. Redstarts. Also of interest were two Philadelphia Vireos, in addition to an imm. Connecticut Warbler Oct. 9.

Golden-winged Warblers, rare though regular at this season, were noted at six scattered localities Aug. 18 - Sept. 17; four were observed in the Atlanta area Aug. 18-31 (m. ob.). Tennessee Warblers were quite early near Duluth, Ga., Aug. 22 (JP), and Clemson Aug. 24 (HL), as were two Magnolia Warblers Aug. 21 near Hoffman, N.C. (JHC, RB). Late Black-throated Blue Warblers, both males, were found Nov. 1 at Southern Pines (EC), and Nov. 11 on Isle of Palms, S.C. (B&DH). Parks carefully monitored the warbler migration at Atlanta, detecting single Ceruleans Aug. 8, 13, & 21. This species is mainly restricted to the w. Piedmont in fall, quietly slipping through the Region earlier (mid-July through August) than most observers are afield looking for fall warblers. Among other early warbler arrivals were Blackburnians near Hoffman Aug. 18 (JHC) and at Atlanta Aug. 22 (BP), Bay-breasted at Atlanta Aug. 26 (BP), Blackpoll at McCain, N.C., Sept. 7 (LW), and Palms near

Duluth Aug 22 (JP) and Durham, N.C., Aug 24 (JPa). A N. Waterthrush in early November near Wrightsville Beach, N.C., was late (JFP), as was a Wilson's Warbler at Atlanta Oct. 23 (RP). A Black-throated Gray Warbler was reported from Durham during the period, but no details were received; there are only three or four records for the Region.

ICTERIDS THROUGH FINCHES — Three Bobolinks were quite early for the fall near Charleston Aug. 9 (PN), and quite unusual were two ♀ Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Pea I., Sept. 1 (HL, EL). Perhaps the same two Yellow-headed were seen the following day at Cape Hatteras Point (PGD, RA). A flock of 30 Brewer's Blackbirds was somewhat out-of-range at Hilton Head I., S.C., Oct. 7 (JG). An excellent count of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks for the e. Piedmont was the 36+ seen near Bunn, N.C., Sept. 30 (EP). A ♀ **Black-headed Grosbeak**, casual in the Region, was carefully studied in Pinehurst, N.C., Sept. 29 (MJ, TH). Davis, who intensively worked the Ft. Fisher, N.C., area this fall, had two late Blue Grosbeaks Nov. 9, two late Indigo Buntings Nov. 9 and one Nov. 11, and two Dickcissels Oct. 7. As mentioned earlier, the winter finches remained to the n. this fall; a few Evening Grosbeaks, as usual in off years, were reported. Remarkably early were a male near Chapel Hill July 26 (DA), and a female at a feeder in Raleigh Sept. 28 (JM). Purple Finches were rather uncommon over most of the Region, and only one Pine Siskin was reported, a "lost" bird at Clemson in late November (HL). At Chapel Hill, where House Finch breeding has yet to be confirmed, two

brown-plumaged birds were seen in a yard Aug. 25 - Sept. 11 (CH). Adults in the yard during the summer, in addition to these fall birds, hint that breeding may have occurred. Red Crossbills were present this summer and fall in unusually good numbers in the North Carolina mountains, but they must have stayed there; there were no reports for this Region during the fall. A Grasshopper Sparrow seen in the North Carolina Sandhills near Hoffman Nov. 12 was the first record for this area since 1926 (JHC *et al.*); the species might possibly winter this far n. Inland Sharp-tailed Sparrows are always noteworthy: one of an inland race was seen near Vulture, N.C., Oct. 3 (ML), and one of an unspecified race was a tower kill victim at Charlotte Oct. 29 (DBr). One of the most intriguing and least understood migration phenomena in the East is the apparent "short cut" taken by fall coastal migrating Seaside and Sharp-tailed sparrows over the inland section of e. North Carolina to coastal areas s. of the state, as revealed by tower kills in Bladen and Brunswick Counties in previous years. Perhaps the Charlotte bird was an individual of a coastal race; such coastal sparrows, of both species, apparently fly over the area without stopping inland. An ad. Clay-colored Sparrow was observed at Ft. Fisher Oct. 7 (RD), and another adult, probably a different bird, was there Oct. 21 (CTC). The secretive Lincoln's Sparrow was detected at Vass, N.C., Sept. 15 (TH), Chapel Hill Oct. 21 (DA *et al.*), and Townville, S.C., Oct. 22 (SG, HL). Despite the mild fall, Lapland Longspurs had returned to traditional wintering grounds in the Clemson area by the end of the period; singles were at

Townville Nov 19 and Pendleton Nov 25 (HL).

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SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

The following is a brief summary of the major highlights of the summer of 1978 and is not intended to be a full account of the breeding season. Only the most noteworthy records are mentioned below.

GREBES THROUGH HAWKS — Pied-billed Grebes bred again at Parker Creek impoundment in Chatham Co., N.C.; two adults and six half-grown young were seen July 23 (JOP). The second North Carolina record of the **Manx Shearwater**, and first specimen, was an individual found dead at Cape Hatteras Point in early spring (*vide* DL). An Am. Flamingo was observed June 12 at Ocracoke Inlet, N.C. (JSW, JHB). Most, or nearly all, flamingo records for this Region may well be escapees, but it is certainly possible that *coastal* birds are legitimate stragglers, and birders should continue to report such individuals. (An inland bird would almost certainly be an escapee.) The only outstanding waterfowl report was that of a first year ♂ **Common Eider** that was still present at the jetty at Cape Lookout, N.C., June 29 (SP). Completely inexplicable was the ad. **White-tailed Kite** seen by Bob Lewis near Greenwood, S.C., July 4. There are a number of records for the state, including two farther n.w. near Clemson. A ♀ Am. Kestrel with a fledg-

ling in downtown Raleigh, N.C., June 29 was remarkable (CL), and similar breeding may have occurred in downtown Winston-Salem, N.C., where a pair was seen regularly in June and July (ZB). City breeding is all the more bizarre since almost none are presently nesting in seemingly optimal rural country habitat in the Piedmont.

RAILS THROUGH TERNS — Three Virginia Rails heard at Cedar I., N.C., June 4, were probably at the s.e. edge of the breeding range (JF, LM). Of considerable interest was the presence of at least one Black Rail near Raleigh from May 6 to at least July 4 (JF, RJH). Although the species was known to breed in this area at the turn of the century, this is apparently the first recent evidence of nesting there. Both Virginias and Blacks nest or are presumed to nest sparingly inland, but much is still to be learned about their distribution; Virginias seem to be absent from the Coastal Plain, except for the tidewater area of e. North Carolina. The Black-necked Stilt nests at only a very few localized spots near the coast; thus, a young with adults at North R. marsh near Beaufort, N.C., July 10 was noteworthy (JP). A very large colony is located at a spoil area in South Carolina just n. of Savannah, Ga., where an estimated 75 pairs bred successfully this summer (LL, BN). The event of the season was the discovery of the first **Sooty Tern** nest on the immediate Atlantic coast of the United States. A nest with a single egg was found at Morgan I. near Cape Look-

out, N.C., June 16 (JF, TLQ, RJH); only one adult was seen, and the nesting apparently failed. A Least Tern seen at Eufaula N.W.R., Ga., June 13, was a very rare inland occurrence (BO).

PASSERINES — A rare discovery of a **Gray Kingbird** nest, with two young, was made at Sea I., Ga., June 11 (TM *et al.*). This is one of the rarest of breeding birds in the Region, nesting sparingly along the coast n. to c. South Carolina. A **Western Kingbird** June 11 at Toccoa Falls, Ga., was an exceptional find for the summer season (RCS). Last summer a colony of **Bank Swallows** was located along the Roaring R., in Wilkes Co., N.C., but positive breeding was not detected. However, the observers (RS, PC) returned on several dates in 1978 and discovered young at the nest burrow entrances, confirming the first nesting record for the Region. A full account of the colony, containing approximately 20 nest burrows and 50 adults, can be found in *Chat* 42:83-84. A ♂ Bobolink was extremely late at the Altamaha Waterfowl Ref., near Darien, Ga., June 11 (TM *et al.*). **House Finches** were finally found breeding in Georgia this summer, with perhaps three nesting reports in the Atlanta area. Terry Moore saw a pair building a nest in downtown Atlanta June 27, but the nest and contents were destroyed by rain in July. Also, a pair was noted raising young in Stone Mt., in June (FO), and another observer had at least two birds coming to his feeder in Atlanta, including a probable juvenile (BR)

Positive breeding was again found in Raleigh and Winston-Salem, and in the latter city, colonies of 12 and six singing males were reported (*vide* RS). Adults at feeders in June at Chapel Hill (CH) and Hickory (G&LH) suggest breeding in these North Carolina towns. Conclusive breeding has yet to be reported from South Carolina, but it must be taking place in some of the upstate cities.

OBSERVERS — J. H. Buckalew, Zach Bynum, Pat Culbertson, John Fussell, R. J. Hader, Carol Hamilton, Garvin and Louise Hughes, Louise Lacoss, Dave Lee, Carl Leibrandt, Bob Lewis, Terry Moore, Lynne Moseley, Beany Newhall, Brent Ortego, Mrs. Fred Osterburg, JoAnne Powell, Skip Prange, J. O. Pullman, T. L. Quay, Bob Raymond, Ramona Snavelly, R. C. Stringer, J. S. Weske. — **Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.**

New Reporting Region Established

As evidence of our continuing effort to increase our coverage of Canadian field ornithology, we announce the inauguration of a new **Prairie Provinces Region**. The new region, which will encompass the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, will take over some areas until now assigned to the Northern Great Plains and Rocky Mountain-Intermountain Regions. Northwest Territories from which (too) few reports emanate, will henceforth be joined with Yukon Territory, giving Editor Helmut Grünberg all the land and water from the North Pole to James Bay, and from Aklavik east to Baffin Island. As of

today that vast area boasts one subscriber to *Am. Birds* — Tony Bigg of Nanisivik.

The editors of the new region are both experienced ornithologists who have been regular contributors to these pages. J. B. "Bernie" Gollop is research scientist at the Prairie Migratory Bird Research Centre of the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. Wayne C. Harris, a former Regional Editor, may be addressed at Box 994, Prince Albert, Sask. Their first report will be for Spring Migration (March - May) 1979, to be published in *Am. Birds* in September. Send reports to Dr. Gollop, not later than July 1. Observers in the Dakotas and eastern Montana will continue to send reports to Editor Serr.

FLORIDA REGION

/John B. Edscorn

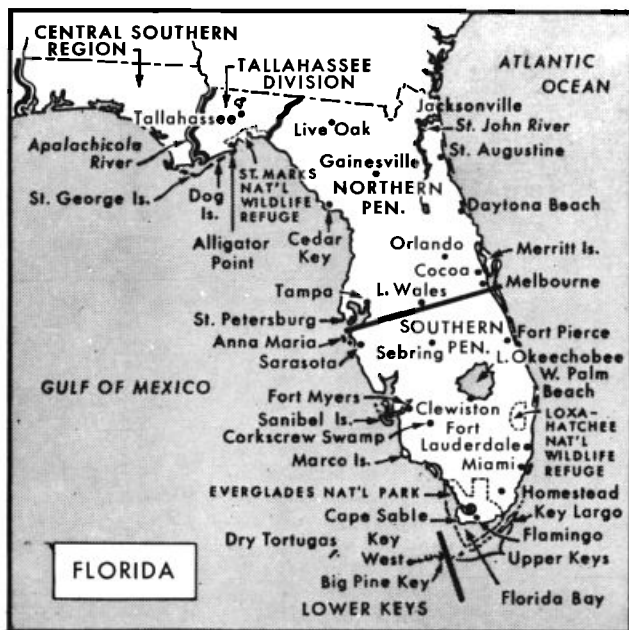
The season's *melange* of salient happenings defies brief summary. Rarities? Yes, indeed; the number was not exceptional for Florida, but some of the species certainly were, particularly an amazingly-displaced, first-ever owl. One major migration fallout occurred as frontal rain hit the Gold Coast; Wally George at Fort Lauderdale and Paul Sykes at Key Biscayne described October 15 as their best day there in many years. Until then most areas reported rather normal migration (primarily

One casts about musingly for a way to elicit *noblesse oblige* in the matter of contributor's reports. Writing up the extra-long and eventful fall period is a tedious, shockingly time-consuming labor of love which disrupts the entire holiday season. Hoping to avoid arduous rewrites, we waited into January for key reports this time (one has still not been received), thereby missing planned writing times between leading bird tours and guiding private parties in and outside of the United States, etc. Also, while some reports were properly presented, others were not. One more time we ask that: **CONTRIBUTORS** furnish on-time, Checklist-order seasonal summaries (not chronological hodgepodes); **OBSERVERS** support rare finds by obtaining competent witnesses and photos when possible and in any case, by *always* submitting complete details. Unsubstantiated rarities may not be accorded bold-face type, and may be deleted altogether; **ALL FUTURE FALL REPORTS BE SENT IN IMMEDIATELY AFTER NOV. 30**. Don't expect postal pleas or long-distance calls or any more rewrites to accommodate late reports. Hereafter we plan to begin writing in the second week of December (and have the holiday season free for family, friends, Christmas Bird Counts, etc.). If you and those in your area are to be included in our reports **PLEASE CIRCLE NOV. 30 ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW**.

across a salt marsh near Wakulla Beach Oct. 6 (FHS, LW); its tail did not appear forked. A rare-for-Florida Leach's Storm-Petrel was found dying near Jensen Beach Oct. 19 (Ellie Van Os; *Manomet Bird Observatory). Although only singles were seen this season, Masked Booby sightings of Aug. 6, Sept. 3 (LH *et al.*) and Sept. 17 (CB, WB) offered further evidence of that species' regularity off Clearwater in late summer. There were three later Masked Booby reports from the Gold Coast. One bird was off Palm Beach Oct. 8 (HPL, PW), an adult was caught there on a fishing line Nov. 11 (AUK, HPL, WM) "released unharmed except for a sore tongue!" and a sub-adult ashore at Dania Beach Nov. 13 was taken to the Wild Bird Care Center (*vide* WJB). A very tame Brown Booby having a deformed lower mandible had been present three weeks when reported Aug. 25, at Tavernier (Kevin Sunderland, Sandy Sprunt); it moved then to Key West where it was seen by many — even taking fish scraps from the hand! — early September - Nov. 8 (TW *et al.*).

WADERS — Noteworthy where seen were: a "Great White" Heron Sept. 2 & Nov. 3 at Hickory Mound L., Taylor Co. (NOW *et al.*; HMS), a "Wurdemann's" Heron at the St. Johns R. mouth Nov. 11 & 25 (RWL) and a Reddish Egret inland near Belle Glade Aug. 6 (PWS, GH *et al.*). An ad. and imm. Reddish Egret in the Ft. Pierce area all summer and fall (H&WD) might indicate nesting nearby (as was discovered in Tampa Bay after similar sightings). In Florida Bay Rich Paul observed that Reddish Egret nesting was apparently delayed, and nesting by Roseate Spoonbills (underway by early November in recent years) had not begun by the period's end. A memorable sight indeed would be the 8-9 Am. Flamingos reported in flight over Naples Oct. 8 ("PM," *vide* TB).

WATERFOWL — Rare in the Tallahassee Division (hereafter Talla. Div.), (and earliest ever for the Talla. Div. and Florida?) were three Brant near St. Marks Light Oct. 18 (Mary Gray); two were *inland* at Southwood Farm near Tallahassee Nov. 19 (JMS). A White-fronted Goose on L. Jackson (near Talla.) Oct. 21 (HMS) was conceivably the one found near St. Marks Light Nov. 23 (JHH) and thereafter (m.ob.). Although Peggy Powell witnessed thousands of ducks (mostly Black Scoters and scaup) streaming S off Little Talbot I., Dec. 1, the season was one of drastic



bound for tropical America), but thereafter it became evident that winter residents were arriving in low numbers. Christmas Bird Counts later confirmed many all-time lows. True, persistently warm weather might have inhibited late-season migration, but that cannot explain the paucity of some permanent residents or the bird scarcity which reportedly encompassed the entire Southeast. Perhaps the most significant insight of the season is the conclusion that two nesting seasons have not recouped the severe winter-kill losses of early 1977 — in fact some continuing declines are evident.

TUBENOSES, BOOBIES — Again confirming their "probably regular" occurrence in the Gulf, single Cory's Shearwaters were offshore of Clearwater Aug. 6 (LH *et al.*) and off Hudson Oct. 29 (CB *et al.*), and a lone Greater Shearwater was also seen far offshore of Clearwater Aug. 6 (LH *et al.*). Enigmatic was an unidentified storm-petrel that cut

scarcity for many species. Often it is late winter (if at all) before a Cinnamon Teal is found somewhere in the state but a visitor reported one Nov. 18 at Myakka S.P. (PN). Earliest for Florida was a Redhead near St. Marks Light Sept. 26 (FHS, LW), where Nov. 21 Gidden reported 60,000+ (with 6000 scaup, "mostly Greaters").

RAPTORS — Wakulla County had a record count of 12 Swallow-tailed Kites Aug. 2 (George Byrd). Although Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers seemed lower overall than in other recent years, there were two outstanding flights: 202 at Hypoluxo I., near Lantana Oct. 7 (HPL, BV) and 513 at St. Petersburg's "Bayway" Oct. 9 (RH,KT,CB). Five and four Cooper's Hawks in those same mass movements indicated the worsening ratio that Cooper's continue to suffer. Apparent "reverse migration" typified most Gulf Coast *Accipiter* reports; apparently the birds were turning back from a water crossing in each case. As sometimes happens, a few Swainson's Hawks were seen around Florida Bay (*vide* RTP). There were two reports, *sans* details, of the rare Short-tailed Hawk at Myakka S.P. in November; a likely area where we have never heard of it before.

A puzzling surprise was the Harris' Hawk near Key West Nov. 17 (GY, FTH, MB, TW, LK), where FTH had an unreported sighting in October, 1977. One must suspect a falconer's bird (a prior Florida individual still had a jess attached), but . . . ? A Golden Eagle near St. Marks Light Nov. 18 (RMC) foretold winter reports downstate. Peregrine Falcon reports (26) far exceeded those of Merlins (8), again pointing up the latter's serious but less-publicized plight. There was some hope that the persistent Am. Kestrel decline may have levelled off.

RAILS, COOTS — Soras return earlier than many observers suspect. For instance, one near Belle Glade Aug. 19 (PWS, GH) was not a divisional record (and the earliest state date is Aug. 13).

S.A.

"Keeping the faith," so to speak, a few people still report so-called "Caribbean" Coots each fall (some like to hope Florida's birds will remain "countable"). It is past time for proof that this is a good species even in the Caribbean. Do both sexes manifest bulbous, unspotted shields there? Florida's birds seem to be simply ad. ♂ Am. Coots with high, clear shields. They arrive and depart with northern coots, and none have nested with local birds (even if one does, it will not establish Antillean lineage). Is this not merely a shield variation that is unusual in North America's ♂ coots but happens to predominate in some West Indian areas — all involving the same species? Can't some authority resolve this question soon?

SHOREBIRDS — Extreme rarities inland were: a Piping Plover Oct. 1 at Duda Farm (hereafter, Duda's) near Belle Glade (WD, HPL *et al.*), and a probable Snowy Plover at Zellwood Sept. 4 (PJF). Common Snipe were exceptionally early at Zellwood Aug. 12 (L & BA, JD) and at Duda's Aug. 13 (PWS, GH *et*

al.). Rare where seen were: a Whimbrel on the lower Keys Oct. 1 (HMS; Big Coppitt Key), a Red Knot inland at Duda's Sept. 24 (PWS, GH *et al.*) and a Purple Sandpiper at Naples on the lower Gulf Coast ("JW, PW," *vide* TB). Two fall rarities (reported without details) were White-rumped Sandpiper Nov. 17 by the Sunshine Skyway, Pinellas Co. (Vera & Richard Hebert) and two Baird's Sandpipers at Virginia Key, Miami Sept. 9 (WJB), Duda's had fewer Stilt Sandpipers this season, but the peak of 590 Sept. 3 was still impressive (PWS, GH *et al.*).

There was little mention of Buff-breasted Sandpipers in August at Zellwood (which was not well reported this season). Elsewhere one was at Virginia Key Sept. 9 (WG, BN), St. George I. (hereafter, S.G.I.) had one Sept. 10 (NOW) and six were at Duda's Sept. 24 (GH, HPL *et al.*). Up to three Marbled Godwits per day were inland at Duda's Aug. 6 - Sept. 3 (PWS, GH *et al.*). Shorebird prizes were Ruffs in record numbers: four at Duda's Aug. 6 (two Aug. 13; PWS, GH *et al.*) and two at McKay Bay, Tampa Oct. 8 (RMC, CME)! The Talla. Div. had its best-ever season for Am. Avocet with many sightings of up to 13 birds per day (m. ob.), and a local rarity was a Black-necked Stilt near St. Marks Light Aug. 19 (JHH *et al.*). Duda's peaked with 60 Wilson's Phalaropes Aug. 27 (PWS, GH *et al.*).

LARIDS — Lyn Atherton advised that J. R. Jehl confirmed her photo of Florida's first California Gull; also, Brooks Atherton should be credited for the incorrectly captioned Thayer's Gull photo in *AB*:32, 341. Lyn again turned up Franklin's Gulls in Pinellas County: one at Toytown Dump Oct. 24, one at Ft. DeSoto Pk., Oct. 28 (a different bird) and two at Toytown Nov. 17+. Amazingly, there were two **Sabine's Gulls** recorded: one was photographed at the Dry Tortugas Aug. 8 by Mark Collie, and one was off Palm Beach Inlet Sept. 23 (AUK, GK, HPL).

ALCIDS — Another autumn prize was the **Razorbill** found dying at Ft. Lauderdale Beach Nov. 2 (*vide* WJB, *T.T.R.S.).

DOVES, CUCKOOS — White-winged Doves were once again seen in areas where released birds might not be expected. Examples: three at S.G.I., Nov. 4 (NOW, RTE, SJ), one at Alligator Pt., Nov. 14 (HMS) and one on Sugarloaf Key Nov. 23-30 (LK). Although Mangrove Cuckoos have very rarely been reported even farther n. on the East Coast, one at Virginia Key Sept. 23 was somewhat n. of its nearest-known nesting area at Homestead (WG, RT). There were six Black-billed Cuckoo reports, beginning with an exceptionally early one at Ft. DeSoto Pk. (FDP) near St. Petersburg Aug. 20 (RH, DJ). Others were at Sugarloaf Key Sept. 16 (LK), Dunedin Hammock Oct. 1 (LH, DM), S.G.I., Oct. 7 (JMS), Lakeland Oct. 8 (PJF, BC) and Lignumvitae Key near Islamorada Oct. 13 (JP). Two Groove-billed Anis at S.G.I., Oct. 15 (JMS) were eclipsed by a record flock of 8-9 at Lanark Nov. 19 (RMC, GEM).

OWLS —

Earliest for Florida was a Short-eared Owl found dead at Tallahassee Oct. 20 (*T.T.R.S.). There was an amazing report

(without details, hence no boldface type) of a Saw-whet Owl perched at dusk Sept. 28 on the mist net of Naples bird-bander Stanley Stedman (an Ohioan whom we assume has experience with this species)! Such a rarity, so early and so far s., should certainly be fully detailed (the only Florida record involves a road-kill possibly fallen from a northerner's car).

S.A.

The find of the season was Florida's first **Flammulated Owl**, a species almost never reported e. of the Mississippi! It appeared on a motel wall in Reddington Beach Nov. 4 (Edgar Hodgins), apparently having strayed in migration across the Gulf. Glen Woolfenden examined the far western rarity in the hand, found no sign of it having been in captivity, and on Nov. 6 this dark-eyed wonder was released in the wild after being photographed from every angle.



Flammulated Owl. Reddington Beach, Fla. Nov. 4, 1978. Photo/C. Buhrman.

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS — A Chimney Swift at Delray Beach Aug. 21 (PWS) was unusual for the Gold Coast, as were 15 at Key Biscayne Oct. 15 (RHP, PWS), and Loxahatchee Ref. had its first record Oct. 14 (AA, PWS). At Jacksonville (hereafter, Jax.) Peggy Powell had a ♀ *Selasphorus* hummingbird Nov. 17-24.

FLYCATCHERS — Apparently Florida's latest E. Kingbird, except for a very few winter records, was the one at Port St. Lucie Nov. 21 (H&WD). For the second year since the January, 1977 freeze, W. Kingbird and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher numbers were somewhat low. A **Say's Phoebe** again made news, this time near St. Marks Light where one was discovered Sept. 28 by Robin Carter and Charlie Eastman; it was seen again late that day by a number of people, but was never reported thereafter.

Saddle Creek Pk., near Lakeland had its second Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, recorded Sept. 29 (LA), and like the first one it stayed within three feet of the ground in dense brush; then it immediately came to taped Yellow-bellied calls and responded with "the more buzzy part" itself. One was netted and measured at Naples Oct. 6 (AFS, SDS) and yet another was repeatedly seen and heard at Ft. Lauderdale Oct. 15-17 (WJB). Single *Empidonax* kills at WCTV tower n. of Tallahassee were tentatively identified Sept. 26 as "Traill's" and Sept. 29 as Least flycatchers (RLC). Two other Least were reported at S.G.I., Oct. 8 (JMS). Also at S.G.I., Sept. 10 was a rarely recorded Olive-sided Flycatcher

(NOW *et al.*), and a Vermilion Flycatcher Oct 7 (JMS, this species has become much rarer in the Talla. Div., where 5-6 formerly wintered around a single lake). The only other Vermilion report came from Palm Beach Oct. 7 (ME, GH).

CREEPERS, WRENS — A Brown Creeper far s. at FDP Oct. 15 (WH; m. ob., Oct. 16) was credited by Hopkins as representing the first Pinellas County record. A better showing of Winter Wren reports indicated some improvement over last season's freeze-related scarcity. Even in n.w. Florida, Bewick's Wren is now very rarely seen; except for a Gainesville report in this decade, the Bewick's at O'leno S.P. Nov. 3 (CHC) was the southernmost in many years known to this writer.

THRUSHES — An Am. Robin in Pinellas County Aug. 18 (JH) was perhaps one of the birds that has been summering (nesting?) about the Tampa Bay area in recent history. Wood Thrushes were better reported than usual; S.G.I. had an early migrant Sept. 14 (JMS), unusual for the Gold Coast was one at Hypoluxo I., Oct. 2 (ME, GH), Lakeland peaked at three (PJF, CG) and Pinellas County at six Oct. 7 (m. ob.). A very late Swainson's Thrush fell at WCTV Nov. 9 (RLC). Stevenson again had a Veery *in song* at Tallahassee Sept. 20.

VIREOS — Very rare and earliest ever for Florida was a Bell's Vireo Sept. 7 at S.G.I. (NOW). Philadelphia Vireos once more proved to be very regular fall migrants, albeit quite rare. An extremely early one was reported Sept. 19 in Pinellas County (WB, DH, ES). Others were singles at Lakeland Sept. 30 (PJF), Hypoluxo I., Oct. 2 (HPL), S.G.I., Oct. 7 (JMS), Wakulla Springs Oct. 9 (HMS), S.G.I., Oct. 15 (JMS; two birds), Ft. Lauderdale Oct. 15-16 (JNB, WJB, WG, AI) and Lakeland Oct. 19 (PJF). Lakeland also produced another convincingly-detailed report of **Warbling Vireo** Oct. 28 (PJF), a rarity indeed on the peninsula.

WARBLERS — As usual, space limitation precludes mention of any but the more interesting reports, and we will employ only the first vernacular name. Swainson's were found at Bartow Sept. 4 (WH, L&BA; very early for N Pen.), Hypoluxo I., Oct. 2-3 (GH *et al.*) and two at WCTV Oct. 9 (RLC, latest Talla. Div.). A new early N. Pen., date was set by a Golden-winged at Hillsboro River S.P., Aug. 11 (LA), and climaxed Noel Wamer's banner season for rarities was a prize **Lawrence's Warbler** Sept. 20 on Little S.G.I. WCTV tower killed 451+ birds of 42 species Nov. 9, including the latest Yellow Warbler for the Talla. Div. (RLC).

Rare Nashville reports came from Ft. Lauderdale Sept. 22 (WG; tied S. Pen. earliest), Hypoluxo I., Sept. 30 (HPL, TT, CP) and Oct. 7 (HPL *et al.*), Jax., Oct. 3 (PCP) and S.G.I., Oct. 7 & 22 (three birds; JMS). Daily peaks of five Magnolias were reported for: Loxahatchee Ref., Oct. 1 (HPL), e. Hillsboro County Oct. 5 (HMS) and Lakeland Oct. 7 (PJF). Two Magnolias in the Nov. 9 WCTV kill may be the Talla. Div. latest (RLC). As an extreme illustration of Cape May's East Coast bias, 1200 were reported in the Oct. 15 bonanza at Key Biscayne when "every tree was full of

birds" (PWS, RHP), while on Oct 31 HMS saw his Leon County first ever!

A normal 20 Ceruleans were recorded, beginning very early at Jax., Aug. 13-14 (PCP) and ending with a late and rare one for Key Largo Sept. 29 (HMS) — this bird being far out of the usual n.w. sector between Jax. and the c. Gulf Coast. Another Talla. Div. latest record was of a Blackburnian felled at WCTV Nov. 9 (RLC). Chestnut-sideds made a good showing, as did Bay-breasted. One of the latter at WCTV, Sept. 27 was the Talla. Div. earliest (RLC). At Jonathan Dickinson S.P., Oct. 27 Ranger Lerne Malo described a tail-wagging **Kirtland's Warbler** with Palm Warblers low in scrub oak thickets (sand pine habitat). He summoned experienced witnesses, but it was not found again. Note: deleted last fall was a Kirtland's report which cited no tail-wagging and might have been a similar fall Magnolia, (if in doubt, check for Magnolia's undertail terminal band).

Fort Lauderdale had two fall prizes: a Connecticut Oct. 16 (BH) and a Mourning Oct. 4 (JB, WJB). Earliest for Florida was a Wilson's at Jax., Aug. 6 (JPC), and earliest for the Talla. Div. was one at S.G.I., Sept. 7 (NOW). Loxahatchee Ref. had the only other Wilson's Oct. 14 (PWS). As in 1976, *ten* Canadas were seen: at Bartow Sept. 4 (WH, LA), Ft. Lauderdale Sept. 6, 11 (two birds) & 16 (WG, JB, WJB, BH), Pinellas County Sept. 10 (JD) & 27 (WB), Sarasota Sept. 14 (EVM), WCTV Sept. 29 (RLC) and Lakeland Oct. 1-2 (PJF, JBE *et al.*).

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS — Typically, Yellow-headed Blackbirds were widely reported. Latest for the Talla. Div. was S.G.I.'s Oct. 16 "Baltimore" Oriole (HMS). Again a Pinellas County dairy had Brewer's Blackbirds (two Oct. 30, earliest N. Pen.; LH, KT) and **Bronzed Cowbirds** (one Nov. 11, PJF, BC; three Nov. 23, LH, JH)! Both species remained into the winter. Yet another Talla. Div. latest record, a Scarlet Tanager, fell in the Nov. 9 WCTV kill (RLC).

FRINGILLIDS — Painted Buntings remained very scarce. The only Dickcissel report came from WCTV Nov. 9 (RLC; first tower record since 1965). American Goldfinches were low in most areas. A Lark Sparrow was photographed Sept. 7 near St. Marks Light (HMS), and it or another was nearby Sept. 20 (RMC). A rare Clay-colored Sparrow was well described at Jax., Nov. 22-26 (VMM). Stevenson commented that the Talla. Div. had more White-crowned Sparrow reports than usual, *e.g.*, WCTV had its first in a decade Oct. 29 (RLC) — but only normal numbers were reported farther s. WCTV felled a Lincoln's Sparrow Oct. 13 (RLC), then Oct. 15 both Key Biscayne (PWS, RHP) and St. Marks Light (NOW) had one each of these Florida rarities.

CORRIGENDUM — In the last Florida spring report (*AB*: 32,995), Hopkins advised that: Short-tailed Hawk was not a Pinellas County first (records in the 1800s) (LH *et al.*); Am. Golden Plover on Mullet Key May 4 was seen by CB, KT *et al.*; Parasitic Jaeger had been recorded twice before in Pinellas. Also, Lyn Atherton pointed out that the ad. Franklin's Gull at Toytown Dump Apr. 20 could not have been one of the previously wintering

imm birds (apparently they were decidedly immature, not sub-adults)

OBSERVERS (area editors in boldface) — Brooks Atherton, Lyn Atherton, Ann Ayers, **Ted Below**, Wes Biggs, Janice Bolte, William J. Bolte, Marge Brown, Charles Burhman, Robin M. Carter, Julie P. Cocke, Caroline H. Coleman, Buck Cooper, Robert L. Crawford, Helen Dowling, William Dowling, Jack Dozier, Caroline M. Eastman, Marge Eaton, **John B. Edscorn**, R. Todd Engstrom, Paul J. Fellers, Dorothy Freeman, Chuck Geanangel, Wally George, C. S. Gidden, Frances T. Hames, Doug Hatten, **John H. Hintermister**, Wayne Hoffman, Brian Hope, Judi Hopkins, Larry Hopkins, Richard Hopkins, Gloria Hunter, Arthur Inwood, David Johnson, **Herbert W. Kale**, Allan U. King, Gary King, Lois Kitching, Howard P. Langridge, Robert L. Loftin, Virge M. Markgraf, William Matthews, Dottie McVickers, Gail E. Menk, Edith V. Miller, Perry Nugent, Jeanne Parks, **Richard T. Paul**, Cynthia Plockelman, Ray H. Plockelman, **Peggy C. Powell**, Annette F. Stedman, Stanley D. Stedman, Ellen Stere, **Henry M. Stevenson**, James M. Stevenson, Mrs. F. H. Stoutamire, **Paul W. Sykes**, Tall Timbers Research Station, Kirk Thompson, Rob Thorn, Tadziu Trotsky, Barry Vorse, Noel Wamer, Leslie Warren, Thurlow Weed, Phil Weinrich, Gus Yaki. m.ob., many observers; * specimen. **JOHN B. EDSCORN, 5620 N. Galloway Rd., Lakeland, FL 33801.**

ONTARIO REGION /Clive E. Goodwin

Most reporters agreed it was a lacklustre season. Yet observers at Long Point Bird Observatory (hereafter, L.P.) enthused about a "most spectacular fall migration," with many banding and estimated total records broken. To some extent these contradictory perceptions may have been the product of fewer rarities encountered than usual. Yet when all the observations are compiled, as Alice Kelley pointed out for the South-west, there were about the usual number of rarities and sightings of interest. The key to a very intriguing fall seems to lie in interpreting the conflicting impressions it created.

It was a prolonged season. Temperatures were below normal for the entire period in northern Ontario, and in the south only the first three weeks in November were milder than usual. At Toronto November was the sixteenth month in the past eighteen with below-average temperatures. Predictably the effect was continuing early movement, following the pattern chronicled in the last report. Some additional examples were: a Hermit Thrush July 9, a Gray-cheeked July 29 and a Philadelphia Vireo Aug. 10, all at Prince Edward Point (hereafter, P.E. Pt.); a Palm Warbler at Colpo's Bay July 13 (LR), and a White-throated Sparrow in the Pinery Sept. 4 (CGH). Another result was heavy movement in August: at L.P., seven days up to September 1, rated as having heavy passage, a further four to October 1, and two subsequently.

The weather was rather equable, particularly in October and November. A succession of bright sunny days must have



allowed much migration to pass unseen. The lack of extremes also seemed to encourage many birds to linger late, ironically creating a pattern similar to last fall, yet with almost opposite weather conditions. Seven species of warblers were still loitering at Moosonee during Alan Wormington's Sept. 25 - Oct. 2 trip there, and at P.E.Pt., five species set late records. The next paragraph lists species that were exceptionally late for both the areas in which they were seen, and the Province as a whole.

A Com. Gallinule was seen at Bowmanville Nov. 11 (PE), a Semipalmated Sandpiper at Peterborough Oct. 28 (DCS), and a Wilson's Phalarope at Dundas Oct. 22 (AW, RF). The Toronto area had an Upland Sandpiper Oct. 9 (E & HK), a N. Phalarope Nov. 4 (CEG, JEG) and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird Oct. 22 (OA). A Whip-poor-will was at Woodstock Oct. 21 (WMcC, *vide* BP), and a Barn Swallow at Presqu'ile Nov. 16 (RDM). Late flycatchers included an E. Kingbird at Terra Cotta Sept. 21 (FS) and a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Ottawa Oct. 15 (WEG). A Com. Flicker Oct. 30 and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet Nov. 7 (DS, RT) in Algonquin P.P. were exceptionally late for the park, but not significant in provincial terms. Finally there was a host of late warbler records including a Nashville at Marathon Oct. 10 (NGE), Magnolia at Pickering Oct. 29 (JAK, FB), Cape May at Pt. Petre Nov. 12 (AW, BF), Black-throated Blue at Whitby Oct. 28 (CEG *et al.*), and an Am. Redstart at Toronto Nov. 25 (OO).

The final element in the "dull" fall was scarcity. A typical fall migration is a fascinating and ever-changing mixture of the new and the familiar, of the abundant and the exceptional. But this year there were so many species that seemed to appear in unusually low numbers, that too often major elements of the mixture seemed to be missing throughout the period.

To begin with, shorebird numbers were thin. At the Canadian Wildlife Service banding operation on James Bay, Guy Morrison commented that the migration of many species appeared to be rather late and that there were relatively few juveniles. In the south good

habitat was rather scarce until later in the fall, and perhaps these three factors — lateness, poor production and the lack of habitat, created scarcity.

The September movement of hawks along L. Ontario seemed to be missing — or at least no one reported it. The hawks were there, as the Holiday Beach figures show, but perhaps the conditions which concentrate them along the L. Ontario shoreline were not.

Some waterfowl numbers were down. Horned Grebes along L. Ontario and the Ottawa R., were only about 10% of the numbers five years ago, and many diving duck concentrations; e.g., the scaup off Presqu'ile (RDM), were absent or much reduced.

The wrens and kinglets, thrushes and sparrows, all the species reported as suffering from the recent cold winters, continued in low numbers. No E. Phoebes were reported from the South-west (*vide* AHK); L.P. totals of Ruby-crowned Kinglets were still only half of the average for 1961-77 although they had doubled from last year (DTH), and many other species from sapsuckers to Song Sparrows were also felt to be unusually scarce by observers across the Province.

Finally there was no dramatic push of those species that stage periodic incursions. At P.E.Pt., only one Black-capped Chickadee was banded all fall. No major nuthatch flights were noted, and although there was some finch and raptor movement it was unspectacular.

So the final picture that seemed to emerge is characteristically complex. It is of an orderly, prolonged migration, with much movement in a month when many birders were relatively inactive; and of a season when many species and groups were scarce, some perhaps owing to weather conditions alone, others a consequence of genuine low numbers, still others simply because they stayed in the north.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — Numbers of Com. Loons were building on L. Erie by Aug. 1 when there were 19 at L.P. The largest counts were 98 off Manitoulin I., Oct. 29 (JL) and 225 at Go Home Bay the same day (CGH) with similar numbers off Ipperwash (*vide* AHK). The peak movement at Great Duck I. (hereafter, G.D.I.), where John Nichol森 spent Sept. 10 - Nov. 1, which is about 10 mi s.w. of Manitoulin I., was 100± Oct. 18. Only 10 Red-throats were reported, low for recent years. There was a Red-necked Grebe at L. Temagami Oct. 21 (FH). The fall's only Eared was at Burlington Sept. 17 (AW, RF). A pair of W. Grebes on Lac La Croix Aug. 28 (SW) was the first in Ontario since 1972. Every fall recently a White Pelican has shown up along the lower Great Lakes; this

year's was at Dundas Sept. 15-24 (GCh *et al.*). On the Lake of the Woods, where the species nests, there were still 14 on Oct. 5 (RR, AW). A Gannet was photographed off Kettle Pt., Oct. 13 (AR). Small numbers of Double-crested Cormorants were widely reported on the Great Lakes, with three flocks of 30+ in early August, and at Rainy R., 480 were counted moving inland Oct. 5 (AW, RR).

HERONS, IBISES — Great Blue Herons continue to record high fall numbers: this year the Niagara-Buffalo area count of 129 Oct. 8 was their second highest ever (B.O.S.). Reports of seven Cattle Egrets Oct. 23 - Nov. 16 were about average for fall. Great Egrets were also in excellent numbers with 55± at Holiday Beach (JPK *et al.*), but one at Fort Frances Aug. 22 - Sept. 15 (AWL, m. ob.) was the first in Ontario w. of L. Superior. The year's third Glossy Ibis was at Pickering from Aug. 1 (MB, DC, m. ob.). Flamingos in Ontario are usually regarded as escapees, and this year we had two reports which sounded like different birds. The first was at Presqu'ile P.P., Sept. 23 - Oct. 20 (RDM) and the second w. of Dorion Oct. 20-22 (BDa, m. ob.); the latter bird was captured and is now in Toronto Zoo, where attempts are being made to establish its origin.

GEESE, DUCKS — Few issues seem to create more controversy and confusion than the subject of whether or not a bird is an escapee. At one end of the spectrum of opinion are those who seem to feel that records of even a few birds in captivity should automatically exclude a species from Provincial records. At the other extreme one encounters elaborate arguments to support wild occurrence for some trans-oceanic waif, in spite of the species' presence in pet shops. Neither position is particularly rational, but unless one does decide to count everything (or nothing) then the decision on each particular observation must be a matter of judgment. The likelihood of a wild occurrence must be weighed in each case. A Barnacle Goose Oct. 15+ near Garden Hill must be judged an escapee: the species is present in waterfowl collections including some quite marginal operations, and although it could well be a wild bird it's more likely to have come from one of these.

There were scattered Brant reports, the most an exceptionally large flock (for fall) of 240 at Presqu'ile Oct. 16 (AW). The Snow Goose movement usually passes largely unobserved, but at Windigo L., in the Patrician District, 19 flocks of 100+ birds each were seen Oct. 1 (ND), 4000 were counted at Marathon Oct. 7 (NGE, AW, RR) and there were several hundred on Manitoulin I., Nov. 24 (EF), as well as the usual scattered birds in the s. Ottawa had a White-fronted Goose Nov. 11-14 (BMD, JH). Both Barrow's Goldeneyes and Harlequin Ducks provided their customary scattered sightings. The Ottawa Barrow's reappeared Oct. 11 and there was a second there Nov. 4+ (N & SiG), and others were seen at Presqu'ile Nov. 16 (RDM) and Niagara Nov. 3+ (FMR, ECU). The regular winter Harlequin appeared at Toronto Nov. 26 when two others were also seen (MBu) and in the Sarnia area four were reported and three more shot (DR, AR). Sarnia also had an exceptional six King Eiders Nov. 12 (DR) and Presqu'ile two Nov. 19 (RDM, DS). At P.E.Pt.

a bird was identified as a Com Eider Oct 19 (HQ, RE) The other waterfowl reports were of high numbers, and even in the absence of some of the usual concentrations there was an abundance of these, especially of dabbling ducks. They are far too numerous to list, but there were two particularly noteworthy ones. A huge flock of 1000± scoters at Ottawa in November, comprised of 500 White-wingeds, 175 Blacks, 10 Surfs and the rest unidentified (BMD, JH), was one of the largest flocks ever there, and all the more remarkable given rather poor scoter numbers elsewhere. The other high count was of 92 Ruddy Ducks at Strathroy Nov. 7 (TNH), an exceptional inland count.

VULTURES, HAWKS — The counts given in Table 1 for Holiday Beach and Great Duck coverage are grouped for convenience only, and the totals for less common species across the Province are also included. The excellent coverage at Holiday Beach — the only hawk count station for which totals are available — recorded 50,804 birds in all, and gives a good picture of hawk movement in the Province. Sharp-shinned and Marsh Hawk totals were down, the latter seriously so, and Red-tailed and Red-shoulders up, but the remarkable count was of the 37 Golden Eagles seen.

The numbers recorded in the G.D.I. coverage were also remarkable when seen in the context of its location. Movement was in a variety of directions, but two main trends emerged. Sharp-shinned initially moved in from the N and left to the SE, headed towards Tobermory. Later in the fall these species, and most of the *Buteos*, arrived from the N and left towards NW, a bearing which would bring the birds over Mississagi Light and be consistent with the usual directions of hawks moving over the Light. *Buteos* predominate there, but *Accipiters* were the main constituents of the G.D.I. movement.

Table 1. Hawk Counts in Ontario, Fall 1978

	A ¹	B ²	C ³
Turkey Vulture	2868	32	NA
Goshawk	13	7	10
Sharp-shinned			
Hawk	10,601	1426	NA
Cooper's Hawk	352	27	NA
Red-tailed Hawk	8001	34	NA
Red-shouldered			
Hawk	1041	3	NA
Broad-winged			
Hawk	23,250	213	NA
Rough-legged			
Hawk	268	30	NA
Golden Eagle	37	—	8
Bald Eagle	16+	—	10
Marsh Hawk	383	42	NA
Osprey	74	6	27+
Peregrine Falcon	12	7+	17
Merlin	17	5+	25
Am Kestrel	3458	744	NA

¹Holiday Beach — 81 days, late August-November (JPK *et al.*)

²Great Duck Island — Sept. 19 - Nov. 1. (JN)

³Totals from elsewhere in Province for less common species (NA = Not available).

Turkey Vultures much outnumber ravens on the Bruce Pen., but the reverse holds on Manitoulin I., in spite of very similar habitat (*vide* JWJ). This comparison is particularly interesting in light of the expansion of both

species into each other's ranges. A fair Rough-legged movement started as early as Sept. 9 at Kintail (R&NM) and was particularly heavy Oct. 28 (m.ob.). Some late information on nesting was encouraging: a Cooper's Hawk with two flying young was in Rondeau P.P., Aug. 14-15 (JL), and the n.w. continues to have good Bald Eagle nesting success, with 13 active Quetico nests producing 17 young (SP). At Luther Marsh two Osprey nests produced five young (*vide* BD). The season's Gyrfalcon sightings were of a white-phase bird on Shippans I., Sept. 27 (AW, RR) and a grey-phase bird on Manitoulin Nov. 9 (JN).

CRANES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS —

One of very few reported sightings of breeding Sandhill Cranes was of a family group about 60 mi n. of Pagwa R., Cochrane Dist. in July (MDK). Two were seen on Manitoulin I., in July-August (IW) and three wandered S to Hawk Cliff Sept. 22 (JES, BBT). Sharp-tailed Grouse continue to prosper on P.E.Pt.; five were seen Oct. 1 (K.F.N.). The only Piping Plover reported was at Presqu'île Aug. 13-15 (m. ob.). Seven Whimbrel and 12 Red Knot at Ottawa Aug. 24 (M & SiG) were unusual numbers for fall, and 47 Upland Sandpipers at Pt. Pelee Aug. 9 (PDP) was an unusual number at any time. Nine Willet reports in August were high, but 10 Purple Sandpipers from an early Oct. 23 at Port Stanley (RP *et al.*) were about normal for recent years. White-rumped Sandpipers repeated their abundance of the spring with a host of reports Oct. 22+, when 40 were seen at Ottawa (m. ob.), and totally eclipsed by 67 at Presqu'île Oct. 29 (GC, RDM). One of two adequately documented Long-billed Dowitcher reports was of a bird also at Presqu'île Sept. 16 (RDM, C & DM), with the other at Frenchman's Bay Sept. 10 (m. ob.). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were widespread but their numbers were the lowest in at least seven years: 28 birds were reported from nine localities Aug. 3 - Sept. 23. Hudsonian Godwits followed a similar pattern, as again they were reported from nine areas with 22 birds, plus flocks of 14 and 17. They appeared as early as Aug. 2 at L.P., and remained to a late Nov. 15 at Dundas (CW *et al.*). Marbled Godwits were in average numbers with at least five birds seen, and Ruffs at Holiday Beach Oct. 5 (EC) and Dundas Oct. 7-12 (CW *et al.*) were the first in fall since 1973. An Am. Avocet at Rodney Aug. 20-22 (JL *et al.*) and six Red Phalarope sightings round out the fall's shorebird reports.

GULLS, TERNS — The jaeger reports were all from the Sarnia area: eight Parasitics plus another 11 probable, and at least two Pomarines, all Oct. 7-28 (DR). A well described Long-tailed, much the rarest of the three species, was seen there Sept. 12 (AR). Two Glaucous Gulls at L.P., July 29 (AL), were exceptional for late summer. Great Black-backed are rare on James Bay, so a bird at Shippans I., Sept. 27-30 (RR, AW) is of interest. A Lesser Black-backed reappeared at Niagara Oct. 22+ (RFA *et al.*) and there was another at Dundas Oct. 25 - Nov. 11 (AW, RF *et al.*). There has been an interesting trend towards increasing inland occurrences (Oxford County) of small numbers of both Herring and Ring-billed Gulls in July and August over the past two decades (*vide* BP). The Niagara R., was again host to large num-

bers of gulls of many species 14,000± Bonaparte's with small numbers of Franklin's and Littles, and at least one each of Black-legged Kittiwake and Black-headed Gull (m.ob.). Elsewhere 18 Little Gull sightings included 10 at L.P., Aug 18 (JS, DG), and there were kittiwakes at Hamilton Aug. 27 (RC), Pelee Oct. 21 and Sarnia Nov. 25 (DR). Larid counts from the Lake of the Woods Aug 3-5, reinforce the breeding season's comment on the prairie character of this area. There were 3000 Franklin's and 200 Bonaparte's Gulls seen, and 2000 Black and two Forster's Terns (DHE, TN, AW)! Elsewhere there were three Forster's along L. Ontario and a bird at Ottawa Sept. 21 (BMD, JH).

DOVES THROUGH OWLS — A Band-

tailed Pigeon photographed at Dorion Oct 20 (AM) is only the second substantiated record for the Province, and a Mourning Dove was seen at Moose Factory, where it is rare Oct 2 (AW). The Owl Rehabilitation Research Foundation received the lowest number of owls: 84, in years. The statistic encourages pessimistic speculation on the health of owl populations generally. A Barn Owl at Tollandale Oct. 30 (CJM *et al.*) was well n. of its limited Provincial range. Snowies moved in moderate numbers with birds as early as Oct 21 in the s., and small movements of the rarer northern owls also seemed to be developing. Hawk Owls were seen at Barrie (WZ), Amherst I. (FC, AEH), Little Current (JL) and Atikokan (SP), all in the period Nov. 5-29, Algonquin's first recorded Great Gray Owl was seen Nov. 18 (R. & J. Scheibe); and a Boreal Owl was at P.E. Pt., Oct. 24 (MJB). Short-eareds at Coldwater Oct. 22 (CJM, EAW) and Peterborough Sept. 24 (FH) were rare for those localities. It was a year of light Saw-whet Owl flight by all accounts, with the 303 banded at P.E. Pt., Sept. 25 - Nov 3, including relatively few first-year birds. The Point seems to have replaced Toronto as Canada's Saw-whet capital, but a high of eight was banded at Toronto Oct. 11 (ES) and a total of 58 at L.P.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWAL-

LINGS — Small flights of both three-toed woodpeckers developed: Black-backed were seen in the s., Oct. 29+ (m. ob.), and Northern Nov. 9+. Two W. Kingbirds were seen one at Rainy R., Aug. 18 (AW, SP) and another at Hawk Cliff Nov. 19-20 (MHF, DF *et al.*), and paralleling last fall, there were two Scissor-tailed Flycatcher reports, the first of a bird photographed on Cockburn I., Aug 10 (CB) and the second one picked up dead at Red Rock Oct. 30 (*vide* DFr). Noteworthy among many high swallow counts were 50,000 Trees at Wallaceburg Sept. 24 (DR) and 5000 Purple Martins at Fort Erie Sept. 17 (RB)

CROWS THROUGH SHRIKES — Two

Gray Jays at Red Bay Aug. 11 (FB, *vide* GB) were s. of their range. The only Black-billed Magpie reports came from the n.w., where three were seen at both Atikokan Nov 6 (DHE, TN) and Rainy R., Oct. 4 (AW, RR) Common Ravens continue to expand with scattered sightings s. to L. Ontario, where birds were seen at Presqu'île Sept. 4 (SD), Whitby Oct. 7 (MB) and Frenchman's Bay Oct. 22 (WWS *et al.*). Marathon had its first White-breasted Nuthatch Oct. 29 (NGE) and

another was at Attkokan Oct. 24 (ME). Mockingbirds were seen n. to Marathon, but the outstanding mimid was a **Sage Thrasher** on G.D.I., Oct. 22 (JN) well described, providing the third Ontario record. A Varied Thrush appeared at Hurkett Nov. 20 (HA) and a Wheatear at Deep R., for the second consecutive year, Oct. 15 (*vide* AW). An exceptional summer Bohemian Waxwing was described from Silent Lake P.P., July 27 (FWB). A moderate flight of N. Shrikes developed Oct. 12+, and there were 14 Loggerhead reports, including a family at Coldwater Aug. 6 (CJM).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — White-eyed Vireos were seen at Ottawa Oct. 8-10 (JH) and G.D.I., Sept. 22, where a Kentucky Warbler also appeared Sept. 28 (JN). Breeding season notes were a Blue-winged Warbler at Tillsonburg June 6-25 (WMcC) and a Yellow-rumped at Sibbald Pt., July 6 (BP). At L.P., the "budworm" warblers — Cape May, Tennessee, Bay-breasted and Blackburnian — continued in exceptional numbers, and were perhaps even commoner than in 1977 (DTH). A good count of six Prairie Warblers was seen across the Province, but Connecticut was in exceptional numbers with at least 10 reports including an estimated 72 at L.P., Sept. 12 when seven were banded and 42 killed at the lighthouse. Yellow-breasted Chats were seen at Mud L., Oxford Co., July 3 (DB) and P.E.Pt., Sept. 24 (K.F.N.), and Hoodeds at Hamilton Aug. 25 (RHW) and Hawk Cliff Sept. 18 (JES *et al.*).

HOUSE SPARROW, BLACKBIRDS — The Moosonee House Sparrow population stood at 16 on Sept. 26 (AW) and a bird at Wanapitae Sept. 28 - Oct. 1 was a good 10 mi from the nearest town (FH, CGH). A Yellow-

headed Blackbird was at Strathroy Oct. 9 (WRJ, NBJ), but the other blackbird reports were mainly high counts. They included 360,000 Red-wings and 50,000 Com. Grackles at Coldwater Oct. 22 (CJM, EAW), 50 Brewer's at Lovering Aug. 18 (M&OED) and 1000 Brown-headed Cowbirds at Snelgrove Sept. 18 (JM).

FINCHES, SPARROWS — Two Indigo Buntings at Marathon, the first appeared Oct. 28 and one remained to the end of the period (NGE), were far beyond their normal ranges in the Province. A moderate winter finch flight occurred, chiefly of Evening Grosbeaks and Purple Finches. The latter moved mainly in mid-October and were largely gone by late November, while the grosbeak movement was more protracted with the largest numbers from ca. Oct. 22 to mid-November. Pine Siskins and Am. Goldfinches were widespread in scattered flocks which followed no particular pattern, and there were a few redpoll reports, especially from Algonquin P.P., where they were fairly common by Nov. 30 (*vide* RT). Neither crossbill species made more than token appearances. A tardy spring report was of a Henslow's Sparrow singing at Obatanga P.P., May 25-30 (RDU), 200 mi n.w. of its known previous n. limit. Sharp-tailed Sparrows were reported from Oshawa Oct. 15 (GS) and three from Dundas Oct. 14 (VE), and a Lark Sparrow was seen at Moose Factory Oct. 2 (AW, RR). A Le Conte's Sparrow was on G.D.I., Oct. 5, which also had a Clay-colored the same day and a Harris' Oct. 22 (JN). The latter species was well represented in a large sparrow movement Oct. 4 at Rainy R.; the species is to be expected there but nonetheless, the 66 reported (AW, RR) was an unusual count for Ontario.

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NIAGARA - CHAMPLAIN REGION /Douglas P. Kibbe

Warm dry weather dominated most of the fall, permitting migrants to avoid those mass groundings which observers term 'good' birding. Shorebirding was only fair in most areas and late lingerers were noticeably scarce. A dearth of winter finches and the delayed arrival of wintering waterfowl left few birds to observe. Considerable excitement was generated however by rarities from all four compass points.

In a landmark meeting conducted by the Chairman of the Vermont State Endangered

Species Commission, Vermont game biologists, the Chief Naturalist of the Vermont Department of Forests and Parks, and several of the state's most knowledgeable amateur ornithologists, a list was cooperatively compiled of eight "endangered", eight "threatened" 12 "rare", and five status "undetermined" species. Protective legal backing, still to be enacted, will only cover the first two categories leaving "rare" and "undetermined" species as candidates for further study and, possibly, future legislative action. Observers throughout the Region are urged to submit all data, particularly breeding seasons information, to the editor on any of the "en-

dangered": Common Loon, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, Cooper's Hawk, Spruce Grouse, Common Tern, and Loggerhead Shrike; "threatened": Sharp-shinned and Marsh hawks, Upland Sandpiper, Red-headed, Black-backed Three-toed, and Northern Three-toed woodpeckers, Gray Jay, and Short-billed

Marsh Wren; "rare": Least Bittern, Yellow Rail, Barn Owl, Boreal Chickadee, Philadelphia Vireo, Tennessee, Cape May, Cerulean, Bay-breasted, and Wilson's warblers, and Grasshopper and Vesper sparrows; and "undetermined" species: Red-shouldered Hawk, Short-eared, Long-eared and Screech owls, and Henslow's Sparrow. It is, perhaps, important to note that the findings of Vermont's Breeding Bird Atlas Project were a major guiding force in the determinations made regarding species' status.

[In the report below, locations without state designations are in New York.]

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — A heavy, but incompletely tallied, movement of loons through central New York in mid-November included 150+ Red-throated near Rochester (R.B.A). A Red-necked Grebe appeared on Mirror L., in N. Elba Aug. 13 (H.P.A.S.), a record early date. The Tupper L., **Western Grebe** lingered through Oct. 2 (H.P.A.S.) and Montezuma N.W.R.'s three **White Pelicans** tarried until Sept. 24 (m. ob.). An intriguing report of two Double-crested Cormorants flying regularly from L. Champlain to the woods s. of the hamlet of Essex was received (H.P.A.S.). Given recent increases in summer reports, confirmation of the first Champlain valley breeding record in recent history seems imminent. Cattle Egrets



again lingered until mid November near L. Champlain breeding colonies. Single Great Egrets at Montezuma N.W.R. (WB) and Greece (MD, JL) and a Snowy at Herrick's Cove (LNM, MH) constituted the only seasonal sightings. Least Bitterns were only found at Lackawana W.M.A. (*vide* B.O.S.), Greece (F&RD) and Colchester, Vt. (WE), while a single Glossy Ibis apparently spent most of August in the vicinity of Montezuma N.W.R. Three imm. and one ad. Wood Storks discovered Aug. 11 near Portville (J&MF, m.ob.) had apparently been present for two weeks. Undaunted by their instant fame the birds remained in the vicinity through Aug. 24 and one was seen near Geneva Sept. 12 (BH, PT, HC).



Immature Wood Stork. Portville, N.Y. Aug. 19, 1978. Photo/T. H. Davis.

Peak waterfowl counts at Montezuma N.W.R. (*vide* WB) include 46,000 Canada Geese, 1100 Wood Ducks, and 1000 Gadwall, the latter a good reflection of this species regional success. On L. Ontario near Rochester tallies included 2600 Brant in one hour Oct. 23 (AK), two counts of 400 Hooded Mergansers (R.B.A.), and 10,000 Red-breasted Mergansers (R&SS). Normal wintering waterfowl were late in arriving, presumably owing to mild weather, a White-winged Scoter at Buffalo Aug. 2 (AS) being the only exception. Four small geese seen and heard with a Greater Snow Goose flock at Gale Meadows (WJN) may have been Ross'. Unfortunately illegal gunning in the area frightened the birds before a definitive study could be made. There are several recent Eastern records for the species but none from the Region.

HAWKS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS —

About a dozen Bald Eagles, excluding reports of four hacked into the wild at Montezuma N.W.R., and one Golden Eagle were sighted. About 75 Osprey reports were received including one lingering at Belmont which was found mortally wounded at the local "Conservation Club" Nov. 13. Appearance of a gray-phase Gyrfalcon at Greece Sept. 9 (FD, RS) was followed by that of a light-phase bird at Hamlin Nov. 24 (RC, *vide* CP). Other falcon observations included four Peregrines, one a road-killed immature at N. Hudson, and 12± Merlins, all but four from the e. half of the Region. A Sandhill Crane eluded most observers at Montezuma N.W.R., through October (*vide* WB) and a King Rail was carefully studied at Manitou Sept. 4 (RM).

A Piping Plover at Oneida L. Oct 12 15 (MR, FS) is the first regional sighting in several years of this former breeder. A handful of Whimbrel reports included Vermont's fourth record, a single bird at Addison Aug. 14 (J & BP). Red Knots staged a fair showing with up to six in the Rochester area in early September. In Vermont, where considered very rare, singles Aug. 1 at Reading (JM) and Sept. 28 on Colchester Pt. (WE), exceeded state arrival and departure dates. Only two Purple Sandpipers were found, both on L. Ontario, but White-rumped and Westerns were well reported. Baird's Sandpipers also put in a good showing with a max. of seven at Oneida L. (FS). All three Vermont sightings fell outside expected state migration dates; with six at Button Bay S.P., Aug. 1 (CJ), and two at Dead Creek W.M.A., Oct 22 (WJN) increasing to four Oct. 27 (WS), the latter a month late. A poor showing of three solitary Buff-breasted Sandpipers included Vermont's third, at Addison Oct. 22 (BP), setting a regional late date. One Marbled Godwit at Oneida L. (MR, FS), another at El Dorado Shores (*vide* LC), and four or five solitary Hudsonians, including two Vermont sightings, constitute the only godwit records. Single Ruffs appeared at Tonawanda W.M.A., Aug. 6 (*vide* B.O.S.) and Onondaga L., Sept. 23 (MR). A pair of Am. Avocets reportedly at Dead Creek W.M.A., Sept. 22 (DM) would represent Vermont's first record in over a century if correct (no details). Three Wilson's Phalaropes at Hardwick L. (LNM) are only Vermont's fourth fall record.

LARIDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

— Fifteen Parasitic Jaegers at Derby Hill Oct. 7 (FS) was by far the best tally this year. An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull at Niagara Falls Nov. 3-18 was the only rarity in the Buffalo area aside from the usual numbers of Little and Franklin's gulls and a single Black-legged Kittiwake (*vide* B.O.S.). Rochester, N.Y., captured a share of the larid limelight with a Black-headed Gull Nov. 16 (NH, RL, *vide* R.B.A.) plus two kittiwakes and several Little and a single Franklin's gulls. Vermont got a probable Thayer's at Burlington Nov. 4 (WJN) and its first confirmed Little Gull record Oct. 20 when an adult appeared at Shawnee Shores on L. Champlain only to be joined three weeks later by an immature (m. ob.). The written verification accompanying the Thayer's report is the most convincing received to date for this perplexing species. Both Forster's and Com. terns appeared in record breaking numbers. Forty-two Forster's at Braddock Bay Aug. 25 (NH, *vide* G.O.S.) and 1700 Commons on the Niagara R., Oct. 21 (DF, PD) exceeded by several times the previous regional high. Ten Forster's were still present Sept. 23 and four lingered through Oct. 13 (R.B.A., G.O.S.).

A "wreck" of alcids apparently took place in October judging from the appearance of two Dovekies, the first seen at Braddock Bay Oct. 23 (WL, *vide* R.B.A.), the second retrieved from beneath a car in Rochester, Vt., Nov. 26 (EA, * V.I.N.S.). A mild influx of Snowy Owls was noted, mostly in c. New York. Eighteen Chimney Swifts in Rochester, N.Y., Oct. 8 (G.O.S.) were a good reflection of this fall's mildness. The only three-toed woodpecker reports were of a Black-backed at Ferdinand, Vt. (MFM) and a Northern at Averill Aug. 3 (LNM) a surprising date for a species not

known to have bred in Vermont in recent history.

CORVIDS THROUGH WARBLERS —

An unconfirmed mid-October report (*vide* NS) from a Magic Mt. feeder constituted the only extralimital Gray Jay sighting this fall. Boreal Chickadees also stuck close to their breeding grounds. Tufted Titmice, on the other hand, seem to have invaded the Northeast in numbers and were reported from 12+ Vermont feeding stations. Carolina Wrens, hard hit by the past two winters in w. New York, remained scarce and only a single Short-billed Marsh Wren was located. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Northrup Cr., Oct. 22 (F & RD) was rather tardy. The identity of a light-legged, streak-backed "pipit" in Addison, Vt. (J & BP) will probably be debated for years. Cautiously described initially as a Sprague's, its repeated low flight pattern and preferred habitat, a plowed field, seem to indicate otherwise. A Bohemian Waxwing near the top of Mt. Mansfield Sept. 22 (PZ) broke all prior regional arrival dates by more than a month. A bumper fruit and berry crop probably contributed to the concentration of Cedar Waxwings in c. New York. One experienced observer (HK) conservatively estimated 10,000 birds within a 4-mi radius of [where else?] Cherry Valley. Northern Shrikes initiated a massive invasion in late October. Two ad. and three imm. Loggerhead Shrikes were found near Dead Creek W.M.A., Vt., Aug. 7 (JD, MCD). All three other reports were in the Rochester, N.Y., vicinity, the latest Oct. 17.

Warm, mild weather which dominated most of the fall frustrated observers seeking grounded passerines. Sketchy data seem to indicate, as expected, a peak in warbler movement the last week of August through the first two weeks in September. Remarkably few birds lingered despite mild conditions and "good to abundant" food. The only noteworthy late warblers were a ♀ Black-and-white at Webster Nov. 25-27 (A & BK), an Ovenbird banded at Woodstock, Vt., Oct. 19 (V.I.N.S.) and a Yellow-breasted Chat Oct. 14 at Sherburne, Vt. (BF, CR). Among the rare-but-regular fall warblers were five Orange-crowned Aug. 30 - Oct 12, including three banded; four Connecticut, Aug. 27 - Oct. 8, one report included convincing details; and three more Yellow-breasted Chats, one of them in N. Pomfret, Vt.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS

— An estimated 5000 Rusty Blackbirds near Clarendon, Vt. (HP) is one of the best regional tallies on record and is particularly heartening in light of concern about the impact of recent winters on this species. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were unusually abundant with 40 at Elmira (*vide* WB) being the highest count, and stayed as late as Oct. 29 (VP). Purple Finches were considered very numerous in w. New York but vacated e. areas. Pine Grosbeaks started appearing in Vermont in early November, apparently an "echo" of last year's invasion. House Finches are now being termed locally "abundant" in parts of w. New York although still a novelty in the more mountainous e. sector of the Region. Common Redpolls were virtually nonexistent; six individuals in four locations, and only small scattered flocks of Pine Siskins were noted. A pair of Am. Goldfinches fledged four young

Aug. 8 at Amity L. (VP) setting a new state early record. Dry conditions which hastened plant (food and nesting material) maturation was theorized as a probable causal factor in the early initiation of nesting. Cones and crossbills were generally lacking. Rarely noted in the fall, both Henslow's and Grasshopper sparrows were found at several w. New York locations, the latter species remaining until Oct. 2 at Troop (WH). An "Oregon" Junco appeared in E. Amherst (DF) Oct. 17-27. No major influx of Lapland Longspurs or Snow Buntings was noted.

APPALACHIAN REGION /George A. Hall

It was a mild and pleasant autumn season throughout the Region. October was cooler than normal, but the other three months were warmer than average. Rainfall for the period was slightly less than normal, and even in the north there had been no appreciable snowfall at the end of the period.

The passerine migration was excellent in most places, but the waterfowl migration was not good; although very heavy migration of waterfowl occurred over a very short period of time in some places. Perhaps the predominating feature of the fall season was the large number of reports characterized as "latest date on record" or "ties latest state date." For example, at Pittsburgh, Pa., a total of 26 species was reported as setting new latest dates (PH). At this location, as well as at others, there were straggling warblers in the last week of November. At the other end of the season there was also a sprinkling of unusually early migrants.

The southward movement of passerines started somewhat early and was in full swing by the end of August. The heaviest movement came about mid-September, which was a little early. For example, at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory (hereafter, A.F.M.O.), the peak was September 16-18 when 1500 birds were banded in three mornings.

By the end of the period there was no evidence that any of the "northern winter visitors" were going to come south this year, except possibly Snowy Owl.

As usual in the fall, many of the quantitative data quoted come from the two big banding operations: Powdermill Nature Reserve, near Rector, Pa. (hereafter, P.N.R.), and the A.F.M.O., in the mountains near Petersburg, W.Va., this year joined by a station at Presque Isle State Park, Pa. (hereafter, P.I.S.P.).

LOONS, GREBES, AND PELICANS — The Com. Loon staged the best flight through the Region in several years. Peak numbers were 450 at Pymatuning L., Pa., Nov. 19 (CF, JL), 435 at Quemahoning Dam, Somerset Co., Pa., Nov. 17 (GRS), and 300+ at Cheat L., W.Va., Nov. 17 (WW). Numbers elsewhere were smaller, but were still larger than normal. This flight was greatly concentrated with practically all the large numbers reported Nov. 17. The Red-throated Loon was also reported in more places than usual with reports from: Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., Oct. 21 (DP) and Nov. 30 (RW); Watauga L., Tenn.,

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Oct. 26-27 (SG, MD, RK); Mountain Lake P., Md., Nov. 16 (FP), P.I.S.P., Nov. 19 (JJS), Montour County, Pa., Nov. 23 (SS); Conneaut L., Pa., Nov. 26 (RFL&ML); and in n.w. Virginia in late November (RS)

Horned Grebes were generally uncommon but a report of 900+ at Pymatuning L., Pa., Nov. 26 (M&REL) was noteworthy. A White Pelican was seen at Cove I., near Knoxville, Tenn., Nov. 11-23 (CN).

HERONS AND IBISES — A Cattle Egret in n.w. Kentucky, Nov. 8 was both late and unusual (TG). Two Yellow-crowned Night Herons at Waynesboro, Va., Sept. 11-13 (BC) were noteworthy. There were two reports of Wood Stork from s.w. Virginia: Emory Aug. 11-12 (TC) and Nickelville Aug. 11-13 (ES). Possibly both reports refer to the same bird but the timing of the observations appears to indicate two birds. There was also a report, without details, of a Wood Stork in Raleigh County, W. Va., in August (vide GP). A White Ibis was in Transylvania County, N.C., Aug. 3 and two were observed in Buncombe County, N.C., Aug. 15 (RR). Another White Ibis was at Daleville, Va., Sept. 3 (PK, BO). An ibis (sp. ?) was at L. Arthur, Pa., Aug. 23 (MG).

WATERFOWL — Except for the tremendous migration of Whistling Swans and the great influx of many species of waterfowl Nov. 15-17, the waterfowl migration was rather poor, no doubt a consequence of the "bluebird" weather of November. A cold front Nov. 15 brought waves of ducks to several places where they remained for perhaps two days. After that little was reported. The most spectacular report was of 5000± Whistling Swans on the Allegheny R., near Pittsburgh Nov. 16-17 (PH) which was featured on local television stations. Elsewhere in w. Pennsylvania aggregations of 1000+ were reported: 5000± in the Ligonier Valley (RCL), 3000± at

Quemahoning Res. (GRS). Out of the main migratory pathway of the swan were reports from Rockingham County, Va., Nov. 15-20 (R.C.B.C.) and Wilbur L., Tenn., Nov. 16 (LH). Most remarkable was the movement of Whistling Swans over Williamsport, Pa., Sept. 25 (CS).

Brant are seldom reported in our Region but three were seen at P.N.R., Oct. 17 (RCL) and one (possibly two) in Garrett County, Md.,



Nov. 15-18 (FP). Snow Geese were reported only from P.I.S.P., Oct. 29 (JJS & SST), Pymatuning L., Aug. 11 (RFL, MN), remarkably early, and Garrett County, Md., Nov. 15 & 17 (FP). The Lesser White-fronted Goose of last winter spent the summer at Pymatuning L., and returned in the fall to North Pk., Allegheny Co., Pa. (PH). Surf Scoters were at P.I.S.P., Nov. 4 (DK), Montour County, Pa., Nov. 23 (SS) and most remarkably six at Wilbur L., Tenn., Oct. 25-26 and three Oct. 27-28 (RK). Twenty Black Scoters were in Montour County, Pa., Oct. 29 (SS), one at L. Arthur, Pa., Oct. 29 (SGa) and five at Deer L., Fayette Co., Pa., Nov. 8 (DK).

VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES — The Black Vulture continues to move N. One was seen from a hawk lookout near Rector, Pa., and nine were seen at Dan's Rock, Md., Oct. 21 (Psm). Turkey Vultures were more common than usual in the upper Ohio Valley (CC), and in the Susquehanna Valley (MC).

The Broad-winged Hawk migration was good at most places, although the two most manned stations did not report this year. The peak count reported was 1600 Sept. 10 at Allegheny Front Mt., W.Va. (GP) and 3000± in three days at Peters Mt., W.Va. (*fide* NG). Other stations reporting were Dan's Rock, Md., with 2833 birds for the season (PSm); Hooversville, Pa., 800 for the season (GRS), Cumberland Mt., Ky., 700 in three days (AS), and Forbes S.F., Pa., 323 for the season (RCL). Apparently, as usual, no hawk counting was done s. of the Virginia-Tennessee boundary.

There were only two reports of Goshawks: Warren County, Pa. (WH), and Big Meadows, Shenandoah N.P., Nov. 30 (MB). A Mississippi Kite was seen at Chattanooga, Tenn., Sept. 22 (RSt). Rough-legged Hawks were more common than usual, and were seen rather early. A Swainson's Hawk was seen at P.I.S.P., Sept. 4 (JP) providing the first county record. There were only five Peregrines reported: three in Botetourt County, Va., and one at Roanoke Sept. 23-30 (BK), and one in Great Smoky Mountains N.P., Sept. 23 (SSm). Merlins were more common than usual with the most interesting reports coming from Knoxville, Tenn., Sept. 30 (SSm), and Austin Springs, Tenn., Oct. 7 (SG, MD). A total of 29 Bald Eagles was reported from 11 locations, the most noteworthy being sightings from Carter's Dam, Ga., July 18 & Aug. 16 (*fide* AH). The two Golden Eagles sighted in Shenandoah N.P., Aug. 17 (MB) provide further evidence that there may still be a small breeding population in the s. Appalachians. Other Golden Eagle sightings came from Harveys Knob, Botetourt Co., Va., Sept. 16 (BO, JP) & Nov. 19 (BK, MM), Dan's Mt., Md., Oct. 28, Nov. 4, and four Nov. 5 (PS). Away from the mountain ridges Golden Eagles were reported from Sinks Grove, W.Va., Oct. 21 (DW), and Clarksville, Pa., Nov. 13+ (RB).

GROUSE AND TURKEYS — In Warren County, Pa., Ruffed Grouse were reported to be in the best numbers in six years (*fide* WH) but in Garrett County, Md., populations were down (*fide* FP). At both of these locations Turkey populations were lower than in the past, possibly the result of two hard winters. Bobwhite remained in low numbers everywhere in the n.

CRANES, SHOREBIRDS, GULLS — Forty-two Sandhill Cranes were seen at Norris L., Tenn., Sept. 28 (*fide* CN), and very early were Nov. 20, 75 seen near Eton, Ga. (HD). A more unusual report was of the Sandhill Crane in Blair County, Pa., Nov. 26 (BA).

As usual the shorebird migration was concentrated in a very few places, but also typically there were a number of rarities. Piping Plovers were reported from P.I.S.P., Aug. 16 (JF) and Roanoke, Va., Aug. 17 (JP, NM). The Am. Golden Plover was more common than usual with reports from ten areas from P.I.S.P., in the n. (*fide* DS) to Knoxville, Tenn. (CN). Three Whimbrels were at P.I.S.P., Aug. 1 (JG), and a Hudsonian Godwit was there Oct. 22 (DS). A Hudsonian Godwit was also seen at Pymatuning L., Pa., Oct. 28 (M&RFL). Stilt Sandpipers were reported from Kingston, Tenn., Sept. 10-17 (SSm), Saltville, Va., Sept. 23 (DS, TH), Roanoke Aug. 10 - Sept. 24 (MP, NM), and Montour

County, Pa., Oct. 6 (SS) Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported from P.I.S.P., Aug. 20 (JJS & SS), Kingston, Tenn., Sept. 17 (SSm), and two were at Roanoke Sept. 17 - Oct. 5 (MP, JA). An Am. Avocet was at P.I.S.P., Aug. 13 (JF, JM). Northern Phalaropes were reported from P.I.S.R., Sept. 16 (JJS) and Kingston, Tenn., Sept. 23 (CN), while Wilson's Phalaropes were at P.I.S.P., Aug. 20, (JJS), Roanoke Aug. 10-17 (MP & BK), and at Clinton, Tenn., Sept. 5 (CN).

A Little Gull was at P.I.S.P., Nov. 19-27 (JJS, JF). Caspian Terns were reported more frequently than usual.

OWLS, NIGHTHAWKS, HUMMING-BIRDS — There were four reports of Snowy Owls, all from w. Pennsylvania: Allegheny County Nov. 3 (SSi), Washington Nov. 14 (captured ill, treated and released —PH), Lock Haven Nov. 14 (found dead trapped inside a structure Dec. 3 — PS), and P.I.S.P., Nov. 27 (SS). Two Long-eared Owls were at Raccoon Creek S.P., Pa., in September (NK).

A heavy migration of Com. Nighthawks was observed at Pittsburgh Sept. 1 (MCI) and a nighthawk at Washington County, Pa., Nov. 20 (MH) was fantastically late. At P.N.R., only 42 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were banded compared to a 7-year average of 82 (RCL).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS AND RAVENS — A W. Kingbird was seen at Oak Ridge, Tenn., Sept. 30 (JC). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported more commonly than usual by "binocular birders" in the fall, and at P.N.R., a total of 82 (*cf.* avg. 64), was banded (RCL). One was at P.N.R., at the very late date of Oct. 28. In many fall seasons there are no reports of Olive-sided Flycatchers but this year a total of 13 reports came in from all parts of the Region. The several August reports may indicate that breeding populations in the s. Appalachians are taking a long overdue upturn.

At Warren, Pa., 610 Tree Swallows fledged from the boxes of Operation Bluebird. Since this project has started, approximately 5400 Tree Swallows have fledged (WH). A Purple Martin at State College, Pa., Sept. 1, was late (MW).

The Com. Raven continues to expand its range in w. Pennsylvania.

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES, CREEPERS — A pre-flight young **Black-capped Chickadee** was captured and banded at the Richland Balsam Overlook, Blue Ridge Parkway, N.C., Aug. 9, providing the first evidence of breeding of this species in the state (MT). A Brown-headed Nuthatch was coming to a feeder in Waynesboro, Va., in late November (*fide* RS). The flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches along the West Virginia mountains was below normal (GAH). Only four Brown Creepers (avg. 10.5) were banded at P.N.R. (RCL), and elsewhere the flight was poor.

WRENS AND THRUSHES — There were a few scattered reports of Carolina Wrens in the n. but the species remains in very low numbers or missing at most places. The Winter Wren also was in short supply with only three banded at P.N.R. (RCL) and only five at A.F.M.O. (GAH).

The flight of Swainson's Thrushes was normal or slightly above. At P.N.R., numbers

banded were up 38% (RCL) while at A.F.M.O., 494 (avg. 427) were banded. On the other hand, both Hermit and Gray-cheeked thrushes were in reduced numbers. A very late Gray-cheeked was banded at P.N.R., Nov. 4 (RCL). Several reporters commented that E. Bluebirds were more common than usual. Operation Bluebird at Warren, Pa., fledged 475 bluebirds, perhaps 40% below earlier years.

KINGLETS, WAXWINGS AND SHRIKES — Both kinglet species remained in low numbers. At P.N.R., only eight Golden-crowned (avg. 35) and 139 Ruby-crowned (avg. 234) were banded (RCL). Cedar Waxwings were abundant in most of Pennsylvania, w. Maryland, and n. West Virginia. A N. Shrike was seen and photographed in Montour County, Pa., Nov. 25-26 (SS).

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — Philadelphia Vireos staged a very good flight, and were more commonly seen by bird watchers than is usual; *e.g.*, 11 seen at Fox Chapel, Pa., Sept. 13 (SR), and 20 other sightings reported in the Pittsburgh area (PH). At P.N.R., 53 (avg. 18) were banded (RCL) and at A.F.M.O., 30 (avg. 23) were banded (GAH). The White-eyed Vireo continues to do well in the n. At P.N.R., 16 were banded (RCL). Both Red-eyed and Solitary vireos were in good numbers.

The warbler migration was generally good. It started in mid-August and peaked in mid-September, but as mentioned earlier, there were many stragglers even into November. There were no pronounced cold fronts but nevertheless the warblers came in classic waves. Especially common this year, as in recent years were the "spruce budworm specialists" such as the Cape May (1031 banded at A.F.M.O.) and the Bay-breasted (450 banded at A.F.M.O.) indicating again the proportions of the outbreak of this insect in the boreal forest of Canada. The Tennessee Warbler was also common, with 1258 (avg. 991) banded at A.F.M.O. (GAH). At P.N.R., ten species were banded in above-average numbers, nine in below-average and seven in average numbers (RCL); while at A.F.M.O., ten species were banded in above-average numbers and only three in below-average.

The uncommon Orange-crowned Warbler was reported from seven banding stations across the area. Some of the unusually late dates reported from the Pittsburgh area were Black-and-white Oct. 17, Tennessee Nov. 4, Yellow Oct. 8, Black-throated Blue and Canada Nov. 18.

ICTERIDS AND TANAGERS — A Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen at Roanoke Sept. 2-4 (JGu, NM). An imm. Summer Tanager was banded Sept. 12 at Clarksville, Pa., the first indication of possible nesting there (RB). At P.N.R., the 86 Scarlet Tanagers banded was 62% above average (RCL).

FRINGILLIDS — At P.N.R., the number of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks banded was 14% above normal while at A.F.M.O., the number was 40% above average. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Pittsburgh Oct. 21, was late.

There was no sign by the end of the period that Evening Grosbeaks were going to stage a

major flight. In the last week of October and first week of November small numbers were reported throughout the Region, even as far s. as Dalton, Ga., Nov. 4 (AH), but no concentrations had built up. A very few Pine Siskins had been reported by Nov. 30, and no Pine Grosbeaks or redpolls. The only reports of Red Crossbills came from the s. mountains which support small breeding populations, Great Smoky Mountains N.P., Nov. 20 (LF), Watauga County, N.C., September and October, (TH), Roan Mt., Tenn., Sept. 18 (RK) and Shenandoah Mt., Rockingham Co., Va. throughout the period (R.C.B.C.).

House Finches remained common and have now penetrated the entire width of the Region. American Goldfinches were abundant most places.

There were two records of the rare Sharp-tailed Sparrow, from the extremes of the Region: Austin Springs, Tenn. (SG, MD) and P.I.S.P., Nov. 8 (DS).

Tree Sparrows were unusually scarce in n. West Virginia (GAH) and were not common anywhere. Lincoln's Sparrows were also below normal, with only 37 (33% below normal) banded at P.N.R., only five banded at

A.F.M.O., and none at Morgantown (GAH). Dark-eyed Juncos were common, but seemed to be in slightly less-than-normal numbers, while there was a report of "Oregon" Juncos from Blacksburg, Va., Nov. 28 (*vide* JMu). On the other hand, White-throated Sparrows had a very good migration. A few Snow Buntings appeared in the n. part of the Region in late October and early November and were seen as far s. as Dan's Rock, Md., Oct. 24 (KH). Finally there is a most intriguing report of five Lapland Longspurs at Ulster, Pa., Aug. 14 & 16. The date is fantastically early, but the observer has sent a careful description which matches in all details.

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WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

/Daryl D. Tessen

A considerable portion of the autumn was characterized by warm, pleasant temperatures. However, from late August until almost mid-September exceptionally hot, humid weather developed. During September 7-11 the hottest readings of the year occurred in many parts of the Region. For example, much of Wisconsin recorded temperatures in the mid- to upper 90s F. Frost was delayed until late September or mid-October depending upon the location. There was a brief period of excessive rains in Wisconsin and Minnesota during mid-August. For example Minocqua, Wisconsin recorded 11 inches during the week. Another strong storm front moved through both states during mid-September accompanied by excessive rainfall. For example in Wisconsin, Eau Claire had 8 inches and Juneau 9 inches, while in Minnesota local flooding occurred in the southeastern part of the state. While temperatures were somewhat cooler than normal during part of October, the latter third of the month saw the advent of Indian Summer. Pleasant, remarkably mild temperatures (even into the mid-70s) prevailed into November, continuing until Nov. 10-12. Then in Minnesota summer changed abruptly to winter, while in Michigan and Wisconsin the severity was diminished. Heavy snows hit Minnesota on the 17th and again on the 22nd-23rd. Substantial snows also were covering much of Wisconsin and Michigan by late November. Accompanying this was unseasonably cold weather, reaching the extreme in northern Minnesota of -20°F.

Despite the scarcity of fronts that usually produce the exciting finds, an amazing array of birds was seen this season. While Minnesota had its customary share of exceptional birds, its birders lamented their lack of

"cooperation" as most did not linger. However in Michigan, and especially Wisconsin there was an unusually high number of unique sightings. Many of these birds proved exceptionally cooperative causing many birders to race frantically around each state in their quest. For example, when the discovery of the Sabine's Gull was placed on Wisconsin's hot line, it became truly hot. The following day the gathering along the flooded field in Dodge County reminded some of the infamous gatherings in the eastern United States. Perhaps the greatest frustration however was the poor timing of Wisconsin's Fork-tailed Flycatcher which arrived just before the advent of the deer hunting season, when no sensible birder ventures into the woods. Justifiably Wisconsin's birders were excited about this season, since about 300 species were recorded in their state alone. The ensuing review for all three states should be a birder's delight, unless of course you missed too many of the memorable finds.

[Locations below, where counties only, are in *italics* — Ed.].

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Substantial numbers of Com. Loons were unusually hard to locate this autumn. The two notable exceptions were at St. Joseph, Berrien Co., Mich., where 150 and 125 were counted Oct. 29 & Nov. 12 (WB, RSm) and on the Mississippi R., at LaCrosse, Wis. The latter location is an unexpected site for the 300 counted Nov. 11, decreasing to 125 by Nov. 13 (FL). The rare

Arctic Loon appeared in Duluth twice: Sept. 11 & 25 (MC, ph., KE) and in *Ozaukee*, Wis., where three were studied at leisure Nov. 1 (DT). Red-throated Loons were found in Wisconsin in *Douglas* with one Oct. 9 (CF), and *Manitowoc* with one Nov. 1 and two Nov. 4 (DT) and in Minnesota two were at Duluth Oct. 21 (DRu, BP). Red-necked Grebes remained on their breeding grounds until



Sept. 24 in *St. Croix*, Wis. (CF) and Oct. 1 in *Winnebago*, Wis. (TZ). In the latter site a max. of 23 birds was found. Migrant Red-necked Grebes were observed in Michigan with one Oct. 14, in *Muskegon* (GW) and five Oct. 20 and one Oct. 21 at Whitefish Pt., Chippewa Co., Mich. (AR). The Eared Grebes that summered on Rush L., Winnebago Co., Wis., remained until mid-August (TDB, MD). Single W. Grebes were recorded in Wisconsin in *Fond du Lac* Sept. 2 (DG, DH) and *Ashland* Nov. 3 (SR). The White Pelican peaked at Helmer Myre S.P., Minn., with 1000± Sept. 17, with an exceptionally late bird there Nov. 29 (DGr). One was in Duluth Nov. 1-2 (m.ob.). Three were on the Wisconsin R., Adams Co., Wis., Aug. 10-12 (CK, BG); a sick individual

was captured in LaCrosse in September, treated and transported s for release (*vide* FL), a single bird was photographed in *Door* Oct. 24 (R & CL) with possibly the same individual appearing in *Sheboygan* Oct. 27, both in Wisconsin (DB). Double-crested Cormorants appeared in three Michigan locations from mid-September - mid-October; *Ingham* and *Berrien*, and the Detroit area. Wisconsin had reports from 15 counties with an exceptionally late Nov. 26 sighting in *Ozaukee* (DT). Minnesota also reported late sightings, the latest being Nov. 18 in *Houston* (FL). Little Blue Herons were found in all three states this autumn. Michigan had a single immature until mid-September in *Monroe* (m. ob.); Minnesota had several lingering at their nesting site on Big Stone N.W.R., until early September (m. ob.); Wisconsin's sightings included one at Horicon N.W.R., Aug. 20 (DT) with one Aug. 7 (EC, BC) and ten Sept. 17-24 (SK) in *Brown*. More Cattle Egrets were seen during this autumn in Wisconsin than ever before. Sightings were made in six counties including 40-45 at Horicon N.W.R., into September (m ob.) and a similar number into September in *Brown* (m.ob.). Late were two until Nov. 13 in *Waukesha* (LS). In Minnesota this species lingered at Big Stone N.W.R., until early September. Michigan had two in *Delta* in the Upper Peninsula Oct. 4-6 (CT). Unusually late was a Great Egret at Duluth Nov. 14 (KE) and LaCrosse, Wis., Nov. 21 (FL). Fifteen Snowy Egrets were at Big Stone N.W.R., into September, with two lingering until Oct. 5 (C & MB) In Wisconsin one was found at Horicon N W R., Aug. 6 (RH) with a max. of five until early September at Green Bay (m.ob.). The rare **Louisiana Heron** that had been located infrequently during the summer at Green Bay was found Aug. 7 & 11 (BC, TE, DT). Mid-to-late November Black-crowned Night Herons were found in s.e. Michigan, Milwaukee, Wis., and *Houston*, Minn. Yellow-crowned Night Herons were reported in all three states with one in *Muskegon* Aug. 5 (GW) and *Monroe*, Mich., Aug. 30 (AR, TH); in two Wisconsin counties: *Columbia* Aug. 20 (RH) and *Milwaukee* Oct. 6 (TDB); and in Minnesota at Orwell W.M.A., Aug. 8 (GO) and Big Stone N.W.R., Aug. 2 - Sept. 9 (C&MB, RJ). A Glossy Ibis with a broken leg was found Sept. 9 in *Monroe* (JH *et al.*). A *Plegadis* ibis was flushed in Horicon N.W.R., by Drieslein *et al.* Nov. 12, representing a record late departure date for Wisconsin.

WATERFOWL — Mute Swans were reported from Mackinac, Sheboygan and Emmet Cos., Mich., and Ashland and Bayfield Cos., Wis., this autumn. Several hundred Whistling Swans were found in *Muskegon*, Mich., and *Brown*, *Sheboygan*, and *St. Croix*, Wis., all during November with an impressive 8000± in *Wabasha*, Minn., Nov. 18. Vic Janson watched a **Brant** arriving in the rain at the Monroe River Plant, *Monroe*, Mich., Sept. 14. It remained through Oct. 6 and was subsequently photographed and seen by m. ob. The Greater White-fronted Goose was present in *Brown* Sept. 13-16 (EC, BC) and at Horicon N W.R., Oct. 14 (RH). Unusually early were Snow Geese in *Otter Tail*, Minn., Aug. 7 (GO), with 25,000 at the Lac Qui Parle W.M.A., Minn., Nov. 5 (OE). At the Tamarac N.W.R., Minn., peaks of 17,300 Ring-necked Ducks and 12,900 Lesser Scaup were noted during

mid-October (TA) Inland Oldsquaws were found during late October in *Ingham*, Mich., and November in *Dane*, Wis., and Mille Lacs L., and *Wabasha*, Minn. Two Harlequin Ducks were seen by many observers Nov. 5-25 at Muskegon S.P., Mich. A **King Eider** was found on L. Erie in *Monroe*, Mich., Nov. 5 (TW). The scoter migration was considerably poorer than the past several autumns. Actually it reflected a movement more typical of this group. There were no substantial numbers for any of the three species this year but all three were found in the three states including a few inland.

HAWKS — The only substantial Broad-winged Hawk flight in Wisconsin occurred in *Dane* when 1000 ± 100 were counted Sept. 16-17 (ST). Minnesota had three exceptionally late sightings of this species including Nov. 4 in *Fillmore* (G & BE) and Nov. 5 in *Lac Qui Parle* (C & MB). Swainson's Hawks were tallied in 12 Minnesota counties including only the second Duluth record Sept. 19 (KE). One was observed in *Ozaukee*, Wis., Oct. 14 (DT). A **Ferruginous Hawk** was watched in *St. Croix*, Wis., Sept. 24 (CF). Golden Eagles were found in five Wisconsin counties this autumn, an unusually high number. An imm. **Gyr Falcon** was banded at Hawk Ridge, Duluth Nov. 19 (DE). Again this year Minnesota recorded the Prairie Falcon with sightings Oct. 1 at Rothsay W.M.A., (RJ) and Oct. 21 at Orwell W.M.A. (SM). Always of interest are the sightings of Peregrine Falcons within the Region. This autumn Michigan reported two birds, Minnesota had 10±, while Wisconsin had 30±.

Hawk Ridge at Duluth had an outstanding hawk migration this year. Record for the total number of birds in the season was 74,658 and a daily record of 33,370 was set Sept. 15. The species summary includes:

Turkey Vulture	487
Goshawk	166
Sharp-shinned Hawk	14,293
Cooper's Hawk	71
Red-tailed Hawk	3957
Red-shouldered Hawk	1
Broad-winged Hawk	53,027
Swainson's Hawk	1
Rough-legged Hawk	636
Golden Eagle	13
Bald Eagle	79
Marsh Hawk	614
Osprey	203
Gyr Falcon	1
Peregrine Falcon	8
Merlin	32
Am. Kestrel	758
unidentified	221

GROUSE THROUGH RAILS — The secretive Spruce Grouse was observed Oct. 20 & 28 in *Chippewa*, Mich. (AR *et al.*), Sept. 4 in *Burnett* (RH) and two Nov. 2 in *Oneida* (PV), Wis.; Nov. 1 in *Cook* (KE, RJ) and frequently in *St. Louis*, Minn. (THa). There were 500-600 Sandhill Cranes at their staging grounds in *Chippewa*, Mich. (CT) during mid-September, while 2000 were on the *Norman*, Minn., staging grounds (JB) in early October. The only King Rail reports this autumn came from Wisconsin with one in *Milwaukee*, Aug. 7-30 (ES) and another in *Columbia*, Aug. 19 (RH). The elusive Yellow Rail was found in all three states, including an

Aug. 30 sighting in *Dane*, Wis. (RH), Sept. 14 in *Muskegon* Mich. (HC) and Sept. 21 in *Autkin*, Minn. (TS).

SHOREBIRDS — Single Piping Plovers were found in *Muskegon*, Mich., Aug. 23 (DM), Duluth Sept. 11 (*vide* KE), and in *Dodge*, Wis., Sept. 24 - Oct. 2 (DT, RK, RH *et al.*). In extreme s. Wisconsin in *Walworth* 400 Am. Golden Plovers were found in a field Sept. 30 (DT). A Whimbrel stopped in Milwaukee Sept. 13-23 (EE, DH, RS, MD, DG) Two birds were found in Minnesota with one Aug. 28 at Duluth (KE) and another Sept. 24 (JG). Many Minnesota observers saw the Willet in *Wilkin* Aug. 19. Several Willets (3-6) were located in Michigan's *Monroe* Aug. 11 - Sept. 2 (m.ob.). In Wisconsin this species was noted in Milwaukee Aug. 9 (DG, DH) and in *Sheboygan*, Sept. 5 (DB). Peaks for Lesser Yellowlegs included 400+ at Horicon N.W.R., Wis., Aug. 4 (DT) and 500+ at Erie Marsh, Mich., in mid-September (AC). Red Knots were found more frequently than usual this fall, highlighted by the 30+ total in *Monroe*, Mich., from late August until early October (m.ob.). Other sightings included additional Michigan birds in *Berrien* Aug. 31 & Sept. 10 (RSm), plus three reports from Duluth Sept. 6-16 (m.ob.), and six Wisconsin sightings from four counties Aug. 6 - Sept. 28 (DG, RH, CS, LE). The rare **Purple Sandpiper** was found in Michigan's *Muskegon*, one Oct. 28 (BB, EP) and two in *Monroe*, Nov. 12 (AR). Four hundred Pectoral Sandpipers were found in *Dane*, Wis., Aug. 16 (RK). A Nov. 22 sighting of one individual in Agassiz N.W.R., represents the latest record in n. Minnesota for this species Unusual were sightings of three White-rumped Sandpipers in both Michigan and Wisconsin. In the latter this included an exceptionally late date of Nov. 5 in *Dodge* (DT). Also late was a Dunlin in *Houston*, Minn., Nov. 18 (FL) and in Milwaukee Nov. 25 (DG). Of special interest was a tagged Semipalmated Sandpiper in Madison, Wis., Aug. 20 (RK). Upon checking, the bird had been banded near Dawson, N. Dak., Aug. 5, 560± mi distant. The number of W. Sandpiper sightings in Michigan and Wisconsin was unprecedented this year. In the former state one was at St. Joseph, *Berrien*, Sept. 9 (RSm) but truly unique was the gathering at the Erie and Monroe Marshes, *Monroe*, mid-August - mid-October where numbers ranged from a few to 30± birds (m.ob.). Sightings occurred in six Wisconsin counties early August to mid-October, predominately of solitary birds (m.ob.).

The Buff-breasted Sandpiper was encountered with a greater frequency than usual Michigan had sightings in two (1-2 birds), Wisconsin five (1-13 birds) and Minnesota three counties. In the latter state 32 birds alone were watched in *Anoka*, Aug. 3 (KL) Marbled Godwits were present in *Monroe*, Mich., Aug. 15 - Sept. 2 (m. ob.) and in Minnesota's *Yellow Medicine* and Agassiz N.W.R., Sept. 9. At least 10-15 Hudsonian Godwits were present intermittently mid-September - Nov. 7 in *Monroe* (m. ob.). One was found in Duluth Sept. 13 (KE) while Wisconsin had solitary sightings in Milwaukee Sept. 19 (MD); *Dodge* Oct. 1-2 (CG, RH) and *Manitowoc* Oct. 16 (CS). An Am. Avocet was in *Outagamie*, Wis., Aug. 16 (DT). Minnesota had two reports; Aug. 10 in *Wilkin* (GO) and

Aug. 26 in *Big Stone* (m. ob.). Michigan had one in *Berrien* Sept. 10 (WB). The rare Red Phalarope appeared in three Michigan localities, including *Monroe* Oct. 4-6 (AR *et al.*), two in *Berrien* Oct. 9-11 (RSm, WB) and in *Ottawa* Oct. 28 (BB). Wisconsin had only about its tenth sighting when one appeared in Milwaukee Nov. 24 (RG). About 15 N. Phalaropes were recorded in four Wisconsin counties during September and October while Michigan had 6-8 birds in three counties August - early October.

GULLS — Jaegers appeared along Lakes Superior and Michigan during the first half of the period. Three were watched flying along Wisconsin Pt., Superior, Wis., Sept. 4, with one an ad. Parasitic and the other two unidentified immatures (RH). A dead ad. Parasitic Jaeger was discovered in the Milwaukee harbor Sept. 16 (TDB). At Duluth a dark-phase ad. Pomarine was watched just prior to a strong storm front arrival Sept. 11 (MC). This was then followed by several sightings of unidentified jaegers Sept. 12 - Oct. 27; the latter date representing a record departure date (DRa *et al.*). Again this fall there was an excellent array of gulls found in all three states. The Glaucous Gull that appeared in Manitowoc, Wis., during July and remained until Sept. 22 (CS *et al.*). Curiously this species could not be located along the Minnesota shore of L. Superior, unprecedented, but rather was found "inland" in *Anoka* Nov. 19 (KL) and *Dakota* Nov. 25-26 (m. ob.). Interesting was the build-up of Great Black-backed Gulls in Michigan's *Monroe*. While several birds appeared late September - early October, by late November the number had increased to 40+ birds (AR *et al.*). At the Escanaba airport, Mich., Herring and Ring-billed gulls became involved in a controversy. The airport is situated between the dump and the bay, hence the gulls use the airport as a roosting spot. Hundreds of gulls frequently were found at the airport, during the first half of the period, making it difficult for airplanes to arrive and depart. Reportedly a North Central Airline flight in August killed 22 gulls, magnifying the problem. The F.A.A. and D.N.R. are currently urging the city to cover the refuse more often or move the dump.

Immature Thayer's Gulls were found in n.e. Minnesota on Eagle L., Oct. 20 - Nov. 6, with a max. of three (KE *et al.*), and on Black Dog L., Nov. 26 (RJ). The rare **California Gull** was found again this year with the sighting of a second winter plumaged bird Aug. 30 - Sept. 1 in *Macomb*, Mich. (AR, VI, HJ, TH). An equally rare **Black-headed Gull** in winter plumage was discovered in the Milwaukee harbor Oct. 14 by Gustafson and Tessen. It remained for a month giving an opportunity for many birders to see and photograph it, providing Wisconsin with its first documented sighting. It was last seen Nov. 18. Another winter-plumaged individual was watched at the Erie Power Plant in *Monroe*, Mich., Nov. 6, by Ryff and Rocheleau. Minnesota had only its fourth state record, three of them since May, of the **Laughing Gull**, with an immature near Duluth Aug. 5 & 26 (JD, KE). This species continued to be seen along the Wisconsin shore of L. Michigan as witnessed by solitary sightings in Manitowoc, where one had summered, Aug. 6 (RH), in *Ozaukee* Aug. 12 (RS) and in Milwaukee Aug. 11 & 25 (BPa,

DT). Franklin's Gulls were found in *Berrien*, Mich., Aug. 7 (MM), Sept. 9, 25 and Oct. 1 (BB, B & EP, GW, VI) and in *Monroe* Nov. 12 (AR). In Minnesota it was present at Duluth Sept. 12-14 (KE) and in *Douglas* on a late date of Nov. 21 (NJ). Wisconsin had birds sighted during August in *Manitowoc* (DG, CS, RH), *Dodge* (RK), *Sheboygan* (RK), *Ozaukee* (RS, NC) and in Milwaukee where at least ten birds were present in August and September, gradually decreasing until they were last seen Nov. 4 (m. ob.). Little Gulls were only reported from Wisconsin with the summering birds remaining in *Manitowoc* until early August (RH), one was in *Ozaukee* Aug. 12 (RS) and *Sheboygan* Aug. 27 and a max. of six in Milwaukee with the last Nov. 11 (m. ob.). An imm. **Black-legged Kittiwake** watched near Duluth Sept. 12 (MC) represented only Minnesota's third state record. Both Minnesota and Wisconsin were justifiably excited about their third state record of the **Sabine's Gull**. However the adult seen by Kohlby at Duluth Sept. 12 did not linger whereas the immature discovered by Randy Hoffman on a flooded field in *Dodge*, Wis., Oct. 6 obliged by remaining one week until it was observed departing Oct. 12 (m.ob., ph.).

TURNS THROUGH KINGFISHERS — Numbers of terns noted included 500 Forster's in *Monroe*, Mich., Sept. 30, and 90 Caspians in Milwaukee Aug. 25. Late was a Forster's in *Monroe* Nov. 24 (AR). A full breeding-plumaged ad. **Least Tern** at Sham L., Lyon Co., Minn., found by Egeland provided the state its fourth record in the past nine years. Maley found six Barn Owls in *Monroe* from which eight young fledged. In Wisconsin two were seen Nov. 11 along the Mississippi R., near the Buffalo-Trempealeau county line (KR). Snowy Owls appeared early and over most of the Region during the period. Exceptionally early was a Sept. 17 sighting in *Itasca*, Minn. (*vide* JB). Some birds banded by D. Evans were underweight, suggesting a low rodent population in n. Canada. Late November - early December indications were for a big movement into the Region this winter. **Hawks Owls** were briefly seen near Duluth Nov. 18 (MH) and in *Aitkin*, Nov. 23 (JBe).

S.A.

Great Gray Owls made news in Wisconsin, especially with the discovery of a family in s. *Douglas* Aug. 18-19 by the Follens and Luepkes. At least three fledged young were seen being fed by their parents on two consecutive evenings. The nest was discovered nearby and represents Wisconsin's first nesting record. One was also discovered in *Taylor* by Streugberg and R. Knapp Nov. 10 where it remained until Nov. 16 (SR). Four birds were found along the North Shore in *Lake*, Minn., during late November (m.ob.) but none remained into December.

A Boreal Owl was photographed in *Brown*, Wis., Oct. 28 (TE) with one banded at Duluth Nov. 8 (DE). At Hawk Ridge, Duluth, 376 Saw-whet Owls were banded this year including a remarkable 87 during the night of Oct. 6-7 (DE). "Thousands" of Com. Nighthawks were watched migrating Aug. 22 at Afton, Minn. (D&MB). Remarkable was the appear-

ance of an ♂ **Rufous Hummingbird** at a feeder near Bemidji, Minn., in late August. It remained until Oct. 22 when it flew into the house, was captured, but unfortunately died Oct. 25 (m. ob.). This represented only the second state record.



Boreal Owl, Brown County, Wisc. Oct. 28, 1978. Photo/T. C. Erdman.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH STARLINGS — Red-bellied Woodpeckers continued to extend their range into the n. portion of the Region with a sighting in *Vilas*, Wis., and *Otter Tail*, Minn., and Duluth. A total of seven Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers was seen in *Hubbard*, *St. Louis* and *Cook*, Minn., during the period. In Wisconsin single birds were found in *Oneida* Aug. 25 (DG) and *Douglas* Sept. 4 (RH).

If one species stands out from the impressive list of rarities found in the Region this autumn it has to be the **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** discovered by Frank Freese in s.c. Wisconsin.



Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Columbia County, Wisc. Nov. 16, 1978. Photo/F. Freese

The bird was found perched in low shrubs on his property in *Columbia* Nov. 13. It was subsequently relocated Nov. 15-16 and photographed. This provided Wisconsin with its first record of this species. Unfortunately the arrival of wintry weather and the beginning of the deer hunting season prevented further sightings of the bird. Very late was an *Empidonax* flycatcher Nov. 4 in *Dane*, Wis. (ST). Tree Swallow concentrations included 10,000 at Carlos Avery W.M.A., Minn., Aug. 12 (KL) and 4000 in *Columbia* Sept., 25 (RH). A tardy Rough-winged Swallow was in *LaCrosse*, Wis., Oct. 15 (FL). Black-billed Magpies were located as usual this fall in n.w. Minnesota with seven reports, and there were two e. state sightings: a family of six near Duluth until late September and one in *Anoka*, Nov. 11 (KL). The Tufted Titmouse continues to be scarce in Minnesota with only three reporting counties (*Olmstead*, *Fillmore* and *Houston*).

A Mockingbird was found in Appleton, Wis., sitting on an air conditioner Aug 10 (MB). In Michigan this species was seen in Detroit in September and in Ann Arbor Nov. 7. There were three late November sightings of Varied Thrushes in Minnesota from *St. Louis, Ramsey* and *Hennepin*. Unusually late was a Swanson's Thrush in Fairmont, Minn., Nov. 8 (EB). A record arrival date for the **Townsend's Solitaire** in Wisconsin was established this year when one was watched at a feeder in Superior Oct. 9 (CF). This species was at Garrison, Crow Wing Co., Minn., Oct. 7 (ES) and Duluth Oct. 16 (MC). Exceptionally late was a Water Pipit found in s.e. Michigan Nov. 30 *Macomb* (AR). The rare Sprague's Pipit was found at the Rothsay W.M.A., Minn., Oct. 1 (TS). A very few Bohemian Waxwings appeared in the Region. First, and unusual owing to its s. Minnesota location, was an Oct. 20 sighting at Windom (*vide* LF). This was followed by one in East Lansing, Mich., Nov. 15 (CFa) and in Wisconsin two in *Columbia* Nov. 11 (RH) and one in Milwaukee Nov. 26 (CS). An unusually early N. Shrike was in Duluth Sept. 17 (MC). In Wisconsin this species was unusually common by the end of November. The lone Loggerhead Shrike sighting came from Wisconsin with one Aug. 22 in *Ozaukee* (JJ).

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS — Bell's Vireos were still found in their nesting territory during August in *Columbia* and *Grant*, Wis. (RH, KK) and until early September in *Berrien*, Mich. A late Yellow-throated Vireo was in Madison, Wis., Oct. 7 (ST). Also late was a Solitary Vireo in *Crow Wing*, Minn., Oct. 21 (TS). An Orange-crowned Warbler in *Dane*, Wis., Aug. 23 (RK) was early. In the same county good concentrations of Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) and Palms were found as witnessed by 450 Oct. 3 and 250 Sept. 21, respectively (RH). The most interesting sighting within this group was a leisurely study of a **Yellow-throated Warbler** in *Ozaukee*, Wis., Sept. 9, by Sundell. There were a number of late departure dates for members within this group. For Wisconsin it was a record late Nov. 10 for a Blue-winged Warbler in *Dane* (PA). Michigan had two remarkably late sightings on Nov. 25 with an Orange-crowned (EKn) in the s.e. corner of the state and a Yellow (JF, JGr) in *Monroe*. For Minnesota late sightings included Yellow-rumped in Duluth Nov. 22 (KE) and *Otter Tail* Nov. 24 (NJ); Black-throated Green in *Crow Wing* Oct. 7 (JB); Connecticut in *Hennepin* Sept. 30 (OJ); Mourning in *Anoka* Oct. 14 (KL), Com. Yellowthroat in *Houston* Nov. 25 (m ob.); and an Am. Redstart at Duluth Oct. 28 (KE).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH BUNTINGS — An Orchard Oriole was still in *Sauk*, Wis., Aug. 4 (RH). A N. Oriole commenced coming to a feeder in Winona, Minn., Nov. 11 (GG). Unusually early was a Rusty Blackbird Sept. 10 in *Dane*, Wis. (ST). A Summer Tanager was briefly observed Oct. 14 in *Ozaukee*, Wis. (DT).

After last year's feast of winter finches this autumn's movement, or lack thereof, indicated a famine year. Only the Evening Grosbeak and Purple Finch seemed present in average or slightly above numbers by late November. In contrast there were *very* few

Pine Grosbeak sightings Redpolls were *unusually* scarce with but a few Minnesota and one lone Wisconsin sighting. Pine Siskins were only slightly more abundant. There were only three sightings each of Red Crossbill in Wisconsin and Minnesota and one in Michigan while the only White-winged Crossbill report came from n. Wisconsin in early November (SR). The latter situation is in stark contrast to last year's record invasion throughout the Region. Surprising was the discovery of two Lark Buntings in a weedy field in Wisconsin's *Columbia* Sept. 29 (RH).

A peak of 20 Le Conte's Sparrows was noted at Rothsay W.M.A., Minn., Sept. 30 (RJ, GO) with one located along the Wisconsin R., in *Dane* Sept. 30 (RH). The elusive Sharp-tailed Sparrow was found twice in Wisconsin, two Sept. 23 in *Dane* (RH) and one Oct. 1 in Milwaukee (TDB, RK), once in Minnesota, Oct. 1 in *Lyon* (PE) and also once in Michigan, Oct. 21, in *Chippewa* (AR, TH, LP). Both Michigan and Wisconsin had three sightings of the Harris' Sparrow where it is less common than in Minnesota. An unusually early Fox Sparrow appeared at Duluth Sept. 6 (MC). Exciting was the leisurely study of the rare, for Wisconsin, Smith's Longspur in a plowed field in *Columbia* Sept. 29 (RH). In Minnesota a peak of 61 birds was noted at Rothsay W.M.A., Oct. 21 (GO, D & GW). Substantial flocks of hundreds of Snow Buntings appeared quite regularly during November in Michigan, and especially Wisconsin.

ADDENDA — A **Ross' Goose** was carefully studied in *Columbia*, Wis., during late March, 1978, by Randy Hoffman. Two **Cassin's Kingbirds** were leisurely studied at Wisconsin Pt., Superior, by Tessen May 29, 1978, with one subsequently relocated May 30 in the early morning. Documentation for both sightings has been examined and accepted by the Wisconsin Records Committee. The former furnished the third state record while the latter represents only the second state record. In Minnesota an ad. **California Gull** was carefully studied on July 27, 1978, by N. Hiemenz in *Big Stone*.

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MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

/Vernon M. Kleen

The 1978 Fall Migration was not outstanding for the majority of species normally passing through the Region; however, it was exceptional for orders who desire extralimital occurrences. It was not a finch year, there were no detectable migration waves, species only filtered through — generally in good numbers, and shorebirds were often lacking (in numbers and variety). The ducks were slow to arrive, but many species, were in above-normal numbers. Many observers were concerned with the low numbers of herons.

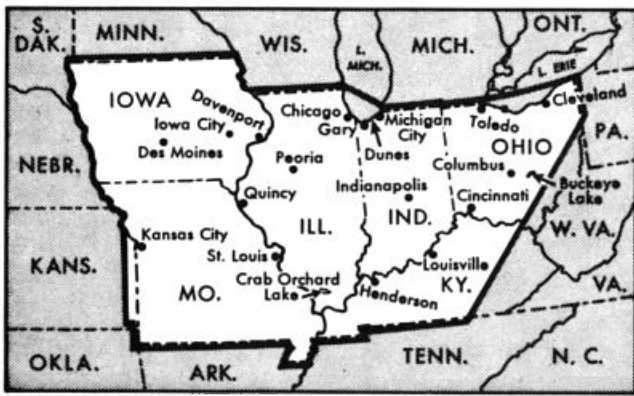
As observable from the report, the majority of information for the season — in fact, nearly 80% — consists of observations of non-passerine species. It may be apparent that more time should be spent collecting data for passerines.

The only television tower kill reports came from Olney, Illinois where 622 birds of 36 species were found (80% warblers) September 22, and 54 birds of 19 species, October 13 (LHa).

The weather for the period was generally warm; rain fall was about normal. The lack of early cold fronts assisted the establishment of many late-departure records as well as retarded the arrival of many species.

The total amount of information submitted for this report surpasses that of any previous report; therefore, I personally acknowledge the increased participation by field observers and encourage the continued trend. As usual, all extraordinary sight records must be thoroughly documented at the time of observation. For the fall migration, a total of 178 documentation forms was received: Illinois — 64, Ohio — 40, Indiana — 35, Missouri — 15, Iowa — 13, and Kentucky — 11. In addition, 21 photographs were received. All documented records are denoted by a dagger (†) and specimens by an asterisk (*). Records which were not satisfactorily documented, but which may be credible, appear in the **UNCORROBORATED RECORDS** section.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — Common Loons were numerous this fall; max encounters included 650 at Cleveland Nov. 23 (M); 500 at Louisville Nov. 17 (BM); 75-150+ at four inland lakes and more than ten at eight over-inland locations during the peak of migration. Three Red-throated Loons were observed at Cleveland Nov. 23 (†JHo); only one was noted there Nov. 14 (M); singles were also reported from Columbus, O., Nov. 12 (†) and Wilmette, Ill., Nov. 10 (JL). Five Red-



necked Grebes appeared at Evanston, Ill., Oct. 20 (R*Bi et al.*); two were noted at Little Cedar Pt., O., Sept. 9 (†JHo, M *et al.*). Huron, Erie Co., O., Nov. 5 (†J) and Springfield, Mo., Oct. 3 (†CBo). Horned Grebes were found in only small numbers along the Mississippi R., and throughout Iowa, in normal numbers around L. Michigan, but in remarkable numbers around Cleveland with 693 Nov. 26 (M); there were at least 40 in Cedar County, Mo., Nov. 11 (R *et al.*) and 50+ around Louisville Nov. 17 (BM *et al.*). Individual Eared Grebes were found at eight locations, four in Illinois, three in Iowa, and one in Indiana (all in the n. half of the Region). Single W. Grebes were observed at Rock Cut S.P., Ill., July 2 (†DJ, m.ob.); Springfield, Ill. (hereafter, Spfld.), Oct. 25-26 (H); Greenfield, Ia., Nov. 15-16 (GB *et al.*); and Cass County, Ia., Nov. 23 (LPd). Flocks of 50+ Pied-billed Grebes were noted at only four locations, one each in Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio and Illinois. White Pelicans were widely encountered; the greatest numbers occurred along the w. edge of the Region with groups ranging up to 500; 235 were noted at Red Rock Ref., Ia., in mid-September (GB); singles or pairs were found at five Illinois locations July 30 - Nov. 4, and two n. Ohio locations Oct. 23 & Nov. 18. A **Gannet** was observed twice; in L. Erie: Nov. 12 (†RHn, †WN) at Cleveland and Nov. 19 (†J *et al.*) at Huron. There were excellent numbers of Double-crested Cormorants reported; Cleveland observers encountered four times as many as expected Sept. 13 - Oct. 16; there were three c. Ohio encounters (max. 6 birds); two Kentucky reports (max. 5 birds); only small numbers in Indiana; many Iowa locations including 240 in Rush L., w. Iowa, and 25+ at four additional locations; 6-30 at six Missouri locations; and 100+ at Mark Twain N.W.R., Ill. (hereafter, M.T.R.) plus 14' during the period in the Chicago area and reports ranging 1-10 at four other Illinois locations.

HERONS THROUGH IBISES — Great Blue Heron numbers need to be watched more closely; many observers felt the species was scarce; numbers such as 547 at the Ottawa N.W.R., O. (hereafter, O.W.R.) Sept. 21 (JF), 250 max., at Red Rock Ref., Ia. (GB) and 170 max. at L. Chautauqua, Ill. (hereafter, L. Chau.), Sept. 10 (RP) were significant. Only small numbers of Little Blue Herons were noted except for the E. St. Louis, Ill. (hereafter, E.St.L.) area where up to 200 were observed daily as late as September; the majority of birds (mostly singles) were

(RP); and 12 in St. Charles County, Mo., Oct. 23 (PS, BR); a total of 36 was reported from all of Iowa; other locations included: Magee Marsh, O., Nov. 19 (J); eight at Alton, Ill., Nov. 4 (PS); two at Clinton, Ill., Nov. 4 (RP); seven in s. Franklin County, O., Nov. 14 (J); one in Hamilton County, o., Nov. 4 (VW, DS); and several late October records. The **Reddish Egret** at Louisville Sept. 1 was certainly interesting (†BP, †m.ob.). Great Egret numbers should also be recorded; again, many observers found these birds to be scarce — only four individuals for all of Indiana; two noted concentrations included: 466 at O.W.R., Sept. 21 (JF) and 420 at L. Chau., Aug. 17 (RP); another 50 were noted at E.St.L., and M.T.R. (combined), Oct. 23 (A). Ten Snowy Egrets spent all of September at E.St.L., and three remained there through Oct. 11 (m. ob.); two were still at L. Chau., Sept. 10 (RP) and one was at Batavia, Ill., until Oct. 14 (*vide B*); another was observed at Swan L., Mo., Aug. 27 & Sept. 4 (JR). Black-crowned Night Herons were apparently either present in large numbers or absent; the large numbers included: 100+ at E.St.L., throughout September (*vide A*) and 102 at Louisville Aug. 19 (m.ob.); three were still present in n.w. Iowa into November (RCu, JV). The Oct. 7 (L) and Oct. 6 (†DPk) presence of Least Bitterns at Squaw Creek N.W.R., Mo. (hereafter, S.C.R.) and McNeely L., Ky., respectively, were considered noteworthy.

Wood Storks apparently like Kentucky, with one in Nelson County Sept. 9 (†RBn). A single Glossy Ibis (species ?) was observed at Colo., Ia., Sept. 29 - Oct. 1 (†HZ *et al.*). Two White Ibises appeared at L. Carlyle, Ill., and remained several weeks during August (RP *et al.*); another was observed at E.St.L., Sept. 8 (†BR *et al.*)

WATERFOWL — Mute Swans were reported from all states except Kentucky; most were represented by only one bird; however, six were noted at L. Chau., Sept. 4 & Oct. 15 (R*Bi*) and four at L. Waveland, Ind., Nov. 21-24 (AB, TKI). Whistling Swans were reported as expected; the heavy movement crossed n. Ohio during late November and early December; there were only minor extralimital occurrences. Single Brants were documented at M.T.R., Oct. 31 - Nov. 1 (†BR, m.ob.), Cleveland Nov. 16-23 (†M, NK), and Waukegan Nov. 18 - Dec. 3 (BK, †m.ob.). On Oct. 21, 77 White-fronted Geese were at L. Chau. (R*Bj*); three were found at Jasper-Pulaski, Ind., Oct. 29 (TKI). Fair numbers of Am. Wigeon were noted by observers, but the 1500 at M.T.R.,

reported during August; one lingerer stayed at Cincinnati until Sept. 24 (PP), 14 at Kentucky Lakes, Ky., until Oct. 1 (J*er*), and one at E.St.L.) until Oct. 15 (H *et al.*). Cattle Egrets were widely reported with most as singles or in groups of five or less; larger concentrations included 51 at O.W.R., Sept. 24 (J); 100 at E.St.L., Oct. 9 (PS); 27 at Calhoun, Mo., Sept. 3 (JR); 13 at L. Chau., Nov. 24

Oct. 7 was exceptional. The 500 Wood Ducks at Harrods Cr., Ky., Oct. 28 (FK) and 200 at Akron, O., Sept. 2 (CT) were noteworthy. The 4000± Redheads at Browning L., Mo., Nov. 6 (L) were also noteworthy. There were some excellent reports of Ring-necked Ducks, especially in the e. and s. Canvasbacks were also well represented — including the 4500 present Oct. 20 - Nov. 20 in the Mississippi R., in n.e. Iowa (JS); the primary observations were across the n. portion of the Region — except the 400+ in St. Charles County, Mo., Oct. 1 (A). The first **Tufted Duck** for Indiana was documented at Port of Indiana Nov. 29 (†KB, †m.ob.). Good numbers of Bufflehead were reported Regionwide. Five Harlequin Ducks were reported; one each at: Michigan City, Ind., Nov. 6-18 (†EH *et al.*); Port of Indiana Nov. 22-25; Wilmette Nov. 7 (†DJ, m.ob.); Evanston Nov. 21 - early December (R*Bi*, m.ob.); and Cleveland Nov. 17-29 (†M, m.ob.). The Com. Eider at Cleveland Oct. 9 (†JHo, M *et al.*) provided an excellent record. A King Eider at the same location was quite phenomenal with records of both species in the same year, Nov. 15-21 (†JHo, M, m.ob.). White-winged Scoters were apparently scarce this fall with eight at St. Charles County, Mo., Oct. 14 noteworthy (TBk, m.ob.). Surf Scoters were observed in all states; inland locations were presented by singles, twos or threes Oct. 14 - Nov. 18; the max. recorded along L. Michigan was only 30. Black Scoters, too, were widely reported — eight areas representing five states; again, inland records were of single birds Oct. 20 - Nov. 24; up to 35 individuals were noted at Winnetka, Ill., Oct. 23-24 (†DJ). A few large concentrations of Ruddy Ducks were encountered — 5000 at Little Cedar Pt., O., Nov. 5 (ET); 1800 at Browning L., Mo., Nov. 6 (L); 600 at Spfld., Nov. 21 (H); and 350 at S.C.R., Nov. 18 (R); although significant locally, lesser numbers were also reported. It was an excellent year for migrating Hooded Mergansers; three areas, reported flocks ranging 200 - 300 birds, Brookville, Ind.; Little Cedar Pt., O.; and Clinton, Ill.; several other areas found groups of 20 - 50 individuals.

S.A.

The 250,000 Red-breasted Mergansers at Cleveland Nov. 19 was spectacular; "while large numbers regularly migrate across w. L. Erie during the fall, they are not normally visible from shore. However, on Nov. 19, immense flocks were present on w. L. Erie from Lucas to Erie counties. Approximately 30,000 birds/hour passed the Huron Pier all afternoon with 100,000+ birds visible at onetime late in the afternoon. We feel that an estimate of 250,000 birds for the w. L. Erie basin not to be unreasonable for that date." (J, JHo).

One arrived at E.St.L., July 13 and remained until Aug. 23 (A).

DIURNAL RAPTORS — There were no outstanding hawk migrations reported; however, the two best days were Sept. 20 and Oct. 6. The two primary hawk stations in the Region, both within a few miles of each other in n.e. Illinois were operated 12 and 20 days respectively. Some of the latest Turkey Vultures observed included 30 at Louisville

Nov. 5 (S, m. ob.), six at Connersville, Ind., Nov. 4 (HW); one at Hueston Woods S.P., O., Nov. 23 (DO); and E.St.L., through Oct. 21 (A). Only three Goshawks were reported — all in the north. Sharp-shinned Hawks were widely encountered Regionwide; as many as 10-15 were observed at inland areas some days. Cooper's Hawks were also well-represented compared to past years; there were 12 birds observed in Iowa; nine in Ohio by one observer alone during the period (J); six in Kentucky; five in Indiana, and seven in Illinois. Eleven Red-shouldered Hawks were reported Aug. 13 (S) at Louisville and Nov. 29 (H) at Spfld. The largest flight of Broad-winged Hawks reported passed over Davenport, Ia., Sept. 17 (P); the species was missed entirely at the two hawk stations along L. Michigan. A Swainson's Hawk was present for nearly two weeks around Savanna, Ill., (BSh); three were observed at Waucoma, Ia., Aug. 22 (JS); singles were noted in Linn and Fremont counties, Ia., Oct. 2 (WNe) and Sept. 30 (IG), respectively. Rough-legged Hawk made a modest appearance, generally arriving in mid-November; some by late October (or mid-October in Iowa); however, the Sept. 24 presence of one at Zion, Ill., was exceptional (JN). Nine Golden Eagles were reported from n.e. Iowa during November (JS, †DKO); singles were observed at Evanston, Ill., Oct. 19 (†RBI); Pigeon River Fish & Game Area, Ind., Nov. 24-26 (†Haw *et al.*); Maryville, Mo., Nov. 21 (DE); S.C.R., Nov. 18 (R) and Carlisle, Ia. (shot) — no date — (GB). Bald Eagles were well represented in Illinois and Iowa; singles were also reported from Oxbow, O., Oct. 29 (VW); St. Mary's, O., Nov. 18 (†TPE); and Jasper-Pulaski, Ind., Oct. 14 - Nov. 12 (†m.ob.). Marsh Hawks were scarce in most areas; however, 29 were found in n.e. Iowa during the period. Ospreys may be making a comeback — or more observers are reporting them: Ohio — 24, Indiana — 9; Kentucky — 9; Illinois — 82; Iowa — 32; Missouri — 23. Peregrine Falcons, too, are more often reported — only lacking from Iowa and Kentucky; 23 accepted records (8 adults, 9 immatures and 6 undetermined age) were reported from the L. Michigan area, Sept. 16 - Oct. 16 (†m.ob.); in all, 37 were properly documented. Merlins were also more observable — 26 reported — many documented; reports were lacking only from Indiana.

BOBWHITES, CRANES AND RAILS —

The Bobwhite is becoming extremely scarce; only Iowa observers reported isolated instances where the species may be doing well. Sandhill Cranes moved through n.e. Illinois during Oct. 5-6, but were not reported elsewhere until from Louisville Nov. 1 then from s. Indiana Nov. 18 the largest group (other than Jasper-Pulaski records) was of 130 in Barren County, Ky., Nov. 19 (RS). Young King Rails were still present at E.St.L., in August and September. A Yellow Rail was identified at St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 26 (†PS). Young Com. Gallinules were still observed at E.St.L., as late as Oct. 11 (A).

SHOREBIRDS — Most shorebird species were reported; in many instances, there were good numbers of birds, or no birds at all — depending on local situations; highlights follow. Single Piping Plovers were reported from eight locations Aug. 3 - Sept. 17

(primarily Illinois and Ohio, but also Missouri and Kentucky). Three Ruddy Turnstones stayed at Chicago until at least Dec. 6 (RN). Six Whimbrels were reported, two at Waukegan Sept. 7 (RBI) and singles at Evanston, Ill., Sept. 10 & 15 (RBI); Cleveland Sept. 18 (JF); Columbus, O., Sept. 22 (J); and Woodburn, Ind., Sept. 17-21 (SA, †Haw). The Upland Sandpiper at Waterloo, Ia., Oct. 15 (TSh) was rather late. Twenty Willets were noted at Michigan City, Ind., Aug. 19 (KB, m.ob.); one, two or three were encountered during late August or early September at eight other scattered locations excluding Iowa. Red Knots were more commonly reported than usual; 30 were detected during the period (as a conservative estimate) along L. Michigan — one as late as Dec. 2 (B); up to six were present in Peoria County, Ill., Sept. 23 - Oct. 1 (VH); and six were noted at E.St.L., Sept. 15 (m.ob.); one, two or three were seen at eight other locations as early as Aug. 1 at Kentucky Lakes, Ky. (JEr) and Oct. 4 at Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area, O. (J). The two Purple Sandpipers reported were found at Cleveland Nov. 4 (†RHn) and Michigan City, Ind., Nov. 11 (†KB, m. ob.).

White-rumped Sandpipers were scarce everywhere. Baird's Sandpipers were hard to find in most instances; however, groups such as 29 at Waukegan Sept. 13 (JN) and 15 there Sept. 6 (B) were exceptions; late records included two at Waukegan Nov. 23 (JN); one at L. Calumet, Ill., Nov. 19 (B) and one at Michigan City, Ind., Nov. 4 (†JU). It will be hard to match the 65 W. Sandpipers at Waukegan Sept. 7 (B). Stilt Sandpipers were not nearly as common as usual; a late lingerer was at Winthrop Harbor, Ill., Sept. 20 (JN); the flock of 70 at O.W.R., Aug. 16 was the largest reported (J); the 40 at Montrose, Mo., Sept. 3, was the second largest (JR). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were exceedingly scarce — max. four; the species was found in only four locations. Nine Marbled Godwits were observed — four in Ohio, Aug. 19 - Nov. 5, one in Missouri Aug. 1, one in Iowa Sept. 16 and three in Illinois July 29 - Oct. 18. Only six Hudsonian Godwits were encountered; however, they were found at highly scattered dates and locations and all as singles: Winthrop Harbor, Ill., Aug. 24 (JN); Hammond, Ind., Aug. 26 (†KB *et al.*); Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area, O., Sept. 3 (J); E.St.L., Oct. 6-15 (†BR, m. ob.); Columbus, O., Oct. 14 (J); and O.W.R., Nov. 19 (J).

Both Ruffs observed were observed in Illinois: Palos July 28 - Aug. 4 and Waukegan Aug. 13 (*vide B*). A late Sanderling was detected in St. Charles County, Mo., Nov. 26 (TPa, *vide A*). An excellent number of Am. Avocets appeared Regionwide; except for the early July records around Chicago (B), most occurred throughout August, September and October — some lingering as long as six weeks in suitable areas; there were no large concentrations — the largest being only seven birds; the species was reported from three to seven locations in most states, only once in Iowa, and none from Kentucky. Of special note were the six Red Phalaropes documented; singles at Columbus, O., Sept. 16 (†J); Thomas Hill, Mo., Oct. 15-26 (†JR, m. ob.) — for the eight state record; Louisville Nov. 1 (†DPK); Michigan City, Ind., Nov. 4 (†TKI, †KB *et al.*); Chicago, Nov. 23-26 (†DJ, †m.ob.); and Waukegan Nov. 24-28 (†B, JN). Only a few more N.



Red Phalarope. Waukegan, Ill. Nov. 24-28, 1978. Photo/J. Neal.

Phalaropes were reported; there were up to six at L. Chau., Sept. 10 (RP); three at E.St.L., Oct. 11 (A); three in Bureau County, Ill., Sept. 10 (†JHm); three in Oregon, O., Sept. 19 (JF); and singles at Columbus, O., Oct. 8 (J) and Brookston, Ind., Sept. 17 (†EH).

JAEGERS, GULLS AND TERNS — The **Pomarine Jaeger** at Wilmette, Ill., constitutes only the second record for the state; the species was also reported from Michigan City, Ind., Sept. 23 (†TKI), and Beverly Shores, Ind., Oct. 21 (†TK); as well as Cleveland Nov. 6-11 (†JHo, †RHn, m.ob.). The more-common Parasitic Jaeger, was really not that common; several were noted from the Indiana lakefront Oct. 6-23 (†KB, m. ob.); two at Evanston, Ill., Sept. 17 (RBI) with only singles there the day before (†DJ) and Oct. 14 (†DJ); and one at Cleveland Aug. 18 (†RHn). Glaucous Gulls were observed three times near Gary, Ind., Nov. 17-22 (†RGr *et al.*); and four times along L. Michigan in Illinois Aug. 19 - Dec. 2 (†m. ob.). The only Great Black-backed Gull observed was found at Cleveland; — scarce species this fall. There were three October records of Thayer's Gulls. A Laughing Gull was reported from L. Chau., Sept. 17 (RP). The only concentration of Franklin's Gulls was at the M.T.R., in mid-October (A) where 100+ were noted.

Only two concentrations of Bonaparte's Gulls were encountered, one with 160-175 birds at Thomas Hill, Mo., Oct. 29 - Nov. 1 (RBr) and one at Spfld., with a max. of 150 birds Nov. 18 (H). Single Black-headed Gulls appeared at Cleveland (during the Breeding Season) and continued through Aug. 4 (†m.ob.); at Evanston Sept. 29 (†GR) and Huron, O., Nov. 25 (†TBt). The Little Gulls reported were observed at Chicago — one on Aug. 30 and three during October and November (*vide B*); 1-3 at Cleveland Aug. 29 - Nov. 25, but at least eight Nov. 8 (M, m.ob.); and one at Michigan City, Ind., Aug. 5, 12 & Oct. 28 (†KB). The only Black-legged Kittiwake observed was noted at Evanston, Ill., Nov. 1 (†RBI). A Sabine's Gull was photographed at Cleveland Sept. 30 (†M); another, exceptional for Missouri, was found at S.C.R., Oct. 3, 4 & 9 (†R, m.ob.); a third was encountered at Miller, Ind., then Michigan City Oct. 14 (†KB, m.ob.). The bird of the season was the **Ross' Gull** present at Chicago Nov. 19 - Dec. 2 (*vide B*, †m.ob.); details and photographs of this observation are to be found on pp. 140-1 of this issue of *AB*. Small numbers of Least Terns appeared during August (max. of three at any location) in all states except Ohio. The 140 Caspian Terns at Waukegan Aug. 30 was exceptional; the next largest group did not exceed 20 birds; the

majority of reports centered in mid-to-late September.



Sabine's Gull, Cleveland, Ohio, September 30, 1978. Photo/C. Hocevar.

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Late departing cuckoos included a Black-billed at S.C.R., Oct. 12 (L) and a Yellow-billed at Spfld., Oct. 31 (H). The fourth Missouri record of a **Groove-billed Ani** was provided (photographed) in Kansas City Oct. 10 (MM); another probable individual, but not so documented, was observed near Carbondale, Ill., Nov. 12 (†JLu, †EL). The only Barn Owl report came from Marshall County, Ia., Oct. 29 (†GJ) — for the first Iowa record in years. There was only a slight incursion of Snowy Owls this fall; all eight reported were found just inside the Region. Only a few Saw-whet Owls were encountered. Common Nighthawks passed through in unspectacular numbers; however, the 978 at Waukegan, Sept. 2 was exceptional; there were seven reports of groups from 150-500 individuals; late records were singles at Rockford, Ill., Oct. 10 (MJ) and Lorain, O., Oct. 11 (JPg); and two at Evanston, Ill., Oct. 6 (RBi). There was a mass Regionwide exodus of Red-headed Woodpeckers; most had departed by mid-October, and certainly, November; numbers persisted only in Mississippi R. bottomlands.

FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS — There were five Chicago area reports of W. Kingbird Aug. 28 - Sept. 12; two were observed in St. Clair County, Mo., Oct. 1 (R, TBk); another, at Iowa City, Ia., Sept. 3 (†TKn). The 35 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in St. Clair County, Mo., Oct. 1 was quite unusual (R, TKn). Two **Say's Phoebes** occurred in Harrison County, Ia., Aug. 25 (†RGo) and another photographed at Evanston, Ill., Sept. 23 (GR, m. ob.). Three Alder Flycatchers were still singing in Sweet Marsh, n.e. Iowa, during early August (JS). Single E. Wood Pewees were still present at Spfld., Oct. 19 (H) and in Vermilion County, Ill., Oct. 4 (MC). Many Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported this fall — from all six states; one as late as Oct. 6 at Oxford, O. (TPe). Ten thousand Tree Swallows were observed at Iowa Ill., Oct. 10 (LHa); 4000 at Ft. Wayne, Ind., Oct. 7 (HW); and 1000 at L. Waveland, Ind., Oct. 15 (AB). Up to 200 Cliff Swallows were noted at Easton, Ill., Aug. 27 (RP). From 10-12 Barn Swallows were still present at S.C.R., Nov. 5 (R); one at Champaign, Ill., Oct. 22 (RCh). Four thousand Bank Swallows were reported from Columbus, Ky., Sept. 15 (JEr) and 8000 Purple Martins roosted at Waukegan Aug. 16-23 (JN).

JAYS, CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES AND WRENS — Blue Jays were conspicuous migrants in many places — more so than usual. There was only a minor incursion of Black-capped Chickadees — detected only around the Toledo, O., area. This was only an average year for Red-breasted Nuthatches — a few early September arrivals, but mostly later. Observers felt that there may have been a slight increase in the Winter Wren population. The only Bewick's Wren reported was observed in Hamlin, Ky., Aug. 20 (JEr).

Carolina Wrens remain extremely scarce. The Rock Wren at E.St.L., was present Oct. 11-19; several photos taken (†PS, †BR, m.ob.).

MIMIDS THROUGH SHRIKES — Mockingbirds were scarce throughout much of the Region. A Varied Thrush made a return appearance at a Cedar Falls, Ia., feeder, Nov. 19 (TSt). Swainson's Thrushes were less common than expected, but Gray-cheeked were rather uncommon — considerably so — Regionwide. A Gray-cheeked was still present at Olney, Ill., Nov. 12 (LHa). All observers except in s.w. Ohio and w. Missouri remarked about the continued scarcity of E. Bluebirds; the few that were detected were migrants passing through during late October. Both kinglets showed improvements in numbers this fall; a Ruby-crowned had arrived at Okolona, Ky., by Aug. 26 (DPk). Two Water Pipits were reported from Jackson County, Ill., as early as Aug. 18 (†DKm). There were several Chicago area records of N. Shrikes in November (B); one had arrived at Evanston, Ill., by Oct. 19 (RBi); the four others reported occurred during the last two weeks of November in n. Iowa and n. Indiana.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — There was no spectacular movement of these species this fall — it was primarily a slow continuous stream of birds passing through. For White-eyed Vireos, the two at Columbus, O., Oct. 14 (J), one at Spfld., Oct. 20 (H), and one at Monmouth, Ill., Oct. 1 (LMc) were late. Twelve Philadelphia Vireos were reported from Rush L., Ia., by Aug. 24 (DBm); one was still at Spfld., Oct. 13 (K). A Brewster's Warbler was noted at Spfld., Sept. 14 & 17 (H). A Golden-winged Warbler was encountered at Louisville Sept. 30 (BP). Two Tennessee Warblers had arrived at Ft. Wayne, Ind., by Aug. 4 (Haw). November 23 was rather late for an Orange-crowned Warbler at Sioux Center, Ia. (JV). There were three Illinois records of Ovenbird Nov. 1-5 and a N. Waterthrush in Lucas County, O., Nov. 5 (J). October 22 was late for a Canada Warbler at Lancaster, O. (JPg) and Dec. 1 for an Am. Redstart (which later died) at Terre Haute, Ind. (*TF).

ICTERIDS AND TANAGERS — Eastern Meadowlarks were uncommon this fall, entirely absent in many areas. A Yellow-headed Blackbird was detected at Spfld., Sept. 21 (H); at Jasper-Pulaski, Ind., Nov. 4 (*vide* LC); and Trumbull L., Ia., Nov. 11 (DBm). At least 22 N. (Baltimore) Orioles were feeding at one time in a ditch near Olney, Ill., July 31 (LHa); one was reported from M.T.R., Nov. 24 (PS, A *et al.*). Two Brewer's Blackbirds were identified at Columbus, O., Oct. 21 (J). A Summer Tanager lingered at Spfld., until Sept. 30 (H).

FRINGILLIDS — There was only a sprinkling of Evening Grosbeaks this fall. Purple Finches were also uncommon, but not as scarce as the other finches; early arrivals were noted as Aug. 29 at Ely, Ia. (WNe) and Sept. 11 at Spfld. (K). A max. of 14 House Finches occurred at Loraine, O., during the period (JPg); one appeared at Crane Creek S.P., O., Sept. 24 (†J) and two at Toledo Nov. 29 (ET). With only minor exceptions — and only in small numbers. Pine Siskins appeared in the extreme n. portions of the Region. The only crossbill reported was one Red in Pickaway County, O., Nov. 3 (J). One Henslow's Sparrow was still present at Louisville Nov. 2 (BP); another was detected in St. Clair County, Mo., Oct. 1 (R, TBk). A Bachman's Sparrow was found in Shawnee S.P., O., Sept. 6 (†J). There were eight reports of Harris' Sparrows reported from three other Illinois locations and one from Indianapolis Oct. 10 (†TKI). Some observers felt that White-crowned Sparrows were scarce. Evlans Longspurs were first observed at Evanston, Ill., Sept. 24 (RBi), then in other n. areas by Oct. 7 and c. areas by Nov. 1. Over 100 Smith's Longspurs were found in Vernon County, Mo., Nov. 11 and 50 in St. Clair County, Mo., the same day (R *et al.*); five were observed at Maryville, Mo., Oct. 28 (R) and six at Spfld., Nov. 5 (H). Snow Buntings first arrived around Oct. 20, but more commonly in mid-to-late November; at Chicago, 30 were observed as they flew along the lake and proceeded "to land in a tree" Nov. 24 (RBi *et al.*).

EXOTICS — A Flamingo was found dead near Austin, Ind., Oct. 1 (BP); the source of the bird is not known.

UNCORROBORATED RECORDS — A Glossy Ibis (sp. ?) at St. Mary's, O., Oct. 8. Three White Ibises at Crestwood, Ky., Aug. 9. A Whip-poor-will at Louisville Nov. 14. Two Sprague's Pipits in Vernon County, Mo., and two more in St. Clair County, Mo., Oct. 21 (R).

ADDENDUM — From May 6-8, 1978, the following records should be included from St. Charles County, Mo., four White-faced Ibises, three Glossy Ibises, and two dark ibises of undetermined species (*vide* A.)

CORRIGENDA — The Am. Avocet in Kentucky, Oct. 30 - Nov. 5, 1977 (AB 32:212) should be from Kentucky Lakes, not Louisville. Concerning the Caspian Tern records in the 1978 spring migration report, it should read: "A few Caspian Terns were still present at Waukegan June 10 (JN). There were good concentrations of **Black Terns** reported; an estimate . . ." The second reference to terns should be Black Terns rather than Caspian Terns. In addition, the Hoary Redpoll record for St. Louis, Mo., Mar. 6 has now been rejected by Missouri authorities.

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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION /Robert D. Purrington

It goes without saying that weather conditions strongly affect the patterns of bird movement during the spring and fall migration periods; the effects of frontal incursions are well understood and observers in the Region, as elsewhere, anticipate important southward movements of birds in fall associated with the north winds which follow on the heels of these

perature was more than 8°F. above normal!). The fronts which penetrated the Region were generally weak and dry, with the result that when judged by numbers and diversity of the customary transients, the season was unexciting. A caveat is in order here, however; shorebirds, being mostly diurnal migrants, are strongly affected by daytime rainfall which is especially pronounced in August and September, as was the case this fall, when movement of these species is at its peak. This fall these local rains (typically afternoon thunder-

showers), coupled with low summer water levels which had on the one hand a concentrating effect, and on the other, the effect of exposing new habitat near permanent water, led to unusually good shorebirding. Fully one third of all records submitted were of shorebird species. In any case, there was little rain from September on, temperatures remained high through the end of the period, trees retained much of their foliage into December, and many birds lingered later than normal. Again, there

including Rufous and Black-chinned hummingbirds, which have become commonplace at feeders in the New Orleans areas. Other records will find their way into the winter season report. The "expected" vagrants, White-winged Dove, Groove-billed Ani, Western Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, "Bullock's" Oriole, etc., were found in somewhat increased numbers, but the real excitement was generated by the much rarer Swainson's Hawk, Buff-bellied Hummingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Inca Dove, Western Wood Pewee, Rock Wren, Mountain Bluebird, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Painted Redstart. Burrowing Owls, Bewick's Wrens, and Clay-colored Sparrows gained some attention, but these are not strictly western species, although the individuals in question may have been. As usual, most birds were found to be immatures when plumage differences permitted such determination.

Finding correlations between weather and grounded migrants, as an exercise in hindsight, is often easy; the test of these correlations lies in whatever predictive value they embody. Moreover, one must avoid the trap of judging the magnitude of a west-to-east movement by the *quality* of the birds found rather than their quantity (although rarity might imply unusual weather factors, and often distance of displacement). This fall was significant on both counts, but what is lacking is a clear understanding of the unusual meteorological conditions which may have been the causative factor(s) and which would allow prediction of a similar movement. Species which breed mainly to the north and west of the Region, such as Swainson's Hawk, Rufous and Black-chinned hummingbirds, Western Wood Pewee, and Black-throated Gray Warbler, might be expected to be displaced by the westerly and northwesterly winds which follow a frontal movement south and east across the western United States, and one would not be surprised to find that the appearance of such species would involve mainly juvenile birds which might rely more heavily on tailwinds than on other directional cues. On the other hand, vagrants from the southwestern United States and Texas, for example White-winged Dove, Groove-billed Ani, Buff-bellied Hummingbird, Wied's Crested Flycatcher, and Great Kiskadee, presumably would be displaced by west or southwest winds; winds that are often induced by a front approaching from the north or northwest. Unfortunately the



cool fronts. Massive flights of raptors are not unusual, and given proper timing and rainfall or low ceiling, large numbers of migrants may be grounded. The effects of weather go far beyond this, however, and in many cases the causal relationships can only be guessed at. A case in point is the unusual influx of western vagrants into the Region this fall. This phenomenon manifests itself much more dramatically in some years than in others, as is clear from a reading of past fall migration and winter season reports. A simple explanation for this phenomenon is lacking, especially its erratic and seemingly unpredictable character, but we explore some possibilities below.

The weather this fall was predominantly warm and dry. October was virtually without moisture and November was extraordinarily warm (at New Orleans the average daily tem-

perature was more than 8°F. above normal!). There were few signs of a boreal influx by the end of the period, with Purple Finches very scarce and almost no Pine Siskins, at least in the lower parts of the Region. Red-breasted Nuthatches were present in moderate numbers, but Evening Grosbeaks went almost unreported. Even Cedar Waxwings and American Goldfinches were scarce at season's end.

The most interesting birding of the fall was associated with a cool front which moved into the Region September 30. Not only did this produce a peak raptor movement, but the first influx of western vagrants as well, highlighted by a Painted Redstart in Alabama.

Without equivocation this was a big fall for the western contingent, as evidenced by at least 43 records of 20 western species, not

time of arrival of these vagrants will often not coincide with their discovery, making any conclusions hazardous, especially since the two conditions above described typically come within two or three days of each other. More to the point, nothing seems to emerge from a reading of the meteorological conditions this fall that would explain the *unusual* western influx.

LOONS THROUGH SPOONBILLS — A "very tame" winter-plumaged Com. Loon at Ship I., Miss., Aug. 7 (KL) was presumably injured or diseased. Loons were definitely down in numbers in s.e. Louisiana, and Horned Grebes were very scarce on L. Pontchartrain. Six Eared Grebes found at Hattiesburg, Miss., Aug. 21 (LG) following a weak cold front were remarkably early. They joined others which had *summered* at the Hattiesburg sewage ponds. The first Alabama record of **Leach's Storm-Petrel** was obtained when a bird was found dead at Eufaula N.W.R., Oct. 7 (DMB, JBO), >100 mi inland! The specimen was deposited with Auburn Univ. The max. Alabama count of Brown Pelicans this fall was 94 at Ft. Morgan Aug. 3 (TAI), including 54 immatures; 14 immatures at Gulfport Sept. 28 (JT, PVD, m. ob.), most or all wing-tagged, were obviously from the Chandeleur Is., where attempts are being made to reintroduce them. The Masked Booby is now recorded annually in Alabama waters; this fall a changing immature was seen off Dauphin I., at Ft. Morgan Sept. 2 (REH, RWH) & 27 (TAI). Five adults observed from shore at Biloxi Sept. 27 (JT, GM) were the first ever for Mississippi. An imm. Gannet found dead on Ship I., Sept. 19 (DS) was very early. An imm. **Great Cormorant**, the first for the state, was found among Double-crested Cormorants at Bellefontaine Beach, Miss., Nov. 1 (LG, JT). The description furnished was convincing. Double-crested Cormorants were present in significantly increased numbers on L. Pontchartrain for the second consecutive year (NN, RDP). Although Reddish Egrets were perhaps somewhat down in numbers in coastal Louisiana and Mississippi, a color-marked bird at Grand I., Sept. 30 (MB, m. ob.) was noteworthy. It had been banded near Rockport, Texas, during the 1977 breeding season, lending support to the idea that Louisiana nesting colonies represent overflow from Texas populations. The high count of Wood Storks at Noxubee N.W.R., Miss., this fall was 66 Sept. 10 (WCW), down from 145 the previous fall. A single bird at New Orleans Nov. 21 (JW, NN) was only the third area record. The Glossy Ibis is becoming increasingly regular inland in the Tennessee and Chattahoochee R., valleys of Alabama; this fall one was seen at Wheeler N.W.R., Oct. 19 - Nov. 10 (DMB, RWL, m.ob.). White Ibises were also found well inland in n. Mississippi and middle Tennessee during late August and September. A late bird was in Madison County, Miss., Nov. 4 (RD, CB). An 1000± birds in Cameron Par., Oct. 27-29 (BC) were interesting.

WATERFOWL — Whistling Swans were first reported Nov. 24-26 from Wheeler Ref., where nine were counted (DMB, RWL, JMH), in Madison County, Miss., where two were seen (RW, HM), and at Opelika, Ala. (JBO). Numbers at Wheeler grew to 42 in the first week in December, evidence that the species is

definitely on the increase in Alabama. Waterfowl numbers were lower at Wheeler Ref., by 33-45% compared to the same time last year, but much of the decrease may be attributable to the mild fall. Scaup, for example, were very late in arriving on L. Pontchartrain. A very early flock of Canada Geese in Pulaski County, Ark., Sept. 1 (PF) was the earliest ever for the state by 10 days, and two Snow Geese which arrived at New Orleans Sept. 18 (TC) were nearly a month earlier than expected. Indeed it is something of a paradox that there were unusually many early records for waterfowl established, while numbers were very late in building up. A single Fulvous Whistling Duck was at Dauphin I., Oct. 7, while surprisingly early was a Black Duck at Eufaula Ref., Aug. 5 (JBO). Pintails seemed especially numerous in Alabama this fall (TAI), with 8500 at Wheeler Ref., Nov. 25 (DMB, RWL) setting a record for the state. Also a record number were 14,500 Am. Wigeons at Wheeler on the same date. Wigeon was the dominant species at Lonoke, Ark. (HH, EH) and sightings Sept. 8 in the Nashville area, Cheatham Co., Tenn. (TMM), and Sept. 24 at Eufaula Ref. (JBO) were the earliest ever for those areas. Northern Shovelers, which have bred on at least four occasions in Alabama, including the past summer, were seen at the Swan Creek Management Area (hereafter S.C.M.A.) Aug. 21-29 (DMB), and five seen at New Orleans Oct. 10 (NN) were among the numerous records of early arriving ducks in the Region. A ♂ Ring-necked Duck in partial eclipse plumage at Noxubee Ref., Aug. 27 (WCW, CDC) was over two months early if not *summering*. The second record of **Barrow's Goldeneye** for Tennessee was of one seen and photographed at Nashville's Radnor L., Nov. 18+ (MBL, TMM, m. ob.). The only scoter reported was a ♀ Surf at Bellefontaine Beach, Miss., Nov. 29 (WCW). Three Ruddy Ducks at the Hattiesburg sewage ponds Aug. 10 (WCW) were probably present all summer, while one in Cameron Par., Sept. 30 (MM, NN) was the earliest ever for Louisiana, although the species had bred. A high count of 457 at Lonoke, Ark., was obtained Nov. 4 (HH, EH). Also unusually high was the total of 250 Hooded Mergansers at Noxubee Ref., Nov. 24 (WCW).

DIURNAL RAPTORS, RAILS, COOTS — A Swallow-tailed Kite at Ft. Morgan Aug. 30 (MN, SG, MLM) was, somewhat surprisingly, the latest for Alabama by nearly a month, while very late Mississippi Kites were seen in s.e. Louisiana Sept. 25-25 (RDP, NN). Sharp-shinned Hawks seemed to continue to increase in numbers and are again almost commonplace in s.e. Louisiana. Well over 150 were reported (and not every bird seen is reported, a result of the increased numbers), dominated by a state max. of 117 at Ft. Morgan, Ala., Sept. 28 (TAI, JAI). Although it is admittedly hazardous to assess the status of a threatened species by monitoring numbers seen in migration and on its wintering grounds, such a procedure is not without value if averages are taken over sufficiently long time intervals. Useful data on Cooper's Hawks yield an average of 18/fall 1974-77 compared with the 16 reports submitted this fall, including at least 11 from Alabama. An individual of the *harlani* race of the Red-tailed Hawk found at S.C.M.A., Nov. 10 (RWL) provided the

ninth record for Alabama and the earliest ever. The only sizable Broad-winged Hawk movements noted were related to the frontal passage of Sept. 30: 250 in Attala County, Miss., Sept. 26 (JAS) and 75-85 in Warren County, Miss., Sept. 28 (GC). One Nov. 26 at Venice, La. (NN, RDP, SP, JP, JR) was the only evidence of possible wintering on the species in the delta this fall. An imm. Swainson's Hawk at Ft. Jackson near Venice on the same date (JR, RDP, NN, SP, JP) was but the fourth recorded in s.e. Louisiana.

Only two records of Golden Eagles found their way to this editor, both of immatures in Jackson County, Miss., Nov. 1 (LG, JT), and Marshall County, Ala., Nov. 24 (CDC). Of Bald Eagles there were at least 18 reports, 8 adults, 10 immatures, including two adults near the only known Mississippi nest from mid-September on (JT, LG, m.ob.), and another at the "White Kitchen," St. Tammany Par., nest site from Sept. 23 on (JT *et al.*). Some encouragement is to be drawn from these numbers, which are to be compared with an average for the previous 8 years of 6.5 reports, and a 1975-77 average of twice that number. There were 16 Ospreys reported, compared to an average of 35 for the previous four years, including six along the Arkansas R., Sept. 23 (P.C.A.S.) and one at New Orleans Oct. 10 (MB, TC) near what appeared to be a recently used nest not heretofore known. At least 20 Peregrine Falcons were seen, among them seven from Louisiana and nine from Alabama, but observers differed on the question of whether they were unusually scarce or perhaps more common than usual. Certainly there were more seen than last fall. The 8-year average is 13.6 reports, but this single number fails to reflect the fact that numbers had increased substantially prior to 1976, then seemed to decline. Eleven sightings of Merlins (about normal) came from Louisiana and one each from Arkansas and Mississippi; Alabama observers may simply not have reported those seen. Observers are strongly urged to report numbers of all endangered or threatened raptors encountered.

The secretive Yellow Rail was seen at the L. Hamilton Fish Hatchery, Garland Co., Ark., Oct. 22 (RC, JC). High counts of Am. Coots achieved were 8028 at Eufaula Ref., Oct. 29 (JBO) and 6300 at Lonoke, Ark., Nov. 4 (EH, HH).

SHOREBIRDS — Although shorebird migration began in July and was well under way in August, the frontal conditions of Sept. 23-24 apparently provided the best combination of movement and weather, as the reader will note below. The small ringed plovers attracted unusual attention this fall, especially inland, where they are never common. Semipalmated Plovers were seen in unusual concentrations in Evangeline Par., in early September (JBO) and at Grand I., La., and Eufaula Ref., Sept. 24. Piping Plovers were found inland at Noxubee Ref., and in Sumner and Henry counties, Tenn., in mid-to-late August. Snowy Plovers, the subject of great concern (Blue-listed) because of the disappearance of undisturbed breeding habitat, were noted in slightly increased numbers in coastal Louisiana and Mississippi during September and October. A most unusual melanistic Black-bellied Plover was seen at New Orleans Sept. 15 (MB). The seasonal distribu-

tion of Long-billed Curlews in s.e. Louisiana has long been a puzzle; essentially they are not seen at all, except in summer on the islands, when they are regular if not numerous. One seen near E. Timbalier I., Oct. 19 (AS, RDP, MM, NN) was the first recorded between August and March and raised the possibility that the species is present on the islands when they are rarely visited, during the winter as well. Three Willets inland in Sumner County Aug. 16 (DC, PC) established the third fall record for the Nashville area. Red Knots, seen inland only on migration and then infrequently, were encountered away from the coast at Lonoke, Ark., Sept. 17 (HH, EH, MP, HP) and at Eufaula Ref., Sept. 24 (JBO).

High counts of Pectoral Sandpipers were 1000± in Lonoke County Aug. 13 (HH, EH), 300± at Noxubee Ref., Aug. 30 (WCW), and 641 in Evangeline Par., Sept. 1 (JBO). Latest ever in fall for Alabama was a White-rumped Sandpiper at Eufaula Ref., Oct. 29 (JBO). Baird's Sandpipers are reported in fall from the Region in increasing numbers, perhaps reflecting nothing more than the fact that observers are looking for them with more confidence and patience than in the past. This fall there were records from all parts of the Region Aug. 12 - Sept. 28. Although Long-billed Dowitchers are abundant in coastal Louisiana in fall and very numerous in winter, 95 near Mobile Sept. 29 (TAI, AN, MN) greatly exceeded the previous high count for Alabama, and seven at S.C.M.A., Nov. 25 (DMB, RWL) were the latest in fall for the state. Scattered Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported Aug. 5 (Lonoke — HP, MP; Eufaula — JBO, earliest for Alabama) - Oct. 28 (Eufaula — JBO, DMB, latest for Alabama). No more than three were seen anywhere except at New Orleans, where the peak was 30.

The fact that 50+ Marbled Godwits near E. Timbalier I., Nov. 19 (RDP, MM, NN, AS) represented both the highest number recorded in s.e. Louisiana and the latest ever by more than a month suggests that further coverage is in order. Single Red Phalaropes were recorded off Biloxi, Miss., Sept. 30 (CDC), where they might be expected (though this was only Mississippi's 2nd record), and at Eufaula Ref., Nov. 5 (JBO, DC), where they certainly would not be! Wilson's Phalaropes appeared in something like normal numbers, and three N. Phalaropes were reported: Sept. 23 at Nashville (MMA), the third area record; Sept. 24 at Lonoke, Ark. (HH, EH); and in Lonoke County Oct. 1 (HP, MP).

Abbreviations frequently used

et al.: and others, *vide*: reported by, m.ob.: many observers, N.F.: National Forest, N.M.: National Monument, N.P.: National Park, N.W.R.: Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, P.P.: Provincial Park, Pt.: Point, Ref.: Refuge, Res.: Reservoir, R.: River, S.P.: State Park, W.M.A.: Wildlife Management Area, v.o.: various observers, N,S,W,E,: direction of motion, n., s., w., e.,: direction of location, ♂: male, ♀: female, ♂: imm. or female, *: specimen, ph.: photographed, †: documented, ft: feet, mi: miles, m: meters, km: kilometers, date with a +: (e.g., Feb. 28+): recorded beyond end of period. Authors may also abbreviate often-cited locations.



Parasitic Jaeger. Franklin County, Tenn. Sept. 17, 1978. Photo/D. R. Jacobsen.

LARIDS — Never before recorded in the state, a **Parasitic Jaeger** was present at Woods Res., Franklin Co., Tenn., Sept. 16 - Oct. 27 (MBL, DV, m.ob.). Excellent photographs were obtained. The only Glaucous Gull seen was on the gulf s. of Dauphin I., Nov. 18 (REH), the sixth record in the last eight years in Alabama. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** with missing foot seen at Ft. Morgan last October was reported again this fall Sept. 17 at Dauphin I. (REH, RWH). The bird has been well photographed (TAI). Laughing Gulls were found inland in Tennessee and Alabama on several occasions Aug. 4 - Nov. 5, while unusual was a concentration of 3500 gathered about a sunken menhaden boat with a hold full of fish Aug. 16 at Gulfport, Miss. (JT). Earliest ever by 24 days was a Bonaparte's Gull in Clark County, Ark., Sept. 1 (MP). The third record of **Sabine's Gull** for Alabama was obtained when one was seen within sight of shore s. of Dauphin I., on or about Nov. 22 (REH), up to three Sooty Terns were seen off Horn I., Oct. 14-15 (JAJ, CDC), for the third Mississippi record, and Bridled Terns, the fourth and fifth records for Alabama, were seen just s. of Dauphin I., Sept. 2 & 17 (REH, RWH). Least Terns, unexpected inland, were noted in Arkansas, middle Tennessee, and at Hattiesburg and Noxubee Ref., Miss.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A few White-winged Doves were reported, all from coastal Louisiana, and an Inca Dove was present in Cameron Par., Oct. 22-28 (KC, BCu, ASc, CS, m.ob.), the eighth Louisiana occurrence. Yellow-billed Cuckoos were found incubating very late clutches in Dickson, Williamson, and Wilson counties, Tenn., in early September (KAG, VP, MD, SS). At least 13 reports of Groove-billed Anis were submitted, including a number from coastal Louisiana where they winter regularly, but other reports were indicative of an unusually strong movement into the Region. Records at Dauphin I., and vicinity Oct. 7+ (JK, m. ob.) and the ensuing photographs removed the species from Alabama's hypothetical list, while another was seen at Eufaula Ref., Nov. 18 (JBO). There had been only two previous records for Alabama. There was also a bird at Biloxi Oct. 19 (PVD, JT, LG, m. ob.), which may have been the first for Mississippi, another was seen in Howard County, Ark., Oct. 22 (CM, CMA), and four in Ascension Par., Nov. 24-25 (TH) were at an unusual locality. From the dates it might be surmised that significant numbers of anis arrived with the fronts of Sept. 30, Oct. 3-5, and 18-20. Burrowing Owls were found in scattered places along the coast from Cameron to Dauphin I., in slightly increased numbers, the reports totalling eight individuals. Almost

never encountered because of its secretive habits and presumed rarity in the Region, a Long-eared Owl was a good find near Starkville, Miss., Sept. 10 (RL). Some documentation of the migration of Com. Nighthawks in the n. part of the Region comes from the sighting of 4000± in five flocks in Fentress County, Tenn., Aug. 26 (MMA) and 450-500 near Murray Dam, Ark., Aug. 30 (RG, BG). A very late individual was at Nashville Nov. 17 (MLB), the latest ever there by 15 days. Up to three *Chaetura* swifts Nov. 5-18 (RJS) at the Laplace, La., site where Vaux's have been found in recent winters were not certainly identified as to species. This was a banner fall at New Orleans' hummingbird feeders, with at least five and perhaps six species present by early December. Black-chinned and Rufous predominated as usual (seven definite Black-chinned at the end of November), but an imm. ♂ **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** seen well (and handled) at the Newfield's feeders by many experienced observers Dec. 5+ (NNe, SN, m.ob.) was the second record for Louisiana and a much more well documented record than the first. Another **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** was identified at Ft. Smith, Ark., during the first week in August (RA). Two Buff-bellied Hummingbirds appeared at the same feeders which one bird had visited for two consecutive winters in 1974-76 (BR, m.ob.); this was the fourth winter occurrence for s.e. Louisiana, and both birds were immatures. Rufous Hummingbirds were also seen frequently in Reserve, La. (RJS) and three were present Dec. 1+ in New Iberia (MJM). A very encouraging total of 132 Red-headed Woodpeckers was tallied by the Memphis chapter of the T.O.S., in Shelby Forest S.P., in a half-day Oct. 29 (*vide* BC).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH PIPITS — An E. Kingbird near Decatur Oct. 29 (DCH) was the latest ever for inland Alabama; flocks totalling 300 birds Sept. 10 near Venice, La., reflected a major movement near the coast around that date. While a few W. Kingbirds were reported along the coast, one in Little River County, Ark., Sept. 7 (CM) was unusual, as was another inland at Noxubee Ref., Sept. 15 (WCW). Sightings of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were certainly no more frequent than usual, although one in Vicksburg, Miss., Oct. 1 (MHS, MaB) was of more than passing interest. During October, there were two records from coastal Mississippi, where they will likely prove to be regular as data are accumulated. The **Great Kiskadee** which has wintered at New Orleans since 1974-75 appeared again in late September and was present through the end of the period. Efforts to find the bird during the summer failed, so one *assumes* that the bird has returned to its normal breeding range each summer. Unfortunately for local birders, the woods in which the bird has wintered for at least four years are slated to be destroyed (and probably will have been by publication date). The only w. *Myiarchus* flycatchers seen were Ash-throated Flycatchers in Louisiana: Oct. 1 at Cameron (MM, NN) and Nov. 26 at Venice (RDP, NN, JR, SP, JP). Banding efforts by Imhof and son at Ft. Morgan Sept. 25-28 yielded all five species of e. *Empidonax* flycatchers, and in the Nashville area 14 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were banded Aug. 19 - Sept. 30 (KAG, ATT). Certainly the most outstanding western vagrant

in Mississippi this fall was a **Western Wood Pewee** at Bellefontaine Beach Sept 30 (WCW, LG, JT, GN). Although descriptions of the bird were suggestive of the western species, identification was possible only because the bird called repeatedly. There is one previous record for the state, that of one collected at Cleveland, Miss., Sept. 10, 1960.

A count of 4200± Tree Swallows at Eufaula Ref., Oct. 7 (JBO, DMB) was a record for Alabama; 2550 Rough-winged Swallows were counted the same day. A total of 695 Barn Swallows at Eufaula Oct. 14 (JBO, DMB), coupled with a very late record of Nov. 14 near Decatur (AM) were interpreted by Imhof as a manifestation of general abundance associated with expanding breeding range. In Pope County, Ark., 1250 were seen Oct. 7 (HH, EH, MP, HP). In each case, the observations coincided with frontal passages. The earliest Red-breasted Nuthatches were two at Noxubee Ref., Sept. 16 (JAS); the species reached the Mississippi coast by Oct. 7 (LG, WCW) and was first seen in New Orleans Oct. 10 (JR, SP). Wintering numbers were only slightly above normal. A **Rock Wren**, willing to settle for rock "rip-rap" at the edge of the Alcoa settling ponds at Mobile, was present Oct. 22 to at least Nov. 26 (PB, CLK, m. ob.) for Alabama's second record. Very late at Wheeler Ref., was a Swainson's Thrush Nov. 5 (RWL), the latest inland record for Alabama. An imm. ♂ **Mountain Bluebird** obliged the L.O.S., by appearing near Cameron Oct. 28, at the time of the organization's fall meeting. It was seen by dozens of birders, establishing the third record for the state.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — Twenty-two Red-eyed Vireos were claimed by the KATV tower in Jefferson Co., Ark., the night of Sept. 21-22 (PF, MF) while one at Eufaula Ref., Oct. 28 (JBO, DMB) was, for inland Alabama, the latest ever. An Orange-crowned Warbler at Wheeler Ref., Sept. 2 (RWL, RH) was the earliest ever in fall for the state. Nashville Warblers, quite obviously circum-gulf migrants and therefore rare on the c. Gulf Coast, were seen in coastal Mississippi on three occasions Sept. 22 - Oct. 4 (JT, LG). There were six reports of Black-throated Blue Warblers submitted from areas where they are rarely encountered. The earliest was of one killed at the KATV tower Sept. 21-22 (PF, MF), while the others were from coastal Louisiana and Mississippi Sept. 24 - Oct. 29. An examination of the dates provides no clue to possible meteorological influences. It is interesting to note that although the species is regular in fall in coastal Alabama, it is barely casual just 150 mi. w. in s.e. Louisiana. Westernmost were records of a male at Avery I., La., Oct. 7 (KZ) and two males at Gum Cove, Cameron Par., Oct. 29 (TP, VR, m.ob.). Yellow-rumped Warblers were early at Bellefontaine Beach, Miss., Sept. 30 (JT) and at Noxubee Ref., Oct. 3 (WCW). Part of this fall's western "invasion" was a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** found near Venice, La., Nov. 19 (SH, BCr) and present through the end of the period. Blackburnian Warblers were seen in increased numbers in Alabama this fall (TAI), a fact perhaps reflected in the unprecedentedly early arrival date for the state set at Wheeler Ref., Aug. 14 (DMB, TAB, CAD), and the latest inland record Oct. 28 at Eufaula Ref. (DMB, JBO).

Also unusually numerous were Bay-breasted Warblers, at least in Birmingham where Imhof recorded 5.3/hour afield Oct. 12-31 as compared to an 8-year average of 1/100 party hours. Southeastern Louisiana has no records, spring or fall, of the Connecticut Warbler, the sighting of one at Hattiesburg, Miss., 75 mi. n.e., Oct. 6 (LG) is thus impressive. Details were not submitted to the editor but are on file at M.S.U., and the observer is an experienced and cautious one. Finally, but most assuredly not least, is the record of a **Painted Redstart** seen Sept. 28 in Baldwin County, Ala. (PFC, *fide* TAI). Needless to say there is no previous record for the state. This record, which just preceded the Sept. 30 frontal conditions, brings to mind Louisiana's only record, during the winter of 1952-53, a western invasion year of almost unprecedented proportions.

ICTERIDS, FRINGILLIDS — Of Yellow-headed Blackbirds there were but two reports, both involving adult males: Aug. 8 in Choctaw County, Ark. (NH) and Sept. 7-14 (NN, JR) at New Orleans. The few reports of "Bullock's" Orioles were all from coastal Louisiana, as was that of a very late ♀ Rose-breasted Grosbeak Nov. 24 in Cameron Par. (VR, LH). Last fall the Region experienced a massive influx of boreal finches; this year there was but a trickle. A handful of Evening Grosbeaks reached the Nashville area as early as Sept. 30 (T.O.S.) in a weak "echo" flight, after which there were few reports at all. By the end of the period only small numbers of Purple Finches had been reported in middle Tennessee and virtually none had reached the lower parts of the Region. Thus a single bird in Pulaski County, Ark., Sept. 23 (WMS, RJ), the earliest ever for the state by nearly a month, was surprising in a year with such a weak movement. Rounding out a dismal fall for boreal finches was the virtual absence of Pine Siskins, and even Am. Goldfinches were late in arriving in any numbers. Many coastal observers had not seen or heard any. Inexplicable were three at Noxubee Ref., Aug. 27 (WCW)! A single Red Crossbill was reported from Cumberland County, Tenn., Oct. 21 (TL, RP), apparently the only sighting for the Region. Two Rufous-crowned Sparrows seen in Logan County, Ark., Sept. 4 (FB, JB) were members of an island population which merits closer attention. A few Clay-colored Sparrows continue to be reported, mostly in near-coastal areas. This fall all records were from Louisiana: Sept. 30 near Grand I. (MB), Oct. 8 in Cameron (RJS, MW), and Oct. 29 at Gum Cove, Cameron Par. (DP, BE, VR, TP, LH). Early White-throated Sparrows were seen in Pulaski County, Ark., Sept. 11 (HC), nominally the earliest ever, although there are scattered summer records, and at Starkville, Miss., Oct. 9 (WCW). On the other hand, very few were present in s.e. Louisiana even into mid-November.

Received too late for inclusion in the main body of the report were the following significant records from the Florida section: 40-55 mi. s.w. of Destin Sept. 30 (CLK), 6-15 Greater Shearwaters, a single Sooty Shearwater, 4-8 Blue-faced Boobies, one Pomarine Jaeger, and one Sooty Tern: Great Black-backed Gull Nov. 20 at Destin (BD), Purple Sandpiper Nov. 20 at Destin (BD), Lawrence's Warbler Sept. 9 at Marianna (BBC), Brewster's War-

bler Sept 6 at Marianna (MG, KW), Yellow-headed Blackbird Aug. 24 at Pace (BM).

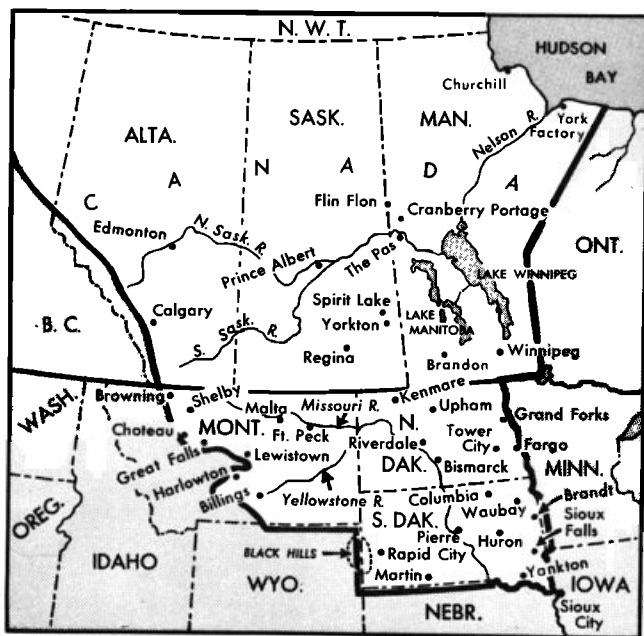
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NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

/Esther M. Serr

The entire Region experienced a warm, dry fall until early November when the first snow came, accompanied by the usual strong winds

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — At Greig L., Sask., 160 Com. Loons were feeding Sept 6 & 7 (GCA) and an aerial survey of five northern lakes in Saskatchewan produced 37 on Oct. 11 (WCH). Two Red-throated Loons were at Ft. McMurray, Alta., Sept. 26 (BW) A young Red-necked Grebe was still being fed by an adult Sept. 9 at Madge L., Sask. (JBG) Single Green Herons were observed Aug. 2 at Swan L., Turner Co. (WH) and at a park in Sioux Falls, S.D. (NRW). A check of Cattle



Egret colonies after the young had fledged, revealed only two dead young and a total of 100 produced at Sand Lake N.W.R., S.D. (SJW, RLW). Great Egrets numbered 25 at Valley City, N.D., Aug. 27 (RM) and 38 were in a flooded field in Brown County, S.D., Oct. 1 (ECM). Four Yellow-crowned Night Herons were spotted in the Sand Lake N.W.R., area Aug. 3 - Sept. 13 (SJW, LL, ECM). Fifteen Am. Bitterns were in Burleigh County, N.D., Sept. 3 (TAG) and one Least Bittern was at Sand Lake N.W.R., Aug. 2. Five White-faced Ibis were in Brookings, Brown and Deuel Cos., S.D., Sept. 3 - Oct. 11.

SWANS THROUGH GEESE — At Spring Valley, Sask., Nov. 4 a flock of 18 Whistling Swans was flying overhead when one was overturned by an exceptionally strong wind and landed on its back. After a few minutes it was able to fly away "low and slow" (FB).

S.A.

A **Bewick's Swan** (*Cygnus bewickii*), was sighted at Condie Res., Regina, Sask., Oct. 27 - Nov. 11 in a flock of 45 Whistling Swans (BL, RK). It was photographed and thoroughly documented to become the first known Canadian record. The race could not be definitely determined, but the bill pattern more closely resembled the European-West races Asian race rather than the Eastern Siberian.

The Alberta Game Farm was checked and other known waterfowl collections in the prairie provinces and none was missing. The bird was free-flying, unbanded and showed no signs of having been in captivity. It appeared to be firmly "attached" to a Whistling Swan. One other swan showed much more yellow on the bill than the rest of the Whistling Swans, suggesting a hybrid.

There were thousands of Canada, White-fronted and Snow Geese in the Kyle-L. Dieffenbaker-S. Saskatchewan R., area Oct. 23-24 (JBG). A **Brant** was killed by a hunter and retained as a specimen at the Woodworth

Study Area, N.D. (LK) and one with Canadas was a rare find at Regina Nov. 6-7 (BL, RK, FWL).

DUCKS — A Wood Duck was banded n. of its normal range in early August by the U.S.F. & W. n. of Canora, Sask. (fide WCH). A female and five flightless young were observed at Minot, N.D. (GBB) and 800 were counted Sept. 9 at Valley City, N.D. (RM). A total of 4000± Ring-necked Ducks was high in Whiteshell P.P., Man. (RWK) and a concentration of 5000± Canvasbacks was noted in Kidder County, N.D.

(LK). A Cinnamon Teal was unusual and late Nov. 1 at Fargo, N.D. (GCB). A total of 79 White-winged Scoters was sighted in the Region during the period. One **Surf Scoter** was with White-winged Nov. 11 at Ft. Peck, Mont. (CMC). One male **Black Scoter** was a rare find at Wascana P., Regina, Nov. 6 (MB) and six were at Seven Sisters (PT) and Victoria Beach Oct. 15-21. An **Oldsquaw** was seen with 200 Buffleheads Nov. 10 at Regina Beach, Sask. (RK, BL). A flock of 13 Red-breasted Mergansers was at Gavin's Pt., S.D., Nov. 23 (WH).

RAPTORS — Observations showed an increase in most of the raptor species but there was also an increase in reporters in the Region. A large Turkey Vulture roost of 61 birds was found at Whiteshell P.P., Man., Aug. 29 (RWK). One Rough-legged Hawk summered at Oak Hammock Marsh, Man., and was joined by another in late August.

Bald Eagle sightings were five times that of Golden Eagles. In the forested area of Saskatchewan there were 17 at Candle L., Sept. 10 - Oct. 9 and 26 were in one spot at Squaw Rapids Nov. 15 (WCH). On the prairie 37 were at Kyle Oct. 23 - 24 (JBG) and 18 at Indian Head, Sask. (MS). Eagle surveys Nov. 16 in Montana showed seven adult and 13 immature on the Yellowstone R. (TCH). In Manitoba there were 52 Bald Eagles Aug. 29 - Oct. 5 at Whiteshell P.P., and four adult and 17 immature at Oak Lake (DRMH). Another 15 were counted in 15 mi e. of Judson, N.D., Nov. 24 (GCB).

Five Gyrfalcons were seen Sept. 9 - Nov. 8 at Lac du Bonnet (PT), Oak Hammock (JAW), Rennie R. (DRMH) and Riding Mountain N.P., Man. (PAH). Four were noted Nov. 20 & 27 at Reliance (WCT) and Crow Cr., Sully Co., S.D. (RLH). Singles were at Eastend (JEP) and Elbow, Sask. (A. Schmidt). Total observations reported in the Region for Osprey were 74, Prairie Falcons 64 and Peregrines numbered 15 for the season. Prairie Falcons preferred to perch on the cross beams of utility poles at Grand Forks, N.D. (WEC).

GROUSE THROUGH CRANES — Five Spruce Grouse were at Meadow L., Oct. 5-12 (GCA); 17 at Squaw Rapids, Sask., Oct. 14 (WCH) and three were at Whiteshell P.P., Sept. 29. A flock of 15 Greater Prairie Chickens was carefully studied Aug. 2 s. of Ft. Pierre, S.D. (Joe Dunn). Other sightings in the state totaled 23 from Brown and Bon Homme counties, Oct. 21 - Nov. 12 (RE, RLS, TK). The only Sage Grouse report was of 100 at Eastend, Sask., Nov. 21 (J. McIntyre).

Only eight **Whooping Cranes** were seen migrating through Saskatchewan Sept. 23 - Oct. 21 and an immature (color-banded) was reported from McLean County, N.D. (MJC, RAS). Sandhill Crane migration was much lower than usual with the best report of 17,000 coming from McLean County.

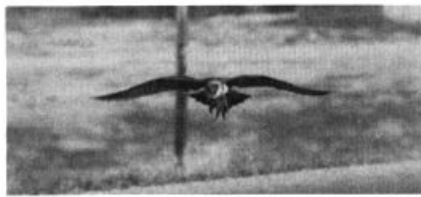
SHOREBIRDS — American Golden Plovers reached a peak of 250 Oct. 26 at Fargo (CAS, MAB). Sixty Com. Snipe were counted



Bewick's Swan foreground. Regina, Sask. November 2, 1978. Photo/F. W. Hahrman.

at Sand L., N.W.R., Oct. 11 Long billed Curlew were late Aug. 13 at Saskatoon (BCG, KMM). There was a concentration of 3000± Greater Yellowlegs on a lake near Valley City, N.D., Aug. 28 (RM). Twenty-five White-rumped Sandpipers were seen at Grand Forks Sept. 19 in sludge fields that contained the waste of potato processors (SOL, DOL). Most reporters preferred not to name dowitcher by species in the fall. Numbers of the combined species were better than usual — especially in Alberta. Fifty Buff-breasted Sandpipers were unusual near a Grand Forks sewage plant Aug. 4 (JFK). There were 1000± each of Marbled Godwits and Wilson's Phalaropes on Pelican I., Sask., Aug. 7 (EWK). Black-necked Stilts continued to wander E. of their range with two n. of L. Andes Aug. 24 (F. & W.S. *vide* RLH) and 26 at Belle Fourche Res., S.D., Sept. 17 (DB, G. G. Ross). One at Oak Hammock was photographed Oct. 21-29, making a third sighting for Manitoba (M. Sipeman).

JAEGERS AND GULLS — A sub-adult **Long-tailed Jaeger** was a surprise as it sat at the edge of a highway s.e. of Bismarck, N.D., Oct. 1, to become a first state record. It flew back and forth along the black-topped highway feeding on insects for five hours! The bird was tame, did not appear to be sick or injured and allowed observers within three ft until it flew away at dusk — possibly to the Oahe Res., Missouri R., a mile distant. (TAG, RNR). A second year Glaucous Gull was



Long-tailed Jaeger, Bismarck, N.D. Oct. 1, 1978. First state record. Photo/Tom Gatz.

special at Delta, Man., Aug. 18 - Nov. 4 (RFK, S. G. Sealy). An ad. Mew Gull with seven young was seen at Key L., Sask., Aug. 24 (BCG). The Franklin's Gull population increased across the Region and a migratory assembly of 50,000± collected on the Missouri R., near Yankton, S.D., Sept. 29-30 (WH, JEW).

OWLS AND WOODPECKERS — The first Snowy Owl of the season was seen Oct. 14 at Oak Hammock (GDG, RFK). In 78°F, Oct. 20, one was panting and holding its wings outward at Grand Forks while the photographer perspired and slapped mosquitoes (DOL). The birding team of Copland and Nero counted 11 Hawk Owls during the period and nine Great Grays Nov. 26 in s.e. Manitoba. One Hawk Owl was far s. in Kidder County, N.D., Nov. 19 (BER). A late Burrowing Owl was seen Oct. 9 n. of Rapid City (EMS). Single Barred Owls

were sighted at Ft McMurray Alta Sept 29 (BW) and at Waubay N.W.R., S.D., Oct. 18 & 26 (LLW). A Com. Nighthawk was brooding one small young on shale ground in Meade County, S.D., Aug. 10 (DAB). There were daily waves of 100± Com. Flickers Sept. 12-15 at Indian Head, Sask. (MS).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — There was a concentration of 115± E. Kingbirds at Biggar, Sask., Aug. 22 (GJW). Two Say's Phoebes were still flycatching from spruces at Saskatoon Sept. 20 (JBG) and a total of nine was unusual in the Calgary area Aug. 27-31 (RJB, CO).

Horned Larks seemed more plentiful this fall when 300 were at Slave L., Sept. 13 (EH) and 700 at Wildhorse, Alta., Oct. 8 (RJB). Many flocks of 150 were noted from the Missouri R., w. to the Black Hills, S.D., as they were driven about by the first snowstorm Nov. 10-15 (WH). Early in August 50,000± Swallows, 85% Tree and 15% Bank and Barn were found along 0.5 mi of L. Manitoba beach ridge near Delta (RWK, RFK). A Rough-winged Swallow nest with two well-feathered young was found n.e. of Rosetown, Sask., July 28 n. of the known breeding range (GJW). A flock of 7500± Purple Martins was staging at Grand Forks Aug. 27 - Sept. 6 (DOL, SOL) and a flock of 3000± was noted at Winnipeg Sept. 5 (NJC).

JAYS THROUGH WRENS — Gray Jays showed a sharp increase, with 18 sightings in the Black Hills, S.D. (RDM, NJE, EEM); 41 were seen at Key L., Sask., Aug. 24-31 (BCG) and 24 were at Pakowki L., Alta., Aug. 3 (WPN). Single Blue Jays were reported from Chester, Great Falls, Carterville and Crane, Mont., Oct. 4 - Nov. 14 (HMM, TCH). A 35-mi trip from Cutbank to Browning, Mont., produced 19 Com. Ravens Nov. 19 (HMM). Two Clark's Nutcrackers were seen in Hell Canyon, w. Custer Co., S.D., Nov. 14 (RAP). A combined flock of 70 Black-capped Chickadees and 50 Boreals was observed in White-shell P.P. (RWK).

Three Winter Wrens were at Grand Forks Sept. 5 & Oct. 9 (DOL, JFK) and one was late Oct. 7 at Delta, Man. (CWC). Single Cañon Wrens were seen Sept. 30 & Oct. 29 in the Black Hills (NRW, LRP).

THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS — There were 13 Gray Catbirds in a 0.25 mi count Sept. 24 at Gavin's Pt., S.D. (WH). Robins gathered in mass around Calgary before moving out quickly the night of Aug. 23 (DD). Five Varied Thrushes were with a flock of 30 robins Oct. 25 at Belle Fourche, S.D. (IW); sightings reported for the Region totalled ten. A **Wood Thrush** was banded at Brookings, S.D., Oct. 1 (GMF, NJH). Townsend's Solitaire wandered to the E when singles were photographed at Winnipeg Oct. 1 (GCP) and at Reston, Man., Nov. 4 (D. I. Braddell). The total of 100 Golden-crowned Kinglets reported was a small increase after three years of almost complete absence. Four young Cedar Waxwings were banded in a nest in Wascana P., Regina, Aug. 4 (LS) and 2000± were seen elsewhere in the city Aug. 15-22 (TMB). Three young were in a tree picking insects from a spider web at Ft. Peck, Mont., Aug. 18 (CMC). Northern Shrikes were at Prince Albert Nov. 17-18 and Emma L.,

Sask (BCG) while 60 sightings were more than usual in the s. part of the Region.

Philadelphia Vireo sightings increased with seven Aug. 6 - Sept. 13 at Fargo (LLF, MBB) one was unusual at Minot Aug. 28 (GBB) and at Grand Forks Aug. 30. One was very late Oct. 15 at Winnipeg (RFK). A Yellow-throated Vireo was a daily visitor during August at Minot (GBB) and one was at Fargo Aug. 25 & 27 (MAB, LLF). There were five sightings in s. Manitoba but no dates given.

WARBLERS — Warbler migration was early with no exceptional numbers or rarities; however, North Dakota and Saskatchewan had the best migration activity. A well-described ♂ **Prothonotary Warbler** was a rare find in a Regina park Sept. 13 (RK) where one had been seen May 17, 1969. Single Cape May Warblers were observed Aug. 20 - Sept. 20 at Saskatoon (BCG), Meadow Lake P.P. (BWI), Madge L. (JBG), Biggar, Sask. (GJW) and a very late one Nov. 20 at Saskatoon (JDK). A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was seen at Hope, N.D., Sept. 9 (DLK) and a Black-throated Green was sighted at Echo L., Sask., Aug. 29 (MAG); one each at Grand Forks (DOL), Fargo (LLF), and Hope, N.D., Aug. 19-31. A **Townsend's Warbler** was e. of its range at Calgary Aug. 21 (RJB). A total of 83 Blackpolls was counted at Moose Jaw Aug. 13 - Sept. 29 (EWK). A **Pine Warbler** was observed at Victoria Beach, Man., Sept. 2 (PT, PAH). The Connecticut, a bush warbler, was discovered Sept. 13-17 at Calgary (RJB); four immatures were seen at Moose Jaw Sept. 26 and another was late Oct. 1 at Fargo (LLF). Two Yellow-breasted Chats were n.w. of Spearfish, S.D., Aug. 9 (DB). Ten Canada Warblers were seen at Grand Forks Aug. 20; nine at Hope and Fargo Aug. 15-18; one was farther w. at Bismarck, N.D., Aug. 30 (RNR) and another at Yankton, S.D., Sept. 16 (JEW).

BLACKBIRDS AND FINCHES — Brewer's Blackbirds peaked at 3000± Sept. 5 at Saskatoon (JBG) and 2500 e. of Calgary Sept. 10-24 (RJB, ACS). A total of 21 Cardinals were sighted in s.e. South Dakota Aug. 21 - Nov. 11 (GMF, CAT, GLS, JEW, KJH). The unusual number of 19 Purple Finches was banded Nov. 4-30 at Bismarck, considering that the species normally moves singly or as a few with mixed sparrows (RNR). Large flocks of Pine Grosbeaks fed on cranberries around Cumberland House, Sask., Oct. 10 - Nov. 26 (WCH) but total numbers were down in the Region. White-winged Crossbill numbers were low in Saskatchewan even though the white spruce cone crop was excellent.

SPARROWS — Grasshopper Sparrows were noted only in South Dakota with eight birds reported Aug. 5 - Sept. 17 (JLM, DB, WH). One Baird's Sparrow was seen Aug. 7 at Langdon, Alta. (WEH) and a group of five was at Moose Jaw, Sask., Aug. 30 (MAR, EWK). Single Le Conte's Sparrows were at Regina Aug. 18 (MB); one was on an exposed weed among mixed sparrows at Grand Forks Oct. 7 and another at L. Alice, Deuel Co., S.D., Oct. 9 (BKH). A Sharp-tailed was a rare find at L. Alice Sept. 15 (BKH). A Swamp Sparrow was singing at Key L., in the forested area of Saskatchewan Aug. 20 (BCG); and one was late at Grand Forks Oct. 15 (GSL). A total of

90 McCown's Longspurs was seen Aug 3 at Pakowki L., Alta. (WPN) Six Smith's Longspurs were in Grand Forks sludge fields Oct. 23 (JFK) and 25 were usual in Deuel County, Oct. 20 - Nov. 4 (BKH).

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SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

/Frances Williams

Fall migration was characterized as "normal" to "dull" except at Tulsa and the Lubbock — south plains area of west Texas. Good movements of raptors, shorebirds and warblers were observed at the former locality while thrushes and warblers were numerous at the latter. Regionwide there was little frontal activity and few days when migrating birds concentrated. The best day in Texas was Sep-

were very early. A **Red-necked Grebe** which arrived in Crosby County, Tex., Nov. 12 was still present at the end of the period (KH) and one appeared in Tarrant County, Tex., Dec. 5 (BC *et al.*). Horned Grebes were present throughout the Region but were less numerous than usual. Two in Howard County, Tex., Nov. 26 provided a first record there (SC). Two Eared Grebes in Rush County, Kans., Sept. 1 were early (SS). Rosche estimated 8000 W. Grebes were on L. McCaughy, Neb., Oct. 14, so it is not surprising that small groups of two or three wandered as far e. as Tarrant County, Nov. 4 and Tulsa Oct. 26 - Nov. 5. The usual flocks of 2000+ White Pelicans

were on several n.e. Oklahoma reservoirs in early October. Pelicans normally just fly over the Dallas - Ft. Worth area but 35 spent Oct. 6 - Nov. 8 at L. Benbrook. There were 233 White Pelicans on L. Ellsworth, Caddo Co., Okla., Nov. 12 (JB). Double-crested Cormorants were unusually numerous and widespread. Olivaceous Cormorants in Tarrant County, Aug. 10 - Sept. 16 constituted a first record (BC, m.ob.). A flock of 26 Olivaceous Cormorants at L. Conroe, Montgomery and Walker Cos., Tex., Aug. 21 was the largest group ever recorded in the area. In Tom Green County 12 Olivaceous Cormorants were seen Aug. 5 (CCW).

(CRB), and Fredericksburg, Tex., Nov. 11 (E & KM). Snowy Egrets at Crescent Lake N.W.R., Neb., July 30 - Oct. 1 (CFZ) and Washington County Sept. 24 (MD, BG) were noteworthy. In a flock of 60 Black-crowned Night Herons at Washington County Sept. 20, only about a fourth were immature. A Least Bittern was found dead at Alpine, Tex., in late September (JFS). In Trinity County, Tex., 300 Wood Storks and 15 Roseate Spoonbills were present the first week of August. White-faced Ibises were common throughout the Region the largest flock occurring at L. Livingston where 140 were present Aug. 5 (TG). Three in Sheridan County, Neb., Sept. 2 provided a first record for the sandhills area (RCR). Six White Ibises were at L. Livingston Aug. 5. A large assemblage of wading birds gathered at L. Conroe Oct. 13. Included were ten Wood Storks, ten White-faced Ibises, four White Ibises and four Roseate Spoonbills plus many herons and egrets.

WATERFOWL — A long Whistling Swan visited North Platte, N.W.R., Neb., Nov. 6 (M & SM). A **Brant** was discovered among 200 Canada Geese at Hagerman Oct. 18 (KN, E & EW). November 14 a spectacular migration of Snow Geese was sighted from a Tulsa parking lot where observers counted flying Vs as fast as they could and estimated >1000 birds. At the Plattsmouth Waterfowl Area, Neb., an estimated 125,000 Snow Geese were present Nov. 20-26. Adult birds predominated with at least 13 adults for each immature. A Ross' Goose was present in Lyon County, Kans., Nov. 21 (DGE). A Cinnamon Teal was sighted in Lincoln Sept. 9 (DG). A Com. Goldeneye spent the entire summer on the N. Platte R., Keith County, Neb. (RCR). A single Greater Scaup was present at the Plattsmouth Ref., Nov. 19 (AS) and 29 were counted in Lyon County Nov. 4 (MS). Surf Scoters were discovered in Sheridan County, Neb., Oct. 29 (RCR) and Oklahoma City the same day (JN). Hooded Mergansers were present in Coffey, Sedgwick and Johnson Cos., during November. At Hagerman Ref., 105 Hooded Mergansers were counted Nov. 18. On Nov. 23 at least 90 Red-breasted Mergansers rested at Hagerman, where observers had never seen more than four at one time (CRB).

RAPTORS — At Nacogdoches, Tex., David Wolf made a special effort to count migrating raptors passing within a mile of his home Aug 15 - Oct. 31. In addition to 528 Broad-winged Hawks, he counted 96 hawks of seven species. The peak raptor count this year on the



tember 23 when cool, moist air moved across the state from west to east. In Kansas September 28 marked the appearance of many migrants. At Omaha the fall was mild and warm and migrants never appeared in large numbers. Except in those areas of Nebraska where the freeze-up came early, there were many "latest ever" records and at the end of the period there was still no build up of wintering birds.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — Common Loons at Wichita, Kans., Aug. 10-19 and Oolagah Res., Rogers Co., Okla., Aug. 30

HERONS THROUGH SPOONBILLS — A Little Blue Heron was observed at Plattsmouth, Neb., Aug. 1. A Green Heron at Altus, Okla., Nov. 25 was late (JDT). Unusually large flocks of Cattle Egrets were present in the w. third of Texas in September and October. In Nebraska Cattle Egrets were seen at Omaha Aug. 29 and near the South Dakota line (WH) in early September. Cattle Egrets remained in Lyon County, Kans., until Oct. 30. A flock comprising 300 individuals stayed in Washington County, Okla., Sept. 1-17. Very late Great Egrets were in Washington County Nov. 4 (ED), Hagerman N.W.R., Tex., Nov. 23

Nebraska Pine Ridge was Sept 20 when 72 birds of seven species were logged (RCR)

The White-tailed Kites which nested at Nacogdoches fledged one young. The family was last seen July 23 (SL, GH). A Mississippi Kite visited Lincoln Sept. 10 (DG). A Goshawk was seen at Tulsa Oct. 13-15 (m.ob.). Wolf counted 45 Sharp-shinned Hawks and only three Cooper's Hawks. There were ten accipiters he did not identify but it is unlikely that many of these were Cooper's. Most contributors noted that Cooper's Hawks were seldom reported.

A small kettle of 12 Broad-winged Hawks circled over Pine Ridge, Dawes Co., Neb., Sept. 29 (DJR). This species is very scarce so far w. Also noteworthy was a lone Broad-winged Hawk in Gray County, Tex., Sept. 28 (EW). A flight of 400 Swainson's Hawks sailed over Eldorado, Tex., Oct. 3 (CCW). This was the largest Swainson's migration in w. Texas in many years. Seltman counted 20 Rough-legged Hawks in Pawnee County, Kans., Nov. 30. He theorized they were moving ahead of an approaching snowstorm which hit that night. Good numbers of Ferruginous Hawks hunted in the Nebraska sandhills in September but were scarce in the remainder of the Region. A Gray Hawk perched in a cottonwood by the Rio Grande in Big Bend N.P., Oct. 7 (CK).

The Tulsa Audubon Society is to be commended for their successful fund drive to establish an 102-acre Bald Eagle sanctuary at L. Keystone. At least 60 eagles winter at that location.

Wolf sighted five Ospreys, a surprising number for an urban area. A Prairie Falcon harassed Swainson's Hawks which were hunting grasshoppers behind Seltman's tractor Sept. 15. He observed 20 Prairie Falcons during the period in Pawnee, Rush and Ness counties. Single Prairie Falcons visited Coffey County, Kans., Nov. 6 (JS) and Tulsa Nov. 4 (ES, EH). A total of 12 Peregrine Falcons was reported. Donald Vannoy drove down a highway behind a Peregrine several miles at 55 m p.h. While feeding cattle, Seltman observed a Peregrine catching a mouse just a stone's throw away. An Aplomado Falcon was independently identified by two parties at Alpine, Tex., Oct. 6. The observers determined that there had been no escapes from the breeding chambers at the Chihauhaun Desert Research Institute (CK, TG, AR).

GROUSE THROUGH RAILS — At Crescent L., a resident population of Sharp-tailed Grouse peaked at 700± in early August. This was only about 2/3 the fall population of a year ago. The severe hailstorms in July and August were thought to be major causes of the decrease. At the same location, 20 dead Ring-necked Pheasants were picked up following a hailstorm Aug. 14 (CFZ). Small groups of Whooping Cranes comprising a total of 17 individuals rested briefly at central Kansas refuges Oct. 21 - Nov. 10. Sandhill Cranes moved S on a wide front Nov. 21-27. One at Tulsa Nov. 21 was the first at that location since November 1960, and flocks at Arlington and Kerrville were also noteworthy.

Zeillemaker estimated about 4000 Soras were inhabiting the marshes at Crescent L., in early September but by Sept. 14 nearly all had departed. At the end of the month Soras were abundant in marshes as far s. as c. Texas. The Black Rail reported in Pawnee County in July

was located again Aug 31 (SS) At Cheyenne Bottoms a Com Gallinule was observed Aug 9-12.

SHOREBIRDS — Piping Plovers appeared at Hagerman Aug. 19-25 (CRB), L. Livingston July 30 (TG) and Oklahoma City Aug. 5-6 (JN). The paucity of reports of Snowy Plovers is alarming. A vagrant Snowy was discovered in Coffey County Oct. 22 (JS). Many Mountain Plovers fed near the runways at Goodfellow Air Force Base at San Angelo, Tex., in late November. An unusual fall concentration of 40 Am. Golden Plovers was located in Coffey County Oct. 8. Ruddy Turnstones visited Rogers County, Okla., Aug. 17 & Sept. 19, and Tarrant County Aug. 19. At Lincoln, Am. Woodcocks were found Sept. 3 & Oct. 1 (DG) but they arrived much later in Johnson County, Kans., Nov. 5, Dallas Oct. 24 and Nacogdoches Nov. 7 (MWO). Upland Sandpipers were heard flying over Alpine every night Aug. 26 - Sept. 25. Birders who do not know the flight call of this bird miss one of the greatest pleasures of living on the plains, and are also unaware of how abundant this species really is. Solitary Sandpipers were much more common than usual in the Nebraska sandhills and remained until the late date of Oct. 3. A Willet at Tulsa Oct. 15 provided a first fall record there (ES, EH). Two breeding-plumaged Red Knots were sighted in Box Butte County, Neb., Aug. 4 (RCR). A flock of 35 Dunlins arrived at Hagerman Nov. 23 and some were still present at the end of the period. Two were carefully studied at Crescent L., Aug. 25 (ER, CFZ). Sanderlings at N. Platte Ref., Sept. 22 & Oct. 3. Tulsa Aug. 23 & 25, Hagerman Oct. 21 and Randall County, Tex., Oct. 9 & Nov. 19 were noteworthy. Two Short-billed Dowitchers were carefully identified in Dawes County, Neb., Sept. 2 (RCR *et al.*). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were noted at Oklahoma City Sept. 2-4, Tulsa Sept. 10 & 20, Hagerman Aug. 25, Tarrant County July 29 - Sept. 23. Marbled Godwits visited Oklahoma City Aug. 23 (WI), Lubbock Aug. 20 & Sept. 18 (CS *et al.*) and Tarrant County Sept. 16 (R & KJ). Five Hudsonian Godwits were present in Barton County, Kans., Aug. 9 (SK). A Ruff was discovered at Nacogdoches Aug. 28 (DF). At least 75 N. Phalaropes were spinning about at Crescent L., Aug. 27 and 25 were in Randall County Oct. 1. Elsewhere very small flocks were counted although the birds roamed widely.

GULLS, TERNS — A Glaucous Gull arrived Nov. 23 at Oklahoma City, where at least one seems to winter every year (JSh). A California Gull was discovered at Oklahoma City Sept. 9, providing a first state record (JGr). A Laughing Gull was carefully identified at San Angelo Aug. 5 (TM). In the past ten years the status of Bonaparte's Gull has changed from "rare transient" to "common migrant and winter resident". In Coffey County 300 were present Nov. 25 and >50 were at Oklahoma City at the end of the period. It appears that **Sabine's Gulls** may be following the same pattern, as they are now reported somewhere in the Region each fall or winter season. This year there were records at Crescent L., Oct. 3-11, Cheyenne Bottoms Sept. 10 - Oct. 1, Osage County, Okla., Oct. 14, Hagerman Nov. 11. Least Terns have decreased drastically over the past three years

and there were only three reports this season. Black Terns were less numerous this fall than usual. Is this species also becoming a candidate for the Blue List?

PIGEONS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Band-tailed Pigeons were observed at Hueco Tanks S.P., Tex., Oct. 21 & Nov. 10 (KZ). At least 12 Long-eared Owls were inhabiting the woodland at Branched Oak L., Lancaster Co., Neb., at the end of the period. A single bird was found at L. Overholser Nov. 30. Wandering Saw-whet Owls met with disaster at Omaha where one was found with a broken wing, and Tulsa where an injured bird brought to the zoo died a few days later. There were only four previous records of this species in Oklahoma. Amazed birders in the Texas Panhandle heard a Whip-poor-will calling in Hutchinson County Sept. 23 (PA *et al.*) Chuck-will's-widows are rare in Oklahoma in the fall but were sighted twice at Tulsa. Chimney Swifts continue to expand N and W in Nebraska. They now nest every year in Crawford where the post-breeding population was 13. A **White-throated Swift** roosted on a building at Kansas State University Nov. 1, providing a first state record (JZ, SF, m. ob.)

The sighting of a possible Mexican Black-crested Coquette hummingbird in Big Bend N.P. by several experienced birdwatchers had a rather comical ending. What was thought to be a hummingbird with an obvious white band above the tail was observed on several occasions Aug. 19-21 by several people. Park naturalist, Bobbie Pettit, may have cleared up the whole mystery when, Sept. 16, she saw a hovering animal with a white band above the tail. Only it also had a curled proboscis and "several pairs of spidery long legs." After much observation of the large sphinx moth she agreed it did act and look just like a hummingbird! (This incident illustrated why the editor usually neglects to publish exceptional sightings made by vacationing birders. It is so easy to see what one wants to see.)

S.A.

KINGFISHERS — Clear, swift-running non-polluted streams are the requirements of Green Kingfishers, and creeks of the Texas "hill country" are ideal. John Galley took a canoe trip down the lower reaches of the much-maligned Pecos R., and reported dozens of Green Kingfishers from Independence Cr., to Pandale Crossing. The Muellers of Kerrville see up to five Green Kingfishers each time they bird on the Guadalupe, Medina, Nueces and Frio Rivers and tributaries. Green Kingfishers, in contrast to the larger Belted Kingfishers, sit or fly very low, close to the water. And their call, instead of being raucous and noisy, is a quiet clicking sound like two pebbles being struck together — in fact, the bird will often answer such an imitation.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH CORVIDS — A Red-bellied Woodpecker was discovered in Potter County, Tex., Nov. 25 (BZ, KZ). A ♀ Williamson's Sapsucker in Presidio County, Tex., Sept. 5 was very early (KB). A Lewis' Woodpecker stopped briefly at Midland Nov. 23 (PN). In Nacogdoches Sept. 1, Wolf watched a remarkable evening flight of fly-

catchers as 644 E Kingbirds and 157 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers assembled in a woodland area. A first record was provided by a W. Kingbird at Nacogdoches Oct. 6 (DF). A Cassin's Kingbird was noted in Crosby County Sept. 30 (M&RL). Great Crested Flycatchers, normally very rare in w. Texas, were seen in Crosby, Lubbock, Midland and El Paso counties Aug. 30 - Sept. 26. One was netted and photographed at Crescent L., Aug. 24. In a desert canyon near El Paso an E. Phoebe chased a Black Phoebe, giving observers the opportunity to compare two species which they rarely see. A Vermilion Flycatcher visited Tarrant County Oct. 15 (R&RJ). Outstanding concentrations of swallows included 1000 Barn Swallows in Cherry County, Neb., Sept. 24, 1500 Barn Swallows at Possum Kingdom L. Tex., Sept. 22 and 1000 Tree Swallows at Amarillo Sept. 3-10.

The jay migration was remarkable in Texas. Large flocks of Blue Jays moved through Knox County and Hagerman Ref., in late September and early October. Steller's Jays visited Amarillo, El Paso, Hueco Tanks S.P., Chinati Mts., and Davis Mts. Scrub Jays moved into Amarillo, Hueco Tanks and El Paso in good numbers. At Amarillo, Barry Zimmer was astounded when 150 Piñon Jays circled his home Sept. 16. A flock comprising 30 birds was located in Hutchinson County Sept. 24 (PA), one was found at Buffalo L. Refuge Oct. 1 (BZ), three were present in Crosby County Oct. 7 (M&RL), and four visited Midland Nov. 3-4 (FW, BF). Piñon Jays arrived at the Miller Ranch near Valentine, Tex., on the early date of Sept. 16 and large flocks were present in the Davis Mts., at the end of the period.

CHICKADEES THROUGH WRENS — Mountain Chickadees arrived at El Paso and Hueco Tanks in early October. A few Red-breasted Nuthatches were scattered throughout the Region during late September and early October but did not tarry. White-breasted Nuthatches were sojourning at El Paso and Hueco Tanks at the end of the period. Winter Wrens were observed from Sarpy County, Neb., s. to Oklahoma City and Ft. Worth during October and November. Two Carolina Wrens at Midland Nov. 13 provided the first record there since 1967 (FW).

MIMICS THROUGH VIREOS — A family of Mockingbirds was observed near Keystone, Neb., Aug. 3 (RCR). A Sage Thrasher which was netted and photographed at Crescent L., Aug. 24 provided a first Refuge record (ER, MZ). Another wandered n.e. to Wichita County, Tex., Nov. 10 (LS). Wood Thrushes appeared at Ft. Worth Sept. 30 (MP) and Buffalo L. Refuge Oct. 29 (m.ob.). Only two Wood Thrushes were located in Sarpy County, where all thrushes were scarce. Swainson's Thrushes were recorded in Crosby, Lubbock and Midland counties. A Gray-cheeked Thrush was found in Crosby County Oct. 8 (KH). A Veery was located at Waterloo, Neb., Sept. 21 and one was banded in Cowley County, Kans., Sept. 17 (MT). Four Mountain Bluebirds in Lyon County Nov. 5 provided a first local record (MS) as did one in Wichita County, Tex., Nov. 4 (LS). Seven in Barber County, Kans., Nov. 11 were noteworthy. It was a Mountain Bluebird year in w. Texas where many flocks foraged in areas of "cedar brakes". Townsend's Solitaires were

widely reported in the Texas s plains during October but were absent in November. After two years of scarcity, Golden-crowned Kinglets appeared in fair numbers. Sprague's Pipits were located in Hutchinson County Sept. 24 and Tom Green County in late November. In Sheridan County, Neb., a N. Shrike appeared on the early date of Sept. 20. A Phainopepla at Muleshoe N.W.R., Tex., Sept. 3 was surprising (KH *et al.*). Philadelphia Vireos were recorded at Omaha Sept. 15, Oklahoma City Sept. 23, Nacogdoches Oct. 11 and Ft. Worth Oct. 8.

WARBLERS — Warbler reports fell into three groups: new records, species normally not seen in fall although possibly common in spring, extremely late records. First records included Black-throated Green in Payne County, Okla., Oct. 11 (DI), Prairie at Tulsa Aug. 31 (HE, JC, m.ob.), Blackburnian at Muleshoe N.W.R., Sept. 3 (m.ob.), Canada in Crosby County Sept. 16 (RE). Species usually not occurring in fall included Golden-winged in Randall County Sept. 23 (NE) and Nacogdoches Sept. 26 (DW), Tennessee at Lubbock Sept. 16 (MM) and Oklahoma City Sept. 27 (JN), Black-throated Gray at Ft. Worth Oct. 9 (MP), Palm at Buffalo L. Refuge Nov. 23 (BZ, KZ) and Midland Oct. 22 (FW), Grace's at El Paso Sept. 30 (KZ). Very late migrants were Black-throated Blue at Lincoln Oct. 19, Am. Redstart at Tulsa Nov. 17 (JC, HB), Black-and-white at Lubbock Nov. 6 (MSR), Black-throated Green in Crosby County Nov. 8 (RE) and Montgomery County, Tex., Oct. 21 (RMM), N. Waterthrush at Buffalo L. Refuge Nov. 23 (KZ, BZ), Yellow-throated at Huntsville, Tex., Oct. 14 (KB).

ICTERIDS THROUGH TANAGERS — A **Scott's Oriole** was found at Buffalo L. Refuge Sept. 23 (KS). At Ft. Worth, Midge Randolph had the unique experience of seeing as many as seven N. Orioles (both Bullock's and Baltimore) competing at hummingbird feeders. Rusty Blackbirds were found at Buffalo L. Refuge Nov. 19 & 23 (BZ, KZ). A Com. Grackle visited feeders at Big Bend N.P., Nov. 27-28 (RD, JS). A Summer Tanager at Ft. Worth Nov. 13 was exceptionally late (MP). An imm. ♂ Scarlet Tanager was found in Hutchinson County Sept. 24 (PA).

FRINGILLIDS — A Rose-breasted Grosbeak tarried at Ft. Worth until Nov. 4 (WP). Black-headed Grosbeaks were seen at Wichita Oct. 6-8 (DV) and in Pawnee County Sept. 27 (SS). A Blue Grosbeak was sighted in Lyon County Sept. 14 (JS) and one at Nacogdoches Nov. 7 was very late (DW). A ♂ Painted Bunting was banded at Huntsville on the very late date of Oct. 28 (RJ). A Dickcissel remained in Sarpy County until Oct. 3 (MW). The only Evening Grosbeaks were in Nebraska: Lincoln Aug. 19, Crescent L., Oct. 28, Sarpy County Nov. 18 & 22. Only three reports of Purple Finch and six of Pine Siskin were received.

Farmers on the w. Texas plains have almost stopped growing milo and sunflowers and in most areas fall rains came too late to produce a good crop of weed seeds so "upland" sparrows did not linger. Those species that frequent riparian or marshy habitats remained in good numbers. Le Conte's Sparrows were unusually common in Sarpy and Douglas counties Oct. 1-21. Two at Buffalo L. Refuge Nov. 23 were the first at that locality since the

early '50s (KZ, BZ). A Baird's Sparrow was sighted in Crosby County Oct. 15 (M&RL). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was noted in Osage County, Okla., Oct. 19 (EH). Clay-colored Sparrows remained at Huntsville until the end of the period. A White-throated Sparrow arrived early at Lubbock Sept. 27 and a Fox Sparrow in Crosby County Sept. 16 was likewise early.

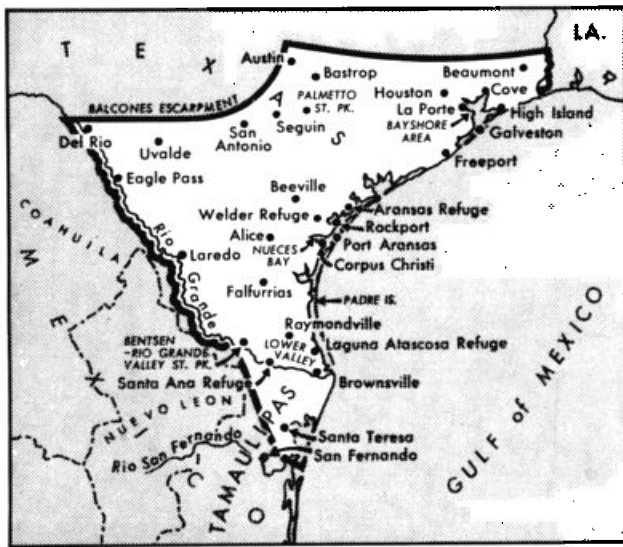
Lapland Longspurs arrived at Crescent L., Nov. 8 and 200± were present by Nov. 12. Large flocks of Chestnut-collared Longspurs passed over Crescent L., Sept. 23-30. Snow Buntings arrived at Lincoln Oct. 28 and flocks comprising 60 birds were present by the end of the period.

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SOUTH TEXAS REGION

/Fred S. Webster, Jr.

Fall migration failed to distinguish itself as either outstandingly excellent or poor. Meteorological occurrences contributed the expected highs and lows in birds per any given land unit, depending on whether migration was in progress at the time of wind shift or precipitation. The live oak grove at High Island on the upper coast again proved its worth as a haven for reluctant migrants pushed toward the beach by northerly winds. Migrants were less conspicuous on the central coast where the coastline gently curves to the south and west providing, perhaps, a less hazardous passage than the trans-Gulf route and less cause for the accumulation of stalled migrants in fall. Appropriately, the land area adjacent to the "curve" is called the Coastal



Bend. Temperatures were near seasonal normal averages, so it remained for rainfall — or lack of it — to provide material for comment. Unusually generous precipitation in September broke an incipient drought in most areas, dry cold fronts in October retarded progress, and November rains re-established the moist trend. By the end of this time period, full water levels had been restored at such coastal sanctuaries as Aransas and Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuges, and wild food and ground cover were good. Less improvement was noted in the upper reaches of the Rio Grande Delta where, according to Arvin, "the most severe drought conditions of the century" had prevailed, especially in Starr and Hidalgo counties, until showers began in late August. In Cameron County most low areas filled with water for the first time in two years. Ponds failed to fill in Hidalgo County but vegetation (and insect populations) "responded vigorously to the increased moisture," and by mid-September conditions were excellent for migrating birds.

Some stories that are worth a reading emerge from our mound of statistics. Arvin related that rainy spells induced two spring-like groundings of nocturnal passerine migrants in the Rio Grande Delta, September 22-23 and October 7-8. The latter apparently accounted for a television tower kill at La Feria, Cameron County, discovered October 14. "The tower is located in a young citrus orchard and tracks indicated that most of the dead birds had been eaten by coyotes. Often only a few contour feathers adhering to a disturbed spot in the muddy orchard indicated where a bird had lain. All such spots were connected by coyote tracks. It was impossible to determine the exact magnitude of the kill but it is likely that several hundred birds were involved."

Even a mass kill can scarcely match the pathos of a lone Prothonotary Warbler, apparently exhausted, seeking as evening approaches a place of rest on a fishing boat homebound. Alas, the rails were lined with eager birders and, it is reported, confusion drove the bird from its brief perch, whereupon it circled the boat until it could no longer keep pace with it. The outcome was not known, but it happened August 26, 35 miles out of Port Aransas. One turns with relief to a story by Mrs. McCracken, searching for Buff-breasted

Sandpipers in a field near Corpus Christi. "A man on a green tractor was pulling a harrow and working the field from end to end, accompanied by Cattle Egrets marching alongside and in the wake of the tractor, and hundreds of Laughing Gulls also walking along or flying low, all turning with military precision as the machine turned and marching back again, trip after trip."

GREBES THROUGH IBISES

— A rare Horned

Grebe was seen at Austin Oct. 28 (EK) - Nov. 5 (PS). A few Cory's Shearwaters and Masked Boobies were again seen about 45 mi out of Port Aransas Aug. 19 - Oct. 21. An Audubon's Shearwater was seen 20+ mi out Oct. 21 (CE). An ad. **White-tailed Tropicbird** appeared briefly at the Port Aransas jetty Oct. 5 (TL). A concentration of 1500± Double-crested Cormorants was at San Antonio's Braunig L., Oct. 21 (JAM *et al.*). Olivaceous Cormorants were seen in breeding plumage (white facial and neck feathers, ear tufts) as early as Oct. 19 at Corpus Christi (KM *et al.*) and Nov. 4 at Braunig L. (WS). This may seem strange to the uninitiated, but in Texas this species breeds from late January to late October and may begin courtship by late December. White-faced Ibis is becoming increasingly common as a visitor to the Austin area. Flocks of 15 at Austin Aug. 30 (RAR) and 27 at San Marcos Sept. 15 (WS) surpassed previous counts.

WATERFOWL — Nearly 100 Canada Geese were seen at Bayside, Refugio Co., Sept. 10 (J&BR), almost a record early date for Texas. Two Mottled Ducks at Austin Aug. 30 were out of range (RAR).

S.A.

On Nov. 28 DeSante telephoned the writer from the Rio Grande Delta to report that he and Bennett had checked out a **Bahama Duck (White-cheeked Pintail), *Anas bahamensis*** — a Texas first — at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R. Birders were alerted through A.B.A. headquarters and the S trek began. A detailed description and sketches by DeSante followed. Meanwhile Emanuel sent an account by Ann Forster of Atlanta, Ga., whose party (MC, D&AF, NT) presumably was first to identify the duck Nov. 20. According to Forster, a small group of Mottled Ducks plus one "slightly smaller companion" had flown across the windshield of the Forster's van and stopped to feed and preen about 50 yds away. The wary, alert attitude of the pintail, the excellent condition of its plumage, and the fact that this species is not kept in the area zoo all argue for a wild bird. The duck was still present in December.

Four Wood Ducks s. of Benavides Oct. 21, were first recorded for Duval County (CS). Redhead and Canvasback numbers were low at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., apparently owing to lack of plant growth in the lagoon (GU). An Oldsquaw was seen at Austin Nov. 11 (EK), and a Surf Scoter Nov. 25 (JS).

HAWKS — First White-tailed Kites (3) for Gonzales County were seen at Palmetto S.P., Sept. 17 (DC, MG). A Swallow-tailed Kite, rare in fall, was seen in n. San Antonio Aug. 25 (SH) & 26 (RE). Rowlett again conducted a "close-site study of Broad-winged Hawk migration through the Texas Coastal Bend," Sept. 30 & Oct. 1. The total counts from all observation posts showed 11,924 raptors on Saturday and 4041 on Sunday. Of these totals, 97 percent were Broad-winged Hawks. This year the behavior of the birds provided more interest than numbers. "On both mornings, all birds recorded 8:30-9:30 a.m. were judged to be birds that had roosted in the riparian woods and brush (mainly along the Nueces R.) . . . They were lifting up around observers, forming small kettles on the morning's first thermals, and slowly consolidating — sometimes drifting up-or down-river, eventually disappearing to the S or SW. On Saturday, after this first hour of activity, no numbers of *Buteos* were seen again until almost 1:30 p.m. As the morning's scattered clouds built up into massive flat-bottomed cumulus, observers began to spot numbers of hawks passing extremely high overhead." Some were not visible to the naked eye. Between 5:00 and 5:30 p.m. hawks were observed dropping, sometimes spectacularly, to treetop level as the search for overnight roosts began. The behavioral pattern on Sunday was much the same (RAR).

While watchers failed to spot a truly major flight, it was noted that none was reported in Texas this fall. Rowlett speculated that weather generally favorable for flight, which prevailed during the two weeks on either side of the count weekend, could have permitted a relatively inconspicuous passage of those huge numbers of Broad-winged Hawks which have come to be expected for this period. Supporting this hypothesis was a report of 22,000 on the now famous Nueces R. bottomlands earlier in the week (DB), and 13,800 Sept. 25 and 14,200 Sept. 26 near Mission in the Rio Grande Delta (GD). An ad. Gray Hawk was on Santa Ana N.W.R., Sept. 22, and an adult and immature there Sept. 23 (JCA). A Golden Eagle at Warren L., Houston area, Oct. 21 was noteworthy (R&MB).

CRANES, RAILS —

S.A.

Sixty-eight adult and six juv. Whooping Cranes were on Aransas N.W.R., by Dec. 15. Probable arrival dates and numbers were: Oct. 14 (19) & 25 (26 plus six juveniles), Nov. 7 (15) & 20 (4), and Dec. 9 (4). All eight immatures banded last year returned to the refuge. An immature which was banded in 1977 but was not seen at Aransas N.W.R. last winter — then subsequently appeared in Kansas in the spring and in Wood-Buffer P., this summer — is now on the refuge (SL).

Soras, plentiful at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., in past years, were almost non-existent. (GU).

SHOREBIRDS, GULLS — Shorebird migration was generally good, especially on the upper coast, where Stilt Sandpipers were unusually common and widespread, arriving early and staying late (WC, TLE *et al.*). About 200 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found in a plowed field near Corpus Christi Aug. 25 (KM). A single bird was observed on a Jefferson County beach Oct. 14 (DTD, TLE & JGM), apparently driven there by a strong front. A **Red Phalarope** in "mostly summer plumage" was photographed at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., July 15 (MK); two birds were said to have been present days before. A winter-



Red Phalarope, Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., Tex. July 15, 1978. Photo/Mark Kasprzyk.

plumaged bird was at Austin's sewage ponds, Nov. 4 (J&BR). Austin's second **Sabine's Gull** was discovered Oct. 2 (GL, ph.) at the same sewage pond where a September 1969 sighting was made.



Immature Sabine's Gull, Travis County, Tex. Oct. 2, 1978. Photo/G. Lasley.

ANIS THROUGH SWALLOWS — A migration of 1000± Groove-billed Anis in September was the largest Unland has witnessed in 20 years at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R. A Lesser Nighthawk was seen and heard at Baytown Aug. 9 (DTD); this species is a spring visitor to the upper coast. *Empidonax* flycatchers reached peak numbers at Boca Chica, near the mouth of the Rio Grande, Sept. 20-21. About 50 birds were in a 5-acre plot where Arvin was netting and banding. Of 10 *Empidonax* individuals banded, nine "keyed out" as Traill's Flycatchers. Arvin recorded and banded a singing W. Wood Pewee near McAllen Aug. 22-24. This was his first certified Western in 20+ years of birding the Rio Grande Delta. Olive-sided Flycatchers again provided the big flycatcher story on the upper coast; 41 were found on a coastal run, Aug. 19 (DTD, TLE & JGM). Hundreds of Purple Martins were grounded by Tropical Storm *Amelia* at Port Isabel July 31 (JCA).

NUTHATCHES THROUGH WAX-WINGS — The season's first Red-breasted Nuthatch was reported at High I., Oct. 7 (CS). This species was not reported inland until Oct. 23 at Austin (FSW). A flock of 12+ Am. Robins was seen at Corpus Christi Aug. 28 (EP) an extremely early date. No more were reported from the central coast until late November. Next earliest reported were 75 at Houston's City Hall Oct. 7 (TLE). A Veery, rare in fall, remained at High I., Sept. 9-30 (TLE & JGM). For the second successive year Golden-crowned Kinglets were extremely scarce. A lone early Cedar Waxwing was seen at Austin Oct. 15 (CS).

WARBLERS — Morgan indicated that warblers made the season worthwhile on the upper coast, pointing to a record 32 species in September. A **Colima Warbler**, apparently a female or young of the year, was called up at Santa Ana N.W.R., Oct. 4 (JCA). Apparently this represents a first record for Texas outside of the Big Bend. Arvin explained that the Colima is a common breeding bird within 150 air-line mi to the w. and sw. of the refuge; however, the species normally migrates SW to w. Mexico. An imm. Townsend's Warbler at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., Sept. 11, provided a third record (first in fall) for the Rio Grande Delta (JCA, DW *et al.*). A **Connecticut Warbler** was discovered (JGM, TLE, ph.) at High I., Sept. 16, and was later accepted by the Texas Ornithological Society's Bird Records Committee as the first documented record for Texas. The committee considers this warbler an "extremely rare migrant" in Texas despite occasional reported sightings over the years in the e. half of the state. A female was recorded as collected in Cooke County in 1878 but the location of the specimen is not known.

FRINGILLIDS — Purple Finches and Pine Siskins were scarce. An early Savannah Sparrow was at Austin Sept. 24 (CS), but numbers did not appear in the Region before mid-October. A good influx of Le Conte's Sparrows was indicated for the Austin area in early November. A Clay-colored Sparrow on Bolivar Pen., Oct. 14 (DTD, TLE & JGM) was a rare find. A Fox Sparrow was seen from a fishing boat 20 mi out of Port Aransas Oct. 21 (CE); one may wonder at its destination, since few of this species reach the tip of Texas. A Swamp Sparrow, working the boulders along the Port Aransas jetty Oct. 5 (KM) was not in customary habitat and apparently migrating off or along the shoreline.

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NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION

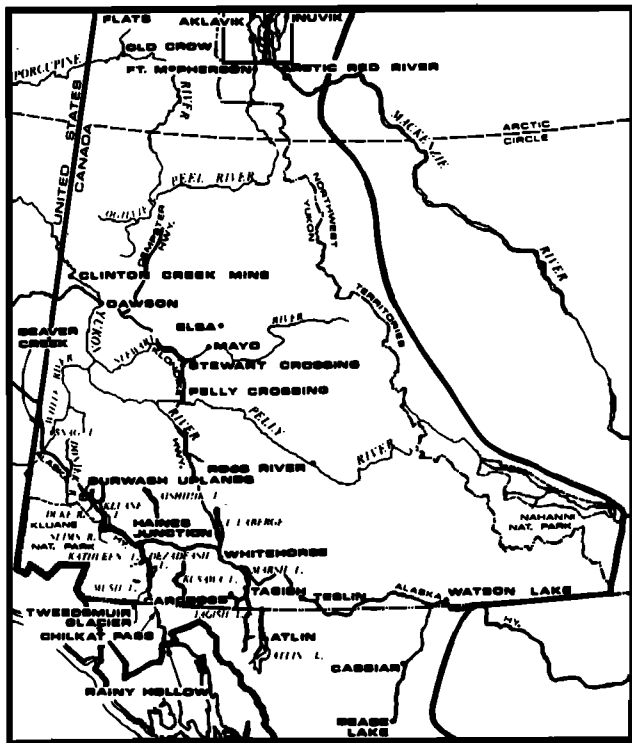
/Helmut Grünberg

It becomes exceedingly difficult to correlate temperatures and bird occurrences when one looks at the extreme differences in temperatures during the fall season: in Whitehorse +30° and -34°C. The autumn season, which is usually quite short, was prolonged by a relatively mild October (3.5° as opposed to the normal 0.7°). However, the first cold spell came early, in the middle of November. Otherwise, temperatures were normal. Precipitation was still below normal in August and September, and finally in October and November a long series of dry months came to an end with above-normal precipitation. November's record snowfall of 69 cm was three times the normal amount of snow for our dry climate. A total of 106 species was observed — far below the expected number.

LOONS THROUGH FALCONS — An imm. Red-throated Loon was seen along the Dempster Hwy., Sept. 4 (KS) and two were noted at Graham Inlet, B.C., Oct. 8 (RB). An imm. White-fronted Goose (flight distance 6m) was observed at Swan L., 20 km n. of Whitehorse (hereafter, Whse.) Oct. 9 (HG). A small grebe in winter plumage, a Bufflehead and a Red-breasted Merganser stayed near Carcross as late as Nov. 28 (HW). Three families of Harlequin Ducks were seen at Mile 76, Dempster Hwy., Sept. 5 (KS). Two ad. Harlequin Ducks and a brood of three flightless young were observed at Lapie R., Sept. 7 (HJ).

Birds of prey seemed to have been more abundant than in previous years. For example, 1-3 Goshawks were seen in ten different areas (KB, RB, HG, SJ, WK, CL, KS). A Sharpshinned Hawk was observed along the Taylor Hwy., near the Alaska border Sept. 4 (SJ). A Rough-legged Hawk was seen on Tent I., Arctic Coast, Aug. 8 (DM) and one was noted at the Yukon Game Farm n.w. of Whse., Oct. 7 (KS). Another was sighted n.e. of Whse., Oct. 9 (HG). Two Golden Eagles were observed in the Stikine Mts., B.C., Aug. 20 (WG) and four along the Dempster Hwy., Sept. 4 (KS). One was seen hunting a short-tailed weasel at Takanne R., Sept. 26 (DM). Since as many as nine observers reported sightings of one or more Bald Eagles in various areas, one might almost conclude that this is the most common bird of prey species in our Region. An Osprey was noted near Lapie L., Oct. 12 (HJ). Two Gyrfalcons were observed on Tent I., Aug. 8 (DM), and two were noted along the Dempster Hwy., Sept. 5 (KS). A Peregrine Falcon showed up near Whse., Oct. 6 (HG). A Merlin was reported from the Taylor Hwy., near the Alaska border Sept. 4 (SJ) and two from the Stikine Mts., Sept. 9 (WG).

GROUSE THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A Sharp-tailed Grouse was sighted at Mile 191, Mayo Rd., Sept. 24 (CB). Rock Ptarmigan were observed in numbers of 30-35 in the Stikine Mts., Aug. 7 (WG) and 24 along the Taylor Hwy., from the Alaska border to Mile 60, Sept. 4-5 (SJ). Thirty White-tailed Ptarmigan were seen in the Stikine Mts.,



Aug. 7 (WG) and 12 at Takanne R., Sept. 26 (DM). An Am. Coot was noted at Swan L., 20 km n. of Whse., Sept. 4 (HG). One to four Killdeers were reported from the Yukon Game Farm Oct. 7, 10, 18-19 and as late as Oct. 25 (KS). Two Am. Golden Plovers were observed near Mile 65, Taylor Hwy., Sept. 5

(SJ). Forty Ruddy Turnstones were seen on Tent I., Aug. 8 (DM) and one at Atlin L., B.C., Aug. 27 (LO). Sixteen Glaucous Gulls were noted at Tent I., Aug. 8 (DM). A Hawk Owl was seen along the Dempster Hwy., Sept. 4 (KS) and another one at Takanne R., Sept. 26 (DM). In late November a Hawk Owl was observed at Graham Inlet (RB).

A ♀ Rufous Hummingbird was reported from Haines Jct., Aug. 13 (C&LD). Hairy Woodpeckers were seen throughout the season, two at a feeder n.w. of Whse. (D&SS) and one at a feeder s. of Whse. (KB). The only Downy Woodpecker observed this season was one at Graham Inlet in early November (RB).

PASSERIFORMES — Seven Horned Larks were counted along the Taylor Hwy., between the Alaska border and Mile 60, Sept. 4-5 (SJ). A family of two adult and 2+ young "probable" Winter Wrens was seen near Cassiar, B.C., Aug. 16 (PM). An Am. Robin

was noted at Carcross as late as Nov. 9 (HW). Two N. Shrikes were seen along the Dempster Hwy., Sept. 4-5 (KS). One was observed at Atlin, B.C., Sept. 16 (CL), an immature appeared near Whse., Sept. 24 (HG) and one near Swan L., 17 km n. of Whse., Oct. 9 (HG). A late vireo observation, early November, was reported from Graham Inlet (RB). Several observers confirmed again that the number of warblers seems to be declining in our Region. We would like everyone in our Region to watch for especially the more common warblers (Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Blackpoll and Wilson's) and compare notes with previous years.

A Gray-crowned Rosy Finch was observed in the Stikine Mts., Aug. 10 (WG). After the relatively mild October a few sparrows seemed to have been "caught" in our Region and, amazingly, survived the early cold spell in November. A Dark-eyed Junco was seen at Carcross Nov. 20 (HW) and another one during the second half of November s. of Whse., near a feeder (KB). In the same area s. of Whse., a White-crowned Sparrow survived (KB). A Song Sparrow was identified n.w. of Whse., Sept. 16 (DS).

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NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

The Region west of the Continental Divide had a wet, rather cool last half of August. September continued the trend over most of the Region until its last week, when a record-setting drought began. Some more westerly locations received no precipitation at all in October. This continued until mid-November, when temperatures plunged sharply and many areas received snow. Those that did not, then did by the following week and the unseasonal low temperatures and near-record snow depths were here to stay. Nevertheless, many late-lingering land birds were reported, but the early freeze-up drove waterfowl out of many areas. A good cone crop apparently kept most finches at higher elevations or farther north.

LOONS, GREBES — The largest concentration of Com. Loons was 68, on Wickiup Res., Deschutes Co., Ore., Nov. 2. Single Red-necked Grebes appeared on the Columbia R., at Crescent Bar w. of Quincy, on L. Entiat n. of Wenatchee, and in Richland, all in Washington; on Swan L., Lake Co., Mont., until Nov. 5, and on Priest L., in Idaho. Pend Oreille L., Idaho had three Oct. 29.

PELICANS THROUGH IBISES — Potholes Res., Grant Co., Wash., had 200+ White Pelicans Sept. 9. Hundreds were in the Rupert, Ida. area in August for a definite increase (WHS). A few Double-crested Cormorants were at Mud Lake W.M.A., Jefferson Co., Ida. and Malheur N.W.R., Ore. Washington's Potholes area s.w. of Moses L., had one Sept. 10 (JA). Great Egrets apparently were increasing in s. Idaho at Market L., near Rexburg, and at Camas N.W.R. (RG). Five were s.w. of Moses L., Wash., Sept. 10. Potholes Res., had a peak of 120 Black-crowned Night Herons Aug. 31. The Snake R., near Bruneau, Ida., yielded a **Green Heron** Aug. 11 (MH). Market L., had 500+ White-faced Ibises in mid-September and American Falls, Ida., had 800 Aug. 22.

WATERFOWL — A peak of 1200 Whistling Swans passed through Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont., and Minidoka N.W.R., Rupert, Ida., counted 444 Nov. 17. At Red



Rock Lakes the aerial census Sept 13 revealed 164 adult and sub-adult and 38 cygnet Trumpeter Swans but the peak of 235 was Nov. 13. Nine Grand Prairie, Alta., birds with orange neck collars were at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., which is marking Trumpeters there with green collars. Refuge personnel ask AB readers to look for and report marked Trumpeters. Twenty Trumpeters were at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., at November's end and a few were reported at Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore. Four were on Skaha L., Penticton, B.C., Nov. 17; four immatures in Jasper N.P., Nov. 10, and eight on Sheridan Res., Fremont Co., Ida., Aug. 25. Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, Ida., reported up to 2155 Canada Geese and Minidoka N.W.R., 2400. "Very large" flocks all fall were reported for McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash. (SM). Idaho's aerial survey of the Pend Oreille R., Nov. 22 found 1350, the highest number since at least 1972. At Red Rock Lakes the fall population doubled from 1977, to a high of 1050. The Columbia R., n. of Wenatchee had a Cackling Goose Nov. 7 (PC). Snow Geese appeared in the Bozeman, Mont., area in unusual numbers, with 150 passing over the city Nov. 9 and 50 at Three Forks. Seven White-fronted Geese were sighted at Cold Springs N.W.R., Umatilla Co., Ore., Oct. 7 (CC). Waterfowl population trends at McNary N.W.R., were about normal except for later peaks. Deer Flat N.W.R., reached a peak of 218,000 Mallards Nov. 30 and Minidoka N.W.R., tallied 17,800 Nov. 17 along with 3500 Gadwall and 6700 Pintail. The Coeur d' Alene R., had a peak of 7200 Mallards Sept. 22 (I.F.G.). Ravalli N.W.R., Stevensville, Mont., had a **Black Duck** (JM). Deer Flat had up to 2000 Green-winged Teal. Up to 1675 Am. Wigeon were on the Pend Oreille R., and 6500 on the lower St. Joe R., n. Idaho. Minidoka had up to 2100 and had the largest number of N. Shovelers at 2100. Sept. 22 240 Wood Ducks were on the Coeur d' Alene R. (I.F.G.). The Redhead peak of 4750 on the Pend Oreille R., was less than a third of the high numbers of 1976 and 1977. Minidoka N.W.R.'s 3600 Canvasback look encouraging. That refuge also reported 6500 Lesser Scaup, 1950 goldeneye, 7100 Ruddy Ducks, and 3000 Com. Mergansers. Soap L., Wash., had 2000-4000 Oct. 23. In n. Idaho the Pend Oreille R., had 250 of the latter Nov. 20. A very few White-winged Scoters showed up in Franklin, Grant, and Spokane Cos., Wash., and on the Clearwater R., n. Idaho. An imm. **Surf Scoter** was on the Columbia R., near Brewster, Wash. (VM) and a female on L. Lenore, Grant Co., Wash., was very probably this species (BW): An imm. **Oldsquaw** was taken by a hunter at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida.

VULTURES THROUGH TURKEYS — Three Turkey Vultures were sighted e. of Kalispell, Mont., Sept. 24 (BR). A tardy but very noteworthy report was of a **White-tailed Kite** along the Owyhee R., T29S, R41E, Sec. 4, Malheur Co., Ore., Apr. 21, 1978 (BDP). At least 13 sightings of Goshawks and at least 22 Cooper's Hawk sightings were made. All accipiter numbers seemed up from last year in the Salmon, Ida. area (HBR). Trost's annual survey of Ferruginous Hawk numbers at Kilgore and Henry's L., Ida., found about 26, about the same as for the last two years. The species was also noted over Sherman Pass,

Ferry Co., Wash., Aug. 30 (LF), near Lowden, Wash. (SM), and at Cascade, Mont. (G&NN). The Bald Eagle count on lower McDonald Cr., Glacier, N.P., Mont., reached an all-time high of 618 Nov. 29. A pair raised one young at Quartz L., in the park (park personnel). At Kootenai N.W.R., the peak of 29 eagles, 24 Bald and five Golden, Nov. 29 was about three times normal and unusually early concentrations appeared along the Missouri R., from Toston to Townsend, Mont., eight Nov. 11, and near Canyon Ferry Dam, Helena, 12 on Nov. 18 (VY). The Nampa, Ida. area had eight Nov. 30. Ospreys fledged about 66 young at Cascade Res., and in Long Valley n. to McCall, Ida. What was believed to be a dark-phase ♀ Gyrfalcon was sighted in c. Oregon Oct. 31 (GG). Southwest Montana apparently had a gray-phase bird Nov. 24 (GW). A Peregrine Falcon hit a window in a s.w. Montana city Oct. 1 (SH) and one was reported for n. Idaho Nov. 22 (RGe). There was another report for s.w. Montana and two sightings came from s. Idaho. Four Merlin reports came from e. Washington, one from n.w. Montana, and one from n. Idaho.

Blue, Sharp-tailed and Sage Grouse showed an increase in the Rupert, Ida. area (WHS). Nine **Bobwhite** were on the road over Mullan Pass 15 mi w. of Helena Sept. 17 (C&LY). Mountain Quail were sighted in the Salmon R. Breaks of w. Idaho. Prairie, Ida., had 18 Turkeys (PCO) and one was seen near Salmon, Ida. (HBR).

CRANES THROUGH COOT — Foster parent Sandhill Cranes at Grays Lake N.W.R., s.e. Idaho, fledged three young Whooping Cranes from 13 eggs. Four of the sub-adult Whoopers hatched there in 1975-78 summered there, one stayed at Bear R., Cokeville, Wyo., and the other, at Middle Beaver Cr., Sublette Co., Wyo. All nine birds arrived safely at their wintering grounds at Bosque Del Apache N.W.R., New Mexico, along with Sandhills (RD). Colville Indian Reservation, Okanogan Co., Wash., hosted 1200 Sandhill Cranes Oct. 1 and St. Andrews, Wash., had a peak count of 950 Sept. 29. Seven at Mann's L., Lewiston, Ida., were unusual (EM & JW) as was one at Turnbull N.W.R. (CB) and one s. of Blewett Pass, Kittitas Co., Wash. (EH). At least five Virginia Rails were sighted at Reardan, Wash., for Jim Acton's highest number ever there. Sightings occurred in the Quincy, Wash. area (RF); at Hagerman W.M.A., Gooding Co., Ida. (BW), and at Island L., between Kalispell and Libby, Mont. (DD). The Davis L. Wickiup Res. area of Deschutes and Klamath Cos., Ore., had 12,000 Am. Coot Nov. 2 (GG).

SHOREBIRDS — Single Snowy Plovers were sighted in the Klamath Falls, Ore. vicinity (SS) for the only report. Sightings of Semipalmated Plovers came only from the Snake R., near Nampa, Ida. (BS); the Snake in Whitman Co., Wash. (JWW), and a pond at Lewiston, Ida. (EM), two birds in each case. Only Mann's L., Lewiston, and Klamath Falls had an Am. Golden Plover (JWW, SS). Mann's L., had up to 20 Black-bellied Plovers. The only other reports were for the Snake R., Whitman Co., and for Walla Walla, Wash. Two Whimbrel showed up near Klamath Falls Aug. 19 (SS). The Solitary Sandpiper, supposedly rare in s. Idaho, appeared at Pocatello

(one) and Market L. (two — CHT), Spencer Res., Clark Co. (one-AL), Nampa (one-DT), and near Hagerman (two) and at McGowan Cr., 16 mi s. of Challis (BW). An unusual sighting was of one standing in an inch of snow at 4000 ft elevation, French Mt. Saddle, five mi e. of Pierce, Ida., Sept. 17 (GI, EM & GM). A Red Knot was found in a stubble field near Davenport, Wash., Sept. 15 (MF & JH, *fide* RF). One or two Dunlin — one collected — were at Mann's L., Lewiston. They are rare in Idaho (CB, JWW). A Pectoral Sandpiper near La Grande, Ore., Oct. 8 was unusual (JE). Harrison, Mont., had up to 20 Stilt Sandpipers in late August. A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was positively identified near Vernon, B.C., Aug. 25 (FC & JG). Single Sanderlings appeared at L. Lowell, Nampa, Ida.; near Mabel L., 50 mi n.w. of Vernon; at Reardan, Wash., and two at Wenas Res., 16 mi s.w. of Ellensburg, Wash. One was collected at Mann's L., Lewiston.

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — A **Parasitic Jaeger** was chasing Ring-billed Gulls at L. Helena Sept. 17 (GH & SH). Up to 35 Herring Gulls were sighted at Warm L., Knox, Ida., Sept. 1 - Oct. 22 (JH, HR). Island Park Res., Fremont Co., Ida., had up to 19, the peak Oct. 21 (MRC) and an immature bird at Salmon, Ida., Aug. 13 was Roberts' first there. California Gulls were down in numbers from past years at Lewiston, with only one fall sighting (EM). The species was noted in the Flathead valley around Kalispell, Mont. (F.A.S.). The Yakima R. delta had 1-2 **Mew Gulls** Nov. 11-12 (RH & WH, REW) and an immature bird was at Spokane's city dump Oct. 13 (JA). A Bonaparte's Gull at Salmon was the second ever there (HBR) and five were at L. Chatcolet, Kootenai Co., Ida. (BW). The Klamath Falls area had >1000 Nov. 22 (SS). A winter-plumaged Com. Tern on Upper Klamath L., Ore., furnished Klamath County's first record (SS *et al.*). An **Arctic Tern** at the confluence of the Snake and Clearwater Rivers, Ida., and Wash., was collected, for the second specimen from the area (JWW).

CUCKOOS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — A **Black-billed Cuckoo**, carefully described, was near Bigfork, Mont., late June - July 1 (MS). Barn Owls showed up in new localities, Esquatzel Coulee near Mesa, Wash. (BB) and at Soap L., Wash. (CD). The birds also appeared at Richland, Wash., Umatilla, Ore., Lewiston, Mountain Home A.F.B., and Walters Ferry on the Snake R., all in Idaho. An injured Flammulated Owl was picked up in Walla Walla (SMi). Two were mist-netted in Pocatello, Ida., in late September (JJ). The only Snowy Owl report was of one at Ladd Marsh Preserve s.e. of La Grande, Ore., Nov. 9 (WCD). A Barred Owl was at Bitterroot L., w. of Kalispell Aug. 6-10 for the only report (F.A.S.). A Great Gray Owl, rarely observed at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., was found there Nov. 13 (RRS). They seemed fairly common to the s. at Island Pk., Ida., with four sightings (MRC). A Long-eared Owl was sighted Nov. 25 near Belgrade, Mont., where they are seldom seen (SC, E&RH, PDS). Short-eared Owls continued scarce in the s. Okanogan Valley, B.C., with only one report.

A dead Saw-whet Owl was picked up on a road at Vernon Oct. 28. A Poor-will was sighted Aug. 27 & 30 at Page Springs Camp-

ground on the Donner and Blitzen R., Harney Co., Ore. (BW) for the only report. A Black Swift nest on Harland Cr., near Armstrong, B.C., contained a very young nestling Aug. 3 & 7 (JG). A group of 200 was near Cashmere, Wash., Aug. 24 (KB) and at least two were feeding low over Revelstoke, B.C., Aug. 2 (WN & JW). Some 300 Vaux's Swifts were at Klickitat, Wash., Aug. 27 (Y.A.S.). A ♀ Anna's Hummingbird was feeding on late flowers at Wenatchee, Wash., Nov. 2 (PC). A ♂ Anna's was sighted in the same Spokane yard Aug. 26-27, Sept. 2 & 8, suggesting three individuals and thus a definite increase for the area (JA). Another frequented a feeder at Spokane through October and November (DS & S.A.S.). Single birds were seen at Penticton, Alta., Oct. 6 & 24 (SRC).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — Fresh workings of Pileated Woodpecker were found in the Island Pk., and Henry's L., Fremont Co., Ida. areas, where the species is considered very rare (CHT). They seemed still on the increase at Salmon, Ida. (HBR). Lewis' Woodpecker was "extremely common" during a float trip down the Salmon and Snake Rivers from Corn Cr., Lemhi Co., Ida. to Clarkston, Wash., July 31 - Aug. 11 (JL). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was in Richland Nov. 23 for Bob Woodley's second record there. Three-toed woodpeckers were common in the Island Park area, apparently attracted by an extensive bark beetle infestation, with the Black-backed about three times as common as the Northern (MRC). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was identified at close range in Colorado Gulch near Helena Aug. 27 (G&NN). A pair of Barn Swallows was feeding recently fledged young at Banff, Alta., Sept. 11 (CGH).

JAYS THROUGH WRENS — The Blue Jay was reported (three birds?) at three feeding stations in Kimberley, B.C. (MVW) and one was sighted 8 mi. e. of Missoula, Mont. (RS). About 75 Clark's Nutcrackers were in the vicinity of Heaven's Gate L.O., Seven Devils Mts., s.w. of Riggins, Ida., Aug. 19. Two Chestnut-backed Chickadees were spotted on the Green Fork of South Touchet R., Columbia Co., Wash., Nov. 8 (RF). The Bush-tit was described as plentiful in the Rupert, Ida. vicinity (WHS). A Pygmy Nuthatch was found on Trinity Mt.

A House Wren at Fortine, Mont., Aug. 22 provided the first sighting in nine years there; where it was formerly common (WW). McNary Wildlife Pk., near Irrigon, Ore., apparently was a new locality for Bewick's Wren Sept. 23 (B.M.A.S.).

MIMICS THROUGH STARLINGS — A very late Sage Thrasher was near Davenport, Wash., Nov. 9 (JHi). Two Varied Thrushes stopped briefly at a Bozeman feeder Nov. 13 and one was on Montana State Univ. Campus Nov. 15 (JP, SR). There are only three previous records for the area. A Hermit Thrush near Yakima Oct. 12 was unusual. The farm sanctuary w. of Spokane fledged 159 W. Bluebirds from its nest boxes. One 12 mi. s. of Island Pk., Ida., Sept. 25 was noteworthy (MRC). Mountain Bluebird numbers in e. Washington appeared fairly good but only a few were reported elsewhere. Townsend's Solitaires were sighted much more commonly in the Rexburg, Ida. area than in past years (RG).

Bohemian Waxwings were arriving in about normal numbers, the earliest, Oct. 24 at LaGrande, Ore., and Oct. 29 in the Kalispell area. A few had reached Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Nov. 18. The Nampa area had an estimated 15,000 Starlings Sept. 10 (G.E.A.S.).

WARBLERS — Single Nashville Warblers were sighted at Ft. Boise, s.w. Ida., Oct. 1 and Nov. 12 (JH) and one was spotted at Deer Flat N.W.R., Sept. 1 (DT). Fort Boise W.M.A., had a **Magnolia Warbler** Oct. 1 (JH). A ♂ **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was photographed at Malheur N.W.R., Oct. 7-8 for one of the top rarities (SS). "Audubon's" Warblers poured through some areas of the w. part of the Region in fantastic numbers. Heaven's Gate L.O., in the Seven Devils, Ida., had 750-1000 Aug. 19 and numbers at Spokane peaked the last week of September; at least 50 were in one yard. At Walla Walla they were "abundant all fall" and at Richland they "swamped the area" in mid-September. At Malheur N.W.R., >200 were sighted Oct. 7 and Kay Burk banded 241 near Troy, Mont., May-September. A ♂ Townsend's Warbler and a Tennessee Warbler in a Bozeman yard Sept. 13 after an early snowstorm made the fifth and third records, respectively, for the area (PDS). A ♂ Townsend's fell victim to a house cat at La Grande, Ore., Oct. 27 (WCD) and one was recorded in Richland Nov. 18 (JS).

BLACKBIRDS — Three Bobolinks in autumn plumage were photographed at Lane W.M.A., 10 mi. e. of Harrison, Ida., Aug. 28 and five were along the lower Donner and Blitzen R., Malheur N.W.R., on the same date. Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Mann's L., Lewiston, may have bred there and Red-winged and Brewer's blackbirds in that area benefited from the introduction of sunflowers into the crop rotation, flocks of 1000 or more appearing frequently. The only Rusty Blackbird report was of one at Jasper N.P., Nov. 11 (BWY).

FINCHES — Top rarity of the season was the winter-plumaged ♂ **Brambling** at Swan L., Mont., Nov. 19 - Dec. 3. Detailed description and a colored sketch of the bird were compared with a specimen in the Univ. of Montana collection (EJ & PLW). Evening Grosbeaks were scarce or absent from most reporting localities, only the Okanagan Valley, B.C., and the Klamath Falls area finding them in normal numbers. Cassin's Finch was little-reported but numbers were normal around Spokane. House Finches continued to frequent feeders in Bozeman regularly and one was reported at Gardiner, Mont. (JQ). Pine Siskins apparently were mostly staying at higher altitudes. Several Black Rosy Finches were seen at 11,000 ft on Mt. Borah, Custer Co., Ida. (HBR). White-winged Crossbills appeared in Glacier N.P., and the upper Flathead Valley of n.w. Montana, in Idaho, and in the Salmo area of extreme s.e. British Columbia. Farther w. they appeared commonly around Vernon in subalpine country in August, their numbers dwindling thereafter. This perhaps was related to the great surge of the birds s. in the Cascades as far as Mt. Hood, Ore. One was even reported in Bend, Ore., Nov. 24 (MC) and at least three at Enterprise, Ore. (ME).

SPARROWS — The Grasshopper Sparrow was observed at Swan L., e. of Bigfork, Mont., in August (F.A.S.). Some 500 Dark-eyed Juncos were at Heaven's Gate L.O., in the Seven Devils Mts., Aug. 19. A Tree Sparrow at Fortine, Mont., Nov. 12 was only Weydemeyer's fourth in the last 33 years. Their numbers have doubled the last two winters at Rexburg, Ida., where they fed on weed seeds in abandoned fields following the Teton Dam break (RG). A Harris' Sparrow visited a Walla Walla yard in October (CS) and an adult stayed in a barn at Bozeman during bad weather in mid-November (JSA). One trapped in a garage at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., in late November may have had the same idea in mind (RRS). An ad. Golden-crowned Sparrow at Fernan L., Coeur d'Alene, Ida., apparently furnished the first record for Kootenai County (GS). The only White-throated Sparrows reported were an adult at "P" Ranch, Malheur N.W.R., Oct. 7 (SS); one at Ft. Boise (JH), and one at Bruneau, Ida. (AL). Two Fox Sparrows were found on the peninsula in L. Pend Oreille, s. e. of Sandpoint, Ida., in late August (LF). At Salmon, Ida., they were very scarce, with one bird Aug. 23 (HBR), and at Spokane one sang at Browne Mt., until Sept. 26 and migrants arrived in mid-September. Lincoln's Sparrow was sighted at Little Boulder Cr. Campground s.w. of Bovill, Ida. (BW); in the Bozeman area (PDS); 4 mi. e. of Mabton, Wash. (PM) and at Spokane Sept. 13 - Oct. 5 (S.A.S.). Several Swamp Sparrows were observed closely at Barnaby L., 3 mi. w. of Fortine, Mont., Aug. 23 for the first upper n.w. Montana record (WW). Eight Lapland Longspurs appeared near White L., 15 mi. s. of Penticton, B.C., Oct. 25 (WN) and e. Washington had a few w. of Harrington Nov. 5 (S.A.S.), and w. of Spokane International Airport Oct. 9 (JA).

CORRIGENDUM — Substitute Prairie Falcon for Peregrine Falcon in the Dec. 17, 1977 Moscow, Ida.-Pullman, Wash. CBC, AB 32:819.

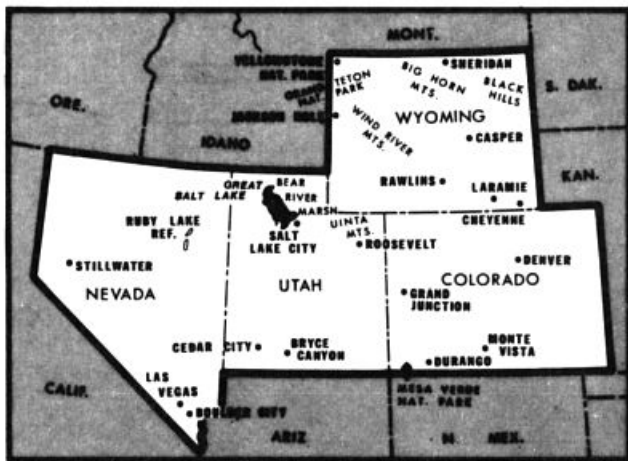
OBSERVERS CITED — James Acton, Blue Mt. Audubon Society (B.M.A.S.), B. Braunwart, Ken Brunner (KB), Kay Burk, Steve Cannings (SRC), Sharon Cotterell (SC), Canyon Birders, Phil Cheney (PC), Priscilla Cook (PCo), Mark R. Collie (MRC), Marion Corder (MC), Craig Corder, Fred Cook, Dan DeJong, Curt Dotson, Wm. C. Dowdy, Red Drewien, Mark Egger, Joe Evanitch, Lynn Farcar, Mike Fitzpatrick, Flathead Audubon Society (F.A.S.), Ron Friesz, Russ Gebhart (RGe), Greg Gillson, Ririe Godfrey (RG), Golden Eagle Audubon Society (G.E.A.S.), James Grant, Warren Hall, Christopher G. Harris, Steve Harvey (SH), Eve & Ray Hays, Randy Heinz, Jerry Hickman (JHi), James Heckathorn (JH), George Holton, Susan Holton (SHo), Mark Howarth, Eugene Hunn, Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game (I.F.G.), Garry Ingram, Joe Jeppson, Elly Jones, Al Larson, John Luther, Ed McVicker, Vern Marr, John Marzleff, Phil Mattocks, Shirley Miller (SMi), Shirley Muse (SM), Gary Mullen, Wayne Neily, Gene & Norma Nixon, Jean Perkins, Bradford D. Price, Joyce Queckborner, Steve Regele, Hadley B. Roberts, Hazel Roe, Betty Rose, Jeff Safford (JSA), Jim Soden (JS), Dorothy Sattler, Rick Schoening, Belle Shaw, Connie Sherer, W. H. Shillington, Richard R. Sjostrom, P. D. Skaar, Gary Smith, S. Spo-

kane Audubon Society (S.A.S.), Mae Sudan, Steve Summers, Don Taylor, Charles H. Trost, Guy Warren, John W. Weber, Winton Weydemeyer, Bart Whelton (BW), Mildred V. White, Philip L. Wright, Brian Wylie (BWY), Jim Wolcott (JW), John Woods (JWO), Robert E. Woodley, Yakima Audubon Society (Y.A.S.), Vince Yannone, Clara & Lenord Yarger. — **THOMAS H. ROGERS, E. 10820 Maxwell, Spokane, WA 99206.**

MOUNTAIN WEST

/Hugh E. Kingery

The Region reported an overall lackluster migration with fewer migrants of fewer species. The coastal waterbirds we have come to expect failed to visit the Mountain West this mild fall (see *AB* 32:235). We did see many late lingering migrants which is becoming a standard experience, and several unusual August and September nestlings. The species diversity reflects the general impression: regional observers tallied only 337 species this fall, down 33 from last year; Colorado had 300, Nevada 236, Wyoming 229, and Utah 199. (For the year the Region reported 410 species: Colorado 371, Nevada 290, Utah 278, Wyoming 268.) The number of reporters in Colorado approximates that of the other three states combined.



LOONS, GREBES — Pyramid L., Nev., attracted its usual complement of Com. Loons, the first Sept. 3, followed by several flocks of 50 in mid-October with most gone by the end of November (D&KG). In Colorado Com. Loon numbers dropped to half the usual, with no other loon species reported. In contrast, at Sheridan, Wyo., a noticeable influx Nov. 1 included 15 Commons and one **Yellow-billed Loon** (HD, FH); by Nov. 6 the flight included one Arctic, and Nov. 8, two Arctics and one Red-throated Loon (HD, MC, ME). Sheridan observers provided excellent details on all loon observations, particularly the Yellow-billed, which represents Wyoming's first record. The only Red-necked Grebe reported visited Boulder, Colo., Oct. 11 (LH, BC). Plentiful counts of Eared Grebes included 563 at Sheridan Aug. 21 (HD), several hundred Sept. 22 along the causeway to Antelope I., Great Salt L. (E&SM), and 200

at Minersville, Utah, Oct. 20 (SPH). Despite fair breeding numbers in Colorado, few Eared Grebes migrate on the plains in the fall. Western Grebes stayed through November in e. Colorado, where reservoirs had not yet frozen. By Nov. 30, 5000± had massed at Pyramid L. (D&KG) but only 2100 on two Las Vegas arms of L. Mead (VM).

PELICANS, CORMORANTS — White Pelicans lingered to Nov. 7 near Denver (D.F.O.), and turned up in odd mountain locations like Kremmling, Avon, and Durango, Colo. (DJ, JM, RS). At Pyramid L., a major die-off occurred in August, with 200-500 found dead and dying. One hypothesis: an unusual algal bloom caused calcium carbonate to precipitate, which reduced visibility to less than a foot. This would prevent any effective sight feeding; the direct effect on fish or birds which consumed the material is unknown at present. All pelicans had left Pyramid by Sept. 9, two months earlier than last year (D&KG). Flocks of up to 150 occurred in nearby Reno about the time of their departure from Pyramid (JA). Double-crested Cormorants seem to have developed a pattern of staying later; Denver had 40 Oct. 28 (F&JJ) and late dates included singles at Sheridan Nov. 1 and Pueblo, Colo., Nov. 29 (DG).

HERONS, IBISES — A Green Heron graced the Green R. canyon near Green R.,

Utah, Nov. 6 (CCo). Wyoming became the last of the lower 48 states conquered by the **Cattle Egret**, with one Aug. 12 at Casper (OKS, SL, NB). Other regional records included about a dozen from s. Nevada (VM) and from Brigham City, Utah (GK, JD), and two dozen Colorado records including birds at Steamboat Springs Oct. 12-20 (WDG) and Cortez Oct. 26 (RS). Single Louisiana Herons appeared at Rocky Ford, Colo., Aug. 6 (MHO, †C.F.O.) and Bear River N.W.R., Aug. 23 (†GK). Colorado has nine records, and the Salt Lake Valley has 3-4 reports. Black-crowned Night Herons included one at Las Vegas Sept. 15 pursued by a Sharp-shinned Hawk (VM). Observations at Boulder of an ad. Least Bittern Aug. 19 and an immature Sept. 10 fueled summer speculations of possible breeding (FH, BK). Among numerous White-faced Ibises passing through Colorado, 35 stopped at Durango Aug. 10 (RS) and 40 at Eleven-Mile Res., in mid-October (BMM).

WATERFOWL — Utah attracted more ducks than last year, with a peak of 655,850 recorded at state and federal refuges Sept. 16-30 and 644,261 Oct. 1-15. Pintails, most abundant, numbered over 175,000 Aug. 16 - Oct. 15 (U.D.W.R.). Stillwater W.M.A., Nev., recorded a peak of 15,700 waterfowl; its water acreage increased to 46% of capacity — the best in several years (MJB).

Whistling Swans streamed suddenly into Utah, with 15,654 Oct. 15-31 after only two in early October; nearly 47,000 were counted Nov. 20 (U.D.W.R.). At Sheridan a storm Nov. 12 grounded 25,000 Canada Geese which left by 8 a.m. the next morning; to the s., 30,000 soon appeared on the N. Platte R., at Torrington, Wyo. (HD). Unusual flocks of Snow Geese moved through the Region Nov. 5-13. Numbers reported Nov. 11-13 totaled 9550 in Utah, and to 658 Snows and 19 "Blues" in Colorado Nov. 6, 500 Snows and two "Blues" were added at Jackson, Wyo.

A Eur. Wigeon visited Chatfield Res., near Denver Oct. 28 - Nov. 5 (D.F.O., MOS, F&JJ); it provided Colorado's eighth record. Utah's count of Canvasbacks peaked at 27,096 Oct. 15-31 (U.D.W.R.); Stillwater had 15,500 at its peak. Barrow's Goldeneyes had reached Kremmling, Colo., by Sept. 30 (F.C.A.S.), early, and Grand L., and Boulder Nov. 4. Bufflehead counts of 713 at Sheridan Nov. 5 and 40 at most large Durango lakes by Sept. 30 were notable. An Oldsquaw at Casper Oct. 14 stayed three weeks (OKS) but 2-3 at Sheridan stayed only two days; Nov. 5-6 (HD). The only regional scoter was an imm. or ♀ White-winged Nov. 12 at Colorado City, Colo. (DS).

RAPTORS — The Wellsville Mts. hawk-watch — that most strenuous of counts (see *AB* 32:237) — tallied hawks at the same clip as last year, 12.8/hour. Table 1 reports the results (SH). A **Black Vulture** perched on a Boulder roof before flying W toward the mountains (PW, †C.F.O.). Colorado has had several inconclusive reports, but this one, and another from Pawnee Nat'l Grassland June 6 this year (TO, †C.F.O.) seem likely candidates to establish the bird on the Colorado list. Accipiter observations continued to increase, with the most observations coming from Colorado alpine areas; 1-4/day of all three species (CEB) and Las Vegas; 25 observations of Sharp-shinned, and 20 of Cooper's plus 16 observations of one bird (VM). Red-shouldered Hawks visited Las Vegas Aug. 12 (VM) and Denver Nov. 18 (HK); a Colorado observation referred to but omitted last fall was one at Ft. Collins Sept. 2 (BM). Nevada's second **Broad-winged Hawk** visited Las Vegas Sept. 21 (VM). Late Swainson's Hawks were at Sheridan Oct. 12 (HD), Hartsel, Colo., Nov. 26 (CC), and at Richfield, Utah, an immature was picked up injured about Nov. 25 (SPH). First Rough-legged Hawks arrived at Dubois Sept. 13 and Zion Nat'l Pk., Utah, Sept. 24 (JG). Nevada added its second and third **Black Hawk** records with one near Davis Dam Sept. 26 and another at Meadow Valley Wash near Elgin, 40-50 mi w. of Zion, where they attempted to nest several years ago (CL). A **Harris' Hawk**, well-described, cruised through the Henry Mts. of s.e. Utah and was seen on five days Aug. 1 - Sept. 9 by three different observers. The bird flew close to the ground, flapping and soaring, and landed on sagebrush; the observations occurred in sagebrush/scrub oak and grass habitats, spotted with occasional stands of aspen, fir or spruce (†DV, MBr, GH). Golden Eagles are frequently reported from throughout the Region but reports are difficult to analyze. The most interesting comment came from Ewing, on one seen near McCoy, Colo. It seemed "so gorged from eating dead snowshoe rabbits that it couldn't fly... it walked in an ungainly

fashion with wings beating, to a sheep fence, which it climbed over, and then continued to walk, wings still beating." Analysis of Bald Eagle reports is similarly elusive. Utah D.W.R. did report on its 1977-78 winter roost count, which concluded that 617 Bald Eagles wintered in Utah, 70% adults, and down 32% from the previous year. Osprey nests at Sheridan and Grand L., fledged young. The five active nests at Flaming Gorge Res., Utah were fewer than last year's. Utah birds winter in Columbia and Ecuador, which may affect nesting success owing to pesticide use in those countries (PWg). A pair of Merlins summered at Briggsdale, Colo., and the peak migration at the adjacent Pawnee Nat'l Grassland occurred Nov. 5-10, with 15/day observed (CO).

**Table 1. Wellsville Mountains Hawk Watch
Sept. 6 - Oct. 20**

Species	Count	Comments
Accipiters 1110		
Sharp-shinned	744	68% adults Total up 29%
Cooper's	333	41% adults (last year, 58%) Total dropped from 451 (-22%)
Goshawk	33	
Buteos 264		
Red-tailed	258	61% adults
Swainson's	6	
Falcons 975		
Am. Kestrel	957	57% males Total up 29%
Prairie Falcon	15	
Merlin	3	
Golden Eagle	291	38% adults Total up 46%
Bald Eagle	2	
Marsh Hawk	208	Total up 60%
Turkey Vulture	7	
Osprey	8	
Unid. raptors	129	
Total	2994, plus 221 Com. Ravens	
1978 Hawks/hour	12.8	(234.5 hours)
1977 Hawks/hour	12.6	(219.1 hours)

GROUSE, CRANES — Blue Grouse observations near Boulder have increased, possibly from loss of cover due to cutting and removal of beetle-killed ponderosa pines. White-tailed Ptarmigan production at Guanella Pass, Colo., dropped. Throughout the studied areas in the state, 50-55% of paired hens had chicks (CEB). Sage Grouse in Colorado enjoyed bumper production; 50-75% of the fall population are young of the year (CEB). Observers report similar success at Dubois, Wyo., and Ruby Lakes, Jarbridge, and Diamond Valley, Nev. Quail of three species: Gambel's, California, and Mountain, met success in Utah and Nevada. Flocks of Turkeys have established themselves along the Front Range from Ft. Collins to Westcreek and Pueblo, and at Sheridan, Buena Vista, Colo., and Durango. Nine Whooping Cranes survived from the Grays L. flock, including three survivors of this year's hatchlings; on Oct. 17 seven were in the San Luis Valley, Colo. (MBS). One or two were also seen at Hayden and Grand Jct., Colo. Numbers of Sandhill Cranes migrating

on the E. Slope exceeded last year's: 1000 moved over Sheridan Oct. 24 in flocks of 50-75; thousands were at Ft. Morgan, Colo., beginning Sept. 22 (JCR), 10,000 were at Cheraw, Colo., the first week of October (D&CG), and hundreds seen at Loveland, Colo., Nov. 5 (F.A.C.). Colorado had its first **Purple Gallinule** at Durango Aug. 6-7 (EF *et al.*, ph.); the specimen previously reported in the literature proved to have been a captive.



Hawk watchers on the n. end of Wellsville Mountains, Utah. Sept. 29, 1978. Photo/Paul Carter.

SHOREBIRDS — The Region had few shorebirds; e.g., Denver's fall count tallied 758 shorebirds, including 275 Baird's Sandpipers, 171 Killdeer, and 131 Lesser Yellowlegs. A pair of Killdeer hatched four eggs Aug. 5 in a vegetable garden at Diamond Valley, Nev. (JE). Mountain Plovers left their nesting grounds at Pawnee Nat'l Grassland about a month early (CO) and were seen rarely elsewhere; the buildup at Rocky Ford reported last season may have reflected this early departure (AB 32:1191). Two Ruddy Turnstones moulting to winter plumage visited Pyramid L., Aug. 29 (D&KG). Monte Vista N.W.R., attracted several hundred Com. Snipe to flooded units previously dry (MS). The latest Greater Yellowlegs were at Sheridan Nov. 5 (crippled, HD), Aurora, Colo., Nov. 16 (MOS), and Las Vegas Nov. 24 (VM). Las Vegas reported the latest Lessers Nov. 10 (VM). Red Knots were at Berthoud, Colo., Aug. 3-6 (VB, HH), Denver Aug. 6 (BA), and Longmont, Colo., Sept. 4 (VB). *American Birds* reported on the Curlew Sandpiper at Logan, Utah, in the September issue (32:1067). See also 33:220 this issue. Dunlins appeared at Yellowstone Nat'l Pk., Sept. 11 (fRK), Bear River Aug. 23 (GK), and Las Vegas Nov. 13-28 (VM). One Stilt Sandpiper ranged w. to Ruby L. Aug. 7 (SHB) and 1-4 were at Las Vegas Sept. 10 - Oct. 3 (VM). A Hudsonian Godwit was reported from Fossil Cr. Res., near Ft. Collins Sept. 5-6 (CCh *et al.*). Sanderling reports dropped, especially in Colorado. Two were at Stillwater Nov. 13, where the refuge lists them as rare, (PS). On Aug. 23 approx. 2500 Am. Avocets fed at Great Salt L. (WWB). At Cedar City, Utah, 300 Black-necked Stilts landed in a high school football field Sept. 30 (SPH). Red Phalaropes visited Bear R., Aug. 11 (fJD), third Utah record; Boulder Oct. 1 (PG, fC.F.O.),

and Las Vegas Nov. 10 (VM). Reported numbers of N. Phalaropes continued to increase. Sheridan had 80 Sept. 27 (HD). Great Salt L., >100 Sept. 22 (E&SM), and on Pyramid L., 1000± Nov. 30 (D&KG); however Colorado had very few reports.

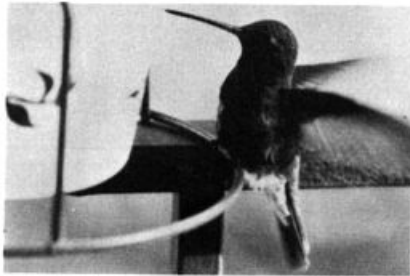
JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS — The only regional jaeger reported was an immature at Sheridan Aug. 28, probably a Parasitic (MC). In s. Nevada the scarcity of imm. Ring-billed and California gulls gave evidence of the effectiveness of the gull control programs to the n. (VM). The reports of five Thayer's Gulls Nov. 6-30 and one Mew Gull Sept. 22 & Nov. 1-28 (VM) match patterns of previous years for those species in s. Nevada. Franklin's Gulls failed to achieve their usual late summer numbers in Colorado and Wyoming. The high count was 1380 at Pueblo Aug. 19. Few Bonaparte's appeared as well. The 35 Bonaparte's at L. Mead Nov. 18 was regarded as a large number, however (VM). The only Com. Terns reported were two at Bear R., Aug. 11 (JD) and three at Barr L., near Denver Aug. 27-29 (BA).

PIGEONS, ROADRUNNER — Large numbers of Band-tailed Pigeons reportedly declimated cherry crops in Orderville, Utah (LE). Two rare Band-taileds appeared at Las Vegas Aug. 31 & Sept. 5, and one at Lida Jct., Nev., Oct. 28 (PLE, RWb). Mourning Doves left Wyoming and Colorado early, although one flew through a snowstorm at Olathe, Colo., Nov. 30 (CEB). A Roadrunner was at Cedar City, Utah, the n. edge of its range, Nov. 11 (SPH).

OWLS — Three Barn Owls found dead Sept. 23 - Oct. 11 in the Pyramid L./Reno area apparently died from natural causes e.g., predation by Great Horned Owls (D&KG, JA). Two Flammulated Owls visited Jarbridge, Nev., Sept. 18 (EB) and one at Logan Oct. 20 (TL). The evening of Sept. 17, at Westcreek, Colo., one flew onto a window screen and held on, feeding on insects attracted by porch lights (RK). A Snowy Owl was seen on Mt. Audubon w. of Boulder Oct. 29 (MR). Pygmy Owl reports came from Zion (LE), and five birds were heard and seen Sept. 16 at Springville, Utah (MLK), and also from five Colorado sites. East of its known range, a Great Gray Owl inhabited an elk-hunting camp Oct. 18-27 in the Big Horn Mts., w. of Sheridan (GN). The largest flock of Com. Nighthawks was seen in Ft. Morgan, Colo., Aug. 16, when 400-500 flew over town (JCR). The six Black Swifts Sept. 10 from Mt. Charleston w. of Las Vegas (CL), along with one May 25 at Sutcliffe (D&KG) are the first in Nevada since the 1860s (CL). Chimney Swifts were seen in the Big Horn Mts., Sept. 10 (RK) and at Sheridan Aug. 13 (HD).

HUMMINGBIRDS — Springdale, Utah, still seems to hold the most hummingbirds the longest time. Latest dates were Oct. 3 for Black-chinned, and Sept. 20 for Rufous. A Black-chinned again visited Rawlins, Wyo., Aug. 14 (RL). An Anna's Hummingbird appeared at a Grand Jct., Colo., feeder Nov. 19, and stayed through at least one snowstorm to Dec. 6 (HT *et al.*). Broad-taileds stayed later than usual in Colorado, the latest date Sept. 23 from Boulder (LH). A Rufous at Estes Pk.,

Oct. 1 was very late (WR). Calliopes deserted a Logan feeder early — by Aug. 20 (KLD) — while staying late at Jackson, Wyo. — Sept. 11-12 (BHm). A Blue-throated Hummingbird visited Beulah, Colo., Sept. 20-23 (P&WS, VT). A remarkable **Broad-billed Hummingbird**, provided Utah's first record at Springdale Oct. 1. It seemed to lack a migratory instinct. To encourage the bird to leave, the feeder was removed; since it remained the feeder was replaced. It stayed through a snowstorm Nov. 14 that piled five in of wet snow on trees still in leaf and broke tree limbs, its last observation was Nov. 25, the second day of a rainstorm (RF, JG, LE, ph.).



Broad-billed Hummingbird, Springdale, Utah, Nov. 22, 1978. First state record. Photo/Jerome Gifford.

WOODPECKERS TO SWALLOWS — Red-headed Woodpeckers stayed to Oct. 24 at Sheridan, the latest date by a month (HD, BHy). A flock of 20-30 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers used the Ruby Lakes refuge headquarters Sept. 20 - Oct. 7 (SHB). Two Williamson's Sapsuckers provided Zion its fourth and fifth local records, both Nov. 4. Axial, Colo., claimed latest dates for both E. Kingbird; Sept. 27, and W. Kingbird; Oct. 22 (J&DW). A Say's Phoebe still was nesting at Orvada, Nev., Aug. 18 (BAI), and a Dusky Flycatcher at Jefferson, Colo., fledged three young Sept. 9 two weeks after its normal departure date (CH, KH). If the California banders' reports on identification of Empidonax flycatchers are diagnostic, and not complicated by eastern species not found in California, then one observed near Sundance, Wyo., on the South Dakota border Sept. 1, which pushed its tail downward "slowly and methodically" was Wyoming's first well described **Gray Flycatcher** (†TW). The last of six October W. Flycatchers in Colorado was one Oct. 21 at Axial flycatching from the back of a horse (J&DW). Barn Swallows also nested late; a pair at Dubois produced two broods of four and had fledged but partially dependent young when a snowstorm hit Sept. 19; the parents, with both broods departed Sept. 20 (MB). Downing found a ♂ Purple Martin at Ten Sleep, Wyo., Aug. 7 and a pair at Worland the same day (†).

JAYS TO NUTHATCHES — At Jefferson, where 1-2 Gray Jays are usual, 42 appeared Sept. 9 (CH, KH). Small flocks of Scrub Jays roamed to unusual locations both close and far from their normal haunts: the movements started in early September and continued into November. They appeared in places like Boulder, e. Denver, and Evergreen, Colo.; Logan, Ogden, Halls Crossing, Utah, Ruby L., and Las Vegas. Hybrid Blue X Steller's Jays have been reported from Boulder for several years) now we have the first report from another site,

surprisingly 35 mi. n.w., across the Continental Divide at Grand L., where one appeared in late November (DJ). Piñon Jays also roamed around, although with this species roaming is more normal behavior; at Walsenburg, Colo., Nov. 5 >1000 flew at mid-day (F&JJ). They appeared in Las Vegas Nov. 19 for the first time in six years and on the Wellsville hawk watch. After good breeding success this year (RS, SPH), poor piñon pine nut crops (SPH) may have initiated a wide movement. One wonders if a similar food deficiency sent the Scrub Jays roaming. A few chickadees wandered as well: two Black-capped at Carson City Sept. 28 (BP), three Mountains at Las Vegas Oct. 13-15 (VM), and St. George, Utah, Nov. 24 (MW). They were absent from the lowlands in n. Utah around Logan (KLD). The two White-breasted Nuthatches, one in Eureka, Nev., and one in the mountains nearby, were the first there in 10 years (AB).

WRENS TO PHAINOPEPLAS — A House Wren at Sheridan, Wyo., completed its third nesting by fledging three young Aug. 25 (HD). An early September migrant at Pyramid L., developed a routine of flying into the lab daily to pick off flies inside a window (D&KG). Cañon Wrens at Jarbidge, Nev., have developed a similar dependence on man: at least two winter in summer homes closed for the season (EB). A Gray Catbird was at Loveland, Colo., Oct. 10 (AM), and one that arrived Nov. 18 at Colorado Springs, stayed into December (GB). Utah had two Varied Thrushes; one at a Logan feeder Nov. 11 (CWs, *vide* AS) and one at Salt Lake City Nov. 30 (†GK). In Fremont County, Colo., Sept. 20, "over 4000 bluebirds were counted along the Tallahassee and Cottonwood Creek valleys, at 6000-8000 ft. Ninety per cent were Mountains, but many groups contained Westerns. Most were seen at the limit of the previous night's snowfall in groups of 10-100 (average 40), moving to lower elevations." (BPk). A report of eight Wheatears Sept. 4 on Mt. Evans, Colo., has been referred to C.F.O. for evaluation (VLG). Reno had two Golden-crowned Kinglets Nov. 15, a rare report there (IH); Ruby L. had 10-15 in late October (SHB). The Bohemian Waxwings at Ruby L., in late November were unusual (SHB), and three at Durango Nov. 30 were early (RS). Colorado reported two Phainopeplas, for its third and fourth records: an immature male at Wellington Sept. 16-18 (DBu, RAR, CCh) and a female at Durango Sept. 24-26 (FW, EF RS).

WARBLERS — The warbler migration seemed strong at Pyramid L., weak in e. Colorado. An usual, Wilson's and Yellow-rumped were the most abundant, with hundreds seen on Colorado fall counts in September; the Yellow-rumped appear more commonly in October. Townsend's were notably scarce. Rarities were rarer than usual: Prothonotary, Prewitt Res., Colo., Sept. 5 (TM, BW); Magnolia, Ridgway, Colo., Sept. 13 (JRG); Four Colorado Black-throated Blues including one at Rocky Mt. N.P. Sept. 29 (RK) and a first latilong record in Fremont County, banded Sept. 25 (BPk); Nevada's first **Black-throated Green Warbler** Oct. 15 at Las Vegas (VM, M&JC); two Black-throated Greens at Boulder Oct. 13 (BB); a Blackburnian in the Wind River Mts., Wyo., in August (BH); a

Grace's at Rye, Colo., Aug. 21 (DS; see AB 32: 1193); a Pine at Ridgway Oct. 19-29 (†JRG); a Palm at Cheyenne Aug. 30 (AK); a late N. Waterthrush at Palisade, Colo., Nov. 10 (†BT); and Zion's fourth Am. Redstart Aug. 11 (LE).

TANAGERS, FINCHES — A ♀ Scarlet Tanager in Grapevine Canyon near Davis Dam Sept. 13 gave s. Nevada its first record (CL). At Mesa de Maya in Las Animas Co., Colo., was an ad. ♂ Hepatic Tanager Aug. 19 (JS *et al.*). An amazing **Brambling** appeared Oct. 31 - Nov. 1 in a trailer court at Sutcliffe, Nev. It fed on pyracanthus and on the ground with House Sparrows. Presumably wild, it allowed no approach closer than 20 ft on the ground, 10 ft when in a tree (D&KG, ph.). Las Vegas had ten Lazuli Buntings Oct. 1, but Cheyenne had one Oct. 24, a very late date (JSt). Lesser Goldfinches were abundant during the entire period at Zion; from three nests discovered during the fall breeding season, seven young fledged (JG). Red Crossbills again plied the Colorado conifers; and each of the other Mountain West states had one observation. Three White-winged Crossbills were at Alma, Colo., Sept. 9 (CC). A Green-tailed Towhee remained at Lakewood, Colo., Nov. 19-30 (J&IC). Nevada enjoyed an unprecedented influx of **longspurs** of three species Oct. 13-15 Lawson found, between five e. Nevada locations, about 25 McCown's, 15 Laplands, and 200 Chestnut-collareds. At Las Vegas Mowbray found one McCown's Oct. 10, three Laplands Nov. 11-12, and 2-6 Chestnut-collared Oct. 12-16. A Snow Bunting fed with juncos at Boulder Nov. 11 (KN).

CORRIGENDUM — Correct the hawk nesting data at the bottom of Col. 1, AB 32: 1191, to read as follows: "C. D. W. sampled 190 Prairie Falcon nests, finding 2.3 young/site. Medicine Bow had 11 nests, 31 young, and Wyoming had nests in at least 10 other locations (BO). The numbers strongly suggest that Prairie Falcons do not merit Blue List status, at least in those two states."

NOTE — The Colorado Bird Distribution Latilong Study, reviewed in September (AB 32:1080) is available for \$2 from Colorado Field Ornithologists, c/o Judd Sundine, 5325 Gardland St., Arvada, Colo. 80003.

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SOUTHWEST REGION

/Janet Witzeman, John P. Hubbard and Kenn Kaufman

The word that came to mind to describe this autumn in the Southwest was "phenomenal" — if the term could be understood to mean "producing phenomena." Things *happened* this fall, or, in some cases, conspicuously *failed* to happen, and a number of patterns could be discerned against the background "noise" of rarity reports.



Despite several trips to Lake Havasu on the Lower Colorado River (the site of last year's Triple Crown of jaeger species), *no* jaegers were seen there this year — which is not to say that they did not occur. Two jaegers were seen, however, in southeastern New Mexico. The traditionally-good shorebird areas at Willcox, Phoenix and Tucson were in poor to nonexistent condition, and the paucity of rare shorebird reports herein is undoubtedly a direct result of this. Prescott, by contrast, had good shorebird flats for once.

Southward and downslope movements by a great variety of corvids, titmice and nuthatches added up to the largest fall flight in six years for these families. However, in contrast to the last big flight in 1972, the "winter finches" did not take part in the general incursion; such species as siskins, crossbills and Cassin's Finches were conspicuously scarce over most of southern Arizona, and Lawrence's Goldfinches were almost mythical.

THE NORTHEAST — A remarkable series of records was obtained in northeastern Arizona this fall. Their implications are perhaps more significant than the records themselves.

Much of northeastern Arizona is arid and treeless, but there are scattered "oases" of trees at towns, washes and springs. Past visits to such points as Teec Nos Pos (extreme northeastern corner) had produced interesting bird records. However, there were no precedents for the trip made by ST and GHR, who went from Springerville north to Teec Nos Pos and then west to Pipe Springs, finding and checking as many oases as possible in the period Sept. 1-4. So startling were their results that the route was duplicated Oct. 5-8 by KK, GHR, ST and JW; some of the areas were

again visited Oct. 21-22 by GHR, EC, and KK. Among the more notable birds seen: **Wood Thrush** (6th Arizona record) at Sanders Oct. 6 (ph.); **five Red-eyed Vireos** (about 9th & 11th Arizona records) at Kayenta Sept. 3 (†) and Richville Oct. 5 (†); **Tennessee Warbler** at Eager Oct. 22 (†); **Magnolia Warbler** (about 10th Arizona record) near Springerville Oct. 22 (†); single **Black-throated Blue Warblers** at Sanders

Sept. 2 (ph), Ganado Lake Oct. 6, and Kayenta Oct. 7; single **Black-throated Greens** at Teec Nos Pos Sept. 3 and Ganado Lake Oct. 21 (†); single **Blackburnian Warblers** (6th & 7th Arizona records) near Springerville Oct. 5 (ph.) and Ganado Lake Oct. 6 (†); **Bay-breasted Warbler** (8th Arizona record) at Ganado Lake Oct. 6 (ph.); single **Ovenbirds** at Teec Nos Pos Oct. 7 and near Springerville Oct. 22; **seven N. Waterthrushes** Sept. 1-4; **Kentucky Warbler** (about 12th Arizona record, 2nd for fall) near Springerville Sept. 1; ♂ "**Baltimore**" **Oriole** at Lee's Ferry Sept. 4 (ph.); single **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** at Vermilion Cliffs Oct. 8, Ganado Oct. 21 and near Springerville Oct. 22; and many lesser rarities.

Since all these were found in ten days' birding (or driving, with intervals of birding) by one party, it was clear that the ratio of rarities - per - vagrant - trap was much higher here than farther south in Arizona. We suspect that if coverage there continues, the known status of many eastern "accidentals" in Arizona will soon be revised drastically.

GREBES THROUGH HERONS — Arizona's "resident vagrant" Least Grebe continued through the period at Quitobaquito; another was near Nogales Oct. 26-29 (CM *et al.*). White Pelicans were more numerous than usual in New Mexico, with a new state high of 2000 at Elephant Butte L., Sept. 30, declining to 104 by Nov. 27 (DM); also notable were 20 at Eagle Nest L., Aug. 8 (BZ), 703 near Artesia Oct. 17 (D. Sutcliffe) and one near Bernalillo Nov. 1 (C. Teas, *vide JP*). A few Brown Pelicans from last summer's flight lingered in Arizona with one near Yuma and two at Painted Rock Dam still present at the end of the period. Up to eight Olivaceous Cormorants were present Sept. 13 - Oct. 22 (RLT *et al.*) at Bosque del Apache N.W.R., N. Mex., where now apparently regular.

New Mexico had its largest influx of Cattle Egrets ever, with records of 1-12 birds at such points as Hobbs, Bosque del Apache, Dexter, Grants, Cliff and Bayard between early September and early November. Largest numbers, however, were in the Lower Pecos Valley throughout the period, with a roost of at least 31 birds at Carlsbad through November (SW, L&RW). Louisiana Herons appeared twice in Arizona (where quite rare), with one at St. David Sept. 4 (R. Bowers) and one at Nogales Sept. 16-18 (DSz *et al.*).

WATERFOWL — Late November saw an unusual movement of Whistling Swans into Arizona, with one near Poston Nov. 13 (BA, RD), one near Topock Nov. 20 (DL), one near Springerville Nov. 26 (KK, EC, BJo), 19 over L. Mary, near Flagstaff, Nov. 26 (R. Warner, *vide JC*), two at Painted Rock Dam Nov. 28 (JW *et al.*) and several other vague reports; 15 seen Nov. 30 at Burford L., n.c. New Mexico (JPH *et al.*), provided a high number and late record for the area. At least four pairs of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks nested at Nogales at the end of the summer, the first successful nestings there since 1974 (BH *et al.*).

Three sea-duck species, rare anywhere in the Region, occurred near Flagstaff. A ♂-plumaged White-winged Scoter was on Upper L. Mary Nov. 28-30 (†JC), and an Oldsquaw appeared at the same location Nov. 30 (†JC); a ♂-plumaged Surf Scoter was on Ashurst L., Nov. 5-16, and another or the same was on nearby Upper L. Mary Nov. 22-23 (JA, †CH *et al.*). In New Mexico, a ♀ Surf Scoter taken Oct. 21 on Jicarilla Res. (J. Voelzer) provided a fourth state specimen.

RAPTORS — An ad. Goshawk at Ehrenberg Oct. 15 (†BMW) was at an extreme lowland locality; the species rarely reaches the L.C.R., even in flight years, which this was not. Mississippi Kites were present into

August at Clovis and Portales, N. Mex., and probably bred at both localities (ALG). An additional Zone-tailed Hawk eyrie was found in the Jemez Mts. (B. Heinrich *et al.*), suggesting that a fairly substantial population exists in this northerly area of New Mexico; an adult was reported Aug. 22 near Las Vegas, N. Mex. (K. Carnie), a new locality for the species.

A very wild ad. Harris' Hawk n.w. of the Big Hatchet Mts., Sept. 23 (JPH) provided one of the very few records for s.w. New Mexico; one in the Manzano Mts., Oct. 9 (JP) was far from normal range and habitat (and close to Albuquerque), and may have been an escape from captivity. An aerial survey of n. New Mexico counted 91 Bald Eagles Nov. 29-30 (JPH *et al.*); 22 adults were present at one time on Navajo L., N. Mex., Nov. 21 (G. Thorne).

PTARMIGAN, CRANES — Two ad. White-tailed Ptarmigan on Latir Peak, N. Mex., Aug. 6 (CLH *et al.*) represented the first record there since 1969.

The first Whooping Crane to arrive at Bosque, N. Mex., was Ida — hatched in 1975 — on Oct. 10 (D. Rigby); by Nov. 29 there were definitely 8 of the 9 expected birds in the c. Rio Grande Valley, including three hatched in 1978.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS — Stilt Sandpipers were recorded at Ashurst L., near Flagstaff, with one Sept. 10, two Oct. 8-9 and three Oct. 15 (CH, JA *et al.*). The species was also recorded on Many Farms L. (one Sept. 2 — ST, GHR) and during September at Prescott (*ten* Sept. 25 — CST). Although perhaps to be expected, these evidently were first records for n. Arizona. There are few fall records for the species in New Mexico, so notable were singles at Ute L., Sept. 14 (JPH) and Bitter Lake N.W.R., Oct. 8 (WSt). Arizona had perhaps more Red Phalaropes than usual, with one near Springerville Oct. 5 (ph. JW *et al.*), one near Yuma Nov. 26 (†G&DR), one at Tucson Dec. 2-3 (DSz, KK, EC) and *three* at Nogales Dec. 6 (BH). Good numbers of N. Phalaropes were recorded in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of New Mexico Sept. 9-23, plus singles near Las Vegas Sept. 9 and near Clovis Sept. 14 (JPH).

On Sept. 16, a possible Parasitic Jaeger was seen chasing a possible Pomarine Jaeger at L. McMillan, s.e. New Mexico (SW, L&RW). One of the jaegers was seen again Sept. 18. Neither species has yet been verified in the state.

An ad. California Gull at Caballo L., N. Mex., Nov. 29 (KJZ) was a first local record. The Region's only Sabine's Gulls of the fall were an immature at Nogales Oct. 1-3 (CM, BH *et al.*) and an adult at Bitter Lake N.W.R., N. Mex. Oct. 7 (WSt). Two ad. Heermann's Gulls were seen on the L.C.R., near Yuma Nov. 10 (†JDB); this is now an annual stray to Arizona, but with no discernable seasonal pattern. An ad. **Black-legged Kittiwake** frequented the Parker Dam region Nov. 11-19 (DSz, KK *et al.*, ph. BMW). Arizona had seven previous records, all for late fall to late winter. One Com. Tern was reported at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Aug. 22 (KJZ, BZ), and several in the Carlsbad area Sept. 16 (SW, L&RW); the status of this species in the Region away from the L.C.R., remains clouded by questions in identification.

DOVES THROUGH SWIFTS — Notable peripheral White-winged Doves in New Mexico included one at Albuquerque Aug. 9 (JND *et al.*) and two fledglings at Alamogordo Aug. 8-15 (G. Smith, *vide* LM); the species was last noted at Socorro Sept. 17 (PB). Extralimital single Inca Doves in New Mexico were at Glenwood Sept. 28 (B&DMc) and Roswell Nov. 26-28 (H. Hefley *et al.*). A remarkable concentration of six Groove-billed Anis was found Sept. 9 at Arivaca, Ariz.; at least five remained in late October, and one through the end of the period (BH *et al.*). Arizona averages only two or three individual anis per year, but protracted stays by these are not unusual.

HUMMINGBIRDS — Blue-throated Hummingbirds outside normal limits were a male near Gallina, Jemez Mts., N. Mex., in early August (C. Austin, *vide* R. Goodman), a pair at Cloudercroft, N. Mex., Aug. 25 - Sept. 9 (SC, *vide* LM) and an imm. male at Prescott, Ariz., Sept. 15 (VM). Exceptionally late hummingbirds included two imm. ♂ Rufous at Las Cruces into December (T. Todson, *vide* W. Baltosser), and two Violet-crowneds at Ramsey Canyon and one at Nogales through November (R&CH, RMa, BH).

Transcending previous records in distance north, duration of stay and lateness of occurrence was a **Plain-capped Starthroat** in Phoenix Oct. 17 - Nov. 28 (†ph. Jo Yoba *et al.*, ph. G. Metson).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH BLUE JAY — A Red-bellied Woodpecker at Rattlesnake Springs Oct. 27 (†HS) & Nov. 19 (L&RW) was a fifth New Mexico sighting (still unverified in the state). Single Gila Woodpeckers, normally sedentary, reached Cloverdale, N. Mex., Nov. 8 (JPH) and Springerville Nov. 26 (KK, BJo, EC); several also occurred near Prescott, where rare, from September on (CST). A Red-headed Woodpecker at Cloudercroft, N. Mex., Aug. 20 (SC, *vide* LM) was a rare stray.

A major movement of Lewis' Woodpeckers into the s. Arizona lowlands occurred. Scattered individuals were noted at numerous points, and many remained into the winter. Farthest from the mountains were one s. of Poston Oct. 1 and four near Parker Nov. 19 into at least December (BMW *et al.*).

An E. Kingbird, rare in s.w. New Mexico, was at Socorro Sept. 4 (PB). A die-off in excess of 100 Cave Swallows occurred Sept. 27-28 at Carlsbad Caverns (RW), possibly due to an extended period of heavy rains. A ♂ Purple



Black-legged Kittiwake. Parker Dam, AZ-CA. Nov. 13, 1978. Photo/B. M. Whitney.

Martin was seen at B.W. Delta Sept. 25 (BMW); the species is quite rare as a migrant in the L.C.V.

On the e. plains of New Mexico, Blue Jay numbers seem to have increased in Portales; the species now appears to be resident in Clovis — where it bred this year (ALG) — and in Hobbs (HS). Migrants included singles at Los Lunas Oct. 5 (RLT), Bell L., Oct. 28 (JPH), Santa Fe Nov. 14 and later (M. Earney), Mesilla Nov. 18 (LH), and Farmington Nov. 16 & 23 (J. Eppich, APN).

MONTANE CORVIDS, PARIDS, NUT-HATCHES — Although the numbers involved were not huge, virtually every invasion-prone species in these three families made notable appearances. Steller's Jays appeared at many unusual points in New Mexico, including fair numbers around Silver City from October through the end of the period (M&SO, RAF), plus a few at such places as Santa Fe (WH), Trujillo (JPH), Glenwood (B&DMc), Mesilla (LH) and Carlsbad (RW); small flocks were also seen at many "oases" in n.e. Arizona in October. Small numbers of Scrub Jays appeared out-of-range at Williamsburg, N. Mex., Sept. 18 - Oct. 28 (DM), n. of Las Cruces Nov. 7 (LH), at Hobbs Nov. 4-30 (HS) and at Phoenix October - December; unusual numbers reached the L.C.V., with at least 18 in B.W. Delta by early October and up to six at Cibola N.W.R., by the end of the period (BMW *et al.*), plus two near Yuma Nov. 11 (SG).

A moderate movement of Black-billed Magpies occurred in the Sangre de Cristo Mt. area of New Mexico, with the species seen in Santa Fe Sept. 27 and later. Roving Piñon Jay flocks were notably widespread, reported from the Carlsbad, Elephant Butte and Las Cruces areas of New Mexico and from scattered points throughout n., s.e., and c. Arizona, with a single bird at B.W. Delta Oct. 9 (SG) marking the extreme lowland locality. Typically, the bulk of the Piñon Jay sightings were made in September and October, many involving flocks flying over arid lowlands or staying only a few days at middle-elevation points, with very few later reports. The ultimate destinations of most of these birds are unknown, but four substantial flocks settled for the winter in the foothills near Nogales. Isolated September sightings of Clark's Nutcrackers in the Chiricahuas, Mazatzals, Signal Peak, and Prescott regions of Arizona suggested that this species might invade S, but there were no later reports.

Two Black-capped Chickadees were at Pipe Springs Nat'l Mon., Nov. 24 (RBr); Arizona still has very few records. A minor invasion of Mountain Chickadees into s. New Mexico lowlands was indicated by small numbers at Glenwood (LH), Rattlesnake Springs (JPH, RW), Silver City (DAZ, RAF), Columbus, and the Organ Mts. (LH); four were also found in the Tucson lowlands. Bushtits reached the lowlands around Phoenix in record numbers, and others were reported from Tucson, the L.C.V., and c. Pinal County Ariz.

What was probably a major movement of White-breasted Nuthatches went largely unreported, since the migrants appeared in areas already inhabited by resident birds; experienced observers noted unusually high numbers at many specific points in s.e. Arizona, and birds were found in the New

Mexico lowlands at Carlsbad Caverns (SW, L&RW) and Percha Dam (25 on Nov 29 — JD, KJZ). Scattered single Red-breasted Nuthatches occurred almost throughout the s. Arizona lowlands, for a much higher total than usual. Pygmy Nuthatches, in contrast to the other two species, are extremely rare in the lowlands. One at Socorro July 28-29 (PB) was quite early; later individuals were recorded Aug 9 and Sept. 26 at Farmington (HHL, APN), Sept. 5 at Santa Fe (JE), and Sept. 29 in Tucson (KK, GHR).

MIMICS THROUGH PHAINOPEPLA — Single Gray Catbirds at Silver City Aug. 14 (DAZ) and Alamogordo in late August (H. Waddell, *vide LM*) were locally unusual. Unprecedented was one in B.W. Delta Sept. 26 (†BMW), a first for w. Arizona. Notable were single Brown Thrashers Nov. 15-17 at Ehrenberg, Ariz. (ML, †BMW), and Nov. 18-20 at Bayard, N. Mex. (RAF). The only Rufous-backed Robin of the fall was one at Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Ariz., Nov. 18-21 (EC, LD *et al.*).

Single Varied Thrushes Oct. 19 (early) at Flagstaff (†JC, CH *et al.*), Nov. 3 near Portal (†M Litte), and Nov. 16 in Phoenix (BB) were notable, but failed to match last year's invasion. Seventh and 8th Arizona records of the **Wood Thrush** were provided by one in the Chiricahuas Oct. 8-9 (HB, GM *et al.*) and one at Kearney Nov. 22-24 (ph., F. Reynolds). A notable influx of E. Bluebirds reached the Rio Grande Valley of New Mexico in November, with small flocks reported from Bosque N.W.R. (M. Manson), Percha Dam (DM), and Mesilla (LH), while several W. Bluebirds at Bell L., Oct. 28 were e. of their normal New Mexico range (JPH).

Phainopeplas are erratic and rare in s.e. New Mexico, and two gray females or first-year males at Carlsbad Caverns Aug. 27 (RW) provided the first record there in several years.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — In addition to those listed for n.e. Arizona (*q.v.*), outstanding records included: a Philadelphia Vireo at Whitlow Dam Aug. 28 (†RMcK) and another at Phoenix Sept. 23 (RBr) (8th and 10th Arizona records); a ♂ **Golden-winged Warbler** (4th Arizona record) Oct. 8 at B.W. Delta (†BMW); a **Blackburnian Warbler** Sept. 23 at Phoenix (†KK, JW *et al.*) and another Oct. 6 at Prescott (CST) (5th and 8th Arizona records); a Bay-breasted Warbler (about 9th Arizona record) Oct. 9 at B.W. Delta (†BMW), and another (probably this species) photographed Nov. 26 near Cliff, N. Mex. (JE), a **Blackpoll Warbler** (6th Arizona record) Oct. 12 near Tucson (GM, PW); a Palm Warbler (11th Arizona record) Oct. 10 near Coolidge (†KK, GHR); a Kentucky Warbler (13th Arizona & 3rd fall record) Oct. 28-29 at Nogales (CC, DG, ph. ST); and a Hooded Warbler (very rare in fall) that lingered Oct. 27 - Nov. 20 near Winkelman, Ariz. (ST, GHR *et al.*). Undoubtedly the most exciting warbler of the season was a **Pine Warbler** well-described at Percha Dam S.P., Nov. 29 (JD, KJZ); this was the first report for New Mexico (and for the Region) of a species exceptionally rare anywhere in the west.

Of lesser rarity (now annual in very small numbers) but still notable were: single Chestnut-sided Warblers near Prescott Oct. 2 (CST), another there Nov. 4 (BH), near Portal

Nov. 17-18 (AMc), and Nogales Nov. 19 (DSz, SP), single Black-throated Greens at Cibola N.W.R., Ariz., Oct. 23 (†BMW), Bell L., N. Mex., Oct. 28 (considered locally late — JPH), B.W. Delta Nov. 11 (BMW, GHR, KK), and Oak Creek, Ariz., Nov. 18 (†CH); single Black-throated Blues at Nogales Oct. 3 (CC), B.W. Delta Oct. 10 (†BMW), Phoenix Nov. 12 (ST), and Yuma Dec. 23 (†G&DR); and single Tennessee Warblers at Rattlesnake Springs, N. Mex., Oct. 14 (SW, RW), California Gulch, Ariz., Oct. 22 (DSz *et al.*), and Tucson Nov. 2 (KK).

A Grace's Warbler at Percha Dam S.P., N. Mex., Nov. 29 (KJZ) was extremely late and at a lower elevation than usual. A Painted Redstart at Ehrenberg, Ariz., Sept. 14-16 (ML, BMW, JDB) was well outside normal migration routes and perhaps a first record for the L.C.V.

ICTERIDS — A subad. ♂ **Streak-backed Oriole** frequented a Tucson feeder Oct. 7-18 (†GM, m. ob.), along with a dull-plumaged ♂ oriole almost certainly of this species until Oct. 22; this is a rare straggler from n.w. Mexico. Also somewhat n. of normal range was a ♂ Hooded Oriole (accompanied by possible ♂♂) at Alamogordo, N. Mex., Aug. 10 (G. Bloys, *vide LM*).

The Great-tailed Grackle population of Eddy County, s.e. N. Mex., is increasing dramatically. Where a year ago the species occurred in groups of usually less than a dozen, it is now not uncommon to find groups of 100 birds (SW).

FRINGILLIDS — Wandering ♂ Pyrrhuloxias reached Silver City Oct. 22 (DAZ, MAZ) and the Peloncillo Mts., near Rodeo, N. Mex., Nov. 6 (JPH). Arizona's only Dickcissel this fall was near Springerville Nov. 23 (†DD, JBe). A new area for Pine Grosbeak in Arizona was Prescott, where a pair was noted Aug. 17 (SRD, HL, ZB). At least one Brown-capped Rosy Finch was found Aug. 8 (JPH) on Latir Peak, N. Mex., where not previously reported in summer.

Red Crossbills, notoriously irregular in their breeding season, nested near Prescott in late August - early September (CST). A Rufous-sided Towhee seen Nov. 8 near Socorro (PB) appeared to be a female of the e. (unspotted) race; there is one other unconfirmed sighting of this form in New Mexico. Single Clay-colored Sparrows at Bell L., N. Mex., Oct. 27 (JPH) and near Las Cruces Oct. 27 & Nov. 7 (LH) were late.

Yellow-eyed Juncos are almost unknown away from the breeding grounds or at low elevations, so exceptional were singles in the Patagonia Mts., Oct. 1 (BH) and in Tucson Oct. 25 through the end of the period (GG *et al.*).

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ALASKA REGION /Daniel D. Gibson

Another autumn that was mild right through into December and an interesting season for birds. Record-late Regional departures are italicized.

SHEARWATERS THROUGH WATER-FOWL — Still not well known in this Region except far offshore in the Pacific, Scaled Petrel was recorded twice in the Bering Sea-Aleutian area this period: perhaps ten different birds 80 km w. of St. Paul I., Sept. 23 (MN, WER) and one in a large flock of Short-tailed Shearwaters in Unalga Pass, e. Aleutians, Oct. 17 (RAM, TOO), the latter one of the latest Alaska records. A Trumpeter Swan that had been neck-collared on the Kenai Nat'l Moose Range in 1971 was observed at Blind Slough, near Petersburg Nov. 14 (JH). Early S movements of Canada and White-fronted geese were noted in August on the Copper R. Delta; an exceptionally late *major* movement of the former, involving thousands of birds in scores of flocks, was noted along the coast between Cordova and Yakutat, and up to 20+ km at sea, Nov. 1-2 (MEI). A late White-fronted was at Kasilof Oct. 10 (MAM). As usual, Gadwalls were common at Kodiak I., and not mentioned elsewhere; max. count was 229 at Kalsin Bay Oct. 28 (RAM, MMM)



Garganeys arrived in the w. Aleutians on, what would appear to be, schedule, one at Agattu I., Sept. 1 (DWW, DRY) and one at Shemya I., Sept. 5 (DDG, TGT); the species was present at the latter location through at least mid-October, max. 3/day. Eurasian Wigeon arrived record-early at Shemya, an ad. male Sept. 7, but few were seen through mid-October (DDG, TGT). Two wigeon (probably this species) were seen at St. Paul Sept. 14 (WER), and a Eur. Wigeon was reported at St. Goerge I., Sept. 18 (RS, *fide* WER). Later, one male was seen at Kalsin Bay, Kodiak, Oct. 28 (RAM), and a flock of five was present at Sitka Oct. 23-29 (DV). Redheads made news again at Kodiak (see AB 32:388) when up to five were seen at Womens Bay Oct. 22 - Nov. 11 (RAM, MMM). Steller's Eiders arrived at the e. end of their winter range on time, Oct. 30 at Kodiak (RAM) and Oct. 27 off Deep Cr., Kenai Pen. (MAM).

FALCONS — New to Alaska, a **Eurasian Kestrel** at Shemya Sept. 5-9 (BEL, DDG, TGT) was the first of several reports in the w. Aleutians this fall, all probably the result of the same violent Labor Day weekend storm that had originated in the Sea of Japan. These birds were far out of place; there seems to be no prior record of *F. t. interstinctus* n. or e. of Japan (*i.e.*, no Kurile Is., Kamchatka, or Commander Is., record). A ♂ Am. Kestrel near Lake Rose Tead, Kodiak, Nov. 21+ (RAM, TOO) provided the first record for that archipelago.

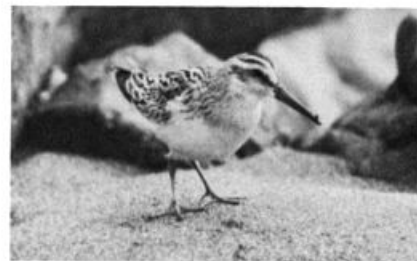
SHOREBIRDS — This group is almost always newsworthy in Alaska, and fall 1978 was no exception. There were good late August-September passages in the w. Aleutians of Mongolian Plover (up to 5/day), Whimbrel, *N.p. variegatus*, (up to 11/day), Wood Sandpiper (up to 2/day), Com. Sandpiper (up to 3/day), Rufous-necked Sandpiper (up to 4/day) and Ruff (up to 3/day) and very late individuals of a variety of species: Spotted

Redshank, Oct. 11. Wood Sandpiper Sept. 29, Whimbrel Sept. 29, Com. Sandpiper Sept. 16, Polynesian Tattler Oct. 11 (DDG, TGT, GEH). Less predictable occurrences included single Green-shanks at Agattu (DWW, DRY) and at Shemya (DDG, TGT) simultaneously Sept. 6, only the second Alaska fall record; a Terek Sandpiper at Agattu Aug. 30 - Sept. 4 (DWW, DRY) provided the tenth Alaska record, the only one in 1978; and hard on the heels of 1977's precedent, **Broad-billed Sandpiper** occurred in the Aleutians in fall 1978 — at least five individuals at Shemya Aug. 30 - Sept. 6 (DDG, TGT *et al.*).

Up to four Lesser Yellowlegs were present at St. Paul Aug. 18-28 (WER); the species seems to be an annual visitant in the Pribilofs, although it does not occur regularly w. of there. There were more reports than usual of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, probably reflecting more, and more widely-scattered, observers than in past years. The species was reported from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta (REG) and the Pribilofs (WER) to the w. Aleutians (m.ob.), Kodiak (RAM *et al.*), the Kenai Pen. (MAM *et al.*) and Prince William Sound (MEI, SM, others). The passage was normally protracted, from at least Aug. 20 (three, St. Paul, AP, *fide* WER) through Nov. 11 (three, Kodiak, RAM); max. count was 45 birds at Shemya Oct. 9.

Late records from mainland Alaska included a Wandering Tattler at Green I., Prince William Sound [hereafter, P.W.S.], Oct. 15 (MJR), the latest for southcoastal Alaska and the second latest on record in the Region and two Greater Yellowlegs in the same area Oct. 13 (MJR). A Ruff at Meade R., Aug. 11 (WDS, SJ) provided the sixth n. Alaska record, all since 1976. Single Stilt Sandpipers at Middle Bay, Kodiak, Aug. 20 (RAM, MMM, ph.) and at Eagle R. beach, Juneau, Sept. 10 (FAG, RHA, ph.) were out of place and provided, respectively, third and second fall records for southcoastal and southeastern Alaska.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper was last seen at Meade R., Aug. 15 (WDS). Following the first Aleutian record in fall 1977, there were three fall 1978 records at Shemya — singles Sept. 2, 11-12, and 29 (DDG, TGT, GEH). Perhaps in years when this species breeds w. of Barrow (for which there seemed to be evidence this year), some young birds move S and W instead of E and S; the species is a rare straggler in Japan (five times, fall only?) and in the Kurile Is. (twice, both fall). A lone Buff-breasted at Eagle R. beach, Juneau, Sept. 3 (RHA, ph.) added to very few s.e. Alaska records, spring or fall.



Broad-billed Sandpiper. Shemya I., Aleutians Alaska. Sept. 2, 1978. Photo/R. H. Day.

A most interesting record received too late for the last report, a Semipalmated Sandpiper nest-trapped at Meade R., July 2 (SJ, WDS, JPM) had been banded Apr. 16, 1976, near Paramaribo, Surinam.

GULLS THROUGH OWLS — An imm Ring-billed Gull at Skagway Sept. 12 (SJ) was the only report this fall. An imm. Arctic Tern at St. Paul Sept. 19 (WER) was very late; six Arctics at Green I., P.W.S., Sept. 24 (MJR) have been exceeded in the Region only by an Oct. 2, 1974, record at Kodiak (RAM). Mourning Doves were widely reported in small numbers in s.e. Alaska, where they are regular fall migrants from Canada: two Sept. 12 at Skagway (SJ); one Sept. 18 at Sitka (SJ); one Oct. 4 at Petersburg (JH); one Oct. 5 at Juneau (FAG). One bird observed at Tanacross Sept. 22 (BEL, KH) provided only the third fall record for the interior, however. At least three different **Barred Owls** have been recorded in the Juneau area by various observers since October 1977 (see AB 32:244,1045); on Aug. 26 an emaciated immature collapsed from the tree where it was being photographed and died shortly thereafter (RHA, ph.). The date and the bird's age probably do not constitute incontrovertible breeding evidence for Alaska. Saw-whet Owl is a poorly-known resident of southcoastal Alaska; thus it is of particular interest that singles were mist netted and banded on Evans I., P.W.S., Sept. 4 & 6 and another was mist netted and banded in downtown Anchorage Sept. 23 (EB, *fide* JCP).

HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS — Up to three **Anna's Hummingbirds** were present in the Cordova area from at least late September to mid-November (REI, MEI *et al.*), for the second Southcoastal record. No report of this species was received from s.e. Alaska this period. Single ad. "Red-breasted" Sapsuckers, (*S. v. ruber*), observed in the town of Kodiak, Oct. 28 (TOO, LO) and in Cordova, Oct. 29 (MEI) are the first sight records of this species in southcoastal Alaska. Marked trees had provided circumstantial evidence of sapsuckers' occurrence in e. P.W.S. (*Biol. Papers Univ. Alaska* 14: 139, 1973), but, since nominate *varius* has been seen in e.-c. Alaska n. of the Alaska Range, it took these sightings to clear up the question of origin of such visitors to the coast.

LARKS, SWALLOWS — Arriving simultaneously Sept. 19, a **yellow-faced Horned Lark** at St. Paul (WER) and two at Shemya, (DDG, TGT) provided first records of this race for the Pribilofs and Aleutians, respectively. There is but one prior Alaska record of paleartic *E. a. flava*, in fall from St. Lawrence I. (*Auk* 85:511, 1968). In an uncanny repeat of

fall 1977 (q.v.), an imm. Violet-green Swallow was studied at Shemya Oct. 2-3 (DDG, TGT, GEH); at least one (and perhaps four) at Makushin Bay. *Unalaska I., Oct. 13* (RAM, TOO) was thus the third Aleutian record of the species.

NUTHATCHES THROUGH STARLINGS

— Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported in low numbers this fall on Kodiak I. (RAM). Up to two birds were present at a Kasilof feeder Aug. 9 - Nov. 10 (MAM), but none at all was recorded in the Cordova area (MEI). There are very few fall records of either *Luscinia* known in Alaska. Of interest then were the latest Bluethroat at Meade R., Aug. 21 (SJ) and at least four Siberian Rubythroats at Shemya Oct. 3-10 (DDG, TGT, GEH). One of the latter was mist netted and banded there Oct. 6 (DDG). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Kodiak Nov. 13 (RAM) apparently represents only the third record for the Kodiak I. archipelago, although the species is abundant on the adjacent mainland. Starlings were widely newsworthy this fall: five just e. of Cantwell Sept. 4 (RA); three at the Anchorage dump Oct. 22 (SS *et al.*, *vide* JCP); up to five birds as far w. as Kodiak, where they provided a first island record, Oct. 30+ (RAM, TOO). And a small

group hung on at the Fairbanks dump through the end of the reporting period (BK).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES — Late Rusty Blackbirds were widely reported, as they often are in mild falls: one until Oct. 21 at Ambler (DKW), one Nov. 4 near Kasilof beach (MAM), and a small group at the Fairbanks dump through the close of the period (BK *et al.*). A Rusty Blackbird was reported at *St. George* Sept. 18 (RS, *vide* WER); there are at least three previous Pribilof records, all in fall. An imm. **Brown-headed Cowbird** on the Tutakoke R., Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Sept. 4 (REG) provided the second w. Alaska record. Bramblings arrived in the w. Aleutians; Shemya, Sept. 17 (DDG, TGT), exactly one year after their fall 1977 arrival. They peaked ten days later, when 24+ were seen Sept. 28, and some were present through at least Oct. 12; seven were mist netted and banded at Shemya during this period. Elsewhere, a ♂ **Brambling** at the Buskin R. mouth, Kodiak, Nov. 6 & 16 (RAM, TOO) became the fifth Alaska record e. of the Aleutian and Bering Sea islands, all of them at coastal locations. Pine Siskins were common all fall on Kodiak I., after having been common there all summer (RAM); only a few, large, flocks were seen

in the Cordova area, October-November (MEI), and the species was not commented on elsewhere. White-winged Crossbills were locally common — through the end of the period at Ambler (DKW) and fairly common from early August on at Kodiak (RAM) — but only small flocks were present at Kasilof, through the end of the period (MAM), and none was seen on the Copper R. Delta this fall (MEI). No Harris' Sparrows were recorded this fall at their usual Juneau checkpoints (RBW), the first such absence in the last 14 years.

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NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Eugene S. Hunn and Philip W. Mattocks, Jr.

The Region had a slightly warmer and wetter August than usual, based on the Seattle, Portland, and Medford stations. September was cooler and much wetter than average, with four inches of extra rain even for Seattle, but October was warm with almost no precip-

itation. Then cold weather hit in early November with about 4°F below average throughout, over one-half the days having freezing temperatures, and snowfall to at least Portland and Seattle in mid-November.

Late August and early September produced occurrences of several unusual species, with most being from east of the Region: Upland Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Western Kingbird, Say's Phoebe, Mockingbird, and Lark Sparrow, but also including Laysan Albatross, Rufous-necked Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit, Least Tern, and Xantus' Murrelet. Another group of unusual records was clustered in mid-October, with Emperor Goose and Bar-tailed Godwit from the northwest, American Avocet, Magnolia and Palm warblers from the northeast, and Tropical Kingbird from the south. The very few vagrant warbler records are from late September to mid-October.

LOONS THROUGH PELICANS — Only two imm. Yellow-billed Loons found this fall reflect a slight decline (5 in 1976, 3 in 1977). One was at Tillamook, Oreg., Oct. 29 - Nov. 11 (JG, TC *et al.*); the other at Bayview S.P., Skagit Co., Wash., Nov. 24 -

Dec. 8 (B&PE, TW). Maximum one-day counts of Western, Horned, Red-necked, and Eared grebes in the Victoria, V.I., area this fall were respectively 1500:300:40:3, roughly indicative of their relative winter abundance in our Region.

A single Laysan Albatross frequented a patch of ocean about 30 km w. of Westport, Wash., Sept. 4-10 (TW). This is but the third sighting in over 60 offshore trips from this port during the last decade.

— S.A. —



Albatross, sp. Photo/T. Crabtree.

On Sept. 30, Oregon pelagic birders (TC, JG) photographed an unusual albatross 25 km w. of Newport. This bird very closely resembles the one TW photographed off Westport May 3, 1970, which was subsequently identified as a 3-4 year old Short-tailed Albatross (*Calif. Birds* 1:113-5). However, doubt remains, as TW's photo was overexposed, and DP has clear photos of similarly-plumaged birds taken off Westport Sept. 13, 1970, and Sept. 12, 1971. In none of these cases have the birds been noted as larger than Black-footed Albatrosses nearby, an important Short-tailed Albatross field mark. We believe that these birds may simply be aberrant Black-footed Albatrosses, perhaps even a single individual repeatedly observed.



Numbers of procellarids reported generally were down from last year, with maxima of: 15 N. Fulmar Oct. 8, off Westport (TW), vs. 101 in 1977; 125 Pink-footed Shearwaters Sept. 11, off Westport, vs. 291 in 1977; and 129 Buller's Shearwaters Sept. 10, off Westport, vs. 937 in 1977. The rare Flesh-footed Shearwater kept a foothold with two Sept. 30 off Newport (TC, JG, MK), two Oct. 8 off Westport (MM), and one Oct. 14 off Cape Beale, V.I. (MGS). A Sooty Shearwater flock of about one million was estimated moving S off Tillamook Aug. 21 (HN), while 4000 birds/min. were estimated moving N past Grays Harbor, Wash., Sept. 11 (EH, TW) for 25 minutes with no end in sight. Comparable coastal observations are noted here each fall. Short-tailed Shearwaters did not repeat last fall's dramatic invasion, returning to more typical numbers: two Sept. 30 off Newport (TC, JG, MK), one Oct. 8 off Westport (TW, EH), and one Nov. 17 seen from shore at Florence, Oreg. (LM).

Reported numbers of Fork-tailed and Leach's storm-petrels continued low, compared to 1975 and 1976, with the Fork-tailed maximum at 32 Aug. 20, off Westport (TW), down from 107 the previous fall, while Leach's were seen only off Oregon, with a maximum of six Aug. 20 off Coos Bay (ME). White Pelicans are seldom reported w. of the Cascades. Two summer reports were followed this fall by at least five between Blaine, Wash., and the Columbia R. Most appeared during the last week of September, and one adult at Olympia stayed to Nov. 1 (RK). Brown Pelicans were down dramatically at most Oregon congregations, with immatures less preponderant than usual (*vide* HN). The U.S.F. & W. S. survey of the Oregon coast counted 260 Nov. 10-12, and none was reported n. of Tillamook Bay.

EGRETS THROUGH DUCKS — Cattle Egrets were reported only from Grays Harbor County, Wash., with at least two individuals in mid-to-late November (*vide* BHT). Great Egrets wandered as far N as Hoquiam and Nisqually N.W.R., Wash., with a surprising concentration of at least 16 on Sauvie's I., near Portland, Oreg., in late November (TC). Flocks of 60 Aug. 19 - Oct. 27 on the estuaries of the Coos and Umpqua Rivers (HN, AM) are now to be expected. The only Snowy Egrets were three found at Gardiner, Oreg., Aug. 19 (JG), then three nearby at Coos Bay during November (*vide* AM).

Wintering Trumpeter Swans first arrived Nov. 11 at Cowichan Bay, V.I. (JC), building to 164 at the Mt. Vernon, Wash., congregation by Nov. 24 (B&PE). A straggler on the Sooke R., V.I., since Aug. 10 probably summered (M&VG). A lone imm. Emperor Goose was reported, Oct. 15 - Nov. 26, at Nehalem, Oreg. (JG, MK *et al.*). White-fronted Geese peaked Sept. 24 when 1000 were estimated at Ocean Shores, Wash. (MM, GB). Ad Eur. Green-winged Teal was in Seattle Oct. 26 (fEG). The last Cinnamon Teal was one male Oct. 30 near Vancouver, B.C. (JW), and the last Blue-winged Teal was one male Oct. 20 in Oak Bay, V.I. (RS). The first Eur. Wigeon arrived at Esquimalt, V.I., Sept. 28 (RS), about two weeks early. The 10-12,000 Am. Wigeon estimated on Tillamook Bay Nov. 18 (DF) was the Regional maximum this season, as was the 8000 N. Shovelers Oct. 22 on the Everett sewage ponds, Wash. (MM, EH), a traditional concentration point. "Large num-

bers' of Oldsquaw passing S off Pt. Roberts, Wash., Oct. 14 (TW), were the first signs of the fall influx. Inspired Ruddy Ducks were still raising broods as late as Sept. 1 at their newly discovered Everett, Wash., location. Three females had chicks in tow, one accompanied by five large and eight small chicks (PM, EH).

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES — Vancouver Island observers coordinated their efforts to document the annual Turkey Vulture passage. The first movement was of 12 over Saltspring I., Sept. 12 (RS). The 228 Oct. 1 marked the peak. The last one was seen Oct. 31, and in all there was a total of at least 500 (*vide* VG). In addition, 50 were reported Sept. 2 at Dungeness, Wash. (DC), well ahead of the V.I. flight. The 30 on Sept. 27 near Olympia (CC), and 70 over Ashland, Oreg., Oct. 1 (*vide* OS) indicated the route S. White-tailed Kites continued to consolidate in the Region with 19 near Fern Ridge Res., w. of Eugene Nov. 2 (LM). Scattered individuals were noted also on the Oregon coast and n. to Ridgefield N.W.R., Wash. (BB). Accipiter numbers remained high: 10 Goshawks and 76 each of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks were reported.

The 40+ Red-tailed Hawks Nov. 5 at Baskett Slough N.W.R., Oreg., was a large concentration (TC). Single Swainson's Hawks Aug. 24 at Manning P.P. (AG, ph.) and Aug. 26 near Duncan, V.I. (JC) was about normal for this rare migrant. An ad. **Broad-winged Hawk** over W. Vancouver, B.C., Oct. 5 provided a first Regional record (fBS). The bird was being harassed by a Sharp-shinned Hawk providing direct size comparison. Rough-legged Hawks were first noted Sept. 16 at Baskett Slough N.W.R., and 12 were there Nov. 5 (TC). An Osprey nest still contained one young Aug. 30 in Saanich, V.I. (B&MM). One gray Gyrfalcon was seen. Four Prairie Falcons were noted, two on the Oregon coast in mid-September, one near Medford Nov. 19, and one in the s. Washington Cascades Oct. 19. The 36 Peregrines and 68 Merlins reported made excellent news; Peregrines up dramatically from last fall and Merlins matching last year's fine showing.

The usual fall migrant flock of 3-500 Sandhill Cranes had arrived at Sauvie's I. by Sept. 30 (EGW, *vide* AC). One near Victoria Nov. 11-13 was unusual (*vide* VG).

SHOREBIRDS — Snowy Plovers hung on with eight at Leadbetter Pt., Wash., Nov. 5 (FK), 28 at Tillamook Nov. 4 (HN, ME), and 22 at Coos Bay Nov. 23 (MS). American Golden Plover numbers were down, with single day maxima of 30-50 at Reifel Ref., B.C., and Ocean Shores and Leadbetter Pt., Wash. No individuals of the w. race *fulva* were noted. Only five Long-billed Curlews were reported, with none n. of Ocean Shores. Whimbrels peaked Aug. 19 with 250 at Ocean Shores (EH), dropping to 15 there Sept. 24 (MM, GB). The ten Oct. 14 at Newport were expected to winter (MS).

The rare **Upland Sandpiper** was twice reported: two flew over Iona I., B.C., Aug. 26 (fBS, BMc) and another was found Aug. 30 & Oct. 3 in Saanich, V.I. (fDB, GS). Eleven well-scattered Solitary Sandpipers was a normal total, although the two Oct. 19-26 at Duncan, V.I., were late (JC *et al.*). The Willet flock at Bandon, Oreg., increased to 35 by Sept. 23 (HN *et al.*). Singles at Ocean Shores



Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Grays Harbor County, Wash. Aug. 29, 1978. Photo/Ruth Carson.

Sept. 15 (JB, *vide* G&WH) and Dungeness Oct. 22 - Nov. 24 (D&SS *et al.*) were n. of their usual limit on Willapa Bay. The only Semipalmated Sandpiper reports accompanied by descriptive details were the three Aug. 24 at Nisqually N.W.R., Wash. (fCC), one Sept. 8 at Olympia (fCC), and one Sept. 9 at Tillamook (JG, fHN *et al.*). A third **Rufous-necked Sandpiper** of the season dropped in briefly at the Iona I. sewage ponds Aug. 25-26 (fBS, BMc). Counts of Baird's Sandpipers were back to normal after last fall's highs. Two-three Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were at S.J.C.R., on the extravagantly early dates of Aug. 13-28 (m.ob., fCR). Groups of 1-3 were reported from six locations during the usual migration period of Sept. 14 - Nov. 5. Stilt Sandpipers were well distributed with four Sept. 2 on Whidbey I., the high count (EH), and one Oct. 22-25 at Iona I., quite late (BS).

Buff-breasted Sandpipers staged an unprecedented invasion. A normal fall brings in reports of two or three. This fall at least 28 were found Aug. 23 - Sept. 30 at five locations, from Medford, Tillamook, and the S.J.C.R., to Victoria. The 11 at Ocean Shores Aug. 27 was the high count.

Godwits were well represented. Single **Bar-tailed Godwits** were at Alsea Bay, Oreg., Aug. 6-8 (fTL, T&CF) and Dungeness Spit, Wash., Oct. 22-28 (fKK, fMEI). Oregon had its first **Hudsonian Godwit** ever near Bandon on the Coquille R. flats Sept. 10-19 (ME *et al.*, TC ph.). A possible second Hudsonian was reported Aug. 21 at Leadbetter Pt. (RW) and Aug. 23-24 at the S.J.C.R., but the distinctive underwing was not seen (TL,TF). Marbled Godwits were also in above-average numbers in Oregon with 100+ Sept. 10-23 at Bandon (HN, ME) and Nov. 6 at Yaquina Bay (BO, *vide* HN). The Region had **Ruffs** again for the third straight year, two at Iona I., July 30 - Aug. 3 (fBS, fEH, GA), one at Hoquiam and Ocean Shores Sept. 16-24 (MC, fMM, GB), and one at Dungeness Oct. 25-26 (fKK). A single Am. Avocet found in c. Saanich Oct. 1 was photographed, for the third record for V.I. (BSe, *vide* VG), another was at Bandon Oct. 17 (TM, *vide* HN).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — The 16 and 24 Pomarine Jaegers off Westport Aug. 20 and Sept. 11 (TW) and the 31 off Newport Sept. 30 (TC) were good counts. More than usual Long-tailed Jaegers were reported, with 21 and 16 on Sept. 10-11 off Westport, three at Ocean Shores Sept. 1 (fG&WH), and seven off Newport Sept. 30 (TC). Single skuas onshore at the Long Beach Pen., Wash., Aug.

18 (†RB) & Oct 29 (EH) were unusual. Four and five were off Westport Sept 10 & Oct 8 (TW), and seven off Newport Sept. 30 (TC, ph) was the high count. All that could be identified were South Polar Skuas.

An ad. Glaucous Gull reported at Sauvie's I., Oct. 14 (MK, *fide* HN) was early. More typical was a 2nd-year bird Nov. 18 in Vancouver, B.C., and a 1st-year bird near there Nov. 19 (BS). The first Thayer's Gulls were noted in Victoria Sept. 6 (RS, M&VG). Farther s. they were first seen Oct. 7-8 at Ilwaco and Westport, Wash. (HN, TW). In addition to the usual huge numbers of California Gulls along the Columbia R. and Oregon coast through September, there were an estimated 14,000 between Clallam and Neah Bays in n w Washington Sept. 2 (CC), and 1500 near Bamfield, V.I., Sept. 23 (MGS). Franklin's Gulls arrived by early August and were in good numbers in British Columbia and Washington. The high count was 13 immatures at the Everett ponds through Oct. 22 (EH, MM). The only adults seen were singles at Clover Pt., Victoria Sept. 5 (RS), and at Ocean Shores Sept. 22 (†G&WH). The two immatures at Sauvie's I., Aug. 18 (RSm, *fide* HN) was Oregon's only report. A Little Gull was seen again this fall at the Everett ponds, an adult Oct. 8 among several thousand Bonaparte's Gulls (†B&PE). Ten thousand Bonaparte's Gulls massed off Victoria Oct. 28 (MGS). Single Sabine's Gulls were onshore at Forest Grove, Oreg., Sept. 10 (JG *et al.*), Pitt Lake, B.C., Sept. 24 (MF), and Oak Bay, V.I., Oct. 8 (E&WC).

Ten Black Terns were found, nine in Washington, from Aug. 14 near Seattle (DMu) to Sept. 21 on Whidbey I. (BHT). Washington's first **Least Tern** was found Aug. 26-31 at Ocean Shores (B&PE, D&LL, GB, m.ob.). Good written descriptions (†EH, †BH) and photographs of it with Common and Caspian terns (RC) are on file. This is the northernmost record on the Pacific coast. Migrant Arctic Terns appeared in mid-August throughout the Region. Flocks of 50-100 were at Ocean Shores in late August (AR *et al.*), and 382 were seen off Westport Sept. 10 (TW). The last seen was a single Oct. 8 off Westport (TW). Common Terns appeared slightly earlier, were present in generally higher numbers, and were seen to the end of October. Single Caspian Terns Oct. 8 at Hoquiam, Wash. (BR), and at Tillamook Nov. 4 (ME) were late, as the bulk of the population moved S through coastal Oregon in late August to mid-September.

S.A.

Three pair of **Xantus' Murrelets**, 40 mi off Westport Sept. 11 (TW, †EH), were studied at close range. The white underwing was noted and the face pattern sketched. All were the Guadalupe I. form, *B. hypoleuca hypoleuca*, for the second Washington record and the northernmost ever. The nine pairs of Xantus' seen on the Oct. 8 trip off Westport were all *B. h. scrippsi* (TW, EH).

Ancient Murrelets appeared a bit early, with pairs Sept. 9 off Cape Meares (MS, JG), Sept. 26 at Victoria (RS), and Oct. 13 at Dungeness Spit (SS), and in large numbers, with 300 off Saanich Oct. 31 (M&VG). The 2265 Cassin's Auklets off Westport Oct. 8 (TW) was a very

high count. On Sept. 6 there were 150 Tufted Puffins still on Tatoosh I., off Cape Flattery, Wash.; by Sept. 16 there were none (BP). Five off Westport Oct. 8 (TW) were the last reported.

OWLS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS —

The season's first Snowy Owls were on Great Chain I., off V.I., Oct. 24 (BST) and at Delta and Iona I., B.C., Nov. 10 (JI, DK). They were generally few and late this year. Five Burrowing Owls were found in w. Oregon this fall, from the S.J.C.R., s. to Medford. Single Barred Owls were found at Trout Cr. flats in the Gifford Pinchot N.F., Wash., Sept. 12 (DF) and near Olympia Oct. 19 (J&AD, ph.). Spotted Owls were found all fall at their usual Wolf Cr., Oreg., haunts (EP). The two early Long-eared Owls Aug. 13 near Alsea, Oreg. (DMc), and the one near Everett, Wash., Sept. 24 (EH) suggest the possibility of breeding w. of the Cascades.

Single Com. Nighthawks in Seattle Sept. 28 (RD) and in Olympia Oct. 19 (CC) were late. Sizable flocks of Vaux's Swifts were widely reported Sept. 16-23, with 1000 in Victoria Sept. 18 (HH) the largest. A late ♀ Rufous Hummingbird was seen at close range in Tofino, V.I., Oct. 7 (ADo). A single **Acorn Woodpecker** was reported near Washougal, Wash., Sept. 29 (†RH) and would be the first acceptable record for Washington if it were not a single-person sight record.

Six kingbirds of three species were sighted. Single E. Kingbirds were at Arlington, Wash., Sept. 5 (CC) and Metchosis, V.I., Sept. 14 (BH). Single W. Kingbirds were in Vancouver, B.C., Sept. 2 (GA), in Seattle Sept. 3 (MP), and near Albany, Oreg., Sept. 9 (GG). Topping the list was a **Tropical Kingbird** in Metchosis Oct. 22-23 (B&JH, †VG). A Say's Phoebe was on the Victoria golf course, V.I., Aug. 19 (RS, M&VG).

SWALLOWS THROUGH SHRIKES —

Two Bank Swallows were at the Everett ponds Sept. 1, and one was still there Sept. 10 (EH, PM), and one was at Iona I., Sept. 4 (DK, DA), and two were in Ladner, B.C., Sept. 14-15 (VG). Several Barn Swallows were still on Westham I., B.C., Nov. 5 (JBr, ML) and one was in Albany, Oreg., Nov. 13 in below freezing weather (GG). Only small numbers of Purple Martins were reported this August. The high count was 18 in Tacoma Aug. 21 (WW, *fide* TB) and the last one at Cape Meares, Oreg., Sept. 9 (HN *et al.*).

Single Scrub Jays were beyond their usual range in several locations; just e. of Lincoln City, at Newport, and s. of Myrtle Pt., all in coastal Oregon, and at Stevenson along the Columbia R., in Chehalis and in Seattle. The only lowland Mountain Chickadee report was of one on Sauvie's I., Aug. 13 (LR, *fide* HN). Wrentits continued their steady increase in the Wolf Cr. area of s. Oregon (EP). Single Mockingbirds were sighted, in Seattle (MD) and at Cape Meares, Oreg., Sept. 2 (*fide* HN), and in Victoria Sept. 3 (WC). Swainson's Thrushes were heard in nocturnal migration over the Wind River Ranger Station, Wash., Aug. 26-31 (DF) with the peak Aug. 27. Others were heard there Sept. 12 and in Toledo until Oct. 3 (DFa, *fide* HN). Single Swainson's Thrushes at Duncan, V.I., Oct. 14 (JC) and near Vancouver, B.C., Oct. 20 (AG) were late.

The first Washington record of the **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was of one Nov. 10-16 on Whidbey I. (B&PE *et al.*, †EH). Excellent photographs are on file (DP). Cedar Waxwings were widespread particularly in Oregon, with young immatures reported Aug. 21 in Portland (*fide* HN) and Sept. 30 near Astoria, Oreg. (HN). A Loggerhead Shrike at Sauvie's I., Nov. 10 (TC, JG, DMA) was unusual w. of the Cascades. The season's first N. Shrikes were adults in c. Saanich and Victoria Oct. 4 & 6 (RS) and in Mt. Rainier N.P., Oct. 7 (BS, SH).

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS —

Heavy movements of Yellow-rumped Warblers occurred in s. Washington Aug. 28 - Sept. 19 (BHT, DF) with migrants dropping from the clouds at dawn Sept. 8 & 12 near the Wind River Ranger Station. Large movements of Wilson's Warblers were noted near Portland and Wolf Cr., Oreg., in mid-August (HN, EP). A single Hermit Warbler Sept. 8 along the upper Lewis R., Wash., was the latest ever for the state (DF). Two MacGillivray's Warblers Sept. 24 in Oak Bay, V.I. (E&AID) were also late. There were four reports of Townsend's Warblers on V.I. during November.

An ad. **Magnolia Warbler** was found at North Head on the Long Beach Peninsula, Wash., Oct. 21 (†RW). This is the second single-person sight record for Washington, and both have been in the fall and at this location. The only Palm Warbler reported, after last fall's dozen records, was at Cape Meares, Oreg., Oct. 19 (RSm, *fide* HN). Two Yellow-breasted Chats (1 ad., 1 imm.) were in Olympia, Wash., Aug. 14 (G&JM, †BHT) for one of few Regional records n. of the Columbia R. A ♀ Am. Redstart was seen Sept. 26 on Samish I., near Anacortes, Wash. (TW).

Five migrant Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported in late August and September, and two others at Boundary Bay, B.C., Oct. 22 were late (A&JG). A late N. Oriole was reported Oct. 30 near Newport (DFa, *fide* HN), and an imm. male was found dead in Coos Bay Nov. 1 (*fide* AM). The only Rusty Blackbird reported with details was of one seen near Ladner, B.C., Oct. 1 (†BS). Two ♂ W. Tanagers at Manning P.P., Sept. 17 were late (VG).

FINCHES AND SPARROWS —

Pine Siskins were scarce in the Coos Bay area (AM), and were otherwise almost unreported from lowland Oregon or Washington. A flock of 500 was in Saanich, V.I., however Nov. 29 (RMG). There were many reports of 2-10 Red Crossbills from s. V.I., where they were almost absent last fall (*fide* VG). However, this species was reported on only three occasions elsewhere.

White-winged Crossbills continued their late summer move into the Region. Several large flocks were in the Blewett Pass and Wenatchee areas just e. of the Cascade crest in Washington through August and September. Groups of 1-6, including singing males, were found on mountains near Vancouver, B.C., throughout August (BS). A flock of 28 was in Manning P.P., Aug. 4 (BS), and smaller flocks were at Hart's Pass, Whatcom Co., Wash., Aug. 4 (AR), in Mt. Rainier N.P., Sept. 3 (B&

MB), and Oct. 7 (BS), and at Oldman, Skamania Co., Wash., Nov. 15 (DF).

A flock of 57 Savannah Sparrows was observed departing S over the Straits from Victoria Sept. 6 (RS) during the peak of migration of this species throughout the Region. A Vesper Sparrow near Olympia Sept. 27 (CC) was the latest ever for Washington. A Lark Sparrow was at Ocean Shores Sept. 10-11 (B&PE) for about the sixth w. Washington record. Three Harris' Sparrows were found around Puget Sound, with the one near Burlington Oct. 6 (*vide* TW) somewhat early. In contrast to last fall, only one White-throated Sparrow was reported, an ad. male in Delta, B.C., Oct. 21 (MF, MP). A Fox Sparrow at Oak Bay, V.I., Aug. 25 was an early arrival there (JT) and Ocean Shores was "teeming" with the species Sept. 24 (BHT). A Snow Bunting at the S.J.C.R., Sept. 4-5 was extraordinarily early (MK, DI, JE). Otherwise the species arrived on schedule in late October, with one at 6500 ft in the N. Cascades Oct. 22 (JDu, *vide* TW) at an unusual location,

and one at Coos Bay Nov. 29 (*vide* AM) the farthest s.

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MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Jon Winter and Stephan A. Laymon

The fall season was one of the hottest and driest on record, with daytime temperatures reaching into the high 90s as late as late October. The only rains were light ones in early September excepting for a good storm in late November. Waterbird migration was slow.

The main ornithological phenomena were

timetable seemed pushed forward about a month. Numbers of vagrants seemed low (see Wood Warblers) when compared to last fall, but quality was high. Two first state records were added to the California list with the occurrence of the Yellow Wagtail and White-winged Crossbill.

Tim Manolis has returned to graduate school and we thank him for his brief but thought-provoking stint as co-editor. Replacing Tim will be Stephan Laymon, a long-time resident of the Central Valley (hereafter, C.V.), and a birder with talent and insight. His knowledge of interior California bird distribution should add a great deal to his reports in the future. A dagger (†) indicates that documentation is on file with the editors.

LOONS, TUBENOSSES — One Arctic Loon at Tule Lake N.W.R., Oct. 21-23 (Peggy Stebbens, SAL, BED *et al.*) was the only one found inland. The normal few Red-necked Grebes were found on the coast. Two near Vallejo Oct. 6 (KVV) and a single at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza Oct. 25 (JR) are of interest. Twenty-four Eared Grebes at a lake near Mather Pass,

Fresno Co., Sept. 21 (DAG) were at 11,600 ft, a possible high elevation record. Three W. Grebes at Saddlebag L., Mono Co., Oct. 23 (DDeS) at 10,200 ft were also at a high elevation.

A Laysan Albatross was recorded along with 50 Black-footed Albatrosses off Humboldt County Oct. 28 (SH, BBe *vide* DE), with 100 N.

Fulmars, and hundreds were seen at the Pt. Arena Lighthouse Nov. 25 (BDP) indicating a possible fulmar flight year. A Streaked Shearwater was again reported on Monterey Bay Oct. 14 (*vide* GMcC); however no details were received. The first regional August Short-tailed Shearwater was recorded on Monterey Bay Aug. 27 (RS *et al.*). This and another seen there Oct. 29 were the only ones reported.

S.A.

Manx Shearwaters were seen on Monterey Bay as early as Oct. 7 (LCB, PM, DRo) with numbers building to 200 by Oct. 16 (RS). An incredible 1300 were observed in one hour at Santa Cruz Nov. 2 (DP), all of which were heading N along the coast within 200 yds of shore, with many more farther out. Manx Shearwaters continued to make news through November with 20-25 at Bodega Head Nov. 11 (BDP, JP), one at Point Reyes Bird Observatory (hereafter, P.R.B.O.) Nov. 12 (JP), 20 at Laguna Pt., Mendocino Co., Nov. 16 (KVV) and two Salt Pt., Sonoma Co., Nov. 25 (BDP). The Mendocino County birds were a first county record and the farthest n. they have been recorded in California.

Two Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were recorded, one on Monterey Bay Oct. 16 (RS *et al.*) and one on the Farallon Islands (hereafter, F.I.) Sept. 28 (P.R.B.O., RLeV) for possibly the first island record. One thousand-5000 Ashy Storm-Petrels were found in Monterey Bay Sept. 30 - Oct. 29 and 750-10,000 Black Storm-Petrels were found during the same period (GMcC, RS *et al.*). The 10,000 Blacks Sept. 30 (GMcC) was the largest estimate ever for the Region. Wilson's Storm-Petrels were again in the flock, with two to three Sept. 30 (JM, †DE, GMcC *et al.*) and one on later trips until Oct. 29 (RS *et al.*).

PELICANS THROUGH HERONS — White Pelicans were found in larger-than-normal numbers on San Francisco Bay (hereafter, S.F. Bay). Thirty-eight flying at 11,000 ft



the lack of salt water species inland, and virtual invasions of Manx Shearwaters and Buff-breasted Sandpipers. The reduction of northern raptors is also noteworthy.

Landbird migrants were unusually scarce in September, picking up considerably in October, and were still noted moving south as late as the third week in November. The migrant

near Saddlebag L., Aug. 26 (DDeS) were at a high elevation and one in Humboldt County Nov. 14 & 15 was the first there since 1973 (*fide* DE). Brown Pelicans lingered later in larger numbers than ever before with 1709 being recorded at Pajaro Dunes Nov. 4 and 749 there Nov. 27 (J&RW). They also are increasing on S.F. Bay (m. ob.).

The Little Blue Heron at Palo Alto was last seen Aug. 17 (WB). Cattle Egrets were found in the largest numbers ever. Of the 78 reported, half were from inland locations, which is not normally the case. Six Snowy Egrets were found at L. Talawa Sept. 10 (DE) and 38 were at the Arcata Marina, establishing a new high count for Humboldt County (*fide* DE). An Am. Bittern made the flight to F.I., Oct. 26 for only the second time (P.R.B.O.).

The first Marin County White-faced Ibis was at Rodeo Lagoon Sept. 9 (BL) and another was at Drakes Estero Oct. 12 (RS *et al.*). More expected were five at Topaz L., Aug. 18 (EH), 11 at Sacramento N.W.R., Nov. 4 (JH) and 51 on Santa Fe Grade Rd., Merced Co. (DE).

WATERFOWL — A flock of ten Whistling Swans was seen on F.I., Nov. 11 (P.R.B.O.). A flock of ten Swans which flew over L. Merced, San Francisco Co., the same day included a Trumpeter Swan (†JM). It was our earliest fall record and one of few in recent years.

The endangered Aleutian Canada Goose, *B. c. leucopareia*, reached the Butte Sink near Colusa by early November. They peaked there Nov. 11 with 1500, the highest count yet and had left for Merced N.W.R., by the end of the period (BED, Dan Yparraguirre).

A Snow Goose at King Salmon Oxidation Pond, Humboldt Co., Aug. 14 (Ken Irwin, *fide* DE) was very early. Snow Geese originating in Siberia are the first to reach California in the fall. Several thousand of these birds had arrived at Tule Lake N.W.R. prior to Oct. 18 (BED). The Canadian Snows, which make up 90% of the wintering flocks, began arriving in the Klamath Basin Nov. 11 (BED). They, along with the Ross' Geese had a disastrous nesting season and almost no immatures could be found (BED).

Thirty Blue-winged Teal reported from the Castroville Sewage Ponds Oct. 6 (DRo) was the largest group ever seen in the Region during the fall. The only inland Greater Scaup were four males on Indian Tom L., Siskiyou Co., Sept. 30 (*fide* MT). A ♂ Tufted Duck again returned to L. Merritt Nov. 15 (SFB) and remained until at least Nov. 25 (m. ob.). Four Oldsquaw were found, two on the coast, one at Vallejo Nov. 17 (KVV) and one at Crowley L., Nov. 29 (DAG). The only inland Scoters were two female Surf Scoters at Indian Creek Res., Alpine Co., Nov. 4 (EH).

An imm. Hooded Merganser at L. Talawa Sept. 10 (DE, K. Tyner) probably hatched locally, as occurred at L. Earl in 1974. The only inland Red-breasted Merganser report was of one on the American R., at Sacramento Sept. 19 - Nov. 30+ (Nick Miller *et al.*, *fide* BK)

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS — Six hundred Turkey Vultures were seen Sept. 23-24 gliding S over the Salmon Mts. (MT). Several reports were received this fall concerning the scarcity of White-tailed Kites in the C. V. and Vallejo areas (BED, SAL, BK, FKB). This species should be watched closely to determine

if the apparent decline is real. An imm. Red-tailed Hawk was on F.I., Oct. 25 - Nov. 30 (P.R.B.O.) where its occurrence is very rare.

There was a population explosion of Red-shouldered Hawks in w. Marin County with at least 46 individuals reported instead of the normal few pairs (RS *et al.*). Only six Broad-winged Hawks were reported this fall, far fewer than in recent years. This was probably due more to a reduction in time spent on the s. Marin hawk lookouts than to an actual decrease. One was at the Carmel R. mouth Oct. 27 (SFB) and two were there Oct. 29-30 (EM, DRo). Another was at Shields Marsh, Marin Co., Oct. 31 (RS).

Rough-legged Hawk was down at least 90% from last year's high total and Ferruginous Hawk was at its lowest levels since 1974, 75% below last fall. An early Ferruginous was at Pt. Diablo Sept. 17 (PM). Reports of Prairie and Peregrine Falcons were below average this fall, while Merlins were found in numbers 25-50% higher than in recent years (m. ob.).

The re-establishment of Clapper Rails at Alameda South Shore was encouraging with six there Nov. 16 (*fide* ER). A Com. Gallinule at Clam Beach Oct. 28 (N. Euliss, *fide* DE) was one of the very few Humboldt County records. Two Am. Coots at Wood L., Fresno Co., Sept. 15 (DAG) were high at 10,800 ft.

SHOREBIRDS — A Snowy Plover was at Mendota State Waterfowl Management Area (hereafter, M.S.W.M.A.) Aug. 25 (DE). Four Mountain Plovers turned up on the coast where they are quite rare. One was on F.I., Sept. 22 (DRo), two at Pt. Reyes Oct. 11 (EM) and one at Crescent City Oct. 16 (G. Strachen, *fide* DE). A flock of 1000± Mountain Plovers feeding on crickets in a fallow field s.e. of Coalinga Nov. 12 (RH) was four times any recent count. Sixty Am. Golden Plovers were found along the coast and two were at inland locations. Two of the Siberian race *fulva* were recorded, one at Pt. Reyes Nov. 18 (RS) and one at Año Nuevo State Reserve Oct. 1 (E. Burch). A late Black-bellied Plover was at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Nov. 4 (MT).

A late flock of 24 Whimbrels was at Arcata Nov. 16 (BBE, *fide* DE). Two Willets were found in the C.V., one at Gray Lodge S.W.M.A., Aug. 7 (BED) and one at Princeton, Glenn Co., Aug. 23 (Bonnie Swarbrick, *fide* WA). The Region's third inland Wandering Tattler was found at Mono L., Aug. 26 (†DIP), the second at that location. Sanderlings were again found in the C.V., with one at Chico Oxidation Ponds Sept. 20 (SAL), one at Merced N.W.R., Oct. 13 & 31 (RJB) and an incredible 19 at the Corcoran Sewage Ponds, Kings Co., Sept. 24 - Oct. 28 (J. Royer). Well described Semipalmated Sandpipers were at Bodega Bay Sept. 5 (†BDP, JP, BBu) and Ferndale Bottoms, Humboldt Co., Sept. 9 (†DE). Pectoral Sandpipers had an above-average migration. A Pectoral at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Nov. (*fide* MT) was as late as they stay in our Region. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were again found this fall with three at Dinuba Sewage Ponds Oct. 1 (†RGet), one at Carmel R., Oct. 14-28 (†RS, †JM *et al.*) and one at Ferndale Bottoms, Humboldt Co., Oct. 30 (†DE *et al.*). One of very few October Rock Sandpipers was at Pacific Grove Oct. 27 (BDP, JP). The only Stilt Sandpipers were two at Arcata Aug. 15 (RS) and the only Ruff was

a female at Limantour Aug. 30 - Sept. 5 (†JE, †JM *et al.*)

S.A.

The biggest event of the fall was the virtual invasion of **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** in the last week of August. Only two previous records existed for the Region, thus 18 individuals scattered along the coast Aug. 26 - Sept. 5 were more than surprising; one at Arcata Aug. 26 (RLeV, *fide* DE); one at Bodega Bay Aug. 27 (†JE, †DE, †JM, †BDP, JP); one at F.I., Aug. 29 - Sept. 5 (P.R.B.O.); 11 at Pierce Pt., Point Reyes Aug. 31 (Tupper Blake, Les Line, †JM, RS *et al.*); one at Año Nuevo State Reserve Sept. 1-4 (†Elliot Burch); one at Manchester Beach, Mendocino Co., Sept. 2 & 3 (†BBU, R. Marlowe); and one at Salinas R. mouth Sept. 3 (EM). These represent first records for Humboldt, Sonoma, San Mateo and Mendocino Cos.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers were reported in much lower-than-average numbers, and the only Long-tailed Jaegers were two off the Humboldt County coast Sept. 11 (Bob Sizoo, *fide* DE). South Polar Skuas were also reported in lower numbers with only eight seen (m. ob.).

Four Ring-billed Gulls were at Saddlebag L., Oct. 15-23 at 10,400 ft elevation for what may be a record high altitude (DDeS). An ad. Mew Gull was at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Nov. 18 (†Ray Ekstrom, *fide* MT) providing the first Siskiyou County record. A very early juv. Mew Gull and a worn adult were at Arcata Aug. 15 (RS). Three Franklin's Gulls were recorded, one at Crescent City Sept. 10 (DE *et al.*), one at Tule Lake N.W.R., Oct. 22 (†SAL, SS *et al.*) and one at Foster City Nov. 2 (EM).

The first fall record and fifth for the Region for **Little Gull** was at Manila on Humboldt Bay Oct. 7 (DRu *et al.*, *fide* DE). An ad. Com. Tern at M.S.W.M.A., Aug. 25 (DE) was one of very few C.V. records, the most recent being at this same location in 1966. Only eight Arctic Terns were reported this fall, about 2% of last year's total, and half were from inside S.F. Bay where they are rare. One was at Coyote Pt., Sept. 3 (PM) and three were at Alameda South Shore Sept. 15 (*fide* ER).

Fifty Marbled Murrelets were seen off the Humboldt County coast Oct. 28 (SH, BBE, *fide* DE) one of the largest concentrations recorded away from Pigeon Pt. The only Craveri's Murrelet was at Moss Landing Oct. 7 (†Steve Singer, LCB, BDP *et al.*). Cassin's Auklets were not well represented, but 5-10,000 off the Humboldt Coast Oct. 28 (SH, BBE *et al.*, *fide* DE) was the largest concentration ever recorded in the Region.

PIGEONS THROUGH OWLS — A single Yellow-billed Cuckoo was again found this fall at L. Merced in San Francisco Sept. 30 (DHE *et al.*). This species is rare away from the C.V., and since this is the second fall occurrence at L. Merced (in addition to the fall Farallons and Pt. Reyes records) perhaps there are a few, regular migrant cuckoos along the coast each fall.

A calling Screech Owl heard at Lava Beds

Nat'l Mon , Oct 21, was in a location where it has not been previously reported (SAL) At least 13 Pygmy Owls were reported for the period, all but two of which were at inland locations. Of the five Long-eared Owls reports received, two were coastal and three were inland including one seen at 10,200 ft on the Hall Natural Area, Mono Co., in the Sierra (DDeS). Eleven Short-eared Owls were reported for the period with a high count of six birds at W. Pittsburg, Contra Costa Co., Nov. 11 (*vide* DE).

GOATSUCKERS THROUGH FLY-CATCHERS — A Lesser Nighthawk seen at Fresno Nov. 11 represented the latest regional record for fall (RH). While Black Swift records were lacking for the period, Vaux's Swifts were found in substantial concentrations, the most notable of which were 1770± seen at the Marin Headlands Sept. 23 (DHE) and 500± near Eureka Aug. 12 (SAL). A ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird seen at L. Solano, Yolo Co., Oct. 25 was exceptionally late (*vide* BK). A ♂ Costa's Hummingbird remained in Golden Gate Pk., Sept. 17 - Oct. 7 (PM, LCB *et al.*) and was the first recorded there while another male seen and eventually banded at Dinuba, Tulare Co., Sept. 28, remained until the end of the period and appeared to be settling in for the winter (RGe). A leucistic Rufous Hummingbird with a little rufous still showing in the tail found at Mineral King, Tulare Co., Aug. 12 (RH) was most unusual.

Four hybrid "Yellow-shafted" Flickers in a single cypress tree at Bolinas Nov. 27 (DS) was an exceptional event, but not to be outdone by the presence of a pure "Yellow-shafted" Flicker at 10,000 ft, Oct. 13 on the Hall Natural Area, (DDeS). Some eight Pileated Woodpeckers were reported from the Salmon Mts., w. of Etna during September (*vide* MT). An Acorn Woodpecker on outer Pt. Reyes Oct. 1 and another on the F.I., Nov. 25 (JM, DT, P.R.B.O.) were in unusual locations. Lewis' Woodpeckers were reported from the C.V., along the coast, and in the Sierra where they were seen as high as 10,400 ft at the Hall Natural Area (DDeS) Sept. 18, and in the Great Basin.

Five Tropical Kingbirds, which is about 25 per cent of the number found last fall, found their way to the coast Oct. 1 - Nov. 29 from Arcata to Foster City.

Two Great Crested Flycatchers were reported for the period from the coast. One bird was well seen at Arcata Oct. 13 but no details were submitted (DRu, SH) and another was photographed on the F.I., Oct. 9 (†JE, †DT). Only one E. Phoebe was seen this fall, a single bird at outer Pt. Reyes Nov. 11 (RS, m ob.). The pattern of occurrence for this species in the Region is erratic and therefore not easily understood. Migrant Say's Phoebes were reported by several observers to be down in number throughout the period. The Least Flycatcher, now a regular fall vagrant, was again recorded when two birds were banded on the F.I., Sept. 26 & Oct. 26 (P.R.B.O., DT). Seldom seen on the San Joaquin Valley floor, an Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen passing through Fresno Sept. 20 (KH).

SWALLOWS THROUGH BUSHTITS — Four reports of Tree Swallows Nov. 5-12, the most interesting of which was the observation of 40+ birds Nov. 9 at Vallejo (KVV), were of

interest because this species is rarely observed during this month. A very late Bank Swallow was seen at Elkhorn Slough Oct. 7 (DRo). There were four reports of migrant Purple Martins for the month of August, three along the coast and one inland. They are rarely observed later than August in the Region. Following last fall's invasion, another **Blue Jay** was seen on the n. spit of Humboldt Bay Oct. 7 (DRu, CH). Up to three Scrub Jays seen on the Hall Natural Area, Mono Co., Aug. 24 - Sept. 27 were found up to 10,200 ft (DDeS). A single Yellow-billed Magpie seen near Bolinas Oct. 21 (DT) may have been one of two birds reported from around Marin County during the fall well w. of their normal range. A Com. Crow seen at L. Tenaya, Yosemite was in an unusual place on Oct. 19 (RS *et al.*), as were three Piñon Jays seen near the summit of Mt. Conness, Mono Co., Sept. 8 (DDeS) at an elevation of 12,400 ft. Well below its normal range in the Sierra, a Mountain Chickadee was seen on the campus of Sacramento State Univ., Nov. 30 (*vide* BK).

NUTHATCHES THROUGH WAXWINGS

— Also well below its normal range was a Dipper seen just below Pine Flat Dam, Fresno Co., Nov. 10 (KH). The Courtland Bendire's Thrasher returned for its third winter Aug. 25 (A. Parker). A single Mockingbird accounted for several records in the Kilgore Hills, Siskiyou Co., Sept. 11 - Nov. 11 (*vide* MT) at the n. extreme of its California range. The period's only Brown Thrashers were found at Bodega Bay Nov. 8 (DS) and on the F.I., Oct. 26 (P.R.B.O., DT). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, one of the region's rarest *Turdids*, was seen at the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse Oct. 31 (RS *et al.*). An exceptionally rare bird on the F.I., a Mountain Bluebird Nov. 7, was only the second ever recorded there (P.R.B.O., DT). Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported by several observers as down considerably in numbers this fall. Perhaps the most exciting find of the period was a **Yellow Wagtail** found at Abbott's Lagoon, Pt. Reyes Sept. 17 that was initially found by call by †Pete Myers and his wife, and seen briefly, but was never re-located much to the disappointment of other birders. It is the first time this species has been seen in California.

For the first time since 1968 **Red-throated Pipits** were again found in the Region. The first was located at the Mendoza Ranch, Pt. Reyes Sept. 30 (RS) and was never seen after that date. While the second occurrence was just a few miles away on the Hall Ranch, Pt. Reyes where up to five birds may have been present Oct. 7-24 (RS, DDeS, m. ob). Cedar Waxwings were found at 10,400 ft on the Hall Natural Area, Mono Co., Aug. 29 (DDeS).

SHRIKES THROUGH VIREOS — The absence of N. Shrikes late in the period was surprising. The Region's first **Yellow-green Vireo** was seen and carefully identified Oct. 22-25 at L. Merced (†DHE, J. Hall, m. ob.). A most remarkable record! Only five Red-eyed Vireos were found this fall Sept. 1 - Oct. 6, all from the coast; fewer than normal in recent years. A single Philadelphia Vireo was seen on F.I., Sept. 21 (P.R.B.O., †RS, †DRo); quite a letdown after last fall's "invasion". A Warbling Vireo lingered until Nov. 19 in the Carmel R. (EM).

WOOD WARBLERS — Compared to recent years this fall's showing of e Parulids was poor in numbers but fairly good in diversity. On the average the migration timetable seemed quite late with little or no activity in September, and then picking up considerably in October with migrants still passing through in the third week of November.

Table 1. shows a comparison of 14 selected vagrant *Parulids* for both the spring and fall of 1977 and 1978. For the fall data there was a decrease of 41% in the means for 1977-78 and for spring there was a 68% decrease in the means for 1977-78. In essence we saw only about one-third the number of vagrants in the spring of 1978 that were found in 1977. The fall data were not statistically significant, but nonetheless showed a decline in 1978.

As expected, all nine reported Black-and-white Warblers were found along the coast Sept. 8 - Nov. 19. The season's only Prothonotary Warbler was found dead at McKinleyville, Humboldt Co., Sept. 29 (*Humboldt St Univ.) (SH). Very much a surprise was the occurrence of two Worm-eating Warblers, one on Pt. Reyes Oct. 6-8 (K. Yamane, m. ob.), and our first inland record was of a very well described bird at the Merced N.W.R. Headquarters Oct. 31 (†RJB). Only 27 Tennessee Warblers were found, all coastal Sept. 24 - Nov. 26, well below last fall's number. Single Virginia's Warblers were seen at Golden Gate Pk., Sept. 17 - Oct. 7 (possibly two birds) (EM, LCB, m. ob.), and at Putah Cr., Yolo Co., Sept. 24 (†B. Boekelheide), and two were at Mono L., Aug. 25-26 (DP). Only one Lucy's Warbler was reported, for the period and it was found in the Carmel R. mouth Nov. 11-16 (DP, m. ob.). Four N. Parulas showed up on the coast; two in Humboldt County, one on the F.I., and one in Santa Cruz Aug. 13 - Oct. 23. A very late Yellow Warbler lingered at L. Merced until Nov. 26 (DHE). Six Magnolia Warblers, two on the F.I., all reported from the coast Sept. 7 - Oct. 12 is below the average of about 9-10/fall. A Cape May at Five Brooks Pond Sept. 30 (RS) was well received, but another found on outer Pt. Reyes was not accompanied by substantiating details.

Black-throated Blue Warbler was one of the few species of vagrants that turned up in higher numbers this fall than last fall. Nine were seen along the coast Sept. 29 - Oct. 27 and only three were seen last fall. Two more Townsend's × Hermit Warbler hybrids were seen this fall in the Sierra at the Hall Natural Area Aug. 2 & 21 (DDeS). A Black-throated Green Warbler in the Carmel R. mouth Oct. 28-30 (RS, JRI, DRo) and one on the F.I., Oct. 27 (P.R.B.O., DT) were the only ones found. Very exciting was the discovery of the Region's second **Cerulean Warbler** Oct. 15-17 on Pt. Reyes (A. Follis, JW, SFB, JML, m. ob.). And to top it off another Cerulean was seen in the Carmel R. mouth Oct. 27-29 (†SFB, EM *et al.*). Blackburnian Warblers made a slightly better showing than last fall with a total of ten reported from Pt. Reyes to the Carmel R., Oct. 9-29. The Region's first inland record for the Yellow-throated Warbler, *D. d. albiflora*, was seen at Dog Is., Tehama Co., Sept. 2 (†SAL). Chestnut-sided Warblers were well below last year's numbers but occurred in about average numbers when compared to an eleven year mean. Twelve were seen all from the coast Sept. 8 - Oct. 22. Three Bay-breasted Warblers turned up coastally; one at Golden Gate

Table 1. Comparison of selected vagrant warblers for the spring and fall 1977-78. Middle Pacific Coast Region

	Spring		Fall	
	1977	1978	1977	1978
Black-and-white	10	9	24	9
Tennessee	10	5	41	27
N Parula	8	2	3	4
Magnolia	12	2	6	6
Cape May	8	2	3	1
Blackburnian	2	0	8	10
Chestnut-sided	8	1	22	12
Bay-breasted	9	5	5	3
Blackpoll	9	1	61	34
Palm	1	2	112	78
Ovenbird	21	5	12	3
N Waterthrush	1	0	8	1
Canada	1	0	6	5
Am Redstart	24	6	46	17
	\bar{x} 124	\bar{x} 40	\bar{x} 357	\bar{x} 210
	\bar{X} = 8.85	\bar{X} = 2.86	\bar{X} = 25.5	\bar{X} = 15.0
	S.D. = 6.9	S.D. = 2.7	S.D. = 30.9	S.D. = 20.6
	"T" value 1977-78 = 3.017		"T" value 1977-78 = 1.057	
	Significant at the .01 confidence level.		Significant at the .20 confidence level.	

Pk, Oct. 26-28 (DHE), one on Pt. Reyes Sept. 30 (RS) and very late bird was banded at P R B.O.-Palomarin Nov. 26 (P.R.B.O., DS).

Blackpoll Warblers turned up well below par with only 34 found (8 on the F.I.) all coastal Aug. 22 - Nov. 7. Compared to last fall's near invasion, Prairie Warblers were found in more sane numbers this fall with only four discovered and as expected all on the coast Sept. 25 - Oct. 4. In recent years the Region has averaged about 40 Palm Warblers /fall. This fall observers reported 78; well above the mean but low compared to last fall. All occurred on the coast Sept. 20 - Nov. 21. Only three Ovenbirds found their way to the Region; singles at Pt. Reyes Oct. 2 & 6, and another on F.I., Oct. 5. The only N. Waterthrush of the season spent over a month around a pond in Bodega Bay Oct. 19 - Nov. 24 (JM, D. Ellis). A good description of a **Connecticut Warbler** was received of a bird seen at Neary's Lagoon, Santa Cruz Oct. 22 (†D.P., RM), another was reported from the F.I., Oct. 5, but was without substantiating details. An imm. ♂ Hooded Warbler was found on Pt. Reyes Sept. 30 (RS, DP *et al.*) and another remained in Muir Woods Nov. 14 - Nov. 30+ (S. Hunington) to the delight of many observers. Five Canada Warblers managed to find observers. Two were from the F.I., Oct. 5 & 25, another in Pacific Grove Oct. 12 (V. Yadon), one in S.F., Oct. 6 (D. McClung), and a bird on Pt. St. George Sept. 10 (DE *et al.*) was the first Del Norte Count occurrence. Seventeen Am. Redstarts were seen Aug. 17 - Nov. 19, all coastal.

A host of W.F.O. observers in Monterey for a boat trip Sept. 30 were treated to a Bobolink at Pacific Grove. Another was seen at Bolinas Oct. 25-27 (RS *et al.*). A meadowlark drifted upslope at the Hall Natural Area to an elevation of 11,200 ft in Mono Co., Oct. 14 only to be killed by a falcon (DDeS)! Three Yellow-headed Blackbirds drifted toward the coast appearing on outer Pt. Reyes Sept. 15-26 (PM, JRi *et al.*). Five Orchard Orioles were found on the coast from Pt. Reyes to Pacific Grove Sept. 9 - Nov. 1. A peak wave of 40 "Bullock's"

Orioles was noted at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam Aug. 3 (SAL). Two "Baltimore" Orioles were reported: one at Bodega Bay Nov. 5 (DS *et al.*), and the other on Pt. Reyes Oct. 28 (LCB, BDP *et al.*). Rusty Blackbird records keep increasing along the coast. Two were seen on Pt. Reyes Nov. 4-7 (JML, JRi, m. ob.) and a single bird was seen inland at Mono L., Nov. 15 (DDeS). The Great-tailed Grackle found last summer at the Palace of Fine Arts in S.F., was re-discovered Sept. 20 (DHE). Five Summer Tanagers is more than one would normally expect for the period; singles were seen on Pt. Reyes Oct. 27-29 (RS), Santa Rosa Aug. 17 (RS), Nacasio, Marin Co., Sept. 16 (JE *et al.*), on F.I., Oct. 26 (P.R.B.O., DT) and one in Monterey Oct. 1 (JML).

FRINGILLIDS — Only two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found this fall; one at Pt. Reyes Sept. 24 (JM) and the other Oct. 5 on the F.I. (P.R.B.O., DT) as against 21 last fall. Four Blue Grosbeaks at Gray Lodge N.W.R., Sept. 13 were the only birds seen for the period (BED). An Indigo × Lazuli Bunting was seen on outer Pt. Reyes Sept. 25 (RS). Recent evidence suggests that hybridization between these two species is stabilizing (see Emlen, S.T., J. D. Rising and W. L. Thompson, 1975 *Wilson Bull* 87:145-179). A ♀ Purple Finch drifted up to 10,400 ft, Sept. 12 in the Sierra at the Hall Natural Area (DDeS), well above its normal vertical range. In addition 60± Pine Grosbeaks were seen in the same location Sept. 25 (DDeS). A species that is perhaps overdue to be recorded in California was discovered at Mosquito L., Trinity Co., Sept. 1 where a mixed flock of 12 **White-winged Crossbills** was found (†P. Gordon, †G. Gordon) for our first state record for this species. A Lark Bunting on F.I., Sept. 13 was the only one of its kind reported (P.R.B.O., DT). The Sharp-tailed Sparrow found at Bolinas Lagoon last winter returned Nov. 4 (J. Parmer, KVV *et al.*). A Vesper Sparrow found near Etna Oct. 7-9 was the first found in the Scott Valley (*vide* MT). A good description of a Sage Sparrow seen at Gray Lodge N.W.R.,

Sept 18 was submitted (BED) This sparrow is rare on the floor of the C V Eight records of Tree Sparrows were reported, six of which were from the F.I., with the others from Pt Reyes and San Francisco. Eleven Clay-colored Sparrows, all coastal Sept. 19 - Oct. 29, was about half of the number seen last fall. The first Brewer's Sparrow since 1897 in San Mateo County was seen Sept. 30 at Pillar Pt (PM). A single Harris' Sparrow in the Shasta Valley Nov. 11-17 was the only report of this species received (*vide* MT).

Six Swamp Sparrows from the coast Oct 28 - Nov. 11 and one inland was within expected numbers of this species for fall. At least 32 Lapland Longspurs, 20 of which were on Pt Reyes, appeared along the coast from Arcata to Pt. Reyes Sept. 20 - Nov. 30+ and 12 Chestnut-collared Longspurs also occurred along the coast with at least ten on Pt. Reyes while eight were found inland at Mono L., Oct. 4 - Nov. 7 (DDeS) where they have not been previously recorded. The Region's first coastal McCown's Longspurs turned up on Pt Reyes Oct. 16 - Nov. 7 (JM, m. ob.) where two birds were found. Three Snow Buntings found their way into the Region; two along the coast at MacKerricher S.P. (†BC, m. ob.) Nov. 14-24 and at Pt. Arena Nov. 16 (†KVV). Another, the first here since 1965, was seen at Tule L., Oct. 27 (†BED).

CORRIGENDA — AB 32:1050, the Least Bittern was at Knight's Landing, not at King's Landing; AB 31:1051, the 13 Least Terns at Pajaro R., were really Black Terns.

ADDENDUM — A Pectoral Sandpiper was at Pescadero Cr. mouth Apr. 23, 1978 (†PM) where they are quite rare in spring. A Palm Warbler found at Gray Lodge N.W.R., Mar 23, 1978, was the first ever recorded inland for the Region and was accidentally omitted from the spring AB 32:report (BED).

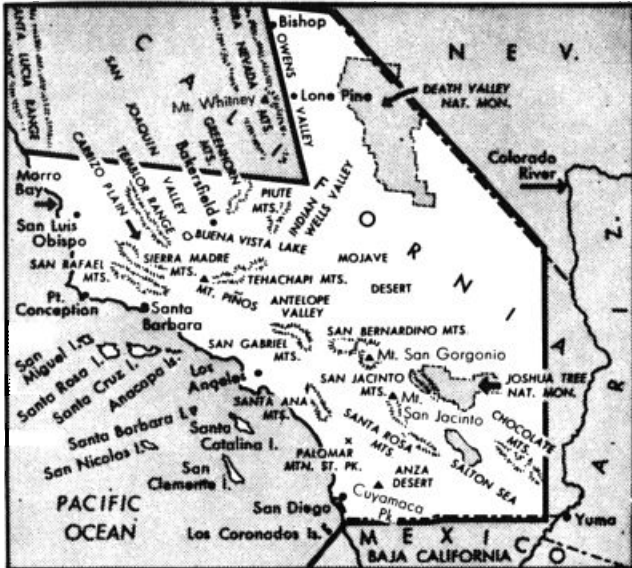
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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Guy McCaskie

Southern California was intensively birded throughout the fall with observers afield daily around Goleta/Santa Barbara, Oxnard/Point Mugu and San Diego/Imperial Beach, while Bureau of Land Management (hereafter, B.L.M.), personnel regularly covered the desert oases of Inyo and San Bernardino counties, and survey crews worked along the Colorado River.



The passage of shorebirds was one of the best in memory, with large numbers of some of our less common species, and the inclusion of such rarities as Semipalmated, Sharp-tailed and Buff-breasted sandpipers. Landbirds on the other hand, were quite scarce, with such species as American Robin, Hermit Thrush, Cedar Waxwing and Pine Siskin being conspicuous by their absence, while montane species, such as Mountain Chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches, failed to appear in the lowlands. Many of our regular vagrants such as Tropical Kingbird, Blackpoll Warbler and Clay-colored Sparrow were decidedly scarce. However, the fall did produce a number of species considered accidental in California including Grove-billed Ani, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher and Veery, along with a White Wagtail and a few Red-throated Pipits from the Old World.

LOONS — A flock of 75 Com. Loons on L. Palmdale in the Antelope Valley Nov. 11 (KG) represents an exceptional number for an inland locality, and suggests that larger numbers of these birds than previously suspected move across the interior of s. California in the fall; one at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley (hereafter, F.C.R.) Nov. 11-12 (DLD) was at an unusual locality. Two Arctic Loons, rare inland, were on L. Palmdale Oct. 29+ (KG, JD). A Red-throated Loon on L. Henshaw in the mountains of San Diego County Nov. 12 (DP) was exceptionally far inland, the species normally occurring only along the coast and in small numbers on lakes in the coastal lowlands.

FULMARS, SHEARWATERS, STORM PETRELS — A few N. Fulmars were found along the coast during November indicating small numbers are reaching s. California this fall. Two Short-tailed Shearwaters, a species whose status is poorly understood, were seen off Morro Bay Nov. 19 (KG). Least Storm-Petrels were relatively common during September — *i.e.*, 500 off San Diego Sept. 9 (GMcC) and 100 off Santa Barbara Sept. 16 (PL), with some remaining into October — *i.e.*, 35 off Oxnard Oct. 22 (REW) and three off San Diego Oct. 30 (DP), the last sighting establishing the latest date of occurrence in California.

TROPICBIRDS, PELICANS, FRIGATEBIRDS — Single Red-billed Tropicbirds were seen near Santa Barbara I., Sept. 9 (JA, BD), near Santa Catalina I., Sept. 10 (KG) and near San Clemente I., Sept. 16 (BB), with two at the last locality Sept. 17 (DP); this species wanders N into s. California waters in limited numbers every September. Brown Pelicans remained on the Salton Sea through October with one at Salton City Nov. 4 (SC) being the latest; away from the Salton Sea one was at the

Iron Mountain Pumping Station, San Bernardino Co., Aug. 10 (SE) and three were on L. Perris, Riverside Co., Oct. 15 (DR), both being unusual localities for this species. A Magnificent Frigatebird over San Diego Bay Aug. 10 (PU) was the only one seen along the coast; however, three were seen moving N from the Salton Sea Aug. 19 (LD), two more were at the Salton Sea Aug. 20 (EAC, SC) and five were together over Morongo Valley Sept. 1 (R & B Berchtold, *vide* SC).

HERONS, SPOONBILLS — An ad. Little Blue Heron at the south end of the Salton Sea (hereafter, S.E.S.S.) Aug. 5-19 (EC, LD) was the only one seen around the Salton Sea this summer, and an immature on Batiquitos Lagoon, San Diego Co., Sept. 18 (AF) was the only one found on the coast. Cattle Egrets were found throughout the Region this fall and it is now probably the most common "white heron" along the coast as well as around the Salton Sea. The Reddish Egret found in Imperial Beach during the summer remained until at least Sept. 8 (LCB). A Louisiana Heron seen flying over Santa Barbara Aug. 31 (LB) was far north and unseasonable; one in San Diego Sept. 23 (WE) was normal for the arrival of a wintering bird. The Roseate Spoonbill was still present at the north end of the Salton Sea (hereafter, N.E.S.S.) Aug. 19 (LD) but not reported thereafter.

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — A few Whistling Swans reached the southern parts of the Region with single individuals at F.C.R., Nov. 18 (JD), Elizabeth L., in the Antelope Valley

Nov. 26+ (SS) and San Diego Nov. 16 (SO) being the southernmost. A Ross' Goose in San Luis Obispo Nov. 15+ (FT) and two on San Jacinto L., Nov. 24 (EAC) were in areas from which few records exist. Two Fulvous Whistling Ducks on the Kern N.W.R., Nov. 10 (RW) were unexpected since none has been reported from this area in recent years. A **Black Duck** was well seen at S.E.S.S., Nov. 11 (GMcC). As usual a few Eur. Wigeon reached this Region in November as indicated by one in Santa Barbara Nov. 11+ (LRB), one at McGrath S.P., Nov. 12-14 (JD), another on Newport Bay Oct. 29 (JMCD) and a fourth in San Diego Nov. 30+ (MT). A Wood Duck along the Colorado R., near Palo Verde Sept. 22-23 (BW) was at an unusual locality. A **Tufted Duck** at McGrath S.P., Nov. 9-11 (RW) is only the third to be found in s. California. The only Oldsquaw reported was one on San Diego Bay Nov. 14 (AB). A Surf Scoter at Salton City on the Salton Sea Aug. 5 (PU) had undoubtedly summered locally; however one on L. Palmdale in the Antelope Valley Nov. 8 (JB), three there Nov. 11 (KG), one more on nearby Holiday L., the same day (KG) and two on L. Isabella Nov. 23 (LS) were all migrants stopping at inland lakes. Hooded Mergansers appeared slightly more numerous than usual with one as far s. as Niland Nov. 13 (GSS).

HAWKS — An imm. Goshawk at Westgard Pass in the White Mts., Sept. 2 (DDeS) was exceptionally early and the only one reported. Four Broad-winged Hawks were found with one near Oxnard Sept. 30 (RW), one on Pt. Loma in San Diego Oct. 1 (PU) and two more there Oct. 18 (FD); this species is now recorded in small numbers every fall and is clearly of regular occurrence. Only four migrant Swainson's Hawks were reported, all during October, with one near Lancaster Oct. 22 (KG) being the latest. Rough-legged Hawks were scarce, hence, one at F.C.R., Oct. 27 (JD) came as a surprise. An imm. Ferruginous Hawk at Kelso Aug. 27 (EAC, SC) was exceptionally early for anywhere in California. An Osprey at F.C.R., Nov. 11 (DLD) was at an unusual locality.

CRANES — Some 4000± Sandhill Cranes on the Carrizo Plain during November (FRT) and 74 near Brawley Nov. 25 (GG) were at known wintering localities, but six flying near Oxnard Nov. 17 (RW) were unexpected.

SHOREBIRDS — A Black Oystercatcher, rare on the coast s. of Morro Bay, was at the Santa Maria R. mouth Oct. 27 (PL), up to three were at Pt. Mugu Sept. 21 - Oct. 1 (JD, REW), four were at Playa del Rey Aug. 9+ (KD) and three remained on Pt. Loma Oct. 26+ (RT). A Snowy Plover at East Cronese L., near Baker Nov. 19 (EC) and another on L. Henshaw Nov. 5 (PU) would appear exceptionally late for these inland localities, although the species is present on the Salton Sea throughout the year. American Golden Plovers were present along the coast after Aug. 13 with at least 65 individuals reported, including 29 near Santa Maria during November (PL) and 15 on San Miguel I., Oct. 11 (PWC); one near Blythe Sept. 22 (BW) was the only one found at a truly inland locality. Some 65 Solitary Sandpipers were found during August and September with the latest being one in

Baker Oct. 7 (SC) and another near Imperial Beach Oct. 9 (EC). A Ruddy Turnstone at S.E.S.S., Aug. 12 (EC) was at a locality where small numbers are found every year, but one on San Jacinto L., Aug. 27-29 (DMM) was one of the very few found inland away from the Salton Sea. Two Com. Snipe at McGrath S.P., Ventura Co., Aug. 8 (REW) were exceptionally early for anywhere along the coast of s. California. Four Red Knots at S.E.S.S., Aug. 12 (EC) were the only ones reported from an inland locality. A Sanderling near Lancaster Aug. 16 (KD) was unexpected since very few are found inland away from the Salton Sea. Unexpected was the appearance of six **Semipalmated Sandpipers** with up to three at McGrath S.P., Sept. 9-15 (REW), one near Imperial Beach Sept. 10 (GMcC, ph., S.D.N.H.M.), one at Baker Aug. 28 (SC, *S.B.C.M.) and another there Sept. 8 (SC); only two fall records exist for s. California prior to this year.

S.A.

An imm. **Rufous-necked Sandpiper** was at McGrath S.P., Sept. 1-6 (REW, ph. S.D.N.H.M.); it very closely resembled an imm. Semipalmated Sandpiper in size, shape and coloration, but was believed to lack the partial webbing between the toes, clearly had rufous edgings to some of the back feathers and bold rufous edgings to the tertials; there are two previous records of this Asiatic sandpiper in California.



Immature Rufous-necked Sandpiper. Ventura County, Calif. September 4, 1978. Photo/L. Sansone.

A relatively good flight of Baird's Sandpipers passed through the Region with about 150 individuals reported during August and September; three in Daggett Oct. 14 (EAC), one in Goleta Oct. 16 (LRB) and another at McGrath S.P., Oct. 20 (REW) were the latest. A **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**, a casual straggler to California, was at the Santa Maria R. mouth Oct. 1 (LB) followed by two more there Oct. 15-17 (PL, KG), a fourth was near Santa Maria Oct. 22-27 (BS, KVV) and a fifth was at McGrath S.P., Oct. 21-29 (REW, JD). Some 480 Pectoral Sandpipers, with most occurring in September and October, indicated a heavy flight throughout the Region; the earliest were two near Imperial Beach Aug. 23 (BC) and the

latest were one in Baker Nov. 5 (SC), one at Buena Vista L., Kern Co., Nov. 10 (REW) and another at Goleta Nov. 15 (PL). Stilt Sandpipers are rare anywhere in California away from the Salton Sea, hence, one in Baker Aug. 28 (SC, *S.B.C.M.), up to three near Port Hueneme Oct. 1-18 (RW), one near Norco, Riverside Co., Sept. 16 (DE), two on Upper Newport Bay Sept. 17 (TS), one on L. Hodges, San Diego Co., Sept. 2-7 (EC), two at Batiquitos Lagoon Aug. 1-2 (PU) and two near Imperial Beach Sept. 3 (BC) are all significant. Unprecedented was the appearance of six **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** with one on San Jacinto L., Aug. 27 - Sept. 1 (DMM, SC), two at Pt. Mugu Sept. 3 (REW), two on L. Hodges Sept. 2-3 (GMcC, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) and another near Imperial Beach Sept. 10-18 (WE, ph., S.D.N.H.M.); there are only six previous records for the Region. It was also an amazing fall for Ruffs with one at Buena Vista L., Nov. 10 (RW), one at Orcutt, Santa Barbara Co., Sept. 24 (JAJ), and single individuals at McGrath S.P., Sept. 17-24 (RW) and Oct. 7-8 (LS, ph., S.D.N.H.M.). Three Red Phalaropes were unusual far inland with one at Baker Aug. 27 (EAC, *S.B.C.M.), another there Sept. 24 (SC) and the third near Lancaster Nov. 11 (KG).

JAEGERS, LARIDS — A Long-tailed Jaeger off San Pedro Sept. 10 (JD), and single individuals off San Diego Sept. 9 (GMcC) and Sept. 17 (DP) were the only ones

reported; this is the rarest of the three jaegers along our coast. A S. Polar Skua was seen at the Santa Maria R. mouth Oct. 19 (JD); this species is scarce in s. California waters in fall and rarely visible from shore anywhere in California. Single ad. Glaucous-winged Gulls at McGrath S.P., Sept. 3 (DE) and 15 (RW) came as a surprise since wintering birds do not normally reach s. California before early October. Yellow-legged W. Gulls built up to peak numbers on the Salton Sea in August with 75 present Aug. 12 (GMcC). An imm. Herring Gull at McGrath S.P., Sept. 24 (RW) was a little early. The earliest Mew Gull was one near Ventura Oct. 21 (RW). Three Franklin's Gulls found along the coast of

Santa Barbara Co., Oct. 27 - Nov. 24, one at McGrath S.P., Nov. 11-12 (LRB), another at Huntington Beach Oct. 30 (R&M Wilson, *vide* SS), two at L. Henshaw Oct. 31 (RH) and one at S.E.S.S., Aug. 12 (EC) were the only ones reported this fall. An imm. Heermann's Gull at N.E.S.S., Aug. 19 (LD) may have been the same bird seen there July 23.

A Com. Tern near Lancaster Aug. 16 (KG) gives us another record of the species at an inland locality away from the Salton Sea and Colorado R. An imm. Arctic Tern at the Santa Maria R. mouth Oct. 19-28 (KG) was not only quite late but was on the beach; documented records of this species onshore in California are few indeed. Two Least Terns were seen side Sept. 15 (AF) were the last to be seen this year. As usual a few Black Terns were seen along the coast during August and September with one near Oceanside Oct. 15 (PU). A Black Skimmer on San Jacinto L., Aug. 28 - Sept. 4 (PL, SC) was at an unusual locality; this species is now a common summer visitor to the Salton Sea and a permanent resident on San Diego Bay.

MURRELETS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — As usual a few Craveri's Murrelets reached s. California waters in the late summer with four off Santa Barbara Sept. 16 (JD) being the northernmost; one visible from shore at Venice Aug. 29 (DE) was with two Xantus' Murrelets! As expected a few White-winged Doves moved W to the coast with 18 reported between Goleta and Imperial Beach Aug. 27 - Oct. 10. A Ground Dove in Altadena Oct. 2 (GSS) was unexpected. A pair of Yellow-billed Cuckoos was building a nest near Blythe on the late date of Aug. 13 (PL). A **Groove-billed Ani** near Anaheim Sept. 13-17 (DW, BD) was only the second ever found in California.

A Black-chinned Hummingbird near Imperial Beach Oct. 9 (PU, EC) was late; this species is normally absent mid-September to mid-March. Three Broad-billed Hummingbirds were unexpected with one in Santa Barbara Sept. 20 (L. Goena, *vide* PL), another at Pt. Mugu S.P., Sept. 16-17 (LJ) and the third at a feeder in W. Los Angeles Nov. 1+ (SS); this species is a casual straggler with all records in fall and winter. Five Acorn Woodpeckers were reported from the e. part of the Region with single birds at Oasis Oct. 28 (KVV), Westgard Pass Sept. 3 (PL), Surprise Canyon in the Panamint Mts., Aug. 2 (SE), Horse Thief Springs in the Kingston Mts., Oct. 11 (SE) and at Cottonwood Springs in the Granite Mts., Oct. 13 (SE); five together on Santa Barbara I., Sept. 19 (PC) and another on Pt. Loma Nov. 15 (CE) were also out of range and habitat. Lewis' Woodpeckers were more numerous and widespread than usual during September with a flock of 104 flying over W. Los Angeles Sept. 22 (KG) being the largest group reported. Four Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, believed to be of the e. type *S. v. varius*, were reported with an immature at Deep Springs Oct. 21 (LD), a male at F.C.R., Oct. 21 (DDeS), a female in Kelso Oct. 27 - Nov. 7 (JD) and a male at Refugio S.P., Santa Barbara Co., Oct. 20+ (PL); we are just learning how to recognize this form, hence its status in California is little understood. A Williamson's Sapsucker in the Laguna Mts., San Diego Co., Nov. 5 (RS) was in an area from which few records exist.



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To the ornithologist, interest in the Hawaiian Islands centers around an endemic avifauna whose dominant family, the Hawaiian Honeycreepers provide a textbook example of adaptive radiation, a cornerstone of Darwinian evolution. Unhappily, no fewer than twenty-three of these endemics have been extirpated in the last 100 years and of the remaining forty plus, twenty-nine are classified as endangered. Visiting the wild areas of eastern Maui, the volcanoes of Hawaii, and the coasts, refuges and Kokee area of Kauai, we may see as many as seventeen of these birds including seven of the celebrated honeycreepers. In addition, the islands support large numbers of seabirds and, especially on Oahu and Kauai, we should see Laysan Albatross, Red-footed Booby, Red-tailed Tropicbird and White Tern. All this will be carried out in the midst of great natural beauty, striking volcanic geology and a superb climate. For the very hardy, we have scheduled a one week extension, Jan. 25-31, into a relatively inaccessible area of Maui to search for very local endemics, notable Crested Honeycreeper, Po'o-uli and Maui Parrotbill.

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FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — Four E Kingbirds were reported with one near Tecopa Sept. 4 (JD) and another at Vallecito in e. San Diego Co., Oct. 17 (WH) being inland, while one in Goleta Aug. 18 (BS) and another near Imperial Beach Aug. 13-14 (ME) were on the coast. Most interesting was an ad. **Thick-billed Kingbird**, the sixth to be found in California, near Blythe Aug. 5-16 (BW). Tropical Kingbirds were exceptionally scarce this fall with only five found along the coast Sept. 24 - Oct. 15; however, one at Finney L., near S.E.S.S., Oct. 1 (EAC, SC) is one of the very few ever found inland in California. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, a rare straggler, was near Imperial Beach Oct. 27 (JMcD). Most exciting was a **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** in Goleta Oct. 6-9 (LB, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) for there is only one previous record for California. A Great Crested Flycatcher, a casual fall straggler to the coast, was on Pt. Loma Oct. 6 (EC, PU). Eastern Phoebes appeared more numerous than usual with seven along the coast between Goleta and San Diego Oct. 22+, along with one near Tecopa Oct. 31 (JT), another in Baker Oct. 29 (LD) and a third at Kelso Nov. 12 (EAC, SC) in the interior. A Willow Flycatcher at the Santa Maria R. mouth Oct. 27 (PL) was exceptionally late. A Least Flycatcher, a species now found in California annually, was at Pt. Mugu S.P., Sept. 19-25 (RW), another was at Fillmore Nov. 5+ (RW) and a third was at Brock Ranch, Imperial Co., Nov. 26+ (JD). A wood pewee at Pt. Fermin Oct. 17-23 (JJ, GS) was late, and believed to be a W. Wood Pewee; however, observers are urged to remember that the Region's only E. Wood Pewee occurred late in the fall — Pt. Mugu S.P., Oct. 18-19, 1974 (JD). A Vermilion Flycatcher in Goleta Oct. 16-21 (PL) was quite far n. for the coast. Purple Martins continued to be scarce with only ten seen along the coast; one at F.C.R., Sept. 4 (JD) was at an interesting locality and another over L. Henshaw Oct. 21 (RH) was late.

JAYS THROUGH WRENS — A Steller's Jay on Pt. Loma Oct. 4 (WH) was beyond the

species' normal range. Three Scrub Jays were reported from the desert area along the e. border of the Region with one at F.C.R., Oct. 27 (JD), another at Salt Cr., near Baker Nov. 3 (SE) and the third near Blythe Sept. 3 (JDB). Six Piñon Jays near Parker Dam Nov. 23 (BM) were far from their normal range. A family group of 5-10 Chestnut-backed Chickadees at Vandenberg Air Force Base Sept. 14 (DE) was at the s. extreme of the species' range. A Pygmy Nuthatch in Goleta Aug. 28 (BS) was beyond the species' normal range and the first to be recorded at that coastal locality. A Dipper feeding along a small stream in Surprise Canyon Oct. 26 - Nov. 8 (SE) was the first to be found in the Panamint Mts.; one farther s. in the dry Providence Mts., Oct. 29 (SC, *S.B.C.M.) was attracted to some water in the open-pit Vulcan Mine, far from any suitable habitat, and is of course the first for this area of California. About a dozen Winter Wrens were found in Inyo County in late September supporting the theory that this species regularly migrates across this desert region of California. A Cactus Wren near Deep Springs Oct. 3 (ASE) established the northernmost record for California.

THRASHERS THROUGH VIREOS — The only Brown Thrashers reported this fall were one at Old Woman Springs near Lucerne Valley Nov. 9 (SE) and another at Iron Mt. Pumping Station Nov. 16 (SE). A Bendire's Thrasher in the Lanfair Valley Oct. 8 (SC) was exceptionally late; the previous late date Aug. 22. A Bendire's Thrasher was at McGrath S.P., Aug. 14 (RW), another was at Pt. Mugu S.P., Nov. 9-12 (TC) and a third was near Imperial Beach Nov. 12 (EC). A **Wood Thrush**, only the fourth to be found in California, was near Imperial Beach Oct. 25-26 (LS). The Region's second **Veery** was well studied at Kelso Nov. 5 (SC). A **White Wagtail**, apparently *M. a. ocellaris*, remained in Goleta Oct. 9-11 (LB, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) and is the third to be found in California. Red-throated Pipits were again found, with one on San Nicolas I., Sept. 28 (DE), one on San Miguel I., Oct. 12 (PWC), one near

Santa Maria Oct. 17 (RW), one in Goleta Oct. 12 (LB) followed by two more Oct. 26-27 (PL), and seven at various locations around Oxnard Oct. 4-24 (RW, JD), suggesting the species is of annual occurrence along the coast of California. A Sprague's Pipit, now being reported each fall, was at McGrath S.P., Oct. 27 (RW).

A Bell's Vireo near Imperial Beach Sept. 7 (DE) showed some green on the upper parts and yellow on the flanks, suggesting it was of the e. race *V. b. belli*; another on Pt. Loma Oct. 7-8 (KG) was somewhat late. A Yellow-green Vireo, a casual straggler, was on Pt. Loma Sept. 13 (DLD). A Red-eyed Vireo at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley Sept. 3 (JD) and another at Deep Springs Sept. 15 (JAJ) were in the e. part of the Region where it is proving to be regular during early September, one in Carpinteria Sept. 15 (BS), another near Imperial Beach Sept. 13 (JL) and a third on Pt. Loma Oct. 14-15 (DD) were on the coast, where casual. A Philadelphia Vireo at Pt. Mugu S.P., Oct. 14 (REW) and another on Pt. Loma Oct. 22 (GT) were the only two reported.

WOOD WARBLERS — Black-and-white Warblers appeared to be in fewer than average numbers with but 18 reported Aug. 31+. Unexpected were a Prothonotary Warbler in Kelso Aug. 27-28 (SC) and another on Pt. Loma Oct. 6 (EC); this species is a casual straggler anywhere in the West. Twenty Tennessee Warblers Sept. 22+, were far fewer than we have become accustomed to. Virginia's Warblers continue to decline as a straggler to the coast with only 11 reported during September. A Lucy's Warbler, a rare straggler to the coast, was in Goleta Sept. 7 (LB), another was at McGrath S.P., Sept. 18 - Oct. 12 (REW, KVV) and a third was near Imperial Beach Sept. 18 (BC); one at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley Nov. 4 (BB, GSS) was quite far n. and exceptionally late. Four N. Parulas were found with one in Kelso Oct. 29 (SC, BD), one near Blythe Oct. 11 (BW), a third near the Carrizo Marsh in w. Imperial Co., Nov. 16 (SC) and a fourth at Pt. Mugu S.P., Sept. 27 (RW). Only three Magnolia

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Warblers were reported from along the coast with one in Carpinteria Oct. 10 (BS), one in Long Beach Oct. 23 (JA) and the other on Pt. Loma Oct. 7-14 (KG); a fourth was inland at Riverside Nov. 17-29 (SC).

A Cape May Warbler, now recorded annually, was at Morro Bay Oct. 1 (LS), another was at Gaviota Oct. 15-19 (LB, PL), two were on Pt. Loma Oct. 24-25 (PU, GMcC) and another was at the unlikely locality of Spicer City in the s. San Joaquin Valley Nov. 10 (REW). As usual a few Black-throated Blue Warblers appeared, with ten found along the coast Oct. 3 - Dec. 6, and four more seen inland during October. A Black-throated Green Warbler at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley Nov. 11 (DL D) and another at Darwin Falls near Panamint Springs Oct. 25 (SE) were the only ones found inland, but one was on the coast at Montana de Oro S.P., Nov. 2 (KVV), and single individuals were near Imperial Beach Oct. 2-5 (GMcC) & 24-27 (EC). A **Cerulean Warbler**, only the fourth to be reported in s. California, was on Pt. Loma Oct. 22 (GT, RP). Single Blackburnian Warblers near Oxnard Oct. 8-9 (RW) & 24 (REW), one on Pt. Loma Oct. 7-14 (DD), single individuals near Imperial Beach Oct. 8-10 (LD) & Oct. 22 (BD), and a sixth bird in Kelso Nov. 12 (EAC, SC) give us an average number for this time of the year. A Yellow-throated Warbler at Deep Springs Oct. 28 - Nov. 4 (CH, DRu, BB) is only the sixth found during the fall. Six Chestnut-sided Warblers were found along the coast Oct. 7-29 along with one at Glamis Oct. 8 (BW), one near Blythe Oct. 11 (BMW) and another at Darwin Falls Oct. 25 (SE). A Bay-breasted Warbler at Gaviota Oct. 17 (PL) and another at Pt. Mugu S.P., Oct. 7 (REW) were the only ones found along the coast, but three appeared inland with one at Deep Springs Oct. 28 (DRu, CH), one near Lancaster Oct. 22 (KG) and the other in Kelso Nov. 12 (EAC, SC).

Eleven Blackpoll Warblers Sept. 20 - Oct. 17 were remarkably few. A Prairie Warbler at McGrath S.P., Oct. 11 (RW) was the only one reported. Palm Warblers were relatively numerous with 35 reported Oct. 1+; one in

the Lanfair Valley Oct. 8 (SC) and another at Glamis the same day (BMW) were the only two away from the coast. An Ovenbird in Kelso Aug. 30 (SC) was somewhat early being followed by five along the coast Sept. 13 - Nov. 18. Thirteen N. Waterthrushes appear to be fewer than normal, but having half these in the n.e. portion of the Region during early September fits the established pattern; one in Kelso Nov. 12 (SC) was late for that area. A Connecticut Warbler, a casual straggler, was well seen in San Diego Sept. 14 (RR). A Hooded Warbler, another rare straggler, was near Oxnard Oct. 7 (RW), and a second was in Kelso Oct. 26-29 (SC, BD). Four Canada Warblers were reported with one in Goleta Oct. 20-21 (PL, LB), one near Oxnard Oct. 9-11 (RW), one on Pt. Fermin Oct. 16 (SS) and the other near Imperial Beach Oct. 13-28 (EC). Some 60 Am. Redstarts Sept. 3+ were about average for the period. Three Painted Redstarts, a remarkably rare wanderer to California, were seen with one on Pt. Loma Aug. 29 (DF), one at Morongo Valley Sept. 9 (J. Menke, *vide* SS) and the third at the Iron Mt. Pumping Station Sept. 15 (SE).

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS — Bobolinks were less numerous than usual with no more than 100 found along the coast, and one at F.C.R., Oct. 22 (PU) being the only one inland; however, one in Carson, Los Angeles Co., Nov. 11-17 (JB) established the latest record for California. As usual, a few Orchard Orioles appeared along the coast with one in Gaviota Nov. 4 (PL), one in Santa Barbara Oct. 31 - Nov. 21 (*vide* PL), another at McGrath S.P., Oct. 31 (RW), one on Pt. Loma Sept. 16 (GMcC) and one more near Imperial Beach Sept. 18-19 (EC). A Scott's Oriole at Bonanza Springs in e. San Bernardino Co., Nov. 1 (SE) and three in Borrego Palm Canyon in e. San Diego Co., Nov. 11 (A&JM) were exceptionally late. Seven "Baltimore" Orioles were seen along the coast Sept. 12 - Oct. 29 along with one inland at the Iron Mt. Pumping Station Sept. 15 (SE); this distinctive form regularly wanders W to California. At least ten Rusty Blackbirds were found in the Death

Valley/Kelso area during November as would now appear normal, and three more reached the coast with one at Refugio S.P., Nov. 1 (PL), one at McGrath S.P., Oct. 26 (KVV) and the other in Fillmore Nov. 25-26 (RW, LS). Interesting was a Great-tailed Grackle on Pt. Fermin Sept. 1-15 (DE, KG) and another near Pt. Conception Sept. 12 - Nov. 1 (BS, DD) since only one previous record exists for the coast.

A Scarlet Tanager, always a rare straggler to California, was near Oxnard Oct. 7 (REW) Seven Summer Tanagers in the San Diego area Sept. 8 - Nov. 15 were the only ones reported from along the coast; one in Cottonwood Canyon of Death Valley Nat'l Mon., Oct. 22 (DDeS) and another at Old Woman Springs near Lucerne Valley Nov. 19 (SE) were the only two found at Desert oases. A Hepatic Tanager at the Iron Mt. Pumping Station Sept. 15 (SE) was a straggler at one of the migrant traps in the desert.

FINCHES, SPARROWS, LONGSPURS — Only 15 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported with 11 on the coast and the remaining four at desert oases of Inyo and San Bernardino Cos. Fifteen Indigo Buntings Aug. 31 - Nov. 23 are fewer than usual. A ♀ Painted Bunting, a casual straggler to California, was seen near Blythe Nov. 13 (RD). Single Dickcissels were seen along the coast in Goleta Sept. 22 (KVV), Oct. 6 (LB) & 7 (PL), and near Imperial Beach Oct. 3-7 (PU), and another was inland at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley Oct. 21 (PU); small numbers are found each fall. A Lawrence's Goldfinch at Deep Springs Aug. 29 (DG) was the first to be reported from that area. A Lark Bunting on Santa Barbara I., Sept. 19 (PC), another in Goleta Sept. 23 (PL) and a third at L. Henshaw Nov. 18 (PU) were the only ones found this fall. A Grasshopper Sparrow in the Lanfair Valley Oct. 26 (SC) was at an unusual locality. As usual, a few Gray-headed Juncos occurred in the s. parts of the Region as indicated by reports of 15± from San Bernardino, Riverside, Imperial and San Diego Cos., Oct. 12+. Ten Tree Sparrows were found in the n.e. part of the Region Oct. 27 - Nov. 12 including seven together at F.C.R., Nov. 5-12 (SS, DD), which is the

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one of these rare, spectacular birds has been at Midway. Black-footed Albatross returned Oct. 14, and Laysan Albatross Oct. 31 (BG). Three Laysan Albatrosses returned to Kilauea, Kauai I. (hereafter, K.) Nov. 23 (VB). Hopes are high that nesting on Kauai will be attempted again this winter.

S.A.

Each fall, hundreds of Newell (Manx) Shearwaters, officially classified as Threatened, are found on the coastal highways of Kauai, many of them dead. Young birds leaving the nesting burrows in the inland mountains must cross lighted highways to reach the sea. This year, personnel of Hawaii Division of Fish & Game (TT) and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (VB, JS) organized a unique program to salvage at least some of these birds. Eight "shearwater aid stations" were established at county fire houses and a shopping center. Extensive newspaper and radio publicity urged residents to bring fallen shearwaters to the aid stations. The organizers checked the stations daily and took the birds to Kilauea Pt., for measurement, banding, and release.

The project succeeded beyond all expectations. From the end of September to early December, 867 live shearwaters were collected at the stations. Only 10 of these died before release; the rest presumably made it to sea. Three of those collected were adults, three were of undetermined age, and 861 were hatching-year birds. Despite the successful salvage of live birds, more than 200 dead shearwaters were counted on the highways during the fall.

Bulwer's Petrels nest in small numbers on rocky islets off Oahu, but they are rarely seen. Thus, it was satisfying, as well as significant, when the H.A.S. trip to Manana I., Oahu (hereafter, O.) Aug. 13 found four nests in small crevices in the low rocky cliffs. Two adults were in one nest; the other three contained downy chicks.

TROPICBIRDS THROUGH HERON — The H.A.S. trip to Manana I., Aug. 13 also recorded five ad. Red-tailed Tropicbirds and, more significantly, one nearly full grown chick. The species nests commonly in the n.w. chain, but only a few nesting records are known, all from Manana I. An adult was also sighted at Kahuku, O., Sept. 23 (PS, RLP). A Little Blue Heron, one of the very few ever recorded for the State, was seen Oct. 23 at Waipio, O., (CJR, CPR). A Cattle Egret was found on Midway Atoll Oct. 19 (CH). This follows reports of single birds at French Frigate Shoals and Laysan I., in 1977 and documents the wanderings of this ubiquitous species from introduced populations on the main island. It has now reached virtually all the way to the end of the n.w. island chain, 1200 mi from Kauai. The very rare Garganey was seen Nov. 8 at Waiakea Pond, H. (CJR), and another Nov. 18 at Waipio (CJR, CPR, TIL). A Canvasback, unusual in the State, was at Waiakea Pond, H., Nov. 23 (CJR, CPR, TIL). The renowned Golden Eagle, reported occasionally since 1967 in the mountains of Kauai, was sighted again Oct. 25 (*vide* VB).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS — The fall influx of shorebirds was not spectacular in quantity but did produce some interesting species. A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** at Kii Pond, O., was a new species for the Hawaii State list. It was studied for twenty minutes in good light by many observers Sept. 10 (CPR, H.A.S.), and was seen there again Sept. 23 (RLP, PS). An early Bristle-thighed Curlew was reported from Kii Pond, O., Aug. 25. The peak count was nine Sept. 17 (RL), and one was still there Nov. 8 (PB). The first Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Waipio, O., was sighted Sept. 4 (RL). Thirteen were there Sept. 9, and up to ten were reported regularly through October and November. Single Sharp-tailed were at Kealia Pond, M., Sept. 24 (CK, PS) and at Kii Pond, O., Oct. 14 (RL). Several Semipalmated Plovers, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpipers, and dowitchers could be found this fall as usual at Waipio and other favored shorebird spots. A Greater Yellowlegs at Hanalei N.W.R., K., Nov. 21 (VB) was noteworthy. Three Bar-tailed Godwits were seen well at Waipio, O., Oct. 23 (CJR, CPR), & 26 (DS, RLP). Another was at Honokohau Pond, H., Nov. 26 (TIL). After two Ruffs and a "Reeve" were discovered at Waipio Sept. 4 (RL, MO, RLP), the H.A.S. field trip found three Ruffs and a "Reeve" there Sept. 10 and another at Kii Pond the same day. Previously, there had been only three known records of Ruff in Hawaii. Pomarine Jaegers were first seen off Honolulu Harbor Sept. 17, and increased to 11 by late November (RL).

Straggling gulls and terns reported this fall included an imm. Ring-billed Gull at Kii Pond during September (GB, H.A.S.) and a

winter-plumaged Bonaparte's Gull at Waipio in November (RL, MO *et al.*). An ad. Least Tern in fine plumage was on Laysan I., Aug. 17 (CH, DW). Especially noteworthy was a **Black Tern** found at Kealia Pond, M., Aug. 24 (RL), remaining until at least Sept. 24 (CK, PS). Fewer than five records of Black Tern are known from Hawaii. A count of 67 Black Noddies at Kaneohe Marine Base, O., Sept. 23 (RLP, PS) was extraordinarily high, and no doubt included many young of the year.

PASSERINES — Twelve of the hard-to-find Greater Necklaced Laughing-Thrushes were seen on Kauai Oct. 3 (VB, PS). A Mockingbird on Necker I., in the n.w. chain was observed at 10 ft and photographed Aug. 7 (CH, DW).

A Japanese Bush Warbler was watched closely from a kitchen window as it worked through a yard in Manoa, O., on two successive days in November (SC). This was a rare opportunity indeed as this denizen of the dense woodland is virtually impossible to find when silent, and is notoriously difficult to see even when singing loudly. Five Black-headed Munias, including three immatures, were reported near Lawai, K., Oct. 9-10 (NV), a few miles from where a population of these birds was discovered two years ago. This is the only population well established away from Oahu I.

CORRIGENDUM — The Bird Banding Office has advised us that owing to a band number error the bird recovered at Kure Atoll and originally reported to have been a Blue-winged Teal (*AB* 32(5):1058) was instead a Black-footed Albatross.

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