

The Autumn Migration

August 1 - November 30, 1979

NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

/Peter D. Vickery

The weather this fall seemed variable. August and September were warmer than average while August, especially, was wetter than normal. The period October 5-12 produced another classical fall-out of rarities. During this period Seal Island, Nova Scotia, recorded White-eyed and Yellow-throated vireos, Pine, Hooded and Yellow-throated warblers, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Indigo Bunting,



Red-headed Woodpecker, Summer Tanager, and Blue Grosbeaks, Dickcissels, Lark and Grasshopper sparrows. White-eyed Vireos occurred extraliminally in Maine and on Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard. Note also the number of widely distributed Summer Tanager records from this period. Although the number of more-or-less expected vagrants was high, the ♀ Chestnut-collared Longspur netted, measured, banded and photographed on Nantucket Island was entirely unexpected.

The remnants of hurricane *David*, September 6-7, left unprecedented numbers of Sooty Terns along the New England coast. Perhaps predictably, *David* created as much ambiguity as ornithological excitement. It seems advisable that observations made under less-than-ideal circumstances, sometimes at considerable distances, and at times in poor light, be treated with *extreme* caution, indeed skepticism. *David* produced as many as 170+ Sooty Terns, quite a number of which were found dead. Coastal Massachusetts recorded 100± individuals but, curiously, *not a single* Bridled Tern — and not for want of dedicated and

competent observers. On the other hand, Pt. Judith, Rhode Island, observers reported no fewer than seven Bridled Terns and 50+ Sooty Terns. Unfortunately, no Bridled Tern specimen was recovered anywhere in New England. Farther north along coastal New Hampshire, 33 Black Skimmers were reported, some seen closely enough to discern red bill color, whereas *no* other skimmers were reported from any other New England localities. In fact skimmers were thought to be noticeably scarce along Cape Cod, where they regularly occur in small numbers. Such disparities seem to defy explanation.

Perhaps the most significant weather this fall developed in November when very mild temperatures and sunny skies dominated the southern part of the Region. This continued well into December; note that several records dip into the winter season. To everyone's delight, many curious species survived into the Christmas Bird Count period. During this extraordinary stretch of mild weather there was a considerable movement of southwestern birds into the Region. These included a ♂ Lucy's Warbler photographed in Ipswich, Massachusetts and presumably the first record anywhere

east of Texas. Significantly, the Lucy's Warbler was found feeding with a Yellow Warbler and a Cape May Warbler, both of which are virtually unknown in December. Other remarkable strays included two Ash-throated Flycatchers, two puzzling *Myiarchus* flycatchers, an Olive-sided Flycatcher and the Region's first confirmed Black-chinned Hummingbird! The provenance of the outer Cape's Yellow-billed Stork remains in doubt.

LOONS, GREBES — Numerous reporters indicated that Red-throated Loons experienced an excellent fall flight throughout coastal New England; 921 loons, predominantly Red-throateds, were seen passing Manomet Pt., Mass., Nov. 14 (M.B.O. staff, *fide* TLL-E). A **Western Grebe** off Plum I., Mass., Nov. 25-30+ was carefully noted to be a dark-morph individual (DWF,RAF,WCR *et mult.* al.).

TUBENOSES, FRIGATEBIRDS — A sub-ad. **Yellow-nosed Albatross** off Cox's Ledge, R.I., Aug. 21 provided yet another sighting of a species that has apparently become almost

regular off the w. Atlantic seaboard (TD). An albatross sp. was seen between Grand Manan, N.B., and Yarmouth, N.S., Aug. 16 (*fide* DSC). Breaking from its pattern of the past three-four falls, N. Fulmar was almost entirely absent from inner New England waters this fall.

Cory's Shearwaters continued to draw attention (see Nesting Season report). Nineteen were photographed off Rye, N.H., Sept. 3 providing a first state record (DJA *et al.*), while in the same state 250+ were noted at Jeffrey's Ledge Sept. 15 (EWP *et al.*, *fide* KCE). Cory's numbered 350± individuals along the w. edge of George's Banks in the Gulf of Maine Sept. 11-16 (RSH) but were easily eclipsed by a count of 2500+ Cory's at First Encounter Beach, Eastham, Mass., Nov. 4 (BN *et al.*). Counts of Manx Shearwaters were likewise impressive on the Cape, 120± were observed from Sandy Neck, Barnstable Aug. 12 (BN *et al.*) while 50-75+ were seen feeding at various Cape localities in late November (v.o., *fide* BN). Audubon's Shearwaters have become more or less regular on Cox's Ledge in August; this year two were noted there Aug. 4 (CW *et al.*). Considering the massive movement of Cory's Shearwaters this summer and fall, it was perhaps not surprising that single **Audubon's Shearwaters** were found along the s. edge of George's Bank Sept. 13 (RSH) and in Nova Scotia waters, at Western Bank Oct. 7 (RGG). Three hurricane-related Wilson's Storm-Petrels off Branford, Conn., Sept. 7 constituted a notable state occurrence, especially considering how desperately bleak lower Long Island Sound has been for pelagic species (NSP). Also probably hurricane-related was the **Magnificent Frigatebird** over the Housatonic R., Conn., Sept. 6 (*fide* CSW). Interestingly, an imm. **Magnificent Frigatebird** was photographed at Branford, Conn., Aug. 28 (NSP *et al.*) while another or the same bird was reported from Greenwich Pt., Conn., Aug. 25 (*fide* TB).

STORKS THROUGH WATERFOWL — A Yellow-billed Stork wandering about various outer Cape localities (Orleans, Provincetown) Nov. 16-30 was of uncertain origin as the species is apparently housed by aviculturalists (*fide* BN). However, knowledgeable observers suggest that this species is a good candidate for vagrancy. A **White Ibis** at Quonochontaug, R.I., Aug. 12-15 furnished only a fourth state record (DLK *et al.*).

Twelve Whistling Swans turned up at Mashpee, Mass., Oct. 23 (SD) while three were found at Quabbin, Mass., Nov. 28 (*fide* SK). Unusual inland migrants were 75+ Brant over Windsor Locks, Conn., Oct. 14 (PJD). An imm. **Greater White-fronted Goose** was carefully observed in Hancock, Me., Oct. 23-25 (WCT *et al.*). Snow Geese of the blue form seem to show up in larger numbers during fall migra-

tion. This year five were noted on Nantucket Oct. 9 and a single individual was seen there Nov. 15 (RRV *et al.*), while three were observed in Unionville, Me., Oct. 15-17 (*vide* WCT). Predictably 3500+ Snow Geese were flying S over c. Massachusetts Nov. 12 (*vide* BH). Three Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were shot on Nantucket Nov. 27 (*vide* EFA).

VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES — Repeated observations of adult and imm. Turkey Vulture on Brier I., N.S., and along Digby Neck suggest the strong possibility that the species may have bred locally (BMacT, IAMcL). A **Swainson's Hawk** was noted over Mt. Tom, Mass., Sept. 10 (*vide* SK). The New Hampshire hawkwatch at Monadnock Mt., observed and detailed observations of two Rough-legged Hawks Sept. 15 (*vide* KCE). In addition, a light-phase Rough-legged was noted on Sable I., N.S., Sept. 13 (*vide* IAMcL). Perhaps September Rough-legged skeptics, including this editor, should acknowledge that the species can, indeed, occur at this time of year. However, all September and early October Rough-legged Hawk reports should be fully documented. Golden Eagles have seemingly become more regular, or at least regularly reported; this fall no fewer than seven individuals were noted in Massachusetts, three over Littleton Sept. 13 (JB), while singles were observed in Connecticut and Nova Scotia. This was easily the best fall in recent years for Peregrine Falcons. A roughly estimated 228+ individuals reported was almost twice the number in the previous five falls (*cf.* 80-90, 149, 78, 102).

GALLINULES, SHOREBIRDS — Unique this season was an ad. **Purple Gallinule** near Bar Harbor, Me., Aug. 10-17 (*vide* WCT, ph.). Single **American Avocets** were noted in Portland, Me., Aug. 10-22 (DWF *et mult. al.*, ph.), and at Plum I., Mass., Aug. 30 and Chatham Oct. 27 (RSH, BN). A count of 170 Am. Golden Plovers was certainly a high count for the state and probably New England (SW). Farther s., 360+ Whimbrels observed flying to roost on Monomoy was by a wide margin a Regional high count (RSH, BN). In Connecticut 23 Whimbrels were unusual in Guilford Aug. 20 (NSP). A single white-rumped Whimbrel was unique in Wellfleet, Mass., Oct. 17 (*vide* BN). Baird's Sandpiper reports were not fully detailed in New England, but 26, a better-than-average fall total, were found in Nova Scotia (*vide* ELM). Stilt Sandpipers in s. New England were impressive; 32 were noted on Plum I., Sept. 4 (RSH) while 38 in Lordship, Conn., Aug. 26 were remarkable (SS *et al.*). A single Stilt Sandpiper at Amherst Pt., N.S., Nov. 1 was very late indeed (SIT). A Curlew Sandpiper on Nantucket Aug. 4-5 was the only individual reported (*vide* EFA). The previously mentioned (see Nesting Season) Bar-tailed Godwit remained on Monomoy to Aug. 26 (*vide* RAF) while another was seen at Plum I., Aug. 7-26 (*vide* RSH). A Marbled Godwit was rare at Malagash, N.S., Aug. 18 (*vide* ELM). Three Ruffs were found in Connecticut while another was seen in Little Compton, R.I., Oct. 2 (*vide* CW). Wilson's Phalaropes were not fully reported in New England; 13 were found in Nova Scotia (*vide* ELM).

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMERS — Pomarine Jaegers again occurred regularly off

George's Bank; 53 were noted on one M.B.O. seabird survey (*vide* TLL-E). Jaegers of any species are very rare off Connecticut. This fall a single Pomarine Jaeger off Branford Sept. 7 was notable as was a single Parasitic off Barn I., Aug. 25 and two more Parasitics off Branford Sept. 12 (NSP *et al.*). At least 22 Great Skuas were reported across the Region while the only certainly identified South Polar Skua was seen off the n.w. edge of George's Bank Sept. 15 (RSH). At least 20 unspecified skuas were reported.

The Region's five Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen singly at Greenwich Pt., Conn., and on Sable I., N.S., and three were observed on Nantucket. At least seven Black-headed and more than three Little gulls occurred in e. Massachusetts while nine Little Gulls in Seabrook, N.H., Nov. 24 were impressive (DWF, WCR *et al.*). Of special interest in Nova Scotia was the first provincial breeding colony of 200± pairs of Black-legged Kittiwakes on the Cape Breton Bird Is. (*vide* RGG). This is a first breeding record s. of Newfoundland. No fewer than six Sabine's Gulls were noted in New England waters: one each in Rhode Island, and New Hampshire and four in Massachusetts, the latest on Stellwagen Bank Oct. 6 (RSH, WRP). Single Gull-billed Terns were found in Salisbury, Mass., Sept. 8-22 (*vide* RPE) and Branford, Conn., Sept. 10 (NSP). Forster's Terns occurred throughout New England in unprecedented numbers this fall. At least 35 individuals were noted in Eastham, Mass., Aug. 31 while 200+ were observed at Wellfleet Bay, Mass., Oct. 27 (RSH, BN). In Maine, no fewer than nine individuals were recorded, including six at Back Cove, Portland and a pair at Falmouth Oct. 14 (*v.o.*, *vide* PDV).

S.A.

Certainly the major excitement of the fall involved the large number of **Sooty Terns** carried into New England by hurricane *David* Sept. 6-7. Some ambiguity remains as to what else was seen during and immediately following the hurricane. Certainly 100+ Sooty Terns were observed in Massachusetts (*vide* RAF) while 60+ were reported from Rhode Island (*v.o.*, *vide* CW). Three each were reported from Maine and New Hampshire while Connecticut estimated no fewer than ten individuals. In addition, Rhode Island reported as many as seven Bridled Terns (RAC *et al.*) while 33 Black Skimmers were recorded off Rye, N.H., Sept. 6 (EWP, *vide* KCE). Interestingly, the only other **Bridled Tern** of the fall was critically identified from Sandy Neck, Mass., Aug. 12 (RSH *et al.*).

One very late Royal Tern or possibly two, were observed from the Cape at First Encounter Nov. 27, a late date for the Region (DWF, WCR *et al.*). As many as three Sandwich Terns were noted in Rhode Island (*vide* CW) while a single individual was again found among the fall concentration of Com. Terns off Nantucket Oct. 2, where it seems quite likely Sandwich Terns are of annual occurrence (RRV *et al.*).

ALCIDS — The only alcids to occur in any numbers this fall were Razorbills, which in



Sooty Tern, Plymouth, Mass., Sept. 7, 1979. Photo/Joe VanOs.

November numbered into the hundreds along the Massachusetts coast from Plum I., throughout the length of the Cape (*v.o.*, *vide* RAF).

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

— A single **White-winged Dove** was found on Sable I., N.S., Aug. 10 (*vide* IAMcL) while another individual was photographed on Seal I., Aug. 27 for a first confirmed provincial record (IAMcL *et al.*). The incursion of Yellow-billed Cuckoos this fall was one of the largest in recent years. The main wave occurred in late September through mid-October when 70+ were noted in Nova Scotia, including 16 on Seal I., Oct. 8. No fewer than 21 were reported in Maine, seven plus occurred in New Brunswick, possibly as many as 100+ were thought to be on Block I., R.I., Oct. 6-7 (*vide* CW) and 100+ were noted on Nantucket through October with a peak of 12 on Oct. 11 (RRV *et al.*). Three Yellow-billed Cuckoos were even observed at sea by Monomet observers, one being eaten by a Peregrine Falcon (*vide* TLL-E). The latest individual reported was found at Schoodic Pt., Me., Nov. 16 (WCR).

Barn Owls were apparently doing well in Connecticut, at least nine pairs successfully reared young this year (*vide* NSP). In Newfoundland, a Hawk Owl was unusual at Terra Nova N.P., Oct. 21 (*vide* RTB). A ♂ **Black-chinned Hummingbird** frequenting a Cohasset, Mass. greenhouse, subsisting on ornamental flowers Nov. 25 - Dec. 10 before it finally expired (*vide* RAF), was but another aspect of this fall's extraordinary flight of western strays. Measurements leave no doubt as to the bird's identity which constitutes a first confirmed Regional record.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH KINGLETS

— Western Kingbirds experienced another excellent fall flight, perhaps the largest on record with 54+ individuals (*cf.*, 47, 37, 25, 23) in what seems to be a steady progression of increased occurrences. A *flock* of six W. Kingbirds in Fairfield, Conn., Nov. 29 (JW) and four in one tree on Nantucket (RRV) are vivid indicators of the species' abundance this fall. Unique this season and very rare in fall was a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** in Freeport,

Me., Oct. 21 (DN). A Great Crested Flycatcher was late on Nantucket Oct. 18 (RRV). Single **Ash-throated Flycatchers** in Riverside, R.I., Nov. 12 - 30+ (HW *et al.*, ph.) (third state record) and in Cambridge, Mass., Dec. 1-9 (*vide* RAF) and two suggestive *Myiarchus* sp., one each in Hampden, Me., Nov. 30 - Dec. 1 and Mt. Desert I., Me., Dec. 8 (*vide* (MKL,WCR) were presumably all western strays. The season's only Say's Phoebe was found on Plum I., Sept. 8 (*vide* RPE). Extraordinary by any standards was the critically identified **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at Sachuest, R.I., Nov. 23 (*vide* CW).

Single Short-billed Marsh Wrens occurred in Greenwich, Conn., on Seal I., N.S., and near Lincoln, Mass. Single Wheatears were very early and in lovely partial breeding plumage at Caron Pt., N.B., Aug. 14 (*vide* DSC) and Scarborough Marsh, Me., Aug. 15-17 (SL *et al.*). Another Wheatear was seen near L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld., in late September (*vide* BMacT). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** seen on the "Marine Nautica" just 1.5 hrs from Port-aux-Basque, Nfld., Sept. 18 provided only a second provincial record (SIT). Both kinglets seem to have recovered somewhat; 40 Golden-crowneds and 60 Ruby-crowneds were seen on Nantucket Oct. 9 (RRV).

VIREOS — White-eyed Vireos were widespread in October. Singles were seen on Seal I., Oct. 7 (*vide* PRD), Kennebunkport, Me., Oct. 9 (CR), Nantucket Oct. 13 (RRV) and Lincoln Center, Me., Oct. 16 (second locality record — PDV). Ten White-eyed Vireos were found on Martha's Vineyard Oct. 9 (VL, *vide* BN). Two Yellow-throated Vireos were rare on Seal I., Oct. 7 (*vide* PRD) while single Philadelphia Vireos were late in Lynn, Mass., Oct. 31 (RSH) and at Manomet Nov. 5 (*vide* TLL-E). A Warbling Vireo was notably late in Boothbay Harbor, Me., Nov. 1 (BT).

WARBLERS — Curious warblers seen at sea by M.B.O. surveyors Aug. 18-25 included two Prothonotaries, one Blue-winged and one Kentucky (*vide* TLL-E). An ad. **Prothonotary Warbler** photographed on Campobello I., N.B., Aug. 26 provided only a second confirmed provincial record (PDV *et al.*). An injured Prothonotary was picked up near Wolfville, N.S., in October (*vide* SIT,*A.U.). A **Worm-eating Warbler** on Appledore I., Me., Aug. 22 furnished a third state sight record but another banded and photographed at Brunswick, Me., Oct. 5 provided a first confirmed state record (JCh *et al.*,ph.). Elsewhere, a **Worm-eating**



Worm-eating Warbler, Brunswick, Me., Oct. 5, 1979. Photo/Tom P. Skelling.

Warbler was seen on Seal I., Aug. 31 (IAMcL *et al.*). Two **Golden-winged Warblers** were reported from Nova Scotia, one of which was on Brier I., for a first confirmed provincial record (*vide* SIT). Three Blue-winged Warblers were seen in Maine while five were noted in Nova Scotia.

S.A.

Undoubtedly the rarest bird of the season was the ad. ♂ **Lucy's Warbler** found associating with single Yellow and Cape May warblers in Ipswich, Mass., Dec. 1 (RSH *et al.*, ph.). Identifiable photographs confirm this first state and Regional occurrence, which may well be the first record anywhere e. of Texas.

Other rare warblers included: a Kentucky banded and photographed on Kent I., N.B., Aug. 23 (PFC *et al.*), single Yellow-throated Warblers in Hampton, N.H., Aug. 1 (*vide* KCE) and a *D.d. albilora* on Seal I., Oct. 5-9 (ELM *et al.*), and a Louisiana Waterthrush on Seal I., Aug. 31 (IAMcL *et al.*). Interestingly, Connecticut Warblers were noted over an impressively long period of time. They occurred as early as Aug. 27 on Seal I., and as late as Oct. 9 at sea off the Massachusetts coast (M.B.O. staff, *vide* TLL-E). Lastly, five Hooded Warblers were found in Nova Scotia this fall (*vide* PRD).

ICTERIDS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS — A Bobolink at Windsor Locks, Conn., Nov. 11 was notably late (PJD). Regional Yellow-headed Blackbirds numbered 12 individuals while two Brewer's Blackbirds were carefully studied on Brier I., N.S., Sept. 24 (BMacT) and a single individual was found at Corn Hill, Mass., Nov. 4 (*vide* BN). Feeder operators beware! While conducting seabird surveys, M.B.O.'s Craig Kesselheim observed and photographed a Com. Grackle chasing and eating juncos. Watch out for hungry grackles.

Western Tanagers experienced an excellent fall flight. Single, breeding-plumaged males were carefully observed on the surprisingly early dates of Aug. 6 on Matinicus Rock, Me. (*vide* SKr) and Aug. 11 at W. Cornwall, Conn., (*vide* AG). A single W. Tanager was seen in Pembroke, Me., Oct. 11 (SB) and two W. Tanagers seen together were fully described in Manchester, N.H., Oct. 23-24 (*vide* KCE). Readers should follow the winter season report carefully as additional W. Tanagers will be reported. Summer Tanagers, like White-eyed Vireos, occurred widely in early and mid-October. Six individuals were found in Nova Scotia while in Maine a single bird was banded in S. Waldoboro Oct. 9-12 and a freshly dead roadkill was picked up in Milford Oct. 9 (PDV). An additional Summer Tanager also occurred on Nantucket Oct. 18 (RRV *et al.*). Lone Black-headed Grosbeaks were seen in Halifax, N.S., Oct. 13 (*vide* PRD) and on Nantucket Oct. 28 (RRV *et al.*). At least ten Blue Grosbeaks were seen on Nantucket this fall and 13+ were noted on the Cape and Martha's Vineyard. Thirty Indigo Buntings on Seal I., Oct. 8 were remarkable (ELM *et al.*). Dickcissels on Nantucket totalled 20-25 individuals (RRV) and on the Cape and Martha's Vineyard numbered 20+ birds (VL,BN).



Imm. Chestnut-collared Longspur, Nantucket I., Mass., Oct. 12, 1979. Photo/R. R. Veit.

A ♂ **Painted Bunting** in Bristol, N.H., Sept. 11 was perhaps the only observed passerine presumed to be connected to hurricane *David* (*vide* KCE). A Green-tailed Towhee was found in S. Ipswich, Mass., Oct. 12 - Nov. 3 (RSH *et al.*). The season's three Lark Buntings occurred individually on Monhegan I., Me., Sept. 11 (HT *et al.*), Monomoy Sept. 27 (CAG, *vide* BN) and in Millis, Mass., Oct. 16 (*vide* RPE). A Henslow's Sparrow was unique this fall on Nantucket Oct. 11 (RRV *et al.*), while single Seaside Sparrows at Back Cove, Portland, Me., Aug. 21 (DJA,DWF,PDV) and Rye, N.H. (EWP, *vide* KCE) were unusual. Clay-colored Sparrows were either scarce or poorly reported. However, seven were noted on Nantucket (RRV *et al.*). A hatching year ♀ **Chestnut-collared Longspur** netted, measured, banded and photographed on Nantucket Oct. 12-16 provided only a third state record (RRV *et al.*).

ADDENDA — Please note that a **Purple Gallinule** was seen and photographed at Harrietsfield, N.S., May 18 (*vide* IAMcL) and in the same province two **Black-necked Stilts** were seen on Cape Sable May 27 (*vide* ELM).

SUB-REGIONAL EDITORS (boldface italic), Contributors (boldface), Observers and other abbreviations — **Dennis J. Abbott**, **Edith F. Andrews**, Jim Baird, Sid Bahrt, Jim Berry, **Roger G. B. Brown**, **Roger T. Burrows**, **Tom Burke**, Joe Cadbury, **Peter F. Cannell**, **Jeff Cherry** (JCh), **David S. Christie**, **Shirley Cohrs**, **Robert A. Conway**, **Rena Cote**, Tom Davis, Steve Dempsey, **Paul I. Desjardins**, **Phyllis R. Dobson**, **Kimball C. Elkins**, **Ruth P. Emery**, **Davis W. Finch**, **Richard A. Foster**, **Arthur Gingert**, Carl A. Goodrich, **Richard S. Heil**, **Bartlett Hendricks**, **Seth Kellogg**, **Craig Kesselheim**, **Douglas L. Kraus**, **Steve Kress** (SKr), **Elise Lapham**, **Vernon Laux**, **Sally Lee**, **Trevor L. Lloyd-Evans**, **Michael K. Lucey**, **Bruce MacTavish**, **Ian A. McLaren**, **Eric L. Mills**, **Dan Nickerson**, **Blair Nikula**, Wayne R. Petersen, **Nan Pierson**, **Elisabeth W. Phinney**, **Noble S. Proctor**, **Chris Rimmer**, **William C. Russell**, **Steven Sibley**, **Helene Tetrault**, **Allen Thomas**, **Bob Thompson**, **Stuart I. Tingley**, **William C. Townsend**, **Richard R. Veit**, Peter D. Vickery, Joseph Wall, Stephen Weston, **Hugh Willoughby**, **Charles Wood**, **Christopher S. Wood**, A.U. = Acadia University, M.B.O. = Manomet Bird Observatory, * = specimen, ph. = photographed, v.o. = various observers, — **PETER D. VICKERY**, Box 14, Lincoln Center, Maine 04458.

QUÉBEC REGION /Normand David and Michel Gosselin

Weather in August was normal but extremes prevailed afterwards. The only rainy periods in September coincided with the passage of hurricanes *David* and *Frederic* off the Atlantic coast. Long sunny periods in October were accompanied by lower-than-average temperatures. Conditions changed in November as mild temperatures prevented the usual heavy snowfalls.

GREBES THROUGH DUCKS — A Pied-billed Grebe breeding record was received from Arvida at the n. edge of the species' range; a bird was seen for the last time Oct. 7, a local late date (*vide* YB). A Leach's Storm-Petrel was rescued in the city of Rimouski Sept. 21 (JR) and released on the shore of the St. Lawrence R.; another reached Québec City Oct. 4 (JHy, MG) where the species can be expected each fall. Also at Québec City a Wilson's Storm-Petrel was identified by its flight pattern Oct. 12 (LM, JPB). Two Great Blue Herons at L. Mistassini Aug. 27 (YH) were noteworthy; uncommon waders included a **Little Blue Heron** at Charny Aug. 17 (ABT, JLD), a Great Egret at Ile du Moine Sept. 8 (BB), up to seven Cattle Egrets at Rimouski Nov. 10-15 (*vide* JLa), and a Glossy Ibis in the Boucherville Is., Aug. 9 (CP). Two Canada Geese were identified as *Branta c. hutchinsii* at Saint-Fabien Oct. 18 (ABT, GC), but seven small and dark Canada Geese could not be studied long enough to ascertain their racial identity at Vaudreuil Nov. 30 (JW). A Eur. Wigeon at Bic Aug. 15 (GG) provided a second regional "summer" occurrence (see our previous report). A Wood Duck Aug. 23, and a Redhead Sept. 30 at Bergeronnes were rare sights on the North Shore (ABd). A record of five Barrow's Goldeneyes at Deauville Oct. 8 (YA) proved that the species can be encountered anywhere inland. King Eiders were also in evidence inland with an immature at Aylmer Nov. 17-30 (FB, BMD, m.ob.), and a bird shot at Rigaud in mid-November (*vide* GH). Ruddy Ducks, which have bred only once in the Region, made their annual appearance, with eight birds at Granby Oct. 27 (JLe), and ten at Laprairie Nov. 10-11 (FH).

VULTURES THROUGH PHALAROPES — An ad. Turkey Vulture spotted near Percé Sept. 1 (GG, m.ob.) provided a second record in Gaspesia. Four Golden Eagles were no exception to the rule that the species is mostly reported in migration; they included single birds at Aylmer Nov. 4 (BMD), Cap Tourmente Oct. 18 (GG), and Senneville Oct. 2 & 10 (MM). A Marsh Hawk at Ft. Chimo June 1 (PM, *vide* RMP) supplied a noteworthy extralimital record.

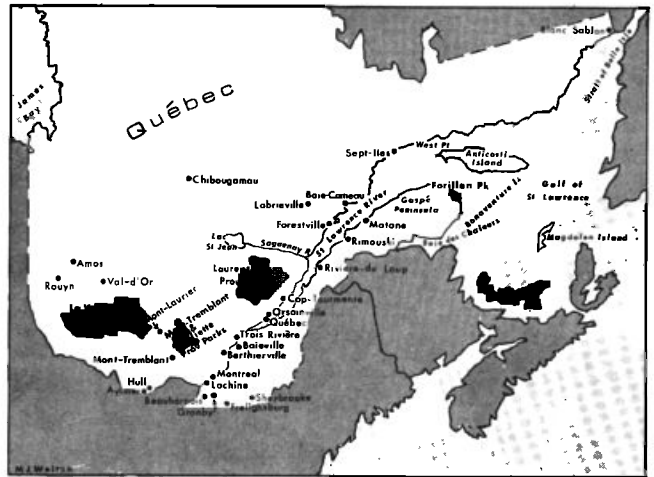
An imm. **Purple Gallinule** found dead in a ditch near Stoke Oct. 18, represented a fourth regional occurrence, all in September - October (*vide* YA), and apparently a first preserved specimen (*Nat. Mus. of Canada). Five Am. Coots at Barachois Oct. 28 (PP) afforded a rare sighting in Gaspesia. Our third regional **American Avocet** was again on the Lower St. Lawrence R., at La Pocatière Nov. 5-11 (GLa, YT, m.ob.). A Purple Sandpiper at L.

Magog Nov. 8 (YA) was a remarkable inland record. The most outstanding shorebirds of the season were the well-described ad. W. Sandpiper of Québec City Aug. 30 - Sept. 9 (PC, JHy, m.ob.) and an ad. **Long-billed Dowitcher** at Cacouna Aug. 22 (GG, NB, YB) — details in *Bull. Orn.* A Stilt Sandpiper was at Pointe-au-Père Aug. 3 (JRP), 15 were at Cacouna Aug. 4 (PC), and another was at Saint-Fulgence Aug. 12 (MBo), the first in 18 years in the Saguenay R. valley. Single Buff-breasted Sandpipers occurred at Québec City Sept. 6 (AD), Beauharnois Sept. 7 (BB, MM), and Chandler Sept. 16 (RB, PP), the first in the Gaspé Pen. A Marbled Godwit was at Etang-du-Nord, Magdalen Is., Aug. 28 (RY), and a Wilson's Phalarope reached Les Escourmains Sept. 9 (ABd). Two N. Phalaropes in the n. Laurentians were quite noteworthy, one at 54°50'N, 69°55'W, Aug. 10 (GM), the other near Chibougamau Aug. 21 (GLu).

S.A.

The hope of finding Peregrine Falcons breeding in the Northeast should not be relinquished. Last summer in s. Québec an ad. male and an imm. female were seen briefly together but did not breed, apparently owing to the youth of the female (Yves Aubry, David Bird); after seeing the birds at very close range, the observers felt certain that they were unbanded. A full report on their behavior is in preparation. Such an event and the regularity of the species in migration render worthwhile a serious survey of suitable breeding sites in the Northeast. Readers should also be reminded that Peregrine Falcons have been released in Québec each year since 1976. In Hull the Canadian Wildlife Service (*vide* IP) released four birds each year on Aug. 8, 1976; July 24, 1977; Aug. 11 and 26, 1978; Aug. 11, 1979; in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, the Raptor Research Centre of MacDonald College has released 17 birds; 3-5 each year on Aug. 1, 1976; July 20, 1977; Sept. 2, 1978; Aug. 14, 1979.

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — A Pomarine Jaeger at Sainte-Anne-des-Monts during a storm Sept. 7 (DWF) was to be expected, but a bird at La Baie Nov. 7-9 (GS, m.ob.) represented the second jaeger ever in the Saguenay R. valley, the first being a previously unpublished Parasitic Jaeger at Roberval June 26, 1969 (JLD). Another Pomarine Jaeger at Beauharnois Nov. 1-6 (MM, BB) was the sixth ever in the Montréal area. Inland Parasitic Jaegers are more frequent; this fall one was at Gentilly Sept. 3 (MM, PB) and another at Beauharnois Nov. 1 (MM, BB). For the second consecutive year a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** appeared at Gatineau Nov. 11 (SG) where an ad. Thayer's Gull was also seen Nov. 10 (RF). A Laughing Gull at



Lévis Sept. 9 - Oct. 14 (FG) was a rare local occurrence, and another at Beauharnois Nov. 4-13 (BB) duplicated a 1977 late record. The three Sabine's Gulls for the season were apparently remarkable as there were only 16 previous regional records, but they probably indicated an annual pattern most often unnoticed; these Sabine's Gulls consisted of an adult seen from the Trois-Pistoles ferry Sept. 7-8 (GG, DB), and single immatures at Québec City Oct. 1 (LH), and Ile aux Basques Oct. 8 (PL). A Black-legged Kittiwake at La Baie Sept. 3 (GS) furnished only a second occurrence in the Saguenay R. valley; single birds also appeared at Québec City Nov. 14 (BH) and Beauharnois Nov. 21-24 (MM). It is tempting to relate the regular inland occurrences of kittiwakes over the past 10 years to well-documented population increases on breeding colonies. Three Arctic Terns at Pointe-au-Père Sept. 18 (GG) represented one of the very few regional fall records and the latest ever. A Caspian Tern was found at Ile du Moine Aug. 25 (BB).

ALCIDS THROUGH OWLS — As usual some alcids ventured westward: a Razorbill at Québec City Oct. 30 (MD), a Com. Murre off Ile aux Basques Nov. 3 (ND, MG), and a Com. Puffin at Québec City Nov. 10 (BH, PL).

S.A.

A strange bird obtained from a hunter during a bag check in November at Oka, near Montréal (M. Fontaine, *vide* R. Titman), turned out to be a **Marbled Murrelet** (L. Alison). Although a first record east of the Rockies, the occurrence is perhaps more logical than past inland records of Ancient Murrelets (including a bird in Montréal in April, 1913); the Marbled Murrelet is suspected of nesting as far as 25 mi. from the ocean. Stragglers are known from the Bering Strait area (see *Condor* 68:504). We are informed that the Oka specimen will eventually be deposited in the Nat. Mus. of Canada.

The only Yellow-billed Cuckoo of the season was at Ile aux Basques Oct. 7 (PL). A Snowy Owl at Barachois Aug. 14 (AV) was not unprecedented in that part of the province in late summer. Three Boreal Owls at L. Opocopa Aug. 5 (BH, CS) represented one of the very few records within the breeding range, and single birds wandered to Beauport Oct. 27 (FD) and Bagotville Nov. 6 (*vide* YB).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SPARROWS — An imm. Red-headed Woodpecker, a Blue-listed species, was recorded at L. Beaufort Oct. 30 (YH). Single **Western Kingbirds** were found at Les Escoumins Sept. 2 (FC, DStH *et al.*) and Québec City Sept. 9 (FG, DR, ph.). Thirty Rough-winged Swallows was a high count for an Oct. 14 record in Hull (BMD). Blue Jays were particularly numerous during their fall migration in s. Québec. The (same?) **Tufted Titmouse** was present at another North Hatley feeder in November, *ca.* 1 km from where it spent last winter (see *AB* 33:266), six birds turned up at Stanstead in early November, two at nearby Rock I., in mid-November (*vide* YA), and another was found at Béthanie, Johnson Co., Nov. 21 (DP *et al.*), a real invasion! The Carolina Wren recorded in our last report was present at Laval throughout the period (PD), and another was noted at Senneville in September and October (PA); hopefully the species will make a comeback. A Wood Thrush Aug. 10 at Saint-Ambroise de Chicoutimi (YB) provided an interesting record for the area. Four E. Bluebirds turned up at Baie-Saint-Paul Oct. 6 (PB), and the only Wheat-ear of the season was 150 km up the George

R., Ungava, Sept. 15 (PM, *vide* RMP). Single Blue-gray Gnatcatchers occurred at Hudson Aug. 21 (JW), Cap Tourmente Oct. 20 (JHn) and Québec City Oct. 20-21 (DT). Also from Cap Tourmente came the report of a well-described **Blue-winged Warbler** Oct. 7 (GD, CB), only the second such report for a species regular in neighboring Regions. The second Cardinal in Gaspesia was discovered in a bog near Rimouski Nov. 13 (JR); the species was noticeably numerous in the Montréal and Sherbrooke areas. Single Rufous-sided Towhees visited Barachois Oct. 24 (*vide* RB), and Rimouski Oct. 31 (RC *et al.*). A singing Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Ile du Moine Aug. 12 (ND, MG, PC, YA) paralleled a similar 1975 record (details in *Bull. Orn.*). A Clay-colored Sparrow at Charlesbourg Oct. 11 (JG) established a first fall occurrence in the Province.

EXOTICS — An Am. Flamingo reported from Saint-Paul-de-l'Île-aux-Noix Aug. 2 (*vide* MBu) was not carefully examined nor subsequently seen. A few reports of a Chukar from Saint-Lambert September - November (*vide*, BB, MR) are better listed under *Alectoris sp.* since the possibility of Red-legged or Rock Partridge cannot be ruled out.

CONTRIBUTORS (boldface) AND OBSERVERS — P. Abbott, Y. Aubry, P. Bannon, **B. Barnhurst**, J. P. Barry, C. Béland, F. Bell, R. Bisson, **Y. Blackburn**, D. Borage, A. Bouchard (ABD), M. Boudreau (MBo), A. Bourget (ABt), N. Breton, M. Bureau (MBu), P. Chagnon, G. Chapdelaine, R. Côté, F. Cotton, M. Darveau, J.-L. Desgranges, A. Desrochers, **B. M. Dilabio**, F. Dumont, P. Dupuy, G. Duquette, D. W. Finch, R. Foxall, S. Gawn, G. Gendron, J. Giroux, F. Grenon, Y. Hamel, J. Hardy (JHy), F. Hilton, B. Houde, L. Houde, J. Hudon (JHn), G. Huot, P. Lane, G. Langlois (GLa), J. Larivée (JLa), J. Legris (JLe), G. Lupien (GLu), P. May, **M. McIntosh**, L. Messeley, G. Michaud, J. R. Pelletier, C. Pilon, D. Pontbriand, P. Poulin, R. M. Poulin, I. Price, M. Ranger, J. Rocheleau, D. Roy, D. St-Hilaire (DStH), G. Savard, C. Simard, D. Tousseignant, Y. Turcotte, A. Vallée, J. Wright, R. Yank. — **NORMAND DAVID**, Centre de recherches écologiques de Montréal, 5858 Côte des neiges #400, Montréal, Canada H3S 1Z1, and **MICHEL GOSSELIN**, 370 Metcalfe #707, Ottawa, Canada, K2P 1S9.

HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

/Robert O. Paxton,
Keith C. Richards, and
David A. Cutler

Fall 1979 was warm, with rainfall only slightly above average. Almost all bird numbers seemed low, and all irruptive species without exception were in a cyclical trough. Mary E. Doscher banded only 1.3 birds per net hour at Island Beach, N.J., even below last year's 1.5, and less than half her rate of the mid-1970s. There were no strong cold fronts in September, although the broad high pressure area of September 8 triggered a heavy migration. Then vigorous northwesterlies on October 8 and 13-14 produced spectacular passages of cormorants, raptors, and Yellow-rumped Warblers. The more commonplace western stragglers seemed more widespread than usual.

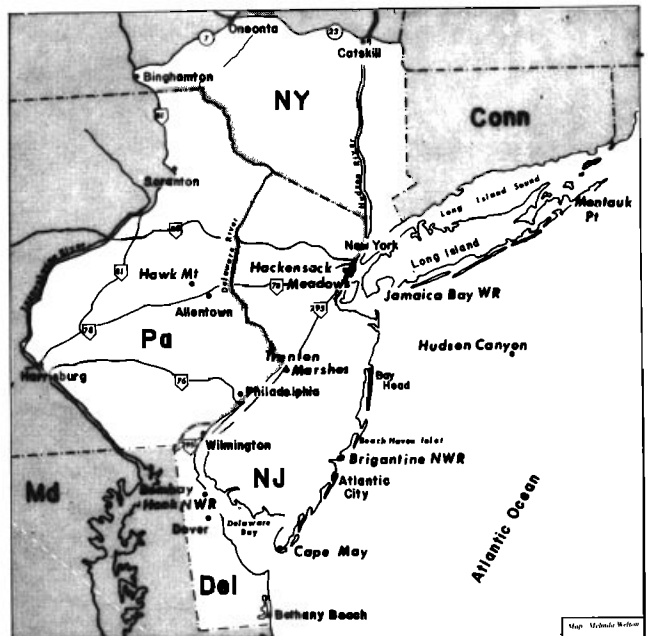
The season's most valuable reports came from observers who remained in one spot and carefully counted what passed them. The Region's many hawk watches are familiar examples. Two individual projects this fall were exceptionally interesting. Along the Hudson River Palisades, at the Alpine, N.J., overlook, Ned Boyajian once again censused the birds that follow the Hudson south. David Ward planted himself at Townsend's Inlet (hereafter, T.I.), at the north end of Avalon, N.J., and spent 206 hours between September 17 and November 30 counting what passed southward offshore. His figures provide the first systematic sea-watch data in this Region, and a base-line upon which subsequent sea-watches can build.

HURRICANE DAVID — (We thank Thomas H. Davis for help with this section). The main event of the season, *David* was the first hurricane to strike this Region since *Belle*

in August 1976, and, in sheer numbers, the richest storm ornithologically that this Region has known. Passing inland over n.e. Florida on the morning of Sept. 5, *David* moved N. e. of the Appalachians during the night and reached n. New Jersey and the Hudson Valley at daylight, veering NE during the morning of Sept. 6, toward the Maritime Provinces (see p. 133).

The timing of daylight seems to have been crucial to the way the storm's bird fallout was distributed. While relatively few extralimital birds were found in the areas crossed by the storm at night, rarities increased dramatically northward where the storm passed after first light (see *AB* 31:155 for a similar effect in 1976). An alternative explanation — frankly speculative — is that Sooty Terns, highly active at night, had more time in the south to regain the open sea before dawn.

It was clearly crucial to be on the scene as soon as possible following the storm's passage. Birders out at dawn (some having lost interest when the storm went inland) were treated to the largest flocks of Sooty Terns ever recorded in this Region. These birds dispersed very rapidly, leaving only scattered individuals by afternoon. This experience suggests that many birds have been missed after previous storms when there were fewer bridges and causeways to the barrier beaches.



As usual, virtually all storm-borne birds were found e. of the eye, where wind velocities are greater. There was nothing w. of the eye. In fact, the great majority of extralimital birds were found on the coast, at some distance from storm center. Whether they found their way there from the eye, or whether most maritime species managed to stay over water as they were borne N by the hurricane's outlying gale winds is a matter that is still poorly understood. (See R. C. Murphy's distinction between vortex-borne and gale-borne birds in *Oceanic Birds of South America* (1936) pp. 53-59).

The species deposited by *David* reflect the storm's Caribbean origin and its passage up the coast. *Belle* in August 1976, came in out of

the Gulf Stream, carrying more Bridled Terns than Sooties, "black and white" shearwaters, and petrels, but few southern coastal species. By contrast to *Belle*, but like the hurricanes of 1878, 1928, 1955, and 1960, *David* brought Sooty Terns and southern coastal birds.

Among Procellariids, *David* carried only Sooty Shearwaters: one at Sandy Hook, N.J. (RRy), and one headed down the Hudson R., past Dobbs Ferry, Westchester Co., N.Y. (BW). There were no petrels. (The date hereafter is Sept. 6 unless otherwise specified.)

David grounded numbers of over-ocean shorebird migrants, much like any autumn storm. Twenty-two Hudsonian Godwits were at Sandy Hook (MF) and outsized groups of N. Phalaropes were widespread: 12 at Dobbs Ferry (BW), eight at Shinnecock Inlet, L.I. (GSR), and six at Sandy Hook (RK), for example. There were no Red Phalaropes. An ad. **Long-tailed Jaeger** was at Shinnecock Inlet, along with one Pomarine Jaeger and one unidentified jaeger (AJL).

Local gulls seem to have been swept N. Over 1500 Great Black-backed Gulls were "streaming S along the [Hudson] river" at Dobbs Ferry (BW), and Laughing Gulls were greatly increased: 1000+ at Jones Beach S.P., L.I. (hereafter, J.B.S.P.) (THD) and 500 at Dobbs Ferry (BW). The Gull-billed Tern at Robert Moses S.P., L.I. (hereafter, R.M.S.P.) (THD) could have been in the area before the storm. Four Forster's Terns at Spruce Run Res., Hunterdon Co., N.J. (GH) represented a first record there, and the farthest inland fallout known to us. Three more were up the Hudson (K&JMcD,BW). A few Sandwich Terns were on Long Island already, but four (an adult and three immatures) at J.B.S.P. (THD,AW, E. Levine,S.Rosenberg) may have been storm-borne. At Stone Harbor, N.J., where there had been 15 Royal Terns before the storm, there were 200+ Sept. 7 (CS), and 125 were at Roosevelt Inlet, Del. (WWF).

The most spectacular cargo of hurricane *David* was, of course, tropical terns. **Sooty Terns** predominated. An injured individual brought in by a motorcyclist furnished the second state record for Delaware (*vide* DAC). New Jersey had one inland, an exhausted bird brought to the Bergen County Wildlife Center in Wyckoff, and 12 on the coast, including three specimens and a weakened bird photographed (*vide* RK,PWS). Up the Hudson R., three appeared at Dobbs Ferry in the afternoon, headed S into the wind (BW) while, still farther upstream, up to eight at a time were seen over the next three days from both the Orange and Dutchess county shores (J&MK, R T W.B.C.,K&LMcD). On Long Island, THD estimated a total of 90 (PWP *et al.*), including ten birds picked up dead, some as late as Sept. 28-30. The birds dispersed quickly, although one was on the n. shore of Long Island Sept. 8 (G. Quinn). One picked up exhausted at Gardiner County P., L.I., was rehabilitated and released Sept. 10 at R M S.P., where it flew off strongly out to sea and S (FF).

A probable **Bridled Tern** was reported at Cape May Sept. 7 (†DW), and five were on Long Island: two adults at R.M.S.P. (PWP) and two adults and an immature at Shinnecock Inlet (AJL). An adult was reported off Mecox Bay, L.I., Sept. 13 (L.Clark), and, after another tropical disturbance, *Frederic*, one was around Shinnecock Inlet Sept. 15-18

(†GSR,J Clinton,BJS). A partly decomposed bird found Oct. 8 near Atlantic City was identified as a Bridled Tern, and believed recently dead since maggots were still active (RRy). A **Brown Noddy** flew over the Cape May hawk watch Sept. 8 (PD,DW).

LOONS, GREBES, PROCELLARIIDS — DW counted 21,860 loons passing T.I., during the season, with a peak of 7060 Nov. 18. He believed that 90% of them were Red-throated Loons, as expected. The species ratio was inverse for the smaller but regular inland loon passage: 220 Com. Loons (a bit low) and four Red-throated Loons were counted over Hawk Mt., Pa., during the season (AN).

Four Red-necked Grebes in Cornwall Bay, on the Hudson R., Orange Co., N.Y., Nov. 12 (BSg) was a high count for so mild a fall, and one was unusual within the Philadelphia city limits Oct. 16 (JHG). An **Eared Grebe** — less than annual in this Region — lingered at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, N.Y.C. (hereafter, J.B.W.R.) Oct. 6 - Nov. 25 (m.ob.).

A record regional count of **225 Audubon's Shearwaters** was observed from a Russian research vessel 105 mi e. of Barnegat, N.J., Sept. 19, in 1000-fathom water, at 39°12'N, 71°55'W (RHe), and a single Audubon's Shearwater was in a Gulf Stream eddy, associated with mats of sargassum and flying fish, at Block Canyon, 90 mi s. of Montauk Pt., L.I., Sept. 29 (BJS, D. W. Crumb, F. Scheider., R. Long, R. Andrie, THD). A **White-faced Storm-Petrel** was found with 200 Wilson's Storm-Petrels Sept. 19 just outside Hudson Canyon, in 160 fathoms, at 39°18'N, 72°16'W, about 90 mi e. of Barnegat (†RHe). This warm-water species was photographed in August 1972, off Delaware (AB 27:17) and there are sight records, mostly in late summer or fall (AB 30:818).

BOOBIES, GANNET, FRIGATEBIRD — Two ad. **Brown Boobies** studied off Island Beach Oct. 29 (RRa) add to recent New Jersey sight records, none corroborated so far by photograph. DW counted 5560 Gannets passing T.I., this fall. His best day, Nov. 23, with 1458 in 5½ hours, was a "fantastic date for Gannets" all along the coast (PWS), with a steady stream of groups of up to 30 off the n. New Jersey coast and "thousands" passing Island Beach (WJB,JB). A Great Cormorant at Morrisville, Bucks Co. (†TT) represented the third Pennsylvania record in 40 years. DW counted 45,200 Double-crested Cormorants passing T.I., during the season. The largest flight of this expanding species followed the cold front of Oct. 13, when 3000 passed over Brigantine N.W.R., N.J. (hereafter, B.N.W.R.) and 120 were inland over Bombay Hook, N.W.R., Del. (hereafter, B.H.N.W.R.); 7740 passed T.I., in 6 hours Oct. 15.

Repeated observations of single **Magnificent Frigatebirds** around Long Island Sound Aug. 11-27 appear to have involved at least three individuals, as an ad. male an ad. female and an immature were described (S. Hollander, S. Ruppert, JDiC; *cf.* also Northeast Maritime Region for Connecticut shore). One Oct. 3 at N. Cape May (Mrs. Keith Seager) was the Region's latest, since the previous eight New York and three New Jersey records all fell between June and September. These unprecedented multiple occurrences cannot be directly related to any storm activity.

HERONS THROUGH FLAMINGOS — Great Blue Heron turned out to be a steady off-shore migrant at T.I.; 148 passed during the season, 40 of them Oct. 31 (27 in one flock) An imm. **Wood Stork** at N. Cape May Aug 19-20 (AB,RWR,KS,PD,C.Hardy, ph.) was part of a general invasion of the Northeast (*cf.* Appalachian Region). The previously reported pair of **White-faced Ibises** remained at J.B.W.R., until at least Sept. 7 (THD). Three White Ibises in Delaware (*vide* AH; †JGo) and one at B.N.W.R. (F.Frazier, R.Muskat) comprised a faint echo of the great incursion of late summer 1977. One or two flamingo sp. in the Seabright - Absecon, N.J., area until Aug 26 were probably escapes. One description received suggested the Chilean Flamingo, *Phoenicopterus chilensis* (*vide* PWS).

GEESE, DUCKS — The peak Brant passage at T.I., was 3450 in 10½ hours Oct. 17 (DW). One at Tinicum National Environmental Center, Philadelphia (hereafter, T.N.E.C.), Nov. 16 added to recent sporadic inland records. The blue morph of the Snow Goose was reported unusually widely. One was at Tunkhannock, n.e. Pennsylvania, Nov. 30 (WR), nine at Smith's Pt., L.I., Oct. 11 and five more scattered later in the month (GSR), six at B.N.W.R., in late November (JDD), and 200+ at B.H.N.W.R., Del., Oct. 15 (JMA). Since it has been suggested that the blue morph also occurs in the Greater Snow Goose (Palmer 1976: *Handbook*, II, 129), it is no longer certain that these birds have a w. origin.

Fulvous Whistling Ducks showed no sign of irruption, the only record being two at B.H.N.W.R., Nov. 28 (DAC). After only two Eur. Wigeons last fall, four on Long Island (GSR,HMcG *et al.*), a female or eclipse-plumage male carefully studied at Shark R., N.J., Nov. 18 (RJB), and one Nov. 6 at Port Mahon, Del. (HPB), were more normal.

Diving ducks were almost uniformly late and low in numbers, probably because of the warm fall. Along with the usual few early (or summering) Com. Eiders on the coast, a female at Quaker L., Dutchess Co., N.Y., Oct 13-18 (m.ob), for a first county record, was exceptional for this truly maritime species. At T.I., 100,170 scoters passed DW this fall. The best day by far was Oct. 17 when 29,500 went by in 10½ hours. Of those close enough to identify, the species break-down was a surprisingly low 1.4% White-winged Scoter (it is the commonest wintering species off e. Long Island and farther n.), 48.3% Surf, and 50.3% Black (DW), "a far cry from 25 years ago when the White-winged Scoter matched the Surf in abundance and the Black was the scarce one" (PWS).

JTMCN's annual census of Ruddy Ducks at Flood Gates, Gloucester Co., N.J., was disheartening. After peaking at 5000 in recent years, this year's wintering flock peaked at only 1800 Nov. 8 (*cf.* 17,280 in November, 1976, prior to a major oil spill, and 40-50,000 in the early 1950s before the area had become the ship channel for a major port area).

VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES — Two hundred Turkey Vultures at Cape May Oct 26 was the largest single flock ever recorded there (CS), and 260 were exceptional at Muddy Run, Drumore, Pa., Oct. 29 (RMS). While the usual scattered inland records of Black Vulture did not reach n. and e. of Hook Mt.,

Nyack, N Y, where one Sept 11 provided a first fall record (J. Irvine), four Aug. 31 - Nov. 29, with two Sept. 9, furnished first records for the Cape May hawk watch (PD).

Goshawks remained well below their great flight years of the early 1970s, when the Hawk Mt. count could exceed 300 (see Fig. 1) The other *Accipiters* had banner years, however. Sharp-shinned Hawk counts approached or even surpassed the 1977 records (e.g., Cape May). Particularly spectacular flights followed the cold fronts of Oct. 8 & 14. On Oct. 8 Hawk Mt. had its all-time daily high of Sharp-shinned Hawks with 2616 (ECS, BLM), and Oct. 8 & 14 were Cape May's biggest days, with 4608. NW estimated 1000+ Sharp-shinned Hawks passing J.B.S.P., the morning of Oct. 14 and recalled that "back in the 1950s and 1960s to see a dozen or more in a day was considered good."

Red-tailed Hawk totals set records at several hawk watches, but Red-shouldered Hawk totals were poor at most of them. Broad-winged Hawks moved through in dispersed fashion without forming the usual ridgeline concentrations, as the weather neither bottled them up nor hurried them along. They dribbled through a bit early, after successive fronts Sept. 8, 12 & 16, on paths that led them both w. and e. of the usual main ridges. There were 850 in a hour over Chester, Pa., Sept. 16 (JHG) and ridges near the coast (Montclair, Skyline, Hook) had good counts, but Raccoon Ridge, Warren Co., N.J. had no major Broad-winged flight for the first season observed (FPW).

An imm. Swainson's Hawk was observed at Hawk Mt., Oct. 26 (SB, AN), a second occurrence there (the first in 1977), but Cape May missed this w. straggler for only the second time since 1973. For the second successive year we have detailed reports of Ferruginous Hawk studied at Cape May by experienced raptor specialists Nicholson and Sutton, an immature Oct. 27 and an adult observed repeatedly Nov. 28 (also PS). Unfortunately photographs could not be obtained. These two w. Buteos are not really comparable. Swainson's Hawk now breeds e. to Minnesota, is abundant, and is a long-distance migrant. It is now annual somewhere in this Region except on Long Island, which is off all Buteo routes. Ferruginous Hawk is only accidental e. to Minnesota, is uncommon throughout its range, and is a short-distance migrant.

S.A.

The best news of the season was a surge in Peregrine Falcons. Every hawk watch had the best season in recent years, and Cape May's record total included two days with 21 (Oct. 2 and 6) (PD). NW counted 41 for the season at J.B.S.P., including 12 on Oct. 8, a "remarkable comeback." An encouraging 65% were immature. We have no direct reports of the restocking program, although one Peregrine at Hook Mt., was believed to be trailing a wire and an immature chasing pigeons around Wilmington, Del., office buildings Sept. 6 (G. Inskip, *fide* WJW) sounds like a hacked bird. In the main these numbers would seem to indicate an excellent arctic breeding season.

Golden Eagles were found in good numbers, especially along the coast. three in Westchester County (M.F.N., BW), two over Staten I. (RZ), and a record 16 (one banded) at Cape May, six of them in two days, Oct. 26-27 (PD, CS). This major coastal passage recalls the 1977 suggestion that the Québec-Gaspé population was greater than previously supposed (AB 31:183). Inland the ridge counts were normal and there were a creditable seven scattered records in New Jersey (DE, ABi, ST, JE, FTe, JTM) and one in s.e. Pennsylvania (EW). It was hard to find real encouragement in the more dispersed Bald Eagle reports. The hawk watch counts were at or below recent norms, and NB counted four at Alpine, N.J., where his average is 8-10:21 scattered individuals were reported elsewhere.

After last year's dip, Osprey numbers rose again encouragingly, and Cape May's count was a record. The total at Hawk Mt., was by far the best in recent years, and 133 Oct. 6 was a record day's count (BLM).

Sixty Merlins passed J.B.S.P., in the big flight of Oct. 8 (NW, H. Darrow), and Cape May's record total was nearly half again the previous high. Even inland Hawk Mt., broke its all time record with 62 (45 in 1950 and 1952, AN). Kestrels were also in good numbers and Cape May's total was a recent record, although well below the 30,268 counted in 1970 from a different lookout. (E. Choate).

Cape May's spectacular raptor season — second only to 1977's 81,597 — revives the question often raised (e.g., AB 32:185) about what happens on the other side of Delaware Bay. It is well known that most raptors and many other migrants double back NW rather than cross the water. This fall WWF observed kestrels arriving from the n. at Cape Henlopen, Del. (31 on Oct. 16, 21 on Oct. 24) and a Peregrine Oct. 21, small numbers compared to the carnival at Cape May but clear evidence that some raptors do make the crossing.

There were repeated sight records of an \emptyset European Kestrel around Cape May, possibly more than one bird, Oct. 10-15 (JDo, ANI, CS). No photograph could be obtained. This abundant long-distance migrant has already been trapped at Cape May; there is a 19th century Massachusetts specimen (Auk 91:172).

RAILS, CRANES — We received three reports of Sandhill Cranes, more than usual Tobay, L.I., Sept. 9 (A. Dignan, AW), B.N.W.R., Oct. 13 (B. Augustine, D. Abbott, H. Dielstein); and T.N.E.C., Oct. 21 (K&CR, JCM, ph. FH).

S.A.

Rails, although weak fliers, reach the most preposterous places and have colonized the most remote islands of the world. Another possible means of rail locomotion was revealed this fall when employees of a Philadelphia flower shop opened a shipment of plants from Venezuela, via Florida. Something jumped out of the box that was first thought to be a rat, but proved on closer inspection to be a bird. Unfortunately the bird disappeared after being placed in a box outside. From descriptions obtained by DAC, it seems likely to have been a Virginia Rail, although some tropical rail is not ruled out. Hummingbirds have arrived in air shipments of flowers also. This is a not totally implausible explanation for such records as last winter's Paint-billed Crake in Virginia (AB 33:271).

SHOREBIRDS — A single Wilson's Plover at Cape May Pt., Sept. 28 (CUA) was the Region's only report. The most impressive Am. Golden Plover concentrations were found at the Warren Turf Farms, near Warwick, Orange Co., N.Y., with a maximum of 350 Sept. 23 (JT). Four Ruddy Turnstones were exceptional inland over Baer Rocks, near Allentown, Pa., Oct. 7 (K. Kranick). Upland Sandpipers were in most suitable habitats, but in discouraging numbers. The highest totals reached only 16 at the Philadelphia airport Aug. 1 (JCM), and ten each at Stewart Airport, Orange Co., N.Y., Sept. 1 (BSG) and at Cape May Pt., Aug. 7 (PD *et al.*). This seems to us the most precarious regular shorebird of the Region. A Spotted Redshank was at B.N.W.R., for the second fall in a row, Sept 28 to at least Oct. 8 (R. Appleby, R. Burk, WJB, JB, ph. W. Murphy). Other unusual inland shorebird records included three Red Knots carefully described over Bake Oven Knob, Pa., Sept. 24 (FM) and a White-rumped Sand-

Fig. 1: Some Regional Hawk Watches

	Hook Mt. Nyack, N. Y.	Upper Montclair N.J.	Hawk Mt. Pa.	Cape May N.J.
Turkey Vulture				767
Black Vulture				4
Goshawk	9		74	17
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4284	4472	12,033	48,447
Cooper's Hawk	62	28	386	1875
Red-tailed Hawk	235	1220	4451	1668
Red-shouldered Hawk	134	137	280	529
Broad-winged Hawk	11,175	18,405	12,548	1058
Rough-legged Hawk		4	15	5
Golden Eagle	5	1	35 (18 imm.)	16
Bald Eagle	5	4	19 (10 imm.)	13
N. Harrier	209	141	293	1125
Osprey	273	481	572	1307
Peregrine Falcon	11	14	18	230
Merlin	17	14	62	1180
Am. Kestrel	587	1202	607	19,815
Totals	14,039	26,308	31,628	78,057

We thank ST, ABi, AN, and PD for these data.

piper at Exeter, Pa (WR), establishing a first fall record there

Baird's Sandpipers showed their usual site fidelity, although no more than three or four were found in each place: a favorite ball field at J.B.S.P., Sept. 8-24 (m.ob.), the Warren Turf Farms and Stewart Airport in Orange Co., N.Y., Sept. 15 - Oct. 4 (JT.BSg), B.H.N.W.R., Sept. 14 (JMA), and a flooded field near Smyrna, Del., Aug. 25 - Sept. 4 (K&CR,RW). The drawn-down East Pond at J.B.W.R., was once again the Region's best place for Curlew Sandpipers, with four Aug. 15 - Sept. 11 (D. Maynard, THD, D. Riepe, PWP). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were low, the best counts being 15 at Stewart Airport Oct. 4 (BSg) and up to six at Miller Field, Staten I., Sept. 6-12 (RZ*et al.*).

By far the best shorebird of the season was a **Black-tailed Godwit**, found by JCM and observed repeatedly around T.N.E.C., and the Philadelphia sewage ponds Oct. 16-26 (F&BH, K&CR, JHG, E. Kramer). Photographs were unfortunately inconclusive, but the white wing-linings "all the way to the body" were carefully noted as well as the more extensive white wing stripe. This constitutes a second regional record (the first was at B.N.W.R. in 1970). More southerly in its European distribution, this species is a far rarer vagrant here than the Bar-tailed Godwit, although it breeds in Iceland. Our Bar-tailed Godwit vagrants may in fact come from Alaska. It was the poorest fall in many years for Ruffs. Aside from two Sept. 9 near Smyrna, Del. (BH *et al.*), only one other was reported, a Reeve at Dutch Neck, Monmouth Co., N.J., Sept. 30 (PWS *et al.*).

American Avocets built to 155 at B.H.N.W.R., Aug. 27 (JMA), the best recent count. Although none straggled up the Delaware R. Valley this fall, one at Croton Pt., Westchester Co., N.Y., Aug. 25 (BW) provided a first county record, and one at Pine L., near Wayne, Passaic Co., N.J., very late Nov. 11 was the first so far inland in non-tidal New Jersey (*vide* IB). Two remained to a record late date of Nov. 28 at Tobay Pond, L.I. (GSR). Four Wilson's Phalaropes at partly-drained L. Tappan, Rockland Co., N.Y., produced a first county record (RFD) and an illustration, in company with about 200 shorebirds, of the rich habitat provided wherever ponds are drawn down during shorebird migration.

GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS — Lesser Black-backed Gulls are clearly increasing. Two on Long Island (HMcG,BJS), one near Margate, N.J., Sept. 19 (JDD) and one near Smyrna, Del., Sept. 9 (*vide* AH) are not abnormal, but three together at Johnson Park, Highland Park, N.J., Oct. 13 (RJB,m.ob.) were remarkable, as was one inland for the second year at Penn Manor, Bucks Co., Pa. (R.Mellon *et al.*). The **California Gull** that settled in at Rockland County P., N.Y., Oct. 3 (BW) was presumed to be the same bird that made history last fall. An ad. **Franklin's Gull** at Cape May Aug. 5-26 (RWR,CS,KS) provided a first record there and second for New Jersey. An unprecedented three **Sabine's Gulls** were found on pelagic trips off New Jersey Oct. 14, 20 & 27 (N.J. Aud. Soc., AB, JDD).

The unprecedented gathering of up to 46 Forster's Terns in the Hudson R., between Cornwall Bay and Piermont Oct. 23 - Nov. 2 (RFD) recalled a similar concentration last fall

at Braddock Bay, N.Y., on L. Ontario (AB 33 174) and another in the Hackensack Marshes, N.J., in fall 1973 (N.J. Nature News XXIX:86). Such groups could be of w. origin. The annual fall Royal Tern build-up was far greater than usual, perhaps as a result of *David*. On the cold front of Oct. 7, 207 passed T.I. (DW) and 5-600 were in the Cape May area (RK,PWS *et al.*). An ad. Sandwich Tern feeding an immature frequented the Sagaponack-Mecox, L.I., area Aug. 9 - Sept. 7 (HMcG, JA, L. Johnson, GSR), and an adult was at Cape May Aug. 19 - Sept. 16 (CS, JDo, JKM, JDD), possibly post-breeding wanderers from the increasing mid-Atlantic nesting population. The first successful Maryland nesting record dates from 1974 (*Raven* 48:59-65). Twenty Caspian Terns at Avalon, N.J., Sept. 11 (DW) and 22 at Delaware City Sept. 23 (JKM, H. Goldstein) were good counts.

Two precocious Dovekies Oct. 10 at R.M.S.P., L.I. (PAB) promised a good Alcoid flight that never materialized. Two Black Guillemots in winter plumage were at Montauk Pt., L.I., Nov. 30 (DE) and one the next day (M. Cashman).

DOVES TO HUMMINGBIRDS — A **Ground Dove** near Pickering Beach Oct. 31 (ph. K. Bass) represented the first Delaware record. There have been four in Maryland (AB 32:191), three in New Jersey (Fables 1955: 42; Leck 1975: 177), and a recent Massachusetts coastal record. The cuckoo population was even more massive this fall than ever. At Island Beach, N.J., MED banded 11 (seven Yellow-billed, four Black-billed) where she had never banded more than one per season. Evidence of breeding Long-eared Owl, even indirect, is rare enough to warrant mentioning the adult and young Aug. 19 at Tunkhannock, n.e. Pa. (WR). On the heels of *David*, 1540 Com. Nighthawks streamed s.w. along the coast at Rye, Westchester Co., N.Y., "in almost an hour" Sept. 7 (TWB, S. Stappers). Few of these birds cross Long Island Sound; the maximum Long Island count was 40 on Sept. 1 (RC). At Alpine, N.J., Ruby-throated Hummingbirds "have declined from an average of 12-15 per ten hours (1968-72) to 4-6 per ten hours (1977-78) to only eight for [the] entire season in 1979" (NB).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH NUTHATCHES — Five W. Kingbirds on Long Island (*vide* THD) and 5-10 in coastal New Jersey were not unusual, although one of those was an unexpected shipboard visitor 90 mi off the New Jersey coast Sept. 19 (RHe). Inland records reached almost invasion proportions with six individuals Oct. 6 - Nov. 20: one in Orange County, N.Y. (D. Murphy, m.ob.), three in Pennsylvania (FM, SS, JC, JHG), and two in interior New Jersey (*vide* RJB, TT). A **Say's Phoebe** was carefully described at Media, Pa., Nov. 24 (KCR), for about the sixth state record. A Com. Raven at Dallas, Pa., Nov. 10 (WR) was in the same place as last year's first fall record, possibly a harbinger of the anticipated take-off of ravens in this Region to match that in the s. Appalachians. Red-breasted Nuthatches were virtually non-existent.

BLUEBIRDS, SHRIKES, WARBLERS — Eastern Bluebirds were nearly absent from some areas, and locally abundant in others.

The best reports came from the w. ridges, such as a flock of 75-100 in the Poconos near Skytop, Pa., Sept. 26-28 (Mrs. R. Malkowsky, *vide* ST), and from areas with nest-box programs. In Dutchess County, N.Y., where one pair bred in 1962, 235 young were fledged in 57 boxes in 1979 (F. Germond). After two very good N. Shrike falls, only one was reported, Nov. 6, Dutchess County, N.Y. (HM). Some observers consider Loggerhead Shrike a vanishing species in this Region.

Among many late warblers in the warm fall, the early-departing *Vermivora* deserve special mention: a Worm-eating Warbler Nov. 22 at Harriman S.P., Rockland Co., N.Y. (R. Speiser), a record late Golden-winged Warbler netted Oct. 13 at Manorville, L.I. (GSR) and another Oct. 6 at Higbee's Beach, Cape May (PB, WWa), and a Blue-winged Warbler netted Oct. 13 at Island Beach, N.J. (MED). Two ♂ Lawrence's Warbler reports were noteworthy Aug. 28 at Peace Valley Park, Pa. (A&JM), and Wilmington, Del., Sept. 10 (D. M. Niles *et al.*). An unusually high count of Orange-crowned Warblers was five Oct. 27 at Montauk Pt., L.I. (JA) and up to 20 others were reported in the Region (RK, A&JM, RJB, JHG, PD). NB reported the largest Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler flight ever at Alpine, N.J. 976 per ten hours, compared with a long-term average of 175. The cold front of Oct. 14 inundated the Region with them. At Alpine, 2247 passed in 3 hours, and 4000 were at Higbee's Beach, Cape May, the same day (JKM). Three Kentucky Warblers on Long Island Aug. 28 - Sept. 1 (THD, JDiC, LB) and one trapped in a garage in Manapanan Twp., N.J., Sept. 18 (JP) were exceptional fall records, perhaps a reflection of increased breeding in the n. of this Region. A Yellow-breasted Chat came aboard a boat at Hudson Canyon Sept. 19 (RHe). A very late and unusual Hooded Warbler was at Ocean City, N.J., Oct. 2 (RMA).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS — One ♀ Yellow-headed Blackbird at Captree S.P., L.I., Oct. 10-11 (PAB) and three at feeders in coastal New Jersey (E. Zobel, H. Amory, *vide* PWS) were slightly below normal for this now regular vagrant whose breeding area expands steadily E. A Summer Tanager Oct. 6 at Rockaway, N.Y.C. (JY) was exceptional, most birds in this Region being non-breeders that depart early.

Ed Marshall banded 910 House Finches in Ardmore, Pa., during 1979 (307 in August). His best previous total had been 365 in 1975 (*vide* DAC). Nine Blue Grosbeaks on Long Island Sept. 30 - Nov. 18 (THD) and 11 on Aug. 31 at Cape Henlopen, Del. (WWF) continue the high numbers of spring. One Nov. 28 at Croton Pt., Westchester Co., N.Y. (BW) was remarkably late. A Eur. Goldfinch of uncertain provenance frequented two feeders at Medford, N.J., through the period (ph. *vide* DAC). Winter finches were all but non-existent, except for one flock of Red Crossbills on Staten I., Sept. 15 (R. Clermont). Ten Vesper Sparrows at Miller Place, L.I., Oct. 11 (DL), five at Garvie's Pt., L.I., Oct. 20 (RC, BJS) and over two dozen in coastal New Jersey Oct. 2 - Nov. 23 (*vide* PWS) were encouraging reports of this declining species. Twenty Lark Sparrows, all coastal, Aug. 26 - Nov. 16, and six Clay-colored Sparrows were well above normal for the Region. An ad. **Harris' Sparrow** reported from Cape May Aug. 26 (RWR) fell

far outside the usual late arrival pattern of this w. vagrant.

CORRIGENDUM — The Scissor-tailed Flycatchers reported as two individuals on Long Island in Oct. 1978 (*AB* 33:162) refer to a single individual at Spring Creek.

OBSERVERS — (sub-regional compilers in boldface) J. M. Abbott, Jim Ash, C. U. Atkinson, Pete Bacinski, **Maurice V. Barnhill**, Seth Benz, Louis Bevier, Andrew Bihun (ABi), **Irving Black**, **Raymond J. Blicharz**, Ned Boyajian, William J. Boyle, Alan Brady, Howard P. Brokaw, P. A. Buckley, Joseph Burgiel, T. W. **Burke**, John Cadwallader, Ted Chase, Ralph Coffi, John D. Dezenbaker, **Thomas H. Davis**, **Robert F. Deed**, Stephen B. Dempsey,

Joe DiCostanzo, Mary E. Doscher, Aline Dove, James Dowdell (JDo), Peter Dunne, John Ebner, Dianne Engleke, Michael Fahay, Peter Fahey, Fran File, George A. Franchois, William W. Frech, John H. Ginaven, Jeff Gordon (JGo), Jesse Grantham (JGr), Barbara and Frank Haas, **Greg Hanisek**, Dorothy Hartman, Richard Heil (RHe), Armas Hill, Richard Kane, Jim and Mary Key, David Larsen, A. J. Lauro, S. R. Lawrence, Helen Manson, Robert Mauer (RMa), Ken and Joan McDermott, Hugh McGuinness, J. T. McNeill, Fred Mears, **James K. Meritt**, Mianus Field Notes (M.F.N.), J. C. Miller, August and Judy Mirabella, **Bernard L. Morris**, Alex Nagy, Alfred Nicholson (ANi), J. Peachey, Eleanor Pink, Peter W. Post, Don Powers, Richard Radis (RRa), Gilbert S. Raynor, **William Reid**, Charlotte Richards, Robert W. Russell,

Richard Ryan (RRY), Keith Seager, **Beezer Seguin** (BSg), R. M. Schutsky, **P. William Smith**, Steve Smith, Barbara J. Spencer, Clay and Pat Sutton, Edward C. Swab, Martha and Paul Taylor, Fred Tetlow (FTe), Stiles Thomas, Fred Tilly, Theed Tobish, **John Tramontano**, Ed Treacy, Wade Wander (WWa), David Ward, Neil Ward, Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club (R.T.W.B.C.), W. J. Wayne, Berna Weissman, George Wenzelburger, Rick Wiltraut, Eric Witmer, Floyd P. Wolfarth, Al Wollin, John Yrizarry, Richard ZainEldeen. Symbols: † = detailed descriptions submitted; ph. = photograph. — **ROBERT O. PAXTON, 560 Riverside Drive, Apt. 12K, New York, N.Y. 10027, KEITH C. RICHARDS, 348 Summit Road, Media, Pa., 19063, and DAVID A. CUTLER, 1110 Rock Creek Drive, Wyncote, Pa. 19095.**

MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/F. R. Scott

This season had something for everyone. After a cool summer, fall temperatures averaged near normal in August and September, were cool in October, and were well above normal in November. Precipitation although varying from station to station, was mostly well above normal, particularly in September, and streams and impoundments stayed full most of the period. The weather highlight of the season was hurricane *David*, whose remnants passed northward and northeastward over the central part of the Region September 5 and 6, accompanied by heavy rainfall and dropping a considerable array of pelagic birds, mostly Sooty Terns, in its wake.

The fall movement seemed to begin early, urged on by an unusual cool spell that lasted a week and was started by a strong cold front August 11. An exceptional warbler flight occurred September 8 and 9 over much of the Region, and there were several good flights the last two weeks of October and an unusual inland waterbird flight November 12. Aside from these, however, the last part of the migration seemed dragged out, and there was every indication that there would be many late holdovers into early winter.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — Three Com. Loons in breeding plumage at L. Anna, Louisa Co., Va., Aug. 19 (BWK & TDW) seemed to have been early migrants, as incredible as that may seem at that date. This species was a major constituent of the Nov. 12 flight with >100 seen (HLW) at Sandy Point S.P., Md. (hereafter, S.P.S.P.) and an amazing 500 estimated at L. Anna (LR&MA), by far a record Piedmont count for Virginia. These last birds did not remain long as only 28 could be found there Nov. 18 (SC). Anderson observed two Red-throated Loons at Chincoteague N.W.R., Va., Aug. 2 which were probably summering birds. A Red-necked Grebe at Baltimore Nov. 22+ (EATB) was the only fall report, and there were an estimated 400 Horned Grebes there in the harbor Nov. 12 (EATB & JB). An **Eared Grebe** was photographed at Chincoteague Ref., Oct. 6 (RM), and 44 Pied-billed Grebes at Deal Island W.M.A., Md., Aug. 4 (HTA) were probably local breeders and young. Among the pelagics left by *David*

were two probable Sooty Shearwaters inland at L. Anna Sept. 5 (JBB) and an ad. **Magnificent Frigatebird** photographed on the James R., near Williamsburg, Va., Sept. 6 (TEA, MAB&RAB). Although there are a very few summer records (including August) of Sooty Shearwater in Virginia, this is the first probable fall report and would be the only state record w. of Chesapeake Bay.

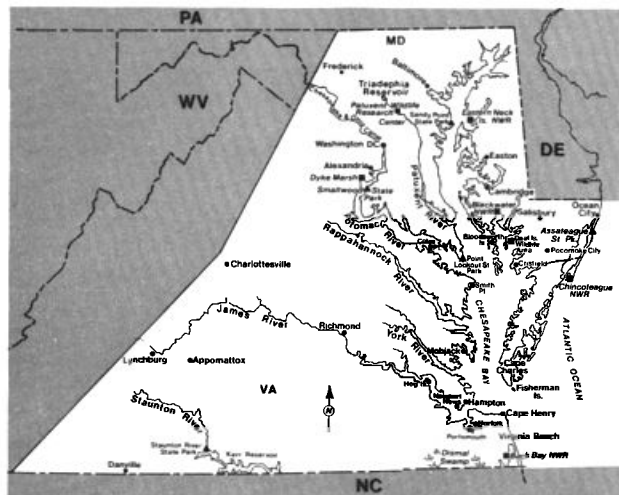
S.A.

Rowlett's cruises offshore continued into the fall with overwhelming results. The most spectacular day was Sept. 26 when a feeding concentration of 1335 Cory's and 1545 Audubon's shearwaters was found along the edge of the Continental Shelf 65 mi e. of Virginia Beach, Va. Other concentrations of Audubon's included 565 approx. 135 mi e. of the Virginia Capes Sept. 11, and 225 in one flock 125 mi e.-s.e. of Chincoteague Oct. 14. In this same area off the Capes, Rowlett and Burrell observed a **Black-capped Petrel** and a **White-faced Storm-Petrel** Aug. 30, the latter a first Virginia sight record. Rowlett recorded the last Wilson's Storm-Petrels off Cape Henry Oct. 20, a record late date. Details of these cruises, which extended from Delaware s. to Florida and e. to the Sargasso Sea, will be published separately.

The saga of the **White Pelican**, first reported in Virginia in October 1978, continued throughout the fall, but now there is obviously more than one bird moving around. One was seen near Metomkin I., Va., Sept. 3 (BT), and up to **four** were present at Chincoteague Ref., Sept. 21 - Oct. 10 (NCM, BWK, EV *et al.*). At Back Bay N.W.R., Va., one appeared first Nov. 23 (RLAN, GMW, TRW *et al.*) in the same area where one wintered in 1978-79. The previously reported Brown Pelican at L. Anna was present at least to Sept. 3 (NL), and a good photograph of the bird taken Aug. 19 (JJM & WLP) appeared in the *Louisiana Central Virginian* for Aug. 30.

HERONS THROUGH IBISES — Fall concentrations of herons along the coast were not notable, but there were some good reports from Chesapeake Bay and farther inland. Cattle Egrets returned to the Hopewell, Va., area with >100 noted there in late August and September (PM&JWD), but there was still no nesting evidence here. At Deal I., and Fairmount W.M.A., Md., Armistead totaled 58 Green Herons and 60 Louisiana Herons Aug. 4 and 40 Louisiana Herons Oct. 3, and Reese had 30 Snowy Egrets still on nests at Poplar I., Md., Aug. 16. There were three Louisianas near Baltimore Aug. 5 (PJK), one remaining to Aug. 18 (EATB), and one was observed at S.P.S.P., Aug. 16 (HLW). Near Hopewell there were two Louisianas Aug. 19 and 77 Great Egrets Aug. 26 (JWD & FRS), and Rowlett estimated 200-300 Yellow-crowned Night Herons at Smith I., Md., Aug. 14-15. One to two imm. **Wood Storks** were present near Montross, Va., Aug. 2-13 (JEJMA *et al.*), and a few Glossy Ibises were noted inland, mostly in August, near Hopewell, at S.P.S.P., and Baltimore. The only White Ibises reported were one immature at Mockhorn I., Va., Aug. 22 (MAB & DD) and four immatures at Fisherman I., Va., Sept. 1 (MAB *et al.*). Apparently the same **White-faced Ibis** previously reported at Chincoteague Ref., in July was seen again there Aug. 2 (RLAN & NS).

WATERFOWL — Whistling Swans were a major constituent of the big waterbird flight of Nov. 12, especially in the Washington and



Baltimore areas and at S P S P, but numbers seemed below normal over much of their winter range at the end of the month. The first Canada Goose flights were quite early, and a "large flock" was noted flying SE over Fairfax County, Va., as early as Sept. 3 (GM). A Fulvous Whistling Duck was reported near Chestertown, Md., Oct. 18 (JSm), and at Eastern Neck Island N.W.R., Md., Ringler and 20± others were started to discover a flock of 35 of these birds. A flock of 500 Pintails near Hopewell Sept. 30 (FRS) was a remarkable number for this date, and there were numerous August sightings of Green-winged Teals, including five at Blackwater N W R., Md., Aug. 3 (HTA). Early Blue-winged Teal included two at S.P.S.P., Aug. 6 (HLW) and ten at Craney I., Portsmouth, Va., Aug. 10 (GMW), and a Eur. Wigeon was reported at Blackwater Ref., Sept. 19 (*vide* HTA). In general, diving ducks were reported in very poor numbers, and most of those that came in early moved on by the end of the period. Of most interest were small numbers of Redheads that appeared in a number of inland areas in November. At L. Anna two Oldsquaws appeared first Oct. 26 (*vide* BWK), and a remarkable 45 were counted in nearby Beaverdam Res., Louisa Co., Nov. 25 (JBB), a record count for Virginia's Piedmont.

HAWKS — Apparently increasing hawk numbers together with more interest in these birds by field observers resulted in more observations being reported than ever before. Single Goshawks were seen near Towson, Md., Oct. 14 (JLS&SS) and in Baltimore Nov. 17 (MR), and the Sharp-shinned Hawk migration was one of the best on record, with peaks at Kiptopeke Beach, Va., of 2000 Sept. 27 (WPS) and 1967 Sept. 29 (BW). Cooper's Hawks were also in unusual numbers as compared to recent years, and at Fisherman I., Byrd and Davis noted 115 Oct. 20 and 200 Oct. 21. Buteo numbers were not outstanding

— S.A. —

The migration of Peregrine Falcons along the coast was undoubtedly the best documented in history with banding stations or observers operating for extended periods on Assateague I., Md. and Va., Parramore I., Va., Kiptopeke Beach, Fisherman I., Chesapeake Light Tower (14 mi e of Cape Henry), and the Back Bay, Va., area. Preliminary totals indicated that 196 new birds were banded (plus seven previously banded birds captured) and approximately 1000 separate observations were made (FPW, MAP, TN *et al.*). The observations, of course, included some multiple sightings of the same birds, so this figure is more a measure of effort expended than a measure of population size. Over half of the bandings and observations were made on Assateague I., where Ward has now completed his tenth year of fall Peregrine research. Comparing his observations per 100 man-hours during the last five years with those of the first five, Ward feels that the Peregrine has increased 148% in this period. A Peregrine appeared in downtown Norfolk Oct. 5 for the fourth consecutive year (RLAn), and birds were also reported in downtown Baltimore and Newport News, Va.

except for a count of 53 Red-taileds at St Michaels, Md., Nov. 22 (JR) and an imm. **Swainson's Hawk** trapped and banded (and photographed) at Fisherman I., Oct. 20 (MAB & DD), the last the first confirmed record for Virginia. Golden Eagles were reported twice, one near Towson, Md., Sept. 29 (JLS) and an immature at Kiptopeke Beach, Va., Oct. 7 (BW, WCF *et al.*). In King George County, Va., Byrd noted an ad. Bald Eagle that began nest building about Nov. 15; the nest appeared essentially completed by Dec. 8. Armistead's peak count of this species in s. Dorchester County, Md., was nine adults and five immatures Oct. 3. Unusual inland Osprey concentrations included seven at L. Anna Sept. 14 (JBB) and 15 at Ni Res., Spotsylvania Co., Va., Sept. 23 (SC).

Merlins also seem to be continuing their increase of recent years, inland as well as along the coast. Using the same criteria he used for the Peregrine, Ward feels the species has increased 77% in the last 10 years at Assateague I.

RAILS THROUGH PHALAROPES — A Black Rail was still responding to tape recordings at S.P.S.P., Sept. 16 (HLW), and Armistead counted 21 Com. Gallinules at Deal I., Md., Aug. 4. The gallinule count was much lower than those here in the early 1970s but still indicated a fairly viable population. Single very early or summering Am. Coots were seen near Williamsburg Aug. 14 (BW) and at L. Anna Aug. 23 (SC), and the peak L. Anna count was a record 1418 Nov. 18 (SC).

Because of high water levels many of the traditional shorebird localities had only mediocre concentrations this fall. American Oystercatchers appeared in excellent numbers, however, in Hog I. Bay, Va., possibly using the oyster "rocks" there as a staging area, and Hennessey and Truitt estimated a peak of 1000 Oct. 4. Wierenga found a Piping Plover at Ft. Smallwood Park, Md. (near Baltimore), Oct. 25, and Am. Golden Plovers were widely reported but in smaller numbers than in some recent years. A late individual was seen at Chincoteague Nov. 25 (DFA&HB). Among the shorebirds found inland at Anacostia, D.C., was a Ruddy Turnstone Aug. 12 (JMA). A Com. Snipe at Deal I., Aug. 4 (HTA) and a Purple Sandpiper along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Va. (hereafter, C.B.B.T.) Sept. 20 (JOP&EPP) were quite early, and Baird's Sandpipers were reported from eight localities, including four at Anacostia, D.C., Sept. 6 (DFA&JMA), five at Craney I., Va., Sept. 20 (RLAn, DLH&NS), and a very late one at S.P.S.P., Nov. 9-10 (HLW). A most obliging **Curlew Sandpiper** found by the Pullmans at Chincoteague Ref., Sept. 22 was studied at leisure the next day by 100+ observers (DLH, FRS *et al.*). Single Long-billed Dowitchers were found inland at Anacostia Sept. 23 (DFA), Baltimore Oct. 24 (HK), and Piney Run Park, Carroll Co., Md., Nov. 10 (EATB). Stilt Sandpipers were also reported inland, with one at Baltimore Aug. 25 (HK *et al.*), one at Anacostia Sept. 6 (DFA&JMA), and one to two off and on at S.P.S.P., July 28 - Oct. 1 (HLW). The best count of Buff-breasted Sandpipers this fall was only four at Craney I., Sept. 20-21 (TRW, RLAn, GMW *et al.*), and Marbled Godwits were reported only at Chincoteague with a maximum of seven Sept. 8 (SC). There were few Hudsonian Godwits

reported, the most interesting being inland, two at S.P.S.P., Sept. 24 (HLW) and one at Baltimore Oct. 20-22 (EATB *et al.*), and the only Ruff was a single bird at Anacostia Sept. 23 (DFA). There were two Sanderlings far inland at L. Anna Sept. 8 (TDW).

The Craney I. population of Am. Avocets slowly built up over the fall to a peak of 600 Nov. 27 (TRW), but at Chincoteague no more than three were seen on any one day. Notable, however, was that the species was also seen in six other localities, including one photographed on the Piedmont at L. Anna Aug. 14 (WW&FM), four in Surry County, Va., Aug. 19 (LR&MA), three in Baltimore Aug. 19 (RFR&DH), one remaining to Aug. 25, and another in Baltimore Oct. 20-22 (EATB *et al.*). Two Black-necked Stilts were seen at Deal I., Aug. 4 (HTA) and one at Piney Run Park, Md., Sept. 7 (DS), the last apparently a first regional record for the Piedmont. A Red Phalarope off Virginia Beach Oct. 17 (RAR) provided the only report of this species. There were, however, numerous Wilson's and N. phalaropes near the coast, although the numbers were not impressive. Inland N. Phalaropes included one at Anacostia Sept. 6 (DFA&JMA) and one at Chestertown, Md., Sept. 11 (FLP).

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMERS — Thanks to Hurricane *David*, two jaegers of uncertain species were seen at S.P.S.P., Sept. 6 (BA&HLW), and a **Parasitic Jaeger** was found there Oct. 5 (HLW). Rowlett recorded 21 Pomarine and one **Long-tailed Jaeger** off Cape Henry Sept. 26, and an imm. **Great Black-backed Gull** was seen at L. Anna Sept. 6 & 22 (JBB), obviously brought inland by *David*. Two Lesser Black-backed appeared again on the C.B.B.T., Sept. 24+ (RAR *et al.*), two were present most of the fall at Baltimore harbor (WB *et al.*), and one was seen at Chincoteague Ref., Nov. 23 (DV&EV). The famous gull concentration at Alexandria, Va., produced an apparent subad. **California Gull** and a small Herring Gull with yellow legs, apparently one of the European races. Both of these were found Sept. 21 (JMA). An imm. **Laughing Gull** at L. Anna Sept. 14-15 (JBB) furnished the first state Piedmont record for the fall, and several **Franklin's Gulls** were seen in Baltimore, an immature and a subadult Oct. 14 (EATB, TE&RFR) and single adults Oct. 20 and Nov. 18 (EATB). An apparently summering Bonaparte's Gull was noted at Baltimore Aug. 19 (DH&RFR), and two were seen in Washington Aug. 22 (DFA). An imm **Black-legged Kittiwake** was observed at S.P.S.P., Nov. 17 (HLW *et al.*), apparently only the second Maryland record away from the coast, and another immature was noted at Ocean City, Md., Nov. 24-25 (DFA). The only offshore concentration was a flock of 71, 33 mi e. of Cape Henry Nov. 24 (RLAk, RLAn & DLH). An imm. **Sabine's Gull** about 40 mi e of the Virginia Capes Aug. 2 (RAR) provided the fifth state sight record. Two Forster's Terns were on the Potomac R., near Seneca, Md., Sept. 3 (JBB), and at L. Anna there were two Sept. 6 and one Sept. 14 (JBB). Common Terns peaked at 375 at S.P.S.P., Sept. 14 (HLW).

David produced the biggest fallout ever of **Sooty Terns** in the Region. Some 32 different birds were reported inland or along the coast, 27 in Virginia, one in Washington, and four in

Maryland, and 18 of these were seen or picked up alive Sept. 5 or 6, whereas dead birds were, in at least one case, found into November. Piedmont records were three at L. Anna Sept. 5 and one the next day (JBB), and Sept. 6 one was picked up dead in w. Henrico County, Va. (CRB), another was picked up alive near Lynchburg, Va. (*vide* RER) which later recovered and was flown to Florida, one was found dead near Amherst, Va. (*vide* EPE), and another live bird was recovered at Owings Mills, Md. (*vide* RFR) but later died. The other records were mostly on or near the coast, although D. F. Abbott photographed one at Anacostia, D. C., Sept. 6, and two were seen the same day at S.P.S.P. (BA&HLW). One of the more interesting reports was of three sitting in a driveway at Nassawadox, Va., during the night of Sept. 5; they had to be physically removed to allow a truck to pass (RH)! Since this fallout occurred in the middle of the week and reports were received from only one of the many inland impoundments, the number of *unrecorded* birds must have been incredible. This full extent of this dislocation may be better realized by Rowlett and Burrell's discovery of a *flock of 110* Sooty Terns 135 mi e. of the Virginia Capes Sept. 11!

Two ad. **Bridled Terns** carefully examined at L. Anna Sept. 5-6 (JBB) constituted the only onshore report, but off the Virginia Capes Rowlett recorded seven Aug. 30, one Sept. 4, and six Sept. 11. Although the inland record was clearly a *David* product, the offshore reports were apparently unrelated to this storm. Two Royal Terns were found inland at Loch Raven Res., Md., Aug. 26 (MR), and they peaked at 230 on Hooper and Barren Is., Md., Sept. 23 (HTA). At the Chesapeake Light Tower, Va., D. F. Abbott estimated 150 Sandwich Terns Sept. 26 and 100 the next day, the former a record count for Virginia. *David* apparently caused some concentrations of Caspian Terns, and peak counts Sept. 6 included 10+ at L. Anna (JBB), 100 at Alexandria (JMA), and 225+ in Baltimore harbor (EATB *et al.*). Late Caspians were seen at Back Bay Ref., Nov. 23 (two — TRW) and S.P.S.P., Nov. 26 (HLW). Black Skimmers occurred well up Chesapeake Bay again with three immatures at S.P.S.P., Aug. 8-13 (HLW) and an adult near Baltimore Aug. 25 (HK).

DOVES THROUGH VIREOS — A **Ground Dove** at Back Bay Ref., Oct. 15 (BBW) provided one of the few late fall records for the state, and a late Yellow-billed Cuckoo was observed at Blackwater Ref., Nov. 23 (ECS *et al.*). A record count of Com. Nighthawks was obtained Aug. 29 at Clifton, Va., when 10,000 were estimated passing over in two hours (JWE&CLE), and late Chimney Swifts were recorded at McLean, Va., Oct. 20 (JBB) and Clifton Oct. 22 (JWE). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds remained late in many areas. Among the latest were one at Newport News, Va., Nov. 1 (DLM), one at Wheaton, Md., Nov. 23 (*vide* RFR), and one at Norfolk, Va., into December (EM). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Bellevue, Md., Sept. 8 (HTA) was early, and a roosting flock of 800 E Kingbirds at Kiptopeke Beach Sept. 2 (FRS) was impressive. J. M. Abbott found an ad. Acadian Flycatcher feeding a fledged young at Dyke Marsh, Fairfax Co., Va., Aug. 13, and a wood pewee at S.P.S.P., Oct. 30 - Nov. 2 (HLW) was suspiciously Western in

appearance as well as later than the Eastern has been recorded in Maryland. D. F. Abbott had an unusual concentration of 31 E. Wood Pewees at Ft. Washington, Md., Sept. 20. An ad. Horned Lark was feeding fledged young at Craney I., Aug. 20 (RLAn), and Rough-winged Swallows put in their by-now-usual late appearances, including four at S.P.S.P., Oct. 14 (WK) and one at Hooper I., Md., Oct. 21 (HTA). Stasz and others observed a Com. Raven near Towson off-and-on Aug. 28 into October, and at Kiptopeke Beach the peak Blue Jay migration occurred Oct. 6, when 8000 were counted flying over (BW&FRS). Absolutely *no* Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported this fall, and many active observers commented on their total absence. An early Swainson's Thrush was banded at S.P.S.P., Sept. 1 (WK), and most observers thought that both kinglets appeared in much better numbers this fall than last, although one active observer complained that he found only one Golden-crowned the whole period. A Yellow-throated Vireo at Chesapeake Light Tower Oct. 2 (DFA) was unusual for extreme s.e. Virginia, and Parks noted a Solitary Vireo near Chestertown, Md., on the unusual date of Aug. 7.

WARBLERS THROUGH LONGSPURS — Many warblers began moving S unusually early, some even before the cold snap in mid-August. Single Blue-winged Warblers were noted at Charles City, Va., Aug. 11 (PM), Chestertown Aug. 13 (JG), and Lewisetta, Va., Aug. 16 (FRS), and a Tennessee Warbler was also present at Lewisetta on the last date (FRS). Among the other early arrivals were a Cape May Warbler banded at Baltimore Aug. 20 (JSc), a Bay-breasted found dead at Annapolis Aug. 20 (WK), two *singing* Mourning Warblers at Chestertown Aug. 8 (FLP), and three Am. Redstarts at Bellevue, Md., Aug. 5 (HTA). A Golden-winged Warbler at Chesapeake, Va., Sept. 20 (GMW) was unusual there, and one at Laurel Oct. 8 (DBk) was apparently a late record for Maryland. Some unusual concentrations of warblers at Ft. Washington, Md., included 50 Magnolias Sept. 19 and 65 N. Parulas Sept. 20 (DFA). J. M. Abbott carefully observed a bird thought to be a Kirtland's Warbler at Anacostia Sept. 30. Late records included a Yellow-throated Warbler in Spotsylvania County, Va., Sept. 26 (SC), Blackpolls banded at S.P.S.P., Nov. 4 (WK&HLW) and Newport News Nov. 19 (DLM), and an Ovenbird at Laurel, Md., Nov. 17 (DBk). A Bobolink at Blackwater Ref., Nov. 25 (DBe) was extraordinarily late.

Northern finches, as one contributor put it, "stayed that way." Evening Grosbeaks and Purple Finches were late and in very poor numbers, and few observers reported any Pine Siskins at all. The only crossbill report was a single Red in Spotsylvania County, Va., Sept. 27 (SC). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were in usually good numbers in c. Virginia; peak counts reported included 14 at Richmond Sept. 27 (FRS) and 15+ at Dyke Marsh Sept. 29 (JMA). A Blue Grosbeak was still singing at Bellevue Sept. 8-9 (HTA), and Barber found one on Carroll I., near Baltimore on the unusual date of Nov. 23. Lark Sparrows were reported at Craney I., Sept. 13 (TRW), C.B.B.T., Sept. 23-24 (JHD,TD *et al.*), Charlottesville, Va., Oct. 11 (PY), and Chincoteague Ref., Oct. 11 (DV&EV). An ad.

Black-throated Sparrow was carefully described in w. Henrico County, Va., Oct. 21 (BR&EY), and Weber found a Dark-eyed Junco in Bal-Baltimore Aug. 14. A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was banded at Kiptopeke Beach Oct 15 (DLM&SM), and the first Lapland Longspurs appeared at S.P.S.P., Nov. 16 (HLW) and at Carroll I., Md., Nov. 18 (EATB).

CONTRIBUTORS — D. F. Abbott, J M Abbott, R. L. Ake (RLAk), R. L. Anderson (RLAn), Mary Arginteanu, H. T. Armistead, T. E. Armour, Bob Augustine, John Barber, J B Bazuin, Jr., R. A. Beck, Warren Bielenberg, Henry Bielstein, C. R. Blem, E. A. T. Blom, Dan Boone (DBe), Galen Burrell, M. A. Byrd, Danny Bystrak (DBk), Sam Cooper, J. H. Dalmas, Thelma Dalmas, Doug Davis, J. W. Dillard, E. P. Edwards, C. L. Eike, J. W. Eike, Ted Eubanks, W. C. Foster, Jim Gruber, Rod Hennessey, David Holmes, D. L. Hughes, J E Johnson, Hank Kaestner, B. W. Keelan, Wayne Klockner, P. J. Knight, Nelson Lewis, J. J. Mason, Frank Massie, Richard Mellon, George Menefee, N. C. Middleton, Mrs. D L Mitchell, Sydney Mitchell, Mrs. Emily Moore, Paul Murphy, Tom Nichols, W. L. Parker, F L Parks, E. P. Pullman, J. O. Pullman, Jan Reese, Mike Resch, Mrs. R. E. Ricketts, R F Ringler, Larry Robinson, Betsy Roszell, R A Rowlett, Joe Schreiber (JSc), Jim Smith (JSm), W. P. Smith, Dick Soisson, J. L. Stasz, Nick Stravos, Sherman Suter, E. C. Swab, Barry Truitt, Dale VanDenburg, Era VanDenburg, F. P. Ward, Glenda Weber, H. L. Wierenga, Mrs. B. B. Williams, Bill Williams, G M Williamson, William Willis, T. D. Wilson, T R Wolfe, Peter Yaukey, Emily Young — **F. R. SCOTT, 115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond, Va. 23226.**

SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

Not counting hurricane *David*, the fall of 1979 provided some of the most exciting budding of the decade in the Region. When one adds the hurricane bird records to the rest of the records, it was probably the best season of all time! The fall had basically normal temperatures (with a warm spell in late November) and above normal rainfall, with many lakes and ponds being disappointingly full. There were six major features of the season: 1. hurricane *David* provided an abundance of notable records for the Carolinas; 2. strong cold fronts from late September to mid-October created excellent landbirding along the coast; 3. Peregrine Falcons staged a remarkably heavy migration along the coast; 4. winter finches had their second consecutive year of low numbers; 5. Red-breasted Nuthatches were practically nonexistent for the first time in memory; and 6. Jordan "Reservoir", south of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, became the premier inland birding spot in the Region

HURRICANE DAVID — This hurricane was the most devastating one to hit the Region in the past decade. It moved NNE on a nearly straight path from coastal Georgia to the vicinity of Sumter, S.C., to the Greensboro, N.C., area, and then into Virginia. The storm entered Georgia near daybreak Sept. 4, and during the morning of Sept. 5 it passed through the Carolinas. The counterclockwise



flow of air around the storm meant strong winds from the e., generally 40-75 mph at coastal localities. Thus, conditions were excellent for bringing subtropical and pelagic species to the coast, and taking coastal species inland. Although the hurricane struck in mid-week, a number of birders cut classes, took a day off from work, or drove far out of their way to take advantage of the unusual weather conditions.

In summary, the major species involved in displacements were the three subtropical terns; Sooty, Bridled, and Noddy (Brown Noddy), with a scattering of reports of other subtropical species that are normally rare visitors to the coast. In addition, several species were recorded inland in the Carolinas for the first time. The best bird activity was reported from the s. half of the North Carolina coast, with only a few exciting finds from the South Carolina coast, and practically nothing from coastal Georgia. Inland, Georgia observers came away empty-handed, but several noteworthy finds were reported from inland lakes in the Carolinas. Whether these reported patterns of bird activity were representative is unknown, owing to spotty coverage and very few birders reporting regularly from the Georgia coast.

The following is a brief overview of the highlights of the hurricane, on a species-by-species basis. Audubon's Shearwater: one seen flying over the surf at Sullivans I., S.C., Sept. 5 (PN) was the only shearwater reported from shore during the storm. **Wilson's Storm-Petrel**: one carefully studied skimming over the surface of L. Hartwell at Clemson, S.C., Sept. 5 (SG,PH,HL) provided the first inland record for the Region. Another was seen on the sound side of Wrightsville Beach, N.C., Sept. 5 (JH). **White-tailed Tropicbird**: an adult seen resting on a pond in the Jordan Res. lakebed, e. Chatham Co., N.C., Sept. 6, furnished a first inland record for the state (BW,MW,JP). Single individuals observed on pelagic trips out of Hatteras Inlet, N.C., Sept. 2 (PD,MT *et al.*), and Beaufort Inlet, N.C., Sept. 3 (JF) may have been storm-related. **White Pelican**: one seen Sept. 6-7 at Jordan Res., not far from the tropicbird, was an extremely rare inland record for the Region (BW,MW,JP *et al.*). Magnificent Frigatebird: two at Wrightsville Beach Sept. 4 (BN) and another at Kiawah I., S.C., Sept. 5 (ABu). Northern Phalarope: 35 were observed at a spoil pond at Ft. Macon S.P., N.C., Sept. 7, with 15 still there two days later (JF).

Ft. Macon Sept. 5-6; however, only a few were reported from coastal South Carolina and Georgia. These records are remarkable in that there were practically no previous reports of live birds seen along the coast of the Region! **Sooty Tern**: as with Bridleds, numbers along the coast were unprecedented, far too many coastal reports to mention; in addition, several were found inland. An adult and an immature were seen near Clemson Sept. 5 (HL), and a dead bird was found on the Georgia side of L. Hartwell (*vide* SM). Another was picked up alive at Chester, S.C., Sept. 6 (*vide* JEC), and the only inland report from North Carolina was one found dead at the Alligator R. bridge in w. Dare County (DL). Along the coast the higher counts were 90+ in the Ft. Macon area Sept. 5 (JF), 80+ at Wrightsville Beach Sept. 5 (JEP *et al.*), and 100 resting on rocks at Ft. Fisher, N.C., the same date (MG). Small numbers with a peak of five, were seen, dead or alive, along the South Carolina coast, but they went unreported from coastal Georgia. **Least Tern**: this tern is seldom seen inland, but three reports were received — single birds in North Carolina Sept. 5 or 6, near Raleigh (JM), Fayetteville (PIC), and L. Pinehurst (TH). **Sandwich Tern**: the first inland records for North Carolina were of singles near Fayetteville Sept. 5 (PIC), L. Surf near Vass Sept. 6 (TH,MJ), and near Raleigh Sept. 7 (TLQ). Caspian Tern: only two inland reports in early September. Black Tern: the most common of the "hurricane birds" on inland lakes, with numbers from 5-20 seen at many lakes in the Carolinas, **Noddy Tern (Brown Noddy)**: the only species added to an official state list as a result of the hurricane. Four or five dead birds were found along the North Carolina coast at Ft. Macon and Wrightsville Beach, and six or seven live birds were seen in the Ft. Macon area (JF *et al.*), and one or two at Wrightsville Beach (JFP *et al.*). Until this fall, the state had four sight records of noddies, but no photograph or specimen. Somewhat surprisingly, no noddies were noted in South Carolina or Georgia. For a full account of the hurricane and associated birds in the Carolinas see Fussell (*in prep.*) in *The Chat*.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — A Red-throated Loon Nov. 17 near Kennesaw, Ga. (JC) furnished apparently only the second record for the Atlanta area. Just as rare inland, and extremely early, was a Red-necked Grebe seen on L. Wylie near Charlotte, N.C., Oct. 27

Sabine's Gull: an unverified report of a single bird near Long Beach, N.C., Sept. 4 or 5; if confirmed, this will represent the third state record. Forster's Tern: small numbers (5-8) reported from three inland sites. Common Tern: individuals reported from three inland lakes, with a peak of 40 near Fayetteville, N.C., Sept. 5, being excellent (PIC). **Bridled Tern**: literally common along the extreme s. coast of North Carolina with 120+ seen by Parnell at Wrightsville Beach Sept. 5, and smaller numbers seen by others in this area and n. to

(BB). Georgia's second record of the **Eared Grebe** was truly phenomenal. One was discovered by Paget on a pond near Pendergrass, Jackson Co., Sept. 25; however, a Regional high was established when six were present Sept. 29 (m.ob., ph.). One was still present Oct. 4 (*vide* TM). Most of the pelagic trips taken off North Carolina this fall were uneventful, and the only shearwaters seen on a trip off Jekyll I., Ga., Sept. 2 were four Cory's (TM *et al.*). Lee has several late records for shearwaters off Oregon Inlet, N.C.: 12+ Cory's Nov. 29, a Greater and 39 Audubon's Nov. 9. Another Greater was seen from shore at Bodie I., N.C., Oct. 6 (BL). Black-capped Petrels and sightings continue to increase in North Carolina waters as counts of five or more are no longer unusual, and the species is now reported on nearly 50% of all trips in the fall. Birders on trips out of Hatteras Inlet found eight Aug. 19 and seven Sept. 2 (MT *et al.*), and Lee saw 19 on a handful of fall trips out of Oregon and Hatteras inlets. Several Wilson's Storm-Petrels Oct. 23 were rather late off Oregon Inlet (DL). White Pelicans were in "good" numbers for North Carolina; in addition to the inland individual reported in the hurricane section, one was seen at Morehead City in mid-August (*vide* JF), four were observed in flight at Oregon Inlet Sept. 19 (MS,JOP,EP), and two groups of four birds each were seen migrating WNW in coastal Carteret County Oct. 23 (FM *et al.*). Single imm. Great Cormorants at Huntington Beach S.P., S.C., Oct. 29 - Nov. 3 (SA,MA,PP,RP), and at Pea I., N.C., Nov. 5 (P&JC) were good finds. Out-of-range were two Anhingas at an impoundment in n.e. Pamlico County, N.C., Oct. 4 (PIC *et al.*), and quite late was a Magnificent Frigatebird at Mt. Pleasant, S.C., Sept. 23 (GMa,GM,MR).

HERONS THROUGH FLAMINGOS — White-phase Great Blue Herons are becoming regular in coastal Georgia in the warmer months, with two or three in the Brunswick area Aug. 11 - Sept. 3 (TM *et al.*). A white-phase **Reddish Egret** was very rare at Moore's Landing, near Charleston, S.C., Oct. 13 (DMF), and what may have been the same bird was reported farther s. in the state at Savannah N.W.R., Nov. 4 (PN). The bed of the as yet unfilled Jordan Res. was a haven for waders this summer and fall. With the common-to-abundant Little Blue Herons, and Great Egrets other waders of note there were Cattle Egret as late as Nov. 23, Snowy Egret, Louisiana Heron, Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned night herons, Am. Bittern Aug. 12 (m.ob.), five Glossy Ibis Aug. 11-25 and five again in mid-October (BL *et al.*), and White Ibis. An imm. Yellow-crowned Night Heron was observed Sept. 1 in a residential section of Raleigh (TLQ), and 12 Wood Storks near Sunset Beach, N.C., Aug. 24 (KK) was an excellent state count. Another wader now regular in summer and early fall in coastal Georgia is Roseate Spoonbill: the peak number near Brunswick was 17 on Sept. 1-3 (TM *et al.*), perhaps a record Regional count. Four Am. Flamingos were also in the Brunswick area in early fall (TM), and one was seen in mid-October at Oak I., N.C. (BB).

WATERFOWL — Definitely out-of-season was a Whistling Swan Aug. 19 along I-26 in s. Orangeburg Co., S.C. (D&PF). Eight Fulvous Whistling Ducks at Savannah N.W.R., were

notable Nov. 4 (PN,CN), as was one at Pea I., Nov. 24 (CW). The rare Eur. Wigeon was observed at Pea I., Nov. 5 (P&JC). Early Pintails were reported from Laurens County, Ga., Sept. 19 (TKP) and Ft. Fisher Oct. 6 (RD). The Augusta, Ga., Cinnamon Teal returned for the fourth winter, being first noted Nov. 23 (AW). Some controversy has arisen over this bird, as several Georgia observers claim that it is a hybrid, and despite good details that I have received over the past few years, there has been no mention of a red eye color. In fact, I am not aware that any photos exist of the teal. A ♂ Redhead spent the summer and fall at a spoil pond at Ft. Macon (JF), and another male was very early near Bunn, N.C., Aug. 27 (EFP). Unusual inland was a Surf Scoter near Pendergrass, Ga., Oct. 22 (JPag). A ♂ White-winged Scoter seen in flight at Carolina Beach, N.C., Aug. 31 (RD) was extremely early, and rare inland were a female noted near Kenesaw, Ga., Nov. 23-25 (JC,BG *et al.*) and two individuals near Charlotte Nov. 3 (BB).

KITES THROUGH RAILS — Two ad. Mississippi Kites in s.e. Anson County, N.C., Aug. 16, might have been breeders (DM). Elsewhere, an immature was most surprising at Jordan Res., Sept. 20 (BW,MW,JP), as were two immatures near Oak I., N.C., Oct. 18 (BB) and a single immature near Huntington Beach S.P., the previous day (BB). Broad-winged Hawks generally avoid the coast in fall; thus, good finds were one at Bodie I., Oct. 7 (DF) and two near Charleston (PL). A well-described Rough-legged Hawk at Raleigh Oct. 1 (GW) was exceptionally early, and the only Golden Eagle reported this season was an adult near Burlington, N.C., Sept. 24 (AB). Bald Eagle reports continue to increase, with at least eight inland sightings and just as many coastal ones; approximately 55% of the birds were adults. This was clearly a banner year for the Peregrine Falcon in the Region, with numerous coastal and five inland reports. The species was fairly common along the coast from late September to mid-October, with several parties reporting 15-20/day on the Outer Banks and at Cape Lookout, N.C., Oct. 6-8; and Volpi banded 27 at Cumberland I., Ga., during this period and observed 125± birds. Merlins seemed to have occurred in normal numbers along the coast during the fall, but in this particular year they were actually outnumbered by Peregrines!

Three species of rails were found at Jordan Res., each on noteworthy dates: a late King Nov. 16 (BL), an early Virginia Aug. 29 (EG, DK), and early Sora Aug. 12 & 23 (J&OM, BL). A Black Rail was tower-killed near Charlotte Sept. 21 (DB), and another Jordan Res. highlight was a Com. Gallinule Nov. 12 (F&WI).

SHOREBIRDS — An exciting inland bird was a Piping Plover at Beaverdam Res., n of Raleigh Aug. 30 (DL). One of the many highlights from Jordan Res., was the remarkable number of Am. Golden Plovers Aug. 25 - Nov. 4 (m.ob.), with 41 seen Nov. 3 (BL,AB) and perhaps constituting a record North Carolina count. Black-bellied Plovers were also found at Jordan Res., off-and-on, Aug. 12 - Nov. 19, with a peak of five Sept. 19 (BL). Another Black-bellied was at L. Surf Sept. 5-6 (JHC, TH). Single Ruddy Turnstones were noteworthy at Clemson Sept. 13-17 (HL), and L. Surf

Oct. 27 (KM,PIJ) Four turnstones were at Jordan Res., Sept. 19 (BL). A (or perhaps *the*) Long-billed Curlew was observed at Cape Lookout Sept. 7 & 25 (SP, JF) and 58 Upland Sandpipers at Shaw Air Force Base near Sumter, S.C., Aug. 22 (DM) must have been quite a spectacle. Single Willets at Jordan Res., Aug. 25-26 (BL,KK) and L. Marion, S.C., Sept. 1 (DM) were noteworthy.

Fussell had several noteworthy shorebirds at a new spoil pond at Ft. Macon; lingering White-rumped and Semipalmated sandpipers until Nov. 22, and a **Curlew Sandpiper** Aug. 26 & 28. There were only two Baird's Sandpipers at Bodie I., N.C., Aug. 22 (JA). Another Curlew Sandpiper, in juvenal plumage, was noted at Oregon Inlet Oct. 7 (DF *et al.*). A few Short-billed Dowitchers were reported inland, as usual, but a Long-billed Dowitcher at Jordan Res., Oct. 24 (BL) was certainly not usual. Good inland records for Still Sandpiper were three at Santee N.W.R., S.C., Aug. 23 (DM), and as many as eight at Jordan Res., Aug. 3-26 (m.ob.), with one also there Oct. 25 (BL). The peak Buff-breasted Sandpiper count (based on six reports), was disappointingly just one!

Quite rare inland was an Am. Avocet at Augusta Nov. 3 (CB,AW), and as many as 150 near Brunswick during the fall (*vide* TM) was excellent for Georgia.

One shorebird that has shown definite signs of increase during the decade, the Wilson's Phalarope, was surprisingly numerous along the coast; peaks of 30 near Brunswick Sept. 1-3 (TM *et al.*), and 12 at Ft. Macon Aug. 28 (JF *et al.*) were notable. Jordan Res., had one to two Wilson's Aug. 5-14, another Sept. 12, and still another Oct. 24 - Nov. 2 (BL *et al.*).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — An excellent count of 35 Pomarine Jaegers was made by Lee off Oregon Inlet Nov. 25, a late date for such a number, and he had two dark-phase Parasitic Jaegers in the same area Sept. 18. A second-year Glaucous Gull Aug. 19 at the harbor in Hatteras, N.C., was truly remarkable (JA), and a Lesser Black-backed Gull near Lowland, N.C., Oct. 4 (PIJ *et al.*) added to the rapidly growing number of sightings for that state. At least 85 Laughing Gulls Sept. 1 on Lakes Marion and Moultrie, S.C., may have been a record inland count (DM), and three were notable farther inland at Clemson Sept. 14 (HL,SG). The only kittiwake report was of one collected off Oregon Inlet Oct. 23 (DL). McNair had 42 Forster's Terns at L. Marion Aug. 23, and 65 at Lakes Marion and Moultrie Sept. 1. One of the few exciting pelagic finds for the season was the three **Arctic Terns** seen off Hatteras Sept. 2 (MT,PD *et al.*); and nearly as thrilling were a Roseate Tern in breeding plumage at the Hatteras harbor Aug. 19 (JA), and two Roseates at Huntington Beach S.P., Aug. 11 (DA,PN). Rather small numbers of Bridled Terns were noted on North Carolina pelagic trips this fall; in fact, the peak pelagic total reported was the 12 seen out of Jekyll I., Ga., Sept. 2 (m.ob.). Another Bridled seen sitting on Cumberland I., Ga., Oct. 5 (JV) defies explanation: In addition to the three inland reports during the hurricane, Least Terns were noted inland also at L. Marion Aug. 23 (one bird — DM) and near Townville, S.C., Aug. 26 (two birds — HL). Other outstanding tern reports were 60 Caspians at Lakes Marion and Moultrie Sept. 1 (DM) and a very late Black near Charleston Oct. 21

(GM). A Razorbill in the bight at Cape Lookout Nov. 9 was one of the earliest ever for North Carolina (SP,CD).

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — Of casual occurrence in the Piedmont was a **Ground Dove** at Jordan Res., Oct. 27 (BL, RJH,KK,AB). Yellow-billed Cuckoos were literally everywhere at Cape Lookout Oct. 14, with estimates ranging from 150-500 absolutely mind-boggling (JF,RJH,BM,DC). The outstanding bird of the season was the **Groove-billed Ani** at Savannah N.W.R., S.C., a first record for the Region. With the exception of an individual killed by a car in Maryland in November 1975 (*vide* CSR), this is the north-easternmost record known. [See also p. 161] It was first discovered and photographed Oct. 27 (LE,PY *et al.*), and it was still present at least into early December. An injured **Long-eared Owl** was found at Columbia, S.C., Oct. 20 (GT,GTa) and taken to nearby Riverbanks Zoo for rehabilitation. Still another outstanding record was of a Short-eared Owl on the unheard-of date of Aug. 12, 6 mi s.e. of Columbia (DM); the bird was carefully studied in flight low over a plowed field and was mobbed by Fish Crows. A flight of 200+ Com. Nighthawks Sept. 7 at Johns I., S.C., was remarkable for a coastal site (PL), and a ♂ hummingbird with no rusty coloration, presumably a Ruby-throated, lingered in a Beaufort, N.C., yard to at least Dec. 3 (*vide* JF). Five Gray Kingbirds, probably a family unit, were noted at Jekyll I., Sept. 3 (TM *et al.*), and one was very rare at the Cape Hatteras lighthouse Oct. 6 (DF *et al.*). A W. Kingbird near Atlanta Oct. 20 (JG) was the only inland report, and one was banded at Jekyll I., Oct. 13 (D&DC), possibly a first such event for the Region. Other noteworthy flycatcher records were of a late Great Crested at L. Mattamuskeet, N.C., Nov. 19 (JFP), a Yellow-bellied at Augusta Sept. 8 (CB), a Least banded at Jekyll I., Oct. 10 (D&DC, TM), and an Olive-sided seen and heard at Augusta Sept. 23 (AW).

SWALLOWS THROUGH VIREOS — There were a number of late swallows this fall at Bank at Savannah Ref., Nov. 4 (PN), 30 Barns at Pea I., Nov. 18 (RD), two Barns Nov. 25 at Huntington Beach S.P. (DM), and a ♀ Purple Martin on the phenomenal date of Nov. 18 at Pea I. (RD). Every other year or so is an off year for winter finches and Red-breasted Nuthatches, but the fall of 1979 was different. These nuthatches were *absent nearly everywhere* all fall, and only three people reported them. Never before, in my memory, has such a dearth of nuthatches been noted in this Region. A Bewick's Wren was a good find near Chapel Hill, N.C., Oct. 7 (SGr *et al.*), and a Wood Thrush lingered at McCain, Hoke Co., N.C., through Nov. 29 (LW). McNair had excellent nocturnal call note counts of several thrushes at Columbia: a peak single night count of Swainson's of 500 in mid-October, 100 Veeries Sept. 2, and 1000 Veeries Sept. 7. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was very late at Clemson Nov. 25 (HL), and Philadelphia Vireos were reported five times, all in North Carolina.

WARBLERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS — A "Brewster's" hybrid was seen at Augusta Sept. 11 (CB) and again Sept. 22 (AW), and eight Tennessee Warblers banded at Jekyll I., Oct. 8-11 (D&DC, TM) was excellent for the

coast Eight reports each of Golden-winged and Nashville warblers were good, but one of the warbler highlights was the impressive numbers of Yellows seen by Perry Nugent *et al.* in September in the Mt. Pleasant and Sullivan's I. area of South Carolina. On Sept. 8, they saw 500 Yellows, along with 500 Com. Yellowthroats, 1000 E. Kingbirds, and 1000 Bobolinks; on the 15th Nugent had 200 Yellows, with 1000 being seen Sept. 23. Among the many late sightings of warblers were two or three Prothonotaries near Bunn, N.C., Sept. 18 (EFP); a N. Parula Nov. 18 at Pea I. (RD); a Yellow at a Charleston feeder until at least Dec. 2 (BK); a Cape May near Durham, N.C., until Nov. 26 (JOP); a Black-throated Green near Smyrna, Ga., Nov. 9 (TMi); and an Am. Redstart near Columbia Nov. 13 (DM). Unusually early warblers were a Golden-winged at Mt. Pleasant Aug. 12 (BWi,E&SC), a Tennessee near Atlanta Aug. 19 (EH), a Yellow-rumped at Augusta Aug. 20 (AW, VW), and a Blackburnian at Hilton Head I., S.C., Aug. 15-16 (R&RH). Mourning Warblers escaped detection, but single Connecticut were banded at Jekyll I., Oct. 8 (D&DC) and observed at Buxton, N.C., Oct. 7 (HL, BL *et al.*) and Chapel Hill Oct. 13 (SGR, MGr). The five reports of Yellow-headed Blackbirds might be a record for one season; single individuals were noted at Hilton Head I., July 23-24 (VS), at Jordan Res., Sept. 30 (BW, ALB, JCo), at Cape Hatteras lighthouse Oct. 6 (DF *et al.*), at Savannah N.W.R., Nov. 4 (PN), and near Rocky Mount, N.C., Nov. 28 (THa). Fussell noted 100 N. Orioles in the Oregon Inlet area Sept. 16, and a pair of Brewer's Blackbirds were very early at a Hilton Head I. feeder Aug. 10 (VS).

FINCHES — A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at a feeder in Rocky Mount Nov. 28 - early December (CS) was most unusual; and two ♀ Dickcissels were observed at Ft. Fisher Oct. 6, with a probable male there Oct. 11 (RD). Winter finches staged another poor flight, with Evening Grosbeaks being rare to uncommon (mainly in North Carolina), Pine Siskins very rare (only two reports), Purple Finches mostly uncommon, and Red Crossbills unreported. House Finches had a big fall, however; Augusta finally got its first records, and as many as eight were at a feeder in late November (AW, CB); numbers were up in Atlanta (*vide* TM); two were reported from the North Carolina Sandhills, where they have always been surprisingly scarce (CG, DM); several were noted in late November in Morehead City, the southernmost place on the Atlantic Coast where these birds have been reported; and they have become rather widespread even in rural country over much of North Carolina and n.w. South Carolina. The elusive Le Conte's Sparrow was observed at Cumberland I., Oct. 10 (JV) and at Ft. Fisher Nov. 23 (MO). Very rare inland was a Sharp-tailed Sparrow near Raleigh Oct. 8 (JM, RJH), and also of interest away from the coast were single Lark Sparrows at Durham Aug. 11 (J&OM), Clemson Sept. 30 (HL, PG), and Raleigh Oct. 15 (JL). J. H. Carter saw a Bachman's Sparrow in n. Scotland County, N.C., Oct. 26, and he found a tower-killed bird in Bladen County, N.C., Sept. 19. One of the rarest birds seen at Jordan Res., during the season was a Clay-colored Sparrow Oct. 21 (BL) & 28 (KK).

Another banded and photographed at Jekyll I., Oct. 14 (D&DC, TM) provided Georgia's fourth record. Other Clay-colored were noted on the North Carolina coast at Pea I., Sept. 19 (JOP, EP), Ft. Fisher Oct. 8 (RD), and Ft. Macon Oct. 12 (MT). Five sightings of Lincoln's Sparrows, all in October, were about normal, but an abnormal report was of Lapland Longspur at Oregon Inlet Oct. 4 (DF), perhaps the earliest date for the Region. Another Lapland was noted on the Clemson University campus Nov. 25 (HL). Only one Snow Bunting was reported, at Oregon Inlet Nov. 18 (RD); this species has been unusually scarce in the Region for most of the decade.

CONTRIBUTORS — Dennis Abbott, Jackson Abbott, Mary Alford, Stan Alford, Clarence Belger, Bill Brokaw, A. L. Broughton, Dick Brown, Allen Bryan, Avery Burns (ABu), Dana Carter, J. H. Carter III, Jack Carusos, J. E. Cely, Don & Doris Cohrs, James Coman (JCo), Ed & Sandy Conradi, P. J. Crutchfield, Pat & Jim Culbertson, Chip Davis, Ricky Davis, Paul DuMont, Lee Ellis, Davis Finch, D. M. Forsythe, Don & Pat Frey, John Fussell, Mark Galizio, Charlotte Gantz, Eric Garner, Sid Gauthreaux, Bob Gilbert, Patricia Gowaty, Maurice Graves (MGr), Steve Graves (SGr), Joe Greenberg, R. J. Hader, Tom Haggerty (THa), Paul Hamel, John Hardwick, Royce & Royce Hough, Tom Howard, Eileen Hutcherson, Fran & Wayne Irvin, Marion Jones, Dan Kaplan, Ken Knapp, Bruce Krucke, Pete Laurie, Dave Lee, Joshua Lee, Harry LeGrand, Bob Lewis, G. Marquard (GMa), Kevin Mason, Jim & Owen McConnell, Douglas McNair, Gardner Miller, Stanlee Miller, Terry Miller (TMi), Bill Moffitt, Jim Mulholland, Fentress Munden, Bud Needham, Chris Nugent, Perry Nugent, Mark Oberle, John Paget (JPag), J. F. Parnell, T. K. Patterson, Johnnie Payne, E. F. Potter, Skip Prange, Pat Probst, Renée Probst, Elizabeth Pullman, J. O. Pullman, T. L. Quay, M. Richmond, C. S. Robbins, Virginia Scheetz, Malcolm Simons, Carr Speight, Gray Taylor (CTa), Gary Tomlin, Mike Tove, Joel Volpi, Bill Wagner, Margaret Wagner, Anne Waters, Vernon Waters, Libba Watson, Gail Whitehurst, Claudia Wilds, Bill Winfield (BWi), Pat Young. — **HARRY E. LeGRAND, JR., Department of Zoology, Clemson University, Clemson, S.C. 29631.**

FLORIDA REGION

/Lyn S. and Brooks H. Atherton

August was hot and sultry. In fact, it appeared that the more typical subtropical weather had returned to much of Florida after several years of abnormally dry summer weather. Temperatures during the month hovered around the 90°F mark. Perhaps the high temperatures and dripping humidity were subtle warnings of things to come. September was punctuated by two hurricanes and a tropical depression. Local birders' hopes soared as the first of these storms, hurricane *David*, raked the East Coast. On September 3 the eye of the storm moved ashore in north-eastern Palm Beach County after skirting the

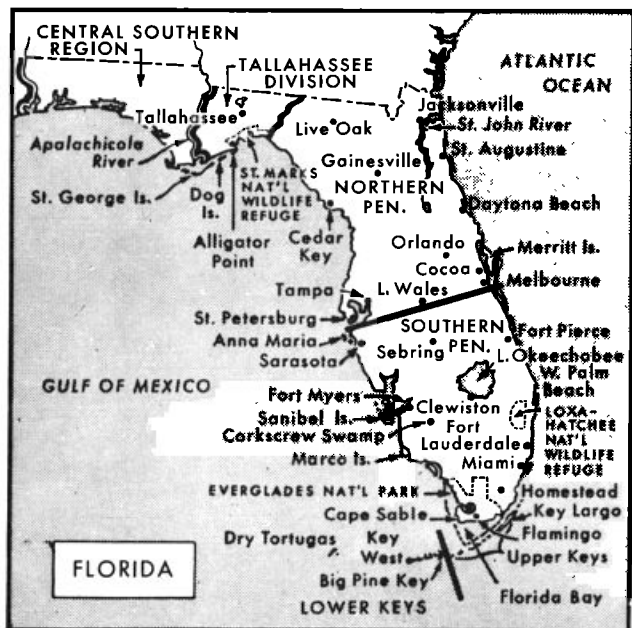
Keys and populous southeastern Florida. Hurricane force winds blowing onshore ahead of the eye generated a rash of rare and unusual sightings as far inland as Lakeland. In the keys strong southwest winds produced some "very nice warbler watching" for local birders as well as a possible "reverse migration of Bobolinks." Just one week later hurricane *Frederic* shot the gap between Key West and Cuba, and then veered northward to eventually deliver its fury on the Alabama coastline. Toward the end of the month the stormy onslaught was brought to a soggy conclusion with a five-day inundation of the Tallahassee area by a stubborn tropical depression. The remainder of the period was characterized by a return to above-average temperatures and weak, ineffectual cold fronts. The first and virtually the only cold front of note passed through the state on October 2-3 dropping temperatures in the Tallahassee area into the 50s.

ABBREVIATIONS — E.N.P.: Everglades National Park, F.S.M.: Florida State Museum, O.P.M.: Occidental Phosphate Mine, T.T.R.S.: Tall Timbers Research Station, T.S.P.: Tosohatchee State Preserve, U.S.F.: Univ. of South Florida.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS —

A Com. Loon was early at St. George I., Oct. 3 (JMS) as were 17 Herring Grebes at O.P.M., near White Springs Oct. 10 (DM) and one on Tierra Verde in St. Petersburg Oct. 12 (LSA). An Audubon's Shearwater was sighted 2 mi e of Mayport Aug. 8 (JPC) and one was found dead at Ward's Bank near Jacksonville Aug. 19 (JLW, *F.S.M.). A sick **Leach's Storm-Petrel** came ashore in Martin County and died Nov. 7 (JHe*F.S.M.). Probably the best bird of the season was a **Red-billed Tropicbird** that came ashore ill s. of the Martin-St. Lucie County line Sept. 1, ahead of hurricane *David*. It was taken to the Martin County Audubon Wildlife Hospital where it died Sept. 5 (JHe, *U.S.F.). This represents only the second specimen for Florida and one of the few for the e. United States (*vide* HWK, note to *Florida Field Nat.*). Another casualty of the storm was a White-tailed Tropicbird found dead at Marineland Sept. 6 (JL*F.S.M.). An early White Pelican was at St. Marks Light Sept. 28 (Mrs. F.H. Stoutamire). A Ft. Pierce pelagic trip produced a sub-ad. Masked Booby 10 mi offshore Aug. 19 (H&WD, m.ob.) while the only Brown Booby reported was an immature at Conch Reef Sept. 28 (SS, JJB). Five Gannets were observed heading W off Long Key, Dry Tortugas Nov. 11 by Robt. P. Russell who surmised that this might be the route by which Gannets enter the Gulf. Noteworthy Magnificent Frigatebird sightings following *David* were one at L. Butler, Orange Co. (JBU), a "flock" over the St. Johns R., near S.R. 520 (Jack Salmella) Sept. 4 and one at the Guanna W.M.A., Sept. 5 (JPC).

WADERS, GEESE AND DUCKS — A flock of ten Reddish Egrets was sighted from a boat offshore Palm Beach County Sept. 3 (HPL). Hopefully this is an indication of very successful breeding in their n. range. An early Am. Bittern was at Duda Farms near Belle Glade Aug. 26 (GSH, PWS). This locality also produced Wood Stork high counts of 1770



Aug. 12 and 1221 Sept. 9 (PWS *et al.*). Highly unusual anywhere in the Keys were sightings of 22 Glossy Ibises at Molasses Reef Aug. 23 (SS) and of one at Garden Key, Dry Tortugas Nov. 11 (JB,MM). A "bright" ad. Scarlet Ibis was observed throughout the period at Flamingo (*vide* RPR). A first record for Pinellas County was a Scarlet \times White Ibis hybrid observed flying with a flock of White Ibises Sept. 22 (LH,KT). Its destination proved to be a landfill nearby where it visited throughout the period to feed on garbage (LSA). A Roseate Spoonbill at Fernandina Beach Sept. 22 (MCD) provided one of the few recent records for the East Coast n. of the St. Johns R. (*vide* PCP).

Garden Key hosted a Canada Goose through Nov. 20 (Beryl Givens). Meanwhile, an unusually large number of White-fronted Geese was reported: eight as O.P.M., on the early date of Oct. 14 (DM), one at St. Marks Light Oct. 20 (CSG) and five at Alligator Pt., Nov. 3 (Howell Neel). O.P.M. also had a Snow Goose Nov. 18 (DM). Although most of the Black-bellied Whistling Ducks observed in Florida are considered escapees, an immature at Mrazek Pond, E.N.P., Nov. 18 might possibly have been a true w. migrant. Although there were Fulvous Whistling Ducks on the pond, the bird was associating with Mottled Ducks and Gadwalls (RPR). Blue-winged Teal with brood Aug. 11 at O.P.M. (DM) established the first breeding record for the area, although there are a few other breeding records for Florida (*vide* JHH). A Cinnamon Teal was near Myakka River S.P., Nov. 4-5 (SI,m.ob.) and four Ring-necked Ducks were at Big Pine Key Nov. 6-17 (TH,RS,MRB). St. Marks N.W.R., had an early Canvasback Nov. 2 (CSG) while very unusual inland was a White-winged Scoter at O.P.M., Nov. 11 (RR). Nine Ruddy Ducks at McKay Bay in Tampa Aug. 3 had been observed throughout the summer, but no young were noted (LSA). There was an apparent nesting of this species at O.P.M., where several young were observed with adults Aug. 11 (DM).

VULTURES THROUGH FALCONS — Fifty-three Turkey Vultures in a "kettle", accom-

panied by a Bald Eagle and six *Accipiters*, flying E at St. Marks Light, Sept. 20 (JEC) were possibly early migrants (*vide* HMS). Five Mississippi Kites at E.N.P., Aug. 14 were unusual there (RPR) while three were late in Wakulla County Sept. 18 (RMS). An imm. Everglade Kite 5 mi s. of Mahogany Hammock, E.N.P., Sept. 6 (RPR, George Avery) and two near Florida City Oct. 2 (JCO,MAB) were possibly the southernmost sightings of this species in years. One first sighted in July at T.S.P., was observed regularly through Sept. 9 when *David* passed close by (*vide* DF). A Krider's Red-tailed

Hawk was identified at Payne's Prairie Nov. 17 (JHH). Two to three hundred Broad-winged Hawks were observed at Lower Matecumbe Key Oct. 11 (SS) while two were very late at Alligator Pt., Oct. 25 (HMS). Five Swainson's Hawks were at Key West Nov. 11 (TBW,JPM) and four at Summerland Key Nov. 17 (MRB). Short-tailed Hawks continued to be observed at T.S.P., throughout the period (*vide* DF, see *Am. Birds* 33:275). Immature Golden Eagles were reported near St. Marks Light Oct. 17 (JBo), at T.T.R.S., Nov. 25 (B&LA,H&WD) and one at E.N.P., Nov. 17 carrying a decapitated bobcat! (*vide* RPR). A Marsh Hawk was early at Duda Farms Sept. 2 (PWS *et al.*) and Loxahatchee N.W.R., had its first record of Caracara Oct. 10 (AYA, Charles Ayers). An early kestrel appeared at Key Largo Aug. 28 (JCO).

CRANES, RAILS AND SHOREBIRDS — St. Marks Light had nine early migrating Sandhill Cranes Sept. 17 (JBo) and an early Sora Aug. 17 (CSG). A Yellow Rail at Mayport Sept. 2 was well described (JLW). Bahia Honda Key had a Snowy Plover Oct. 16 (SS) establishing only the third record of the decade for the Keys. American Golden Plover sightings were widespread, with five at Chiefland Sept. 13 (BSO), two near Ft. Pierce Sept. 18 (H&WD,m.ob.), one each at St. George I., Nov. 11 (HMS), Key West Nov. 6+ (TH,RS,m.ob.) and Port Everglades Nov. 17-18 (WJB,WG,TH). Duda Farms had an early Com. Snipe Aug. 5 (BH,BC). A Long-billed Curlew was at Ward's Bank throughout the period (m.ob.) and a Whimbrel was at Boca Chica Nov. 26-28 (JMP,LK).

Upland Sandpipers were reported at Hypoluxo I., Aug. 11 (PWS), 15 at Zellwood Aug. 26 (KD,H&WD) and at Duda Farms Aug. 26 and Sept. 2 (PWS *et al.*). A Pectoral Sandpiper was late near Tallahassee Nov. 23 (GEM). Sightings of the rare Baird's Sandpiper included two at Virginia Key Aug. 12-15 (BH,m.ob.) and three at St. George I., Aug. 25 (JMS). The only Buff-breasted Sandpiper reports were of one at Duda Farms Aug. 12 (PWS *et al.*), three at Zellwood Aug. 26 (H&WD,KD) and three at Oveida Sept. 13-20

(BP). Duda Farms also recorded the only Ruff of the season Aug. 12 (m.ob.). American Avocets, usually uncommon in the n. portion of the state, were too numerous this fall to list. A result of *David*, no doubt, was the occurrence of five Red Phalaropes at Ft. George Inlet Sept. 6 (JLW). A total of six Wilson's Phalaropes observed Aug. 20 - Sept. 4 at Ft. Pierce was the first occurrence of this species in St. Lucie County (H&WD,HWK) while one of two at Tallahassee remained until the late date of Nov. 2 (HNS).

JAEGERS, GULLS AND TERNS — Probably another victim of *David* was a Parasitic Jaeger found dead at Marineland Sept. 6 (JL, *F.S.M.). Two imm. Great Black-backed Gulls at Ft. Pierce Inlet Aug. 19 (m.ob.) may have been at the species' southernmost summering range (*vide* HWK). An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull arrived early at Toytown Landfill in St. Petersburg Oct. 26+ (LSA) and one was at Ward's Bank Nov. 22+ (JLW,PCP).

S.A.

The sighting of an ad. **California Gull** Nov. 19+ at Toytown Landfill and at least two other third winter individuals (LSA, ph to T.T.R.S.) was not unexpected, since at least four different California Gulls observed last March and April (LSA, ph to T.T.R.S.) were confirmed recently by J.R. Jehl and Guy McCaskie. The Apr. 14 bird was described by McCaskie as "a stunning bird in breeding plumage." It is doubtful that the occurrence of this species in Florida is a new phenomenon, but more likely it has just been overlooked since most observers find "gull-watching" tedious and frustrating. The first record for Florida (*Am. Birds* 32:995), a beautiful third nuptial-plumaged gull which was associating with only a few imm. Herring Gulls, was overlooked by a group of at least 20 observers who were no more than 50 ft from the bird!

A first winter Franklin's Gull at Toytown Oct. 26+ was joined by another Nov. 2+. An ad. winter-plumaged bird on Nov. 10 apparently did not remain, but another first winter bird appeared Nov. 17+ (LSA). St. Marks N.W.R., had an early Bonaparte's Gull Nov. 23 (MJD). An ad. **Arctic Tern** was a rare find at St. George I., Sept. 14 (JEC,HNS, note to *Fla. Field Nat.*). *David* brought Palm Beach County its first Roseate Terns Sept. 3 when three adults and five immatures were sighted between Lantana and Boynton Inlet (PWS, HPL,TT). This hurricane also sent Sooty Terns up the coast with at least seven birds sighted in the Jacksonville area Sept. 4-13 (*vide* PCP). Although there were too many sightings to list all of them separately, 260 birds at Juno Beach Sept. 2 (RPR) and 35 in Orange County Sept. 4 (JEU,TR) were especially noteworthy. Bridled Tern sightings were also numerous, after the hurricane with at least 50 birds seen from shore at various points along the East Coast by m.ob. A Sandwich Tern, uncommon in the Tortugas, was at Garden Key Nov. 7-8 (PRP). A Brown Noddy Tern was observed Aug. 19 only one mi offshore during a Ft. Pierce pelagic trip (H&WD,m.ob.). This species was also affected by *David* with 15 at Palm Beach County (HPL, PWS,TT) and one at Jacksonville Beach (JS)

Trail Sept. 23 (KD). The birds were observed throughout the next three weeks with at least one remaining through Oct. 14 (LSA,H&WD).

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS AND FRINGILIDS — The effects of both *David* and *Frederic* on the migration of Bobolinks in s. Florida were noticed. Heavy flights were reported over Homestead on the nights of Sept. 7-9 & 18. Peak numbers occurred Sept. 9 at the rate of 3600/hr (RPR). Reverse migrations were reported in the Keys Sept. 2-3 and again Sept. 11, obviously influenced by the strong circulation patterns associated with the storms (RTP,JCO). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found at St. George I., Sept. 23 (JMS) and at St. Marks Light Sept. 30 & Oct. 30 (JEC). On Sept. 9 an early N. Oriole was observed at San Felasco S.P. (RC) while a late Orchard Oriole was reported near St. Marks Light Sept. 9 (GEM,HMS). Brewer's Blackbirds were found again this year at Casey's Dairy in Pinellas County with seven noted Nov. 11 (LH,KT) and 23 individuals reported Nov. 30 (LSA). It is unfortunate for local birders that this dairy which has produced so many rare local records has recently been sold and will, no doubt, soon fall to the developer's bulldozers. Boat-tailed Grackles were present in Leon County August-October where they nested last summer for only the second time (*vide* HMS). The Keys recorded a late date for Com. Grackle when 27 were observed at Key West Nov. 29 (TBW). A very unusual occurrence of the Brown-headed Cowbird was reported from the Lower Keys when a lone female appeared Oct. 26 at Summerland Key (LPB,MRB *et al.*). A Bronzed Cowbird made

an early appearance at Casey's Dairy Oct. 15 (LH, Kathy & Ken Irely). A ♀ W. Tanager was reported in Jacksonville Oct. 3 (VMM) while the Tallahassee Division reported the earliest record there for Scarlet Tanager Sept. 14 at St. George I. (JEC,HMS).

Two very late Indigo Buntings were near Tallahassee Nov. 17-18 (GEM). Dickcissels were at two locations. One was near Tallahassee Oct. 27 (GEM) and two appeared with a flock of House Sparrows at a feeder in Tampa Nov. 20-22 (LSA, Chuck Geanangel, Jack Dozier). An early Sharp-tailed Sparrow was at Ward's Bank Sept. 16 (RWL) while the first known record of this species for the Keys or Florida Bay (*vide* W.B. Robertson) occurred at Eagle Key Oct. 10 (RPR). Lark Sparrows were reported in w. Leon County Sept. 23 (JMS) and Summerland Key Sept. 27 (MRB,LPB *et al.*). Unusual for E.N.P., was a Bachman's Sparrow Oct. 12 (RPR). A very early Chipping Sparrow was at St. George I., Sept. 15 (JEC, HMS). A Clay-colored Sparrow appeared at Palm Beach Sept. 11 (Marge Eaton,GSH) and another was at Toytown Landfill Nov. 9-12 (LSA,H&WD,SI), the latter providing a third Pinellas County record (*vide* LH). White-crowned Sparrows were reported throughout the state with an immature at Sandy Key, Florida Bay Oct. 17 (RPR) the most noteworthy. A rare **Lapland Longspur** was at Ward's Bank Nov. 12 (JLW) while an equally unusual **Snow Bunting** was there Nov. 25+ (JLW, m.ob.).

CORRIGENDUM — The report of the Thayer's Gull at St. Petersburg, erroneously attributed to LA (*Am. Birds* 33:275), should

be deleted.

OBSERVERS (area editors in boldface) — Azalea Alvarez, Manny Alvarez, Brooks H. Atherton, Lyn S. Atherton, Ann Y. Ayers, John Bangma, Mary Anne Biggar, Wes Biggs, William J Bolte, Jo Booser, Jean Bordeaux (JBo), Jane Brooks (JBr), L. Page Brown, Margaret R. Brown, Jeff Burch (JBU), Jack Cadbury, Tessa Cadbury, Robin M. Carter, James E. Cavanaugh, Ron Christensen, Julie P. Cocks, Bill Consiglio, Robert L. Crawford, Mary Davidson, Helen Dowling, Kevin Dowling, William Dowling, Michael J. Doyle, Carolyn M. Eastman, David Elmer, L. Falk, Judy Fisher, Dottie Freeman, William G. Genung, Wally George, C. S. Gideen, Tom Haggerty, Ted Hendrickson, Jean Henry (JHe), John H. Hintermister, Brian Hope, Judy Hopkins, Larry Hopkins, Gloria S. Hunter, Scott Isherwood, **Herb W. Kale**, Cecil Kilmer, Lois Kitching, Howard P. Langridge, Jim Loftin, Robert W. Loftin, David Maehr, Virginia M. Markgraf, William D. Matthews, J. Paul May, Sr., Gail E. Menk, Mandy Muller, Barbara Muschlit, Bryan S. Obst, John C. Ogden, Jeanne M. Parks, **Richard T. Paul**, Becky Payne, Carl Perry, **Peggy C. Powell**, Robert Reperning, Ted Robinson, Kathy Rosen, Robert P. Russell, Jean Shepherd, Sandy Sprunt, **Henry M. Stevenson**, Jim M. Stevenson, Roger Stone, **Paul W. Sykes**, Karl Thompson, Tadziu Trotsky, Noel O. Wamer, Julie Watt, Charles H. Watt, Jr., Thurlow B. Weed, Tony White, Brad Williams, M. Joyce Williams, Joseph L. Wilson. — **LYN AND BROOKS ATHERTON, 4619 Woodmere Rd., Tampa, FL 33609.**

ONTARIO REGION

/Clive E. Goodwin

It was a quiet fall. In mid-August exceptionally early frosts introduced a three month period of below-normal temperatures. This must have stimulated migration, and generally fair weather did little to interrupt it.

There were several periods when heavy movements were reported in the last half of September, but the only time widespread groundings and heavy visible migration occurred was during the first eight days of October. This followed several days of unfavourable winds and warmer weather at the end of September. On October 1-2, northern and central Ontario reported exceptionally heavy Canada Goose movements — at Pimisi Bay, "one of the most spectacular migrations" in the last 40 years (LdeKL). Strong Northwest gales on Lake Huron on October 7-8, brought heavy loon migration to the Kettle Point - Sarnia area (AR,DR) and on October 7, Rupert saw 11 Parasitic Jaegers at the mouth of the St. Clair River. Landbirds were in good numbers as well in the cold stormy weather: Long Point Bird Observatory banded 1195 birds of 57 species, 31% of the fall's total at one station there. At Prince Edward Pt. (hereafter, P.E.Pt.) October 8 was "one of those rare days . . . when so many birds were rushing through they couldn't be counted. For two hours after sunrise we could see thousands of songbirds flying West along the peninsula and over the water to the North as far out as we could see" (RDW).

Southern Ontario experienced a very mild November, and the second half of the month was exceptionally warm throughout. The predictable effect was a rash of late records, exceeding even those of the last two falls, as every reporting area seemed to have a long list of abnormally late warblers and other passerines. Indeed, at the time of writing (December 20) swallows are reportedly still surviving at a sewage plant in London, and many of the later species remained past November 30 to grace the next season's report and the winter lists of those who collect such things. Short of devoting the rest of this report to a list of "lates", most of these goodies will have to be passed over without mention.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — John Nicholson again this fall visited Great Duck I., (hereafter, G.D.I.) Sept. 10-27. This island is in L. Huron about 10 mi s.w. of Manitoulin I., and the visit recorded good loon counts with 762 Com. Loons Sept. 20. Caribou I., >20 mi



w. of Agawa Bay in L. Superior (hereafter, C.I.) is even more remote, and was visited by Alan Wormington and Robert Finlayson Sept. 20 - Oct. 18. Loons were seen regularly, with 129 heading E in two hours Oct. 6.

Kettle Pt. recorded heavy loon movement, and Oct. 27 two small loons there were identified as Arctic Loons (AR), but the record awaits review. Unfortunately the extreme range and unfavourable conditions often asso-

ciated with movements at the Point can make identifications problematical. Red-throated Loons were moving there from Oct. 7, with over 21 in all (AR,DR). The peak was 15 on Nov. 4, when the species also appeared in five other localities on the Great Lakes. A Horned Grebe at Rondeau July 29 was the earliest ever in the southwest: the highest count of this grebe was 166 MacGregor Point P.P., Sept. 29 (CEG,JEG). Only one Eared Grebe was reported, from P.E.Pt., Oct. 17 & 26 (MJE,RDW).

Double-crested Cormorants were widespread in small numbers, with 100+ at Kingston Sept. 9 (WT) the most seen. A Green Heron at Dundas Nov. 21 was the latest of several very late birds, and one of the latest ever recorded in Ontario (RF). After a few years of lower numbers Cattle Egrets were widespread, ranging n. to Thunder Bay (DA *et al.*), and surprisingly late. Ten of 11 birds sighted occurred after Oct. 28, and the latest was a record Nov. 28 in Smith Twp., Peterborough Co. (DCS).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — Whistling Swans, Brant and Snow Geese were unusually widespread in small numbers. Noteworthy were 1000 Brant at Kingston Oct. 20 (AEH), and 668 Snows at Marathon Sept. 18 - Oct. 24 (NGE *et al.*). The latter were recorded during a period-long hawk watch along the shore of L. Superior. Pimisi Bay was not the only locality with huge flights of Canadas this fall, as 10,000± passed over Kearns Sept. 29 (JNK, *vide* PWR). The second **Fulvous Whistling Duck** report of the year, and only the seventh record ever, was of two at Eriean Oct. 23-25 (KJB,PAW). Noteworthy breeding records were a Gadwall with young at Harris Hill Aug. 3 (MR), and an Am. Wigeon brood at Garson Aug. 11 (KM,JN); the former seems likely to have originated from the prairies, but could be from the rapidly expanding Great Lakes population. Ottawa's two Barrow's Goldeneyes reappeared — one for the sixth successive year (MG) — and another bird was at Kettle Pt., Nov. 25 (AR). Ten Harlequin Ducks equalled last year's high fall total. Most were in the Kettle Pt. - Sarnia area and there was one on C.I., but, for the first time in 12 years, no wintering bird appeared at Toronto. A King Eider at Strathroy Nov. 2 (WRJ) was the second Middlesex County record, and one of very few away from the lower Great Lakes. Scoters were in relatively poor numbers although the Sarnia total of Black Scoters was 277 Oct. 7 - Nov. 11 (DR). Ruddy Ducks, by contrast, continued to increase; 350+ were reported from the southwest alone (*vide* AHK), and Hooded Mergansers were also unusually common with 192 at Kettle Pt. (AR *et al.*) and 100 on the Bruce Pen., Nov. 13 (JWJ).

VULTURES, HAWKS — Again this fall Holiday Beach P.P., was the only hawk watching station in the south for which totals are available (JPK *et al.*). In general numbers there (Table 1) were down from last year — Golden Eagles and Merlins substantially so — but Cooper's Hawks were up some 30%, and Goshawk and Turkey Vulture counts almost doubled. However, of these possibly only Turkey Vulture and Cooper's Hawk numbers were large enough to exclude random year-to-year variations. Certainly Turkey Vultures were exceptionally numerous everywhere with ten counts of groups of >20, and one of >100

Table 1. Hawk Counts in Ontario. Fall 1979

	Holiday Beach	Marathon	Totals Elsewhere ¹
Turkey Vulture	5073	—	
Goshawk	26	28	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	12898	153	
Cooper's Hawk	539	1	
Red-tailed Hawk	5372	112	
Red-shouldered Hawk	638	—	
Broad-winged Hawk	19061	80	
Rough-legged Hawk	107	407	
Golden Eagle	21	9	16
Bald Eagle	23	6	16
Marsh Hawk	398	12	
Osprey	57	9	
Peregrine Falcon	11	2	55
Merlin	7	19	19
Am. Kestrel	3262	114	
Unidentified	995	25	
Totals	48489	977	

¹Less common species only; Bald Eagles figures exclude n.w. Ontario.



Peregrine Falcon, Caribou I., Ont., Sept. 28, 1979. Photos/Alan Wormington.

at Glen Morris Sept. 20 (AH,DRU,MS).

Both of the island visits recorded *Accipiter* flights: the G.D.I., Sharp-shinned Hawk peak was 290 Sept. 14, and at C.I., the high was 20, with the birds arriving from the E and leaving via the s. end. The Marathon count (Table 1) was of great interest as some enormous flights of Rough-legged Hawks have been recorded in the area, and this was the first systematic coverage there. Nick Escott felt the numbers were disappointing, but the results were intriguing nevertheless, particularly if the ratios at the two stations are compared. Rough-leggeds were scarce in the south, appearing in early October but were regular on C.I., from Sept. 26. Pimisi Bay had a remarkably late Broad-winged Hawk Sept. 27 (LdeKL). Some noteworthy numbers included 13 Golden Eagle reports from Hamilton over the period (*vide* GC) and 22 Bald Eagles at Lake of the Woods Nov. 3 (AW). It is most unusual to be able to identify the progress of a particular migrant, although one often suspects that duplicate sightings occur, especially along the lower Great Lakes. This year a captive-bred Peregrine Falcon released in Algonquin P.P., left there Aug. 12, to be seen again about 175 mi SSW at Dundas Aug. 25 (*vide* RT). Two Gyrfalcons were reported: a gray-phase bird at Woodbridge Oct. 10 (AD) and a white-phase at Gore Bay Nov. 21-24 (VR,CB,IL).

GROUSE THROUGH CRANES — Bobwhites continued very scarce although 20 at Lobo in November (DH) was an encouraging number. There were also comments on the

continuing scarcity of Ring-necked Pheasants in many areas. A Sandhill Crane was at Rondeau from Nov. 9 (PAW,PDP) and there were two Ottawa and four Sudbury-Manitoulin area reports. Farther n. there were several sightings, the most 53 flying W over L. Nipigon Sept. 10 (AM,DMcC).

SHOREBIRDS — Shorebird movement followed the pattern of recent falls, but was rather disappointing. There was little good habitat and concentrations were few. Most noteworthy among many late records was a Killdeer at Marathon Nov. 24 (AW,NGE). Piping Plovers were seen at Long Point Aug. 29 & Sept. 24 (JM *et al.*) and Presqu'île P.P., Oct. 14 (RDM). On G.D.I., Am. Golden Plover was the commonest shorebird with a peak of 23 on Sept. 21 and the species was unusually widespread in small numbers elsewhere. The highest count of Lesser Yellowlegs was 900 on the Sable Is., Aug. 3, when 23 Stilt Sandpipers were also seen (MRO,AW,SP). The fall's only Willets were at Tiny Marsh Aug. 25 (WZ) and Amherst I., Aug. 12 (RTa), and there was only one Marbled Godwit report at Presqu'île P.P., Sept. 17-20 (LW,m.ob.). Both Hudsonian Godwits and Buff-breasted Sandpipers were much reduced from their recent fall numbers: there were eight godwit reports of 18± birds from an early Aug. 11 on Amherst I. (RTa). Buff-breasted sightings totalled 11, of some 20 birds in all, spread from the Sable Is., and Marathon in the n. to Pt. Pelee and Ottawa in the s. The Am. Avocet records were all from L. Erie: one at Long Pt., Aug. 14 (JS) and three

ciated with movements at the Point can make identifications problematic. Red-throated Loons were moving there from Oct. 7, with over 21 in all (AR,DR). The peak was 15 on Nov. 4, when the species also appeared in five other localities on the Great Lakes. A Horned Grebe at Rondeau July 29 was the earliest ever in the southwest: the highest count of this grebe was 166 MacGregor Point P.P., Sept. 29 (CEG,JEG). Only one Eared Grebe was reported, from P.E.Pt., Oct. 17 & 26 (MJE,RDW).

Double-crested Cormorants were widespread in small numbers, with 100+ at Kingston Sept. 9 (WT) the most seen. A Green Heron at Dundas Nov. 21 was the latest of several very late birds, and one of the latest ever recorded in Ontario (RF). After a few years of lower numbers Cattle Egrets were widespread, ranging n. to Thunder Bay (DA *et al.*), and surprisingly late. Ten of 11 birds sighted occurred after Oct. 28, and the latest was a record Nov. 28 in Smith Twp., Peterborough Co (DCS).

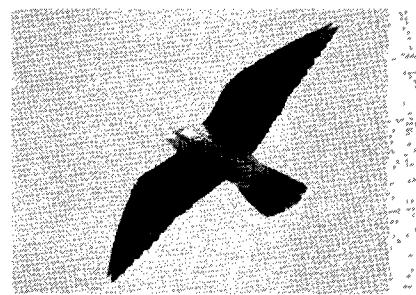
SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — Whistling Swans, Brant and Snow Geese were unusually widespread in small numbers. Noteworthy were 1000 Brant at Kingston Oct. 20 (AEH), and 668 Snows at Marathon Sept. 18 - Oct. 24 (NGE *et al.*). The latter were recorded during a period-long hawk watch along the shore of L. Superior. Pimisi Bay was not the only locality with huge flights of Canadas this fall, as 10,000± passed over Kearns Sept. 29 (JNk, *fide* PWR). The second **Fulvous Whistling Duck** report of the year, and only the seventh record ever, was of two at Erieau Oct. 23-25 (KJB,PAW). Noteworthy breeding records were a Gadwall with young at Harris Hill Aug. 3 (MR), and an Am. Wigeon brood at Garson Aug. 11 (KM,JN); the former seems likely to have originated from the prairies, but could be from the rapidly expanding Great Lakes population. Ottawa's two Barrow's Goldeneyes reappeared — one for the sixth successive year (MG) — and another bird was at Kettle Pt., Nov. 25 (AR). Ten Harlequin Ducks equalled last year's high fall total. Most were in the Kettle Pt. - Sarnia area and there was one on C.I., but, for the first time in 12 years, no wintering bird appeared at Toronto. A King Eider at Strathroy Nov. 2 (WRJ) was the second Middlesex County record, and one of very few away from the lower Great Lakes. Scoters were in relatively poor numbers although the Sarnia total of Black Scoters was 277 Oct. 7 - Nov. 11 (DR). Ruddy Ducks, by contrast, continued to increase; 350+ were reported from the southwest alone (*fide* AHK), and Hooded Mergansers were also unusually common with 192 at Kettle Pt. (AR *et al.*) and 100 on the Bruce Pen., Nov. 13 (JWJ).

VULTURES, HAWKS — Again this fall Holiday Beach P.P., was the only hawk watching station in the south for which totals are available (JPK *et al.*). In general numbers there (Table 1) were down from last year — Golden Eagles and Merlins substantially so — but Cooper's Hawks were up some 30%, and Goshawk and Turkey Vulture counts almost doubled. However, of these possibly only Turkey Vulture and Cooper's Hawk numbers were large enough to exclude random year-to-year variations. Certainly Turkey Vultures were exceptionally numerous everywhere with ten counts of groups of >20, and one of >100

Table 1. Hawk Counts in Ontario. Fall 1979

	Holiday Beach	Marathon	Totals Elsewhere ¹
Turkey Vulture	5073	—	
Goshawk	26	28	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	12898	153	
Cooper's Hawk	539	1	
Red-tailed Hawk	5372	112	
Red-shouldered Hawk	638	—	
Broad-winged Hawk	19061	80	
Rough-legged Hawk	107	407	
Golden Eagle	21	9	16
Bald Eagle	23	6	16
Marsh Hawk	398	12	
Osprey	57	9	
Peregrine Falcon	11	2	55
Merlin	7	19	19
Am. Kestrel	3262	114	
Unidentified	995	25	
Totals	48489	977	

¹Less common species only; Bald Eagles figures exclude n.w. Ontario.



Peregrine Falcon, Caribou I., Ont., Sept. 28, 1979. Photos/Alan Wormington.

at Glen Morris Sept. 20 (AH,DRu,MS).

Both of the island visits recorded *Accipiter* flights: the G.D.I., Sharp-shinned Hawk peak was 290 Sept. 14, and at C.I., the high was 20, with the birds arriving from the E and leaving via the s. end. The Marathon count (Table 1) was of great interest as some enormous flights of Rough-legged Hawks have been recorded in the area, and this was the first systematic coverage there. Nick Escott felt the numbers were disappointing, but the results were intriguing nevertheless, particularly if the ratios at the two stations are compared. Rough-leggeds were scarce in the south, appearing in early October but were regular on C.I., from Sept. 26. Pimisi Bay had a remarkably late Broad-winged Hawk Sept. 27 (LdeKL). Some noteworthy numbers included 13 Golden Eagle reports from Hamilton over the period (*fide* GC) and 22 Bald Eagles at Lake of the Woods Nov. 3 (AW). It is most unusual to be able to identify the progress of a particular migrant, although one often suspects that duplicate sightings occur, especially along the lower Great Lakes. This year a captive-bred Peregrine Falcon released in Algonquin P.P., left there Aug. 12, to be seen again about 175 mi SSW at Dundas Aug. 25 (*fide* RT). Two Gyrfalcons were reported: a gray-phase bird at Woodbridge Oct. 10 (AD) and a white-phase at Gore Bay Nov. 21-24 (VR,CB,JL).

GROUSE THROUGH CRANES — Bobwhites continued very scarce although 20 at Lobo in November (DH) was an encouraging number. There were also comments on the

continuing scarcity of Ring-necked Pheasants in many areas. A Sandhill Crane was at Rondeau from Nov. 9 (PAW,PDP) and there were two Ottawa and four Sudbury-Manitoulin area reports. Farther n. there were several sightings, the most 53 flying W over L. Nipigon Sept. 10 (AM,DMcC).

SHOREBIRDS — Shorebird movement followed the pattern of recent falls, but was rather disappointing. There was little good habitat and concentrations were few. Most noteworthy among many late records was a Killdeer at Marathon Nov. 24 (AW,NGE) Piping Plovers were seen at Long Point Aug 29 & Sept. 24 (JM *et al.*) and Presqu'île P.P., Oct. 14 (RDM). On G.D.I., Am. Golden Plover was the commonest shorebird with a peak of 23 on Sept. 21 and the species was unusually widespread in small numbers elsewhere. The highest count of Lesser Yellowlegs was 900 on the Sable Is., Aug. 3, when 23 Stilt Sandpipers were also seen (MRo,AW,SP). The fall's only Willets were at Tiny Marsh Aug. 25 (WZ) and Amherst I., Aug. 12 (RTa), and there was only one Marbled Godwit report at Presqu'île P.P., Sept. 17-20 (LW,m.ob.). Both Hudsonian Godwits and Buff-breasted Sandpipers were much reduced from their recent fall numbers there were eight godwit reports of 18± birds from an early Aug. 11 on Amherst I. (RTa) Buff-breasted sightings totalled 11, of some 20 birds in all, spread from the Sable Is., and Marathon in the n. to Pt. Pelee and Ottawa in the s. The Am. Avocet records were all from L. Erie: one at Long Pt., Aug. 14 (JS) and three

from the southwest Oct 25 - Nov 6 (JPK, ASW,PAW). It is ironic that such a lacklustre fall should produce two extreme rarities: the first a **Little Stint**, netted July 10 at North Bay on James Bay, in the course of the Canadian Wildlife Service's shorebird banding operations there. Apparently it constitutes not only the first record for the Province, but furnishes the first specimen record for North America as a whole (RIGM, *vide* RDJ). See *Condor* 80: 451-452 (1978) and *AB* 30:918 (1976) for photographic records. The second was a **Black-necked Stilt** seen at Smithville sewage lagoons Oct 14 (GC, G&AN). There is one unsupported Provincial sight record dating from 1955 at Timmins, and hence the species is not on the Ontario list. Documentation on the present sighting awaits review by the Provincial Records Committee, but stilts are unmistakable!

LARIDS — Jaeger records were principally from the Sarnia - Kettle Pt. shoreline, where four+ Pomarines and 35+ Parasitics were seen Sept. 7 - Nov. 10 (DR,AR). One very intriguing report from Toronto Oct. 28, suggests a skua (JC-B,TL) but as neither observer was familiar with Pomarine Jaegers and the documentation does not wholly exclude this species, the record is still under review. Pomarines are rare enough in Toronto but there are no existing specimens or recent records of skua for the Province. Parasitics elsewhere were e. along the lower Great Lakes to Main Duck I.: jaegers, probably this species were observed Sept. 22 (K.F.N.) and in L. Huron there were two off G.D.I., Sept. 23. Few white-winged gulls were reported, the first an early Glaucous Oct. 8 in the southwest, and an Iceland at Port Stanley Sept. 26 (WGG *et al.*). A Great Black-backed Gull n. to Providence Bay Sept. 24 (CB,JL) was noteworthy, and there were 83 at Kingsville Nov 3 (JPK). A Lesser Black-backed was seen at Ottawa from Oct. 20 (MG,m.ob.) and at least one was seen along the Niagara R., in November (RFA,m.ob.). A second bird superficially similar to this species differed in important respects and may have been a hybrid.

Niagara also had its usual assortment of rarer gulls, including Little and Franklin's, and a Sabine's Gull from Nov. 11 (TRS *et al.*). A very late Ring-billed Gull was seen in Algonquin P.P., Oct. 16 (RT) and 200 Sept. 6-7 n. of Atikokan (DHE,TN) were the most-ever there. Other high counts included 300 Bonaparte's Gulls on Sutton lagoons from Aug. 1 (BP) and 900 Franklin's Gulls on the Sable Is., Aug. 3 (SP,AW,MR); however, unprecedented were the 79 flying down the St. Clair R., at Sarnia Oct. 23-25 (DR). Sarnia and area also did well with Black-legged Kittiwakes, with six Nov. 3-10 (AR,DR); and others were seen at Niagara (m.ob.) and Hamilton Nov 4 (H&P van Dyken). The only Little Gull away from the Niagara and L. Erie was one at Nairn I., Oct. 28 (MG). Both Caspian and Forster's terns were seen on Sable I., Aug. 3-5 as well as 1500 Black Terns (AW,MRo,SP,DHE). The 240 Com. Terns at Collingwood Sept. 23 (CJM,EAM) constituted a good fall count for this species in recent years.

OWLS — The first arrivals in a very light Snowy Owl flight were at Kingston Nov. 18 (K.F.N.). All the Hawk Owls seen were within the species' breeding range: birds were at Geraldton Sept. 11 (ND), Atikokan Sept. 28

(RB), Marathon Oct 8 (NGE), McKenzie Nov 4 (NH) and Rainy R., the same day (AW). It was probably to be expected, but still came as a surprise to receive reports of Great Grays summering in areas hundreds of miles s. of their normal range: a bird was reported from L. Catchacoma (*vide* GCa) and two (a mated pair?) from a remote area near Kingston throughout the summer (K.F.N.). A Long-eared Owl at Marathon Oct. 29 was the first recorded there (AW, *vide* NGE), but in the s. owls were generally scarce. Only 66 were admitted to the Owl Research and Rehabilitation Foundation to Nov. 30. This compared to 148 in 1978, when 17 Screech Owls were handled — only one juvenile was received this year! One doubts that the owls are less injury-prone this year! The P.E.Pt., Saw-whet Owl movement commenced two weeks late; finally 342 were banded in 41 nights, and 67 were handled at Long Pt. (L.P.B.O.).

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH WOOD-

PECKERS — A very late hummingbird was seen at Peterborough Nov. 1 (AHe); there are a couple of previous November records but it is unlikely any of the birds were identified critically. Red-bellied Woodpeckers were at Toronto from Nov. 8 (FB) and Oshawa Oct. 31 - Nov. 1 (DC). Reports of late woodpeckers included a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Algonquin P.P., Nov. 4 (DFB,RJP) and a Com. Flicker at Marathon Nov. 22 (NGE *et al.*). There were three Red-headed Woodpeckers on C.I., Sept. 27 - Oct. 1, and one at Marathon Oct. 4. The Marathon watch yielded other interesting sightings in this group: 40 Black-backed Three-toeds Sept. 6 - Nov. 22 and 30 N. Three-toeds Sept. 29 - Nov. 22. These sightings and Northern on C.I., from Oct. 1 with a high of four, suggest much more extensive migrational movements in these two species than the literature implies.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — Two W. Kingbirds were seen; at Colpo Bay Aug. 4 (LHR) and G.D.I., Sept. 21. An E. Phoebe was at Marathon, where it is rare, Oct. 25 - Nov. 1 (AW). Long Point's Oct. 25 record of a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*vide* RDTH) was one of the latest-ever in Ontario. The latest swallow reports will form part of the winter summary, but a Purple Martin in the southwest Oct. 26 was the latest-ever there (*vide* AHK) and possibly for the Province as a whole.

CROWS THROUGH WRENS — Seven Black-billed Magpies were seen at Rainy R., Nov. 4 (AW). Both Com. Ravens and Com. Crows continued in high numbers: there were three ravens in the Kingston area Sept. 23 - Nov. 3 (K.F.N.), and crow counts included 13,500 at Holiday Beach Sept. 27 (JPK) and 105 at C.I., Oct. 6. The only Boreal Chickadee report s. of the species' range was from P.E.Pt., Nov. 4 (MJE,RDW). Ottawa had its first Tufted Titmouse from Nov. 6 (RBe). Wrens continued scarce. Only four Carolina Wrens were reported; two from the southwest and one each from Toronto and Long Pt. Northernly House Wrens were at Marathon Aug. 25 (NGE,CE) and C.I., Oct. 2.

MIMIDS, THRUSHES — Mockingbirds ranged N to Sibley Nov. 3 (JH,MH) and E to Kingston (RDW). Late records from Algon-

quin P.P., included a Gray Catbird to Nov 19 (PW) and a Wood Thrush Sept. 19 (RK). One of the Gray-cheeked Thrushes banded at P.E.Pt., was of the eastern *bicknelli* race (*vide* RDW) which does not normally reach Ontario. The highest E. Bluebird count was 25 at Dyer's Bay Sept. 12 (JWJ), but the species continues scarce, and none were reported from the favoured Sudbury-Manitoulin areas. Alan Wormington had no fewer than three Townsend's Solitaire sightings: from C.I., Oct 2, and Marathon Oct. 25 & 29. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were seen throughout the period, continuing their pattern of unusual abundance this year. Two of the most unexpected sightings were from C.I., Oct. 1-3, and G.D.I., Sept. 14, although the species has been recorded from Whitefish Pt., in adjacent Michigan. One of the most encouraging features of the fall was the rebound of both species of kinglets: the preliminary L.P.B.O. figures tell the story: Golden-crowneds were up 299% over fall 1978, and Ruby-crowneds 135%.

PIPITS THROUGH VIREOS — Two Water Pipits in Algonquin P.P., Oct. 29 (RJP) were very late. A few Bohemian Waxwings were seen, mostly in the extreme w.: 300 at Quetico Nov. 15 (TN,NB) was an exceptionally large flock. Loggerhead Shrike fortunes do not seem to have improved much as only four reports were received in all. The first birds in a light N. Shrike movement were at Marathon Oct. 7 (NGE *et al.*). A White-eyed Vireo was at Long Pt., Aug. 12 (MSm,JS), and another at Pt. Pelee to the end of the period (m.ob.) A Warbling Vireo at Kelley L., Sudbury Aug 22 (JL) was at the edge of its range.

WARBLERS — Prothonotary Warblers were last seen at Pt. Pelee Aug. 19 (JPK,JAG). One of the Toronto area's few Worm-eating Warbler records was of a bird at Woodbridge Aug. 28 (AD). Golden-winged and Blue-winged warblers yielded an unusual number of reports: there were four Golden-wingeds recorded e. to Algonquin P.P., Aug. 20 (DG) and Sibbald Pt., Sept. 2 (BP), and Blue-wingeds were at P.E.Pt., and a late Nov. 4 at Hamilton (L&J Fazio). There is space only for the most outstanding of a host of late warbler records a Tennessee at Niagara Falls Nov. 17 (KJB, PDP), a Nashville at Pt. Pelee Nov. 28 (AW), a Cape May at Long Pt., Oct. 23 (L.P.B.O.), a Blackburnian Nov. 10 in the southwest (*vide* AHK), an Ovenbird at Red Rock Nov. 9 (AW), and a Wilson's at Whitby Nov. 5 (*vide* PB). The "budworm" warblers — Tennessee, Cape May and Bay-breasted — were again unusually common, although perhaps less so than in the past few years. Other species felt to be exceptionally abundant were Orange-crowned, Yellow and Yellow-rumped, the latter in enormous numbers in several localities. A less common species, Prairie Warbler, also seemed to be reported more than usual from Aug 21 at Rock Pt., and P.E.Pt. (JR,RDM). Connecticut Warbler reports included an early bird at Ottawa Aug. 28-29 (I.&P.Jones), and Yellow-breasted Chat was reported from Orillia Aug 22 (WZ) and — amazingly — C.I., Sept. 25

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS — Late records in this group included a Bobolink in Algonquin P.P., Sept. 26 (RJP,RT), a W Meadowlark at Dorion Nov. 25 (WZa), and a

N. Oriole killed at Colpo Bay Dec. 3 (LHR). A nesting record overlooked in the last summary was of an Orchard Oriole at Port Britain June 24 (AKS,RI). The only Yellow-headed Blackbird sighted in the south was at Avening Sept. 9 (CJM,EAM). By contrast its fellow westerner, Brewer's Blackbird was in record numbers: 160 at Barrie Nov. 11 (CJM,EAM) and 60 at Ferndale Aug. 8 (JWJ) with smaller numbers and single birds e. to Ottawa (DFB). The MacFaydens also reported the highest Com. Grackle concentration outside the southwest: 130,000 at Coldwater Oct. 20. A Summer Tanager was reported from Neys P.P., Oct. 21 (AW), but documentation is awaited as there are very few fall records and the date is late.

FINCHES, SPARROWS — A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Sudbury to a very late Nov. 20 (L&AA,IN). Indigo Bunting popped up at the limits of its range: three at Magnetewan Sept. 26 (AM), and birds at Atikokan Nov. 3 (DHE,AW), C.I., Oct. 12 and Marathon Oct. 23 (AW). Marathon also had a Dickcissel Oct. 6 (NGE). The only House Finch reported was from Ottawa from Oct. 10 (HF). Purple Finch migration was average, but otherwise the fall winter finch flight was negligible in the south, with only Evening Grosbeaks widespread in small numbers from late October. There were scattered flocks of Pine Siskins and redpolls in the same period and a few Pine Grosbeaks. At Marathon the story was very different, and the counts were

impressive: 7400 Evening Grosbeaks from Aug. 23; 14,980 Purple Finches from Aug. 2; 3420 Pine Grosbeaks from Aug. 24; 18,560 Com. Redpolls and at least five Hoariers from Oct. 16; 15,620 Pine Siskins from Aug. 6; 183 Red Crossbills from Aug. 1; and 3120 White-winged Crossbills from Aug. 3. Apart from the scattered Red Crossbills the flocks were all flying NW following the shoreline, but spread some distance inland (NGE *et al.*). Few finches were seen at C.I.

A Rufous-sided Towhee was at Magnetewan Sept. 16 and a Field Sparrow was there Oct. 14 (AM). Fall records of the more secretive sparrows are always scarce: a record-late Henslow's was at Pt. Pelee Nov. 10 (PDP *et al.*), and a Le Conte's was at Go Home Bay Sept. 29 (CGH) as well as a dead bird at C.I., the same day. Five Sharp-taileds were seen; two at Toronto Sept. 29 (HK), one at Ottawa Sept. 29 - Oct. 2 (BMD), and two at Oshawa Oct. 6 (JMo,LR). There was a late Clay-colored Sparrow at Marathon Oct. 30. Harris' Sparrow movement at C.I., peaked at four Sept. 25, and in the s. a Harris' was at Hawk Cliff Oct. 27 (MHF). The Snow Bunting flight was average-to-good, from an early Oct. 7 on Manitoulin I.

SUB-REGIONAL EDITORS (boldface), **CONTRIBUTORS** (italic) and **CITED OBSERVERS** — L. & A. Anderson, R. F. Andrie, D. Asquith, F. Barrett, R. Bedford (RBe), C. Bell, G. Bennett, N. Boag, P. Bridges, D. F. Brunton, K. J. Burk, R. Burns,

D. Calvert, C. A. Campbell, G. Carpentier (GCa), G. Chapple, J. C. Clarke, J. Cranmer-Bying, A. Dawe, N. Denis, B. M. Dilabio, B. Duncan, D. H. Elder, C. Escott, N. G. Escott, M. J. Evans, H. Ferguson, M. H. Field, R. Finlayson, M. Gawn, S. Gawn, D. Gildner (DGi), W. G. Girling, C. E. Goodwin, J. E. Goodwin, D. Graham, J. A. Greenhouse, G. Hamilton, M. Hansen, C. G. Harris, D. Hasley (DHs), J. Hebden, A. Heidman (AHe), D. Higgins, A. Hiller, N. Hordy, A. E. Hughes, R. D. T. Husell, R. D. James, W. R. Jarman, R. John, J. W. Johnson, A. H. Kelley, D. Kerr, H. Kerr, Kingston Field Naturalists, J. P. Kleiman, R. Knapton, L. de K. Lawrence, J. Lemon, M. Lemon, T. Levere, Long Point Bird Observatory, C. J. MacFayden, E. A. MacFayden, D. McCorquodale, E. R. McDonald, K. McKeever (KMck), R. D. McRae, A. Mills, K. Morrison, R. I. G. Morrison, J. Mountjoy (JMo), multiple observers (m.ob.), J. Murphy, T. Nash, J. Nicholson, J. Nickerson (JNk), G. & A. Novosel, B. Parker, D. E. Perks, S. Perunlak, R. J. Pittaway, P. D. Pratt, L. Raczkowski, J. Reynolds, P. W. Richter, A. Rider, L. H. Robertson, M. Robson (MRo), M. Runtz, D. Rupert, V. Rusk, D. Russell (DRu), D. C. Sadler, J. A. Satterly, M. Scholz, T. R. Scovell, A. K. Sculthorpe, M. Smith (MSm), J. Stewart, R. Tait (RTa), R. Tozer, W. Travers, P. Ward, A. S. Weir, R. D. Weir, L. Wensley, P. A. Woodliffe, A. Wormington, W. Zarowski (WZa), W. Zufelt. — **CLIVE E. GOODWIN**, 11 Westbank Cresc., Weston, Ontario, Canada, M9P 1S4.

NIAGARA-CHAMPLAIN REGION /Douglas P. Kibbe

Summer dragged slowly through August into fall but the subsequent months produced some of the most interesting birding to bless the Region in many years. The arrival of hurricane David September 6, marked the season's turning point and rekindled many birders' previously sagging spirits. Tropical storm Frederic followed only a week later, creating further chaos in the migration pattern of some species. The remainder of the season was mild, temperatures even reaching 70°F, in some areas in November. Avian fallout from the September storms was disappointing in some respects but the unusual concentrations and strays from east and west which appeared in subsequent weeks gave many observers moments to remember.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — Rochester enjoyed a superlative Red-throated Loon flight, which peaked Nov. 11 with 358 counted at Hamlin Beach (AK *et al.*). Small numbers of Red-necked Grebes were, as usual, widely reported in small numbers from mid-October on and the Kendall Eared Grebe continued through mid-August. Also on L. Ontario near Rochester were two Gannets Sept. 9 (R&SS). An extraordinary 500 Double-crested Cormorants were reported migrating over Montezuma N.W.R., Nov. 13 (TL, *vide* WB). Given the species' regional scarcity and the unusually late date the record appears questionable, although several flocks of 20+ birds were noted on L. Ontario earlier in the fall. An imm. Little Blue Heron at Springfield, Vt., furnished the state's second consecutive fall record (m.ob.). Despite their abundance in

coastal regions Glossy Ibises remain very rare, a single near Buffalo (*vide* B.O.S.) constituting the sole report. A Mute Swan remained at El Dorado most of the fall while a second appeared briefly at Buffalo. An excellent duck flight descended on the Region, as reflected in an estimated 100,000 birds on Montezuma N.W.R., including 40,000 Mallards (*vide* WB). Other exceptional tallies from New York included 15,000 Greater Scaup at both Niagara Falls Res., Oct. 27 (DF) and Wescotts Beach S.P., Nov. 8 (*vide* LC), 2000± Black Scoters Nov. 11 on the St. Lawrence R., between Morristown and Wellesley I. (*vide* LC), and 1500 Bufflehead off Hamlin Beach Nov. 10 (AK,ST). Rarities included two Fulvous Whistling Ducks which flew past Rochester's Irondequoit Bay Outlet Nov. 30 (RS) establishing the Region's second record, three Harlequin Ducks off Hamlin Beach (R.B.A.,G.O.S.), and a Barrow's Goldeneye at Niagara Falls (B.O.S.).

HAWKS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Goshawks comprised 5%, Cooper's 5%, and Sharp-shinned 90%, of the *Accipiters* tallied from 17 Vermont hawkwatches. Three Golden Eagles were sighted in Vermont and 12± Bald Eagles, many festooned with streamers from the Montezuma N.W.R., reintroduction project, were satisfactorily identified in the Region. Over 100 Osprey were tallied by Vermont watchers while a single bird at Selkirk Shores S.P., N.Y., Nov. 8 (FS) was rather late.



About 20 Peregrines reported included four at Sandy Pond on L. Ontario's e. shore Oct. 6 (FS), a remarkable total paralleling the increase in sightings throughout the Northeast this fall. One of the season's eight Merlins consumed both a red squirrel and garter snake in E. Craftsbury, Vt. (FO), blithely scorning published sources describing nearly exclusive avian diets.

Ruffed Grouse populations in both the Adirondack and Green Mts., appeared to be at their cyclic peak. A Sandhill Crane photographed at Glenora, N.Y. (JB, *vide* WB) lingered for six weeks.

A melanistic Killdeer was found near Rochester (G.O.S.). Fortunately for observers melanism appears to be very rare among shorebirds. El Dorado Shores, long one of the Region's premier shorebirding sites but inadequately reported from in recent years, yielded several noteworthy records including 27 Ruddy Turnstones (FS) and seven Red Knots (*vide* LC). Whimbrels made a fair showing with three at both Sandy Pond Aug. 30 (FS,DWC) and Rochester Sept. 2 (R.B.A.) and a single at Burlington Aug. 24 (B&OE). The latter,

although only Vermont's sixth record was the second this year. Five Willets flashed past Kendall, N.Y., Aug. 18 (CP) and another was at Derby Hill Sept. 15 (FS). Godwits proved scarce with only a single Marbled at Montezuma N.W.R., Oct. 19 (HA) and the maximum of three reports of Hudsonian Godwit was six on Hamlin Beach Nov. 14 (WS, *fide* R.B.A.). A Purple Sandpiper Oct. 31, at Rochester was the earliest of a half dozen L. Ontario shore reports. More than 24 Baird's Sandpipers were identified. A carefully described ad Long-billed Dowitcher in the company of seven Short-billeds at Burlington Aug. 13 (FO, JW), might seem extremely early for a species considered rare in Vermont at any date, but the species was present on the Long Island, N.Y., shore by mid-July (TD). From one to three Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found at six New York locations with the latest sightings, both singles, at Hamlin Oct. 1 (R.B.A.) and Horseheads Oct. 5 (WH). Only Wilson's and N. phalaropes were reported, both in usual small numbers.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — Five Pomarine Jaeger reports were received, with a maximum of three Oct. 14 off Hamlin Beach (CP *et al.*). It proved to be a banner year for Parasitic Jaegers on L. Ontario with the best tally an astonishing 202 at Derby Hill Oct. 7 (FS). Perhaps the most surprising report however was of an exhausted immature eating earthworms in an Essex, N.Y. field Sept. 15 (H.P.A.S.). A flock of rare gull sightings was submitted from w. New York including a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Niagara Falls for the third consecutive fall; two **Black-headed Gulls** (FR, *fide* B.O.S. and DWC, *fide* FS); an imm. **Laughing Gull** at Montezuma N.W.R. (MT, *fide* R.B.A.); at least a dozen Franklin's in the Buffalo area through November (B.O.S.) and one at Rochester (R.B.A., G.O.S.). A record 60,000 Bonaparte's Gulls were estimated on the Niagara R., Oct. 25 (*fide* B.O.S.). Little Gulls continued to show a distinct E migration path along L. Ontario to the St. Lawrence R., and L. Champlain. Populations were still building in the Rochester area in November as birds moved E from the

S.A.

The passage of hurricane *David* and tropical storm *Frederic* brought birders scurrying out in search of storm-blown strays. Unfortunately few were rewarded since most of the storm-assisted fallouts of southern exotics occurred e. of the storm track. *David* however, graced Albany with 11 **Sooty Terns** and four were found dead in Vermont plus another sighted on the Connecticut R. While these numbers are far below totals produced in coastal regions, they are without equal within the Region. Surprisingly none could be found, dead or alive, on Lakes Champlain or Ontario. *Frederic* left no exotics but caused an astonishing concentration of Com. Terns on e. L. Ontario. While exact tallies were impossible, careful estimates at Derby Hill and at Sandy Pond/Selkirk Shores S.P., Sept. 15, produced counts of 3000 and 7800 birds respectively (FS), both estimates well above both last fall's record tally on the Niagara R., and past coastal New York highs.

Niagara R., and L. Erie Nine Black-legged Kittiwakes including an adult and three immatures were on e. L. Ontario Oct. 25 (FS), and one to two imm. **Sabine's Gulls** were at Buffalo (m.ob.) plus singles on e. L. Ontario Sept. 15 and Oct. 7 (FS).

An unidentified alcid whirred past Hamlin Beach Nov. 14 (WS).

OWLS THROUGH SHRIKES — One of three fledglings from an Allegany County Barn Owl nest found dead in September and a parent still in the vicinity in mid-October were the only reports of this, our rarest resident owl. No invasion of n. owls seemed imminent, as only two Snowies had appeared by November 30. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Salamanca, N.Y., Oct. 27 (FM, *fide* VP) was remarkably late and one wonders if the possibility of it being any other species was considered. A N. Three-toed Woodpecker identified on Giant Mt., N.Y. (H.P.A.S.) was the season's sole sighting. The L. Ontario plain was embellished with several w. strays this fall including two **Western Kingbirds** near Rochester (m.ob.) and a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** near Sandy Pond Sept. 18 - Nov. 3 (FS *et al.*). Both species are very rare regionally, the latter sighting apparently only the third for upstate New York. Common Raven continued to be sighted in w. New York with two at Little Genesee and one at Olean (*fide* VP). Although reports indicated that a nesting attempt by Ithaca's Fish Crows was unsuccessful this summer, four were reported Nov. 17 (DS *et al.*).

Another mass movement of Black-capped Chickadee was observed at Braddock Bay in October (R.B.A., G.O.S.). It is amazing that the migratory habits of this common, easily studied resident *Parid* are not better understood. The same could be said of Tufted Titmouse which, although apparently down in w. New York, continues its phenomenal increase throughout the e. portion of the Region. One was even discovered deep in the Adirondack Mts., at Chubb R. Swamp, an area renowned for its boreal avifauna. A Carolina Wren at Brattleboro, Vt., was an indication that the species is clinging to its foothold in that state. Swainson's Thrushes were passing over s.e. Vermont at a rate of 6/min (estimate based on flight calls), throughout the night Sept. 4 (WDN) but one lingered through Oct. 21 near Buffalo (DF). Only a single Bohemian Waxwing was found, at Brockport (CP), and N. Shrikes only put in token appearances. Loggerhead Shrikes remained alarmingly scarce with a single at Olean (FM, *fide* VP) and two on Pt. Breeze (CP) constituting the only sightings.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — No fewer than four White-eyed Vireos were noted including one banded near Alfred, N.Y. (EB) and another on Burton I., in L. Champlain (RNS *et al.*), furnishing Vermont's first confirmed record since 1975. The latter area also hosted the Region's only Worm-eating Warbler Sept. 9 (RNS). Late lingerers included a Solitary Vireo Nov. 11 in Grafton, Vt. (*fide* DBC); a Tennessee Warbler banded Oct. 24 (EB); a Magnolia Oct. 20 (FS), Chestnut-sided Oct. 26 (NH), Bay-breasted Oct. 21 (DF), and Pine Warbler Nov. 3 (FS), Ovenbird Nov. 10 (NH), and Am. Redstart Oct. 27 (G.O.S.) all in c. or w. New York; plus a Mourning Warbler

banded Oct 10 and Com Yellowthroat seen Nov 11 (WE) in e-c Vermont. While none of these dates are extraordinary they serve as good indicators of this fall's mildness. As usual about six Orange-crowned Warblers were reported.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS — A Bobolink at White River Jct., Vt., Oct. 21 (WE), provided a late record for the state. Five Orchard Orioles were found on Pt. Breeze (R.B.A.) where the Region's only thriving colony persists. The species' apparent scarcity in the remainder of the Region is extremely puzzling and it is hoped that Breeding Bird Atlas Projects ongoing in the Region will do much to separate real from apparent range disjunctions in this and many other breeding species. A Scarlet Tanager in Woodstock Oct. 27 (GE), and Indigo Bunting at Herrick's Cove Oct. 11 (WJN) are both exceptionally late records for Vermont. Content with a superior spruce cone crop in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom few Purple Finches, Pine Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins or White-winged Crossbills ventured farther S. Where the Red Crossbills were is anybody's guess. Ithaca hosted two rarities, a singing **Lark Sparrow** Sept. 5 and a Clay-colored Sparrow sorted out of a huge flock of 2000 sparrows Oct. 16 (SSa, *fide* WB), no mean accomplishment considering its similarity to that of imm. Chipping Sparrow. Although mild conditions kept birds dispersed and made assessments of abundance even more speculative than usual, there is a growing consensus of opinion that Tree and White-crowned sparrows have declined markedly in recent years, particularly in the e. portion of the Region.

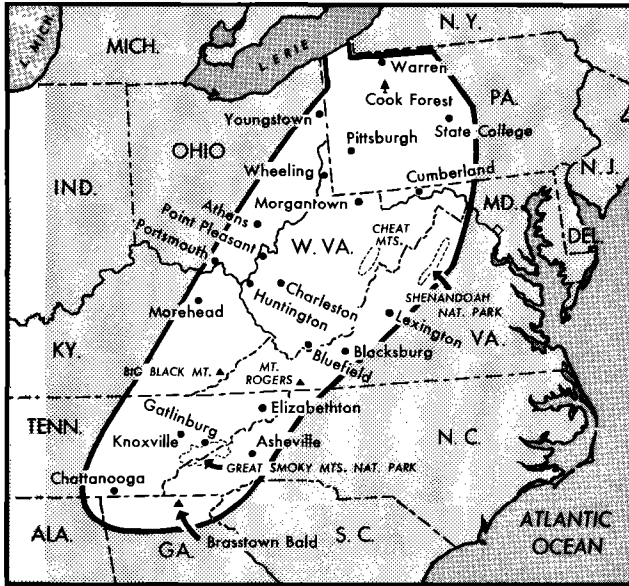
BREEDING BIRD ATLAS PROJECTS — A slight digression from fall reports seems an appropriate conclusion as this seasonal summary will not leave the presses until spring. The Niagara-Champlain Region became, with the advent of the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas Project, the first *American Birds* reporting region to be totally encompassed by Atlas efforts. I would like to commend the organizers and participants for their ambitious undertaking and urge all readers to assist in these projects. For information contact: Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Woodstock, Vt. 05091 or Gordon M. Meade, 27 Mill Valley Rd., Pittsford, N.Y. 14534.

CONTRIBUTORS (in boldface) AND **CITED OBSERVERS** — **Allegany County Bird Club, R. Andrie, H. Axtell, W. Benning, E. Brooks, J. Brubaker, Buffalo Ornithological Society, D. Burton, L. Burton, L. Chamberlain, D. B. Clark, D. W. Crumb, T. Davis, J. Dye, M. Dye, B. Eastman, O. Eastman, G. Ellison, W. Ellison, D. Freeland, Genesee Ornithological Society, A. Gosnell, N. Henderson, High Peaks Audubon Society, W. Howard, A. Kemnitzer, S. Laughlin, G. LeBoutillier, T. Leger, M. Metcalf, F. Meyer, W. D. Nichols, J. Nicholson, W. J. Norse, F. Oatman, Onondaga Audubon Society, C. Perigo, V. Pitzrick, F. Rew, C. Rimmer, Rochester Birding Association, M. Rusk, S. Sabo (SSa), F. Scheider, D. Sibley, R. Spahn, S. Spahn, R. N. Spear, W. Symonds, S. Taylor, M. Tetlow, Vermont Institute of Natural Science, J. Wood, R. Yunick — **DOUGLAS P. KIBBE, Box 422, Saxtons River, Vermont 05154.****

APPALACHIAN REGION

/George A. Hall

While it was a pleasant and mild autumn season for both the observers and the birds, the two often did not get together. One reporter characterized the fall migration as "Dullsville." There is some truth to this, but perhaps the season could best be described as neither very good, nor very poor, but rather as mediocre with a number of very bright spots.



The weather patterns of the season were quite atypical, and this fact alone can account for some areas having poorer-than-normal and others better-than-normal migrations. At the Pittsburgh weather station August, September, and October were all cooler than normal while November was much warmer than usual. The entire Region experienced much greater-than-normal rainfall from August through October, but November's rainfall was below average. There were few heavy frosts even in November, and except for a mid-October storm that deposited up to 18 inches of snow on the West Virginia Mountains and the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, snowfall was negligible.

The September weather was highlighted by two hurricanes. In the first week of the month *David* moved up the East Coast and brought heavy rains and some stray birds to the eastern part of the Region, and a week later *Frederic* came up the Mississippi Valley bringing the rains and strays to the southwestern part of the Region. These hurricanes interrupted the normal pattern of northwesterly winds and produced some major changes in the patterns of warbler migration.

The first really good migratory movement came on a cold front August 11 which brought good shorebirding to the Lake Erie shore and to eastern Tennessee. Another cold front August 23 brought the first good warbler wave. There were a number of early arrivals. During September the migration was interrupted by the incessant rains, and the general impression was of a slightly late migration. October migrants came at about the expected times, and the mild weather induced many September birds to remain late. November

was a really dull month, except for a storm over the mountains November 11-12 which precipitated a good waterfowl flight, and brought some unusual coastal species to eastern Virginia. A large number of migrants did remain quite late. By the end of the period there was no sign that there would be any invasion of "northern species."

In a normal fall this account relies heavily on the results from the two large banding operations. This year Powdermill Nature Reserve (hereafter, P.N.R.), near Rector, Pa., reported the banding of 6346 birds, 12% above an eight-year average, and at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory (hereafter, A.F.M.O.), in Grant County, W. Va., only 3052 birds were banded, 50% below a five-year average. These two figures alone illustrate the great differences in various parts of the Region.

RARITIES — The general mediocrity of the season was enlivened by a record number of real rarities in a Region which usually does not get many. At least 16 real prizes are reported in the follow-

ing account. Of these, several are worthy of special mention. An exhausted **Black-capped Petrel** was picked up at Covington, Va., Sept. 6, a product of *David* (*vide* NM). A **Surfbird** was seen in the spectacular shorebird flight at Presque Isle S.P., Pa. (hereafter, P.I.), Aug. 18, for a first record for the state (JM&SS). A **Groove-billed Ani** was photographed in Tazewell County, Va., Oct. 20, for a first state record (EK, *vide* NM). Perhaps the **Clark's Nutcracker** seen Nov. 4 at the Tuscarora Mt., Pa. hawk lookout (CG) belongs in this category, but there is a possibility that it was an escape. The **Black-bellied Whistling Duck** trapped by Pennsylvania Game Commission personnel at Pymatung L., Pa., Aug. 26 (*vide* RFL) was most probably an escape.

Only two reporters mentioned "tower kills" of migrants. At Sharp's Ridge, Tenn., Sept. 29-30 about 316 birds of 33 species were killed (MD<u). At Youngstown, O., dead birds were collected at a TV tower Sept. 6 - Nov. 2,



Groove-billed Ani, Tazewell Co., Va., Nov. 4, 1979. Photo/Philip C. Shelton.

but on only six days did the kills go over 10, and on these days only 250 birds were found (WB).

LOONS, GREBES AND PELICANS — Red-throated Loons were reported from P.I., Nov. 14-16 (SS, JM, DS), and were early in Butler County, Pa., Oct. 14 (MV). Common Loons were more numerous than in most recent years. Another rarity at P.I., was an **Eared Grebe** Nov. 11-30 (ph. — JM&SS), for probably the third state record. A Red-necked Grebe was reported from Westmoreland County, Pa., Oct. 13 (TW&JD). Horned Grebes were quite common in the north: 60 at P.I., Nov. 18 (RFL&ML), but Pied-billed Grebes were generally low in numbers. A White Pelican was seen at Fairlawn, Va., Nov. 7-24 (m.ob.).



Wood Storks, Lexington, Va., August 1979. Photo/Nell Bolen.

HERONS, STORKS AND IBISES — For many years Great Egrets had not been appearing in late summer as was usual years ago, but in recent years they have begun to return in numbers and this trend continued this year with many sightings throughout the Region. An interesting one was an egret and four Great Blue Herons seen flying at high altitude over the Mt. Roosevelt Fire Tower near Rockwood, Tenn. (CN&JH). Cattle Egrets were reported from Chattanooga, Tenn., Oct. 26 (LD) and from Dalton, Ga., Nov. 28 for the latest date there (MM). The only report of Little Blue Heron came from Chattanooga with 12 on Aug. 20 (RS), and a Louisiana Heron was at Augusta County, Va., Aug. 4 providing a new county record (R.B.C.). An adult and one imm. Yellow-crowned Night Heron were seen at Waynesboro, Va., in August (RSn) indicating possible nesting there. Least Bitterns at Austin Springs, Tenn., Sept. 26 - Oct. 23 were noteworthy, and stayed a little late (GE). A group of Wood Storks was near Lexington, Rockbridge Co., Va., July 25 - Aug. 29, with a peak count of 19. Photos show some immatures but the adult:immature ratio was not determined (PT, MMo, JH, NSa, R.B.C.). An imm. White Ibis was seen at the Nickajack Recreation Area near Chattanooga Aug. 13 (KD&LD).

WATERFOWL — The waterfowl flight was generally rather light. The mild weather offered little inducement for a S flight and those birds that did come by passed through the area quickly. A very heavy and widespread movement of Whistling Swans Nov. 10-11, with 1600 seen at P.I. (DS), 1500 at Pymatuning L., Pa. (RFL), 500 at Cheat L., W. Va. (GAH), 300 near Warren, Pa. (WH), and 270 near Stuart's Draft, Va. (YL). This flight was recorded at a number of other places, but this year the swans did not stray from the usual migratory path except for one seen Nov. 13 near Knoxville, Tenn. (SV). Canada Geese began to come S rather early with a flock seen at A.F.M.O., Sept. 25 (KF), Cove L., Tenn., Sept. 26 (CN), and Kingsport, Tenn., Sept. 29 (RL). At Pymatuning L., the fall concentration had built up to 7-8000 by Oct. 14 (RFL). A Brant was seen at Stuart's Draft, Va., Nov. 21 (IO<). Snow Geese more common than usual, and were reported from Pymatuning (RFL) and P.I. (SS) on the early date of Sept. 23. A White-fronted Goose was at L. Arthur Nov. 4-26 (m.ob.). Black and Surf scoters were present throughout the period at P.I. (DS). Elsewhere scoters were more commonly reported than usual: White-winged: Lock Haven, Pa., 16 on Nov. 13 (PS), Stuart's Draft, Va., three on Nov. 12 (YL), present all fall at P.I. (DS); Black: Lock Haven seven on Oct. 28 (PS), near Chattanooga, Tenn., one on Nov. 9 (RS); Surf: L. Chillisquaqua, Montour Co., Pa., 13 on Oct. 5 (SS), and near Asheville, N.C., three on Nov. 18 (MT).

RAPTORS — Hawk watching along the ridges was successful this year. In the Knoxville area the season was felt to be the best on record (SJS), and at Tuscarora Mt., Pa., it was the fourth best season (CG). A partial summary is given in Table 1. Note that Tuscarora Mt. was the only station to remain in operation long enough to catch the peak of the Sharp-shinned flight. These mountain stations are the places where we expect to see good hawk flights, but in recent years attention has been drawn to some areas well away from the "long ridge country" which gets good flights. Often these occur when the weather over the mountains is poor for hawk migration. At Charleston, W. Va., in the "hill country," flights of 1200 Broad-winged were observed Sept. 22-23 (AS). The most interesting report came from near Pikeville, Ky., also in the "hill country" where, on Sept. 24 a pilot of a light aircraft suddenly found himself surrounded by Broad-winged. He estimated a total of 2-3000 birds in all in several groups some of which went out of sight in clouds at

about 6000 ft above sea level (GM) Most encouraging was the total of 20 Peregrines reported this fall. Most of these were from the hawk-watching lookouts from Pennsylvania to North Carolina and Tennessee but four reports came from away from the ridges, four sightings at P.I. (DS), State College, Pa., Oct. 7 (PS), Fayette County, W. Va., Sept. 23 (DK&GW), and most remarkably near Charleston, W. Va., Aug. 20 (CB,RSI). Oddly there were fewer Merlins than Peregrines reported with only 12 sightings, all at lookouts except one at Kingston, Tenn., Sept. 15 (BS).

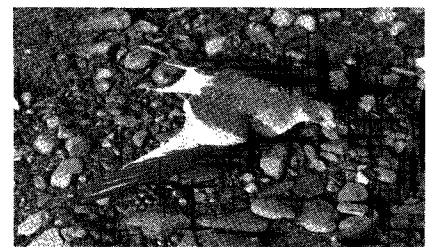
There appeared to be a moderate flight of Goshawks, many at remarkably early dates: Aug. 15 at Ludlow, Pa. (TG), P.I., Aug. 30 (SS), early September at State College, Pa. (JVM), Sheffield, Pa., Sept. 15 (NS) and Bear Rocks, W. Va., hawk station Sept. 16 (GP). The other records were all in late October in the n. part of the Region. Rough-legged Hawks were not numerous anywhere this year but one was seen as far s. as Chattanooga Nov. 12 (LD&KD). At Tuscarora Mt., a total of 33 Golden Eagles was logged during the season, with a fantastic *seven* on Oct. 19 (CG). Other sightings came from Rector, Pa., in October (*vide* RCL), one shot near Lock Haven in November (*vide* PS), Look Rock, Tenn., Sept. 9 (BS), Elizabethton, Tenn., Oct. 13 (HF), Harvey's Knob, Va., Oct. 28 (JHo), and one apparently set to winter near Burke's Garden, Va. (RP). The most unusual raptor of the season was a Mississippi Kite at Decatur, Tenn., Aug. 24 (RS,LD,KD).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS, CRANES AND RAILS — Ruffed Grouse populations are beginning to recover from the recent lows. Ring-necked Pheasants were scarce in w. Pennsylvania (PH). Historically this species has never done well s. of the Mason-Dixon line and so the report of a female with 10 young in the Shenandoah Valley, Va., Aug. 3 is of great interest. No reports of rails came in this season, and the only report of Sandhill Cranes came from Norris, Tenn., Nov. 29 (WJ).

SHOREBIRDS, GULLS, AND TERNS — This Region has very few places where there is good shorebirding, but this year, more than any recent one, there was a remarkable number of unusual records. Usually the best shorebird location is P.I., on the s. shore of L. Erie, but this year on Aug. 18, this station had one of the most spectacular flights ever seen there. In five-hours time on the heels of a storm 463 shorebirds of 20 species (including the Surf-bird mentioned above) were listed (JM&SS). *Frederic* brought a number of shorebirds to

Kingston, Tenn (SJS) Some of the highlights of the season follow (relegating to the unmentioned list such usually noteworthy species as Black-bellied Plovers, Stilt Sandpipers, and Ruddy Turnstone, as well as the more common species). There was an unusually good flight of Am. Golden Plovers: Pymatuning L., Sept. 23 (RFL), Montour County, Pa., Oct. 1 (SS), Austin Springs, Tenn., Sept. 10-14 (second local record — RK&RL), and several outstanding invasions into the Great Valley of Virginia, Roanoke, two, Sept. 30 - Oct. 3 (NM), 13 at Stuart's Draft Oct. 21-23, 29 & Nov. 1 (YL), and four records in Rockingham County with 23 on Oct. 13 (R.B.C.).

Other unusual records were: Piping Plover, Roanoke Aug. 29 - Sept. 5 (NM&MP); Whimbrel, P.I., Aug. 25 (SS); Willet, Clinton, Tenn., Aug. 22 (LTn,SJS), Kingston, Tenn., Sept. 2-3 (m.ob.); Long-billed Dowitcher (carefully identified), P.I., Aug. 18 (DS), Greensburg, Pa., Oct. 28 (DSm), and Daleville, Va., Aug. 19-20 (BK,MP); Red Knot, P.I., 1-6 on 5 days Aug. 25 - Sept. 24 (DS), Saltville, Va., Sept. 2-3 (TH), Kingston, Tenn., Sept. 3 (CN,RS,KD,LD); Purple Sandpiper, P.I., Nov. 10-27 (SS,JG,DS); W. Sandpiper, P.I., Aug. 18 (DS), Clinton, Tenn., Aug. 12 (SJS,RB); Buff-breasted Sandpiper, P.I., Sept. 8 (JM) and Sept. 28 (DS), Kingsport, Tenn., Sept. 15-16 (RPh&TL), Kingston, Tenn., Sept. 8-13 (LTu,SJS,RB); Hudsonian Godwit, P.I., 12 on Aug. 18 (JB), and one Oct. 13 (SS); Red Phalarope P.I., Oct. 9 (SS); Wilson's Phalarope Kingston, Tenn., Aug. 24 & Sept. (BS,SJS,MD); N. Phalarope Roanoke Sept. 15, 18 & Sept. 7 (MP), Kingston, Tenn., Sept. 14-15 (SJS), and Fayette County, W. Va., Sept. 23 (GW&DK), and Am. Avocet Louisville, Tenn., 11 on Sept. 3 (MD), P.I., six on Nov. 3, one on Nov. 10 (DS,SS), and Wellsboro, Pa., Nov. 5 (FW).



Sabine's Gull, Presque Isle S.P., Pa., Oct 15, 1979. Photo/Donald B. Snyder.

Some large concentrations of grounded Ring-billed Gulls were reported at Lewisburg, W. Va. (CH), and the Shenandoah Valley on the heels of the storm Nov. 11-12 that brought other waterbirds to that area. As usual the rare gulls came from L. Erie at P.I.: Sabine's Oct. 15 (found moribund — AC), Lesser Black-backed Sept. 8 & 15 (possibly only fourth state record — SS&DS), Franklin's Oct. 25 (SS), Little Nov. 24 (CZK), and an early Glaucous Nov. 25 (SS). This year there were two other interesting gull reports: from Kingston, Tenn., where a Laughing Gull was seen Sept. 14-15 (SJS&RB) as a result of *Frederic* and from Bell County, Ky., where a Franklin's Gull was seen Oct. 13 (PA). Caspian Terns were more common than usual and Forster's Terns were reported from P.I., 15 on Aug. 14 and one on Oct. 24 (SS), Clinton, Tenn., Aug. 23 (DT,LTu), and S. Holston L., Tenn., five on Sept. 29-30 (RL).

Table 1. Hawk Migration, Fall 1979

	Days Obs.	Total	Sh.-sh.	Br.-wg.	Br.-wg. High
Tuscarora Mt., Pa. (CG)	87	8248	3010	2739	720 (9/17)
Beam Rocks, Pa. (RCL)	14	241	88	82	63 (9/9)
Hooversville, Pa. (GRS)	—	302	65	181	181 (9/9)
Allegheny Front, W. Va. (GP)	17	3125	45	2937	806 (9/12)
Peters Mt., W. Va. (GH)	11	4315	65	4181	1593 (9/15)
Charleston, W. Va. (AS)	17	3110	55	2945	1151 (9/24)
Blue Ridge Parkway, N.C. (MT)	7	449	98	257	203 (9/29)
Mendota Tower, Tenn. (TF)	16	8286	40	8213	3407 (9/17)
Rockwood Tower, Tenn. (SJS)	3	1304	9	1270	1100 (9/26)
Chilhowee Dam, Tenn. (SJS)	4	4105	1	4053	3726 (9/29)
Look Rock, Tenn. (SJS)	9	1275	22	1024	888 (9/23)

CUCKOOS, OWLS AND NIGHTHAWKS

— Both species of cuckoo were in low numbers and as usual there was a number of late October records for Yellow-billed. Screech Owls are making a comeback from the decimation of recent winters but still remain at low numbers. A Short-eared Owl at P.I., Sept. 29 (JB) was rather early, and a Long-eared Owl was heard calling Nov. 28 near Wise, Va. (RP).

The only reports of large concentrations of Com. Nighthawks came from Troutville, Va., 1146 Sept. 4 (BK) and from the Knoxville area (CN) but there were several remarkably late sightings: State College, Pa., Oct. 21 (KJ), Pittsburgh Oct. 18 (MV) and Knoxville Oct. 12 (CN).

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS

— The Red-bellied Woodpecker continues to increase in numbers in w. Pennsylvania where it had been unknown until recently, one being seen in Erie County Oct. 15 (DS). There were more reports than usual of migrating Red-headed Woodpeckers but sapsuckers were very scarce, with several localities reporting none seen, and only one banding each at P.N.R. (RCL) and A.F.M.O. (GAH).

The E. Phoebe was felt to be in very good numbers in the Pittsburgh area (PH) and bandings at P.N.R., were up 17% (RCL). Most of the other flycatchers were in lower-than-normal numbers. At P.N.R., only 90 (8-year av = 140) Least Flycatchers were banded (RCL), and several localities commented on the scarcity of E. Wood Pewees. Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported from P.N.R., Sept. 8 (RCL), Murraysville, Pa., 17 on Sept. 9 (RBy), Bear Meadows, Pa., Sept. 16 (RW), Unaka Mt., Tenn., Aug. 25 (ES), Trout L., N.C., Aug. 28 and Linville Falls, N.C., Sept. 8 (TH&RS).

There were late dates for migrating swallows: Purple Martin, Elizabethton, Tenn., Sept. 7 (GE), Cliff Swallow, Slippery Rock, Pa., Oct. 11 (DH), Tree Swallow, Elizabethton Nov. 5 (GE) and Barn Swallow, Harrisonburg, Va., Oct. 6 (R.B.C.), Knoxville Oct. 14 (BS), Austin Spring, Tenn., Oct. 23 (GE), Washington County, Pa., Oct. 25 (RD), and Chattanooga, Tenn., Nov. 3-5 (LD, KD, RS).

CORVIDS, TITMICE, AND NUTHATCHES

— The Blue Jay flight was a little later than usual but along the mountain ridges. At A.F.M.O. the flight was very good. Two high counts that were submitted were 1275 at Tuscarora Mt., Pa., Sept. 29 (CG) and 1500 at Chilhowee Mt., Tenn., Oct. 30 (SJS). Common Ravens continue to increase in n. and e. Pennsylvania with four sightings in the Warren area (WH) and two in Lock Haven Sept. 9 (PS).

There was a modest S flight of Black-capped Chickadees in mid-November. This flight extended at least as far s. as Morgantown (GAH) but was not a major incursion, although 150-200 were seen near Exchange, Montour Co., Pa., Nov. 24 (SS). Tufted Titmice appeared to be in above-normal numbers in w. Pennsylvania and n. West Virginia.

The summer populations of Red-breasted Nuthatches had been good on Roan Mt., Tenn. (GE), but the S migration was very poor. Many areas commented on their absence, none were banded at A.F.M.O. and very few were heard flying by that mountain station.

The Brown-headed Nuthatch returned to Waynesboro, Va., in October after being absent during the summer (RSn). Brown Creepers were in better numbers than last year but are still low following the winter mortality.

WRENS, MIMIDS AND THRUSHES

— Most reporters found House Wrens to be in low numbers, even after what seemed to be a good breeding season, and while Winter Wrens were below normal, they too have begun to recover from the winter mortality. In the n., Carolina Wrens are still in very low numbers, but at least there are some, in contrast to last fall, while at Elizabethton, Tenn., they were felt to be in good numbers (GE). In recent years it has become apparent that Short-billed Marsh Wrens may well arrive in this Region in late summer, and indeed may nest then. The previous whereabouts of these birds is unknown. This year several appeared at L. Arthur, Pa., in July and August (PH), two appeared near P.N.R., Aug. 4 (JL).

Mockingbirds are increasing near Lock Haven, Pa. (PS) and were reported from Sheffield, Pa., in October and November (NS). The migration of spotted thrushes was generally very good. At P.N.R., 536 (average, 224) Swainson's Thrushes and 103 (average, 31) Gray-cheeked Thrushes were banded (RCL). Wood Thrushes were also banded in above normal numbers there. In August three singing Hermit Thrushes were found in Mohican S.F., Ashland Co., O., well away from the known breeding range (JB). Eastern Bluebirds were very plentiful in the n. part of the Region.

KINGLETS, WAXWINGS AND VIREOS

— Both kinglet species are making a strong comeback and while some areas still noted shortages, at P.N.R., bandings were up 37% for Golden-crowneds and 6% for Ruby-crowneds (RCL). Two early reports of Ruby-crowneds were Allegheny County, Pa., Aug. 16 (WHA) and A.F.M.O., Sept. 9 (GAH). The A.F.M.O. record adds to the idea that there is an undiscovered breeding population in those mountains. A very late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was banded at Ona, W. Va., Nov. 27 (LW).

South at least to Harrisonburg, Va., the Region was "overrun" with Cedar Waxwings throughout most of the fall. At P.N.R., a total of 983 was banded during the period (RCL). At Elwood City, Pa., several Bohemian Waxwings were seen in a flock of Cedars Nov. 11 (JL&MK).

In past reports I had expressed some concern over the decline in Yellow-throated Vireos but while there were only four sightings in the Pittsburgh area (PH) at both A.F.M.O. and P.N.R., six were banded while a normal year would see one or none. Solitary Vireo bandings were up 31% at P.N.R. (RCL). There were many more reports of Philadelphia Vireos this fall away from banding stations, and the flight of Red-eyed Vireos was thought to be good at most places.

WARBLERS — Warblers are the most characteristic group of birds for the Appalachians but during each migration a compiler is faced with an almost hopeless task of summarizing the highly variable reports from various parts of the Region. Consider that at P.N.R., of the 31 species banded, three were in average numbers, 11 were above average and 17 were below (RCL), while at A.F.M.O., of 17

species handled in large numbers 16 were in below average numbers, ranging from 40-50% of normal numbers (GAH). At Pittsburgh four species were noted as in above-normal and three in below-normal numbers (PH). There was little consistency between stations as to which species belonged to which category. However, it was generally agreed that the Cape May, Bay-breasted, and Tennessee — the notorious spruce budworm specialists — were in good numbers. At A.F.M.O., Blackpolls were about 50% of normal numbers with only 238 banded. It is thought that these reduced numbers were caused by the change in general wind patterns during the fall, and not to a reduced number of birds going S. This same situation probably accounts for all the A.F.M.O. results and points anew to the hazards of inferring bird populations from banding station results. There were some very late sightings: Tennessee Nov. 25 at Waynesboro, Va. (RSn), Yellow Nov. 10 at Clarksville, Pa. and Nov. 17 at State College, Pa. (DB), Mourning Nov. 17-22 at Waynesboro (RSN), as well as a great many mid-October records for many species.

ICTERIDS AND TANAGERS

— Some late dates for Bobolinks were reported: Erie N.W.R., Pa., 15 on Sept. 24 (RFL), Pigeon Forge, Tenn., 20 on Oct. 13 (BS&SJS), and 70-75 at Jonesboro, Tenn., Oct. 23 (RK). Three Brewer's Blackbirds were seen at Wise, Va., Oct. 19 (RP). An interesting report was of a flock of 12 Scarlet Tanagers feeding in a backyard at Warren, Pa., Oct. 6 (WHI).

FRINGILLIDS — In late August two flocks of Blue Grosbeaks totalling about 50 birds were found near Weston, W. Va. (ESE). A pair with young was found in Augusta County, Va., Aug. 23 (R.B.C.) and there was a report from Rockfish Gap, Va., Sept. 3 & 10 (RSn).

A very late Indigo Bunting was seen at Bundy's Beach, Pa., Nov. 19 (RFL&ML). Dickcissels were reported from East Erie, Pa., Oct. 11 (DZK), Boone City, N.C., Oct. 12 (TH), Blacksburg, Va., Oct. 13 (CK&JMu), and Butler, Pa., Oct. 30 (MG).

About the only sign of any influx of "northern finches" was the moderate flight of Evening Grosbeaks which appeared in early November and by the end of the period had penetrated the entire Region. There were no large concentrations, and the early arrivals were mostly seen flying over rather than at feeding stations. Purple Finches were generally in good numbers in October, but at P.N.R., the flight was poor (RCL). There was only one report of redpolls: 12 at Sheffield, Pa., Nov. 26 (NS) and only four of Pine Siskins: Pittsburgh Sept. 12 (MV), State College, Pa., Sept. 13-26 and then again in November (KJ), Gatlinburg, Tenn., Nov. 9 (JMn), and s. Knox County, Tenn., Nov. 18 (BS). The only reports of Red Crossbills came from Newfound Gap, Tenn., in October (CN), and from two places on Shenandoah and Allegheny Mts., on the Virginia - West Virginia border. An immature was seen there in August (R.B.C.). House Finches continue to thrive as illustrated by the 75 seen feeding at Blacksburg, Va., Nov. 3 (CK) and about 25 at one feeder in Johnson City, Tenn. (HD). A Eur. Goldfinch at Erie, Pa., Oct. 11 (JA) was most probably an escape.

Lark Sparrows were seen at Wesser, N.C., Sept. 1 (SJS) and at Blacksburg, Va., Oct. 13

(CK). Two other rare sparrows were Sharp-tailed at P.I., Sept. 28 & 30 (DS,SS,JF) and Le Conte's at Staunton, Va., Oct. 10 (during the early snowstorm — YL) and at Stuart's Draft, Va., Oct. 13 (RSn). Tree Sparrows were very scarce at most places, and the White-crowned Sparrow flight was poor. At Morgantown, Song Sparrows were unusually scarce and White-throated Sparrows were in low numbers compared with recent years.

CONTRIBUTORS — Pierre Allaire, Richard Almy, Julia Appletree, Clinton Banks, William Bartolo, Cathie Baumgartner (CB), Jim Baxter (JB), Robert Beck (RB), Ralph Bell (RBe), Dorothy Bordner, George Breiding, Jim Bruce (JBr), Richard Byers (RBy), Anne Castele, Charles Conrad, Marcia Davis, Helenhill Dove, Ken Dubke, Lil Dubke, Juliet Dunsworth, Glen Eller, Harry Farthing,

Kathleen Finnegan, Tom Finucane, Jim Flynn, Carl Garner, Marguerite Geibel, Norris Gluck, Jim Gray, Ted Grisez, Tom Haggerty, Anne Hamilton, Dennis Hamm, Walter Hammond (WHa), Charles Handley, John Heninger, Paul Hess, William Highhouse (WH), William Hill (WHi), Joyce Holt (JHo), Joseph Howell (JH), J. Huntley (JHy), George Hurley (GH), Roy Ickes, Wesley James, Katharine Jones, Clyde Kessler, Edwin Kinser, Barry Kinzie, Rick Knight, Don Kodak, Charles & Zettie Krantz (CZK), Mary Kruth, YuLee Larner, Tom Laughlin, Mary Leberman, Robert C. Leberman, Ronald F. Leberman, John Lersch (JLe), Richard Lewis, Jay Loughlin (JL), Joe Manley (JMn), George Mayfield, John & Vera McGuire (JVM), Jerry McWilliams (JM), Mary Meidinger, Norwood Middleton, M. Moger (MMo), John Murray (JM), Chuck Nicholson, Isabel Obenschain, Richard

Peake (RP), Glen Phillips, Rick Phillips (RPh), Frank Preston, Mike Purdy, Rockingham Bird Club (R.B.C.), Glen & Ruth Sager (GRS), Norm Samuelson, N. Sauder (NSa), Ed Schell, Paul Schwalbe, Elsie Seese (ESe), Anne Shreve (AS), Paul Sindelar (PSi), Roy Slack (RSI), Dennis Smeltzer (DSm), Don Snyder (DS), Ruth Snyder (RSn), Stanley Stahl (SSt), Anne Stamm, Barbara Stedman, Stephen J. Stedman, Jerie Stewart, Roger Stone (RS), Randy Stringer (RS), Sam Stull (SS), Leonard Teuber (LT), Michael Tove, Dave Turner, Linda Turner (LTu), P. Turner, Marc Vander Ven, Sam Venable, Forrest Watkins, Ted Weller, David White, Cora Williams, Leon Wilson, Rick Wiltraut, Merrill Wood, Gary Worthington. — **GEORGE A. HALL, Division of Forestry (Mail Address: Department of Chemistry), West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia 26506.**

WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

/Daryl D. Tessen

Exceptionally wet weather characterized August. At its conclusion many areas had received 7-11 inches of rain. September proved to be a sharp contrast as there was almost no precipitation during the month. For example, Madison recorded only 0.11 inch of rain while Milwaukee had an almost unbelievable 0.02 inch. Temperatures during the month averaged above normal. However October and November saw a return to more seasonal precipitation. Temperatures facilitated considerably, as periods of Indian Summer alternated with late fall/early winter conditions. In contrast to previous autumns there was a minimal amount of snow at the period's conclusion.

Unanimity was expressed by reporters about the lackluster migration this autumn. Major waves were almost nonexistent, undoubtedly owing to an absence of strong fronts passing through the three states. This was especially true during September, which as noted, was exceptionally devoid of precipitation. Unfortunately, this is the prime time for passerine movement.

During the season there were unusually good concentrations of waterfowl that lingered longer than usual. The shorebird migration was generally a disappointment, with August being too wet and September too dry. As is becoming customary, gulls provided considerable excitement, especially in Michigan. Thrushes seemed uncommonly scarce this fall, while the warbler flight was characterized as varied. Finches proved shockingly scarce this year! While last autumn's movement was characterized as poor, it looked good compared to this year's. Only Red Crossbill was present throughout the Region in respectable numbers. The sparrow flight proved unusually good, especially in Wisconsin and Michigan. Despite this apparent lackluster migration, the customary number of exciting finds appeared during the course of the season.

[In the following report, italicized place names are counties.]

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — There were several places in Michigan's Upper Peninsula (hereafter, U.P.), and upper Lower

Peninsula (hereafter, L.P.), that reported good numbers of Com. Loons. However the remainder of the Region failed to discover any substantial numbers, a situation similar to last year's migration. Red-throated Loons were found in Wisconsin where two-three were seen intermittently Oct. 20 - Nov. 4 in *Ozaukee* (DT,DG,RH) and on Madison's L. Mendota where three were present Nov. 18 (AS). In Michigan two were at St. Joseph Nov. 7. Red-necked Grebes remained

at their Rush L., *Winnebago*, Wis., nesting site until mid-September (TZ). Migrant Red-necked Grebes were seen more frequently than usual this autumn in Michigan, with a total of 12 birds in seven counties. Horned Grebes lingered into December in *Jefferson* and *Milwaukee*, Wis. Michigan had Eared Grebes in three locations. Two were in *Muskegon* Aug. 17 - Oct. 28 (m.ob.); two in *Newago* Sept. 1 (ES) and one Oct. 29 in *Washnetaw* (BS). In Wisconsin one was discovered Aug. 22, in the Milwaukee harbor area (JI), remaining until the end of September (m.ob.). A W. Grebe lingered on Madison's L. Wingra Oct. 13-23 (RH *et al.*). Two White Pelicans present during the summer at the Shiawassee N.W.R., *Saginaw*, Mich., remained through August (m.ob.). One was found in *Wood*, Wis., Sept. 17 (DF). Late Double-crested Cormorants were found Nov. 23 at Rochester, Minn. (JBo,J&SD) and Nov. 26 at LaCrosse, Wis. (FL).

One to two Little Blue Herons were found on a flooded field n.w. of Beaver Dam, Wis., Aug. 8-23 (m.ob.). Birds remained at Big Stone N.W.R., Minn., into September (C&MB). Wisconsin had Cattle Egrets lingering in the usual sites of *Brown* until Sept. 18 (EC) and *Dodge*, Oct. 14 (m.ob.). Additional birds were found in *Sheboygan* and *Milwaukee* during late October. However both Michigan and Minnesota had unusually late sightings. In Michigan birds were found in late October -



early November in *Muskegon* (GW) and *Marquette* (GBa *et al.*), plus an exceptionally late individual Nov. 29-30 in *Bay* (VJ). One of the Marquette birds spent the nights in a cow barn! For Minnesota about ten birds were found in the n.e. part of the state, primarily in the Duluth area Oct. 30 - Nov. 7 (m.ob.). A record departure date for Great Egret was recorded in Wisconsin with the sighting of one Nov. 27 in *Oconto* (TE). A Snowy Egret was found in s.e. Michigan Aug. 12 (TW) while birds were located at two sites in Minnesota, Big Stone N.W.R. in September (C&MB) and *Jackson* Aug. 14 (RJ). Several Yellow-crowned Night Herons were found in the Region with one in Michigan's *Wayne* during September (TC), two-three in Wisconsin's *Horicon* N.W.R., and *Milwaukee* during August and September (MS,DG,DT) and at least one in Minnesota's Big Stone N.W.R., Sept. 6 (C&MB). A late Am. Bittern was in *Milwaukee* Nov. 24 (JI).

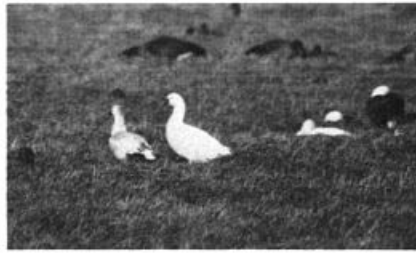
WATERFOWL — Several areas in Wisconsin sighted 500+ Whistling Swans with a maximum of 3000 along the Mississippi R., in *Buffalo* Nov. 10 (JP). Major Canada Goose concentrations in the Region included 25,000+ at Shiawassee N.W.R., Mich., and 71,000 at *Horicon* N.W.R., Wis. The latter number is in marked contrast to the 200,000± that characteristically assembled only several years ago in the *Horicon* area. Thousands of



Barnacle and Canada geese, Allegan State Game Area, Mich., Oct. 25, 1979. Photo/James Ponshair.

Canadas lingered in many spots throughout the Region well into December, undoubtedly owing to the mildness of the season. Five **Brant** were carefully studied along the Wisconsin R., in *Dane* Nov. 17 (RH). Two **Barnacle Geese** were discovered at Fennville, Mich., by Payne Oct. 22, where they subsequently were photographed and seen by many others. This represents the fifth state record. While Michigan observers felt these represented wild rather than escaped birds, the record of an individual seen in late September at Wisconsin's Horicon N.W.R., was rejected in part owing to the possibility of it being an escaped bird. The only White-fronted Goose report came from the Horicon N.W.R., where one was present Sept. 25-26 (RD *et al.*). While several hundred Snow Geese were reported from several Wisconsin and Michigan locales, the latter state also had a concentration of 1000+ at Shiawassee N.W.R., Oct. 22-26 (BJ) and 2100 in *Muskegon* Nov. 23 (JPo). Unusually early was a flock of 75+ in Minnesota's *LeSueur* Aug. 14. The extremely rare **Ross' Goose** appeared twice in the Region. One was shot during October in *Kittson*, Minn. (*vide* CH), representing the eighth state record. Two were discovered in Michigan, again at Fennville Oct. 27 (JFo). They remained until Nov. 12 during which time they were photographed and seen by many observers. This represents the state's first record. Inland Oldsquaws were noted in *Muskegon* and *Mason*, Mich. Harlequin Ducks were found at Grand Marais Oct. 20-21 (D&GW) and Duluth Nov. 23 (SH) while in Wisconsin sightings occurred in *Milwaukee* Nov. 18 (JF) and *Pepin* Nov. 25 (RH). Michigan and especially Wisconsin experienced an excellent scoter movement. All three species were recorded in both states with most sightings during October and November. Maximum numbers included 200 White-wingeds Oct. 18, at Whitefish Pt., Mich. (VJ), and 50-100 several times from mid-October to early November in *Ozaukee*, Wis. (m.ob.). Maximums for Surfs and Blacks included 41 and 17, both in *Ozaukee* Oct. 13 (DT). Unusually early were 10 White-wingeds Aug. 25 in *Sheboygan*, Wis. (BV) and one Surf Sept. 26 at Duluth (KE).

HAWKS — The unfavorable weather conditions for hawk movement that existed this autumn generally decreased the totals of various species at the Region's observation/banding stations. Principally this included Hawk Ridge at Duluth, and Little Suamico and Cedar Grove in Wisconsin. There were exceptions to this pattern as witnessed by the 55,448 Broad-wingeds counted at Hawk Ridge and 16,985 at Little Suamico this season. A Swainson's Hawk was observed at Hawk Ridge Oct.



Ad. and imm. Ross' Geese, Allegan State Game Area, Mich., Oct. 28, 1979. Photo/J. Ponshair.

4 (MK), representing only its fourth record. An ad. **Ferruginous Hawk** was carefully observed Oct. 2 in *Marshall*, Minn. (NH). Nineteen Golden Eagles were tallied at Hawk Ridge this autumn while Wisconsin had three sightings. Unusually late was an Osprey in *Chippewa*, Wis., Nov. 27 (JP). The rare **Gyrfalcon** was observed in *St. Louis*, Minn., Nov. 10 (KE) and an immature appeared at the Muskegon, Mich., wastewater system Nov. 16 (JW), remaining through Nov. 24 (m.ob.). For Wisconsin the very rare Prairie Falcon was observed at Superior Sept. 16 (JD) while Minnesota had three sightings: Sept. 30 at Hawk Ridge (KE), Oct. 7 in *Traverse* and Oct. 21 in *Wilkin* (SM). The Peregrine Falcon flight this fall included six in Michigan, 14 in Minnesota and 65+ in Wisconsin.

GROUSE THROUGH RAILS — Spruce Grouse were reported from *Dickinson* and *Luce*, Mich., and *Forest*, Wis. Solitary sightings of King Rail came from the Erie Marsh area, Mich., Aug. 25 (TW) and Horicon N.W.R., Wis., Sept. 12 (RD). Yellow Rails were found in Minnesota, Aug. 25 in *Anoka* (KL) and Oct. 7 in *Itasca* (TL).

SHOREBIRDS — Piping Plovers appeared in Milwaukee Aug. 2 & 27 (DG). In Michigan they were observed in *Emmett* Aug. 26 (VJ) and late sightings were in *Monroe* Oct. 20 (TW) and *Berrien* Oct. 26 & 28. Tardy Ruddy Turnstones included one at Duluth Nov. 3 (RJ) and Milwaukee Nov. 8 (DG). There was an unusual number of Whimbrel sightings in the Region. Duluth had several birds in late August - early September and again in late September. Michigan had single sightings from three counties. In Wisconsin a total of 15 birds from three counties was recorded, including two record late individuals in *Oconto* Nov. 2 (TE). Wisconsin had a total of seven Willets reported from five counties while Michigan had ten birds from four counties. Several Red Knots remained in the Milwaukee harbor during September, with additional Wisconsin sightings occurring in *Dane*, *Dodge* and *Manitowoc*. In Michigan a total of five birds was found in *Midland*, *Muskegon* and *Berrien*. In Michigan two rare Purple Sandpipers were found in *Ottawa* Oct. 27-28 (TH *et al.*), while *Berrien* had birds Oct. 23-26 and again in late November lingering into December. Horicon N.W.R., had a peak of 300 Pectoral Sandpipers Oct. 16, with two tardy birds at Manitowoc Nov. 22 (CS). There was an unusual number of White-rumped Sandpiper sightings in all three states this fall. Curiously a number of the observations represented record late dates as witnessed by one Nov. 4, at Rochester, Minn. (JoF), another Nov. 4 sighting, this from *Monroe*, Mich. (RS) and a

remarkable Nov. 25 at Manitowoc, Wis. (CS). Late were Dunlins in Madison and Milwaukee Nov. 25. Western Sandpipers were reported from all three states. Michigan had single sightings at Muskegon Aug. 8 & 25 and Sept. 14 & 27, plus a remarkably late Nov. 2 sighting in *Marquette* (NI). Wisconsin had observations of single birds at Madison Aug. 2 & 26 and Sept. 3, in *Outagamie* Aug. 5, and in *Dodge* Sept. 1. Minnesota had two record departure sightings with one in Duluth Sept. 30 and in *Freeborn* Oct. 13 (RJ). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found in Michigan with a total of 12± birds from four counties. Wisconsin totaled 20± birds in five counties.

A few Marbled Godwits were present until mid-September n. of Beaver Dam, Wis. (m.ob.). Several Hudsonian Godwits were also found in the Beaver Dam area from late September to mid-October (m.ob.), plus one in *Marquette* Aug. 11 (HL). In Michigan a Marbled was in *Monroe* Aug. 2 (DF), while Hudsonians were in *Newago* Sept. 18 (ES), and *Monroe* Oct. 13-16 (EC,AM). The Hudsonian at Duluth Oct. 4 (KE) represented a record departure for Minnesota. A Ruff was watched in *Monroe*, Mich., Aug. 4 (JHa *et al.*); another was in *Wilkin*, Minn., Aug. 18 (GO) while a remarkably late bird was seen in *Dodge*, Wis., Oct. 13 (DT). Three Am. Avocets were found near Beaver Dam, Wis., Aug. 13 (JH) while several remained in Milwaukee from early August until mid-September (m.ob., ph.). In Michigan one was in *Monroe* Sept. 3 (AM, TW) with two in Muskegon Oct. 24 & 28 (VJ, GBa *et al.*). A Red Phalarope was found in *Monroe* Sept. 23 (TW). Northern Phalaropes were in Muskegon during August and September with a maximum of ten, plus one in *Bay*, Mich., during early September. In Wisconsin this species was found in *Oneida* Aug. 11 (PV), but the best place to see it during August and early September was near Beaver Dam and Horicon N.W.R. Numbers ranged to 15± birds (m.ob.).

LARIDS — Two Parasitic Jaegers were found in Duluth Sept. 20, with three unidentified jaegers there Sept. 18 (*vide* KE). In Michigan Parasitics were found Sept. 22 (one), and Oct. 6 (two) in *Berrien* with another Oct. 13 in *Senilac* (VJ). An additional two unidentified birds were seen Nov. 2 in *Berrien*. A Glaucous Gull was found in Milwaukee Nov. 4 & 23 (TDB,RH,DG). Michigan had two in *Chippewa* Nov. 24 (TH,RM) and one in *Berrien* Nov. 28. Heatley and Morrison also made a careful study of an Iceland Gull and Great Black-backed Gull in *Chippewa* Nov. 24. The latter bird was also seen Nov. 28. Three Thayer's Gulls were seen Nov. 17 & 20 at Duluth (JG, KE). Again this fall the rare **California Gull** was recorded in the Region, this time at Minnesota's Mille Lacs L., in late August (TS). The **Black-headed Gull** was found for the fourth consecutive year in *Monroe*, Mich. This year it was seen at the Erie Power Plant Nov. 22 (JK). In contrast to past autumns there was only one Laughing Gull sighting in the Region, this in *Berrien*, Mich., Oct. 23 (WB,RS). Franklin's Gulls were reported from four Wisconsin counties until late November, while Michigan had reports from three counties until mid-November. In *Monroe*, Mich., 1500 Bonaparte's Gulls were counted Oct. 27 (DB). The Little Gull was present during the entire period in Milwaukee, with a maximum of

seven. This species was found intermittently in *Berrien* until early November and during the first half of November in *Monroe*, Mich. Undoubtedly the bird find of this fall was the discovery of a **Heermann's Gull** along L. St. Clair in *Macomb* Aug. 26 by the Coxes. It was photographed and seen intermittently into early December (m.ob.). It was described as a third-year bird, and represents Michigan's first record. Black-legged Kittiwakes appeared a surprising number of times this fall, especially in Michigan. Single birds were seen Oct. 27 (DB) and Nov. 9 (GB) in *Monroe* and Nov. 8 (WB) in *Berrien* while three immatures were found Nov. 3 in *St. Claire* (TH,AR). The immature found at Grand Marais Nov. 24 (KE,JG) represented Minnesota's fourth record. Milwaukee had 225 Caspian Terns Aug. 28 (DT). A very late Forster's Tern was seen Nov. 24 in Michigan's *Monroe* (JAG *et al.*).

ALCIDS THROUGH KINGFISHERS — An **Ancient Murrelet** was shot by a hunter during late October on L. Winnibigoshish, *Cass*. The specimen was turned over to Vermillion Community College in Ely (*vide* BT). This represents only the sixth Minnesota record. Two **Groove-billed Anis** were in the Two Rivers, Wis., area in mid-November with one found dead Nov. 18 (LH). There was a limited number of Snowy Owl sightings scattered throughout the n. and c. parts of the Region, primarily during November. Hawk Owls were found in all three states. One was leisurely watched in Copper Harbor, Mich., Oct. 16 (MM *et al.*). In Minnesota sightings came from *Itasca* Nov. 4 (*vide* MC), *Beltrami* Nov. 9 (*vide* JG) and Duluth Nov. 13 (DA) while Wisconsin had one of its infrequent sightings, this in *Douglas* Nov. 21 (BK). Great Gray Owls continue to appear in n. Wisconsin with surprising frequency. The two birds that spent the spring and summer around the Bill Cochran farm in *Forest* remained until early November. During this time they were photographed and seen by several people (DF *et al.*). Additional sightings included Aug. 19 in *Washburn* (GP,ph.) and early November in *Douglas* (BK). Minnesota had three reports, all from *St. Louis* Oct. 25 - Nov. 13 (m.ob.). Fifteen Short-eared Owls spent much of November on the n. portion of Horicon N.W.R., Wis. (RD). Two **Boreal Owls** were banded at Hawk Ridge, Minn., Oct. 9 and Nov. 12 (DE). Four thousand Com. Night-hawks were watched migrating over Milwaukee Aug. 29 (DG).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH STARLINGS — Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were sighted in four Wisconsin and several Minnesota counties, plus five individuals were seen at Seney, Mich., Nov. 24. Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen Aug. 5 near Ely (B&DC). Sept. 19-23 in *Cook* (*vide* RJ), both Minnesota, and Nov. 18 in *Iron*, Mich. (SD). A W. Kingbird was leisurely watched with other passerines in *Iowa*, Wis., Oct. 20 (AS). A **Say's Phoebe** was carefully studied Sept. 10 in Big Stone S.P. (NH), representing only the fifth Minnesota record. Also in Minnesota 25,000 Tree Swallows were estimated present in *Anoka* Aug. 16 (KL). A Black-billed Magpie found Nov. 6 at Big Stone N.W.R. (C&MB) was farther s. in Minnesota than usual. While the Tufted Titmouse continues to be scarce in Minnesota (three

sightings) and apparently is holding its own in Wisconsin, the Michigan sighting of 20+ in one tree in *Mason* Oct. 18 (EG) is noteworthy. The Carolina Wren was only reported from Michigan, with lone sightings in *Kalamazoo*, *Barry* and *Berrien*. Most unusual was a **Rock Wren** observed for several hours in the MacDonald yard in Copper Harbor, Mich., Oct. 29. Mockingbirds were found only in Michigan, with single birds in *Berrien*, *Kalamazoo*, *Mason* and *Grand Traverse*. Varied Thrushes appeared in *Beltrami* Nov. 5 (SM) and *Dakota* Nov. 24 (JD), Minn., and *Iron* Nov. 7 (MB) and *Rusk* Nov. 28 (RuH), Wis. A **Mountain Bluebird** was seen in Duluth Nov. 9 (MC). A **Townsend's Solitaire** was at Deer River, Minn., Oct. 30 (MC). Remarkable is the sighting of a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Michigan's Whitefish Pt., on the absurd date of Nov. 25 (WB, RS). Numbers of Water Pipits included 120 in *Dodge*, Wis., and *Anoka*, Minn., both Oct. 14, and 140 in *Kalamazoo*, Mich. A Sprague's Pipit was found at Rothsay W.M.A., Minn., Sept. 29 (RJ). The only Bohemian Waxwings seen this fall were in *Taylor*, Wis., during the last half of November (SR). Fewer N. Shrikes were sighted this fall, especially in Wisconsin. The only Loggerhead Shrike report was from *Winnebago*, Wis., Aug. 28 (DT).

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS — An imm. White-eyed Vireo was present Aug. 19 - Sept. 15 in *Kalamazoo*, Mich. (m.ob.). A Bell's Vireo was at Jencho, Mich., until Aug. 15. Due to the mildness of the autumn there was a number of record or near-record late warbler sightings. Minnesota's contributions included Nashville Oct. 25 in Duluth (KS), N. Parula Oct. 7 in Duluth (JG), Black-throated Green Oct. 7 in Duluth (JG), Blackburnian Oct. 10 at Mountain Lake (LF) and N. Waterthrush Oct. 23 in Duluth (DA). For Wisconsin near-record departures were the N. Parula Oct. 5 in *Eau Claire* (JP), Palm Nov. 8 in *Taylor* (SR) and Com. Yellowthroat Nov. 30 in *Waukesha* (JB). Record late sightings included Kentucky Warbler in Milwaukee Nov. 3 (DH) and Hooded Warbler in *Waukesha* Oct. 4 (JB). An additional Kentucky was sighted on the more reasonable date of Sept. 11 in *Dane* (RH) and a Yellow-breasted Chat was seen Sept. 3 in *Pepin* (RH). Michigan had only one late sighting, that of Blackpoll Warbler Oct. 21 in *Clinton* (DM). Of interest were 800 Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers found at a *Muskegon* site Oct. 10 (LW) and a Yellow-breasted Chat in *Genesee* Aug. 25 (BR).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH BUNTINGS — An Orchard Oriole was still in *LaCrosse*, Wis., Aug. 15 (FL). A Scarlet Tanager found in *Milwaukee* Nov. 22 (WW) represents a record state departure. A Summer Tanager came to a Duluth feeder Oct. 25 - Nov. 1 (KE). Unusually tardy was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak still at a feeder Nov. 30 in *St. Clair*, Mich. (DMo). An Indigo Bunting at Babbitt, Minn., Oct. 12 was late (TH). Evening Grosbeaks were present in good sized flocks only in extreme n. Wisconsin, the U.P., and upper L.P. Elsewhere they were unusually scarce. Pine Grosbeak was almost nonexistent in the Region this fall. Michigan had only four, Wisconsin but two counties reporting them. In Minnesota there were only six reports, all from the n.e. corner. However one represented an extremely early sighting Aug. 27, near Duluth



Black-throated Sparrow, Milwaukee Co., Wis., Oct. 31, 1979. Photo/John Idzikowski.

(M&KH). The Com. Redpoll was also exceedingly scarce with but two Minnesota, three Wisconsin and five Michigan reports. The Pine Siskin was also almost as scarce as the preceding species. Only Red Crossbill was present this fall in good numbers with many sightings from both Minnesota and Wisconsin and to a lesser degree, Michigan. Reports commenced in early autumn and generally continued into December. In contrast, White-winged Crossbill was seen only four times in Wisconsin, twice in Michigan and once in Minnesota. A large finch movement was noted at Whitefish Pt., Mich., Nov. 25. It consisted of 10,000± Am. Goldfinches, a very few Pine Siskins and Com. Redpolls, 325 Red and seven White-winged Crossbills (RS,WB). A Savannah Sparrow at Manitowoc, Wis., Nov. 25 (CS) was very late. There were nine reports of Le Conte's Sparrows in Wisconsin this autumn. The Sharp-tailed Sparrow was observed only in Wisconsin. Three were in *Fond du Lac* Sept. 30 (TSc), while Milwaukee had several birds seen intermittently Sept. 29 - Oct. 25 (TDB,DT,JP,JI). A Lark Sparrow was found Oct. 10 in *Muskegon*, Mich. (VJ). In Wisconsin it was seen twice, Sept. 3 in *Pepin* (RH) and Oct. 29 in Milwaukee (DG). The latter is a record departure date. Wisconsin was understandably excited about the **Black-throated Sparrow** discovered by Casper along the Milwaukee lakeshore Oct. 30. The bird was remarkably obliging as it fed daily in the same area with other sparrows. By the time it was last seen Nov. 10, it had been photographed and observed by many birders. It represented only the third state record. In *Price*, Wis., there were 1000 Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Juncos Sept. 25 (MH). There were two exceptionally early Lapland Longspur sightings in the Region. One was in *Burnett*, Wis., Sept. 6 (JP) and the other in *Hennepin*, Minn., Sept. 8 (OJ). Four hundred were counted Nov. 25 in *Marathon*, Wis. (K&JL). Smith's Longspurs were found in Minnesota twice this fall. The first was at Duluth Sept. 19 (KE) and the other was in *Clay* Oct. 17 (SM). Large flocks of Snow Buntings were lacking in Wisconsin but present in both Michigan and Minnesota. For example, 1000 were at *Muskegon* Nov. 23 (GW) while an impressive 6000 were near Fergus Falls, Minn., Nov. 14 (SM).

CORRIGENDUM — In *AB* 33:866, a typographical error caused the Kirtland's Warbler singing male census total to be listed as 310. The correct figure is 210.

CONTRIBUTORS — Darryl Anderson, G. Baldwin (GBa), Glenn Belyea, John Bielefeldt, Jerry Bon Koski (JBK), Walter Booth, Chuck & Micki Buer, Dennis Burke, Mary Butterbrodt, Betty & Doug Campbell, E. Carhart, T. Carpenter, M. Carr, Gary Casper, Bill Cochran, Tom deBoor (TDB), Steve Deming, Joane Dempsey, Robert Drieslein, Joel & Sandy Dunnette, Kim Eckert (Minnesota), Tom Erdman, D. Evans, Mrs. Loren Feil, Don Follen, Jim Fowler (JFo), Joan Fowler (JoF), Jim Frank, D. Friedman, Ethel Getgood, Janet Green, J. A. Greenhouse (JAG), Dennis

Gustafson, Don Hanbury, Maybelle Hardy, S. Hargy, T. Hargy (TH), Judy Haseleu, J. Haw (JHa), Tom Heatley, C. Henderson, Nestor Hiemenz, Lorraine Hoffman, Molly & Ken Hoffman, Randy Hoffman, Rudy Hon (RuH), John Idzikowski, Nick Ilnicki (U.P., Michigan), Vic Jansen, Robert Janssen, Bob Johnson, Oscar Johnson, Alice Kelley (s.e. Michigan), J. Kleiman, Bernie Klugow, M. Kohlbry, Ken LaFond, Tim Lamey, Fred Leshner, Harold Lindberg, Ken & Jan Luepke, Mary MacDonald, Al Maley, Doug McWhirter (Michigan), Steve Millard, D. Moilanen

(DMo), Randy Morrison, Gary Otnes, Tim Payne, Greg Peterson, Janine Polk, James Ponshair (JPo — w.c. Michigan), Bill Ryan, Sam Robbins, Alan Ryff, T. Savaloja, Thomas Schultz (TSc), Allen Shea, Ellen Slater, Martin Smith, Roy Smith (s.w. Michigan), Charles Sontag, Bob Storer, K. Sundquist, B. Tefft, Daryl Tessen (Wisconsin), Phill Vanderschaegen, Bill Voelkert, Dick & Gloria Wachtler, Larry Walkinshaw, Tex Wells, George Wickerstrom, Joan Wolfe, Winnie Woodmansee, Thomas Ziebell — DARYL D. TESSEN, 2 Pioneer Park Place, Elgin, Ill. 60120.

MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

/Vernon M. Kleen

The 1979 fall migration was rather ordinary and less than spectacular in most instances. Observers did report a fair number of extralimital occurrences, high concentrations as well as scarcities. The most common concern was the lack of winter finches and other species that often enhance the fall excitement.

Flooding provided excellent shorebird habitat in some areas but inundated good places normally available to birds and birders. Shorebirds, as a group, were well represented this fall. Herons were rather scarce and observers are requested to record total numbers of each species every time they are in the field. Ducks were rather late in arriving inland, but concentrations along the Mississippi and Illinois rivers may have made up for the general lack of birds elsewhere.

Owing to the mild fall, many species lingered beyond local departure times; of course, a few arrived earlier than anticipated. Sparrows were scarce, and in some cases, almost absent. The late spring may have been responsible for the extended breeding season for some species.

The weather was rather mild for the entire period; however, rainfall abundance and distribution was abnormal. Flash floods occurred in the south and Louisville recorded the wettest September ever, while Springfield, Illinois recorded the driest ever with no measureable precipitation. Heavy rains in Iowa in mid-August ruined the most productive shorebird areas. Rainfall during the remainder of the season was sporadic both in abundance and distribution.

As usual, all extraordinary sight records must be thoroughly documented at the time of

observation. For the fall season, 150 documentations were received: Illinois, 49; Ohio, 40; Indiana, 35; Iowa, 18 and Kentucky, 8. In addition, nine photographs were received. All documented records have been denoted by a dagger (†). Records which were not satisfactorily documented, but which may be credible appear in the UNCORROBORATED RECORDS section. The Missouri subregional report was not received for inclusion in this report.

As a publication aide, the following abbreviations have been used in the text: Col. = Columbus, Ohio; Cleve. = Cleveland, Ohio; E.St.L. = E. St. Louis, Illinois; L.Cal. = L. Calumet, Illinois; Mich.C. = Michigan City, Indiana; M.T.R. = Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge, Illinois; O.W.R. = Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Ohio; Spfld. = Springfield, Illinois; and U.S.F.&W.S. = U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS —

Normal numbers of Com. Loons passed through from mid-October on; groups of ten or fewer was normal for most inland locations with peaks of 325, 60 and 50 reported; one bird in breeding plumage was present at La Porte County, Ind., Aug. 11 (PG). Indiana's first fall Arctic Loon was identified in Montgomery County Nov. 7-14 (†Abr, †m.ob.). There were four Red-throated Loons reported; three in Ohio and one in Indiana. Of four Red-necked Grebes reported only two were properly documented: Cleve., Oct. 30 and Nov. 19 (†M) and Iowa City; Ia., Oct. 28-30 (†T, †TSH). Horned Grebes passed through in excellent numbers; 150 were estimated at Mich.C., Nov. 24 (CK *et al.*), but at Cleve., a peak of 958 was reached Nov. 18 (M); one individual had arrived in Allen County, Ind., by Aug. 8 (Haw *et al.*) and another at Chicago by Aug. 30 (JL); the majority were noted Nov.

8-24. Small numbers of Eared Grebes (max. two at one location) appeared Aug. 28 (Spfld.) - Nov. 18 (Mich.C.). Three W. Grebes were reported, all in w. Iowa in early-to-mid November (m.ob.). Young Pied-billed Grebes were still present at L.Cal., Sept. 23 (JL); the migration extended September through December with concentrations of 87 at Willow Slough,

Ind., Sept. 8 (BW); 64 at Spfld., Oct. 2 (H); and 56 at Madisonville, Ky., Nov. 9 (JHa). The peak of the White Pelican migration appeared in mid-September when 2500 were present at Riverton N.W.R., Ia. (*vide* JD); the species first appeared in w. Iowa Aug. 10 (IG) but elsewhere in mid-September to mid-October in small numbers. Double-crested Cormorants were most prevalent from mid-September to mid-October; >350 were noted by the U.S.F.&W.S., along the Illinois and Mississippi rivers Oct. 2 (RCr); the species was widely reported in all states except Kentucky including a peak of 70 on L. Erie Nov. 15 (JP); the majority of encounters included from one to six birds.

HERONS THROUGH IBISES — Great Blue Heron numbers seemed rather low and in some instances appeared to be taking a downward plunge; the greatest concentration reported was only of 141 birds at O.W.R., Aug. 15 (LV); other concentrations were of 85, 67, 50 and 37 birds; we may need to keep a closer watch on this and other heron species. Fifty-five Green Herons were reported from Newton, O., Sept. 16 (WR). The post-breeding dispersal of Little Blue Herons was not well-marked; the greatest number, outside of the E.St.L. colony area, was 11 at Peoria, Aug. 5 (VH *et al.*); the species was reported from all states, usually as singles or doubles throughout early August but occasionally in late August and early September; however, one bird remained in Gibson County, Ind., through Oct. 7 (REr). Cattle Egrets did not stage a large post-breeding movement however, they were more widespread much later and the flocks were larger; the 50+ in Jefferson County, Ky., Oct. 28 (DSu) was the largest number ever recorded in the state; groups of 5-26 were reported from 5 non-nesting Illinois locations in August, September or October; up to 20 were present at O.W.R., Aug. 5 (LV) and the species was reported from five Indiana locations Sept. 27 - Nov. 13 (m.ob.). The greatest concentration of Great Egrets was 146 at O.W.R., Aug. 5 (LV); the species was recorded in fewer than 20 areas. The 14 Snowy Egrets at E.St.L., near a probable nesting site, were not indicative of the species occurrence elsewhere; in fact, only three other birds were reported, all in August in Illinois. There were only a few isolated encounters of Black-crowned Night Herons except for 200 at E.St.L., Sept. 14 (BR) and 205 at O.W.R., Aug. 5 (LV); four birds were found at four Iowa locations; none were noted in Indiana. Yellow-crowned Night Herons were reported as singles in five scattered areas in all states except Kentucky as pairs in



two Ohio localities and as a group of four in Maries County, Mo., Aug. 21 (PS *et al.*). American Bitterns were scarcely reported. Three dark ibises were encountered: one each at St. Louis Oct. 6-7 (RK, m.ob.); Ottawa County, O., Oct. 9-10 (†JP) and Port of Indiana, Ind., Oct. 27 (†KB *et al.*).

WATERFOWL — Mute Swans were reported as present in n.w. Indiana from summer through October and may have accounted for the two at Palos Park, Ill., Oct. 25 - Nov. 18 (JL). The greatest movement of Whistling Swans appeared Nov. 11-12 through n. Ohio, Illinois and parts of Iowa; the species was reported in small numbers Nov. 17-24 outside of the regular flight pattern across the n. portions of the Region; two birds appeared at Horseshoe L., Alexander Co., Ill., Oct. 15 (DT). The s. Illinois flock of Canada Geese had built up to 179,000 by Oct. 23 and peaked at 230,000+ in early and mid-November; it is believed that much of the flock was not present in its traditional wintering area. Two Brant were noted at Pt. Clinton, O., Nov. 10-21 (†J *et al.*). Comments concerning the duck migration were variable, but most observers felt it was a poor season, especially inland. A tally of the U.S.F.&W.S. (RCr) weekly flights along the Mississippi and Illinois rivers beginning Sept. 4 indicated the following max. concentrations for each species: Mallard 1,600,000 and Black Duck 29,000 both Nov. 20; Gadwall 16,000 Nov. 13; Pintail 151,000 Oct. 30; Green-winged Teal 31,000 Nov. 7; Blue-winged Teal 42,000 Sept. 11; Am. Wigeon 230,000, N. Shoveler 3100, Redhead 18,000, Ring-necked Duck 116,000, Canvasback 194,000 and Lesser Scaup 447,000 all six species Nov. 7; Bufflehead 7300 Nov. 13; Ruddy Duck 3800 Nov. 7; and Hooded Merganser 1600 Nov. 13.

Other individual records of note included: Gadwall 700 at Spfld., Nov. 1 (H); 100 at Louisville Nov. 24-25 (JKr); Green-winged Teal 951 at O.W.R., Nov. 4 (LV). One **European Wigeon** was at Streetsboro, O., Sept. 15 - Oct. 26 (†LRo, m.ob.). Oldsquaw numbers included 400 at Evanston, Ill., Nov. 22 (RBO) six at Louisville Nov. 16 (†LRa, m.ob.), a good migration involving small numbers at Cleve., Oct. 30 - Nov. 30 (M, m.ob.) and singles at a few inland locations (m.ob.). There was one Harlequin Duck at Mich.C., Oct. 20 (TK). White-winged Scoter sightings included the normal small number at Cleve., with a maximum of nine beginning Oct. 19 (M), present at five widely scattered Iowa locations including a maximum of eight in one area (†JD *et al.*); eight at four inland Ohio areas (m.ob.) and one at Oquawka, Ill., Nov. 24 (†LM). Surf Scoters showed a similar distribution except for Iowa where none were reported; five were identified at Louisville Nov. 19 (BP, † *et al.*); this was the "most numerous" of the three scoter species at Mich.C.; there were a few more inland records than for the previous species with groups up to six per location. Surf Scoters, usually one to five birds, were encountered near the shores of Lakes Michigan and Erie; 11 were present at Winnetka, Ill., Nov. 22-23 (JL, RB). The largest inland concentrations of Ruddy Ducks were: 700 at Spfld., Nov. 9 (H); 500 at Clinton, Ia., Nov. 10 (P); 446 at Findlay, O., Oct. 29 (Fry) and 109 at Madisonville, Ky., Nov. 27 (JHa). Flocks of 45-125 Hooded Mergansers were reported from four

Indiana and Illinois locations. A typical large number of Red-breasted Mergansers occurred in the Cleve., area in November; a peak of 75,000 was recorded there Nov. 24 (JP).

VULTURES THROUGH FALCONS — High counts of Turkey Vultures included 100 individuals on three occasions: Wabash County, Ind., Sept. 22 (*vide* CK); n. Allen County, Ind., Sept. 23 (*vide* CK); and Keosauqua, Ia., Sept. 15 (*vide* T); 55 were noted in Oldham County, Ky., Nov. 3 (BP). The 80 Black Vultures at Hopkinsville, Ky., Oct. 2 was a high total (†PH). The Mississippi Kite at Willow Slough, Ind., Aug. 19 was exceptional (†TK). Only four Goshawks were located this fall: three in n. Illinois in early-to-mid October and one in w. Iowa Nov. 17 (†JG *et al.*). Only two flights of Red-tailed Hawks were reported: 49 at Cherokee, Ia., Oct. 6 (DB) and 17 at Spfld., Nov. 17 (H). Except for the six Red-shouldered Hawks at Louisville Oct. 28 (BP) and five in Seneca County, O., Sept. 18 (JKn), five other singles were reported. The largest one-day total for migrating Broad-winged Hawks was only 500 birds; the next was 250; there just were not many flights observed. There were five fall records of Swainson's Hawks in Iowa Aug. 16 - Sept. 9; another bird was documented at Olney, Ill., Oct. 5 (†LH). Only a small number of Rough-legged Hawks penetrated the Region; except for the one at Dundee, Ill., Sept. 11 (SD) all others arrived in October or later; one at Hamlin, Ky., Oct. 6 (JEr) was early there. Three Golden Eagles were reported from Hamburg, Ia., Nov. 24-25 (IG) and also from the upper Iowa R., Nov. 24 (†T, m.ob.); singles were found at Illinois Beach S.P., Ill., Oct. 6 (DJ *et al.*) and M.T.R., Nov. 15 & 24 (†HW, TBA, VB). Bald Eagles were first detected on the U.S.F.&W.S. waterfowl surveys Oct. 30 when 43 (24 ad., 19 imm.) were counted; a fall peak was reached in late November when >340 were counted on two separate days; one bird had arrived at Ft. Wayne, Ind., by Oct. 24 (Haw); three at Mosquito L., O., by Oct. 6 (CJ); and six along the s.w. part of L. Erie Oct. 7; an immature had appeared at Streetsboro, O., by Aug. 5 (LRo) and at Iowa City, Ia., by Aug. 4 (†T, †TSh) and the majority was observed after mid-November. There was a paucity of Marsh Hawks. Ospreys were not too common: Ohio 16 birds; Indiana 8; Kentucky 10; Illinois 22; and Iowa 12; there were also six from the St. Louis area; late departures were noted at Cincinnati Nov. 23 (NW) Manito, Ill., Nov. 22 (RKn). Two Prairie Falcon observations were documented: one at M.T.R., Nov. 27 (†BR, †PS) and the other in Lawrence County, Ill., Dec. 2-3 (†LH). There was an excellent migration of Peregrine Falcons; hawk observers in n.e. Illinois reported at least 26 during the period (RCo) and there may have been more (DJ, m.ob.); two were documented in n. Indiana; two in Ohio (three others were not documented); one in Iowa (plus one undocumented); and two inland occurrences were documented in Illinois; the migration period lasted Sept. 21 - Oct. 20. There was also a good migration of Merlins; 19 of the 26 sightings were documented; the migration period lasted Sept. 7 - Oct. 28 (with two exceptions — one earlier and one later).

GROUSE THROUGH COOTS — A Ruffed Grouse made a downtown Cleve. appearance Oct. 30 - Nov. 1 (M). Bobwhite remained

scarce, the 40 feeding on an E St L mudflat Sept. 20 (BR) were unusual. The wild Turkey has been "successfully" restocked in many s and c. Indiana areas; it has also appeared in new Iowa locations. An estimated 12,000 Sandhill Cranes were present at Jasper-Pulaski Wildlife Area, Ind., in late October (LC), birds were present in the Louisville area Aug 29 - Nov. 12 (DP *et al.*); four adults were present at Chain-O'-Lakes S.P., Ill., Aug. 21 (FH), flights of 35-67 were noted in n.e. Illinois Sept 30 - Oct. 3 (m.ob.); casual observations were reported from: St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 4 (TBA), Ottawa County, O., Nov. 4 (†JP); two at Willow Pt. Wildlife Area, O., Oct. 10 (†JP) and Jama County, Ia., Nov. 13-24 (JD). A Virginia Rail was present at Bedford, Ky., Aug 25 (JY). Single Yellow Rails were encountered at Spfld., Oct. 11 (†H) and L. LaDue, O., Nov 11 (†DSt, †LRo). A Black Rail was flushed from a Willow Slough, Ind. marsh Sept. 29 (†KB † *et al.*). Young Com. Gallinules were still evident at L.Cal., Sept. 23 (JL) and at Green I, Ia., Aug. 15 (T). The peaks of 2000 or more Am. Coot at Madisonville, Ky., Nov. 1 (JHa) and Spfld., Nov. 2 (H) were insignificant in comparison to the U.S.F.&W.S. counts of 852,000 along the Illinois and Mississippi rivers Nov. 7 (RCr).

SHOREBIRDS — The season was recorded as slow to extraordinary. Flooding allowed excellent habitat at some locations, but ruined existing habitat at others. There were many early arrivals and large concentrations; therefore, overall, an excellent season. Owing to the wide variety of species and numbers of individuals it is impossible to record all of the details for each species; therefore, the following is a synopsis which could not have been prepared without all of the individual observations reported. Semipalmated Plover was widespread and most numerous in August except for the peak of 354 at O.W.R., Sept 5 (*vide* PJ); other highs were in the twenties and thirties. Piping Plover singles were noted at eight Regionwide locations, Aug. 1 (Spfld) - Oct. 20 (Miller, Ind.) with a maximum of three at M.T.R., Sept. 16. American Golden Plover was reported from only seven areas in low numbers with a maximum of 20; Aug 4 (L.Cal.) - Oct. 31 (20 at E.St.L.). American Woodcock reports were few; however, the 50 at Cincinnati Oct. 15 were noteworthy (*vide* W). Common Snipe were reported in good numbers as indicated by widespread highs of 75, 73, 65 and 24 primarily in late October or November. There were 11 sightings of Whimbrel along L. Erie (peak of 8) Aug. 6 - Sept 22 (m.ob.); singles at Evanston July 28 (RB) and Chicago Aug. 30 (JL). Only small numbers of Upland Sandpiper were normally encountered; however, flocks of 35, 22 and 15 were recorded in early August; one in Johnson County, Ia., Sept. 15 was the latest record for the species in Iowa (T, TSh).

A breeding-plumaged **Spotted Redshank** was properly identified and documented Aug 28 at Huron, O., and provided a first state record (†LRo, EE). Red Knot were usually encountered in small numbers; however were "too numerous to count" along L. Erie Aug 2 - Oct. 7, with a maximum of 13 at Huron, O., Sept. 11; noted six times near Mich.C., Sept 7 - Oct. 20; present at Chicago with a maximum of five Aug. 21 - Oct. 21; and recorded as singles at three inland locations during the

first four days of August. There were two records of Purple Sandpiper. Chicago Nov. 24-25 (†RB, †m.ob.) and Erie County, O., Nov. 28 (†JP). There was a fairly good flight of Baird's Sandpiper from mid-August - early October; a few birds arrived earlier and departed later. Short-billed Dowitcher was reported in good numbers including 300 at O.W.R., Sept. 2 (*vide* PJ). Long-billed Dowitcher was widespread and in good numbers; the majority were noted in October including 100 at O.W.R., Oct. 23 (J) and 30 at M.T.R., Oct. 13 (TBa). Stilt Sandpipers were not nearly as common as in some years; however 200 at E.St.L., Aug. 29 (RGo) and 100 at O.W.R., Sept. 15 (DHo); most were present in August, but one was identified in Gibson County, Ind., as late as Oct. 7 (CM). Semipalmated Sandpiper appeared in expected numbers most places; 1000 at O.W.R., Aug. 11 (J). Buff-breasted Sandpiper numbers were low but had widespread reports; never more than six individuals; present Aug. 1 - Sept. 22.

There were nine Ohio reports of Marbled Godwit (max., 8 birds at O.W.R.) Aug. 5 - Oct. 1 (PJ,JP); one bird at Chicago Sept. 9-30 (JL). There were nine Ohio reports of Hudsonian Godwit (usually of one to three birds, but 21 at Brown Res., Aug. 26 (*vide* JHI,m.ob.) Aug. 26 - Oct. 27; single birds were at Iowa City, Ia., Aug. 4 (T) and E.St.L., Sept. 19-29 (†BR, m.ob.). There was one Ruff at E.St.L., Sept. 2 (†RGo) and one in Erie County, O., Sept. 8 (†J). There were several inland records of Sanderling, but lower numbers along major lakes; peak of 30 at L. Chautauqua, Ill., Sept. 19 (DF), present late July - Oct. 13. American Avocet was sighted in fourteen locations Aug. 8 - Nov. 11; all states represented; recorded mostly as singles or pairs, but up to six at E.St.L., Nov. 1 (BR); two distinct movements were noted: late July - late August and late October - early November. Wilson's Phalarope appeared in good numbers Regionwide; peaks of 33 at O.W.R., Sept. 2 (PJ) and 30 at L. Cal., Aug. 18 (JL); one was present at Spfld., Oct. 4 (H-rather late); primary migration period: Aug. 11 - Sept. 6. Northern Phalarope recorded nine encounters along L. Erie Aug. 5 - Sept. 29 (usually one or two birds); only a few other reports received. There were four documented records of Red Phalarope, all singles; Winous Pt., O., Oct. 5 (†JP); E.St.L., Oct. 24-31 (†BR, †RK), Mentor, O., Nov. 5 (†LRo); E. Harbor S.P., O., Nov. 10-11 (†J,JP).

JAEGERS, GULLS AND TERNS — Two **Pomarine Jaegers** were documented, both at inland Illinois locations: Alton Nov. 7-9 (†BR, †m.ob.); and Olney Nov. 9-11 (†LH *et al.*) including photographs. Five Parasitic Jaegers were identified at Mich.C., Nov. 10 (TK, ABr), another at Evanston, Ill., Nov. 22 (RB *et al.*) The following unidentified jaegers (probably Parasitic) were reported: Mich.C., Sept. 30 - Nov. 22 (CK,KB *et al.*); Huron, O., Sept. 4-6 (†TL *et al.*); and Avon L., O., Oct. 2 (†JP). Single Glaucous Gulls were discovered at Sandusky, O., Oct. 9 (JP); Mich.C., Nov. 18 and Dec. 1 (KB, m.ob.); Evanston, Ill., Nov. 22 (RB,JL); Chicago Nov. 24 (RB,JL); and L. Cal., Nov. 25 (JL); two were noted at Huron, O., Sept. 14 (JP). An ad. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was identified at several Erie County, O., locations Nov. 17-25 (†JP, m.ob.). A Herring Gull at Louisville Aug. 9 & 18 was noteworthy there (JEL, m.ob.). Two to three Thayer's Gulls

were present at L. Cal., Nov. 25 (GR), singles were reported from Spfld., Oct. 23 & 25 (†H) and Evanston Nov. 22 (RB,JL.). Ohio's first acceptable record of **California Gull** was established at Huron Nov. 24-25 (†J, †RH *et al.*). A peak of 75,000 Ring-billed Gulls was present in Erie County, O., Nov. 17 (JP); five had arrived at Kentucky Lakes, Ky., Aug. 6 (JEr). Single Laughing Gulls were documented at four locations: Monroe Res., Ind., Sept. 2 (†SG); Cincinnati Sept. 23 (†DSt); Mich.C., Aug. 21 (†KB); and Spfld., Sept. 27 - Oct. 3 (†H). Up to 13 Little Gulls were present at Cleve., Nov. 26 (M); the first was noted there Aug. 5 (RH); two were observed at O.W.R., Aug. 11-20 (J, m.ob.); and three different individuals occurred at Mich.C., Aug. 12-26 (†PG,KB). Single Black-legged Kittiwakes were noted at Mich.C., Nov. 2 (†TC) and Cleve., Nov. 30 (M). A photograph documents the presence of a Sabine's Gull at Beverly Shores, Ind., Oct. 14 (†KB); the species was also documented at Spfld., Sept. 18-21 (†H) and in Erie County, O., Nov. 2 (†JP).

Few observers mentioned Forster's Terns; a peak of 215 occurred at O.W.R., Sept. 2 (*vide* PJ). Common Terns were quite scarce everywhere except n. Ohio where a peak of 4000 was noted at O.W.R., Sept. 2 (*vide* PJ) and 300 occurred at Cleve., Sept. 23 (DHo); some were still present there at the end of the period; only two birds were found in Iowa all fall. Three Least Terns appeared at Spfld., Aug. 20 (H); two arrived at E.St.L., Aug. 18 (†RK, m.ob.); and one stopped at Willow Slough, Ind., Aug. 2 (†BW). Caspian Terns were apparently the most widespread of the terns, occurring in small numbers throughout much of the Region; a peak of 58 occurred at O.W.R., Sept. 2 (*vide* PJ); singles or pairs were the rule for most observers Aug. 4 (Chicago) - Oct. 20 (Mich.C.); one lingered in Erie County, O., until Nov. 18 (TB). The Black Tern was noted as more common than usual at Spfld. (H); the majority of birds passed through the Region mid-August - mid-September with a peak of 200 occurring at Cleve., Sept. 13 (DHo); the 80 at E.St.L., was also above normal for the season (BR *et al.*).

DOVES, CUCKOOS AND OWLS — The presence of two **Ground Doves** at L. Sangchris, Ill., Nov. 7 & 11 (and one Nov. 24) was phenomenal (†H), another was documented in Marshall County, Ill., Nov. 20-21 (†DC, †VH *et al.*). Young Yellow-billed Cuckoos were still in nests in Pocahontas County, Ia., Sept. 8 (RCu) and at Westville, Ill., Aug. 30 (MC); one was detected at Clinton, Ill., Nov. 11 (†RC). A **Groove-billed Ani**, for the first official state record for Illinois, was first identified at Evanston Oct. 6 (†JL) and remained through at least Oct. 12 (†m.ob.); another ani, probably the same species, was found in Beall Woods S.P., Ill., Oct. 10 (†CM). Young Barn Owls were monitored near Richmond, Ind., during August (BB); a single was reported from Hamburg, Ia., Sept. 22 (IG). The Aug. 11 presence of a Short-eared Owl at Hamburg, Ia. (IG) may have been from a local nesting (?); early fall migrants were reported Sept. 22 (Sioux Center, Ia.), Oct. 3 (Evanston, Ill.) and Oct. 8 (Spfld.). The only Snowy Owl was located at Cleve., Nov. 24 (*vide* DHo). Beginning Aug. 19 (JKe) a Burrowing Owl was regularly observed along an Illinois toll road near Rochelle (m.ob.); it remained at least three

months. Saw-whet Owls were scarcely reported — only five birds Oct. 22 (Davenport, Ia.) - Nov. 11.

NIGHTHAWKS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — The largest flocks of Com Nighthawks were noted during the last week of August when >1000 birds were observed at two locations; other high peaks ranged from 200-425 birds; smaller groups were regularly encountered beginning with the 80 at Louisville Aug. 8 (BSt) and concluding with singles there Oct. 23 (JEi). Cincinnati Oct. 22 (*vide* W) and Lafayette, Ind., Oct. 17 (DA). A gathering of 2000 Chimney Swifts was reported from Louisville Aug. 7 (JEi); one bird lingered at Col., until Nov. 7 (J). The Nov. 7 presence of a hummingbird at Urbana, Ill. (IM) was unusual, a Ruby-throated was still at Dayton, O., Oct. 11 (CMA). It may be that Pileated Woodpeckers have moved into many new areas, since the species is reported more often. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were less common than expected.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CROWS — The 45 and 27 E. Kingbirds near Cove Marsh, Ia., Aug. 31 (MN) and Streetsboro, O., Aug. 27 (LRo), respectively, were not indicative of a possible scarcity (m.ob.) this fall. Four W Kingbirds were reported during the five day period, Sept. 2-6; two at Woodburn, Ind (†Haw *et al.*) and singles in Holmes County, O (DKi) and Lawrence County, Ill. (†DJo). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher made a one-day appearance at Chicago Oct. 8 (†JL). *Empidonax* flycatchers were scarce for observers but not so for banders. Olive-sided Flycatchers were encountered more frequently this fall than during most years (m.ob.); the migration period ranged Aug. 3 (Waukegan Ill.) - Sept. 29 (Spfld.); four birds were found in one day in late August in Tuscarawas County, O. (J). Only one key reporter mentioned the scarcity of most swallow species; few reporters mentioned the group at all. Purple Martin roosts numbering >1000 birds were noted at: Kentucky Lakes, Ky. 5000± birds on Aug. 11 (JEr), Chicago 2000 on Aug. 17-22 (JL); Col., 1500 on Aug. 29 (J); and Cleve., 1000 on Aug. 8 (DHo). Six Fish Crows were heard near E.St.L., Aug. 16 (RGo).

NUTHATCHES, CREEPERS AND WRENS — Red-breasted Nuthatches were exceedingly scarce this fall; none were observed in Kentucky and only one was encountered in Iowa. Further breeding evidence of Brown Creepers was apparent by the Aug. 22 presence of one bird at Cincinnati (W) and singles at Spfld., Aug. 19 and Sept. 1 (H). Young House Wrens successfully fledged from an Iowa City nest, Sept. 10 (HO). Winter Wrens experienced a slight population recovery (m.ob.) Regionwide. There was also a suggested increase in the number of Carolina Wrens present — only a slight suggestion, though, and primarily in the s. The 50+ Short-billed Marsh Wrens at St. Louis Aug. 16 were noteworthy (VB).

MIMIDS THROUGH SHRIKES — Mockingbirds were among the species reported as scarce; they were conspicuously absent in Iowa, and n. portions of other states. The migration of Gray Catbirds and Brown Thrashers was excellent. Normal numbers of

Am Robins were encountered, but the roost of 10,000 at Somerset, Ky., in mid-November (JEI) was high. Of the migrant thrushes, only the Swainson's and Hermit were reported in normal numbers, the Gray-cheeked and Veery were much reduced. Eastern Bluebirds remained scarce but were reported in slightly increased numbers at isolated locations Regionwide. Both the Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned kinglet populations showed a modest gain. Northern Shrikes were reported from only five locations — all in n.e. Iowa Nov. 11-30. Few Loggerhead Shrikes were encountered, especially in the n.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — November records for Solitary Vireos included singles at Dwight, Ill., Nov. 27 (DF) and Streetsboro, O., Nov. 11 (LRo, m.ob.). A Philadelphia Vireo was noted at Charleston, Ill., Nov. 17 (†BH); nine were counted Sept. 24-25 at Spfld. (H). Warbler flights were weak and casual; there were two or three detectable movements in August and an equal number in September. The following is primarily an account of the most "unusual" observations since there were few other data submitted. Worm-eating Sept. 9 at Cleve. (DHo); Golden-winged Oct. 1 at Louisville (JEI); Tennessee Aug. 1 at Streetsboro, O. (LRo); Nov. 19 New Haven, Ind. (†Haw); Oct. 28 at Cincinnati (DSt); Oct. 23 Davenport, Ia., (P); Orange-crowned Nov. 22 at Evanston, Ill. (RB, JL); Yellow Nov. 7 at Spfld. (H); Cape May Oct. 4 at Hamburg, Ia. (16); Sept. 30 at Lawrence County, Ill. (LH); Black-throated Blue 12 on Sept. 28 in Indiana (MO); one Oct. 22 at Davenport, Ia. (P); Bay-breasted was termed the most common migrant in Ohio (J); one Oct. 20 at Iowa City, Ia. (†T, TSh); Pine Nov. 18 at Mahomet, Ill. (†RC); Ovenbird Nov. 7 in Indianapolis (DZ). A moderate number of Connecticut Warblers were encountered in the n. portions of the Region (Davenport, Ia. - Akron, O.) Aug. 21 (Chicago) - Oct. 1 (Magee Marsh, O.); the only exception was one at Dayton, O., Sept. 30 - Oct. 3 (†CMA); Yellow-breasted Chat Oct. 3 Resthaven Wildlife Area, O. (JP) and Canada one banded Oct. 3 at Davenport, Ia. (P).

WEAVERS THROUGH FINCHES — European Tree Sparrows may be further expanding their range as individuals have been encountered in more areas in and n. of Spfld. (H, K). Eastern Meadowlarks were scarce. Three Yellow-headed Blackbirds were present at the Marblehead Pen., O., Oct. 23 - Nov. 15 (JP); one was observed at Akron, O., Sept. 28 (m ob.); another was sighted at Gary, Ind., Aug. 18 (KB *et al.*). Late records of Scarlet Tanagers were: Oct. 28 at Ames, Ia. (HZ); Oct. 25 Spfld. (H); and Oct. 22 Davenport, Ia. (P). A late-departing Rose-breasted Grosbeak was noted at Ft. Wayne Nov. 21 (*vide* Haw). Indiana's second **Black-headed Grosbeak** was documented Oct. 24 at Martinsville (†TP). The Oct. 18 presence of a Blue Grosbeak at Louisville (BP) was exceptional. All finches were exceedingly scarce. There were only "accidental" occurrences of Evening Grosbeaks. Purple Finches were most common of the northern finches, however, even these were represented by small numbers. House Finches may have been the most "populous" of the species — especially the following accounts were submitted: Cleve., 40-80 all fall (JP); Col., 23, most of in Ohio and Kentucky where the

following accounts were submitted Cleve., 40-80 all fall (JP); Col., 23, most of the period (CG); Richmond, Ky., 40 on Nov. 6-30 (AW); Lexington, Ky., 13 in late November (RMo *et al.*); one in Indianapolis Nov. 3 (†LPe) and one in Holmes County, O., Nov. 7 & 16 (DKi). There were only scattered reports of Pine Siskins but none in Indiana, Kentucky or Missouri. American Goldfinches even seemed scarce. The second largest finch influx was of Red Crossbills, flocks of up to 20, moved into the n. portions of the Region and penetrated as far s. as Cincinnati (WR) during an apparent first movement Sept. 17-29, and Charleston, Ill. (BH) during a second movement, Oct. 27 - Nov. 18 (m.ob.).

SPARROWS, LONGSPURS AND BUNTINGS — Few observers were successful in identifying Le Conte's Sparrows; however, 20 were reported from Montgomery County, Ia., Oct. 13 (RMy); most were found were present in early-to-mid-October. Sharp-tailed Sparrows were even more scarce than the previous species with only five reports: Aug. 25 - Sept. 27. A Lark Sparrow was still present at Chicago Oct. 8 (REI). A Slate-colored Junco arrived at Okolona, Ky., by Sept. 11 (DP); the species was down in numbers in many areas. Tree Sparrows were definitely scarce. Up to five Clay-colored Sparrows were present in the Chicago area Aug. 21 (RB) - Sept. 30 (JL). There was a paucity of White-crowned Sparrows but fairly good numbers of White-throated Sparrows. Two Fox Sparrows had arrived at Louisville by Sept. 28 (DP). Up to 532 Swamp Sparrows were present at Winous Pt., O., Oct. 5 (JP). The first Lapland Longspurs were detected Sept. 20 at Huron, O. (TL) and Sept. 26 at Col. (J); they arrived in n.e. Iowa by Oct. 7 (JS); Chicago Oct. 13 (JL); and Spfld., Oct. 23 (H); the greatest numbers appeared in early November. Three fall records for Smith's Longspur were received: nine birds at Spfld., Nov. 4 (H); six at Lawrenceville, Ill., Nov. 4 (LH) and one at Clinton, Ill., Nov. 11 (RC). Snow Buntings appeared by the end of October and one had arrived near Spfld., by Nov. 4 (H); the species apparently penetrates the n.e. portion of our Region one to two weeks earlier than the other n. areas as peaks of more than 500 were reported from Huron, O., by Nov. 6 (JP) but only first arrived at Chicago (JL) and n.e. Iowa (DK) Nov. 10; an incredible number passed by Mich.C., Nov. 18-25 1000-2000/hour were noted Nov. 24 (CK).

ADDENDA — A photograph documents the presence of three White Ibises at Crestwood, Ky., Aug. 9, 1978 (RI), the record should be upgraded from the Unrecorded Records section. A Ruff occurred near Elgin, Ill., May 5-6 (RM *et al.*). A Say's Phoebe was noted near Akron, Ia., June 6, 1979 (TSt *et al.*).

EXOTICS — A free-flying Am. Flamingo appeared at Winous Pt., O., Oct. 5 (†JP) and may have been the same one at Findlay, O., Oct. 29 (Fry). A Ruddy Shelduck was encountered at O.W.R., through Oct. 7 (LV, m.ob.). Small numbers of Monk Parakeets have been regularly observed in the Chicago area (m.ob.).

CONTRIBUTORS — (Subregional Editors'

names in bold face type, contributors are requested to send their reports to these editors.) Major contributors (A) Richard Anderson, (H) David Bohlen, (J) **Bruce Peterjohn** (Ohio), (K) **Vernon Kleen** (Illinois), (M) William Klamm, (P) Peter Petersen, (S) **Anne Stamm** (Kentucky) (T) **Thomas Kent** (Iowa), (W) Arthur Wiseman, other observers and reporters included: K. Anderson, D. Arvin, L. Augustine, L. Balch, T. Barker (TBa), A. Barron (ABA), K. Bartel, T. Bartlett (TB), P. Bauer (Pb), C. Becker, D. Bierman, P. Biggers (PBi), R. Biss (RB), R. Bjorklund (RBj), G. Black, K. Brock, M. Brown, W. Brown, A. Bruner (ABr), V. Buchholtz, E. Burstatte, B. Buskirk, T. Cable (TC), J. Campbell, M. Campbell, L. Carter, T. Carter (TCa), R. Chapel (RC), D. Collins (DC), R. Collins (RCo), D. Cosken (DCo), R. Crompton (RCr), R. Cummins (RCu), S. Dillon, J. Dinsmore, R. Eiseman (REi), E. Elder, J. & D. Elmore (JEl), R. Erickson (REr), J. Erwin (JEr), D. Fight (DFi), D. Fischer (DF), T. French (TF), J. Fry (Fry), C. Gambill, B. Gelman (BGe), I. Getscher, B. Gill (BG), S. Glass, R. Goetz (RGo), J. Greer, P. Grube, R. Gustafson (RGu), J. Hancock (JHa), R. Hannikman, D. Harr (DHa), L. Harrison, F. Harty, J. Haw (Haw), J. Hill (JHi), D. & J. Hoffman (DHo), E. Hopkins, V. Humphreys, B. Hunt, P. Hyatt, R. Irmischer, V. Inman, P. Jack, C. Johnson, D. Johnson (DJ), D. Jones (DJo), J. Keegan (JKe), **Charles Keller** (Indiana), T. Keller, D. Kline (DKi), R. Knisley (RKn), J. Knoblauch (JKn), P. Knoop, D. Koenig (DK), R. Koroter (RK), J. Krull (JK), J. Landing, T. LePage, F. Loetscher, W. Marcisz, C. Mathena (CMA), P. Mascuch, I. McLure, L. McKeown (LM), L. McNeely (LMc), C. Mills (CM), R. Montgomery (RM), R. Morris (RMo), D. Mosman, R. Murray (RMu), R. Myers (RMy), W. Nelson, M. Newlon, H. Osmundson, M. Otter, B. Palmer-Ball, D. Parker, L. Parker (LP), L. Peavler (LPe), C. Peterson, R. Phipps, J. Pogacnik, T. Potter, W. Randle, L. Rauth (LRa), D. Rogers, L. Rosche (LRo), G. Rosenband, B. Rudden, S. Schacht, J. Schaufenbuel (JS), M. Scudder (MS), H. Shadowen, M. Shaefer (MSh), B. Shaw (BS), T. Shires (TSh), J. Smith (JSm), L. Smith, P. Snetsinger, J. Stafferahn (JSt), F. Stamm, R. Starr, B. Stehling (BSt), T. Store (TSt), D. Styer (DSt), D. Summerfield (DSu), J. Tebussek, F. Thompson, D. Thornburg, R. Thornburg, M. Travis, C. Tveekrem, L. Van Camp, D. VanDyk, N. Walker, H. Weber (HWe), H. West (HW), A. White, J. Williams, Z. Williams, B. Wilson, H. Wuestenfeld (HWu), J. Young, H. Zalatel, D. Zumeta — **VERNON M. KLEEN, Division of Wildlife Resources, Department of Conservation, Springfield, Ill. 62706.**



CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION /Robert D. Purrington

It is difficult not to be of two minds about the destruction wrought by a storm like hurricane *Frederic*. The gulf coastline has been shaped, in part, by the fury of tropical storms which have hurled themselves against it for centuries. The loss of habitat, whether coastal beaches, dunes, or woodlands, is only temporary. The loss of food crops, berries and seeds, may affect resident and winter populations for a season, or longer, but again the effects are mostly of short duration. It is sad to survey the damage to the landscape, familiar places will not be the same for years, and yet disasters of this sort serve to dramatize the folly of uncontrolled coastal development which has ravished the delicate beach and marsh ecosystems. The human dimension of the storm destruction is tragic, especially as it often involves friends and fellow birders, and such losses cannot be rationalized. Yet it still may be true that to the extent that coastal development is inhibited by the devastation of a *Camille* or a *Frederic*, then its effects are not completely negative.

Frederic was a storm not soon to be forgotten by those in coastal Mississippi, Alabama, and Northwestern Florida, who suffered through the long afternoon and night of September 12-13. Some solace was provided by the storm-driven waifs which turned up in the wake of the storm, notably those recorded by Ralph Havard and Phil Kilpatrick, who rode out the storm on Dauphin Island, just east of where the eye came ashore.

The other major story of the fall was provided by a spectacular influx of western vagrants, including most of the classic western stragglers to this Region, some in unprecedented numbers. As was remarked in these pages last fall, the forces which determine the timing and extent of the western "invasion," as it fluctuates from one year to the next, are still largely a mystery. Persistent southwesterly winds undoubtedly play a role, as do regular frontal intrusions. But whether factors intrinsic to the breeding grounds play a role, e.g., breeding success, food supply, etc., is unknown. The frontal passages of late September and early October apparently resulted in the largest movement of western vagrants into the Region, which, in Louisiana at least, led to remarkable results afield on the weekend of October 6-7. This is, of course, the peak of normal migration as well, and is a period of especially heavy birding.

Except for the tropical weather, which featured hurricane *Bob* as well as *Frederic*, the season was without any significant meteorological pattern. Golden-crowned Kinglet provided the only suggestion of a boreal influx with observers Regionwide of one voice in noting the large numbers of this species. Its occurrence is notably erratic, but this year's numbers were especially welcome considering recent losses.

Peak movements of raptors were noted following the fronts of September 22 and November 3 in much of the Region. Two weeks spent by Ortego on an oil rig 30 miles southwest of Venice in September yielded no seabirds of importance but the sightings of eleven passerine species including a Nashville Warbler were interesting, as were a Peregrine Falcon and a Merlin he observed.

LOONS THROUGH FLAMINGO — A Red-throated Loon was seen at L. Millwood Nov. 10 (CM), the first for that locality and apparently the fifth record for the state. There was an extremely early Eared Grebe at Hattiesburg, Miss., Aug. 13 (TF, RM, PR), while early individuals at Marion, Ala., Sept. 12 & 19 (ALM *et al.*) and near Grand I., La., Sept. 15 (DH, KH) — the earliest ever for Louisiana — may have resulted from the conditions created by hurricane *Frederic*. A Western Grebe was present at the Hattiesburg Sewage Ponds Sept. 15 - Nov. 11 (TF, RM, PSR, LG), establishing one of the first records for Mississippi.

A Sooty Shearwater 30 mi off the Alabama coast Sept. 8 (JEK) provided the second record for these waters. Three seen four days later at Dauphin I., just ahead of *Frederic*, along with 15-20 Cory's Shearwaters, the second occurrence for Alabama, were among the records of pelagic species accumulated by Havard and Kilpatrick. Single Gannets were found dead between Ft. Pickens and Perdido Bay, Fla., July 7 (LS), Aug. 25 (WV), and Sept. 1 (LS); there was a previous August record, but all are remarkable. Another was seen at Gulf Breeze, Fla., Aug. 30 (LD). On Nov. 18 an imm. *Sulid* was seen 18 mi s.e. of Grand I., La. An imm. cormorant photographed at Bellefontaine Beach, Jackson Co., Miss., Aug. 4 (JAT, MH) was clearly an Olivaceous Cormorant, the first for Mississippi. A Cattle Egret at Nashville Nov. 24 (RR) was the latest there by over three weeks. A peak of 200 Wood Ibises was reported at the Morganza Spillway, La., Sept. 23 (DWG); ten Roseate Spoonbills, rare away from the coast, were also present. The origin of a flamingo (species unknown) present in mid-October in Cameron Par. (MR, JS, JW) is unknown, but certainly suspect.

GEESE AND DUCKS — A count of 63 White-fronted Geese at L. Millwood, Ark., Oct. 14 (CM) was unusual, while one two days later at Ft. Morgan, Ala. (GDJ) was the earliest ever for Alabama. Similarly early was a Snow Goose at Pace, Fla., Sept. 29, the earliest for n.w. Florida by over two weeks. A very early Gadwall was at Hattiesburg Aug. 16 (PSR, TF, RM). Also early there were two Green-winged Teals Aug. 23 (TF). Blue-winged Teal numbers reached 600 in Lonoke County, Ark., Aug. 26 (HP, MP), while a few Cinnamon Teal were present in Cameron Par., in October and November.

A very early Am. Wigeon was at Hattiesburg Sept. 13 (LG, TF), while a nearly complete albino of this species was identified at Wheeler N.W.R., Nov. 24 (RWL). A Redhead at Pensacola Sept. 29 (BP, GP, PR) was the first September record for the Florida section; there were a few reports indicating slightly increased numbers. Very early Lesser Scaups



were found in Hancock County, Miss., Sept. 15 (JAT) and on L. Pontchartrain at New Orleans Sept. 30 (RDP, NN), the earliest for s.e. Louisiana by two weeks. Also early was an Am. Goldeneye Oct. 30 near Decatur, Ala. (DCH). A total of four White-winged Scoters was reported Oct. 25 - Nov. 23 at inland localities in Arkansas, middle Tennessee, and n. Alabama. Two Surf Scoters were seen, one near Birmingham Oct. 6 (ALM, HHW) and another at Nashville Nov. 18 (WM, GM, MLB).

DIURNAL RAPTORS — A Swallow-tailed Kite at Pace, Fla., Sept. 10 (BM, JM) was the latest ever for n.w. Florida by nearly two weeks, and reports of Mississippi Kites from Arkansas and middle Tennessee, including a count of 139 in Union County, Ark., during August, were gratifying. A single bird in Desoto County, Miss., Sept. 23 (RP) was quite late. The only Goshawk report was of a male seen eating a Mockingbird at a Gulf Breeze, Fla., feeder Nov. 4 (DB, JB). This established the first record for n.w. Florida. Sharp-shinned Hawks continued to hold their own or perhaps increase in numbers, with by far the biggest count being 30±/hr between 8:30 and 10:00 a.m., on the St. Joseph Pen., Fla., Oct. 14 (TFR). The eight Cooper's Hawks actually reported shed little light on the status of this raptor. A count of 87 Broad-winged Hawks in W. Feliciana Par., Sept. 22 (PMcK, PO, MBu) was a substantial number for c. Louisiana, which is rather far from the traditional flyways for this species. Two flocks totalling 1200 seen migrating a day later in Scott County, Ark. (MP, HP) were in an area where such flights are a regular fall occurrence. A count of 400 passing Gulf Breeze, Fla., Sept. 24 (LD) highlighted a season there in which 914 raptors were seen, including 659 Broad-winged. Swainson's Hawks are considered extremely rare stragglers to c. and s. Louisiana; this fall there were three records totalling nine birds: two on Aug. 26 in Pt. Coupee Par. (DBC, PMcK), five on Oct. 14 at Venice (RDP, MB), and one on Nov. 10 at the Bonnet Carre Spillway (RJS, MW). The four previous records for s.e. Louisiana were of single birds. Unusual records of Rough-legged Hawks included single light-phase individuals at Gulf Breeze, Fla., Nov. 3 (LD), the second record for the

section, and in the Atchafalaya Floodway Nov 10 (DF,CF,MJ).

The only report of a Golden Eagle was of one at Gulf Breeze Nov. 11 (LD,RD,SD,OF). Reports of at least 22 Bald Eagles were received, including nine adults and five immatures. This included the return of pairs to nests at White Kitchen, St. Tammany Par., La., and near Gulfport, Miss. Marsh Hawks returned in good numbers and 40+ Ospreys were reported, including a total of 18 on Sept. 8 - Oct. 22 at L. Millwood, Ark. (CM) and 14 from the Mississippi coast (JAT). Two Caracaras at Lacassine Ref., La., Oct. 30 (RBH) were in an area where they have not previously been reported. There were reports of ten Peregrine Falcons: five from Louisiana, two from Arkansas, one from coastal Mississippi, and two in n.w. Florida. At least 19 Merlins were counted, including six at one time in New Orleans in October (*vide* MB).

COOTS, GALLINULES, AND SHORE-BIRDS — Peak numbers of Am. Coots in Lonoke County, Ark., were 6000 Nov. 3 (HH, EH). A very late Purple Gallinule was seen in Hancock County, Miss., Nov. 29 (JAT,BT). Readers are directed to a recent article in *Wils. Bull.* (91:469, 1979) in which it is reported that a one-day old Am. Woodcock banded at Wheeler N.W.R., Mar. 3, 1976 was shot in Michigan Oct. 1 of the same year. A single Am. Woodcock at New Orleans Aug. 5 (JR), assumed to be a fall migrant, was the earliest ever for s.e. Louisiana. A Long-billed Curlew at the Morganza Spillway Sept. 16 (DWG) provided an unusual inland record, as did two in New Orleans Nov. 22 (AS), the first records for the immediate vicinity of New Orleans. Evidence of nesting of Spotted Sandpipers near Decatur, Ala., was again found, with two adults and two young seen June 18 (DCH). Willets were found at the inland Bonnet Carre Spillway, La., Aug. 18 - Nov. 10 (RJS,MW), and at L. Millwood, Ark., Aug. 19 (CM). Also unusual were Red Knots in New Orleans Oct. 31 (JR) and at the Bonnet Carre Spillway Nov. 10 (RJS,MW); White-rumped Sandpipers in early September in New Orleans, at the Pascagoula R. marsh, Miss., at Eufala Ref., Ala., and at L. Millwood were all unusual for fall. A Stilt Sandpiper at Pace, Fla., Nov. 11 (OF,JA,BM) was the latest ever there in fall; similarly late was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at L. Millwood Oct. 4 (CM). A Hudsonian Godwit, rare anywhere in the Region in fall, was seen in Baton Rouge, La., Oct. 28 (GL,JL), the first ever there. A Sanderling at L. Millwood Nov. 14 (CM) was unprecedentedly late for Arkansas by two weeks. The fourth record for Arkansas of Red Phalarope was of one at L. Millwood Oct. 18 (CM), the second record there in the past three years.

JAEGERS, GULLS AND TERNS — In part because of hurricanes *Bob* and *Frederic*, Larids provided an unusual amount of excitement this fall, especially in Alabama. A **Long-tailed Jaeger**, the first for Alabama, was seen just ahead of *Frederic* at the Dauphin I. bridge Sept. 10 (CCD) and at the same location in the teeth of the storm Sept. 12 (RH, PK). For the sixth consecutive year, the Great Black-backed Gull was recorded in n.w. Florida, in this case a bird at Ft. Pickens Aug. 22 (MMA) and Nov. 22 at Destin (RD,EL). An imm. **Black-headed Gull**, the second for Alabama,

was seen at Marion Sept. 14 (CB,PB), two days after the storm. The description included mention of size approaching that of a Laughing Gull, black-tipped yellow bill, black "terminal" band, primaries dark below. A Laughing Gull was unusual at the inland location of Decatur, Ala., July 29 - Aug. 3 (DCH,RWL, ALM,HHW); there were also inland records associated with *Frederic*. More surprising were ad. Franklin's Gulls at Decatur July 30 (*vide* TAI) and Aug. 30 (ALM,HHW). The total of 696 recorded at L. Millwood Sept. 23 - Nov. 30 (CM) was unprecedented. In Cameron Par., La., the species was frequently seen in October and early November. Another contribution of hurricane *Frederic* was an ad. **Black-legged Kittiwake** at Dauphin I., Sept. 12 (RH,PK) just ahead of the storm. There were no previous Alabama records. Single Sabine's Gulls sighted at L. Millwood Oct. 6 & 21 by Mills were preceded by only one other record for Arkansas. Two days ahead of *Frederic*, Sept. 10, three ad. Roseate Terns were seen at Dauphin I. (ALM,BJ,MS,HHW) for the fourth Alabama record (*vide* TAI). The first record of Sooty Tern for New Orleans was of two seen and photographed the day after hurricane *Bob* (MB,m.ob.). Fifty or more recorded by Havard and Kilpatrick on Dauphin I., Sept. 12 as *Frederic* approached, exceeded previous high counts for Alabama. The numbers made it unlikely they were from the colony on the Chandeleur Is., whose total numbers with young would be 100±. Thirty had been reported at Dauphin I., July 11 after *Bob*. Bridled Terns were seen on Dauphin I., as *Frederic* drew near but there had been numerous sightings off Alabama during June and July. Up to six seen (ph. — L.S.U.M.Z.) 70 mi s.s.e. of Grand I., July 21 by many observers represented the second Louisiana record except for storm-driven birds. It has become clear from these and other observations that Bridled Terns are probably regular in summer off the c. Gulf Coast. Caspian Terns were present in unusual numbers at L. Millwood and in Dyer County, Tenn., in September and October, perhaps a consequence of the hurricane. Certainly a product of *Frederic* was a **Brown Noddy** in Mobile Sept. 13 (GDJ), the third record for Alabama, all hurricane-related.

PARAKEETS THROUGH HUMMING-BIRDS — A Monk Parakeet seen in Memphis Oct. 27 (FW) furnished the second record for w. Tennessee of this troublesome species. Apparently gathering for trans-Gulf flight were 100+ Yellow-billed Cuckoos in Escambia County, Fla., Oct. 23 (OF). Although unrecorded prior to 1965, a few Groove-billed Anis find their way to n.w. Florida each fall; this year there were two records. One in E. Baton Rouge Par., Oct. 28 (SC,VR,LH) was unusual at that inland locality. A Long-eared Owl watched for ten minutes at the Holla Bend Ref., Nov. 10 (WMS,MP,HP,HT) was the first live bird seen in Arkansas since at least 1974. A Whip-poor-will found dead in Craighead County, Ark., Oct. 10 (NL) was by 17 days the latest ever for the state; one singing Oct. 27 at Nashville (KAG,MGa) was the latest ever there by 10 days. Another was seen at Grand I., Nov. 18 (VR). A Lesser Nighthawk, the only reported this fall, was seen in Cameron Par., on the early date of Sept. 1 (PMcK,BeMcK). The observation of hundreds of Chimney

Swifts migrating against strong S winds on the early evening of Oct. 19 (Halbergs) is interesting in view of the controversy over the effect of wind direction on avian migration. After several years of anticipation, Louisiana finally got its first **Anna's Hummingbirds**, a female Nov. 10 (SC,L.S.U.M.Z.) and an imm. male seen and heard Nov. 11, 18-19 at the same spot (VR,RJN, m.ob.). A very early imm. ♂ Rufous Hummingbird was seen on Dauphin I., Aug. 4 (HHK). Activity at New Orleans feeders was again high, especially during the first 10 days of October when the movement of Rufous and Black-chinned hummingbirds was quite strong, although outnumbered by Ruby-throateds (*vide* NLN). A number of Rufous and Black-chinned hummingbirds, along with one or more possible Allen's were apparently wintering. An ad. ♂ Ruby-throated Hummingbird in Cameron Par., Nov. 18 (NLN,PN,SAH, DBC) was very late.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH PIPITS — A **Yellow-bellied (Red-naped) Sapsucker** was discovered in Cameron Par., Oct. 6 (DBC,JS, SAH), on the weekend of a massive W movement, represented the second Louisiana record of this race. Among records of W. Kingbirds this fall was one from Jackson County in Alabama's Tennessee Valley Sept. 16 (JJ), the earliest inland record for the state. A **Cassin's Kingbird**, the second for Louisiana, was seen Oct. 6 in Cameron Par. (JS). It might be mentioned at this point that this and all other observations of birds on the Louisiana Review List will be considered by the newly formed Louisiana Bird Committee (c/o L.S.U.M.Z.) Also documenting the large W influx evident Oct. 6-7 in s.w. Louisiana was a count of 500+ Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in Cameron and Calcasieu parishes (DBC,SAH,JS). A Great Crested Flycatcher at New Orleans Oct. 7 (RDP,SP,JP) was the latest ever for s.e. Louisiana, while earliest ever for the Baton Rouge area was an E. Phoebe Sept. 3 (DH,KH) in view of the paucity of information on the relative frequency of the migrant *Empidonax* flycatchers in the Region, the following records are important: Least Flycatcher, four banded Oct. 11 (LD); Alder, one banded Sept. 29 (LD); Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, one banded Sept. 5 (LD), all at Gulf Breeze, Fla., and one Yellow-bellied Flycatcher seen and heard at Hattiesburg, Miss., Sept. 3 (LG,TF). Pending further critical examination, two pewees in Cameron Par., Oct. 6 & 21 (*vide* VR) have been tentatively identified as **Western Wood Pewees**. Both had gray backs, dark breast band, and dark lower mandibles. Earliest ever at Gulf Breeze, Fla., by three days was an Olive-sided Flycatcher Aug. 15 (RD,LD,SD) At least four Vermilion Flycatchers were seen during the fall in New Orleans, with one being present through the end of the period. Two others were reported from s.w. Louisiana Latest for Alabama in fall but for a single winter record was a Barn Swallow at Gulf Shores Nov. 30 (GDJ,DGJ). An ad. Blue Jay feeding a juvenile Nov. 5 in Metairie, La (NLN) represented a surprisingly late nesting. A very tame Sage Thrasher at New Orleans Oct. 27-28 (JR,m.ob.) furnished the fifth record for Louisiana (ph.,L.S.U.M.Z.), but one in Craighead County, Ark., Nov. 24 (NL,CL,EP, EJ) was the first ever for that state. Definitive photographs were obtained of this **Sage Thrasher** as well. Earliest ever for Louisiana in



Sage Thrasher, New Orleans, La., Oct. 27, 1979. Photo/R. D. Purrington.

fall was a Swainson's Thrush in Cameron Par., Sept. 8 (DH,KH). Golden-crowned Kinglets staged something of an invasion this fall, highlighted by 20 seen by Reinoehl at New Orleans in migration Oct. 25. Sprague's Pipits were also seen in unusual numbers in s. Louisiana, especially at the Bonnet Carre Spillway where they are regular (RJS,MW), and New Orleans had its first records in several years (JR).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A Bell's Vireo watched singing at Hattiesburg Aug. 11 (LG) was unusual enough merely for its presence there; the date was quite astonishing, especially for a bird which was singing constantly. A total of 15 Tennessee Warblers Nov. 10 in Cameron Par. (VR,SC) was unusual for so late a date; on the other hand, an Orange-crowned Warbler at Grand I., Sept. 22 (DBC,PN,NLN) was the earliest ever for Louisiana. Nashville Warblers were encountered with unusual frequency in s.e. Louisiana where they are considered rare: one Sept. 22 (JR), two Oct. 9-10 (JR,NN,BMcK). One was also seen in nearby Hattiesburg, Miss., Sept. 15 (LG). A Yellow Warbler in Forest County, Miss., Nov. 4 (TF) was late. Remarkable was a Cape May Warbler reported from Malvern, Ark., Nov. 26 (MP); this was the third fall record for the state and the latest by more than a month. A late Magnolia Warbler was at Hattiesburg, Miss., Nov. 18 (TF), and a ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler was seen in New Orleans Sept. 23 (JR,m.ob.). The only Black-throated Gray Warbler reported was one in Cameron Par., Nov. 10 (VR,SC). A Cerulean Warbler near Cameron Oct. 20 (VR,SC,LH) was the latest ever for Louisiana, while a Blackpoll Warbler there on the same date (VR,SC,LH,*L.S.U.M.Z.) provided the second fall specimen for the state. A careful sight record of one in New Orleans Oct. 9-10 (JR,NN) furnished the fourth fall record for Louisiana. A **Connecticut Warbler**, only the fourth Louisiana record, was seen by many observers at the L.O.S. fall meeting in Cameron Oct. 20 (HHJ,DTK *et al.*). The bird had a gray hood, no black in the throat, complete eye ring, and long yellow under-tail coverts. Of Mourning Warblers there were four n.w. Florida sightings, all of single birds Sept. 5-9 and Oct. 19 (RD,OF, MG,LD). These represented the earliest and latest records for that section. The species was

also noted in Chicot County, Ark., Oct. 17-18 (NH). Very early was a ♂ Wilson's Warbler in Ascension Par., Aug. 26 (DH), while one on Dauphin I., Sept. 3 (GDJ,DGJ) was the earliest ever for Alabama. American Redstarts were thought to be more common than usual this fall in the Nashville area (T.O.S.).

ICTERIDAE, FRINGILLIDAE — Records of Bobolinks in September from s.e. Louisiana (RJS,RDP,MM,NN), along with other recent sightings indicate that the species may be regular in small numbers in fall. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were encountered near Grand I., La., Sept. 22 (DBC,PN,NLN) and in Cameron Par., Oct. 6 (DBC,SAH). The existence of a localized resident population of Great-tailed Grackles in s.w. Arkansas is exemplified by >30 seen in Miller County Nov. 22 (CM). Single W. Tanagers were noted at Hattiesburg, Miss., Sept. 29 (LG,TF) and in Cameron Par., Oct. 7 (JS,DBC,SAH). A surprising concentration of five Black-headed Grosbeaks was present in Peveto Beach Woods, Cameron Par., Oct. 14 (DBC,SAH). Only one report of Evening Grosbeaks was received, of a lone bird in Sumner County, Tenn., Nov. 30 (BH). Single ♂-plumaged House Finches were seen in Sumner County Nov. 15-30+ (DC,PC), and Nov. 17 in Decatur, Ala. (RWL,LAL). The latter was the sixth record for Alabama. There is every indication that the species continues to spread slowly. There were a few reports of Pine Siskins, but no suggestion of a sizable influx. The fourth record for Louisiana of **Great-tailed Towhee** was of one in Cameron Par., Oct. 14 (DBC,SAH). A Rufous-sided Towhee heard in Desha County, Ark., along with records during the past three nesting seasons strongly suggests nesting there. A **Lark Bunting** seen near Grand I., Sept. 22 (DBC,PN,NLN) provided the third record for Louisiana, all from the s.e. corner of the state. An early arriving Vesper Sparrow seen Sept. 29 in Escambia County, Fla. (BP,GP,PR) was the earliest ever by six days; also early was a Dark-eyed (*hyemalis*) Junco at New Orleans Oct. 10 (RDP). A **Tree Sparrow** was reported from Hattiesburg, Miss., Oct. 28 (RM,TF,PSR) and Nov. 4 (LG). Although submitted details were sketchy, the bird was reportedly photographed (TF). Clay-colored Sparrows seemingly staged a major movement into Louisiana this fall, with reports totalling 16-20 individuals. At New Orleans the records were one Sept. 11, two Oct. 9-10, three Oct. 13-17, and three Oct. 23-25. Apparently all were different individuals, all found by Reinoehl but seen by others. There were four records from s.e. Louisiana before 1977. In s.w. Louisiana two were seen Oct. 6, and four Oct. 14, and one Nov. 10, all



McCown's Longspur, New Orleans, La., Dec. 1, 1979. Photo/R. D. Purrington.

in different Cameron Par. locations. Reports of longspurs included one Lapland at Birmingham on the remarkable date of Sept. 1 (CB,VGB,HHK,RCS), and another Nov. 29 at New Orleans (JR,NN). A very tame **McCown's Longspur** at New Orleans Nov. 30 - Dec. 1 (JR, m.ob.), furnished the first record for Louisiana (*L.S.U.M.Z.).

CONTRIBUTORS (area editors in bold-face) — Jackson Abbott, Duk Ballmann, Jane Ballmann, **Michael L. Bierly**, Charles Brasfield, Peggy Brasfield, Velma G. Brasfield, Mike Braun, Merl Butler (MBU), Steve Cardiff, **Ben Coffey**, **Curtis L. Christenberry**, Dot Crawford, Paul Crawford, D. Bruce Crider, Charles C. Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Robert Duncan, Scott Duncan, Terrie Fairley, Doris Falkenheimer, Owen Fang, Tom Francis (TFR), Charles Freyling, Mel Garland (MGa), Larry Gates, Katherine A. Goodpasture, Mary Gray, Dale W. Gustin, Bessie Hagan, Edith Halberg, Henry Halberg, Linda Hale, Robert B. Hamilton, Dudley Harrington, Kathleen Harrington, Ralph Havard, Stan A. Heath, Malcolm Hodges, D. C. Huise, **Thomas A. Imhof**, Debra G. Jackson, Greg D. Jackson, Michael Jenkinson, Horance H. Jeter, Evalyn Johnston, Betty Joiner, D. T. Kee, James E. Keeler, Phil Kilpatrick, Helen H. Kittinger, Cheryl Lavers, Norman Lavers, Eric Lefstad, Gary Lester, Josette Lester, Laurie A. Lowe, Roy W. Lowe, Mike Magley (MMA), Bill McKee (BMcK), Becky McKenzie (BeMcK), Paul McKenzie (PMcK), Ann L. Miller, William Milliken, Gloria Milliken, Charles Mills, Bill Milmore, Judy Mulmore, Richard Moore, Mac Myers, Norton Nelkin, Nancy L. Newfield, Paul Newfield, **Robert J. Newman**, Peter Osenton, Helen Parker, Max Parker, Rob Peeples, Bill Plaia, Gayle Plaia, Ed Price, Robert D. Purrington, Jackie Purrington, Stephen Purrington, Mac Read, Jack Reinoehl, Van Remsen, Rich Rimmer, Pedro S. Rodriguez, Phaene Ross, Madge Scharber, Rose C. Schatz, William M. Shepherd, Loetta Simmons, Jo Sims (JSi), Al Smalley, Ronald J. Stein, Jim Stewart, H. Terelius, Judy A. Toups, Bill Turcotte, Wayne Valentine, Melvin Weber, Jim Whelan, Freeman Wright, Harriet H. Wright. — **ROBERT D. PURRINGTON, Dept. of Physics, Tulane University, New Orleans, La. 70118.**

PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION **/Wayne C. Harris**

Except for August 13 when temperatures dropped to as low as -3°C (one of the earliest and most widespread frosts on record), the month could be summarized as very hot and dry. The entire fall period followed the August pattern of unseasonably warm temperatures with little precipitation. The period ended with continuing mild weather and many areas still had no snow.

The warm weather and lack of snow cover resulted in almost every reported species being seen at one locality at least at a record late date. Besides the myriad of late dates, an unusually high number of rarities was reported,

resulting in this being one of the most exciting fall migrations in recent history

Large concentrations of birds were rare undoubtedly because of major fronts moved through, to ground migrants or force them to shelter. This is particularly true of the passerines.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — Common Loon numbers peaked in Saskatchewan during late September and early October with 14 on Sept. 27 on Wappawekka L., Sask., and 13 on Oct. 3 at Round L. (WCH, DF). Reports of Arctic Loons away from the coastal waters of Hudson Bay are a rarity in this Region, thus an adult and two imm. **Arctic Loons** at Oak Lake (DRMH) provided the first record for s. Manitoba and another individual at Regina Oct. 14-22 (RK,FWL, ph.) warrant mention. Red-throated Loons are seldom recorded during fall at Churchill, consequently one seen there Sept. 2 was of interest (BAC) and a single at Beaverhill L., Alta., in November constituted a rarity (DD). Extreme late dates were recorded for Double-crested Cormorants with singles at Lockport, Man., Nov. 26 (RFK) and Regina Beach, Sask., Nov. 20 (RK,BL).

HERONS, EGRETS, BITTERNS — Great Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons appear to be recovering after several low years, however Am. Bittern numbers remained very low at a majority of reporting locales. Great Blue Herons remained much later than usual with singles Nov. 18 at Pierson and Ninette, Man., and Maidstone (RW, D. Stewart, SML). A Green Heron at Winnipeg Aug. 1-2 was a rarity. The three egret species have continued to increase in the Region to a point where they are considered regular but rare. Four Cattle Egrets were at Oak Hammock Marsh, Man. (hereafter, Oak Hammock) Aug. 24 (M. Siepmann), and a single was at Spring Valley Oct. 24-30 (FB). Great Egret reports were all from Manitoba with two at L. Francois Aug. 29, and singles at Brandon Sept. 6, and Oak Hammock Sept. 9 (CWC,RFK,GDG). The only Snowy Egret reported was from Oak Hammock where a single bird was present Aug. 1-25 (B. Cameron). A Black-crowned Night Heron Oct. 29 at Delta provided a record-late date for Manitoba.

WATERFOWL — A **Bewick's Swan** at Regina Oct. 9 (BL) followed last year's well documented occurrence. A concentration of 100,000 Snow Geese at Oak Hammock during late September was noteworthy as s. Manitoba is more noted for its spring staging rather than fall. There were two reports of Ross' Geese from s. Manitoba with 16 at Lynch's Pt., Sept. 22 (GEH,IAW) and nine at Oak Hammock Sept. 29 (GDG). These, combined with increasing concentrations at Saskatoon, 3000 present Sept. 13-22 (GWB,AD), suggest a possible shift from traditional staging areas in e. Alberta and extreme w. Saskatchewan. There were numerous reports for the s. portion of the Region of rare ducks. A Barrow's Goldeneye Nov. 12 at Edmonton (JF); Harlequin Ducks at Grand Beach, Man., Oct. 28 and Lockport, Man., Nov. 10-27; Black Scoters at Delta Sept. 25 and Oct. 5, at St. Ambroise, Man., Oct. 8, and at Regina Sept. 23 - Oct. 1 (CWC, RFK,RK). In addition to these there were unprecedented numbers of Oldsquaw in s.

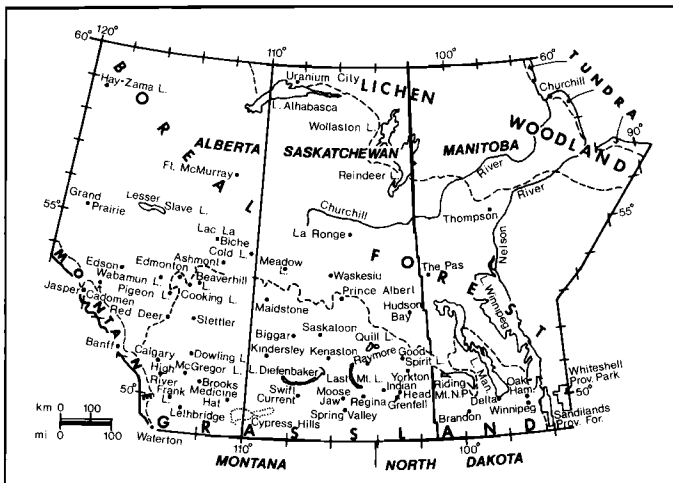
Manitoba with five different localities reporting 11 individuals Oct. 8 - Nov. 17 (*vide* HWRC), as well as a single at Regina Beach, Sask., Nov. 12 (BL).

HAWKS, EAGLES, FALCONS — *Accipiter* numbers appeared average in the s. parts of the Region. Goshawk populations however, are reported to be very high in forested Saskatchewan (WCH,SML). Large concentrations of Swainson's Hawks were recorded at Regina with 100 Sept. 22, and 75 Sept. 27 (RK). Hawk rarities included a Broad-winged at the Wildlife Reserve of Western Canada, 6 mi s.w. of Bottrel, Alta. (hereafter, W.R.W.C.) Sept. 9 and a Ferruginous at Oak Hammock during late August and early September, only the second or third record in recent times in s. Manitoba (WPN,ph.). A count of 55 eagles Oct. 29, s. of Kyle, was noteworthy (JBG,BWJ). Of these only three were ad. Bald Eagles, the remainder being dark. Gyrfalcons may be making another S invasion with seven sightings in s. Manitoba (*vide* HWRC) and four in s. Saskatchewan (BCG, SOJ *et al.*). At Churchill there were an additional six Gyrfalcon sightings (BAC). Peregrine Falcons were reported from four s. Manitoba localities and an additional 11 sightings at Churchill in n. Manitoba, while Saskatchewan had nine sightings (HWRC,BAC,GJW, MAG).

GALLIFORMES THROUGH COOTS — Both Ruffed and Spruce grouse numbers are low in the forested areas of the Region. An excellent concentration of 400 Sharp-tailed Grouse was reported from Arborg, Man. (DRMH). We have all heard about the hazards birds are to aircraft, but a new twist to the hazard story occurred when a Sandhill Crane collided with a ship at Churchill. The bird, needless to say suffered injuries and was sent to s. Manitoba to recuperate. There was no report on the damages incurred by the ship (BAC).

There were sixteen Whooping Crane sightings from the region.

SHOREBIRDS — Record late dates prevailed throughout this group: a Killdeer at Dry Meat L., Alta., Nov. 20 (*vide* GRAE), an Am. Woodcock at Lac du Bonnet, Man., Oct. 28, a Baird's Sandpiper Nov. 4 at Oak Hammock, 12 White-rumped Sandpipers Oct. 7 at Churchill, and a Long-billed Dowitcher Nov. 11 at Lockport were the most extreme. There were also some excellent high counts and rarities. The largest flock of Long-billed Curlews ever recorded in the Region was of 90 feeding in one field near Harris, Sask., Aug. 6 (WER). A flock of 270 Black-bellied Plovers at Regina Aug. 23 and 80 Dunlins at Oak Hammock were exceptional counts for this Region. Hudsonian Godwits continue to stage in Saskatchewan with counts of 100+ at several localities and a peak of almost 2000 at Saskatoon Aug. 15 (WER,JBG,MIL). Rarities this fall included



two Buff-breasted Sandpipers Aug. 26 at W.R.W.C. (SJ), a **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** during November at Beaverhill L. (GRAE,DD) and a possible sighting of one from Oak Hammock Sept. 16 (AAM), and a **Western Sandpiper** Aug. 5 at Winnipeg (GEH).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS — This group easily provided the most rarities with no fewer than nine species recorded well outside their normal range. Parasitic Jaegers are extremely rare in the s. portions of this Region, thus sightings of singles at Beaverhill L. in November and at St. Ambroise, Man., Sept. 30 were noteworthy (DD,IAW,GEH). The St. Ambroise record was only the third or fourth in recent times for s. Manitoba. An unidentified jaeger was seen s. of Saskatoon Oct. 21 (BCG,KMM). Gull rarities included a Glaucous at Winnipeg Nov. 26-29 (seventh record in the past 25 years — NJC), an Iceland Gull Nov. 10-18 at Oak Hammock (RFK,ph.), a **Laughing Gull** at Churchill Aug. 9-14 (WCH) and an **Ivory Gull** at Churchill Oct. 8 (BAC). Two reports of Sabine's Gull were received, one found dead at St. Ambroise Sept. 22 (WPN) and one at Regina Beach Oct. 28-30 (MB,BL,ph.). Two California Gulls at Winnipeg Aug. 5 were recorded farther e. than for the past 20 years (GEH). Two Arctic Terns at Delta Sept. 22, provided only the second record for s. Manitoba (GEH,IAW). A single Caspian Tern at Good Spirit L., Sask., Aug. 15 furnished a first record for that area (WJA). A large concentration of 4700 Black Terns was at the n. end of Last Mountain L., Sask. (hereafter, N.L.M.L.) Aug. 5 (WCH).

OWLS THROUGH CORVIDS — A barely-fledged Screech Owl caught at a nest near Moose Jaw provided one of the few breeding records for this species in Saskatchewan (RK). A good one-day count of 19 Snowy Owls at N. L.M.L., Nov. 14 (PST) indicated that this species is up in numbers. Great Gray Owl numbers were high only in Manitoba where 125 sightings were reported during October and November (R.W.Nero). A **Rufous Hummingbird** at Selkirk, Man., early September - Oct. 18 provided the first confirmed record for Manitoba (*vide* HWRC,ph.). At Regina a ♂ hummingbird Sept. 2 was thought to be Rufous (TR). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were found s. of the forest in Saskatchewan with singles at Waseca Nov. 5, and Moose Jaw Sept. 26-27 (CDP,EWK). A **Scissor-**

tailed Flycatcher Aug. 18 at Whitemouth, Man., furnished that province's first record since 1952 (PT, WPN, ph.). Clark's Nutcracker, extremely rare e. of the Rockies, appeared at Frontier, Sask., Aug. 18 (JJW) and Kayville, Sask., Oct. 24-27 (DWR, FB).

THRUSHES THROUGH STARLING — An albino robin was seen near Cabri, Sask., Sept. 24-30 (BCG, BWJ). A Wood Thrush at Winnipeg Aug. 31, was considered unusual (*vide* HWRC). Varied Thrushes have become rare but regular transients in the Region. This year there were singles at Eastend (TD), Wolsley (JDH), Indian Head (MS), Saskatoon (EDS) and Regina (MB, FHB) in Saskatchewan and W.R.W.C., in Alberta (SJ).

Golden-crowned Kinglet populations indicated a recovery after being very low for the past 3 years, but were still below mid-70s levels. Loggerhead Shrike numbers were still low at several localities which warrants surveillance next year to see if they are indeed recovering as some observers have indicated (GJW). A Starling which remained at Churchill until the end of the period was the latest this species has ever remained at this n. Manitoba locality (BAC).

WARBLERS — Many species remained well beyond their normal departure dates.

Nashville Warblers were recorded at Lockport Oct. 14, Winnipeg Oct. 19, Stonewall, Man., Oct. 27 and an incredible Nov. 25 at Calgary (RJB) where the species is extremely rare at best. Other extremely late records were for Yellow-rumped Warbler at Kleefeld, Man., Nov. 2, and Winnipeg Nov. 13 and a Palm at Winnipeg Nov. 2 (D. Fast, J. Smolleck, DRMH). Species outside their normal range included Townsend's at W.R.W.C. (SJ), Golden-winged at Onanole, Man. (BR), and five Pine Warblers at Spring Valley (FB).

ICTERIDS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS — Orchard Orioles were recorded at two Manitoba localities with seven at Delta Aug. 7 (CWC) and one at Lyleton Aug. 2-3 (JLM). A Brewer's Blackbird at Churchill Oct. 29 was a first for that area (*vide* BAC). A flock of 33 Brown-headed Cowbirds at Churchill Aug. 26, was a good count for this n. locale (BAC). A Cardinal s. of Saskatoon from early August to Nov. 26 provided only the sixth Saskatchewan record for this species and the first in 7 years (LMH). A pair of **Black-headed Grosbeaks** at Kleefeld Aug. 25, was well n.e. of its normal range. The winter finch populations were very low throughout the Region with Evening Grosbeaks being down at most reporting locations and Pine Grosbeaks being virtually absent everywhere. Common Redpoll num-

bers were down throughout as were White-winged Crossbills. Red Crossbills were low everywhere except in s. Manitoba where populations were well above the past 2 years. A Clay-colored Sparrow Oct. 7 at Oak Hammock was an extremely late date for this Region (GEH).

CONTRIBUTORS — (Area editors in bold-face), ALBERTA — R. J. Butot, D. Dekker, G. R. A. Ebel, J. Faragher, S. Johnston. MANITOBA — B. A. Chartier, N. J. Cleveland, H. W. R. Copland, C. W. Cuthbert, D. R. M. Hatch, G. E. Holland, G. D. Grief, R. F. Koes, A. A. MacLean, J. L. Murray, W. P. Neily, B. Robinson, P. Taylor, I. A. Ward, R. Wange. SASKATCHEWAN — William & Joyce Anaka (WJA), M. Belcher, G. W. Beyersbergen, F. Bogdan, F. H. Brazier, T. Donald, A. Dzubin, D. Francis, B. C. Godwin, J. B. Gollop, M. A. Gollop, W. C. Harris, J. D. Hayward, C. S. Houston, L. M. Hoyte, B. W. Johns, S. O. Jordheim, E. W. Kern, R. Kreba, F. W. Lahrman, S. M. Lamont, M. J. Lewis, B. Luterbach, K. M. Meeres, C. D. Pike, W. E. Renaud, T. Riffel, D. W. Robinson, M. Skinner, E. D. Smith, P. S. Taylor, G. J. Waple, Jack & Janet Wilkinson (JJW). Photographed (ph.). — WAYNE C. HARRIS, Box 994, Prince Albert, Sask. S6V 5S5.

NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

/Esther M. Serr

Fall on the northern prairie was mild and dry throughout the period. As a result the reports were loaded with late dates for the regular species and several firsts were well-documented.

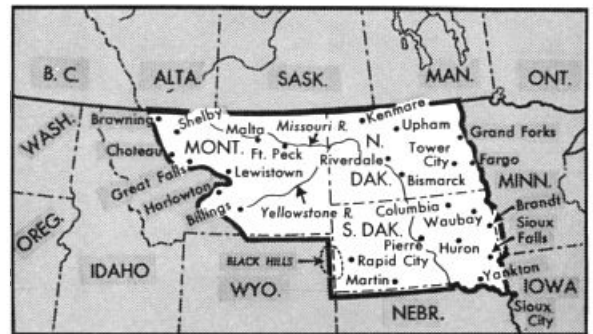
Birding west of and along the Missouri River in the Dakotas and Montana might be considered in the exploratory stage except for a very few small areas. Those few experienced birders covering this vast area have put forth much effort to check out sightings and to guide several teenagers and adult beginners who have added a great deal to our knowledge. Traveling birders have been helpful in submitting reports from areas in the Region where there are no local birders.

GREBES THROUGH IBISES — A total of 11 Red-necked Grebe sightings was unusual Aug. 19 - Nov. 21 in the Dakotas (LLW, GSL, DOL, CAF, WH). Among large numbers of White Pelicans present the following were reported: 115 at L. Ardoch N.W.R., Walsh Co., N.D. (SOL) and 50 still at the Peace Gardens, N.D., Oct. 23 (PCH). Four lingered in Clay County, S.D., Nov. 10 (W. E. Lemons, *vide* WH). Juveniles from 129 Double-crested Cormorant nests and 156 Great Blue Heron nests dispersed from the combined colony by Aug. 7 at the Tongue River Res., Mont. (NCF, BAS). A concentration of 260 Double-crested was on Golden L., Steele Co., N.D. (DLK).

Six Little Blue Herons were observed Aug. 20 at Sand Lake N.W.R., Columbia, S.D. (WAS). One Cattle Egret was very late Nov. 19 in Nelson County, N.D. (RKC). The last sighting of Great Egrets was Oct. 24 at Turtle L.,

McLean Co., N.D. (RQ, JGS). A Snowy Egret was at Freezeout L., Mont., Sept. 3 (HMM). A Least Bittern was seen Aug. 26 near Stratford, S.D. (ECM). White-faced Ibises were present this fall with eight reported from Sand Lake N.W.R., Aug. 1 and Sept. 3 (TKK) and 18 at Benton Lake N.W.R., Mont., Sept. 17 (PDS).

WATERFOWL — Five Trumpeter Swan cygnets were raised at the Weta Dam, Jackson Co., S.D. (E. Grimes, *vide* EMS). A Brant was in a flock of Canada Geese Oct. 6 at Sibley L., Kidder Co., N.D. (CAF). There were 400 White-fronted Geese at Salyer N.W.R., N.D., Sept. 23 (JFK, DOL) and a total of 9000 Sept. 29 at Fox L., Richmond Co., Mont. (TCH). Two Ross' Geese were at Sand Lake N.W.R., Sept. 30 (WAS) and one was shot at Rush L., N.D., Oct. 22 (K. Ray, *vide* DOL). A pair of **Fulvous Whistling Ducks** stayed at Stewart's Slough, Grand Forks Co., N.D., Aug. 1 - Sept. 2 (DOL, SOL, JFK). American Wigeon at Bowdoin N.W.R., Mont., numbered 25,000 during October and November (TWP). A Greater Scaup was at Big Alkali L., Kidder Co., N.D., Nov. 2 (CAF). A ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye was present at Canyon L., Rapid City, S.D., Nov. 25 (JLB *et al.*). Three Oldsquaw were reported on lakes in c. North Dakota Oct. 24 - Nov. 5 (RAS *et al.*) and one was photographed in Yankton County, S.D., Nov. 17-29 (WH). Wood Ducks peaked at 250 Sept. 15 at Fargo, N.D. (GIO). Three scoter species were found in North Dakota (JFK, RKC, DOL, CAF) while



only White-winged and Surf scoters were found in South Dakota Oct. 20 - Nov. 25 (DAT, WH). A Ruddy Duck with five young probably evidenced a second nesting Sept. 2 at Bowdoin N.W.R. (PDS, JCC, CMC).

RAPTORS — Two Goshawks were observed Sept. 9 and Oct. 10 in s. Custer County, S.D., where they are known to nest (MJP). One was along the Belly R., Glacier N.P., Oct. 7 (WCH, SML), and two were in Valley County, Mont., Nov. 13-16 (MWA). Cooper's Hawks migrated in modest numbers through the Region and were observed Aug. 23 - Nov. 13. They probably lingered around the Missouri R., until the water was frozen before moving to their wintering area. Several Sharp-shinned were caught in blackbird traps Aug. 1-15 at Arrowwood N.W.R., N.D. (JGS).

A Broad-winged Hawk was observed Sept. 27 at Oakwood Lakes, Brookings Co., S.D. (GCR). Over 100 Swainson's Hawks were kettling s.w. of Hettinger, N.D., Sept. 30 (JMS, GTS). Three Ospreys were sighted Aug. 29 and Nov. 21 at the Tongue River Res., Mont. (NCF). One was at L. Ardoch N.W.R.,

N.D., Sept. 22 (GSL *et al.*) and four were noted in South Dakota Sept. 9-30 (TKK, GLS, WH, RDM).

GALLIFORMES THROUGH CRANES — Gallinaceous species were reported as doing well in the Region but for Sage Grouse no reports were received!

One Whooping Crane banded in 1978 was at Medicine Lake N.W.R., Mont., Sept. 24-29 (MWA). Seven adults were seen in Burke and McLean Counties, N.D., Oct. 15-30 (*vide*, TMP). Montana and North Dakota had thousands of Sandhill Cranes Sept. 2 - Nov. 12 but only a few thousand were observed over South Dakota.

SHOREBIRDS — Migration was rather poor yet a few species stood out. Six Piping Plovers were seen Aug. 8 in Kidder County, N.D. (CAF) and four were in Clay County, S.D. (WH). Two Upland Sandpipers were very late in a field at Fargo Nov. 2 (MAB, CAS). A Short-billed Dowitcher was observed at Aberdeen, S.D. (DAT). It apparently is a common although rarely recognized migrant through the Dakotas. Long-billeds were estimated at 2000 each place: Benton Lake N.W.R., Havre and Bowdoin N.W.R., Mont., Aug. 31 - Sept. 3 (PDS). On Oct. 14 there were still 2500 in marshes at Upper Souris N.W.R., N.D. (GBB). Eleven Buff-breasted Sandpipers were unusual Aug. 5 - Sept. 13 near Grand Forks, N.D. (DOL, SOL).

JAEGERS THROUGH GULLS — An imm. jaeger of undetermined species was harassing birds at Stink L., Stutsman Co., N.D. (CAF). One of three gulls viewed with a 40x scope at about 300 ft as it sat on a rock in the Missouri R., below Ft. Peck Dam Sept. 23-26 (CMC) showed dark eyes while the other two had pale eyes. This was reported as a [rather unconvincing—Ed.] first Montana record for *Larus thayeri*. An imm. Sabine's Gull flew within 10 ft of the observers several times at Cooney Dam, Carbon Co., Mont. (G. Weber, HWC, BBF, RDF). Huge numbers of Franklin's Gulls again — as every year — passed through the Dakotas peaking at 18,000 in Kidder County Aug. 29 (CAF) and 40,000 Sept. 24-30 in Day, Brown and Clay counties, S.D. (LLW, ECM, RAP). At Chase L., N.D., there were 23 Com. Terns Aug. 19 (JGS, JRF).

OWLS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — A Snowy Owl was first seen Oct. 20 at Grand Forks (DOL). Chimney Swifts peaked at 50 at Grand Forks Aug. 25 (DOL) and a late one was seen Oct. 7 in Brookings, S.D. (CAT).

Three Pileated Woodpecker sightings were reported from Fargo and Mayville, N.D., Oct. 15 - Nov. 3 (WEL, PPF, PSH). Red-bellieds are well established along the Missouri R., and in s.e. South Dakota but one was seen Sept. 2 at Fisher's Grove, Spink Co., S.D. (CB). Two Black-backed Three-toeds were sighted Oct. 3 & 11 in the c. Black Hills, S.D. (JAH, RH, MJP).

A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher provided a third Montana record as it was viewed feeding on insects in a 30 mph wind Oct. 18-20 at Big Timber (L. Peavey, LMM, PDS *et al.*).

JAYS THROUGH MIMIDS — Blue Jays are spreading fast across the n. part of Mon-

tana as 12 were sighted Sept. 25 - Nov. 30. Eight Piñon Jays visited at feeders near Mandan to become the first known North Dakota record Oct. 26 - Nov. 30 (JCS *et al.*). A Piñon Jay, banded Jan. 1973, was re-netted Nov. 4 at Rapid City (LMB). Four Clark's Nutcrackers were feeding on the side of Bear Butte Mt., Meade Co., S.D., Sept. 2 (TAG, S. Rothe). A Mountain Chickadee was sighted at Billings Oct. 21-27 (L. Porter) and two were at Silesia, Mont., Nov. 5-12 (SM). A Dipper was sighted Oct. 7 in the Belly R., Glacier N.P. (WCH, SML); three were seen Sept. 30 and two Nov. 4 in the n. Black Hills (GGR, DLB). A Mockingbird was late at Aberdeen, S.D., Nov. 26 (DAT).

THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS — A Wood Thrush was banded Sept. 7 at Newton Hills S.P., Lincoln Co., S.D. (GCR). A Varied Thrush was at Bismarck Nov. 19 (DMR) and a Hermit Thrush was seen Oct. 29 in n. Moody County, S.D. (LIW). A Veery was singing at Bowdoin N.W.R., Sept. 2-3 (PDS). Four E. Bluebird nestlings fledged Aug. 12 in Hutchinson County, S.D. (RLS) and a family of six was seen in N. Unit, Theodore Roosevelt N.P., N.D., Aug. 20 (GBB), and there were numerous other sightings in e. South Dakota (WH).

Golden-crowned Kinglets were numerous in the Region after being virtually absent for several years. Seldom-identified Sprague's Pipit were found in Stutsman County, N.D., during migration (CAF). Bohemian Waxwings were first seen Nov. 9 in Fargo (PPF) and Nov. 10 in s.w. Perkins County, S.D. (AH). Cedar Waxwings were very numerous in early fall but they seemed to leave in early November. Northern Shrike sightings were also reported across the Region. A Bell's Vireo was heard and seen Aug. 23 at Highmore, S.D. (JHH) and a Yellow-throated Vireo was singing Sept. 9 at Minot, N.D. (GBB).

WARBLERS — Warbler migration waves are not normal for this area in the fall except for e. North Dakota, but rare or uncommon transients seemed to be. Single Cape May Warblers were seen Sept. 1 at Fargo and Minot (CAS, GBB). A ♂ Black-throated Blue was closely studied in DeSmet Forest, Kingsbury Co., S.D. (RLS). An imm. Pine Warbler was viewed for almost five hours in s. Billings (RDF), but the possibility of its being a Bay-breasted has been raised. Palm Warblers were noted at Grand Forks Sept. 15-16 with a peak of four, but only one was seen Sept. 23 in n. Moody County, S.D. (LIW). It was unusual not to have any sightings of Yellow-breasted Chat this fall.

The *Oporornis* group made an unusual showing. A Kentucky Warbler was photographed Oct. 19 as it foraged underneath a buffaloberry bush at Ft. Peck, Mont., and provided a first record for the state (JCC, CMC). Single Connecticut Warblers were sighted at Grand Forks (DOL) and at Fargo, N.D. (MAB) Aug. 28 - Sept. 3 and one was late Sept. 23, in s.e. Volga, S.D. (CO). Mourning Warblers were sighted at four places in e. North Dakota Aug. 26-30. An unusual group of ten MacGillivray's Warblers were at City Springs, Rapid City Sept. 23 (NRW).

BLACKBIRDS AND FINCHES — Thirteen juv. N. Orioles were caught in a banding

net at the same time Sept. 19 at Newton Hills S.P., S.D. (GCR). A late N. Oriole was at Upper Souris N.W.R., N.D., Nov. 17-30 (L. Wittenburg). Maximum count of Rusty Blackbirds totaled 90 Oct. 4 - Nov. 20 as they passed through the Bismarck-Mandan, N.D. area (RNR), and one was at Rapid City Nov. 25 (JLB). A flock of 100 Brown-headed Cowbirds was in a sheep feedlot, in s.w. Brookings County, S.D., Oct. 15 (NJH). Cardinals were common in s.e. South Dakota with a total of 17 rural sightings and 51 in Yankton during the period (WH, JEW). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was very late at Fargo Nov. 26-27 (PPF). A flock of 25 Purple Finches was feeding along the Red R., at Grand Forks Oct. 19 (DOL) and a flock of 15 was at Waubay N.W.R., S.D., Nov. 22 (RRJ). A flock of 86 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches was at Billings, Mont., Nov. 18 (BBF). Red Crossbills made an invasion across the Canada border through the c. Dakotas by Sept. 22 (JFK, DOL). By Oct. 22 they had worked down to near the Nebraska border where a flock of 225 was seen at Burke L. (GLS). One White-winged Crossbill was seen at the Peace Gardens, N.D., Nov. 29 (CAF).



Le Conte's Sparrow, Lake Alice N.W.R., N.D., Sept. 23, 1979. Photo/David O. Lambeth.

SPARROWS — A good wave of Savannah Sparrows was seen Sept. 23 at Minot (GBB). A flock of 20 Le Conte's was at Lake Alice N.W.R., Ramsey Co., N.D., Sept. 23 (JFK, DOL). Vesper Sparrows were common in the e. half of the Dakotas while Lark Sparrows were again scarce in the Region. An ad. Field Sparrow with three nestlings was noted Aug. 1 in Yankton County, S.D. (WH). Five Field Sparrows were seen at Hazen, N.D., Oct. 15 (DNS). From mid-September through Oct. 20 White-crowns were widespread. Seven were in Fargo Sept. 21 - Oct. 20 (MBB) and one was at Golden L., Nov. 18 — both in the Red R. valley area (PSH). A Fox Sparrow Nov. 8-11 furnished a first record for the Billings area (HWC *et al.*). Lincoln's Sparrows migrated through South Dakota Sept. 9 - Oct. 10 with peaks of 16 in s. Clay and Yankton Counties (KJH, WH). Three McCown's Longspurs were observed in a new area in c. Custer County, S.D. (MJP). A flock of 20 Smith's Longspurs was observed Sept. 5 at Lamesteer N.W.R., Wibaux Co., Mont. (B. Whelton) and 40 were in a hayfield in w. Grand Forks Oct. 16-19 (PJD). At least 100 Chestnut-collareds were seen between

Farmingdale and New Underwood, S D, Sept 28 (NRW).

CONTRIBUTORS (area editors in bold-face) MONTANA — M. W. Aberhold, C. M. Carlson, J. C. Carlson, H. W. Carlson, B. B. FitzGerald, N. C. Forrester, R. D. Foxall, T. M. Hays, W. C. Harris, T. C. Hinz, S. M. Lamont, H. M. Marble, S. McClintock, L. M. Moos, T. W. Planz, P. D. Skaar, B. A. Stettler NORTH DAKOTA — M. A. Bergan,

G. B. Berkey, M B Brophy, R K Crawford, P. J. Dubowy, C. A. Faanes, P. P. Forness, J. R. Foster, T. A. Gatz, P. C. Hart, P. S. Hlavinka, J. F. Kelly, D. L. Kubischta, D. O. Lambeth, G. S. Lambeth, S. O. Lambeth, W. E. LeBien, G. I. Oliver, T. M. Patton, R. Quanrud, R. N. Randall, D. M. Rieckmann, G. T. Sailer, J. M. Sailer, R. A. Schmidt, J. G. Sidle, C. A. Spurbeck, J. C. Swanick, D. N. Svingen. SOUTH DAKOTA — C. Baird, J. L. Baker, L. M.

Baylor, D L. Bjerke, T A Gatz, J A Hagen, W. Hall, R. Hansen, J. H. Harter, A Hinds, N. J. Holden, K. J. Hoover, R. R Johnson, T. K. Kessler, R. D. Michael, E. C Montgomery, C. Oleson, M. J. Parker, R. A Peterson, G. C. Rogge, G. G. Ross, W. A Schultz, E. M. Serr, R. L. Spomer, G. L Steffen, D. A. Tallman, C. A. Taylor, L. L Watters, L. I. Wells, N. R. Whitney, J. E Wilcox. — ESTHER M. SERR, 110 - 11 E Watertown, Rapid City, S.D. 57701.

SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

/Frances Williams

Bird movements appear far more pronounced when banding is involved than when judged solely by field observations. This was demonstrated this fall when most contributors stated that migration was dull, but banding operations at Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge and Lincoln, Nebraska, Johnson County, Kansas, Oklahoma City, Walker and Brazos Counties, Texas, all revealed species whose presence would have been undetected without the nets.

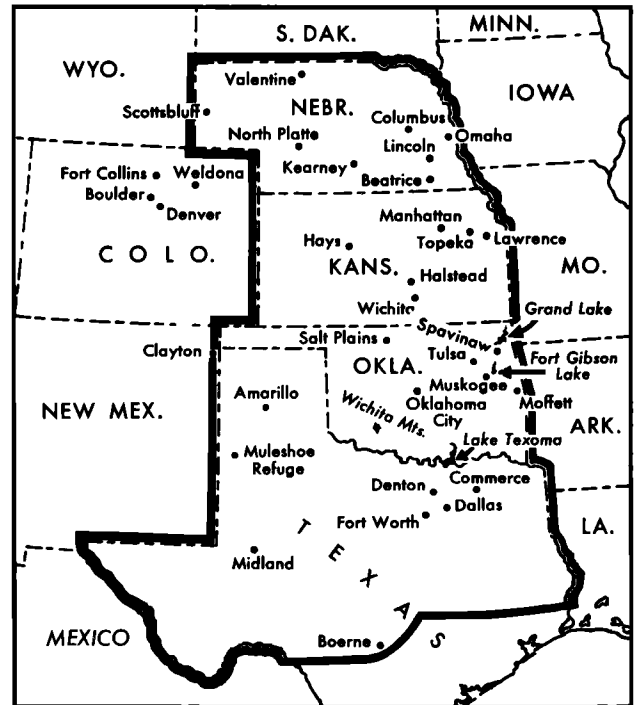
The generally mild fall meant that winter residents were tardy in arriving and summer residents remained late. Except for Red Crossbills and one report each of Bohemian Waxwing and Clark's Nutcracker, there was little indication of "invasion" species. But the number of seabirds in the Region was remarkable.

LOONS THROUGH ANHINGAS — Common Loons summered on L. Livingston and L. Conroe in e. Texas and remained into the fall period. On L. Tenkiller, n.e. Okla., 37 Com. Loons were counted Nov. 3 (EG). Two Arctic Loons were present at North Platte N.W.R., Neb., Oct. 19 (FZ). A Red-necked Grebe was sighted in Sarpy County, Neb., Oct. 13 (MM, JBU) Horned Grebes normally migrate through the e. half of the Region, but are rarely seen in the w. half. This fall they appeared in w. Texas at Buffalo Lake N.W.R. (hereafter, Buffalo L.) and Lubbock. Western Grebes continued to disperse widely and were noted in Sarpy County Nov. 10, Oklahoma City Oct. 24, and Palo Pinto County, Tex., Nov. 10. The species is now regular in winter on many w. Texas lakes. Several large concentrations of White Pelicans were reported: 1000 at L. Livingston Oct. 26, 5000 in Pawnee County, Okla., Sept. 30, 2000 at Great Salt Plains N.W.R., Okla., Sept. 5. At Nacogdoches, Tex., a flock of 280 remained on the small sewage ponds Sept. 18-21. An estimated 10,000 Double-crested Cormorants gathered at L. Livingston Oct. 26. An Olivaceous Cormorant was seen in Presidio County, Tex., Nov. 18 (SW) and two were reported at Ft. Worth (RDC). An Anhinga visited the Ft. Worth area Oct. 20.

HERONS THROUGH SPOONBILLS — From mid-August into September a flock of Little Blue Herons, of which all but two were white immatures, roosted at night with a flock of 100± Com. Crows near Baldwin City, Kans. (AJB) Other localities visited by Little Blue Herons included Sarpy County, Plattsmouth, Neb., Coffey County, Kans., Great Salt Plains N.W.R., and San Angelo, Tex. Cattle Egrets are seldom considered news now, but one in

Pawnee County, Kans., Aug. 11 provided an anticipated first record (SS). In Coffey County a flock comprising 38 birds was located Aug. 26 (JS). Great Egrets were noteworthy at Crescent L., Sept. 14 (ER), Washington County, Okla., Nov. 11, Buffalo L., July 29 - Sept. 2 and Presidio County Nov. 18. A Louisiana Heron visited San Angelo in August. A Yellow-crowned Night Heron was carefully identified in Douglas County, Neb., Oct. 10 (TB *et al.*). In Jeff Davis County, Tex., 14 Black-crowned Night Herons were sighted Sept. 16 (JM). The only sightings of Least Bitterns were at Hagerman N.W.R., Tex., Aug. 25 (CRB) and Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Kans., Aug. 11 (SS). Wood Storks were found at Great Salt Plains Sept. 3-5 (m.ob.), Tarrant County, Tex., Aug. 15-27 (*vide* MR) and Huntsville S.P., Tex., Oct. 7 (ST). White-faced Ibis made a good showing throughout the Region. A Roseate Spoonbill which remained in Comanche County, Okla., Aug. 22 - Sept. 12, provided a first record there (JMa,CC,m.ob.). The species was located in Texas at San Angelo Aug. 4-5, L. Somerville Sept. 7 & 14, Tarrant County Aug. 7.

WATERFOWL — Whistling Swans were present at Crescent L., Nov. 23 (M&SM), Cowley County Nov. 25 (J&MR) and Hutchinson County, Tex., Nov. 25 (B&JR). One imm. and two ad. Trumpeter Swans graced North Platte N.W.R., Nov. 7 (MC,m.ob.). At Plattsmouth Waterfowl Area, Neb., 160,000 Snow Geese massed Nov. 15-16. Refuge personnel estimated two immatures to each adult (*vide* MW). A Ross' Goose* provided a first record for Brazos County Nov. 13 (RH). A Fulvous Whistling Duck was discovered at the Ft. Worth fish hatchery Nov. 9 (MP,JMS). Eleven Black-bellied Whistling Ducks were present in Burleson County, Tex., Nov. 19 & 21-25 (RN *et al.*). Wood Ducks visited Morton County, Kans., Nov. 11 (JDT), Buffalo L., Oct. 14 (KS), Lubbock through November (m.ob.) and Big Bend N.P., Oct. 16 (RS). Two Barrow's Goldeneyes were carefully studied at North Platte N.W.R., Nov. 26 (M&SM). White-winged Scoters reached Oklahoma City Nov. 9 (JSh),



Tulsa Nov. 9 (BJ,EH), Douglas County Nov. 15-16 (NR,m.ob.). Surf Scoters were located at Tulsa Nov. 10 (BJ,EH), Crescent L., Nov. 19 (FZ). North Platte Oct. 19 (FZ) and Nacogdoches* Nov. 21-22 (DF).

Last winter male and female first year Hooded Mergansers spent the winter at Nacogdoches with Ray Jochetz' game birds on a pond just 30 yds behind his house. The ♂ merganser had a noticeable limp in one leg. This November two mergansers arrived in ad. plumage, the male limping in the same leg as the previous bird. The peak number of Hooded Mergansers at Hagerman was 150 Nov. 23 (CRB). Other observations included one at Tulsa, nine at Buffalo L., five in Coffey County, seven in Sarpy County, and one in Lancaster County, Neb.

KITES THROUGH FALCONS — At least 50 Mississippi Kites cruised over Nacogdoches for several hours Aug. 22. Wolf stated he had never before seen kites in comparable numbers in the area. Mississippi Kites also gathered in Ft. Worth on various dates Aug. 21 - Sept. 10. The largest flock comprised 25 birds. Goshawks were sighted at Plattsmouth Sept. 8 (GW) and at Crescent L., Sept. 29. At Nacogdoches, Wolf counted 56 Sharp-shinned Hawks and only four Cooper's Hawks Sept. 20 - Nov. 6. In the Kerrville, Tex., area, the Muellers saw only Sharpies. Elsewhere in the Region, the two were reported in approximately equal numbers. So few contributors

report on populations of Red-shouldered Hawks that no conclusions can be drawn about the status of this species. Five were noted in the Bartlesville area, six in the Kerrville area and two in Sarpy County, where they are uncommon. Recently fledged Broad-winged Hawks were discovered in Grayson County, Tex., Aug. 4 (RR). The only large flight of Broad-wingeds was at Nacogdoches where 500+ flew by in 30 min., Oct. 8 (CT). A flock of Swainson's Hawks spent the night about 7 mi s.w. of Albion, Neb., Sept. 27-28. They left in the morning over a 45-min. period, allowing the observer to arrive at an estimate of 700 birds (WM). Another flock comprising 300± birds was near O'Neill, Neb., Sept. 30 (JoM). A Zone-tailed Hawk was observed in Guadalupe Mt. N.P., Tex., Sept. 1 (AB). Rough-legged Hawks arrived in Pawnee County, Kans., Oct. 2, Crescent L., Oct. 3, Johnson County, Kans., Oct. 10, Reeves County, Tex., Oct. 25 and Tulsa Nov. 10. A Ferruginous Hawk at Norman, Okla., Oct. 20, was e. of its normal range (JG). Ospreys made a good showing in most of the Region. A Caracara was located at L. Somerville Sept. 15. Prairie Falcons were almost "common" in the w. third of the Region and were seen e. to Osage County, Okla., Nov. 17 and Tulsa Nov. 10. An imm. Peregrine Falcon remained at Buffalo L., Sept. 30 - Oct. 14 and an adult sailed over Dallas Nov. 8. The only other Peregrines reported were resident birds in the Guadalupe and Chisos Mts., Tex. A total of 12 Merlins was reported, perhaps indicating a coming "Merlin winter". American Kestrels are adapting well to man-made structures as nesting sites on the treeless plains. A late report noted that a pair of kestrels nested in the football stadium at Big Spring, Tex. (GWA).

PRAIRIE CHICKENS THROUGH JAÇANAS — The population of Greater Prairie Chickens increased in Lyon County, Kans. (JS). Donald Vannoy wrote that the place to find Lesser Prairie Chickens in Kansas is the Pratt Sandhills Wildlife Area in w. Pratt County. Last summer a pair of Turkeys raised a family in an undeveloped area of an urban park at Midland. All fall residents of the area were enthralled to have young Turkeys walking about their yards, but a misanthrope wondered if there would still be Turkeys left after Thanksgiving.

A King Rail was present at Cheyenne Bottoms Oct. 6. A Black Rail appeared briefly near Omaha Sept. 20 (RGC). Virginia Rails were noteworthy in Jeff Davis County Sept. 16 (JM) and Buffalo L., Oct. 28 (KS). A surprising inhabitant of a playa in Gray County, Tex. was a Com. Gallinule Aug. 11 (EBE). Extraordinary was the word for a Jaçana on a stock pond in Real County, Tex., from mid-October to mid-November. According to the ranch owner the bird fed on "moss" on the water until the moss sank to the bottom of the pond during a cold spell (BCo,GM, *vide* EWM).

SHOREBIRDS — Post-breeding Piping Plovers were still present on the sandbars along the Platte R., in Sarpy County Aug. 22 (MW). An early migrant Piping Plover was discovered in Arlington, Tex., July 26 (RLN). Migrants also paused at Great Salt Plains and Rogers and Creek Counties, Okla.

An unexpected bird in the piney woods of e. Texas was a Snowy Plover found dead in Polk County Sept. 21. Very late Snowies were found in Reeves County Nov. 19 (SW). At Crowley, Tex., an unusual record was provided by Mountain Plovers Aug. 10 & 12 (RLi,MR). Over 500 Long-billed Curlews massed at Buffalo L., Sept. 2. A single Long-billed Curlew was discovered Nov. 29 in a strange habitat — the hill country of c. Texas in Gillespie County (EWM). A Willet found a flooded field in Tulsa County Aug. 22. The seldom seen Red Knot was detected at Tulsa Sept. 3 (JH *et al.*) and San Angelo Sept. 23 (CCW). Dunlins and Sanderlings were reported throughout the Region at too many localities to list. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were tallied at Tulsa Aug. 11 & 13, Arlington Sept. 6 - Oct. 4, Ft. Worth Aug. 30, Hagerman Aug. 18 and San Angelo Sept. 30. The rare (on the plains) Marbled Godwit appeared at North Platte Ref., Aug. 29 in Creek County Aug. 28, Ft. Worth Sept. 18 and Lubbock Oct. 22. About 400 Am. Avocets assembled at Buffalo L., through October (KS). This species also remained into November in Ottawa County, Okla. (PW), Tarrant (MR) and Trinity (JF) Counties, Tex. Northern Phalaropes paused at Crescent L., Buffalo L., Lubbock and Balmorhea L., Reeves Co., Tex. Two Red Phalaropes were discovered at Nacogdoches Oct. 12 (SL,CT) and a single bird was located at Lorenzo, Tex., Oct. 14-16 (ML,m.ob.).

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMERS — (What an amazing heading for a paragraph in this Regional report!) A jaeger was found at Oklahoma City Nov. 12. It was seen repeatedly



Imm. Pomarine Jaeger, Oklahoma City, Okla., Nov. 18, 1979. Photo/John Shackford.

through Nov. 18, but was found dead and partly eaten the next day. Measurements of the remains suggested it was an imm. **Pomarine Jaeger** (JSh,JN). A single California Gull was detected at Red Bluff Res., Loving Co., Tex., Nov. 19 (SW). There was an unprecedented incursion of Laughing Gulls into e. Texas undoubtedly caused by tropical storm *Claudette*. They were present on all area reservoirs July 25-26 in flocks occasionally comprising 100 birds. Some of the gulls lingered into October, the last being sighted Oct. 26 in Polk County (KB). Other out-of-range Laughing Gulls were found at Oklahoma City Sept. 1-23 (JN) and L. Somerville Aug. 16 (KK *et al.*). One never ceases being amazed at the enormous flocks of Franklin's Gulls which cross the plains each fall. Among the many reported, the most outstanding concentration was 10,000 at L. Texoma Oct. 7-13. In Kansas Oct. 15, Hobbs traveled from Topeka to Russell, about 150 mi, and Franklin's Gulls were in sight the whole way. A flock of 200±

Franklin's Gulls in Howard County, Tex., Nov. 18 comprised the largest number ever seen in this western area (GWA *et al.*).

Sabine's Gulls were identified at Balmorhea L., Oct. 11 (DWi) and L. Livingston Sept. 21-23 (KB,DSt,m.ob.). Forster's Terns were abundant August-November on L. Livingston, with a peak of 2000 Oct. 12. Least Tern records included two each in Sarpy County Sept. 5, Ft. Worth Aug. 30, Rogers County Aug. 28 and single birds at Hagerman Ref., Aug. 25 and Osage County, Kans., Aug. 10. Black Terns were very scarce in much of the Region but 679 were tallied at Crescent L., Aug. 16 and 200 were counted in Rogers County Aug. 28. A **Black Skimmer** at Nacogdoches July 26 was another consequence of *Claudette* (DW *et al.*).

DOVES THROUGH GOATSUCKERS — A Ground Dove was carefully identified at DeSoto N.W.R., Neb., Nov. 18 (L&BP) and another was located at Midland Oct. 18 (JAM,PN). Yellow-billed Cuckoos remained late at Lubbock until Oct. 7 and Ft. Worth Oct. 26. Groove-billed Anis experienced another season of wandering. They visited Midland Oct. 1 (TJ), Washington County, Okla., Oct. 20 (RP,ED), Ft. Worth Oct. 25 (LM) and Baldwin City, Kans., in late November. The Baldwin bird ate frozen grasshoppers on the lawn within a few feet of spectators. On Dec. 8, the farmer whose land the bird was using noticed the ani was in a weakened condition and easily caught it. He took it to Roger Boyd at Baker University who got it to eat a few mealy bugs, but the bird died that night (*vide* AJB). A Burrowing Owl was found in Pawnee County, Okla., Sept. 30 (JH). Spotted Owls are resident in Guadalupe Mt. N.P., but it is necessary to make a long, arduous climb to reach their habitations. They may be found on both the Bear Canyon Trail and N. McKittrick Trail. Long-eared Owls were detected in Lyon County Oct. 20 (MSc) and Jeff Davis County Oct. 6 (JM). Short-eared Owls were early in Sarpy County Aug. 19 and Pawnee County, Kans., Sept. 13. A Saw-whet Owl was photographed at Oklahoma City Nov. 25 (JSh). Whip-poor-wills were found in Grayson County Sept. 9 & 30 (RR) and Tulsa Sept. 10 (HE).

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH FLY-CATCHERS — A Lucifer Hummingbird, which is rarely sighted outside Big Bend N.P., was found in Pinto Canyon, Presidio County Aug. 15 (AR). An Anna's Hummingbird frequented a feeder in Ft. Davis, Tex., Sept. 12 - Nov. 6 (PE) and two were seen at a feeder in Big Bend N.P., Oct. 23 (AR *et al.*). A ♂ Broad-tailed Hummingbird visited a feeder in Oxford, Kans., Aug. 13-17 and Aug. 20-22 (WC, m.ob.). Rufous Hummingbirds wandered to Tulsa, Crowley, Kerrville, Ft. Davis and Walker County. A Rivoli's Hummingbird found an El Paso feeder Oct. 22-23 (JSp). A Blue-throated Hummingbird was observed in Guadalupe Mt. N.P., Sept. 1. Several contributors reported a phenomenal increase of Red-headed Woodpeckers. Williamson's Sapsuckers were spotted in Big Bend N.P., Nov. 26 (MBe) and Lubbock Oct. 13 (GJ). Two W. Kingbirds were found in Polk County Sept. 21 (KB,DSt). One remained in Sedgwick County, Kans., until Oct. 6. Migrating Cassin's King-

birds frequented the plains s w of Marfa, Tex., as 25 were counted Aug. 15 and 35 Sept. 22. Migration on the latter date also brought Cassin's Kingbirds to Lubbock and Midland. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers wandered to Louisville, Neb., Aug. 19 and Lincoln Sept. 13. Scissor-taileds are becoming scarce in the trans-Pecos area of Texas, so one in Big Bend N.P., Oct. 16 was noteworthy (RS). In mid-September, in c. Pawnee County, Kans., as many as ten Great Crested Flycatchers could be seen in places where even one would be unexpected (SS), and single birds were seen as far w as Muleshoe Ref. and Midland. Ash-throated Flycatchers remained until Nov. 16 in Palo Duro Canyon S.P., Tex. Two Say's Phoebes remained at the same location until Nov. 25 (KS) and one was noted at Waco, Tex., Nov. 23 (MBu). Black Phoebes visited Midland Oct. 20-21 (m.ob.) and Brazos County, Tex. Nov. 16 (MH). Vermilion Flycatchers brightened Collin County, Tex., Oct. 10 and L. Ray Hubbard near Dallas Oct. 27.

SWALLOWS THROUGH NUTHATCHES

— About 20,000 Tree Swallows festooned the dead trees in L. Livingston Oct. 26 at 11 a.m. Two hours later not a swallow could be found. More than 500 Barn Swallows, mostly immatures, gathered at Buffalo L., Oct. 7. At a Cave Swallow colony in Reeves County 60 were present Aug. 14 and 20 on Sept. 22 (SW). Last summer Cave Swallows nested on the concession building at Balmorhea L. (TG), further adding to the qualities that make this w. Texas oasis a mecca for birders. A Black-billed Magpie found its way to Saunders County, Neb., Nov. 8 (*vide* MW). Five Fish Crows were seen and heard along the Mountain Fork R., McCurtain Co., Okla., Oct. 4 (HM,CRB). A Clark's Nutcracker visited a cotton gin at Lorenzo, Tex., Nov. 3 (ML). A Carolina Chickadee was observed at Amarillo Oct. 22. Red-breasted Nuthatches were recorded at only eight localities. A Pygmy Nuthatch was discovered in the Chisos Mts., Aug. 25 (T&GP).

WRENS THROUGH THRUSHES

— Winter Wrens were present throughout the Region in good numbers. Bewick's and Carolina wrens remain very scarce. Janet McGee at Lawton, Okla., noted that neither species had visited her yard since November, 1977. Only three Carolina Wrens were seen at Tulsa all year, and Hobbs wrote he had seen none in e. Kansas in 1979. Rock Wrens were found in Sarpy County Sept. 6 (S&JK) and Jefferson County, Kans., Nov. 11 (KHo). Mockingbirds strayed to Douglas County in late October. A Wood Thrush was found in Hays, Kans., Oct. 7 by participants in the Kansas Ornithological Society fall meeting. Wood Thrushes were sighted in Tulsa Oct. 19 (FP) and Big Spring, Tex., Sept. 25 (GWA,GS). A Veery reached Pecos County Sept. 22 (JM) and two were netted at Crescent L., Aug. 28 and Sept. 2. There were encouraging reports of an increase in E. Bluebirds in the Omaha and Bartlesville areas. A Mountain Bluebird in Douglas County, Oct. 6 was noteworthy (L&BP).

KINGLETS THROUGH VIREOS

— Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported throughout the Region in larger numbers than in several years. In Johnson County 25 were tallied Oct. 23. Two Bohemian Waxwings

were observed at close range Dec. 1 in Johnson County, Kans. (MLM). A White-eyed Vireo at L. Livingston Oct. 26 was late (KB). Red-eyed Vireos were unexpected at Guadalupe Mt. N.P., Sept. 1, Buffalo L., Sept. 3 & 19, and Midland, Sept. 22. Philadelphia Vireos were carefully identified in Johnson County Sept. 14 & 26, Tulsa Oct. 7, Oklahoma City Sept. 20, Ft. Worth Oct. 31 and Hagerman Ref., Sept. 22.

WARBLERS — Golden-winged Warblers flitted through Johnson County Sept. 24, Sarpy County Sept. 9 and College Station Sept. 28. A Blue-winged Warbler was detected in Sarpy County Sept. 9 (L&BP). Tennessee Warblers were common at Lubbock through September and October and one was sighted at Midland Sept. 22. Northern Parulas were noteworthy at Oklahoma City Sept. 22 and Big Bend N.P., Nov. 17. Black-throated Blue Warblers were located at Crescent L., Sept. 29, Oct. 4 & 20 (FZ), Lancaster County Oct. 5 (MBO), Douglas County Sept. 20 (RC) and Johnson County Oct. 2 (MLM). More than 100 "Myrtle" Warblers were present in Johnson County Oct. 23 while in Walker County, Tex., 477 were banded Nov. 2-17. Black-throated Gray Warblers were found in Palo Duro Canyon Dec. 2, Midland Aug. 11 and Oct. 20, Big Spring Sept. 15, and Big Bend N.P., Oct. 19. Five Townsend's Warblers were netted at Crescent L., Aug. 30 - Sept. 11 (MZ,FZ) and others were observed at Lubbock Oct. 4, Midland Oct. 18 (JAM *et al.*) and College Station Sept. 27-28 (GD). Black-throated Green Warblers were discovered at Crescent L., Oct. 13, Oklahoma City Sept. 22, Ft. Worth Aug. 20 and Nov. 5, Guadalupe Mts., Sept. 1 and Midland Dec. 2. A Hermit Warbler was located in the Chisos Mts., Aug. 30 (AB). A Blackburnian Warbler adorned a ranch in Tulsa County Oct. 10. Yellow-throated Warblers were noted in Sarpy County Sept. 14 and Tulsa Oct. 16. Chestnut-sided Warblers were present in Johnson County Sept. 14 & 24, Bartlesville Sept. 11, Oklahoma City Sept. 13, Sherman, Tex., Sept. 16 and Big Spring Sept. 16. Four Bay-breasted Warblers in Johnson County Sept. 21-24 were unusual. Blackpoll Warblers were seen in Pawnee County, Kans., Oct. 25 and Crescent L., Sept. 2 and Oct. 13. Pine Warblers visited Oklahoma City Sept. 20 and Lancaster County Oct. 12. Palm Warblers were observed in Oklahoma City Oct. 3, Cleveland County, Okla., Oct. 7, Lorenzo Sept. 29, Midland Oct. 21. A N. Waterthrush was netted and banded at Oklahoma City on the late date of Nov. 9. A Mourning Warbler was netted and banded at College Station on the early date of Aug. 26. Yellow-breasted Chats were found at Oklahoma City Sept. 22, College Station Sept. 16 & 22, and in Walker County Nov. 17. A Canada Warbler was discovered at Bartlesville Sept. 21.

ICTERIDS THROUGH TANAGERS — A Yellow-headed Blackbird was located in Alfalfa County, Okla., Nov. 21 (SK). Scott's Orioles were observed in Big Bend N.P., Nov. 4 and Monahans Sandhills S.P., Tex., Oct. 12. A N. Oriole was visiting a feeder in Sarpy County at the end of the period. Brewer's Blackbirds invaded Tulsa in November. A Great-tailed Grackle found its way into the Chinati Mts., Tex., Nov. 17 and a flock of 50 was tallied at Tulsa Nov. 10. Two Com.

Grackles were discovered at Huelo Tanks S.P., Tex., Oct. 27 (JD). Summer Tanagers made news by being late: Lyon County Oct. 27, Crosby County Oct. 26 and one at Norman which flew into a window and was killed Nov. 4.

FRINGILLIDS — Rose-breasted Grosbeaks visited Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Lorenzo, Muleshoe N.W.R., and Midland during September and one at Oklahoma City remained Oct. 3-10. A Black-headed Grosbeak was sighted in Grayson County Sept. 8 (CRB). Dickcissels were still feeding young in the nest Sept. 27 in Douglas County. The only Evening Grosbeaks reported were at Crescent L., Sept. 29, Oct. 14 and Nov. 4. Purple Finches visited Crescent L., Sarpy County and Tulsa. A few Pine Siskins were sighted in the Region, but those few soon moved on. A pair of Lesser Goldfinches was feeding newly fledged young Oct. 20 at Midland. A Lesser Goldfinch at Palo Duro Canyon Nov. 25 was very late. Small flocks of Red Crossbills were seen in Lancaster County Oct. 2 (MBO), Omaha Nov. 30, Johnson County Aug. 10-12, Winfield, Kans., Nov. 10, Crescent L., Oct. 6 & 13, North Platte Ref., Oct. 19 and Guadalupe Mt. N.P., Sept. 1. A Lark Bunting in breeding plumage was found in Rush County, Kans., Oct. 7, long after all his companions had gone to Texas (SS). His hormones must have been completely unbalanced. Grasshopper Sparrows were still singing vigorously at Buffalo L., Aug. 5 and remained at Tulsa until Sept. 4. Baird's Sparrows were carefully identified at Ballinger, Tex., Oct. 15 (IW *et al.*) and Muleshoe, N.W.R., Sept. 23 (KH,m.ob.). At Omaha Sept. 27 a group of sparrows feeding in a weed patch included Sharp-tailed, Savannah, Le Conte's, White-crowned and White-throated. Le Conte's Sparrows were also found at Waco Nov. 27, Muleshoe Sept. 23, Osage County, Okla., Oct. 14, Washington County, Okla., Nov. 3, and Crosby County Nov. 26. A Rufous-crowned Sparrow at Waco Nov. 23 was noteworthy (MBu). A Black-throated Sparrow was surprising at Wichita Oct. 27 (DV). Several Clay-colored Sparrows were banded in Walker County and two remained at least as late as Dec. 2 (RJ). Fox Sparrows were observed at Crescent L., Oct. 23 and Nov. 2.

CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS

— *Kansas*: Amelia J. Betts, Wally Champeny, Carl Freeburg, Kelly Hobbs (KHo), Steve Kingswood, Mary Louise Myers, Jean & Miriam Roark, Jean Schulenberg, Marvin Schwilling (MSc), Scott Seltman, Dwight Spencer, Donald Vannoy. *Nebraska*: Tanya Bray, Jerry Burke (JBu), Mike Corbett, R. G. Cortelyou, James Douglas, Vivian DeWitt, Scott Foster, Ruth Green, Davis Harvey, Sandy & Jim Kovanda, John Manning (JoM), Mike & Sherry McCoy, Wayne Mollhoff, Marge Mueller, Mabel B. Ott, Loren & Babs Padelford, Neil Ratzlaff, Everett Russell, Andy Saunders, Monte Shaul, John Upchurch, Melba Wigg, Gertrude Wood, Melly Zeilemaker, Fred Zeilemaker. *Oklahoma*: Pat Bergey, Jack Breath-wit, Brad Carlton, Charles Clemons, Ella Delap, Hazel Ekholm, Leo Galloway, Everett Grigsby, Joe Grzybowski, Elizabeth Hayes, Ken Hayes, Jim Hoffman, Wesley Isaacs, Bob Jennings, Steve Kingswood, James Malinowski (JMa), Janet M. McGee, John Newell, Fred Pianalto, R. Porter, Sarah Seaman, John Shackford (JSh), Eleanor Sieg, Jack D. Tylei,

Henry Walter, Paul Wilson. *Texas*: Peggy Acord, Keith Arnold, Alma Barrera, Sandy Beach, M. Beaman (MBe), Charles R. Brown, Lillian Brown, Kelly Bryan, Mary Bush (MBU), Robert D. Coggeshall, Bessie Cornelius (BCo), Charles & Betty Crabtree, Joseph DiPasquale (JD), Gil Doran, E. B. Ellis, Rosemary English, Pansy Espy, Gary Falxa, Dean Fisher, John Ford, Tony Gallucci, Kelly Himmel (KH), Mark Hitchcock, Randall

Howard, Ray Jochez, Ted Jones, George Jury, Kathy Klimkiewiz, Ruth Lightner (RL), Rick LoBello, Mark Lockwood, Jo Lowe, Sue Lower, George Mahaffey, Raul Martinez, Howard McCarley, Jo Ann Merritt, Jody Miller (JM), Ralph Moldenhauer, Ernest W. Mueller, Len Murphy, Robert L. Neill, Pat Newmeyer, R. Nobb, T. & G. Palmer, Margaret Parker, Clyde Priddy, Warren Pulich, Midge Randolph, Barbara & John Ribble, Alan Roberts,

Bob Robinson, Rod Rylander, Ken Seyffert, R. Simmons, Jessie Maye Smith, Gary Spence, John Sproul (JSp), Lafayette Stankewitz, Darlene Stevens, Cliff Stogner, Davis Stuart (DSt), Stan Taft, Cathy Turney, Gene Warren (GWa), Steve West, John W. White, C. C. Wiedenfeld, Iris Wiedenfeld, Rick Wilt, Doris Winship (DWi), David Wolf (DW), Tom Wood. — **FRANCES WILLIAMS, 3307 Neely, Midland, TX 79703.**

SOUTH TEXAS REGION

/Fred S. Webster, Jr.

The fall season will be remembered for an average good migration without spectacular concentrations of birds, a good infusion of western species, oil pollution on the beaches, and either too much or (usually) too little rain.

For the Region as a whole, temperatures averaged near normal, although a close look at daily records show some notably low recordings; these were reflected in defoliation of trees earlier than in some years. For more northern areas, frost came as early as November 14 and a hard freeze on November 30. Rainfall was near normal in August and above normal in September. An incredibly dry period began with the last week of September and lasted through most of October. Rainfall was spotty in November, but enough to revive habitat in most areas.

Lack of rain with cold fronts hindered huge migrant "buildups" along the coast. Tropical weather provided more excitement, if not more birds. A tropical depression which crossed Mexico from the Pacific Coast and moved northward from the Gulf of Campeche soaked the Rio Grande Delta with needed rain August 25-28. Tropical storm *Elana* moved onto the western upper coast September 1 with good rains. The real surprise came from an unadvertised low pressure system which moved up the coast September 19-20; near hurricane winds swept parts of the Coastal Bend (central coast) and torrential rains fell from Corpus Christi to Houston.

Wild food supplies were good-to-adequate, thanks to rainfall earlier in the year. This generalization is made without the benefit of reports from any of the deep South Texas counties. Ground cover was thin and surface water was evaporating rapidly in many areas west of the waterlogged coastal plains as the season progressed.

Ixtoc I, a Mexican oil well in the Gulf of Campeche, blew out on June 3 and remained out of control into December. During the summer, giant oil slicks moved slowly toward the Texas coast, advancing and retreating at the whim of wind and tide, while government agencies mobilized for the anticipated beach party. Finally the afternoon of August 6, tar balls up to 5 inches in diameter began washing ashore on South Padre Island. Government strategy was to block the passes to the Laguna Madre, behind the island barrier, and thus keep pollution out of the estuaries and marshes. Apparently this plan was successful, and cleaning of the beaches proceeded. Considerable oil was deposited from Port Aransas southward, and it was reported that the Mexican beaches were "black". While many birds were observed with oil on their plumage, few

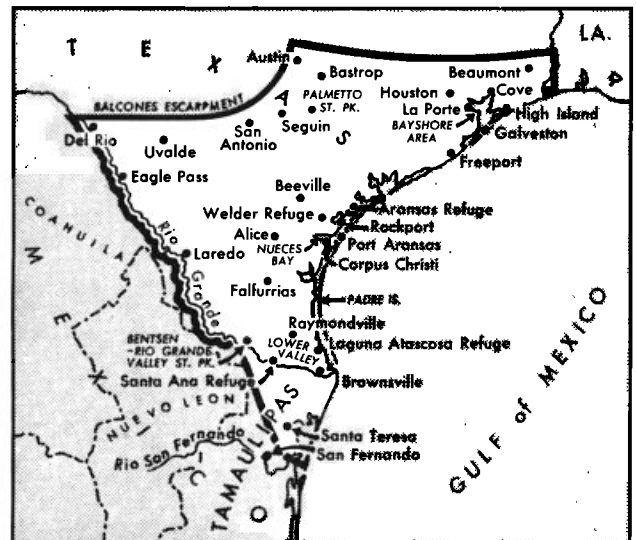
thoroughly oiled individuals were reported. Fatalities included at least two Masked Boobies in the latter half of August. Concentrations of gulls and terns were observed on the landward side of Padre Island; perhaps this was in response to oily beaches. Late in the summer a freighter-tanker collision off Galveston poured more oil onto troubled waters. Northerly winds and efficient cleanup crews kept the Galveston beaches open. As late as Christmas the burning hulk of the *Burmah Agate* was still clearly visible from the beach, but little oil was found on the sands.

It should be acknowledged that pre- and post-Christmas are not ideal times to solicit reports. Response was at a low level this year, with a near-total news blackout from the important Rio Grande Delta. The inadequacy of comparative data in the following report should be kept in mind.

SHEARWATERS THROUGH SPOON-BILLS — A few Cory's Shearwaters and Masked Boobies were seen on trips to fishing grounds out of Galveston and Port Aransas in October. The greatest count of Magnificent Frigatebirds was 22 on Sept. 18 at Rockport (RC), the evening before heavy rains and wind. A flock of 14 White-faced Ibises over Austin Sept. 20 (CS) was unusual, as were ten Roseate Spoonbills tarrying at Mitchell L., San Antonio during September (JAM).

WATERFOWL — Waterfowl migration was steady and unhurried but cold weather in late November pushed considerable numbers to the coast. Three Wood Ducks in a flooded field Nov. 17 (MJA) was the second occurrence reported for Zapata County. Among local rarities were an Oldsquaw in Jones Bay, Galveston Co., Nov. 24 (JGM&DWo), and a Surf Scoter at Austin Oct. 29 (CS). Hooded Mergansers moved through Austin in above-average numbers in early November.

HAWKS — A Swallow-tailed Kite, very rare in fall, was seen over Baytown, Chambers Co., Sept. 14. A total of 11,540 Broad-winged Hawks was counted at this locality Sept. 14-21 (DTD). Otherwise, reports of large flights were noticeably absent. Largest flights of Swainson's Hawks were 410 at Baytown Sept. 14



(DTD) and 356 at Austin Oct. 2 (G&BLJLR, RAR). A Ferruginous Hawk over Austin's "hawk ridge" Oct. 4 (RAR) was a rare sight. Golden Eagles: a first-year bird near Sabine Pass and a third-year bird at Sea Rim S.P., Nov. 2 (CS) together constituted a Jefferson County first. American Kestrels moved in large numbers in late September and early October.

CRANES — A single Whooping Crane came into Austin's riverside sewage ponds at sundown Oct. 20. It was "discovered" the following morning (CA) and viewed by several alerted birders before a S departure at 11:30 a.m. By Dec. 3, 70 ad. and six juv. Whooping Cranes were accounted for at Aransas N.W.R. First arrivals, four adults, arrived by Oct. 9. By Oct. 25 the population had increased to 10 adults. The first juvenile was noted Nov. 2 with 11 additional adults. By Nov. 9 only one adult (of the eventual total) was yet to come (SEL).

SHOREBIRDS, GULLS — Twenty-five Am. Oystercatchers were found on Mustang I., Sept. 14 (G&BL). Piping Plover were in good supply on Bolivar Pen., in September. At least 12 Am. Golden Plovers were reported on the upper coast which is more than normal (*vide* JGM), five were at Mitchell L., Sept. 16 (WS), and at least two were seen at Austin (m.ob.). There were three hypothetical sightings of Curlew Sandpiper for Texas before this fall. Now there are two more. One on Bolivar Pen., Sept. 29 (L&MB *et al.*), and the other at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., in mid-November (described Nov. 10 by AB). Both were winter-plumaged birds and were well-described. Fifty very late Wilson's Phalaropes were in a salt marsh near Galveston Bay Oct. 27 (D&RM).

A N Phalarope was at Austin Oct 2 (GL), almost unknown in other parts of the Region, a season rarely passes without an individual appearing at Austin's fabled sewage ponds. A first-year **California Gull** at Texas City Dike Oct 28, was carefully observed (GL,CS&BW) and described in detail (BW).

ANIS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Groove-billed Anis appeared on the upper coast in mid-August and were widespread along the coastal strip by mid-September (*fide* JGM). A rare Lesser Nighthawk was found on Galveston I., Oct. 27 (GL,CS&BW). Some Turk's cap has grown back on Rockport's traditional hummingbird staging area, previously bulldozed, but is now fenced and locked. A stand of bottlebrush at a residence in the area provided some consolation for birders as well as 50-60+ hummingbirds, mostly Rubythroateds Sept. 23-24 (DNW). A Black-chinned Hummingbird was a notable feeder visitor in Houston Oct. 3-7 (MA). This was an excellent season for readily identifiable Anna's Hummingbirds. Singles were: sub-ad. male at Alcoa, Brazoria Co., Oct. 24-26 (DWi); sub-ad male at Alvin, Brazoria Co., Nov. 3-10 (D&RM); a male at San Antonio Nov. 15 (LA); sub-ad. male at Kenedy, Karnes Co., Nov. 17-19 (RR); and a sub-ad. male in Wilson County Nov. 21-29 (WS).

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS — A female of the Red-naped race of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*S. v. nuchalis*), was seen at Rockport Nov. 18 (CTC). There are no previous sightings for the Texas coast. A Ladder-backed Woodpecker at Houston Aug. 12 (MJ) constituted only the third record for the upper coast. A Wied's Crested Flycatcher in Zapata County Nov. 11 constituted a first *documented* fall record for South Texas (KAA). Olive-sided Flycatchers scored well on the upper coast; 28 were observed at High I., Aug. 25 (*fide* JGM).

SWALLOWS THROUGH NUT-HATCHES — A steady daily migration of swallow species passed through the Sabine area in October. The greatest number of Barn Swallows, 1500+, was noted there Sept. 29 (CE). An exceptionally heavy migration of

Barn Swallows, 2000-5000+ was encountered in the Austin area Oct. 18 (G&BL,CS). Mexican Crows were appearing e. of Brownsville as early as Aug. 9 (HMS), presumably on their daily fall-winter pilgrimage to the Brownsville dump. A Red-breasted Nuthatch in Austin Oct. 19 (FSW) was the first of extremely few.

WRENS THROUGH THRUSHES — A Winter Wren in Zapata County Nov. 11 (KAA) provided documentation of the species for the Lower Rio Grande Valley. A Short-billed Marsh Wren at Austin Oct. 23 (BL&BW) was a rare locality find. A Sage Thrasher was flushed from a clump of salt cedar at High I., Oct. 26 (GL,CS&BW). A Gray-cheeked Thrush at Freeport Oct. 28 (GL,CS&BW), and a Veery at High I., Sept. 16 (TBF) were rare in fall.

WARBLERS — The absence of large mixed warbler flight was very unusual, although one noteworthy concentration of Canada Warbler was observed. An imm. Cape May Warbler was at Galveston Island S.P., Oct. 27 (GL,CS&BW), a second fall record for the upper coast. A Black-throated Blue Warbler in the same locality Oct. 28 (GL,CS&BW) was almost as rare. Single Black-throated Gray Warblers were at High I., Oct. 21 (JE,DMa&JGM) and at Galveston Oct. 28 (GL,CS&BW). One in Zapata County Nov. 11 (KAA), provided a first county record and a first documented fall record for the Lower Rio Grande Valley. A **Grace's Warbler** at Austin Oct. 28 (J&BR, MW) apparently was the first ever observed e. of the 102nd meridian. Oddly enough, a Black-throated Gray and a Prairie Warbler, both rare at Austin were present with the Grace's in the same yard (FSW). A MacGillivray's Warbler was on the Capitol grounds at Austin Oct. 14 (GL&BW). A late Yellow-breasted Chat was observed on Bolivar Pen. Nov. 24 (JGM&DWo). Morgan wrote: "On Sept. 2 a tremendous thunderstorm spawned by tropical storm *Elana* crossed High I., at mid-morning. Immediately after the storm . . . (field trip members) found 115 Canada Warblers . . . believed to be the greatest number ever reported at one location" (on the upper coast). Most numerous of 13 other warbler species present were 20 Black-and-whites, 12

Worm-eatings, 18 Kentuckys and 15 Hoodeds

TANAGERS THROUGH SPARROWS — Six W. Tanagers were reported on the upper coast this fall, much above average. A Black-headed Grosbeak was seen at Freeport Oct 28, and a Black-headed × Rose-breasted hybrid, an imm. male, was at High I., Oct. 26 (GL,CS&BW). A Green-tailed Towhee was observed at Austin Sept. 30 (CS), forerunner of an unusually good movement into the Region. A few Lark Buntings were noted e. of their normal limits of recent years; the easternmost individual was reported in w. Harris County Dec. 1 (JE&DMa). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow, an individual of an inland race, was observed at Rockport Nov. 17 (CTC). Most unusual, and providing a second record for the upper coast, was a Rufous-crowned Sparrow in Houston in late September (WC). This w. sparrow of rocky terrain was found in a brushy patch on White Oak Bayou. A few Cassin's Sparrows, very unusual in fall at Austin, were in a mixed sparrow fallout resulting from a fast-moving cold front and, perhaps, a light shower, both occurring before dawn Oct. 22. Clay-colored Sparrows were also involved, reinforcing a good fall showing of the species at Austin. The latter species were in "incredible" numbers on the upper coast, considering that one or two birds should be expected; at least 22 individuals were reported in October.

CONTRIBUTORS AND CITED OBSERVERS — Charles Alexander, Margaret Anderson, Lucille Armstrong, Keith A. Arnold, John C. Arvin, Michael J. Austin, Larry & Martha Ballard, Alma Barrera, Russel Cabaniss, Charles T. Clark, Wesley Cureton, David T. Dauphin, Charles Easley, John Eyre, T. Ben Feltnr, Margaret Jones, Chuck & Hilde Kaigler, Edward A. Kutac, Steve E. Labuda, Jr., Greg & Becky Lasley, David Matson (DMa), Kay McCracken, Don & Ruth Melton, James A. Middleton, James G. Morgan, Mrs Raymond Regmund, John & Barbara Ribble, John L. Rowlett, Rose Ann Rowlett, Willie Sekula, Chuck Sexton, Henry M. Stevenson, Marie Webster, Bret Whitney, Doris N. Winship, Diane Wise (DWi), David Wolf (DWo), Phyllis Yochem. — **FRED S. WEBSTER, JR., 4926 Strass Drive, Austin, Texas 78731.**

NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION

/Helmut Grünberg

Most areas of the Region experienced a relatively mild fall season which was especially noticeable in November. Southern Northwest Territories had heavy snowfalls in early winter, October. This snow stayed. Precipitation in Whitehorse was mostly rain, and at the end of November there was no protective snow cover on the ground.

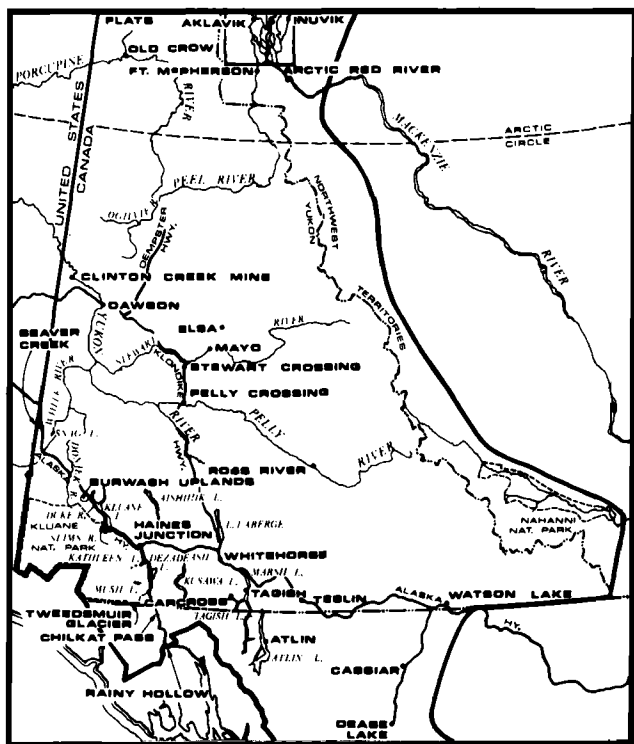
A total of 147 species was observed. The following species that are regularly seen (common or uncommon) escaped detection during this season: Northern Shoveler, Blue-winged Teal, Osprey, Killdeer, Bonaparte's Gull, Boreal Owl, Hermit Thrush and Brown-headed Cowbird.

LOONS THROUGH FALCONS — Two Red-throated Loons with one young each were observed on small lakes in the c. Yukon, Dempster Hwy., km 110-122, Aug. 16-18, indicating breeding (HG). A pair was observed at Graham Inlet, Tagish L., B.C., in August (MB). The rare sighting of a cormorant, sp., was reported from the e. end of Graham Inlet at the mouth of the Atlinto R., in October (*fide* MB).

Whistling Swans in family groups were common on tundra ponds between Wellington Bay and Merkley L., on Victoria I., Aug. 5 (DD). An accumulation of 1000± birds was reported from Nisutlin Bay, Teslin L., Oct. 10 (DMo). Two ad. and five imm. swans sp., were seen at Joe Irwin L., outlet to Dease R., B.C., as late as Nov. 20 (PMan). A Snow Goose was observed at Teslin Sept. 4 (BS). Three thousand Mallards were gathered at

Nisutlin Bay Oct. 10 (DMo). A ♀ Mallard was seen at km 213, Dempster Hwy., on a very late Nov. 28 (TT, *fide* DMo).

A Swainson's Hawk was identified in the Ogilvie Mts., Sept. 2 (RC&NW). November 30 was late for the presence of three Golden Eagles near Kluane L. (KP). Several unconfirmed Gyrfalcon observations were made in the c. Yukon (HG). Gyrs were widespread although rather scarce in the e.c. Yukon (RF). Reports were received of six other Gyrfalcons at three locations in s.w. Yukon (DMo,DR). One to two Gyrs were seen at the N. Canol Rd., close to the N.W.T. border Nov. 5 (MHe). Peregrine Falcons seemed resident in the c. and e.c. Yukon (HG,RH) and the e. Backbone Range near the Yukon border (RF). A group of three Peregrines, noisy and aggressive, was encountered at Artillery L., N.W.T., Sept. 8 (DMu). One bird was



observed near Yellowknife (hereafter, Yk.) Sept. 9 (TW). One Peregrine was seen n.w. of Fish L., Sept. 9 (WH), and one pair was noted near Nisutlin R., Sept. 13 (DMo). A pair of Merlins was observed near Nisutlin R., Sept. 13 (DMo); several individuals were seen near Wind R., e.c. Yukon during the latter half of September (RF).

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Ten Blue Grouse were reported from Nares Mt., near Carcross Oct. 2-3 (DMo). A population increase of this species compared to last year's number was noted in the Kluane L. area (KP). Also, Sharp-tailed Grouse seemed to have increased here (KP). Eight Sharp-tailed Grouse, uncommon permanent residents near Yk., were seen near Prelude L., Sept. 4 (BW). This species was also reported from the 60-mile Hwy., c. Yukon Oct. 12 (RF). DMo noted 15 individuals at Donjek R., Oct. 27. The first arrival for the winter of Willow Ptarmigan at Yk., was Nov. 17 (*vide* DK). This species is common in the Yukon in suitable habitat. Several White-tailed Ptarmigan were reported from the Aishihik L. area Aug. 2 (DMo). They were common at Kusawa L., Aug. 7 (DMo). A flock was observed at the head of Arctic Red R., just on the N.W.T. side Sept. 7 (RF). From Graham Inlet, Tagish L., B.C., the first Great Blue Heron sighting in 17 years was reported by MB, Aug. 6 and Sept. 1-18. A detailed but unconfirmed sight record of a **Virginia Rail** at Reed L., near Yk., was provided Sept. 11 by BW; he saw the bird in good light at <10 m distance. This appears to be the first record of this species for N.W.T., and the Region.

A Black-bellied Plover was observed at Nisutlin Bay, Teslin L., Sept. 12 (DMo). Several Ruddy and Black turnstones were seen at the s. end of Kluane L., Aug. 16-17 (SC). A Whimbrel appeared on the Bullion Plateau, Kluane N.P., in late August (MHo). An Upland Sandpiper was seen at the airport in

Whitehorse (hereafter, Whse.) Aug. 1 (WH). One to three were reported from the Ogilvie Mts., c. Yukon Aug. 1-18 (HG) and Sept. 3 (RC&NW) as well as from the Richardson Mts., n. Yukon Aug. 4 (HG). Seven birds were seen in Yk., for the first report for the area, Sept. 10 (DMu&GG). A Wandering Tattler was observed at Sheep Cr., Kluane N.P., Aug. 4 (WH). In the c. Richardson Mts., on the Yukon and N.W.T. side, they were found in numbers of one-to-three Aug. 4-6 (HG). RF saw few tattlers in the upper Snake R. area, e.c. Yukon-N.W.T., the last one seen Sept. 11. Peak numbers of >2000 Pectoral Sandpipers were observed at Nisutlin Bay Sept. 12

(DMo). Baird's Sandpipers numbering 10-17 were noted in the Ogilvie Mts., Aug. 1 (HG). They were also reported from the N. Canal Rd., near the N.W.T. border Aug. 21 (RF).

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Ten Thayer's Gulls were seen in a flock of Herring Gulls at the sanitary landfill in Yk., Sept. 22-23 (G&TG). The Thayer's Gulls were in adult plumage. GG is familiar with the species in other parts of the Arctic and he provided a detailed sight record. Thirty Arctic Terns were reported at Garry I., Mackenzie Delta Aug. 17 (RPMar). This species is regularly seen in many areas of the Region in small groups. Single Caspian Terns were observed near Yk., Aug. 18 (G&TW). Rock Doves seem to be thriving in larger communities and spreading into other areas as one was seen for the first time at Graham Inlet, Tagish L., Sept. 15 (MB) and one at Teslin Oct. 19 (BS). A Mourning Dove was noted in Whse., Aug. 27 (WC). Two very surprising owl reports were received from Kluane L.: KP reported having seen 12 Barred Owls, including young, in late summer and fall, compared to last year's five [unreported — Ed.], referring to the high productivity last summer. This owl is rare and has not been reported since fall 1974. Therefore, this observation should be confirmed. KP also reported 15 Great Gray Owls, including young, as compared to last year's seven [unreported — Ed.]. The latter report of Great Gray Owls is interesting in light of last year's incursion of this species into e. North America (*Am. Birds* 33:242). A Hawk Owl was seen at Kluane L., Oct. 25 (WH). One was noted at Kluane R., Oct. 27 and one at Snag, White R. area Oct. 28 (DMo). Hawk Owls were observed twice in the s. Ogilvie Mts., in November (RF).

The ♀ Rufous Hummingbird, of a nesting pair, left Graham Inlet Aug. 3 (MB). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was heard at Swan L., n. of Whse., Aug. 25 (HG,WH). One or two Hairy Woodpeckers were reported from the Whse. area

throughout the season (D&LS), Sept. 27-28 (RS) and Oct. 14 (HG), as well as from the Dempster Hwy. turnout in late October (RF). A ♀ Downy Woodpecker was seen seven times at a feeder in the Whse. area Sept. 22 - Nov. 25 (D&LS). One Downy was 20 km n.w. of Whse., Nov. 10 (MHo). A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was reported from Polar L., near Buffalo R., N.W.T., Sept. 11 (IR)

PERCHING BIRDS — A pair of Barn Swallows managed to raise a second brood at Graham Inlet, Tagish L., in August (MB). A rare Clark's Nutcracker was observed w. of Fish L., Aug. 12 and at Jackson Cr., Fish L. area Sept. 15-16 (WH). An Am. Robin was still at Teslin Nov. 3 (BS). A Wheatear was seen in the c. Richardson Mts., Aug. 5 and one was in the Ogilvie Mts., Aug. 13 (HG). There was a pronounced migratory movement of Water Pipits through Yk., Sept. 11-18 (DK,CM). A N Shrike was seen near Lynx L., e. of Ft. Reliance Sept. 8 (DMu). This species is considered rare but regular in the Great Slave L. area by DK. Four observers reported N. Shrikes for the Yukon (RF, HG, WH, DMo). An ad. ♂ Townsend's Warbler was observed in a migration group of 11+ warblers of five species in the Ogilvie Mts., far n. of its known breeding range Aug. 14 (HG). Two or more ♂ Townsend's Warblers were seen at Troutline Cr., near Cassiar, B.C., Aug. 25 (PMan). RF's most "startling" observation was that of an Am. Redstart in a snowstorm above timberline in an area containing much shrub and some tree willows on the Stewart R., e.c. Yukon, at 64°20'N, 131°15'W on Aug. 30.

If there is indeed a decline in the Pine Grosbeak, it cannot yet be serious as the bird was reported by 11 observers. Not unexpectedly, some of the redpolls identified in the s. Ogilvie Mts., in November were Hoarys (RF). The peak migration of Tree Sparrows at Yk., was Oct. 1-6 (CM, G&TW). Harris' Sparrows, uncommon at Yk., were reported Sept. 10 (DMu) and Oct. 3 (EB). HG would like to receive confirmation of a suspected Song Sparrow observation. The song was heard only briefly in the Ogilvie Mts., just s. of the Dempster Hwy. bridge over the Blackstone R., km 122. Smith's Longspurs with young were seen in the Aishihik L. area, Aug. 1 (DMo). Among migrating longspurs, one was identified as a ♂ Smith's in the Ogilvie Mts., Aug. 14 (HG). One was n.w. of Fish L., Sept. 9 (WH).

CONTRIBUTORS — Esther Braden, Marion Brook, Syd Cannings, René Carlson, William Classen, Paul Dabbs, Tom Dafoe, Doug & Sandra Desjardins, Robert Frisch, Carole, George & Troy Gibson, Willi Harms, Robert Hayes, Marg Henderson (MHe), Manfred Hoefs (MHo), **Don Karasiuk, area editor, N.W.T., Canadian Wildlife Service, Box 2310, Yellowknife, N.W.T., Canada, X0E 1H0** (observations from N.W.T. should be sent to that address), Maria Ledergerber, Paul Mantle (PMan), R. Patricia Marcellus (RPMar), Clifford Matthews, Dave Mossop (DMo), Dave Muirhead (DMu), L. Osburne, Kate Postoloski, Ian Robertson, Don Russell, Don & Lilly Schuler, Rhia Stewart, Barbara Studds, Tommy Taylor, Boyd, Glen & Trish Warner, Norbert Wolfe. — **HELMUT GRÜNBERG, Yukon Conservation Society, 301 Steele St., Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada, Y1A 2C5.**

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

Most parts of the Region were unseasonably warm and dry up to mid-November. Although Spokane, Walla Walla, and Yakima, Wash., and Fortine, Mont., reported above-normal precipitation in August, September turned out very dry nearly everywhere. No measurable moisture fell at Spokane from September 4 through October 14. Most areas reported low water levels with dried-up marshes and exposed mud flats. However, Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge reported a "wet year" with 11.81 in. of precipitation through November and Malheur Lake levels were very high. An unseasonable cold snap around mid-November brought an early freeze-up to ponds and lakes.

The midfall produced little in the way of exciting observations. Many late lingerers were reported but some areas seemed not to have had bird departures significantly delayed. Double-crested Cormorants, Cattle Egrets, and Barn Owls continued to appear in new places, apparently extending their ranges. Perhaps the most noticeable event was what did not happen: "northern" finches in general failed to arrive in normal numbers, and were, in fact, scarce or absent from most areas.

LOONS, GREBES — The largest concentrations of Com. Loons were on L. Wenatchee, Chelan Co., Wash., Nov. 7 (WD) and Wells Pool above Wells Dam on the Columbia R., Oct. 19 (GB). The season yielded the most Arctic Loon sightings ever, in October and November. Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., had an imm. bird (DP, Jer, RMA); the Wells Pool-Pateros-Brewster area had 1-2 (GB, NM), and one was picked up on Hwy. 20 in the Burns, Ore., area (CS, CDL, ST). A **Yellow-billed Loon** was sighted on the Snake R., 1.5 mi n. of Marsing, Ida., Sept. 23 (J&RC, RC, JH) for apparently the first state record. A Red-throated Loon was at the Yakima R. mouth Oct. 13; two appeared there Oct. 20, and one was on the Columbia R., 2 mi upstream Nov. 17 (REW). Two Red-necked Grebes were at Radium Hot Springs, B.C., Aug. 11 (RB); one was on Twin Lakes, Kootenai Co., Ida., Aug. 26 (SGS) and the species was noted at the mouth of the Colville R., Stevens Co., Wash. (JN). Single birds were on the Wells Pool on three dates in August and September (NM). The top number of W. Grebes was 155 on C.J. Strike Res., near Bruneau, Ida. (J&NH).

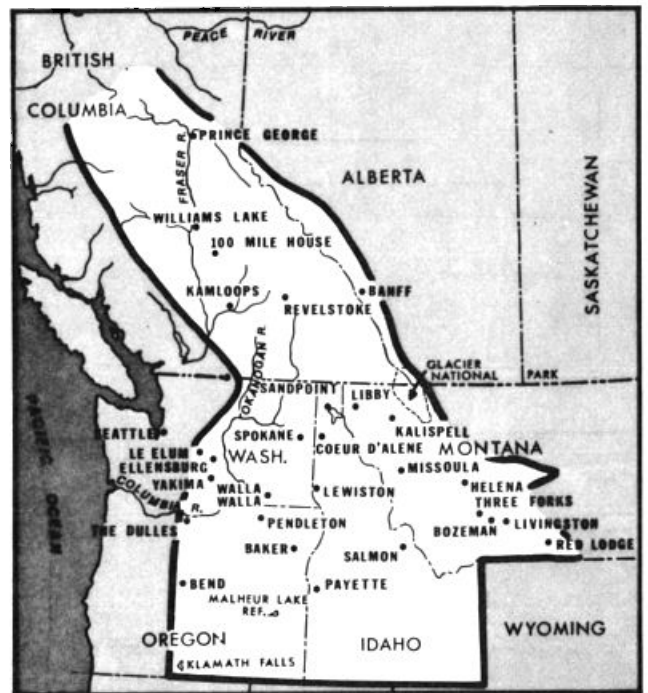
PELICANS THROUGH HERONS — White Pelicans seemed to be on the increase in s. Idaho at Deer Flat N.W.R., near Nampa and along the Snake R. Up to 300± were at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., August - October and the birds peaked at 2500 at Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., in late August. At least 515 Double-crested Cormorants were in the latter area Sept. 6; 80± pairs nested there cf. to 60 last year (ST). Two were on Park L., Grant Co., Wash., Oct. 17 (JA) and one was on Wells Pool Oct. 5 (NM, GB). The Nampa, Ida., area had 100 Sept. 23 and an immature spent Nov. 9-25 near the foot of L. McDonald, Glacier N.P., Mont. (RRW).

A newly-found Great Blue heronry of eight nests, 2 mi e. of Bonners Ferry, Ida., appar-

ently had six of the nests active this year (PS). A tardily reported ad. **Green Heron** was spotted 2 mi e. of LaGrande, Ore., May 26 (JE) and one was on the S. Fork of the Malheur R., s. of Riverside (BE). Six adult and four young Cattle Egrets perched on a fence 10 mi n.w. of Pocatello, Ida., Aug. 5 (CHT). The Nampa area had one (G.E.A.S.); one was near Touchet, Wash., Nov. 14 (RF) and two adults and one immature were feeding near Lawen, Ore., Sept. 5 (ST). Nesting pairs of Great Egrets were estimated at 415 at Malheur N.W.R., with the peak number of birds in the basin 1155 Sept. 6. Seven were sighted at the breeding area of the n. Potholes Res., Columbia N.W.R., Aug. 19 (JA) and one was at Boardman, Ore., Oct. 20 (MC). Snowy Egret nesting pairs at Malheur were only half of the 10-year average of 80; 190 was the peak fall count of individuals. Nampa reported 14 on Sept. 9. Black-crowned Night Heron numbers appeared good. An immature at Swan L., near Vernon, B.C., Sept. 12-17 furnished the most northerly record for the species in the Province (PS, PMcA). White-faced Ibises continued to increase at Malheur with nesting pairs at 150 (10-year average, 70) and the fall peak, 780 birds. A migrating flock of 97 was near Pocatello Aug. 16. The birds seem to be doing well in that area but their very local distribution and their wintering in Mexico are causing concern (CHT). The Nampa area had 75 Aug. 19.

WATERFOWL — Whistling Swans peaked at Malheur at 7500 and 225± were on the wintering grounds of S. Thompson R., Kamloops, B.C., Nov. 18. Except for 200 at Ennis, Mont., Nov. 10, only minor numbers were reported elsewhere, mostly in c. Washington. Trumpeter Swan production at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont., was up with 53 cygnets surviving to flight stage. Drying of off-refuge wetlands drove more birds into the refuge, with a peak of 349 Sept. 26. Color-marked birds from Grande Prairie, Alta., numbered five there in November. Refuge personnel are requesting reports of marked birds, including color and if possible the number on collar or leg band. The species produced a record 33 fledged young at Malheur, with one additional cygnet raised off the refuge. Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., had a peak of 18 on Oct. 24.

The largest concentration of Canada Geese, 25,000, was at Stratford, Wash., Oct. 17 (JA). Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, Ida., had 10,000+ Nov. 29 and numbers peaked at 6600 at Malheur Nov. 15. Top number at Columbia N.W.R., was 12,000 and Kamloops, B.C., peaked at 1500. McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash., had several thousand. Other peaks were: Turnbull 2193; Kootenai N.W.R., Bon-



ners Ferry, Ida., 1130; Coeur d'Alene and Pend Oreille R., Ida., 1525, and Brewster Wash., 1000. **Nineteen Cackling Geese** were picked out among a flock of 400 Canadas at Park L., Grant Co., Wash., Nov. 11 (JA). White-fronted Geese reached 1300 at Malheur Oct. 31 and Snow Geese 3500. Deer Flat N.W.R., had 66 White-fronted Sept. 9. Two blue-phase Snow Geese, very rare in interior British Columbia, were at Kamloops in October (RR).

Ducks peaked at 18,700 at Kootenai N.W.R., half of 1979's number. Mallard production at Malheur was 5635. The fall peak at Deer Flat N.W.R., was 260,000 and Turnbull had a peak of 11,000+. The top count for all ducks at Columbia N.W.R., was 49,000+. The Pend Oreille, Coeur d'Alene and St. Jo R., in n. Idaho had a peak of 8550 Mallards and also tallied 175 Wood Ducks Sept. 22 (I.F.G.). Gadwall production at Malheur was 7650 with a fall peak of 11,000+; Turnbull averaged 500± during the fall. Malheur apparently had most of the Pintails with a peak of 39,000. Other peaks there were: Cinnamon Teal 10,000, Am. Wigeon 21,500; N. Shoveler 22,600, and Canvasback 21,000. The Lower St. Jo and Pend Oreille R., had a high of 10,750 Am. Wigeon and Turnbull peaked at 2155 Am. Wigeon and 795 Canvasback. Red head reached 12,000 on the Pend Oreille R. and Canvasback were up to 250 there. Highest Lesser Scaup numbers were at Turnbull with 1059. An aerial count at Deer Flat revealed 150 Ring-necked Ducks, unusual there. Unusual records were of a ♀ Greater Scaup on Upper Klamath L., Ore., Oct. 23 (SS) and 30 at Columbia N.W.R., Oct. 18 (DP); an Oldsquaw on Lenore L., Grant Co., Wash., Nov. 11 (JA), and a ♀ Harlequin Duck lingering until Nov. 26 near the foot of L. McDonald Glacier N.P. (RRW). Noteworthy were 16 White-winged Scoters on the Columbia R. near Brewster, Wash., Oct. 19 (RF) and six plus an ad. male and a Surf Scoter, on Lenore L., Nov. 11 (JA), and a Surf Scoter on Upper Klamath L., Oct. 23 (SS).

VULTURES, HAWKS — Several notable gatherings of Turkey Vultures occurred. A dead tree near Armstrong, B.C., held 39 Aug. 20 (JG) and a flock of 20 was at a carcass s. of Kimberley, B.C. A group of 14 was along the Valley-Springdale Rd., Stevens Co., Wash., Sept. 24 (JN) and the birds were "extremely common" at Malheur. Six were at an elk carcass on Darland Mt., in the Yakima area Aug. 2. Numbers for all three *Accipiters* appeared good. Swainson's Hawks fledged 13 young from four nests in Oregon (U.S.F.S. *et al.*). Ferruginous Hawk numbers in s.e. Idaho were very good. Kilgore had 13 by Aug. 14 and Henrys L., had 45 on Sept. 2. The area appears to be a major staging area preceding migration (CHT). Oregon fledged 73 from 23 nests (U.S.F.S. *et al.*). One was still at Eltopia, Wash., Nov. 2 (GS). Montana's Glacier N.P. concentration of Bald Eagles reached its peak of 497 Nov. 14, 287 of which were adults, but ad numbers climbed to 328 Nov. 29 (RRW). Single very late Ospreys were near Cle Elum, Wash., Oct. 24 and over Crab Cr., Columbia N.W.R., the next day (JEr.Dp). Observers reported three Gyrfalcon sightings and four of Peregrines. Merlin sightings were up with 16 or more reported. Prairie Falcon sightings exceeded this number. A monitoring of raptor migration on a crest of the Bridger Range 10 mi n.e. of Bozeman, Mont., revealed 677 individuals of 13 species. Completely unexpected was the sighting of three **Broad-winged Hawks**. The four previous Montana records were all for the e. part of the state (FT).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS — Sharp-tailed and Sage grouse were reported as quite plentiful before the hunting season in the Rupert, Ida., vicinity, but "Valley" and Mountain Quail, scarce. Sharp-tailed numbers appeared good w. of Rogerson, Ida. (EB). Eastern Washington, by contrast, reported the sighting of a single bird. A small covey of Bobwhite was flushed at L. Lowell, Dear Flat N.W.R. Turkeys were reported only in the Prairie, Ida., area with 36 on Oct. 20 (PCo).

CRANES THROUGH COOT — Eight sub-adult Whooping Cranes that hatched at Grays Lake N.W.R., Ida., during 1975-1979 had arrived at their wintering grounds in the Rio Grande Valley, N.Mex., by Nov. 26. Of 24 eggs transplanted into Sandhill Crane nests at Grays L., this spring, 16 hatched and eight fledged. One was fatally attacked by a large raptor during migration (RD). Sandhill Cranes were seen migrating Aug. 5 - Nov. 25. They peaked at 3400 at Malheur at October's end. Numerous flights of 30-100 passed over Potholes Res., Wash., and several hundred were seen over Cold Springs N.W.R., Umatilla Co., Ore. One was still at Kamloops, B.C., Nov. 25 (RH). American Coot had an excellent year in the Malheur-Harney Basin with 132,000 recorded Sept. 6. Columbia N.W.R., had a peak of 800, down from 1979 and Turnbull reached 7770. Numbers were much lower than usual on the Pend Oreille, Coeur d'Alene and Lower St. Jo R., of n. Idaho, with peak numbers at 14,700.

SHOREBIRDS — Montana had two Semipalmated Plover sightings, one at Ennis Aug. 8 (PDS) and two at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Sept. 14 (BW). Alvord L., Harney Co., Ore., had seven Aug. 19 and one Aug. 31 (MS) and

one was at Swan L., Vernon Sept. 8-17 (JG). Up to 33 Snowy Plovers were at Alvord L., the only area reporting them. Aug. 19 - Sept. 9 (MS). Two Am. Golden Plovers were on alpine terrain at 8000 ft in Cathedral P., B.C., Aug. 28 (RH). Richland, Wash., had two Oct. 27 (REW) and one was at W. Medical L., Spokane Co., Wash., Sept. 20 along with a Black-bellied Plover (JA). One of the latter was heard at Reardan, Wash., the same day (JA) and Richland had two Sept. 21-22 (REW). One visited Swan L., Vernon Sept. 12 (PS,PMcA) and six were in fields s. of Klamath Falls, Ore., Oct. 14 (SS).

Two flocks of Long-billed Curlews totaling 66 were at Harrison, Mont., Aug. 8 and up to seven were in the Nampa, Ida., area Aug. 10-12. A belatedly-reported **Whimbrel** was with Long-billed Curlews near Union, Ore., May 26, 1979. (JE). A **Wandering Tattler** was photographed at Caledonia Slough on the w. side of Upper Klamath L., for the second county record; the first was in 1882 (SS). Willets were described as plentiful until fall migration in the Rupert, Ida., area (WHS) and up to four were seen in the Nampa area Aug. 12-19 (A&HL). Three were at the Yakima R. mouth Aug. 15 for Woodley's first record there. A Red Knot was observed at length at Harney L., Malheur N.W.R., Sept. 11 (DT). Up to 11 Pectoral Sandpipers appeared at Upper Klamath L., and a Baird's was at Klamath Falls Sept. 3 (SS). A single Dunlin appeared at Stratford, Wash., Oct. 17 and another was in the Nampa area Sept. 9 for the only reports s. of Canada. Three were still at Kamloops, B.C., Nov. 25 and five at Goose L., near Vernon Nov. 18-19. The species occasionally winters in the area. A Short-billed Dowitcher was identified at Harrison, Mont., Aug. 15 (PDS,CH,EH) and another was at Red Rock Lakes Sept. 14 (BW). Up to six Stilt Sandpipers frequented the Yakima R. delta Sept. 2-3 (REW) and the birds reached a peak of nine at Reardan, Wash., Aug. 25-26 (JA). The Bozeman area had one Aug. 15 (PDS) and Chewelah, Wash., noted the species in August (JN) for the only other reports. The only Semipalmated Sandpipers were 12 in the Nampa area Sept. 9 (J&NH); three at Chewelah in late August (JN), and up to 50 on Aug. 15 in the Fortine, Mont., area for Weydemeyer's largest number ever. Malheur had an impressive 23,000 W. Sandpipers in late September (ST). Marbled Godwit was reported only for Alvord L., one Aug. 31 & Sept. 9 (MS), and for the Yakima R. delta Aug. 22 for Woodley's third record there. Malheur had 11 Sanderling Sept. 11 (DT), three were at Upper Klamath L., Sept. 23 (SS), and Reardan had two Sept. 14 and one Sept. 23 (JA). At Fortine where they are rare, seven appeared July 26 and 12 on Aug. 11 (WW). Only the Nampa area reported Black-necked Stilts, Aug. 2-19. Northern Phalarope sightings were spotty. More noteworthy observations were of four at Chewelah, Aug. 29, seven in the Nampa area Aug. 12 and up to 200 at Alvord L., in late August.

JAEGERS THROUGH MURRELETS — Alvord L., Ore., had a **Parasitic Jaeger** (MS). The only Glaucous Gulls reported were singles at Moses L., Wash., Nov. 2 (TC) and at Wells Pool the next day (NM). Bonaparte's Gulls were moving down into e. Washington and Oregon in late October and the species was reported for the Rupert, Ida., area. Columbia

N.W.R., had a lone Mew Gull Oct. 24 (DP, JEr). An adult and a subad. Sabine's Gull were spotted at Ninepipe N.W.R., Lake Co., Mont., Sept. 15-16 (JSM,BW). A single Com Tern was sighted at Flathead L., Mont., Sept. 16 (BW). An **Ancient Murrelet**, evidently wounded by a hunter, was collected on Toston Res., s. of Toston, Mont., Sept. 30 (*Montana State U. — LT) for the third state record.

PIGEONS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Single Band-tailed Pigeons appeared at Indian Rock Lookout n.w. of Bates, Ore., July 19 and Sept. 5 (RAH). Barn Owls continued extending their range in e. Washington. One near Monse Nov. 21 (NM) and one found sick at Malott Nov. 19 (CW) furnished presumably the most n. records for the state. The birds also appeared at Bridgeport; Upper Twin L., Lincoln Co.; Basin City, Franklin Co.; Quincy, George, and near Asotin. A Flammulated Owl was found dead between Walla Walla and Dixie, Wash., Nov. 17 (GWA). The only Snowy Owl report was of one at Vernon Nov. 24 (DL). A Hawk Owl was found at 6500 ft on Big White Mt., e. of Kelowna, B.C., Oct. 7 (BH). A Barred Owl was found at Bottle Bay near Sandpoint, Ida., Sept. 6 (JP,JR). A Great Gray Owl was sighted Sept. 23 & Nov. 12 near Ft. Klamath for the only reports (SS). A colony of White-throated Swifts was discovered in n. Ferry County, Wash. (TB,SZ). At least three different Anna's Hummingbirds appeared at Spokane Aug. 1 - Sept. 29, departing in spite of feeders provided them (JA). Three were at a Wenatchee, Wash. feeder Nov. 5 (PC). A Rufous Hummingbird lingered until Oct. 18, feeding on morning glory flowers at Yakima (Y.A.S.).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH WRENS — A few Lewis' Woodpeckers appeared at scattered locations in e. Oregon and Washington and s. Idaho. A ♀ Williamson's Sapsucker was at Browne (Tower) Mt., near Spokane Sept. 23 (JR). A White-headed Woodpecker appeared Sept. 30 at Falkland, n.w. of Vernon. The species is extremely rare this far n. Gray Flycatchers were positively identified near Bend, Ore., Sept. 5 (MHM) for the only report. Four Barn Swallows were still at Columbia N.W.R., Oct. 26 (DP,Jer); two at Nampa Nov. 2 (LN) and three Nov. 17 and one Dec. 1 at the Yakima delta (REW). One or two Blue Jays appeared in Hamilton; near Willow Cr. Res., e. of Harrison, and along the Missouri R., s. of Townsend, all in Montana. In Washington one or two were sighted at Johnson and Spokane. In British Columbia single birds were at Summerland and Kimberley. Two Com. Ravens 20 mi s. of Pocatello, Ida., were noteworthy; the species has largely disappeared from that area, for unknown reasons (CHT). Nampa had 7000 Com. Crows Nov. 16. A group of eight Boreal Chickadees, the largest seen in years, was in the Salmo Pass area of extreme n.e. Pend Oreille County, Wash., Sept. 30 (JA). House Wrens occupied 23 boxes at the bluebird nest box project w. of Spokane and fledged 172 young (DPI). Rock Wrens were still common Nov. 8 at Columbia N.W.R., and might even winter there (DP, JEr).

THRASHERS THROUGH STARLINGS — Sage Thrashers were "extremely abundant" in the Wenatchee area this past sum-

mer; many were at Badger Mt., n.e. of the city Aug. 6 (PC). At least 50 were with large numbers of birds of other species along Foster Cr., between Bridgeport and Leahy Jct., Wash., Aug. 11 (DP) and the species was "very common" in the Rupert, Ida., area (WHS). A ♂ Varied Thrush, very rare in s.e. Idaho, was in Rexburg Oct. 11 (RG). The bluebird nest box project near Spokane fledged 167 young W. Bluebirds from 37 boxes (DPI). Bohemian Waxwings had put in but scant appearances by November's end. Nampa counted 5500 Starlings Oct. 3.

VIREOS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS — A Red-eyed Vireo put in an appearance at Malheur N.W.R., Sept. 21 (ST) and one was at Fields, Ore., Aug. 15 (MS). Cold Springs N.W.R., yielded a Black-and-white Warbler Sept. 22 (REW,MC,CC). Single Orange-crowned Warblers were at Klamath Falls Nov. 11 (SS) and at L. Lowell, Nampa Nov. 27 (DT), both late dates. Fields, Ore., had a ♀ N. Parula during the summer (NC,MS). Malheur had a **Magnolia Warbler** Sept. 28 for the first documented sighting there (CDL). A supposed Townsend's × Hermit Warbler was sighted Sept. 4 at Hyak, Wash. (EHU) and a Blackpoll Warbler was photographed at Fields Sept. 6-8 (MS). An imm. Palm Warbler was banded at Pocatello (JJ) and an adult was seen there Oct. 18 (CHT). Another adult appeared in Indian Canyon, Spokane Sept. 14 (JA) and one was banded near Troy, Mont. (KB). Fields observed a N. Waterthrush on several dates in late August and one was netted and photographed there Sept. 6 (MS). A Connecticut Warbler at Lavington, B.C., Sept. 6 was closely compared

with two accompanying MacGillivray's Warblers (MCo). Yellow-rumped Warblers, always common, must have flooded the Troy-Yaak R., Mont., area for Kay Burk banded 503 this year. An Am. Redstart was at Fields Aug. 27-29 (MS).

The Nampa area had 8000 Red-winged Blackbirds Sept. 9 and 150 Brown-headed Cowbirds Aug. 27. One of the latter was with a large flock of Red-winged and Brewer's blackbirds near College Place, Wash., Oct. 21 (B.M.A.S.). A Rusty Blackbird was at Meadow L., between Wenatchee and Malaga, Wash., Oct. 20 (PC,HO,N.C.A.S.).

FINCHES, SPARROWS — A Rose-breasted Grosbeak stayed in Helena several days starting Aug. 1 (LS). Large numbers of very noisy Evening Grosbeaks were feeding fully fledged young along the Methow R., w. of Winthrop, Wash., Aug. 13 (DP). Little or no mention was made of the species elsewhere. Red Crossbills were almost unmentioned and apparently very scarce. A Green-tailed Towhee was along the Deschutes R., w. of Bend, Ore., Sept. 5 for the only report (MHM). Black-throated Sparrows were common around Fields and Malheur and as far n. as Fossil, Ore., with none seen after mid-August (MS). The only Harris' Sparrow reports were of one at Kelowna, B.C., through November (RY) and one at Vernon Nov. 15-20 (MCo), both at feeders. A Golden-crowned Sparrow was at Cathedral Park, B.C., at 7300 ft Sept. 16 (RH). Single White-throated Sparrows visited feeders at Kelowna Nov. 19 (RY) and at Spokane Oct. 14 (RW). Unusual numbers of Lincoln's

Sparrows appeared at Indian Canyon, Spokane Sept. 1-29, with a peak of eight Sept. 14 (JA).

CONTRIBUTORS CITED — James Acton, G. Witt Anderson, Ronald M. Anglin, Ethlyn Barneby, Blue Mountain Audubon Society (B.M.A.S.), George Brady, Kay Burk, Tom Burke, Rudi Botot, Phil Cheney, Jim & Ruth Clark, Priscilla Cook (PCo), Tom Clement, Niel Cobb, Mary Collins (MCo), Craig & Marion Corder (MC), Wayne Doane, Roderick C. Drewien, Brad Ehlers, Jim Erckmann (JEr), Joe Evanich (JE), Ron Friesz, Ririe Godfrey, James Grant, Camille & Ed Harper (EH), Jim & Naomi Heckathorn, Rick Howie, Robert A. Hudson (EHU), Eugene Hunn, Bill Huxley, Idaho Fish & Game Dept. (I.F.G.), Joe Jeppson, Al & Hilda Larson, Carroll D. Littlefield, D. Low, Jeffrey S. Marks, N. Marr, Peter McAllister, Marjorie H. Moore, Jack Nisbet, Lorraine Noble, North Central Audubon Society (N.C.A.S.), Howard Oswood, Dennis Paulson (DP), Dave Plemons (DPI), June Potter, Jan Reynolds, Ralph Ritcey, Lorelei Saxby, Gary Scrivens, W. H. Shillington, Paul R. Sieracki, P. D. Skaar, Mark Smith, Shirley G. Sturts, Steve Summers, Pat Swift, Cindy Sword, Dan Taylor, Larry Thompson, Steve Thompson, Fred Tilly, Charles H. Trost, U.S. Forest Service (U.S.F.S.), Cindy West, Winton Weydemeyer, Bart Whelton, Rebecca R. Williams, Robert Wilson, Robert E. Woodley, Yakima Audubon Society (Y.A.S.), Robin Yellowlees, Steve Zender. — **THOMAS H. ROGERS, E. 10820 Maxwell Ave., Spokane, WA 99206.**

MOUNTAIN WEST

/Hugh E. Kingery

A combination of four eastern Nevada contributions suggests tantalizing potential for future study. Elko County lies on the west edge of the Great Salt Lake desert. Ruby Lakes Refuge has received good coverage for some years; two other Elko County studies, by Martin and Hoffman, and another by Perrone farther south, in White Pine, Nye, and Lincoln Counties, produced records referred to frequently in this report. They document an important hawk migration route and perhaps a significant landbird one as well.

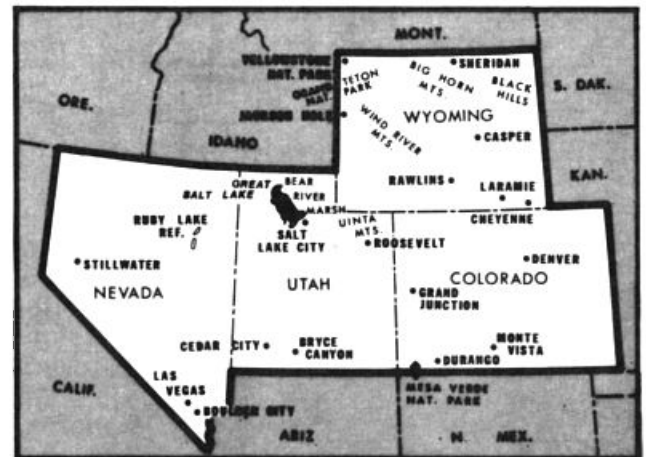
"Bright blue October days," is the way H. Jackson characterized the entire fall in the Mountain West this year. The majority of the migrants left earlier than usual, perhaps dispatched by food supplies diminished by the dry summer and fall. Nonetheless, many individual migrants lingered late, and some northern species arrived late.

The Denver Fall Count (hereafter, D.F.C.) held September 8-9, tallied 157 species and the Fort Collins Fall Count, (hereafter, Ft.C.F.C.) found 124 species on September 15.

Regional observers listed 348 species this fall, eleven more than in fall 1978. Colorado had 314, Nevada 261, Wyoming 243, and Utah 222. (For the year the Region reported 421 species — eleven more than in 1978: Colorado 378, Nevada 293, Wyoming 281, and Utah 281).

LOONS, GREBS

— Common Loons are increasingly noticed; high count was 30 near Denver Nov. 17 (HS), and so are Arctic Loons. Two Arctics at Minersville, Utah (†MP) apparently constituted the second state record, while one at Sheridan Nov. 17 provided Wyoming its seventh record (†HD). Colorado, with seven records on the E. Slope Oct. 28 - Nov. 18, had 44± reports, doubled since 1975. One was at Pyramid L., Nev., July 9 (DG). Neither the Red-throated Loon Nov. 24 (F&JJ) nor the Red-necked Grebe Sept. 29 (J&JC) seen near Denver stayed. Peak counts of migrating Eared Grebes were 500 at Minersville Nov. 11 (SPH) and 600 at the Antelope I., causeway over the Great Salt L., Nov. 24 (JN). Colorado reported unusual numbers of W. Grebes, with Union Res., near Longmont hosting the most, a varying population of 1300-1500, Oct. 6-28 (B.A.S.,F.A.C.). Lake Powell, Utah, and L. Mead, Nev., attracted their usual fall contingents, with hundreds at L. Powell and 1000 at L. Mead by mid-November (CC,VM).



PELICANS THROUGH IBISES — Peak counts of White Pelican were 175 on the D.F.C., Sept. 8 (D.F.O.), 200 at Torrington, Wyo., Sept. 19 (CM), and 1060 in n.c. Colorado Sept. 22 (JRD). The 150-200 at Ogden Bay W.M.A., Sept. 22 (JN) were a fraction of the Great Salt L. population. Colorado Division of Wildlife (hereafter, C.D.W.) reported nine colonies of Double-crested Cormorants nesting in Colorado, and eight along the S. Platte R., associating with Great Blue Herons. At Casper the nesting flock numbered 100 Aug. 11 (HD). Cormorants persisted to Nov.



Cattle Egrets, Laramie, Wyo., Oct. 27, 1979. Photo/David Mozurkewich.

10 at Laramie, Wyo. (DM), Nov. 20 at L. Powell, Utah (CC), and to Nov. 24 at Denver (F&JJ). The C.D.W., located 38 active and 21 inactive Great Blue heronries in Colorado, with 660-800 active nests. For the fourth consecutive year, the Salt L. Valley reported Little Blue Herons. This year two were at Farmington Bay W.M.A., Aug. 25 (†SPH,VJH). Wyoming established its second Cattle Egret record, the first verified by photograph, with two at Laramie Oct. 27 (DM). The first n. Nevada record was of one near Ruby Lake N.W.R., Aug. 3-7 (RM). Both Nevada with 16 at Las Vegas in mid-October (VM), and Colorado with 39 at Latham Res., Sept. 22 (JRd), had their largest flocks of Cattle Egrets yet reported. One Nov. 19 at Fruita, Colo., was quite late (DGt). They frequented the Humboldt R., near Halleck, Nev., throughout the summer (RM). A nesting colony of White-faced Ibises at Logan, Utah increased from 75 to 3000 over the past 5 years, but the nests this year had 90% failure rate, owing to skunk predation (KA).

WATERFOWL — Utah ducks peaked at 529,361 Sept. 1-15 — earlier and lower than last year. The major component, Pintail, peaked at 226,917 Aug. 16-31. Canvasbacks peaked at 21,339 Nov. 1-15. Jackson L., Wyo., reported 10,000-12,000 ducks, mostly Red-heads and wigeons.

Whistling Swans peaked at 25,000 Nov. 1 at Bear River N.W.R. (RV), with 2504 at other Utah refuges. Five Aleutian Canada Geese



Aleutian Canada Geese, Clark Co., Nev., Nov. 9, 1979. Photo/C. S. Lawson.

Nov. 8 and seven Nov. 9-27 sent Nevadans (and this editor) to their reference books. "There are only 1400-1500 left in the wild, and these are the first in Nevada. They are quite small and dark with very well-developed barring." (CL,ph.). A hunter shot a Black Brant at Bear R., Oct. 13 (RV). The 500 Snow Geese Nov. 5 and 700 Nov. 7-8 at Sheridan filled in the first record for Latilong 4 w. of Sheridan. Reports of Snow Geese of the blue form came from Sheridan and Laramie (HD,KB). A Eur. Wigeon was at Bear R., Oct. 12 (RV), furnishing Utah's third record. Oldsquaws visited Casper Oct. 28 (OKS) and Bear R., Nov. 20, where one was shot by a hunter Nov. 23 (RV). Surf Scoters made a noticeable incursion: one Oct. 23 at Kirch W.M.A., Nye Co., Nev. (MP) and one shot Nov. 4 at Ruby L. (NE.*Nev. Mus., *vide* SHB); 2-3 at Minersville Nov. 10-15 (MP,†SPH), the first record for s. Utah; and singles at Gunnison, Colo., Oct. 21 (KC) and Denver Nov. 8 (MOS). With the Surf at Minersville were 1-2 White-winged Nov. 10-11 (MP,†SPH), also the first for s. Utah. A White-winged Scoter visited Bear R., Nov. 7 (RV,CCr), and two were at Amalga sewage lagoon near Logan Nov. 11 (SV,AG). The count of 400 Com. Goldeneyes on the Antelope I. causeway Nov. 27 seemed high (JN).

HAWKS, EAGLES — On the e. side of the Salt L. Basin are the Wellsville Mts., where for the third year Hoffman and other Logan birders conducted a hawk watch this fall. They tallied 12.0 hawks/hr, surprisingly consistent with the past 2 years. On the w. side of the Salt L. Basin in Nevada are the Goshute Mts., 20 mi s.w. of Wendover, Utah. There, at a new site, observers counted more raptors in 14 days than the Wellsville watchers counted in 41 days; the rate was 26.7/hr. The location on the w. side of the Great Salt L. desert, creates the "principal reason for the extreme funneling effect found there." See Table 1 (SH). Four days of hawk watching near Boulder, following up on previous years' studies, reaffirmed the theory that Red-tailed Hawks prefer a route 10 mi e. of the foothills to one running along the edge of the foothills. *Accipiters* do not show such a preference (FH).

Observers reported two far out-of-range

hawks in e. Colorado which C.F.O. will review: a White-tailed Kite Nov. 12 at Morrison (R&NG, *vide* D.F.O.) and a Zone-tailed Hawk in Baca County Nov. 2, following a 2-day blizzard (CWa).

Outside of the lookout observations, *Accipiter* sightings continued to increase, Goshawks and Sharp-shinned slightly and Cooper's substantially, to 131. Half the observations of Cooper's came from Nevada and s. Utah. An incursion of Red-tailed Hawks at Gunnison, Colo., brought 2-3 times as many as usual for a month and a half. Observers could count 3-4 /day (6-7/day for two weeks in October; KC). Both the Wellsville and the Goshute hawk watches produced Broad-winged Hawks; two in the Wellsvilles and five in the Goshutes, double the number of reported records for the respective states. Nevada had another Black Hawk, its fourth, at Las Vegas Sept. 15 (J&MC). While Gunnison reported only one Marsh Hawk all fall, an extreme scarcity (KC), 75 mi s. Monte Vista N.W.R., peaked at 40, most remaining through Nov. 30 (MBS). Ruby L., reported only 17 on four days, compared to the usual 3-10 daily (SHB); yet to the s. the survey of Nye and White Pine Counties turned up 28 on Oct. 22-27 (MP), and Cedar City and L. Powell had daily observations (SPH,CC).

Table 1. Wellsville and Goshute Mts. Hawk Watches

Dates:	Wellsvilles	Goshutes
	Sept. 6 - Oct. 20	Sept. 19-24, Oct. 4-11
Days of observation	41	14
Species		
<i>Accipiters</i>	1229	2151
Sharp-shinned	484	1084
Cooper's	389	909
Goshawk	30	22
Unid.	356	158
<i>Buteos</i>	286	405
Red-tailed	236	384
Swainson's	18	5
Other	32	16
<i>Falcons</i>	856	311
Am. Kestrel	837	305
Prairie Falcon	12	5
Other	7	1
Golden Eagle	255	46
Bald Eagle	2	1
Marsh Hawk	184	24
Turkey Vulture	10	12
Osprey	13	4
Unid. raptors	69	47
<i>Total</i>	2935	3023
1979 Hawks/hour	12.0	26.7
1978 Hawks/hour	11.6 (revised)	
1977 Hawks/hour	11.6 (revised)	

CRANES — Twelve to 14 Whooping Cranes stopped in the San Luis Valley, Colo., with 11 there Oct. 14 (MBS). At Rangely, Colo., on the route from Grays L., to the San Luis Valley, a Golden Eagle attacked and killed a Whooping Crane as it and two Sandhills rose several hundred feet above a pond (U.P.I., MBS). One of the Grays L. birds, identified by leg bands, strayed E over the Rockies 200 mi to Longmont, Colo., Sept. 15 (NS). A substantial number of Sandhills migrated along the Wyoming and Colorado E. Slope, mostly in late October and November; e.g., 300 at Arvada, Wyo., Nov. 6 (HD), 3000-5000 at Ft. Morgan,

Colo., Oct. 3 (JCR), and 400 at Boulder and 200 at Denver Oct. 21 (FH, D.F.O.), possibly the same flock.

SHOREBIRDS — Fall counts tallied 884 shorebirds of 18 species at Denver Sept. 8-9 including 368 Killdeer and 178 Lesser Yellowlegs, and 460 of 12 species at Ft. Collins Sept. 15 including 244 Killdeer and 95 Lesser Yellowlegs. A D.F.O. trip to Lamar, Colo., Aug. 11-12 counted 549 shorebirds, including 155 Snowy Plovers. Plover reports included a Semipalmated at Coal Valley, Lincoln Co., Nev., Aug. 8 (MP), 300 Killdeer in early August in one location near Las Vegas (VM), a tardy Am. Golden Plover at Casper Oct. 28 (OKS), a Black-bellied there Sept. 22 (HD *et al.*) and two at Laramie Oct. 27 (DM). Four Ruddy Turnstones at Glenwood Springs Oct. 24 (†RP, ph.) provided a first Latilong record and two at Pyramid L., Aug. 20 provided a rare Nevada record (DG). A Long-billed Curlew at Denver Nov. 10 was quite late (D.F.O.). First Latilong records for Red Knots came from Julesburg, Colo., Sept. 1 (RCR) and Jackson, Wyo., furnished the first w. Wyoming record, Sept. 12 (†BW). The Casper Latilong picked up first records for Pectoral Sandpipers with five Aug. 11 and four Sept. 22 (HD, OKS *et al.*). Flocks of 12 and 25 on Sept. 15 & 25 at Quichipa, Utah doubled Hedges' previous observations of that species in s. Utah. Casper Latilong also had its first Stilt Sandpipers, with ten Aug. 11 and one Sept. 22 (HD, OKS *et al.*). The first regional Buff-breasted Sandpiper since 1977 visited Sheridan Aug. 5 (†JD). Bear R. had several thousand Marbled Godwits in October, and Julesburg picked up its first records with 1-8 present Aug. 5 - Sept. 1 (RCR). One at Casper Nov. 4 was late (OKS). American Avocets, Black-necked Stilts and phalaropes seemed scarce throughout the Region.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS — Parasitic Jaegers visited Bear R., Sept. 25 (RV), Pyramid L., Oct. 5 (DG; sixth state record), and Pueblo Oct. 27-29 (D.F.O., EW). The latter captured a gull, to the astonishment of observers (EW). A jaeger of unknown species was at Sheridan Aug. 17 (HD). The first Nevada **Long-tailed Jaeger** was at Pyramid L., Oct. 4, a wary bird which sported central tail feathers 10 in longer than the other rectrices (†DG). Although the numbers of Franklin's Gulls may have dropped, counts of 1500-1700 came from Longmont Sept. 6 - Oct. 31 (F.A.C., B A S.) and 2500 were counted across n.c. Colorado Aug. 5 (JRd). Thousands stayed several weeks in Jackson Hole, Wyo. (BR). Bonaparte's Gulls built up to 50 at Longmont Nov. 15 (CB). The only Sabine's Gull reported visited Denver Sept. 19-22 (D.F.O., LM). A handful of Com. Terns was at Longmont Sept. 11 - Oct. 6. The descriptions of the **Arctic Tern** at Longmont Sept. 12-15 are more convincing than the photographs; apparently the photographers snapped the wrong bird (J&C, JH, MOS, HH *et al.*). If accepted, it will constitute Colorado's first definite record. There are two debatable 19th century records of specimens which are lost. The D.F.O. found seven Least Terns at Lamar Aug. 12, probably the nesting group mentioned last season.

DOVES THROUGH NIGHTHAWKS — One White-winged Dove flushed from a bor-

row pit at Timpas, Colo., with several Mourning Doves, provided the first record for s.e. Colorado (†GPE). Late observations of Yellow-billed Cuckoos came with rare Las Vegas records Oct. 22 & 27 (VM) and birds at Colorado Springs Sept. 25 (CAC) and Oct. 27 (PA). Over 25 Roadrunners along 5 mi of road near Pahrump was probably the largest number ever reported in the state (GA). A road-killed Screech Owl near Radium, Colo., Oct. 12 provided the Eagle Latilong its first record (DJ). Gunnison reported extra high visibility of Great Horned Owls, evidenced by 20-25 road kills on an 8-mile stretch of highway from April to October (KC). Great Gray Owl reports came from Jackson and Dubois (BR, FP). Short-eared Owls did not breed on Ruby Lake Ref., this year, although 10-20 pairs did last year (SHB). A Short-eared Owl occurred on Beartooth Pass, Park Co., Wyo. (BW), and Blue Jays mobbed one in a Boulder yard (MHO). Jackson reported a rare Saw-whet Owl Nov. 14 (GR). Transient Poor-wills roosted in a road on the plains near Pueblo Oct. 7-16 (VT). In Boulder City, Nev., PL "found a Poor-will on the window sill of a restaurant. Presumably it was just resting until it warmed up a bit, as it took off later in the day." (VM). Latest Com. Nighthawk observations came on successive nights from Laramie, Grand L., and Denver Sept. 22-24 (AD, DJ, HEK). The Lesser Nighthawks found Aug. 6 & 9 in Dry L., and Coal Valleys, n. of Pahrnagat N.W.R., Nev., were 30 mi n. of the species' cited n. limit.

HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS — The description of a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** at a feeder Aug. 31 in Beulah, Colo., sounds convincing, establishing a first state record (VT *et al.*). Utah now has two records of **Broad-billed Hummingbird**. For the second successive year, a Springdale feeder attracted one, this year Sept. 9-10 (†JG). A ♀ Rivoli's Hummingbird visited an Evergreen, Colo., feeder several times the evening of Sept. 1 but not afterwards (ECT). A Brighton, Utah feeder produced, both the third Rivoli's and first **Blue-throated Hummingbirds** for n. Utah Aug. 23, the latter the third state record. A large ♂ hummingbird had been present the previous summer also, the photograph too blurred for identification (†GK). Three ♂ Blue-throateds visited a Durango, Colo., feeder occasionally July 24 - Aug. 7 (EF). Martin's Elko County survey turned up two races of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; four Red-breasted and one Red-naped; the Red-breasted was 300 mi e. of its range in the California mountains. An intergrade between those two forms occurred at Zion Sept. 26-28 (JG). The same Elko County survey turned up a Ladder-backed Woodpecker Sept. 17, 200 mi n. of its normal range, in the Spruce Mts., in a stand of white fir and limber pine (†RM).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — Wandering late summer flycatchers included a Great Crested at Jackson Aug. 7 (KDi) and Ash-throateds at Gunnison Aug. 5 (KC), at Boulder Aug. 20 (FH) & 28 (MM), and one banded at Lyons, Colo., Oct. 4 (CW). The scattering of E. Phoebes included Nevada's third, at Las Vegas Oct. 27 (VM *et al.*) and birds at Evergreen, Colo., Aug. 18 (†ECT), Boulder Sept. 14 (CB, PG *et al.*), and one at Denver Oct. 20 (F&JJ). A Gray Flycatcher at

Boulder Sept. 23 missed setting a first Latilong record by one block — the distance Hall's yard lies s. of the 40th parallel which transects Boulder. As usual, only Barn Swallows were seen past September. Six flocks of 200-250 Barns flew over Ogden Bay W.M.A., Utah, Nov. 3, feeding on midges during the warm part of the day. No real freezing weather had occurred up to this time, and temperatures were reaching 60°F in mid-day (MK). Establishing first records in adjoining Latilongs, eight Purple Martins were at DeBeque, Colo., Aug. 16 (RL *et al.*) and four flocked with swallows at Axial, Colo., Aug. 17 (JW).

JAYS — The Blue × Steller's Jay hybrid, gone all summer from Grand L., reappeared Aug. 18 & 29, and in late fall began daily calls at the feeder (DJ; see AB 33:201, 301). A mild increase in Black-billed Magpies impressed Nevada observers, with 20 at Carson City Nov. 24 (BP) and eight Las Vegas observations.

TITMICE THROUGH THRASHERS — About 100 Plain Titmice were at Halls Crossing, Utah Oct. 22-25 (CC), and two were at Laramie Sept. 5 (JP). Almost every report mentioned Red-breasted Nuthatches, usually 1-2. Winter Wrens were discovered in Nye, White Pine, and Lincoln Cos., Nev., Oct. 25 - Nov. 12 (MP); they probably are regular in n., although scarce in s., Nevada (CL). Observers found November Mockingbirds at Durango, Berthoud, and Denver (EF, F.A.C., F&JJ). Brown Thrasher observations increased in the Colorado piedmont, with a total of 12 reported from Colorado Springs to Ft. Collins. Kashin observed a Bendire's Thrasher on a Bear R. dike, Aug. 31. Two Curve-billed Thrashers were at Fountain, Colo., Aug. 5 (EW). Sage Thrashers stayed late, with good numbers at Ely, Nev., through Nov. 1 (SS) and a late one in Jefferson County, Colo., Nov. 25 (RO).

THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS — Sheridan had a peak of 310 Am. Robins Oct. 7. Spot-breasted young were observed at Grand L., Sept. 30 (DJ) and Aurora, Colo., Oct. 24 (MOS, banded). Varied Thrushes moved into the w. part of the Region, with reports from Las Vegas of one Oct. 4 and a pair Oct. 27 - Nov. 30 (VM); Ruby L., Oct. 9 (*vide* SHB); Richfield, Utah Nov. 8 (JP) and Ogden, Utah Nov. 22 (a female banded; MK). Late Hermit Thrushes included one Oct. 27, banded at Aurora (MOS) and birds Nov. 9 & 22 at Ridgway, Colo. (JRG). Late Swainson's were at Cheyenne Oct. 2 (MH) and Las Vegas Oct. 13 (J&MC). Eastern Bluebirds came W to the piedmont: six at Fountain Oct. 27 (PA) and three at Morrison, Colo., Nov. 13-14 (BPr). Careful study of Sprague's Pipits by the meticulous Sheridan observers seems to reveal a regular although very small, movement through Sheridan. This year's report was of one Aug. 24 (†HD). A few flocks of Bohemian Waxwings arrived in the n. part of the Region the first of 200 was at Cody Oct. 28 (UK). They reached Laramie, Ogden, and Axial Nov. 4, 9, 21 respectively. Highest Starling count came from Logan where 5000-8000 inhabited the Anderson pig farm in October (KA). Solitary Vireos migrated late, with several in late September in Denver and Boulder, plus one Oct. 27 at Boulder of the blue-headed race vs. the usual *plumbeus* form (RS). A late vireo at Ely, Nev., Oct. 27 was probably a Warbling (MP).

WARBLERS — By western standards the numbers but not diversity of warblers at Gunnison this fall were unusually high for that location and the Region. During three major waves, 500-1000± flitted along 2 mi of the Gunnison R. (KC). Fall Counts produced, at Denver 391 warblers of 13 species (202 Wilson's, 102 Yellow-rumped) and at Ft. Collins 109 including 50 Yellow-rumped and 43 Wilson's. Most of the vagrant species occurred after Sept. 15. A Prothonotary was found at Eleven Mile Res., Colo., Sept. 5 (HL), a first Lati-long and first mountain record for Colorado. A mist net caught a Worm-eating Warbler Aug. 28 at Lyons, Colo. (CW). Tennessees occurred at Boulder Oct. 21 (MHo) and Longmont Nov. 4 (JAd) and Las Vegas had one Oct. 4, the first since 1977. The Virginia's at Las Vegas Sept. 17 was Mowbray's first fall record in 6 years. Northern Parulas at Denver Sept. 9 (D.F.O.) and Boulder Oct. 12 (MM) added to the new fall records. A Yellow Warbler was reported from Preston, Nev., Oct. 22 (MP). Magnolias occurred Sept. 25 - Oct. 8, fitting into a previous pattern of lateness in the Colorado piedmont and Las Vegas. The plethora of fall Black-throated Blues continued, with five in the Denver-Boulder area Sept. 15 - Nov. 6. Late November saw two remarkable Black-throated Blues. Jackson had one Nov. 15, after a week of 0° weather (BG,AY), providing the first w. Wyoming record. Buena Vista, Colo., had one Nov. 19, feeding on honeysuckle berries, after a foot of snow fell (†HM), establishing the first w. Colorado record. In three mountain ranges in Elko County, 15 Townsend's Warblers were counted Aug. 10 - Sept. 6 (RM). Two fall Blackburnians occurred in the Colorado foothills within 10 mi of each other, at Idle-dale Sept. 18 (BPr) and at Evergreen during a snowstorm Oct. 30 (ECT). Nevada's well-described second **Yellow-throated Warbler** moved through a cottonwood Oct. 24 at Duckwater (†MP). No one reported a Chestnut-sided. One Bay-breasted report came from Ft. Collins Sept. 25 (B,CB). Hawk watchers in the Goshutes found one Blackpoll Oct. 7 (SH). Las Vegas reported four Sept. 16 - Nov. 1, and Denver-Boulder had five Sept. 8 - Nov. 15. Ovenbirds appeared at Sutcliffe, Nev., Oct. 9 (DG) and Las Vegas Oct. 4 and Oct. 22 - Nov. 1 (VM).

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS — A Sheridan blackbird roost, the largest reported this year, lasted for 2 months and comprised, on Sept. 28, 8000-10,000± birds, mostly Com. Grackles (HD). Late birds included a Yellow-headed Blackbird at Boulder Nov. 12 (EM) and Red-winged in the mountains at Minturn and Grand L., in November (JM,DJ). Three Scott's Orioles were at Caliente, Nev., Aug. 10 (MP). A very late oriole at Kirch W.M.A., Nye Co., Oct. 23 which fed at holes drilled by sapsuckers was identified as a N. (Baltimore) Oriole (MP). A Com. Grackle was at the town spring of Lund, Nev., Oct. 24 (MP). A very late one Nov. 27 at Ridgway, provided a first Lati-long record, as did a late Summer Tanager at the same place Nov. 7 (JRG).

FINCHES, SPARROWS — A kitchen window observation provided Ruby Lakes' second refuge record of Rose-breasted Grosbeak Sept. 19 (SHB). A rare Indigo Bunting stopped at Ruby L., Sept. 29 (SHB). Two imm. Dick-

cissels at Sheridan Aug. 24 provided the first records since 1975 in n. Wyoming (HD). Several thousand House Finches roosted in Virginia creepers on the Univ. of Colorado campus buildings in late September and early October (MM). About 50 chattering Pine Grosbeaks, during a 2-hr period Oct. 14, flew out of the mountains and across the Hack ranch at Jefferson, Colo. Although two were at Lyons, Colo., Sept. 2 (IB), other reports show that the Jefferson grosbeaks constituted an isolated flight. They were reported in their normal haunts in late October and November at Grand L., Sheridan, Beaver, Utah, and Eureka, Nev. (DJ,HD,SPH,AB). Lesser Goldfinches seemed more common than usual in the Reno-Carson City area (BP,IH). A Lawrence's Goldfinch was at Las Vegas Oct. 24 (CL). A few Red Crossbills inhabited the Front Range from Sheridan to Evergreen. A flock of 30 appeared in Laramie Nov. 17 (DM) and a single perched on the tip of a spruce in the middle of Denver Nov. 19 (HEK). At Sheridan 230 Savannah Sparrows were counted Aug. 24 (HD). All four states reported White-throated Sparrows in close to usual numbers, although the one at Zion Nov. 1-7 provided only the third record there (JG). Two Snow Buntings near Granby, Colo., Nov. 9 were the only ones reported this fall (DJ).

POSTSCRIPT — In *AB* 33:794 I commented on scoring systems for hybrids and the lack of reports of hybrids. Manson refuted me with a good description of a Myrtle × Audubon's Warbler at Boulder Apr. 25 & 27, 1979.

CONTRIBUTORS AND CITED OBSERVERS — Peggy Abbott, J. Adcock (JAd), Alpine Aud. Soc., **Keith Archibald** (10), G. Austin, **Mary Back** (5), I. Baker, Ethlyn Barneby, A. Biale, Chip Blake, B. & C. Bosley, Stephen H. Bouffard, Boulder Aud. Soc., K. Brawley, **W. W. Brockner** (16), Charles A. Campbell, Cheryl Conrad, Colorado Div. of Wildlife, Colorado Field Ornithologists, Kevin Cook, Joyce & John Cooper, Carol Cranford (CCr), J. & M. Cressman, C. Crunden (CCd), J. Daly, Denver Field Ornithologists, K. Diem (KDi), V. Dionigi, Keith Dixon, A. Dobos, **Helen Downing** (36), G. P. East, V. Evanson, **Louise Excell** (10), **Janet Eyre** (3), **Mary Fischer** (5), Foothills Aud. Club, Ft. Collins Aud. Soc., **Elva Fox** (5), David Galat, D. Galinat (DGt), P. Gent, Jerome Gifford, B. Glenn, W. D. Gaul, A. Grenen, J. R. Guadagno, R. & N. Gustafson, Carol Hack, F. Hale, J. Holitza (JHz), **May Hanesworth** (10), I. Hanf, Kathy Hawkins, Steven P. Hedges, V. J. Hedges, **Louise Hering** (34), M. Hill (MHl), **Steve Hoffman** (6), Mark Holmgren (MHo), H. Holt, Mark Janos, **David Jasper** (4), Don Jole (DJo), Frank & Jan Justice, Gleb Kashin, **Ursula Kepler** (10), **D. P. Kibbe** (3), Merlin Killpack, Steve Kingswood, R. Lambeth, Chuck Lawson, H. Leighton, P. Long, Helen MacKensen, Larry Malone, **Michael Manson** (5), Richard Martin, E. McGregor, **John Merchant** (3), Cheryl Michel, **Vince Mowbray** (6), **David Mozurkewich** (13), John Nelson, R. Olderog, F. Palazzolo, R. Parkinson, J. Pearson, Michael Perrone, **Bill Pickslay** (5), B. Prather (BPr), Bert Raynes (16), J. Reddall (JRd), **Warner Reeser** (5), J. C. Rigli, G. Roby, Richard C. Rosche, Chip Salaun, O. K. Scott, H. Singer, Nan Slater, Mildred O. Snyder, **Irma Sparks** (48), Mahlon Speers, R. Spencer, San

Stiver, Milton B. Suthers, Edna Clare Thomas, Van Truan, United Press Int., Utah Div. of Wildlife Resources, S. Vanderwall, **Ray Varney** (5), Chuck Wagner (CWa), Judy Ward, Susan Ward, Rosie Watts, Bart Whelton, P. White, Craig Williams, Elinor Wills, Roberta Winn, A. Youngblood. — **HUGH E. KINGERY, 869 Milwaukee St., Denver, Colo. 80206.**

SOUTHWEST REGION

/Janet Witzeman, John P. Hubbard and Kenn Kaufman

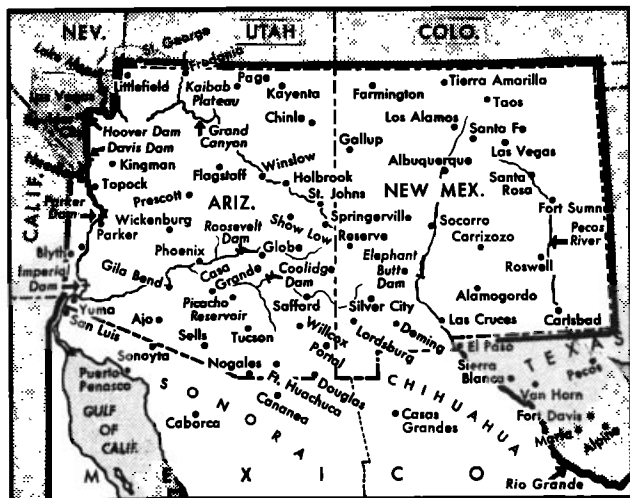
In autumn, following the breeding season, bird populations are at their highest point of the year; and so many young birds, malfunctioning navigators, are likely to stray off-course that the observer may reasonably hope to see rarities on every trip afield. But the same factors which make the season so exciting also render it difficult to predict, detect, analyze or extrapolate patterns of occurrence. This is one reason why the gradually increasing field coverage in the Southwest has continued to yield surprises every autumn.

Birding coverage was particularly good in New Mexico this autumn, with many of the more productive spots checked repeatedly during the season. Arizona also received extensive and widespread coverage, to a degree unheard of here just a few years ago. Many rarities were found; but the geographic pattern of the discoveries was quite uneven.

Inspired by the autumn 1978 discoveries in northeastern Arizona, Alan Nelson visited oasis situations in adjacent northwestern New Mexico, but his efforts met with mixed success and few vagrants. Arizona observers who journeyed to their "northeastern oases" this year were similarly jolted by the lack of eastern strays. But by contrast in south-central Arizona it was perhaps the best season ever for eastern warblers, and parts of New Mexico were also remarkably productive. The uneven productivity of difference areas suggests that (even though eastern vagrants are bound to appear in the West annually, regardless of any external influences) some factor such as local weather patterns must play a part in concentrating the vagrants in certain localities.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — A remarkably early Com. Loon in full breeding plumage was on Ashurst L., near Flagstaff Sept. 14 (JC,DRP). Arctic Loons, rare away from the L.C.V., were seen at Upper L. Mary near Flagstaff (one, Nov. 12-17 — †CH *et al.*) and at Painted Rock Dam (two, Nov. 20+ — RBr *et al.*).

Occurrence of the Cattle Egret in this Region is still erratic and patchy. Moderate numbers were present September - November in the Carlsbad and Socorro area of New Mexico, while in s.w. Arizona a notable concentration of 250 was reported from the Dome Valley Sept. 21-23 (SG *et al.*). A few were noted in s.e. Arizona (DD), where formerly rare; new localities for the species were Chama, N. Mex., where one was captured Nov. 27 (L. Gallegos, ph., JPH), and Mammoth, Ariz., where up to 25 were present Oct. 20-27 (KVR *et al.*). Four



Louisiana Herons at Laguna Grande, Eddy Co., N. Mex., Aug. 8 (SW) established the highest concentration ever recorded for this rare visitor to New Mexico.

One of the better recent counts of Wood Stork in Arizona was 12 in the Dome Valley, lower Gila R., Sept. 9 (ST,LD); seven remained until Sept. 21 (SG). Also in the Dome Valley was a remarkable concentration of White-faced Ibises, estimated at 5000 on Sept. 9 (ST,LD).

WATERFOWL — Twelve Whistling Swans, a high number for n. Arizona, were on Lower L. Mary Nov. 30 (*vide* IC). Formerly known as a common transient in Arizona, the White-fronted Goose may be on the increase again; evidence is emerging for an expected influx in mid-September. The largest flock this fall was of 110 birds on L. Havasu Sept. 10 (SG,RD), but scattered individuals and smaller flocks were seen elsewhere, most notably two on Lower L. Mary Sept. 12 (JA,†CH). Both of the "blue-winged" teal are unusual in late autumn in New Mexico; a ♂ Blue-winged was at La Joya State Game Ref., Oct. 30 (ME), and one ♂ Cinnamon was at Las Cruces Nov. 21 and five occurred at Bosque del Apache N.W.R. (hereafter, Bosque) Nov. 23 (WP).

A ♂ **European Wigeon** on Ganado L., Oct. 6 (GR *et al.*) was only the third or fourth recorded for Arizona and first for the n.e. Remarkably, another was seen the same day at Puerto Penasco, probably a first sighting for Sonora (DSJ). Yet another appeared at Phoenix Nov. 6 (G. Crane *et al.*), and remained through the end of the year in the same ponds that hosted one last winter. Oldsquaws made an unprecedented showing in New Mexico with three at L. Avalon, Eddy Co., Nov. 22 (RWI), one at Bosque Nov. 23 (WP), and others rumored to be at Maxwell N.W.R., and Cochiti L. Two White-winged Scoters at L. Avalon Nov. 22 (RWI) were also unusual.

RAPTORS — Two ad. **White-tailed Kites** were photographed in Arizona: one n. of the Santa Rita Mts., Aug. 22 (P. Mattocks, D. Donham, ph., R. Hudson) and one near Hereford Oct. 27 or 28 (Pat O'Brien). Arizona had only two or three previous records, but with the recent buildup of the species in California and w. Mexico, further occurrences here should be expected. Wandering or migrant

single Mississippi Kites were noted at Albuquerque Aug. 8 (HS) & 26 (S. Brown).

No major lowland flight of Goshawks was noted, but one adult was at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Nov. 21 (WHO). A probable imm. Broad-winged Hawk was n.e. of Roswell Oct. 3 (WHO); the species is rare in New Mexico, particularly so in autumn. An imm. Caracara photographed at San Bernardino Ranch e. of Douglas Nov. 10 (DD) was exceptionally far e., and was probably a stray from Sonora rather than from the limited s.w. Arizona population.

GAMEBIRDS, CRANES — Scaled Quail are rare and local in w.-c. New Mexico, but a flock was seen Nov. 5 at Ft. Wingate (JPH *et al.*). Surveys in the Sangre de Cristo Mts., n. N. Mex., revealed the presence of White-tailed Ptarmigan on Wheeler and Latir peaks (*vide* A. Renfro); two were seen on State Line Peak Aug. 10 (R. Peterson).

As of the end of the period, 15 Whooping Cranes (including six juveniles) were in New Mexico, all on the Rio Grande between Bosque and Los Lunas. Oddly, a single bird turned up early to the s. of this area at Caballo Dam Oct. 7 (†J. Bednarz). The recent rise in Arizona's wintering population of Sandhill Cranes continued, with minimum counts of 1400± in the L.C.V., and 8300 s. of Willcox, representing a substantial increase over last year's count (*vide* Ariz. Game & Fish Dept.).

SHOREBIRDS — The shorebird migration was considered excellent in New Mexico, including the Zuni Mts. area, where notable occurrences included two Sanderlings at Bluewater L., Sept. 25 (AMc). Arizona observers were less impressed with the shorebird flight, but the lack of suitable and convenient habitat was held to be a major factor.

Eight Snowy Plovers at Bosque Aug. 19-26 (D&SH) represented only the second recent record there. Single migrant Whimbrels in notable areas were at L. McMillan, N. Mex., Aug. 26 (SW) and in the Dome Valley, Ariz., Sept. 9 (ST,LD). Red Knots, considered very rare in the Region, made a good showing this season. In New Mexico singles were photographed Sept. 1 at Bitter L. and Sept. 15 at L. McMillan (D&SH). In Arizona, following the three noted in our preceding report, Oct. 6 brought one in the Dome Valley (ST) and two at Ganado L. (GR *et al.*), the latter being the first for n.e. Arizona.

A Short-billed Dowitcher calling at L. McMillan Oct. 17 (MA,WHO) provided the fourth convincing New Mexico record; occurrence of the species in the state has yet to be documented. Westerly autumn records of Stilt Sandpipers are few in New Mexico, so four at White Sands Nat'l Mon., Aug. 19 (†J.H. Lawton) and one photographed at Bosque Aug. 20 (D&SH) were notable.

A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was reported and reasonably well-described from L. McMil-

lan Aug. 26 (†RWI); this would be a first record for New Mexico (and for the Region). Two Am. Avocets were seen Sept. 25 & Oct. 27 (AMc) on Bluewater L., w.-c. New Mexico, where the species is unusual. A **Red Phalarope** was well-described from Bitter Lake N.W.R., Sept. 27 & Oct. 5 (†WHO *et al.*) for New Mexico's third record. Very late for their respective sections of Arizona were single Wilson's Phalaropes at Ganado L., Oct. 15 (KK,JW,GR) and Phoenix Nov. 7 (ST&GR).

GULLS THROUGH SKIMMERS — An ad. California Gull was photographed at Elephant Butte L., Nov. 8 (D&J Hoffman) for the first verified record for s.w. New Mexico. Arizona noted a remarkable November movement of Franklin's Gulls, with 18 at Phoenix Nov. 7-8 (ST,GR,KVR), six at Parker Nov. 13 and two at Davis Dam Nov. 14-16 (SG,EF), one at Tucson Nov. 3 (DSz), and two on L. Havasu Nov. 24 (KVR,JW); the species was also recorded in New Mexico during this period. Rare inland, an ad. Heermann's Gull was at Tucson Nov. 19 (EB,GG *et al.*).

Although Sabine's Gull is generally considered a pelagic migrant, the species is recorded almost annually in the Region. This season singles were at Ashurst L., Ariz., Sept. 12 (†CH,JA), Imperial Dam Sept. 29 - Oct. 1 (SG), L. Havasu Oct. 8 (ph., SG), Loving, N. Mex., Oct. 10 (MA), and Many Farms L., extreme n.e. Ariz., Oct. 15 (GR,KK,JW). A **Black Skimmer** on the L.C.R., at Cibola N.W.R., Aug. 30 (JD,VH) provided Arizona's third record.

DOVES THROUGH TROGONS — In the Rio Grande Valley, numbers of White-winged Doves around Williamsburg were up (D. Miller). Most left Socorro by Aug. 25, but a very late one was there Oct. 30 - Dec. 3 (PB); another late individual was in Carlsbad Nov. 22 (SW). A stray Inca Dove near Springerville Oct. 13 (KK,JW,GR) was well n. of usual limits.

Several observers felt that Roadrunners were unusually numerous ("spectacularly common" — DSz) in s. Arizona. Possibly related to this abundance were reports of singles at 9000 ft near the top of Mt. Lemon, Tucson Aug. 19 (M. Larson, *vide* GM), on Signal Peak near Globe at 7800 ft Sept. 24 (DWB, *vide* BJA) and Onion Saddle in the Chiricahuas at 7500 ft Nov. 28 (*vide* SSp), as well as several sightings in the middle of Tucson — all unusual points for the species.

Although migrant Black Swifts must pass over Arizona, there are still no verified state records; a probable individual was seen over West Fork Oak Creek Canyon Aug. 31 (†CB, PMc). Two to four Vaux's Swifts were seen n. of Clarkdale Sept. 21 (†CH,DRP), for one of the few records n. of c. Arizona.

Single ♀-plumaged Lucifer Hummingbirds were reported at Portal Sept. 14 and Oct. 10-23 (SSp), and not far away in the Peloncillo Mts., N. Mex., Oct. 4-9 (R. Scholes). A ♂ Calliope Hummingbird was seen Aug. 28-29 at Artesia (WHO *et al.*), for a local first; the species is quite rare on the e. plains. Post-breeding wandering Broad-tailed Hummingbirds reached Phoenix, with one seen Oct. 30 and three Nov. 7 (ST,GR); much more unusual were singles farther w. at the Dome Valley Sept. 6-8 (JR) and Bill Williams Delta Sept. 30 (KVR,VH).

The story of the Eared Trogon in Arizona continues: one (and perhaps a second) was in South Fork, Cave Creek Canyon of the Chiricahua Mts., Aug. 11-12 (R. Taylor, m.ob.). Those who combed South Fork on subsequent days failed to find it. But no one really believed that the bird (s) had promptly flown back to Mexico, and indeed there were possible sightings Sept. 8 (*fide* SSp) and a definite one Oct. 22 (AMc). Previously unreported in this column was a record in autumn 1978: one seen (and a diagnostic feather found) in main Cave Creek Canyon Nov. 5 (L. Kiff, K. Hansen); in that case as well, the bird could not be relocated subsequently. Our limited experience suggests that Eared Trogons do more wandering than their smaller relatives, and it is easy to see how any number of them could elude observers in the rugged Chiricahuas.

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS — A ♂ Red-bellied Woodpecker was seen in Ft. Sumner Nov. 29 (WWho); there are very few records for the species in New Mexico, where its occurrence has not yet been documented. Although Downy Woodpeckers wander regularly to lowland riparian zones in n. parts of this Region, one at Burnham, n.w. New Mexico, Sept. 29 (APN *et al.*) was in an unusually arid locale and one at Rattlesnake Springs, N. Mex., Sept. 30 (SW) was s. of the usual range.

Following the two E. Kingbirds in s.e. Arizona in June, one was n.w. of Tucson Oct. 7 (WD) and one was in the L.C.V., near Poston Sept. 4 (†SG), adding up to an exceptional number of extralimital records. Farther n. and e., one was at Zuni, N. Mex., Aug. 5 (AS) and four were seen in Apache County, Ariz., Aug. 26 (KVR). Individuals reported as Great Crested Flycatchers were at Rattlesnake Springs Aug. 29 (†RWI) and Sept. 2 (†D&SH), and another was heard n.e. of Roswell Sept. 6 by experienced observers (WWho *et al.*); the species is a very rare straggler to e. New Mexico. A Black Phoebe at Zuni Aug. 26 - Sept. 22 (AS) was n. of normal limits.

JAYS THROUGH THRUSHES — Indication of the continuing spread of the Blue Jay in e. New Mexico were first local records at Ft. Sumner (three Oct. 15 and Nov. 27) and n.e. of Roswell (one Oct. 22), plus an adult with three fledglings Aug. 13 at Artesia, suggesting local breeding (all WWho). Cañon Wren populations in parts of c. Arizona seemed to be exceptionally high, and individuals appeared at scattered points in the lowlands s.w. of Phoenix, where very unusual.

Gray Catbirds are rarely observed in Arizona away from breeding areas, so single migrants near Portal Oct. 19 (A. Hayes, *fide* SSp) and at Globe Nov. 5 (†BJa,H. & M. Wood) were noteworthy. A surprisingly early Brown Thrasher (a regular stray to Arizona) was at Pipe Springs Aug. 15 (KVR). A Bendire's Thrasher seen and well-described at Socorro Aug. 24-26 (†PB) was a first for that area.

A ♂ Varied Thrush, a first for the Zuni Mts. area, was near Bluewater L., Nov. 8 (AMc); New Mexico has only a handful of records. In Arizona, where the species is rare, the only report was of a male s.w. of Flagstaff Oct. 20

(S. Emslie, *fide* JC). A Wood Thrush, very rare in New Mexico, was heard n.e. of Roswell Oct. 5 by an observer familiar with the species (WWho). Seven E. Bluebirds at Ft. Sumner Oct. 15, and 25 there Nov. 29 (WWho), were local firsts, although the species may be regular in migration and winter on the e. plains of New Mexico.

PIPITS THROUGH VIREOS — The status of the inconspicuous Sprague's Pipit is generally being clarified here. Seventeen were noted Oct. 16 - Nov. 13 (WWho *et al.*) in the Pecos Valley between Ft. Sumner and L. McMillan, where perhaps regular but seldom reported previously. One near Encino, c. N. Mex., Oct. 13 (D&SH) established a local but not unexpected first, while four to five seen Nov. 14 into December in the Dome Valley (SG *et al.*) was a surprisingly high count for s.w. Arizona. Rare in Arizona, a Bohemian Waxwing was seen with Cedars in Flagstaff Nov. 14 (C. LaRue, *fide* JC). The usual small numbers of N. Shrikes occurred in such areas as n. Arizona; s. of normal limits were singles w. of Phoenix Nov. 10 (ph., K. Ingram) and near L. McMillan Nov. 10 and early December (†MA, WWho).

A Solitary Vireo at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum near Superior, Ariz. (hereafter, B.T. Arboretum) Oct. 22-23 was thought to represent one of the brightly-colored e. races, rare vagrants to the West (ST,GR). Exceedingly rare in New Mexico, single **Philadelphia Vireos** were at Percha Dam Sept. 23 (ph., D&SH) and at Rattlesnake Springs Sept. 25 (†RWI).

WARBLERS — As mentioned in the introduction, the vagrant-hunters met with mixed fortunes, with the majority of the e. warblers being found in s. areas of the Region. The prize for the season undoubtedly was the **Connecticut Warbler** at Tucson Sept. 15-18 (RBr, m.ob., ph., JW,KVR,LD), thoroughly documented for Arizona's first verifiable record. At about the same time, Sept. 11, another Connecticut was reported at Rattlesnake Springs (†RWI); this would be New Mexico's first record if accepted.



Connecticut Warbler, Tucson, Ariz., Sept. 16, 1979. Photo/Janet Witzeman.

Several other very rare warblers were recorded. Arizona's ninth and tenth records for **Worm-eating Warbler** were established by singles at B.T. Arboretum Oct. 20-22 (KVR *et al.*) and Tucson Nov. 6-15 (EB, m.ob.); photos of the first one (ST) provided the first Regional documentation. Also very rare in New Mexico, a Worm-eating was at Rattlesnake Springs Sept. 5 (SW). Three Regional records in one autumn are particularly notable since almost all previous occurrences have been in spring.

At Rattlesnake Springs, a probable Blackburnian Warbler was seen Sept. 15 (†SH) and another or the same Sept. 17 (†SW); New Mexico has very few records. Single Blackburnians near Wickenburg Oct. 15 (J. & R. Zook), at B.T. Arboretum Oct. 20-21 (ph., KVR *et al.*) and a second individual there Oct. 21-22 (KK,GR,EC, ph. ST) brought Arizona's total to ten records for the species — seven of these in the last 2 years. New Mexico noted Bay-breasted Warblers at Rattlesnake Springs Sept. 25 & 30 (†RWI,SW), at Sierra Grande Sept. 23 (JPH,*U.N.M.), and near Cliff Oct. 2 (†JE). Arizona's seventh and eighth Blackpoll Warblers were at Tucson Oct. 19 (DSZ) and Oct. 27-28 (DSZ,AB *et al.*). A remarkable influx brought ten Palm Warblers to the Region: in New Mexico singles were at Sierra Grande Sept. 22 (†JE), Loving Sept. 28, Mayhill Oct. 1, Alto Oct. 12, near Roswell Oct. 14, and L. McMillan Nov. 10 (all WWho,MA); in Arizona singles were n. of Springerville Sept. 22 (ST, LD *et al.*), Tucson Oct. 6 (DSZ,GG), e. of Phoenix Oct. 29-30 (VH *et al.*), and s.w. of Phoenix Nov. 7 (GR,ST). Finally, single **Canada Warblers** were at Tucson Oct. 19 (KK, m.ob.) and the B.T. Arboretum Oct. 21-27 (GR *et al.*, ph., KVR); Arizona had only two previous records.

Other notable e. strays included a Prothonotary Warbler at Percha Dam Sept. 22 (ph., D&SH), very rare in autumn in New Mexico. Three Magnolia Warblers reached Arizona, with singles at Tes Nez Iah Sept. 2 (ST *et al.*), Kayenta Oct. 6 (CH), and Tucson Oct. 19-21 (WD,AB *et al.*). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was at Percha Dam, N. Mex., Sept. 29, while Arizona had singles e. of Phoenix in late October (VH,AL,ML) and at Tucson Nov. 3 (DSZ).

In the "rare-but-regular" category, reports of seven Black-and-white Warblers and 14+ Am. Redstarts in Arizona seemed about normal, but only one Ovenbird and two Tennessee Warblers amounted to low totals. Black-throated Green Warblers seemed "almost numerous" at Rattlesnake Springs Sept. 26 - Oct. 4 (RWI *et al.*), and c. Arizona noted three to four Oct. 6-21. A ♀ Black-throated Blue Warbler at Percha Dam Sept. 29 (†D&SH), and singles in c. Arizona at Seven Springs Oct. 13-14 (C. Titzck *et al.*) and Tuzigoot Oct. 19 (ST) were within the normal range for dates for this straggler.

Among more typically s.w. warblers, a Lucy's Warbler n.e. of Roswell Nov. 15 (†MA, WWho) established New Mexico's first credible record e. of the Rio Grande Valley (and a surprisingly late occurrence as well). Also very late was a Lucy's at Tucson until Dec. 2, but some observers felt that the bird was injured. Two Painted Redstarts in Cienega Canyon, Sandia Mts., N. Mex., Sept. 4-8 (RLT *et al.*) were far n. of the species' normal range.

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS — Rarely reported in autumn, 12-15 Bobolinks at Rattlesnake Springs Sept. 2 (†D&SH) were notable. An E. Meadowlark s. of Parker Nov. 25 (KVR) provided only the second record as far w. as the L.C.V. Three Streak-backed Orioles, rare stragglers from Mexico, appeared at the Tucson feeder that hosted two last fall: a subad. male Sept. 27 - Oct. 20, a ♀-plumaged bird Sept. 29 - Oct. 10, and a second female-type Oct. 1 and Oct. 20-22 (GM *et al.*). A ♂ N. (Baltimore) Oriole was seen n.e. of Phoenix

Aug. 26 (GR *et al.*), for one of Arizona's few records.

At the outposts of the Com. Grackle's expanding range, at least ten, including immatures, were seen at Farmington Aug. 15-16, after several possible females were present during June-July (APN); one in Socorro Oct. 29 (ME) was somewhat s. of usual limits in the Rio Grande Valley. A Scarlet Tanager was discovered in suburban Phoenix Nov. 27-28 (ph., KVR *et al.*), for about the ninth Arizona record.

FRINGILLIDS — The distribution of the Brown-capped Rosy-Finch in the Sangre de Cristo Mts., N. Mex., is only sketchily known. In the period Aug. 3-10, the species was found on Latir, Wheeler, Jacarilla, and Pecos Baldy (Clait Braun). An individual of the easily-overlooked Grasshopper Sparrow was noted at Burnham, N. Mex., Sept. 29 (APN). In Arizona, one at Phoenix Nov. 8 (GR, KK) provided the first documented record for that well-worked area, and one near the Bill Williams Delta Nov. 25 (KVR) was one of the few ever noted in the L.C.V. Two McCown's Longspurs

ALASKA REGION

/D. D. Gibson

Autumn 1979 was very mild in this Region, prompting or at least permitting some very late departures. There was generally little snow by the close of the period, and most of it was late in the season.

SHEARWATERS — Short-tailed Shearwaters were exceptionally late at Pt. Barrow where up to four birds were last seen Oct. 25-26, when there was very little open water left (GEH).

WATERFOWL — A flock of six "Aleutian" Canada Geese at Attu I., Sept. 19-26 all had blue neck collars and had probably come from nearby Agattu I. (TGT *et al.*). The earliest Emperor Geese to arrive at the e. end of the winter range were four at Kodiak I., Oct. 24 (RAM). A Eur. Wigeon at Attu Sept. 18 (TGT) was the earliest reported this fall; at least one was seen off Kasilof Beach Oct. 14 (MAM). The usual few Garganeys were seen in the w. Aleutians this autumn; one at Attu Sept. 11; max. four there together Sept. 23 (TGT *et al.*). A ♂ Redhead and a ♂ Ring-necked Duck in a large flock of scaup at Womens Bay, Kodiak, Oct. 20 were first arrivals and may have been individuals that have wintered there in the recent past (RAM). Oldsquaws and Spectacled Eiders were present in numbers at Pt. Barrow until Oct. 24 and Oct. 22, respectively; last individuals of several species there were Oldsquaw Nov. 3, Com. Eider Oct. 24, King Eider Oct. 21, and Spectacled Eider Oct. 26 (GEH). A ♀ Steller's Eider at Kodiak Oct. 17 was early (RAM). Hooded Mergansers were reported more often than usual in southcoastal Alaska, where they are rare visitants at any season: an immature at Anchorage Aug. 13-15 (TGT&JCP), a ♂-plumaged bird there Oct. 4-5 & 16 (RA, DFD), one bird at Coho Oct. 28 (RP&MAM), and an ad. male at Womens Bay, Kodiak — where very scarce but apparently annual — Oct. 30 & Nov. 11 (RAM).

COOTS, SHOREBIRDS — A group of 16

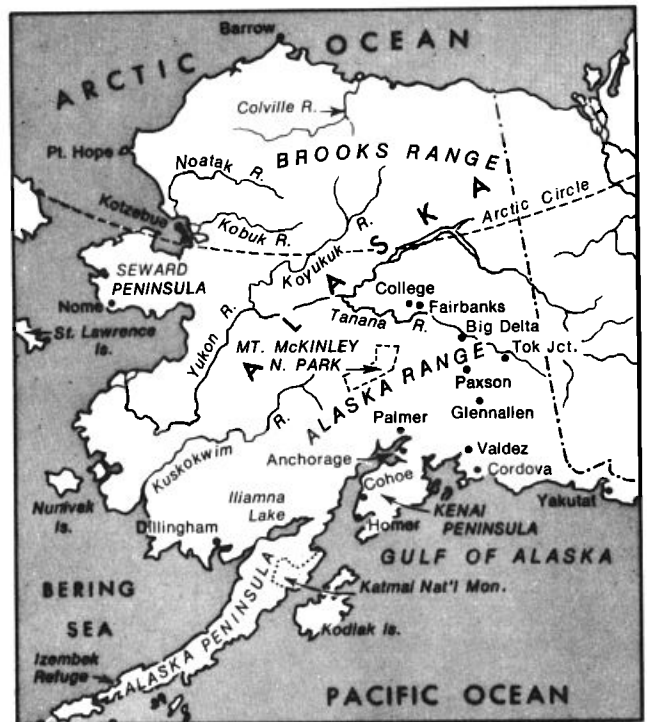
were photographed near Encino, N. Mex., Oct. 13 (D&SH), providing a first local record for a species whose status in the Region is still poorly understood. A Chestnut-collared Longspur near Burnham Oct. 14 (†APN) was evidently the first ever recorded in extreme n.w. New Mexico.

CONTRIBUTORS (area compilers in bold-face) — Bert Anderson, Judy Andrews, Miriam Axelrod, Don W. Bailey, Andy Baker, Pat Basham, Jon Bealer, Craig Benkman, George Beringer, Ed Bessler, Robert Bradley (RB), Bryan Brown, Tim Brush, Scott Burge, Elaine Cook, **John Coons** (Flagstaff), M. & M. Crutcher, **Doug Danforth** (Huachuca Mts.), William Davis, Linda Delaney, Salome R. Demaree, Jeff F. Drake, Robert Dummer, Miles Earney, John Egbert, Erik Ferry, Ralph A. Fisher, **Sharon Goldwasser** (Lower Colorado Valley), Grace Gregg, Robert S. Hall, **Bill Harrison** (Nogales), Rick & Connie Hewitt, Alton E. Higgins, Valerie Hink, William Howe (WHO), Chuck Hunter, Dustin & Sue Huntington, Betty Jackson (BJA), Betty

Am. Coots at Blind Slough, near Petersburg Nov. 14+ (JHH) was the second-highest count ever in the state. Black-bellied Plovers and Long-billed Dowitchers occurred at Barrow in larger-than-average numbers this season, both through mid-September (GEH). A few Black-bellied Plovers were still present at Prudhoe Bay Sept. 15 (RHM); a flock of five immatures at Harding L., s.e. of Fairbanks Sept. 16 (DDG&JJ) was of interest since this plover is scarce inland spring or fall; and good numbers passed through the Kasilof area in September and October, one bird remaining at the Kasilof R. mouth until Nov. 14 (MAM). At Kodiak where the species is a very rare transient, one Long-billed Dowitcher was seen Aug. 29, a flock of 44 Oct. 7, and one as late as Oct. 13 (RAM&MMM). The usual few Wood Sandpipers were seen in the w. Aleutians this fall — up to two birds Sept. 13-15 at Attu (TGT), and at least one was reported at St. Paul I., Pribilof Is., Sept. 2-3 (NS). All tattlers that were identified to species at Attu this fall were Polynesians. They were recorded in small numbers through September, maximum three on the 20th (TGT *et al.*). I suspect that Polynesian Tattler is the more numerous tattler every autumn in the w. Aleutians — based on these and previous autumn sightings, as well as on limited specimen evidence. In that area it is outnumbered in spring, when this genus is much less numerous than in fall, by Wandering Tattler.

Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were very common

Jones, Chuck Kangas, Mike Lange, Andy Laurenzi, Diane Laush, W. Burton Lewis, Helen Longstreth, Arch McCallum (AMc), Paul McKneely, Chuck McMoran, G. Scott Mills, **Gale Monson** (consultant on Arizona records), A. Morehouse, Robert Morse, Alan P. Nelson, Robert Norton, Susan Parker, D. Randall Pinkston, William Principe, Paul Ramsower, Judy Reynolds, Gwen Robinson (GRB), Bill Roe, Gary Rosenberg, Kenneth V. Rosenberg, Allan Schmierer, Hart Schwarz, **Sally Spofford** (SSp, Portal), Walter Spofford, David Stejskal (DSj), **Douglas Stotz** (DSz, Tucson), Scott Terrill, Ross L. Teuber, Dick Todd, Jolan Truan, Steve West, Rick Wilt (RWI), Robert A. Witzeman. Abbreviations: †, written details on file with New Mexico Ornithological Society or with Arizona Bird Committee; ph., photo; *, specimen; U.N.M., University of New Mexico; L.C.R., Lower Colorado River; L.C.V., Lower Colorado Valley; m.ob., many observers. — **JANET WITZEMAN, 4619 E. Arcadia Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85018; JOHN P. HUBBARD, 2016 Valle Rio, Santa Fe, NM 87501; KENN KAUFMAN, Tucson, AZ.**



in the lower Kashunuk R. area, Yukon-Kuskokwim R. Delta, where thousands occurred Aug. 26 - Sept. 22. Largest flocks were of 130 and 90 birds, and many flocks of 30-50 birds were seen (REG). The species was recorded this autumn from Attu (TGT) to the Copper R. Delta, where an adult was observed Oct. 17 (JSH). There are very few fall records of ad. birds in Alaska. An imm. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was studied closely Aug. 27 at Pt. Barrow (GEH&BJM), where the species is only a casual visitant spring or fall. For the third straight autumn **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was recorded in the w. Aleutian Is. — one Sept. 14 and three together on the 15th, all at Attu (TGT *et al.*). Perhaps the recent addition of this species to the Hawaii list (*Elepaio* 39:140, 1979) is related to this phenomenon (see *AB* 33:205).

GULLS, TERNS — A dark-mantled gull seen at a distance at the Kasilof R. mouth at intervals Oct. 3-31 (MAM,DWS,EEB) was probably a Slaty-backed Gull. The first certain **Slaty-backed Gull** in Cook Inlet was an adult observed at close range at the Anchorage municipal dump Oct. 28 - Nov. 13 (DWS, †GJT,RA,†JLT,v.o.). The Anchorage bird provided the easternmost Pacific Alaska record of the species. Fourteen Ivory Gulls at Pt. Barrow Oct. 22 was maximum there this fall (GEH). Ross' Gulls made a very brief showing at Pt. Barrow this autumn — 200 on Oct. 21 and 50 the next day, none before or after (GEH). Late Arctic Terns included three at Kalsin Bay, Kodiak Sept. 8 (MV) and several at Karluk L., Kodiak Sept. 25 (*vide* RAM). Exceptional was at least one Arctic Tern at the Mendenhall R. estuary, Juneau Oct. 19-23 (RBW).

HUMMINGBIRDS, KINGFISHERS, WOODPECKERS — An imm. ♂ Anna's Hummingbird was observed at a feeder in Wrangell Sept. 24-30 (VKG). Two males and a female drove late Rufous Hummingbirds from a Juneau feeder Oct. 18, and only the Anna's were seen there subsequently, the last individual noted Dec. 14 (RBW). A ♀ **Belted Kingfisher** observed in flight at Pt. Barrow Aug. 13 (†BJM) provided the first record of a live kingfisher in n. Alaska. Feathers of this species in a Franklin Bluffs Peregrine Falcon aerie constitute the only other record in that region (see *Can. Field-Nat.* 88:291, 1974). There was a brief flurry of sightings of the scarce **Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker** in the Fairbanks area Sept. 23-28, involving perhaps 7-10 individual birds (RHD,DDG,JI, v.o.).

JAYS — A Steller's Jay at *Trapper Creek*, Mile 115 Parks Hwy (*i.e.*, about 125 km n. of Anchorage), Sept. 25 (DKP) provided the northernmost Alaska occurrence on record. The

species occurs as far n. and w. as the limit of the coastal w. hemlock/Sitka spruce forest on the Kenai Pen., and small numbers wander w. of the Kenai Mts., in autumn, when found in the Cohoe-Kasilof-Soldotna-Kenai area and in Anchorage.

THRUSHES, OLD WORLD WARBLERS — A ♀ Siberian Ruby-throat arrived at Attu Sept. 14, at least *seven* birds were seen Sept 21, and the species was recorded there through the 26th (TGT *et al.*). This bird is apparently a scarce annual visitant in the westernmost Aleutians both spring and fall. A **Middendorff's Grasshopper-Warbler** arrived at Attu Sept. 18. At least *six* were found Sept. 21 and were present through Sept. 25, all bright yellowish juveniles (†TGT,JLD,PWS *et al.*). Since a *Locustella* was recorded in the w. Aleutians in fall 1978, this species may occur more regularly in autumn in Bering Sea Alaska than the only previous record would imply (Swarth 1934, *Pac. Coast Avif.* No. 22).

WAGTAILS, PIPITS — A **Yellow Wagtail** observed on the e. Copper R. Delta Sept. 28 (DRH&JSH) was only the second record of the species on the Alaska Pacific coast e. of the Aleutian Is. Two White Wagtails, an adult and an immature together, at Attu Sept. 24 (JLD) were unusual; although regular there in spring, the species is casual in the w. Aleutians in autumn. Two separate Indian Tree-Pipits were observed at Attu Sept. 24-25 (TGT *et al.*), the second fall in a row in the w. Aleutians.

WOOD WARBLERS, BLACKBIRDS — An **American Redstart** at the Colville R. Delta Sept. 21 (SRJ&JWH) added another parulid to the list of vagrants on the N Slope. Brown-headed Cowbirds normally occur in Alaska only in Southeastern. Thus an influx of (mostly immature) birds w. of there this autumn was of particular interest: three immatures accompanying a flock of 200 dowitchers (!) on the e. Copper R. Delta, Aug. 28 and singles seen

about the observer's camp there on various dates Aug. 30 - Sept. 12 (†DRH); two birds at Port Fidalgo, Prince William Sound, one Aug. 6 and one Aug. 1-8 (MEI); an immature at Eagle R., near Anchorage Aug. 27 (†TGT); an immature at Mile 1379 Alaska Hwy, 40 mi e. of Delta Junction Aug. 25-27 (†FB); an ad. male at Minto Lakes, w. of Fairbanks Aug. 14-16 (JLT&RJK); and, finally, an immature at the Tutakoke R. mouth, *Yukon-Kuskokwim R. Delta* Sept. 1 (REG) — the same spot where that observer found one a year ago (see *AB* 33: 206)! A cowbird in the lower Mendenhall Valley, Juneau Nov. 5 (RBW) was within the normal range but was the latest on record.

FINCHES AND SPARROWS — Two Bramblings arrived at Attu Sept. 19, right on schedule; four Sept. 22 were the only others seen there this season (TGT *et al.*). Redpolls, siskins and crossbills were seen rarely at Kodiak this fall (RAM), and few redpolls, grosbeaks or siskins, and no crossbills, were seen on the n.w. Kenai Pen. (MAM). For the second successive autumn no Harris' Sparrows were recorded at Juneau (RBW). An imm. Golden-crowned Sparrow observed at Attu Sept. 19 (†TGT&JLD) was a first record for the w. Aleutians; a hatching year bird at Amchitka in late fall 1977 is the only other Alaska record w. of 180°W.

OBSERVERS — R. Austin, F. Burris, E. E. Burroughs, R. H. Day, D. F. DeLap, J. L. Dunn, V. K. Gile, R. E. Gill, G. E. Hall, J. S. Hawkings, J. W. Helmericks, D. R. Herter, J. H. Hughes, M. E. Isleib, S. R. Johnson, J. Jolis, R. J. King, M. M. MacIntosh, R. A. MacIntosh, B. J. McCaffery, R. H. Meehan, M. A. Miller, J. C. Pitcher, R. Pollard, D. K. Porter, D. W. Sonneborn, N. Stepetin, P. W. Sykes, G. J. Tans, T. G. Tobish, J. L. Trapp, M. Vivian, R. B. Williams. Abbreviations — † details on file U.A.M. — **D. D. GIBSON, University of Alaska Museum, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.**

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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

There was an exciting concentration of rare migrants found during the period August 30 - September 14. Species included Dotterel, Hudsonian Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Upland Sandpiper, Ruff, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Long-tailed Jaeger (including a dark-phase individual), Little Gull, Red-throated Pipit, Blackburnian Warbler, and Lark Bunting. Observers also noted unusual concentrations of other migrant species during that same period. There was no common geographical origin for these birds, since their breeding ranges are spread from northeastern Siberia through Canada to the central prairies of the United States. The weather station information available to us from inland locations provides no obvious clues as to causes. The movements of Corvid species was noteworthy. Several detailed counts and information on local migratory routes of Steller's Jays were received. Clark's Nutcrackers were widely but briefly present, and a few more Black-billed Magpies than usual appeared. There was a near absence of irruptive northern finches.

Raptor watches were initiated this autumn at several ridgetops and mountain passes. This activity promises to receive even more attention in subsequent migrations.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS

This promises to be an exceptional winter for Yellow-billed Loons. Reports were received of single birds at five locations between n. Puget Sound and the San Juan Is., Oct. 24 - Nov. 14. TW reports that ocean food productivity was in drastic decline after mid-summer, owing to reduced upwelling. Perhaps as a result, N. Fulmar and New Zealand Shearwaters were particularly scarce and



late in arriving. Off Westport, Wash., only five N. Fulmar were noted all season, these Oct. 7 (TW). New Zealand Shearwaters peaked at 33 birds Sept. 23 off Westport (TW), down dramatically from 1976-1977 peak high counts of near 1000. The customary token few Flesh-footed and Short-tailed shearwaters appeared. Brief sightings of small black-and-white shearwaters continue to be reported. To date none have been seen well enough for specific identification, as any of the following forms are possible and fit the descriptions: *puffinus*, *opisthomelas*, *newelli*, *gavia*, *huttoni*, *auricularis*, *assimilis*, and *Iherminieri*.

Brown Pelicans had a successful season in the Region with 650 Aug. 11 at the Rogue R. mouth, s. Oreg. (SG), 150 reaching Tillamook Bay, Oreg., by early September (DI *et al.*), 30 along the Long Beach Pen., Wash., Aug. 17 (JWe, *vide* SS), with one-two at Ocean Shores, Wash., Aug. 17 and Sept. 8 (DP *et al.*). One remained at Ocean Shores as late as Nov. 23 (RT, BT *et al.*). All those reported at Ocean Shores were immatures, as were 85% of the Tillamook Bay flock. Flocks of Brandt's Cormorants were noted moving N along the shore throughout the period with a peak count of 410 Aug. 31 (DP). This coincides with an abrupt influx observed near Victoria, V.I., of 200 Aug. 25 (MS, *vide* VG) later increasing to 1000+ Sept. 29 (E&AD, *vide* VG).

EGRETS THROUGH DUCKS — The late fall influx of Cattle Egrets began in Oregon with two e. of Coos Bay Oct. 28 (JMc, *vide* AM), four s. of Newport in mid-November (LO, *vide* HN), and another nearby at Toledo in late November (DFa, *vide* HN). The post-breeding influx of Great Egrets in early August was noted by coastal observers in Oregon (*vide* HN), and at Ocean Shores (G&WH). By mid-October 80+ were counted at Coos Bay (EWS) and by Nov. 1 numbers at Fern Ridge Res., in the s. Willamette Valley peaked at 60+ (CW). This coincided with reports in Washington of eight individuals at four locations n. to La Conner, Skagit Co. (†FB, BHT, SA, AW). A single Snowy Egret returned to Coos Bay Oct. 21+ (AM) for the season's only report.

The main influx of Whistling Swans was noted at Sauvie I., near Portland, with 200 Nov. 3 (*vide* HN), and at Ladner, B.C., with 43 Nov. 11 (JWi). Trumpeter Swans arrived at the same time: 18 at Ocean Shores Nov. 3 (DP, SD), 16 off Seattle Nov. 4 (EH, DP, BR), and 28 at three sites in the Fraser R. valley, B.C., Nov. 11 (*vide* WW).

A census of resident (introduced) Canada Geese estimated a lower Fraser R. valley population of 5300 Sept. 15, up from the 3700 estimated for 1976 (*vide* WW). Single individuals with markings and size characteristic of the Aleutian race (*leucopareia*) were reported from Seattle Nov. 3 and Ocean Shores Nov. 10 (EH). There is as yet no documented record of this endangered form from Washington. Two **Tufted Ducks** were reported. A female remained at Hoquiam, Wash., Oct. 20 - Nov. 12 (†DP, †PM, ME, DM *et al.*), and a male graced American L., Tacoma, Wash., Nov. 4 - Dec. 12 (WWi, RC — ph., m.ob.).

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES — The s. V.I. Turkey Vulture migration watch indicated a peak passage of 297 Sept. 24, somewhat larger and a week earlier than in 1978

(*vide* VG). First and last migrants, however, were precisely as last year's, 12 seen Sept. 11 and the last one Oct. 31. Eight White-tailed Kites at six locations reflected a continuing decline from last year's peak numbers. An adult at Ocean Shores, Wash., Aug. 17, provided the northernmost coastal record to date (†DP, G&WH).

Barry Sauppe took time off from his California seawatches to devote 55 hours Sept. 10 - Oct. 9 to hawk watching on a ridgetop in Cypress P.P., n. of Vancouver, B.C. He recorded a total of 620 migrating raptors for an average rate of 11.3/hr. Best results accompanied high pressure systems with N winds and clearing skies. Sharp-shinned Hawk led the way with 420, 68% of all raptors sighted. Of these, 122 were counted Oct. 2 alone. Also well represented were: Red-tailed Hawk, 74 sighted with peaks Sept. 11 and Oct. 2-4; Am. Kestrel, 52 total, with a peak Sept. 11; and Cooper's Hawk, 25, outnumbered by Sharp-shinned 17 to 1. Other promising lookouts pioneered this fall include Mt. Seymour, near Vancouver, B.C. (JI), Cameron Pass in the Olympic N.P. (JSm), and Slate Peak in the N. Cascades, Wash. (MD, RD).

Below the ridgetops, Sharp-shinned Hawks outnumbered Cooper's only 145:90, a ratio more like that recorded at Pt. Diablo, Calif. (*West. Birds* 10:1-16, 1979), suggesting a distinct migratory pattern for the more southerly breeding Cooper's. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was noted just n. of the California border at Harbor, Oreg., Sept. 3 (HN), at a site where nesting is suspected. An ad. Swainson's Hawk was reported from American Camp, San Juan I., Wash., Sept. 6 (†CCh), on a lowland raptor migratory path. A Rough-legged Hawk at Finley N.W.R., near Eugene, Oreg., Sept. 22 (RP), was nearly two weeks earlier than the first reports elsewhere. By Nov. 3-4 there were 25 in the Vancouver, B.C., raptor census area. At Ocean Shores, however, they were exceptionally scarce (G&WH). Marsh Hawk was the most common species in the Vancouver census area, totaling 50 Oct. 13-14 and 63 Nov. 3-4 (*vide* WW). A few pass S along the mountain ridges of the British Columbia Coast Range as indicated by the 11 tallied at Cypress P.P. (BS) and three Sept. 23 on Mt. Seymour (JI *et al.*).

Single Gyrfalcons were reported Nov. 5 near Anacortes, Wash. (TW), and at C. Saanich, V.I. (DS, *vide* VG). Two migrating Prairie Falcons were noted along the Cascade Mt. crest at Slate Peak, Wash., Aug. 29 (MD, RD). Peregrines and Merlins were widely reported in numbers closely comparable to those of last year; 35+ Peregrines and 65+ Merlins.

A ♂ Spruce Grouse at sea level at Iron Springs, Grays Harbor Co., Wash. (†B&PE), Sept. 9, may force us to revise our views of Spruce Grouse distribution. Perhaps coastal Sitka Spruce forests meet its needs as well as those of the Hudsonian zone. Wild Turkeys seem well established in the vicinity of English Camp on San Juan I., as 25+ were seen there Sept. 14 (EH, DW *et al.*). Migrating Sandhill Cranes peaked at 1000 on Sauvie I., Oct. 21 (*vide* HN). A few lingered through the end of the period (DI *et al.*, *vide* HN).

SHOREBIRDS — Oregon observers discovered their second **Mongolian Plover**, for the third North American record outside Alaska. This winter-plumaged individual remained at



Mongolian Plover, South jetty Columbia R., Oreg., Oct. 16, 1979. Photo/H. Nehls.

S.J.C.R., Oct. 16-21 (†HN, BB, TC, RSm, JGi, ph.). We may rule out the very similarly-plumaged Great Sand Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*) by size alone in this case. Washington recorded its second **Dotterel**, also a third North American observation outside of Alaska. This juvenile was seen in the teeth of a gale Sept. 8 at Ocean Shores (†DP — ph., SH, m.ob.).

DP *et al.* conducted weekly censuses of the Hoquiam-Ocean Shores area this fall. His full report will be published elsewhere. From the data on Am. Golden Plovers, W. Sandpipers, Pectoral Sandpipers, and Dunlin, three migratory peaks are apparent. One was late August - early September with the arrival of the first juv. golden plovers. A second was in the third week of September, with the arrival of Pectoral Sandpipers in numbers, and a third was toward the end of October as large numbers of Dunlin arrived. Western Sandpiper numbers reflect the first and third migratory peaks. This survey also documented that Short-billed Dowitchers continue to pass through our Region as late as November, with 22 on Nov. 3 and two Nov. 17.

Vancouver, B.C., birders have now recorded **Hudsonian Godwits** five of the last six years. This year two stayed at Iona I., near Vancouver, Sept. 7 - Oct. 1, with one through Oct. 7 (†BS, †DK, †WW, ph., m.ob.). To the s. there were several **Bar-tailed Godwits**; a conspicuously dark-rumped *baueri* at Dungeness, Wash., Aug. 1-12 (†WS, KK, G&WH), and three singles along the Oregon coast, at Newport Sept. 14-22 (MSm, TC, ph.), at Coos Bay Sept. 16 (EWS), and at Bandon Sept. 17 (TL). The last two birds were in distinctly different plumages. The 175 Marbled Godwits on Willapa Bay, Wash., Oct. 19, was a very high Regional total (JWe, *vide* SS). Stilts and avocets breed in the arid lowlands e. of the Region, and rarely stray w. of the Cascade Mts. This fall there were two reports of Black-necked Stilts in w. Oregon, one at Woodburn Aug. 17 (JGi, *vide* HN), and three near Roseburg Sept. 6 (RWa, *vide* HN). An Am. Avocet was on the Samish R. delta, Wash., Aug. 27 (KW), and two were at Basket Slough N.W.R., near Salem, Oreg., Sept. 3 (RP). A storm Oct. 26 drove many Red Phalaropes onshore. Eighty-two were counted around Grays Harbor (DP) and 30 at S.J.C.R. (HN) the next day. On Oct. 28 groups of five were inland in Oregon at Finley N.W.R., near

Corvallis (CM, *fide* E&EE), and at Fern Ridge Res. (DFi). Seven remained at Ocean Shores through Nov. 17 (DP, SD).

A flock of four **Upland Sandpipers** well w. of their normal route passed briefly at the Vancouver, B.C., airport Aug. 30 (†BS). The status of Semipalmated Sandpipers is clarified somewhat by the report of 71 banded in the Fraser R. delta of s. British Columbia during July and August (GK, JI, *fide* WW). DP's intensive surveys of the Grays Harbor area this fall, 160± mi s.s.w., failed to turn up any. Our impression is that this peep is notably more common n. in the Region, and away from the outer coast. This suggests a path from the s.w. British Columbia area SE through the intermontane valleys. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were reported less frequently than has been customary at Iona I., and Ocean Shores this fall. There were only 12 individuals noted at nine scattered locations from mid-August - Oct. 27. Those with age specified were juveniles, as is typical.

A **Curlw Sandpiper** still showing traces of the breeding plumage paid a brief visit to Ocean Shores Oct. 5 (†G&WH, PS), for only the second Washington record. Stilt Sandpipers were well reported, with 25 at twelve locations, Aug. 2 - Sept. 29. Buff-breasted Sandpipers had a second consecutive record year. This year's counts nearly doubled those of the 1978 bonanza with at least 47 individuals reported at 11 locations throughout our reporting area. As with Sharp-taileds, all birds of specified age were pale-bellied juveniles. Rounding out an outstanding shorebird migration for Oregon, seen in increasing numbers annually since 1976. From one to three at the S.J.C.R., Sept. 8-15 (†JE, HN — ph., m.ob.) provided the first documented records for Oregon. One to four were at Ocean Shores Aug. 31 - Sept. 15 (DP, MC, m.ob.), and two singles were seen at Victoria, V.I., Sept. 9-10 & 24-25 (RS, M&VG).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — TW's Westport pelagic trip of Sept. 9 intercepted a good movement of Long-tailed Jaegers at the continental shelf. Twenty-four were counted including one *dark-phase* adult in perfect plumage (DP, TW, EH *et al.*). Two ad. Long-taileds also seen Sept. 9 but near Satsop, Grays Harbor Co., Wash., 50 km inland (BHT) may have taken a wrong turn in Puget Sound. Three very late skuas were reported on inshore waters; Nov. 3 at Victoria (HH, *fide* VG), Nov. 7 s. of Victoria (MS, *fide* VG), and Nov. 8 at Pt. Roberts, Wash. (†BK). Twenty-one skuas were reported on eight offshore trips out of Newport, Ore. (TC), and Westport, Wash. (TW), Aug. 5 - Oct. 7. Although West Coast skuas are presumed to be South Polar, diagnostic details were not mentioned in any case.

Glaucous Gull reports were limited to an adult at Ocean Shores Nov. 17 (†DP — ph., SD) and a first-year bird at a garbage dump in Coos Bay, Ore., Nov. 28 (MGr, *fide* AM). Concentrations of several thousand California Gulls were reported from S.J.C.R., and Ocean Shores from early August - mid-October. Numbers at Ocean Shores dropped thereafter (DP) as the gulls moved S along the Oregon coast (*fide* HN). One was n. to the Queen Charlotte Is., Aug. 11 (MS, *fide* VG). The species is only casual in Alaska. Ten thousand Mew Gulls at Tillamook Bay Nov. 11 (HN),



Ruff in flight, South jetty Columbia R., Ore., September 1979. Photo/Tom Crabtree.

20,000 Bonaparte's Gulls off Victoria Nov. 17-25 (MS, *fide* VG), and 2000 Sabine's Gulls n.w. of Cape Flattery, Wash., Sept. 18 (DP, SH) give some indication of gull abundance in the Region in the fall.

Oregon's first photographically documented **Little Gull** obliged at Newport Aug. 11 - early October (LN, TC — ph., m.ob.). Five reports between Victoria, the San Juan Is., Pt. Roberts, and Iona I., Aug. 30 - Oct. 24 of a winter ad. Little Gull could reflect the presence of 1-5 birds in this area (†MGO, †T&MS, †J&TI, †KR, TW). An ad. **Black-headed Gull** in winter plumage was closely observed at Victoria's famed Clover Pt., Sept. 22 (†MS, BMa, CO, *fide* VG). It is noteworthy that Bonaparte's and Heermann's gulls are typically represented here by 90-99% adults, and that our Little Gulls are nearly always in ad. plumage, but that our Franklin's are first-year birds by a large majority.

Forster's Terns are very rare w. of the Cascade Mts., despite breeding in the Columbia R. basin to the e. This fall four were well described; one Aug. 11 at Seattle (†EH, NH, BR), one Aug. 21 at Iona I. (†BS); one at Seat-



Little Gull, Newport, Ore., Sept. 15, 1979. Photo/Tom Crabtree.

tle Sept. 18-23 (WB, AR), and another Sept. 27 at Newport, Ore. (RSm). According to Robbins *et al.*, *Birds of North America*, Com. Terns do not regularly migrate w. of the Rocky Mts. Note the following *not* atypical high counts: 1000 at Port Angeles and 1000 at Dungeness, Wash., Sept. 4 & 13 (KG; EH, DW), and 3000 at Victoria Sept. 27 (RS, *fide* VG). Twenty off Seattle and one at Victoria Nov. 4 were quite late (DP, EH, BR; RS, *fide* VG). The 213 Arctic Terns seen offshore Westport Sept. 10 (TW *et al.*) was a high count for this species. Only ones and twos were adequately documented along the coast. Black Tern stragglers noted were two at Everett, Wash., Sept. 11 (DH, MP), one at Seattle Sept. 16 (DP), and a very late bird at Tillamook Bay Nov. 23 (TM, *fide* HN).

For the third straight year Xantus' Murrelets were recorded offshore with a pair off Westport Oct. 7 (DP, TW). Ancient Murrelets staged a major invasion this fall. Numbers built to 160 off Seattle Nov. 4 (DP, EH, BR), 20 at Tillamook Bay Nov. 10 (HN), and 2000 off Victoria Nov. 25. The 1000 Cassin's Auklets off Tatoosh I., Sept. 18 (DP, SH) was a high count.

OWLS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — Another very poor Snowy Owl year appears to be ahead. The only Snowy report for the season was of one at Boundary Bay, B.C., Nov. 12 (A&JG, ES). Burrowing Owls were on the U.B.C. golf course in Vancouver Aug. 30 (PD, *fide* WW), at Yaquina Bay, Ore., Oct. 25 (DFa, *fide* HN), and at the Eugene airport Nov. 8+ (CW). Barred Owls were reported through mid-September from five Cascade Mt. localities in Washington, and at Mt. Seymour (BD) and Manning P.P. (BS, DK), in s. British Columbia. Fledged young were found in the Glacier Peak Wilderness (CCh) and the Gifford Pinchot N.F. (DFi).

A single Com. Nighthawk Oct. 5 in Portland (DA, *fide* HN) was late. A single Poor-will seen very close Sept. 22 in Oak Bay, V.I., was a local first record and most unusual (KT, *fide* VG). Black Swifts were widespread along the British Columbia and Washington coasts during early September. A flock of 100 on s. V.I., Sept. 1 (RS, VG) was the largest group, and a few still lingered around Tatoosh I., Wash., Sept. 21 (BP). Four Vaux's Swifts in N. Vancouver, B.C., Oct. 17 (AG, *fide* WW) were very late. A ♂ and three ♀ Rufous Hummingbirds at a feeder in Metchosin, V.I., to Oct. 9 were very late. The male stayed until Oct. 17 (BHo, *fide* VG). A pair of Anna's Hummingbirds was present at the same feeder throughout.

Adult Acorn Woodpeckers were feeding young Sept. 11 in Forest Grove, Ore. (FC). Wintering Lewis' Woodpeckers were back up to usual numbers in the Medford area after two low years (OSw). Further n., singles were in Seattle Aug. 13 (TG) and in W. Vancouver Sept. 9 (†WW), a flock of 11 was in Cypress P.P., Sept. 29 (BS), and two were in N. Vancouver Oct. 16 (AG). Single W. Kingbirds were near Blaine Aug. 22 (TW), at Coos Bay Sept. 16 (JEn, *fide* HN), and on Sauvie I., Oct. 11 (DaR, *fide* HN). A **Tropical Kingbird** was at Bandon Oct. 27 (LT, AM). This species appears along our coast almost yearly in October - November. Vagrant Ash-throated Flycatchers appeared at Coos Bay Aug. 23 (CCo), at Yaquina Bay Aug. 24 (ME), on Orcas I., Wash., Sept. 13 (†BMe), and on Sauvie I.,

Oct. 3 (JMo, *vide* HN). A Black Phoebe at Eugene Nov. 15 was n. of its usual range (CW). A Say's Phoebe was on Orcas I., Aug. 31 (FR *et al.*) and another was at Cape Blanco Sept. 15 (TL).

SWALLOWS THROUGH WAXWINGS — Migrant Violet-green Swallows made a late and dramatic exit. DFi saw 400± over the Gifford Pinchot N.F., in s. Washington Oct. 6, with none there Oct. 7. There were 1100 at Agate L., near Medford n. of a storm in the Siskiyou Mts., Oct. 20. The next day there were none (OSw). A last lone Violet-green was at Reifel Ref., near Vancouver, B.C., Oct. 31 (JG). Several nests of Barn Swallows at Ocean-side, Oreg., still had large young Sept. 11 (HN, JEv). The latest nest of the Purple Martin TL has ever found along the Oregon coast was at Florence Sept. 1, with 23-day old fledglings being fed. The largest gathering of Purple Martins reported this year was only 18 in Seattle Aug. 25 (DH).

Single Blue Jays were in Seattle in mid-November (WC) and near Vancouver, B.C., Nov. 25 - Dec. 1 (DPI, †WW *et al.*). The latter bird represents only the third record for the Vancouver area. The second record, previously unpublished, was of one in N. Vancouver Oct. 1976 (*vide* WW). There was a striking S movement of Steller's Jays along the Washington coast in mid-September (DP). Counts of 50-100/hr were made Sept. 11 & 23 in the Ocean Shores area (EH, PM). At least five Black-billed Magpies were found. At least two were in the Vancouver, B.C., area, and one each at Mt. Rainier N.P., Woodinville, and Ocean Shores, Wash. There were *nine* reports of Clark's Nutcrackers from the lowland areas of Puget Sound and s. British Columbia, all Oct. 10-24.

Two Boreal Chickadees at Hart's Pass Nov. 24 (JWn) extend the observed season of occurrence of this species in the N. Cascades of Washington. Several observers in s. British Columbia and coastal Washington and Oregon noted the peak movement of Red-breasted Nuthatches to be Sept. 3-11. Single House Wrens were late at Beach Grove, B.C., Oct. 13 (A&JG) and at Saanich, V.I., Oct. 13 (RS, *vide* VG). There were reports of five Mockingbirds, from Vancouver, B.C., Seattle, Sauvie I., and Coos Bay. Western Bluebirds were in their usual small numbers at Corvallis (E&EE) and Medford (OSw) late in the season. A male was in Saanich, V.I., Sept. 19 (GC, *vide* VG).

High counts of several hundred Water Pipits were found Sept. 14-16 at American Camp, San Juan I. (EH, AR) and Ocean Shores, Wash. (DP, PM), and Cape Blanco, Oreg. (TL). Among this throng of pipits were two well-marked **Red-throated Pipits** Sept. 14 & 16 at American Camp (†EH, †DW, †AR *et al.*) for the first records for Washington and for the Region. More Bohemian Waxwings than usual had moved into w. Washington by the end of the period (ME, TW), and eight were seen at 5000 ft on Mt. Hood Oct. 7 (WSc, *vide* HN).

WARBLERS THROUGH SPARROWS — A Black-and-white Warbler hit a window in Coos Bay Oct. 12 (AM), but recovered and flew off. A well-documented **Virginia's Warbler** was found near Eugene Nov. 8 (†CW, MSc, JB) for the first w. Oregon record. A ♂

Blackburnian Warbler was well seen Sept. 10 at Ocean Shores (†EH) with a large flock of migrant warblers. This would be the first record for Washington were it not a single-person sight record. A ♂ **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was reported Aug. 19 at Roseburg, Oreg. (FP, *vide* DFi). Palm Warblers returned in considerable numbers this season. The first were four at the S.J.C.R., Sept. 22 (RSm, *vide* HN). The high count was *eight* at Ocean Shores Nov. 8 (RT, BT), and one was n. to Victoria Nov. 24 (†J&RS, *vide* VG). A Com. Yellowthroat in Kent, Wash., Oct. 6 was late (EH). A N. Water-thrush was photographed Aug. 28 a few miles n.w. of Slate Peak in the N. Cascades of Washington (†MD, RD). A ♀ Am. Redstart was at Ocean Shores Sept. 11 (EH, DW *et al.*).

There are very few prior records of Bobolinks from the Region. This season there were two at Basket Slough N.W.R., Oreg., Aug. 22 (†RP), two in Saanich, V.I., Sept. 22-23 (†RS, ED), *seven* in C. Saanich Oct. 16 (†RS), and two at Coos Bay Oct. 27 (EWS, BF). Nine Rusty Blackbirds were found this fall: two on s. V.I., Oct. 9-18 and Nov. 16 (*vide* VG), six at three localities near Vancouver, B.C., Oct. 13-23 (†WW *et al.*) and one at Ocean Shores Oct. 20-25 (†DP, †AR *et al.*).



Dickcissel, Lakeside, Oreg., early December 1979. Photo/Owen Schmidt.

A ♂ **Indigo Bunting** appeared at a feeder in Corvallis Nov. 2-7 (†E&EE — ph. *et al.*). The unstreaked back and vaguely streaked flanks were noted. A ♂ **Dickcissel** was at a feeder in Lakeside, Coos Co., Oreg., Nov. 30 - Dec. 6 (ST, †AC, OSc — ph. *et al.*) for Oregon's first confirmed record. The flock of seven Hepburn's Gray-crowned Rosy Finches Oct. 20 in Victoria (JRY) was unique. The two ♂ White-winged Crossbills Sept. 11 at Cypress P.P. (BS) and 12 near Haney, B.C., Oct. 15 (WR, DV) were the only reported. Two **Lark Buntings** were at Cape Blanco, Oreg., Sept. 15 (†DR, JR, TL — ph.). Single Vesper Sparrows at Ocean Shores Oct. 6 (DP) and at W. Vancouver, B.C., Oct. 14 (†R&SB) were late. Lark Sparrows are vagrant n. of s. Oregon. This season there were four reports in w. Washington, all Sept. 5-8, at Leadbetter Pt., Raymond, Anacortes, and Tatoosh I. (SJ, RWi, EH, J&LE, BP). And one was at Coos Bay Oct. 7 (LT, *vide* HN). Three of the six Harris' Sparrows

reported arrived Oct. 9-16. About 12 White-throated Sparrows were reported throughout the Region. One in N. Vancouver, B.C., Sept. 21 (AP, DK, GA) was the earliest, and seven of the 12 were found in mid-October.

CONTRIBUTORS and **ABBREVIATIONS** (sub-regional editors in boldface). — Dave Anderson, Gerry Ansell, Scott Atkinson, Ward Beecher, Blair Bernson, Franklin Bjorseth, Joan Bray, Robert & Sharon Butler, Giff Calvert, Wayne Campbell, Mike Carmody, Ruth Carson, Fred Chancey, Chris Chappell (CCh), John Comer, Alan Contreras, Craig Corder (CCo), Tom Crabtree, Susan Dallum, Eleanore & Albert Davidson, Bert de Graf (BD), Michael Donahue, Roger Donahue, Pat Downey, Mark Egger, Elsie & Elzy Elzroth, Jim England (JEn), Jim & Lynn Erckmann, Joe Evanich (JEv), Bob & Pat Evans, Ben Fawver, Darrell Faxon (DFa), **David Fix** (DFi), Ted Gibson, Jeff Gilligan (JGi), **Margaret & Vic Goodwill** (M&VG), Steve Gordon, Michel Gosselin (MGo), Al & Jude Grass (A&JG), Mike Graybill (MGR), Karl Gruebel, **Bill Harrington-Tweit** (BHT), Sue Hills, Glen & Wanda Hoge, Beryl Holt (BHo), Harold Hosford, Nancy Hunn, David Hutchinson, John & Teresa Ireland, David Irons, Steward Janes, Don Jole, Gary Kaiser, Brian Kautesk, Ken Knittle, Doug Kragh, Tom Lund, Bruce MacDonald (BMA), Chris Marsh, Dave McDonald, Joy McDowell (JMc), Alan McGie, Barbara Meyer (BMe), Joe Moraskie (JMo), Terry Morgan, **Harry Nehls**, Lars Norgren, Chris Oliver, Laimons Osis, Bob Paine, Richard Palmer, Fred Parker, **Dennis Paulson** (DP), Donna Pike (DPi), Allen Poynter, Michael Price, Bill Reichert, Alan Richards, Keith Richards, Frank Richardson, Wilma Robinson, Dan Rogers (DaR), Dennis Rogers (DR), Jim Rogers (JR), June Ryder (JRY), Pekka Saikka, Joy & Ron Satterfield (J&RS), Susan Saul, Barry Sauppe, Owen Schmidt (OSc), Martha Schmitt (MSc), Wayne Schweinfest (WSc), Teresa & Michael Shepard (T&MS), Ervio Sian, Jack Smith (JSm), Mark Smith (MSm), Richard Smith (RSm), Dave Stirling, Wally Sumner (WSu), Otis Swisher (OSw), Keith Taylor, Larry Thornburg, Sarah Thurman, Brenda Tom, Ron Toonen, Duanne Van den Berg (DV), Russ Wade (RWa), **Terry Wahl**, Clarice Watson, **Wayne Weber** (WW), Joe Welch (JWe), E. G. White-Swift (EWS), Ralph Widrig (RWi), Keith Wiggers, Wally Wilkins (WWi), Andrew Williams, Jack Williams (JWi), John Wingfield (JWn), David Wolf, † = written description on file, S.J.C.R. = South jetty of the Columbia R., Oreg., V.I. = Vancouver I., B.C. — **PHILIP W. MATTOCKS, JR., Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of Washington, Seattle, Wash. 98195, and EUGENE S. HUNN, 1816 N. 57th St., Seattle, Wash. 98103.**



MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Stephen A. Laymon and
W. David Shuford

The fall weather was warm and dry until storms hit October 18-20 and 25. November was mostly dry except for brief rainy periods November 3-4, 18 and 23-26. The first frosts had not occurred in the lowlands by the end of the period.

The most noteworthy event of the fall was the massive "crash" of Red Phalaropes and Ancient Murrelets on the coast in mid-November. The seabirds of the fall were a probable Cook's Petrel and a Red-billed Tropicbird.

Landbird migration was very strong in August in the interior, slow in September (in this regard note the dates of all interior vagrant sightings), but increased again in late September to early October, with the return of winter visitants. Coastally August was very slow and activity did not pick up until mid-September; migration remained strong until late October with notable peaks September 22-24, and 27-29 and October 9. Rains in late October and early November seemed to curtail migration considerably.

All the activity coastally produced spectacular numbers and variety of eastern vagrant and western migrant species, including many outstanding rarities. Numbers of eastern vagrants compared favorably with those of 1974, the best year ever.

All sightings at southeastern Farallon Island (hereafter, F.I.) and Palomarin should be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory.

LOONS, GREBES — Migrant Com. Loons were first noted at Pt. Reyes Oct. 13 (JE). Arctic Loons were first seen migrating past Pt. Pinos Oct. 28 (DRo) and migration peaks were thought to be late this year. Inland Arctic Loons were at L. Shastina, Siskiyou Co., Nov. 8 (RE, MR). Alpine L., Marin Co., Nov. 20 (DS) and Silver L., Mono Co., Nov. 19 (DAG). Inland Red-throated Loons were found at Lewiston L., Trinity Co., Nov. 23 (DA) and Andrus L., Sacramento Co., Nov. 5 (DEI).

Five Red-necked Grebes at Limantour, Point Reyes Nat'l Seashore (hereafter, P.R.N.S.) Aug. 14 (JE) were the first seen. A peak of ten was found there Oct. 14 and only two could be found after that (JE). One at L. Merced, San Francisco Co., Nov. 24 was at a strange location. Seven Horned Grebes at Limantour Sept. 5 were at least ten days earlier than the normal first arrival date. The 50 at Tule L., Oct. 17-24 had dwindled to five by Nov. 12 (BED).

TUBENOSES THROUGH CORMORANTS — Black-footed Albatrosses are regular in fall only off Humboldt County where 16 were seen Oct. 6-7 (RLeV). The only others were two on Monterey Bay Aug. 25 (RS) and one there Sept. 22 (L.A.A.S.). Peak numbers of Pink-footed Shearwaters occurred on Monterey Bay Sept. 17 - Oct. 14. Estimates during this period varied 30-600. These are always open to question; on one boat trip they ranged 75-600. More care is needed! An unprecedented 8-10 Flesh-footed Shearwaters were 25 mi s.w. of Pt. Pinos Sept. 17 (RS). Ten Short-tailed Shearwaters on Monterey Bay Oct. 28 (RS)

were the only ones reported. Only six Manx Shearwaters were reported this fall. All were seen in October on Monterey Bay. This is many fewer than in the past two years. One seen Oct. 28 was believed to be of the Atlantic race *puffinus* (DRo).

Single *Pterodroma* petrels were seen 50+ mi off Mendocino County Oct. 4-5 (GF *et al.*). They were believed to be Cook's Petrels which would establish a first state record if accepted by the state rare birds committee. For further information on sightings of *Pterodroma* petrels see the Southern Pacific Coast Region reports in this issue. The only Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel was one off Cape Mendocino Oct. 6 (Bob Sizoo). Two Leach's Storm-Petrels were found 25 mi s.w. of Pt. Pinos Sept. 17 (RS). The storm-petrel flock off Moss Landing peaked at 8000± Ashies and 5000± Blacks late September - mid-October. One-two Least Storm-Petrels were found with the flock Sept. 28 (DRo), Oct. 6 (Jon Dunn) and Oct. 13 (RS). A Wilson's Storm-Petrel was off Humboldt Bay Oct. 6 (RLeV) providing only the second Regional sighting away from Monterey Bay.

A **Red-billed Tropicbird** was seen 112 mi off Pt. Arena Oct. 5 (GF) providing only the third Regional record. More than normal numbers of Brown Pelicans were found inside San Francisco Bay (hereafter, S.F. Bay). High counts were 76 at Alviso Slough Aug. 16 (SFB) and 100 at Alameda Sept. 23 (*vide* ERO). A high-elevation record for Double-crested Cormorant was furnished with two birds at Ellery L., in the Yosemite Sierras at 9600 ft Sept. 1-12 (Dean Taylor, m.ob.). A Magnificent Frigatebird was at Goat Rock, Sonoma Co., Aug. 9 (KVV,JP). Another very late individual was at Bolinas Oct. 14 (KH). An unidentified frigatebird was seen on Monterey Bay Oct. 13 (RS, Alan Baldrige).

HERONS — Sixty-seven Green Herons on the s. and w. shores of Clear L., Lake Co., Aug. 3-4 (SAL,KC) was an unusually high count. Two ad. Little Blue Herons at Alviso Slough in s. S.F. Bay Aug. 16 & 18 were with a Little Blue Heron × Snowy Egret hybrid in calico plumage (SFB). Numbers of Cattle Egrets continued to climb with 371 being reported this fall. The largest groups were 212 at Corcoran Irrigation District, Kings Co., Sept. 9 (JR) and 86 near Los Banos Sept. 15 (RS). At the Corcoran site there were 12 nests and 12 flightless young on that date.

A large flock of 350 Snowy Egrets was feeding in a pond at Sacramento N.W.R., Aug. 10 (SAL). Sixty at Laguna L., Marin Co., Sept. 7 (DS) was also unusual. American Bitterns were reported from coastal locations with six from the outer coast and 11 from s. S.F. Bay (m.ob.). A White-faced Ibis was at Arcata,



where there are very few records, Sept. 23 (RLeV).

WATERFOWL — The mid-September aerial waterfowl survey revealed 30% more ducks than last year indicating good production on the Canadian Prairies (BED). Aleutian Canada Geese continued to make gains with 1750 reported this fall, including 1700 near Colusa Nov. 20 (PS). An imm. Emperor Goose was at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Oct. 27-28 (RE,MR,BED); it was shot by hunters the next day.

Blue-winged Teal were reported in higher-than-normal numbers, with 20 seen at seven coastal locations (m.ob.). Forty-five Cinnamon Teal were seen in the Pt. Reyes area and one was in Arcata Nov. 7 (*vide* BBe). This is many more than normal. A Wood Duck at Tule Lake N.W.R., Nov. 5 (BED) was unusual. A ♀ Canvasback at Bay Bridge Toll Plaza (hereafter, B.B.T.P.) Sept. 9 (DE) was quite early as the normal first arrival occurs mid-October. Two Greater Scaup at Bodega Bay Aug. 1-4 (KVV) either summered or were exceptionally early migrants. Seven at Red Bluff Oct. 24 (SAL,KC) comprised the only flock reported inland. A flock of 40 Lesser Scaup at Abbott's Lagoon, P.R.N.S., Aug. 21 (JE) was a month earlier than the normal first fall arrivals. The ♂ Tufted Duck returned to Muddy Hollow, P.R.N.S., Sept. 29 - Nov. 30+ (DDeS,RS, m.ob.).

Common Goldeneyes were first observed at Tule L., Bolinas Lagoon, and Bodega Bay Nov. 3 (m.ob.). Early birds were at Palo Alto Sept. 25 (WBo), Auburn Oct. 3 (*vide* BBA) and a surprising 30 on the American R., Oct. 13 (Dave Johnson). Buffleheads were first noted Oct. 31 at Limantour, Bodega Bay and Bolinas Lagoon (m.ob.). A female was at the Bodega Sewage Ponds (JP, m.ob.) throughout August and an early migrant was at Pt. Reyes Station Aug. 23 (JE). Eight coastal Oldsquaws were sighted with the first, Oct. 23 at Bolinas Lagoon (DDeS). The only inland sighting was at L. Shastina Nov. 8 (RE). Harlequin Ducks were well represented with 14 coastal sightings from eight locations. Four or five were seen on the Mokelumne R., Alpine Co., Aug. 9

(Robert Blumenthal) giving hope of nesting at that location.

Thousands of White-winged Scoters were seen streaming past Bodega Head daily Oct. 31 - Nov. 8 (BJM). One at Grant Res., Mono Co., Nov. 15-19 (DAG) was the only report from inland. Surf Scoters were found inland at Grant Res., Oct. 11 (DAG), Tule Lake N.W.R., Oct. 18 (BED), and Chico Oxidation Ponds Oct. 27 (KVV) and Nov. 2 (JS). Four ♀ Red-breasted Mergansers were at L. Shastina Nov. 8-9 (RE,MR) and two were still there Nov. 13 (BED) for the only inland sighting.

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS — The first Regional California Condor in two years was an adult at Porterville, Tulare Co., Sept. 14 (MEM). Encouraging numbers of White-tailed Kites were reported with 25 near Pt. Reyes Station Sept. 12 (Sue Peaslee), up to 40 at a roost in Livermore, Alameda Co., Oct. 13 (AE) and 32 n. of Davis, Yolo Co., Nov. 20 (DS,CH). Three days of hawkwatching at Pt. Diablo, Marin Co. (RS,SFB) showed Sharp-shinned Hawks constituted 57% of *Accipiters* passing instead of the normal 66% (Binford 1979 *West. Birds* 10:1). The feeling among several observers was that Cooper's Hawks were up in numbers rather than Sharpies being down.

Large numbers of raptors lingered on outer Pt. Reyes owing to the continued microtus outbreak. Peak numbers of Red-tailed Hawks were 64 Oct. 10 (RS) and 57 Nov. 11 (JE). The only Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk was one near Cottonwood, Shasta Co., Nov. 21 (SAL,DS). Broad-winged Hawks were reported from Pt. Diablo in good numbers with 19 seen Sept. 20 - Oct. 6 (m.ob.). Two additional birds were seen on Pt. Reyes Oct. 18 & 28 (JM,DDeS). Swainson's Hawks made news with "old time" numbers, with 30-50 near Galt, Sacramento Co., Sept. 19 (AMC) and 260 in a flock near Riverdale, 20 mi s. of Fresno Oct. 15-16 (RH). Although normally very rare on the coast singles reported were: Ferndale Sept. 17-30 (RLeV), Pt. Diablo Sept. 23 (RS), Cape Mendocino Sept. 29 (BC), Monterey Sept. 30 (LCB) and Pt. Reyes Oct. 10 (RS). A well-described late Swainson's was at Empire Tract, San Joaquin Co., Nov. 20 (†DEI).

Rough-legged Hawks were seen in average numbers. Ferruginous Hawks were reported in record numbers with 45 seen Sept. 15 - Nov. 30+ which almost doubles the previous high. Nine on outer Pt. Reyes Oct. 31 (RS,JE) were remarkable, and Marsh Hawks were noted there in unusual concentrations with 16 on Oct. 10 (RS) and at n. Livermore with 50 in October and November (AE). Many more than usual Prairie Falcons were on the outer coast. The first was at Abbott's Lagoon Aug. 21 (JE) and four were on outer Pt. Reyes by the end of September (RS). Seven additional birds were reported from coastal areas away from the point. Peregrine Falcons appeared in normal numbers and Merlins were again reported as high, equaling 1978's figures.

Twenty Sage Grouse walking around the ghost town of Bodie, Mono Co., Aug. 18 (JM) produced an unusual sight. Observers noted unusually high concentrations of California Quail from Great Basin, mountain, valley and coastal locations, indicating an excellent nesting season. Clapper Rail numbers were still on the increase in the Alameda s. shore area with ten there Nov. 3 (*vide* ERO). One was

reported from Moss Landing Oct. 27-28 (BSa, RS). A Black Rail, rarely seen in the Region, was flushed from the *salicornia* on Limantour Nov. 27 (JE). Six Com. Gallinules were found at coastal locations in late October and November which was more than normal. Nine were at a pond near Anderson, Shasta Co., Nov. 21 (SAL,DS) at the extreme n. edge of their breeding range.

SHOREBIRDS — A Black Oystercatcher at Alviso, s. S.F. Bay Nov. 11 (*vide* WBo) was out of its normal range and habitat. Four Semipalmated Plovers at L. Shastina Oct. 15 (RE) were late for an inland location. Single out-of-range Snowy Plovers were reported at Vallejo Aug. 15 and Sears Point Rd., Napa Co. (KVV). A Mountain Plover was at Pajaro Dunes, Santa Cruz Co., Nov. 6 (J&RW) and up to 100 were found n. of Woodland, Yolo Co., Nov. 13-24 (AEn *et al.*). American Golden Plovers were found in very high numbers with a minimum 75 reported from coastal locations. The only inland sighting was of two at White Slough Sewage Ponds, San Joaquin Co., Oct. 9 (DEI).

Rare inland in fall, Whimbrels were found as follows: one Mono L., Aug. 8 - Sept. 2 (Dan Taylor, DE), 13 Lower Klamath N.W.R., Aug. 28 (SAL *et al.*) and one Davis Oct. 21 (AEn). Lesser Yellowlegs were found in normal numbers, but 28 at Laguna L., Sept. 7 (DS) was of interest as were late records of four at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Nov. 17 (RE,MR) and 22 at Dumbarton Bridge Nov. 20 (SFB). Eight Solitary Sandpipers were reported Aug. 27 - Sept. 16. Willets made a good showing inland with 15 at Grand I., Sacramento Co., Aug. 10 (DEI), three at Clovis, Fresno Co., Aug. 16 (Gary Potter) and one each at s. Wilbur Flood Area and Corcoran Sewer Ponds, Kings Co., Oct. 6 (JR). Three Wandering Tattlers were at the e. end of the Dumbarton Bridge Aug. 1-9 and one remained to Nov. 30 (SFB). Inland single Ruddy Turnstones were at n. Evaporator Ponds, Kings Co., Sept. 16 (JR) and Corcoran Irrigation District Sept. 29 (JR). Twenty-one Black Turnstones at the e. end of Dumbarton Bridge Aug. 22 (SFB) was an unusually high number away from the outer coast.

Late N. Phalaropes were found along the coast, with four November sightings, the latest being one at Moss Landing Nov. 24 (RS,JE). Red Phalaropes invaded the coastal estuaries this fall starting in late September, with the peak occurring Nov. 3-15. Many died and those examined had severely depleted fat reserves (DS). Some peak numbers were 280 at Bodega Bay Nov. 9 (JE), 400 at Fremont Salt Ponds Nov. 14 (CSw), 500 at Pescadero Marsh the same day (PM) and thousands on the San Mateo coast Nov. 17 (JRI). The only inland sighting was of three at Lava Lakes, Siskiyou Co., Nov. 18 (RE *et al.*). Twenty Short-billed Dowitchers were found inland, with ten at White Slough Sewage Plant Oct. 9 (DEI) being the most notable. The only Red Knot inland was a flock of nine at Tule Lake N.W.R., Sept. 28 (B&CY). A census along 59 mi. of beach from Bodega Bay to Monterey Bay Sept. 20-28 tallied 5457 Sanderlings (BJM *et al.*). Inland sightings included one at Indian Creek Res., Alpine Co., Aug. 17 (JH), one at Stockton Sewage Ponds Sept. 1 (DE) and two on the s. shore of Mono L., Sept. 2 (DE).

Twelve Semipalmated Sandpipers were

found in coastal locations Aug. 8 - Sept. 12 (m.ob.), the most notable being six at the Arcata Oxidation Ponds Aug. 17-24 (RLeV). Baird's Sandpipers were found in normal numbers while Pectoral Sandpipers set all time high records, with a minimum of 410 reported Aug. 4 - Nov. 15. Peak counts were 58 at the Woodland Sugar Ponds Oct. 6, 50 Arcata Bottoms Sept. 29 (both CH), and 25 at Borax L., Lake Co., Sept. 19 (JMa). Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were at Moss Landing Oct. 27 - Nov. 5 (BSa, m.ob.), Mendosa Ranch, P.R.N.S., Oct. 31 (RS,JE), two at Dumbarton Narrows Nov. 5 (CSw), F.I., Nov. 7 (P.R.B.O.) and two at Bodega Bay Nov. 23 (KVV,JP). A very early Dunlin in breeding plumage was at Sears Point Rd., Aug. 15 (KVV,BDP). The only Stilt Sandpipers were two at Black Butte Res., Glenn Co., Aug. 25 (JS). There are few regional inland records. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found for the fourth consecutive fall with four at three sites near Arcata Aug. 25 - Sept. 12 (RLeV), two Bodega Bay Sept. 11-16 (DS, m.ob.) and one Hall Ranch, P.R.N.S., Sept. 22-23 (BDP). Single Ruffs were at Watsonville Sewage Ponds Sept. 8-17 (Steven Atkinson, m.ob.), Zmudowski S.P., Sept. 25 - Oct. 11 (DRo,LCB) and Arcata Bottoms Sept. 21 - Oct. 8 (John Brack, RLeV).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — Single Long-tailed Jaegers were seen on pelagic trips Aug. 26 (DHE) and Sept. 29 (JLu), on Monterey Bay and one off Humboldt Bay Oct. 6 (RLeV). An unprecedented 10-12 were found 20 mi s.w. of Pt. Pinos Sept. 17 (RS *et al.*) Very unusual was one at Crowley L., Mono Co., Sept. 2 (Keith Axelson).

Two first-year Thayer's Gulls were at Oroville Nov. 22 (SAL,DS). With the demise of the Mono L., breeding colony of California Gulls and the spraying of their eggs with oil in Utah, it is not surprising that very few first-year birds were seen this fall. Only 2% of 625 at Martinez Dump, Contra Costa Co., and 5% of 6000 at Stockton Sept. 1 were immatures (DE). A first year Mew Gull was at Oroville Nov. 22 (SAL,DS). They are very rare inland away from the delta region. Five coastal Franklin's Gulls were found Sept. 3 - Nov. 3 (m.ob.). A mass S migration of hundreds of Heermann's Gulls was noted along the Bodega coast Nov. 1 (BJM). Two different Sabine's Gulls were found inland at Mono L., Sept. 15 & 27 respectively (DAG). Four late Forster's Terns were at Tule Lake N.W.R., Oct. 27-28 (BED). Seven out-of-range Black Terns were along the coast Aug. 4 - Oct. 15, and one was at Clear L., Aug. 3 (SAL,KC).

One Xantus' Murrelet was found 25 mi s.w. of Pt. Pinos Sept. 17 (RS) and two were in Monterey Bay Sept. 22 (L.A.A.S.). Two Craver's Murrelets were on Monterey Bay Aug. 26 (DHE), and Sept. 29 (JM). The latter were with two unidentified *Endormyichuras*. Fifteen Craver's and ten unidentified were 25 mi s.w. of Pt. Pinos Sept. 17 (RS). Hundreds of Ancient Murrelets were found along the coast late October - Nov. 30+ including 200+ along the San Mateo coast Nov. 17 (JRI); indicative of a massive movement. Many were found dead including seven on Dillon Beach, Marin Co., Nov. 19 (DS). They may have been reacting to the same stimuli that brought in the Red Phalaropes. An ad. Rhinoceros Auklet at Arch Rock, Sonoma Co., Aug. 4 (BDP,LCB) suggested a possible nesting at that location.

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

— Band-tailed Pigeons were reported in only moderate numbers throughout most of the Region, but three at 10,000 ft at the Hall Natural Area, Mono Co. (hereafter, H.N.A.), Sept. 8 (BE) provided a notable altitudinal sighting. A White-winged Dove was seen Nov. 4-5 at Salmon Cr., Sonoma Co. (BJM,BDP, JM) and a fresh feather was found at Nunes Ranch, P.R.N.S., Nov. 15 (RS, identified by LCB) indicating this species' presence there also this fall. A very late Yellow-billed Cuckoo, quite rare anywhere coastally, was at F.I., Nov. 7. A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was found dead at the n. spit of Humboldt Bay Oct. 3 (Ken Irwin, *vide* RLeV, *H.S.U.). This will have provided only the third regional record following approval of submitted details.

Fifteen to twenty Barn Owls were at Home Bay, P.R.N.S., Nov. 6 and a pair with four young Sept. 1 was at Pt. Reyes Station (Dianne Williams, *vide* JE) at the same spot where six young were seen May 18 (JE). It is assumed that this pair double-clutched this season, owing to the continued microtine outbreak in the Pt. Reyes area. Most unusual was the occurrence of a **Flammulated Owl** near Woodland, Yolo Co., Oct. 16 (*vide* †CH, †TBe). The bird,



Flammulated Owl, Yolo Co., Calif., Oct. 16, 1979. Photo/Ted Beedy.

sick and unable to fly, was found in an asparagus field by a local farmer and taken to the Davis Raptor Center for rehabilitation. Its presence represents only the sixth known California migrant record (*vide* JW). There were several Long-eared Owl sightings: individuals remained until at least Oct. 16 at Palomar, P.R.N.S.; a stray, exceedingly rare at an elevation of 10,000 ft, was at H.N.A., Sept. 9 - Oct. 7 (DDeS, BE); three-four were seen Aug. 27 - Sept. 29 at Cape Mendocino, Humboldt Co. (BC, RLeV, CH); and one was at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Sept. 28 (B&CY). Short-eared Owl concentrations of 25-30 were in one field in Livermore, Alameda Co. Nov. 24 (AE *et al.*) and groups of 11 and 15 were at separate locations on Pt. Reyes in October (*vide* SFB).

An unusual "swarm" of 400 Com. Night-hawks was seen at Indian Creek Res., Alpine Co., Aug. 17 (JH). Peaks of 50-100 migrating Black Swifts were at N. Dunsmuir, Siskiyou Co., Sept. 25 (CSt) and the latest was one Oct. 9 at F.I. Two Vaux's Swifts Nov. 4 at the Pajaro R., were very late (WB). A White-throated Swift Sept. 1 at H.N.A. (BE) was at a lofty elevation. Two Black-chinned Hummingbirds frequented a feeder at Laguna Ranch, P.R.N.S., Sept. 7 (JE); this species is very rare on the immediate coast. Single out-of-place

Costa's Hummingbirds were at feeders in Healdsburg, Sonoma Co., Aug. 7 to the end of October (DEI *et al.*) and at Walnut Cr., Nov. 23 (CSt). A late *Selasphorus* hummingbird, presumed to be Rufous, was at the Carmel R. mouth Oct. 25 (DRo). An imm. ♂ Anna's Hummingbird at Lee Vining, Mono Co., Oct. 9 (DAG, Dean Taylor) provided the Region with its first record in the Great Basin e. of the Sierran escarpment.

Although numbers of Lewis' Woodpeckers were reported way down in most areas, stragglers reached the coast at Pt. Pinos Oct. 3 (DRo) and near Palomar in Aug. 10 (Anne Rovetta, *vide* JE). A ♀ Williamson's Sapsucker was encountered on Mines Rd., Alameda Co., Oct. 7 (AE); this species is a rare but somewhat regular "vagrant" from the higher mountains in fall and winter. A Hairy Woodpecker was near Anderson, Shasta Co., Nov. 21 (SAL, DS, KG); this species is rare on the Central Valley (hereafter, C.V.) floor.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWAL-

LOWS — Nine Tropical Kingbirds along the coast Sept. 21 - Nov. 12 was about average for the fall (m.ob.). An E. Kingbird was recorded at F.I., Aug. 3 and two were seen n. of Canby, Modoc Co., Aug. 19 (SS). Western Kingbird migration was well documented in the Shasta Valley, Siskiyou Co., Aug. 7 - Sept. 3 with a notable peak of 57 Aug. 15 (RE). A very late Ash-throated Flycatcher was sighted near Bodega Bay, Sonoma Co., Nov. 10 (AE, LCB, BDP, JP). Two E. Phoebes frequented F.I., Nov. 5-12 and one aroused interest at Salmon Cr., Sonoma Co., Nov. 3-4 (BJM, BDP). An early migrant Say's Phoebe was at Trinity L., Trinity Co., Sept. 7 (DA). Least Flycatchers at the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse Sept. 27 (†JM) and at the nearby Fish Docks Oct. 6-7 (†RS *et al.*) provided the ninth and tenth mainland regional records (all fall, all coastal); all other records are from F.I., where they have been recorded annually since 1969. This season was no exception as singles were banded there Sept. 24 and Oct. 10. An *Empidonax* flycatcher, identified as a Dusky, made a very late appearance at Dog I., Nov. 26 (†SAL, KC). A W. Flycatcher at a high elevation was at H.N.A., Sept. 13 (BE). A ♀ **Vermilion Flycatcher** treated observers at the Bishop Sewage Ponds, Inyo Co., Nov. 15 (DAG, Dean Taylor); providing only the third regional record.

S.A.

A skylark, believed to be the same individual that startled observers last winter, made a brief appearance at the Hall Ranch, P.R.N.S., Oct. 28 - Nov. 1 (JM *et al.*). Evidence presented by David Snow of the British Museum, in a comprehensive report compiled and submitted to the California Records Committee by Joe Morlan, supports the idea that the bird in question (winter 1978-1979) was in fact a **Common Skylark** (*A. arvensis*) and not an Oriental Skylark (*A. gulgula*). Although the bird's exact racial status could not be determined, it was believed to most closely resemble examples from n.e. Asia and not the nominate race introduced on Victoria I., B.C. (JM). The editors will of course accept the final decision of the Records Committee as to the bird's origin, and hence its place on the official state list.

Although swallow numbers and migratorial peaks were normal, more late sightings than usual were reported. Although generally swallows and other insectivorous migrants are thought to linger later on the coast, interior sightings are well represented in the following records. Late Violet-green Swallows: one at Tule Lake N.W.R., Nov. 3 (BED *et al.*), 40 in the Carmel Valley Nov. 24 (JL, RS, DDeS, JE), and 15 at Palomar in Nov. 28. Late Tree Swallows: eight at Salmon Cr., Nov. 14 (BJM), 10 at Los Banos Nov. 23 (JE), one at the Carmel Valley Nov. 24 (JL *et al.*), and 12 at Limantour Estero Nov. 30 (JE). The Region's latest-ever Bank Swallow graced Chico Oct. 20 (KVV). A very tardy Rough-winged Swallow inspected the Castroville Sewage Ponds, Monterey Co., Nov. 24 (KH *et al.*, *vide* JL). The latest of four November Barn Swallow sightings (three interior, one coastal) was four at Merced N.W.R., Nov. 23 (JL, RS, DDeS, JE). Chico was also host to two laggard Cliff Swallows Nov. 10 (JS).

CORVIDS THROUGH NUTHATCHES

— The appearance of a Steller's Jay at Bidwell P., Chico Oct. 29 (SAL, KC), on the Central Valley floor, followed closely the first sightings of down-mountain drifting individuals in the Sierra foothills of Tulare County Oct. 23 (MEM) and Placer County Oct. 26-28 (MA, BBa). Small flocks of migrant Com. Crows passed through the Mono Basin Oct. 13 - Nov. 19; this is probably a regular but not well documented pattern (DAG). A report of nine Clark's Nutcrackers flying S over Mt. St. Helena, Napa Co., Oct. 6 (JMa, Brad Hanson) was rather anomalous as no other out-of-place sightings occurred this fall; however this species was scarce at H.N.A., all fall presumably owing to the poor whitebark pine crop (DDeS, BE). Three Mountain Chickadees were at Chico Nov. 13 (KVV, SAL); another instance of a montane species quite rare on the C.V. floor.

Red-breasted Nuthatches staged a notable invasion to the C.V. and the coastal strip this fall (m.ob.). Ninety plus were seen Aug. 1 - Sept. 27 on the Sierran crest at H.N.A. (DDeS, BE). Coastally the first incursion was noted Aug. 4 at F.I. By mid-August the invaders were noted at widespread locales w. of the Sierras and numbers increased thereafter with peaks Sept. 23-28 and Oct. 6-9. On Sept. 28 twelve were seen on the U.C. Davis campus (Brennan Davis, *vide* BK) and 30 were counted on outer Pt. Reyes (SFB). Counts of 20 were made Oct. 6 (LCB) at Golden Gate Park, S.F. (hereafter, G.G.P.) and Oct. 9 on outer Pt. Reyes (JE). Numbers dwindled substantially through October with few remaining after mid-November.

A Pygmy Nuthatch in Oakland Sept. 14 (JL) is of note as East Bay records are very scarce and 25 at Land's End, S.F., Sept. 2 (DM) also indicate fall movement. A Dipper at Alpine L., Marin Co., Nov. 28 (Sue Peaslee) was the only one reported away from breeding locations. A Long-billed Marsh Wren Aug. 10 at 10,500 ft at Gardisky L., Mono Co. (BE) established a regional altitudinal record.

MIMIDS THROUGH VIREOS — A Gray Catbird seen at the Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes Oct. 5-6 (†CH, DRu *et al.*) provided the eighth regional record. Single Brown Thrashers were recorded at F.I., Oct. 13 and at Lava Beds

N.M., Oct. 22 (SAL,KC). Ten Sage Thrashers Sept. 12 - Nov. 24 was an impressive number w. of the Sierras (m.ob.). A Gray-cheeked Thrush was at F.I., Oct. 10 (†PH); all but two of the 10 regional records have been at that location. A Mountain Bluebird occurred at Pt. Pinos Oct. 14 (Ron Branson, *fide* DRo). Another coastal rarity was a Townsend's Solitaire Oct. 10-21 at F.I. An early Ruby-crowned Kinglet was at Menlo P., Sept. 3 (WB).

A **Yellow Wagtail** made a brief appearance at Bodega Bay, Sonoma Co., Sept. 16 (BJM). If accepted by the California Records Committee this would furnish the second state record. The most exciting and most observed landbird of the fall was surely the ad. **White Wagtail** at the Watsonville Sewage Ponds, Santa Cruz Co., Aug. 7 - Sept. 22 (†Carolyn Frederiksen, †Steve Allison *et al.*). This provided only the second regional and first mainland record. The bird had a thin dark eyeline on a white cheek which is characteristic of either *M. a. occularis* or *M. a. lugens*, both from n.e. Asia. However further differentiation was not possible as the two races can be indistinguishable in certain plumages (JM). To round out the vagrant *Motacillids* a **Sprague's Pipit** was described from F.I., Oct. 1. If accepted by the California Records Committee this would provide the first regional record.



White Wagtail, Santa Cruz Co., Calif., Aug. 24, 1979. Photo/Al Ghorso.

The first migrant Cedar Waxwings were seen Aug. 18 at F.I. and one Sept. 1 followed by nine Oct. 6, were seen at H.N.A. (DDeS, BE), being very scarce on the Sierran crest. In addition three immatures, although able to fly, were seen sitting on a nest in a willow/alder patch at Field's Landing, Humboldt Co., Sept. 10 (DA). Eleven Phainopeplas were at three sites from Chico to 15 mi n. of Red Bluff Sept. 23 - Nov. 15 (SAL,KC,KVV). The only N. Shrike reported away from the n. Great Basin was one immature on W. Butte Rd., Sutter Co., Nov. 26 (WA). Three races of Solitary Vireo provided interesting records: one *plumbeus* at G.G.P., Oct. 12 (LCB) furnished only the second coastal regional record; one *solitarius* was considered a very rare coastal vagrant Sept. 24 at Nunes Ranch, P.R.N.S. (RS,†JE), and a *cassinii* was

migrating late Nov. 3 at Stinson Beach, Marin Co. (DS,SAL). Single Red-eyed Vireos were at Olema Marsh Sept. 2 (JE); G.G.P., Oct. 12 (LCB); and Carmel R., Oct. 13-15 (KH *et al.*, *fide* DRo). Single well-described Philadelphia Vireos were at Moss Beach, San Mateo Co., Sept. 24 (†PM) and at the Carmel R. mouth Oct. 26 (†DRo); first recorded in 1967 this species has been seen each fall since 1974.

WOOD WARBLERS — The "butterflies of the bird world" as usual attracted much attention in our area with perhaps the best-ever coverage and reporting from coastal vagrant traps, and as usual only sparse coverage of interior locales. Coastal observers were not disappointed as *e. Parulids* abounded in one of the best-ever showings; in addition more than the usual number of interior sightings was reported.

Although the actual number of vagrant warblers sighted compared favorably with 1974, the best year ever, this would appear to be an artifact of increased observer coverage. An analysis of the last 10 years data from Pt. Reyes and a more detailed comparison of data from 1974 and 1979 backs up this contention (see p.). Several *e.* warbler species sighted this fall, although *not* mentioned here, are included in the table on p.

Western species also appeared to be in above-average numbers along the coast; most notably Nashvilles, Black-throated Grays, Townsend's, and MacGillivray's (JE,DM, m.ob.). In the interior the Dog I. census data (SAL,KC) showed only two individual Black-throated Grays and *no* Townsend's or Hermits. MacGillivray's also showed peak's one-third to one-half below the last three years; whereas they were in exceptional numbers at H.N.A. (DDeS,BE). Also at Dog I., Orange-crowns were double normal in August and normal in September and October; Nashvilles were slightly below normal in August with the last seen Sept. 5; Yellows were double average in August and normal in September; Wilson's were average in August and below average in September.

Beside the sheer number of warblers the season also produced many outstanding rarities. A ♂ **Prothonotary Warbler** was observed closely at Año Nuevo, San Mateo Co., Nov. 3 (†Paul O'Brien), for a sixth regional record. A stunning ♂ **Golden-winged Warbler** graced Fairhaven, Humboldt Co., Oct. 8-15 (PS, †RLeV *et al.*) for the seventh regional record. Inland a Tennessee Warbler was at Crowley L., Mono Co., Sept. 2 (Keith Axelson). The first gray-headed *celata* Orange-crowned Warbler was reported Sept. 14 at Drake's Beach, P.R.N.S., and of 24 Orange-crowns seen Sept. 14 - Nov. 30+ in coastal Marin County, 50% were the *celata* type (JE).

Single Virginia's Warblers occurred Sept. 2-5 at F.I., Sept. 6-9 at Fairhaven (RLeV,LD), and Oct. 24-26 at the Carmel R. (Ron Branson, JL). A Lucy's Warbler was at F.I., Nov. 2-3. A singing N. Parula was at Pine Cr. Wildlife Area, Butte Co., Aug. 17 - Sept. 7 (SAL). A very early "Audubon's" Warbler was at Pajaro Dunes, Santa Cruz Co., Aug. 27 (PM) and major influxes occurred with 150 at Honey L., Oct. 6 (SAL,KC,KVV) and 50 on outer Pt. Reyes Oct. 9 (RS,JE). An early Townsend's Warbler reached H.N.A., Aug. 4 (DDeS,BE) and one was at Brisk Cr., Butte Co., Nov. 28 providing a late record for the Sierra (JS).

Single Townsend's × Hermit Warbler hybrids were at Inverness, Marin Co., Oct. 7 (†RS) and at F.I., Sept. 24 (†PH,†DS). Single Black-throated Green Warblers were at Mendoza Ranch, P.R.N.S., Oct. 16 (†JM,JRi) and Oct. 27 at the Carmel R. mouth (RS *et al.*). An imm. ♂ **Cerulean Warbler** was well described from the Carmel R. mouth Oct. 25 (†DRo) for the fourth regional record. A Chestnut-sided Warbler was inland Aug. 19 at Lundy Canyon, Mono Co. (DAG,DW). One of the most sought-after vagrants in the Region, a **Pine Warbler**, appeared Oct. 16, where else but the F.I. (†PH); this furnished only the fourth regional record, three of which have been at F.I.

A Prairie Warbler Aug. 19 at Lundy Canyon, Mono Co. (DAG,DW) provided only the second regional interior record and 12 coastal sightings was a regional high. The 196 coastal Palm Warblers eclipsed the 1974 record by 30 and considering the extensive unbirded coastal scrub habitat in the Region this species was probably the most common warbler along the *immediate coast* in late September until the arrival of Yellow-rumped in early October. An inland Ovenbird skulked around a backyard in Chico Oct. 2 (†Lynn Thomas, JS); establishing a first fall interior record. A N. Waterthrush was *singing* at Pine Cr. Wildlife Area, Butte Co., Aug. 14-21 (SAL). Single Mourning Warblers were banded and photographed at F.I., Sept. 14 (†PH) and 23 (†DS) and one was studied at the Fish Docks Sept. 27-30 (†RS,†JM,†DRo,†JE,JL,DDeS,SFB,DE *et al.*). Single Hooded Warblers were at Muir Woods, Marin Co., Sept. 23 (Peter Vickery, Jim Lane) and at Moss Beach Sept. 26 (†PM). A late interior Wilson's Warbler was near Yreka, Siskiyou Co., Nov. 7 (RE) and two were seen coastally at the Carmel R. mouth Nov. 18 (DE). Inland Am. Redstarts occurred Sept. 3 at Lundy Canyon (DE), Sept. 8 at Mines Rd., Alameda Co. (AE), and Oct. 3-7 at Fresno (RH).

ICTERIDS THROUGH TANAGERS — Three Bobolinks appeared inland at Tule Lake N.W.R., Sept. 19 (†SS) and 17 coastally Sept. 18 - Oct. 14 (m.ob.). This was well above average for fall. The only coastal report of Yellow-headed Blackbird was of one at Mendoza Ranch, P.R.N.S., Oct. 2 (TBe), but 35,000± Nov. 15 at Sacramento N.W.R. (SAL) was truly amazing and probably constitutes a large percentage of the n. California population. Five Orchard Orioles appeared along the coast Sept. 8 - Oct. 9 (m.ob.). Two late N. (Bullock's) Orioles were at Pacific Grove Nov. 24 (JL,RS,DDeS,JE). Single N. (Baltimore) Orioles were at Nunes Ranch Sept. 19 and Pacific Grove Oct. 27 - Nov. 18 (RS *et al.*).

Great-tailed Grackles staged a mini-invasion with sightings at three locations: the original regional sighting in San Francisco, and more recent ones, was thought to pertain to a male and female seen separately and together at a blackbird roost at Walton Square, S.F., Sept. 13 - Oct. 25 (DE); a male was at Gray Lodge S.W.M.A., Nov. 11-28 (BED *et al.*); and a male was seen mid-September to at least Nov. 17 at Sacramento N.W.R. (SAL,KC, Paul Vittori *et al.*). A brilliant ♂ **Hepatic Tanager** was at F.I., Nov. 11 for the fifth regional record (†PH). The Region's sixth record of **Scarlet Tanager** was provided by an adult female banded at Palo-



Male Hepatic Tanager, s.e. Farallon I., Calif., Nov. 11, 1979. Photo/Phil Henderson.

marin Oct. 15 (†DDeS *et al.*). An ad. ♂ Summer Tanager frequented Lands End, S.F., Aug. 29 - Sept. 28 (AH *et al.*).

FRINGILLIDS — Twelve Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen coastally Aug. 2 - Oct. 13 (m.ob.); this is above average for fall. Single out-of-place Blue Grosbeaks were at F.I., Aug. 22 and Sept. 5, and more notably at the Mad R., Humboldt Co., Sept. 25 (RLeV). Coastally six Indigo Buntings were observed Aug. 16 - Oct. 31 (m.ob.) and a singing male was near Hamilton City, Butte Co., Aug. 10 & 16 (SAL); this is well above average for fall. A Lazuli Bunting Sept. 13 at H.N.A. (BE) was well above its normal altitudinal range. An ad. ♀ **Painted Bunting** in very worn plumage was banded and photographed at F.I., Sept. 28 (†PH,†DS). This was only the second regional record. A Dickcissel was at F.I., Aug. 29.

Evening Grosbeaks staged a minor invasion into interior and coastal lowlands this fall (m.ob.). Purple Finches were noted in good numbers coastally, and a female in Lee Vining, Mono Co., Nov. 13 (DAG) provided one of very few Great Basin records. Three Pine Grosbeaks at Lassen Volcano N.P., Tehama Co., Oct. 31 (SAL,KC) were n. of their expected range. Pine Siskins were generally reported in moderate numbers. American Goldfinches were considered numerous with flocks of up to 20 in the Mono Basin during October and November (DAG); this too may prove to be

regular, but has not previously been documented. Single Lesser Goldfinches at H.N.A., Aug. 2 & Sept. 6 were at a very high elevation (DDeS,BE). A ♀ Lawrence's Goldfinch feeding a juvenile Aug. 9 at Salmon Cr., Sonoma Co. (JP,KVV) was of interest and four encounters of this species at Palomarin Sept. 26 - Oct. 26 was surprising as no other sightings were reported in the area despite massive coverage. Red Crossbills were seen in moderate numbers coastally. Four Brown Towhees were near Tule Lake N.W.R., Sept. 14 (SS); this species' status e. of the Shasta Valley is poorly known. Single Lark Buntings visited F.I., Sept. 20 & 24-25 and the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse Oct. 6 (RS). High elevation Savannah Sparrows were one at Gardisky L., Mono Co., at 10,500 ft. Aug. 10 (BE) and seven at H.N.A., Sept. 14-27 (BE). A late Grasshopper Sparrow was at F.I., Nov. 29. A Vesper Sparrow Sept. 24 at H.N.A. (BE) was at a very high elevation but a Lark Sparrow was more out of place there Aug. 23 (DDeS). Three Black-throated Sparrows were at F.I., Sept. 11 - Nov. 22.

A Sage Sparrow was at the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse Sept. 27-29 (RS *et al.*); sightings on the immediate coast are very rare. Coastal Tree Sparrows were seen at Nunes Ranch Oct. 20 (RS), at F.I., Nov. 8, and the "Road Forks Pool," Pt. Reyes Nov. 15 (RS,JE). A late Chipping Sparrow was at Auburn, Placer Co., Nov. 4 (MA). It was a banner fall for Clay-colored Sparrows with 13 coastally Sept. 20 - Nov. 22 (m.ob.) in addition to 16 at F.I., Aug. 31 - Nov. 14. Five Brewer's Sparrows were seen along the coast Sept. 5 - Oct. 16 (m.ob.) and an interesting migrant was at Castle Crags S.P., Siskiyou Co., Aug. 17 (DM). The only Harris' Sparrow reported was at Nunes Ranch Oct. 5 (CH,DRU). Twenty-two White-throated Sparrows were reported Sept. 27 - Nov. 18 (m.ob.). A Fox Sparrow at Land's End Sept. 4 (JRi) was early as was a Lincoln's Sparrow at Dog I., Aug. 29 (SAL,KC). Eight Swamp Sparrows were recorded at four coastal sites Sept. 28 - Nov. 14 (m.ob.) and one was at Honey L., Oct. 6 (KVV,SAL,KC). Single Song Sparrows Aug. 9, 23, and 27 at H.N.A., were well above their usual haunts (DDeS,BE). Lapland Longspurs

occurred in moderate numbers on the coast and in the Great Basin with peaks of 15 on Pt. Reyes Oct. 28-31 (JM,RS), 20 flying over Arcata Oct. 11 (RLeV), and 40-50 at Honey L., Nov. 23 (SAL,DS,KC). However one at Mono L., Oct. 30 provided a first record for the Mono Basin (DAG, Dean Taylor). Groups of two-six Chestnut-collared Longspurs were at the Hall Ranch, P.R.N.S., Oct. 14-31 (m.ob.); Salmon Cr., Sonoma Co., Nov. 2-5 (BJM,BDP,JM); and Mono L., Oct. 12-30 (DAG, Dean Taylor). The only Snow Bunting reported was at F.I., Oct. 22 & 25.

CONTRIBUTORS — Dave Anderson, Walt Anderson, Maurine Armour, Stephen F. Bailey, Bernice Barnes (BBa), Gordon Beebe, Bob Behrstock (BBe), Ted Beedy (TBe), Laurence C. Binford, William Bousman (WBo), Betty Burrige (BBu), Karen Cartier, Jim Cleaves, Billy Clow, Howard Cogswell, Alan M. Craig, Dave DeSante (DDeS), Bruce E. Deuel, Linda Doerflinger, Art Edwards, David H. Edwards, Ray Ekstrom, Doug Ellis (DEI), Andrew Engles (AEn), Brett Engstrom, Dick Erickson, Jules Evens, Lynn Farrar, Gary Friedrickson, David A. Gaines, Steve Getty, John G. Hall, Keith Hansen, Ron Hansen, John G. Hewston, Craig Hohenberger, Alan Hopkins, Joel Hornstein, Betty Kimball, Stephen A. Laymon, Ron LeValley, Sue and Jim Liskovec, John Lovio, John Luther (JLu), Los Angeles Audubon Society, Brian J. McCaffery, Jim Matzinger (JMa), Peter Metropoulos, Mabel E. Mires, Joe Morlan, Dan Murphy, Dan Nelson, Fran Nelson, Benjamin D. Parmeter, John Parmeter, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Jean Richmond (JRi), Mike Rippey, Mike Robbins, Elsie Roemer (ERo), Don Roberson (DRo), Jim Royer, Dave Rudholm (DRu), Barry Sauppe (BSa), Don Schmoltd (DES), Dave Shuford, Jim Snowden, Paul Springer, Rich Stallcup, Chris Stromsness (CSt), Steve Summers, Chris Swarth (CSw), Kent Van Vuren, John & Ricky Warriner, Jeff Wilcox, David Winkler, Jon Winter, Keiko Yamane, Bob and Carol Yutzy. — **STEPHEN A. LAYMON, 132A W. 19th, Chico, Calif. 95926, and W. DAVID SHUFORD, Box 781, Bodega Bay, Calif. 94923.**

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Guy McCaskie

The weather remained relatively stable along the southern Pacific Coast throughout the fall with no major storms from the north. No major movements of birds were evident, although clearly a steady stream of migrants was passing through the Region much of the time. A minor influx of nuthatches was the only indication any mountain species was on the move, and no more than one or two individuals of any of our sporadic visitors from the north were encountered.

The exploration of new areas offshore resulted in the discovery of two species new to California, and added to our knowledge of pelagic bird distribution. Continued interest in shorebirds, with some areas (e.g., McGrath S.P.) receiving daily coverage, resulted in the discovery of many rarities, along with inland

records for most species normally found only along the coast. The checking of "vagrant traps" along the coast and out in the desert is still the most popular pursuit of many active birders in the Region, and it is probable that every vagrant stopping at some of the regularly worked spots (e.g., Gaviota) is found and identified. As such the records of some species formerly unrecorded in California (e.g., Clay-colored Sparrow), are too numerous to cite individually, and we end up with a false impression of their status in California. Such are the problems in preparing a seasonal report for a Region harboring 435 species, 75 of which were considered casual or accidental this past fall.

LOONS, GREBES — An Arctic Loon, decidedly rare inland, was near Lancaster, Los Angeles Co., Nov. 10 (BB). Single Red-necked Grebes, rare in s. California, were at Refugio S.P., Santa Barbara Co., Nov. 3 (PL), Goleta, Santa Barbara Co., Nov. 16-30+ (LB) and at

Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co., Nov. 18-25 (REW). A Horned Grebe at Oasis, Mono Co., Oct. 30 (DLD) was far inland and away from any large body of water.

ALBATROSSES, SHEARWATERS, STORM-PETRELS — Up to four Black-footed Albatrosses/day were encountered during trips far off Morro Bay in late November, indicating small numbers present in these waters. Northern Fulmars were present offshore in November with 36 off Morro Bay Nov. 17 (REW) and five off La Jolla, San Diego Co., Nov. 4 (DPo), suggesting a movement into s. California waters. A Flesh-footed Shearwater off Morro Bay Nov. 24 (REW) was the only one sighted this fall. Three New Zealand Shearwaters off Morro Bay Nov. 17 (GMcC) were somewhat late. Three or four Short-tailed Shearwaters off Morro Bay Nov. 17-30+ (REW) were expected, the species occurring in late fall and early winter. Manx Shearwaters were relatively numerous close to

shore in the s. part of the Region during November, with a high count of 11,700 made from La Jolla Nov. 14 (AH), but 30 seen from Pt. Mugu Nov. 25 (REW) were the only ones reported n. of Los Angeles.



Cook's Petrel (*Pterodroma cookii*), Davidson Seamount, Nov. 17, 1979. The clean white underparts, with no black markings on the undersides of the wings, as well as the pale gray coloration of the head (black confined to a small mark around the eye) are all visible in this picture. The upperside of the bird was the same pale gray as the top of the head with a bold blackish W pattern across the wings. Photo/Jeri M. Langham.

S.A.

The most startling event of the season was the discovery of *Cookilaria* petrels within 100 mi of shore. After learning of six sightings of *Pterodroma* petrels 100-200 mi out during oceanic survey work in early October (GFr, RLP), a boat was chartered to explore the waters around Davidson Seamount (35°44'N, 122°43'W), 65± mi s.w. of Pt. Sur in the extreme n.w. corner of this Region. On Nov. 17, seven *Cookilaria* petrels were seen, three being identified as Cook's Petrels (*Pterodroma cookii*) and one as Stejneger's Petrel (*Pterodroma longirostris*) (GMcC, JD, RS), with one Cook's Petrel photographed (DR ph., S.D.N.H.M.). On Nov. 24, seven more *Cookilaria* petrels were seen, two of which were clearly Cook's Petrels (REW) and Dec. 1 another Cook's Petrel was identified at Davidson Seamount (GMcC). Additional work is necessary to determine when and if these birds occur regularly in this area. This is a new area for exploration by hardy observers able to cope with long periods aboard small boats.

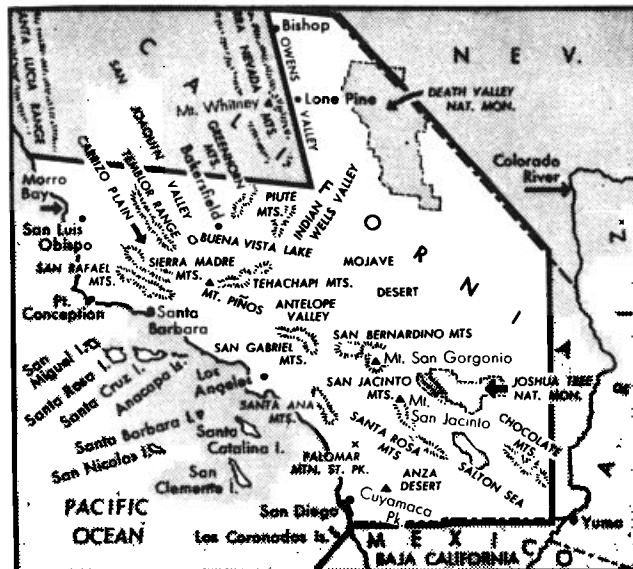
Although these sightings constitute the first records for both species in California it is significant to note Cook's Petrel regularly reaches the North Pacific, occurring off Baja California where sometimes termed "common" (L. M. Loomis, *Proc. Cal. Acad. Sci.*, 4th ser., Vol. II, pt. 2:93-94, 1918 and J. R. Jehl, *pers. comm.*), and that Stejneger's Petrel also crosses the equator, having been collected ca., 600 mi off c. California (J. Moffitt, *Auk*, 55:255-256, 1938). The inclusion of *Pterodroma leucoptera* in two popular field guides (Audubon Western Bird Guide and A Field Guide to Western Birds) as a species having occurred "600 miles off San Francisco" is an error resulting from nomenclature revisions, and should be corrected to Stejneger's Petrel, there being no such record for White-winged (Gould's) Petrel.

Two Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels at Davidson Seamount Dec. 1 (REW) were near the s. limit of the species' normal range. Although Leach's Storm-Petrels are regarded as relatively common off San Diego in September, i.e., 95 seen there Sept. 9 (GMcC), few records exist for s. California waters in late fall; hence, the presence of 20 at Davidson Seamount Dec. 1 (JD) was of interest. A dead Ashy Storm-Petrel was found on a street in Goleta Nov. 9 (JG); it is rare for any storm-petrel to venture inland.

A Galapagos Storm-Petrel, only the fourth to be reported in California, was seen briefly at Davidson Seamount Dec. 1 (REW, LB). Least Storm-Petrels were relatively common off the s. half of the Region in September as indicated by 3200 off San Diego Sept. 8 (GMcC), but a count of nine off Ventura Sept. 8 (REM) and 35 off Santa Barbara the same day (JD) suggest numbers did not go too far n.; two off San Diego Oct. 22 (DPo) were the latest this year.

TROPICBIRDS, PELICANS, FRIGATEBIRDS — The only Red-billed Tropicbirds reported were one near San Clemente I., Sept. 16 (CGE), and single birds at 35 and 65 mi off Pt. Arguello, Santa Barbara Co., Sept. 30 (GFr). A Red-tailed Tropicbird, a species unrecorded in North American waters prior to this year, was seen at 34°58'N, 122°36'W 95 mi off Pt. Buchon, San Luis Obispo Co., Oct. 7 (GFr, RLP) with three others noted 100-200 mi off the coast Sept. 30 - Oct. 8. Brown Pelicans reached peak numbers at the Salton Sea in mid-August with 86 counted Aug. 11 (PU), and 50± still present at the end of September; one flying N over Daggett, San Bernardino Co., Sept. 20 (RR) was well out into the Mojave Desert, and another on a street in Rancho Bernardo, San Diego Co., Aug. 25 (JMcn) was at an unusual location. Sightings of Magnificent Frigatebirds from along the coast declined sharply after the first week of August with singles at McGrath S.P., Ventura Co., Sept. 6 (LS), Malibu, Los Angeles Co., Sept. 26 (TF) and off La Jolla Oct. 29 (AH) the latest. At the Salton Sea three were still present Sept. 23 (GMcC) after record numbers occurred there in July and August. Five over L. Cuyamaca in the Laguna Mts., Aug. 2 (JRS), one over nearby L. Henshaw Sept. 5 (PU) and another at L. Hodges Sept. 7 (JMcn) were all at inland localities in San Diego County.

HERONS, STORKS — A Little Blue Heron in San Diego Aug. 25 (DDS) was one of very few adults reported in fall. Two imm. Reddish Egrets appeared in the San Diego area Aug. 19 (CGE, D&BS) with one remaining to Sept. 26 (CGE) and the other still present Oct. 26 (AH). The ad. Louisiana Heron at the north end of the Salton Sea (hereafter, N.E.S.S.) was



last seen Sept. 15 (SG); one on San Diego Bay Oct. 31 (D&BS) was the first of five arriving in the San Diego area where a few regularly winter. A Least Bittern in Goleta Nov. 4 (LRB) along with single birds at McGrath S.P., Aug. 13 (RL), 21 (REW) and Sept. 14 (KC) were of interest since few are now found along the coast n. of Los Angeles. Am. imm. Wood Stork around Harbor L., in San Pedro, Los Angeles Co., Sept. 18 - Oct. 19 (DA) apparently moved to Whittier Nov. 1-17 (KC). This species is now accidental along the coast of California, although formerly of annual occurrence.

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — The only Whistling Swans reported away from the Owens Valley were three at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley (hereafter, F.C.R.), Nov. 24 (LLN) and what were probably the same three birds at Saratoga Springs Nov. 26 (LLN). Six White-fronted Geese, now rare along the coast, were at the Santa Maria R. mouth, Santa Barbara Co., Nov. 23 (REW) and eight were at L. Henshaw Nov. 13 (RH). A Ross' Goose at Tecopa, Inyo Co., Nov. 21 (JT) was one of a very few ever reported in the n.e. portion of the Region. A Eur. Wigeon at McGrath S.P., Oct. 28-30 (REW), another at Pt. Mugu Oct. 28 (REW) and a third on L. Henshaw Nov. 13 (RH) were the first for the winter. A ♂ Tufted Duck on Quail L., near Gorman, Los Angeles Co., Nov. 10-30+ (BB) was probably the same individual that spent last winter there. A ♀ Barrow's Goldeneye at F.C.R., Nov. 22 (GMcC) was the third to be found here in four years, suggesting that the species is other than accidental at this locality. An Oldsquaw, scarce in s. California, was at the Santa Maria R. mouth Nov. 23-30+ (LB), another was in Goleta Nov. 4-15 (LB), a third was in Santa Barbara Nov. 18-30+ (LRB), a fourth was at Oceanside, San Diego Co., Nov. 1 (H&NS) and a fifth was seen flying S off La Jolla Nov. 9 (AH). The ♂ Harlequin Duck remained in Carlsbad throughout the fall, having been present since 1977. White-winged Scoters were much more numerous than usual after the first appeared in late October, with 228 at Pt. Mugu Nov. 22 (REW) and 32 at Huntington Beach Pier Nov. 26 (R&MW). The first Black Scoters of the fall were three at Pt. Mugu Nov. 3 (REW) with small numbers noted along the entire coast thereafter.

HAWKS — A White-tailed Kite at the Mt Palomar Observatory, San Diego Co., Sept. 14 (RH) was at a high elevation. An imm. Goshawk at F.C.R., Nov. 4 (JD) was the only one reported in the n.e. portion of the Region. As usual a few Broad-winged Hawks were found with one at Bakers Dam, Joshua Tree Nat'l Mon., Sept. 14 (LJ) and another at F.C.R., Oct. 24 (REW) being inland, and one in Goleta Oct. 29 (PL), one in Santa Barbara Oct. 15 (LRB), another near Oxnard Oct. 12 (REW), one in Rosemead, Los Angeles Co., Nov. 21-22 (KG), and singles on Pt. Loma (CGE) and Imperial Beach (DPA), San Diego Co., Oct. 15 being along the coast. Most interesting were two concentrations of migrant Swainson's Hawks, 500-500 over the Edminston Pump Station at the s. end of the San Joaquin Valley Oct. 26 (J.K.Bachman, *vide* PHB) and 200 going to roost near Temecula, Riverside Co., Oct. 27 (JRJ); numbers of these magnitudes have not been reported in California in 15 years. The breeding Zone-tailed Hawks found on Santa Rosa Mt., were not seen after early August and the nesting is believed to have failed. An ad. Zone-tailed Hawk seen near Poway, San Diego Co., Sept. 3 (JMcC) was believed migrating. A Ferruginous Hawk near Santa Maria Sept. 10 (LB) was the earliest reported this fall, and the species was found in suitable habitat throughout the Region by mid-October.

CRANES — A Sandhill Crane flying over Burbank, Los Angeles Co., Nov. 28 (JBr) and five at San Jacinto L., Riverside Co., Nov. 17 (EAC) were away from areas of normal occurrence, and established one of the few modern-day records of this species on the coastal slope of s. California.

SHOREBIRDS — One or two Black Oystercatchers were at Pt. Mugu Sept. 14 - Oct. 20 (KC.REW) and up to three were on Pt. Loma Sept. 15 - Nov. 16 (CGE); this species is rare on the coast s. of San Luis Obispo County, although common on most offshore islands. A Mountain Plover at F.C.R., Sept. 1 (GMcC) was exceptionally early; one near Santa Maria Oct. 7 (JD) along with 25± individuals in the Ventura area Oct. 7 - Nov. 2 (REW) and two in Carson, Los Angeles Co., Oct. 27 (BB) were of interest as the species is now rarely noted as a migrant on the coast away from San Diego County. A fair number of Am. Golden Plovers moved S along the Pacific Coast with at least 20 in Santa Barbara County Aug. 19 - Oct. 10 (PL), 37 on the coast of Ventura County Aug. 31 - Nov. 2 (REW) and five around San Diego Sept. 23 - Oct. 26 (PU); one 30 mi n. of Blythe, Riverside Co., Oct. 18 (BA) and another at L. Hodges Nov. 4 (EC) were inland. A flock of 27 Am. Golden Plovers near Santa Maria Nov. 23-30+ (LB) and eight at Pt. Mugu Nov. 18-30+ (REW) were believed wintering. An **Upland Sandpiper** at Pt. Mugu Sept. 9 (REW) was only the third found during fall in s. California. In addition to the normal scattering of Solitary Sandpipers throughout the e. portion of the Region during August and early September, larger-than-normal numbers were encountered along the coast with 17 in Santa Barbara County Aug. 15 - Sept. 30 (PL), 33 in Ventura County Aug. 11 - Sept. 23 (REW), at least four in Los Angeles County in the same period (KG) and 20 in San Diego County Aug. 5 - Sept. 23 (PU). Three Ruddy Turnstones at

the south end of the Salton Sea (hereafter, S.E.S.S.) Aug. 4 (DPA) were at an inland locality where small numbers are reported every year, but one near Lancaster July 29 - Aug. 2 (FH) and another there Aug. 11 (JD) were the first records for that area.

The only Red Knots found on the Salton Sea were two Aug. 11 (PU) and another Aug. 18 (H&PB), but one was near Lancaster Aug. 11 (DLD) and another at L. Hodges Sept. 7 (GMcC); this species is regular on the Salton Sea but casual elsewhere away from the coast. A Sanderling near Daggett Oct. 3 (EAC), three near Lancaster Aug. 11 (JD) and another on L. Hodges Aug. 17 (GMcC) were inland; few are found inland away from the Salton Sea. Semipalmated Sandpipers were again found this fall with one at Lancaster July 31 - Aug. 2 (KG), up to two near there Aug. 4-11 (FH), one or two at McGrath S.P., Aug. 20-23 (REW), up to three there Aug. 30 - Sept. 6 (REW), one or two there Sept. 20-23 (REW), one near Oxnard Aug. 30 (DLD) and another there Sept. 11 (REW); it is becoming apparent that small numbers move through California in August and September, all to date being immature. Baird's Sandpipers passed through the Region in fair numbers during August and September with 180± being reported, with two at McGrath S.P., Oct. 13 (REW) the latest. A Sharp-tailed Sandpiper in Goleta Sept. 19 (PL) and two at Pt. Mugu Oct. 13-14 (REW) were the only ones found despite time spent searching for this rare straggler from Asia. Good numbers of Pectoral Sandpipers were found along the coast n. of Los Angeles, with 450+ in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties Aug. 29 - Nov. 7 (PL,REW), but only a handful could be found to the s. in San Diego County; significant sightings included 14 at L. Henshaw in the mountains of San Diego County Oct. 7 (RH); one at Baker, San Bernardino Co., Nov. 12 (EAC) was late for an inland locality, and one in Goleta Nov. 24-25 (JG) was exceptionally late for anywhere in California. A **Curlew Sandpiper** at McGrath S.P., Sept. 27-28 (REW) was only the second found in this Region. As usual a few Stilt Sandpipers were at the Salton Sea with a high count of 12 at S.E.S.S., Aug. 19 (JD). However, the species is rare away from that area; hence, the occurrence of one in Lancaster Aug. 2 (JD), another nearby Aug. 6 (JD), two near Bard in the Colorado R. Valley Aug. 17 (SG), one in Goleta Sept. 4 (PL), one at McGrath S.P., Sept. 2 (REW), another near Oxnard Sept. 7-11 (LS), five different birds at Pt. Mugu Sept. 15-30 (REW) and one near Carlsbad, San Diego Co., Aug. 9 (EC) indicated a more widespread movement than usual. A Stilt Sandpiper at Pt. Mugu Nov. 18-30+ (REW) was believed wintering.

For the second consecutive year significant numbers of Buff-breasted Sandpipers occurred along the coast with four at McGrath S.P., Sept. 6 (DLD), at least seven near Oxnard Sept. 16-18 (TC), another there Sept. 23 - Oct. 6 (REW), one near Imperial Beach Oct. 9 (EC) and two exceptionally late birds there Oct. 12-22 (DPA); prior to last fall only six had been recorded in this Region. Eight Ruffs were found along the coast with one at the Santa Maria R. mouth Sept. 14-18 (PL ph., S.D.N.H.M.) one near Santa Maria Sept. 30 - Oct. 2 (PL), one at McGrath S.P., Sept. 2-7 (DLD) being joined by a second Sept. 7 (REW), two at Pt. Mugu Sept. 15 (REW) with one remaining to

Sept. 23 (REW) and another there Oct. 14 (REW), and the eighth in San Pedro Oct. 4-8 (MH ph., S.D.N.H.M.) along with one inland near Lancaster Oct. 3 (REW). An influx of Red Phalaropes was noted in October when small numbers were found along the entire coast, 43 around Santa Maria Oct. 27 (PL) and 35 at McGrath S.P., Nov. 2 (REW) were the largest concentrations reported, and most had left by late November.

JAEGERS, SKUAS — Parasitic Jaegers were apparently constantly present at N.E.S.S., Sept. 20 - Nov. 13 (LJ) with a high count of six there Sept. 23 (GMcC); this species occurs regularly on the Salton Sea each fall but is accidental elsewhere away from the coast. It was a good fall for Long-tailed Jaegers with two off Oxnard Sept. 8 (REW), one off San Diego the same day (GMcC), three off San Diego Sept. 9 (JD) and another there Sept. 16 (CGE). A S. Polar Skua 6 mi off San Diego Oct. 4 (DPo) was in an area where rare in fall and another at Davidson Seamount Nov. 17 (GMcC) was somewhat late.

GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS — An ad. Glaucous-winged Gull at Goleta Sept. 19 (PL) and another at McGrath S.P., Sept. 29 (REW) were the first of the wintering population to arrive. A Herring Gull in San Diego Sept. 23 (EC) was the earliest one reported this fall, and one on L. Palmdale in the Antelope Valley Oct. 20 (JD) was one of the very few found inland away from the Salton Sea in this Region. A Mew Gull at McGrath S.P., Oct. 12 (REW) was a little on the early side. As usual a few Franklin's Gulls were found with 11 reported Sept. 20 - Nov. 30. An imm. Sabine's Gull on L. Tinnemaha in the Owen's Valley Oct. 3 (REW) and another at N.E.S.S., Sept. 23 (GMcC) were both far inland, the species being exceptionally rare away from the open ocean.

A Gull-billed Tern at N.E.S.S., Nov. 21 (LJ) was quite late. Common Terns occur in large numbers on the Salton Sea every fall, but are rarely reported from elsewhere inland; hence, small numbers (max. five Sept. 2) around Lancaster Aug. 11 - Sept. 30 (KG) along with two on L. Hodges Aug. 5 (GMcC) and another there Sept. 2-15 (DPA) were of interest. Eleven Least Terns on San Diego Bay Sept. 16 (AH) were the last seen. A Black Skimmer at Pt. Mugu Aug. 25 (REW) followed by two more Sept. 16 (REW) were the only ones found on the coast away from San Diego.

ALCIDS — Common Murres moved into s. California this fall with 80 off Pt. Mugu Nov. 22 (REW) and up to six off La Jolla Oct. 28 - Nov. 2 (AH). A Marbled Murrelet near Morro Bay Nov. 3 (EVJ) and another in San Diego Nov. 29 (SD), along with an Ancient Murrelet in San Diego Sept. 8 (PU) were the first of many to reach the coast in an unprecedented influx. Two Xantus' Murrelets off Morro Bay Nov. 17 (REW) were of interest since few records exist for this time of year. There were only 16 Craveri's Murrelets reported, 35 mi w of Pt. Piedras Blancas, San Luis Obispo Co., Oct. 1 (GFr).

PIGEONS THROUGH HUMMING-BIRDS — A Band-tailed Pigeon on Pt. Loma Sept. 7 (CGE) was some distance from an area

of normal occurrence. As usual a few White-winged Doves strayed W to the coast with ten reported between Santa Barbara and San Diego Aug. 21 - Nov. 20. Unexpected were single Ground Doves at F.C.R., Oct. 10 (REW) and 25-28 (LLN), along with one in San Pedro Oct. 28 (FH), and another in nearby Westwood Nov. 23 (FH); F.C.R. is n. of the species' normal range and few have been found in the Los Angeles area. Two Yellow-billed Cuckoos near Tecopa Aug. 25, with one still present Sept. 17 (JT) were believed to have nested locally. A Long-eared Owl at Gaviota, Santa Barbara Co., Oct. 8-26 (LRB) was one of a very few ever found in this area. A group of 25 Short-eared Owls near the Santa Maria R. mouth Nov. 23-30+ (LB) was a significant concentration. Reports of Poor-wills believed to be migrants included two in Gaviota Oct. 7 (GFu), one in Goleta Aug. 27 (PL), one near Oxnard Nov. 4 (REW) and another on Pt. Fermin Oct. 8 (BD). A Black Swift over Fillmore Sept. 1 (REW) was the only migrant reported. Five Broad-billed Hummingbirds were found with a male 20 mi n. of Blythe Sept. 30 - Nov. 30+ (SC), another male in Cabazon, Riverside Co., Sept. 24 (LJ), a female in Gaviota Oct. 10 - Nov. 30+ (LRB, ph., S.D.N.H.M.), a male in Santa Barbara Oct. 9-14 (LRB) and another male in San Diego Nov. 28-30+ (JD); this species is now occurring annually and apparently increasing.



Male Broad-billed Hummingbird, Santa Barbara, Calif., Oct. 9, 1979. Photo/James M. Greaves.

WOODPECKERS — Four Com. (Yel.-sh.) Flickers were reported from along the coast during October and November; pure birds are quite scarce on the coast, although slightly commoner along the e. border of the Region. At least five imm. Yellow-billed Sapsuckers showing all the characters of the e. race *S. v. varius* were found in the e. portion of the Region with one at F.C.R., Oct. 22-26 (JD), one in Baker Oct. 14 (AS), another in Kelso Oct. 23 - Nov. 10 (JD,EAC), one in Morongo Valley Oct. 27 - Nov. 6 (EAC,LJ) and another in Whitewater Canyon Nov. 5 (LJ), and an ad. male was on the coast at Refugio S.P., Nov.

3-30+ (PL); with more observers aware of the field characters of this bird we have had an increase in the numbers reported, and it is now known to be a regular straggler to California. A ♂ Williamson's Sapsucker on Cuyamaca Mt., San Diego Co., Nov. 15 (AH) was s. of the species' breeding range. A Downy Woodpecker at Holiday L., in the Antelope Valley Oct. 20 - Nov. 10 (KG) was outside the species' known range in California. A Nuttall's Woodpecker near Oxnard Nov. 2 (REW) had wandered somewhat from the nearest known locality of occurrence.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — An 'E. Kingbird at F.C.R., Sept. 1 (GMcC) and one found dead at Harper Dry L., San Bernardino Co., Sept. 30 (EAC) were the only two from the e. portion of the Region; one in Carpinteria, Santa Barbara Co., Sept. 5-7 (PL) along with one in Escondido, San Diego Co., Sept. 22 (JMcN) were on or near the coast. As usual a few Tropical Kingbirds appeared along the coast with 16 reported between Morro Bay and San Diego Sept. 15 - Nov. 10. A W. Kingbird in El Monte Oct. 31 was quite late. A **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** on Pt. Loma Oct. 7 (CC) was only the third ever found in California. A Great Crested Flycatcher, an exceptionally rare straggler to California, was in Santa Barbara Oct. 13-14 (LB). An Ash-throated Flycatcher near Imperial Beach Nov. 24 (DPa) was exceptionally late. There appeared to be more than the normal number of E. Phoebes this fall with one at Scotty's Castle Nov. 3 (LS), another at nearby F.C.R., Oct. 27 (JD), one in Morro Bay Nov. 30 (KC), another in Goleta Nov. 4 (PL), single birds on Pt. Loma Oct. 20-21 (GT) and Nov. 4 (EC), and a seventh on Otay Mesa, San Diego Co., Nov. 24-30+ (DPa). A Willow Flycatcher in Arcadia, Los Angeles Co., Nov. 2-30+ (BCoh) appeared to be wintering. Five Least Flycatchers were found with one at the Santa Maria R. mouth Oct. 7 (LB), one in Santa Barbara Sept. 24 (PL), another at McGrath S.P., Sept. 19 (REW), one on Pt. Loma Sept. 16 (EC) and another there Oct. 21 (DPa); small numbers are now found each fall. A Gray Flycatcher at Mesquite Springs in Death Valley Nov. 19 (DLD) was at an unusual locality for the time of year. Two Coues' Flycatchers, rare stragglers to California, were reported with one near Blythe Nov. 28 (SG) and the other in Los Angeles Nov. 7-30+ (RT). A Rough-winged Swallow in Goleta Nov. 4-5 (LRB) was exceptionally late. A Purple Martin on Pt. Loma Sept. 17 (PU) was the only one reported.

JAYS, TITMICE, NUTHATCHES — Three Steller's Jays on Hunter Mt., Inyo Co., Oct. 11 (LLN) were outside any area of normal occurrence. A flock of 20+ Clark's Nutcrackers in the Granite Mts., San Bernardino Co., Oct. 12 (DM) along with three in the Laguna Mts., San Diego Co., Nov. 11 (BCor) and one in Santa Barbara Oct. 28 (VP) had all wandered some distance from areas of normal occurrence. A few Mountain Chickadees apparently moved out into the high desert with up to six at Oasis in October (REW), up to three at Deep Springs through October (REW) and one in Morongo Valley Aug. 27 - Nov. 30+ (LJ), but were almost nonexistent in the coastal lowlands. A White-breasted Nuthatch at Oasis Oct. 9-30 (LS) was outside the species' normal range in California. Red-breasted

Nuthatches were more numerous and widespread indicating a moderate flight into s. California. Up to three Pygmy Nuthatches in Santa Barbara Nov. 10-30+ (PL) were in the lowlands away from known breeding localities.

WRENS, THRASHERS, THRUSHES — Two Winter Wrens at Deep Springs Oct. 30 (DLD) and one at Ft. Piute, San Bernardino Co., Oct. 11 (REW) were the only ones reported from desert oases, and numbers found along the coast appeared lower than normal. Five Cactus Wrens around Tecopa Aug. 26-27 (JT) were a little n. of the species' normal range. A Gray Catbird, a casual straggler to California, was on Santa Cruz I., Oct. 7 (WDK). A Bendire's Thrasher in Goleta Aug. 25-29 (PL), another near Pt. Mugu Sept. 15 - Oct. 1 (BB) and a third on San Clemente I., Sept. 15-16 (PJ) were all along the coast: a few regularly wander to the coast every fall. A bird showing all the characters of a Curve-billed Thrasher was well-studied at McGrath S.P., Oct. 5 (REW); there is only one other report of this species from the coast of California. Only five Sage Thrashers were reported from along the coast during September and October; this species used to be much more numerous as a migrant on the coast. Varied Thrushes were scarce, but individuals were found as far s. as Blythe Nov. 3 (SC), Morongo Valley Nov. 6 (LJ) and Pt. Loma Oct. 17 (REW). A Swainson's Thrush in Kelso Oct. 10 (LS) was one of a few ever found in the e. portion of this Region in fall.

PIPITS, SHRIKES, VIREOS — A Water Pipit on Mt. Pinos Sept. 7 (JD) established the earliest arrival date for a fall migrant in this Region. Again a few Red-throated Pipits were found along the coast with one in Goleta Oct. 11 (PL), two near Oxnard Oct. 19 (REW) and two or three near Imperial Beach Oct. 8-22 (EC); this species is proving to be regular in this Region at this time of the year. Two Sprague's Pipits were found inland at F.C.R., Oct. 2 (REW) and 23 (JD); previous records are confined to the immediate vicinity of the coast. An imm. N. Shrike at F.C.R., Nov. 3-14 (LLN) and another in the Antelope Valley Nov. 24 (RHN) were the only two found. A brightly marked Solitary Vireo near Imperial Beach Nov. 10 (EC) was clearly of the e. race *V. s. solitarius*; this form is rarely recorded in California. A Yellow-green Vireo, a casual straggler to s. California, was at Gaviota Sept. 8 (LRB). Two Philadelphia Vireos were found; one in Shoshone, Inyo Co., Oct. 23-24 (LB) and the other near Imperial Beach Oct. 12-14 (CGE); two or three are now reported each year.

WOOD WARBLERS — As usual small numbers of Black-and-white Warblers passed through the Region with 26 found along the coast Sept. 7 - Nov. 9, and one inland near Blythe Nov. 10 (SG). Five Prothonotary Warblers were more than expected with one at F.C.R., Oct. 23 (REW) and another 15 mi n. of Blythe Oct. 8-16 (SC) being inland, and one at Gaviota Sept. 20-28 (LRB, ph., S.D.N.H.M.), another near Malibu Sept. 30 - Oct. 11 (H&PB) and a third on Pt. Loma Oct. 10 (CGE) being along the coast. More than 40 Tennessee Warblers were reported with most occurring during October along the coast. In September there were 25 Virginia's Warblers

found along the coast and five seen in the e. portion of the Region. Unexpected were 14 Lucy's Warblers along the coast Aug. 24 - Nov. 30; it has been considered exceptionally rare anywhere w. of the mountains in s. California. A N. Parula, rarer in fall than spring, was at Gaviota Oct. 16-23 (PL), another was in Santa Barbara Oct. 4 (LB), one was on Pt. Fermin Oct. 14-17 (MH), another in Long Beach Nov. 22-26 (JA) and a fifth on Pt. Loma Sept. 24 (EC).

Eight Magnolia Warblers were reported with three along the coast Sept. 29 - Oct. 7, two in the San Bernardino Valley area in early October (HEC&LJ), one on Mt. Palomar Oct. 2 (RH), one in Whitewater Canyon Sept. 30 (LI) and the eighth at Iron Mt. Pumping Station Oct. 5 (DM). A Cape May Warbler, a rare straggler to California, was in Gaviota Sept. 28 (PL), another was near Oxnard Oct. 15 (REW), one on Pt. Loma Nov. 10-30+, another in Imperial Beach Sept. 23-24 (EAC) and a fifth inland at Finney L., Imperial Co., Nov. 1 (KC, ph., S.D.N.H.M.). As usual Black-throated Blue Warblers appeared in small numbers with nine along the coast and six at desert oases Oct. 1-30, and a male at Fallsdale in the San Bernardino Mts., Nov. 23-27 (MAP). A Townsend's Warbler at L. Arrowhead Aug. 14 (KG) established one of the earliest fall records for the species in s. California. Black-throated Green Warblers appeared in fair numbers with 12 along the coast between Oct. 3 - Nov. 10, one at L. Palmdale in the Antelope Valley Oct. 20 (JD), another in Colton, San Bernardino Co., Oct. 2 (EAC) and a third in Blythe Oct. 14 (IA) inland. Eight Blackburnian Warblers were found along the coast between Sept. 29 - Nov. 16 along with one inland at Morongo Valley Sept. 13 (LJ). A Yellow-throated Warbler, one of the rarer vagrants to reach California, was at Gaviota Oct. 24-25 (LRB). A Grace's Warbler near Malibu Sept. 30 (H&PB) was only the fourth to be found on the coast of California. Six Chestnut-sided Warblers were found along the coast Sept. 26 - Nov. 12 and an exceptionally late bird in



Yellow-throated Warbler, Gaviota, Calif., Oct. 25, 1979. Photo/James M. Greaves.

Marina del Rey Nov. 17 - Dec. 2 (JAJ), but one in the Antelope Valley Oct. 7-10 (TC) and another near Daggett Oct. 3 (EAC) were the only two inland. A Bay-breasted Warbler at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley Oct. 2 (REW), one in Santa Barbara Oct. 13 (LB), and another in Imperial Beach Oct. 6-10 (PU) were the only three reported. Blackpoll Warblers were relatively numerous with 75± reported Sept. 12 - Nov. 4; one at F.C.R., Oct. 2 (REW) and another in Whitewater Canyon Sept. 12 were the only two found inland, and one on Pt. Loma Nov. 22 (DPa) was exceptionally late.

A **Pine Warbler**, one of the rarest vagrants to reach California, was at Gaviota Oct. 15 (LB). Five Prairie Warblers were found with single birds at Gaviota Sept. 6 (PL) and Oct. 1-3 (JAJ), one at Pt. Mugu Nov. 6-7 (REW), two near Imperial Beach Sept. 3 (EC) and Sept. 19-22 (DPa). Palm Warblers were more numerous than usual with 95± found along the coast after Oct. 1, but single inland birds were at Deep Springs Oct. 9 (REW) & 22 (JD), Riverside Nov. 19 (DH) Finney L., Nov. 7 (RH). Single Ovenbirds reported were at Morro Bay Oct. 19-20 (ph. S.D.N.H.M.), Goleta Nov. 15, dead (SR) and Pt. Loma Oct. 16-17 (EC). Northern Waterthrushes were scarce with single birds in Santa Barbara Aug. 28 (JG) and Sept. 5 (PL), and McGrath S.P., Aug. 31 (DLD). A **Kentucky Warbler**, only the fourth found in this Region, was well seen in Imperial Beach Oct. 24 (D&BS). Single **Mourning Warblers** were at Pt. Mugu Sept. 2 (REW) and in Baker Nov. 10 (EAC, *S.B.C.M.); there are only three previous records of this species in the Region. The only Hooded Warbler was a male in Santa Barbara Aug. 22 - Sept. 4 (PL). Five Canada Warblers were found with single birds in Gaviota Oct. 12-13 (LRB) & 26 (PL), Pt. Mugu Nov. 6 (REW), San Pedro Oct. 14 (MH) and Pt. Loma Oct. 11-12 (EC). As usual small numbers of Am. Redstarts passed through the Region with 50± reported after Aug. 24. Single Painted Redstarts, exceptionally rare in California, were at Corn Springs near Desert Center Sept. 27 (SG) and on Palos Verdes Pen., Oct. 13 (GT).

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS

— As expected small numbers of Bobolinks appeared coastally with 200+ reported; individuals in Goleta Aug. 24-31 (JD) and McGrath S.P., Nov. 5 (REW) were the earliest and latest. The only Bobolinks inland were singles: Fillmore Sept. 12 (REW), Orange Oct. 5 (AP), Deep Springs Oct. 1 (REW), F.C.R., Nov. 15, exceptionally late (LLN), Harper Dry L., Sept. 30 (EAC) and Cadiz Oct. 14 (AS). Eight Orchard Orioles were found Sept. 14 - Oct. 10, with inland individuals in Morongo Valley (LJ) and Laguna Dam (KVR) Sept. 13 & 29 respectively. About 15 Baltimore Orioles found along the coast during October and November appeared normal. Five Rusty Blackbirds in e. Inyo and San Bernardino counties Oct. 27 - Nov. 27 were normal, but one in Van Nuys, Los Angeles Co., Oct. 31 - Nov. 15 (GH) was unexpected. A Great-tailed Grackle in San Pedro Nov. 22 (BD) was the only coastal report. A Com. Grackle at F.C.R., Oct. 7 (LLN) was only the eighth found in the Region.

A Scarlet Tanager on Otay Mesa Oct. 21 (EC) was eaten by a Sharp-shinned Hawk! A ♂ Hepatic Tanager, exceptionally rare away



Bobolink, Goleta, Calif., Sept. 22, 1979. Photo/James M. Greaves.

from limited breeding localities, was near Imperial Beach Nov. 10 (DPa). Summer Tanagers were scarcer than usual with only eight coastal and three inland reports Aug. 29 - Oct. 21.

FINCHES, SPARROWS — Some 20 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks Sept. 14 - Oct. 24 was average. A Black-headed Grosbeak at Deep Springs Oct. 9 (LS) was a little late for that area. A Blue Grosbeak at F.C.R., Oct. 22-23 (JD) was exceptionally late. Indigo Buntings were relatively numerous around Santa Barbara with 20 Aug. 20 - Oct. 8 but <15 elsewhere. A Lazuli Bunting near Imperial Beach Oct. 19 (AH) was quite late. A ♂ Painted Bunting near Imperial Beach Nov. 3 (DPa) was thought to be an escapee. Seven Dickcissels were along the coast Aug. 23 - Oct. 20, and one inland at F.C.R., Nov. 3 (JD). The only Evening Grosbeaks s. of the extreme n.e. corner of the Region were singles in Santa Barbara Nov. 23-30+ (PL) and the San Gabriel Mts., Nov. 24 (KG). Two Lawrence's Goldfinches at Ft. Piute Oct. 11 (REW) were at an interesting locality; few records existing for this area of California. Single coastal Lark Buntings were in Goleta Sept. 3-5 (EC), and inland at F.C.R., Oct. 22-23 (LB) and in the Antelope Valley Nov. 10-24 (BB). A Grasshopper Sparrow at Deep Springs Oct. 9 (REW), five in the Lanfair Valley, e. San Bernardino Co., Nov. 11 (EAC) and one in Goleta Nov. 2-10 (JG) were all in areas from which few have been recorded. As usual a few Gray-headed Juncos moved into the s.e. portion of the Region with singles at Pt. Mugu Oct. 28 (REW) near Malibu Oct. 29 - Nov. 30+ (H&PB), Anaheim Oct. 16 (HEC), and five on Pt. Loma Oct. 21 - Nov. 25 (PU). Six Tree Sparrows at F.C.R., Oct. 26 - Nov. 22 (GMC) and one at Harper Dry L., Nov. 18 (AS) were in the n.e. section of the Region where small numbers are found each fall; singles in Goleta (LB) and Pt. Mugu Nov. 8 & 3 respectively (REW) were from the coast where much rarer. Above average numbers of Clay-colored Sparrows

were found with 10± inland and 40± along the coast after Sept. 1. Harris' Sparrows were somewhat scarce, with no more than six in the n.e. portion of the Region and only one on the coast at Goleta Oct. 22 - Nov. 30+, but White-throated Sparrows appeared in about-normal numbers with 30± reported. Approximately 20 Swamp Sparrows were reported Regionwide with one in Kelso Oct. 10-11 (DLD) the earliest.

LONGSPURS — Longspurs were scarcer-than-usual with none in some areas of regular occurrence (e.g., near Imperial Beach). One or two McCown's Longspurs were at Harper Dry L., Nov. 18-20 (EAC, *S.B.C.M.) and one was near Santa Maria Nov. 30+ (REW); this is the rarest of the three species occurring in California. Inland Lapland Longspurs were at F.C.R., Oct. 27 (EC) and two at Harper Dry L., Nov. 18-20 (EAC); 13 in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties Oct. 27 - Nov. 22 were coastal. Chestnut-collared Longspurs sometimes occur in flocks, but no more than ten together were reported this fall with the total <50.

CONTRIBUTORS — Bert Anderson, David Andres, Ione Arnold, Jon Atwood, Larry R. Ballard, Hal Baxter, Louis Bevier, Peter H. Bloom, Jeff Boyd (JBo), Jean Brant (JBr), Bruce Broadbrooks, Hank & Priscilla Brodwin (H&PB), Garf Campbell, Kurt Campbell, Eugene A. Cardiff, Chris Carpenter, Henry E. Childs, Sue Clark, Terry Clark, Barbara Cohen (BCoh), Elizabeth Copper, Bart Cord (BCor), Marion T. Corder, Brian Daniels, Fred S. Dexter, Donna L. Dittmann, Shirley Doole, Jon Dunn, Claude G. Edwards, Mike Fredette, Gary Friedrichsen (GR), Alice Fries, Tom Frillman, Gary Fugle (GFu), **Kimball Garrett (coordinator for Los Angeles County)**, **Sharon Goldwasser (coordinator for Colorado River Valley)**, Jim Greaves, Fred Heath, Mitch Heindel, Andreas Helbig, Roger Higson, Don Hoehlin, Greg Homel, Joseph R. Jehl, Eric V. Johnson, Jerry A. Johnson, Lee Jones, Paul Jorgensen, Thomas W. Keeney, Walter D. Koenig, **Paul Lehman (coordinator for Santa Barbara County)**, Ruth Lohr, John McColm (JMcC), John McDonald (JMcD), Jane McNeil (JMcN), David Melchert, Tony Mercieca, Jim Mills, Richard H. Neuman,

Larry L. Norris, Jerry Oldenettel, Dennis Parker (DPa), Michael A. Patten, Arleta Patterson, Robert L. Pitman, Dave Povey (DPo), Virginia Puddicombe, Ray Quigley, **Sylvia J. Ranney (coordinator for Orange County)**, Phil Reeder, Robert Reynolds, Don Roberson, Ken V. Rosenberg, Stephen Rothstein, Andy Sanders, Larry Sansone, Brad Schram, David D. Smith, Dick & Bea Smith (D&BS), Hal & Nancy Spear (H&NS), Richard Stallcup, James R. Stewart, G. Shumway Suffel, **Fern R. Tainter (coordinator for San Luis Obispo County)**, Jan Tarble, Kathy Thompson, Margaret Thornburgh, Rolly Throckmorton, Gerald Tolman, **Philip Unitt (coordinator for San Diego County)**, Ken Weaver, **Richard E. Webster (coordinator for Ventura County)**, Russ & Marion Wilson (R&MW). Specimen (*), photograph on file (ph.), San Bernardino Cty Mus. (S.B.C.M.), San Diego Nat. Hist. Mus. (S.D.N.H.M.). A plus (+) following a date indicates the bird or birds were present through the end of the period. — **GUY McCASKIE, San Diego Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, P.O. Box 1390, San Diego, California 92112.**

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION /Robert L. Pyle and C. John Ralph

Warm dry weather continued through the summer and fall. August to November precipitation at Honolulu was less than 25% of normal, maintaining the same rainfall deficit that had prevailed since March. Daily temperatures pushed to near or beyond record highs for the date, especially during October. Although conditions were generally the same on the other islands, a severe storm hit northeastern Hawaii Island in mid-November, causing damaging floods. Two feet of rain fell in three days in an area where, unfortunately, there are no waterbird wetlands to be helped.

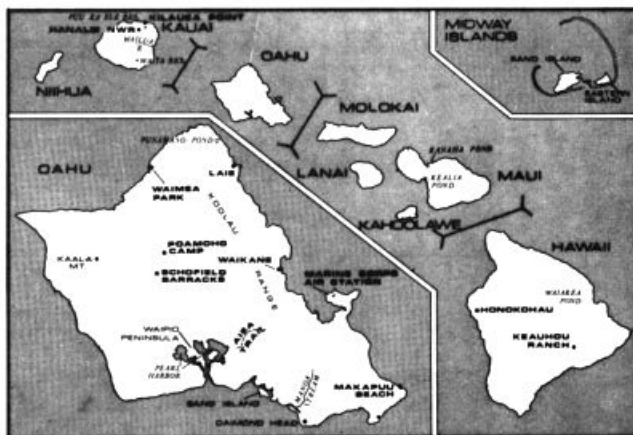
ABBREVIATIONS — F.F.S. (French Frigate Shoals), H. (Hawaii I.), M. (Maui I.), O. (Oahu I.), K.M.C.A.S. (Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station, Oahu), P.H.N.W.R. (Pearl Harbor N.W.R., Oahu).

ALBATROSS THROUGH WATERFOWL — A Laysan Albatross seen Nov. 17 (VB) at the new nesting site near Kilauea, K., was heartening indication that these splendid birds will be back for another nesting season. Unfortunately, however, attempts to provide some form of protection for the site have progressed little in the past year. The shearwater salvage program, so successful on Kauai last autumn (AB 33:219) was staged again this year beginning Oct. 1. By Nov. 20 more than 1100+ **Manx (Newell's) Shearwaters (JS,VB)** had been released safely by wildlife personnel after being grounded on highways and turned in by the public to designated receiving stations. The Newell's, a race of Manx Shearwater, is officially classed as Threatened.

An exciting bonus of the salvage program was two **Harcourt's Storm-Petrels** turned in among the shearwaters. One bird, a fledgling with remnants of down, was found Oct. 24 near the town of Waimea. The other was an adult with a refeathered brood patch (JS), picked up Nov. 10 in lower Hanapepe Valley.

A population of this species was originally described as a race endemic to Hawaii, based on a few young birds collected in the late 1800s near Kauai. But its nest and eggs have never been found in Hawaii.

The Cattle Egret reported at Midway Atoll last spring was still there Oct. 28 (VB,MN). Another was at Tern I., F.F.S., from Sept. 7 to at least Oct. 18 (VB).



S.A.

For the fourth consecutive year an ad. **Little Blue Heron** appeared in early fall at the same pond area on Waipio Pen., O., and then disappeared after being seen only once or a few times. This year it was reported Aug. 19 (RP,PPy), was seen 2-3 times in September, and was last seen Oct. 10 (PD). From 1966 to 1972 an ad. Little Blue was seen almost annually in fall at the same locality. These are the only known records of this species in Hawaii.

One wonders how many of these occurrences, or perhaps even all of them, may pertain to the same individual bird. If it is the same bird, does it migrate annually to Hawaii from North America? Or has it found a hideaway on Oahu where it spends most of the year unobserved? If different birds have been involved, the coincidence in timing and locality is remarkable.

This case may be compared with the sub-ad. Glossy or White-faced Ibis which also first appeared in the fall 1976 in this same locality. The ibis has been regularly observed in all seasons to date, although it has ranged over a somewhat larger area — at least one mile in diameter.

Although 43 Pintails had arrived at Waipio by Sept. 23 (RP), waterfowl numbers seemed generally low on Oahu through October. Lack of rain and ineffective water management practices resulted in poor habitat for wintering waterfowl at the two key Oahu localities, Waipio and Kii Pond. Some ducks may well have dispersed to smaller wetland areas, or may have moved on to other Hawaiian islands or beyond. Tim and Janet Williams' study this fall of bird migration in Hawaii using radar did not clearly reveal any definite evidence of onward migration of ducks. In November, waterfowl numbers did build up at Kii and Waipio. Scarcer species found among the Pintails and N. Shovelers included a Canada Goose, and a pair each of Eur. Wigeon, Garganey and Canvasback. Two Mallards were reported from Kanaha Pond, M. (JW), a Eur. Wigeon overwintered at Laysan I., from April until the observer departed Aug. 18 (EK), and a N. Shoveler was at Sand I., Midway Oct. 29 (VB,MN).

OSPREY THROUGH TURKEY — It was a good fall for Ospreys in Hawaii. On Oahu the bird resident at Waiawa Unit, P.H.N.W.R., was seen regularly through the season. An Osprey was watched perched and in flight

Aug 3-4 at Halepe on the coast in Hawaii N P., H. (PPa,LM). Another was seen at Shipwreck Beach, Lanai I., Nov. 10 (SS). Two Black Francolins and 500+ Gray Francolins were recorded during a survey Oct. 6-7 in the S Kohala district of Hawaii I. (PB). Three Japanese Quail were seen on the road to Puu Laau, H., Aug. 1 (PPy). In a pre-Thanksgiving show, seven wild Turkeys were found Nov. 10 walking the sand at Shipwreck Beach, Lanai I., foraging for crabs (SS). This feeding practice has been observed a number of times on Lanai.

SHOREBIRDS — A Semipalmated Plover was at Tern I., F.F.S., for at least the last 10 days of August (VB). On Oahu, conditions for shorebirds at Waipio improved in October and November when bare mud began to appear in a large new flooded field area, attracting hordes of Am. Golden Plovers, Ruddy Turnstones and Sanderlings. Among the rarities there, a reported Curlew Sandpiper Oct. 31 (PD) may well have been the prize find. The white rump patch in flight and curved bill were studied while Dunlins were nearby for comparison. If the photos taken prove diagnostic, they will document this first known report of the species in Hawaii.

One Bristle-thighed Curlew at Kii Pond July 13 and two July 29 (RC) were extremely early. Thereafter, the curlew flight was disappointing, with only two other sightings at Kii (PB) and one at Waipio (PD) throughout the rest of the fall. One found on a rocky shore at Hapuna Beach Park, H., Oct. 7 (PB) represented one of the few reports of this species on any of the main Hawaiian islands other than Oahu. A Spotted Sandpiper was carefully

identified at Tern I., F.F.S., from Aug 31 through October (VB,RS). One Bar-tailed Godwit was seen sporadically at Waipio in mid-October and November (PK,PD), and one was at Kanaha Pond, M., Oct. 26-27 (JW). A weakened Wilson's Phalarope was found at Tern I., F.F.S., Aug. 5, and died the next day (VB). Another one was at Kii Pond Sept. 17 (RP,MO). Ruffs continued to increase in the fall migration in Hawaii. One or two were seen at Waipio by numerous observers from mid-September to mid-November, two were at Tern I., F.F.S., in August and September, and three were at Kealia Pond, M., for several weeks in October (CK,JW).

GULLS, TERNS — Stray gulls on Oahu this fall included an imm. Franklin's at Waipio Sept. 25 (CJR,TW), and a sub-ad. Ring-billed at K.M.C.A.S., Nov. 4 (MO,RP *et al.*) which may have been one of the two seen later in the month at Waipio (PD). The state's only known Caspian Tern remained at K.M.C.A.S., until at least Sept. 24. On Oct. 6 one was found 150 km away at Kealia Pond, M. (TB,CK), and was seen there again Oct. 25, 27-28 (JW). The probability that the Oahu and Maui sightings are of the same individual is muddled by an observation of the bird back at K.M.C.A.S., Oct. 22 (RP,PS). A very rare **Black Tern** was seen and photographed Sept. 6 at Mohouli Pond in Hilo, H. (PPa,LM). The beautiful and graceful White Tern commonly near the top of visiting birders' most-wanted lists, is incongruously appearing farther and farther into urban downtown Honolulu. Up to four have been seen occasionally during the fall around Foster Gardens on Nuuanu St. (MO,JK,CJR), and nearby at the Main Library

one flew low over the heads of Audubon members gathering there for the September field trip.

PASSERINES — A handsome, white Rothschild Myna (an *Endangered Species*, and a highly prized cagebird) had been seen regularly around the Hale Koa Hotel in Waikiki for several years. An evident escape, this well-known individual was found dead Sept 20 (PD). It had last been reported alive 4 days earlier. Another sighting of the 'O'u, one of the rarer Endangered honeycreepers, was recorded in the Volcano area of Hawaii I., July 14 (SH, *vide* CJR). Four Warbling Silverbills discovered Aug. 24 on the n.e. coast of Lanai I. (LH) revealed that this species has spread to yet another island. It was first reported on Maui I., last December. The original population on Hawaii I., has now expanded into the thousands. Saffron Finches, also established in the w. Hawaii Is., were found in early October on the coast well to the n. at Hapuna Beach and Spencer P. (PB,AB).

CONTRIBUTORS — Barry Brady, Andrea and Phil Bruner, Tim Burr, Vernon Byrd, George Campbell, Rick Coleman, Peter Donaldson, Stephen Hatch, Larry Hirai, Cameron Kepler, Phil Kloeckner, Eric Knudtson, Laurie McIvor, Jack Mitchell, Maura Naughton, Mike Ord, Peter Paton (PPa), Peter Pyle (PPy), Susan Schenck, Robert Schulmeister, John Sincock, Dan Snider, Phil Stoddard, Janet and Tim Williams. — **ROBERT L. PYLE**, 741 N. Kalaeo Ave., Kailua, HI 96734, and **C. JOHN RALPH**, U.S. Forest Service, Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, 1151 Punchbowl St., Honolulu, HI 96813.

Management of Migratory Shore and Upland Game Birds in North America

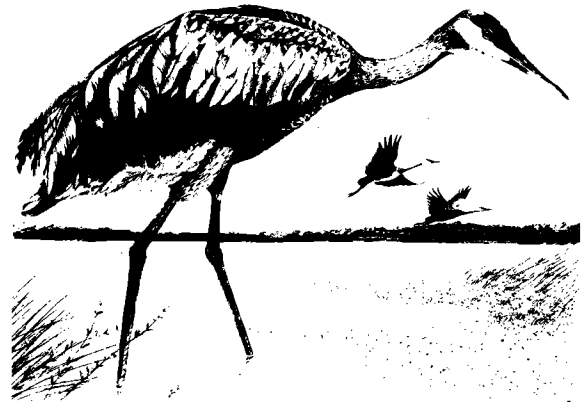
Edited by Glen C. Sanderson

Foreword by O. Earle Frye, Jr.

Although they have provided great human enjoyment and benefits for centuries, the group of migratory game birds treated in this book has received relatively less attention than more popular species. According to the Foreword by O. Earle Frye, Jr., "Perhaps as a holdover from an earlier era, the major effort directed toward migratory game bird research and management by state and local agencies has been, and still is, for ducks and geese. The other migratory game birds—mourning doves, white-winged doves, woodcocks, snipe, rails and gallinules, band-tailed pigeons, coots, and sandhill cranes—have indeed been neglected species."

This study attempts to overcome that neglect. First published in 1977, it contains the work of more than fifty contributing editors, from the United States and Canada augmented by advice and counsel from many others. xiv, 358 pages, 24 drawings, 65 photographs.

Paperback **BB 725 \$10.95**



University of Nebraska Press

0901 North 17th Street Lincoln 68588