

The Winter Season

December 1, 1981—February 28, 1982

Abbreviations frequently used in Regional Reports

ad.: adult, Am.: American, c.: central, C: Celsius, CBC: Christmas Bird Count, Cr.: Creek, Com: Common, Co.: County, Cos.: Counties, *et al.*: and others, E.: Eastern (bird name), Eur.: European, Eurasian, F: Fahrenheit, *fide*: reported by, F. & W.S.: Fish & Wildlife Service, Ft.: Fort, imm.: immature, I.: Island, Is.: Islands, Isles, Jct.: Junction, juv. juvenile, L.: Lake, m.ob.: many observers, Mt.: Mountain, Mts.: Mountains, N.F.: National Forest, N.M.: National Monument, N.P.: National Park, N.W.R.: Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, N.: Northern (bird name), Par.: Parish, Pen.: Peninsula, P.P.: Provincial Park, Pt.: Point, not Port, Ref.: Refuge, Res.:

Reservoir, not Reservation, R.: River, S.P.: State Park, sp. species, spp.: species plural, ssp: subspecies, Twp.: Township, W.: Western (bird name), W.M.A.: Wildlife Management Area, v.o.: various observers, N,S,W,E,,: direction of motion, n., s., w., e.,: direction of location, >: more than, < fewer than, ±: approximately, or estimated number, ♂ male, ♀: female, Ø: imm. or female, *: specimen, ph.: photographed, †: documented, ft: feet, mi: miles, m: meters, km kilometers, date with a + (e.g., Mar. 4+): recorded beyond that date. Editors may also abbreviate often-cited locations or organizations.

NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

/Peter D. Vickery

The winter of 1981-82 began in a fascinating manner. Neither November nor December temperatures were particularly cold—at least the thermometer did not drop to severe sub-zero (F) temperatures and as a result a wide number of semi-hardy species survived the Christmas Bird Counts. Herons, several rails including a Yellow Rail on Cape Cod *January 13*, a variety of shorebirds and a number of passerines were all highly dependent on this relatively mild weather. One wonders whether such conditions really help explain the presence of the Bobolink in Small Point, Maine, *December 19-22*, which was the least expected and, for the date, rarest songbird of the season. Certainly the Indigo Bunting a few miles farther south in Scarborough, Maine, *December 17-23*, the Yellow-throated Warbler surviving on suet in North Hampton, New Hampshire, December 19-January 1 and the Townsend's Warbler a few miles away in Durham December 3-24 conflict with preconceived notions about where each species *should be* at this time of year.

Indeed, the Coastal New Hampshire Christmas Bird Count (hereafter, CBC) seemed to shatter many preconceptions about such events in New England. The first CBC north of Massachusetts to register 100 species, the count included the following well documented species: Lesser Yellowlegs (1), White-rumped Sandpiper (2), Common Tern (1), Townsend's Solitaire and Yellow-throated Warbler. All these species constituted first winter occurrences north of Massachusetts and the Yellow-throated Warbler furnished a first Regional CBC record. Perhaps even more astonishing than the count was the fact that Tony Federer, proud owner of the Durham, New Hampshire suet feeder supporting the state's first Townsend's Warbler, was the person to discover both the Townsend's Solitaire and Yellow-throated Warbler within a half mile and fifteen minutes of each other. Now that's impressive!

The five Hawk Owls across the Region were more than average. Snowy Owls did not irrupt in any numbers but Short-eared Owls especially and, to a lesser degree, Long-eared Owls occurred in good numbers.

Ten Gyrfalcons south of Newfoundland were above average, but otherwise January and February seemed very quiet in comparison to December's flourish. A Golden-crowned Sparrow in Holyoke, Massachusetts attracted considerable attention but little else out of the ordinary transpired. January was cold and snowy north through New England and the Maritimes. February was about average.



This seasonal manuscript marks the concluding effort by this Regional Editor. I would like to thank all those who reported their observations and insights—especially those that did so promptly. Compiling seasonal notes only becomes meaningful when coherently presented material arrives from a wide variety of sources and geographical areas. I have no doubt that the Northeastern Maritimes is one of the most complex—geographically, ornithologically and certainly in terms of the numbers of state and provincial bird organizations reporting—of any Region to appear in *American Birds*. Frequently this Region seems an unwieldy entity where full, *timely* coverage from each of the five states and four provinces is almost impossible. But from this desk, and hopefully readers will agree, there is an ornithological coherency to the Region that makes these obstacles worth overcoming. What happens on Cape Cod, whether it be a flight of shearwaters or alcids or a movement of passerines, is frequently related to events happening, just past or about to happen in Maine, Nova Scotia or Newfoundland.

The observations that we make as individuals rarely take place in a vacuum. Hopefully, full coverage brings together all these seemingly

isolated observations and from such information a picture of a given season becomes apparent. Thus, a late December Louisiana Heron in Connecticut bears some connection to the unexpected shorebirds along the New Hampshire coast or even a Yellow Rail on Cape Cod. But it is only with wide, *timely* co-operation that this complicated system works. It needs your continued support. I stress *timeliness* because we have *nine* states and provinces contributing a vast quantity of material. The most difficult problem any Regional Editor faces is gathering all this information in time for publication.

The four new Regional Editors are among the most experienced, respected and talented bird observers to be found in the Northeastern Maritimes. Dick Forster (Fall Season), Richard Heil (Winter Season), and Blair Nikula (Spring Season) from Massachusetts and Stuart Tingley (Summer Season) from New Brunswick comprise an excellent unit with a full knowledge of the Region. I hope contributors will be as generous in their observations and suggestions as they were with this Regional Editor, who has found compiling seasonal reports to be an instructive and very satisfying experience.

LOONS, GREBES — A single Arctic Loon was unique off Monhegan I., Me., Dec. 29 and constituted a fifth state record (PDV). A late fall-early winter concentration of 412 Red-necked Grebes was recorded on the Machias Bay area, Me. CBC. However, observations in January and February indicated few individuals remaining to winter in the area (NF). For the second time in 3 years a W. Grebe, dark morph, was reported on the Nantucket CBC and the now-familiar individual on the Bath, Me. CBC was present at Indian Pt., to at least Feb. 23 (v.o., *vide* MKL).

TUBENOSES — The only report of any numbers of N. Fulmar came from the N. Sydney, N.S.-Port-aux-Basques, Nfld. ferry where 76 individuals were observed Dec. 10 (JM, HMacK). The large fall concentration of Greater Shearwaters disappeared almost overnight (see fall season). Although 5000 ± Greater Shearwaters were present off Chatham Nov. 28, December counts on the Cape never exceeded 10-15 individuals, despite the continued abundance of sand lance (BN *et al.*).

HERONS — The relatively mild fall was undoubtedly responsible for the number of herons found lingering beyond their normal departure dates; these included: a Green Heron at Weekapaug, R.I., Dec. 24 (*vide* DLE); in Nova Scotia, a Cattle Egret at Bridgewater Dec. 9 and another at Lower West Pubnico Dec. 4-7 which lingered a bit too late, being found dead Dec. 18 (v.o., *vide* IAMcL); a Great Egret at Harwich, Mass., through January was found emaciated near Yarmouth Feb. 5 (*vide* BN); four Snowy Egrets at Wells, Me., Dec. 12 (JF) and another on the Nantucket CBC; a Louisiana Heron at Hammonasset S.P., Conn., Dec. 26 (RC). In the same category, two Am Bitterns were notable in Newburyport Dec. 13 (RSH) as was a dead specimen in Amherst, Mass., Jan. 4 (*vide* SK). Additional information on the Nova Scotia Scarlet Ibis disclosed yet another pair of these bright birds at Bedeque, P.E.I., in June and July (*vide* IAMcL).

WATERFOWL — Three Whistling Swans were apparently unique this winter on the Martha's Vineyard CBC. An imm. **Greater White-fronted Goose** was reported from Trustom Pond N.W.R., R.I., Dec. 12-30 (GLeB *et al.*), another imm. bird was reported from Eastport, Me., Dec. 26 (WCT *et al.*) and finally five adults were found at Newburyport—Plum I., Feb. 8-28 (*vide* RPE). Additionally, two ad. White-fronted Geese were noted just beyond the Region in Harrison-White Plains, N.Y., Dec. 26 (TB *et al.*). All reports eliminated the possibility of the Greenland race (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*) and were presumably assignable to the race *A. a. frontalis*. The likelihood that such widely dispersed occurrences involved captive birds seems remote indeed. Of considerable interest was a *very small*, heavily marked Snow Goose-type individual found with Brant at Portsmouth, R.I., Feb. 13-17 (RB, DLE *et al.*, ph.). Photographs reasonably eliminate the possibility of an undersized Lesser Snow Goose and scalloping on the flanks at least suggests the bird may have been a *Lesser Snow Goose X Brant* hybrid. Slides are presently being reviewed by waterfowl authorities.

Eurasian Wigeon in s. New England were again well represented with four on as many Connecticut CBCs, one on Nantucket and another at Watchemoket, R.I., Feb. 7 & 18 (*vide* DLE). In Maine, a Canvasback was unusually far n. and e. on the Jonesport-Beals I.

CBC, although the species has rarely wintered in the state. A ♀ **Tufted Duck** present at St John's, Nfld for 2 weeks in January provided a first provincial and Atlantic Canada record and was, presumably, the first absolutely unassailable record for e. North America (*vide* BMacT), the many previous records of which have been in suspicious proximity to our larger urban areas. For the second consecutive winter sizable numbers of Harlequin Ducks were found off Sachuest Pt., R.I.—a maximum of 16 individuals was observed Dec. 16 (*vide* DLE). A partial winter count off Isle au Haut, Me., numbered 91 birds Mar. 14 (MKL *et al.*). In Rhode Island, large concentrations of King Eiders numbered 17 individuals at Quonochontaug Dec. 27-31 and eight at Napatree Pt., Jan. 22 (v.o., *vide* DLE) and were among the largest flocks noted in recent winters. Interestingly, King Eiders were not especially numerous elsewhere. A Ruddy Duck at Cape Jellison, Me., Mar. 6 marked the third consecutive winter this species has unsuccessfully wintered in the state (PDV).

VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES — It seems clear that Turkey Vultures, reported on 7 Connecticut CBCs, have become firmly established winter residents in the very s. part of the Region. Farther n., in w. Massachusetts, a single Turkey Vulture was considered an unusual winter occurrence in Williamstown Jan. 4 (MC, *vide* BH). Similarly, an individual at Hopkinton, R.I., Jan. 30 was notable (*vide* DLE). Considering the species' N expansion as a breeder, it seems reasonable that Turkey Vultures may experience a similar extension in their winter range. Numbers of migrant Turkey Vultures were noted in Massachusetts Feb. 20-28 (*vide* RPE). This winter's eagle population at Quabbin Res. in Massachusetts totaled three Golden, unique for the Region, and a maximum of 15 Balds Feb. 28 (v.o., *vide* SK). Despite a relatively poor raptor count (see CBCs), the Machias Bay area CBC noted three Marsh Hawks. Although the species frequently overwinters in e. Maine, the small rodent population was apparently quite poor and the CBC birds departed in January (NF). Three Ospreys were reported—*without details*—from as many Connecticut CBCs. In Rhode Island, an emaciated Osprey was found dead in Smithfield Dec. 6 (*vide* DLE).

Figures suggested that this winter's Gyrfalcon flight was the best in recent years although increased winter birding activity may possibly account for increased observations. In n. Newfoundland, BMacT noted at least 17 individuals near L'Anse-aux-Meadows, clearly an above-average season. SIT observed at least four individuals in the New Brunswick-Nova Scotia border region while New England counts included 2-3 in Maine, four in Massachusetts, and a single white Gyrfalcon in Portsmouth, R.I., Jan. 31 (ELS, *vide* DLE). Massachusetts Peregrine Falcons numbered at least eight individuals whereas a single Peregrine was notable in Tenant's Harbor, Me., Dec. 23 (SCK, *vide* JMC).

GROUSE, RAILS, GALLINULES — In Maine, three Bobwhite successfully overwintered at a Damariscotta feeder (BE). Although these birds were surely from released stock, it is perhaps worth noting that the species can, with human assistance, survive a Maine winter. A Sora was notably late at Orleans, Mass., on the Cape Cod CBC Dec. 20 (RSH). Astonishing by any standards was the emaciated **Yellow Rail** apparently trying to overwinter on Cape Cod and picked up alive (it subsequently died) in Chatham Jan. 13 (*vide* RAF). Griscom in *The Birds of Massachusetts* (1955) notes a record from Brewster Dec. 22, 1946 and another from Nauset Feb. 21, 1954. Perhaps the species does, on rare occasion, winter as far n. as Cape Cod; such a possibility seems astonishing. An imm. Com. Gallinule lingered beyond expectations on Nantucket I., Jan. 3 (RSH *et al.*)

SHOREBIRDS — The mild fall allowed saltwater estuaries and mudflats to remain free of ice and thus permitted several species to remain later than normal. A Semipalmated Plover was rare enough on the Block I., R.I. CBC Dec. 27 (SRD *et al.*, *vide* DLE) but the Coastal New Hampshire CBC eclipsed all expectations with meticulous descriptions of a **Lesser Yellowlegs**, two Red Knots and two juv. **White-rumped Sandpipers**, the latter for one of very few New England CBC records. Only slightly less surprising were two Lesser Yellowlegs at Newburyport Dec. 5 and three White-rumped Sandpipers at the same locality Dec. 1 (RSH). A Long-billed Dowitcher seen on Cape Cod at Eastham Dec. 26, Jan. 18 (BN) was another of a series of overwintering attempts. Farther n. in e. Maine, a **Long-billed Dowitcher** was remarkably late in Machiasport Dec. 29 (NF, ph.) A

Marbled Godwit in Scituate, Mass., Jan. 31 was presumably yet another shorebird trying to survive the season in New England (WRP, *vide* RAF). An Am. Woodcock was amazingly early in Augusta, Me., Feb. 4 (*vide* MKL).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS — Some 11 Pomarine Jaegers were noted at several Cape Cod localities Dec. 6-26 (BN, WRP) while somewhat more unusual was a Parasitic Jaeger also on Cape Cod, at First Encounter Beach Dec. 6 (BN) and a skua, presumably *C. skua*, at the same locality, also in December (*vide* RPE).

The abundance of sand lance off Cape Cod and Nantucket I. again produced extraordinary numbers of gulls, some 45,000 of which were recorded off Nantucket I., including eight Lesser Black-backed Gulls Jan. 1-3 (RSH, BN, RRV *et al.*). Elsewhere in Massachusetts, three Lesser Black-backed Gulls were observed at as many localities, two were reported from Connecticut (*vide* TB) and three were noted in Nova Scotia, including Digby's venerable winter resident present for its 13th consecutive season. Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported from Newfoundland, the northernmost at L'Anse-aux-Meadows Dec. 24 for a second or third local record (BMacT). Single ad. Thayer's Gulls were closely examined and carefully described in Gloucester, Mass., Jan. 16 (FT *et al.*) and in Portland, Me., Dec. 15, the latter for a first state record of this form (PDV). Black-headed Gulls numbered 14 individuals in Rhode Island in February while four were reported on Cape Cod and another four individuals were found elsewhere in New England. A first-winter **Franklin's Gull** critically identified at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld., Dec. 21 furnished only a second provincial record (BMacT). The only Ivory Gulls to be reported were from L'Anse-aux-Meadows where only ten individuals occurred Dec. 27-Jan. 3 (BMacT).

A Forster's Tern was very late at Plum I., Dec. 5 (RSH) but another **Forster's Tern** at Galilee, R.I., Dec. 27 was only a second state winter occurrence (DLK, ST *et al.*, *vide* DLE). A Com. Tern on the newly created Central Cape Cod CBC Dec. 27 was one of a growing number of coastal Massachusetts CBC occurrences but the **Common Tern** at Hampton, N.H. Dec. 19 on the Coastal New Hampshire CBC provided a first state winter record (SAP, RRV).

ALCIDS — The only appreciable Alcid counts in New England were typically restricted to the Eastport-Campobello I., CBC where 138 Razorbills, seven Thick-billed Murres, four Dovekies and 49 Black Guillemots were noted and on Nantucket I., where 379 Razorbills were observed Jan. 2 (RSH *et al.*). The Monhegan I., Me., CBC registered 5 Razorbills, 3 Dovekies and 3 Com. Puffins. In Rhode Island, single Dovekies were noted off Sakonnet Jan. 9 and Matunuck Beach Feb. 23 and a Black Guillemot was an unusual observation off Sachuest Pt., Jan. 22 (*v.o.*, *vide* DLE). The Cape Cod CBC recorded an unprecedented 22 Black Guillemots. In February small numbers of oiled Common and Thick-billed murres were reported along Cape Cod's outer beaches. The origins of the oil spill was unknown although the dimensions of the impact to Alcids appeared minimal (*vide* RPE).

OWLS — Not surprisingly, Barn Owl reports were restricted to Cape Cod (2) and Rhode Island (4). Screech Owl distribution has always been fascinating to a Maine resident where the species is basically unknown and presumed to be largely absent. The report of 39 Screech Owls on the Millis, Mass. CBC, where in a night of owling Cassie heard responses to taped vocalizations on 90% of his stops seems nothing short of astonishing. Snowy Owls were unimpressive on New England CBCs, although in Nova Scotia four individuals were considered above average (*vide* IAMcL). This season's five Hawk Owls constituted a better-than-average flight. In New Hampshire, a single bird was found in a lumber yard at Rumney Dec. 9-March (*vide* KC). Maine's three individuals were as follows: Portland Dec. 12-Mar. 23 (RE *et mult. al.*) E. Lebanon Dec.-Mar. 5, and Sullivan Dec. 25-Apr. 8 (*v.o.*, *vide* MKL, WCT). In New Brunswick, a Hawk Owl found in Albert Jan. 8 lingered to Apr. 22—a suspiciously late date for this species (*vide* DSC). A Great Gray Owl discovered at Cape Porpoise in late February or early March remained to Mar. 19 (PR, PDV *et al.*, ph.). Long-eared Owls made their best showing in Maine in years as at least six individuals were reported from as many localities (*vide* MKL, PDV). In Rhode Island, nine Long-eared Owls, including a roost of eight individuals in Warwick, was an unusually large number (*vide* DLE). A single Long-eared Owl was quite rare and unique in the province in Lawrencetown, N.S., Jan. 23 (*vide* IAMcL). Short-eared Owls were also reported in excellent numbers, no fewer

than 89 occurred on New England CBCs

WOODPECKERS THROUGH TITMICE — In w. Massachusetts, four Red-bellied Woodpeckers overwintering at feeders might presage a small N shift in the species' breeding range. An imm. Red-headed Woodpecker was unusual in Hadley, Mass., Jan. 21 but a Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker in the same municipality Jan. 1 was a bit more surprising (*vide* SK). Three W. Kingbirds were a quite remarkable number on Nantucket I., in early January (*vide* RAF) but a single **Western Kingbird** on the St. Andrew's I., N.B. CBC may well have constituted a first Canadian CBC occurrence (*vide* DSC). An E. Phoebe managed to survive in Westerly, R.I., to Jan. 25 but was not located thereafter (*vide* DLE). In Nova Scotia, a Barn Swallow on the Halifax East CBC may possibly have been connected to the late fall flight (see autumn season) but the status of two Tree Swallows on the Port Hebert CBC was less certain. Tree Swallows have been recorded on Rhode Island CBCs with some regularity; this winter one occurred on the S. Kingston CBC. Common Raven sightings in w. Massachusetts have continued to expand to the point where Kellogg notes that they are quite "definitely increasing." Boreal Chickadees were more common s. of their usual range with 10+ birds in w. Massachusetts and ten individuals on the Westport, Conn. CBC. Conversely, Tufted Titmice numbers at the n. limit of their range were boldfaced on three New Hampshire CBCs. New Hampshire CBC totals rose to 355 Tufted Titmice (172 in 80-81, 271 in 79-80).

WRENS THROUGH WAXWINGS — Some six Carolina Wrens were reported from w. Massachusetts this winter (*vide* SK) while the northernmost individual was found on the Biddeford-Kennebunkport, Me. CBC. Twenty-seven Mockingbirds wintering throughout Nova Scotia were noted as a definite increase (*vide* IAMcL). Nine New England Varied Thrushes were about average with six in Massachusetts, two in New Hampshire and a single from Maine. A Wood Thrush, unambiguously described, was of considerable note on the Woodbury-Roxbury, Conn. CBC Dec. 19. An **Eastern Bluebird** at Terra Nova N.P., Nfld., Dec. 9-10 may well have been a first Provincial occurrence (HD *et al.*). A single **Townsend's Solitaire** on Martha's Vineyard Dec. 17-Feb. 10 provided only a second state record (*vide* RAF). A **Townsend's Solitaire** discovered on the Coastal New Hampshire CBC in N. Hampton Dec. 19-26 furnished a first state occurrence (TF *et al.*, *vide* KC). Bohemian Waxwing numbers were good-to-average but did not approach the proportions of the 1980-81 flight. However, 95 Bohemians as far s. as Portland Feb. 13 were somewhat surprising (JB, *vide* MKL). A single Bohemian wandered as far as Nantucket in December (*vide* RPE).

WARBLERS — An exceedingly sturdy Black-and-white Warbler in S. Windsor, Conn., Feb. 15 was presumably wintering at a local feeder (*vide* PJD) and may well provide a first February record for New England. Unexpected warblers found on this winter's CBCs included: a Nashville photographed in Boston, a **Prairie** on Cape Cod and an **Ovenbird** in Portland Dec. 19. No doubt the least anticipated Parulid discovery occurred on the Coastal New Hampshire count when Tony Federer located a **Yellow-throated Warbler** (apparently *D. d. albilora*) in N. Hampton within a half mi of the Townsend's Solitaire he had chanced upon fifteen minutes earlier! This individual was present Dec. 19-Jan. 1 and represented a first winter record for the Region. Perhaps it comes as no surprise that New Hampshire's first **Townsend's Warbler** showed up at Tony Federer's suet feeder in Durham Dec. 6-24. A Pine Warbler was noteworthy in Orono, Me., Dec. 6-17 (*vide* MKL) and another was equally unusual on the Jonesport-Beals I., Me. CBC Dec. 19. Interestingly, in Nova Scotia, Pine Warblers have in the past few years come to be considered "regular in winter" at provincial feeders; some 10+ Pine Warblers were reported this season (*vide* PRD). In n. Newfoundland, a Yellow-rumped Warbler at L'Anse-aux-Meadows Dec. 2 and another Dec. 14-16 were remarkable, even for that vigorous species (BMacT). A Blackpoll Warbler was very late in Turner, Maine Dec. 3 (JD, *vide* MKL).

ICTERIDS, FRINGILLIDS — A meticulously described **Bobolink** in Small Pt., Maine Dec. 19-22, originally discovered on the Bath area CBC, marked only the second New England CBC record (JP, TS *et al.*) and was, perhaps, the rarest bird of the winter. A meadowlark flushed at Cherry Hill, N.S., Jan. 1 gave a "chuck" note which is the distinctive call of **Western Meadowlark**, for a first provincial record

(SJF, EHC, *vide* PRD) Ian McLaren correctly points out that W. Meadowlark may well be more regular in winter than previously supposed and that these two species deserve careful attention, especially their vocalizations. The three N. Orioles of the w. form *bullockii* found on as many New England CBCs adequately support McLaren's thesis concerning the fall-winter shift of w. species into e. North America. Five Yellow-headed Blackbirds at four Nova Scotia localities were above average (*vide* PRD). An ad. Rose-breasted Grosbeak was unusual in Wellesley, Mass., Jan. 20-31 (*vide* RPE) but a critically identified **Indigo Bunting** at a Scarborough, Me., feeder Dec. 17-23 (FC *et al.*) was certainly a first state winter record and the last in an extraordinary series of birds that stretched from coastal New Hampshire to Small Pt., Me.

A Grasshopper Sparrow was unique on the Nantucket CBC (RSH *et al.*). *Fourteen* Seaside Sparrows in Newburyport harbor Dec. 13 were apparently not local breeders as no birds were found in this area during the summer (RSH). In Nova Scotia, 1-2 Seaside Sparrows occurred through December-January in Cole Harbour (*vide* PRD) and a single Seaside Sparrow and two Sharp-tailed Sparrows were particularly notable in Hampton Falls, N.H., Jan. 7 (RAQ, *vide* KC). A 'Nelson's' Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Cole Harbour, N.S., Jan. 9 provided a first provincial occurrence of this distinctive form. In the same province, single Vesper Sparrows were unusual at Cornwallis R., Dec. 27 (RJ) and Kentville Jan. 24 (*vide* PRD). A Harris' Sparrow was rare in Connecticut on the Lakeville-Sharon CBC as was another in Wilmot, N.S., Dec. 16—through the period (*vide* PRD). A White-crowned Sparrow in Rocky Harbour, Nfld., Dec. 30 was exceptionally far n. for the date (RBU *et al.*). The **Golden-crowned Sparrow** in Holyoke, Mass., Jan. 26-Feb. 28+ represented only a fifth state record (RS *et mult. al.*, *vide* SK). A single Lincoln's Sparrow was closely identified and notably rare on the Cape Cod CBC as was another on the Halifax East CBC.

WINTER FINCHES — Pine Grosbeaks pushed into s. New England in fair-to-good numbers in December and January. Common Redpolls increased sharply throughout New England in February and, typically, 8-10 Hoary Redpolls were reported. One can hardly over-emphasize the fact that some Com. Redpolls can be very pale and "frosty looking" with broad pale rumps and seemingly immaculate undertail coverts. The one unambiguous feature is the bill which is stubbier in Hoary Redpoll, giving the species a "pushed in" look, as if it has hit too many picture windows. However, Com. Redpoll sometimes takes a hunched posture that can give them a somewhat "pushed in" facial profile. Obviously, considerable caution and very good views, as are generally provided by feeder situations, are required for certain identification. In n. Newfoundland, MacTavish reported that of a total of ten redpolls seen this winter, seven were Hoaries, two Commons, one not specifically identified. White-winged Crossbills were scattered throughout New England but in considerably diminished numbers from the large fall flight. Red Crossbills were reported in small numbers from w. Massachusetts (*vide* SK).

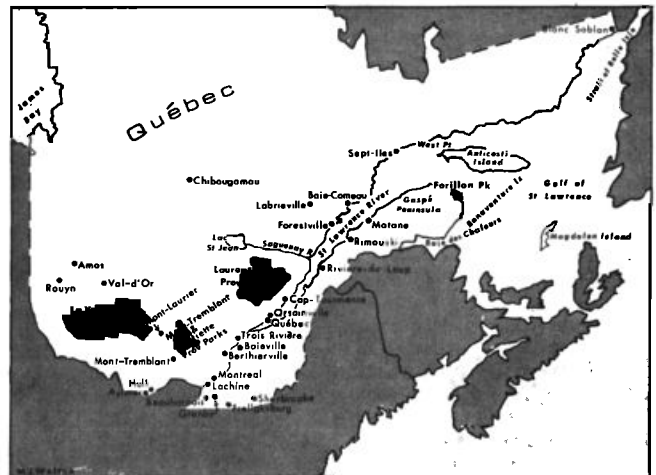
CORRIGENDA — Please note that Ring-billed Gulls were found nesting on the New Hampshire side of L. Umbagog in 1980 and on the Maine side of the same lake in 1981—both constituted first state breeding records. Also, Herring Gulls, not Ring-billed Gulls, nested on Squam L., N.H., in 1981 (RAQ).

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QUEBEC REGION

/Michel Gosselin and Normand David

The winter 1981-82 was an alternation of snowstorms and extensive cold periods; no significant mild period was noted except perhaps in early December. The result was a heavy cover of snow and ice by the end of the season.



LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — A Com. Loon stayed at Portage-des-Roches until Dec. 28 (YB) and another at Pointe-au-Père until Jan. 1-3; a Red-throated Loon was also at Pointe-au-Père until Jan. 7 (YG). In line with last fall's records, an imm. Gannet was seen diving off Quebec City's harbor Dec. 25 (PD). Many winter observations of Canada Geese were reported: 100 at Grande-Rivière Jan. 10 (MM) one at Magog Jan. 16+ (DN, PBO), two at Côte Sainte-Catherine Jan. 24 (RY), a small flock at Chicoutimi Jan. 28 & 31 (*vide* YB), and three at Pointe-Cascades Feb. 27 (PBA). An ad. White-fronted Goose was present at Cap-d'Espoir Dec. 13-17 (RB, ADs) and one was at Aylmer I., Dec. 17 (BD); these are our only winter records. Although the Mallard is a year round resident in Greenland, its appearance is very rare in e. Quebec in winter; one was at Baie-Comeau Jan. 1 (JPB) three at Sainte-Anne des Monts Jan. 4 (ADs), one at Rivière-à-Claude Feb. 6 (RM) and one was an unexpected guest at a bird feeder in Cap Tourmente Mar. 5 (*vide* AD). Other late records among waterfowl included an Am. Wigeon at Côte Sainte-Catherine Jan. 24, a Wood Duck also there Dec. 31 (BB), a Surf Scoter at Grande-Rivière Jan. 20 (PP), Black Scoters at Sainte-Anne des Monts Jan. 4 (ADs) and Pointe-au-Père Jan. 10 (GG), a Ruddy Duck at Bergeronnes Dec. 29 (BH, PD), along with single Hooded Mergansers at Shipshaw Feb. 4 (YB) and Dégelis Feb. 7 (*vide* GP).

RAPTORS THROUGH GULLS — Many Red-tailed Hawks and Gyrfalcons were sighted in s. Quebec this winter. A Peregrine Falcon was observed in Chicoutimi Feb. 7 (JM, MS) and another at Pointe-au-Père Feb. 21 (PJ), while a Merlin was at Rimouski Jan. 25 (GG) Willow Ptarmigans were present at Matagami in early January (*vide* MP), a sign that the high ptarmigan populations have not yet crashed Gaspésie seems definitively to be within the winter range of Purple Sandpipers; birds were again reported from Pointe Saint-Pierre and Chandler Feb. 7 (PP, RB). Good numbers of Great Black-backed Gulls stayed in the Montreal area until late January (PBA, m.ob.) This species is generally thought to winter on the Lower North Shore but few if any specific records exist; the few birds observed in mid January at Chevery LaTabatière and Harrington-Harbour are thus significant, they were with Glaucous and Iceland gulls, and also with a Herring Gull at Harrington-Harbour (KF, TF). Côte Sainte-Catherine was visited by a sub-ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull Jan. 2 (PBA) and Beauharnois by a Little Gull Dec. 5 (BB). Three Black headed Gulls were recorded at Barachois Dec. 8-13 (RB) and an Ivory Gull at Harrington-Harbour Jan. 12-13 (KF, TF). Single Black-legged Kittiwakes appeared at Sherbrooke Dec. 10 (VL) and Gatineau Dec. 20 (BBR, LS), while 45 were still at the Godbout ferry Dec. 22 (PBR)

OWLS THROUGH WRENS — The first **Barn Owl** to ever reach the Gaspé Peninsula was killed Nov. 21 at Petit-Cap (*vide* BC); all ten

birds reported in Quebec since 1968 were either killed or found dead (see *Can. Field Nat.* 93:323-324). The Hawk Owl was the owl of the season; in addition to birds reported last fall, others were found at Mont-Laurier, Shawville (RD), Notre-Dame de la Salette (DSH), Saint-Esprit (DP), Eustis (GMB) and Baie Sainte-Catherine (JMC). Rare in winter in the Quebec City area, a Long-eared Owl was devoured by a Great Horned Owl Jan. 10 (PD). Only three Boreal Owls were discovered, at Saint-Tharcissus at the end of November (BBu), Saint-Esprit Feb. 7-12 (DP) and Pierrefonds Feb. 15 (PC). Saw-whet Owls perhaps overwinter here more often than previously believed; single birds were found at I. des Soeurs Jan. 3 (GD), Rigaud Feb. 1 (*fide* PS), Hull Feb. 11 (FC), Beaconsfield Feb. 12+ (*fide* PS), and near Quebec City at the end of February (PL).

For a fourth consecutive winter **Tufted Titmice** occurred in the E. Townships, with birds in December and January at Dixville (IW), Lennoxville (AL, ET) and Granby (*fide* PT); at Stanbridge-East up to four birds visited a feeder Jan. 23+ (CB). A Brown Creeper present at Rimouski until Feb. 20 (YG) was at the n. edge of its winter range. A Carolina Wren turned up at Comco Dec. 23-Jan. 22 (JW), and another at Saint-Romuald until Dec. 27 (*fide* AD); interestingly, the latter bird patronized the same feeder where a Carolina Wren had occurred in 1971 and 1980.

ROBINSTHROUGH SPARROWS—Another noteworthy record from the Lower North Shore was an Am. Robin at LaTabatière in the last 2 weeks of January (MC, *fide* TF). A Swainson's Thrush in Hull Dec. 15 (DSH) was our latest ever. At Quebec City a **Townsend's Solitaire** stripped a small tree of its fruits Dec. 26-Jan. 9 (AD, BH, m.ob.). The Golden-crowned Kinglet was found well n. of its winter range, at Barachois Dec. 19 (LL) and Alma Dec. 27 (CG, MS); one seen at Pointe-au-Père Jan. 30 (GG) probably wintered locally. Thirty Bohemian Waxwings and a dozen Starlings were at LaTabatière-Jan. 7-11 (KF, TF). Two warblers were reported at record late dates, a Com. Yellowthroat at Quebec City Dec. 18 (CV) and a Canada Warbler at LaMalbaie Dec. 4 (JMC). A N. Oriole at Beebe Dec. 25 (KM) was extremely late, and a Com. Grackle at Sainte-Anne des Monts Feb. 6+ (ADs) was the first to have overwintered in that area; another was present at Percé Jan. 25 (RB). In the Quebec City area, where one or two Cardinals appear annually since 1974, they are on the increase, with at least six birds present; a pair also wintered at Chapeau, Pontiac Co. (MT). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Lachine until Jan. 19 (RST) was unusual but not as much as two males at Murdochville Jan. 17-31 (*fide* ML). The abundance of redpolls, especially Hoary Redpolls, was exceptional this winter.

Small flocks of Red Crossbills appeared at a half-dozen localities along the St. Lawrence Valley but it was not a real invasion. A Rufous-sided Towhee reached Carleton Dec. 1 (PF) and another wintered in Alma (MS). Record late Savannah Sparrows remained at Les Escoumins until Dec. 28 (AD) and Quebec City until Jan. 24 (CV). The Dark-eyed Junco overwintered outside its normal winter range with single birds at Bergeronnes (AB) and Percé (RB); still farther n. was an individual at LaTabatière Jan. 7-11 (KF, TF). A Chipping Sparrow at Granby Dec. 26 (*fide* PT) was very late, the species wintered in Quebec for the first time in 1979-80. Feeders, the number of which is still rapidly growing, are responsible for many birds reported in this column; such was also the case for single White-crowned Sparrows at Saint-Lambert Jan. 18-Feb. 23 (RDy) and Lachine Mar. 6-18 (PM), but not for the Song Sparrow at Les Escoumins Feb. 20 (AB).



Townsend's Solitaire, Quebec City, Dec. 30, 1981. Photo/N. David.

S A

Richard Poulin of the Nat'l Museum of Natural Sciences, who has done extensive banding and collecting of redpolls, has pointed out some interesting facts about the long-debated problem of redpoll identification:

Although a pure white rump or crissum is diagnostic of the Hoary Redpoll, this condition is fairly rare on most Hoary Redpolls of continental North America (*Carduelis hornemanni exilipes*). A bird showing characteristics of the Hoary Redpoll, with the exception of a few ashy markings on rump or crissum, is thus not automatically a Common Redpoll, nor even a hybrid, but very probably a female Hoary. While bright adult males of both species of redpolls can be identified readily, females of both species can be difficult to distinguish.

Extensive light streakings on head and back, in conjunction with restricted dark markings on the flanks, are all typical of the Hoary Redpoll in winter, and yet are subject to some variation. Bill shape in the two species is also pertinent, but this character is not always obvious because of considerable variation in bill size and in nasal bristle length. Because redpoll characteristics vary so much, it is unreasonable to overemphasize one character: immaculate rump or crissum. Based on this character alone, too many Hoary Redpolls are being identified as intermediates, hybrids, or even Common Redpolls.

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HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

/Robert O. Paxton, William J. Boyle, Jr., and David A. Cutler

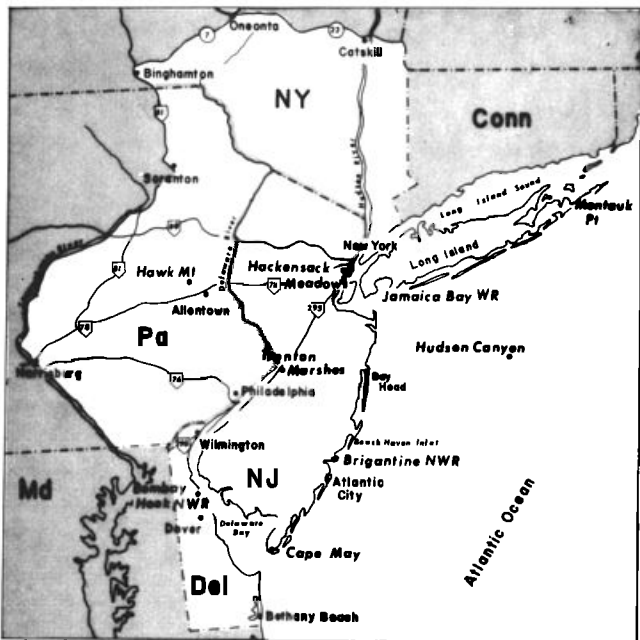
A relatively mild early December that left many lingering migrants for Christmas Bird Counts (hereafter, CBC) gave way to a bitter January that set records for cold during January 18-25. After the hard freeze had moved water birds out and eliminated half-hardy lingerers, bird numbers remained low along the coast even when mild weather returned in February. Birding interest focused inland, particularly on the three Gyrfalcons in Pennsylvania and on the massive winter finch flight.

A conspicuous feature of the January freeze was spectacular concentrations of water birds in a few areas of open water created either by natural turbulence, as at Wissler's Run, at Drumore, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, or by warm water discharges such as a power plant's settling ponds at Martin's Creek, on the Delaware River in Northampton County, Pennsylvania, or the Peach Bottom nuclear power plant on the Susquehanna River near Drumore, Pennsylvania. These and similar areas will appear often in accounts of water birds below.

Several observers surmised that winter wood cutting may threaten bird populations (SRL, GH, CS). Sutton reports that "they are absolutely raping the woodlands in southeastern New Jersey." That, combined with gypsy moth defoliation, he fears, will expose raptor

nesting sites and reduce nesting success. Deed comments further that gypsy moth defoliation in Rockland County, New York, has so weakened trees that insufficient mast was produced to support winter bird populations. It would be interesting to see winter bird population studies of areas affected in these ways.

The following abbreviations are used below: B. Hook, Bombay Hook N.W.R., near Smyrna, Del.; Brig., Brigantine N.W.R., Atlantic Co., N.J.; N.Y.C., New York City; W.T.S., U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Winter Waterfowl Trend Survey.



LOONS THROUGH HERONS — Loons were scarce along the coast, and the scattering of inland records should really be considered late fall migrants: e.g., Marsh Creek S.P., Chester Co., Pa., Jan. 6 (JG), on the Delaware R., at Riegelsville, Hunterdon Co., N.J., Dec. 26 (GH), and on the Walnut Valley, N.J., CBC.

As usual, n. freeze-ups sent a few Red-necked Grebes to inland lakes, such as one at Round Valley Res., Hunterdon Co., N.J., Jan. 3 (D. Brede). A few returned inland as soon as water opened up, such as one that traded between the Delaware R., and the Martin's Cr. settling ponds Feb. 7-10 (TM, GH). Horned Grebes continued scarce. Ten among many other water birds at the Wissler's Cr., Pa., concentration Jan. 14-15 (RMS) were surpassed by only one coastal report, 15 at Wildwood, N.J., Feb. 7 (SRL).

Many herons were present in December, but most noteworthy were three Louisiana Herons on the S. Nassau, L.I., CBC Jan. 3, and a leucistic Louisiana at Brig., Dec. 30 (JD). What happens to herons that fail to depart during a major freeze was illustrated by an imm. Great Egret picked up severely frostbitten in Lehigh County, Pa., Jan. 14 and later released (M.A. Tretter).



King Eider, Indian River Inlet, Del., Feb. 7, 1982. Photo/B. Ringler.

WATERFOWL — Canada Geese have become so ubiquitous that few correspondents mention them. Brant returned to the good numbers of the mid-1970s. The W.T.S. found 104,500 on the Atlantic Coast, including 63,000 in New Jersey (cf 53,605 last year) and 14,900 in New York. This satisfying recovery from the 1977-79 crash leaves us still far below the 265,000± of the 1950s, however (AB 32:327). The January freeze does not seem to have caused mortality, and inland grazing—first widely reported during the historic freeze of January-February 1977—occurred even in mild weather: e.g., 5000 in winter wheat at Lewes, Del., Feb. 20 (WWF). Inland flocks, another novelty of recent hard winters, included a remarkable 34 on Dec. 20 in s. Lancaster County (RMS)

S.A.

An unprecedented three Barnacle Geese were reported: B. Hook Feb. 20 (DAC), near Allentown, Pa., Mar. 2-3 (D. Simpson, ph. D. Klem), and Middle Creek W.M.A., Lebanon Co., Pa., Mar. 13-14 (E. Widmer, TA). This handsome goose is very common in captivity, according to Ryan (*pers. comm.*), and captive populations are now in a downward cycle. Releases and escapes are most likely in early fall and least likely in spring, before territorial fighting begins in the pens and before there are young. Spring records are thus somewhat more likely than fall records to refer to wild birds, and this species is a long-distance migrant whose numbers have been increasing in Greenland (P. A. Johnsgard, *Ducks, Geese, and Swans of the World* (1978), 82). On the other hand, far inland records seem unnatural for this species which normally winters at the edge of salt water. In short, there is no way to be certain that unmarked birds are wild.

White-fronted Geese, whose origins also cannot be certain, are steadily increasing in winter. Two of the Greenland race were at Harrison, Westchester Co., N.Y., Dec. 26 (TWB *et al.*), one at Lawrenceville, Mercer Co., N.J., Dec. 19 (*vide* RJB), one at B. Hook Dec. 27 (B. Stocku), and two at Allentown, Pa., from mid-November-Dec. 4 (BLM).

Gadwall continue to increase; they have been established here only since the 1940s. The W.T.S., found 1500 in New Jersey, and 18 on the New Bloomfield, Pa., CBC was a winter record high there (CJ). The usual scattering of Blue-winged Teal turned up on CBCs, but since midwinter records are uncommon, a male at Allentown Jan. 13 (L. Kucinski) was noteworthy. Eight ♂ Eur. Wigeon on Long Island, including three on the S. Nassau CBC Jan. 3, plus three or four in coastal New Jersey were above average.

Redhead remain the least common of regularly wintering diving ducks; 20 returnees on the Delaware R., at Philadelphia Feb. 27 (B & FH) was an unusually good river count. Elsewhere there were even fewer than usual. Canvasbacks were in good numbers where open water permitted. A flock of 7100 on the Hudson R., at Newburgh, Orange Co., N.Y., in early December dwindled to 3100 Dec. 19 (BSe, JT); a few mi downriver at Piermont 3700-4500 were present Dec. 30 and remained until the river froze (RFD). Notable midwinter populations farther s. included 1000 on the Hackensack R., at Kearny, N.J., Jan. 30 (RK, FFr) and 2500 through January at Silver L., Rehoboth, Del. (WWF). The W.T.S., estimated 22,300 in New Jersey in January. Scaup populations also seemed high to many observers, an impression confirmed by the W.T.S. (447,200 for the Atlantic Coast, about one third above last year), although in January more of them were s. of our Region than last year. A remarkable concentration of 200 Com. Goldeneyes used an open stretch of the Delaware R., centering on Manunkachunk, Warren Co., N.J., in January (GH). Two ♀ Tufted Ducks spent the winter up to the mid-January freeze on Central Park L., N.Y.C. (L. Pohner *et al.*). The "Old Faithful" Barrow's Goldeneye was at Shark R. Inlet, N.J., for its thirteenth consecutive winter; one at the Barnegat, N.J., CBC was the only other reported.

Harlequin Ducks were a bit below normal. Only three males wintered at Montauk Pt., L.I., one at Barnegat, and two to six at Cape May. Eiders were low. A few Com. Eiders were at all likely habitats all the way to Delaware (one Ø on the coast Dec. 19, MVB, GKH), but there were no groups larger than the seven that wintered at Barnegat (J. Peachy, B. Fetz *et al.*). King Eiders came in singles, at Cape May (intermittently, PD, P. Kosten, DAC) and at Indian R. Inlet, Del. (WWF, ph. B. Ringler). Even the most reliable spot, Montauk Pt., had only a few individuals.

A major Ruddy Duck wintering area on the Delaware R., below Philadelphia seems to be defunct. Only a few individuals could be found in an area which supported up to 50,000 in the 1950s and up to 10,000 a few years ago. Possible explanations include oil spills, dredging, increased ship traffic, and higher salinity of the river in recent drought years that may have killed the bottom-dwelling worms on which the birds are known to have fed. We are not certain at this point whether they now winter at some inaccessible spot farther downstream or whether they have dispersed, but we presently know of no important concentrations in this Region.

All three mergansers remained in excellent numbers where open water permitted. As many as 120 Hoodeds were concentrated in the last remaining open water along the highway between the Great Egg Harbor Bridge and Cape May Jan. 24 (SRL). Notable concentrations of Commons included 934 below the Peach Bottom nuclear power plant Dec. 20 (RMS) which rose to 2000 when everything else froze Jan. 18 (*vide* AH), another 1000 at an industrial effluent at Penn Manor, Pa., Feb. 15 (B & FH) and 500 returnees on the Hudson at Stony Pt., Rockland Co., N.Y., Feb. 12 (RFD).

RAPTORS — Wintering raptors provided one of the best shows of the season. Ever more diurnal raptors haunt feeders, particularly in harsh weather. Along with dozens of cases of Sharp-skinned Hawks taking small birds at feeders, we know of at least five Cooper's Hawks doing the same: four in New Jersey (M. Doscher, P. Sigler, J. DeMarrais, B. Woerner) and one in Delaware (WJW). The remarkable suet tray at Coatsville, Pa., reported last winter (AB 35:283) performed even more prodigies. During the hard freeze of Jan. 22-25, it was visited by three Turkey Vultures, three Red-shouldered Hawks, and five Red-tailed Hawks, carefully differentiated by plumage (PH).

Last remnants of raptor migration were still apparent in early December. During Dec. 10-13, three Goshawks, 250 Red-tailed Hawks, 50 Red-shouldered Hawks, one Rough-legged Hawk, two Golden Eagles, and a Bald Eagle passed Cape May Pt. (CS).

It is hard for us to be as precise about raptor numbers as we would like, for the New Jersey Raptor Association's winter census was less complete than last year. On the basis of figures for 8 out of 21 counties, numbers were comparable to the high levels of last year, a bit down in the north and a bit up in the south, especially weather-sensitive Turkey Vultures and Marsh Hawks. Even so, Turkey Vultures wintered increasingly northward (*e.g.*, an unprecedented roost of 15 at Pound Ridge, Westchester Co.). Although Black Vultures did not overwinter at the site of last spring's first New Jersey nesting record, good CBC records included 13 in Salem County, seven at Elmer, one at Cape May (where the one previous CBC record dates from 1939—CS), and two at Princeton Dec. 13-19 (RJB, D. Roche, B. Vansant). The northernmost was at Mt. Airy, Hunterdon Co., Jan. 14 (RK). In s.e. Pennsylvania, 137 on the S. Lancaster County CBC were in amazingly high proportion to 360 Turkey Vultures, but no previous highs or n. frontiers were exceeded.

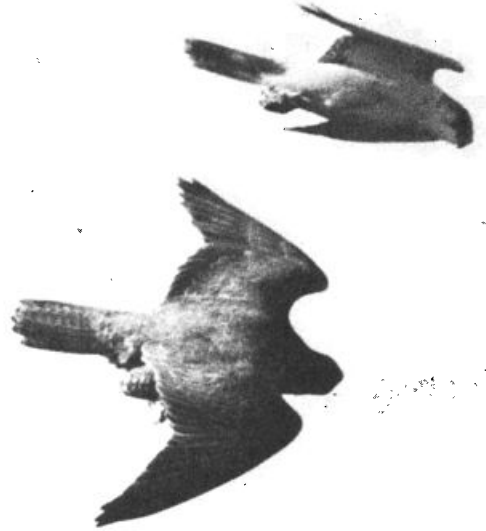
All three Accipiter species seemed above last year. Goshawks staged "the best winter holdover I can recall" (DAC), after a good but not record fall flight. Cooper's Hawks, whose recovery has been demonstrated at fall hawk watches, were widespread, and it was a rare CBC that missed Sharp-shinned Hawk. Examples of high Red-tailed Hawk populations were 25 in 2.5 mi of the Maurice R., Cumberland Co., N.J., Feb. 14 (CS) and four different birds that wintered along the Bronx R., in N.Y.C. (D. Falk). An echo flight of Rough-legged Hawks was not up to last year's massive irruption, but good counts included 16 in <5 mi² in the Hackensack, N.J., marshes Jan. 30, around N. Arlington-Lyndhurst (RK, FFr), and 25 on the Barnegat CBC.

The Jan. 9-10 Bald Eagle census organized by the Raptor Information Bureau of the Nat'l Wildlife Federation secured totals slightly below last year's, but that was due mostly to bad weather. The Delaware count, for example, was cut short by aircraft icing.

The January freeze sent Bald Eagles S or concentrated them at open water, such as the Peach Bottom nuclear power plant, several on Long Island, and 17 at the Sullivan County, N.Y., dams (F. Murphy), not a record at that major wintering area. Sutton estimated that over the whole winter 20 Bald Eagles were in s. New Jersey, about average, but that a ratio of 11 adults to nine immatures was disturbingly high. He also estimated six Golden Eagles (two adults,

four immatures) there, about average, another four in e. Pennsylvania, one in Sullivan County, N.Y., Feb. 7 (WJB), and one at B. Hook Jan. 1 (*vide* AH) rounded out an unremarkable eagle season.

A Marsh Hawk roost in fields near Alpha, Warren Co., N.J., held at least 14 this year (JE, GH *et al.*). Hanisek describes this as the largest concentration known in n.w. New Jersey since the dissipation of a Hunterdon County roost that held more than 100 in the 1950s. Even so, it is a large roost by any standards; Brown and Amadon report that while roosts may reach 50 they are "usually . . . under ten" (*Eagles, Hawks, and Falcons of the World* (1968), 392).



Gyrfalcons in (courtship?) flight, Lancaster Co., Pa. Photo/A. Brady.

S.A.

The great event of this season was up to three Gyrfalcons that wintered in the farm country of Lancaster County, Pa., the first of which was reported last season (see AB 36:159) and the last observed Mar. 31. Following two fall observations at the Baer Rocks hawk watch, a white individual was found near New Holland Nov. 27 (S. Lipschutz, E. Fingerhood). A gray individual appeared Jan. 9 (JGo, m.ob.) and later in the season the two frequented a pigeon-infested quarry where they sat facing each other "like two bookends" or performed aerial displays together. About 15 mi away, at Manheim, a dark bird was seen Jan. 1 (J. George), and during the last days of February this (or another?) joined the quarry birds and all three were photographed in the air at once Feb. 28 (A. Brady).

The first Gyrfalcons known to establish winter feeding territories in Pennsylvania, these three follow 26 other more fleeting records in the state in this century (S. Lipschutz, E. Fingerhood, *pers. comm.*). All but five have occurred along the Kittatinny Ridge or in adjacent farmland, mostly in Schuylkill, Carbon, Lancaster, and Berks cos., a pattern confirmed by this winter's birds.

More Merlins are wintering here. In addition to 14 on CBCs (five in the N.Y.C.-Long Island area, seven in New Jersey, two in Delaware), midwinter birds were at Brig., throughout the season (JD, RM), Indian R. Inlet, Del., Jan. 29 (WWF), and at Newark, Del., Feb. 7 (P. Jahn). American Kestrel populations remained high, or perhaps seem so because so many gather along interstate medians. Lawrence found 21 in 20 ± mi of Rte 9 between Wilson and B. Hook Dec. 30.

SHOREBIRDS — Lingering Am. Oystercatchers included a good 21 on the Oceanville, N.J., CBC, but none overwintered. One at B. Hook Dec. 22 (D. Weesner, J. Russell, D. Phalen) was one of a very few inland records, and unprecedented in winter. Common Snipe lingered locally where conditions permitted, such as six at a heated stream at Little Cr., Del., Jan. 30 (R. Ringler). One flew over a Rockland County, N.Y., parking lot Jan. 10 (RFD). Since Greater Yellowlegs are more normal in winter, greater numbers of Lesser Yellowlegs for the second winter in a row deserve comment. Four appeared on Long Island CBCs, and 41 on New Jersey CBCs outnum-

bered 35 Greater, 21 at B Hook Dec 27 was a record CBC high there (DAC), and 20 were at Moore's Beach, N J , on Del Bay, Jan 9 (DW) Four Short-billed Dowitchers, much the less expected of the two, were identified by call at Brig., Jan. 1 (JWC). Three Long-billed Dowitchers survived to a remarkable Jan. 31 at Lawrence Marsh, L I (E Levine *et al.*).

A "peep" on the B. Hook CBC Dec. 27 (JCM) and another on the Cumberland County, N.J., CBC Jan. 3 (DK *et al.*) were firmly believed to be Semipalmated Sandpipers on the basis of call, which is quite distinct from that of W. Sandpiper. A. R. Phillips has argued (AB 29 799-805) that there is no reliable evidence of Semipalmated Sandpiper n. of Florida in winter. Since physical characters, including bill length, overlap, only a specimen would confirm Del. Valley birders' conviction that a few Semipalmated Sandpipers winter.

As in last winter, there was only one Marbled Godwit, a CBC first at Cape May.

GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS — White-winged gulls were not very common on the coast, while increasing inland records included two Iceland Gulls at S. Philadelphia Feb. 27 (B & FH) and two across the Delaware R., at Collingwood, N.J., Feb. 26-27 (*vide* AH). Great Black-backed Gulls penetrate ever deeper inland. That some of them may come from the growing Great Lakes population rather than the coast is suggested by Reid's observations individual Great Black-backed Gulls among hard-weather movements of Ring-billed and Bonaparte's gulls from the Great Lakes to n.e. Pennsylvania lakes and rivers in each of the last 3 Januarys. This time an immature was at Harvey's L., Luzerne Co., Jan. 6 (WR). One on the Lehigh R., between Allentown and Easton Dec. 23 (RW, BS) was the first in that area away from the Delaware R. (*vide* BLM). Ever more numerous reports of Lesser Black-backed Gulls s. of their N.Y.C. area stronghold (where two regular individuals remain in Westchester County and adjacent Connecticut) include three in coastal New Jersey, up to three at Johnson Park, Middlesex, Co., N.J., through the season (WJB, D. Knowlton *et al.*), one in S. Philadelphia Feb. 27 (K. Russell), and one on the Wilmington, Del., CBC Feb. 27 (JGo, ph., J. White) The California Gull spent its fourth winter at Rockland County, S.P. (RFD). Four or five Black-headed Gulls were far below normal, as were five Little Gulls, the only multiple count being of two on Long Island Feb. 20 (TWB).

Although no great onshore concentrations of Black-legged Kittiwakes were reported from the coast, there were two remarkable inland records: one immature at Cornwall Bay on the Hudson R., Orange Co., Dec. 5-6 (K. McDermott, BS, JT), for a first county record, and an adult in winter plumage that arrived at Harvey's L., Pa., Jan. 1-3, perhaps from the Great Lakes, with an influx of Ring-billed Gulls (E. Johnson, K. McGuire, JH, M. Blauer, m.ob.). This represents one of a very small handful of inland Pennsylvania records, none recent.

Forster's Terns lingered to an exceptional degree in Delaware, where 350 at Henlopen S.P., Dec. 14 dwindled to 30 Dec. 17 (WWF) and 59 remained for the Rehoboth CBC. Six were still at Indian R. Inlet Jan. 18 (WWF). A Com. Tern was extraordinarily late at Barnegat, N.J., Dec. 13 (JKM, J. Lavia).

Alcids were virtually absent, except for a Com. Murre reported in breeding plumage at Montauk, Dec. 19 (†K. Parkes, S. Drennan, S. Sutcliffe).

OWLS TO LARKS — A modest Snowy Owl flight echoed last winter's major invasion. Following 3 fall records from Long Island and one at Sandy Hook, N.J., the winter's 15 widely scattered reports were more southerly and over one-third inland. Up to six were in the N Y C -Long Island area, including two within the city limits Jan. 9: Forest P., Queens Co. (M. Sohmer) and Manhattan (D. Rodriguez). Farther s., there were about as many inland as on the coast. A half-dozen ranged down the coast from Newark, N.J., to Dover, Del., farther s. than last year, mostly in December and January (*vide* IWB, PD, AH). Two were in interior New Jersey in January (Robbinsville, Mercer Co., Jan. 18, D. Dilatush, and Collier's Mill, interior Ocean Co., Jan. 27, T. Mulvey), and four in e. Pennsylvania: one on the state capitol building at Harrisburg Dec. 2-3 (OKS *et al.*), one through the season near New Holland (TA, S. Orr), one at Newtown Jan. 7 (*vide* AH), and one sporadically through the season at Martin's Cr., Northampton Co. (TM).

Luck and weather make estimating winter owl populations tricky, but there were some encouraging records. Black knew of about 20 Long-eared Owls in various n. New Jersey roosts; 12 were at Shipbot-

tom, on the Ocean Co., N J , barrier beach Jan 21 (DF), and five at Little Cr., Dec 27 (JCM, S Orr) were the first in a decade in s. Delaware. On the other hand, a familiar grove in Nat'l Park, Gloucester Co., N.J., cut for residential development (JKM) reminds us of constant pressures the other way. Short-eared Owls were also widely reported. About ten, including four in the Alpha fields, were "the best numbers ever" in n.w. New Jersey (GH), and, among coastal CBCs, 23 at Barnegat and 14 at Brooklyn were excellent.

A ♀ Pileated Woodpecker, a species normally altogether absent from Long Island, wintered in Forest P., Queens Co., (P. Bernarth, m.ob.). Nine Red-bellied Woodpeckers in Orange County (a record five on the CBC and four at feeders), four Dec. 26 at Wyalusing, Bradford Co., Pa., where they are "increasing rapidly" (WR), and 17 on the Hunterdon County CBC show that this species is still building on the n. edge of this region. Barely a half-dozen Red-headed Woodpeckers were found away from breeding areas such as Cape May County P., where six were resident (*vide* PD).

Horned Larks were erratic. While the Cape May CBC missed them for the first time in 61 years, more than usual were present in Westchester and Orange cos. (a record 350 on the CBC), and in n.w. New Jersey (375 on the Walnut Valley CBC and 320 on the Sussex County CBC).

CHICKADEES TO SHRIKES — It was the second big chickadee year in a row, with Black-capped all the way to Delaware (two near Hoope's Res., Feb. 15—APE). This time, unlike last winter, substantial numbers of Boreals moved too. We have about 20 widely scattered records, even along the coast (Shelter I., L.I., Jan. 2, GSR), and as far s. as West Chester, Pa. (two, Jan. 7-14, PH) and Nockamixon, S.P., Bucks Co., where Boreal Chickadees have been found in 3 of the last 4 winters (A & JM, GLF). Most were in upland conifers, however, such as four at the summit of Slide Mt. in the Catskills Feb. 6 (ph., J. Maas), and in the forests of Carbon County, Pa., where there were at least seven and probably more (RW, BS). Red-breasted Nuthatches, whose irruptions coincide with those of chickadees, had a banner year inland although coastal numbers seemed only slightly above normal. Northeastern Pennsylvania had "the greatest numbers in 30 years" (WR), while over 300 at Octoraro Res., Chester Co., Pa., Jan. 19 formed "the largest concentration I've ever seen" (RMS). The Princeton CBC's 162 far outstripped the previous record of 33 in 1976.

Three lingering Wood Thrushes, all on Long Island, were quite unusual: one at the Bronx Botanical Garden to Dec. 27, the Central Suffolk CBC Dec. 26 and Orient Jan. 2. Only one Varied Thrush appeared, a female at a feeder at Orient from late February to Mar 7 (O. Terry, GSR *et al.*). Recent harsh winters do not seem to have interrupted the E. Bluebird recovery. About 50 were present in January in Dutchess County, N.Y., where a major nest box project has been maintained for some years, and numbers were high on coastal and upland New Jersey CBCs (24, Cumberland County; 34, Walnut Valley).

About six N. Shrikes—two on Long Island, two up the Hudson Valley, and two in n. Pennsylvania (SB, L. Coble)—were well below a flight year. Loggerhead Shrikes were no more common. Twenty-six New Jersey CBCs produced only three individuals, and of three others, only one certainly wintered: the familiar Rosedale Park, Mercer Co., N.J., bird (GC).

VIREOS THROUGH TANAGERS — A Solitary Vireo well-described at Trap Pond S.P., Del., Dec. 28 (†W. Fintel), seems to constitute a first Delaware winter record, although this species, the least migratory member of the family, often lingers into December just s. of this Region.

Many warblers lingered, although very few after Jan. 1. A Black-and-white, a species found somewhere in this Region almost every December, was at Iona I., on the Hudson R., Rockland Co., N.Y., Dec. 28 (Dervens, *vide* RFD). Six Orange-crowneds, all in December (three on Long Island, two in coastal New Jersey and one in Delaware), were a shade above par. Nashville Warblers are also fairly frequent lingerers, but 2 records are exceptional: Hackensack-Ridgewood, N.J., CBC and Sayville, L.I., Dec. 11-18 (FF). Among long-distance tropical migrants, a **Northern Parula** at Cape May Dec 17-20 (DW, m.ob.) and a **Blackpoll Warbler** reported on the Assunpink, N.J., CBC (†RRy) were far more remarkable. A Pine Warbler or two is expected along the coast, but more unusual was one at Tyler Arboretum, Lima, Pa., Feb. 8-10 (JG *et al.*). Palm Warblers were above normal along the coast in December (*e.g.*, eight on the Montauk CBC). Single Ovenbirds, another frequent lingerer, were at

Montauk Dec 19 (ROP, T Chase), and at Connetquot S P, L I, Dec 20 (S Dempsey) There was the usual scattering of yellowthroats, but twelve Yellow-breasted Chats were above normal. Some of them were unusually far n. and inland (a first winter record on the Orange County, CBC—V. Morrison), and two survived into mid-winter: one at a Lawrenceville, N.J., feeder Jan. 15 (J. Marti) and one at a Beach Haven, N.J., feeder Feb. 2 (*vide* PD).

Two Bobolinks, long-distance tropical migrants, were carefully studied, and their calls noted. One was at Prime Hook, Del., Dec. 20 (JGo, MVB), and another the same day on the N. Arlington, N.J., CBC (G. Mahler, T. Proctor) provided a fourth New Jersey winter record. Four Yellow-headed Blackbirds in December, all in New Jersey (DK, DF *et al.*) were about normal, but a much more unusual midwinter record was at Woodbridge, Middlesex Co., N.J., Jan. 12 (Morrison's feeder). About seven N. Orioles were fewer than usual, and none remained after Jan. 1. While Boat-tailed Grackles were abundant on the New Jersey shore, as usual (661 on the Cape May CBC), two inland on the Wilmington CBC were remarkable. A W. Tanager, a species reported somewhere in this Region almost each year, was at Princeton Dec. 20-Jan. 20 (GC *et al.*, ph., S. LaFrance, P. Bacinski).

FINCHES, SPARROWS, BUNTINGS — An imm. Rose-breasted Grosbeak at two E. Islip, L.I., feeders into early December (FF) was the only *Pheucticus* reported. A mere five Dickcissels appeared on CBCs (four in New Jersey, one on Long Island) and none thereafter.

A major event of the season was a great winter finch invasion. Evening Grosbeaks were widespread in about normal numbers, and Purple Finches were not common. Pine Grosbeaks, however, made their greatest invasion since 1972-73 (greater than in 1977-78). They did not reach Long Island or Delaware, but they reached the coast at Barnegat, N.J., in December and as far s. inland as Carbon County, Pa., where about 300 were estimated present (DAC). At Beltzville L., Carbon Co., 100-120 fed on *multiflora* rose through January and many males sang in February (BLM). Flocks of 10± spread widely through upland New Jersey, n.e., Pennsylvania, and along the Hudson R., and 60 were in the Pequannock watershed, Passaic Co., N.J., in late January (T. Stiles).

Common Redpolls followed a different rhythm. They were not very numerous until February, when flocks of 100-200 appeared in Ulster and Dutchess cos., N.Y. (BSe, R.T.W.B.C.) and Harrisburg, Pa. (E. Schwab), swelling to 500 in February at Edwardsville, n.e. Pa. (J. Hoyson) and continuing to expand after the period. Although a major flight, this one did not equal the great inundation of 1977-78. Its outer limits were a few at Orient Pt., L.I., Jan. 2 and at Cape May Feb. 28. One Hoary Redpoll was carefully described in direct comparison with Commons at Stone Harbor Pt., N.J., Jan. 27 (JD, RM), although bill size was not mentioned (see AB 32:330, 404 for that important mark). Pine Siskins reached 600 around Wyalusing, Bradford Co., Pa., Dec. 26, but farther e. they arrived in the hundreds only later.

White-winged Crossbills were the season's champions. As in the incursions of 1973-74 and 1977-78, they far outnumbered Red Crossbills, which arrived early and were limited to the coasts of Long Island and New Jersey (*e.g.* 50, S. Nassau CBC, 90 Barnegat CBC), with scattered flocks of 25-35 in n.e. Pennsylvania and upland New Jersey in January (WR, RJB, P. Finken). White-winged Crossbills arrived mostly in February, and in "greatest ever" numbers in upland New Jersey (RK), a "record inundation" there (GH). One flock of 600+ at Clinton Road, n.w. New Jersey, around February 1 was "something to see" as it made the cones rain down. (RK). Away from

the uplands, there were distinctly fewer, but they reached much farther s than Red Crossbills 150 at Swarthmore, Pa., Feb. 22 (*vide* AH), and several groups of 30-40 in Delaware in February (JGo, WJW). Fewer still reached Long Island (*e.g.*, six, Easthampton, Dec. 26—J. Ash), and the largest coastal flock was 100 at Deep Cut P., Middletown, Monmouth Co., N.J., Feb. 19 (*vide* PD).

Snow forced 11 Vesper Sparrows to feed at the roadside in s Lancaster Co., Pa., Dec. 20, making an excellent CBC total (RMS) Three Lark Sparrows on CBCs were unusual (Montauk, L.I., a first, Lakehurst, N.J., and Princeton, for the second year in a row), but one at a feeder at Ronks, Pa., Jan. 9 (RMS, ph. F. Habegger) may be only the second Pennsylvania winter record. Two Harris' Sparrows wintered: Gilgo Beach, L.I. (ROP, m.ob.), and Amenia, Dutchess Co., N.Y. (R.T.W.B.C.), a bit above average for a species not quite annual. Snow Buntings were abundant only in n.e. Pennsylvania, where 1000 were at Nescopeck Feb. 26 and 500 at Harvey's L., in late January (J. Hoyson). At Wyalusing Reid found 250 in a tree (*cf.*, a similar report in AB 32:331).

EXOTICS — A Black-hooded Parakeet, *Nandayus nenday*, a native of temperate South America already breeding around N Y C, was seen Dec. 24, 20 mi n. of Dover, Del. (T. R. Wolfe). A Eur Goldfinch, a species widely held in captivity and sometimes released, was at Mamaronck, N.Y., Feb. 11-23 (*vide* TWB).

CORRIGENDUM — The first New Jersey record of White-winged Dove (AB 35:807) should be dated May 24, 1981, not April.

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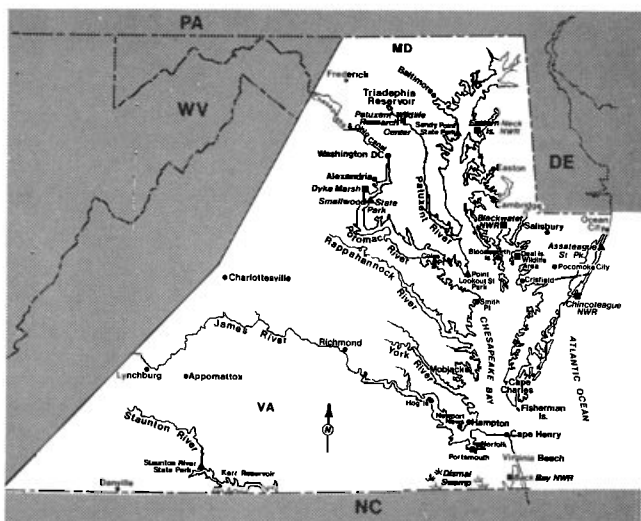
MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/Henry T. Armistead

Temperatures averaged 1.1°F and 6.7° below normal Regionwide in December and January but 1.0° above during February. Many areas were warm in early January (72° at Richmond Jan. 7) making the 6.7° deficit even more impressive. "Central Virginia had virtually completely frozen lakes and ponds January 10-February 2 . . . and complete snow and ice cover January 13-31" (FRS). At Amherst, Va. "there was continuous snow and ice cover for 19 days, far longer than usual . . . Lakes did not thaw until mid-February, a continuous freeze of 35 days!" (JBB). Lack of birds at feeders continued well into

winter, owing to the excellent wild food crop. Feeder birds did not increase much during the big freeze but in February after the thaw there was an influx, especially of finches. This was a good winter for geese, gulls, most raptors including owls, Red-breasted Nuthatches, robins, bluebirds, waxwings and Icterids, a poor winter for loons, grebes, herons, ducks, kingfishers, wrens and most marsh birds. Precipitation (mostly rain) was over the norm for all three months.

Abbreviations: Ass. I., Assateague I., Md.; Back Bay, Back Bay N.W.R.; Black., Blackwater N.W.R.; C.B.B.T., Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel at mouth of the Bay; Chinc., Chincoteague N.W.R.; Craney, Craney I. Disposal Area, Portsmouth, Va.; Deal I., Deal I. W.M.A.; Hog I., Hog I. Refuge, Surry Co., Va.; M.C.L.F., Montgomery County, Md. landfill.



LOONS THROUGH IBISES—Loons drew little commentary but seem to have been present in normal numbers in contrast to last winter's deficit. Two Red-necked Grebes at Back Bay Feb. 15 were the only ones reported for this species, always scarce in the Region (TRW). Horned Grebe's dramatic decrease continues prompting some to comment facetiously on its extinction. Certainly it has been in very low numbers for the past 2 winters. On this there is unanimity. Several have suggested late season adverse weather grounded thousand migrating Horned Grebes (MKK, PEN) and misguided landings on glare ice and highways have drawn extensive media coverage. A W. Grebe in the Cape Henry-Rudee Inlet area was present at least Jan. 1-Feb. 25 (TK, DS, M & DM, NB *et al.*), from the description apparently not "Clark's" Grebe (*cf. West. Birds* 12:41-46, 1981). Off Ocean City 15 N. Fulmars were seen Feb. 14 (RN, DFA, m.ob.), a fine regional count compensating for the lack of any on a similar trip Jan. 2. White Pelican mania continues with singles spending the entire period at Hog I., s. of Williamsburg (FRS, JWD, m.ob.) and at Sandbridge n. of Back Bay (TRW, MT, m.ob.).

One of the many highlights of the Feb. 14 pelagic trip from Ocean City was the count of 1775 Gannets, many of them "thermalling in the sky like a kettle of Broad-winged Hawks" and so high they appeared as "specks high above" through 10X binoculars (RN *et al.*), a most unusual phenomenon. On Jan. 2, 57 were seen near here (RN *et al.*) and 2125 were estimated at Back Bay Dec. 29 (PWS *et al.*), these both CBC totals. At Pt. Lookout, Md., 13 ± Great Cormorants were seen Feb. 20 (RFR *et al.*) while the high on the C.B.B.T., was seven Feb. 14 (CT, *vide* CPW), good but not unprecedented counts for these two prime areas. Unprecedented, however, were four Anhingas at Stumpy Lake, Va. beach Dec. 4-5 one of which lingered until Jan. 1 for the Little Creek CBC (NB, m.ob.). Herons were in very poor numbers this winter with anemic counts of most on the 2 premier heron CBCs at Chinc. and Cape Charles (*q.v.*), which together often provide the bulk of regional winter heron counts of note. On the Hopewell, Va., CBC 134 Great Blue Herons Dec. 19 was a very high total (FRS *et al.*). Unusual were single imm. Little Blue Herons at Deal Island W.M.A., Dec. 18 & Jan. 6 and two Great Egrets there Jan. 6 (DMo), all localities in Maryland being bereft of most herons in winter. In Mathews County, Va., Cattle Egrets lingered until mid-December with up to seven present (MP) and two on the St. Michaels, Md., CBC Dec. 20 were exceptional (JGR). Just received is a late report of White Ibis on Assateague I., Md., May 8, 1979, for one of the few coastal records for the state (DMo).

WATERFOWL — Seldom does anyone have positive comments on duck populations and this winter was no exception. Of interest were late migrations triggered by the brutal weather of mid-January such as at Ass. I., Jan. 17 when 0° combined with 30 knot winds. Here Dyke saw 1000 Brant and 500 Black Ducks heading S in just one hour of observation. Big flights of Canada and Snow geese were also seen in coastal Virginia (GR). The official Chinc. N.W.R. survey of Jan. 18-22 listed only 542 Whistling Swans, three Mute Swans, 323 Canada Geese, five Brant, seven Snow Geese, 22 Mallards, 282 Black Ducks, three Gadwall, 10 N. Shovelers, 16 Buffhead and six Oldsquaw (DFH). At Presquile N.W.R., Va., ducks were "the lowest in many

years (HCO). Mute Swans peaked at 24 at Chinc., towards the end of the reporting period (DFH). At a pond w. of Ocean City a possible Bewick's Swan was carefully scrutinized Feb. 13-20 (PWS, RN PGD, m.ob.). Although the area of yellow on the bill would seem to eliminate Whistling Swan (as defined in *Auk* 97:697-703, 1980), even the authors of that article list only as probable the identification as a Bewick's Swan of a wild bird captured at Claiborne, Talbot Co., Md. Mar. 1971 which had a similar quantity of yellow on its maxilla Whistling Swans continue their terrestrial ways as in winters of the past decade. They do considerable damage to winter wheat crops as well as indirect damage to oyster beds. There is growing sentiment in some government circles as well as among hunters to establish some sort of limited, open season for them. Thousands of them were in fields in Essex County, Va., this winter (FRS). Upwards of 70,000 Canada Geese were on CBCs in Kent County (JaG, FLP) with 27,000 in Talbot County (JGR), these in Maryland. Along Virginia's James R., they were considered down (FRS, HCO). These 3 sites have probably lost birds to areas in s. Pennsylvania, n. Delaware and s. New Jersey where they are wintering in increasing numbers (HTA) White-fronted Geese made a fine showing with records from Rock-



White-fronted Goose with Canadas, Harford Co., Md., Dec. 17, 1981. Photo/B. Ringle.

ville, Md., Horn Pt., Dorchester Co., Md. (Dec. 13—RFR, JO), Ocean City (Feb. 7-March—RFR, m.ob.), Black., Hog I., Harford Co., Md. (ph.), and Louisa County, Va. (JBB). The Ross' Goose at Black. was seen at least until Dec. 6 (PGD) and Virginia's first record was of one at Back Bay Dec. 29-Jan. 9 (HTA, BP, DFA, RLA *et al.*). Snow Geese continue to increase in fields e. of c. Chesapeake Bay with c. 25,000 in Caroline County and 3000 in Kent County, these on Maryland CBSs (AJF, JaG *et al.*) while on Virginia CBCs c. 22,000 were at Chinc., and 26,000 at Back Bay (FRS, PWS *et al.*). Meanwhile the blue form continues to thrive but is only abundant at 2 regional sites: Black. and Presquile N.W.R. Scott *et al.* had 350 near Presquile Feb. 7, and Black. occasionally has over 1000.

At Hog I., 7500 Pintail were seen Jan. 31 (RC) and 1995 were at Chinc., Dec. 13-19 (DFH). Very late were five Blue-winged Teal near Accomac, Va., Jan. 13 (GR). Two ♂ Eur. Wigeon were near Ocean City Feb. 27 (CTr, *vide* CPW). The sad plight of the Am. Wigeon is reflected by seven on the Annapolis CBC Jan. 3 (lowest ever—HLW) and none on the St. Michaels, Md., CBC (JGR), which used to have thousands. This species is a casualty of the disappearance of much of the submerged aquatic vegetation in Chesapeake Bay. Peak counts of N. Shoveler included 425 at Craney Feb. 9 (TRW) and 595 at Chinc., Dec. 13-19 (DFH). On the Hopewell CBC 608 Wood Ducks Dec. 19, not considered an unusual number, indicated the importance of the Presquile N.W.R. area for this species (FRS *et al.*). In Washington, D.C., 150 Ring-necked Ducks was a good count Dec. 4 (DC). In what may be the first report ever received from the Smith I., Md., area in winter these divers were listed: 3500 Lesser Scaup, 600 Oldsquaw, and 200 Surf Scoters (BP). Notable on the Piedmont, Oldsquaw were seen in Loudoun County, Va. (five Dec. 5—JBB, DFA), on L. Anna, Va. (four Jan. 3—JBB, CBC) and Liberty Res., n. of Baltimore (four Dec. 19—RFR *et al.*). A pair of Harlequin Ducks was at Rudee Inlet Feb. 13 (TRW) and from one to three were at C.B.B.T., from late December-Feb. 27 (CP, CT, NB *et al.*). Single Com. Eiders were also there Dec. 1 (KHW) & Feb. 27 (NB) as well as at Ocean City from late December-February (DFA) with two present there Feb. 7 (RFR,

m ob.) King Eiders were seen only at Ocean City with three there in late December (DFA, BC *et al.*). Ruddy Ducks have decreased dramatically, especially along the Potomac but the top counts were of 1050 at Craney Feb. 9 (TRW) and 2500 there Feb. 2 (RC).

VULTURES THROUGH RAILS — Black Vultures continue to do well as indicated by the following CBC totals: 31, Denton, Caroline Co., Md. (AJF), 43 Wachapreague, Va., Dec. 19 (GR) and 63 Lower Kent County, Md., Dec. 19 (JG, FLP). Single Goshawks were widely reported, mostly without substantiating details, although one was at Gude's Nursery, Rockville, Md., in January (DC *et al.*). If the other sightings are valid it certainly appears that they had a better than average winter here. Sharp-shinned Hawks continue to attract more and more attention as opportunistic feeders lurking in the vicinity of feeders finishing a close second only to cats. Albino Red-tailed Hawks were seen n. of Richmond throughout February (FRS, m ob.) and e. of Denton (AJF, m.ob.) the entire period, a very real danger as a source of erroneous Snowy Owl reports. Three migrant Red-shouldered Hawks were at Fairfax, Va., Feb. 23 (JWE). Rough-legged Hawk was widespread and in excellent numbers, occurring in many areas on the Piedmont, lower w. shore, and e. Virginia such as the three seen at Back Bay CBC, Dec. 29 (HTA *et al.*) where normally they are very uncommon. At Irish Grove Sanctuary e. of Crisfield, Md., four were in sight simultaneously Feb. 20 along with four Short-eared Owls and an imm. Bald Eagle (JLS *et al.*), this being about as far as they are normally seen.

At Deal I., 10 were in sight at one time Jan. 31 (HLW). Among the more unusual localities where Golden Eagles were seen were Presquile N.W.R. (Jan. 2-16—FRS, MAB *et al.*, 1st there since 1971), Irish Grove (Feb. 7—JLS) and Wachapreague Dec. 19 (JGk), these all singles while two wintered at Black. (m.ob.). Bald Eagle news highlights feature the Maryland midwinter survey which revealed 53 adults and 59 immatures, 38 of these in Dorchester County and an astounding 47 in Harford County, a heretofore inaccessible area embracing the army's mammoth Aberdeen Proving Ground, which it is to be hoped can be censused regularly, as it is a fine historically rich area for eagles (*vide* JMA, JG). Sixty were counted Jan. 2 on the James R drainage in Virginia (MAB, TEA). On that state's lower e. shore an active nest was found n. of Cheriton Feb. 1 (MAB, *vide* FRS) the first nest in the Cape Charles area in many years and the first nest in Prince Georges County, Md., in at least 13 years was seen Feb. 20 (JG). Two adults haunted Kerr Res., on the Virginia-North Carolina border in February (SG, RC). However, many of the Harford County birds may be migrants from Canada. More than usual numbers of unseasonal Ospreys were reported in February at Horn Pt. (DM, *vide* JGR, 24th), Hog I. (BW, LJ, 21st), Benedict, Md. (*vide* JG, 18th) and Wallop's I., Va. (*vide* CRV, two, date mislaid by editor). Merlins were seen at several inland areas: Washington, D.C., Dec. 2 (DC), Oakton, Va., Feb. 4 (KHW), Greensboro, Caroline Co., Md., Jan. 8-9 (MWH, *vide* AJF) and in Kent County, Md., Dec. 20 (MKK on CBC). Bobwhite is still scarcer than normal and undoubtedly suffered this winter when for much of January the ground was covered by snow and ice. A Yellow Rail at Back Bay Dec. 29 was flushed twice and seen by 4 observers (PWS *et al.*). Common Gallinule is uncommon at Chinc. anytime but three were on the CBC Dec. 28 (*vide* FRS) and one was seen on the strange date of Feb. 20 (MA, *vide* DFH).

SHOREBIRDS — As with herons and their allies most of the more interesting shorebird sightings in winter are garnered by the CBCs at Chinc. and Cape Charles. Chinc. recorded 20 species Dec. 28 including 344 Am. Oystercatchers, three Long-billed Dowitchers, nine Piping Plovers, one Am. Avocet and one Marbled Godwit (FRS, HSC *et al.*). Cape Charles posted a total of 17 species such as 52 Am. Woodcocks, two Whimbrels, and 58 Marbled Godwits (HTA, CP *et al.*). Three Am. Oystercatchers were spotted Feb. 26 w. of Ass. I., near their normal n. winter limit (DMo). Three Semipalmated Plovers on the Newport News CBC, Dec. 19 were in one of their less usual wintering areas (WPS). Twelve Lesser Yellowlegs were on Ass. I., Jan. 2 and a late Long-billed Dowitcher was there Dec. 12 (SHD). Always something of a rarity on the upper Chesapeake Bay, a Purple Sandpiper was at Chesapeake Beach, Calvert Co., Md., Dec. 6 (HM, *vide* CPW). Six Least Sandpipers at Hopewell, Va., Dec. 13 were late if not retarded (FRS *et al.*). At Black., 800 Dunlin Dec. 12 was a remarkable number for so late at this locality (DC). Wolfe detected two Short-billed Dowitchers at Craney Feb. 24, an interesting date. Two W. Sandpipers at Black., Dec. 12 were notable for so late there

(DC) American Avocet is back at Craney after a weak showing during most of 1981. Scott counted 156 there Dec. 4 and Wolfe sighted 26 on Feb. 19, the first for 1982, plus 59 on Feb. 24.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — A Great Skua was well seen off Ocean City Feb. 14 by all 25 aboard the "Mariner" at distances as close as 30 yards (RN *et al.*). Reports of Glaucous Gull came from Washington, D.C., Craney, at sea off Ocean City, M.C.L.F., and Salisbury. Iceland Gull was seen off Ocean City, at M.C.L.F., and Tilghman I., Talbot Co., Md. (Dec. 18-19—JKE). At M.C.L.F., six Iceland Gulls were seen Feb. 4-5, two Glaucous Gulls Dec. 9-Feb. 4, and three Lesser Black-backed Gulls Jan. 6-Feb. 23, while the Salisbury landfill, a new discovery, yielded one Glaucous, three Iceland and one Lesser Black-backed Gull all Jan. 25 (HLW). Singles of Glaucous Gull, Iceland Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull were at M.C.L.F., Dec. 26 (BC). The latter continues to be widely reported, being seen in at least 13 localities. Up to 6000 Ring-billed Gulls were at Kerr Res., Feb. 13 (SG). Two Black-headed Gulls were at Ocean City for most of December (PGD, PAD, JMA) and up to four Little Gulls were present here into early January (PGD, DFA *et al.*). Inland Bonaparte's Gulls included one at Kerr Res., Jan. 1 (RC), one on the Gordonsville, Va., CBC Dec. 20 (JBB), 35 on Swift Creek Res., near Richmond Jan. 9 (FRS *et al.*) plus 40 near Hopewell, Va., Jan. 10 (FRS *et al.*). Naveen's pelagic trips yielded 32 Black-legged Kittiwakes out from Ocean City Jan. 2 (CBC) and 328 Feb. 14 with only two and three juveniles on hand respectively. A late Forster's Tern was at Black., Dec. 5 (DC). Two Royal Terns at Black Bay Dec. 5 were also lingerers (TRW). The only Black Skimmers were two each for CBCs at Little Creek and Back Bay Jan. 1 & Dec. 29 (*vide* PWS) Razorbills staged an excellent showing off the Maryland coast Ten were seen on the Jan. 2 CBC and nine plus 17 unidentified large alcids were counted Feb. 14 (RN *et al.*). Most unusual, albeit oiled, was a live one right next to the jetty at Ocean City Feb. 22 well-described by Feddern.

DOVES THROUGH SHRIKES — At least one observer reported heavy mortality of Rock Doves due to the extreme cold in January and early February (EMW, in Rockville). In Washington, D.C., Barn Owls, long known for aseasonal breeding behavior, were at a nest site into early January. Two adults and three juveniles stayed until Dec 18 with the adults and one juvenile staying until early January (DC). Among Reese's more unusual roadkills found during this brutal winter were Screech, Great Horned and Barred owls in Talbot County, Md., where the St. Michaels CBC participants, obdurate owlers for decades, outdid themselves with a total of 140 Screech Owls Dec. 20 (JGR *et al.*) all the more remarkable because almost half their area is brackish water. Single Long-eared Owls in Alexandria, Va. (date?, DFA, Ass. I., Dec. 28-29 (DMo, HLW), Irish Grove Jan 30 (DMo, HLW), and at Chinc. CBC, Dec. 28 (PP, PS, *vide* FRS) were the only records. One of the winter's highlights was the good showings of Short-eared Owls with six, "unprecedented for Baltimore" Feb. 21-27 (JW, *vide* RFR) and as many as nine n. of Frederick, Md., Feb. 14 (MPt, *vide* CPW), as well as good numbers in their more usual strongholds such as the lower Chesapeake Bay marshes (eight at Deal I., Jan. 22-24—DMo, HLW) and several of the barrier islands. The winter's Saw-whet Owl crop was also considered very good, "one of the better years in a decade" (JMS) with reports from several CBCs, a few roadkills and birds in places such as Gude's Nursery, Rockville, Md., the Nat'l Arboretum in Washington, D.C., Wye Mills, Md., and Concord, Md. (DC, JGR, CS).

Unbelievable was a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** which spent the entire period up until Feb. 21 as well as most of last fall at a feeder in Newport News (M & DM). Belted Kingfisher was considered scarce even before this winter and will perhaps prove even scarcer afterwards (MKK, HTA, MP). Red-headed Woodpeckers were commoner than usual (v. obs.) probably because of the record mast crop of last fall. "Apparently pin oaks (*Quercus palustris*), the dominant tree over much of the area, produce a bumper acorn crop every 3 years (1972, 1975, 1978, 1981) resulting in an increase in Red-headed Woodpeckers and Blue Jays every 3 years" (PW). Three Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were seen near Waverly, Va., s. of Williamsburg Dec. 5 (KS). In the interior of the Delmarva Pen., 458 Horned Larks were listed on the Denton, Md. CBC, Dec. 20 (AJF *et al.*), showing their abundance in some inland areas.

Unique was a **Barn Swallow** at Virginia Beach Jan. 9 (DFA, DA) Blue Jays were in high numbers in many areas due to the abundant wild food crop. On the L. Anna CBC, Jan. 3, 718 comprised appar-

ently a record Piedmont winter count for Virginia (JBB). Black capped Chickadees appeared in low numbers in February in n. Baltimore County (HK, RFR) but there was no notable flight. This winter was an excellent one for Red-breasted Nuthatch with record numbers on many CBCs such as 129 at Cape Charles and high totals at other spots: 44 Little Creek Jan. 1 (PWS *et al.*), 44 Washington, D.C., Dec. 19 (EMW *et al.*), 47 Denton Dec. 20 (AJF *et al.*), 43 Chinc., Dec. 28 (FRS *et al.*) and 37 St. Michaels (JGR *et al.*). Although there was little documentation many felt Winter Wren had decreased this winter (v. obs.). Carolina Wren was hard hit by the severe weather of mid-winter (DC, MKK, PEN, SL, PW). We await the results of the Breeding Bird Survey to find out just how badly this species fared. The analysis of the results of the survey on the heels of such monumental weather is one of the many factors which make it so valuable. Prior to this year's big freeze Carolina Wren had rebounded considerably from the cold winters of the late 1970s.

Without precedent were the record numbers of Am. Robin on the Virginia Piedmont, perhaps another plum of the fine food crop. "The most spectacular event of the season" was a robin roost w. of Amherst which began in late December. A careful count Jan. 8 considered 45,000 to be minimal (RC). This roost disbanded c. Jan. 20. Meanwhile at L. Anna CBC 1620 counted Jan. 3 established a record Piedmont winter count only to be broken the next day (JBB). A Varied Thrush was reported from Oakton, Va., Dec. 28 (HS, *vide* CPW). Several indicated E. Bluebird is doing well in spite of the cold and for the third consecutive year the Mathews, Va., CBC recorded over 300 with 328 Jan 3 (MP *et al.*). Cedar Waxwing was in excellent numbers, another beneficiary of the berry-nut-mast bonanza of 1981. At L. Anna CBC 1279 comprised apparently a record Virginia count for any season Jan. 3 (JBB) and a whopping 1222 were seen by the Annapolis CBC the same day (HLW *et al.*). By late January many berry trees in the Region had been stripped bare by waxwings and robins. Loggerhead Shrike still draws much commentary concerning its decline.

VIREOS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS — White-eyed Vireo singles were reported on two CBCs: Back Bay Dec. 29 (GMW) and Mathews Jan. 3 (DS *et al.*, *vide* MP). A Solitary Vireo was seen at Cape Charles CBC Dec. 27 (PWS, GMW). Solo Black-and-white Warblers were found on CBCs at Hopewell Dec. 19 (NB, *vide* FRS) and Back Bay (NB *et al.*, *vide* PWS). A feeder frequenting Orange-crowned Warbler was in Williamsburg for most of January and February (M & DM, BW *et al.*). Other warbler rarities were confined to unusual but not totally unexpected species seen on the CBCs (q.v.). The first singing Pine Warblers, one of the earliest avian signs of spring, were heard at Kerr Res., where Chandler found 14 on Feb. 20, and Richmond, where Scott noted three on Feb. 23. A W. Palm Warbler was in Washington, D.C., Jan. 1 (DC). There were 3 reports of Yellow-headed Blackbirds: a female in Arlington Jan. 10 (PM, *vide* CPW), another female in Washington, D.C. Jan. 31 (DC) and an ad. male at Church Cr., near Black., Feb. 28 (PWS, BR). Northern (Baltimore) Oriole was more widely seen than usual with many in the Washington, D.C. area (*vide* CPW). At Williamsburg, where the CBC total of seven on Dec. 20 was considered low, as many as 19 were present mid-February in an area which last year had the North American CBC high count (15, BW). A ♂ Brewer's Blackbird was reported from Washington, D.C., Jan. 31 (DC).

FINCHES — Following a lackluster presence on the CBCs and in most of January n. finches began arriving in considerable numbers in early February. See below under individual species. Near Warren, Va., a **Blue Grosbeak** was seen Dec. 20-22 (AH, *vide* CES, ph.). Extraordinary in winter, an **Indigo Bunting** was found at Savage, Md., n. of Laurel c. Jan. 10 to at least Feb. 15 (PL, DB *et al.*). Equally unexpected was an ad. ♂ **Painted Bunting** near Annapolis Dec. 26-Jan. 21 (DC, HLW, RFR, m.ob.). Just received is a late report of another one, an imm. male, found dead in Norfolk July 13, 1981 (*at Old Dominion U., RC). The only Dickcissel record was of one in Concord, Caroline Co., Md., Jan. 12 (CS, *vide* AJF). Evening Grosbeak was almost universally regarded as scarce all winter, a group of 100 in Northwest River P., Chesapeake, Va., Jan. 30 being the highest count received (GMW). Purple Finch received mixed reviews, most feeling it was scarce, although one observer's personal count was 175 at L. Anna CBC, Jan. 3 (JBB). House Finch continues to be a plague on the land with record counts from many area CBCs (Chinc., Hopewell, Washington, D.C.) and robust totals from many others



Painted Bunting, Annapolis, Md., Jan. 12, 1982. Photo/H. Wierenga.

(507, St. Michaels, Md.) plus lower but unprecedented numbers in other areas where they are still uncommon but nevertheless increasing. In Lynchburg, Va., 1083 were counted Feb. 14 compared to only 596 on the CBC there (MM). An interesting wrinkle is their apparent sensitivity to extreme cold. In Richmond dozens were found dead or dying in late January where it was suspected they may be dependent on feeders with high quality food (CRB).

A moderate influx of Com. Redpolls occurred during February. The first report was of one in Salisbury, Md., Jan. 31 (CRV) followed by two in Towson, Md., Feb. 9 (ES, *vide* RFR), two n. of Cockeysville n. of Baltimore Feb. 13 (HK, *vide* RFR), numerous records in the Washington, D.C. area Feb. 19-21 (*vide* CPW) and two at Gwynn's I., Mathews Co., Va., Feb. 28-Mar. 4 (MP *et al.*). After a so-so showing all winter Pine Siskin started to build up in late January (JHB, FRS, JSW, MKK, JKE) becoming abundant at some localities, especially Patuxent W.R.C., where there were c. 500 in February and c. 1000 by mid-March (MKK, JMS). High numbers were seen in Williamsburg, St. Michaels and elsewhere (BW, JKE, FRS, MP *et al.*). A Red Crossbill in Belfast Valley n. of Baltimore Feb. 25 was the only non-CBC report (HK, *vide* RFR). White-winged Crossbill is yet another finch which staged a late invasion. The first ones were eight at the Nat'l Arboretum Feb. 7-15 (*vide* DC). Later groups included 80 in n. Baltimore County Feb. 13 (HK, *vide* RFR), 12 in Rockville Feb. 16 (HLW) and several other flocks in the Washington D.C. area, Beltsville, Md., and Silver Spring, Md., Feb. 14-23 (*vide* CPW). This constitutes an excellent flight by Regional standards. Rufous-sided Towhee was in very high numbers on many of the CBCs (q.v.). Good counts of Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow included 23 at Cape Charles Dec. 27 (CP *et al.*) and 16 at Chinc., Dec. 28 (FRS *et al.*), both CBCs, and 128 Sharp-tailed Sparrows were also at Cape Charles CBC, a near record count for there (HTA *et al.*). The Lark Sparrow seen on the Back Bay CBC, Dec. 29 very obligingly remained until at least Jan. 9 (GMW, DFA). An ad. Harris' Sparrow was reported from the Jug Bay area on the upper Patuxent R., Md., Feb. 14 (JG). The only Lapland Longspur report was of four at Craney Dec. 1 (KHW, DP), indicative of a very poor season for them. Snow Buntings showed up at a few unexpected sites including 10 at Chance, Somerset Co., Jan. 25 (DMo, HLW), one at Tilghman I., Md., Jan. 4 (JGR) and 50 at Triadelphia Res., w. of Columbia, Md., Dec. 12 (RFR) while 55 at Craney Dec. 6 were more to be expected (FRS).

OBSERVERS — D.F. Abbott, Dennis Abbott, J.M. Abbott, Marilyn Ailes, R.L. Ake, T.E. Armour, David Bateman, J.B. Bazuin, C.R. Blem, Daniel Boone, Ned Brinkley, J.H. Buckalew, M.A. Byrd, Ray Chandler, Barry Cooper, H.S. Cutler, David Czaplak, Thelma Dalmas, J.W. Dillard, P.A. DuMont, P.G. DuMont, S.H. Dyke, J.K. Effinger, J.W. Eike, Hans-Joachim Feddern, K.H. Finnegan, A.J. Fletcher, John Gottschalk (JGK), Steve Graves, John Gregoire, James Gruber (JaG), Allen Hale, Mozelle Henkel, M. W. Hewitt, D. F. Holland, Helen Irving, Leigh Jones, Hank Kaestner, Teta Kain, M.K. Klimkiewicz, Paul Leifer, Sam Lyon, E.T. McKnight, D.A. Mendinhall, Donald Meritt (DMt), Debbie Mignogno (DMo), Stauffer Miller, M. & D. Mitchell, Paul Mocko, Myriam Moore, Harvey Mudd, Ron Naveen, P.E. Nistico, H.C. Olson, Jim Orgain, F.L. Parks, Carl Perry, Don Peterson, Marie Plante (MPT), Bill Portlock, Mary Pulley, Peter Pyle, J.G. Reese, George Reiger, Mike Resch, R.F. Ringler, Bob Russell, Henry Santiestevan, Kurt Savoie, F.R. Scott, Carol Scudder, J.M. Shepard, Dot Silsby, Eddie Slaughter, W.P. Smith, J.L. Stasz, C.E. Stevens, Phil Stoddard, P.W. Sykes, Mike Tove, R.J. Tricipian, Craig Tufts, Craig Turner (CTR), C.R. Vaughn, D.H. Wallace, K.H. Weber, J.S. Weske, H.L. Wierenga, C.P. Wilds, Jim Wilkinson, Bill Williams, G.M. Williamson, E.M. Wilson, T.R. Wolfe, Paul Woodward.—HENRY T. ARMISTEAD, 28 E. Springfield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19118.

SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

The winter was somewhat typical of those of the past several, it being quite cold in midseason but rather mild at the beginning and end. December 1-18 was warmer than usual, but the start of the Christmas Bird Counts (hereafter, CBC) saw a sharp cooling trend. Not until late January did the temperatures moderate, and February was pleasantly mild. However, the period from January 10-14 was one of the coldest ever for the Region. During these five days, most of the Piedmont remained below freezing, and many lakes and ponds froze over. Atlanta, Georgia, had a high temperature of 13°F on January 10. Back-to-back snows hit the Region during this "deep freeze", and one or two other small snowstorms and icestorms also occurred. The winter was very wet, however, and an abundance of rainfall filled up many lakes that had been 10+ feet below normal.

This was the duller winter of birding in many years. Outstanding rarities just could not be found, and absolutely no one had an exciting season, though Fussell turned up a number of rare gulls at a landfill near Newport, North Carolina. The cold weather beginning December 19 did bring down a good supply of waterfowl for CBC birders, and winter finches were present in fairly large numbers for the second consecutive winter. The "deep freeze" undoubtedly took its toll on kinglets, warblers, some wrens, Eastern Phoebes, and perhaps many marsh dwellers, but otherwise there were plenty of mundane birds around.

S.A.

A large number of contributors noted a scarcity of birds at feeders that normally teem with them, especially when temperatures are sub-freezing. Many of the contributors were smart enough to correlate the scarcity with an abundant wild food crop. During a spring to fall growing season with moderate to heavy rainfall, plants are seldom under moisture stress, and tissue production is weighted heavily toward growth. However, during periods of low moisture (such as this Region's 18-month drought), plants may become stressed, thereby undergoing a shift in tissue production from growth to reproduction. As a result, the trees and shrubs (especially) produce more flowers and, consequently, more fruit than they would during a wetter growing season. The berry crop of Flowering Dogwoods, for example, was so abundant that the trees, usually stripped clean of berries by November, literally colored the forests red well into midwinter. Hollies, bays, and oaks were also mentioned as having exceptionally heavy berry and acorn production. Seed production by herbaceous plants, so important to birds such as sparrows, was probably high also, though data were not well documented. All in all, granivorous and frugivorous species of birds had such an abundance of food in the rural areas that there was little need to resort to feeders in towns for survival.

GREBES THROUGH WADERS—The only report of a Red-necked Grebe was at Oregon Inlet, N.C., Dec. 29 (DM). Horned Grebes were again quite scarce on most inland lakes, although Chapel Hill, N.C., had a record 15 on its CBC Dec. 27 (*vide* BW); numbers on coastal CBCs, at least in North Carolina, were noticeably increased over the miniscule populations of the past 2 winters. A very rare inland find was an Eared Grebe at Rocky Mount, N.C., Jan. 30-Feb. 2 (LF). White Pelicans have been seen frequently in the Region the past few years, and this season saw reports of single birds at Santee N.W.R., S.C., in November (ED *et al.*), in the Charleston, S.C., area all winter (DF *et al.*), at Eufaula N.W.R., Ga., Jan. 31 (D&PM) & Feb. 20 (FM), and at Southport, N.C., Feb. 6 (CF). Brown Pelicans were quite common this winter over most of the North Carolina coast, even as far n. as Collington and Nags Head (BH, *vide* EPO); most unusual inland were four at Washington, N.C., Feb. 13-16 (HS). Although Parnell noted that many immatures starved to death during the "deep freeze" in January, Fussell observed good numbers all winter farther n. in Carteret County.

Just one report of Great Cormorant was received—an immature at Huntington Beach S.P., S.C., Jan. 19 (CP, JH). Double-crested Cormorants are not usually common in January at Oregon Inlet; thus, surprising was an estimate of 28,000 there Jan. 9 (RD). Rare for inland



Georgia were cormorants at Sweetwater Creek S.P., near Atlanta Dec. 19 (D & PM), at Ben Hall L., near Dublin through Dec. 19 (TKP), and at Augusta (one Dec. 10 & 23 and two Feb. 23—AW, VW). Somewhat n. of the usual winter range were four Anhingas that spent the winter near Dublin (TKP), and one to two were noted through Dec. 26 at Augusta (AW, VW). A Green Heron was seen at a farm pond last winter near Pendleton, S.C.; presumably a heron at the pond Dec. 12 (HL) was the same individual. An Am. Bittern was rare near Atlanta Dec. 12 (JG), and especially notable was another at Jordan Res., e. Chatham Co., N.C., Feb. 6 (BW, MW, JP). Bitterns are not rare on some inland CBCs, but most apparently are early winter stragglers, as few are seen after early January.

WATERFOWL—A few Whistling Swans, as usual, strayed inland: in North Carolina one to two were near Burlington Dec. 12-Jan. 29 (AB), one at Whispering Pines Dec. 21-January (RoD), two at Raleigh during the last half of December (HL *et al.*), and 13 on the Roanoke Rapids CBC Dec. 27 (HL), and another was noted at Santee Ref., S.C., Feb. 28 (CP, EP *et al.*). An imm. White-fronted Goose spent the entire winter at Pea I., N.C. (m.ob.), and nine adults were detected at Santee Ref., Dec. 23 (MF). The first Ross' Goose ever for the Region away from Pea I., was one seen at the neighboring Bodie I lighthouse pond Dec. 30 (HA, WR *et al.*). A Ross' report from this area was well overdue. Puddle ducks rare inland in winter included Pintails in North Carolina near Burlington (AB) and Whispering Pines (JHC), in South Carolina near Townville (HL), and in Georgia near Dublin (first ever in January—TKP) and Atlanta (PB); Blue-winged Teal on the Jordan L., N.C., CBC Jan. 3 (RJ, *vide* BR); and N. Shoveler near Dublin Jan. 16 & Feb. 19 (TKP). Always exciting in the Region, a ♂ Eur. Wigeon was seen Dec. 29-30 at Bodie I., and two males were there the following day (DM, AB *et al.*).

Inland Greater Scaups, all from North Carolina, were two at Woodlake (formerly called L. Surf) near Vass Dec. 2 and one there Jan. 8 (THo), one at nearby Lakeview Jan. 2 (*vide* JHC), three near Fayetteville Jan. 14 (PJC), and four at Burlington Jan. 16 (AB). Lesser Scaups were quite abundant in the Augusta area, with 200 in town Dec. 1 and 500 at the nearby Savannah R. Plant, S.C., Dec. 19 (AW). A few Com. Goldeneyes and Com. Mergansers were detected inland, as expected, but numbers were small. The best inland record for diving ducks was a few White-winged Scoters on Par Pond at the Savannah R. Plant in early February; one bird was found dying (LB). For the first winter in recent memory, no one reported a Com. Eider, nor was there a sighting of the rarer Harlequin Duck. However, an imm. ♂ King Eider was noted on the Morehead City, N.C., CBC Dec. 20 (CM, WI), and a ♀ King was seen at Hatteras Inlet Dec. 31 (MT, HL, BL) and again Jan. 17 (JF *et al.*).

HAWKS THROUGH CRANES—An excellent find was a Goshawk seen near Raleigh Dec. 18-Jan. 28 (WG, *vide* GW); it took a rooster on one occasion. A Red-tailed Hawk of the Krider's race was identified at Goose Cr., near Charleston Dec. 10 (CP, JH); and three Rough-legged Hawks, about par for the season, were sighted (all in North Carolina) on the Durham CBC Dec. 20 (BW, MW), on the Jordan Lake CBC Jan. 3 (AC, MG), and near Fayetteville Feb. 22

(MEW) The only Golden Eagle reported was an immature seen by McCamey and his class at Eufaula N W R , Feb 20 I lost track of Bald Eagle reports, and surprisingly, except in South Carolina, the birds are being sighted more frequently inland than along the coast. The best inland count was three adults and an immature seen on the Bald Eagle Survey Day at Bartlett's Ferry and Goat Rock dams near Columbus, Ga., Jan. 9 (SP). An Osprey near Atlanta Feb. 13 (JST) might have been a very early migrant, and a Peregrine Falcon at Raleigh Jan. 6 (FI) was a good find away from the coast. Inland Merlins were noted at Jordan Res. (JK), Fayetteville (PJC), Dublin (TKP), Savannah R. Plant (AW, VW), and Six Mile, S.C. (DM). Moore suggested that Bobwhites may have been hit hard by the January freeze, and he found none through March in the Atlanta area. The species *does* seem to have been more difficult to find on CBCs during the past several years; however, as the species is quiet and clumped into coveys in winter, it seems best (and easiest) to determine population trends in the summer, with the help of Breeding Bird Survey data. Noteworthy Sandhill Cranes involved flocks migrating N through Georgia: 12 over Decatur on the early date of Feb. 25 (AA) and 48 somewhat to the w. of the narrow route through the state near Callaway Gardens Feb. 26 (JBo).

SHOREBIRDS — Three Am. Avocets were rare at the Altamaha N W R., Ga., Dec. 27 (AW, VW), as was a Semipalmated Plover inland at Eufaula Ref., Feb. 21 (FM). Although Wilson's Plovers occasionally linger through December along the coast, one near Beaufort, N.C., Feb. 6 (JW) might have been present all winter. A Whimbrel was seen at Cumberland I., Ga., Jan. 1 (HG, PB), and Patterson noted both species of yellowlegs inland at Dublin—a Greater Jan. 6 and a Lesser Dec. 29. Spotted Sandpipers winter in small numbers along the coast from n. South Carolina southward and sparingly in s. Georgia; thus notable were single birds at Augusta Dec 26 (AW, VW), at Hatteras, N.C., Jan. 10 (RD), and s.w. of Atlanta Feb. 21 (PB, LT, TM). Among good shorebird counts were 18 Short-billed Dowitchers at Eufaula Ref., Feb. 21 (FM) and as many as 100 Red Knots all winter in the Atlantic Beach, N.C., area (JF). A few Dunlins and Least Sandpipers were seen inland in December, as is customary, but nearly all had departed by the end of the month.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — As has been the case for most recent winters, jaegers were noted only in North Carolina: a Pomarine and two Parasitics on the Bodie-Pea I. CBC Dec. 30 (*vide* PS), a Parasitic on the Morehead City CBC Dec. 20 (LC), and eight unidentified jaegers at Pine Knoll Shores Dec. 4 (LC). It has become obvious that these jaegers do not regularly spend the entire winter along the Region's coastline (at least within sight of shore), but simply linger into early winter (December). Gulls were the major news of the otherwise forgettable season. A record CBC total for the Region was the three Glaucous Gulls on the Cape Hatteras count Dec. 31 (*vide* CPe), and Fussell *et al.*, had a Glaucous at a landfill near Newport, N C , Jan. 22-29. Two of the five Iceland Gulls for the winter were at the Newport landfill—an adult Jan. 22 & Feb. 13 (JF, WI, FI) and an immature Jan. 23-26 (JF *et al.*); the others were an immature at Hatteras Dec. 31 (HA, DM), and immature at a landfill in New Hanover County, N.C., in January (GM, JFP), and an adult at Morehead City Feb. 8 that may have been the Newport bird (JF). Lesser Black-backed Gull records have multiplied to the point that just a summary is warranted: this season there were four between Hatteras Inlet and Cape Hatteras point (MT, JF *et al.*), four at the Newport landfill (JF *et al.*; * N.C.S.M.), and singles at Wanchese, N C (JF *et al.*), New Hanover County landfill (GM), and Pawleys I., S C (*vide* DF).

The 5 days of below freezing temperatures in mid-January caused a major fish kill on inland lakes, and Ring-billed Gulls were drawn to the lakes in absolutely unprecedented numbers. From mid-January through February *five to ten* times the usual numbers of gulls were present. Over 2000 were in the Augusta area in January (AW), a similar number was near Durham, N.C., Feb. 20 (JL), 1000 were at Beaverdam Res., n. of Raleigh Jan. 31 (RD, BW), and 400 were at Clemson, S.C., after the freeze (AAv, HL). With the Ring-billeds were the usual proportion (5-10%) of Herring Gulls; excellent counts were of 80 at Beaverdam Res., Jan. 31 (RD), 50+ at Kerr Scott Res., N C , Feb. 14 (TH), and 15 in the Atlanta area Jan. 20-25 (PB, DB). The other "inland" gull, the Bonaparte's, did not take part in the feast on dead fish, and the species was detected in normal (small) numbers on the lakes. An exciting find was an ad. Black-headed Gull at the

Newport landfill Jan 23-27 (JHa, GM, JF), and Fussell also was present at Cape Hatteras point Feb 13 to discover an ad Little Gull (JF, RD, AB). A Gull-billed Tern was extremely late at a pond at McClellanville, S.C., Jan. 5 (JS).

A Forster's Tern was presumably a late migrant in Laurens County, Ga., Dec. 2 (TKP), and the typically late departing Sandwich Tern was seen in the Beaufort Inlet, N.C., area, five on Dec. 4 (JF) and two the following day (RJH). The only pelagic trip during the winter, in conjunction with the Cape Hatteras CBC Dec. 31, was responsible for the only Black-legged Kittiwake and alcid sightings (CPe); the alcid was a Razorbill or murre.

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Moncks Corner, S.C., Dec. 6 (CP) was at least 6 weeks late in departing the Region. Inland birders have discovered that Short-eared Owls inhabit the weedy, empty lakebeds of future reservoirs. Not surprisingly, five owls were seen on the Durham CBC Dec. 20 (JM, OM, *vide* MS) in the lakebed of Falls of the Neuse Res. The owls were again noted at nearby Jordan Res., now half full; the Jordan Lake and Chapel Hill counts tallied three and five birds, respectively. Other inland Short-eareds were near St. Matthews, S.C. (no date—JB, SC) and Roanoke Rapids, N.C., Dec. 27 (LP). A Saw-whet Owl was seen near Frisco, N.C., Dec. 31 (ML, JF); and the easily-overlooked Whip-poor-will was flushed twice—near Long L., Craven Co., N.C., Dec. 23 (RH) and at Aiken S.P., S.C., Dec. 24 (AW, VW, CB). These latter 2 locales are somewhat to the n. of the goatsucker's usual winter range.

The sole hummingbird report was a \emptyset *Archilochus*, with no trace of rusty coloration, seen regularly in a Beaufort, N.C., yard until Dec 18 (SPO). Red-haired Woodpeckers, normally uncommon at most places in winter, were quite numerous at many localities. For example, Roanoke Rapids generally averages one or two per CBC, but this season three observers each tallied 10+ birds (*vide* ML). Birders on the Southern Pines, N.C., CBC on Jan. 2 apparently wanted to make it clear to everyone that the town is the Red-cockaded Woodpecker capital of the world: a special effort yielded a record 66 birds (*vide* JHC). This total should not mislead the reader into thinking that this federally endangered species is doing well; in most parts of the range habitat continues to dwindle.

SWALLOWS THROUGH VIREOS — A big influx of Tree Swallows was noted in coastal Carteret County after the January freeze. Fussell observed as many as 5000 in the area in late January and February. Presumably owing to the mild February weather, Purple Martins arrived on their nesting grounds at least a week early: at Atlanta by Feb. 13 (*vide* TM), at Rockingham, N.C., by "mid-February" (*vide* DM), and at Durham by Feb. 18 (PG). Fish Crows again wintered in the Townville area of L. Hartwell, S.C. (HL); the peak count was four Feb. 6. The birds were feeding with Com. Crows in plowed fields and pastures, most unusual habits and habitats for the Piedmont. In fact, this is the only site in the Piedmont where Fish Crows are known to winter regularly. Although Am. Robins were very abundant this winter at Winston-Salem, N.C. (200,000 estimated in the area—RS), the species drew little comment elsewhere. Did robins winter in greater numbers to the n. of the Region, assuming an abundance of berries there? A lingering Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was noted near Beaverdam Res., Dec. 5 (RD). Two White-eyed Vireos were noteworthy Dec. 31 on the Cape Hatteras CBC (PS, TH). Somewhat closer to the edge of the range were single White-eyes in s.e. Carteret County Jan. 30 (TH, KK) and at Santee N.W.R., Feb. 28 (CP, EP *et al.*).

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS — Despite a warmer-than-normal period leading up to the CBCs, few warblers of note lingered into the winter season (perhaps owing to a cool November). A Prairie Warbler in Morehead City Jan. 6 was a very rare, although not really unexpected, winter sighting for that area (JF). A Palm Warbler at Raleigh Jan. 11 (TK) and 12 at Jordan Res., Jan. 30 (BW, SG *et al.*) were notable for that month. The only truly exciting winter warbler record (reaching my desk) was of an Ovenbird at Frisco, N.C., Dec. 31 (TH), just a few miles from the site where one was seen last winter. Northern Orioles away from their usual range were noted at Pea I., Dec. 30 (GP) and at College Park, Ga., Jan. 6 (D & PM). In many towns where orioles winter regularly, observers complained of a scarcity of the birds at their feeders, undoubtedly in part because of the wild food available to them. I know of 2 counts that missed orioles because the birders who usually feed them neglected to do so this

December owing to the trouble and expense of putting out apples, oranges, cornbread, and the like! Several Brewer's Blackbirds were reported, but the only one not "out of habitat" was a female with a flock of Rusty Blackbirds at a golf course at Atlanta Feb. 21 (PB). Don't Brewer's winter in cow pastures and feedlots anymore? Are they so regular in Georgia that birders in that state no longer report them? Western Tanagers were noted a gratifying 3 times: at Frisco Dec. 31 (TH), at a Fayetteville feeder Jan. 12-early February (RC, HR, PJC), and at Brookgreen Gardens in Georgetown Co., S.C., Jan. 30-31 (JB, LG, GMcC). The best feeder bird of the season was the \emptyset **Summer Tanager** at a Clemson feeder Jan. 9-24 (M & CP); Hamel and LeGrand saw the bird and heard it call Jan. 18. This is the first winter record for the state away from the coastal counties.

FINCHES — Last winter saw sightings of Black-headed and Blue grosbeaks, and Lazuli, Indigo, and Painted buntings. This winter saw only a \emptyset Painted Bunting at the McClellanville CBC Dec. 20 (TR). Evening Grosbeaks were present in moderately good numbers over parts of the Region. They were fairly common to common in c. North Carolina s. to Sumter, S.C., and fairly common over much of the former state's Coastal Plain. Grosbeaks were quite uncommon over most of Georgia and South Carolina. Purple Finches were surprisingly scarce, being fairly common at best in most counties. House Finch numbers, for this winter at least, seem to be leveling off in most places, with few localities reporting significantly increased populations over those of last year. Good counts from towns near the margin of the winter range were seasonal peaks of 30 at Morehead City (JF), 15 at Whispering Pines, Moore Co., N.C. (CT), and 24 at Augusta (CB). The rarest winter finch to appear was the Com. Redpoll, and it was sighted only in the North Carolina Piedmont: in a weedy field Dec. 27 on the Chapel Hill CBC (DT), at a Durham feeder Jan. 25-26 (OM, PM *et al.*), and at a Raleigh feeder Jan. 26-27 (FI). Numbers of Pine Siskins topped those of Evening Grosbeaks, although surprisingly the pattern of abundance was quite different from that of the latter. Whereas grosbeaks were scarce in Georgia and the w. portions of the Carolinas, siskins were common over most of the Region's Piedmont, especially at Atlanta and Winston-Salem (cities where grosbeaks were uncommon). Still another winter passed without a Red Crossbill flight, although crossbills were spotted at least 3 times—three on the Raleigh CBC Dec. 19 (*vide* RJH), one photographed at a Roanoke Rapids feeder in December (*vide* ML), and one seen and heard at Six Mile, S.C., Feb. 23 (DM).

A Grasshopper Sparrow was observed Dec. 16 & 22 near Morehead City (JF), a town that lies somewhere near the n.e. edge of the poorly-defined winter range. Bachman's Sparrows appear to winter regularly as far n. as the North Carolina Sandhills. Carter and Howard saw two in w. Ft. Bragg Jan. 2, and Crutchfield saw two more

in the n.e. portion of that military base Jan. 11. As this sparrow breeds on the base, the birds seen in winter were presumably present during the summer. Continuing a trend set in recent years, the only Tree Sparrow report was from n. North Carolina—a feeder bird near Raleigh Jan. 15-16 (DL). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** seen on the Atlanta CBC Dec. 20 (FM) provided apparently Georgia's second winter record. Although the rump color was not seen, other field marks were convincing. This Clay-colored was seen with a flock of Chipping Sparrows. On the 5 or 6 occasions I have seen them in the Carolinas, including twice in winter, Clay-colored birds have been with flocks of Field Sparrows. Their calls, body shape (longish tail), and behavior patterns suggest Fields and not Chippings. In other words, descriptions of this rarity should include more than just the pattern of stripes or streaks on the head. A Lincoln's Sparrow in Nugent's yard at Charleston Feb. 17-Mar. 2 was the only one reported for the season. Lapland Longspurs were found at their usual haunts near Roanoke Rapids and Townville; at the latter locality the winter peak was nine Dec. 6 (HL, SAG). McNair saw two Dec. 20 at the Laurinburg, N.C., airfield, a new site for the species. After a banner winter in 1980-81, Snow Bunting numbers returned to normal (very low) levels, as the sole report was of two at Cape I., S.C., Dec. 20 (PO, JS).

OBSERVERS — Harry Armistead, Anselm Atkins, Alan Avakian (AAV), Jimmy Beatty, Clarence Belger, Judy Bolyard (JBo), Lehr Brisbin, Donna Brisse, Patrick Brisse, Allen Bryan, Angelo Capparella, J.H. Carter III, Ruth Chesnutt, Steve Compton, Larry Crawford, P.J. Crutchfield, Evelyn Dabbs, Ricky Davis, Roberta Davis (RoD), Mitch Feller, Lou Fink, Dennis Forsythe, Charles Fox, John Fussell, Hugh Garrett, S.A. Gauthreaux, Lex Glover, Michael Godfrey, Steve Graves, Joe Greenberg, Walton Gregory, Perry Guthrie, R.J. Hader, Tom Haggerty, Paul Hamel, John Hardwick (JHa), Julia Hill, Robert Holmes, Brian Horsley, Tom Howard (THo), Fran Irvin, Wayne Irvin, Ross Jervis, Jim Keighton, Tess Klose, Ken Knapp, Dave Lee, Harry LeGrand, Bob Lewis, Joe Lockwood, Merrill Lynch, Chris Marsh, Greg Massey, Frank McCamey, Dennie and Pat McClure, Jim McConnell, Owen McConnell, Pat McConnell, George McCoy (GMcC), Terry Moore, North Carolina State Museum, Perry Nugent, Paul Opler, Merrill & Charlotte Palmer, J.F. Parnell, Sam Pate, T.K. Patterson, Johnnie Payne, Lance Peacock, Grayson Pearce, Carl Perry (CPe), Cheryl Phillips, Eddie Phillips, Eloise Potter (EPo), Stanley Potter (SPo), Henry Rankin Jr., Tom Reeves, Barbara Roth, Will Russell, Mike Schultz, Jay Shuler, Ramona Snavely, Hugh Sterling, Jay Stolar (JSt), Paul Sykes, Don Tarbet, Lydia Thompson, Mike Tove, Carol Turner, Bill Wagner, Margaret Wagner, Jeff Walters, Anne Waters, Vernon Waters, Gail Whitehurst, M.E. Whitfield.—**HARRY E. LeGRAND, JR., Department of Zoology, Clemson University, Clemson, S.C. 29631.**

FLORIDA REGION

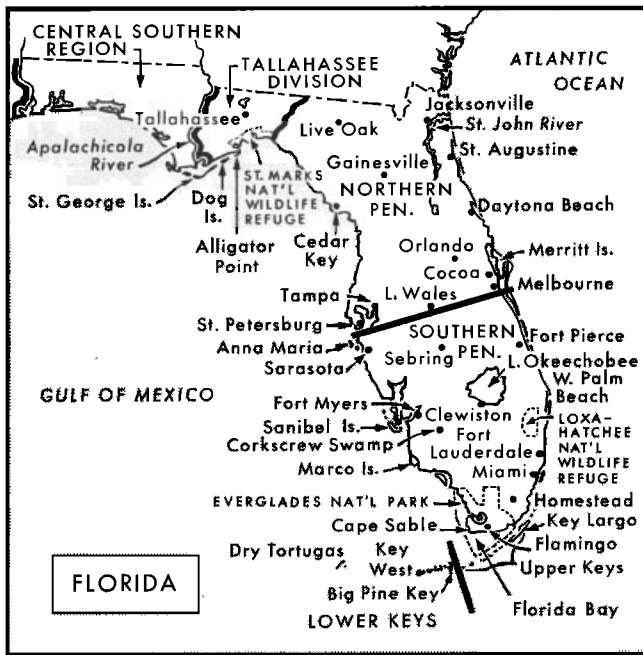
/Henry M. Stevenson

Variability best characterizes the winter of 1981-82 in Florida. Most stations had small deficits in average temperature in December and January, and probably all had large excesses in February. From the standpoint of vegetation and probably some insects and birds, however, a single thrust of arctic air was the critical event. Much of north Florida had subfreezing temperatures for about 36 consecutive hours January 10-12, the minima at Tallahassee being 15° on the 11th and 14° on the 12th. On the same two mornings Orlando, in the heart of the citrus belt, had hard freezes, and the freeze on the 12th reached as far south as Fort Myers and doubtless farther inland. It seems likely that many insects surviving the cold of December may have succumbed to this much colder period and placed insectivorous birds under stress. An abundant crop of wild fruit in north Florida, however, may have been the salvation of many birds. The other meteorological event was the progressive drought. Most stations had deficient rainfall from April through December, and some lakes in north Florida, at least, were at their lowest levels in several years.

MORE POPULATION DECLINES — The paucity of many species was so striking and so generally agreed upon this winter that it

seems desirable to document it more fully than usual. The sources of comparative data this time are threefold: (1) The monthly summaries of abundance based on repetitive trips by four observers in December and January compared with similar data taken 1946-81. These are subdivided into data in inland Leon County and the coastal counties (Wakulla, Franklin). Species that occur regularly in those months and in both subregions may accumulate a total of four points if they are appreciably below their longterm averages for those months. (2) Gail Menk had made four-day counts in Leon County over routes mostly different from those above for the last four Decembers. Another point is given to species whose frequencies (birds per hour) were lower in his 1981 count than in any previous ones. (3) The St. Marks Christmas Bird Count (hereafter, CBC) included many areas not covered in the surveys mentioned above. Whenever a species' number on this winter's CBC was appreciably lower than the average for that species on CBCs from 1975 through 1980, another point was given. No points were given in any instance when a species was close to a previous norm or when its normal abundance was too low for valid comparison. Thus a maximum of six points is available for species seen regularly in winter, or only three points for those restricted to the coast.

The results of this summation fully confirmed what most observers had suspected. There were 57 species with at least four "low" points versus 14 with as many as four highs. "Small" land birds (doves to



sparrows, omitting owls) had an even more disparate ratio of 39 with four or more low points and only seven with that many high points. Changes of coverage in the monthly summaries beginning in 1975 may account for as many as 14 of the total of 71 major changes of abundance, and these are about equally divided between the above-normal and the below-normal species. With the omission of these 14 species, those with a 6:0 ratio of lows to highs were: Canada Goose, Common Flicker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Phoebe, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cardinal and Rufous-sided Towhee. Low on five counts (some with no highs) were: Horned Grebe, Snow Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, American Coot, Least Sandpiper, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Tree Swallow, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Palm Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Purple Finch, Dark-eyed Junco and White-throated Sparrow. Species with four lows and no highs were: Louisiana Heron, Hairy Woodpecker, Gray Catbird, Golden-crowned Kinglet and Loggerhead Shrike. Finally, several primarily coastal species registered three lows and no highs: Common Goldeneye, Clapper Rail, Black-bellied Plover, Western Sandpiper, Sanderling and Royal Tern. If any species in the above lists represent vagaries of chance, I hasten to add my conviction that most of the omitted species with 4:1 and 4:2 ratios on the low side were truly reduced this winter.

Opinions of contributors elsewhere in the Region, whether subjectively or objectively based, were also virtually unanimous in their conviction that many species were much reduced, often including species listed above. The Stedmans, at Anna Maria Key, banded only eight Yellow-rumped Warblers, no American Goldfinches and no American Robins this winter; the respective totals in 1980-81 had been 400+, 59, and 101. Malcolm Simons cited as reduced around Fort Myers the Blue Jay, Brown Thrasher, White-eyed and Solitary vireos and Black-and-white and Yellow-throated warblers. Bobby Crawford and others he talked with in north Florida and south Georgia also remarked on the scarcity of small land birds. Hames wrote that "all land birds were scarce in the Keys. . ." Repenning reported from the Gainesville area that "wintering birds in general are in low numbers this year."

It is much easier to learn *that* many species declined since last year than to learn *why* they did so. I can think of no single causative factor, but a number of conditions may have acted cumulatively. All of the last six winters (December-February 1975-81) were colder than average and must have reduced the numbers of some insectivorous species. Habitat losses, especially within the breeding ranges, are progressive and critical. The role of insecticides is doubtless still important, despite the banning of DDT. Richard Paul believes that the failure of the *Schinus* crop (berries) following the freeze of January 1981 may have accounted for the scarcity of American Robins in

those parts of peninsular Florida where that tree grows. As Crawford pointed out, the scarcity of birds at feeders may have been exacerbated by the abundance of the wild-fruit supply and the lack of a major irruption of Cardueline finches. But one question remains: Why was the decline so precipitous *this* year? For that I have no answer.

LOONS, GREBES AND PELECANIFORMS — Four Common Loons were 22 mi offshore of Cape Canaveral Feb. 15 (JJ). An Eared Grebe inhabited L. Jackson Dec. 13 (BA, LA & DY) & 19 (GM) another was at the Clear Springs Phosphate Mine, Polk Co., Feb. 21 (CG & R. Geanangel). Another inland Brown Pelican was at L. Underhill Jan. 4 (W. Freeman), and Powell reported them now common 20 mi up the St. Johns R. Large numbers of Gannets were off Cape Canaveral—2800 Jan. 9 and 3000 Feb. 14 (JJ), probably the largest concentrations ever recorded in Florida. Single Great Cormorants were found at L. Jackson Dec. 13 (RC & GM) and Ponce Inlet Dec. 19 (RH). Two Anhingas were rare visitors to the Keys at Boca Chica Feb. 24 (R&VS).

HERONS THROUGH FLAMINGOS — Northerly winter records of single "Great White" Herons came from Sarasota Bay December-February (RP) and Turtle Mound, Volusia Co., Jan. 25 (L. Breen). A N flight of 90 Great Egrets at Tallahassee Jan. 1 (GM) was enigmatic as it was deemed too early for migration yet no nearby roost was known. Two Cattle Egrets in n. Leon County Dec. 22 and one at L. Jackson Feb. 21 (GM) were unusual, but the second one may have been a very early spring arrival. A Wood Stork was late near St. Marks Light Dec. 9 (HMS). An Am. Flamingo was in upper Florida Bay Feb. 21 (C. Woolf).

WATERFOWL — Three White-fronted Geese remained at L. Harney, Seminole Co., Feb. 6-14 (DF, CT *et al.*), and two were on Paynes Prairie Jan. 31 (RR). A Snow Goose strayed S to Rookery Bay, Collier Co., Jan. 5 (TB) & 8 ("BY"). Myakka River S.P., had a Eur. Wigeon and a Cinnamon Teal Dec. 22 (LA, H&WD *et al.*). The Common Eider reported at Naples in November was still there in mid-January (ph. to T.T.), and another at Big Marco Pass ("much lighter breast") Jan. 10 became the second acceptable record for Florida's Gulf Coast (TB). Oldsquaws were evidently more numerous than usual: one at Merritt Island N.W.R., Feb. 6-20 (BM, CT), two at Port Canaveral Feb. 21 (E. & J. Fishman), one at Ward's Bank, Duval Co., Feb. 21 (JW, m.ob.), one at Ft. Clinch S.P., Feb. 7-21 (HK, JW *et al.*), and one at St. Marks Light (FS). White-winged Scoters were identified at Ponce Inlet, one Jan. 16 (TR), Merritt Island N.W.R., two Feb. 12 (HK, P&FB) and eight Mar. 3 (RL), and n. Banana R., five Feb. 9 (RL). Surf and Black scoters were too abundant on the Atlantic Coast to detail, but scoters generally were few on the Gulf side. At Melbourne 208 Blacks and 11 Surfs were counted Jan. 17 (HL, WM & TT), and as many as 200 Blacks between St. Augustine and Fernandina Beach. Smaller numbers of Surf Scoters were at Holly Hill, Volusia Co., Merritt Island N.W.R., Port Canaveral, and from St. Augustine to Duval County, and a few Black Scoters were at Merritt Island N.W.R., and New Smyrna Beach. Six Hooded Mergansers on Cudjoe Key Dec. 15 (BS & MB) may be the largest number recorded in the Lower Keys. A Com. Merganser was at Cocoa Jan. 26 (R. Brown) and 31 (HL), and up to 11 Red-breasted Mergansers remained *throughout* winter on inland L. Placid (FL).

FALCONIFORMS — Two concentrations of about 1000 Turkey Vultures were reported—one at a fish kill in Winter Haven Dec. 6 (PF) and in a late migration on the Lower Keys Dec. 12 (H. Darrow). A surprisingly high count of 40+ Everglade Kites off the Tamiami Trail, Collier Co., was made Feb. 13 (A. Sanborn *et al.*), and a single imm. White-tailed Kite appeared on the Merritt Island N.W.R., Dec. 4 (B. Payne & B. King). Usually rare on the Keys, Red-tailed Hawks numbered 1-4 on the "middle keys" Dec. 3-Jan. 16 (MB). Single Swainson's Hawks were in E.N.P., Jan. 22 (MR) and on the Lower Keys Dec. 3-Jan. 5 (MB), and a Broad-winged Hawk was unusually far n. at Orlando Dec. 20 (K. Dowling). Rare on the Lower Keys in recent years, a Short-tailed Hawk was identified on Big Pine Key Jan. 17 (BS). Two other rarities were a Rough-legged Hawk at Wellington, Palm Beach Co., Jan. 15 (R. Plockelman) and a Golden Eagle near St. Cloud Dec. 30 (HL & TT). A concentration of 16 Bald Eagles at L. Harney Feb. 6 (DF & CT) included 13 immatures, three birds at L. Jackson (GM) were also encouraging. Wintering of Ospreys in Leon County was finally documented this year with single birds at L. Talquin Dec. 21 (GM) and L. Jackson Dec. 30 and three Jan. 16 (GM)

Another was flying over Tallahassee Jan 21 (F & B Stoutamire) A Peregrine Falcon wintered at Hillsborough Bay (RP), and a Caracara was a bit far n. at the Tosohatchee State Preserve, Orange Co., Jan. 23 (CT, TR *et al.*).

CRANES AND GALLINULES — A Sandhill Crane flying over in n w. Wakulla County Dec. 6 (RC) was probably a late migrant, but the status of one that remained at L. Jackson Dec. 13-27 (RC, GM) was less certain. An all-time high for winter was an estimate of 50 Purple Gallinules at the Loxahatchee N.W.R., Jan. 23 (PS, WG & BH).

S.A

A "Caribbean" Coot has remained at Tallahassee throughout the period (m.ob.) and one at Tampa since Jan. 29 (LA, RP *et al.*). The rash of sightings of such coots spreading ever N and W in the United States, to the delight of listers, presents some perplexing problems. The Tallahassee bird (like others, according to informants) soon began to associate with another (female?) coot and established a territory covering about one-tenth of the lake, often driving away other coots. Are we to assume that this seeming pair bond is to be ruptured when the bird with the bulbous shield betakes himself on a Caribbean cruise and his partner ventures N? Is that type of behavior exhibited by any other species of bird? Although space here does not permit presentation of a detailed alternative view, I recommend that objective birders carefully read Gordon Gullion's discussion of variations in the frontal shield of Am. Coots (*Wilson Bull.* 63:157-166). Is it possible that a few old males among this population have stepped up their output of testosterone?

SHOREBIRDS — A large group of Am. Oystercatchers was estimated at 50 in s.e. Hillsborough Bay Feb. 10 (RP). Two record-breaking midwinter counts for Leon County were five Black-bellied Plovers at L. Jackson Dec. 19 and 21 Lesser Yellowlegs at the Tallahassee sewage plant Dec. 28 (GM). Locally rare were two Solitary Sandpipers at the Loxahatchee N.W.R., Feb. 13 (HL, GH *et al.*), a Red Knot at Ft. Pierce Inlet Jan. 24 (JB), and the following Am. Avocets: St. Marks Light December-January (m.ob.), Payne's Prairie November-early January (J. Hintermister), and Cedar Key Jan. 21 (BM). A Black-necked Stilt at Key West Feb. 25 (R & VS), in the absence of winter records there, was likely a very early migrant.

JAEGERS, GULLS AND TERNS — Onshore sightings of Pomarine Jaegers included three at Cape Canaveral Nat'l Seashore Feb. 13 (P & FB), one at Wards Bank, Duval Co., Feb. 14 (JW), and one at Fernandina Beach Feb. 15 (JW). A Glaucous Gull was 10 mi off Cape Canaveral Feb. 24 (JJ); one each was reported from Ft. Pierce Inlet Jan. 25 (JB), St. Augustine Dec. 28 (B. Obst), and Fernandina Beach Feb. 15 & 21 (JW). Great Black-backed Gulls are now common on the upper e. coast; 100 were estimated at Port Canaveral in late February (JJ) and 20-30 at Ft. Pierce (H & WD); more remarkable was a report of ca. 10 at inland L. Harney (TR & CT). Elsewhere they were reported at St. Augustine, Fernandina Beach, Naples and St. Petersburg's Toytown landfill. Toytown again had a **Thayer's Gull** Dec. 29-31 (LA, DY *et al.*; ph. to T.T.) and up to eight Lesser Black-backed Gulls (LA, S. Patton *et al.*). The latter species also continues to increase, with single birds seen this year at St. Augustine, Ft. Pierce Inlet, upper Florida Bay, and Sanibel I. Inland Laughing Gulls were at L. Placid, Highlands Co., six Dec. 8 and one remaining to the 14th (FL). The same lake had as many as 150 Bonaparte's Gulls this winter (FL *et al.*) and 80 Forster's Terns in early January (FL). A wintering Least Tern was seen at Marco R. (loc.?) Feb. 17 (TB), and a Royal Tern visited L. Placid Jan. 10 (FL). A Black Tern, accidental in winter, was at L. Alfred Dec. 12 (P. Timmer).

PARAKEETS, CUCKOOS AND ANIS — Lakeland became one of the growing number of localities where the Black-hooded Parakeet has appeared, as flocks of up to five in number appeared there Nov. 19-February (K. Rousch, m.ob.). Long considered only a summer resident in Florida, the Mangrove Cuckoo now winters regularly in small numbers, but Resch saw three at one time at Flamingo Jan. 22. Another Smooth-billed Ani reached the w. coast at Casey Key Dec. 29 (Stedmans).

OWLS AND NIGHTHARS — A Screech Owl Larcombe saw at

the Key West golf course (= Stock I ?) Dec 6 was probably the first ever recorded farther out than Big Pine Key The only Short-eared Owl reported was at Alafia Bank, Hillsborough Co., Jan. 6-Feb 21 (RP, R. Bantz). A Com. Nighthawk, rare in winter, was well seen at Port Charlotte Jan. 18 (M. Simons). Perhaps less well seen was a nighthawk in Key West Dec. 6, but it "appeared . . . smallish and the bar on wing seemed near the tip. A Lesser?" (P. & R. May).

SWIFTS AND FLYCATCHERS — **Vaux's Swifts** again roosted in the large chimney at the Florida State Univ. power plant, Tallahassee; at least 16 were counted at one time, Dec. 19-late February (GM, HMS *et al.*). Although E. Kingbirds are sometimes reported (*e g* , on CBCs), few winter records are convincing; an exception was one at Juno Beach Feb. 20 (P & FB). Unusual locations for wintering Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were Port Canaveral Feb. 6 (M. Trafton *et al.*) and near L. Placid Jan. 10 (GW, C. Winegarner *et al.*). In a group where identification by sound may be more important than by sight, the following records were based on *both* criteria: Wied's Crested Flycatcher in E.N.P., Dec. 17 (LA, P. Lanzillotti) and 21 (H & WD), and Least Flycatchers at 4 localities in s. Florida January-February (HL, GH *et al.*). E.N.P. also had a Vermilion Flycatcher Dec 21 (H & WD) & Jan. 22 (MR).

SWALLOWS, MAGPIES AND CROWS — The first winter records of Barn Swallows in Leon County were at the Tallahassee sewage ponds, one Dec. 21 and two moribund birds Jan. 9 (GM) A Purple Martin in East-point Jan. 4 (J. Stevenson) may have attempted wintering, but an early arrival was at L. Lafayette, Leon Co., Jan 28 (HMS). Paul counted about 22,400 Fish Crows going to roost at Alafia Bank Feb. 13.

KINGLETS, PIPITS AND BANANAQUIT — A Golden-crowned Kinglet was s. of its usual range at Orlando Jan. 10 (HK) Menk's estimate of 150-200 Water Pipits at the Tallahassee sewage ponds Jan. 13 was the largest number recorded in several years A Sprague's Pipit was flushed on the St. George I. causeway Dec 22 (HMS & S. Cole). Two Bananaquits appeared in Palm Beach Dec 26 (J. Arnold, HL, m.ob.).

WARBLERS — A true rarity was a Blue-winged Warbler at E.N.P., Jan. 1 (HL, TT *et al.*), and the Stedmans banded an exceptionally late Tennessee Warbler on Casey Key Dec. 17. Pittell and Karch had the good fortune of seeing two Worm-eating Warblers, a Magnolia Warbler, and a Yellow-breasted Chat in E.N.P., Feb 6 A Black-throated Gray Warbler was at an unspecified locality on the Keys Jan. 1 and Feb. 15 (S. Sprunt), and a Prairie Warbler wintered as far n. as Jacksonville Jan. 12-Feb. 1 (V. Markgraf). Other rare finds in winter were single Wilson's Warblers at Jacksonville Dec. 3-Feb 1 (J. Cocke) and Key West Jan. 1 (FH & BS) and a Yellow-breasted Chat at Wellington Jan. 16 (PS & BH).

ICTERIDS — A Yellow-headed Blackbird wintered at Orlando (CT *et al.*), and a Brewer's Blackbird was at the Lantana dump Feb 6 (HL & GH). Northern Orioles, including at least two *bullocki*, built up to seven birds at the Stoutamires' feeders in Tallahassee, and Menk found a very large flock of 300 Rusty Blackbirds in n Leon County Dec. 19. Boat-tailed Grackles remained throughout the winter at L. Jackson, perhaps for the first time in Leon County, a collected male proved to be an example of *westoni* (GM, HMS) Very rare for the Lower Keys were three Brown-headed Cowbirds Feb 13 (MB & L. Kitching).

FINCHES, BUNTINGS AND SPARROWS — Although Purple Finches were scarce, n. Florida had large numbers of Am Goldfinches and fair numbers of Pine Siskins. About 20 siskins came to a Tallahassee feeder and others were recorded throughout winter (HMS *et al.*), but the only other report was of six at Jacksonville Jan 28 (J. Hyatt). The only Dickcissel reported was at Delray Beach Jan 22 (BH), and a Painted Bunting was unusually far n. at Gainesville Jan. 21 (B. Kemal). A Le Conte's Sparrow was far s. at Wellington Jan. 24-Feb. 14 (HL, TT & A. Liberman), as were single Field Sparrows at Archbold Biological Station, Highlands Co., Jan 12 (GW), Delray Beach Jan. 22 (BH), and at the Flying Cow Ranch Road (loc.?) Feb. 8 (HL & GH). Two White-crowned Sparrows were found w. of Delray Beach Jan. 26 (HL *et al.*), two Lincoln's Sparrows at Wellington Feb. 4 & 6 (BH, HL, GH *et al.*) and one at Forest City

(loc ?) Jan 2-Feb 21 (CT, DF *et al.*) A Snow Bunting at Anastasia I., Dec 28, was about as far S as the species has been found in Florida (HL, TT & W. Matthews).

CORRIGENDA — The Masked Duck at Loxahatchee N.W.R. (AB 35:293) was found by C. Plockelman; C. Kilmer was not among the observers. The Sooty Shearwater reported on June 7 (AB 35:932) was seen instead on July 24.

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ONTARIO REGION

/Ron D. Weir

The season opened with mild weather over most of Ontario, but by mid-December cold had set in. By the first week of January, very cold conditions gripped the province driving to warmer climes most lingering herons, waterfowl, gulls and many passerines. The severe cold continued unabated into mid-February when a warming trend was felt for only a few days before the cold set in again. Lake Erie froze completely as did the eastern end of Lake Ontario from Prince Edward County across to New York. These conditions were in sharp contrast to late winter of 1981. Snowfall reached record amounts in Sudbury and Algonquin Provincial Park (hereafter, A.P.P.) and elsewhere was above average.

A scarcity of wild seeds and fruits mentioned in various reports is probably responsible for the disappearance as winter progressed of winter finches, which staged a strong flight last autumn, the absence of Red-breasted Nuthatch and the sharply lower numbers of jays and chickadees. Heavy snow in January covered much of the good crop of weed seeds so that redpolls, Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs were forced to feeders.

The extent of winter mortality among passerines is difficult to assess overall, but the field reports show that the cold took its toll. In the Southwest, there was mortality among crow, kinglets, Cardinal, Swamp and Song sparrows and, elsewhere in the province, among rails, Yellow-rumped Warbler and House Sparrow. Away from the extreme Southwest, blackbirds, robin and White-throated Sparrow were virtually nonexistent, but whether abnormal mortality occurred is unknown. Numbers of pheasant and Bobwhite were lower and Mourning Doves declined in the latter half of the period. Raptor mortality is more readily assessed as their carcasses are more readily found. On Amherst Island, a Short-eared, Long-eared and two Saw-whet owls were found dead in February as was an immature Red-shouldered Hawk and kestrel at Pelee and a Red-tailed in Toronto. Three reports of Screech Owls coming down chimneys, also noted last winter, suggest their searching for warm shelter, sometimes only to end in tragedy. Another was brought to the Owl Rehabilitation Research Foundation in a starving condition. Some 25 owls from Ontario were taken there in the period, suffering from their various experiences, *viz.*, caught in hardware between cars of a train (Great Horned), covered in heavy oil (Snowy), snagged in arboreal kite string (Long-eared) and shot (several). Fourteen have been rehabilitated for release (KM)!! The stress caused by the intense cold is further exemplified by the Virginia Rail at a feeder in Amherstburg and the Red-headed Woodpecker in a chimney at Rondeau.

Red-bellied Woodpeckers irrupted in what appears to be record numbers. Bohemian Waxwings echoed their record flight in 1980-81. Northern Shrikes were in good numbers in all areas where redpolls were present and redpolls were everywhere. Rarities adding spice to the season included Ontario's first Golden-crowned Sparrow.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — Late Com. Loons included a single at Prince Edward Pt. (hereafter, P.E.Pt.) Dec. 19 (K.F.N.) and two at Wiarton Jan. 6 (JJ). Four Red-throateds were at Kettle Pt., Dec. 5 (PP *et al.*) and two at Rondeau Dec. 20 (PAW). A late Double-crested Cormorant on the St. Clair R., Jan. 15-22 was only the second ever in January there. Six Great Blue Herons were reported after Jan. 15—at Kingston Jan. 17 (RG) for their latest ever, Barrie Jan. 19 (E & CJM), Ft. Erie Jan. 27 (RLS) and Pinery P.P., Feb. 15 (TC). A Green Heron at Richmond Hill Dec. 5-6 (HR) was late as were two Black-



crowned Night Herons at Niagara Falls Jan. 3 (HHA *et al.*). The only Am. Bittern reported was one at St. Clair N.W.A., Jan. 2 (*vide* GBM)

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — Whistling Swans moved S just ahead of the freeze with 30 at Atikokan Dec. 3 (SP), 119 and 25 at Pelee Dec. 5 & 17 respectively (*vide* AW), 46 at River Canard Dec. 15 (BE). The first spring migrants were 30 at Kingsville Feb. 20 (LF) Canada Geese quit most areas by Jan. 3, but 80 ± wintered at Ft. Erie (RLS) and some at Pelee (AW). A Barnacle Goose was at Whitby Dec. 1 (AGC) and the last such report in fall 1978 turned out to be of an escapee from an aviary in Quebec. Ottawa's fifth ever White-fronted Goose was at Shirley's Bay (BMD) Dec. 17 and Oxford County's second ever wintering Snow Goose consisted of one white and one blue color morph at Wildwood (BP).

Numbers of dabbling ducks were sharply lower after Jan. 1. One Gadwall at Pelee was the first in winter there (AW). Cobourg's first wintering Green-winged Teal was present Jan. 12-Feb. 24 (ERM) and the eight at Whitby in early December dwindled to two by Feb. 28 (MB), perhaps moving into Toronto where three appeared in late January. One was at Peterborough Feb. 23-28 (BM). A ♂ Blue-winged Teal was at Whitby until Jan. 9 (MB) and a ♂ Wood Duck wintered at Barrie (CJM).

Spring arrivals on the St. Clair R., in mid-February included 7000 Redheads and 5000 Canvasbacks. The six Com. Goldeneyes in A.P.P., Feb. 6 were most unusual (RT, GT) and spring migrants appeared at Wiarton Feb. 22 (JJ) and swelled the wintering flocks Feb. 21 at the Cornwall dam to 1000 (BMD) and at Ivy Lea to 450 (RDW). The Barrow's Goldeneyes reported were single males at Niagara Falls Jan. 2 (AGC), Cornwall Feb. 21 (BMD), single females at Ottawa throughout the period (MG *et al.*) and on the St. Clair R., Feb. 20 (ASW, DR). The 4540 Oldsquaw at P.E.Pt., Dec. 19 (K.F.N.) was by far the highest count reported, while singles were found in Peterborough Jan. 23 & Feb. 7 (*vide* DCS), their first ever in winter, in Barrie Dec. 6-Jan. 1 (E & CJM) and Tobermory in late December

(TM, JJ), unusual there Three Harlequin Ducks at Ipperwash Dec 27 were likely the same ones involved in the sighting of two at Kettle Pt., Jan. 12 (AR, DR) and one was found along the Toronto waterfront Jan. 10 (DP, JLa). A probable Com. Eider (imm. male) was seen at Kettle Pt., Dec. 13 (AR) and the report awaits review by the provincial records committee. Single King Eiders were seen at Kettle Pt., Dec. 5, Niagara Falls Dec. 13, Wolfe I., Dec. 18-20 and Bowmanville-Toronto waterfront Dec. 27-Jan. 23. The 5000 Com. Mergansers Dec. 3, Rice L., near Peterborough (AGC), were migrating just ahead of winter and the 1100 and 3500 respectively Feb. 21 at Ivy Lea and Cornwall (RDW, BMD) appeared to consist of both winterers and N migrants.

VULTURES, HAWKS — The Turkey Vulture at Kingston Dec. 30 (MJE) was their latest ever and late individuals were seen at Rondeau Dec. 20 (PAW), Ridgetown Dec. 25 (BMD) and Innerkip Jan. 2 (RWS), the last one constituting the first ever in winter for Oxford County. *Accipiter* reports were without pattern and in low numbers. The Sharp-shinned at a feeder in A.P.P., Feb. 7 was a rare winter visitor (RT) and an ad. Cooper's at Pelee Feb. 21 suggested a returning migrant (PP, PB). Up to four Red-shouldered Hawks wintered at Pelee and one in the Bowmanville-Toronto area. Numbers of Rough-leggeds peaked at Stratford with 24 on Dec. 19 (MD), Wolfe I., 110 Dec. 20 (K.F.N.), Ottawa 22 in late December (BMD) but dropped sharply in all these areas in the intense cold snap after Jan. 3. Only on Amherst I., were numbers steady, where 25 were present throughout the period. A single at Warton Jan. 6 (TM, JJ) was unusual. At least three Golden Eagles were present in the period *viz.*, Petroglyphs P.P., Dec. 29 (AGC, PH), Amherst I., Jan. 11 (MM), A.P.P., Feb. 15 & Mar. 3 (BS, SS). Numbers of Bald Eagles exceeded those of last winter's record of 15 with at least 14 adults and six immatures including the usual pair at Rondeau. Marsh Hawks were chased from Wolfe I., in early January by the cold (K.F.N.) and were migrating past Pelee up to Jan. 10 (AW, BF).

Single Gyrfalcons at Ottawa Dec. 12 (BMD, PJ) and Wolfe I., Dec. 20 (RCPW) were the only sightings s. of Manitoulin where three were seen Dec. 19 (JN *et al.*). One was at Sudbury Dec. 18 (WM), perhaps the same individual seen 2 days later at Lively (JLe), and another at Thunder Bay Jan. 11 (NH). A Peregrine spent December near Lakefield dining on pigeons from a cement silo (TB) and another was on Wolfe I., Dec. 20 (RKE, NM).

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Reporters in s.w. Ontario commented upon the declining numbers of Bobwhite and Ring-necked Pheasant, attributing their drop to successive severe winters. The 39 pheasants at Pelee was the largest number by far reported (DSu, AW). Late Virginia Rails were found at Pelee Dec. 24 (AW *et al.*), Harrowsmith Dec. 26 (LW, RDW) and Kingston Jan. 2, but the last bird froze to death Jan. 3 (JP). A more adaptive Virginia Rail was at a feeder in Amherstburg Dec. 30-Feb. 15 (BE). The only Sora reported was a late bird at Kingston Dec. 20 (RDW).

A Killdeer appeared at Pickering Jan. 10-12 (MS *et al.*) and another at Manitoulin Feb. 21 (CB, GG), perhaps the same individual that turned up there last February. Two Com. Snipe attempted to winter near Barrie Dec. 19 (JT), but their fate is unknown. Others in Ottawa and Kingston made it through successfully (BMD, RDW). The Spotted Sandpiper at Toronto's Eastern Headland Jan. 3-5 (HC *et al.*) was very late. The Red Phalarope at the mouth of Colpoys Bay Dec. 19 is a new species for Grey-Bruce County. The bird was found exhausted on shore during a heavy blizzard, but died later (JJ *et al.*). The specimen is destined for the R.O.M.

GULLS — White-winged gulls were present in above-average numbers. Seven Glaucous were at Orillia to Jan. 7 (RBo, AS), nine in Kingston to Jan. 3 (PMacK) when pushed out by the freeze. But mid-February they reappeared in greater numbers with ten at Whitby Feb. 5 (MB), 20 on the St. Clair R., Feb. 13 (DR) and 15 at Cornwall Feb. 21 (BMD). Icelanders were reported from several sites along the lower Great Lakes, but the St. Clair R., provided the greatest concentration where 18 were present Dec. 10-Feb. 20 (DR) and seven of the eight adults were of the *kumlieni* race. Numbers of Great Black-backed Gulls were low and the peak concentration was 70 at Cornwall Feb. 21 (BMD). One ad. Lesser Black-backed was seen by experienced observers at Ft. Erie Jan. 20 (RA, RBy). Thorough documentation was received on at least six different Thayer's Gulls sighted along the St. Clair R., Dec. 20-Jan. 17 (DR) and for an ad. Black-headed there Jan. 2-3 (DR *et al.*). Bonaparte's Gulls were late with 70 at Pelee to

Dec. 24 (DR *et al.*), 25 at Kingston to Jan. 9 (K.F.N.) and one at Toronto Jan. 15 (C & JG). Little Gulls were at Pelee Dec. 6 (RDM, PP) and at Niagara Falls Jan. 2 (AGC). The southwest provided several Black-legged Kittiwake sightings. Up to four were at the mouth of the St. Clair R., to Dec. 9 (DR), singles at Ft. Erie Dec. 3 (RA, RBy) and Pelee Dec. 9 (RDM) and at the e. end of L. Ontario Jan. 9 for Kingston's fifth ever (MG).

OWLS — Noteworthy were the 51 Great Horned Owls at Moscow Dec. 26 (K.F.N.) and a dark-phase bird (*heterocnemis* race?) Peterborough Feb. 4 (AGC). Snowies were distributed fairly evenly across the province in low numbers, except in the traditional areas near Kingston where 27 were on Wolfe I., Dec. 20 (K.F.N.). A failure in the vole supply there prompted their exodus by mid-January leaving about six there for the rest of winter. A strong flight of Hawk Owls developed, with 20 reports, 17 of which were s. of their usual range. The irruption was seen most strongly in e. Ontario where 14 occurred—one in late December at Iroquois (MH), ten in Ottawa for their best winter since the early 1960s (BMD), one at Portland Jan. 6 (MG) and two at Napanee Feb. 2 (JE, DC). Singles were in Toronto, Kettle Pt. and Midland (m.ob.). Nine Great Gray Owls were reported of which five were in Sudbury, Atikokan, Rainy R., where occurrence is reasonably expected, and the other four were in the s.e.—two in Ottawa Jan. 9-12 (*fide* BMD), one at Chaffey's Lock Jan. 19 (FP) and one in Kingston Feb. 2 (*fide* RDW). The only Boreals were found at Atikokan Dec. 8 (SP), Lanark Dec. 30 (DWh) and two at Vankleek Hill in mid-January (EB). Saw-whet reports were virtually nil until late-January when the birds began calling and migrants appeared along the lower Great Lakes.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH HORNED LARK — Reports of wintering Com. Flickers numbered 20 birds, respectable for such a cold winter. These were eclipsed by the spectacular irruption of the Red-bellied Woodpecker. Sixty different birds were reported from the s.w. to Ottawa and n. to Manitoulin. London led the parade with 14, a record high there (*fide* WRJ), eight at Kettle Pt., six each at Rondeau and Toronto, five each at Pelee and Prince Edward County, three in Peterborough, two in Kingston and singles at Ottawa and Manitoulin. Many took up residence at feeders, their lifeline in such a bitter winter, and were still present at season's close. No mortality was detected. Of the ten for which sex was reported, four were females. Three Red-headed were seen, all in December, at Rondeau, Kingston and Ottawa and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was in Toronto Jan. 13 (HR). The Ottawa area is the barometer for assessing the three-toed woodpecker flight into s. Ontario. Their reports of six Black-backed Three-toeds were well down (BMD) and only two others were noted in the s.—both at Kingston Dec. 20 & 26 (K.F.N.). Five Northerners were in Ottawa (BMD) and the others were two in A.P.P. (RT) and one in Haliburton County Jan. 8 (AGC). The usual February flight of Horned Larks seemed stalled along the L. Ontario shoreline by the intense cold. At Pelee Feb. 20, 1000 were present (AW) and later in the month, hundreds were at P.E.Pt., where the Prairie race was pairing off and the Northern race flocking on fields.

GRAY JAY THROUGH WRENS — Gray Jays were back at Petroglyphs P.P., all winter (DCS) and two nests were under construction at A.P.P., Feb. 18, the earliest in the continuing 15-year study (DSt.). All reporting areas except Atikokan noted Blue Jay numbers well down. A Black-billed Magpie was along Toronto's lakeshore Dec. 25-Jan. 3 (JK *et al.*) and another was at a Peterborough feeder in early January (DCS), which may have been the same one at a feeder at Green Pt., Prince Edward Co., Feb. 1 (*fide* TS). Common Raven numbers continue to rise with highs of 351 at Atikokan Dec. 27 (SP), 65 at Kirkland L., Jan. 12 (PR), 52 at Haliburton Feb. 3 (RBo) and a flock of 50 in January, unprecedented on the Bruce Pen. (JJ). However, Com. Crows were scarce across the province. Only on the Bruce Pen. (JJ) and at Atikokan (SP) were Black-capped Chickadees not in lower numbers. Boreals appeared s. of their breeding range, but in ones and twos. In A.P.P., they were scarce suggesting one source of emigrants in last autumn's irruption. Kingston's fourth ever Tufted Titmouse appeared at a feeder Jan. 5-Feb. 21 (TP). Red-breasted Nuthatches were very scarce in all areas. A massive exodus last autumn occurred from A.P.P., where the winter's only two birds were found Jan. 2 (RT), a far cry from the CBC continent high of 1384 held by the Park. One Carolina Wren wintered successfully at an Ottawa feeder (BMD) and the others were

singles at Pelee (*vide* AW), London and Wallacetown (*vide* WRJ). The species chose a suitable winter to be absent!

MIMIDS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS — A Mockingbird wintered at Sudbury. Single Brown Thrashers wintered at feeders in Lakefield, Cobourg, Toronto and Manitoulin. A ♂ Varied Thrush was at Wallacetown Jan. 4 (RPk *et al.*) and a female or immature at Port Burwell Feb. 1 (DA *et al.*). Late thrushes included a Wood and Gray-cheeked (starving and unable to fly) at Pelee Dec. 8 (RDM, AW) and a Swainson's at Toronto Dec. 1 (L & CW). For the second successive winter, Bohemian Waxwings were present in large numbers. Flocks of 100+ were found in December at Thunder Bay, Manitoulin., Sudbury, Ottawa and lower numbers at Kingston. Very few were s.w. of this axis. On Feb. 3, 100 appeared at Peterborough, perhaps migrants returning W (DCS). Northern Shrikes were common. Up to 20 wintered in Kingston (K.F.N.), 12 in the Muskoka area (RBo) and the best year in 10 in Cobourg (ERM). Late warblers included a Nashville at Pelee Dec. 11 (DWi *et al.*), a Blackburnian at Kingston Jan. 8-9 (ph., GH, FA *et al.*) for a provincial latest, a Pine in Peterborough Dec. 15 (DCS *et al.*) and Rondeau Dec. 20 (PP), an Ovenbird at Pelee (DWi *et al.*) and a Com. Yellowthroat at Presqu'île P.P., Dec. 15 (AGC). A ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Pelee Dec. 24 & Feb. 20 (DR, RWS *et al.*) and two immatures at Amherstburg Dec. 19 (*vide* AHK). The last N. Oriole was at West Lake Dec. 7 (MW) and the only Brewer's Blackbirds were at Manitoulin Dec. 19 and Sudbury Jan. 3 (JN). Common Grackles were scarce in the s., one at Haliburton Jan. 21 (RBo) was unusual and the three at Atikokan constituted their sixth winter in the past 16 (SP).

FINCHES — The 81 Cardinals at Ft. Erie Jan. 31 (HHA) were unmatched, and in e. Ontario numbers continued to increase sharply in Peterborough, Kingston, Ottawa and surrounding towns. The 57 on Ottawa's CBC (previous high 11) tells the story (BMD). An Indigo Bunting, accidental in winter, was at a Peterborough feeder to Dec. 27 (ph., DCS *et al.*). Last autumn's strong flight of Evening Grosbeak was evident in December but faded everywhere after Jan. 1 as birds moved S. Only two individuals were seen all winter in A.P.P. (RT), reflecting the lack of food there. St. Catherines provided the largest concentration of House Finches, 89 Jan. 8 (MF) and a realistic estimate of Kingston's wintering numbers were the 33 on Dec. 20 (K.F.N.). The two at Chaffey's Lock on the Rideau Jan. 1 (FP) were the first there. Pine Grosbeaks were common everywhere except in the extreme s.w. Some 270+ were banded at Atikokan in January-February (SP). Redpolls upstaged all other winter finches with high numbers everywhere. As sometimes happens in redpoll winters, Hoaries accompanied the flocks with over 120 reports. At Ottawa alone, 60 were present and 25 banded (RPl). Greatest numbers were along the Atikokan-Sudbury-Ottawa axis with declining numbers towards the s.w. Among the Com. Redpoll was the *rostrata* race

(formerly Greater Redpoll) of which 18 were banded at Ottawa (RPl). Pine Siskins disappeared after early December. True to form, crossbills were erratic and scarce. A few Reds wintered in Petroglyphs P.P. (DCS) and some in a mixed crossbill flock of 200 appeared suddenly on the Bruce Pen., in late February (PM). Elsewhere, they and White-wingeds were virtually absent.

TOWHEES THROUGH LONGSPUR — Two Rufous-sided Towhees wintered successfully at feeders at Whitby (*vide* MB) and Nipigon (TK, OC), the latter thought to be the w. race. Late Savannah Sparrows were at Leamington Dec. 24 (MJ) and a latest ever on Amherst I., Dec. 30 (FC, JN). The only Vesper was at Cobourg Dec. 19 (ERM) and a Chipping in Ottawa Dec. 20-Jan. 1 (BMD, SG). A Field Sparrow wintered at a Yarker feeder, a first for the Kingston area (PG), and an imm. Harris' at a Peterborough feeder (RC), their third ever in winter. The bird of the season was a **Golden-crowned Sparrow** at Gosport near Brighton Jan. 3-15 (ph., CH, FH, m.ob.). It was a first for Ontario. A Fox Sparrow spent December-January at a Toronto feeder (GB, DF) and another at Pelee Jan. 5-9 (WB *et al.*) Snow Buntings were common with flocks up to 3000 frequently reported.

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NIAGARA-CHAMPLAIN REGION

/Douglas P. Kibbe

Snow cover present from early December and chilling, record-setting cold later in the period severely cropped lingering half hardy birds from this season's list. Severest weather coincided with most weekends making birding rigorous, if not foolhardy. Freezing rain in early February locked northern portions of the Region beneath an impenetrable layer of ice and snow. Feeder watching became increasingly popular and judging from reports highly profitable. At least one feeder visitor dined like a king, forsaking suet and bread crumbs for roast pork and minced clams from the can! Depending on your viewpoint it was a "long, grim, dull, cold, snowy winter" or a "good, old-fashioned winter".

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — Midwinter grounding of loons and grebes fleeing the Great Lakes freeze-up is a fairly frequent occurrence in the Region when severe storm systems approach from the s. This year such a tragic occurrence was recorded in mid-January. The magnitude of these losses is impossible to calculate but the probability of encountering such conditions is relatively high and must certainly serve as a significant selective pressure insuring early

migration by many waterbirds. An **Eared Grebe** discovered Jan. 29 (AS, TM) vied with a **Gannet** Dec. 5-25 (WB m.ob.) as best rarity at Dunkirk Harbor on L. Erie. Few herons lingered, making an Am. Bittern found from a canoe Jan. 2 along the Saranac R. (BH, *vide* H.P.A.S.) and two **Black-crowned Night Herons** at Niagara Falls Jan. 3, (HA), all the more noteworthy. A Mute Swan of unknown origin appeared at Sodus, N.Y., Jan. 20 (DT). A few Snow Geese lingered through the CBC period and/or reappeared in late January



and February. In general, however, both Canadas and Snows (not to mention birders) were still awaiting spring at the season's close. Two White-fronted Geese found Jan. 15 at Williamsville (*vide* VP) were unusual for any season, while King Eiders and Barrow's Goldeneyes at Niagara Falls, Oswego Harbor, and a few other New York sites might best be considered rare but regular visitants. Intense cold and consequent ice formation on L. Ontario contributed to good counts of a few species of diving ducks, notably 5000 Greater Scaup, 2000 Oldsquaw and 3-5000 White-winged Scoter near Rochester (G.O.S.).

HAWKS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — A half dozen Turkey Vultures reported soaring W of Cornell University's Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary Feb. 4. (MB, *vide* WEB) was extraordinary, if correct, as were "several" near West Milton, Vt., feeding on dead heifers all winter (*vide* JS). Single Turkey Vultures were seen Jan. 12 at Greece, N.Y. (NH, *vide* G.O.S.) and Jan. 29 at Randolph, Vt. (JS, *vide* DC). For reasons not readily obvious, Accipiters were much more noticeable at feeders this winter. While snow cover, cold, and poor wild food supplies may have concentrated prey at feeders, it seems equally likely that cold and windy weekend weather (the norm in January and February) may have had a parallel effect on the distribution of birders. Red-tailed and Marsh hawks and Am. Kestrels were also listed among the feeder watchers. Rough-legged Hawks were common-to-abundant in localized areas, at least until crusted snow sealed in rodent populations. Three or perhaps four dark-phase Gyrfalcons were sighted throughout the Region, most near waterfowl concentrations. A single Merlin appeared at Lima, N.Y. (G.O.S.) and a Peregrine spent mid-January at Dead Creek W.M.A. (JA). Turkeys, widely reported, may have suffered in Vermont where crusted, 3-ft. deep snow forced some birds to feeders! A Spruce Grouse near Canton, N.Y., Feb. 25 (MR, *vide* KC) was outside the species normal known range and suitable habitat. Ruffed Grouse populations, still peaking in w. New York, had crashed elsewhere. Ring-necked Pheasants continued their decline while Gray Partridge were well reported in extreme n. New York. Mendon Ponds, site of many unusual mid-winter New York sightings, yielded a Virginia Rail Jan. 30 (R.B.A.). A mere handful of lingering shorebirds braved winter's onslaught in New York this year. More notables included Am. Woodcock at Ithaca Jan. 5 and on the St. Bonaventure CBC, more than a dozen Com. Snipe including eight at Jamestown, a Red Phalarope at Charlotte until Dec. 3 (G.O.S., R.B.A.) and a Dunlin at Rochester through Jan. 20 (G.O.S.).

GULLS THROUGH OWLS — As usual Larids provided much of the mid-winter viewing excitement. Despite the "old fashioned winter" white-winged gulls were noticeably scarce. Rarities (all in New York) included a first year Thayer's and an ad. Lesser Black-backed at Fulton Feb. 4-14 (FS, m.ob.), plus two other Lesser Black-backed, a first-year bird at Cohoes and a third-year one at Colonie (both, *vide* BC). At least 23 Little Gulls were present at Rochester with another five at Dunkirk Harbor. The latter locale hosted a Black-legged Kittiwake in mid-February (FR) and three kittiwakes were found near Rochester Dec. 6 (MD, *vide* G.O.S.). The most unusual record, however, (the feeder bird of the century?) came from a Saratoga Springs feeder where an ad. ♂ **Ivory Gull** appeared Jan. 14 (JC, m.ob.) to dine on pork roast, chicken and, eventually, minced clams. Notwithstanding such elegant fare the bird abandoned the vicinity the next afternoon after being captured, banded, and released. In view of the wave of controversy surrounding the ethics of disturbing the bird before all birders in the Northeast could add it to their life list, it should be pointed out that far more information could and should be derived from banding strays and stragglers at feeders than is currently done. While it is unfortunate that more observers were not given an opportunity to enjoy the bird's presence, the case should not be used as a fulcrum to support arguments against banding such rarities, particularly passerines, some of which establish winter territories and tend to return to them annually. Although it has been repeatedly noted in these pages that Mourning Doves are overwintering in increasing numbers in recent years, the vision of 200 regularly appearing at an Elmira feeding station (MW) stretches the imagination (and, probably, the budget).

Exotics this season include Ithaca's Monk Parakeet still at its lonely nest and a Black-hooded Parakeet at Alan Devoe. Barn Owls were unusually well reported, with birds near Bennington, Vt. (*vide* DC), Oriskany, N.Y. (*vide* DWC), and Hanawa Falls, N.Y. (*vide* KC), the last, sadly, a road kill. Screech Owls apparently found it tough

sledding due to heavy snow cover, one attended a Wellsville feeder daily in late January (MBt, *vide* VP). Even more desperate was an Adirondack Barred Owl which repeatedly attacked the tips of a cross-country skier's skis as they moved below the snow surface. Several emaciated dead birds were also reported.

In New York at least two **Hawks Owls** entertained observers, one at Keene was present late December-at least Mar. 20 (H.P.A.S.) and a second at Canton Jan. 6-early February (HG, *vide* KC). Modest numbers of Snowy and only two Long-eared owls were reported, but, Short-eareds were widely distributed.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH WRENS — Red-headed Woodpecker, considered a rarity in most of the Region during winter, was again present in numbers (12+) along Nations Rd., near Avon, N.Y. Red-bellied Woodpeckers were reported still on the increase. An extralimital ♂ Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was present most of the season at Phelps, N.Y. (M & PT, m.ob.). The **Say's Phoebe** at Marcellus succumbed to the cold the night of Dec. 20. An overzealous E. Phoebe arrived at Ithaca Feb. 28. Even the plethora of Com. Raven reports in recent years did not prepare New York observers for 2 roosting flocks of 34 and 45+ birds in the Elizabeth-town and Keene areas Feb. 13 (KA *et al.*). Similar roosts have occurred in Vermont sporadically over the past decade but this is by far the species' best showing in New York this century. A half-dozen or more Boreal Chickadees were recorded far from their breeding grounds in the aftermath of a massive fall chickadee movement. Tufted Titmice increased throughout the Region while maintaining or extending their recent N range expansion. Even in a Region as small as ours it is difficult to make generalizations. Red-breasted Nuthatches, scarce in e. areas, staged an invasion in some w. sectors. In keeping with recent years, Winter Wrens were very scarce. Probably due to the generally poor berry crop half-hardy Mimids were generally absent.

THRUSHES THROUGH TANAGERS — A single **Varied Thrush** was recorded at a Williamsville feeder in late February (*vide* VP). Banding of this conspicuous species at feeders would shed considerable light on the significance of its nearly annual occurrence in various sectors of the Region. Considering the severity of the winter E. Bluebirds were unusually common, however, as usual it is difficult to distinguish overwintering records from overzealous early migrants. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet at a Cobleskill feeder in mid-January was interesting but by no means unprecedented. Bohemian Waxwings were noted on at least a dozen occasions but no major influx was evident. They severely taxed their reputation as "erratic wanderers" by reappearing at Cornwall, Vt., for the sixth out of the past 7 years (BP). Laggardly warblers were scarce, with a Pine at a Colonie feeder (LT, *vide* RY), Com. Yellowthroat at Honeoye L. (RS, KD), Yellow-breasted Chat at Conesus (R.B.A., G.O.S.), and a Wilson's Warbler at Canton (KC) constituting the only records other than a handful of Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler sightings. A N Oriole at Randolph (JS, *vide* DC) provided apparently only the sixth Vermont winter record. The Mendon Pond area yielded yet another winter rarity, a Scarlet Tanager present Dec. 10-13 (ML *et al.*)

FRINGILLIDS — An imm. ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak was critically studied at a Jamestown feeder Dec. 16-Jan. 16 (RW, MS, *vide* VP). Dickcissels were present at Berne, N.Y. (KA *et al.*), Palatine Bridge, N.Y. (RF, *vide* RY) and West Arlington, Vt. (NS). Purple Finches, Pine Siskins, and Red Crossbills were generally scarce to nonexistent. Redpolls upstaged all other finches with the best invasion since 1977-78. Hundreds were reported from many areas across the Region and Hoaries were at every feeder, or so it would seem. Actually, banding reports from this and the last major influx indicate that Hoaries may comprise 0.5 to 1 percent of the birds present. Five of 650+ redpolls banded at one feeder near Onondaga (DWC) were Hoaries. Redpolls may become increasingly regular winter visitors given their fondness for thistle seed feeders. Recall that Evening Grosbeaks, once erratic, are now annually abundant. White-winged Crossbills were present early in good numbers in Vermont with a mild influx through New York later in the period. Six Rufous-sided Towhees on the Ithaca CBC proved a notable exception to the rule, this winter most half-hardy sparrows were present in greatly diminished numbers. Remarkable in view of this are six Fox Sparrows at Plainfield, Vt., and Savannah Sparrow reports from 3 locations including four at Ferrisburg, Vt. (WE, NM) and two near Avon, N.Y.

(J & AF) Other rarities include single Dark eyed Oregon Juncos at Jamestown (*vide* VP), Schenectady (*vide* BC), and Webster (*vide* G.O.S.) and a Eur. Goldfinch at Charlton, N.Y. (PH) and Brattleboro, Vt. (*vide* WN). Surprisingly, Lapland Longspurs were relatively scarce, a single report of 100 (G.O.S.) being the only large concentration sighted. Snow Buntings, however, were very common, especially along the L. Ontario shore in c. New York where parties tallied 1500-9000 birds on at least 4 occasions.

Corregendum: AB 35:937 Change "11 Baird's Sandpipers July 28 at Onondaga L. (FS)" to "one adult Baird's . . ."

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APPALACHIAN REGION

/George A. Hall

It was a winter of superlatives. Possibly the coldest winter in modern times, it was also a winter with some spectacular incursions of the so-called northern invaders. All of this followed a mild late autumn which produced a large number of late records, and which in many places brought about Christmas Bird Counts (hereafter, CBC) with record numbers of some species. But it was also a winter which many observers found to be a dull, uneventful one.

At Pittsburgh, December had normal, or slightly below, temperatures and was slightly wetter than usual. There was little snowfall. January, however, turned much colder and accumulated a 229 day-degree deficiency for the month at Pittsburgh. There were several days of sub-zero temperatures, even as far south as Knoxville. There were no heavy snowfalls, except locally, but in the north the ground was snow covered for most of the month. In February temperatures were milder, but still below normal, and there was a deficiency of precipitation.

The adverse weather kept many observers out of the field, but in some places, those lucky enough to have the "northerners", birding was excellent. On the other hand if no northerners showed up, the usual wintering birds seemed in lower than normal numbers, and so some observers reported a dull season. The late fall had shown many signs that this was going to be a "northern finch" winter as the autumn flights of Pine Siskins and Red-breasted Nuthatches had been impressive. In the event these early signs were found to be accurate, and the following accounts list no fewer than 17 species which might be considered to be "invaders" and many of these occurred throughout the Region. The Fall season had been sprinkled with a lot of "latest date on record" reports and the stragglers continued into the early winter. Many of these species were present until CBC time, and many of the normal species were in excellent numbers at that time. Typical of the CBCs was the one at Pittsburgh where seven species set new or tied old records for highest counts, about two dozen were in above average numbers and another dozen in below average numbers (PH).

It is too early to assess the effect of the hard winter in January on some of the cold-sensitive species, such as the Carolina Wren. Unlike a normal spring there was very little sign of spring migration by the end of February except in the far south of the Region.

In the text following place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO HERONS — Red-throated Loons were reported from Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., Dec. 4 (BS & RW) and from Chickamauga L., Tenn., Jan. 7 (RS). The Gannet reported from L. Erie at Presque Isle S.P., Pa. (hereafter, P.I.S.P.) in the Fall account remained there as late as Dec. 25 (m.ob.). A wing-clipped Brown Pelican was found on the roadside near Dalton, Ga., Jan. 8. How this bird, which was placed in a rehabilitation center, reached inland Georgia is a minor mystery (AH).

There was an unusually large number of reports of Great Blue Herons, with seven on the Pittsburgh CBC (PH), and at P.I.S.P., 21 were found Dec. 27 (JB) and 12 on Feb. 6 & 13 (JM). A Great Egret at Hiawasee R. Area near Chattanooga Dec. 7 & Jan. 3 (L & KD).

WATERFOWL — The mild early winter induced many waterfowl to remain in the n. until late December and many places had good counts on the CBCs. Some high counts were of 6000 Mallards at



Pymatuning L., Pa., Dec. 20 (RFL), and 6000 Com. Goldeneyes at P.I.S.P., Dec. 26 (JM). After the freezeup in early January ducks became quite scarce. In e. Tennessee numbers were low throughout the season (GE). No significant N movement had started by the end of the period.

There were many records of stray Whistling Swans well into December: 520 at P.I.S.P., Dec. 26 (JM), 161 near Warren, Pa., Dec. 19 (WH). These localities are on the normal migration route, but strays were reported from Chickamauga L., Tenn., in early December (LD), Marietta, O., Dec. 29 (JS) and Charleston, W. Va., Dec. 12-Feb. 28+ (NG). Two also wintered in the Lock Haven, Pa. area (PS). The population of wintering Canada Geese at the Pymatuning L., Pa., was estimated to be about 7000 although 9000 ± had been there on the CBC (RFL). Canada Geese wintered on the Ohio R., at Marietta, O. (JS) and early migrants were seen at Clarksville, Pa., Feb. 12 (RB) and Mountain Lake P., Md., Feb. 24 (FP). Snow Geese were reported from Deep Creek L., Md., Dec. 7 (FP), Oak Ridge, Tenn., Dec. 10-12 (10 blues and two whites—WJ & CN), Pymatuning L., Pa., Dec. 20 (one blue) and Feb. 13 (one white—RFL), and Hiawasee River Area, Tenn., Feb. 1 (24 blues and seven whites—L & KD).

Of the more unusual species, Oldsquaws were at Sheffield, Pa., Dec. 3 (*vide* WH), Conneaut L., Pa., Dec. 12 (RFL), Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., Dec. 20 (RW), and Elizabethton, Tenn., Dec. 2 (RK & DL). White-winged Scoters were at P.I.S.P., throughout the period (JM), and were reported from 4 locations in e. Tennessee, Chattanooga (RS), Chickamauga L., (RS), Elizabethton (RK, MD, SG), and Knoxville (GL). The rarer Surf Scoter was seen at Silver L., Rockingham, Va. (LT) and at Chickamauga L., Tenn., Dec. 19 (RS). There was a belated report of a Harlequin Duck shot at P.I.S.P., Nov. 11 (JM). A Bar-headed Goose, probably an escape, was seen at Pymatuning L., Pa., Jan. 2 (RFL).

RAPTORS — It was a good winter for most raptor species. There were more than the usual number of reports of Cooper's and Sharp-

shinned hawks Reports of Goshawks came from Warren, Pa., Feb. 2, 9, & 15 (WH), Clarendon, Pa., Feb. 7 (JD), Lock Haven, Pa., Jan. 10 (CH), Erie N.W.R., Pa., two on Feb. 14 (RFL & ML), Meadville, Pa., Feb. 21 (RFL & ML), and 5 reports from the Pittsburgh region through the season (PH). The Buteo species were also in good numbers. Observers in the n. felt that they did not find as many Rough-legged Hawks as is usual, but this may have been because the species was much more widespread and went farther s. than usual. Reports came from as far s. as Newport, O. (GB), *Greenbrier*, W. Va., (CHa, DW), *Bluestone S.P.*, W. Va. (JP), *Rockingham* and *Augusta*, Va. (many reports), Roanoke, Va., (BK), Knoxville (CN) and Alcoa, Tenn. (L & MA).

An injured Golden Eagle was rescued in late November in *Augusta*, Va., was rehabilitated and released Feb. 13 (RSn). Other Golden Eagle records came from *Highland*, Va., numerous records through the period (YL, KF, LT), *Watauga L.*, Tenn., Dec. 22 (HF), *Nickajack L.*, Tenn., Jan. 16 (RS, LD), and *Sevierville*, Tenn., Feb. 5 (PP). The annual winter eagle survey in e. Tennessee listed only 20 Bald Eagles (16 adults, 4 immatures) in the Knoxville area, the lowest count in several years (WJ, EB), and 13 in the *Chattanooga* area (*fide* RS). Up to four adults and one immature wintered in *Pymatuning L.*, Pa. (RFL). Other Bald Eagle records came from *Bald Eagle S.P.*, Pa., Feb. 28 (CS), and *Kinzua Res.*, Pa., through the season (*fide* WH), *Bluestone S.P.*, W. Va. (JP) and *Middletown*, Va. (RSi).

Other unusual winter records were Osprey at *Jersey Shore*, Pa., Dec. 18 (PPE), and *Elizabethton*, Tenn., Dec. 26 (SG & GS); *Merlin* at *Collegedale*, Tenn., Dec. 10-12 (*fide* RS) and *Peregrine*, *Girard*, Pa., Dec. 7 (JB), and *Hocking*, O., Feb. 20 (SF).

Black Vultures were in good numbers, with 70 at a roost in *Hocking*, O., Feb. 7 and 20 in *Licking*, O., Mar. 1, 60 mi n. of any known locality in the state (BP). The *Rockingham*, Va. CBC listed 277, an all-time high (RBC). But no vultures, of either species, were recorded on the *Lewisburg*, W. Va. CBC (CHa).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS, CRANES AND RAILS — Some 250 Turkeys were being fed at 12 feeders in *Warren*, Pa., (*fide* WH). Ruffed Grouse were thought to be in good numbers at *Pittsburgh* (*fide* PH), and at *Lewisburg* W. Va. (CHa), but were scarce in *Washington*, Md. (TD). Bobwhite were locally common but in most places they have not recovered from earlier bad winters. Rather late Sandhill Cranes were reported from *LaFollette*, Tenn., Dec. 19 (GR). The *Caribbean Coot* reported from *Chickamauga L.*, Tenn. in the autumn summary remained through the winter season (RS).

SHOREBIRDS AND GULLS — A Purple Sandpiper at P.I.S.P., Dec. 19 was unusual (SS & JM). Two late shorebird reports were of a Spotted Sandpiper at *Chattanooga* Dec. 5 (RS) and a Dunlin at *Douglas L.*, Tenn., Dec. 28 (DE). Some rather early spring migrants were Am. Woodcock calling at *Roanoke* Feb. 15 (BA), and *Killdeer* at *Clarksville*, Pa., Feb. 23 (RB).

An estimated 85,000 gulls, including 15,000 Bonaparte's were present at P.I.S.P., Dec. 26 & 27 (JM). Some other gull concentrations were reported from *Lock Haven*, Pa., 800 Ring-billed Gulls Jan. 5 (PS & CH), from *Pymatuning L.*, Pa., 3000 Ring-billeds, and 500 Bonaparte's, Dec. 6 but only two Ring-billeds Dec. 20 (RFL), from *Roanoke* 900 Ring-billeds and 125 Herring Gulls Jan. 29 (MP), and from *Botetourt*, Va., 1500 Ring-billeds Feb. 14 (JA). The more exotic gulls are now regular at P.I.S.P., where this winter these included Little Gull, one to four adults Dec. 6-Jan. 2 (JM *et al.*), Glaucous Gull, one to three in December and one Feb. 13 (SS), and Iceland Gull, Dec. 15-27 and Jan. 2 (SS, DC). A lone Great Black-backed Gull was reported again from *Bald Eagle S.P.*, Pa. (CH), but more unusual was the one reported from *Nickajack L.*, Tenn., Jan. 16 (second state record—m.ob.). However the Larid of the season was a Black-headed Gull at *Blacksburg*, Va., Dec. 19 (CHa).

DOVES, OWLS, AND WOODPECKERS — Mourning Doves continue to be in remarkably high numbers, and the winter reports were no exception to this trend. They do not seem to have suffered much from the bad winter.

Screech Owls have not yet recovered from the winter mortality of several years ago, but the other species seem to be doing well. There were many more than the usual number of reports of Short-eared Owls, with reports coming from as far s. as *Middletown*, Va. (RSi) and *Roanoke* (BK & NM). Long-eared Owls were reported from: *Uniontown*, Pa., from late November-Feb. 28 (DR), *Middletown*,

Va., Dec. 19 (RSi), and *P I S P*, Jan. 27 (JM). Snowy Owl reports came only from the extreme n. of the Region *State College*, Pa., Dec. 7, two and Feb. 19-20, one (MW), *Erie*, Pa., one to three, to Jan. 2 (JM), *Butler*, Pa., Jan. 26 (MG), and *Pymatuning L.*, Pa., Dec. 26 (RFL *et al.*). Saw-whet Owls were found at P.I.S.P., through December (JM), at *Scandia*, Pa., Dec. 6 & Jan. 15 (TG, DP), and at *Middletown*, Va., Dec. 19 (RSi).

The Red-bellied Woodpecker continues to be seen in numbers throughout n. Pennsylvania. The Red-headed Woodpecker presented mixed reports. None were found on the *Charleston*, W. Va. CBC (NG), and only one report from the *Knoxville* region (*fide* CN), and none at P.I.S.P., where up to 84 were seen last year (JM), but they were thought to be increasing at *Lock Haven*, Pa. (PS), three were reported on the *Rockingham*, Va. CBC (RBC), and a first record on the *Wise*, Va. CBC (RP). A N. Three-toed Woodpecker was seen on the *Columbiana*, O. CBC, the second county record (NL), and the Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker reported from *State College* in the fall report stayed until at least Jan. 1 (*fide* MW) while another was seen at nearby *Huntingdon* Dec. 1 (DM).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS AND CORVIDS — By the end of the period E. Phobes had arrived only in the far s.: Feb. 18 at *Knoxville* (CN); Feb. 21 in *Bath*, Va. (YL), and Feb. 26 at *Waynesboro*, Va. (RSn). Purple Martins arrived at *Knoxville* Feb. 19 (EW) and at *Elizabethton*, Tenn., Feb. 20 (GE), both being the earliest dates on record at those localities. A Com. Crow roost near *Carlisle*, Pa., was thought to have 200,000 to 300,000 birds in early January (JR). The Com. Raven continues to do well in c. Pennsylvania, and a possible new nesting site was located near *Warren* (JD).

TITMICE, NUTHATCHES AND WRENS — Most Pennsylvania localities reported record numbers of Black-capped Chickadees on the CBCs, but at *Powdermill Nature Reserve* bandings were about average (RCL). This reflects the modest influx noted earlier, but few if any Black-cappeds moved S of the normal range. The only report of Boreal Chickadee was one at *Lewisburg*, Pa., Jan. 2 (*fide* SSi).

The major fall flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches carried over into the winter season. Many of these remained well n., and many places reported record CBC counts. Farther s. they were not as numerous but were widespread, and in greater than usual numbers. In Tennessee they were unusually abundant at high elevations (GE).

There were two reports of House Wrens: *Allegheny*, Pa., Jan. 17 (BR) and *Tinker Mt.*, *Botetourt*, Va., Dec. 19 (JV). A Short-billed Marsh Wren was at *Knoxville* Dec. 20 (HO). In the n. the Carolina Wren apparently had a setback to its recovery, as several reporters noted decreased numbers after the bitter cold spell. Farther s. however it was felt that since the ground did not remain snow-covered for long periods that most of the birds made it through the winter.

MIMIDS, THRUSHES AND KINGLETS — The Mockingbird was more common in the n. than is usual. A Gray Catbird was reported from *State College*, Pa., Jan. 15 (JPe). A Brown Thrasher was reported from *Revelo*, Ky., Jan. 19 (PSH) and from *Waynesboro*, Va., all through the period (RSn), while at *Knoxville* and *Elizabethton*, Tenn. (GE) they were wintering in good numbers.

There were some large concentrations of Am. Robins, the largest being 4000 at *Roanoke* Jan. 7 (MP), and 2600 on the *Pittsburgh* CBC (PH). Most other places had above normal numbers this winter. A Wood Thrush was at *Radford*, Va., during January and early February (CSi). There was an unusually large number of reports of Hermit Thrushes, particularly during the early season, but most of these also remained through the bitter winter period. Neither kinglet species was especially numerous anywhere. The Golden-crowned has never recovered fully from the winter mortality of several years ago. Most unusual was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher near *Chattanooga* Dec. 19 (KD & PR).

WAXWINGS, SHRIKES AND VIREOS — As usual the numbers of Cedar Waxwings varied from very high to practically none. There was only one report of Bohemian Waxwing, from near *Lock Haven*, Pa., Dec. 12 (CSz). Northern Shrikes were seen at P.I.S.P., Dec. 26-27, Jan. 19, Feb. 13 & 28 (m.ob.); *Sheffield*, Pa., Dec. 16 (TG), *Zelienople*, Pa., Dec. 19 & Jan. 29 (DF), and *State College*, Pa., Jan. 23 (RW). From *Rockingham*, Va., came a total of 25 reports of Loggerhead Shrikes (R.B.C.) and from *Botetourt*, Va., 11 on the CBC (BK).

A Solitary Vireo at Dalton, Ga., Dec. 19 was very late (AH), while a White-eyed Vireo was at Kingsport, Tenn., Jan. 2 (TF)

WARBLERS — There was a remarkable number of warbler records. The usual wintering Yellow-rumped Warblers were in good numbers s. of n. West Virginia. An Orange-crowned Warbler was reported from Berryville, Va., in late December (RSi). Cape May Warblers were found at Milton, Pa., Jan. 11 (SSt), Vienna, W. Va., all winter (GHu), Waynesboro, Va., Dec. 7 (RSn), and Knoxville from early January-Feb. 9 (m.ob.). Palm Warblers were at Pittsburgh Jan. 26 (DD & RF), Austin Springs, Tenn., Dec. 2 (RK), Chattanooga Dec. 16 (RS), and Norris, Tenn., Jan. 2 (CN). A Yellow-rumped Warbler was reported from Mansfield, O., Dec. 19 (*vide* JBr), Com. Yellowthroats were reported from P.I.S.P., Dec. 12 (RW & MK), Elizabethton, Tenn., Dec. 1 (GE & HF), and from Bradford, Pa., Dec. 26 (*vide* EWi), and Kingsport, Tenn., Jan. 2 (FA). The Am. Redstart reported from State College, Pa., in the last account remained there at least until Jan. 2 (MW, RW). Most unusual was a Black-throated Blue Warbler which appeared at a feeder in Jenkins, Ky., in mid-December and was found half-frozen Jan. 10. Taken in and cared for, it has survived to the end of the period (*vide* RP).

ICTERIDS — There were a few large blackbird concentrations reported: 2,700,000 Red-winged Blackbirds and 1,500,000 Com. Grackles at Kingsport, Tenn. (TF), 1,000,000 mixed flock near Dalton, Ga. (AH). The only reports of Brewer's Blackbirds came from Augusta, Va., Dec. 21, and Jan. 2 (YL, LT).

"NORTHERN FINCHES" — In the n. all the expected species appeared and were often in good or very good numbers. In most cases both the number of individuals and the number of species tapered off southward, but a few species were common everywhere. The most abundant species was the Pine Siskin which practically inundated the Region. There had been a good fall movement, but not too many were present in early winter. By late January and through February, however, they seemed to be everywhere. American Goldfinches had been extremely common in places in early January but the great influx of siskins seemed to move them out. The outstanding record of the season came from the report by an experienced birder of a Lesser Goldfinch at Meadville, Pa., Feb. 3 (SFl).

The usually common Evening Grosbeak was widely distributed but was not in its normal large numbers anywhere, except possibly in the high Tennessee mountains. Pine Grosbeaks were reported from Wellsboro, Pa. (FW), State College, Pa. (KJ), Lock Haven, Pa. (CH), and were considered numerous in *Lycoming*, Pa. (CSz).

Purple Finches were much scarcer than normal, and in places they have been displaced by the House Finch, which continues to increase throughout the Region. There had been a major incursion of White-winged Crossbills in the n. during the fall. These birds remained in great numbers throughout the n., and by the end of the period had been reported as far s. as Morgantown, Bruceton Mills, W. Va. (LG), and Oakland, Md. (FP), in the e. and to Marietta (E & BT) and Barnsville, O. (ME). There were a few reports of Red Crossbills in the Tennessee and Virginia mountains where there are known breeding populations, as well as a few scattered reports from lowland locations

such as Lock Haven, Pa. (PS), Marietta, O., Elizabethton, Tenn. (HF), and Booker T. Washington S.P. Tenn. (LD)

The flight of Com. Redpolls was also extremely heavy in the n., and a few of these were seen as far s. as Wooster, O. (JB), Terra Alta, W. Va. (WW), the Shenandoah Valley (m.ob.), and Radford, Va. (PRu). There were two reports of Hoary Redpolls in *Butler*, Pa., Jan. 8 (GW, MKr).

Snow Buntings were abundant in the n. where a concentration of about 5000 was noted in one field near Wooster, O. (JBr), and flocks of several hundred were noted throughout Pennsylvania. These species came as far s. as *Garrett*, Md. (FP). Along with the buntings came a few Lapland Longspurs which were reported from Wooster, O. (JBr), State College, Pa. (KJ), *Erie*, Pa. (JB), *Butler*, Pa. (MG, GW), and a few as far s. as Middleton, Va. (RSi).

OTHER FRINGILLIDS — Most places reported that Cardinals were in lower-than-normal numbers, while White-throated and Song sparrows were also well below normal almost everywhere. Tree Sparrows made a better showing this year than in the past several years. A Grasshopper Sparrow at Chattanooga Dec. 19 (CHn) and a Lark Sparrow coming to a feeder at *Augusta*, Ga., were unusual

CORRIGENDUM — The Gyrfalcon reported from P.I.S.P., Dec. 6-7, 1980 (*AB* 35:299 (1981)) should have been Dec. 26-27, 1980.

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WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

/ Kim R. Eckert

Perhaps we were spoiled by the balmy winter of the previous year and were deceived into thinking that winters weren't so bad up here after all. But this year brought a rude awakening as winter 1981-82 brutally reminded us of the realities of this season.

It wasn't inclement to begin with in December, as Michigan had near-normal weather most of the month and reported favorable weather for the Christmas Bird Count (hereafter, CBC) period which was conducive to the discovery of several significant birds. Wisconsin even dared to describe the month as "unusually mild" overall, although some heavy snows occurred as December ended. Minnesota, however, did not fare as well. On the very first day of the month a very heavy snow nearly buried the southwestern part of the state, with up to 14 inches measured at some spots. This was followed



just two days later by as much as another ten inches in southern Minnesota. The first of many cold snaps followed December 14-19, with the coldest temperatures recorded in relatively temperate southwest Minnesota: *e.g.*, Pipestone reported an almost unbelievable -25°F. The rest of the month may have been closer to normal overall, but it still ended colder and snowier than most.

Then came January. The extremes of cold and snow simply defy description—perhaps a series of statistics will provide graphic evidence of the severity of the month. Up to two feet of snow followed by strong winds January 3-4 almost isolated the eastern third of Wisconsin . . . wind chill factors in the -80 to -100° range blew in the weekend of January 9-10 across most of Minnesota and Wisconsin . . . some low temperatures recorded January 17 were -38° at Duluth, -52° at Tower, Minn., and an all-time record of -26° at Milwaukee (no, those are not wind chills, but actual readings) . . . Minneapolis broke an all-time record with 17 inches of snow falling in a 24-hour period January 20 . . . just two days later this record was broken *again* with 18½ inches dumped here . . . this January 22-23 blizzard was accompanied by steady 30 mph winds with gusts of up to 60, and the storm was so intense that thunder and lightning occurred along with it

the only day all month with warmer-than-normal temperatures in Minnesota came January 27, but the day was spoiled by high winds which created blizzard-like conditions and roads drifted shut in the southern part of the state . . . many Wisconsin observers reported birds unable to feed and frozen to death on several days of the relentlessly severe weather . . . Minneapolis had recorded an all-time record for any month with 44 inches of total fallen snow by the 23rd, with still eight days to go . . . the *warmest* parts of Minnesota still averaged out ten degrees below normal for the month. About the only consolation in all of this was that we are somewhat used to such severe winter conditions, and we perhaps did not suffer to the extent as those to the south of us who experienced, but were not accustomed to, comparable weather.

The first half of February didn't fare much better. Although snows tapered off then, more extreme cold in the -20s and -30s range persisted in the northern half of the Region. But finally by mid-month warmer than normal temperatures prevailed with readings into the 40s and 50s in many areas—it even hit 70° *above zero* February 22 in the southwestern corner of Minnesota. All this brought in a good movement of migrants across the southern borders of our Region, restoring our faith that the cycle of seasons would indeed progress after all.

But it would be premature to assume that this harsh season was a total loss as far as birds were concerned. While most observers agreed that birds were generally scarce throughout the Region—this was especially true in rural areas of Minnesota where birders could travel through miles and miles of woods and farmlands without seeing a single bird—there was an ample supply of some species at feeders in populated areas which were probably concentrated around these limited areas of food and shelter. In addition, as described below, there was a good supply of significant rarities to enliven this winter of our discontent.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — An unusual number of Com. Loons lingered into December in Minnesota: Dec. 6 in Crow Wing County Dec. 9-13 in Otter Tail County Dec. 13 in Duluth and Dec. 16 in Cass County—curiously all these are in n. Minnesota. A late Red-necked Grebe was found on the Lake Leelanau, Mich. CBC, while apparently very early Red-neckeds were seen Feb. 20 at Midland, Mich. (GP, EP), and in Duluth Feb. 22 (JG). A White Pelican was present at Black Dog L., Dakota Co., Minn., Dec. 6-16 (m.ob.), another was found at Hastings, Minn., Dec. 13 (JD), and a sick individual, presumably one of the two mentioned above, was rescued Dec. 19 from the Cannon R., during the Faribault CBC, but it later died (*fide* O. Rustad). Double-crested Cormorants again overwintered in Wisconsin: one returned to Green Bay (TE, EC, BrC) for the season, and another survived at Portage (*fide* DT); late cormorants were also reported Dec. 13 at Lake Erie Metropark near Detroit (JF), and at Black Dog L., Minn., Dec. 6-19 (m.ob.). More than the usual number of Great Blue Herons also lingered into December, with several reported on Minnesota CBCs and two at Trempealeau N.W.R., Wis., Dec. 27 (FL).

SWANS, GEESE AND DUCKS — More Whistling Swans than normal remained into December in all 3 states; swans also overwintered in Ottawa and Kalamazoo counties, Mich. Likewise, Canada Goose numbers were also up: records were set on the Rochester

(30,000), Fergus Falls, Minn. (6100) and Allegan, Mich. (16,679) CBCs, and up to 20,000 were in the Horicon N.W.R. area until Jan. 3 when most wisely decided to migrate. S. A Snow Goose somehow survived the winter in Dickinson County in Michigan's Upper Peninsula (FKa); there were also 25 found Jan. 30 at El Dorado Marsh, Wis. (AT), and two overwintered at Oshkosh (TZ). What was first thought to be a Ross' Goose was observed by many at Black Dog L., Dec. 12-14, but it appears more likely this was one of those intermediate Ross'/Snow Geese described in *Auk* 88:856-875. The head and the bill of the individual were reminiscent of a Ross', but the overall size of the bird was about 20% larger than nearby Mallards. It appears likely that some of Minnesota's previous Ross' Goose records will now be reevaluated and removed from acceptable status by the records committee.

The count of 50 Gadwalls all winter at Shakopee, Minn., was far higher than ever before at this traditional site. A Green-winged Teal at Milwaukee in late December was quite tardy (BiC), as was a Blue-winged at Madison Dec. 5 (ST); another Blue-winged Feb. 20 at Milwaukee was extremely early (WW). A N. Shoveler at Austin, Minn., Dec. 27-Jan. 27 (m.ob.) provided one of very few mid-winter records ever for the state. Wintering Canvasbacks numbered 3000 in the Detroit R. (*fide* AK). A few Greater Scaup lingered into December in Minnesota, and unusual for the n. part of the state were three overwintering Lessers at Bemidji (SY). Barrow's Goldeneyes were reported at Niles, Mich., Dec. 19 (RS) and at Sault Ste. Marie Feb. 13 (BB, DP *et al.*); meanwhile, the Com. Goldeneye population in Michigan was reportedly the lowest in at least 15 years. A pair of Harlequin Ducks was last seen near Duluth Dec. 11 (M. Carr), while a single male was near Two Harbors, Minn., Jan. 11 (SW/MS), and another male was at Milwaukee Jan. 24 (JI, BiC, DG *et al.*). December White-winged Scoters were seen at 3 locations, with a peak of 50 in Monroe County Dec. 26 (CB), and one White-winged was still in Ozaukee County, Wis., Jan. 22 (JF). There was also a Black Scoter at Manitowoc through Dec. 5 (CS). Finally, there were several species of ducks which arrived in the Region, especially in Minnesota, during the last 9 days of February.

HAWKS — All three Accipiters were reported more often than usual all across the Region; most of these were clearly driven to feeding stations to prey on birds concentrated there by the severe weather. Red-tailed Hawks were up in numbers around Detroit (*fide* AK) but down around the Muskegon area (JP). But there was no doubt about the Rough-legged which was obviously scarce throughout Minnesota and in Ottawa County, Mich. (JP). A Ferruginous Hawk, a nearly regular species in Minnesota, was seen Dec. 12 near Moorhead (L & CF). Besides the usual few wintering at Whitewater W.M.A., Minn., there were also five Golden Eagles reported at 4 locations, including Agassiz N.W.R., in n.w. Minnesota (J. Mattsson). Nothing out of the ordinary was mentioned on the Bald Eagle, although more than the usual number seemed to linger into December, and one adult returned to its Houston County nest site in s.e. Minnesota Feb. 14 (FL). Marsh Hawks were reported in good numbers in s. Wisconsin and in the Detroit area (AK). For the third consecutive winter, the Gyrfalcon was reported all season in the Duluth-Superior harbor area—this year two immatures were seen by many and both were caught and banded *within one hour* Jan. 28 (D. Evans). Gyrs were also reported at no fewer than 5 other Minnesota locations, possibly making this the best winter ever here for this rare falcon; Wisconsin also had one near Dorchester, Taylor Co., Dec. 27 (SR), and in Michigan singles were at Muskegon Dec. 6 (BB, LF, CR) and in Ontonagon County Dec. 17 (JM). More evidence to move the Prairie Falcon to Minnesota's regular list was provided with an individual at Rothsay W.M.A., Dec. 9 (S & DM). Peregrine Falcons were reported on 4 Michigan CBCs, obviously the most ever if correctly identified. Merlins again proved more common than in winters of past decades: eight were seen in Michigan while five were reported in Minnesota. Since all but one of these were found in December or February, it may be that the Merlin is a very late fall and very early spring migrant here, rather than a rare winter resident.

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Ruffed Grouse seemed to be on the low end of its cycle in Michigan and Minnesota, although the one on the Austin CBC appeared to represent a minor range extension. Bobwhites were down again in Michigan, and it would be safe to assume that the pioneering group that moved into extreme s.w. Minnesota after two mild winters was decimated by this winter,

likewise, pheasants and Gray Partridge clearly suffered severe losses in w Minnesota as a result of the weather. However, the Gray Partridge continued to push E into s.e. Minnesota as evidenced by increased numbers in Olmsted County and by the nine seen at Kellogg, Wabasha Co., Jan. 30 (D & WM)—this latter record apparently represents the first birds to reach the banks of the Mississippi R., in s.e. Minnesota. A most unexpected **Sandhill Crane** was found Dec. 17 in Polk County in n.w. Minnesota (MH); a few cranes were also seen with the geese in s. Wisconsin moving S in early January. Unusual were the 18 Am. Coot wintering in Fergus Falls, Minn., although the number of coots in Michigan was said to be the lowest in 15 years. Michigan also repeated the same statistic for wintering Killdeer. Dunlins were late in Milwaukee Dec. 2 (DG) and on the Monroe, Mich. CBC, Dec. 19.

GULLS — Good numbers of Glaucous Gulls were reported, especially at Marquette, Mich., with 12 on the CBC and at Duluth with as many as ten at the dump until Jan. 9. Although the Iceland Gull is a very rare species here, six were reported without comment from Michigan. However, totally unexpected and carefully identified were two adult Icelands first seen at the Duluth dump Jan. 2 (KE *et al.*) One was a classic **kumlieni**, apparently the first of this race ever to be reported in the state, seen by birders through Jan. 7. The other was of the nominate **glaucoides** race, which was also seen repeatedly until Jan. 9. Even more exciting was the second-winter **Great Black-backed Gull** found at the same dump Jan. 3 (KE, m.ob.); this gull also survived until Jan. 9, and represented only the fourth record for Minnesota; Black-backed were also found on the Michigan side of L. Michigan Jan. 1 at New Buffalo (RS) and Feb. 6 in Allegan County (SM *et al.*). Thayer's Gulls were reported once each in Michigan and Wisconsin, while in Minnesota two were at Black Dog L., Dec. 6-11 and as many as six were seen together at the Duluth landfill; these and all the other gulls here were gone after the -80° windchills of Jan. 9. Also at Duluth, but not at the dump, was a Ring-billed Gull until Jan. 7 (TS *et al.*); this species is not normally found in winter on L. Superior. A **Black-headed Gull** was reported with excellent details Dec. 12 at Saginaw Bay, Bay Co., Mich. (LD). All 3 states commented on unusual numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls lingering into December: the 21 on Mille Lacs L., Dec. 6 was a record date for Minnesota (TS); Racine and Milwaukee each reported several until Dec. 20, with as many as 400 seen Dec. 17 (JF); and in Michigan 4438 were on the Monroe CBC while 189 were still at Grand Haven, Ottawa Co., Jan. 2 (m.ob.). Finally, to round out this exceptional showing of gulls, two Little Gulls were at Milwaukee through Dec. 19 (BiC *et al.*).

MOURNING DOVE AND OWLS — The Mourning Dove is clearly more common in Minnesota than in former winters, presumably as a result of the increase in bird feeders; *e.g.*, a record 31 were counted on the Duluth CBC, and 160 overwintered at the Carpenter Nature Center near Hastings.

It was reportedly an excellent winter for Snowy Owls in Michigan and in c. and e. Wisconsin; however, the number in the Duluth-Superior harbor was down a bit, with a peak of 23 not occurring until mid-February (D. Evans). For the second consecutive winter, Hawk Owls were scarce in Minnesota: the only report of the period came from Grand Rapids Dec. 18-28 (TL). Great Gray Owls made a better-than-average showing. One was reported on Neebish I., near Sault Ste. Marie Dec. 3-Feb. 13 (m.ob.); Wisconsin had four individuals with reports from Wausau Dec. 1 (AG), near Dorchester, Taylor Co., Dec. 2-5 (JR *et al.*), near Medford Jan. 17 (SR), and of a dead bird at Fish Lake W.M.A., Burnett Co., Feb. 11 (PK); and in Minnesota the usual several Great Grays were reported, with notable sightings at Stillwater down in s. Minnesota Feb. 16 and at Duluth where at least six individuals were found Jan. 26+. Five rare Boreal Owls also made for a decent showing: one in Frederick, Crawford Co., Mich., Feb. 27 (*fide* DP), one in Douglas County, Wis., Feb. 26 (Mrs. R. Johnson), another in Park Rapids, Minn., Dec. 30 (DJ), and two found dead in Duluth in late February. (Many more Boreals eventually turned up along the North Shore of L. Superior in March, resulting in the second largest Minnesota influx on record.) Saw-whet Owls appeared in exceptional numbers in Minnesota, with 12 individuals at 6 locations; curiously, 5 of these records came from n. Minnesota where this species is not supposed to winter.

WOODPECKERS AND PHOEBES — In Michigan with the exception of the Pileated all of the woodpeckers were reported in

reduced numbers, however, Wisconsin and Minnesota observers fortunately did not share this appraisal. Red-bellied Woodpeckers were seen farther n. than usual at Marquette, Mich., Dec. 13-Jan. 16 (m.ob.), near Moorhead, Minn., all winter (L & CF), at Thief River Falls, Minn., Dec. 6 (S & KS), and at Duluth Dec. 20 (LE). Red-headed Woodpeckers were noted as particularly scarce in Michigan, apparently owing to a poor acorn crop. Black-backed Three-toeds were unusually far s. at 2 Anoka County, Minn. locations (K & PL, SC), but far more unusual was the N. Three-toed overwintering at Carpenter Nature Center, Washington Co., apparently the most southerly Minnesota record ever (m.ob.); three other Northerners were also seen in n. Minnesota and Michigan. Two E. Phoebes which showed up for the Grand Rapids, Mich. CBC were exceptionally late.

CORVIDS THROUGH MIMIDS — Blue Jays, like Red-headed Woodpeckers, were also down in numbers throughout Michigan apparently because of the lack of acorns. Wisconsin birders got quite excited over a Mexican Jay which appeared at feeders in the Menominee Falls vicinity Dec. 11-Jan. 8 (m.ob.); however, since I cannot find any published extralimital records of this nonmigratory species, it seems obvious that this was merely an escape rather than a legitimate state occurrence. A Black-billed Magpie spent much of January at a Douglas County, Wis., feeder (*fide* KE). Tufted Titmice were seen in Benzie (SH) and Grand Traverse (RO) counties, Mich., n. of their usual range. The White-breasted Nuthatch appears to be on the increase in n.e. Minnesota; *e.g.*, the Grand Marais CBC recorded 11 even though this species is normally quite rare in the county. That the Red-breasted Nuthatch is an irruptive species is well known, and 2 observations this winter suggest this species is vulnerable to severe weather (and might emigrate as a result). In Duluth during January one was seen habitually warming itself on top of a chimney as Starlings do here (LE)—never have I seen anything other than Starlings try this. Near Isabella, Minn., a nuthatch sat lifelessly next to feeder and allowed itself to be covered by blowing snow; when rescued and brought indoors for the night, it recovered, but when released the next morning it again perched lethargically as snow blew over it. The nuthatch was retrieved, it revived when brought indoors, and finally survived on its own when released the following day (SW/MS). Very few Winter Wrens were reported in Michigan, while the only Carolina Wrens here were in Washtenaw (PY) and Berrien (DG) counties. A Mockingbird on the Duluth CBC was quite unexpected, while in Michigan no fewer than 26 individuals were seen, one of these up in Iron County in the Upper Pen., Jan. 9 (FKa). Four Gray Catbirds were reported without comment in Michigan, while in Wisconsin one remained in Eau Claire through Dec. 11 (JP) and another was at a Madison feeder Dec. 26 (BH). Two Brown Thrashers attempted to overwinter in the Upper Pen., and one last seen at a Finland, Lake Co., Minn. feeder Jan. 10 undoubtedly died (*fide* SW/MS).

THRUSHES THROUGH SHRIKES — Far fewer Am. Robins were in Michigan this winter, although two survived up in the Upper Pen., in Delta (CT) and Dickinson (FKa) counties. The Varied Thrush did not repeat its exceptional showing of last winter; this year Michigan reported three, Wisconsin five, and Minnesota had eight Hermit Thrushes were down in numbers in Michigan, as were E. Bluebirds; no comments on either of these came from elsewhere. The only Townsend's Solitaires of the season were reported in Duluth, one on the CBC and the other (or the same) Dec. 30-Jan. 6 (KE) A late Ruby-crowned Kinglet was in La Crosse Dec. 7 (FL); even later was a Water Pipit Dec. 28 on the Allegan, Mich. CBC. In some locations, Bohemian Waxwings were about as abundant as they ever get in the Region: Michigan had its largest invasion in many years with records from 14 counties; they were abundant in Duluth late December-early February with flocks in the hundreds frequently reported; the largest was 1000+ on Jan. 3 (B. Raway). In Wisconsin, however, there were reports from only 3 areas of Bohemians; here, as well, Cedar Waxwings were conspicuous by their almost total absence. All 3 states commented on the abundance of N. Shrikes, although in Minnesota the species was common only in December and became scarcer with the onslaught of January.

WARBLERS THROUGH ICTERIDS — A few Yellow-rumped Warblers survived at feeders in the s. half of the Region, and one of these was an "Audubon's" which successfully overwintered in Bloomington, Minn. Also exceptional in Michigan were the Pine Warbler on the Monroe CBC and the Palm Warbler on the Flint CBC

A Com Yellowthroat was present in Baraboo Wis until Jan 4 (KL). Both Michigan and Wisconsin commented on the scarcity of meadowlarks; Wisconsin observers also noticed a general lack of wintering blackbirds. Two Yellow-headed Blackbirds on the Anchor Bay, Mich. CBC, were certainly unexpected; another even managed to survive all winter at an Eden Prairie, Minn. feeder. Also unusual were the Red-winged Blackbirds attempting to overwinter in three Upper Pen. counties, and the Com. Grackles through January in Dickinson County (FKa) and Feb. 14 in Chippewa County (BB, DP *et al.*).

FINCHES — Cardinals were farther n. than usual with three in Dickinson County, Mich. (FKa) and one at a Finland, Minn. feeder through Dec. 12. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was well documented from a feeder on the Crookston CBC, in n.w. Minnesota, and represents only about the fourth state winter record. Probably the most outstanding rarity of the winter was the **Black-headed Grosbeak** in Mount Pleasant, Mich., Dec. 21-Jan. 4 (m.ob.). Evening Grosbeaks were present in good numbers in c. and n. Wisconsin, but the situation elsewhere seemed close to normal. Purple Finch numbers were definitely down in Minnesota and about average in Wisconsin and Michigan. The House Finch now seems well on its way to regular status in Michigan: six Oakland County feeders recorded them (EC), and they were observed on four CBCs and during two CBCs' count weeks. Pine Grosbeaks seemed to be in normal supply throughout the Region. Clearly the most impressive showing was made by redpolls; everywhere except the n. half of Minnesota (where Com. Redpolls were merely common and not abundant) observers were impressed by the excellent numbers—one flock had 600+ birds in Genesee County, Mich., Feb. 20 (E & GH). The Hoary Redpoll was even more impressive, especially in Michigan and n. Minnesota where there were more reports than ever before. This was especially true at Duluth feeders where some redpoll flocks were 10-20% Hoaries; the normal ratio of Commons to Hoaries is about 100:1. Both crossbills were in fair supply in all 3 states, with Wisconsin reporting good numbers of White-Winged Crossbills early in the season. Rufous-sided Towhees survived at 2 feeders in the n. part of the Region: one in Rhineland Feb. 14 (H. Kozol) and another in Duluth Jan. 9 (*vide* KE).

SPARROWS THROUGH SNOW BUNTING — A Vesper Sparrow was extremely late near Fergus Falls, Minn., Dec. 13 (S & DM). Tree Sparrows were clearly down in numbers in s. Minnesota, but on the other hand Harris' Sparrows continued to appear with increased frequency in s.w. Minnesota; one Harris' even managed to overwinter at a feeder up in Duluth (P. Shubat). A White-crowned

Sparrow was farther n. than usual in Leelanau County Mich., Dec. 1-Feb. 6 (LG), and another was unusually late Dec. 12 in St. Paul (B. Litkey). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** carefully identified on the Cottonwood, Minn. CBC, provided a first winter record for the state (P. Egeland). Snow Buntings were widespread and quite numerous in Michigan and Wisconsin, with one Michigan flock numbering 3000± in Cheboygan County Jan. 13 (E & PP).

CORRIGENDA — Delete the Olmsted County, Minn., Mississippi Kite (AB 35:826) and the Vermilion Flycatcher (AB 35:828); after publication both were rejected by the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee.

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MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION
/Bruce G. Peterjohn

This winter will be remembered as one of the harshest in recent memory. Bitter cold and excessive precipitation were Regionwide phenomena, beginning in early January and continuing unabated through mid-February. Record low temperatures were commonplace, with readings such as -37°F at Anamosa, Iowa, -26° at Chicago, -21° at Indianapolis and -13° at Lexington, Kentucky. Snowfall neared or exceeded record levels in many areas, especially following a series of severe storms in late January and early February. These harsh conditions, which were frequently most brutal on weekends, greatly limited birding activities during the period.

Not unexpectedly, this harsh weather detrimentally effected populations of some birds. Recent modest gains by Bobwhite, Carolina Wrens and Mockingbirds were largely eliminated by the extreme snowy and cold conditions. The few half-hardy species attempting to overwinter disappeared with the advent of severe weather. However, other species including most woodpeckers, gleaners and Eastern Bluebirds fared better with little or no decline during the period. While most species appeared to be more numerous than following the severe weather of 1977-1978, such conclusions await more definitive study.

Despite the severe weather and limited birding activities, this winter was noted for major invasions by Goshawks, Northern

Shrikes, redpolls and Snow Buntings and inland incursions by large numbers of gulls. Other finches appeared in poor to modest numbers while other northern raptors were locally distributed in low numbers. Berry-eating birds were abundant only in Kentucky. A warming trend during the latter half of February was accompanied by the expected numbers and variety of early spring migrants.

In order to avoid unnecessary repetition, only the most exceptional Christmas Bird Count (hereafter, CBC) observations were incorporated into this summary. As usual, all extraordinary sight records



must be thoroughly documented at the time of observation. All documented records have been denoted by a dagger (†)

ABBREVIATIONS — S.C.R.: Squaw Creek N.W.R., Mo.; M.M.W.A.: Magee Marsh W.M.A., O.; Spfld.: Springfield, Ill.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — A few Com. Loons lingered through freeze-up. The latest departure was at Alum Creek Res., O., Jan. 7 (KA) although a grounded loon was released in Cleveland Jan. 20-27 (D & JH, m.ob.). A Red-throated Loon at Chicago Feb. 21 (†DW, HE) was unexpected as were a Red-necked Grebe at L. Jacomo, Mo., Jan. 1-3 (†HG *et al.*) and two at South Bend, Ind., Feb. 28 (†V & MI). Horned Grebes were widespread through freeze-up including 100 at Cleveland Dec. 4 (TL). Winter reports were limited to a small flight across n. Indiana and Ohio Jan. 15-21. An Eared Grebe at Saylorville Res., Ia., Dec. 16 was late (JR, JSc) while small numbers of Pied-billed Grebes managed to overwinter in Ohio and Illinois. A tardy White Pelican lingered through Dec. 23 in Iowa. Three Double-crested Cormorants were present in Tazewell County, Ill., Jan. 6 but dwindled to one by Feb. 20 (MS). All others departed by Dec. 27. Wintering Great Blue Herons were scarce, no doubt reflecting the absence of open water. A surprising number of Great Egrets was reported in early winter. Up to seven lingered at M.M.W.A., through Jan. 9 (JP) while singles were observed at Union County, Ill., Dec. 23 (†DH), Bowling Green, Ky., Dec. 12 (TD) and Cook County, Ill., Dec. 5 (PD). Small numbers of Black-crowned Night Herons remained through the first week of January at Louisville, Erie County, O., and Cook County, Ill.

WATERFOWL — Whistling Swans were widely encountered this year. Late migrants were scattered across n. Indiana and Ohio through Jan. 7 while 2-6 also appeared at Sidney, Ill., Dec. 2 (MC, ME), Mingo N.W.R., Mo., Dec. 14-27 (m.ob.) and Louisville Dec. 26 (BM). Sixteen wintered in Jasper County, Ill. (LH) while 1-3 made brief winter appearances at one Iowa and 2 Indiana locations. Spring migrants reappeared after mid-February including 18 at L. Sangchris, Ill., Feb. 15 (H). Canada Geese staged a major S migration during the first week of January. Winter numbers in s. Illinois and w. Kentucky peaked in mid-January at 369,000, up considerably from last year (DT), while 10,000 wintered at L. Gibson, Ind. (*fide* CK). A "Richardson's" Goose at Louisville after Jan. 13 was unusual (*fide* RB). In addition to CBC reports, winter White-fronted Goose sightings included one at Rock Valley, Ia. (JV), one at M.M.W.A., Dec. 5 (†JP) and two at Ballard W.M.A., Ky., Jan. 29 (AB). Snow Geese wintered in normal numbers while spring migrants included an impressive 150,000 in Fremont County, Ia., Feb. 26 (RP). Single Ross' Geese lingered in w. Iowa and w. Missouri through mid-December while three accompanied the Snow Geese in Fremont County, Ia.

Not surprisingly, winter duck populations were rather low although a few local concentrations were reported. Most species managed to survive in the remaining open water. A few Blue-winged Teal lingered through the CBC period while fair numbers of Wood Ducks wintered in n. areas. Large concentrations of Canvasbacks were not reported. Normal numbers of Greater Scaup were noted along the Great Lakes while exceptional inland counts included 60 at Horseshoe L., Madison Co., Ill. (RK) and 20 at Louisville (m.ob.). Common Goldeneye were generally well reported. Oldsquaw were quite scarce; no more than 45 were observed along L. Michigan while inland reports consisted of singles at L. Jacomo, Mo. (m.ob.), Raccoon L., Ind. (ABr) and Red Rock Res., Ia. (RT, GB) in early December. Harlequin Ducks were noted at 3 Great Lakes locations, Headlands S.P., O. (DC), Avon L., O. (†JP) and Chicago (JL). At least two King Eiders appeared at 3 n. Ohio locations Dec. 7-27 (†m.ob.); one was periodically observed through the winter at Avon L. (TL *et al.*). White-winged Scoters were scarce along the Great Lakes where the largest flock was of 38 at Chicago (PC, HR). Up to six scoters were reported from 6 inland locations from all states except Missouri. Surf Scoters were only found in Ohio with singles at 3 L. Erie sites through Jan. 25 and inland at Summit L., Dec. 31-Jan. 4 (LR) and Hoover Res., Feb. 28 (m.ob.). Small numbers of Black Scoters lingered along L. Erie through Dec. 26. A Hooded Merganser x Com. Goldeneye hybrid was observed at Chicago Dec. 27 (†JL). Common Mergansers were well reported including an exceptional 30,000 near Goose Lake Prairie S.P., Ill., Dec. 26 (PD).

DIURNAL RAPTORS — Noteworthy Turkey Vulture roosts in-

cluded 119 vultures at Glasgow, Ky., Dec. 27 (MMA), 25 at Turkey Run S.P., Ind. (ABr) and 19 at Crawford County Conservation Area, Ill., Dec. 20 (LH). Small Black Vulture roosts were only discovered in Kentucky at Green River L. (JE) and Glasgow (MMA). A moderate Goshawk flight was most noticeable in Illinois where there were 15 reports. Elsewhere, single birds were found at one Missouri, 3 Indiana and Ohio, and 6 Iowa locations. This species wandered S to Rocky Fork W.M.A., Mo., Feb. 6 (†SS), Spfld., Jan. 19 (H) and Newtown, O. (WR, m.ob.). Both Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks were widely observed in normal numbers for recent years. Red-tailed Hawks were also well reported while Red-Shouldered Hawks remained scarce with no appreciable change in numbers. Rough-legged Hawks were numerous in Illinois and Missouri where roosts of 20 or more were reported; they were scarce in other states. An ad. Ferruginous Hawk was documented from Mason County, Ill., Dec. 19 (†K *et al.*).

Golden Eagles were well reported from Missouri where 22 were observed during their Jan. 4-6 eagle survey. Only 1-2 appeared in each of the other states. Wintering Bald Eagle numbers were encouraging with eagle survey totals of 986 in Missouri, 132 in Kentucky and 298 along the Mississippi R., in Iowa. Excellent numbers were also noted in Illinois while normal numbers of scattered reports were received from e. states. Marsh Hawks were numerous only in Missouri and Illinois where the largest roost was 35 at the Lawrenceville, Ill. airport (LH). They appeared in poor numbers in other states. Prairie Falcons staged their greatest influx into the Region with five documented sightings from Iowa Dec. 19-Feb. 20, three Missouri reports Dec. 20-Feb. 15 and two returned to the Lawrenceville, Ill. airport in February for the third consecutive year. The only winter Peregrine Falcon report was of an immature at Killdeer Plains W.M.A., O., Jan. 2 (†NC, †CM). One at M.M.W.A., Feb. 28 was probably an early migrant (†JP). Few Merlin reports were satisfactorily documented. American Kestrels maintained their good numbers of recent years.

GAMEBIRDS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Bobwhite virtually disappeared after early January. Ring-necked Pheasants apparently fared better with concentrations of 200 at Marais Temps Clair W.M.A., Mo. (RK) and two flocks of 100 near Liscomb, Ia. (BP *et al.*) during the harshest weather. A few Gray Partridge continue to survive with reports from one Illinois and 4 Iowa counties this winter. The extreme conditions were responsible for more Turkey observations at several Iowa locations. A late flock of 60 migrant Sandhill Cranes were observed flying S over Tiptecanoe County, Ind., Jan. 11 (DA). Winter rail reports included a Virginia in Will County, Ill., Feb. 15-25 (†JM *et al.*) and a Sora at Newtown, O., Jan. 17 (WR, DK).

Lingering shorebirds included a Black-bellied Plover at M.M.W.A., Dec. 6 (JP) and a Ruddy Turnstone at Lorain, O., through Dec. 28 (LP). Returning Am. Woodcock were widespread in Kentucky after February 17. Smaller numbers appeared in other states by the end of the month; one at Centerville, Ia., Feb. 22 (B & MH) was exceptionally early for that state. The only Purple Sandpiper was reported from Vermilion, O., Jan. 4 (JP). Other lingering shorebirds included two Least Sandpipers at Spfld., through Dec. 15 (H) and one at Chillicothe, Ill., Dec. 6 (LA), dowitchers through Dec. 6 at Alum Creek Res., O., and Mark Twain N.W.R., Ill., a Red Phalarope at Cleveland Jan. 1-3 (†m.ob.) and an incredible Wilson's Phalarope near Columbus Dec. 4 (†JC).

GULLS, ALCIDS — Gull movements followed their usual unpredictable patterns in this Region. Along L. Michigan, Ring-billed and Bonaparte's gulls departed in late December and even Herring Gulls were scarce in n.w. Indiana. These birds must have been driven S since unusually large numbers were reported from w. Kentucky (Kentucky L.-Barkley L.-Smithland Dam) with a maximum of 8000-10,000 (approximately 50% Herring and 50% Ring-billed) Jan. 28-31 (BPB, AB). The concentration of 1000 Herring Gulls near Lawrenceburg, Ind., in February (D & MS) may have been related to this movement. More typical migration patterns along L. Erie included December peaks of 50,000 Ring-billed Gulls, 30,000 Bonaparte's Gulls and a January maximum of 12,000 Herring Gulls.

This editor (who is a confirmed gull watcher) was dismayed by the rather lackadaisical reporting of the rarer gull species. Many reports lacked substantiating details. The value of these descriptions is illustrated by an Alton, Ill.-Mo., bird tentatively identified as a third-year Great Black-backed Gull but the written documentation seems to fit a sub-ad. Herring x Great Black-backed Gull hybrid (†BR,

†RK) Gull identification certainly is not easy and sightings of the rarer species (particularly inland records) should be accompanied by written descriptions and, preferably, photographs.

It was a banner year for inland Glaucous Gulls with six at Peoria, Ill., Dec. 28-Feb. 6 (MS, LA, m.ob.), 5-6 in w. Kentucky Jan. 28-Feb. 7 (BPB, AB) and 1-2 at 7 other locations. Great Lakes maxima were only 3-9 birds. Iceland Gull reports included at least four at Lorain, O., Jan. 14-Feb. 22 (m.ob.), one at Chicago Dec. 6 (*vide* LB) and two in Peoria County, Ill., Jan. 16-Feb. 6 (†LA, MS *et al.*). Normal numbers of Great Black-backed Gulls appeared along L. Erie while singles were noted at Chicago Dec. 13-Jan. 30 (JL, MMI). Inland reports included a well described first-year bird at Alton, Ill.-Mo., Feb. 11-15 (†RK, †BR) and two adults near Lawrenceburg, Ind., Feb. 28 (†CM *et al.*). At least three Lesser Black-backed Gulls were periodically observed along L. Erie between Lorain and Avon L., where this species has become regular in winter (m.ob.). A possible immature at Land Between the Lakes, Ky., Jan. 30-31 (†BPB, †AB) awaits review of photographs by experts. Thayer's Gulls were also well reported with at least eight in w. Kentucky Jan. 28-Feb. 7 (†BPB, †AB), six at Peoria Dec. 28-Feb. 2 (†MS, m.ob.), at least three in the Alton-St. Louis area Dec. 17-Feb. 13 (m.ob.) and singles along the Ohio R., at 2 Kentucky locations. Great Lakes sightings included five plus at Lorain Dec. 3-Feb. 10 (†m.ob., ph.), four at Chicago Dec. 6-Feb. 21 (†PC, JL, m.ob.) and one at Gary, Ind., Dec. 12 (KB). The only Black-headed Gull was observed at 2 L. Erie locations Dec. 8-Jan. 4 (JP). Little Gulls were scattered along L. Erie through Jan. 15 with a maximum of seven at several cities. Immature Black-legged Kittiwakes in Iowa at Dubuque Dec. 6-7 (†RM, FM *et al.*) and Saylorville Res., Dec. 10-17 (†JSc) were noteworthy. However, the incredible report of an ad. kittiwake at Dayton, O., Jan. 10 following a severe storm (†NC, †CM) awaits review by the Ohio Records Committee. Without a doubt, the most amazing report of the period was a bird killed by fishermen at L. Monroe, Ind., during mid-December. The skin has been tentatively identified as a **Marbled Murrelet** and sent to the U.S. Nat'l Museum for confirmation (RM).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A **Ground Dove** at Union County Conservation Area, Ill., Dec. 23 was exceptional (†MH, K). Barn Owls continued their decline. Except for CBC sightings, the only owl was reported at Danville, Ky., Jan. 17 (JE). Following last year's record-setting invasion, this winter's Snowy Owl flight was quite modest with birds appearing at 7 Ohio, 5 Illinois, 4 Iowa and one Indiana locations. Except for one at Dayton, O., Dec. 20-Jan. 10 (JH, m.ob.), they were restricted to n. areas. Iowa's first **Hawk Owl** obligingly established residence at Waterloo Dec. 25 and



Hawk Owl, Waterloo, Iowa, Dec. 26, 1981. Photo/T.H. Kent.

was widely observed through Feb. 25 (†RM, m.ob., ph.). It was a good winter for Long-eared Owls with 30 reports from all states. Many roosts comprised 6-10 birds. In contrast, Short-eared Owls were widespread only in Illinois with scattered reports elsewhere. Saw-whet Owls were numerous in s.w. Ohio; 24 were banded near Cincinnati (RA) with many others reported from the Cincinnati-Dayton area. They were also discovered at 13 other locations in all states except Kentucky.

Few Belted Kingfishers managed to survive the harsh conditions this winter. Common (Red-sh.) Flickers only appeared in Iowa with singles in Mills County (BW) and Story County (*vide* JD). Red-headed Woodpeckers were locally abundant in Iowa and Missouri while fair

numbers were reported elsewhere. Wintering Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers maintained their improved numbers of recent years.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS — In s. states, E. Phoebes lingered through late December. Early migrants returned N to St Louis County, Mo., by Feb. 23 (RC). Horned Larks were generally noted in good numbers with flocks of 1000+ in Iowa and Kentucky and an extraordinary 50,000 near Cincinnati Feb. 12 (RA). Early Tree Swallows returned to Mingo N.W.R., Mo., Feb. 27 (SD *et al.*). The largest reported Com. Crow roost was 10,000 near Lexington, Ky., in December (DCo). Concentrations of 500-3000 were also discovered at 4 Illinois sites and one in Iowa. Few Black-capped Chickadees were noted S of their normal range, even in Ohio where there was a modest flight last fall. Red-breasted Nuthatches were again widespread in all states although in smaller numbers than last winter. Two House Wrens were late at Spfld., Dec. 7 (H). Winter Wrens remain very scarce or absent in all areas. Few Bewick's Wrens were reported from Missouri and Kentucky; this species is rapidly disappearing from the Region. Carolina Wrens staged a short-lived comeback in early winter including Iowa's first record in 2 years. Many birds disappeared during the cold January weather although numbers of survivors were greater than following the 1977-1978 winter. Two Long-billed Marsh Wrens at Spring Valley W.M.A., O., Feb. 14 managed to successfully overwinter in spite of the harsh conditions (RN).

MIMIDS THROUGH SHRIKES — Gray Catbirds were very scarce, appearing at only 2 s.w. Ohio locations. Brown Thrashers fared better with at least 14 reports from Illinois and many December sightings from Kentucky. There was a general exodus of Am. Robins from n. areas where they were scarce except for several flocks of 100-200 birds. They must have moved farther S this winter since numbers in Kentucky were much higher than last year. Six Varied Thrush



Varied Thrush, s.e. White Co., Ind., Feb. 5, 1982. Photo/D.Z. Arvin.

reports are normal for recent years. Singles appeared at Harrisburg, O., Jan. 14-23+ (JSh, m.ob. ph.), Marysville, Ia., Jan. 16 (†P), Union, O., Jan. 22 (†TH *et al.*), Danville, Ind., Jan. 30-Feb. 18 (m.ob., ph.), Chalmers, Ind., Jan. 31-Feb. 18 (DA, ph.) and the Plato Center, Ill., bird remained through Jan. 17 (†m.ob.). Fewer Hermit Thrushes wintered in n. states although 14 lingered at Kelly's I., O through Dec. 7 (JP, DC). Good numbers of E. Bluebird survived the winter in Kentucky and Missouri. Farther n., their numbers were fair at best; a strong late February movement brought sightings of 50-100 birds at several locations. A Townsend's Solitaire at St. Joseph, Mo., Feb. 13-15 (†L, m.ob.) provided the first Regional winter record in 3 years. Golden-crowned Kinglets were scarce in most areas except Kentucky while Ruby-crowneds were practically nonexistent. Winter Water Pipit records included singles at Saylorville Res., Ia., Dec 12-13 (JSc), Louisville Jan. 15-25 (BPB) and near Pocahontas, Ia., Feb. 27 (†WJ). In addition to CBC reports from Iowa and Ohio, a Bohemian Waxwing appeared at Ames, Ia., Feb. 1 (JSc). Wintering Cedar Waxwings were generally scarce except in Kentucky and s.w. Ohio. The expected February migration brought only small numbers to Illinois and a flock of 350 to Cherokee, Ia. (DB). Northern Shrikes staged one of their strongest movements in recent years with 14 reports from Ohio, 10 from Illinois, eight from Iowa, seven from Indiana and four from Missouri. This movement extended S to

Shades S P , Ind (ABr *et al.*), Champaign County, Ill (†RCh), Petersburg, Ill (†CBe) and Clay County, Mo (HB, MLM) Loggerhead Shrikes were "holding their own" in Kentucky and Missouri but were very scarce in n. states where only four birds were reported.

WARBLERS, ICTERIDS — The few warbler reports were generally prior to the advent of severe weather. An Orange-crowned Warbler lingered at Joliet, Ill., Dec. 23 (†JM) and on CBCs in Missouri and Kentucky. A Magnolia Warbler at Joliet, Ill., Dec. 17-19 was exceptional (†JM). Except for 52 at Kelly's I., Dec. 7 (JP, DC), Yellow-rumped Warblers were scarce in n. states. They appeared in greater-than-normal numbers in Kentucky. Other lingering warblers included an unprecedented Yellow-throated Warbler at a Mansfield, O feeder Dec. 6-Jan. 10 (†SM), a N. Waterthrush in Mason County, Ill., Dec. 19 (†K *et al.*) and single Com. Yellowthroats in Missouri and Kentucky.

Meadowlarks were universally scarce this winter. Yellow-headed Blackbird reports included two at S.C.R., Dec. 21 (SS), one at Ottumwa, Ia., Jan. 3 (*fide* NH) and one at Cartersville, Ill., Feb. 14 (†DR). Iowa observers found the only N. Orioles with a "Bullock's" at Cedar Falls Dec. 20 (†RM) and a "Baltimore" at Pleasant Valley Dec. 30-Jan. 4+ (†P). Except for isolated large roosts in Kentucky, Missouri and Ohio, blackbirds were generally scarce. An extralimital Brewer's Blackbird appeared at Akron, O., Feb. 1 (†DS) while 25 at Mingo N.W.R., Mo., Feb. 27 were locally unusual (SD *et al.*). Two Great-tailed Grackles at S.C.R., Dec. 20-21 provided a second winter record for Missouri (TB, SS).

FRINGILLIDS — As a result of the severe weather, many finches and sparrows were attracted to feeders of housebound birders. Iowa's fourth **Black-headed Grosbeak** visited a LeClaire feeder Dec. 13-14 (†P *et al.*). The only Dickcissels were found at feeders in Conneaut, O., Dec. 1 (*fide* JF) and Murray, Ky., Feb. 19-27 (†CP). Evening Grosbeaks were universally scarce. Most reports were during December, few birds wintered. Peak numbers were only 20-30. Purple Finches were also unimpressive, largest reported flocks were 20-50. The House Finch expansion was most noticeable in Kentucky where birds appeared for the first time at Bedford and Ft. Wright while increased numbers were noted at traditional sites. Pine Grosbeaks were only observed in Ottawa County, O., where 1-4 birds were found Jan. 10-Feb. 28 (†JP, †KA).

S.A.

One of the highlights of this winter was a widespread Com. Redpoll invasion in numbers which rivalled the 1977-1978 invasion. While widely scattered redpoll flocks were reported in December, the major movement did not begin until mid- to late January in the n. and the first week of February in s. states. Flocks of 50-300 birds were widely reported in n. states with many lingering into March. In contrast to previous invasions, fairly large numbers wandered farther S than normal including 113 at Dayton feeders (*fide* CM), 54 at a Cincinnati feeder (*fide* W) and 22 at St. Louis feeders (*fide* RK). The s. limit of this invasion was Louisville (JB, DN), Vanderburgh County, Ind. (*fide* CK) and Carbondale, Ill. (DR). As expected, several of Hoary Redpolls were reported with these flocks. Convincing details reached this editor for the following records: one at Eldora, Ia., Jan. 23-30+ (†NS, m.ob.), one at Gary, Ind., Feb. 6 (†BS), one at Akron, O., Feb. 12-28+ (BO, †m.ob.), two (one banded) at Lorain Feb. 15-28+ (†JP, m.ob.) and one banded at Blue Island, Ill., Feb. 24 (†KBa).

Pine Siskins were widespread but less numerous than last winter; largest reported flocks were generally 50-100. American Goldfinches were also common at their favorite thistle feeders although few were found in natural habitats. Both crossbills were widespread and equally numerous. Reds appeared at 23 locations in all states s. to Louisville (JPa, m.ob.) and St. Francois County, Mo. (*fide* SD). Except for 250 near Kansas City, largest flocks contained 15-50 birds. White-wingeds were not reported from Indiana but were found at 23 sites s. to Springfield, Mo. (*fide* CB) and Louisville (AB). Peak numbers were also 15-50.

Sparrows received mixed reports. While juncos and Tree Sparrows were plentiful, White-crowned, White-throated, Swamp and Song sparrows were rather scarce. Among the more noteworthy sightings, the "Spotted" race of Rufous-sided Towhee appeared at single locations in w. Iowa and w. Missouri. Wintering Savannah Sparrows at 2

n w Missouri and 4 c Illinois sites were unexpected. A Le Conte's Sparrow at Taberville Prairie, Mo., Feb. 27 was probably an early migrant (MM, KH). Vesper Sparrows were reported from 6 locations n. to Plato Center, Ill. (†JM), Mills County, Ia. (†BW) and Willow Slough, Ind. (DA). The only documented Chipping Sparrow appeared in Ottawa County, O., Jan. 23 (†JP). Normal numbers of Harris' Sparrows were reported e. to Illinois. Fox Sparrows were less numerous than last winter although eight at Davenport, Ia., Dec. 24 (P) and one wintering at Chicago (AA) were locally unusual. Lapland Longspurs were widespread with occasional flocks of 50-200 birds. However, 250 at Louisville Jan. 14-Feb. 9 were an exceptional number that far s. (BPB). Snow Buntings staged one of their strongest movements ever into this Region. In n. states, largest numbers were noted through early January and as spring migrants after mid-February. Noteworthy concentrations included 2000 at DeKalb, Ill., Dec. 21 (MS) and 1500 at Killdeer Plains W.M.A., O., Feb. 28 (J) while flocks of 200-1000 were widely reported. Peak numbers in Missouri and Kentucky occurred during late January and early February with 500 at Louisville Feb. 10-11 (BPB), 70 in St. Charles County, Mo. (m.ob.) and 60 at Columbia, Mo., Feb. 1 (TB *et al.*) Smaller numbers penetrated S to Belgrade, Mo. (SD, RL), Carbondale, Ill. (MMI) and Lexington, Ky. (ABa). Both longspurs and Snow Buntings were occasionally noted at backyard feeders during the most inclement weather.

EXOTICS — This Region's feral Mute Swan population appears to be rapidly expanding. They were widely reported from Illinois while 1-4 swans were found at 2 locations in Iowa, Indiana and Ohio. Two Bar-headed Geese were shot by hunters at Fountain Grove W.M.A., Mo., Dec. 21 (TLa).

UNCORROBORATED REPORTS: The following reports may be credible but satisfactory documentation was not provided to this editor: Whooping Crane at Schell-Osage W.M.A., Mo., Dec. 10, House Wren in Washington County, Mo., Dec. 26, Sprague's Pipit at Taberville Prairie, Mo., Feb. 13 and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at an Evanston, Ill. feeder Dec. 13-Jan. 6.

CORRIGENDA — Satisfactory documentation has been provided for the Green Heron at Louisville Feb. 7, 1981 (AB 35:307). This winter record is now considered acceptable (†AB). The Mar. 4, 1981 report of a Great Egret in Champaign County, Ill. (AB 35:828) should be amended to Apr. 4. The summer report of Alder Flycatchers at Bigelow Marsh, Mo. (AB 35:945) should be changed to Willow Flycatcher. The following spring sightings have been rejected by the Ohio Records Committee and should be deleted: Goshawk at Reading Mar. 27 (AB 35:829), Yellow Rail at M.M.W.A., Apr. 6 (AB 35:829) and Laughing Gull at M.M.W.A., Mar. 27 (AB 35:830).

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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

/Brent Ortego

Despite very cold weather in northern states and many newspaper statements that this was the coldest winter in 20 years, the mean temperature was average in Louisiana and only 2°F below normal in Tennessee (MLB). However, a severe cold front with subfreezing weather January 9-17 throughout the Region had some effect on bird distribution. The winter was dry in the early part and progressively wetter towards the end. Red-breasted Nuthatches and Pine Siskins primarily invaded the northern states of the Region while Evening Grosbeaks and Purple Finches hardly showed up at all. American Robins and Dark-eyed Juncos migrated south late and/or in reduced numbers. Great Cormorants, Great Black-backed Gulls, Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs migrated farther south than normal by the mid-January arctic blast, and many hummingbirds disappeared. A White-throated Swift in Arkansas was the most unexpected find of the season.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — A Red-throated Loon at L. Millwood Dec. 9 was the seventh for Arkansas (CM). Eared Grebes were scarce: a total of 36 was present on 4 Christmas Bird Counts (hereafter, CBCs), one was reported at Gulfport, Miss., Jan. 26-Feb. 6 (JT) with a max. of two Jan. 1 (GJ, DJ), and one was near Pensacola Dec. 6 (PT)-Feb. 3 (RAD, RSD). The W. Grebe at Alabama Pt., Dec. 5 was the fourth for Alabama (GJ). Unusual inland were single White Pelicans on the Baton Rouge CBC and at Eufaula N.W.R., Ala., Jan. 31 (DM, PM). A Brown Pelican was reported in Harrison County, Miss., Jan. 5 (JT). This species started nesting at Barataria Bay, La., in November and 673 adults and immatures were noted in the area on the Grand Isle CBC. The 164 nesting attempts seemed to be doing well until the severe January cold front aborted them all. Fortunately, February brought 160 new nesting attempts (BO). Two Gannets in Cameron Par., were uncommon Feb. 18 (SV), but 50+ in LaFourche Par., Feb. 28 (DH, KH) were more interesting.

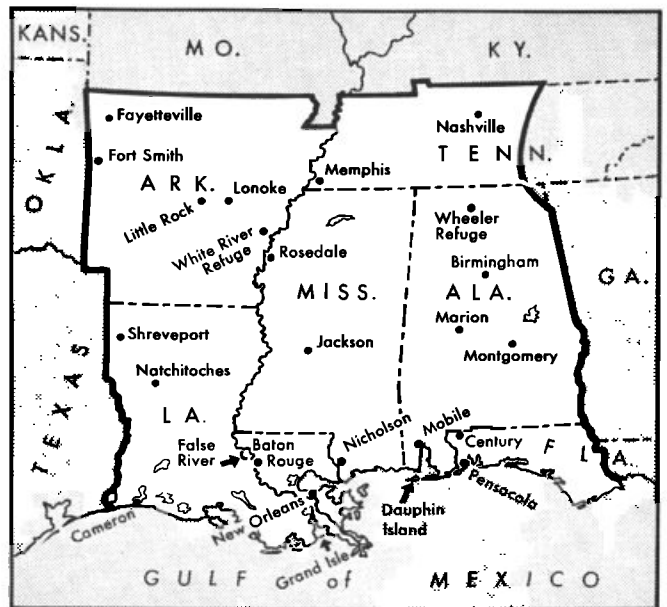
The Great Cormorant, previously a super-rarity along the n. Gulf coast, was reported an astonishing 6 times (all imm. birds): two observed in Jackson County Jan. 1 and Feb. 6 were the second and third reports for Mississippi (JT); singles at Grand Isle Dec. 26 (NN, DN) and Feb. 28 (DH, KH) were the third and fourth reports for Louisiana; at Ft. Morgan, Ala. (CW, PB) one was found dead and another was reported at Alabama Pt., Dec. 6 (OF, m.ob.) which was photographed Jan. 2 (HK). Double-crested Cormorant populations in Louisiana continue to increase over the past decade's numbers; members counts from Barataria Bay (BO), Natchitoches Par. (CV), Morgan City (BO) and Shreveport CBC totaled at least 1000.

Green Heron reports were widespread: 19 birds on 6 Louisiana CBCs and singles at Nashville Dec. 6 (MLB), Gulf Shores, Ala., Dec. 21 (GJ, DJ), Clark County, Ark., Dec. 26 (EM, JM), and Jackson County, Miss., Jan. 23 (JT, TM). The latest Cattle Egret for the Tennessee Valley in Alabama was near Decatur Dec. 12 (AM, HW, MH). The eight Yellow-crowned Night Herons reported on 5 Louisiana CBCs were more than usual.

The Glossy Ibis, very difficult to distinguish from the White-faced Ibis in the field during winter, was reported on 3 Louisiana CBCs on the w. end of its range. All nine birds reported were identified at close range with high quality spotting scopes during observations of 4000+ *Plegadis* at various distances. Of these dark ibises only 39% were seen clearly enough to be identified as White-faced. Two *Plegadis* were reported at Mobile Dec. 10 and one Dec. 20 (GJ, DJ). Inland wintering White Ibises in Louisiana are increasing at about the same rate as the acreages devoted to crawfish farming (BO).

WATERFOWL — State game agencies conducted midwinter inventories in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi and estimated there were 4,500,000 waterfowl of which 92% were in Louisiana (BRT, CS, RKW, respectively); total numbers were about the same as last year in Alabama and Louisiana and 15% up in Mississippi; Snow Geese accounted for 104,000, Pintails 838,000 and scaup 540,000.

Nonintroduced Canada Geese are no longer common along the Gulf coast; one at Gulf Shores, Ala., Dec. 21 (GJ, DJ), six on the Sabine CBC and 12 at Sweet Lake, La., Feb. 23 (BO, SO, AB) were unusual. At least one Brant at Cross Creek N.W.R., Dec. 7-Feb. 28, 1982 supplied the seventh Tennessee record (DD). A White-fronted Goose Dec. 19 was the first for the Wheeler N.W.R. CBC (SG, CDC, m.ob.). Approximately 100,000 Snow Geese feeding in a rye grass



field near Roanoke, La., all February were considered abundant (BO, SO). The Ross' Goose* near Johnsons Bayou Dec. 22 (JBS) was only the sixth for Louisiana. A Cinnamon Teal (ph.) was in Cameron Par., Feb. 13 (MJM). A Eurasian Wigeon at Wheeler N.W.R., Nov. 27 (MB, CDC, m.ob.) was the third for Alabama. Canvasbacks were fairly numerous with 94% of 84,000 reported by the state game agencies occurring in Louisiana (CS); 3000+ others were near Decatur, Ala., Feb. 6 (CDC). Scaup were very abundant; 410,000 wintered in L. Pontchartrain (CS) and 150,000 in Barataria Bay, La. (BO). Greater Scaup were reported at most coastal Louisiana localities; 285 were noted on 6 CBCs conducted there. A few Oldsquaws are normally reported in Louisiana once every 2 years; this year three were in St. Charles Par., Nov. 21-Jan. 23 (MW, RS, BC, SH) with one* Jan. 1 (WD); one was at New Orleans Nov. 22 (MM) and two on the Grand Isle CBC. Single White-winged Scoters at Gulf Shores (GJ, DJ, m.ob.), Guntersville, Ala. (CDC) and Rockefeller Ref., La. (RH), were far outshadowed by 24 on the Siloam Springs CBC in Arkansas. Twelve Surf Scoters were reported at Gulf Shores (GJ, DJ) and three at Wood Res., Tenn. (KD, LD); singles were at New Orleans (MM) and Nashville (MLB). Black Scoters were more widespread than the others: 30 reported at Gulf Shores (GJ, DJ) Dec. 6 was the highest ever for Alabama; others were present in Escambia County, Fla., from Dec. 5 (PT, BT, m.ob.)-Jan. 16 (WHV, RAD), at Pensacola Dec. 11 (RAD), and on the Grand Isle and Reserve CBCs in Louisiana. The count of 74 Hooded Mergansers at Gulf Shores Dec. 21 was the highest ever for the Alabama coast (GJ, DJ). The Com. Merganser at Pensacola Dec. 18 (RAD) stayed until Jan. 27 (PWS) and represented the fifth area report; elsewhere 20 were on Cheatam L., Feb. 6 (RM) and five at Cordell Hull L., Tenn., Jan. 23 (MRM, RVM); one other was found at Baton Rouge Jan. 23-24 (DH, KH, TP). Red-breasted Mergansers were abundant in Barataria Bay where at least 2500 were seen Jan. 19 (BO).

HAWKS THROUGH CRANES — A White-tailed Kite was reported for the first time in s.e. Louisiana in 90 years in St. Tammany Par., Jan. 31 (DH). A Goshawk was on the Ashland City CBC, Tenn. Both Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks continue to increase: 69 Sharp-shinneds were reported on 17 of 35 Arkansas and Louisiana CBCs and 32 Cooper's were reported on 20 CBCs. Fifty Red-tailed Hawks Feb. 12 in a 40-acre field was an unusual find in Washington County, Arkansas (JN, CW, LuC). Wintering Broad-winged Hawks, although usually uncommon, were reported in Louisiana on the Grand Isle (2), New Orleans (1) and Venice (2) CBCs. Also, two were near New Iberia Jan. 15 and one near Golden Meadow Jan. 25 (BO). The most Rough-legged Hawks reported this season were six in middle Tennessee Dec. 12-Feb. 28 (T.O.S); singles were reported at Guntersville, Ala., Dec. 23-Feb. 10 (CDC, HW, m.ob.), at Holla Bend N.W.R., Ark., Jan. 17 (WS, FBu), at New Orleans Jan. 30-Feb. 14 (DPM, m.ob.), and in Washington County Feb. 12 (JN, CW, LuC).

Either eagle numbers are increasing or birders now know better where to look for them. The Jan. 18 Nat'l Wildlife Federation eagle

watch turned up 763 eagles in 4 states of which 27 were Golden, 90% of the eagles were in Arkansas, 16 ad and 15 imm Bald Eagles were observed near 14 nests in Louisiana (*vide* FrB). A Golden Eagle was captured and banded at Talladega, Ala., during November (*vide* AM), one was reported on the Sabine CBC for the first time and four immatures were found on the White River N.W.R. CBC. Birders reported six ad. and 14 imm. Bald Eagles in Alabama, 28 adults and 14 immatures in Arkansas, 7 adults and 11 immatures in Louisiana and two adults and one immature in Mississippi.

Two Ospreys were listed on the Reserve and Venice CBCs and at Moss Pt., Miss., Feb. 13 (JJ); singles were at L. Charles, La., in December (BO), at Decatur, Ala., Jan. 6 (JE), at Jackson County, Miss., Feb. 6 (JT, CR) and at Baton Rouge Feb. 20 (SC). Seven Peregrine Falcons were reported in Louisiana: two on Grand Isle CBC and singles at Delta N.W.R., Dec. 5 (DPM, JW), on Johnsons Bayou CBC, at Rockefeller Ref., Jan. 30 (RH, KB) and Hopedale Feb. 4 (DPM); one was in Jackson County Jan. 1 (JT). Eight Merlins were reported on 7 CBCs in the Region; three others were reported in Biloxi Jan. 2-16 (JT), two near Delta N.W.R., Dec. 5 (DPM, JW), one at Decatur Nov. 22 (CDC, PF, CG), and one at New Orleans all winter (DPM). Fourteen Sandhill Cranes were unusual at Gulf Shores, Ala., Dec. 21 (GJ, DJ), as were two at Jackson, La., Dec. 3 (BTR); birders found no Sandhills at Cheneyville, La., but landowners there stated that a flock of 100+ was present both this winter and last (*vide* RN).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS — Louisiana's 8,000,000 acres of coastal marshes, water bodies and barrier islands are used by large numbers of wintering shorebirds, but rarely is their abundance assessed. The numbers of each of 6 species (275 Semipalmated Plovers, 80 Piping Plovers, 1575 Black-bellied Plovers, 8000 Dunlin, 2500 Short-billed Dowitchers and 8000 Western Sandpipers) roosting on Grand Terre I. (a 3-mi long barrier island), Jefferson Par., Feb. 3 exceeded the combined totals for these species on the 15 Louisiana CBCs (BO). The only Snowy Plovers reported were singles on the Grand Isle and Sabine CBCs.

Wilson's Plovers used to be considered extremely scarce in winter; however, I believe they just occupy remote beaches and salt flats at this season. Singles are now found regularly on the Sabine CBC, and six were on the Grand Isle CBC this year; one was also in Gulf County, Fla., Jan. 17 (JS). An Am. Golden Plover at Rockefeller Ref., La., Feb. 23 (RH, KB) was either the earliest migrant ever or a rare winter vagrant. An Am. Woodcock nest was found in the first week of February by a local hunter in Desoto Par., and it was later photographed (ToP, *vide* MO). Notable were Long-billed Curlews at Mobile Dec. 1 (GJ) and on the Ft. Morgan CBC. A Whimbrel at Rockefeller Ref., Feb. 25 was unusual (KB) as were single Solitary Sandpipers on the Pine Prairie and Sabine CBCs. At least 100 Red Knots were observed daily on Grand Terre I., after December and a state high of 2500 was estimated Jan. 6 (BO). A few places had Marbled Godwits: Rockefeller Ref., with 30 on Feb. 10 (KB); 2 Louisiana CBCs with seven and Mobile with one Dec. 1 (GJ). Four Black-necked Stilts reported in Jackson County, Miss., Jan. 1 were late (JT). A Wilson's Phalarope near Grand Isle Feb. 7 was the first for Louisiana in late winter (MM, DP, m.ob.).

After the initial report of a Glaucous Gull in the area, birders spent many hours at 3 of 4 New Orleans landfill garbage dumps carefully looking at thousands of gulls. They were rewarded with an unprecedented array of spectacular finds: two Glaucous Gulls, one Great Black-backed Gull, one Lesser Black-backed Gull, and three Thayer's Gulls. The number of rare gulls in the Region at large suggests that nationwide weather trends contributed to their presence.

No fewer than seven Glaucous Gulls were noted: one at Alabama Pt., Dec. 5 (PT, RAD, m.ob.); one at Perdido Key, Ala., Jan. 31 (OF) & Feb. 27 (RC, CC, m.ob.); one at Shreveport, La. (CBC); one Jan. 28 (SC, JVR, m.ob.) and two* Feb. 28 (SC, MR) at New Orleans; one Jan. 28-Feb. 1 (BO) and another Feb. 7 (MM, DPM, m.ob.) near Grand Isle, La. Great Black-backed Gulls appeared at 3 localities: Destin, Fla., Oct. 23-Dec. 15 (one present for eighth year in a row—RAD); near Ft. Pickens, Fla., Feb. 6-28 (RAD, RSD, m.ob.); New Orleans Feb. 28 (single bird, first widely accepted Louisiana record—SC, MR, m.ob.). Two **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were reported: one in Gulf County, Fla., Jan. 9 & 23 (JS); one at New Orleans Feb. 14-28 (ph), the first for Louisiana (DPM, MM, m.ob.). Another new bird for Louisiana was a **Thayer's Gull** at New Orleans Feb. 14 (MM); three (2*) more were identified there Feb. 28 (SC, MR, m.ob.). A Franklin's Gull was reported on the Gulf Shores CBC. Thirteen hundred Bonaparte's Gulls in Hancock County, Miss., Jan. 26 was a

high number (JT). A Black-legged Kittiwake, an uncommon sight near land, was at Alabama Pt., Dec. 5-6 (PT, OF, m.ob.). About 200 Sandwich Terns stayed until the second week of December at Grand Isle (BO) and singles were still present on the Grand Isle and Sabine CBCs.

PIGEONS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Single Band-tailed Pigeons were found at 2 widely spaced Louisiana localities: one at Pilottown Dec. 5 (DPM, JW), observed at 50 ft, and one (ph.) near Many, La., Dec. 21 to at least Feb. 21 (SHB, JQ, m.ob.). The six White-winged Doves reported on the Sabine and Venice CBCs are less impressive than one 100+ mi inland at Natchitoches, La., Feb. 21 (CV) and another in Jackson County, Miss., Jan. 1 & 16 (JT, GM, m.ob.). Groove-billed Anis were widespread in Louisiana: 17 on 4 CBCs; three in Plaquemines Par., Dec. 5 (DPM, JW), four at Rockefeller Ref., Dec. 15 (MS) plus one Jan. 15 (RH, KB), and 13 at Grand Isle Feb. 7 (SP, DP, m.ob.).

The Long-eared Owl, rarely observed in Louisiana, was recorded at 2 locations: one was found dead near Patoutville Dec. 16 (DMO) and two were seen at Hackberry Dec. 19-20 (DPM, JR, m.ob.). Single Saw-whet Owls were reported in Hickman County Dec. 28 (DA) and Giles County, Tenn., Feb. 2 (ToM). The 13 Chuck-will's-widows found on 4 Louisiana CBCs with one still at Johnsons Bayou, La., Feb. 13 (MJM) outnumbered the four Whip-poor-wills reported on 2 Louisiana CBCs. The **White-throated Swift** on the Buffalo Nat'l River (west) CBC, Ark. (NG, BoM, PaM, JAR, CT, PaT) was the most unexpected find of the season.

While hummingbird reports were fewer than normal, s. Louisiana hummingbird enthusiasts continue to entice many to winter. The subfreezing weather of Jan. 9-17 caused many hummingbirds to disappear (*vide* NN). Two *Archilochus* sp. were at Baton Rouge Dec. 1-Jan. 11 (RD, ID). Single Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were reported at Faulkner County, Ark., Dec. 13 (WCo) and at Metairie, La., Feb. 28 (NN, PN). A Black-chinned Hummingbird was at Reserve, La., Nov. 24 to mid-December (RS); another was found frozen to a feeder at L. Charles in January (NN). At least six Rufous Hummingbirds attempted to winter in Reserve (RS, MW), but two were found dead during the cold weather of January. A Buff-bellied Hummingbird, present all winter at Raceland, La., was banded Mar. 11 (NN, VL); another much-photographed bird was at Reserve Jan. 2-14 (RS, m.ob.).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH WARBLERS — Common (Red-sh.) Flickers were listed on 3 Arkansas and 1 Louisiana CBC. The Golden-fronted Woodpecker reported last spring was still present at Pensacola Feb. 27 (RC, CC, m.ob.). Wintering Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were six on the Grand Isle CBC and 20 Jan. 22 in Cameron Par. (JaT). A Least Flycatcher* was on the Johnson Bayou CBC (SC). In Louisiana the uncommon Vermilion Flycatcher was reported on 3 CBCs; at least two wintered at Millers L., Evangeline Par., for the eighth winter in a row (BO, HG); one also wintered in Natchitoches (CV, MSh) and one was at Delta N.W.R., Dec. 5 (DPM, JW).

Horned Lark numbers were about average in Arkansas (1.37 birds per party-hour on CBCs—hereafter, bpph) and Louisiana (0.06 bpph). After the severe cold front of January they were reported in s.e. Louisiana: one or two were at New Orleans Jan. 14 (JR, MM, m.ob.) and 100+ at LaPlace Jan. 16-18 (RS, MyF, m.ob.). The earliest Rough-winged Swallow ever for Alabama was one in Cleburne County Feb. 25 (HK, JF). The earliest Purple Martin reported this season was in Iberia Par., Jan. 25 (MJM).

Most wrens were reported at their average abundances at CBCs in Arkansas and Louisiana, except Bewick's; down from 0.022 to 0.007 bpph in Arkansas. The second wintering House Wren recorded in Tennessee was one in Davidson County Jan. 2 (*vide* MLB). Bewick's Wrens were found for the first time in Evangeline Par., Dec. 20 (PMC, RS). A Gray Catbird at Memphis Dec. 20 (HV) was uncommon. American Robins were only 1/6 their normal 30 bpph during Louisiana CBCs, but by February they had returned to their normal abundance in agricultural fields. Most Hermit Thrushes seemed to disappear from the coast after December (JT, RAD, m.ob.). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were at Washington County, Ark., Dec. 5 (CW) and at Guntersville CBC, Ala. Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned kinglets bpph were down at least 1/2 in Arkansas and Louisiana, although Bierly reported that Golden-crowns were up in Tennessee. Bell's Vireo, a winter rarity, was listed on the Venice CBC, La.

Uncommon wintering warblers were: nine Black-and-white on 5 Louisiana CBCs; a Tennessee on Venice CBC; single N. Parulas on

Grand Isle and Reserve CBCs, with one being at Grand Isle Feb 7 (DP, DPM, m ob) at the same location as the one on the earlier CBC, a Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) on the Johnsons Bayou CBC; single Yellow-throateds on Arkadelphia and Reserve CBCs; individual Prairies in St. Tammany Par., Dec. 18 (DPM, JVR, m.ob.) and on Sabine CBC; single Palms on Hickory-Priest CBC and at Columbia, Tenn., Dec. 26 (APr); an Ovenbird, a Yellow-breasted Chat and three Am. Redstarts on Venice CBC, and one Am. Redstart on Baton Rouge CBC.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH LONGSPURS — Blackbirds moved down on schedule this year. The roost at Miller's L., Evangeline Par., contained about 10,000,000 Brown-headed Cowbirds and 5,000,000 Red-winged Blackbirds in January (BO, HG). In Vidalia, La., a roost of only 500,000 Am. Robins, Starlings and blackbirds within the city limits so upset the residents that the U.S. Fish & Wild. Serv. had to "scare" the birds out of town by various acoustical methods (*fide* DL). Single Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported at Mobile Dec. 4 (JoR) & 21 (VF), the Baton Rouge CBC and Nashville Jan. 28 (AP). "Baltimore" type Orioles were reported on 3 Louisiana CBCs; two others were at Baton Rouge Feb. 4 (HM) and one was at Gulfport Jan. 24 (GS). Fifteen "Bullock's" types were listed on the Venice CBC. The Bronzed Cowbird was a first on the New Orleans CBC, but in the same neighborhood four were observed Feb. 5-28 (FB, GB) and another was reported at Ft. Pike 20 mi e., Jan. 28 (WT). A Summer Tanager was at Gentry, Ark., Nov. 28-Dec. 18 (WE) and one wintered in Shreveport for the eleventh year in a row (*fide* JaS).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported on the Sabine CBC and at New Orleans Dec. 23 (NNe). Single Black-headed Grosbeaks appeared on the Reserve CBC, at Natchitoches in February (FV, CV), at New Orleans Feb. 13 (FB, GB) and at Paris, Ark., Feb. 14 (BB, FH). A Dickcissel was at Maury County, Tenn., mid-December-Feb. 28 (KA, KG). Evening Grosbeaks did not invade the Region in very large numbers; only scattered observations of 1-2 birds at a time were reported in Tennessee (T.O.S.) and two visited a feeder near Birmingham Jan. 21 (*fide* TI). A late Indigo Bunting was listed on the Sabine CBC. Purple Finches were seen in the lowest numbers in recent memory in Tennessee (T.O.S.), and were scarce throughout the rest of the Region. House Finches were widespread in n. Tennessee (T.O.S.), but were not noticed farther s. (JJ). A **Common Redpoll** (ph.) at Harrison Jan. 25-29 (JAR) supplied the fourth Arkansas record. Despite many reports of low numbers, it was an invasion year for Pine Siskins; they occurred at twice their average bpph on CBCs in Arkansas (0.21) and Louisiana (0.05) and were especially abundant late in the season in n. portions of the Region (*fide* JD, TI, TOS).

Many birders felt that the abundance of several species of sparrows was lower than normal at scattered localities, but while most slumped from last year's high numbers, recorded densities (bpph) on Arkansas and Louisiana CBCs were in general average. Henslow's Sparrows were listed at 3 Louisiana and one Arkansas CBCs; one at Gulf Shores, Ala., Dec. 6 was only the third ever found on the Alabama coast in December (GJ, CD, MH). The max. of 10 Le Conte's Sparrows counted in Jackson County, Miss., Jan. 16-30 was considered unusual (JT, JMc, m.ob.). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow on the Guntersville CBC was a rarity inland (MB, CAB). Vesper Sparrow abundance went down from the average 0.03 to 0.002 bpph on Arkansas CBCs and up from 0.11 to 0.20 bpph on Louisiana CBCs; 15 at Memphis Dec. 20 was considered a high number (BBC, JW). Two Clay-colored Sparrows were noted on the Sabine CBC (JVR, SC) for only the second Louisiana CBC record. Tree Sparrows invaded the Region: six were on 3 Arkansas CBCs, three at Shelby County, Tenn., Jan. 14-20 and 25 Jan. 24-Feb. 14 (T.O.S.), four at Crittenden County, Ark., Jan. 17 (RW), and 22 near Memphis Feb. 13 (JWi). On Jan. 14 singles were located at Clarksville (AH), Gallatin (DC, PC) and Nashville, Tenn. (MLM); in Arkansas five were reported in Washington County Jan. 17 (JN) and four at Cleburne County Feb. 6 (WS, RoC, m.ob.). The six Arkansas and 1 Louisiana CBC with Harris' Sparrows ran up a total of 24 birds; eight were in Washington County Dec. 5 (JN), one at Clarksville, Tenn., Jan. 2 (BM)—Jan. 4 (EW) and one at Ft. Morgan, Ala., Dec. 2 (CB, PB). Dark-eyed Juncos had a bpph rating of only 0.7 bpph in Louisiana, down 50% from normal density; yet Jerome Jackson reported them as more abundant than usual in Mississippi.

A major invasion of Lapland Longspurs was probably associated with the severe winter up n. However, many were seen far s. before the very cold weather started; they were first reported at Alabama

Pt., Dec 6 (GJ, DJ, m ob), 2 weeks later they were found on 3 Arkansas and 1 Louisiana CBC. Of these, 1000 at Texarkana CBC was a very high number and the 12 on the Pine Prairie CBC were the first for Evangeline Par. (MW, TH). Later, they occurred in unprecedented numbers in s. Louisiana; 3000+ were reported at St. Charles Par., Jan. 16-18 (RS, NN, m.ob.), 10 in Baton Rouge Jan. 14 (DH, KH) and 62 Jan. 17 (SC, JVR), and 18 at New Orleans Jan. 14 (MM, DPM). Two Smith's Longspurs at St. Charles Par., Jan. 17 (DP, DPM, m.ob.) was a new species to s.e. Louisiana; four others were on the Arkadelphia CBC.

CORRIGENDA — The Peregrine Falcon reported at Perdido Key Feb. 28, 1981 (AB 35:308) was actually at Pensacola. Twenty Black-chinned Hummingbirds were banded at New Orleans (NN) last winter in addition to the one at Reserve (AB 35:308). The Lapland Longspurs reported at Alabama Pt., last winter (AB 35:309) should have been listed as a maximum of ten Dec. 7, 1980-Mar. 7, 1981 (OF, ShG).

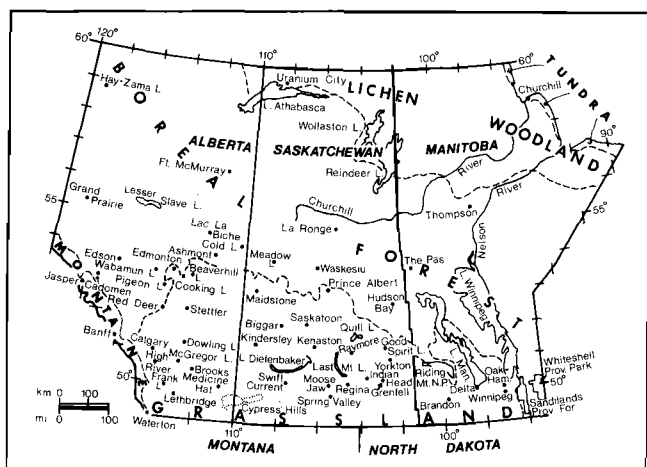
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PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

/J. Bernard Gollop

It was mild during the first part of December but by the end of the month, the entire Region was experiencing -30 to -40°C temperatures; the mean for the month was within 1°C of normal across the Prairies. January was one of the coldest months on record with temperatures 6 to 10° below normal in most areas. At Saskatoon, overnight temperatures dropped to colder than -30° on 26 of 31 days. In spite of a week-long mild spell at mid-month, February in Alberta and Saskatchewan was 2-6° below normal. Manitoba was near normal.

December precipitation was less than 50% of normal in most areas although Broadview and North Battleford, Saskatchewan, and The



Pas were at least one-third above normal. In January precipitation varied from normal in central Manitoba and Saskatchewan to twice normal in western Alberta. Edmonton's record of 70 cm of snow fell on 25 of the 31 days. In February, the southern Prairies had 25-50% of normal snow and rain. At the end of the period, snow on the ground averaged 15 cm in Alberta, south of Edmonton and east of the mountains; 12 cm in Saskatchewan, south of Prince Albert, and 11 cm in Manitoba, south of Dauphin.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — Particularly late individuals were: Com. Loon at Pinawa, Man., Dec. 2-3 (PT); Horned and Pied-billed grebes at Portage La Prairie, Man., Dec. 25 (IW), and W. Grebe at Banff Dec. 5 (J & MS). A flying Double-crested Cormorant was seen at E. St. Paul, Man., Dec. 13 (MSi, RK). Two Whistling Swans at Seven Sisters, Man., Dec. 6 (PT) and a flock in the 1st week of December near Steinbach (DFa), and "numerous" flocks of Canada Geese over Winnipeg Dec. 7-8 were unusual (GEH, AB, m ob). There were December dates for 18 species of ducks across the Region; except for Mallards and Com. Goldeneye, these were mainly singles. However, nine Barrow's Goldeneye survived at least until Feb 14 at Calgary (JT) as did 11 Com. Mergansers until Feb. 26 at Squaw Rapids (WCH).

RAPTORS — Goshawks and Gyrfalcons appeared to be in normal numbers. Single wintering Red-tailed Hawks were unusual at the Wildlife Reserve of Western Canada (hereafter, W.R.W.C.), near Cochrane, Alta., Jan. 2 (PS, SJ); at Sundre, Alta., Dec. 12 (FH); Cypress Hills, Dec. 19 (NC, JW); Good Spirit Lake Dec. 26 (W & JA); near Regina Dec. 6 (DHj) and at least three s. of Steinbach, Man., throughout the period (DFa, HL, m.ob.). At least three Rough-legged Hawks were present through February at Squaw Rapids; this may be the first wintering record for the Region's Boreal Forest (WCH); eight were on the Calgary Airport Jan. 16 (JS, MSp). At Squaw Rapids also there were a surprising 52 Bald Eagles Dec. 24 with four still present through February (WCH). A Peregrine Falcon was reported from Lomond, Alta., Feb. 26 (DY); an adult was studied near Nipawin, Sask. Feb. 24 (WCH, AN) and at least two (adult and immature) stayed through the period in Winnipeg (HC, DRH, m.ob.).

GROUSE THROUGH OWLS — Ruffed Grouse were down in s. Manitoba (PT, DFa) and the s. boreal forest of Saskatchewan (WCH). The only shorebirds were a Killdeer Dec. 10 near Cochrane, Alta. (SJ), and a Com. Snipe s. of Saskatoon, Dec. 12 (BGo, SS). One of two Glaucous Gulls was photographed at Calgary Dec. 20 (RB, WH). Herring Gulls were seen as late as Dec. 6 (three) on L. Diefenbaker (G & RW) and Dec. 12 (three) at Seven Sisters, Man. (PT). Lake Diefenbaker also had five Ring-billed Gulls Dec. 6 (G & RW). After December, Snowy Owls appeared to be down in s. Manitoba; they occurred in their usual low-numbers in Saskatchewan and Alberta, the maximum concentration being eight at the Calgary airport Dec. 13 (J & MS), where 42 jackrabbits were also seen on one count (*vide* AW) Great Gray Owls were much more common than usual in the Calgary-Sundre area (AW, FH), whereas in Manitoba it was the lowest winter in several years for this species (RN, HC). A Boreal Owl was found dead near Huxley, Alta., a rarity (AW).

KINGFISHERS THROUGH SHRIKES — Lone Belted

Kingfishers were reported Dec 19 at Banff (D & MM JMu), Jan 31 near Calgary (JT, PF) and one at Brandon Dec 27 provided the first winter record for Manitoba (CC). Red-bellied Woodpeckers had been reported on 19 occasions in Manitoba until this winter when single birds were reported at St. Agathe until Dec. 4 (SM), Emerson until early Dec. (MB) and Winnipeg December-Feb. 27 (OL, m.ob.)—all single females or immatures. In one km of road near Brokenhead, Man., at least 11 Black-backed and six N. Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen Jan. 17 (RK). Black-capped and Boreal chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers, Golden-crowned Kinglets and Bohemian Waxwings were all down in the s.e. boreal forest, of Saskatchewan in February (WCH). A Brown Creeper was a rare find on Jan. 12 at Indian Head (MSk) as was a Mockingbird in Winnipeg until Dec. 19 (M & TR). Also in Winnipeg a Hermit Thrush survived until at least Dec. 19—the first winter record (JMo, HP). There were more December reports of Am. Robins in Saskatchewan but a flock of four in Moose Jaw provided the only February record (seen until 23rd, PK). Bohemian Waxwings were common through January and February in Saskatchewan and Alberta; there were reports of emaciated birds in Edmonton in February (PA). In s. Manitoba they were common from mid-January to mid-February; after that Winnipeg birds largely moved out of the city (RK, HC). Northern Shrikes were apparently in normal, low numbers across the Region.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES — Three Rusty Blackbirds were seen in Winnipeg Dec. 19 (*vide* RK) and a single s. of Pinawa, Man., Dec. 20 (PT). A banded ♂ Cardinal survived his 2nd winter in Saskatoon (PO). Moose Jaw had a Black-headed Grosbeak through January (GZ). Evening Grosbeaks were widely distributed in the s. but usually in small numbers. Up to three ♀ Purple Finches were reported in Moose Jaw until Dec. 29 (PK) with a single at Broadview Dec. 22 (DFr). Pine Grosbeaks were seen at fewer places and in smaller numbers than Evenings. Common Redpolls were numerous through most of the Region and the period, almost always with a few Hoarings. They did not appear in numbers at Banff feeders until February (GLH). Up to six Pine Siskins were at 3 feeders in s. Manitoba (MSi, KG, CT) and at least eight wintered in Edmonton (PA). The only Am. Goldfinches were at 3 Manitoba localities in December (*vide* HC). Red Crossbills were reported only from W.R.W.C., Jan. 3 (three birds—PS), at Indian Head Feb. 16-28 (two—MSk) and in small numbers at feeders in several areas of s. Manitoba with a maximum of 25 at Morris Jan. 28 (JC). There were no White-winged Crossbills for Alberta, only one record for Saskatchewan (seven on Dec. 24 at Squaw Rapids—WCH) and about 6 reports of single or a few birds from s. Manitoba (RK, HC). The rarity of the period was a **Green-tailed Towhee** at a farm near Altona, Man., daily Nov. 3-Jan. 4. It was seen by birders from across the province and photographed (A & DS, m.ob.). A Rufous-sided Towhee used a feeder in Winnipeg until Jan. 16 (RDG). There were at least the usual number of Dark-eyed Juncos and Tree Sparrows overwintering. In December a single Chipping Sparrow was reported (Indian Head—MSk). A Harris' Sparrow at Delta died Jan. 20 (CC). January records for White-throated Sparrows were two at a feeder in Saskatoon (MG), two in Calgary (JMc, JT) and a single at Stonewall, Man. (KG). Lapland Longspurs were unusually late at Squaw Rapids Dec. 3 (200 birds—WCH) and at Kleefeld, Man., Jan. 1 (215—PT, DFa, HL). Snow Buntings may have been more common than usual, the largest flocks being 7400 near Last Mountain L., Dec. 29 (WCH, SL) and 5000 near Irricana, Alta., Jan. 31 (J & MS).

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NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS

/Craig A. Faanes

What a difference one year can make! Anyone that watched the national weather forecasts this winter probably heard that the northern great plains was under a siege of *very cold* weather. Three of the major National Weather Service offices in the Region (Billings, Bismarck, Rapid City) reported record low temperatures, especially in January when mean monthly temperatures at both Bismarck and Rapid City were more than 10°F below normal. The prairie winds were also excessive. On January 9, the wind-chill factor at Grand Forks ranged -90° to -100°F, and at Jamestown it briefly reached -105°F. Bitter cold continued through the first ten days of February. However by late February, temperatures had begun to moderate and the thermometer reached +71° at Billings February 21.

Not to be outdone, precipitation totals in much of the Region were in the record-breaking category, with 30 inches of snow in January at Fargo. Unfortunately, the water content of the snow was very low; a 17 inch snowfall at Jamestown in mid-January was equivalent to only 0.3 inches of rain. Without some wet March snowstorms, prairie wetlands will probably again be in stressful condition this spring.

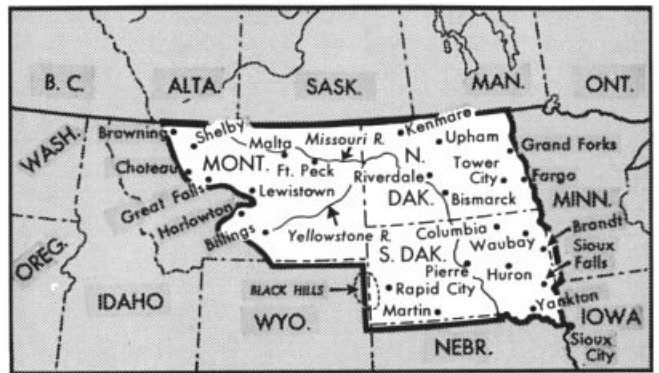
In an otherwise depressing winter, there were some surprises including Montana's first Yellow-throated Warbler and North Dakota's fourth Hawk Owl. All in all, however, it was a good winter to stay inside, sip brandy, and dream about July.

GREBES THROUGH WATERFOWL — Two Horned Grebes at Yankton, S.D., Dec. 6, and one there Dec. 13 were rather late (WH). A Double-crested Cormorant in Yankton County Dec. 4-8, was among the latest dates for South Dakota (WH). A Great Blue Heron at Fargo Dec. 6 was very late for that part of the state. A well-described Trumpeter Swan at Tongue River Res., Mont., Feb. 26-27, was most unusual away from the Rocky Mtns. (BAS, †JD *et al.*). An ad. ♀ Trumpeter Swan was found dead near Interior, S.D., Feb. 2 (A. Banta). The bird had been banded at nearby Lacreek N.W.R., in 1976. Late Whistling Swans included 47 at Fargo Dec. 1 and one at Minot Dec. 6. The largest number of Canada Geese reported was 9500 on the Yellowstone R., between Miles City and Billings, Mont., Dec. 17 (TCH). A Ross' Goose at Pierre Dec. 19, Feb. 6 & 27 (BBC, DAT), provided about the third winter record for South Dakota. A Wood Duck was very late at Ft. Peck, Mont., Jan. 1. Single Redhead and Canvasback wintering below Garrison Dam, N.D., provided one of few winter records for either species in that state. Peak numbers of Com. Goldeneyes included 3100 along the Bighorn R., Mont., Jan. 4. One Com. Goldeneye at Upper Souris N.W.R., N.D., Feb. 21, was an early migrant. Two Barrow's Goldeneyes were reported including one at Rapid City (JLB, RCR), which furnished the fourth winter record there, and a wintering individual at Ft. Peck (CMC). A Surf Scoter in Yankton County Dec. 1 provided the latest on record in South Dakota. Two Oldsquaw at Garrison Dam Dec. 27 were among the latest for that state (DNS). A ♀ Common Eider on L. Sakakawea Dec. 5 provided one of 4 or 5 North Dakota records (GBB, †REM).

HAWKS THROUGH RAILS — Nine Goshawks were recorded across the Region. Red-tailed Hawks wintered n. to Upper Souris N.W.R., and they were fairly well distributed across e. Montana through the winter. About 182 Golden Eagles and 316 Bald Eagles were reported from the 3 states; largest numbers were 150 adult and 40 imm. Balds in e. Montana. Prairie Falcons and Merlins were surprisingly well distributed across the Region. Single Peregrine Falcons were at Bismarck, N.D., Jan. 8, and an undated observation was of one at Glasgow, Mont. Gyrfalcon reports included four throughout the winter in e. Montana (m.ob.), of which one powerline kill was recorded at Glasgow Jan. 18.

The first Ruffed Grouse record for Fargo was established during a blizzard Jan. 23 (GMB). About 15 Chukars s.w. of Billings Feb. 20 were the first reported in several years. Ring-necked Pheasant mortality at Upper Souris N.W.R., was reported at about 80% of the population. Reports elsewhere suggested that weather related die-offs were of only spotty occurrence. A well-described Virginia Rail at Kelly's Slough N.W.R., N.D., Dec. 13 provided the first North Dakota winter record (†DOL).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH OWLS — A Killdeer that wintered in Pennington County, S.D., furnished the only report after the CBC



period. Glaucous Gulls included 5-6 at Garrison Dam in late December and a first-year bird at Ft. Peck Jan. 30-Feb. 28. About 1000 Herring Gulls at Garrison Dam and 35-40 at Ft. Peck remained through December but departed by early January. What was probably South Dakota's first reported Thayer's Gull was seen below Oahe Dam on the Missouri R., at Pierre Dec. 24 (B.J. Rose, *vide* N.R.W.). The imm. Black-legged Kittiwake at Garrison Dam Dec. 5, may have been the same one seen there last fall (GBB, REM). There has been a dramatic increase in the number of kittiwakes reported from that vicinity in the last 3 years.

This was a generally poor year for Snowy Owls. Fuller reported 15 through the winter near Crosby, N.D., and eight were reported from South Dakota. None was reported outside the CBC period in e. Montana and CMC missed this owl for the first time in 10 years at Ft. Peck. About 23 Short-eared Owls were reported from North Dakota, but only six were seen in South Dakota. Four Long-eared Owls were found in South Dakota and one was at L. Sakakawea S.P., N.D., Dec. 5. The owl of the winter was North Dakota's fourth Hawk Owl at Devils L., Dec. 27 through at least Jan. 17 (D. Strom, PS, ph.). Two Saw-whet Owls were reported; one at L. Sakakawea S.P., Dec. 20 and one at Ft. Peck which was seen by 70 school children (CMC).

WOODPECKERS — Single Pileated Woodpeckers were reported from Fargo and Pembina County, N.D. BKH reported that the number of Red-bellied Woodpeckers seen in South Dakota was "more than ever before in [the] state during winter," including 21 birds from 9 areas. One Red-bellied wintered at a Valley City, N.D. feeder (L. Jones), and the Ft. Peck bird reported last fall was last seen there Dec. 30 (CMC). Encouraging were the nine Lewis' Woodpeckers that DLB found in Lawrence County, S.D., Jan. 21. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Yankton was one of only 2-3 winter records for South Dakota.

LARKS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS — Horned Larks wintered n. to Bottineau County, N.D., near the Canadian border and 7030 were estimated along Hwy. 85 between Belle Fourche, S.D., and Bowman, N.D., Feb. 25 (CAF). About 100 Piñon Jays at Miles City, Mont. (SJG), and 125 daily in Custer County, S.D. (MJP) were the largest numbers reported. Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported as wintering across the Region, although many apparently departed after the CBC period. A single Dipper about 45 mi s.w. of Malta, Mont., Jan. 12, was far removed from its "normal" range (AD, JC). A Brown Thrasher at Watertown, S.D., Dec. 1, survived until Jan. 22.

Reports of up to three E. Bluebirds at Yankton Dec. 4-Feb. 19, suggested they were wintering (WH, JEW). A ♂ Mountain Bluebird Feb. 19 at Hot Springs, S.D., was an early migrant (RCR). Townsend's Solitaires were reported e. as far as Waubay and Brookings, S.D. Bohemian Waxwings were generally distributed w. of the Missouri R., through the period but did not arrive in Bismarck until Feb. 1. The largest numbers reported were 350+ at Jamestown Feb. 15, and 100+ at Grand Forks. What was described as a "big movement" of Bohemians occurred in the Black Hills during December (EMS). Northern Shrikes made a fine showing, especially in South Dakota with reports from 10 counties, and on 8 of 11 CBCs.

The bird of the winter (and possibly the year) was Montana's first Yellow-throated Warbler which appeared at a Billings feeder in late October, was recorded on the CBC, and was last seen Jan. 4 being eaten by a Sharp-shinned Hawk (†HWC *et al.*). A Yellow-rumped Warbler at Ft. Peck Dec. 26 was very late, and probably very cold (CMC); another was at Yankton Jan. 5 (WH). A ♂ N. Oriole at

Yankton Dec 12 and another at Rapid City Dec 12 Jan 14 were the latest recorded in South Dakota (JEW, DHK, NRW).

FINCHES THROUGH BUNTINGS — A ♂ Cardinal was at L. Metigoshe S.P., N.D., on the Canadian border Dec. 1-Jan. 9, and one frequented a Fargo feeder through the winter. Evening Grosbeaks were "very abundant" in e. Montana (CMC). However, that statement did not hold for much of the rest of the Region. Purple Finches wintered in w. North Dakota and were found Dec. 9-Feb. 18 at Miles City. DLB found 33 Cassin's Finch in Custer County, S.D. Jan. 18, and up to six were reported from the Rapid City area Dec. 1-Feb. 16 (LAW, BLG, NRW). Ten Pine Grosbeaks reported in e. North Dakota was a faint echo of last winter's incursion. Two Pine Grosbeaks on Terry Peak provided one of few winter records from the Black Hills (NRW). The only Gray-crowned Rosy Finches reported were 137 Jan. 16 at Spring Creek Coal Mine, Mont.

Without doubt, this was a redpoll year. DOL reported this as the 'best winter since 1977-78' at Grand Forks, and CMC reported 'many more than past few winters' in e. Montana. DAT banded 631 at Aberdeen and about 150 were banded at Jamestown. The largest number reported in the field was 1500 near Velva, N.D., Feb. 14 (GBB, REM). At least 28 Hoary Redpolls were reported from across the Region including three in South Dakota, five in Montana, and 20 in North Dakota. BCP banded one at Stanley, N.D., Feb. 21, one was banded at Jamestown Jan. 22, DAT banded three at Aberdeen, and DOL photographed one of five at his Grand Forks feeder in February. Lambeth's record provided the first photographic documentation of Hoary Redpoll in North Dakota.



Hoary Redpoll, Grand Forks, N.D., Jan. 1982. Photo/D.O. Lambeth.

Unlike last winter Pine Siskins made a rather dismal showing Red Crossbills were well distributed in North Dakota, but the only South Dakota reports away from the Black Hills were at Aberdeen. White-winged Crossbill reports included 37 that wintered near Jamestown, 20 in Lawrence County Jan. 9-27 (DLB), and 12 at Brookings, S.D., Feb. 25 (NJH). A (Spotted) Rufous-sided Towhee remained at a Jamestown feeder through early February (J. Jungroth). A **Chipping Sparrow** in Aberdeen Dec. 1-Jan. 8 (DAT *et al.*) furnished the first winter record for South Dakota. A single White-throated Sparrow at Grand Forks in mid-January was the first known to survive there past the CBC period (DOL). Song Sparrows were reported from 4 widely scattered South Dakota locations, and two were in e. Montana through the winter. The only Lapland Longspurs reported wintering were at Grand Forks. The first N night movements of longspurs at Jamestown began Feb. 23. Snow Buntings made an excellent showing early although few were found after Feb. 1.

ADDENDA — Several significant fall records from e. Montana were misplaced when the fall report was written and are included here. An imm. Cattle Egret Sept. 21 near Rosebud furnished the 9th state record (J. Swenson, P. Hendricks). One Ruddy Turnstone at Broadview L., near Billings Sept. 26 provided one of very few fall records for Montana. A single **Whimbrel** was at Bowdoin N.W.R., Aug. 26 (PDS). The 17th Short-billed Dowitcher recorded in Montana was at Medicine Lake N.W.R., Aug. 23 (PDS). Four Nashville Warblers were banded Sept. 15-17 near Rosebud (J. Swenson, *vide* PDS), and one was w. of Malta Sept. 26 (WPR).

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SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS

/Frances Williams

Mild fall conditions extended to mid-December in Nebraska and to early January in the remainder of the Region. Many migrants and summer residents lingered even when record low temperatures descended. In mid-February returning mild weather brought a few species north several weeks early. [In the text below, names in *italics* are counties].

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — There were 18 Com. Loons at L. Texoma Dec. 2, a very high count for that area (BV). An Arctic Loon was discovered in *Donley*, Tex., Dec. 20 (KZ, BZ). Horned Grebes were sighted w. of their usual range in Texas at Kerrville, Abilene, and Big Spring. White Pelicans lingered to December in *Kingman*, Kans., and *Donley*, and were present on a rapidly freezing lake in *Pawnee*, Okla., Jan. 10. Double-crested Cormorants remained at several w. Texas localities until mid-January and arrived in *Linn*, Kans., on the early date of Feb. 21. An Olivaceous Cormorant was observed near El Paso Feb. 4 (BZ, KZ). Great Blue Herons braved winter cold until Jan. 20 in *Saunders*, Neb. (BJR), and *Sedgwick*, Kans. (SK) through the period. Cattle Egrets were seen in *Hunt*, Tex., Jan. 2, near El Paso all season, and Oklahoma City Feb. 15. More than 50 Black-crowned Night Herons and two Snowy Egrets occupied a roost at El Paso throughout the period. A single Black-crowned Night Heron seen at *Cheyenne Bottoms* W.M.A., Kans., Jan. 7 was found dead Jan. 23 (SS). A Black-crowned Night Heron at Waco, Tex., Feb. 27 provided the first record there in many years (LB), and one at Dallas Feb. 20 was unusual at that date (MC). An Am. Bittern lingered in *Hutchinson*, Tex., until Jan. 3 (KS).



SWANS THROUGH MERGANSERS — Two Whistling Swans graced a lake near Wichita Falls Feb. 8-18 (EK) and three sailed on a pond at El Paso Feb. 23 (BZ, KZ). White-fronted Geese were reported in *Hudspeth*, Tex., Feb. 14. Midland Feb. 19, Tulsa Feb. 7-14 and *Washington*, Okla., Feb. 20. Numerous reports of Ross' Geese included one at El Paso Dec. 8 (BZ), one in *Dallas* Jan. 23-30 (PJ, BV), four in *Reeves*, Tex., Dec. 4 (JS) and two in *Linn* Feb. 28 (BF, EM). A Black Duck was found at Tulsa Jan. 19 (BB). Eurasian Wigeons visited El Paso Nov. 27-Feb. 11 (KZ) and *Dallas* Feb. 27-28 (PJ). Six Wood Ducks were present in *Hutchinson* Feb. 21 (PA, KS). Greater Scaup were reported at *Dallas* Jan. 24 (CP) and *Lubbock* Feb. 17 (LJ). A flock comprising 25 Com. Goldeneyes wintered on the Missouri R., *Sarpy*, Neb. (AS). Oldsquaws were found at *Tulsa* Dec. 12 and Jan. 12 (m.ob.). Three White-winged Scoters were discovered in *Linn* Feb. 27 (LM) and three were in *Reeves* Feb. 28 (JS). Surf Scoters were noted in *Linn* Feb. 21 (MC, JHa) and *Dawes*, Neb., Dec. 3 (RCR). Twelve Hooded Mergansers were counted in *Crosby*, Tex., Feb. 7 and seven in *Tulsa* Dec. 6. Smaller numbers were reported at four other localities.

VULTURES THROUGH FALCONS — Turkey Vultures arrived early in the Davis Mts., Tex., Feb. 20, *Washington* and *Osage*, Okla., Feb. 20 and *Comanche*, Okla., Feb. 22. A White-tailed Kite drifted over Big Bend N.P., Feb. 24 (FH). An extremely early Mississippi Kite flew over *Dallas* Feb. 27 (DJ). Goshawks appeared at opposite ends of the Region: *Platte R.*, *Saunders*, Neb., Jan. 9 (TH) and Big Bend N.P., Jan. 21 (AB). Six Rough-legged Hawks hunted daily in one mi² of prairie in *Tulsa*. One Rough-legged Hawk was seen in *Kaufman*, Tex., Feb. 13 (WP et al.). In *Castro*, Tex., 17 Rough-legged and 14 Ferruginous hawks were counted Jan. 31. Ferruginous Hawks were abundant in the w. one-third of Texas. In *Tom Green*, Tex., the population of cotton rats (*Sigmodon hispidus*) was estimated at 252/acre. This rodent density brought the heaviest hawk density in many years, including as many as ten Ferruginous Hawks/day (TM). *Tulsa* observers also postulated a rodent explosion, as hawk populations there were the best in many years. Three Ferruginous Hawks were carefully identified at *Tulsa* Dec. 13 (JWA, JH) and one was seen at *Albion*, Neb., Dec. 4 (WM). A Harris' Hawk was discovered in *Dallas* Dec. 29 (AV et al.). The midwinter eagle survey in Nebraska recorded 393 Bald and 54 Golden eagles. Ospreys were reported at 4 localities: *Comal*, Tex., Dec. 10, *Tarrant*, Tex., Feb. 14, *Dallas* Jan. 8 and *Rogers*, Okla., Feb. 28. Three Caracaras were observed in *Navarro*, Tex., Feb. 17. Peregrines were seen near *Valentine*, Tex., Dec. 12, *El Paso* Dec. 21 and *Tulsa* Jan. 24.

PRAIRIE CHICKENS THROUGH GALLINULES — At *Tulsa*, 32 Greater Prairie Chickens were counted Feb. 13 and 11 on Feb. 21 (JH). Gray Partridges are spreading into n.e. Nebraska from a population in n.w. Iowa, and six were seen Jan. 9 in *Washington* Neb. (AS). Large numbers of Sandhill Cranes wintered farther n. in the Texas Panhandle than usual, leaving *Muleshoe N.W.R.*, with fewer than half the usual population. In *Andrews County*, Tex., 100± Sandhill Cranes were found dead at *Cedar L.* A pathologist who examined four of the dead cranes stated they died from aflatoxin, which can result from the growth of fungi on peanuts. Peanuts which had been left in a nearby field following the harvest were plowed under after the dead birds were found. A Virginia Rail was seen at *Tulsa* Feb. 9 (BC) and up to five were present during January and February in a drainage ditch near *El Paso* (KZ, BZ). A Sora was discovered at *Tulsa* Jan. 5 and eight were in the *El Paso* ditch Feb. 4. Several Com. Gallinules wintered in *Hutchinson* and *Lubbock*, and one was seen at *Midland* Feb. 21.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS — In *Keith*, Neb., Jan. 7, 21 Killdeer were counted, the highest-ever winter count. An Am. Woodcock was seen at *Oklahoma City* Dec. 27 (NG) and one was in *Comanche* Dec. 19 (KM, THu). Long-billed Curlews were farther n. than usual in *Castro* Feb. 14. Both Greater Yellowlegs and Long-billed Dowitchers wintered in s.w. Texas in unusual numbers. Some 800 Least Sandpipers wintered in *Tarrant*. A Dunlin was discovered at *Lubbock* Jan. 24 (CS). Two Am. Avocets arrived at *El Paso* Feb. 23 (BZ, KZ) and two in *Crosby* were even earlier Feb. 12 (ML). A Glaucous Gull was sighted at *Oklahoma City* several times in late January (JN). Herring Gulls were seen at an unusual number of inland localities in Texas. A Thayer's Gull was observed at *Platte*, Neb., Dec. 4 (BJR). The Black-headed Gull discovered at *L. Livingston*,

Tex., Jan. 2 (TG, KB) was still present Feb. 20 (JA). Other lands wintering at *L. Livingston* included six Laughing Gulls, a Black-legged Kittiwake and a Com. Tern (fide KB).

DOVES THROUGH SWIFTS — Mourning Doves in *Garden* Neb., provided a first winter record for the N. Platte R. valley. Ground Doves strayed to *Waco* in January (AG) and *Midland* in December (JM). An Inca Dove at *Lubbock* in January was noteworthy. A Roadrunner in *Washington*, Okla., Dec. 30 was the first at that locality in several years. A pair of Great Horned Owls was nesting in *Ottawa*, Okla., on the early date of Dec. 28 (PW). Burrowing Owls wintered as far n. as *Wichita*, Kans. Among many reports of Long-eared Owls, the most outstanding concerned a roost site in *Ottawa* inhabited by a minimum of 33 owls and possibly 63. Industrious naturalists collected 1273 pellets from this roost and identified ten rodent species in them (PW). Short-eared Owls were also present in numbers throughout the Region. Seltman stated the species was more abundant in *Rush*, *Pawnee* and *Barton*, Kans., than in the past 6 years. In *Omaha*, a Short-eared owl roosted daily in a spruce at a residence Jan. 23-Feb. 13, on which date the melting snow allowed it to return to the fields (TB, BJR). A few White-throated Swifts commonly winter in the *El Paso* area, but this year groups comprising 300 birds could be seen hawking above water areas on warm sunny afternoons.

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH LARKS — A Black-chinned Hummingbird appeared early at *Ft. Davis*, Tex., Feb. 20 but stayed only 2 days (PE). An unidentified hummingbird was seen at *Dallas* Jan. 7 (CSa). Several unidentified hummers fed at flowering tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*) along the *Rio Grande* in Big Bend N.P., into January. Identified were one Broad-tailed Hummingbird Dec. 28 (IM) and two Anna's Hummingbirds January 5 (RU). A Pileated Woodpecker was found at *Temple*, Tex., Feb. 6 (MJW). A Red-bellied Woodpecker visited *Big Spring*, Tex., Jan. 1-30 (GW, GS). A Red-headed Woodpecker appeared at *Amarillo* Jan. 8 (TF). The Lewis' Woodpecker in *Comanche*, Okla., remained until Dec. 27 (KM). A Hairy Woodpecker in *Crosby* Jan. 17 was noteworthy (ML). A good description was submitted of a ♀ Rose-throated Becard in Big Bend N.P., Feb. 7 (MFM). The species is listed as "hypothetical" in the park. Several reports of E. Phoebe arriving early in February were received. Vermilion Flycatchers were unusually common from *Midland* to *El Paso* and s. In e. Nebraska, heavy ice and snow cover forced Horned Larks to roadsides where as many as 1000 could be counted in a single day Jan. 20-Feb. 27.



Green Jay, Keene, Tex., Feb. 28, 1982. Photo/C. Easley

SWALLOWS THROUGH NUTHATCHES — At *El Paso*, Rough-winged Swallows arrived Feb. 25 and Barn Swallows Feb. 14, very early dates. The saga of Green Jays at *Keene*, Tex., continues. One bird appeared Oct. 23, 1980; in October, 1981, two birds began visiting feeders on bad days when sleet, snow or rain fell. By February 28, 1982, three birds were present. It is possible the first bird moved N with a hurricane, but why the others arrived remains a mystery (CE). Flocks of Com. Crows comprising 800 birds wintered near *El Paso*, where the species is normally rare (BZ). Red-breasted Nuthatches were common in e. Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma, but the only ones reported in the w. were four at *Lubbock* in January.

WRENS THROUGH MIMIDS — House Wrens wintered in the Texas Panhandle for the first time (KS). Winter Wrens were noted at

only 5 localities. A Carolina Wren wintered at feeders in Fontenelle Forest Nature Center and nearby Bellevue, Neb. A Rock Wren at Waco Jan. 24 provided a new record there (LB). Single Gray Catbirds were found Dec. 2 in *Johnson*, Kans. (FB), and Jan. 20 at Big Spring (GW, GS). A Brown Thrasher visited a feeder at Omaha Jan. 20 and one was present at Wichita Dec. 6 and Jan. 23 & 29. At a golf course at Oklahoma City Feb. 28, a Sage Thrasher ran about on the grass with several Am. Robins (JN). A Sage Thrasher fed on raisins and chopped fruit in *Rush*, Kans., Jan. 2-20, surviving overnight lows of near -20°. It appeared to be in good health at the time it disappeared (SS).

THRUSHES THROUGH SHRIKES — A **Varied Thrush** visited an Omaha feeder Jan. 1-Feb. 13 (WC, m.ob.). A Varied Thrush found in the Chisos Mts., Big Bend N.P., Dec. 7 (BP) remained until the CBC (GL). Hermit Thrushes wintered in *Washington*, Okla., for the first time since 1979 and were also present at Tulsa. Mountain Bluebirds were e. of their usual haunts at Abilene S.P., Tex., Oklahoma City, *Barber*, Kans. Townsends' Solitaires staged a widespread E. movement, reaching *Lancaster* and *Boone*, Neb., *Sedgwick* and *Builer*, Kans., and Ft. Worth. The species was unusually numerous at El Paso, and five were counted at Hueco Tanks S.P. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were newsworthy at Lubbock Dec. 23-30 and Midland Jan. 2-9. Black-tailed Gnatcatchers were found more often than expected at El Paso and Hueco Tanks S.P. Golden-crowned Kinglets were numerous in n.e. Nebraska, and were more common than Ruby-crowned Kinglets in the Texas Panhandle, the reverse of the normal situation. A few Bohemian Waxwings graced the Nebraska Pine Ridge, but no others were reported. Northern Shrikes visited *Polk*, *Boone* and *Lancaster*, Neb., *Barber* and *Pawnee*, Kans., and *Crosby*, Tex.

VIREOS THROUGH ICTERIDS — A White-eyed Vireo was seen in Waco Feb. 19 (YD). Orange-crowned Warblers were common through much of Texas all season and lingered as late as Dec. 19 in *Comanche*, Okla. (KM) and Dec. 6 in Wichita (DV). A Nashville Warbler was seen repeatedly at a feeder in *Johnson*, Kans., Jan. 4-10, Feb. 15 (MS). In Big Bend N.P., a N. Parula was observed Jan. 21 (TS). Yellow-throated Warblers were sighted at Nacogdoches, Tex., Jan. 26 (SL) and *Montgomery*, Tex., Jan. 15 (KH, PS). An Ovenbird at Lubbock Dec. 16, 19, 24 was astounding (DS). Considering that Com. Yellowthroats were located as far n. as Cheyenne Bottoms Jan. 7 and Great Salt Plains Jan. 5, their abundance at El Paso was not unexpected. The **Rufous-capped Warbler** discovered during the Boerne, Tex., CBC remained until Jan. 12 and was seen by dozens of Texas and out-of-state birders. At Hueco Tanks S.P., flocks of E. Meadowlarks were present throughout the period. A Yellow-headed Blackbird arrived in *Crosby* Feb. 7. "Baltimore" Orioles visited feeders in Bellevue, Omaha and Wichita until mid-December. Rusty Blackbirds were sighted in *Comanche*, Okla., Feb. 11 (JM) and *Donley* Dec. 20 (KZ, BZ).

FRINGILLIDS — A few Evening Grosbeaks were observed at Omaha, Bellevue, the Nebraska Pine Ridge, Baldwin, Kans., and *Johnson*, Kans. Although 222 Purple Finches were banded at Baldwin (KK), this was a relatively small number, and the species was nowhere abundant. House Finches continued to visit a feeder at Temple, Tex. Large numbers of Com. Redpolls were seen in and near Omaha Jan. 19-Feb. 15 (m.ob.), several hundred were at Albion, Neb., Feb. 3-6 (WM), one was at Wichita Feb. 6 (LMA), three in *Johnson*, Kans., Feb. 2 (BS), one at Tulsa Feb. 21-March 1 (HH), one at Oklahoma City Dec. 18 (NK) and Feb. 15-17 (FB). Pine Siskins were common-to-abundant in many areas. Red Crossbills were seen in Nebraska on the Pine Ridge, Omaha, Lincoln, Ceresco, Albion; in Kansas, at Lawrence, Wichita and Hays. A White-winged Crossbill banded at Baldwin was present Dec. 25-Mar. 7 (KK, AJB). A Lark Bunting appeared at a feeding station at Ft. Worth Jan. 13 (RDC). This species was unusually common in s.w. Oklahoma (JDT).

Almost every normally wintering sparrow species was abundant in w. Texas from the Panhandle to El Paso, and several less common species were noted. Sparrows were scarce in Kansas and Oklahoma. A Grasshopper Sparrow wintered at Midland and one arrived in *Crosby* Feb. 27 (ML). A Baird's Sparrow was carefully identified at El Paso (BZ). Le Conte's Sparrows were located in *Rogers*, Okla., Dec. 6 and Tulsa Feb. 20. Cassin's Sparrows wintered in good numbers at El Paso and Midland. Tree Sparrows were scarce in the Texas Panhandle, but abundant in *Osage*, Okla. Single Clay-colored

Sparrows were sighted at Hueco Tanks S.P. in February, *Hockley*, Tex., Dec. 20, Midland irregularly throughout the period. Five Black-chinned Sparrows were seen at Hueco Tanks Feb. 9 (BZ) and one strayed to *Crosby* Feb. 13 (ML). A Harris' Sparrow traveled with a group of White-crowned Sparrows near El Paso Feb. 23 (BZ) and one visited Lubbock Feb. 14, 20 (CS). A White-crowned Sparrow in *Garden*, Neb., Jan. 7 provided only the second winter record there in 9 years (RCR). White-throated Sparrows were scarce at Tulsa. Lincoln's Sparrows were unbelievably abundant from the Texas Panhandle to the Rio Grande. Swamp Sparrows could be seen in every marshy area near El Paso.

Two large flocks of Smith's Longspurs foraged in *Kaufman*, Tex., Feb. 13-26 (WP). An incredible movement of Lapland Longspurs across *Rush*, Kans., occurred Jan. 15 with the passage of an arctic front. Seltman estimated 100,000 birds, with one-half of those in a single flock. Flocks comprising 150 Lapland Longspurs were seen continually along Nebraska Hiway 70 from Ord to Neligh Dec. 10. With each longspur flock were one or two Snow Buntings (BJR). Hundreds of Snow Buntings were present near Albion Jan. 24-Feb. 6 (WM).

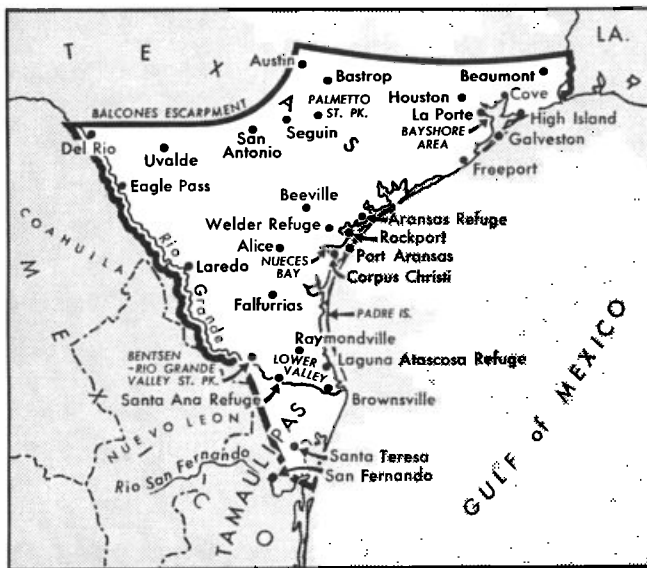
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SOUTH TEXAS REGION

/Fred S. Webster, Jr.

Winter came to South Texas on the third weekend of December with sub-freezing temperatures, wiping out most remaining summer and fall vegetation. An arctic front in mid-January dropped temperatures to record lows; Austin and Houston recorded lows of 11° F and 12° F, respectively, January 11, coldest in 31 years. However, a cold spell in early February which sent freezing drizzle to the southernmost tip of Texas, virtually concluded a strange winter of rapidly alternating mild and cold periods. By contrast, a drought situation which began in early November persisted until the second half of February when above-normal rainfall occurred. For most of the winter, surface water was low in most areas, but wild bird food was reported to be good generally. Assuming adequate food and cover, neither frequent low temperatures nor lack of moisture seem sufficient to explain the general scarcity of many passerine species—regular winter residents, erratic visitors, and even some residents—in most areas reported.

LOONS, GREBES — Common Loons were common only at Texas City Dike where Jan. 13 Lasley counted 85 + driven to dikeside by choppy seas and sleet-laden winds. Single undocumented Arctic and a Red-throated loon were reported there Dec. 26 (DD, VM) during the Galveston CBC; an individual of the latter species was



seen Feb. 6-28 (MA, TG, EM). An Arctic Loon identified at Austin sewage ponds Jan. 8 (BM, m.ob.) was present as late as Jan. 13 the day of a rare snow and sleet storm. Photographic evidence qualified this bird as the second documented state record (GL). A Least Grebe was found on the new McFaddin Marsh N.W.R. near the Louisiana border, Feb. 20 (TG).

PELICANS THROUGH HERONS — Scattered reports of Brown Pelicans from the Galveston area were seen as a hopeful sign of a comeback on the upper Texas coast (JM). Also encouraging was a count of 79 birds on the Aransas N.W.R. CBC (SL). Texas birders scouting seaward from jetties or beaches for pelagics as Gannet, presumably account for upper coast sightings in double digits; birders venturing to sea reported far fewer Gannets. Two subad. Blue-faced Boobies were seen in flight near the end of the jetty on S. Padre I., Jan. 21 (JA), and one was seen at sea 50 mi e. of Port Aransas Jan. 23 (CC); winter sightings are unusual. Double-crested Cormorants were abundant along the entire coast and at favorable inland localities. Arvin found Yellow-crowned Night Herons concentrated in mangroves near the Brownsville Ship Channel in early December.

WATERFOWL — Two Whistling Swans were seen 18 mi w. of Port Arthur Jan. 2-3 (SC *et al.*), posing on a rice field levee. Geese numbers were "way down" at Aransas N.W.R., despite adequate habitat (SL). Snow Geese, which reached peak numbers at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., in November, were seen flying S by the thousands in December (GNB). Ducks were in relatively low numbers throughout the Region. December cold fronts were thought to have made a significant dent in duck counts at Laguna Atascosa, pushing waterfowl into Mexico (GNB). Extensive new grain plantings in n.e. Mexico during the past decade have opened vast stretches of harvested crop land for wintering waterfowl, cranes, etc. At Laguna Atascosa, 19,000 Redheads remained after the December exodus (GNB). It took South Texas birders some years to realize that Greater Scaup can occur here and can be separated in the field from the Lessers, but now scaups are being studied carefully and Greater are reported in increasing numbers. A reported 400+ on the upper coast Feb. 9 (TG) may constitute a record count for modern times, Lesser Scaup were abundant on the upper coast and "better than in some recent years but not like old times" on the c. coast (KM). Rare at Austin were a wintering Oldsquaw, and a Com. Merganser present the first half of January.

HAWKS — A family group of four Hook-billed Kites was at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., all winter (JA *et al.*). Red-tailed Hawk numbers were below normal in the Coastal Bend and in the Rio Grande Delta. A first-year Gray Hawk could be found regularly at Santa Ana N.W.R. (JA). Clark reported Harris' Hawk fairly common, but the Caracara uncommon, on his extensive travels in South Texas. Marsh Hawk numbers were generally low from the c. coast w. Two Am. Kestrels banded near Austin one year ago were recaptured at the same site (GL).

CRANES, SHOREBIRDS — High count of Whooping Cranes at Aransas N.W.R., was 71 adults and two juvenals Dec. 2 (SL). A survey of the entire Texas coast in January indicated Piping Plover most populous on the Bolivar (Galveston) mud flats with 71 Jan. 5 while most Snowy Plovers were at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., with 85 Jan. 15. Wilson's Plover, rare in winter, were 21 strong on the Bolivar flats Jan. 5 (RB *et al.*). The Boyd party found shorebirds much fewer in number s. of the Rio Grande, with higher density of tar balls on the Mexican beach. Five Mountain Plovers were found in a field near Odem, San Patricio Co., Dec. 5 (CC). A rare winter Whimbrel was seen on the Laguna Madre shore of S. Padre I., Jan. 15 (JA). The winter resident population of Short-billed Dowitchers along a 5-mi stretch of Laguna Madre shoreline on S. Padre I., numbered $200 \pm$ while Long-billed Dowitchers on the mainland shore numbered in the thousands (JA). Some 3000 of the latter species were found on the n.w. arm of the Cayo del Oso at Corpus Christi Jan. 12 (RB *et al.*). The Am. Avocet count at Bolivar flats Jan. 5 was 9500 (RB *et al.*).

JAEGERS, GULLS — An imm. Pomarine Jaeger was found dead on the S. Padre I. beach Dec. 12 (JA). An ad. Parasitic Jaeger was harassing a Laughing Gull near the S. Padre I. jetty Jan. 16 (CS). This species is more likely to be encountered along the continental shelf 20+ mi offshore, as were six individuals e. of Port Aransas Jan. 23 (CC). Last winter's "controversial" black-backed gull of the Kemah-Seabrook area of Galveston Bay returned this year in adult plumage "museum experts" have identified it as a **Great Black-backed Gull**, first documented occurrence for Texas (*vide* TG). A third-winter Lesser Black-backed Gull was on S. Padre I., Dec. 10; about eight birds of this species have been recorded there since 1976 (JA). A California Gull at the Brownsville dump Feb. 17 (PWS) and a Franklin's Gull at the Port Aransas dump Feb. 7 (CC) were unusual.

OWLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — At Anzalduas, upriver from Santa Ana N.W.R., a Long-eared Owl was found Feb. 8 at the roosting site which as many as three individuals have occupied in recent winters (JA). Several Short-eared Owls wintered in a broom-wood-and-grass field near Poth (WS); this bird was not previously listed for Wilson County. A **Mangrove Cuckoo** was discovered near the ferry landing on Bolivar Pen., Dec. 30 (EA) and remained until severely cold weather, being last seen Jan. 13 (DD). It fed among rattlebean in an adjacent field and roosted in oleanders (RP). This was the second acceptable sighting for the upper coast, and the first documented state record. Numbers of wintering hummingbirds were less than in some recent years, particularly after December. Thanks to feeders, "at least 15" survived the mid-January cold at Corpus Christi (KM). The rarest species, the Broad-tailed Hummingbird, was reported in Brazoria County and at Corpus Christi in December. Buff-bellied Hummingbirds were seen as far e. as Brazoria County, but most occurred from Corpus Christi s.



Mangrove Cuckoo, Port Bolivar, Tex., Jan. 9, 1982. Photo/C.E. Hall.

KINGFISHERS THROUGH JAYS — Ringed Kingfishers were found along the Rio Grande from San Ygnacio, Zapata Co (pair—PWS), downriver to Brownsville where a pair wintered as usual on a resaca (JA). A pair of Green Kingfishers wintered on Town L., near downtown Austin (ME). Common Flickers and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported as fewer than usual in many areas w. and s. of the Coastal Bend. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in the Rockport area Jan 16 (HK, AS) was unexpected. This was not a good winter for E. movement of w. passerines including Say's Phoebe, although one of this species was seen as far e. as Anahuac N.W.R., Dec. 27 (SWC, TD) Brown Jays were seen below Falcon Dam Feb. 10 (6—PWS). Green Jays occurred at several Corpus Christi-localities (KM).

NUTHATCHES THROUGH THRUSHES — Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce, especially on the upper coast, and most winters seemed fewer than usual. Almost all areas were low or very low in Am. Robin numbers, although a late incursion was reported on the upper coast. In the hill country w. of a line from Austin to San Antonio—beyond this Region's border—robins were reported in good numbers in January (CE); we can only assume that food supplies held out there, as the usual influx into nearby towns did not occur in great numbers. There were more reports of Clay-colored Robin than of the Am. Robin in the Rio Grande Delta. Two of the former were seen together at Santa Ana N.W.R., Feb. 3 (PWS *et al.*). Other Hidalgo County sightings were: Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., Jan 18, 20 and Feb. 14 (JA *et al.*); La Feria Jan. 7 (DDeS), Weslaco Jan 9 and for 3 weeks thereafter (RL). The first known occurrence n. of the Rio Grande Delta was at the well-known roadside rest area on U S 77, 2.5 mi s. of Sarita, Kenedy Co., Dec. 31 (TD *et al.*). The bird was feeding on the ground in a dense stand of live oaks surrounded by open grassy fields, attracted, along with Green Jays, to a good acorn crop (SWC). It was seen as late as Feb. 5 (CC). Hermit Thrushes were less numerous than usual, especially on the upper coast.

KINGLETS THROUGH WARBLERS — Golden-crowned Kinglets were generally scarce. Surprisingly, Ruby-crowned Kinglets were low in many areas, especially along the coast. Cedar Waxwing numbers were low; some areas, particularly the upper coast, had a late influx, but numbers did not approach those of peak years. Orange-crowned Warblers were below normal in many areas. A ♂ N. Parula was found at Santa Ana N.W.R., Dec. 15 (JA), but most unusual was one in the oaks outside an office window at Aransas N W R., Jan. 4 (KB, SL). As many as three Tropical Parulas wintered at both Santa Ana N.W.R., and at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S P, while two could be found in residential Brownsville (JA). A male was seen near La Feria Jan. 9 (JA, DDeS). Yellow-rumped Warbler numbers were much lower than usual. A Black-throated Green Warbler at San Ygnacio Feb. 5 (JA) seems to constitute a first winter record for Zapata County. Two N. Waterthrushes at Santa Ana N W.R., Feb. 3 (JA) were unusual.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH TANAGERS — Peanut fields around Floresville, Wilson Co., attracted hordes of Red-winged and Brewer's blackbirds, Com. Grackles and Brown-headed Cowbirds, as well as Starlings (WS). Apparently there was no scarcity of these species in the Region, any seeming lack of numbers locally being traceable to better food stores elsewhere. A ♂ N. (Bullock's) Oriole at Alice for 3 weeks in February provided a new winter record for Jim Wells County (RA). A W. Tanager was seen at Galveston Jan. 9-24 (J & JH). A ♀ Summer Tanager wintered at Aransas N.W.R. (*vide* SL) and one was found at the roadside rest area s. of Sarita Jan. 10 (M & HP) feeding at combs of bees or wasps in a tree crevice; this bird was seen by others in February.

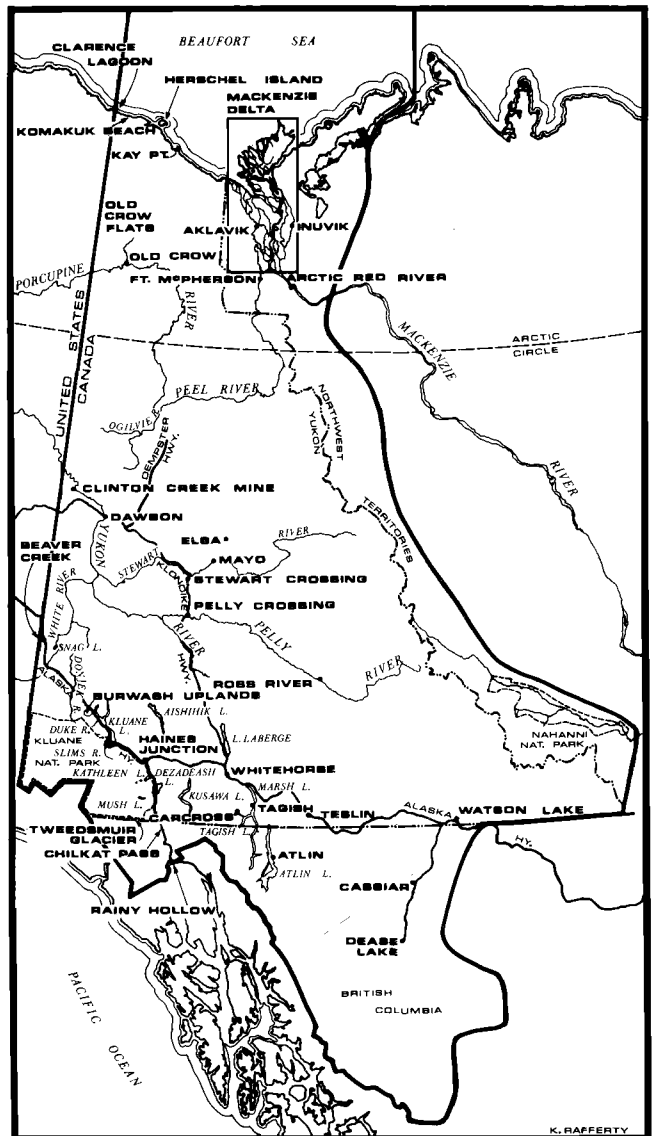
FRINGILLIDS — A Pair of Blue Buntings (*Cyanocompsa parellina*) was found at Anzalduas Jan. 31 (JA) and remained through February. This furnished a fourth United States occurrence and the third sighting for Texas of this Middle American species. Purple Finches were very scarce in the Region. White-collared Seedeaters appear to have abandoned San Ygnacio as a wintering site as none was reported, nor was this species reported at any locality in the Region. Pine Siskins were difficult to find, although three individuals were seen in a flock of Am. Goldfinches at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., Feb. 10-16 (PWS). American Goldfinches were in below normal numbers, particularly in southern areas. Most sparrow species (including towhees and juncos) were somewhat or much reduced from normal expectations in most areas, particularly along

the coastal plains and in the Rio Grande Delta. Food supplies or condition of habitat did not seem to be factors in the numerical decline. No sparrow species were mentioned as in more than normal numbers.

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NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION /Helmut Grünberg

A day of rain in December was a very unusual occurrence in Whitehorse, but generally the temperatures were well below freezing. January was one of the coldest months ever experienced. In



Whitehorse, the average temperature was -31°C , 12° colder than normal. With increasingly longer daylight in February, the temperatures were higher and close to the long-term average. Accumulation of snow during the winter season was greater than in normal months.

During the period, 42 species were observed in the extended Region (including Fort St. John area). Birds that were probably present but not reported were Gyrfalcon, Blue Grouse, Rock and White-tailed ptarmigans.

DUCKS THROUGH PTARMIGANS — A ♂ Mallard was seen on an open pond in Whitehorse (hereafter, Whse.) Dec. 20 (WH). Several Mallards apparently overwintered at Takhini Hotsprings near Whse. (*vide* HG). Four to eight Com. Goldeneyes were reported from Tagish, Yukon, for December and February (B & GMcL). Two goldeneye sp. were observed on the Yukon R., near Marsh L., Dec. 20 (KA, MD), one in Whse., Dec. 20 (WH) and one on the Peace R., w. of Fort St. John Feb. 16 (GS, *vide* CS). Six to 15 Com. Mergansers were seen near Tagish in December and February (B & GMcL), and seven were reported for Whse., Dec. 26 (*vide* DMO). Two Red-breasted Mergansers were seen in Whse., Dec. 26 (AM, *vide* DMO).

One to three Goshawks were reported at various times of the season from Marsh L. (DMO), the Dempster Hwy. (RF), Carcross, Yukon (HMCK), the Takhini Hotsprings Rd., near Whse. (WK1), the Whse. airport (JL & PW) and from Baldonnel near Fort St. John, B.C. (GS, *vide* CS). A Rough-legged Hawk was observed at Km 96, Alaska Hwy., near Fort St. John Jan. 19 (GS, *vide* CS) and one near Km 58, Alaska Hwy., Jan. 31 (JJ, *vide* CS). A Golden Eagle was observed at the Dempster Hwy., in early December (JFra, *vide* RF). DMO noted one adult at Takhini Crossing, Alaska Hwy., Yukon, Jan. 9 and one at Haines Jct., Jan. 27. One Golden Eagle was seen at the Takhini Hotsprings Rd. Jct., in late January (WK1) and one at Tagish Feb. 22 (HMCK). A Bald Eagle was noted near Whse., Dec. 19 (JL & PW). One adult was observed at Beatton P. P., near Fort St. John Jan. 26 (JJ, *vide* CS), and one adult was sighted at the Peace R., w. of Fort St. John (GS, *vide* CS).

Grouse were seen in fairly small numbers. Spruce Grouse were reported from 6 areas by 8 observers. One to three Ruffed Grouse were observed at the Dempster Hwy., in early December (RF). Near Graham Inlet, Tagish L., n. B.C., Ruffed Grouse were seen throughout the season, with a high count of seven individuals (MBr). Two were observed at Baldonnel near Fort St. John Feb. 6 (GS, *vide* CS), and one was noted near Marsh L., Oct. 10 (ML). Near Fort St. John, three Sharp-tailed Grouse were observed, one Jan. 17 and one Feb. 6 (CS) as well as one Feb. 20 (GS, *vide* CS). Willow Ptarmigan populations seemed to have been low in the Dawson area during the 3 months of the season (RF). A few Willow Ptarmigan were observed near Inuvik (MBe). They were not reported elsewhere although they were probably present.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Rock Doves were apparently confirmed as being residents of the Fort St. John area (CS). In Whse., there was a surprisingly high count of 365 birds Dec. 26 (*vide* DMO). Great Horned Owls were regularly observed by at least 8 observers, but there seemed to have been a decline in numbers probably due to a decline in snowshoe hare populations. At least two Snowy Owls were observed at Baldonnel Dec. 12-Feb. 25 (GS, *vide* CS). Five were seen near Fort Smith, Wood Buffalo N.P., Dec. 23 and two Dec. 27 (*vide* RL). At least one was noted off the Inuvik-Tuk ice-road in mid-winter (VC, *vide* RF). Hawk Owls were reported by 8 observers. The sightings included one at Inuvik in early December (MBe). A Great Gray Owl was successfully filmed at Farrell Cr. Community Pasture, Fort St. John area Dec. 19 (JJ, *vide* CS). This bird or one like it caught itself in a leg-hold trap in a nearby trapline very late in December or in early January. The dead bird was photographed by CS. Six Great Gray Owls were reported near Fort Smith Dec. 29 (*vide* RL). A Short-eared Owl was seen flying around in a street in Dawson in early December (JFra, *vide* RF). This furnished the second winter record for the Yukon. A freshly dead bird was found and photographed in Fort St. John Jan. 11 (CS). A Boreal Owl observation was reported for Graham Inlet in December (MBr), and one individual was heard January-February by a trapper at the upper South Klondike R. (*vide* RF).

A Hairy Woodpecker was seen 7 times at Baldonnel near Fort St. John in December and February (GS, *vide* CS). One was at the Dempster Hwy., Dec. 14 and two in the same area on Feb. 24 (RF). Two to three birds were noted at a feeder in Whse., throughout the

season (D & LS). A ♀ Hairy Woodpecker was observed in Tagish in December and February (B & GMcL), and two were seen in Fort Smith Dec. 27 (*vide* RL). A Downy Woodpecker was seen near Graham Inlet in December and January (MBr) and one in Whse., throughout the season (D & LS). Near Fort St. John, one was observed Dec. 20, one Jan. 30 (GS, *vide* CS), and one was photographed Jan. 5 (JJ, *vide* CS). One Downy Woodpecker was noted near Marsh L., Dec. 20 (KA, MD) and one in Tagish in mid-February (HMCK). There were only 6 reports of N. Three-toed Woodpecker, our most common woodpecker.

JAYS THROUGH SHRIKES — Gray Jays were reported by at least 15 observers. An unusual winter record of a Blue Jay was obtained in the Fort St. John area as one was seen at Montney Dec. 8 (GS, *vide* CS). Black-billed Magpies were common: one to five were observed by at least 13 observers. Common Ravens were reported by virtually every contributor. The highest count was of 445 at the Whse. city dump Jan. 1 (*vide* DMO). At least 14 observers reported Black-capped Chickadees. At a feeder in Whse., at least two Mountain Chickadees were observed regularly (D & LS). About 20 contributors reported observations of Boreal Chickadees.

After last fall's strong influx of Red-breasted Nuthatches, one was still observed in Whse., Dec. 20 for the first Yukon winter record (WH). At Graham Inlet, eight were seen Dec. 15 and one Dec. 24 (MBr). One was noted at Fort Smith Dec. 27 (*vide* RL). Four Dippers were seen in Whse., Dec. 20 and one Feb. 19 (WH). A total of six was counted in Whse., Dec. 26 and one Jan. 1 (*vide* DMO). One to two Dippers were noted at the lower Dempster Hwy., in December and February (RF). More Bohemian Waxwings than usual seemed to have stayed in our Region. Up to 50 were seen at Montney, Fort St. John area Dec. 9 (GS, *vide* CS) and in Fort St. John Dec. 19 (CS). On Dec. 20, 34 individuals were observed in Whse. (WH) and one near Marsh L. (KMCK, DMi). Seventy-five were counted in Whse., Dec. 26 (*vide* DMO), and one was noted in Whse., Jan. 3 (D & LS). Six-12 were still in Whse., in mid-January in very low temperatures (WK1). An imm. N. Shrike was seen at Montney, Fort St. John area Dec. 3 (GS, *vide* CS), and one ad. bird was noted in the centre of Fort St. John Jan. 14 (CS).

WEAVERS THROUGH BUNTINGS — The resident population of House Sparrows in Fort St. John disappeared during very cold weather (CS). House Sparrows were recorded daily at a farm in Baldonnel (GS, *vide* CS). Two were seen in Fort St. John Jan. 30 and Feb. 5 (CS). An unusually large number of Evening Grosbeak observations was made in the Fort St. John area. GS reported the following sightings to CS: five Dec. 6, three Dec. 15-16, one to five Jan. 7, 11, 15-30, Feb. 2-3 and Feb. 7 at Baldonnel. Two males were seen at Charlie L., w. of Fort St. John Jan. 6 (DK, *vide* CS). One male was noted in Fort St. John Jan. 10, and nine males and one female were observed here Jan. 16 (CS). This species has been reported only twice in the Yukon in previous years. Pine Grosbeaks were very common in most areas as the reporting by at least 21 observers indicates. There was a high count of 68 individuals in Whse., Dec. 26 (*vide* DMO). Three Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were seen at Faro, Yukon Jan. 23 (LO). Redpolls were common throughout the Region and season. All birds identified in Inuvik (MBe) and at the Dempster Hwy. (JFri, RF) were Hoary Redpolls while both species were identified farther s., with a high proportion having been Hoaries. White-winged Crossbills were more common than last winter. Nine observers reported this species in flocks of up to 50 individuals. A rare winter sighting of a Dark-eyed Junco was made in Whse., Dec. 7 (WH). Small flocks of up to 26 Snow Buntings were seen throughout the season in various parts of the Region by 6 observers.

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NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

Winter over the Region, although with no prolonged bitter cold spells, was, in most areas a snowy one, with standing water frozen most of the season. Eastern Oregon was particularly hard hit by snow and ice, making it difficult for birds. To a lesser extent this was true of southern interior British Columbia, extreme northern and southeastern Idaho and northern Washington. The first week of January brought temperatures far below zero to more northerly areas for a few days. A mild late February brought many early migrants in ahead of schedule.

LOONS AND GREBES — A Com. Loon was still on Windermere L., B.C., Jan. 24 (LH). Wells Pool, Azwell, Wash., had two Jan. 16 (RF) and one was on the Snake R., below Am. Falls Dam, Ida., Dec. 11 (DT). A Red-necked Grebe was on the Columbia R., near Bridgeport, Wash., Feb. 9 (BH-T). Eared Grebes remained at Klamath Falls, Ore., through December and the species was noted at Rupert, Ida., in December and February (WHS).

PELICANS AND CORMORANTS — Ten White Pelicans wintered on the Hanford Reach of the Columbia R., Wash. (REF) and the species was sighted at Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., Dec. 19 for the third winter record there. A few Double-crested Cormorants wintered at Malheur and at Rupert. Thirty were at L. Lowell, Canyon Co., Ida., Dec. 24 and one was on the Clearwater R., at Potlatch, Ida., Feb. 21 (FJ, RN).

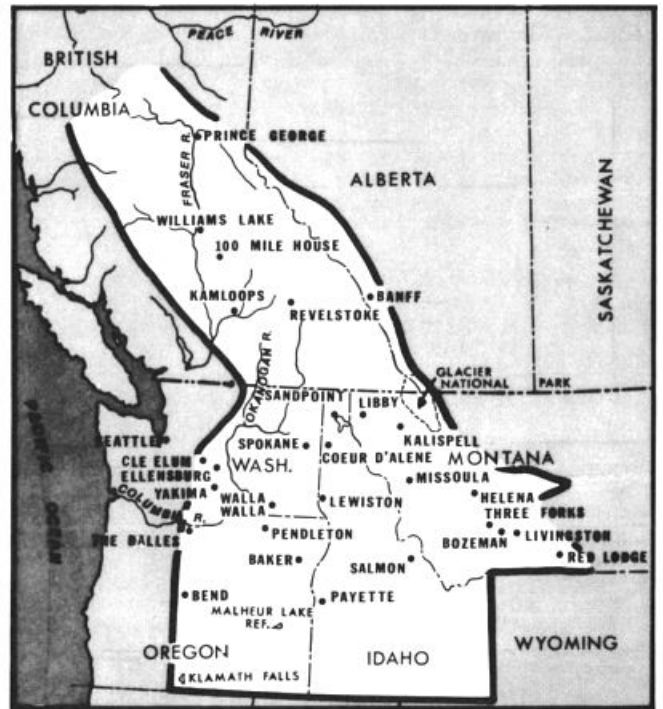
HERONS — Great Blue Herons wintered in better-than-normal numbers. A concentration of 300 was at Malheur in December. The species suffered losses in the Colville, Wash. area, apparently because of the freezeup (SZ). A **Green Heron** appeared at Lewiston, Ida., Dec. 2 (PH, *vide* JW). Malheur had its first winter records of Great Egrets with single birds in January and February. The winter roost of Black-crowned Night Herons on the Link R., Klamath Falls, held 139 birds Jan. 31 for a high winter count (SS). The species wintered at Summer L., Lake Co., Ore. (MSL) and stayed late at Malheur with 50 Dec. 2 and two yet Dec. 22. An Am. Bittern lingered at Malheur until Dec. 21.

WATERFOWL — Wintering Whistling Swan numbers were high with up to 271 on Pend Oreille L. and R., n. Ida., and 376 in the S. Thompson-Shuswap R. drainages, B.C. A scattering wintered elsewhere. The birds' spring migration was impressive with 5000 at Klamath Falls; 2000 near Marlin, Wash., and large concentrations in the Harney Basin, Burns. The wintering population of Trumpeter Swans at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont., varied from 118-396. The midwinter aerial survey Feb. 3-5 in the Yellowstone area counted 1218 Trumpeters including 266 cygnets. Up to 51 wintered at Malheur N.W.R. Four returned to Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., in February.

The Coeur d'Alene L. and R., Pend Oreille L. and R., and lower St. Jo R., n. Idaho had nearly 15,000 Canada Geese Dec. 12 and 3400 as late as Jan. 8. Their numbers reached 6000 at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., and 3300+ at Turnbull in December. Twelve White-fronted Geese near Spokane were noteworthy (JA). The Harney Basin has large numbers of White-fronted and Snow geese by late February. A single Snow Goose stayed at Lewiston Jan. 10-23 (RN *et al.*) and one was at L. Lowell Dec. 24 (DT). Ross' Geese arrived at Malheur Feb. 17. Single birds were at Summerland, B.C., Feb. 8 (SC); at Lewiston Nov. 21-Jan. 30 (JWW), and at Helena in early December (GH).

Waterfowl densities reached record levels on Carty Res. near the Boardman, Ore. coal-fired plant, with 440,000 ducks Jan. 14. Mostly Mallards, they foraged in nearby corn fields. Ten days later most of them had left. (RJK, JAN).

Duck numbers were very high in the Coeur d'Alene-Pend Oreille area, particularly Mallards, Am. Wigeon, and Redheads but Canvasbacks were absent and goldeneyes down. Snow and ice drove most waterfowl out of the Malheur-Harney Basin area. Columbia N.W.R., had a big 165,000, mostly Mallards, in December but numbers dropped to 30,000 in January. Crab Creek, Grant Co., Wash., had 100,000 waterfowl, mostly Mallards, Pintail and Canada Geese, and



2000 Canvasback Feb. 26 (RF). Single Eur. Wigeons showed up at Kennewick, Wash., Feb. 15 (REW) and at Malheur Feb. 12. Five ♀ ducks believed to be Greater Scaup were sighted at Somers, Mont., Dec. 24 (EH). Two Oldsquaw fed on spilled grain at an elevator near Umatilla, Ore., January-early February (CC, REW). Two were at Lewiston Orchards, Ida., Dec. 5 (PS *et al.*) and one was near Beverly, Wash., Feb. 2 (Y.A.S.). A ♂ White-winged Scoter was at Klamath Falls in December (SS) and a ♂ Hooded Merganser appeared in January near Canyon Ferry Dam, Mont. (GH).

HAWKS — An early Turkey Vulture was over Moses Coulee, Douglas Co., Wash., Feb. 20 (N.C.W.A.S.) and one was near Vernon, B.C., Jan. 16 for an unprecedented winter record (KG). The species arrived near O'Neil, Ore., Feb. 28 for the only other report (TC). An unusual number of Goshawk sightings came in from every subregion except Idaho. Buteos were numerous in the w. part of the Region. Up to 25 Red-tailed Hawks were sighted near Prineville, Ore., in early February. In the Malheur area 225 mi of raptor transects yielded 32 Red-tailed and 179 Rough-legged hawks. The Terreton-Monteview area of Idaho had heavy concentrations of Rough-leggeds; both there and in e. Oregon they were attracted by the very high black-tailed jackrabbit numbers. A few Ferruginous Hawks apparently wintered in s. Idaho where jackrabbit numbers were high (CHT) and three pairs remained in the Peola, Wash. area during the winter (MPF). The Catlow Valley, Harney Co., Ore., had sightings Dec. 19, and Malheur Feb. 15; one was near Orondo, Wash., Feb. 7 (ME *et al.*). The Red-shouldered Hawk at Klamath Falls lasted out the winter (SS). Many Golden and Bald eagles were taking advantage of the jackrabbits in s. Idaho. Bald Eagles wintered in high numbers w. of the Continental Divide. There were at least 19 (!) sightings of Gyrfalcons, apparently because of the jackrabbits, and five of Peregrines. A dozen or more Merlin sightings were reported.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS — At Malheur California Quail, abundant during the fall, were decimated by the weather, few surviving except at feeding stations, but Ring-necked Pheasants fared somewhat better. Chukars apparently survived well there but experienced a large die-off below Salmon, Ida.

CRANES THROUGH COOT — The first Greater Sandhill Cranes arrived at Malheur Feb. 10, the second earliest date there but the big movement into the refuge occurred Feb. 17. Lesser Sandhills arrived there Feb. 23. Three Virginia Rails were sighted at a swamp near Mabton, Wash., about Jan. 1 (F & GR) and three were flushed from a marsh near Beverly Dec. 17 (RF). One became a victim of a window in Trail, B.C., Dec. 17 (AG). Turnbull N.W.R., had a peak of 1020

Am. Coot in December, Columbia N.W.R. s high was 500, also in December. Coot returned to Malheur in mid-February and numbered 790 by Feb. 23. About 60 wintered there.

SHOREBIRDS — Two Greater Yellowlegs were found at the mouth of Asotin Cr., near Lewiston Jan. 10 (PS) and 4-5 were there Feb. 15-16 plus one at nearby Hells Gate S.P. (WHe, MK, CV). The Yakima R. mouth, Richland, Wash., had 70 Dunlin Dec. 21 and Jan. 1 and the same spot had eight Long-billed Dowitchers yet Dec. 6 (REW).

GULLS — A Glaucous Gull appeared at Nelson, B.C., Dec. 5 (MEI, GD) and up to four, one an adult, were at the Yakima R. mouth in January and February (WH, REW). One-two Glaucous Gulls were at Spokane Jan. 31 and Feb. 7 (JA, BW) and an imm. bird was at Umatilla Feb. 8 (MC). A second-year Glaucous was on Am. Falls Res., Ida., Dec. 20 (DT, CHT). Single Glaucous-winged Gulls were sighted in December at Kelowna and Osoyoos, B.C., where they are very uncommon (JG, MCo, DB) and one wintered at Klamath Falls (SS). An ad. Herring Gull was spotted on Okanogan Flats, Wash., Feb. 9 (BH-T) and one was at Malheur Feb. 28 for the refuge's second sighting. Klamath Falls had up to three Thayer's Gulls in December (SS) and one was photographed at Spokane Jan. 31 for the first record for that area (JA). Woodley's second and third records of the Mew Gull at the Yakima mouth occurred Jan. 10 & 23 and one was at Umatilla Feb. 15 (C & MC).

DOVES AND OWLS — Fourteen late-staying Mourning Doves were found w. of Bozeman, Mont., Dec. 26, some staying at least until Jan. 2 (PDS). Two near Tendoy, Ida., were 2 months later than Roberts' previous late date. Many wintered around feed lots at Vernon; a flock numbered 90 Jan. 30 (JG).

S.A.

Two sightings of Barn Owls, very rare in interior British Columbia, were obtained. One was living in a barn at Osoyoos Jan. 8-17 (DB, SC, m.ob.) and one was found frozen in a barn at Vernon Feb. 12 (JG). Many of the species were found dead around potato cellars and haystacks in the Rupert area in January and February (WHS). A similar die-off was noted in the Twin Falls, Ida. area (I.F.G.). In s.e. Oregon severe weather resulted in many casualties for the species, with at least 18 found dead. Deep snow presumably made small mammals unavailable. Other reports from the n. Great Basin indicated the mortality was widespread. The birds were twice seen attacking California Quail unsuccessfully and one was killed by a Great Horned Owl.

It was a good winter for seeing Snowy Owls in e. Washington. Eight were seen from one observation point Feb. 21 (JA). The birds were very scarce in interior British Columbia, however, with only two observations Jan. 23-24 at Kamloops (RH). One appeared near Bonners Ferry, Ida. in late January (*vide* LDN). A **Hawk Owl** at Bridgeport Jan. 20-Feb. 14 became a celebrity (RB, m.ob.). In British Columbia one was sighted Jan. 11 & 23 at Windermere L., and one was at Invermere Feb. 2 (LH). One wintered in Glacier N.P. (MD), one was seen at Wells Gray N.P., Jan. 30 (RH), and one was at Vernon Feb. 7 (PR). One was photographed at Pablo N.W.R., Lake Co., Mont. Dec. 15 (WJH).



Hawk Owl, Bridgeport, Wash., Feb. 10, 1982. Photo/K. Brunner.

Barred Owls were unusually common in the N. Okanogan of British Columbia and an increased number of sightings came from below the border. Single birds appeared at Asotin, Wenatchee, Pasco, and Spokane, Wash., and Lewiston in January and February. In s. interior British Columbia there were four sightings of Great Gray Owls in different localities of the Kamloops region (RH), one in the Clearwater Valley (RH), and one at Penticton (SC). In the Invermere vicinity two sightings were obtained Feb. 1 & 6 (LH). In Idaho one was found near Cottonwood Dec. 8 (MH, *vide* DK). The n. edge of Yellowstone N.P., had one in February (DRS) and one was found in the Absaroka Mts., s. of Big Timber, Mont., Dec. 11 (PE). In s. interior British Columbia several Saw-whet Owls were found in barns and outbuildings; one picked up starving at Revelstoke soon recovered (JWo). Single birds were found in Washington at Selah (Y.A.S.), Moses L. (RK), and Ephrata (RF).

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH JAYS — Single Anna's Hummingbirds at feeders at Vernon (JG) and Kamloops (RH) disappeared Dec. 31. A large colony of Lewis' Woodpeckers was reported along the White R., Wamic, Ore. (RDP). A few were reported in the Yakima area and one was near Boardman Jan. 25 (RJK). Yakima had a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Jan. 10 (Y.A.S.) and Umatilla hosted one Jan. 10-Feb. 8 (MC). The only White-headed Woodpeckers reported were one in January at Rimrock L., Yakima Co., Wash. (Y.A.S.) and one Jan. 8 at Sisters, Ore. (R & GS). Over 10,000 Horned Larks were in the Crooked R. grasslands near Bend, Ore., Feb. 28 (TC). A Blue Jay remained at Nelson, B.C., until Feb. 16 (MHo) and one wintered at a feeder at Edgewood, B.C. (AJ). One was at Three Forks, Mont., Dec. 2-Feb. 12 (RL *et al.*). At least six Com. Raven roost sites were active at Malheur, each site numbering about 200 birds. A flock of 150+ Piñon Jays frequented the Bend area through the winter (TC) and a flock of 140 was sighted near Pocatello, Ida., in late February (DT).

CHICKADEES THROUGH WRENS — American Falls Res. provided remarkable out-of-habitat sightings of six Mountain Chickadees, four Bushtits and a Golden-crowned Kinglet Dec. 20 (CHT). Boreal Chickadees appeared in late December near Troy, Mont., and up Pipe Cr., n. of Libby, Mont. (CW). Red-breasted Nuthatches were decidedly scarce in s. interior British Columbia and in the Bozeman area; numbers were down at Fortine, Mont. also. A **Bewick's Wren** near Frenchglen, Ore., Jan. 9 was the first for that area since 1876 and the first for Malheur N.W.R. (MA). Three Rock Wrens were sighted there Dec. 19 and one was at Smith Rock S.P., n. of Redmond, Ore., Feb. 28 (TC).

CATBIRDS THROUGH STARLINGS — Nakusp, B.C. had a remarkable visit by a Gray Catbird eating raisins and suet at a feeder until Jan. 1; it reappeared nearby Feb. 15 (DG, CS). Some 1000 Am Robins were frequenting Russian olive plantings at Satus, Wash., in late December (B & GR). Three Hermit Thrushes appeared at Klamath Falls in January (SS). A few Ruby-crowned Kinglets wintered in the Yakima area. Bohemian Waxwings appeared in very large numbers in e. Washington and Idaho and showed up in several Oregon localities as far s. as Klamath Falls, where they appear only every 5-10 years. Bozeman had good numbers but the birds' numbers were apparently low in other parts of w. Montana and in s. interior British Columbia. Cedar Waxwings were scarce or absent at most localities. A late Water Pipit was at Malheur Jan. 9 (MA). Bend had a Loggerhead Shrike Feb. 18 (F & WVH) and Salmon had one Dec. 19 (HR). Starlings appeared in flocks up to 5000 in e. Washington in December (RF).

WARBLERS AND BLACKBIRDS — Twin Falls had two Yellow-rumped Warblers Jan. 2 (JR) and one was seen several times Jan. 4-11 in Idaho Falls, Ida. (RLe). Two of the Myrtle race were found at Satus about Jan. 1 (B & GR) and one was sighted near Vernon Dec. 27 (RH). Vernon also had a Com. Yellowthroat that day (RH). A ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird was spotted at Blue L., Grant Co., Wash., Jan. 30 (BW) and about ten were in a large flock of Red-winged and Brewer's blackbirds and Starlings at a feedlot near Moses L., Jan. 15 (RF). At Malheur about 2000 blackbirds, 60% Red-winged and 40% Brewer's concentrated in a livestock feeding area and 400 Brewer's stayed in another. A Brewer's appeared at Fortine Dec. 8 & 11 (WW). Two Brown-headed Cowbirds were found Jan. 30 near Okanogan, Wash (ME, EH *et al.*).

FINCHES — A **Black-headed Grosbeak** remained at a Livingston,

Mont feeder until Feb 6 for the state's first winter record (CL). Evening Grosbeaks showed in good numbers at Wenatchee and in above normal numbers at Klamath Falls, one flock containing 175. The species was reported at very few other localities. A ♀ Purple Finch at a Vernon Feeder December-mid-February was photographed for the first record for the area (MCo). Pine Grosbeaks appeared more often this winter in the Okanogan Valley but were sighted at only 2 other places, Winesap and Wenatchee, Wash. Gray-crowned Rosy Finch sightings were spotty. By far the largest number, 3000, was reported near Chelan, Wash., Dec. 3 (TS). Flocks totaling 285 were at Battle Mountain S.P., Umatilla Co., Ore., Jan. 23 (C & MC) and 300 were near Menan Buttes, s.e. Ida., Dec. 31 (EC). The species appeared in good numbers at Salmon and Ketchum, Ida. A flock near Bozeman contained a partial albino.

It was truly a redpoll winter across the Region. Practically every reporting locality had Com. Redpolls, often in high numbers. Only s. and extreme n. Idaho and the Burns and Klamath Falls areas had none. A few Hoary Redpolls appeared. Two were identified in Glacier N.P., Canada in February (MD) and groups up to 10-12 were seen in Lincoln and Sanders cos., Mont. (CW). In Washington one was sighted at Bridgeport Feb. 11 (KB), one was near Twisp Jan. 20 and near Tonasket Jan. 31 (ME, EH). Pine Siskins were scarce or absent nearly everywhere. About 150 frequented feeders at Rupert however (WHS). Red Crossbills were virtually absent; only Coeur d'Alene and Potlatch, Ida.; Spokane and Chewelah, Wash., and Bend reported them.

SPARROWS — A Rufous-sided Towhee at Vernon Feb. 23 may have been an early migrant; none are known to have wintered there (JB). Sage Sparrows arrived at Malheur Feb. 22, much earlier than previously thought to. Tree Sparrows wintered in many localities, all w. of the Continental Divide. A lone Chipping Sparrow was found at Smith Rock S.P., Feb. 10 (GW). Single Harris' Sparrows appeared at Umatilla and Umatilla N.W.R. (C & MC, RDP) and at McKay N.W.R., s. of Pendleton (C & MC). One was sighted near Malaga, Wash., in January (SCo) and one was near Bozeman most of the winter (GK). Many Golden-crowned Sparrows were sighted in the Yakima area in December and January (Y.A.S., B & GR). Richland, Rogersburg, and Peshastin, Wash. had single birds (WH, AM, Ro-T) and four were seen in Umatilla (C & MC). A few Fox Sparrows wintered in the Yakima-Wapato area (Y.A.S.). A Lincoln's Sparrow was found Jan. 6 near Midland, Ore. (SS). Lapland Longspurs were very scarce. They were noted in the Klamath Falls area (SS) and single birds were seen near Davenport (BW) and Reardan, Wash. (JA) and near Am. Falls (JBr, MU). Four were sighted at Malheur,

the first ever there and the first since 1876 for the area. Snow Buntings put in a few appearances, mostly in Washington but a few at Fortine, Vernon and Burns. Two moderately large flocks were sighted, 400 in the Davenport-Reardan area (BW) and 250 n.w. of Spokane (JA).

ADDENDA — A road-killed Barn Owl was picked up near Libby in April, 1981 (CW). A flock of Blue Jays, estimated at 100, was near Three Forks about Dec. 8, 1980 (VC). The nest box project at Spokane showed a definite recovery from the 1980 season, when Mt. St. Helen's ash devastated nesting attempts. From a total of 77 boxes W. Bluebirds fledged 175 young, Tree Swallows nine, Mountain Chickadees 32, Pygmy Nuthatches eight, and House Wrens 131 (DP). At Oakley, Ida., a ♂ **Blue-winged Warbler** was well seen May 23, 1981 and two ♂ Bobolinks and a ♂ **Indigo Bunting** were found near Oakley May 19, 1981 (MJS).

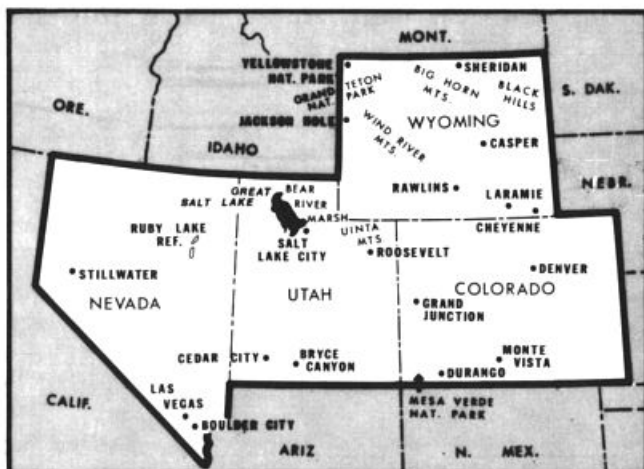
CORRIGENDA — The birds attempting to nest in the Salmon vicinity in 1981 were Ospreys, not Bald Eagles (AB 35:960). The N. Parula reported at Kamiak Butte, Wash., in June 1981 (AB 35:963) was not the state's first (see AB 29:719).

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MOUNTAIN WEST

/Hugh E. Kingery

The winter seemed long and lackluster, but still featured fine Christmas Bird Counts and visitations by welcome species like rosy



finches, crossbills, nuthatches, waxwings, and improving counts of raptors. Typical cold snowy weather replaced last year's balminess this may account for the unexciting reports.

Christmas Bird Counts (hereafter, CBC): The report which follows includes frequencies calculated for several common species on a party-hour basis. The averages cover counts from 1972-1980. The figures exclude Nevada.

GREBES TO BITTERNS — January grebes included Eareds at Provo, Utah Jan. 13 (RJ) and Casper, Wyo., Jan. 31 (JH), and 10-12 Westerns at Boulder, Colo., Jan. 17 & 31 (B.A.S.). Single White Pelicans wintered at Denver (an injured bird which survived—KK, RR), Fish Springs N.W.R., Utah (KF), and Las Vegas (VM). At Provo Jan. 22 one pelican sat on the ice near open water (MBr). Great Blue Herons wintered at snowy Jackson, Wyo.—8-9 of them (BR)—and Fish Springs had a Great Egret all winter (KF)! Denver has acquired a wintering population of Black-crowned Night Herons along the S. Platte R.; D.F.O. observed 29 through the winter compared with 27 last year. About ten Am. Bitterns wintered at Fish Springs (KF).

WATERFOWL — The cold winter reduced wintering waterfowl in Utah; the Jan. 15-31 totals dropped to 16,532, one-fifth of last winter's lowest total (U.D.W.R.). Trumpeter Swans wintered as usual at Jackson and Ruby Lake N.W.R., Nev., but also ten wintered at Fish Springs—probably birds from the Ruby L. flock (KF *et al.*). Numbers of wintering Canada Geese apparently increased along the

Colorado Front Range, with Denver reporting 10,000 at Barr L., Jan. 9 and the Longmont/Lyons/Berthoud/Loveland area (hereafter, L/L/B/L) tallying 12,343 throughout the winter compared with 5895 last year. They had begun their N movement in late February; Cheyenne and Sheridan reported flocks overhead, moving N Feb. 22+. Of the 3987 Snow Geese reported in Utah by Feb. 28, 3000 stopped at Clear Lake W.M.A. (U.D.W.R.). One Ross' Goose stopped at Denver Dec. 14 (RW, RSp, D & LJ) and another Jan. 2 (J & JC). Delta had two Jan. 26 and one Jan. 30 (MJ). Some Cinnamon Teal (a Regional harbinger of spring) appeared on the un-springlike dates of Jan. 1-6 at Denver (PE) and Jan. 29 at Fish Springs (RJ). The Eur. Wigeon found last fall at St. George, Utah (AB 36:201) wintered (SH, MW *et al.*). Utah reported as many as 40,000-50,000 N. Shovelers spending winter on the Great Salt L. (JN). A Wood Duck wintered at Saratoga, Wyo. (JH). Two Greater Scaups at Las Vegas gave s. Nevada its first record since 1978. Utah reported record numbers of Barrow's Goldeneyes, although s. Nevada had none this year. Reports came from Logan, Antelope I. Causeway over the Great Salt L., and Browns Park W.M.A. Ruby L. also had 20-40 wintering (SB). Grand L., Colo., reported 60-80 Dec. 5, and 20-25 through the winter (DJ). The Region had a record number of Oldsquaws, some from each state, from Casper Dec. 6 (†LR) to Logan, Antelope I., and Gunlock, Utah (MT, JB, RJ, E & RS, MW, MBr) and in Nevada, three swimming back and forth across the state line at Bullhead City, Ariz. (VM, J & MC). White-winged Scoters were at Colorado Springs Dec. 16-19 (CBC), Denver Jan. 2 (DG), and Dugway, Utah Dec. 16 (CP, DGa). The Surf Scoter which arrived at Zion Nov. 20 stayed for photographs through Dec. 14 (†JG, †KT).

HAWKS, EAGLES — Like last year, raptor counts on CBCs increased, except for Rough-legged Hawks. Winter reports of Sharpshinneds increase steadily as more and more feeders attract them to easy prey; this season the 155+ reported tripled the number of 5 years ago. CBC Accipiter counts emphasize this same pattern—the 0.076/party-hour doubles the 9-year average. Few Cooper's Hawks ordinarily winter in the Region; although the numbers reported were similar to previous years, 12 reports came from Jackson and Sheridan, farther n. than in the usual winter. CBCs counted 0.17 Red-tailed Hawks/party-hour, the highest in 10 years. Logan, Utah had a significant influx of Harlan's Red-tailed Hawks: 5-6 different birds occurred Jan. 10-Feb. 14. The careful observations indicate that future years may establish *harlani* as a regular winter visitant (†MT). Southern Nevada reported four Red-shouldered Hawks, including one at Davis Dam Feb. 27, about as far s. in the state as possible. Photographs confirm a Red-shouldered at Lund, Nev., Feb. 10 (MP), the most easterly record in the Region (except for the Colorado Front Range). For the most part, the Region hosted fewer Rough-legged Hawks, although Eureka, Nev., Logan, and s. Utah had more than usual. CBCs counted 0.143/party-hour, the lowest in 10 years. L/L/B/L reported 25 observations, compared with 82 a year ago, and Seedskaadee has noted a steady decline over the past 10 years (JBR).

The Colorado Bald Eagle count of 557 struck an average between the last 2 years' counts. None of the other states reported their state counts to us, although Casper reported a total of 98 Balds and 28 Golden Eagles at its 4 roost sites (JH). Seedskaadee's population built up to 44 in February, its highest count yet; Balds have increased steadily there for the past 10 years (JBR). Marsh Hawks and Prairie Falcons both exceeded their 9-year peaks, with 0.197 and 0.032/party-hour respectively.

GROUSE, CRANES — A Blue Grouse roosted in an arbor vitae in a Springdale, Utah yard Dec. 11-Jan. 30 and toured the town for meals; it was only the third lowland occurrence for Zion (JG). Two Whooping Cranes stayed in the San Luis Valley, Colo., until Dec. 18, the latest ever; six returned from New Mexico with the major flock of Sandhills Feb. 22. The three Whooping Cranes flying low near Windsor, Colo., Feb. 28, on the Front Range (H & CS, *vide* RAR) probably did not come from the Grays L. flock (RD). Although a handful of Sandhills wintered in the San Luis Valley, 500 arrived Feb. 4, another 1000 Feb. 14, and 8000-9000 Feb. 22. Sheridan reported its earliest record, a flock of 500 following the foothills of the Big Horn Mts., during a heavy snowstorm on Feb. 23 (FJ).

SHOREBIRDS, GULLS — The Region reported 14 species of shorebirds this season; normally all we see, except in s. Nevada, are

Killdeer and snipe. Of the 14, 3 appeared only for CBCs; the rest are these: at Antelope I., Am. Golden Plovers, two Dec. 28-29 and three Jan. 1 (†E & RS, BPa, RBo); 2-10 Greater Yellowlegs at Fish Springs Dec. 1-Jan. 29 (KF, RJ), two at Farmington, Utah Jan. 1 (E & RS) and one at Denver Jan. 2-5 (#, PE, WF, RSp); a Pectoral Sandpiper at Denver Dec. 26 (#, JRe *et al.*); 109 Least at two Great Salt L. locations Dec. 28 and one Least and one Western at Antelope I., Jan. 14 (†E & RS); three Marbled Godwits and an Am. Avocet at Bear River N.W.R., Dec. 3 (LM); and two Wilson's Phalaropes at Antelope I., Jan. 2 (†E & RS). Colorado's second **Great Black-backed Gull** remained at Denver Jan. 25-Feb. 13 (JRe, KH, JL). Utah's newly active observers discovered wintering Herring Gulls, not reported much from that state recently. Highest count was 30 at Bear R., Dec. 11 (MT). California Gulls wintered in numbers for the first time at Denver—as many as 30/day, and seen at 4 different sites (CC). Las Vegas had a Mew Gull Jan. 30-Feb. 7 (VM). Las Vegas birdwatchers turned up a flock of 15-20 wintering Inca Doves which has reportedly inhabited a trailer court for years, and probably nested (VM). The species has been reported from Nevada only sporadically.



Great Gray Owl, Seedskaadee Ref., Feb. 20, 1982. Photo/J.B. Rodriguez, Jr.

OWLS, WOODPECKERS — Refuge personnel photographed a Great Gray Owl at Seedskaadee Ref., Feb. 20 (JBR); the Rockies have only two other records as far s.—a specimen at Logan and a sight record in Utah's Uinta Mts. A Boreal Owl at the Evanston, Wyo., Middle School permitted the observer to approach within 4 ft Jan. 11 (†CK). On Feb. 12, Ryder's students found 1-2 Boreals calling at Cameron Pass, w. of Ft. Collins, Colo., where they confirmed nesting last year. CBCs counted 0.84 Com. Flickers/party-hour, up from the average 0.72, and the top count in 10 years. A Red-bellied Woodpecker was reported at Pueblo, Colo., Feb. 17 (*vide* RB) and a White-headed Woodpecker at Carson City Jan. 21 (BP). Lewis's Woodpeckers wintered at Durango, Colorado Springs, and Las Vegas, plus at least 2 sites in Utah. CBCs counted fewer Hairies and more Downies, 0.083 Hairies/party-hour (*cf.* an average 0.12) and 0.20 Downies (*cf.* 0.17).

SWALLOWS TO THRASHERS — Low numbers of Tree Swallows wintered at Davis Dam, and none occurred at Las Vegas, while a few Rough-winged Swallows wintered at both places. Cliff Swallows had begun nest construction at Davis Dam by Feb. 20, where none had been present Jan. 30 (VM). Blue Jays apparently wintered in Casper and Sheridan, new northerly wintering locales. A few Steller's Jays wintered along the Wasatch Front in Utah and a few strayed into Evanston, Wyo. (CK, m.ob.). They continued a CBC decline, down to 0.52/party-hour against a 0.94 average. CBCs found more Black-billed Magpies—3.66/party-hour *cf.* a 3.19 average. Color-banding revealed increased movements of Black-capped Chickadees at Logan: five began December in Dixon's yard; influxes came in late December and in early February, which coincided with bitterly cold weather. Feb. 6-7 saw a peak of 21. CBCs had more Black-capped and fewer Mountains—1.37 and 1.2/party-hour *cf.* 1.09 and 1.32 averages. At Zion both chickadees visited feeders for the first time in 5 years. Red-breasted Nuthatches exploded along the Colorado Front Range, especially in the Boulder area: A one-hour walk Jan. 1 found 60 on a 20-acre plot, and a 2-hour walk Feb. 27 turned up 85 (LH, FH). They seemed scarce in the rest of the Region. A Long-billed Marsh Wren was found at Crowheart, Wyo., Dec. 9 (†PA), but they were absent from 5 locations in Colorado Springs, where they were easily found last year (RB). Stray Mockingbirds were found at Boulder Dec

2-8 and 21-22, Carson City Jan 19, and Rocky Ford, Colo., Feb 20. One which attempted to winter at Cheyenne, first seen Dec 30, died from an injury Feb. 8 (AK). A Gray Catbird wintered in willow, birch, and silverberry brush at Dubois, Wyo.; it lived on suet, small seeds, and other ground food. Other catbirds were found Jan. 15-30 in Cheyenne (†SG), Morgan Co., Colo., and Berthoud, Colo. (#JRE, †W & GF). Brown Thrashers likewise made winter appearances—Jan 31 at Bayfield, Colo., Feb. 6 in Colorado Springs, and Feb. 13 at Lyons (#RS, #RB, #MG). People pressure may have adversely affected Le Conte's Thrashers at Desert Game Ref., near Las Vegas, where the CBC missed it for the fourth time in 15 years; one observed Feb 14 showed that a few remain (VM).

THRUSHES TO WAXWINGS — Boulder observers noted that Am Robins roost in the foothills, above the temperature inversion so that they take advantage of a warmer climate (FH, LH). Although the Boulder observers consider robins warm weather birds, small numbers wintered throughout the Region, including n.w. Wyoming (UK, BR). A Hermit Thrush wintered in a Las Vegas backyard (VM). By early February W. Bluebirds arrived at Reno, and by late February they arrived at Ridgway, Colo., and Laramie. Modest numbers of northward bound Mountain Bluebirds appeared all over the Region the last week of February, to as far n. as n. Nevada and s. Wyoming. Enough observers reported Bohemian Waxwings to permit tracing their S movement as winter progressed—from n. Wyoming in early December to Reno and e. to the Colorado Front Range in January. They moved into the s. portion of the Region more than in most years, penetrating to Colorado Springs, Durango, St. George, and Las Vegas (one Jan. 14, with Cedars, the first s. Nevada record in 3 years—VM). Easternmost records came from Cheyenne, with a 200 peak Jan. 2 (FC) and Wheatland, Wyo., Feb. 11 (SP). Although reporters in Colorado Springs and Cedar City, Utah reported fewer N Shrikes (30% of normal at Cedar City), one at Hiko Jan. 9, which caught an Am. Goldfinch in mid-air, provided the first s. Nevada record in 9 years (VM). Bad news from Jarbidge, Nev.: it had its first Starling Feb. 4, followed by eight Feb. 10. They "are the only birds that will chase away magpies—I don't know which is worse" (LB).

WARBLERS TO BLACKBIRDS — At Provo, two Black-and-white Warblers Dec. 5 and one Dec. 8 gave Utah its third or fourth record (‡MBr, MW). A Jan. 3 Yellow-rumped Warbler at Orem, Utah had a "hard time finding anything to eat, with 8 inches of snow on the ground, and was feeding in basement window wells on dead spiders and insects" (MW). Other January Yellow-rumped were at Salem, Utah Zion, Grand Jct., Denver, Boulder, and Loveland (†JC). The only other warbler reported was a Wilson's at Hygiene, Colo. (#VD). Eureka, Nev., reported some hardy W. Meadowlarks this winter, with six in mid-January after -32°F and a foot of snow; they had begun singing by Feb. 18 (JE). At Alamosa, Colo., 1-2 Yellow-headed Blackbirds fed with Red-winged Blackbirds from sunflowers in a backyard (VS). Alamosa also had a Great-tailed Grackle visit the same feeder Feb. 4 (VS).

FINCHES, SPARROWS — Observers reported only modest numbers of Evening Grosbeaks, well scattered throughout the Region in their normal wintering grounds. We also saw very few Cassin's Finches and more House Finches (except perhaps in the Denver area), CBCs listed 2.84 House Finches/party-hour, up from the 2.15/party-hour average. Observers reported normal numbers of

Pine Grosbeaks although they paid unusual visits to mountain-area feeders at Silverthorne, Colo., and Dubois, Wyo.—25 in one day (HEK, PA). Typically, rosy finches become more conspicuous in the valley towns and feeders when the mountains have lots of snow. This year they staged more than their usual spectacular appearances Grand L., reported the most with up to 1000/day in flocks of 100 along the roadways. They made rare appearances in Ft. Collins, Ft. Morgan, and Colorado Springs (RAR, JCR, NC). Two Blacks even graced Antelope I., Jan. 2 (E & RS). Common Redpolls reached Logan and Provo (*vide* KA, MW), but Colorado reported only two, at Boulder and Morrison. Red Crossbills continue to inhabit the Front Range, with a flock of 1000 at Ft. Collins in January (JS). Only Boulder reported nesting (FH, LH, VE). The campus of Utah State Univ., at Logan boasted 6-12 White-winged Crossbills Feb. 15-20 (†AG *et al.*) A ♂ White-winged visited a thistle feeder regularly in Denver Dec 11-Jan. 7 (J & JC). A Green-tailed Towhee at Logan Dec. 13 did not stay for the CBC (KD). Black-throated Sparrows wintered at their newly-located breeding site near Pueblo, Colo. (CC). Tree Sparrows spread out over c. and s. Nevada, with unusual feeder visitors at Eureka, Las Vegas, and Pahranaagat Ref. Erratic on CBCs, Tree Sparrows were tallied at a lower-than-average rate this year, 2.09/party-hour. A likely imm. Chipping Sparrow stayed at a Durango feeder Jan. 1-28 (†EF). Zion had a Golden-crowned Sparrow Jan. 5-8 (JG). Utah observers found 1-20 Lapland Longspurs at Antelope I., Jan. 1-Feb. 21 (JB, RJ, E & RS, MW *et al.*), and one Chestnut-collared Longspur Jan. 17 (‡ML). Outside their usual Wyoming winter range, flocks of Snow Buntings numbering 175-200 Dec. 11-12 dropped to 10-15 by Feb. 26 (m.ob.).

ABBREVIATIONS — † : documented report on file; ‡ : documented report submitted to state records committee; # : no documentation received; CBC: Christmas Bird Count.

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SOUTHWEST REGION

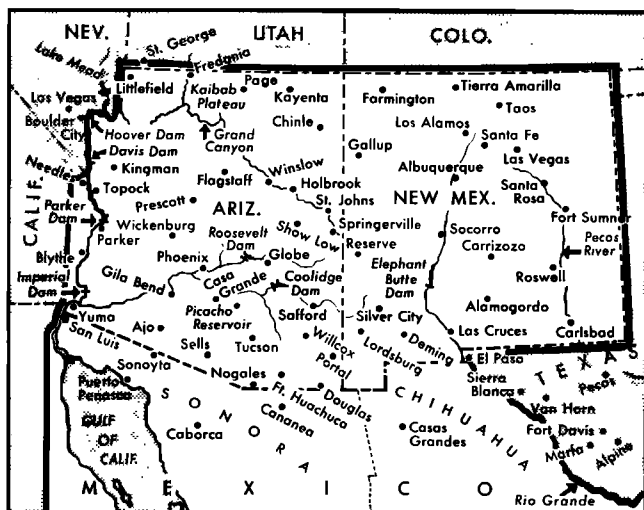
Arizona, Sonora
/Janet Witzeman

Winter in central and southern Arizona was mild with above average rainfall except in the Lower Colorado Valley where rainfall was below normal. Northern Arizona had snow and the coldest temperatures in three years so that "the lakes, usually causing the only winter excitement, were frozen early and were just beginning to open up at the end of the period." (JC).

Weather does explain the absence of birds in the northern part of the state but does not explain the comparatively low number of passerines in the riparian areas of the lowlands.

While reading through the winter reports for the state covering the past ten years, it seemed the statements we were making about patterns that were developing or the status of sparse winter visitants were reasonable and safe conclusions. However, this winter, many of the birds themselves seemed to "fly in the face" of these conclusions, and much of this report deals with the contradicting of "labels" we have tried to pin on them.

It was a perverse season. Species which we had come to expect in



the lowlands, especially during mild winters as this one, were lower in number than usual. Numbers of warblers, especially Yellow-rumped and Orange-crowned warblers, and White-crowned Sparrows were way down. We had begun to expect high numbers of crows at Cibola and Barrow's Goldeneyes below Davis Dam (but they were absent from that area for the second year). On the other hand, species which we had come to expect in low numbers such as herons, ibis, Whistling Swan and Long-billed Curlew were all here in unprecedented high numbers.

So in the report which follows, although there are no surprising species, there are many surprises among the species that were here.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — A Com. Loon at Parker Canyon L., in late December (PN, JS) and one at Painted Rock Dam Jan. 14 (RBr) were the only ones recorded away from the Lower Colorado River (hereafter, L.C.R.) where there was a total of 8 records during the period (MK *et al.*). An Arctic Loon at Peck's L., n. of Prescott Nov. 30 was the first for that area in recent years (CT). The only one recorded on the L.C.R., was on L. Havasu Jan. 15 (GR, PB, SD, HL, JW).

Up to 14 Horned Grebes were on L. Havasu during the period (MK *et al.*); three were counted on the Arizona section of L. Mead Feb. 21 (R & JW, RBr *et al.*); and singles were recorded at Peck's L., Nov. 30 (CT), at Willcox Jan. 23-25 (RF, PN) and at 2 areas in Phoenix during January and late February (RF, T. Gorman).

During this season's L. Havasu censusing of W. Grebe, the 2 color phases were tallied separately. Up to 2000 ± grebes were counted. Of these, approximately one third were light-phase birds. Numbers of both color phases peaked about the same time, during the second week of December and again in mid-February. There was a general movement of grebes from n. Havasu down to more favorable nesting habitat around the Bill Williams arm by the end of the period (MK *et al.*).

A wall-to-wall carpet of 3000 ± W. Grebes was covering L. Mohave above Davis Dam in February (VM, JW *et al.*), but relatively few were counted on the huge expanse of the Arizona side of L. Mead at the same time (m.ob.). Unexpected was one at the opposite corner of the state at McNeal Dec. 1 (AMo).

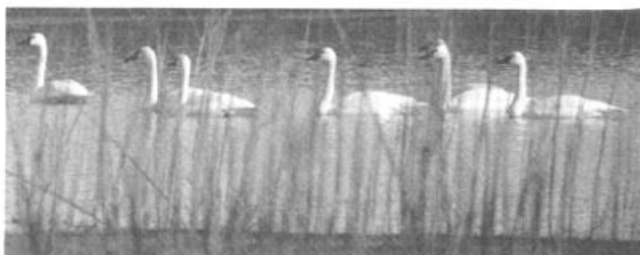
Even one Great Egret is rare in winter away from the L.C.R., and the 2 larger reservoirs (Picacho and Painted Rock Dam), so 50+ in Phoenix during December and January was an unbelievable sight (KR, RBr *et al.*). Individual Great Egrets were also at Tucson Jan. 5 + (L. Jones *et al.*) and at McNeal, n. of Douglas Dec. 7-17 (AMo). A flock of 30-40 Snowy Egrets (almost equally uncommon) near Phoenix provided a new local winter record. Higher-than-usual numbers of Black-crowned Night Herons were wintering in Yuma (90), Phoenix (80) and Tucson (14+); and as far e. as the ponds near McNeal there were 14 present all winter (AMo).

On the other hand, Cattle Egret was virtually absent from Phoenix where we have come to expect it wintering in numbers, and it occurred in areas where it is uncommon. In s.e. Arizona, in addition to the two on the Ramsey Canyon CBC, one was seen near Elfrida Feb. 20 (AMo). One at Chino Valley near Prescott Feb. 21 represented one of only a few records for that part of the state and the first

in winter (S. Hyde, *vide* CT). A Reddish Egret at Puerto Penasco, Sonora, Mex., Feb. 26-28 (TG *et al.*) may have been the same one that was present there in November.

White-faced Ibis, which is usually absent from the state in winter or present only in low numbers in mild winters, occurred in unprecedented numbers at Cibola N.W.R., where there were over 50 in mid-December, and six still there in late January (MK *et al.*). A few were also found at other spots along the L.C.R., including one at Pintail Slough Feb. 27 (VM). Three were at Picacho Res., Dec. 4 (TG, MJ)

WATERFOWL — The species that attracted the most attention throughout the state this winter was Whistling Swan. Considered to be a scarce winter visitant, this winter the species was present in unprecedented numbers, and in places where it had not been recorded previously. The greatest number occurred in e. Arizona: 57 were counted on lakes near Show Low Jan. 8 (DT); seven near St Johns Feb. 21 & 27 (B. Heap, S. Jarvis); seven on Luna L., near Alpine Jan. 14-Feb. 13 (DT, AMi), ten near McNeal Jan. 8 (AMo), one s. of Portal in January (S & WS) and one at Willcox Jan. 25 (JS) Farther w., 40 were at Tucson Dec. 4 (WD, EB), three at Green Valley Dec. 9-12 (GP), up to six were near Phoenix from January into March (m.ob.) and one was n. of Prescott from late December-March (CT). On the L.C.R., one was reported on L. Havasu Dec. 10, one found shot n. of Ehrenberg Dec. 10 (MK *et al.*), plus the one at Yuma (CBC).



Whistling Swans near McNeal, Ariz., Jan. 8, 1982. Photo/A. Moorehouse.

Two Brants were found—one at Cibola N.W.R., with 30 Canada Geese Dec. 2 (AK, CR, HW) and one with Canada Geese at Luna L., Feb. 13 (†AMi, N. Mooney). The majority of the 9 previous records had been from the L.C.R. More than the usual number of White-fronted Geese was recorded. Up to seven were at Cibola N.W.R. Jan. 5—at least Feb. 14 (DL, TS); two were in Tucson (GP, m.ob.) and one was at Phoenix (TG, PB) for most of the period.

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks wintered at Tucson for the third time—at least three this year (m.ob.). A pair of Wood Ducks n. of Ehrenberg Dec. 19 was significant as the species had been virtually absent on the L.C.R., since the cottonwood-willow habitat was destroyed in the B.W. Delta. Two ♂ Greater Scaup at Prescott Jan. 8 provided the second record for that area (CT). A ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye at Willcox Jan. 24 at least until Feb. 21 (RO, JD) furnished only the second record for s.e. Arizona, and three ♀ Barrow's Goldeneyes at Prescott Feb. 10 represented the third record for that area (H & AG). Only three to four were counted below Parker Dam (MK) and one was on L. Mead Feb. 21 (AG). Oldsquaw has been recorded 5 out of the past 7 winters on the L.C.R., and again this year when it was recorded in 2 areas: three downstream from Davis Dam Jan. 30 at least to the end of the period (VM *et al.*) and one on L. Havasu Feb. 16 & 26 (ph., MK, CR). A ♂ Surf Scoter was photographed 5 mi s. of Parker Dec. 3 (CH, MK, AK, HW) and the same day another ♂ Surf Scoter (that molted into an ad. male) was found just below Parker Dam and remained into March, providing the first real winter record for the state.

RAPTORS — An out-of-range Harris' Hawk was seen near McNeal Dec. 17 (ph., AMo). A preliminary estimate of this winter's Bald Eagle population (including 86 counted during aerial surveys) is 150 ±; this winter the birds shifted their preference from the Flagstaff area to e. Arizona (DT). An Osprey at Nogales from late November into January was the first in winter for that area (BH).

SHOREBIRDS — A late Semipalmated Plover was on L. Havasu Dec. 10 (MK, CR, HW, RH); and a Snowy Plover (rare and irregular in winter) was found there Jan. 20 (RH, JJ, HW). Mountain Plovers were found again in s.e. Arizona. During January up to 30 were counted s. of Willcox (JS *et al.*).

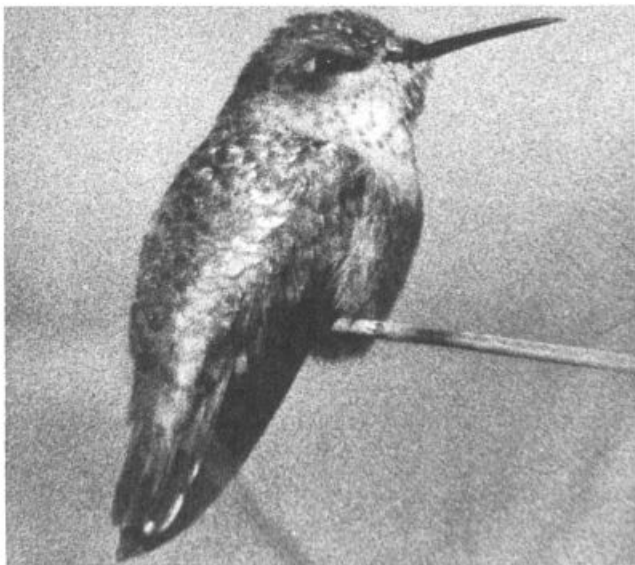
Long-billed Curlew, considered a sparse winter visitant, was found in unprecedented numbers on both sides of the state. Six were counted near McNeal Feb. 5 (AMo) and 15 were found s. of Poston Jan. 9 (MK, BA). Also, two were n. of Ehrenberg Dec. 2 and Feb. 12 (RH, MK) and one at Cibola N.W.R., Jan. 25 (CH). Forty Long-billed Dowitchers at McNeal Feb. 5 (AMo) and one at Portal from late December into January were the first in winter for these areas. Also at McNeal were Greater Yellowlegs (20 on Feb. 5) and 1-2 Dunlin Dec. 10-Feb. 20 (AMo).

GULLS, TERNS — Both Glaucous-winged and Thayer's gulls have been seen with some regularity in small numbers at Puerto Penasco, Son., Mex., in recent years, but the seven Glaucous-winged and 15 Thayer's counted there on Feb. 12 were unprecedented (KK, DS). There were 2 records of Bonaparte's Gull, one on L. Havasu Dec. 4 at least to Jan. 12 (MK *et al.*) and two at Tucson through Dec. 6 (GG, WD). A Black-legged Kittiwake at Guaymas, Son., Jan. 26 was notable (†SG).

Very late Forster's Terns remained into December on L. Havasu: five Dec. 4, three Dec. 10 and one until Dec. 16 (CH, MK). Individual Caspian Terns also lingered late at L. Havasu Dec. 16 (RH, JJ, CH) and at Cibola N.W.R., Dec. 17 (JJ, RH), but seven at Yuma Dec. 20 was unprecedented (CI *et al.*).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — An Inca Dove straggled E to Portal and spent the winter at feeders there (S & WS). A lone Groove-billed Ani was found at Tucson Dec. 6 (B. Terrill, M. Keasey). A Ferruginous Owl discovered near Sasabe w. of Nogales Feb. 20 (RBo) was one of only a few records of this seldom-seen species.

Peripheral Anna's Hummingbirds were a singing male at Prescott all winter (V. Plumlee), a male at a feeder in Portal Feb. 14 (SS) and one at Douglas Jan. 1-12 (AMo). Individual late Rufous Hummingbirds were at feeders in Tucson, one at least through Dec. 6 and the other through most of December (*vide* SG). A probable Calliope Hummingbird was at Ramsey Canyon again this year until Feb. 14 (ph., RBo, DD, †SG *et al.*). A Broad-billed Hummingbird wintered at



Probable Calliope Hummingbird, Ramsey Canyon, Ariz., Jan. 7, 1982. Photo/R. Bowers.

the Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix, Nov. 5-at least Feb. 6 (M. Axelrod, RBr). Another was seen in Madera Canyon Feb. 23 (DDe).

Lewis' Woodpeckers were numerous and widespread at middle elevations around Prescott October-March with 20+ individuals counted in one area (H & AG). Williamson's Sapsuckers continued to be seen in greater-than-ever numbers in Prescott also (CT).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CORVIDS — A late W. Kingbird was seen near Sasabe Dec. 2 (AMi). The only E. Phoebe was one near Nogales Dec. 6 (J. & B. Epler).

"Troops" of Steller's Jays (up to 40 in one group) were wintering around Prescott; and scattered numbers of Piñon Jays were found

during early winter e and n of Prescott (CT). The large flocks of Com. Crows that have been wintering at Cibola N.W.R., for the past 5 years was reduced to only 380 this year (RH, MK). Another flock of 25 was found at a new area s. of Ehrenberg (JJ). Two out-of-range individuals were at Winkleman Feb. 19 (AG).

NUTHATCHES THROUGH SHRIKES — The only remaining lowland Red-breasted Nuthatch was at B.W. Delta Jan. 28 (RH) and the species became uncommon in the Prescott area as well. Brown Creepers continued to be seen in greater-than-usual numbers: ten at B.W. Delta, four at Parker, three at Cibola N.W.R. (MK *et al.*), seven at Wickenburg in December (CT) and widespread in the riparian and oak woodlands around Prescott (CT). An out-of-range Dipper was in Arivaipa Canyon Feb. 4 (R. Taylor).

Winter Wrens continued to be more numerous than usual around Prescott and two were found in the lowland riparian area near Wickenburg in December (CT). A Short-billed Marsh Wren was found near Poston, L.C.R., Dec. 23 (†RBr, †C. Kangas), but attempts to re-find it for photographic documentation failed. There are no confirmed records for the state. Another Varied Thrush (added to the two reported in fall) was found at Bisbee Dec. 20 (†DD). There were fewer W. Bluebirds, but more than usual (up to 200) Mountain Bluebirds in the L.C.V., where they invaded riparian areas (eating mistletoe berries) rather than agricultural fields. There was a high of eight Townsend's Solitaires in 4 areas along the L.C.R. (MK). Every few years there is a major invasion of Am. Robins and Cedar Waxwings and this was one of them. Incredible numbers of robins (especially in February) were roving through Prescott and Phoenix, and high numbers were in Globe and Portal. There were "more Cedar Waxwings than usual" in Prescott, "more than ever" in Globe, reported "fairly often" in Tucson and in everyone's yard in Phoenix.

Bohemian Waxwings (the first since '78-'79) were found in a new area in n.e. Arizona, at Kayenta, where there were two Jan. 8 and one Feb. 20 (CLa). Four were with 30 Cedar Waxwings north of Flagstaff Feb. 18 (R. Balda). Numbers of Golden-crowned Kinglets continued to be high in the L.C.V. at Parker (2-5) and B.W. Delta (7) (MK *et al.*), two to four were in Wickenburg in December and stayed into January in Prescott (CT). Two N. Shrikes found in the L.C.V., one n. of Poston Dec. 23 (D. Robinson) and one at Topock Jan. 15 (ph., GR *et al.*) provided the third and fourth records for that area. Farther s. one was s. of Phoenix Jan. 4 (C. Clark). Two individuals were found s. of Kayenta Dec. 23 and Feb. 24 (CL).

WARBLERS — Most of the uncommon "winter" warblers that occur in the state are really late migrants that stay only into January. But this year there were two exceptions. A Chestnut-sided Warbler Jan. 6 through the end of the period (BH, m.ob.) and a N. Parula Jan. 17 through the end of the period (DS, KK, m.ob.), both at Tucson, were the first real wintering records for these species. A Palm Warbler on the Santa Maria R., w. of Prescott Jan. 16 (CT) was the sixth post mid-January winter record and the twentieth state record.

There were fewer than usual of the rare but regular late and wintering warblers in the lowlands: one Tennessee at Tucson Dec. 14 (†SG); one Townsend's s. of Tucson Jan. 24 (JBo); two Wilson's, one at Tucson Jan. 1-at least Feb. 7 (DDe, TG) and one at Phoenix Dec. 22-at least Jan. 7 (GR, KR); and two individual Am. Redstarts, at Tucson Dec. 6-21 (WD) and at Parker Feb. 21-24 (SG, CR, *et al.*). There was an additional Am. Redstart, six Black-and-white Warblers and two Yellow Warblers on the state CBCs.

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS — The Streak-backed Oriole at Tucson in the fall disappeared by Dec. 1, but a second bird, a male, was present at another feeder in Tucson Dec. 26-Feb. 28+ (WD, †SG). The ♂ Rusty Blackbird found at L. Havasu sewage pond in late November was joined by a female, found there Jan. 15 (GR, PB, SD HL, JW); both remained until at least Jan. 28 when they were photographed (MK). There are only a few records from the L.C.V. Great-tailed Grackles usually leave the Prescott area in August, but this year a flock remained all winter in each of 2 areas there (CT). Eight Bronzed Cowbirds found at McNeal Nov. 20 remained throughout the period (AMo). The species is rare in s.e. Arizona.

A late W. Tanager was at Wickenburg Dec. 30-31 (CT). A Summer Tanager at Prescott Nov. 30-Feb. 18 (A. & B. Nagel, *vide* CT) represented the first winter record for that area and the farthest n. in the state.

FRINGILLIDS — A *Pyrrhuloxia* wandered farther N than usual to Skull Valley (4500') west of Prescott Jan. 17-19 (H & AG). Up to 90 Evening Grosbeaks plus smaller flocks were in the Prescott area during the period (CT) and five were at Payson since at least early February (*vide* SD). A ♀ Pine Grosbeak that wandered to Rustler P., in the Chiricahuas (where it has been recorded once before) was found Jan. 1 (†RM). Lawrence's Goldfinches continued to be seen at scattered localities around Prescott, Wickenburg and Tucson (CT, SG *et al.*). There were only about one third as many as there have been in the past at Nogales (BH), but 40 ± at Cibola N.W.R., was a new high for the L.C.V. (HW, JJ, RH, CH) plus scattered singles were present at the other areas in the L.C.V. during the period (MK).

The only Baird's Sparrow found was one in Gardner Canyon Feb. 13 (SG, JBa). A Clay-colored Sparrow, another sparse winter resident, was found s. of Tucson Feb. 6 (GM, WD). A Black-chinned Sparrow in Guadalupe Canyon all period into March when it was singing, was farther e. and s. than the species has been found previously in the state (DD, AMo).

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New Mexico

/John P. Hubbard

The winter was generally mild and dry through December, turning colder and especially wetter in January and February. However, the cold and wet did not discourage warm-weather species from lingering or wintering farther north than usual. As a result, several first or unusual northerly records were obtained, ranging from cormorants to fringillids. Bucking this trend was the appearance of several northerly or montane species in places or numbers exceeding the norm, including waterfowl, raptors, corvids, and fringillids. Among the vagrants, the most significant was the first documented Black-legged Kittiwake for the state (see photo) and the first specimens of Short-billed Marsh Wren and winter Northern Waterthrush (both to Smithsonian Institution).

LOON THROUGH CORMORANTS — An Arctic Loon at Bluewater L., Dec. 9 (AM) was the only one reported. Double-crested Cormorants again wintered in the extreme n.w., with seven at Morgan L. in the period (AN); other notable records included one at Bear Canyon L., Grant Co., Jan. 9 (RF), and another at Los Lunas Feb. 22 (WH *et al.*). The latter was in a flock with three smaller cormorants—thought to be Olivaceous—which would be 70 mi n. of the previous n. records for the state.

HERONS — A Green Heron at Bloomfield Jan. 20 (JR) constituted only the second winter record for the San Juan Valley; the only record in the period in the Middle Rio Grande Valley (M.R.G.V.)—Española to San Acacia—was a bird near Bernardo Dec. 19 (KM). Three birds thought to be Cattle Egrets were at White Rock, Los Alamos Co., Dec. 3 (M. Ferris), which is well n. of most winter records for the state.

WATERFOWL — Presumed Whistling Swans were more widespread and numerous than usual, including 12 at Chicosa L., Harding

Co , Feb 10 (M McInnis), two near Rodeo Dec 30 (RS *et al.*), and one at Radium Springs Dec. 22 (B. Locke, KZ). Canada Geese were present in several s.w. areas where as a rule infrequent, including eight at Alma Dec. 29 (CH, JH), four at Evans L., Jan. 16 (RF), eight near Cliff (J. Egbert), several near Virden Feb. 4 (JH), and 84 at San Simon Cienaga Dec. 28 (RF); nine birds at Cochiti L., Feb. 18 were small and dark and may have been "Cackling" Geese (*Branta canadensis minima*) (WH). Rare in mid-winter teal included four Blue-winged at Isleta Dec. 14 and one at Alameda Jan. 28, and a Cinnamon at Isleta Dec. 14; migrants of both species appeared in the M.R.G.V. in early February (WH *et al.*). A count of twenty Red-breasted Mergansers at Cochiti L., Feb. 5 (JD, RM) was high for the area.

RAPTORS — A minor influx to lower elevations occurred among Goshawks, with two adults and an immature in the Albuquerque area in late January to early February (RM *et al.*), and an adult and immature in the Silver City area in the same period (D. & M Zimmerman). The Jan. 2-16 count of Bald Eagles yielded 357 birds, up by about a third over January 1981 (JH *et al.*). Two Merlins at Tucumcari Jan. 10 (J. Vaught) were east of the usual range.

QUAIL THROUGH RAILS — A Montezuma Quail was seen on Jan. 28 in the Organ Mts. (BZ, KZ), where infrequently reported Thirteen Whooping Cranes were accounted for in the Rio Grande Valley (U.S. F.&W.S.), with northward migration occurring as early as mid-February (D. Law *et al.*). Thirteen Sandhills at Redrock, Brant Co., Dec. 28 (RF) were in a new area of occurrence.

SANDPIPERS — Least Sandpipers recorded n. of usual limits included one at Morgan L. Dec. 17 and 2-3 there Dec. 31 (AN, DR), eight at Bluewater L. Dec. 19 (J. Trochet), and two or more at Caballo L. Feb. 3 (JH). Two or three Long-billed Dowitchers wintered at Bloomfield, (JR *et al.*), which is n. of the usual range.

TERNs AND GULLS — A probable imm. Thayer's Gull at Caballo L., Feb. 18 (JH) is perhaps the fifth record in the general area—where most of the few New Mexico records originate. Two ad Californians were seen there Dec. 13 and another at Cochiti L., Feb. 18 (JH); an immature reported as this species was also present at the latter site Feb. 17 (WH *et al.*). New Mexico's first verified record of the Black-legged Kittiwake was obtained on Dec. 5, when an adult was photographed at Bosque del Apache N.W.R. (W. Stone). A tern was glimpsed at Morgan L., Dec. 17 (DR), but it could not be identified to species; any tern in winter is a rarity in New Mexico.



Black-legged Kittiwake, Bosque del Apache N.W.R., New Mex., Dec. 5, 1981. Photo/W. Stone.

PIGEONS THROUGH SWIFTS — A Band-tailed Pigeon at Alameda Dec. 15-23 (J. Phillips) was very unusual, both as to season and the lowland occurrence. A White-winged Dove at Socorro Feb. 4 was very early; a Ground Dove there Dec. 5-Feb. 25 and an Inca Dove through the winter (PB) were n. of the usual range. White-throated Swifts were more frequent in winter than usual, including one in the Sandia Mts., Feb. 28 (S. Huntington), 15-25 at Percha Dam S.P., Jan. 5 (DJ), 20-30 in the Florida Mts., Feb. 20 (K. Gould-Falzone), and four in Dark Canyon, Guadalupe Mts. Dec. 28 (W. Baltosser, G. Schmitt).

WOODPECKERS — Three Gilas on Double Adobe Cr., Animas Mts., Dec. 29 (B. Hayward) represents a high count for the area, where the species is infrequent. Hairy Woodpeckers continued to be scarce in the M.R.G.V., with only five recorded versus 126 records of Downies, in the period (WH *et al.*). A Ladder-backed near Thoreau Dec. 11 (AM) was n.w. of the usual range.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — An *Empidonax*, thought to be a Dusky, was seen Jan 9, Feb 27, and Mar 8 (WH) at Isleta, well n. of where winter birds have been previously reported. Three probable Dusksies at Glenwood Jan. 1 (JH) was the largest winter count there ever. A **Gray Flycatcher** near Rodeo Dec. 30 (F Scheider) represented the first winter report from the state. A Tree Swallow near Alameda Jan. 14 (JD, WH) was the first recorded for that month for the state.

CORVIDS — The lowland/southern invasion failed to expand from the past autumn, although Steller's Jays persisted in small numbers in the Glenwood (JH *et al.*) and Silver City (RF *et al.*) areas, and Scrub Jays were present in the M.R.G.V. s. to San Acacia (WH *et al.*) Possible White-necked Ravens included two near Belen Jan. 2 (WH, RM) and at Bosque del Apache N.W.R. Feb. 4 (RT). Two to three Com. Crows were at Farmington Dec. 22 (AN), in which area the species is rare.

CHICKADEES THROUGH WRENS — Black-capped Chickadees were numerous in the M.R.G.V., s. to Bernardo, while lesser numbers of Mountains were present in the same area; probable hybrids included single birds at Albuquerque Dec. 10 and Isleta Jan. 9 & Feb. 25 (WH *et al.*). Two Pygmy Nuthatches were at Aguirre Spring Jan. 23 (BZ, KZ), for a first record for the Organ Mts. Winter House Wrens included singles near Los Alamos Dec. 13 (WBL), Bernardo Feb. 3 (WH), and Socorro Dec. 12-18 (PB). A **Short-billed Marsh Wren** was taken near Belen Jan 19 (KM), for the first New Mexico specimen.

THRUSHES — An amazing 254 records of Hermit Thrushes were obtained in the M.R.G.V. in the period (WH *et al.*). The E. Bluebird was regular in the same area, with 71 records in the period, including new n. localities at San Idelfonso Feb. 16 and Cochiti Dec. 11 (WH *et al.*) Mountain Bluebirds were not reported e. or s. of the normal range, except in the Glenwood and Cliff areas (JH *et al.*).

KINGLETS THROUGH SHRIKES — Golden-crowned Kinglets were numerous in the Sandia Mts. (HS), and there were three near Rodeo Dec. 30 (RS *et al.*) and one at Mesilla Dec. 3 & 19 (BZ, KZ). Ruby-crowneds were numerous in the M.R.G.V. in December, with numbers dropping in January and February. Bohemian Waxwings staged an incursion into the Farmington area, with one or two Dec. 18, 200 Feb. 20, and 650 Feb. 25 (JR *et al.*). Few N. Shrikes were

reported, these being confined to the Rio Grande Valley, including one at Bosque del Apache N W R , Jan 9 (RT)

WARBLERS — A **Black and White Warbler** at Mesilla Dec. 12 (DJ) provided only the second winter record for the state. Two Orange-crowneds were recorded there Dec. 3 and one Dec. 19 (BZ, KZ) There were 924 records of Yellow-rumped Warblers in the M.R.G.V., of which 130 were thought to be "Myrtles" (WH *et al.*) A **Northern Waterthrush** was seen near Isleta Jan. 9 & Feb. 15, before being collected Feb. 27 (WH, RM) for the first verified winter record for the state. A ♂ Com. Yellowthroat at Isleta Jan. 10 & 24 & Feb 7 (WH *et al.*) was the northernmost in winter for New Mexico.

ICTERIDS — Yellow-headed Blackbirds were rare in the M.R.G.V., with two at Bernardo Feb. 3 and one at Isleta Feb. 20; also rare there were Brewer's Blackbirds with only 16 recorded and Brown-headed Cowbirds with 50 near Belen Jan. 27 (WH *et al.*)

FRINGILLIDS — North of the usual range was a Pyrrhuloxia at Capitan Dec. 1-20 (E. Morton *et al.*, ph.). Scattered Evening Grosbeaks were recorded in the M.R.G.V., with a total of nine birds seen in December and January from Albuquerque to Belen. At least 12 White-winged Crossbills were seen on Dec. 6 in the Sandia Mts. (HS, G. Parker), from which area most of the few New Mexico come. Well n. of the usual winter range were 500+ Lark Buntings between Zuni and Ramah Jan. 15 (T. Rhoades). Also n. were a Sage Sparrow at Cottonwood Gulch, McKinley Co., Feb. 23 (AM), 10+ Chippings near Glenwood Dec. 30-Jan. 1 (CH, JH), and a Brewer's near Belen Feb. 13 (RM). Southerly Tree Sparrows included 3-4 at Isleta all winter (WH *et al.*), singles at La Joya Jan. 15 (WH *et al.*) and Cottonwood Gulch Dec. 9 (AM), and two at Morgan L. Feb. 20 (AN) Harris' and Golden-crowneds were somewhat more widespread than usual, while in the M.R.G.V. 79 White-throateds were recorded between Bernalillo and Belen. Lincoln's Sparrows were uncommon there, including three at Bernalillo Dec. 3 and one near there Feb 23 (WH *et al.*). A Lapland Longspur was identified at Bernardo Feb 3, and 74 Chestnut-collareds were counted between Bernalillo and Belen Dec. 3-Feb. 24 (WH *et al.*).

CITED OBSERVERS — P. Basham, J. Duff, R. Fisher, W. Howe, C. Hubbard, J. Hubbard, D. Jones, B. Lewis, R. Martin, A. McCallum, K. McClymonds, A. Nelson, J. Rees, D. Renwalt, H. Schwartz, R. Scholes, R. Teuber, B. Zimmer, K. Zimmer. **JOHN P. HUBBARD — 2016 Valle Rio, Santa Fe, NM 87501.**

ALASKA REGION

/D. D. Gibson

It is difficult to think in terms of the "end" of winter in Alaska on February 28 each year, when spring is yet months away (and for which date the record low at Fairbanks is still -51°F). Generally, winter 1981-82 was cold. December and January were cold, and so was the second half of February, but no cold records were set. Precipitation was slightly below normal (*e.g.*, 42.5 inches of snow at Fairbanks by end January). A dearth of small landbirds was mentioned by many observers. Rich MacIntosh (writing from Kodiak, which island ordinarily provides an interesting cul-de-sac for passerines in winter) said, "The net effect of our passerine problem is that when one is in good bird habitat it is *unusual* to see or hear any small bird life . . . [but based] mostly on observations at feeders, the 'rare' sparrows like Fox, Golden-crowned, and both juncos are tolerably common this winter."

GREBES, HERONS, WATERFOWL — A Pied-billed Grebe was seen at Juneau in late December (RJG, FAG, BWr), and another was studied at Ketchikan Feb. 7 (†REW). This species is a rare fall and winter visitant in Southeastern, the only part of Alaska in which it regularly occurs. Rare in winter at the n.w. periphery of its normal range, Great Blue Heron was seen twice at Seward this winter—one bird Jan. 11 and Feb. 14 (EM & RM). A wintering aggregation of 500-600 Whistling Swans was surveyed in mid-January and again in mid-February at Peterson Lagoon, Unimak I., e. Aleutians (JS, *fide* CPD).

These birds are an essentially non-migratory population, which breeds on the adjacent Alaska Pen. They make up the only wintering population of this species in Alaska. Unusually poor survival was noted among 97 Trumpeter Swans that attempted to overwinter in the Cordova area (MEI): Fifteen or fewer were present at the end of the wintering season. Nine known dead succumbed to freezing in ice, starvation, Bald Eagles, or combinations thereof. Over 2000 Brant wintered at Izembek N.W.R., Alaska Pen., moving out of the bay when it froze and returning to it as soon as it thawed (CPD). The observer, who knows, stated that this number is about normal for that area in winter (*contra* AB 35:327). Six Brant were seen Jan. 19 near Craig (TEK), where rare in winter. Rare and local in Alaska in winter, Canvasbacks were recorded in Wrangell Narrows, Petersburg, in late December (a pair—PW) and at Adak I. (nine birds, *fide* MEI). A ♂ Redhead present at Womens Bay, Kodiak, through at least Jan 20 (JBA) was the only 1981-82 winter report in the State. Three Tufted Ducks, a male and two females, were present in the Cordova area throughout the season (MEI). Rare but regular at Kodiak, where at the very w. end of its winter range, one ♂ Lesser Scaup was seen at Womens Bay Dec. 12, (RAM). Healthy counts of Steller's Eider included 5858 at Izembek Dec. 23 (CBC); 150 at Caton I., Sanak Is , Feb. 9 (JS, CPD, MN); 550 at Simeonof I., Shumagin Is., Feb. 25 (JS & CPD); and about 200 at Wosnesenski I., off Pavlov Bay, Alaska Pen., Feb. 25 (JS & CPD). Although the Izembek total may be the highest ever on a CBC, much larger concentrations (*e.g.*, 100,000+ birds Feb. 3, 1977) occur in winter in the Nelson Lagoon-Port Moller-Mud Bay-Herenden Bay area (Gill *et al.* 1981, *Arctic* 34:286-306), 150 km n.e. of Izembek. Two different ♂ Smews were observed in



early January, one at Cordova Jan. 1-2 (MEI *et al.*) and one at Womens Bay, Kodiak, Jan. 3-6 (SW, TA, WED *et al.*, *vide* RAM). The former was the first recorded for mainland Alaska, the latter the second recorded at Kodiak. Three Hooded Mergansers with Mallards and Com. Mergansers on the Tanana R., at Delta Junction Feb. 12 (MEI) provided only the second record, and first in winter, of this species n. of the Alaska Range. Perhaps the occurrence was related to higher-than-usual numbers reported in Prince William Sound last fall (*q.v.*).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — A very dark Red-tailed Hawk was observed in the Kaslof area Mar. 3 (MAM), and perhaps the same bird was seen in that area Feb. 12. There are very few Alaska winter records of this species. Gyrfalcons in small numbers were reported along the Pacific coast from Izembek (CPD) to Anchorage (DWS, DFD) and the Kenai Pen. (BWA, *vide* MAM)—a normal situation. A pair of Am. Coots was present at Blind Slough, Petersburg, until it froze in late December (PW). Two Killdeers at Sitka Dec. 27 (†MK & DK) provided the first local winter record. This species winters very rarely in Southeastern. Maximum counts of a few shorebird species at the n. end of their winter range included (Kodiak CBC, Jan. 3) 15 Black Turnstones, 60 Surf-birds, 364 Rock Sandpipers, and three Com. Snipe; and five Dunlins were seen at Womens Bay Jan. 31 (RAM & DWS).

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH NUTHATCHES — A ♂ Anna's Hummingbird was present regularly at Ketchikan from the end of October through February (LWC, *vide* SOM). The autumn and winter occurrence of this species in Southeastern is now an annual event. A Red-breasted Sapsucker was seen at Ft. Abercrombie S.P., Kodiak, Feb. 4 (SW & BWi, *vide* RAM). The few previous Kodiak archipelago records, all in recent years, have been in fall. Several Steller's Jays visited feeders sporadically all season in the Anchorage area (GJT, TGT), where they are irregular winter visitants. A few Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen at Kodiak during the winter (JBA). None was reported at Anchorage, on the Kenai Pen., or in the Cordova-Prince William Sound area all season. In Southeastern, nuthatches were common and ubiquitous in coniferous forests at Juneau all winter (FAG), however.

THRUSHES THROUGH STARLINGS — A Townsend's Solitaire was present in Anchorage in late December (*vide* DFD), but apparently not thereafter. Robins were recorded in small numbers at a number of coastal localities, and one bird successfully wintered as

far n. as Fairbanks (m.ob.), where there are very few such records. One Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen at Juneau Dec. 21 (RJG, FAG BWR); there are few Alaska winter records of the species. But Golden-crowned Kinglets were widely reported this winter, from Kodiak, Anchorage, and the Kenai Pen., e., along the Pacific coast (m.ob.). A Water Pipit was observed at Craig Dec. 11 (TEK). This species is a casual, or annual but exceedingly rare, winter visitant along Alaska's entire Pacific rim, from the Aleutians to Southeastern Remnants of autumn 1981's influx of Bohemian Waxwings remained at Kodiak through Jan. 25, when five birds were seen (MMM). Two birds Feb. 17 were the first waxwings seen in Anchorage since December (RLS). West of Southeastern, Starlings were reported only at Anchorage, where present (numbers?) through at least mid-December (DWS).

WOOD WARBLERS THROUGH SPARROWS — A Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler observed at Glacier Bay Dec. 19 (†SP) provided only the second Alaska winter record (see AB 35:327). Rusty Blackbirds were present at Anchorage at least until mid-December (13 birds on 5th—GJT; species recorded on 18th—DWS) but none was reported there subsequently or from other areas at all. Pine Siskins were not common w. of Southeastern, where they were numerous at Juneau (FAG). Few were seen at Cordova (MEI), and none was recorded at either Anchorage (TGT) or Kodiak (RAM). Two birds at Fairbanks Dec. 19 (CBC) provided the first winter record in the Interior, but none was reported there subsequently. Redpolls were present in c. and southcoastal Alaska in moderate-good numbers all winter. They went unremarked at Kodiak, however, and very few were seen at Kaslof (MAM). In February, numbers increased at Cordova (MEI) and at Hinchinbrook I., Prince William Sound (JSH). Few were seen at Juneau until early February (FAG, RBW). A ♀ *Carpodacus* observed with a small flock of Pine Grosbeaks at Juneau Dec. 18-21 (†FAG *et al.*) was identified by the observers as a Purple Finch. Unfortunately, the call note, which would have certainly distinguished the bird, was apparently not heard, and the single photograph does not absolutely (*vide* JLD) distinguish the bird from Cassin's Finch. Although there exist two previous Juneau (and Alaska) sightings of Purple Finch, there have also been two, recent Southeastern reports (one at Juneau) of Cassin's. Neither species has been substantiated in Alaska by specimen or by unequivocal photograph. Pine Grosbeaks were widespread all winter. They were common all season in the Fairbanks area, where they heavily exploited seed feeders (m.ob.). A recent phenomenon, such behavior was all but unknown in this species in Fairbanks more than 3 years ago. With a distribution this winter somewhat similar to that of Pine Siskin, White-winged Crossbill was common in Southeastern (Juneau—FAG, RBW), and it was reasonably numerous in c. Alaska (m.ob.). But the species was not recorded at Cordova (MEI), Anchorage (TGT), or Kodiak (RAM), and few were seen at Kaslof (MAM). Kodiak's almost-annual winter Lincoln's Sparrow was one seen Dec. 10 (RAM), but not thereafter. A Lincoln's Sparrow observed at Craig Dec. 20 (TEK) provided the first Regional winter record *not* at Kodiak. One Harris' Sparrow banded at Auke Bay Juneau, in November was the only one seen this winter (RBW). It was present all season. Very few juncos, Fox, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, and Tree sparrows were reported from the Pacific coastal areas where they usually occur. Northernmost among such birds were a Tree Sparrow at Anchorage Dec. 5-Jan. 21 (GJT), an imm White-crowned Sparrow at Anchorage Dec. 19 (MMT), and two juncos at Eielson A.F.B., near Fairbanks, all winter (ATD).

CORRIGENDA — The estimate of 1,600,000 storm-petrels at St Lazaria I. (AB 35:969) was not accurate; the population was later *calculated* by the observers to be 540,000+ birds instead. Alaska's second Canada Warbler (see Fall 1981) was seen Sept. 17, not Sept. 24. Richard W. Stallcup (RWS) was omitted accidentally from the contributors and observers list (Summer 1981).

ADDENDA — The Prudhoe Bay sighting, with photographs, of a possible Lesser Black-backed Gull (AB 35:970) must be judged equivocal, like many other extralimital sightings of individuals of this genus. Awaiting substantiating details are midwinter 1981-82 reports from Adak I. of Eurasian Kestrel and Ross' Gull.

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NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Philip W. Mattocks and Eugene S. Hunn

December in the Region was warmer and wetter than the long term averages, based on the Medford, Portland, and Seattle weather stations. A cold wave in early January held temperatures below freezing throughout January 5-6 in Seattle, January 6-9 in Portland, and January 9-15 in Medford. Thereafter temperatures generally returned to the normal range of 40-50°F, and February was slightly wetter than usual.

The January freeze drove sapsuckers and Varied Thrushes conspicuously into the lowlands. An extensive invasion of Bohemian Waxwings and Common Redpolls was also primarily in January. First state records were established for the Black-headed Gull in Oregon and the Brambling in Washington.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — There were only two reports of the Yellow-billed Loon this season, both from Washington during December. This is fewer than usual and follows a below normal count for last year also. A light-phase W. Grebe was found Jan. 31 on Yaquina Bay, Oreg. (JGi, OS). The 44 Eared Grebes on Cordova Bay, Saanich, V.I., Jan. 14 was a high count (RS, *fide* VG).

Twenty N. Fulmars were seen off Tillamook Dec. 12 (HN), and others were reported off the n. Oregon coast into January (*fide* JE). Three dark-phase N. Fulmars were off Race Rocks, Metchosin, V.I., Jan. 29 (L. McIntosh, *fide* WC), and in the middle of the Strait of Juan de Fuca Feb. 19 (KT, *fide* VG). A late Sooty Shearwater Dec. 10 off West Pt., in Seattle, established the first King County record (†DH). A few dead Short-tailed Shearwaters and Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were found on n. Oregon beaches (HN). Seven Brown Pelicans Dec. 20 at Cape Arago, Oreg. (AC), were late.

In contrast to the distribution of Cattle Egret reports last fall, one on Cortes I., near Campbell River, V.I., in December (*fide* HT) was the only report n. of the Columbia R. Up to six Cattle Egrets were at Tillamook, Oreg., Dec. 19 (*fide* HN), and others were scattered along the Oregon coast throughout the period (*fide* JE). Three Snowy Egrets wintered as usual at Coos Bay, Oreg. (*fide* JE), and a Great Egret wintered for the fourth consecutive year at Olympia, Wash. (BHT *et al.*). Great Egrets in ones and twos were found as usual at numerous locations in w. Oregon (*fide* HN), and 20-30 spent the season near Roseburg (MS). Three ad. Black-crowned Night Herons were present through the winter at Olympia, Wash. (BHT, J. Davis) where several had been found the previous 2 years. The wintering flock of Black-crowned Night Herons returned to the Umpqua R. site near Roseburg, Oreg., with 28 counted there Feb. 17 (MS). There were also 28 Black-crowns counted on the Portland CBC at their regular roost along the Columbia R. (*fide* HN).

Four imm. *ibis* sp., presumably White-faced, were found Dec. 26-Jan. 5 on Sauvie I., near Portland, Oreg. (JGi, DI, m.ob.). Two were still there Jan. 15, and one Feb. 7+ (*fide* HN). Another imm. *ibis* was about 90 mi away at Nahcotta, on Willapa Bay, Wash., Jan. 24 (†C. Wilmes, *fide* RW).

WATERFOWL — A large flock of 1000± Whistling Swans wintered just s. of Forest Grove, Oreg. (JGa, BT, JE). A "Bewick's" Whistling Swan was picked out of a flock on Sauvie I., Jan. 2 (†OS, JGi, R. Johnson), and another was seen on the Nehalem meadows, n. of Tillamook, Oreg., Feb. 27 (A. Larrabee, *fide* HN). Trumpeter Swans wintered in their usual numbers in w. Washington and s. British Columbia. The groups of 5-20 Trumpeters which spent the season s. of Forest Grove (JGa, BT, JE), and near Corvallis (E & EE), were the largest recent concentrations in w. Oregon. The Emperor Goose found at the Veneta sewage ponds, near Eugene, Oreg., in November was present there through the season (m.ob.). Another Emperor Goose was at Ocean Shores, Wash., Jan. 31+ (D. & L. Lindstrom, m.ob.).

Two Black Ducks on s. V.I., one Dec. 1-Feb. 16 at Beacon Hill P., in Victoria, the other Jan. 21-Feb. 19 at Quick's Bottom, Saanich



(both *fide* VG), were presumably from the introduced populations near Vancouver, B.C., and Everett, Wash. There were 8 reports of ♂ "Eur." Green-winged Teal. The two males at the Montlake fill in Seattle had distinct plumage patterns identical to the two that were there the last 2 winters (†EH, †ER, m.ob.). Single males were s. to Cannon Beach, Oreg., Jan. 6 (M. Smith, *fide* HN) and Reedsport, Oreg., Jan. 30 (MH, SH, MS). Two Blue-winged Teal were at Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene Dec. 11 (R & JK, D. & M. Emenhiser, *fide* EE). A male and one other Cinnamon Teal were in Medford Jan. 2. A male and a female were at nearby Provolt, Oreg., Jan. 19 (MjM), where a pair has wintered in past years. Another Cinnamon Teal was e. of Corvallis Jan. 31 (A. & D. Martin, *fide* EE). A ♂ Redhead at Oyster River, s. of Campbell River, V.I., Feb. 14-16 provided the first confirmed local record (†HT *et al.*). A ♂ Tufted Duck was seen Feb. 14 on Finley N.W.R., s. of Corvallis for only the 2nd or 3rd record for Oregon (T. Dudley *et al.*, ph., FR, *fide* EE). Another ♂ Tufted Duck was seen Feb. 8 at the Everett, Wash., sewage ponds (†BHT).

VULTURES THROUGH RAILS — A single Turkey Vulture was still near Applegate, in extreme s. Oregon, on Dec. 23 (R. Schnoes, *fide* MjM). Five Turkey Vultures heading n. along the coastline at Seaside, Oreg., Feb. 18 were the earliest reported northbound migrants (P. Turnbull, *fide* HN). Sightings from the Willamette Valley began Feb. 19+ (*fide* EE & HN).

The White-tailed Kite winter roost site at Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene, Oreg., was reoccupied this season, with a count of 13 kites there Jan. 3 (J. Carlson, EE, DF, TL). About 30 individuals were reported statewide, and 10± of these were in the Medford area. Single "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawks were found in Olympia, Wash., Dec. 26 (†BHT), on the Skagit flats, Wash., Feb. 6 (†RH *et al.*), and at Scoggins Valley Park, w. of Portland Dec. 29 (JE, DI). Two "Harlan's" were in Kent, Wash., Jan. 3 (†BHT, EH *et al.*). Five Red-shouldered Hawks were near Port Orford, Oreg., Dec. 27 (*fide* DR), and one was at Glide, e. of Roseburg, Jan. 2 & 31 (MH *et al.*, *fide* MS). The second winter record for w. Oregon of the Ferruginous Hawk was found at the Salem airport Dec. 26 (†HN, JE *et al.*). Single Ospreys were along the lower Columbia R., at Grays River, Wash., Jan. 2

(AR, AM), on Orcas I, w. of Anacortes Wash, Jan 18 (P DeBuyn, *vide* TW), and near Reedsport, Oreg, Feb 6 (MJ, R Maentz, *vide* MS).

A fairly conservative estimate of the Gyrfalcon sightings indicates that about eight individuals were reported in the Region this winter. A white Gyrfalcon was in Oak Bay and C. Saanich, V.I., Jan. 8-Feb. 6 (*vide* VG). The others were each described as either dark, brown, or gray-phase birds, and all were found very near the coast. Single Prairie Falcons were located as usual at Eugene (AC), near Medford (MjM), and near Roseburg (MS). There was about the usual number of reports of Peregrines and Merlins.

A Virginia Rail was found dead at Campbell River, V.I., Dec. 22 (HT). The only Sora reported was one heard Feb. 3 & 28 at the Montlake fill in Seattle (ER).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS — Single Semipalmated Plovers were at Campbell River, V.I., Jan. 3 (†M. & R. Palmer, *vide* HT), and at Clover Pt., Victoria, and Cadboro Bay beach, Oak Bay, V.I., Jan. 6-9 (M. Lewis, RM-G *et al.*, *vide* VG) for first winter records for both areas. A group of nine Semipalmated Plovers Dec. 19-Feb. 27 was at Ocean Shores, Wash. (DP, MkM, RH *et al.*). At least one wintered at Tillamook, Oreg. (R & JK, *vide* EE), and another was in Seattle Jan. 2 (EH). Five Snowy Plover were still at Tillamook Dec. 12 (HN). A Whimbrel and a Willet were on Ediz Hook, near Port Angeles, Wash., Feb. 12-24 (M. Carmody, D. & S. Smith). A Lesser Yellowlegs with two Greater at Metchosin Lagoon Dec. 25 (VG), and another near Sidney Feb. 6 (KT, *vide* VG) were very rare winter reports for s. V.I. A Wandering Tattler at Seal Rock, s. of Newport, Oreg., Feb. 21 (R & JK, E & EE), was about 2 months earlier than the usual spring migration and could have been wintering. Two W. Sandpipers were in Victoria Dec. 19 (*vide* VG). At Grays Harbor, Wash, there were 491 Westerns counted Dec. 19 (*vide* BHT), 85 on Jan. 10 (MkM, RV), and one Feb. 6 (MkM). These and one at the S.J.C.R., Feb. 17 (HN) were the only reports. Five Long-billed Dowitchers lingered until Dec. 13 at the Everett, Wash., sewage ponds (DH), and one was in Metchosin, V.I., Dec. 19-Jan. 1 (VG).

Single Parasitic Jaegers were still at Seattle Dec. 7 (DH), and off Cape Arago, Oreg., Dec. 20 (AC). Two **Pomarine Jaegers** noted from the jetty at Ocean Shores, Wash., Feb. 27 (†EH *et al.*), were about 2 months earlier than the usual spring migration and could have been wintering birds. The usual 2 dozen or so Glaucous Gulls were spread throughout the Region. A Franklin's Gull Jan. 3 at Kent, Wash., was very late (†BHT, D. MacRae). A Little Gull was seen Dec. 2 at Nye Beach, on Yaquina Bay, Oreg. (F. Schrock, *vide* JE), and another was seen Feb. 14-19 off West Pt. in Seattle (T. Schooley, †DH). Both were with flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls. A **Black-headed Gull** was found Dec. 20 near Astoria, Oreg., for the first state record (†OS, JGi, D Bump). A previous report of an immature at Sunset Beach, Oreg., June 27, 1977 (Roberson, *Rare Birds of the West Coast*, p. 197) was not accepted by the Oregon Bird Records Committee (*Oregon Birds* 7 84, 1981). A Black-legged Kittiwake, scarce away from the outer coast, was at West Pt., in Seattle Dec. 13-14 (†DH, B. Reichert). Dead **Red-legged Kittiwakes**, very rare anywhere in the Region, were found at Cannon Beach, Oreg., Dec. 30 (DKa, *vide* HN), and at Sunset Beach, Oreg., Jan. 24 (†HN). These provided the 4th and 5th Oregon records, and were the first since 1955. All were found dead. A Com. Tern seen Dec. 2 off the Nisqually R. mouth in lower Puget Sound (BHT) was very late.

OWLS THROUGH SWALLOWS — Only seven Snowy Owls were reported this season. One at the S.J.C.R., Dec. 20 (DF *et al.*) was the farthest s. Two were on the Skagit flats, Wash., Jan. 16-Feb. 27 (m.ob.), and two were at Ocean Shores, Wash. Feb. 20-27 (EH *et al.*) A **Hawk Owl** wintered on Boundary Bay in Delta, B.C. (DKr, m ob.). About seven Burrowing Owls were found in w. Oregon, with singles at Newport, s. of Corvallis, at the Eugene airport, and at Coos Bay (*vide* JE & EE), and at least three in the Medford area (M. Paczolt, MjM). A Barred Owl was heard Dec. 15 at the Friday harbor Laboratory on San Juan I. (S. Speich).

All-time high counts of Anna's Hummingbirds were set or tied on the Medford, Eugene, Seattle, Bellingham, and Victoria CBCs. A ♀ Rufous Hummingbird was seen Dec. 2-Feb. 3 along with three male and two female Anna's at a feeder in Saanich, V.I. (M & RM-G, *vide* VG). Rufous Hummingbirds appeared on schedule Feb. 21 in Coos Bay, Oreg. (Rob Lawrence, *vide* HN).

All ten of the reports of "Red-breasted" Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers

from w. Washington were during Jan 2-10, a period of heavy snows in the Cascades. A ♀ **Williamson's Sapsucker** was photographed in Ashland Jan. 15 (J. Miller, *vide* †MjM) for a most unusual winter record. Eight White-headed Woodpeckers were w. of the Cascade crest to Shady Cove in the Rogue R. valley of s. Oregon Feb. 16 (A. Briggs, *vide* MjM). A Black Phoebe was near Corvallis Jan. 28-Feb. 9 (A. & G. Ansell *et al.*, *vide* EE) for only the third Willamette Valley record, and two were found at the usual n. limit of their range near Medford (MjM). Two Say's Phoebes were between Port Orford and Bandon, Oreg., Dec. 27 (*vide* DR), and at least one was present near Medford Dec. 30-Feb. 27 (MjM).

The first Violet-green Swallows were reported Feb. 21; 100 over the Central Point sewage ponds near Medford (MjM), three near Corvallis (A. & K. Cromack, *vide* EE), and a flock at American L., Tacoma, Wash. (W. Wilkins). The species was widespread throughout the Region within a week. Three Tree Swallows, found Dec. 27 on the Ridgefield N.W.R., Wash. (†W. Cady *et al.*), are the only records for the state between late October and late January. Whether these individuals were wintering or were very early spring arrivals is unknown. Otherwise, the first few migrant Tree Swallows were found Feb. 2-9 at Finley N.W.R., Coos Bay, and Eugene, Oreg., and on the Nisqually N.W.R., Wash. The main arrival was during the last week of February.

JAYS THROUGH WAXWINGS — A Blue Jay appeared at a feeder in Centralia, Wash., Jan. 1 (N. Dunn). Two Black-billed Magpies were seen Feb. 6-21 on the Nisqually N.W.R., Wash., where two were seen last September (BHT, R. Barchiesi). Single magpies were in Saanich, V.I., Feb. 10 (†M. Elston, *vide* VG), and near Duncan, V.I., Feb. 26 (WC, *vide* VG). A Clark's Nutcracker was on Saddle Mt., e. of Seaside, Oreg., Jan. 1 (DKa, *vide* HN).

Mountain Chickadees continued to be noted in the lowlands of s. w. British Columbia and n.w. Washington through the period. Record high counts of Bushtits were set on CBCs at Victoria, Seattle, Grays Harbor, and Kent, Wash., following record high counts last year at several of these areas. However, the count of Bushtits on the Eugene and Medford CBCs were the lowest in the last several years (*vide* SG, MjM).

A Dipper carried nesting material under the Highway 1 bridge over the Goldstream R., just w. of Victoria Feb. 5 (VG). A group of 10 Winter Wrens probably roosted Jan. 4 & 6 in VG's attic in Metchosin, V.I., during the severe cold. Single Mockingbirds were found in Langlois, n. of Port Orford, Oreg., Dec. 27 (DR), and in downtown Portland Jan. 26 (T. White, *vide* HN). About 500 Varied Thrushes were around Ocean Shores, Wash., Jan. 10 (MkM, RV). All had gone by Feb. 6 (MkM). Higher than usual numbers of Varied Thrushes were also noted Jan. 5-12 at Metchosin, V.I. (VG), Grays River, e. of Willapa Bay, Wash. (AR, AM), and at Ashland, Oreg. (MjM). The count of 256 W. Bluebirds on the Medford CBC was the highest there since 1973 (*vide* MjM). A Mountain Bluebird was seen Dec. 19 at Fort Flagler S.P., near Port Townsend (†E. Stopps *et al.*). New record high counts of Golden-crowned Kinglets were set on the Victoria, Bellingham, and Seattle CBCs.

A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was found Nov. 19-Dec. 1 in Kitsilano P., Vancouver, B.C., for the second record for British Columbia (M. Price *et al.*, ph., R. Cannings & R. Weber, *vide* WW). The previous British Columbia record was Nov. 10-11, 1963, at Victoria, and the only Washington record was on nearby Whidbey I., Nov. 10-16, 1978.

Bohemian Waxwings staged a widespread invasion throughout the Region. Groups of 2-6 reached s. to Medford and Ashland, Oreg. (*vide* MjM), and 150 were tallied on the Corvallis CBC (*vide* EE). Flocks of 40-60 Bohemians were noted in the Vancouver, B.C., area (*vide* DKr), in Bellingham (TW), Seattle (H. Fray), and near Marblemount, Wash. (K. Brown *et al.*), and in Portland (JGI, T. Morgan, *vide* HN) and Salem, Oreg. (*vide* RP).

WARBLERS THROUGH LONGSPURS — A **Tennessee Warbler** was found Nov. 26-30 at a feeder in Eugene (M. & M. Dembrow, ph., SG) for the second winter record for Oregon. A **Nashville Warbler** was at the Marine Science Center in Newport Jan. 8-13 (R. Bayer, B. Olson *et al.*, *vide* EE). A few "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warblers were in Saanich, V.I., through the season (*vide* VG). However, the center of abundance in our area is within the range of the Pacific Wax Myrtle (*Myrica californica*) on the outer coast, where 1092 "Myrtles" were tallied on the Grays Harbor CBC. The usual few Palm Warblers

were noted from Coos Bay n. to Grays Harbor. Single ♂ **Wilson's Warblers** were found Jan. 18 at a feeder in Albany, Oreg. (B. Orr, *vide* EE), and Feb. 10 in Juanita, near Seattle, Wash. (C. Pearson). The Juanita bird was the first record for Washington between December and late April.

A ♂ **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was in Saanich, V.I., Dec. 19, and an imm. male was in C. Saanich the same day (RS, *vide* VG). Two **Brown-headed Cowbirds** in Campbell River, V.I., supplied the first local winter record (B. & B. Phipps, *vide* HT).

A winter-plumaged ♂ **Brambling** appeared briefly Jan. 6-7 at a feeder in Issaquah, Wash. (ph. H. Kunkle). The bird then reappeared nearby and stayed Jan. 16+ at a feeder along L. Sammamish, e. of Seattle (A. & N. Lang, m.ob.). It provided the first record for Washington (†T. Weir, †B. & P. Evans, †EH, †PM, †MD, ph., DP, MD) and was only the fourth record for the West Coast s. of Alaska (Roberson, *Rare Birds of the West Coast*, p. 439). Many more Evening Grosbeaks than usual were in the Medford-Ashland area during January and February (MjM). Single ♂ **Cassin's Finches** were noted at feeders in Beaverton, Oreg., Jan. 9 (JGi, *vide* JE), and in Ashland, Oreg., Jan. 21-Feb. 26 (MjM). Common Redpolls were widespread in w. Washington. Several were on Leadbetter Pt., by Dec. 14 (RW), and flocks of 30-50 were found on the Skagit flats, in Seattle, in Woodinville, and on the Nisqually N.W.R., during January and February. Single ♂ redpolls were at feeders in Beaverton and Gaston, Oreg. (G. Walthall, JGa, *vide* HN). Many of the redpolls were in flocks of Pine Siskins which were abundant throughout the Region. In contrast, only a very few small flocks and groups of 2-3 Red Crossbills were noted. There were no further reports of White-winged Crossbills, following the incursions last fall.

A **Brown Towhee** was present Feb. 10 near Myrtle Creek, Oreg. (MS, MJ). A late **Savannah Sparrow** was on Mary Tod I., Oak Bay, V.I., Dec. 19 (*vide* VG). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was seen Jan. 4 in Alton Baker P., Eugene, Oreg., and the bird was found dead in the snow a few days later (DF, TL) for probably the first winter record for

the state. The specimen was identified as being of the w. race *perpallida* (A. Rey, *vide* DF). A **Tree Sparrow** was found at Eugene, Jan. 3 (†MP, SH), and 2-3 **Tree Sparrows** were seen in Dungeness, Kent, and the Skagit flats, Wash., through the season. A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found in Alton Baker P., Eugene, Jan. 2-5 for about the eighth record for Oregon (DF, TL, A. Prigge, H. Wisher). A few **White-crowned Sparrows** wintered n. to Campbell River, V.I. (HT). There were the usual 15 **White-throated Sparrows** reported this season from w. Oregon. Three **White-throateds** also wintered on s. V.I. (*vide* VG), and three were found in w. Wash. **Five Swamp Sparrows** were seen this winter in w. Oregon. Singles were in Albany Dec. 6 (RP), at Coos Bay Dec. 20 (*vide* JE), in Portland Jan. 3 (†HN), on Finley N.W.R., Jan. 30-31 (MP, *vide* EE), and on Sauvie I. Feb. 6 (†HN). Another **Swamp Sparrow** was in Saanich, V.I., Feb. 13 (†J. MacGregor, *vide* VG). The only **Lapland Longspurs** reported were one-two near Corvallis Dec. 25-Jan. 1 (*vide* EE).

INITIALED OBSERVERS and ABBREVIATIONS, with Sub-Regional Editors in boldface.—Wayne Campbell, Alan Contreras, Mark Daly, Elsie & Elzy Eltzroth, Joe Evanich, **David Fix**, John Gatchett (JGa), Jeff Gilligan (JGi), **Vic Goodwill**, Steve Gordon, **Bill Harrington-Tweit** (BHT), Steve Heintz, Rick Hudson, Matt Hunter, Dave Hutchinson, David Irons, Meredith Jones, Durrell Kapan (DKa), Rick & Jan Krabbe, Doug Kragh (DKr), Tom Lund, Margaret & Rob Mackenzie-Grieve, **Marjorie Moore** (MjM), Mike Moore (MkM), Ann Musche, **Harry Nehls**, Richard Palmer, Mike Patterson, **Dennis Paulson**, Fred Ramsey, Ellen Ratoosh, Alan Richards, Dennis Rogers, Ron Satterfield, Martha Sawyer, Owen Schmidt, Keith Taylor, Berta Teale, Howard Telosky, Richard Veit, **Jerry Wahl**, **Wayne Weber**, Ralph Widrig. V.I. = Vancouver I., B.C., S.J.C.R. = South jetty of the Columbia R., Oregon, and (†) = written description on file.—**PHILIP W. MATTOCKS**, Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of Washington, Seattle, Wash. 98195, and **EUGENE S. HUNN**, 1816 N. 57th St., Seattle, Wash. 98103.

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Ron LeValley and Jules Evens

Weather was an exciting topic for everyone, including birdwatchers, in northern California this winter. Torrential rains were the rule rather than the exception, with a major storm January 3-5 causing extensive damage especially in Marin and Santa Cruz counties. The abundance of water throughout the Region provided much habitat for various waterfowl species, consequently, there were few major concentrations but high numbers on counts made over widespread areas. Shorebirds along the coast had a difficult time finding appropriate habitat as a result of high water and extensive silting. This may provide extensive habitat for spring migrants but wintering shorebirds smaller than Willets abandoned many of their usual haunts.

The ocean water temperatures cooled as a result of the many storm fronts passing through so that along the coast water temperatures were between 11-13° C, just barely above the 20-year average.

Landbirds suffered high mortality owing to storm-related environmental stress, especially along the coast, however there is some evidence that certain small passerines dispersed (see **Yellow-rumped Warbler** below).

Christmas Bird Count (hereafter, CBC) records are omitted unless they are of over-riding significance.

All records from Palomarin and Farallon Island (hereafter F.I.) should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory (hereafter P.R.B.O.) A dagger (†) indicates that documentation is on file with the editors.

LOONS THROUGH STORM-PETRELS — **Yellow-billed Loons** made a good showing this winter, at least four were discovered: Tomales Bay, Marin Co., Dec. 18-21 (R. Ives, RS, LCB), Berkeley Jan. 17-Feb. 10 (†JM, m.ob.), Monterey Pen., Jan. 17-30 (†KH, GP, DR), and San Francisco Feb. 7-14 (RH, DM). Two to three individuals of each of the other loon species were found on inland reservoirs this winter, a higher-than-normal total. Red-necked Grebes were found in above-average numbers inland as well, with one at Lake of

the Pines, Placer Co., Dec. 26 (JML), two at Folsom L., Placer Co., Dec. 27 (*vide* JML), and one in the Feather R., at Oroville, Butte Co., Jan. 5-7 (BD, KVV, KC). **Horned Grebes** also were well reported from many inland localities. The occurrence of these generally coastal species inland was possibly related to high water levels at inland reservoirs, nearly all of which are man-made, or inclement coastal conditions.

Northern Fulmars had a "moderately good year" in our Region (m.ob.) with a peak mid-January-mid-February (P.R.B.O.). **Flesh-**



footed Shearwaters were reported in Monterey Bay on Dec. 5 (DR) and Jan. 16 (DLS). Even rarer, if correctly identified, would be the New Zealand Shearwater seen from Pt. Pinos, Monterey Co., Jan. 5 (BGE). Short-tailed Shearwaters have been reported in each of the last few winters so small numbers in Monterey Bay January and February with a maximum of six Feb. 6 (AB *et al.*) was considered normal. The only Manx Shearwater was in Monterey Bay Dec. 30 (DR). One or two Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were in Monterey Harbor Jan. 21 (*vide* AB) during strong NW winds.

PELICANS THROUGH HERONS — Brown Pelicans remained in small numbers through mid-January, much later than normal. A sick individual picked-up in Gilroy, Santa Clara Co., Jan. 7 provided one of our few inland records (*vide* AB). High numbers of Green Herons were reported from the coastal areas by many observers this winter. An imm. Little Blue Heron at L. Earl, Del Norte Co., Dec. 4+ (†RAE *et al.*) was the first record for n.w. California and only the third winter record for our Region. A concentration of 15 Am. Bitterns at L. Earl Dec. 20 was unprecedented along the n. coast (RAE). White-faced Ibis wintered at traditional areas near Los Banos with a maximum of 78 Dec. 29 (KH) but more encouraging was about 30 at Colusa and Delevan N.W.R., Colusa Co. (BD), the first wintering records for the Sacramento Valley in over a decade.

WATERFOWL — A Bewick's Swan was reported with a large flock of Whistling Swans at the Woodland Sugar Ponds, Yolo Co., Jan. 30-Feb. 2 (†JML *et al.*). Other reports of this species the last two years have lacked substantiating details so the true status of this swan in California has yet to be determined. Whistling Swans were well reported this winter, they are a species that responds quickly to local flooding, and so their movements complicate the estimation of populations. Some major concentrations included 120 at Yontocket Slough, Del Norte Co., Feb. 7 (P. Springer), 550+ in the Eel River Delta, Humboldt Co., Feb. 23 (RLeV, LD), 115 at the Garcia R. mouth, Mendocino Co., Dec. 26-30 (WB), 1750 in the Yolo Bypass, Yolo Co., Jan. 29 (HLC) and 2-3000 in the Butte Sink, Butte Co., Jan. 21 (WA). A Trumpeter Swan was described at the Chico Oxidation Ponds, Butte Co., Jan. 2 (†KVV, KC) for one of our few Regional records.

At least eight Emperor Geese appeared in Del Norte and Humboldt cos. during the first week of January with one remaining at the Smith R. mouth through the end of the period (RAE, RLeV *et al.*). Ross' Geese appeared in numerous coastal localities especially in Monterey County (DR *et al.*). Inland, where this goose makes its normal winter home, the almost unknown "blue" phase continues to be reported; two were at Gray Lodge W.A., Butte Co., this winter (BD).

Cinnamon Teal began appearing during the first week of February (m.ob.), a bit earlier than usual. Over 400 Redheads, a regular winter concentration, were gathered near the mouth of Tomales Bay Dec. 19 (DS). Ring-necked Ducks were well reported this winter but 5500 in the Butte Sink Dec. 16 is an astounding concentration (BD). Of all the ducks, the Canvasback seems most attuned to the changing water levels of many Central Valley (hereafter, C.V.) localities. Large numbers appear in newly flooded areas; over 14,000 were in the Butte Sink and Sutter Bypass Dec. 16 (BD). A total of at least six Tufted Ducks were detected. Besides three in w. Marin County remaining since fall, one male was at the Ferndale Sewage Ponds, Humboldt Co., Feb. 23-24 (†RLeV, LD, †RAE), one male was at L. Hennessy, Napa Co., Jan. 2-9 (BDP) and a male was at Richardson's Bay in e. Marin County, Feb. 25-Mar. 8 (†RH, JRi). Both species of goldeneye were detected in higher-than-normal numbers, especially away from their normal river habitats, many of which were flowing high and muddy (m.ob.). Interesting coastal records of Barrow's Goldeneye included six in the Smith R. bottoms, Del Norte Co., Dec. 14-Jan. 11 (RAE *et al.*) and at least three near the Big Sur R. mouth, Monterey Co., Dec. 17 (DR). Oldsquaws were remarkably scarce this winter, only two were reported; one was at Stone Lagoon, Humboldt Co., Dec. 17 (GS) and another was at Pt. Pinole Regional Shoreline, Contra Costa Co., Dec. 9 (KFC). A concentration of 28,000 Ruddy Ducks in the Butte Sink Dec. 16 (BD) was notable. An ad. ♂ Smew at Leo Ryan P., San Mateo Co., represents the first record for the Pacific Coast s. of British Columbia. It was first discovered Dec. 19 by B. Sauppe and subsequently seen by nearly everyone as it molted from partial eclipse plumage to full breeding plumage before it departed after Feb. 18.



Smew, San Mateo Co., Calif., Jan. 9, 1982. Photo/A. Giorshi.

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS — Turkey Vultures, among our earliest spring migrants, were returning to areas where they are absent during the winter during the first week of February. A dark-phase "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk was described near Davis, Yolo Co., Feb. 3 (†HLC). Red-shouldered Hawks are apparently increasing in our Region, we received many reports of this species in "new" localities along with "doing well" reports in traditional sites. Rough-legged Hawks were present in average or slightly below average numbers this winter but Ferruginous Hawks made an impressive showing throughout the Region. California's second Gyrfalcon pleased many observers after it was first discovered by C. Asay Jan. 17 as it was diving at a Goshawk that he was flying. Word came to the birding community and Jan. 22-Feb. 8 it was seen by many. The bird was a pale gray individual with a dark cere and tarsi, indicating an immature. The only previous California record was a specimen taken at Tulélake Oct. 23, 1948.



Gyrfalcon, Davis, Calif., Jan. 24, 1982. Photo/P.M. LaTourrette.

Approximately 13,000 Lesser Sandhill Cranes were estimated in San Joaquin, Merced, Kern and Stanislaus cos., during December including approx. 11% juveniles (TP). The changing uses of C.V. agricultural areas and the vagaries of water distribution have an unknown effect on this crane. Careful monitoring of this and Greater Sandhill Crane populations is encouraged. Black Rails continue to be reported during high tide weekends around the San Francisco bay area. Particularly interesting (and a bit scary!) were reports from Palo Alto Baylands where Black Rails were seen eaten by a Great Egret Dec. 12 (JM *et al.*) and a Great Blue Heron Jan. 9 (JML); perhaps observer effect on the vulnerability of the prey species is a consideration here.

SHOREBIRDS — Over 600 Mountain Plovers along Little Panoche Rd., San Benitos Co., Feb. 4 (NC) was the largest concentration reported, but many observers saw up to 75 near Davis, Yolo Co., all winter in an area where they were formerly reported with more regularity. As many as 27 Am. Golden Plovers wintered on Pt. Reyes, all apparently of the Asiatic race *fulva* (DS, RS). Although there are no specimen records of *dominica* after Nov. 11, there is some evidence that this larger race may linger until mid-December (DS). Careful attention to the racial identity of these plovers will be necessary to detect the different patterns of their occurrence here. A mixed flock of 14 Short-billed and Long-billed dowitchers at Schooner Bay, Marin Co., Jan. 25 (DS) was from one of the few localities where Short-billeds can be found along the north coast in winter. Two Ruffs were photographed at Merced Wildlife Ref. Merced Co., Feb. 5-20 (RB, KH, FB, JRi); one of these was probably an ad. male.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — Pomarine Jaeger, normally our only wintering jaeger, was reported in small number from Del Norte and Humboldt cos. (GL) and Monterey Bay (GP, KH, AB) all winter. Single Parasitic Jaegers Dec. 17 & 24 off Del Norte County (GL) were possibly late migrants but an adult at Pajaro Dunes, Santa Cruz Co., Feb. 25 (J & RW) was more unusual. A minimum of 17 Glaucous Gulls was reported this winter, most remarkably a full adult at the Yolo County Landfill Jan. 23 (m.ob.). Nearly all of our records for this species refer to first-year birds. This individual and the first-year bird accompanying it were also notable for their occurrence at an inland locality. Mew Gulls, uncommon inland, appeared at Redding Dec. 1 (RAE) where one was found, and along the American R., in Sacramento where 10+ were found Dec. 12 (JML). A Franklin's Gull was 6 mi offshore from the Redwood Cr. mouth, Humboldt Co., Dec. 2 (GL). Up to three were present at the Stockton Sewage Ponds, San Joaquin Co., through the winter (FB, JRI). Thirty Bonaparte's Gulls on Eagle L., Lassen Co., Dec. 6 (BS) and 31 on L. Shastina, Siskiyou Co., Jan. 5 (RE) were unusual in mid-winter. An ad. Little Gull that appeared at Kelly L., near Watsonville, Monterey Co., Jan. 1-2 (JML) was strongly suspected to be the same individual that has been at the Stockton Sewage Ponds during the past 3 winters. Black-legged Kittiwakes were present in moderate numbers along the coast all winter (m.ob.). Three Forster's Terns at the Arcata Marina, Humboldt Co., Jan. 28 (RAE *et al.*) provided the first winter records for the n. coast.

Two Thick-billed Murres were present in Monterey Bay Dec. 5-15 (DR), for the first records in 4 years. Three Xantus' Murrelets off the Monterey Pen., Dec. 30 were identified as the race *scrippsi* (DR).

PIGEONS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS — Band-tailed Pigeons generally avoided the immediate coast (P.R.B.O., JE), but were found in substantial numbers around Benecia, Solano Co. (JL), in the East Bay hills (CS), the Fresno area (KH) and Dunsmuir, Siskiyou Co. (CSt).

At Palomarin there were no records of Spotted, Saw-whet or Barn owls during the period, which is most unusual. A Great Gray Owl found at Prairie Cr., Redwoods S.P., Humboldt Co., Jan. 17 (A Wilkinson, †RAE *et al.*) and killed by a truck Jan. 22 (*Humboldt State Univ.) provided one of few lowland records and the second for the coast. An as yet undiscovered small population in the Siskiyou Mts., remains a possibility (RAE). A single Long-eared Owl was at Coyote Hills Reg. P., Alameda Co., Jan. 16 through the period (SFB *et al.*) and 18 were roosting in willows near Colusa in January and February (WA). Small numbers (1-5) of Short-eared Owls were at scattered locations with no large concentrations reported. Exceptional was one near Mono L., Jan. 1 (CS); winter records for the Mono Basin are few. Saw-whet Owls from inner-coast localities include one near Lafayette Dec. 17 (*vide* FB), one at Briones Reg. P., "calling territorially from oak-bay forest" Feb. 27 (SFB), both in Contra Costa Co., and one-two at Coyote Hills Reg. P., Alameda Co., Jan. 16 through the period (m.ob.). Up to six Poor-wills were active along the immediate coast on Pt. Reyes in February (DDeS, DS); more unusual was one seen sporadically in December and January near Winters, Yolo Co. (*vide* TL).

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS — A belated report of Black Swift at Año Nuevo Nov. 29 (TG) was on a date extreme enough to include in a winter report. This species is unrecorded in winter in California; the latest previous record n. of Mexico was Nov. 2, 1974 in Death Valley. The numbers of Vaux's Swift reported surpass *all* previous winter records combined, as follows: ten at Año Nuevo Nov. 29 (TG), one at Lost L., Fresno Co., Dec. 7 (*vide* FRG), ten at Orick, Humboldt Co., Dec. 14 (RAE), two at Moss Landing Jan. 1 (BB), 30+ at Pescadero, San Mateo Co., Dec. 31 & Jan. 7 (PJM) and 60+ at Montara, San Mateo Co., Feb. 5 (*vide* PJM).

Astounding was an imm. ♂ Broad-billed Hummingbird present at a feeder in Fremont, Alameda Co., early January-Mar. 8 (K & N McAllister ph., *vide* JM). If validated by the California Bird Records Committee, this represents a first for the Region and the farthest n. record in North America. Rufous Hummingbirds arrived *early* as follows: San Jose Jan. 15 (*vide* WB), Ft. Dick, Del Norte Co., Feb. 2 (RT) and Palomarin Feb. 16 (P.R.B.O.). Also somewhat early was an Allen's Hummingbird at Alamo, Contra Costa Co., Jan. 13 (JRI). Three *Selasphorus* sp. on the n. coast in late December and early January may have wintered (*vide* RAE). Several observers in Fresno County feel that Anna's Hummingbird has displayed a marked decline in the past 10 years (FG *et al.*) Have others noted this trend?

Reason? None was found wintering in the n. counties and the first returned to Siskiyou County Feb. 13 (RE, MR)

WOODPECKERS — Numbers of Lewis' Woodpecker were considered low at various wintering locations in the C.V., however high concentrations were reported along the w. edge of the Sacramento Valley at Pope Valley and the n. end of L. Berryessa, Napa Co. (BDP) and between East Park Res., and Black Butte Res., Glenn Co. (BED) Two "Red-naped" Sapsuckers (*S.v. nuchalis*), one in Marin County (*vide* DS) and one in San Jose (*vide* WB) were unaccompanied by descriptions. More unusual, and well-described, was the nominate race, *S.v. varius* in Danville, Contra Costa Co., Jan. 23-Mar. 7 (†J C Broyles, †JRI). "Red-breasted" Sapsuckers were found in "excellent numbers" in Sonoma County (LCB), but hardly mentioned elsewhere. Ten Williamson's Sapsuckers were reported from mid-elevations (3300-4500 ft), all on the w. slope of the Sierra. Extralimital was a female at Redwood Reg. P., Alameda Co., Dec. 20 (*vide* SFB), a male in Mill Valley, Marin Co., Feb. 27 + (D. Sierra, RS *et al.*), and a female along the Klamath R., below Irongate Dam, Siskiyou Co., Jan. 9 (RE, MR). Two Downy Woodpeckers at Mono L., and one at Lundy L., both Mono Co., Jan. 1 (CS), add to the evidence that this species is rare but regular e. of the c. Sierran escarpment. Early indications are that Downies are recovering from the low numbers of recent years in the C.V. (BD). A White-headed Woodpecker on the Winters CBC, Yolo Co. (TL) has only one precedent on the floor of the C.V.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — The E. Phoebe that wintered in Monterey last year was found again Dec. 30 and seen sporadically into early February (JML, *vide* DR). A Say's Phoebe at Mono L., Jan. 1 (CS) was one of few mid-winter records for the Mono Basin. Two W. Flycatchers provided 8th and 9th winter records Rank I., on the San Joaquin R., Fresno Co., Dec. 27 (†KH, DB *et al.*) and Watsonville Jan. 2 (DR *et al.*). An *Empidonax* sp. in Fairfax, Marin Co., Dec. 26-Jan. 1 (*vide* JM) may have been a Willow Flycatcher (†), however the description is inconclusive. The Com Skylark remained at P.R.N.S., at least through Jan. 3 (*vide* SFB) Unexpected numbers of Horned Larks were found along the n. coast Dec. 19-26 with a high of 20 at Pt. Saint George Dec. 20 (*vide* RAE)

"White-bellied" swallows were reported throughout the season from lowland locations with Trees outnumbering Violet-greens 25:1. The most notable concentration of Violet-greens was 50+ at Sacramento W.R., Jan. 22 (R. Dunstow). Trees were found by the hundreds in late December-early January in the C.V. (m.ob.), a spring migrant at Eagle L., Feb. 20 (DA, BS) was early and unusual in the mountains. Mid-winter records of Rough-winged Swallows are sparse, so one at Los Banos Dec. 21 (†KFC) was noteworthy. Wintering Barn Swallows are extremely rare; one at Pescadero Marsh Dec. 31 & Jan. 7 (PJM) was on the immediate coast, San Mateo Co., and another was inland at Los Baños Dec. 21 (†KFC). Very early migrant Barn Swallows were at Jenner, Sonoma Co. (KC, KVV) and Coyote Hills Reg. P., Alameda Co. (KFC), both Feb. 27. Also early were 20 Cliff Swallows at Creighton Ranch, Tulare Co., Feb. 8 (RH) By Feb. 17, hundreds were investigating nest sites at Los Baños (PJM).

CORVIDS THROUGH WRENS — Common Ravens are now considered rare on the Sacramento Valley floor. Perhaps the following records represent a retreat from the storm-driven coast or the nearby Vaca-Berryessa Mts.: one at Chico, Butte Co., Jan. 7 (KC, KVV), 20+ in s. Yolo Co., Jan. 23 (TB) and one at Williams, Colusa Co., Feb. 28 (WA). Large numbers of ravens were also noted in the San Joaquin Valley in December (HLC, KH). The only Piñon Jay report was of three at Chester, Plumas Co., Jan. 27 (*vide* DA). Clark's Nutcrackers were found in the L. Almanor area in unprecedented numbers "probably due to downslope movement from Lassen due to snow and an abundant yellow pine cone crop in the Chester area" (DA). A single nutcracker was at Lewiston L., Trinity Co., Dec. 1 (RAE).

Increasing numbers of sightings of Bushtits in the San Joaquin Valley (KFC, KH) indicate that the species may be recolonizing its former haunts. Despite early autumn indications that it was an invasion year for Red-breasted Nuthatch, numbers were low everywhere except the Monterey Peninsula where they remained through winter (DR). The Pygmy Nuthatches discovered in the Oakland Hills in the fall remained present at least through December

(RAE) Brown Creepers were "very scarce" on the coast at Palomarin, but relatively common in the Sacramento Valley at Gray Lodge N.W.R. (BD) and on the C.V. CBCs: refugees from the coast and mountains? Six Dippers at scattered lowland locations was about normal. Overwintering House Wrens were reported in unusually high numbers from northerly stations: singles were at Red Bluff Dec. 19 (SL), Redding Dec. 20 (*vide* SL), Antelope Cr., Tehama Co., Jan. 1 (BD) and four wintered at Gray Lodge N.W.R. (BD); on the coast, one wintered at Bolinas and another was nearby at Palomarin Jan. 21 (DDeS). High numbers of Winter Wrens in the n. Sierra indicated a substantial influx this winter (DA, BS). The island's second Bewick's Wren which arrived Oct. 14 remained at F.I. through the period. A Long-billed Marsh Wren at Dechambeau Ponds in the Mono Basin Jan. 1 (CS) must have wintered. A Cañon Wren wintered at Whitmore, Shasta Co. (BKI).

THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS — A Brown Thrasher at Killgore Hills near Yreka, Siskiyou Co., Jan. 16 (†RE, †MR) provided the second Siskiyou County record. The only wintering Sage Thrasher was at Los Baños Dec. 20+ (KFC); one that arrived at F.I., Oct. 21 remained until Dec. 7.

"Irruptive frugivores" staged an impressive invasion coincident with the onset of rain. American Robin, Varied and Hermit thrushes (in order of abundance) were common on the coast, innercoast and C.V. "As common as I've ever seen them here" was a typical judgment from all lowland areas and applied to any of the 3 species. The influx was apparently weather related rather than the result of any abundance of food. On the coast, the possibility that numbers of Varied and Hermit thrushes were simply more visible after being driven-out of their usual deep canyon haunts by the flooding (DDeS, RS) is certainly a valid consideration. An influx of W. Bluebirds during January into coastal Del Norte, Humboldt and Marin cos. was noted (RAE, DDeS). Mountain Bluebirds were found along Little Panoche Rd., San Benito Co. (m.ob.), in e. Alameda County (AE) and in the Sacramento Valley (m.ob.) in high numbers. Townsend's Solitaire, usually a lowland rarity, was found in *unprecedented* numbers with 36 lowland reports received: 25 from the S.F. Bay area (Alameda 3, Contra Costa 7, Marin 8, Napa 1, Santa Clara 2, San Mateo 2, Sonoma 2) eight from the C.V. (Fresno 2, Sutter 2, Yolo 4) and two from the n. coast (Humboldt and Del Norte) and one from

F I Records predominated in late January through February, however several were found during the CBC period. "More than expected" were also encountered at higher elevations with ten at Red Mt., Del Norte Co., Dec. 19 (RAE) and ten+ in the Yreka-Weed area of Siskiyou Co., Jan. 31 (B & CY). Ten Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were at coastal or near coastal locations between the Bay Area and Monterey; 17 at Creighton Ranch Dec. 29 (*vide* RH) seemed high and one was at Colusa Dec. 5 (WA), both locations in the C.V.

Although many CBCs recorded all time high numbers of Golden-crowned Kinglets (see autumn report), populations declined rather drastically following the onset of the severe winter storms, especially along the coast (see tables below) a circumstance most probably attributable to high mortality. Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Townsend's Warbler, Winter Wren and Hutton's Vireo also crashed, at least along the coast, subsequent to the storms (P.R.B.O., RS, JE, RHA) Bohemian Waxwings were present in Siskiyou County Dec. 25-Feb 26 with a peak of 190 at Yreka Jan. 22 (BE, MR). In Lassen County near Susanville, up to 350 were seen Feb. 7 & 15 (DA). Cedar Waxwings preferred the C.V. to the coast with the largest concentrations around Sacramento and Colusa (JML, WA). Twenty-five N. Shrikes seemed high with four on the Modoc Plateau, nine in the C.V. and 12+ on the n. coast. Loggerhead Shrike was not well-reported.

A Hutton's Vireo at Los Baños Dec. 29 (KFC) was out of place, and three in the Sutter Buttes (BD) for the second year in a row may indicate colonization in the future. A Solitary Vireo of the Great Basin race (*V.s. plumbeus*) was well-described from Los Baños Dec. 29 (†KFC), apparently representing the first winter record of this form within the Region (however, see Garrett and Dunn, *Birds of Southern California*). The vast majority of mid-winter records are of coastal *cassinii* as was a bird heard singing at Pescadero, San Mateo Co., Jan. 3 (SL). A single Warbling Vireo at Carmel Dec. 30 (SG) was one of very few winter records, all coastal.

Table 1. Banding totals of passerines at P.R.B.O.'s field station at Palomarin; Birds/100 net hours

	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
1976-1980 mean:	15.4	17.2	9.7	6.85	5.08	3.30
1981-1982:	11.7	28.4	16.1	5.75	3.36	1.62

Unprecedented numbers this fall (October and November) were attributable to high numbers of kinglets of both species. The disparity between fall and winter totals probably reflects extreme mortality suffered by kinglets and other small passerines following the onset of winter storms in mid-December.

WARBLERS — Only three mid-winter Black-and-white Warblers were reported: two+ in S.F., Jan. 1-Feb. 28+ (DM, *vide* SFB) and one at Half Moon Bay, San Mateo Co., Feb. 10-24 (PJM). Six Tennessee Warblers Dec. 3-Jan. 2 along the coast was about average; apparently none over-wintered. Orange-crowned Warbler numbers were much reduced on the n. coast (RAE), but about average (DS), or perhaps slightly low (JE) on the c. coast; unusual were concentrations of 11 at Union City, Alameda Co., Dec. 27 (E & AM) and 20 at Mendota W.M.A., Jan. 7 (KH). Ten Nashville Warblers along the coast Dec. 1-Jan. 1 was about average, however one at F.I., Dec. 11-16 was late there, and one at Lost L., Fresno Co., Jan. 13 (†F. Young *et al.*) was unprecedented on the valley floor in winter. Four Yellow Warblers were as follows: Los Baños Dec. 29 (KFC), Pajaro R., Santa Cruz Co., Jan. 1 (SG), Arcata Jan. 17-Feb. 2 (GS) and Foster City Feb. 10 & 21 (PJM). The relative abundance of "Myrtle" and "Audubon's" races of Yellow-rumped Warblers (see AB 27:660-661) is difficult to assess due to sparse reporting by otherwise thorough observers. However, something unusual was happening this winter. In the East Bay "Myrtles" appeared to be about 80% as numerous as "Audubon's". At Pt. Reyes it was thought that Yellow-rumped (in this case "Myrtles") were particularly hard hit by the severe weather (RS), and at Palomarin and Lafayette (LF) numbers were generally low. It is interesting to note that at F.I., where winter arrival is rare, 2 waves of Yellow-rumped were recorded Jan. 6 & 11 during hiatuses in the storm track, providing the island with record high counts for winter. "Myrtle" types were more prevalent than "Audubon's" at F.I., during the period. To explain the season's skewed ratio we should consider 3 possible factors: 1) a low year for "Audubon's", 2) storm-related mortality and 3) storm-related dispersal. Increasing



Townsend's Solitaire, Drawing by Keith Hansen.

numbers of Black-throated Gray Warblers continue to be found in winter; eight were reported Dec. 20-Feb. 6, all from inner-coastal and interior lowlands. High numbers of Townsend's Warblers on the c. coast in December (DM, LCB, P.R.B.O.) all but disappeared with the onset of storms. Of 21 + Palm Warblers, 17 were on the n. coast; three were on the coast at Pt. Reyes and Monterey and one was inland at Willow Cr., Humboldt Co. (KR). Common Yellowthroat deserves more attention from observers. Eight Wilson's Warblers (most in late December) was a winter record; all but one near Fresno Jan. 9 (*vide* FRG) were on the c. coast. Four Am. Redstarts were found Dec. 20-Jan. 1; three in Monterey (SG, BDP, PJM), one in Santa Cruz (SG).

ICTERIDS THROUGH TANAGERS — An imm. ♂ Orchard Oriole was at Pacific Grove Dec. 30 (†RS); winter records are scarce. The Hooded Oriole that arrived at F.I., in mid-November remained until Dec. 5; three others were in Fresno (KH, *vide* FRG) where most winter records occur. Of 11 coastal N. Orioles, five were "Bullock's", five were "Baltimore" and one was unspecified. The Great-tailed Grackle pair returned to S.F., Jan. 14-16 (*vide* SFB) having last been reported in mid-summer. A single ♀ W. Tanager was at Chico Jan. 2 (KC, KVV) and two wintered in Novato, Marin Co. (SC). A ♀ Summer Tanager (race?) arrived at S.F., Dec. 22 (DM) and remained in the vicinity through the period eating honey bees (*vide* SFB).

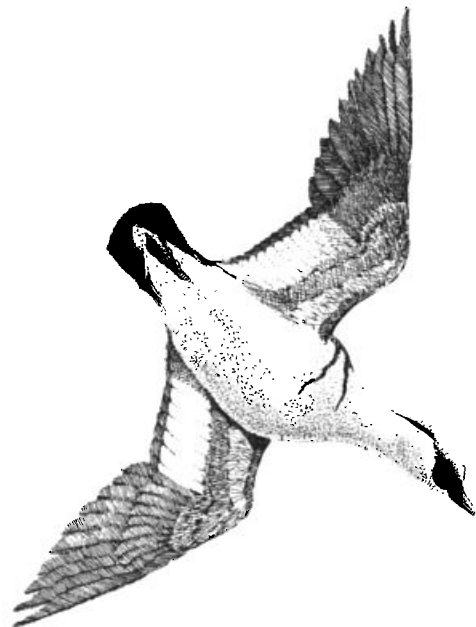
Four Rose-breasted Grosbeaks between Santa Rosa and Monterey were found Dec. 9 through the period, however no Black-headed were reported. The Region's first winter Lazuli Bunting visited a feeder from mid-January through the period (†E. Greaves). Singles and small flocks of Evening Grosbeaks appeared sporadically at lowland locations; the only places where they were present all winter in good numbers was at Chester, Plumas Co. (DA), Whitmore, Shasta Co. (BKI) and Redding (*vide* BKI). On the immediate coast at Palomarin, Purple and House finch numbers were rather low; siskins were erratic and low after mid-December (P.R.B.O.). In contrast, high numbers of Purple Finches and exceptional (perhaps unprecedented) numbers of siskins were in the C.V. (KH, JML, TL, BED *et al.*). Cassin's Finch moved downslope to the L. Almanor area where there were "more than ever" (DA) and Yreka where they were common daily although "virtually unrecorded prior to this winter" (RE, MR). A coastal vagrant at Coyote Hills, Alameda Co., Feb. 27 (†KFC) was well-described. The only report of Gray-crowned Rosy Finch was of 350 at Honey L., Feb. 6 (BS). Fewer than ten Lawrence's Goldfinch were reported, all in December: those not reported on CBCs were at Alamo Dec. 2 (JRI), Sebastopol, Sonoma Co., Dec. 17 (LCB) and the Sutter Buttes Dec. 6 (BD), all unusual locations. The only Red Crossbill away from the mountains was in S.F., Jan. 30 (DM). An extremely late migrant Rufous-sided Towhee arrived at F.I., Dec. 16 and unusually high numbers wintered at Gray Lodge (BD). The only Lark Bunting reports (after high numbers this fall) were at Creighton Ranch Jan. 28 (RH) and Lost L., Fresno Co., Jan. 29 (KH).

A Grasshopper Sparrow near San Jose Dec. 20 (†WB) provided one of very few winter records; the winter status of this species is poorly understood and those records available are for December; thereafter, the species is virtually unrecorded until Apr. 1. Four Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found at 3 of the usual locations. Rufous-crowned Sparrows were well-reported at usual locations: two at Palomarin Dec. 2 was unusual in winter, and one at Old La Honda Rd., San Mateo Co., Dec. 22 (WB) was one of few county records. Three Black-throated Sparrows at Table Mt., Madera Co., Dec. 23 (*vide* RH, FRG) augment fewer than 6 previous winter records for the Region. Tree Sparrows were found at usual Great Basin locations in mid-January; two near Chico Jan. 2 (SL) has only one C.V. precedent. Chipping Sparrows at Carmel Dec. 30-31 (SG *et al.*) and San Mateo County Dec. 22 (*vide* CB, WB) were late for the coast. Single Harris' Sparrows were near Yreka Dec. 15-Jan. 1 (RE), Arcata Nov. 28-Dec. 15 (*vide* RAE) and in e. Lake County Jan. 2 (JH, BD); the occurrence of this rare visitant seems arbitrary. White-crowned Sparrows were "glaringly absent" from F.I., where they usually winter, and numbers of both *nuttalli* and *pugetensis* were both low at Palomarin. By contrast, at an e. San Jose banding station White-crowns were more common than usual, attributable primarily to a high number of *gambelii* (*pugetensis* 88: *gambelii* 492) (LRM). While virtually all *pugetensis* at Palomarin were adults returning for a second+ time, the ratio of adults to immatures (36:52) at San Jose was comparable to previous years (LRM). Numbers of Golden-crowned Sparrows were way down at Palomarin, but the species was unreported elsewhere. A record 45+ White-throated Sparrows at

about 25 locations included 11-15 carefully tallied visiting a single feeder in Inverness (RS)! Numbers of Fox Sparrows were lower than usual at least at Palomarin and Lafayette (LF), but high in the Sweetwater Cr. area, Folsom Co. (JML). Swamp Sparrows were not found at the usual wintering spot in Olema Marsh after the floods of early January (DS), however singles at L. Earl, Del Norte Co., Dec. 28-Jan. 11 (GL, RAE, GS), Upper San Leandro Res., Alameda Co., Dec. 7 (†KFC) and two at Willow Cr., Sonoma Co., Dec. 27 (DE) represent new locations. The last coastal Lapland Longspurs were four+ at Pt. Reyes Feb. 25 (DS); one was at Davis, Solano Co., Jan. 23 (RAE); the species is seldom encountered in the C.V. The only Chestnut-collared Longspurs were at Pt. Reyes Dec. 6 (*vide* SFB) and Honey L., Feb. 6 (BS). A single Snow Bunting was at Big Lagoon, Humboldt Co., Dec. 22 (*vide* RAE).

CORRIGENDA — The location of Spotted Owls in AB 35:975 should read Lassen Nat'l Forest *not* Lassen Volcano N.P. The arrival date for Ash-throated Flycatcher in AB 35:857 should read *April 11*, Tehama Co. (RAE), not March 23, Marin Co. (DS).

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Smew. Drawing by Keith Hansen.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

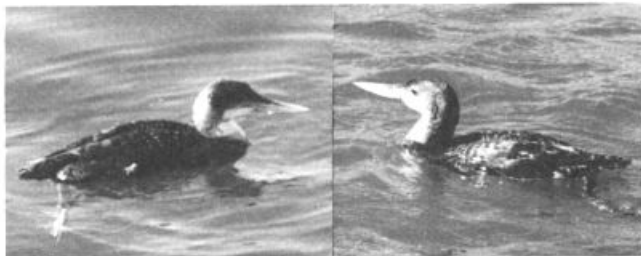
/Guy McCaskie

The season was relatively mild with below-average rainfall and no prolonged cold spell, enabling a variety of birds, not normally encountered in California at this time of the year, to winter locally as indicated by the presence of no fewer than twelve species of flycatchers and an unprecedented 26 species of wood warblers.

The mountain species found widely throughout the Region last fall were still relatively numerous in the coastal lowlands during the early part of the winter, declining in numbers as the season progressed. However, Golden-crowned Kinglets were still to be found well out of range at the end of winter (e.g., two in Brawley, Imperial County, March 6—JO) with small numbers still present in the mountains and along the coast.

The constant searching for rarities in California is not only producing records of many species formerly believed not to occur in winter, but is also showing that some of these "lost" vagrants are able to survive here through the winter and return in following years as indicated by the number of rarities reported wintering for their second and third years.

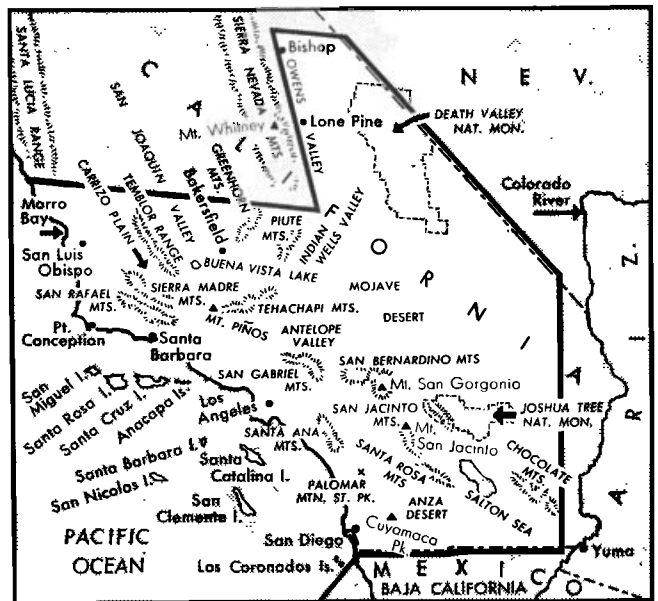
LOONS, GREBES — A **Yellow-billed Loon** in Goleta, Santa Barbara Co., Feb. 23 + (JLD, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) was only the third to be found in s. California; however, one has strayed as far s. as n. Baja California in Mexico (Jehl, *Condor* 72:376, 1970). A **Red-necked Grebe** at Montana de Oro S.P., San Luis Obispo Co., Feb. 14 (JSR) and another at Marina del Rey, Los Angeles Co., Jan. 10 (BD) were the only ones reported.



Yellow-billed Loon (see above). Photo/A. Lehman. *Yellow-billed Loon (see above). Photo/P. Small.*

FULMARS, SHEARWATERS — Northern Fulmars were relatively numerous offshore during the early part of the winter as indicated by 40 off Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo Co., Jan. 30 (JSR), 45 off Pt. Fermin, Los Angeles Co., Jan. 22 (BD), 20 around the pier in Newport Beach, Orange Co., Jan. 20 (SJR) and 50 off San Diego Jan. 9 (GMcC); however, it appeared all were gone by the end of February. Two **Pink-footed Shearwaters**, rare in California waters in winter, were found off Morro Bay Jan. 15 (JSR) and another was seen off San Pedro, Los Angeles Co., Jan. 22 (BD). A **Short-tailed Shearwater** found dead at Redondo Beach, Los Angeles Co., Jan. 31 (AH, *L.A.C.M.) and another seen off San Diego Jan. 26 (DPo) were the only ones reported. **Manx (Black-vented) Shearwaters** were relatively common all winter with 2000 as far n. as Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co., Jan. 6 (KLG). A **Mottled Petrel** seen from shore at Pt. Mugu Dec. 30 (REW) was only the third recorded in the Region and the first apparently healthy individual found in California.

PELICANS, HERONS — A **White Pelican** at Little L., Inyo Co., Jan. 11-16 (JRJ) was only the second found in the desert area of the Region in winter. An ad. **Little Blue Heron** on Mission Bay in San Diego all winter (DMack) was the only one known to be in s. California. A **Reddish Egret**, rare in s. California, was on San Diego Bay Feb. 19 (CGE). Up to three **Louisiana Herons** were around San Diego throughout the period and the bird found at Bolsa Chica, Orange Co., Nov. 29 was still present Feb. 5 (LRH). The ad. **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** found at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co.,



Oct. 25 and last seen Jan. 3 (JO) was the first to occur in California during the winter period.

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — A flock of up to 20 **Whistling Swans** around Irvine, Orange Co., Feb. 14-27 (BSc) and 1-2 near Chino, San Bernardino and Riverside cos., Jan. 17-Feb. 2 (EAC) were at the s. limit of the species' winter range. A total of 32 **White-fronted Geese** was found at various localities in the coastal lowlands illustrating just how rare this species has become in this area; a flock of 1000 ± around Lakeview, Riverside Co., Jan. 23+ (RLMcK) was in the only area regularly supporting numbers of these birds. **Ross' Geese** are rare away from the Salton Sea; hence, six near Blythe, Riverside Co. Dec. 9 (REW), two near Chino Jan. 14-30 (HEC) and two more near Santa Maria, Santa Barbara Co., Dec. 29 (BD) were of interest. A ♂ **Eur. Green-winged Teal**, a rare straggler to s. California, was in Goleta Jan. 1-Mar. 20 (REW, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) and another was on L. Henshaw in the mountains of San Diego County Feb. 5-12 (RH). A group of five **Blue-winged Teals** near Cayucos, San Luis Obispo Co. Feb. 7 (TE), seven in Ventura Feb. 14 (LCB) and 20 ± around Bolsa Chica all winter (REW) illustrate the abundance of this species along the coast in winter. At least five **Eur. Wigeon** along the coast, along with two in the mountains on L. Henshaw Feb. 12-Mar. 27 (RH) and another at the s. end of the Salton Sea (hereafter, S.E.S.S.) Feb. 21-Mar. 6 (JO) were average numbers, but 15 ± among 5000 Am. **Wigeon** near San Jacinto, Riverside Co., Jan. 5-Feb. 1 (DMM) was an exceptional concentration for s. California. Eleven **Oldsquaw** along the coast was about normal, but 1-2 at S.E.S.S., Feb. 13 ± (LRH) were inland where considered casual. The ♂ **Harlequin Duck** found in Carlsbad during December 1977 was still present at the end of the period. A **White-winged Scoter**, rare inland at any time of year, was at S.E.S.S., Feb. 6 (RLMcK). A **Surf Scoter** at S.E.S.S., Mar. 6 (REW) was one of very few found inland in winter. As usual a few **Black Scoters** were present along the coast with 30 ± reported. Some 3500 **Com. Mergansers** on L. Elsinore, Riverside Co., Jan. 30 (JO) was an exceptional concentration for s. California.

HAWKS — A **Red-shouldered Hawk** at Furnace Cr. Ranch in Death Valley (hereafter, F.C.R.) Dec. 15-Feb. 13 (LLN) along with three in n. Inyo County in mid-January (BD) were in an area where now considered regular in small numbers; however, one in Brawley Imperial Co., Feb. 7-21 (REW) was only the third to have been found in that area of California. An ad. **Zone-tailed Hawk** at the summit of Mt. Palomar, San Diego Co., Feb. 28 + (RH, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) was unexpected, the previous 6 winter occurrences having been in the coastal lowlands. **Rough-legged Hawks** were quite scarce but did reach the s. limit of the Region with one on Mt. Palomar Feb. 3-12 (RH) and another near S.E.S.S., Mar. 6 (EC); one flying S over F.C.R., Dec. 9 (J & ES) was at an unusual locality. A **Peregrine Falcon** at S.E.S.S., Feb. 21 (JO) was the only one found away from the coast.

SHOREBIRDS — A Black Oystercatcher in Ventura Feb 11 (REW) and six together in Long Beach Dec 4 (LRH) were away from areas of regular occurrence. A Snowy Plover near Lancaster, Los Angeles Co., throughout the period (KLG) and ten on L. Elsinore Jan 30 (REW) were of interest since very few have ever been found wintering inland away from the Salton Sea. As usual small numbers of Am Golden Plovers, all believed to be of Eurasian form *fulva*, wintered along the coast with 55 ± reported between Santa Barbara and the Mexican border including a group of 40 ± near Santa Maria (PEL); one at S.E.S.S., Jan. 12-Mar. 6 (PDV) was the second to have been found inland at this time of the year. A Ruddy Turnstone at S E S.S., Feb. 7 (REW) was the first to have been found inland in winter. A **Pectoral Sandpiper** at S.E.S.S., Feb. 20-Mar. 6 (EAC, GMcC) established the first true winter record for California and was evidently one of very few ever found in North America at this time of the year; one found near Lancaster Dec. 19 (Lancaster CBC) was the latest for a fall migrant in California. Two or three Stilt Sandpipers around S.E.S.S., throughout the period were in an area where small numbers regularly winter; however, one at Bolsa Chica Feb. 2-Mar. 1 (RZ) and another on San Elijo Lagoon Feb. 21-22 (TME) are the 2nd and 3rd ever found on the coast in winter. A Ruff was present near Santa Maria Dec. 19-Jan. 10 (PEL); one or two are now found along the coast every winter. As usual a small number of N. Phalaropes wintered at the s. end of San Diego Bay with 15 present Jan. 17 (GMcC) and a Wilson's Phalarope, considerably rarer at this time of the year, was found there Jan. 11 (PDV).

GULLS, TERNS — A first-winter Glaucous Gull, rare in s. California, was near Oxnard, Ventura Co., Jan. 9 (BWK), two were at the Santa Clara R. mouth Feb. 19 (REW), one was at Huntington Beach, Orange Co., Dec. 25 (R & MW), another was at the upper end of Newport Bay, Orange Co., Dec. 27-Mar. 15 (DRW) and up to two were at Otay, San Diego Co., Jan. 24+ (GMcC). A first-winter Glaucous-winged Gull was at Salton City on the Salton Sea Feb. 7 (EC) and single birds were at S.E.S.S., Feb. 21 (JO) and Feb. 24 (RLMcK); this species is a very rare stray to the true interior but regularly wanders far into the coastal lowlands as indicated by 15 in Corona, Riverside Co., Jan. 30 (REW). A few W. (Yellow-footed) Gulls again wintered on the Salton Sea with a high count of eight at S E S.S., Jan. 12 (PDV). Two Thayer's Gulls, rare in the true interior, were at S.E.S.S., Dec. 10 (REW), another was there Feb. 7 (EC) and a fourth was at Salton City the same day (GMcC). A first-winter Mew Gull near Chino Jan. 30 (REW) and another on L. Elsinore the same day (JO) were in an area where the species is scarce. An ad **Black-headed Gull** in Huntington Beach Dec. 13 (REW) was only the fourth to have been found in the Region. Up to five Laughing Gulls on Finney L., near S.E.S.S., Jan. 2+ (REW) were totally unexpected, there being only one previous winter record for the area of the Salton Sea. A first-winter Laughing Gull on Laguna L., in San Luis Obispo Dec. 6-10 (JSR, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) and another on Mission Bay in San Diego Feb. 3 (BC) were both along the coast where the species is considered casual. A Franklin's Gull in San Luis Obispo Nov. 29-Dec. 10 (JSR, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) was a late fall straggler but 2-3 on L. Elsinore Dec. 11-Jan. 30 (DRW) were evidently wintering. A Bonaparte's Gull near Lancaster Jan. 1 (JLD) was unexpected, as no winter records exist from inland localities away from the Salton Sea. Black-legged Kittiwakes were quite common offshore as indicated by 22 off Morro Bay Jan. 30 (JSR) and 30 off San Diego Jan. 9 (GMcC) with smaller numbers in harbors and about fishing piers along the entire coast. One or two Com. Terns in San Diego all winter (REW) were the only ones known to be present.

ALCIDS — Common Murres appeared to be more numerous than normal with 150 off Dana Pt., Orange Co., Feb. 13 (BSc) and 60 as far s. as San Diego Jan. 9 (GMcC). Up to nine Marbled Murrelets at Cayucos all winter (JSR) and two off Vandenberg A.F.B., Santa Barbara Co., were at the s. limit of the species' normal winter range but one at Pt. Mugu Feb. 27 (NSC) was appreciably s. of that range. Ancient Murrelets were found s. to Pt. Mugu (eight there Feb. 7—SR)

PIGEONS THROUGH NIGHTHAWKS — A White-winged Dove at Yaqui Wells, San Diego Co., Jan. 23 (BW) and 12 ± at nearby Agua Caliente Springs throughout the period (GMcC) were in the only area of California where this species regularly winters. Up to nine Com. Ground Doves near Camarillo all winter (VB) were in an

area where the species has been present for at least 2 years, this evidently being an isolated population well to the n. of species' known range in the coastal lowlands. A Screech Owl at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley Dec. 1 (LLN) was away from any area of normal occurrence. Two Pygmy Owls around Piru, Ventura Co., during December and January (RAH) and another near Switzer Camp in the San Gabriel Mts., Jan. 11 (BD) were in areas where the species is probably resident, but much is yet to be learned about the distribution of this bird in s. California. The Spotted Owl found in Santa Barbara Nov. 15 remained to at least Dec. 18 (CG). A Long-eared Owl found dead at F.C.R., Jan. 21 (LLN) and another in Goleta Jan. 10-Feb. 13 (DW) were both outside areas of regular occurrence. Two Saw-whet Owls in Cambria, San Luis Obispo Co., Jan. 23+ (JSR) were calling as if on territory; this area marks the s. limit of nesting along the coast. A Lesser Nighthawk near San Diego Jan. 8-Feb. 6 (GMcC) was one of very few ever found along the coast in winter.

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A Vaux's Swift at Pt Mugu Dec. 27 (LRB) was the only one reported. A Black-chinned Hummingbird was in Santa Barbara Jan. 2-Feb. 20 (KLG), another was in Long Beach Jan. 11-12 (BD), one returned to spend its third winter in San Diego (EC) and a fourth was on Pt. Loma Feb. 6+ (GMcC); until recently there was but one winter record for California. A ♂ Costa's Hummingbird near Shandon, San Luis Obispo Co., Dec. 21-29 (EMcM) was quite far n. for this time of the year. The ♂ Broad-billed Hummingbird found in Blythe Oct. 4 remained through Feb. 13 (IA). An imm. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*S. v. varius*), a rare straggler to California, was in Fillmore, Ventura Co., Dec. 28-30 (PEL), another was at Finney L., Feb. 7 (EC) and a male in Silverado Canyon, Orange Co., throughout the period (SJR) was undoubtedly the same bird present there last winter. A Yellow-bellied (Red-naped) Sapsucker near Ventura Feb. 14 (SR) was in an area where few have been found. A Williamson's Sapsucker, exceptionally rare in the coastal lowlands, was in West Los Angeles Feb. 21 (KLG). A Downy Woodpecker in San Pedro Jan. 28 (JLD) and another along the San Diego R., in San Diego Dec. 25-Feb. 6 (JO) were both outside areas of normal occurrence.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — A Tropical Kingbird, very rare in winter, was near Chino Jan. 9-Feb. 2 (HEC); this is one of very few ever found in the interior of California. A W. Kingbird in Mission Viejo, Orange Co., Feb. 10-15 (BSc) was only the second ever to have been found in winter. Small numbers of Cassin's Kingbirds were present along the coast, as usual, with two near Los Osos, San Luis Obispo Co., throughout the period (JSR) and eight in Shandon Feb. 12 (S & KB) being relatively far n. An Ash-throated Flycatcher, very rare in winter, was in Santa Barbara Dec. 4-Mar. 14 (PEL). An E. Phoebe in Ventura Dec. 19-Feb. 28 (VB), one in Huntington Beach Nov. 13-Feb. 7 (SJR), another at nearby Villa Park Dam Dec. 5-Feb. 3 (DRW) and a fourth in San Diego Dec. 14-Mar. 13 (DR) gave us a near average number for winter. A Least Flycatcher in Huntington Beach Nov. 13-Mar. 1 (SJR) was only the third known to have wintered in California. A **Hammond's Flycatcher** in Long Beach Mar. 15-18 (JAJ) was believed to have wintered locally; there is no previous documented record of this species in California at this time of the year. One at Pt. Mugu Dec. 30 (REW) could have been a very late fall migrant. Five Gray Flycatchers were found in the s.w. part of the Region where small numbers regularly winter. Single W. Flycatchers were in Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo Co., Feb. 20 (MB) and Los Osos Jan. 14 (DS), four were in the Santa Barbara area during January and February (PEL) and a seventh was in Escondido, San Diego Co., Dec. 24 (KW) for an above-average number for winter. A Coues' Flycatcher in Griffith P. of Los Angeles Jan. 13-Feb. 20 (KLG) was undoubtedly the same bird present here during the last 2 winters. A ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher near Los Osos Jan. 17+ (KH) was exceptionally far n., there being only 2 occurrences known from n. of San Luis Obispo County; a male in Ventura Dec. 1-Jan. 17 (VB) and another in Pasadena Dec. 28-Feb. 2 (CMU) were the only others found along the coast outside San Diego County. A Cliff Swallow at Harper Dry L., San Bernardino Co., Jan. 30 (EAC) is best considered a very early spring migrant.

CROWS THROUGH THRUSHES — A flock of 25 Com. Crows near Palo Verde, Imperial Co., Nov. 29-Dec. 10 (REW) probably wintered locally; numbers appear to be sporadic along the Colorado R. valley. A Verdin at Ming L., near Bakersfield Jan. 22 (MH) was

somewhat to the w. of the species known range. A Winter Wren at the mouth of San Mateo Cr., San Diego Co., Feb. 15 (EC) and another in Palo Verde Dec. 10 (REW) were both relatively far s. Four Brown Thrashers were present with one near Morro Bay Dec. 9-Feb. 1 (RR), another in Arroyo Grande Dec. 12-19 (NM), one in Goleta Oct. 28-Mar. 8 (PEL) and the fourth in Santa Barbara Jan. 14 (TMa). Up to eight Sage Thrashers, rare in winter, were in the Antelope Valley e. of Lancaster Jan. 9-Feb. 6 (JLD). American Robins were commoner and more widespread than usual and small numbers of Varied Thrushes accompanied them along the coast s. to San Diego County. At least 12 Townsend's Solitaires, normally absent from the coast, were found in the coastal lowlands suggesting a movement of some sort.

PIPITS THROUGH VIREOS — The five Sprague's Pipits found near Lancaster Nov. 22 were still present Mar. 7 (JLD) to give us the first winter record for California. Four Bohemian Waxwings, rare and irregular strays to s. California, were at Hearst Castle, San Luis Obispo Co., Jan. 16 (GS). A Bell's Vireo in Goleta Oct. 16-Feb. 15 (KB) was the same bird present there last winter; one in Carlsbad Feb. 2 (EC) and another near Imperial Beach Jan. 27 (CGE) gave us an unusual three for the winter. A Solitary Vireo, rare in winter, at Warden L., near Morro Bay Jan. 7 (CMA), another in San Diego Jan. 17 (JO) and a third on Pt. Loma Dec. 28 (REW) were all of the expected *cassinii* race, but one present for its third winter in Ventura Dec. 8-Feb. 14 (OA) and another in San Diego Nov. 21-Mar. 1 (JO) were of the rare *plumbeus* race. A Warbling Vireo in Santa Barbara Dec. 4 (PEL) was most likely a late fall migrant; however, 1-2 in Santa Barbara Jan. 2-22 (LB), 1-2 in Arcadia, Los Angeles Co., throughout the period (GSS) and one in Irvine, Orange Co., Jan. 9-Mar. 1 (DRW) were all wintering. Prior to this year only two were known to have wintered in s. California.

WOOD WARBLERS — A total of ten Black-and-white Warblers was found along the coast for an above average number for this time of the year. The **Worm-eating Warbler** found in Long Beach Nov. 6 was still present Mar. 21 (KLG) and was only the second known to have wintered in California. Seventeen Tennessee Warblers present along the coast illustrate just how numerous this species is in winter. As usual, a few Nashville Warblers wintered along the coast with 18 reported during the season. A Virginia's Warbler in Newport Beach throughout the period (SJR) was believed to be the same bird present here during the past 2 winters. Yellow Warblers appear to be on the increase as a wintering bird along the coast with 25 reported this year. A Cape May Warbler in San Luis Obispo Dec. 10-Jan. 19 (CMA) was the fifth to be found wintering in s. California. A ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler in Santa Barbara Jan. 15-Mar. 16 (IR) gave us our first undisputed winter record. Some 20 Black-throated Gray Warblers along the coast was about normal. A Hermit Warbler in Oceanside Jan. 29-31 (EC) was the only one found away from coastal San Luis Obispo/Santa Barbara cos., where small numbers regularly occur. A Grace's Warbler in Santa Barbara Oct. 10-Mar. 10 (PEL) and another in nearby Carpinteria Feb. 22-Mar. 21 (PEL) were the same two birds first found wintering here 2 years ago. A Chestnut-sided Warbler in Riverside Dec. 9-23 (V & CP) was evidently a very late fall straggler. A **Bay-breasted Warbler** in Long Beach Recreational P., Jan. 10+ (BD, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) was clearly wintering, establishing the first winter record for California and one of very few anywhere in North



Bay-breasted Warbler (see above). Photos/D. Willick.

America. One in Santa Barbara Dec. 4-12 (PEL) could have been an exceptionally late fall vagrant. A Prairie Warbler seen along the Colorado R., 7 mi below Parker Dam Dec. 25 (JuB) was believed to be wintering; there are only two previous records for the winter season, both being from along the coast. Eight Palm Warblers along the coast was fewer than expected, but one in Ventura Jan. 21 (JLD) was of the yellow race *hypochrysea*. A N. Waterthrush at Pt. Mugu Dec. 27-Jan. 17 (LRB) and 3-4 around San Diego all winter was about normal. Totally unexpected was a **Mourning Warbler** at Harbor L., in Long Beach Dec. 26-Jan. 28 (BD), this being the first to occur in California in winter, and possibly the first anywhere in North America at this time of the year. A ♂ MacGillivray's Warbler in Goleta Oct. 15-Mar. 4 (TWu) was the same bird found here last winter. Small numbers of Wilson's Warblers were found wintering along the coast, primarily in riparian habitat, with 35+ reported. An Am. Redstart in Goleta Dec. 13 (DB), one at Fillmore Dec. 28-30 (PEL), another in Huntington Beach Dec. 1-Jan. 30 (SJR) and a fourth in San Diego Jan. 17-24 (EC) were all along the coast where very rare at this time of the year; one along the Colorado R., near Earp Dec. 9 (REW) and another near S.E.S.S., Jan. 18 (HEC) were both in areas where small numbers regularly winter. A Painted Redstart, a very rare straggler to California, was in Claremont, Los Angeles Co., Dec. 12 (BG).

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS — A ♂ Orchard Oriole spending its third winter in Ventura was accompanied by a female Nov. 22-Feb. 14 (OA) and another male was seen in Malibu, Los Angeles Co., Feb. 1 (CB); one or two are found in the Region each winter. A Hooded Oriole, inexplicably rare in winter, was in Santa Barbara Dec. 12 (PEL), one was in Newport Beach Nov. 29-Feb. 7 (SJR), another was at Mission Viejo Jan. 25 (REW) and a fourth was on Pt. Loma Jan. 7 (REW). A Scott's Oriole, rare in winter, in Santa Barbara Jan. 2-18 (LCB), another there Jan. 2-Feb. 1 (PEL), 2-3 near Orange, Orange Co., Dec. 9-Feb. 24 (CCH), two in Trabuco Canyon, Orange Co., all winter (SJR) and one in National City Jan. 10 (JO) were all along the coast, with one in Redlands Jan. 7 (RLMcK) being inland, and another at Morongo Valley Feb. 14 (LRH) being the only one reported from the desert. Of the 100± N. Orioles reported eight were "Baltimores". A N. (Bullock's) Oriole at 4500 ft in the San Gabriel Mts., Jan. 16 (GSS) was most unusual as virtually all wintering birds in California are associated with flowering eucalyptus in the lowlands. A Rusty Blackbird, very rare in winter, was in Arcadia Jan. 31-Feb. 19 (B. Cohen, *vide* GSS). A ♂ Great-tailed Grackle at L. Norconian in extreme n.w. Riverside Co., Jan. 17 (EAC) and two more near there Jan. 30 (REW) were the first to be found in this area.

At least 60 W. Tanagers were found along the coast, primarily in flowering eucalyptus, indicating how numerous this species is at this time of year. A ♂ Hepatic Tanager in Oceanside Nov. 15+ (CGE) was the same bird known to be present here each of the past 4 winters. Three Summer Tanagers in the Santa Barbara area along with two in Orange County and six around San Diego was more than expected.

FINCHES, SPARROWS — A Cardinal along the Colorado R., near Earp Dec. 9 (REW) was being pushed from the last remaining habitat in that area by bulldozers clearing the land of all vegetation. Single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in Santa Barbara Feb. 13 (WA) & Feb. 14-15 (PEL), another in Ventura Dec. 5-Jan. 10 (JO) and a fourth in Irvine Feb. 12+ (DRW) was about average for a winter season. A ♂ Indigo Bunting, one of a very few ever found wintering in California, was frequenting a feeder in Santa Barbara Jan. 28+ (PEL). Purple Finches were more numerous than usual in the lowlands, but not exceptionally so, and Pine Siskins were noticeably commoner along the coast with small numbers present in the desert regions. A flock of 20± Red Crossbills in Hart Memorial P. of Bakersfield Feb. 14 (JW), five in Goleta Dec. 16 (PEL), and eight plus seen sporadically around Santa Barbara Jan. 2-Feb. 20 (KLG) were outside areas of normal occurrence. A Brown Towhee, most likely *eremophilus*, at Little L., Jan. 11 (JRJ) was one of very few ever found away from the limited breeding range in this part of California. A Grasshopper Sparrow near Imperial Beach Jan. 24-Feb. 5 (JO) was away from any area of normal occurrence. A Tree Sparrow at Mesquite Springs in Death Valley Dec. 6-7 (J & ES) and another at Oasis, Mono Co., Jan. 17 (BD) were both in the n.e. part of the Region where small numbers occur each fall. A Clay-colored Sparrow near Imperial Beach Dec. 19-24 (REW) was likely a late fall straggler. Harris' Sparrows were somewhat scarce with single birds at F.C.R., Dec. 8 (J & ES) and Jan. 17 (BD), one near Barstow Jan. 10 (EAC), another near Maricopa

Dec 13 (NSC) and single individuals in Goleta Jan 2-Mar 8 (KB) & Feb. 13+ (LB) being the only ones found. Some 25 ± White-throated Sparrows was about average. A Swamp Sparrow in Santa Barbara Dec. 6-Jan. 20 (RAH) and 1-3 on Vandenberg Air Force Base Dec. 5-Feb. 28 (PEL) was well below average. The two McCown's Longspurs found at Pt. Mugu Nov. 15 were still present Mar. 21 (PEL); this was only the second known occurrence of this species wintering along the coast of California. A flock of 40 ± Chestnut-collared Longspurs near Blythe Dec. 10 (REW) and up to six present near Lancaster Nov. 22-Feb. 15 (LCB) were the only ones found this winter.

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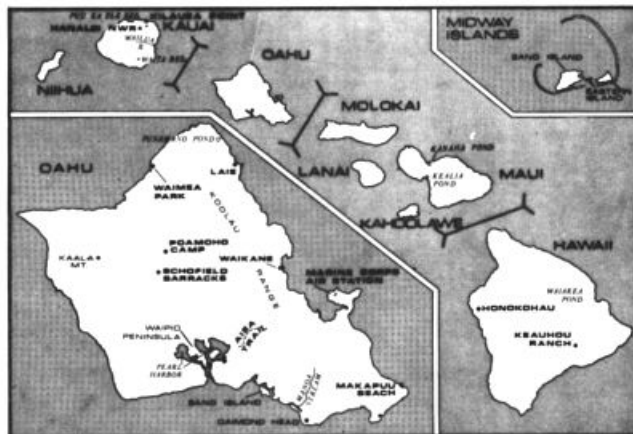
HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

/C. John Ralph and Robert L. Pyle

March 1979 through November 1981 has been one of the driest periods in Hawaiian weather history. In these 33 months, only 3 months in 1980 and one in 1981 reached normal amounts of rainfall at the Honolulu airport. In 1981, the normal January-November period which normally would have had 22.9 inches, instead had only 7.9. Normal rainfall was then exceeded in December (4.5 vs the norm of 3.7) and markedly in January (12.8 vs 4.4). By February, the rain was just slightly below normal (2.2 vs 2.5). The heavy winter rains come during long periods of "Kona" (southwesterly) winds, producing especially heavy amounts on those slopes of all islands. The soaking rains during this period of low evaporation provide good future prospects for crops, wildlife food, and water supplies. This rainfall dispersed waterfowl considerably, reducing the records somewhat of the more unusual waterfowl, although a new species for the state did turn up.

LOONS THROUGH EGRETS — An Arctic Loon, furnishing only the second record for the state, frequented the area around Coconut I., near Kaneohe, O., from early December regularly into March. It was photographed and seen by many observers (DS, PD, RLP). A Leach's Storm-Petrel, seldom recorded in Hawaii, was found dead on the beach (the usual state of observations here of this species) on Tern I., French Frigate Shoals Jan. 18 (TP, *vide* MN). The Green Heron, reported the previous season as the first well-documented occurrence on the islands, was last seen Feb. 12 (PP) at Lokoaka Pond, near Hilo, H. Cattle Egret continue to increase at Lokoaka Pond, with 544 Jan. 11 (PP). Their increase in numbers here, near Hilo's airport, has sparked an intensive study of their potential threat to air traffic. A Great Egret on Kealia Pond, M., Feb. 21 (CK *et al.*) was present at least until Mar. 6 (RLP, MO). This was only the second record for the state and makes a clean sweep . . . in the past year, all 7 species of Ardeidae ever recorded here have turned up.

GEESE THROUGH MERGANSERS — The two White-fronted Geese at Waipio, O., stayed until at least Dec. 12 (RLP), and then moved over to the Honouliuli Unit of the Pearl Harbor N.W.R., Jan. 14 (PD) where they stayed through at least Feb. 4 (PD, RC). They were joined there by three Canada Geese Feb. 4. Another White-fronted and two Canadas remained at Pukalani Country Club, M., through late December (m.ob.). Two Gadwall at Kii Pond, O., Feb. 13 (RLP) were unusual, even with the diversity of waterfowl now appearing annually in the state. Six Blue-winged Teal Feb. 15 at Aimakapa Pond, just n. of Kailua-Kona, H. (PP), were also unusual waterfowl in the state. The most interesting report of the season was probably the approximately six Fulvous Whistling Ducks, first state



records, found on Punamano Pond, O., Jan. 6 (DW *et al.*). Although no photos were taken, many very competent observers (MO, RS, PB MN, RLP) had observed them carefully by Jan 9. They were not seen subsequently, probably because of the many temporarily flooded and inaccessible fields. A large white swan on Kakahaia N.W.R. Molokai I., Jan. 7 (JA, TB) was unfortunately not identified as to species. However, it was certainly a new record for the island, as there is only a single previous record for the state of any *Cygnus*. A lone Hooded Merganser at Aimakapa Pond, H., in the first half of December (PP, AT, RLP) was one of the few records of the species for the Big Island.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS — A Killdeer at Haena Beach, K., Dec. 23 was also one of the few records for the island (RA). Surprisingly, Black-bellied Plovers have been seen very seldom on the Big Island, in contrast to their occurrence on other islands. So one during the first week of February at Coconut I., in Hilo, furnished a good record (PP, AT, JL). A single of the uncommon Bar-tailed Godwit at Waipio, O., Dec. 6 (PD) added spice to a rather dull shorebird season. Two rare Glaucous-winged Gulls were near Kii Pond, O., Feb. 15 (PB) and later (m.ob.). A Bonaparte's Gull at Waipio, O., Dec. 12 (RLP) was unusual. Caspian Terns have been recorded only twice before in the state prior to this season; the bird in the Hilo, H., area Feb. 5 and later (PP, AT, PA) was the first record for that island. Another Caspian at Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station, O., Dec. 20-24 (RW, RLP) may perhaps have been the same bird as was in that location last year. A Black Tern was well seen Feb. 15 at Aimakapa, H., by several people (PP, AT, SD, JK). It was still there Feb. 28.

GRACKLES THROUGH SPARROWS — An intriguing observation this season would probably have been dismissed, except for the expertise of the observer (DS). A ♀ **grackle** (Boat-tailed or Great-tailed) was seen briefly in the West Loch area at Waipio, O., Feb. 19. What is intriguing is that PD, an observer very familiar with grackles, had seen a similar bird very well in November 1980 at the same spot. Via the back door, there has been another species definitely added to the state list. The **Common** (St. Helena) **Waxbill** (*Estrilda astrild*), hitherto lumped by observers with the Red-eared Waxbill (*E. troglodytes*), has been sorted out by the careful work of Mike Ord (*Elepaio* 42 89-90; 1982). A flock of at least 40 on Feb. 13 was at close range at Kuilima Pond, O. (RLP), and a flock Feb. 26 at Waipio, O., was the precursor of many observations of this "new" species. It remains to be seen just how common the Red-eared actually is on Oahu. The Red Munia is also being found all over Oahu as two pairs have been seen in upper Makakilo, O., Feb. 6 (BJ). The spread of exotic foreign finches has been dramatic in Hawaii, and a cause for concern in some quarters because of the potential for the spread of disease. The Java

Sparrow is quite common on Oahu, but the three adults and two immatures (PP) this season in a small residential district near Kailua-Kona, H., was the first record for that island. The presence of young probably means that they are now breeding there. The Yellow-faced Grassquits on Manana Trail, O., seem to be really taking hold in this small area, as a few were seen Dec. 29, and 50+ on Jan. 24 (PD)

ISLAND ABBREVIATIONS — H. (Hawaii I.), M. (Maui I.), and O. (Oahu I.).

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WEST INDIES REGION

/Robert L. Norton

January's precipitation was a mere 68% below average compared to December's 314% and February's 253% above average amounts. The total average for the period was 217% above the mean (period of record = 51 years). This portends an excellent food crop for early nesting landbirds, seabirds already in their reproductive cycles and those species arriving by April.

SHEARWATERS THROUGH FALCONS — Audubon's Shearwaters (16) were noted Feb. 28 incubating at Saba Cay, St. Thomas (hereafter, St. T.) Virgin Islands where as many as 50 pairs may be nesting (RV). Two colonies of Black-capped Petrels (DW, RV) were observed in February in the Sierra de Baoruco, Dominican Republic (hereafter, D.R.) where 20+ pairs may be nesting in each. Nesting activity in Hispaniola is thought to be restricted to the s. coast ranges of the Massif de la Selle and the Sierra de Baoruco. More details of the recent survey are expected elsewhere. A Least Bittern Jan. 28 (RV), six West Indian Whistling Ducks (DW) and nine Ruddy Ducks Feb. 14 and Jan. 28 respectively were observed at L. Enriquillo, D.R. A **Red-breasted Merganser** was seen Dec. 6 at Vieques, Puerto Rico (hereafter, P.R.) (SF). Turkey Vultures are locally common n. of Santo Domingo, D.R. (10/day—RV), but absent in n. Haiti (hereafter, H.) Jan. 1-7 (PA). Sharp-shinned Hawks (6-8) were noted (RV) in the s.w. ranges of Dominican Republic where the species breeds. A Peregrine Falcon was seen Feb. 24 at L. Enriquillo (DW) from where ASD reports that all Dominican Republic records are restricted. In the Virgin Islands Peregrines are noted all winter on or near the offshore cays of Saba (Feb. 27—RV), Cockroach and Frenchcap (Dec. 10—RN) where they harass and prey upon young boobies. Another sighting at Red Hook area, St. T., Feb. 4 indicates wide ranging winter habits.

SANDPIPERS THROUGH CROWS — A Whimbrel (JY, RN) and 145 Semipalmated Sandpipers were observed at St. Croix (hereafter, St. C.) Jan. 19. Two Ring-billed Gulls were seen at Hassel I., St. T., Dec. 10 (RN) and an imm. Laughing Gull remained at the Mangrove Lagoon, St. T., until Dec. 17 and was seen again Feb. 23 (RV) in Charlotte Amalie. Two Caspian Terns were observed at L. Enriquillo Feb. 12 (RV). A Com. Tern and **Pomarine Jaeger** (FS) were observed Dec. 16 from the Frederiksted Pier, St. C. Hispaniolan Parrots (125) were common at Sierra de Baoruco (RV), but Hispaniolan Parakeets were less numerous (10) in preferred lower elevations during January and February. The 'Hispaniolan' Barn Owl (*Tyto glaucops*) was seen Feb. 5 (RV, DW) near Puerto Escandido, D.R. The Greater Antillean Nightjar, considered rare in Hispaniola, was heard calling Feb. 3-4 in arid habitat near Puerto Escandido (RV) and the Least Parakeet, endemic to Hispaniola, was also heard Feb. 3 in the same locality as were two Antillean Piculets. The rarely seen Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was recorded at Puerto Escandido, Feb. 3, St. John (hereafter, St. J.) Dec. 20 (GW) and St. T., Feb. 25 (RV, RN). Two White-necked Crows, rare in Hispaniola, were noted at Loma de Torro, D.R. (RV, DW) and five at Cap Haitien, H., Jan. 5 (PA). Sixty Palm Crows were

seen near Kenscoff, H., Jan. 7 (PA) and only at L. Enriquillo and near Descubierta, D.R., not in the pine forests (RV).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES — A **Golden-winged Warbler** was seen Feb. 4 (RV) near Puerto Escandido representing perhaps the second record for Hispaniola. Interestingly, a **Blue-winged Warbler** was carefully noted at Annaberg, St. J., Dec. 13 (RN) representing the second record from the Puerto Rico Bank. Magnolia and Yellow-rumped warblers were more numerous this year than in the past in the Virgin Islands, but noticeably absent (BA) from the Turks and Caicos Is. Common Yellowthroats, irregular in the Virgin Islands were seen at St. T., Jan 12 (RN) and St. J., Jan. 10 (FG) & 23 (RN).

S.A.

Puerto Rico's endemic Yellow-shouldered Blackbird (*Agelaius xanthomus*) is in trouble. Parasitism by Shiny Cowbirds (*Molothrus bonairiensis*) is reported (SF) to be about 95% in the Roosevelt Roads Naval Base colony in the s.e. part of the island, and 89% in the La Parguera colony in the s.w. corner. The Mona I. population presents a difficult solution to recovery team workers due to its inaccessibility. At present little can be done for this offshore population which may become extinct before the main island groups which are being monitored and protected through a cowbird trapping program. Current speculation is that the species will become extinct before the turn of the decade unless the trapping program can reverse the precipitous decline and stabilize the population which is almost certainly far below the 2400 estimate (Post and Wiley, 1977. The shiny cowbird in the West Indies. *Condor*, 79(1): 119-121). Interested readers are also urged to review Post and Wiley, 1976. The yellow-shouldered blackbird—present and future. *Amer. Birds*. 30:13-20. If or when *xanthomus* succumbs in Puerto Rico, what host(s) will replace it? The dramatic expansion of the cowbird W through the Greater Antilles portends similar fate for endemic congeners such as Tawny-shouldered Blackbird (*A. humeralis*) in Cuba. A concerted effort to restore the Yellow-shouldered Blackbird is needed immediately.

On Jan. 23 two N. Orioles were seen at Coral Bay, St. J. (RN, PF) where the species has apparently fixated for the last several winters. *Eighteen* N. Orioles were recorded on the St. J. CBC Dec. 27. Shiny Cowbirds continue to increase in Coral Bay where 45+ were counted Jan. 10. A Scarlet Tanager was heard singing Jan. 23 and six Indigo Buntings were also observed on that date at Coral Bay.

ADDENDUM — A Red-breasted Merganser was seen off Mona I., Nov. 1981 (FW).

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