

The Autumn Migration

August 1—November 30, 1984

NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

/Richard A. Forster

In general, it was a lackluster fall migration season. Most observers commented on the lack of major waves and paucity of birds. The trend extended to the general public, who inquired of many reporting agencies, "where have all the birds gone?" Although the concern of the public was ill-founded, the migration continued as a steady trickle rather than with obvious pulses. A more accurate barometer of a migration period is best monitored by banding stations where daily statistics are compiled. Comments from banders this fall confirmed the impressions of field observers. In Rockport, Massachusetts, where Russell Norris has maintained a constant banding program since 1976, he commented that "the fall months of 1984 were the worst from a banding standpoint since the Whale Cove Station has been in operation." The same feeling was echoed by David Holmes who spent three weeks banding on Appledore Island, Isle of Shoals, Maine from August 20 to September 9. He stated it was the "longest time I've been able to spend on the Island in any season so far. It was probably the duller as well." Despite this doom saying there were some obvious trends during the season.

Perhaps more than any other season, the presence of birds in autumn is strongly linked to prevailing weather systems. This fall was characterized by poorly defined weather systems that were not conducive to major southward movements or reverse migration. Rainfall throughout the period was appreciably below normal. Coastal northeast storms were few so land-based pelagic observations were limited but not totally unproductive. The lack of enthusiasm was not restricted to specific groups of birds but was widespread throughout the checklist from loons on through sparrows. This is not to say that all results were negative. A major landbird wave was noticeable throughout most of the Region September 1 with residual effects on subsequent days. Hawk watching enthusiasts enjoyed some good days and at least one pelagic trip enjoyed impressive results.

Caution is required when interpreting the wealth of reports. Newfoundland has emerged as a new "frontier" for the Region. Active observers are compiling an endless array of new records which were previously unobserved and thus unreported. It is tempting to look at the records and report only those species that occur as rarities and titillate the reader. But a truer perspective for all readers is found in the ebb and flow of what are best termed regular migrants. The following report is an attempt to convey the fall migration in the northeast without ignoring the vagrants that add spice to all Regional reports.

ABBREVIATIONS — G.M.N.P. = Gros Morne Nat'l Park, Nfld.; M.V. = Martha's Vineyard, Mass.

LOONS, GREBES — Loons were well reported but routine for the better part of the season. Peak counts of Red-throated Loons were 264 at



Pt. Judith, R.I., Nov. 29 (*vide* DLE) and 300 at Manomet, Mass., Nov. 8 (*vide* RPE). Well-detailed reports of Arctic Loon were a molting adult at Brier I., N.S., Sept. 3 (ELM) and an adult at Plymouth, Mass., Oct. 27-29 (DE). Pied-billed Grebes seemed to be recovering from recent lows or at least were better reported with 20 noted at E. Monmouth, Me., Sept. 15, and 19 at Lakeville, Mass., Nov. 24 (WRP). A flight of Horned Grebes was noted in coastal Connecticut Nov. 25 (DV) when 300+ were seen in a few hours. All were gone the next day. The first Red-necked Grebes noted were four at St.-Pierre and Miquelon I., Sept. 15, present daily thereafter with a peak of 39 Nov. 5 (RE). Otherwise they were scantily reported throughout the Region. A W. Grebe returned for the 8th consecutive year to Georgetown, Me., Nov. 27 (*vide* SWW) and another was seen at Nantucket, Mass., Nov. 22 (*vide* RPE).

TUBENOSES THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — Small numbers of N. Fulmars were occasionally observed in offshore waters early in the reporting period and later reached a peak Oct. 28 with 45 at Stellwagen Bank, Mass., and 11 at Cox's Ledge, R.I. Three Cory's Shearwaters were seen from the Cabot Strait ferry Aug. 17 (SIT) and a rather late bird was seen at Seal I., N.S., Oct. 14 (IAM). In s. areas where Cory's is routine in summer, peak numbers were 250 Aug. 9 at Cox's Ledge, R.I., where 27 were still present Oct. 28 (*vide* DLE). Greater, Sooty and Manx shearwaters were all reported from expected locations in normal numbers.

For the 3rd consecutive year a 2-day pelagic trip ventured forth from Gloucester, Mass., Aug. 20-21, to southern Georges Bank and the vicinity of Hydrographer Canyon located about 75 mi s.e. of Nantucket. Previous trips have been very fruitful and this one proved no less so. The highlight was a well-observed **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel** providing a first Regional record. Disappointing for observers was a tropicbird (sp.?), thought to be a White-tailed, seen flying directly away from the observers into the sun.

Other highlights included two imm. South Polar Skuas and 15 Audubon's Shearwaters. Rounding out the list were 4000 Wilson's and 100 Leach's storm-petrels, 40 Cory's, 275 Greater, 26 Sooty and nine Manx shearwaters (WRP, RRV).

Northern Gannets were well reported with a high count of 8000+ in Eastham, Mass., Oct. 15 (BN) after a storm. No noteworthy counts of either cormorant species were reported. A **Magnificent Frigatebird** was seen at Allen I., Me., Aug. 16 (*vide* SWW) and was seen again 2 days later at Otter Pt., Me. (L. Winter *et al.*, *vide* WT).

HERONS, IBISES — A pair of Least Bitterns with three young was seen at Plum I., Mass., in late August and a late individual was found dead, hanging from a utility line in S. Yarmouth, Mass., Nov. 15 (P. Trull, *vide* BN) where it remained for the balance of the period. The highest count of Snowy Egret was made at an evening roost at Plum I., Mass., Sept. 20 when 700+ were estimated. An imm. Little Blue Heron at Codroy R., Nfld., Sept. 12-14 (BMk) was unusual as was a Tricolored Heron Aug. 15 at Three Fathom Harbor, N.S. (*vide* IAM). Post-breeding aggregations of Cattle Egrets numbered 35 at Ipswich, Mass., Sept. 6 (JB) and 40 at Little Compton, R.I., Sept. 2 (*vide* DLE) but the only lingering individual was at Hammonasset S.P., Conn., Nov. 4-15 (*vide* DV). As many as six Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, all but one immature, were observed in N.S. with the latest at Sable I., Oct. 1 (*vide* IAM). Five Yellow-crowns were observed departing a night-heron roost in late August and early September at Eastham, Mass. where two were last recorded Oct. 21 (BN). Most Glossy Ibises had departed from the Region by mid-September. A **White Ibis** was seen arriving in the evening and departing in the morning at a roost on Appledore I., Me., in mid-August (DJA, PDV) but could not be located during the day.

WATERFOWL — Tundra Swan is a rare but regular migrant in the Region. This season's total was 18, 12 of which were on M.V., Nov. 25 (VL). The Snow Goose flight was early. Lone individuals were noted at Monomoy I., Mass., Sept. 13 (*vide* BN) and Miquelon I., Sept. 15 (RE). A flock of 200 was observed over Amherst, Mass., Sept. 30 (*vide* SK) and 3 flocks totalling 320 birds were over Ft. Kent, Me., Oct. 2 (S & GF). Likewise the Brant flight was unremarkable except for a flight in coastal Connecticut Oct. 29 when 1500+ were counted in 2 hours (DV). A good count of Blue-winged Teal was made at Monomoy I., Mass., Sept. 2 where 400 were seen (WRP); five at Monmouth, Me., Nov. 11 (*vide* SWW) were late. A ♀ Gadwall at St. Johns, Nfld., Nov. 15-30+ (BM, RB) provided the first definite provincial record. Eurasian Wigeon totalled six in Massachusetts during October and November including one Nov. 2 inland at Westhampton (JL, *vide* SK), where rare. A female at St. John's, Nfld., Oct. 28 (CB, BM) provided about the 8th provincial record. A ♂ Eur. Wigeon was at E. Providence, R.I., Oct. 17 (*vide* DLE) where 1400 Am. Wigeon were observed Oct. 11 (DLE). Canvasbacks peaked at 1100 in E. Providence, R.I., Nov. 25 (DE) but elsewhere many fewer were reported. Excellent Ring-necked Duck counts included 1083 at Manchester, Me., Oct. 8 (*vide* SWW) and 1500+ at Lakeville, Mass., Nov. 4 (*vide* RPE). The status of Lesser Scaup as a fall migrant is poorly known due to confusion with the much more numerous Greater Scaup. Nine Lesser Scaup were discovered during the period in Newfoundland at St. Johns and the Codroy R. (BM, SIT), exceeding the total of previous reports. Mactavish suspects Lesser Scaup is an uncommon fall transient there. Two Lesser Scaup were at W. Lawrencetown Marsh, N.S., Nov. 23 (F. Lavender) while high counts were 75 at Quicksand Pond, R.I., Sept. 29 (DLE) and 300+ at Lakeville, Mass., Nov. 4 (*vide* RPE).

Sea ducks are a familiar sight in Regional coastal waters in late fall. The best count of Com. Eider was 15,000 at Monomoy I., Mass., Nov. 8 (*vide* RPE) but only a few King Eiders were noted in the Region, all singles and all but one in November. A sea watch at Manomet, Mass. recorded three Harlequin Ducks Nov. 8 & 12 (DE) while 18 were at the routine wintering area at Sachuest Pt., R.I., Nov. 24 (DLE). There were 10,000+ Oldsquaws at Nantucket, Mass., Nov. 20 (*vide* RPE), the best location for the species in the Region. Two ♀ Barrow's Goldeneyes in Maine and two males in Massachusetts during November were the only ones reported. A ♂ Hooded Merganser at Stephenville Crossing, Nfld., Sept. 9-12 (BM, BMk) furnished about the 10th provincial record. Excellent numbers of Red-breasted Mergansers totalling in the thousands were noted on outer Cape Cod, Mass., in November (*vide* RPE). Two Ruddy Ducks in the Codroy Valley, Nfld., Sept. 2 (BMk) were deemed unusual.

HAWKS — The mountain of data compiled by Regional hawk-watchers will be touched upon only briefly here. In general the season was average or below average with a few exceptions, but those exceptions delighted the eager observers. Turkey Vulture reports fell below recent expectations. Only one was noted in Nova Scotia, that at Brier I., Oct. 12 (*vide* IAM), and one was late at Farmington, Me., Nov. 4 (WJH). Only in Rhode Island, where 32 individuals were noted Sept. 27-30 (*vide* DLE), and w. Massachusetts, where 70+ were observed Sept. 16 (*vide* SK), were they numerous. The outlook for Osprey appeared very optimistic with good numbers throughout the Region. Over 60 in coastal w. Newfoundland Sept. 2 (BMk) was considered excellent and the season total of 325 at S. Harpswell, Me., was the best ever at that site (GNA). There was little comment about Bald Eagle or N. Harrier. A major Sharp-shinned Hawk flight was in Newfoundland at Cape Race Oct. 11 when 45 were seen (BM). Thousands (?) of Sharp-shinned were at Brier I., N.S., Sept. 27-30 and 663 were in coastal Rhode Island Sept. 27 (*vide* DLE). The seasonal total of Sharp-shinned at S. Harpswell, Me. was 2754, the 2nd highest total recorded in 17 years (GNA). There was little mention of either Cooper's Hawk or N. Goshawk. Red-shouldered Hawk was also poorly reported but nine (including five adults) were at Brier I., N.S., Oct. 15 (*vide* IAM). September 17 was the day for Broad-winged Hawk at Mt. Wachusett when 17,404 were counted (PR *et al.*). The previous day saw a good movement with 5039 at Mt. Wachusett and 12,159 at 5 w. Massachusetts locations (*vide* SK). Late Broad-winged were again noted in Nova Scotia with 150+ at Dartmouth Oct. 10 and 35 at Brier I., Oct. 15 (*vide* IAM).

Rough-legged Hawk was scantily reported with possibly 15 observed Regionwide, mostly in November. The observer at the Hancock, Mass. location was rewarded with five Golden Eagles: singles Oct. 20 & 28, and three Oct. 31 (*vide* SK). The migration of Merlin was slightly above average with 124 noted at S. Harpswell, Me. (GNA). Apparently the tundra population of Peregrine Falcon is doing well with observers in the s. portion of the Region commenting on excellent numbers (*vide* RPE). Only four were noted in Newfoundland and about 25 in Nova Scotia thus reinforcing the notion that much of the Peregrine's migration is over ocean where frequently encountered around boats. An early Gyrfalcon was observed at G.M.N.P., Sept. 29 (AB) and a white individual was noted soaring over St. Johns, Nfld., Nov. 2 (BM). Possibly the same "gray" individuals were at E. Boston, Mass., Oct. 22 (NS) and at Plymouth, Mass., Oct. 24 (DE). Other Gyrfalcons were seen at Monomoy I., Mass., Nov. 22 and one delighted observers at New Haven, Conn., Nov. 11-18 (R. Schwartz, *vide* DV).

GROUSE THROUGH CRANES — Ruffed Grouse were said to be more common than usual in Nova Scotia with 60 individuals reported from 20 locations (*vide* IAM). Only a few single Clapper Rails were noted in s. portions of the Region and no King Rails were recorded. The Yellow Rail is undoubtedly a regular but much overlooked migrant throughout most of the Region due to its secretive habits. An active rail dog flushed one at Rowley, Mass., Sept. 14 and two in the same location Sept. 29 (GG). One inadvertently flushed in Bolton, Mass., Sept. 30 (ML) provided the only other Regional report. The Purple Gallinule can appear at almost any time in the Region and this season proved no exception. One was recently arrived on a boat at St.-Pierre, Aug. 1 (*vide* RE) and lone immatures were noted at Leverett, Mass., Oct. 13-18 (BL).

fide SK) and at Winterport, Me., Nov. 8 (*fide* SWW). American Coot numbers seem to be recovering from recent lows but no counts exceeded 100 individuals. The only Sandhill Cranes for the Region were one at Nantucket I., Mass., Oct. 25 (ML) and another seen at M.V., Oct. 7 (VL), rediscovered Oct. 15 and seen off and on for the remainder of the month.

SHOREBIRDS — The shorebird migration was disappointing, with few rarities; numbers of most species, especially w. North American tundra breeders, were below normal. Black-bellied Plovers reached peak numbers in late September but the highest count was 1000 at Monomoy I., Mass., Aug. 19 (BN). Lesser Golden-Plovers were widely reported. Over 100 were noted in Massachusetts in September (v.o.), 100 were at Grand Pre, N.S., Oct. 9 (RBS), 90 were at Cape Race, Nfld., Oct. 13 (BM) and 40+ were at Turner, Me., Oct. 12 (*fide* SWW). Semipalmated Plover was widespread with 1000 present at Conrads Beach, N.S., Aug. 9 (*fide* IAM), but a Piping Plover, seemingly scarce in the Region, was late at Lumsden Beach, Nfld., Aug. 24 (RB). Killdeers were well reported in Massachusetts during October (*fide* RPE). Testimony to the breeding success of Am. Oystercatcher at Monomoy I., Mass. was a count of 45 Sept. 13 (BN). Six lingered in Chatham, Mass. until Nov. 3 and one was very late at Napatree, R.I., Nov. 16 (*fide* DLE).

— S.A. —

Returning vagrant shorebirds were unexpected. Last year's **Common Greenshank** was present at Riverhead, Conception Bay, Nfld., Aug. 1-Nov. 30 (*fide* BM), this time in ad. plumage. Did it ever leave? A **Eurasian Curlew** was discovered at Tucker-nuck I., Mass., Sept. 5-13 where it was seen on 3 occasions, then at Monomoy I., Sept. 16-Oct. 1 and finally Nov. 23 (RRV, BN, WRP *et al.*). This individual was an adult in worn plumage and one wonders whether it was the same bird that was present in 1976 and 1978.

Seventy-five Willets at Monomoy I., Mass., Aug. 1 (BN) was largely the product of locally raised birds. Several reporters commented on the scarcity of Whimbrels but at Monomoy I., the peak was 230 in early August (BN). A "white-rumped" Whimbrel was at Nantucket, Mass., Aug. 9-10 (*fide* RPE). Hudsonian Godwit was formerly a Massachusetts specialty. This year's high count was a low 100 at Monomoy, Aug. 1 (BN). Elsewhere they were reported from Newfoundland (total 17), nine at Miquelon I. (RE), 28 at Matthews I., N.S., Aug. 16 (*fide* IAM), 30 at Scarboro, Me., Aug. 11 (*fide* SWW) and a total of 10 in Connecticut for the period were termed abundant (DV). Ten Marbled Godwits at Monomoy I., Mass., August to October (BN) exceeded the total for the remainder of the Region. The maximum count of the Red Knot at Scituate, Mass. was 1300 Aug. 6 (*fide* RPE). Western Sandpipers were reported in low numbers with a maximum of eight at Orleans, Mass., Sept. 8 (BN). A possible W. Sandpiper at Miquelon I., Aug. 30 would provide a new record for that location (*fide* RE). White-rumped Sandpipers were recorded in good numbers in n. areas with 600 at Eddie's Cove East, Nfld., Aug. 26 (BMk) and 100 still present at G.M.N.P., Nov. 6 (BMk). In Nova Scotia 150 White-rumped were at Hartlen Pt., Oct. 27 (*fide* IAM). Individuals were reported into late November in most of the Region. Baird's Sandpipers were in below-average numbers, thus six in Newfoundland Aug. 30-31 (BMk) were very unusual. A good flight of Pectoral Sandpipers materialized especially in n. areas where they are normally scarce. At G.M.N.P., 45 were seen Sept. 1 (BMk), 280+ were at Monmouth, Me., Oct. 21 (PDV) and 200 at Halifax, Mass., Oct. 27 (WRP). Many were reported into mid-November. The only Curlew Sandpipers were holdovers from the previous season at Squantum, Mass., to Aug. 3 (*fide* RPE) and one at Castalia Marsh, Grand Manan I., N.B., July 31 and Aug. 3 (CEG). Stilt Sandpiper was reported in very low numbers with the maximum only 21 at Plum I., Mass., Aug. 16 (*fide* RPE). Buff-breasted Sandpiper numbers were low but one was at St. Pauls, Nfld., Aug. 31 (RB) and another at Argentia, Nfld., Sept. 1-2 (BM, CB). Only three Ruffs were reported: at Machias Bay, Me., Aug. 24 (*fide* SWW), at Halifax, Mass., Sept. 15-17 (*fide* RPE) and Sable I., N.S., Oct. 3. Peak numbers of Long-billed Dowitchers were 90 at Plum I., Mass., Sept. 18 (RSH). Wilson's Phala-

ropes were widespread in the Region in very small numbers. Red-necked Phalarope was scantily reported offshore with no reports from the Passamaquoddy Bay stronghold. Red Phalarope reached a peak off Brier I., N.S., Sept. 8-9 when 10,000 were seen, and 3000 were still present Sept. 23 (*fide* IAM). Otherwise there were very few reports.

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMER — Reports of Pomarine Jaeger in the Cox's Ledge, R.I. area were 10 Aug. 25 and one at Pt. Judith, R.I., Nov. 29 was late (*fide* DLE). The best numbers of Parasitic Jaegers were during and after a storm in Cape Cod Bay, Mass., Sept. 15-16 when over 100 were seen (RSH, BN). A possible South Polar Skua was seen from the Nova Scotia to Newfoundland ferry crossing July 13-15 (ELM, IAM) and there were several sightings of Great Skua from the "Blue-nose" crossing. An unidentified skua was 75 mi s.w. of M.V., Aug. 25 (WRP *et al.*). Two Franklin's Gulls, both adults, were noted in the Region. One was at G.M.N.P., Nfld., Sept. 22 (BMk) and the other at Tuckernuck I., Mass., Sept. 5 (RRV). Three adult and four juvenile Com. Black-headed Gulls were at Stephenville Crossing, Nfld., Aug. 17 where they are suspected of breeding and numbers had built up to 90 in St. Johns, Nfld., in late November (BM). They were also reported in usual numbers around Halifax, N.S. Careful searching uncovered two to four different Mew Gulls in Newfoundland, September to November (BM). A few Iceland Gulls were noted early in Newfoundland and by Nov. 20 there were 435+ at Quidi Vidi Lake (BM). Forty were noted at Halifax, N.S., Nov. 24 (B. Dickie) but few were reported elsewhere in the Region. Lesser Black-backed Gull was recorded in every reporting area with the most famous being the Digby, N.S., individual which returned for its 14th year Oct. 6 (ELM). One thousand Black-legged Kittiwakes were at Brier I., Oct. 16 and good numbers were reported elsewhere. Very unusual was one at New Haven, Conn., Nov. 20 (*fide* DV). Sabine's Gulls were noted in Newfoundland during August while in Massachusetts 10 were seen in September and four in early October.

Royal Terns, typically mid-summer birds, were very scarce with two in Massachusetts and one in Rhode Island during September. Two Sandwich Terns were at M.V., Sept. 5 (VL) and one to two, possibly the same individuals, at Chatham, Mass., Sept. 16 (DE). An estimated 15,000 Common and Roseate terns came to a night roost at Monomoy I., Mass., Sept. 4 (BN) and 12,750 terns including both species were counted during a storm at Sandy Neck, Barnstable, Mass., Sept. 16 (RSH). An imm. Forster's Tern Oct. 13-15 at St. Mary's Bay, Nfld. (R. Elliot, J. O'Leary, *fide* BM) provided a first provincial record and another was seen at St. Johns, Nov. 21-28 (RB, BM). Average numbers of Forster's Terns were recorded from Maine through Connecticut. An ad **Bridled Tern** was well observed at Stellwagen Bank, Mass., Aug. 25 (W. Ellison). Black Terns were very scarce. Wandering post-breeding Black Skimmers from more s. breeding areas numbered 55 in Rhode Island and about 20 in Massachusetts during September.

ALCIDS — A Dovekie flight again failed to materialize with "very few so far" at St.-Pierre and Miquelon I. (RE), a "handful" off Brier and Seal Is., N.S., Nov. 3-10 (ELM), two singles in Maine during October (*fide* SWW) and fewer than 10 in Massachusetts in November (*fide* RPE). Only a few Common and Thick-billed murrelets were reported and except for an early individual Sept. 15 at Barnstable, Mass. (RSH), Razorbills were almost equally scarce. Ten Atlantic Puffins were off Brier I., N.S., Sept. 8-9 and 15 were there Sept. 23 (RBS). Eleven at Stellwagen Bank, Mass., all immatures, Oct. 28 was a good count for the location (*fide* RPE). Fifty Black Guillemots at Brier I., N.S., Nov. 3 (ELM) included migrants.

CUCKOOS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — Yellow-billed Cuckoos were notably scarce but late individuals were at Mt. Pearl, Nfld., in mid-October, one at Pubnico, N.S., Oct. 26 and one at Deer Isle, Me., Oct. 25. A Snowy Owl at Grand Barachois, Miquelon I., Oct. 30 was termed the "earliest ever" (RE). November reports were three at Cape Race, Nfld., Nov. 25 (J. Wells), one in Nova Scotia, one in Maine, four in Massachusetts, and two in Rhode Island. Clearly a flight was not in the offing. A Northern Hawk-Owl was seen in late October near Corner Brook, Nfld. (AB). The Regional total of nine Short-eared Owls included a post-breeding group of five at Monomoy I., Mass., in August (D. Holt). The Com. Nighthawk migration proceeded on time with no exceptional concentrations. However, small flocks of late birds were

20+ at Hartlen Pt., N.S., Sept. 17 (*vide IAM*) and 55 at Nantucket, Mass., Sept. 25 (N. Waldron) where they are very rare. A Chuck-will's-widow at Branford, Conn., Sept. 18 (NSP) was unique for the season. Flights of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were observed at Brier I., N.S., where 28 were seen Aug. 27 and 25 on Sept. 5 (*vide IAM*), while 13 were seen at Marblehead, Mass., also Sept. 5 (RSH).

Red-headed Woodpecker numbers were below average with three individuals in Nova Scotia being the most interesting. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was termed either average or scarce. A Three-toed Woodpecker was in N. New Portland, Me., Nov. 14-18 (*vide SWW*). Eight reports of Black-backed Woodpecker totalling 16 birds in Nova Scotia Sept. 28-Nov. 9 was more than usual (*vide IAM*). A Black-backed Woodpecker at Topsfield, Mass., Oct. 18-25 (J. MacDougall *et al.*) provided one of few recent reports for s. New England. Flights of N. Flicker at Brier I., N.S., were Sept. 7-9 ("thousands?"), Sept. 23, and Sept. 27-30 (*IAM*).

Eight Olive-sided Flycatchers at M.V., Sept. 5-8 (VL) was a fine total for this scarcely reported migrant. Holmes' banding totals at Appledore I., Me., between Aug. 20 and Sept. 9 provide an interesting comparison of the relative abundance of *Empidonax* flycatchers. His totals were 39 Least, 38 "Traill's" and 57 Yellow-bellied, 54 of which were banded Sept. 1-8. An Acadian Flycatcher, infrequently recorded in fall, was banded at Nantucket, Mass., Sept. 4 (E. Andrews). A late *Empidonax* in Peabody, Mass., Nov. 18 was carefully studied and thought to most closely resemble a Least Flycatcher (RSH). Three sightings of *Myiarchus* flycatchers, all thought to be Ash-throated but none positively identified, were as follows: Bethany, Conn., Oct. 6 (DV); Deer Isle, Me., Nov. 1 (*vide SWW*); St. John's, Nfld., Nov. 26 (RB). A W. Kingbird appeared at Searston, Nfld., Sept. 15 (CB) and another was at St. Pierre, Nov. 21-22 (RE). Farther s. monthly totals were eight in September, four in October, and seven in November. Seventy-five E. Kingbirds at Brier I., N.S., Aug. 27 was considered the highest count ever. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Monomoy I., Mass., Oct. 21 (H. Stabins, BN) was a rare fall occurrence. Yet another **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** was found in the Region, this one at Bailey I., Me., Oct. 24 (E. Schneider *et al.*) where it remained for several days to be enjoyed by other observers.

SWALLOWS THROUGH SHRIKES — A good flight of 200 Bank Swallows was seen at Brier I., N.S., Sept. 4 (ELM). Cliff Swallow is not known to breed in Newfoundland, so four at Codroy Oct. 12 and three at Branch Oct. 15 (BM, BMk) were unusual as well as very late. The only noticeable Blue Jay movement was noted in Nova Scotia where 2000 were seen in Yarmouth County Aug. 30 (*vide JSC*), 300 at Brier I., Oct. 7 with 500 there Oct. 15-16 (*vide JSC*). A Gray Jay was out of place at Quabbin Res., Mass., Oct. 21 (R. Coyle, *vide SK*). Indicative of the recent increase in Com. Ravens were 25 reported from 8 locations in w. Massachusetts from September to November (*vide SK*). In Connecticut a raven was seen at the Fairfield hawk watch Sept. 13, another at the New Canaan dump Nov. 2, and up to five were present at Barkhamstead Res., Nov. 11 and later (*vide DV*).

S.A.

The **Jackdaw** saga continued. Two (an increase of one) were seen at Nantucket, Mass. (*vide RPE*) where they were constantly present. Four were found at Cape Miquelon Aug. 14 where they remained until early October and were then relocated a week later in the village of Miquelon (RE). Hopefully a comprehensive account of the Jackdaw story will be forthcoming.

Boreal Chickadees were "swarming" in the trees in breeding areas in Nova Scotia but the only migratory individual was at Killingworth, Conn., Oct. 17 (NSP, *vide DV*). Red-breasted Nuthatches were in excellent numbers in Nova Scotia but there was no evidence of migrants. Farther s., observers were amazed at the lack of nuthatches. Winter Wren numbers were either low or unmentioned on. The only Sedge Wren for the Region was one at Plum I., Mass., Sept. 25 (*vide RPE*). Both kinglet species received good reviews with Golden-crowned being the most widely noted. In Newfoundland Golden-crowns were "very numerous" and "seem to be common throughout" (BMk). In Nova Scotia they were present from early September throughout the period

and were in "uncountable" numbers at Green Bay Sept. 29, 100+ were at Seal I., Nov. 8-9 (JSC). In w. Massachusetts 371 were reported from 17 locations (*vide SK*). Although receiving less comment, Ruby-crowned Kinglet was recorded in impressive numbers. Two hundred fifty were in the Codroy Valley, Nfld., Oct. 10 (BMk) and a like number were at Brier I., N.S., Oct. 7 (ELM) while a mere 100 were at Block I., R.I., Oct. 6 (*vide DLE*).

S.A.

The event of the season involved Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Their numbers were average during the normal migration period in late August and September. The picture improved in October and exploded in November. In Newfoundland one was found at St. John's Sept. 26, joined by another Oct. 7, and the two remained faithfully until Nov. 17. In Nova Scotia one to four were present in Halifax Oct. 27-Nov. 22 and at least five were at Brier I. in October in addition to the more routine migrants. In Massachusetts seven were recorded in November (last Nov. 22) and finally a single was noted in Rhode Island Nov. 22. This phenomenon seems inexplicable considering the dearth of other reverse migrants.

The only **Northern Wheatear** was observed at Plymouth, Mass., Oct. 27 (DE). The only thrush that instilled interest was Veery in Maine, 65 were banded at Appledore I., Sept. 1-8 (DWH) and 30+ were at Marblehead, Mass., Sept. 5 (RSH). The other thrushes were poorly reported with Gray-checked barely mentioned. American Robin migration was particularly apparent Oct. 26-28 in widely separated areas. At St.-Pierre and Miquelon there was a good migration Oct. 26-27 with several hundreds moving. At Lower West Pubnico, N.S., there was a "huge migration" Oct. 26 with robins flying over all day. These may have ended up in Lincoln, Mass., Oct. 28 where 2700 were observed (RAF). Northern Mockingbird received mention at St. John's, Nfld., Nov. 10-11 (RB) and St.-Pierre, Nov. 1 (RE), and seven were recorded in Nova Scotia. Water Pipit was widely reported in good numbers with 350 at M.V., Oct. 15 (VL), and 192 in the Sudbury Valley, Mass., Oct. 13 (RAF). A lone Bohemian Waxwing at St. John's, Nfld., Nov. 27 (BM, BMk) was "hopefully the vanguard of an invasion" but found no company elsewhere. Three N. Shrikes at G.M.N.P., Oct. 16-24 (BMk) constituted a flight compared with two in October and five in November elsewhere in the Region. A sad commentary on the status of Loggerhead Shrike was the meagre three in Massachusetts, Sept. 1-9 at Plum I., M.V., and Chatham (*vide RPE*).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — As mentioned previously the only wave occurred in early September. Dennis Varza stated the only flight was on the weekend of Sept. 1 when 20 species of warblers were observed. At Brier I., N.S., 113 species were observed Sept. 1. A late White-eyed Vireo was noted Oct. 27 at Cape Elizabeth, Me., where rare (*vide SWW*). A late Solitary Vireo was at Dartmouth, N.S., Nov. 25 (F. Lavender) and two individuals were seen in Massachusetts at Marblehead Nov. 6 (*vide RPE*) and Nantucket Nov. 15 (E. Andrews). A Yellow-throated Vireo was banded at Brier I., N.S., Sept. 2 (*vide PRD*) and a late individual was banded at Rockport, Mass., Oct. 5 (RTN). A Warbling Vireo at St. John's, Nfld., Oct. 21 & 23 (BM) provided only the 4th provincial record and the 3rd in October! Fourteen Philadelphia Vireos were banded at Appledore I., Me., Sept. 3-9 where 125 Red-eyed Vireos were banded Sept. 1-9 (DWH). The only other significant reports of either species were from Marblehead, Mass., Sept. 13 where 10+ Philadelphia's and 35+ Red-eyes were observed (RSH).

Further indications of a poor fall flight were no reports of Cerulean Warbler and only one Prothonotary, the latter banded at Appledore I., Me., Aug. 30 (DWH). Other s. warblers fared only slightly better. Two Blue-winged Warblers were at Seal I., N.S., in September (*vide IAM*) and a Golden-winged was at Brier I., Aug. 31 (JC). Fifteen Blue-winged Warblers were banded at Appledore I., Me., Aug. 22-Sept. 7 (DWH). Other banding totals that merit mention at Appledore I., Me., from Aug. 20 to Sept. 9 were 116 Cape May Warblers, 159 Am Redstarts and 240 N. Waterthrushes. The only Yellow-throated Warblers were Sept. 1 at M.V. (WM) and Sept. 12 at Peabody, Mass (RSH). Of the few Worm-eating Warblers the most intriguing report was of a bird netted Sept. 8 at Kingston, R.I. (DK, *vide DLE*) where it

had been banded in 1982. Two Kentucky Warblers were in Massachusetts, and the northernmost was one at Brier I., N.S., Aug. 28 (ES).

Good numbers of Orange-crowned Warblers were reported including four in Newfoundland where there were only 8 previous records, all since 1979 (*vide* BM). Unusually late was a Yellow Warbler at Falmouth, Mass., Nov. 10 (RSH). Forty-five Cape May Warblers in the Sudbury Valley, Mass., Sept. 1 (RAF) and 200+ at Monomoy I., Mass., Sept. 2 (WRP) represented better than normal counts. An impressive count of 1000+ Yellow-rumped Warblers was made at Brier I., N.S., Oct. 7 (ELM). A **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at Halifax, N.S., Nov. 24 to the end of the period (IAM, m.ob.) furnished only the 2nd confirmed provincial record. A Prairie Warbler at Miquelon village Sept. 20 (RE) was new for the islands and one at St. John's, Nfld., Nov. 9-29 (BM) provided only the 4th provincial record, all in November.

A Louisiana Waterthrush banded at Rockport, Mass., Aug. 6 (RTN) provided one of few migrant records for the species. The elusive Connecticut Warbler was almost nonexistent with a total of five during September in w. Massachusetts deemed low (*vide* SK). Mourning Warblers were reported in normal numbers as were Yellow-breasted Chats which were reported from Newfoundland to Connecticut. Late appearing honors go to Wilson's Warbler with one at St. John's, Nfld., in early November (BM), one at Halifax, N.S., Nov. 24 (IAM), one in Massachusetts Nov. 12 (*vide* RPE) and one at Warren, R.I., Nov. 16-17 (*vide* DLE).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — Summer Tanager is seldom reported anywhere in the Region in fall, so singles at Georgetown, Me., Sept. 24 (*vide* SWW) and at Falmouth, Mass., Sept. 16 (*vide* RPE) were noteworthy. Astounding was a female at Orono, Me., Nov. 1-8 (PDV). A Scarlet Tanager was late and unusual at Halifax, N.S., Nov. 3 (D. Currie). A W. Tanager at Squantum, Mass., Sept. 22 (B. Sorrie, *vide* RPE) was the only one reported. Blue Grosbeak was very sparsely reported in the Region. About 50 Dickcissels recorded for the Region was much better than previous years and may reflect pioneering breeding efforts a short distance to the s. American Tree Sparrow did not appear until early November in s. portions of the Region and then only in small numbers. Clay-colored Sparrow was slightly above average with one at St. John's, Nfld., Oct. 28 and another there Nov. 4 & 21 (BM, RB) representing only the 3rd and 4th provincial records. A Regional total of about 15 Lark Sparrows was average with one at Miquelon I., Sept. 13 (RE) furnishing only the 3rd local record. A Grasshopper Sparrow at Cape Spear, N.S., Nov. 10 (BM) provided about the 15th provincial record. A Henslow's Sparrow at Truro, Mass., Oct. 20 (J. Aylward, *vide* BN) proved the only Regional record. A possible Le Conte's Sparrow at Squantum, Mass., Oct. 25 (*vide* RPE) added to the growing number of reports of this elusive migrant. Seaside Sparrows at the n. limit of their range totalled seven at Newburyport, Mass., Oct. 28 and nine there Nov. 22 (RSH). The early November migration of Fox Sparrow fizzled and few were reported throughout the Region. Special search proved that Lincoln's Sparrows could be found in most weedy fields in Connecticut during September and October (DV). White-crowned Sparrow received mixed reviews with most reporters feeling they were below average, but Seth Kellogg termed the migration average in w. Massachusetts. Was the bulk of the migration inland? Dark-eyed Junco fared better than any other species in the Region this fall. In Connecticut they were considered abundant with "large flocks all over the woods this fall" (DV). At St.-Pierre and Miquelon I. they were "fairly common" (RE) and in Nova Scotia they were the "most numerous of the group with flocks increasing in size as fall approached" (*vide* PRD). Further testimony to their abundance were counts of 520 in Millis, Mass., Oct. 25 and 145 in E. Quabbin, Mass., Nov. 10 (*vide* RPE).

Lapland Longspur reports were unremarkable but Snow Bunting was commented on widely. Peak counts were at Nantucket, Mass., Nov. 18 where 1000 were noted (*vide* RPE) and 800 at Monomoy I., Mass., Nov. 24 (BN). Fifteen hundred Bobolinks were the highest Regional count at Halifax, Mass., Sept. 4 (WRP) and a late individual was at Hartlen Pt., N.S., Nov. 18 (*vide* PRD). Most blackbird species were reported in large numbers to the end of the period due to mild weather. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported in normal numbers from Nova Scotia with about 25 reports. Northern Oriole passed by without much notice but four in the same tree in St. John's, Nfld., Nov. 30 (RB) were

decidedly late

The winter finches proved their unpredictable nature. In s. sections the finches were reduced to a small flurry of "fly overs" in late September and October, then none. This included Evening Grosbeak. In the n. portion of the Region the distribution was equally confused. In Newfoundland Pine Grosbeaks were in "normal numbers" and in Nova Scotia there were the "usual few" (*vide* PRD) but in Maine they were "staying north" (*vide* SWW). Red Crossbills were reported only as far s. as Nova Scotia where they were "scarce" (*vide* PRD). White-winged Crossbills responded to a heavy cone crop in Nova Scotia where 2000+ were reported. Maxima were 1200 at Seal I., Oct. 21 (*vide* PRD) and 500 at Digby, Oct. 15. Common Redpolls were scarce except in Maine where they were "many" in late October at Mt. Desert I. (WT) and 30+ at St. Francis, Nov. 6 (*vide* SWW). Pine Siskin was widely reported in small flocks from n. New Hampshire northward from October on. Even the Evening Grosbeak was scarce, not appearing in the hundreds at St. John's, Nfld., until November. A few Evening Grosbeaks began to filter into s. regions in late November.

UNCONFIRMED REPORTS — Several reports of Long-tailed Jaeger were received. None was accompanied with convincing details. Reports of Little Stint and Spoon-billed Sandpiper in Massachusetts caused much excitement but details were inconclusive at best. Better documented was a possible Long-toed Stint in Rhode Island, but the photograph of the footprint was not sufficient evidence for this writer. A Barnacle Goose in Connecticut under puzzling circumstances awaits clarification.

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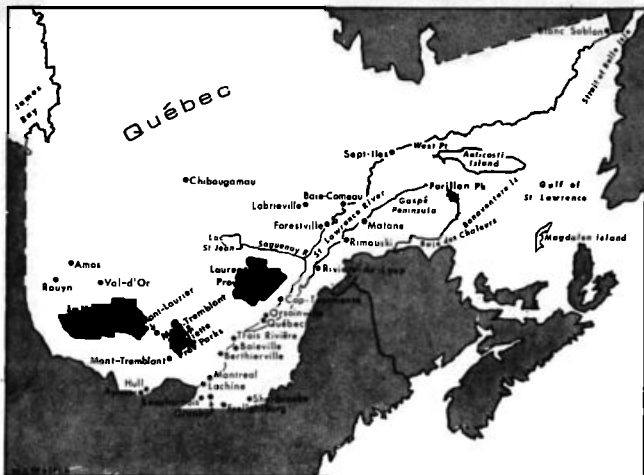
QUEBEC REGION

/Richard Yank and Yves Aubry

Warm weather predominated in August and, with the exception of central Quebec, rainfall was above average. Temperatures were generally cooler than normal during September with precipitation levels below average in the south and above average in the north. With few exceptions October weather was mild and dry. While temperatures averaged slightly above the mean in November, extreme highs and lows were recorded with significant snowfall in western Quebec at mid-month.

The wild food supply was exceptional this fall, with record cone production (particularly spruce) in all areas and a bumper crop of mountain-ash berries.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — An Arctic Loon was seen at Kangisjuuaq Aug. 19 (RS), adding to the records from Ungava Bay. A N. Fulmar and a Greater Shearwater were sighted off I. aux Basques Oct. 5 (MS, MD) and Oct. 7 (CA, CN) respectively, remarkably far upstream on the St. Lawrence R. Fifteen Manx Shearwaters attended fishing boats off the port of Grosse-Ile, Madeleine Is., in early September (TH). Single Wilson's Storm-Petrels provided rare sights at Quebec City Oct



13 (PP *et al.*) and LaPocatière Oct. 19 (CA), well w. of the St. Lawrence Estuary. While a Leach's Storm-Petrel at Quebec City Nov. 1 (JPO) was considered a regular fall occurrence, one found inland at Mauricie N.P., Oct. 18 (MB, RL, * N.M.N.S.) was most surprising. In addition, two imm. Northern Gannets reached Beauharnois Nov. 28 (GD) and an ad. Great Cormorant wandered up the Ottawa R. to Aylmer Nov. 12 (BD). In the Upper Saguenay R., the Double-crested Cormorant seems to be increasing as a spring and fall migrant; 110 at LaBaie Sept. 1 (GS) represented by far the largest concentration ever recorded there. This fall's influx of s. herons included a Great Egret at Beauport (CV, DB), a Snowy Egret at Saint-Pierre-d'Orléans (FG, AD), an imm. Little Blue Heron at Milby (FVo, DM *et al.*) and an adult at Huntingville (SG), as well as single Cattle Egrets at LaPérade (DJ) and Yamaska P.P. (AV, FV), and two at Drummondville (BN). Two Green-backed Herons at Saint-Henri-de-Taillon Sept. 10 (DA) provided yet another sighting of this species in the L. Saint-Jean area.

WATERFOWL — A Tundra Swan was present at L. Magog Sept. 22-23 (PB, JR *et al.*). An ad. Greater White-fronted Goose was shot by hunters at Péribonka Oct. 1 (ES), constituting a first record for L. Saint-Jean. A Snow Goose reached Cap-d'Espoir Oct. 8 (DBe) and five were bagged by hunters in the Madeleine Islands this fall (*vide* PF). A Ross' Goose at Pointe-au-Père Sept. 30 (YG) and a Brant at LaBaie Nov. 3 (GS, HS) both provided first fall records for their respective regions. A Brant summered at Baie-des-Bacon on the St. Lawrence R. to mid-August (*vide* GC), as likely did a bird at Barachois Aug. 9 (PLe, JL). Three juv. Shelducks (*T. tadorna*) at Quebec City Aug. 22 (CV) were considered to be of captive origin, despite being unbanded. A pair of Wood Ducks with six young was observed at Saint-Gédéon Sept. 2 (CC, JG), representing a 2nd breeding record at the n. edge of the species' range. Worthy of mention were two Redheads at Rimouski Sept. 10 (YG) where few fall records are known. A large flock of 1300 Ring-necked Ducks gathered on L. Boivin in Granby Oct. 29 (SD). A Ruddy Duck at Pointe-Label Oct. 20 & 23 (GC, GB *et al.*) provided one of very few records from the North Shore and another was noted at Cacoua Oct. 27 (GG).

S.A.

A probable Redhead x Canvasback hybrid was discovered at Beauport May 27 or 28 and what was believed to be the same bird was there again for several days in August (CV). The description indicated a male of the Redhead type. The main features included dark gray sides and back; a dull reddish head with sloping forehead, less rounded than that of a typical Redhead; a large all-black bill, less massive than that of a Canvasback and flat at the tip; dull red eyes; in flight, only the secondaries were lighter gray than the coverts. The bird was in the company of Am. Black Ducks and other dabblers. It was not examined in the hand. Six cases of hybridization between these 2 species were apparently reported between 1972 and 1982 (Haramis 1982, *Wilson Bull.* 94: 599-602) from Wisconsin, New York, Maryland (2) and Virginia (2).

VULTURES THROUGH CRANES — Turkey Vultures continued to be seen more and more frequently in s. Quebec: a flock of 30+ birds over Philipsburg Sept. 29 (PM *et al.*) was the largest ever recorded in the province, two frequented hills near Granby all summer (ST), and lone birds ranged to Grand Etang, Gaspé Co., Aug. 10 (YL) and Percé Sept. 9 (RB). Totals from the fall hawkwatch off the w. tip of Montreal Island were high for Sharp-shinned Hawk (404) and Red-tailed Hawk (765, record high total) and about average for other species (MM, BB). A Gyrfalcon was early at Rimouski Sept. 21 (GG). Broods of Am. Coots were found at Saint-Gédéon Aug. 14 (AG, GS) and L. Echo, Témiscamingue Co., July 31 (MSu, SG), both new nesting localities for this species at the n. limit of its range. Sandhill Cranes stopped over in the Eastern Townships with one at Saint-Venant July 31-Aug. 21 (RP, PD) and two at Cherry-River Sept. 13-16 (JPA).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH GULLS — The fall shorebird migration held few highlights. A group of 40 Whimbrels at Dundee Aug. 22 (FS, DG) was notable for w. Quebec, as was a Marbled Godwit at LaSalle Aug. 12 (PBa, m.ob.). A bird of the latter species was reported from the Madeleine Islands in early September (TH). A flock of 900 Ruddy Turnstones at Pointe-au-Père Aug. 3 (YG) represented an excellent total for this species. A record-late Pectoral Sandpiper remained at Melocheville Nov. 24 (PBa). Purple Sandpipers were widely reported this fall with a high of 86 at Pointe-au-Père Nov. 13 (YG). A juv. Pomarine Jaeger appeared at Quebec City Oct. 21 & 26 (CV) and a Parasitic Jaeger was sighted on the Ottawa R. at Aylmer Sept. 3 (BD). A Great Skua was well-documented by observers on the Trois-Pistoles ferry Sept. 9 (JPO, DL, PL); there are very few reliable records of skuas for the Region, and this was the first for which the species involved has been established.

Unusual larids included a Laughing Gull at Portneuf (CM) and ad. Franklin's Gulls at Sherbrooke (VL), Baie-Sainte-Catherine (LM, FM) and Ragueneau (MD, CB). There were some 15 reports of Little Gulls from the n. shore of the Lower St. Lawrence R., and an adult at Magog Oct. 4 (VL) was unusual inland. Also becoming a regular sight along the Lower St. Lawrence is Com. Black-headed Gull; the 15 birds tallied this fall included eight at Matane Aug. 6 (JRo). A first-winter Mew Gull of the Eurasian race was an excellent find at Beauharnois Oct. 27 (BB, MM). A Thayer's Gull was at Aylmer Nov. 3 (DSH) & 25 (RD, GDe), and ad. Lesser Black-backed Gulls visited Beauharnois Nov. 17-24 (MM, BB, RY) and Montmorency Nov. 1-Dec. 7 (CV, CS); an adult was also seen at the latter site in 1982. A Black-legged Kittiwake at Aylmer Nov. 12 (BD) was locally rare, while 2500+ were counted off Pointe-au-Père during a one-hour period Oct. 31 (YG). An imm. Sabine's Gull graced Beauharnois Sept. 15-16 (PBa, TAR), while a bird was apparently seen well off the Baie-Comeau ferry Nov. 13 (GB), an exceptionally late date for this species and the first November sighting in this Region.

TERNs THROUGH OWLS — A Caspian Tern at Grandes-Bergeronnes Aug. 25 (CC, MBo, NB) and a Forster's Tern at Châteauguay Oct. 17 (GD, PBa) were both noteworthy. Two extralimital Black Terns were at Baie-Sainte-Catherine Aug. 26 (AL). The Matane ferry crossing produced eight Dovekies and three Thick-billed Murres Nov. 24 (TAR). No influx of cuckoos was detected this fall, but a Black-billed Cuckoo did stray to Pt. Manicouagan Oct. 1 (GB). Two lucky observers saw a Com. Barn-Owl flying over fields at Cap-Tourmente Oct. 1 (AD, JPO). Northern Hawk-Owls showed up at Sainte-Anne-de-Portneuf (GB, AP), Manic-1 Dam (CD), and Sherbrooke (BDe *et al.*) during the period. A freshly-shot Great Gray Owl was recovered at Bicquette I., Oct. 6 (*vide* TAR); this constituted a most unusual fall record for such an easterly location. The only Boreal Owl reported was sitting on the dock at Pointe-au-Père Oct. 9 (TAR).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS — A W. Kingbird strayed to Pointe-au-Père Sept. 30 (YG), near where the species was found in June. A ♂ Purple Martin at Escoumins Aug. 1 (RG) represented only the 2nd sighting for the n. Shore e. of the Saguenay River. Two Black-capped Chickadees were observed at km 381 along the James Bay Road Oct. 16 (PBa, PC, DBo), slightly beyond the n. edge of their known range. The Rimouski area had its 3rd Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Sept. 2 & 4 (GG). Two Bohemian Waxwings at Caniapiscau Aug. 7

(MAV, *vide* ND) established only the 2nd "summer" record for Quebec. An impressive concentration of 500 Tennessee Warblers, mainly immatures, was encountered in a field at Rimouski Aug. 11 (YG). A record late Black-throated Green Warbler first noted at Aylmer Nov. 9 (JD) was still present at the end of the period. Pine Warblers were again found along the s. shore of the Lower St. Lawrence River: at a LaPocatière feeder Oct. 24 (CA) and at Bic Nov. 4 (TAR). An ad. Connecticut Warbler at Rimouski Sept. 24 (TAR) was convincingly described; this was the most easterly sighting for the Region.

DICKCISSEL THROUGH CROSSBILLS — A rare Dickcissel came to a Jonquière feeder Oct. 1-9 (CG), but one at Saint-Lazare Aug. 25 (MM, BB) could not be located the next day. A ♂ Rufous-sided Towhee frequented a feeder at Baie-Trinité Nov. 5-30+ (YB, LF) and Clay-colored Sparrows turned up at Rimouski and Lac-des-îles, Sept. 15 (CG) & 16 (RD) respectively. Two meadowlarks (sp.) strayed to Lourdes-de-Blanc-Sablon Sept. 4 (MD, CB) where either species is unprecedented. Also in the category of fall vagrants were the following N. Orioles: an ad. male at Bonaventure I., Aug. 9 (PLe) and a female at a Hauterive feeder Oct. 22-26 (LD, CD). A large flock of 1000 Pine Siskins was seen at Sainte-Pétronille Oct. 27 (CV). High numbers of White-winged Crossbills continued to be reported from all regions; a few had reached extreme s.w. Quebec by early November.

CORRIGENDUM — The Greater White-fronted Goose at Métabet-

chouan should be deleted from the Spring 1984 Report.

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HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

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

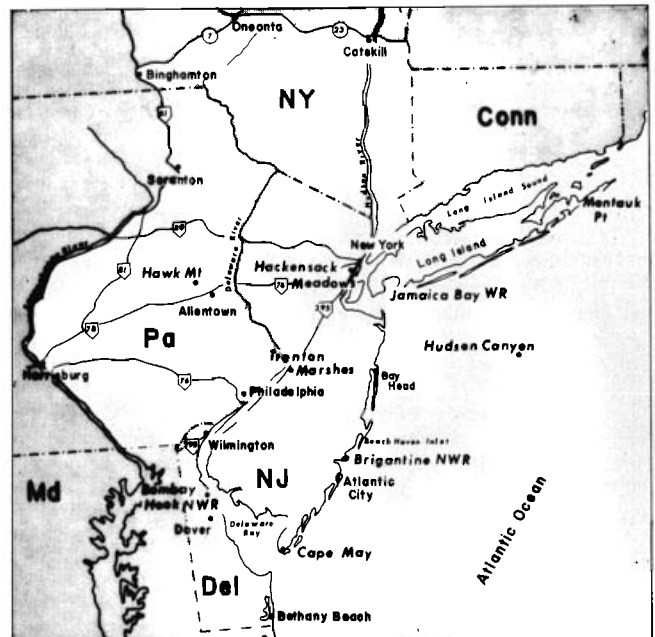
A number of things combined to make most species of birds seem scarce this season. Mild temperatures kept weather-sensitive divers and ducks in the north. Prevailing winds were southwesterly; the few cold fronts passed to the north of this Region, producing northeast winds here. In the absence of cold fronts hawks failed once again to concentrate along the ridges. An abundant wild food crop—according to various observers the most abundant since 1976, or the "best I've ever seen" (BW)—kept birds away from feeders. Cyclical species like Red-breasted Nuthatches, winter finches, and northern raptors hit bottom. With few exceptions, birds just trickled through.

A major exception was a late cold front that ended weeks of balmy calm on October 23 and then stalled in drizzle over the coast. A spectacular "grounding" of night migrants followed. As Rick Wiltraut and Nick Pulcinella described it at Cape May, "during the afternoon of 10/23 the wind shifted to NW. I spent about four hours at Cape May Point, from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m., listening for migrants. There were hundreds of chips and zits all around. . . . The numbers were unbelievable" (NP). The following night, Oct. 24-25, "the sky was filled with the sounds of all kinds of birds. Warblers, Bobolinks . . . herons . . . Occasionally a Dickcissel or Barn Owl was heard. I stayed up until 4:00 a.m. listening to the spectacle" (RW). The same front grounded water birds in the interior.

Many species lingered late in the mild autumn. There were enough remarkable rarities, moreover, to make up for the paucity of many regular migrants.

ABBREVIATIONS — Bombay Hook = Bombay Hook Nat'l Wildlife Ref., near Smyrna, Del.; Brig = Brigantine Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Atlantic Co., N.J.; H.M. = the Hackensack marshes, between Kearny and N. Arlington, N.J.; J.B.W.R. = Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref., New York City; N.Y.S.A.R.C. = New York State Avian Rarities Committee; Tinicum = Tinicum National Recreation Center, Philadelphia.

LOONS THROUGH STORM-PETRELS — Relatively few loons were around until the late October cold front. Four Red-throated Loons and eight Horned Grebes at Muddy Run, Lancaster, Pa., Oct. 30 (RMS), and three Red-throated Loons, 180 Com. Loons, and two Red-necked Grebes in the same period at Culver's L., Sussex, N.J. (FT) were the most spectacular examples of that front's inland fallout. An Arctic Loon was carefully described at Island Beach S.P., N.J., Oct. 12 (†RJB, BMe). This fall's Eared Grebe was at Island Beach S.P., N.J., Nov. 6 (†NP, AG).





Buller's Shearwater (left) with Greater Shearwater, off New Jersey, Oct. 28, 1984. Photo/Gerry De Waghe.



Buller's Shearwater off New Jersey, Oct. 28, 1984. Apparently a first record for the Atlantic Ocean. Photo/Michael Danzenbaker.



Buller's Shearwater off New Jersey, Oct. 28, 1984. Photo/Gerry De Waghe.

—S.A.—

The most remarkable bird in many seasons here was the **Buller's Shearwater** found Oct. 28, 31 mi e.s.e. of Barnegat Light, N.J. (39° 38'N, 73° 25'W, at 20 fathoms), in a major tubenose concentration that included 400 Greater Shearwaters, a half-dozen Cory's Shearwaters, 40-60 Manx Shearwaters, and a few N. Fulmars (†AB, DS *et al.*). Since this shearwater, which breeds in New Zealand and spends the austral winter in the n. Pacific, had never before been recorded in the Atlantic, the record would be preposterous except for a series of photos that together confirm the identification (M. Danzenbaker, G. De Waghe, reviewed by R. Stallcup, W. Russell, F. B. Gill *et al.*).

If surprises are still possible in pelagic birding, the true frontier is the deep water beyond the continental shelf, beyond the range of most birding trips. A Manomet Bird Observatory Marine Observer Program cruise in deep water off s. New Jersey and Delaware July 31-Aug. 9 (D.S. Evered) found that once the moderately high densities of mid-shelf waters (Cory's and Greater shearwaters and Wilson's Storm-Petrels) were left behind, "the density of seabirds in deep waters off the continental shelf was low." Wilson's and Leach's storm-petrels were the predominant species in Gulf Stream waters, the latter occurring in flocks occasionally exceeding 30. Leach's Storm-Petrels were not recorded away from deep waters. "The deep Gulf Stream waters also held low densities of Manx and Audubon's shearwaters" (six and 13 respectively).

Evered's choicest finds were a **White-faced Storm-Petrel** at 38°29'N, 72°42'W, off the Maryland-Delaware line, and at least eight **Band-rumped Storm-Petrels** off Delaware and s. New Jersey, including four at 38°55'N, 72°21'W. This report lends credence to a study belatedly received of a storm-petrel picked out of a flock of Wilson's Storm-Petrels at Hudson Canyon (39°35'N, 72°25'W) May 26, 1984. The observers (†BS, JDD, H. Morrin) were convinced that this was a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel because its feet did not project beyond the tail and its prominent white rump-patch was differently configured. In the light of David Lee's recent observations off Cape Hatteras (AB 38:151-163) this species may be regular in deep water off our Region. Heretofore Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (formerly Harcourt's Petrel) was known in the n.e. United States only from storm-borne waifs, one in w. Pennsylvania in 1912 (G.M. Sutton) and one in Ontario in 1933.

—S.A.—

One does not normally think of herons as nocturnal migrants. Calling Great Blue Herons (over 1000 [MM, FN], possibly more [CS]), Green-backed Herons (70-75 on Oct. 24-25 [RW]), and Black-crowned Night-Herons were among conspicuous night sounds of the great passage of Oct. 23-25 at Cape May. At dawn Oct. 24 some 200 Great Blue Herons were taking off from Cape May Point (NP), while about 250 settled there at dawn the following morning (RW). Across the mouth of Delaware Bay, a wedge of 60 white herons arrived at Cape Henlopen after sunset Oct. 24, headed S, about half of them Great Egrets (WWF).

Hérons lasted here and there through the season, though early high water kept numbers low inland. Unusually widespread White Ibises, all immatures, included one at Whitesbog, *Burlington*, N.J., Aug. 2 (L. Little), two among the Cattle Egrets at Rookery I., Washington Boro, *Lancaster*, Pa., Aug. 1 (RMS), and two around Cape May from late August into early September.

WATERFOWL — A single Greater White-fronted Goose was at Bombay Hook throughout October and one passed over Cape May with Canada Geese Nov. 15 (CS, DS, RM). Our warm weather did not influence arctic departures, of course, and the first Snow Geese arrived

at Brig and Bombay Hook early on the minor cool front of Sept. 16-17 (SRL *et al.*). Their numbers had reached record levels of 20,000-25,000 at Primehook N.W.R., Del., and 65,000 at Bombay Hook by the end of the season (refuge pers.). For the 3rd straight year a **Ross' Goose** was at Brig from Oct. 22 (RM) to at least Nov. 1 (RK), while another was at Bombay Hook after Oct. 24 for the 3rd record since 1981 (D. Knarr). Closer scrutiny has proven this species, considered an improbable vagrant before 1981, to be annual.

The combined populations of Snow Geese and Canada Geese in Delaware at the opening of hunting season reached about a quarter of a million, according to Tony Florio of the state Division of Fish and Wildlife. The geese have wintered in Delaware rather than going on to the Carolinas for the last 25 years or so, encouraged by public feeding programs.

Among the waterfowl feeding in harvested cornfields near Primehook N.W.R. in late October and early November were 5000 Wood Ducks (refuge pers.). An average seven Eur. Wigeons were reported along the coast, mostly from the New York City area. One in *Montour*, Pa., Nov. 17 (D. Wood) and another at Middle Creek W.M.A., *Lebanon*, Pa. from Oct. 21 into early November (F. Gochenaur) were less usual.

Few diving ducks had arrived by season's end, though there were a few notable sea duck groundings in late October. The most remarkable interior Oldsquaw counts were of 181 in 4 flocks flying N over Muddy Run Nov. 15, in what Schutsky suspected was reverse migration toward the Great Lakes as S winds ended a cold snap (RMS), and local records of 27 and 30 at Culver's L., Oct. 24 and Nov. 2 (FT). All 3 scoters were grounded inland at the end of October. Black Scoters predominated as usual: the best counts were 200 at Beltzville Lake S.P., Pa., in a rainstorm Oct. 29 (MC), along with a White-winged Scoter, and 200 Black and six White-winged scoters at Culver's Lake the same day (FT). A ♀ Surf Scoter at a quarry near Allentown, Pa., Oct. 26-27 (S. Smith, m.ob.) provided the 2nd *Lehigh* record.

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES — Two of the steadily increasing Black Vultures reached New York State, where they accompanied 100 Turkey Vultures at a Goshen, *Orange* dump until about Oct. 4 (JPT, BW *et al.*). Osprey numbers were good again; Hawk Mt.'s 579 and Cape May's 1838 have been surpassed only once in the last decade, and 83 at Hawk Mt., Sept. 26 was the 3rd-highest day count ever (LG). Cape May had its now-regular fall Mississippi Kite, but only one, Sept. 16 (FN).

Bald Eagle reports were mostly encouraging. In addition to wide-spread singles, 41 (19 adults, 22 immatures) made Hawk Mt.'s best total since 1968, while 35 at Bake Oven Knob, *Lehigh*, Pa. (*vide* BLM) and 21 (five adults, 16 immatures) at Raccoon Ridge, *Warren*, N.J. (FPW) were records. An immature with a yellow wing tag at Beach Haven, n.e. Pa., Oct. 5-13 had been hacked last July at Tupper L., in the New York Adirondacks; both of two captured by banders at Cape May had previously been banded, one hacked in New York State, the other a wild bird from Maine. A steady coastal flow of Sharp-shinned Hawks regardless of weather fronts added up to a record 61,167 at the Cape May hawk watch (FN), but flights were not concentrated inland.

The Broad-winged Hawk flight was dispersed in both space and time in the calm weather. The first push came early, Sept. 13 (Hawk Mt.'s biggest day, with 3109 [LG]), but the main concentration formed between the lower Hudson Valley and Massachusetts just after mid-September. Our Region's high counts were 7403 over Mt. Aspetong, *Westchester*, N.Y., Sept. 16 (T. Baptist), 5706 over Montclair, N.J., that day and 10,001 the next (ABi), and 5000 over Bear Mt., *Orange*, N.Y., Sept. 18 (*vide* A. Martin and J. Cinquina). Swainson's Hawks reached their 2nd-highest Regional total: one at Hawk Mt., Oct. 23 (J. Brett, m.ob.), a dark-phase bird reported from both Baer Rocks and Bake Oven Knob Nov. 3 (F. Brock, KK), and up to five different individuals in the Cape May area beginning Sept. 29-30 (PD, FN, CS, m.ob.). Most Rough-legged Hawks stayed n.

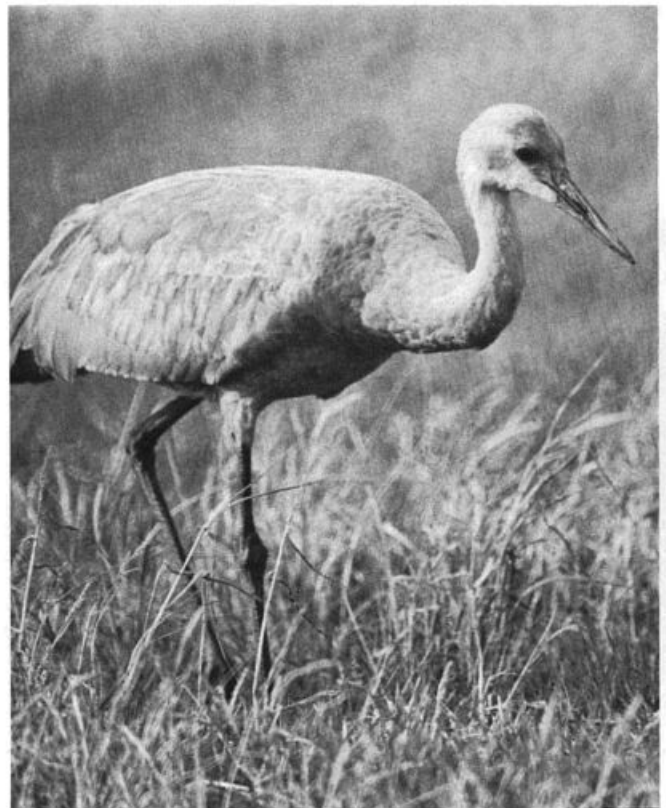
American Kestrel figures continued to be disquieting; Hawk Mt.'s 342 was the lowest since 1964, while Cape May's 9259, while better than the last 2 falls, was well below the 1975-1981 average. Other coastal-migrating falcons, however, set new records, possibly concentrated by frequent NE winds. Merlins reached 2375 at the Cape May hawk watch; Peregrine Falcons reached 518 there (FN), with a rather early peak of 53 Sept. 23. The previous record had been 363, set in

1982. These were mostly wild Peregrines, for the banders found only three hacked birds among the 53 they trapped at Cape May. There were Gyrfalcons again, as in every fall since 1980. A gray-phase bird was along Route 130 in *Middlesex*, N.J., Nov. 22 (B. Conn)—have they caught the roadside habit from Am. Kestrels? On Long Island, a gray-phase bird passed Montauk Pt. headed W Nov. 17 (S. Terrill, *vide* PAB) and Nov. 25 it or its twin took up winter residence on the Jones Beach S.P. water tower (C. & M. Girards, T. LeViness, m.ob.).

If our reports are a fair sample, the rarer rails preferred suburbia this season. Both a Yellow Rail found by window shoppers in New Rochelle, N.Y., Oct. 14 (C. Croton *et al.*), and a Black Rail in a shopper's mall in Cape May Oct. 13 (RM *et al.*) were released in suitable habitat. A Sandhill Crane, now annual in this Region, was at Belle Meade, *Somerset*, N.J., Nov. 4-11 (W. Loery, m.ob., ph.) and what was probably the same bird turned up at Cape May Nov. 13, following a blustery cold front (m.ob.).

SHOREBIRDS — The general shorebird picture was affected both by distant conditions and by local ones. Arthur Morris, continuing Tom Davis' shorebird studies at J.B.W.R., found that returning adults peaked more than a week early, for reasons unknown to us. Then they remained later than usual in the mild autumn, so that numbers were higher than normal in late October and November. High water levels left over from the wet summer spoiled early shorebirding at such sites as Green Lane Res., *Montgomery*, Pa., but created good "grasspiping" at sites like Spring Creek, near Allentown, and the muddy fields around Elmer, *Salem*, N.J. Later in the season lakes and drawn-down reservoirs, such as Mercer County P., N.J., and Ashokan Res., *Ulster*, N.Y., produced good inland habitat. Good habitat was always available on the coast. So the scarcity of w. species probably reflected unfavorable winds aloft as well.

Lesser Golden-Plovers were the only plains waders in good numbers, perhaps because they are independent of water levels. The major counts were concentrated at mid-September: 85 at the Warren Turf farms, *Orange*, N.Y., Sept. 21 (JPT), up to 110 around Assunpink W.M.A., *Mercer*, N.J., Sept. 15 (RK *et al.*), 139 over Brig Sept. 16 (JDD), and 13 at the Philadelphia sewage treatment plant Sept. 25 (NP). Farther s.



Immature Sandhill Crane at Belle Meade, N.J., Nov. 10, 1984. Photo/ Arthur Panzer.

they peaked Oct 28 at the Mercer sod farm, *Columbus*, N.J., with 150 (J Courtney), and Wayne found 80 in a plowed Delaware potato field while making a roadside hawk survey Oct. 25. Buckley has submitted details to N.Y.S.A.R.C. on three juveniles at Mecox, L.I., Sept. 17 believed to have been of the e. Asian race *fulva*. That Killdeer are prospering is suggested by figures of 430 in muddy pastures near Elmer, *Salem*, N.J. Oct. 9 (JHg), 250 at the Mercer sod farms, *Columbus*, N.J., Oct. 25 (BMo), and 200-300 at Mercer County P., Oct. 26-29 (RK, M & PT).

The Black-necked Stilt outpost population at Bombay Hook reached a record 55 at the end of July (K. C. Liehr); the last five were seen Sept. 15 (APE, JFS). American Avocets, too, reached a record total of about 350 there in late August-early September (APE, JFS). One straggled N to Brig Sept. 22 (RD *et al.*), and an unprecedented three to J.B.W.R., Oct. 4 (AM). A Solitary Sandpiper was rather late at Cape May Pt., Nov. 16 (RDB).

Upland Sandpiper numbers were discouraging again. The only counts over 30 were 33 at the Philadelphia Airport Aug. 17 (JCM) and 38 at the Mercer sod farms, *Columbus*, N.J., Aug. 7 (S. Hait). Hudsonian Godwits were in good numbers along the coast, e.g., eight Sept. 16 at J.B.W.R. (AM) and 13 at the Line Islands, in Great South Bay near Amityville, L.I., Aug. 8 (*vide* TWB) but unusually frequent inland. One at Ashokan Res., Oct. 10-29 provided the first *Ulster*, N.Y., record (FM); three near Clarksburg, *Monmouth*, N.J., Sept. 15 were firsts for interior n. New Jersey (RK *et al.*); and singles were unexpected at the Philadelphia sewage treatment plant Sept. 18 (NP) and at the Mercer sod farm, N.J., Oct. 25-28 (B. Nixdorf, T. Courtney). About a dozen Marbled Godwits, with a maximum of five at Brig Aug. 11 (CS), were about average. Red Knots, among the most site-faithful of shorebirds, set a local record with 1685 July 31 at J.B.W.R. (AM), and reached a good 1000 at Pickering Beach, Del., Aug. 8 (APE); more remarkable was one Oct. 8 at Pittston, n.e. Pennsylvania, Reid's 3rd in 34 years (WR).

About 14 Baird's Sandpipers were quite widespread, but only 4 reports were as high as two: Warren turf farms, *Orange*, N.Y., Aug. 28 (J Yrizarry, JPT), Brig Sept. 22 (ECS), J.B.W.R., Sept. 27 (J. G. Williams), and Cape May Sept. 15 & 30 (*vide* PD). Only three or four Curlew Sandpipers were reported, singles at J.B.W.R. (DK, AM), Brig (ECS), and Bombay Hook (L. Sultan). No concentrations of Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found, the best counts being four at Green Lane Sept. 16 (RB), five at New Sharon, N.J., Sept. 8 (S. Kuitens), six at a sod farm at Miller Place, L.I., Sept. 13 (J. McConville), and seven in the Cape May area Sept. 8-9 (*vide* PD). Ruff reports were the lowest in years; we learned of only two, both in Delaware (BMo, R. Kleen). The status of Long-billed Dowitchers is complicated by confusion with the *hendersoni* race of Short-billed Dowitcher early in the season, before juveniles arrive; one was identified beyond doubt by call Aug. 18 at the H.M. Environmental Center, Lyndhurst, N.J. (RK, FFR).

Wilson's Phalaropes grow commoner each year. In addition to good coastal counts—the best being 19 at Raymond Pool, Bombay Hook, Sept. 1 (JWR)—they were widespread in the interior. Multiple counts from inland included 3 reports of three each: Spring Creek Aug. 2 (RW, S Boyce), the H.M. at N. Arlington, Aug. 25 (DHR), and the Philadelphia sewage treatment plant Sept. 19 (NP). An average seven Red-necked Phalaropes included two at Green Lane Sept. 16 (RB). The only Red Phalarope reported was at Brig Sept. 22 (RD *et al.*).

JAEGERS TO TERNS — A combination of onshore winds and thousands of Forster's Terns to harry concentrated jaegers along the coast in late October. Groups of three to five chased terns off Island Beach, Stone Harbor, and Avalon, N.J., and in Delaware Bay off Cape May (NP, RW, DW, PD, m.ob.), and three to five were off Montauk Pt., L.I., Nov. 16 and after (APE, MVB, H. McGuinness). Watching late each afternoon Oct. 21-28 at Hereford Inlet, *Cape May*, N.J., Sutton saw up to 15 jaegers/day harrying the terns as they moved S; he suspected as many as 80 passed his vantage point in that week. Single Pomarine Jaegers were reported near Cape Henlopen Nov. 6 (BFi) and at Montauk Nov. 10. Passage of Hurricane Josephine far offshore Oct. 13 may also have been related to these good jaeger numbers onshore.

Gulls have left the Poughkeepsie area now that the dump there is closed (R.T.W.B.C.). One of the few verified effects of Hurricane Josephine's passage well offshore Oct. 13 was an accumulation of at

least 20,000 gulls at Montauk Pt. to feed on mussels swept ashore by the tides (AJL). Three ad. **Franklin's Gulls** in winter plumage at Mercer County P., Oct. 6 (RJB, BME) provided the first New Jersey report since 1980 and the largest group ever recorded in this Region. Only three Little Gulls, all in coastal New Jersey, were below normal. Nearer normal were four Com. Black-headed Gulls, one at Montauk Nov. 24 (*vide* TWB), one at Caven Cove, Jersey City, Nov. 30 (P. Rodewald), and two at South Cape May after Nov. 25 (B. Johnson *et al.*).

Several observers commented that Ring-billed Gull is a "boom" species in this area (GH), and Boyajian confirmed this impression, from his annual fall migration census-point at Alpine on the New Jersey Palisades, by counting 1312 in 4 hours Oct. 29 coming down the Hudson. An ad. **California Gull**, the Region's 3rd or 4th, was at Oyster Pond, Montauk, L.I., Nov. 10 (PAB, FGB, B. Murray). Ever-increasing reports of Lesser Black-backed Gulls included about five in New Jersey (RK, RM, WJB, IB, H. Wallum *et al.*), and about five in the New York City area (PAB, AJL, M. Sohmer *et al.*); more could no doubt be found by systematic searching of garbage dumps. A first- or 2nd-winter Glaucous Gull at Muddy Run, Pa., Nov. 20 (RMS) provided a good inland record, and *Lehigh*, Pa.'s first Great Black-backed Gull was over Bake Oven Knob Nov. 6 (F. Brock, MC).

Two juv. Arctic Terns at Sagaponack, L.I., Sept. 21 (PAB) joined a growing list of fall coastal observations. The thousands of Forster's Terns concentrated along the New Jersey coast in October have already been noted; a good seven were late at J.B.W.R., Nov. 6 (*vide* FF). Thirty at Muddy Run with an influx of waterfowl Oct. 30 (RMS) may well have come from the Great Lakes population. A **Bridled Tern** at the wreck 28 mi off Avalon, *Cape May*, Sept. 2 (CS) was not related to any known storm activity. A meager five of the diminishing Black Terns were reported, all coastal, all in August (AM, JWR, B. Norris)

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS — A report of a **Common Ground-Dove** at Higbee's Beach, Cape May, Sept. 4 (†MG) has been submitted to the New Jersey Bird Records Committee; it would be only about New Jersey's 4th, and the first at Cape May since 1935. Cuckoos were at a low ebb; a partial albino Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Delaware Sept. 11 (WFF) was noteworthy, and one was very late Nov. 1 at Higbee's Beach.

Seven pairs of Com. Barn-Owls raised 23 young in nest boxes put out by J.B.W.R. refuge personnel, a sign that nesting sites are scarce. It was another mediocre Snowy Owl year. Three appeared at JFK airport during the fall (SC), but elsewhere we knew of only three elusive singles on the Jersey shore in mid-November.

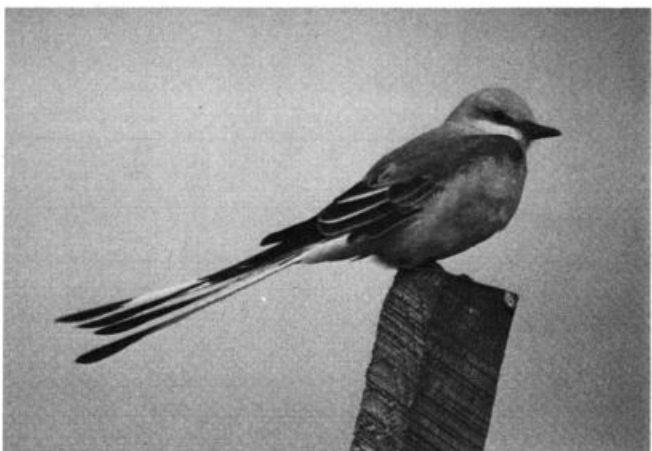
Following a good summer season Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were more numerous than in many years as ridge-top migrants, e.g., 22 on Sept. 1 in e. Pennsylvania (R. Massey), and 102 for the season at Hawk Mt. (LG). A heavy migration of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers was reported from s. New Jersey and Delaware (JKM, APE). A ♀-plumaged **Three-toed Woodpecker** was at Irvington, *Westchester*, N.Y., Nov. 4 (†L. Stephenson), and a **Black-backed Woodpecker** was seen twice at Baer Rocks, Pa., Sept. 30 and Oct. 2 (KK *et al.*).

FLYCATCHERS TO SHRIKES — Boyajian, watching the migration at his New Jersey Palisades lookout at Alpine, noted flycatchers continuing to migrate about 2 hours into daylight following a cold front, as on Sept. 1. It was a good season for w. flycatchers. An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was superbly photographed at Jones Beach S.P., L.I., Nov. 21 (ph. R. Villani, confirmed by W. Lanyon), fitting the pattern of the increasing e. records (*cf.* Murphy 1982, "The Ash-throated Flycatcher in the East: an overview," *AB* 36:241-247). Western Kingbirds were not only in good numbers on the coast—e.g., eight together at Cape May Nov. 11 (CS, KB)—an exceptional number were inland. Three were in n.e. Pennsylvania, the first reports since 1950 (WR): one near Kingston Sept. 10 (J. Hoyson, K. McGuire, C. Houseknecht), and two at Beach Haven Sept. 24-Oct. 4 (DG, m.ob.); one was at Assunpink W.A., N.J., Oct. 28 (W. Neil), and two were at Medford, *Burlington*, N.J. Three Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were unusual: Old Field, L.I., Sept. 18 (J & T. Fasullo), Mercer County P., N.J., Sept. 23-Oct. 9 (M & PT, m.ob.), and Cape May Pt., Nov. 6 (MM, MG).

A general impression of low Blue Jay numbers was confirmed at the Alpine overlook where, for the 2nd year in a row, migrants coming down the Hudson were about 30% below normal until after Nov. 15,



Ash-throated Flycatcher, Jones Beach, N.Y., Nov. 21, 1984. Photo/Robert Villani.



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Mercer County Park, N.J., Sept. 29, 1984. Photo/Serge LaFrance.

when they increased (NB). A stream of 90+ Fish Crows off a hillside at S. Nyack, N. Y., Oct. 29 were the most Deed had ever seen, and further confirmation of this species' increase. About 20 Com. Raven reports from the mountains continued the upward trend (DG, WR, LG, FPW, PB, L. Soucy); but all other reports pale before one heard and seen in direct comparison with Com. Crows over Cape May Oct. 13 (CS, FN). This former coastal resident had not been seen there since early in this century.

Red-breasted Nuthatches were all but nonexistent. Among the few species commoner than usual this season were both kinglets and Cedar Waxwings. Only three Loggerhead Shrikes were reported: Goshen, Cape May, N.J., Aug. 27 (CS), Freehold, N.J., Aug. 28 (RD), and Cape May Pt., Sept. 5 (KS).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A Yellow-throated Vireo was late at Wilkes-Barre Oct. 6 (WR).

Warbler migration started well with several strong cool fronts in late August and on Sept. 1, and languished in the mild weather thereafter. A measure of the low overall numbers was provided by banding results at Higbee's Beach, Cape May, where only 0.49 warblers/net hour were captured as compared with 0.72 in the same period in 1983 (MG). Golden-winged Warblers had their best season in years along the coast, from Westchester (one at Rye Sept. 1—TWB, T. Kay *et al.*) to Cape May (several Aug. 31-Sept. 11, with a maximum of three Sept. 4 [RJB, KB *et al.*], and three Brewster's Warblers), to Tinicum (Aug. 25, Sept. 9-11—KB). Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers seem ubiquitous, but Boyajian's careful counting at Alpine showed that after years of increase Yellow-rumped Warblers dropped to about one-half their rate of passage down the Hudson last year, and in 1984 were at about one-third of their 1979-1982 average. It was a good season for w. warblers. Single Black-

throated Gray Warblers were at Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, Sept. (†R. Rosenbloom *et al.*), and at Brig Sept. 26-28 (W. Russell, J. Dunn, P. Grant), the first in this Region since 1982. A ♀ Townsend's Warbler was at Higbee's Beach, Cape May, Sept. 5 (†RDB), furnishing the 5th state record and the earliest fall record for the Region. About six Connecticut Warblers at Higbee's Beach in the great Oct. 24-25 passage (PD, RW) were unusually evident. A Hooded Warbler was very late at Higbee's Oct. 27 (RM, DS).

BUNTINGS, SPARROWS, ICTERIDS, FINCHES — Dunne estimates that about 50 Dickcissels a season pass over Cape May, so the eight heard passing over the Cape May hawk watch during the major passage of Oct. 23-26 (FN) were well above normal. There were only scattered singles elsewhere (RD, M. VanWagner). About four Clay-colored Sparrows in the Cape May area between Sept. 17 and Oct. 27 (MG, RM, DS, RW) and another at Island Beach S.P., N.J., Sept. 30-Oct. 6 (B. & N. Murphy *et al.*) were slightly above normal along the coast. One inland at Elmer, N.J., Sept. 9 (JHg) was a rarity. Single Lark Sparrows were at the Bronx Zoo (outside) Nov. 3 (DK), and at the Lincoln Park gravel pits, Morris, N.J., in November (J. Brochart); and several were at Cape May as usual. The only confirmed Henslow's Sparrow was one banded at Higbee's Beach Oct. 27 (ph. RW, DS, MG, RM). Lincoln's and Swamp sparrows seemed up both inland (WR) and on the coast, where Dunne considered the former species about 3 times above its normal numbers. White-crowned Sparrows, by contrast, came E in much smaller numbers than usual.

Three Yellow-headed Blackbirds, all near the coast, Sept. 13-Nov. 17 (PW, TWB, M. Brockman) were about normal, but 3 different reports of Brewer's Blackbird were unusual. In addition to three females at the traditional Bombay Hook site (A. Hill), three males were at W. Cape May Nov. 14 (DS), and a single was at Baer Rocks, Pa., Oct. 28 (D. Simpson).

Winter finches were as nearly totally absent as this column can remember. Even Purple Finches barely showed up at the end of the period. Four crossbills (sp.) over Baer Rocks Nov. 23 (KK) were the only ones reported. A handful of Pine Siskins reached e. Pennsylvania and the Hudson Valley but were hardly visible nearer the coast. Even the ubiquitous Evening Grosbeaks were absent until a few passed the Pennsylvania hawk watches in late November (LG, KK).

EXOTICS — The Com. Shelduck at Brig through the season (RM) was assumed to be an escapee. Four or five Budgerigars at a Piermont, N. Y., feeder after mid-November (RFD) added to that locality's long list of exotic visitors, while a single had joined a flock of Starlings at Ramsay, Bergen, N.J. (W. Pritchard). A Eur. Goldfinch was near Allendale, Bergen, N.J., Oct. 19 (S. Thomas, W. Johnson).

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Nick Pulcinella, **William Reid** (n.e. PA: 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702), John Ruscica (JRu), J. W. Russell, R. M. Schutsky, Keith Seager, David Sibley, Barbara Spencer, R. Stovall, Clay & Pat Sutton, E. C. Swab, J. F. Swiertinski, Martha & Paul Taylor, Fred Tetlow, **J. P. Tramontano** (Orange and Sullivan counties, NY: Orange Co. Community College, Middletown, NY 10940), Dave Ward, R. T. Waterman

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MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

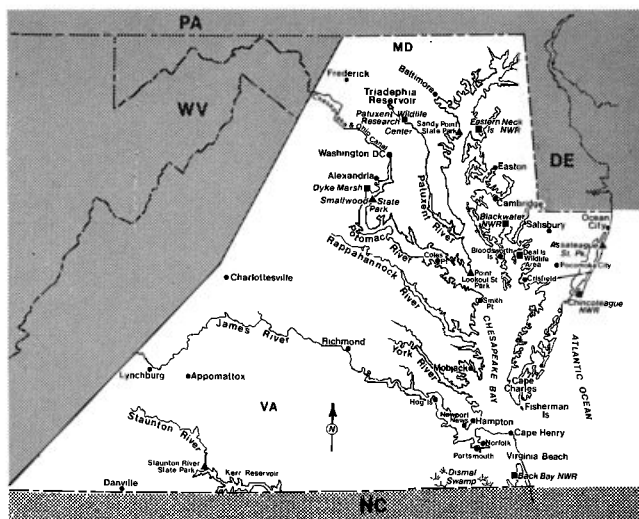
/Henry T. Armistead

Extreme dryness and a lack of strong cold fronts were most notable for this autumn making the landbird migration one of the least exciting in many years. Words such as "uneventful," "washout" and "dull" were used frequently. Most waterfowl continued to decline or perhaps were in other Regions, raptors maintained healthy numbers and shorebirds were well reported, and with several intensive banding stations warblers and other passerines were as well represented as could be expected in view of the lack of fronts. Low water seemed to both concentrate and disperse waders. Weather statistics: deviation from normal of temperature in August +.17°F, September -2.85°, October +5.98°; precipitation in August -1.03 in., September -1.46 in., October -1.40 in. November data not received at time of writing but it was cool and precipitation nearer to average. October was one of the driest and warmest on record.

ABBREVIATIONS — Adv. = Adventure Sanctuary, Potomac, Md.; Assat. = Assateague I., Maryland part only; Balt. = Baltimore, Md.; Bay = Chesapeake Bay; C.B.B.T. = Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Va.; Chinc. = Chincoteague Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Va.; Craney = Craney I. Disposal Area, Portsmouth, Va.; D.C. = Washington, D.C.; Fish. I. = Fisherman Island Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Va.; Kipt. = Kiptopeke Banding Station, Cape Charles, Va.; Susq. = lower Susquehanna R., Md.; *italicized* dates indicate birds were banded.

GREBES THROUGH IBISES — Luxuriant growths of *hydrilla*, an exotic aquatic plant, attracted many waterfowl and even shorebirds in the Potomac R. below D.C., drawing much commentary and reports such as nine Pied-billed Grebes at Hunting Creek, Va., Oct. 27 (DFA). Thirty were at Deal Island W.M.A., Md., Aug. 5, and 20 at Bull's Ponds, Cape Charles, Va., Sept. 29 (HTA), typically modest counts for this Region. The only Red-necked Grebes were in the D.C. area where two were seen Nov. 1 (DC). Except for three Greater Shearwaters off Parramore I., Va., Oct. 26 (GR), pelagic reporting (and birding) was nearly nil. A badly decomposed 2nd-year N. Gannet was found Aug. 3 in a net at Wallops I., Va., where 3000 Double-crested and four Great cormorants plus an Am. White Pelican were also seen Nov. 6, the latter 2 species new for that island's list (CRV). A White Pelican was also seen at Chinc., mid-October through November (m.ob.) and at Fish. I., Oct. 25, the latter in company with 150 Brown Pelicans (DFA). Fish. I. Brown Pelicans peaked at 335 Sept. 7 (HTA, MEA, GLA) and 100± remained in this prime area until the end of November (LH). It was another super year for Brown Pelicans with notable counts elsewhere including 72-75 at Chinc., Aug. 30-Sept. 4 (RH, CPW *et al.*), 24 at Lynnhaven Inlet, Va., Aug. 11 (HCI), 49 at Virginia Beach Sept. 25 (GMW), 22 at Cape Henry Sept. 3 (TRW) and seven still at Chinc., Nov. 1-2 (CPW). Much more unusual were these sightings in the Smith I., Md. area far up into the Bay: one July 29 (CM), one Sept. 6 (BP) and five during July 1983 (AKm), and 32 were at Wallops I., Aug. 3 (CRV).

The 3rd D.C. record for Great Cormorant was of one seen Oct. 18 (DC), probably the same bird seen also at nearby Hunting Creek Oct. 20 (JMA *et al.*), 10 were on C.B.B.T., Oct. 25 (DFA), two in Westmoreland Co., Va. on the lower Potomac R., Oct. 25 (JEJ) and a very early immature flew over America House motel at Cape Charles Sept. 4 (HTA). Double-crested Cormorant continued its winning ways with notable tallies far up Bay estuaries of 59 at Hunting Creek Oct. 21 (DFA) and 176 near Hopewell, Va., Aug. 26 (FRS, JWD), the latter the



best local fall count ever. Other good counts were 950 at Ragged I. on the lower James R., Va., Oct. 24 (BP), 4206 at Chinc., Oct. 18-19 (CPW, EMW), 1800 at Fish. I., Nov. 14 and 1020 as early as Sept. 5 at Cape Charles (HTA). In the face of the continued deterioration of Bay ecology and such bad news as the prohibition of taking striped bass by any means whatsoever, the presence of increasing numbers of the piscivorous birds noted above may mean all is not lost.

An Am. Bittern on C.B.B.T., Sept. 3 (BT) was in a ludicrous setting. At Deal I., Aug. 5 were two Least Bitterns, 106 Great and 58 Snowy egrets, 95 Tricolored and 40 Green-backed herons, one Yellow-crowned Night-Heron and 85 Glossy Ibises, rather typical totals from this prime Maryland heron locality (HTA). More outstanding were Great Blue Heron counts of 207 Oct. 15 and 251 Nov. 8 along the Susq. R. (RMS). Best tallies from Chinc. included 258 Great and 1571 Snowy egrets Sept. 6-7, 390 Little Blue Herons Aug. 30-31, and 78 Tricolored Herons plus 302 Glossy Ibises Aug. 23-24, most concentrated by the vanishing water in Snow Goose Pool (CPW). All egrets lingered later than normal with better than usual numbers present, especially in late October (RFR, DFA, EMW *et al.*), particularly Cattle Egrets, represented by one to eight in D.C., Oct. 31-Nov. 16 (DC, MP, *fide* CPW), eight in Harford Co., Md., Oct. 19 (DLK), and one on Wallops I., Nov. 25 (ECS *et al.*). At the traditional heronry near Hopewell, Scott found 10 occupied nests, 3 with downy young, on the extremely late date of Aug. 26. The high report was of but 290 at Cape Charles Sept. 2 (HTA). Weske found many nests with eggs still near South Pt. in coastal Maryland Aug. 21. White Ibises, almost all immatures, were rather widely seen with singles at Hunting Creek Aug. 20 (JMA, DFA), Lilypons on the Maryland Piedmont most of August in company with a Glossy Ibis (GD *et al.*), at Huntley Meadows Park s. of Alexandria, Va., Aug. 12 (EW), at Piscataway Bay s. of D.C., Nov. 18 (BS), and up to five immatures at Chinc. most of September (JHB *et al.*) and five immatures plus an adult at Fish. I., Sept. 29 (RLak, RLA, HTA *et al.*). Also in the Maryland Piedmont was a Glossy Ibis at Harford Glen during mid-September (DLK, RFR, EB *et al.*).

WATERFOWL — Waterfowl were widely reported as being late and in low supply (v.o.), especially divers; the only bright spot, at best a

tentative one in view of its adverse effects, was an impressive buildup of ducks in *hydrilla* on the Potomac s. of D.C. This was closely monitored by several observers. Peak counts during October of ducks among these water weeds at Hunting Creek were Wood Duck 25, Green-winged Teal 40, Am. Black Duck 150, Mallard 400, N. Pintail 150, Blue-winged Teal 100, N. Shoveler 22, Gadwall 37, Am. Wigeon 30, Ring-necked Duck 31, Greater Scaup 50, Lesser Scaup 475, Canvasback seven, Ruddy Duck 625 (DFA). At False Cape s. of Back Bay, Va., three Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were seen Nov. 20+ (BT *et al.*). Mute Swans continued to consolidate their s. range with 40 at Chinc., Sept. 30 and 41 at Hooper's I., Md., the latter double the previous high there at their s. limit on the Bay (HTA). In an aerial survey Perry found 104,000 Snow Geese from s. New Jersey to n. North Carolina Nov. 6-7, 10,550 of these in coastal Maryland, 37,250 on Maryland's c. Eastern Shore. He noted a growing trend for them to feed away from salt marshes in interior corn fields, especially in Maryland and Delaware, the 2 states that accounted for 81% of his total of 104,000. At Chinc., 40 "Blue" Geese constituted a good total for that refuge Oct. 3 in company with 1390 Snow Geese (JWD, FRS). Another trend is for both these geese to appear earlier in the fall. A Brant Oct. 30-Nov. 1 was the 4th for D.C. (DC). Sixty Wood Ducks at Bull's Ponds were a good count for the Virginia Eastern Shore Sept. 29. Duck numbers were way down in late summer at their prime Deal I. area, where two early Green-winged Teal and only three Gadwalls were present Aug. 5 (HTA). However, by Oct. 28 the influx of migrants at Deal led to excellent counts of 1000 each for N. Pintail, N. Shoveler and Am. Wigeon (SHD), and a ♂ Eur. Wigeon was shot there Nov. 17 (*vide* SD). At Chinc., 1000 ± Blue-winged Teal were seen Sept. 8 (HTA). An early pair of Ring-necked Ducks was on L. Drummond in Dismal Swamp Sept. 18 (GMW) and the peak tally was 230 on Georgetown Res. in D.C., Nov. 3 (DC). Jetty ducks seen were a ♀ Com. Eider at Ocean City, Md., Nov. 25 (ECS *et al.*), two Harlequin Ducks at C.B.B.T., Nov. 11-12 (RLA, TK) and two King Eiders there Nov. 11 (TK); but most unusual were two Kings at Balt. during November (EB, HLW, EMW *et al.*), providing a new county bird and one of the few records for the upper Bay. Somewhat unseasonal were 29 Black Scoters at C.B.B.T., Sept. 5 (HTA) and lone ♀ Hooded Mergansers at Balt. (RFR, EB) and Lilypons (WS) Aug. 18. Sewage pond Ruddy Ducks included 200 at Hurlock and 100 at Easton as early as Oct. 8 (RFR).

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES — Raptor reportage was dishearteningly incomplete, yet there was much of note. At Susq., 110 Black Vultures Oct. 23 and 300 Turkey Vultures Oct. 31 were seen by Schutsky, who also had a record peak in November of five adult and 14 imm. Bald plus an imm. Golden Eagle. Eighteen Bald Eagles were at Blackwater N.W.R., Md., Nov. 22 (ECS *et al.*), and three Golden Eagles were there Nov. 24 (MO). A Sharp-shinned Hawk at Crouch's Creek, Surry Co., Va., Aug. 14 was anomalous (BW), but a Broad-winged Hawk at Kipt., Nov. 16 was definitely late (DM). The only mass of Broad-winged reported was 1200 over Laurel, Md., Sept. 16 (JBr, *vide* CPW). Kipt. totals are still incomplete but 29,000 ± raptors were counted on 57 days Sept. 1-Dec. 1 during 380 hours of observation, better than a hawk per minute, but nevertheless lower than in some years (BW, DM, MA, DS *et al.*). At least 5 raptor banding sites operate in this area, but data are lacking from most in spite of requests. October 6 was the most outstanding day in the history of the hawk watch at Kipt. with 4860 birds seen: 55 Ospreys, 64 N. Harriers, 3738 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 53 Cooper's Hawks, 665 Am. Kestrels and 172 Merlins. The Sharp-shinned and Merlin totals established new Virginia records. The best flights here are on ENE or NE winds.

Clearly this was an exceptional Merlin year with other notable counts (from the incomplete information at hand) of 140 Sept. 25 (MA) and 93 Sept. 26 (DS), plus 24 banded Oct. 6 at nearby Wise Pt. by Gabler. One continues to wonder what the hawk totals would be with every day coverage all day long at Kipt. On Assat. I., Ward continued his intense study of Peregrine Falcons, capturing 151 this autumn, his best ever in the 15 years of operations there, his 4th best year in terms of man hours. He noted the passage was strong both early and late in the season with many migrants still going through Oct. 24, his last day. Of 14 birds he caught already banded, two were banded in Greenland the preceding summer and four had been banded at Cape May (FPW *et al.*). Elsewhere a late Osprey was at Newport News, Va., Nov. 27 (DS, *vide* TK), an ad.

Northern Goshawk was at N. Orange, Va., Nov. 3 (JMA), and an imm. Golden Eagle was seen soaring over Eastville, Va., Oct. 25 (DFA). Incidental to landbird mist-netting there, 127 Sharp-shinned Hawks were banded at Kipt., Sept. 16-Oct. 21 (CH *et al.*) and a late movement of 412 was seen there Oct. 28 (BW) while a presumed early migrant was at Richmond, Va. Aug. 22 (FRS).

Very late N. Bobwhite breeding was represented by a nest with eggs found at Langley A.F.B. near Hampton, Va., Sept. 4 (TM, *vide* TK) and two adults with about six downy young at Richmond Oct. 14 (MJI, *vide* FRS). A Black Rail was flushed near Cedar I., Va., Sept. 10 (GR). Portlock noted 18 Soras along the Mattaponi R., Sept. 27, and 37 at Presquile N.W.R., Va., Oct. 10. At Deal I., 27 Virginia Rails, 33 Com. Moorhens and seven Am. Coots were counted during an 8 mi hike around the dike Aug. 5, these undoubtedly all breeding-season birds (HTA). At Hunting Creek 550 Am. Coots were seen in the *hydrilla* Oct. 27-31 (JMA, DFA). Four Sandhill Cranes were seen near Chinc., Sept. 15 (JV *et al.*), providing the first Virginia record other than a few previous singles.

SHOREBIRDS — Drought conditions reduced most of the impoundments at Chinc. to dry lake beds in September, yet these were still frequented by many birds of interest, especially "grasspipers." Wilds *et al.* conducted 16 two-day censuses with these maxima: Aug. 2-3, Piping Plover 22, Whimbrel 109, Ruddy Turnstone 142, Sanderling 2847, Semipalmated Sandpiper 1170, Stilt Sandpiper 194; Aug. 9-10, Semipalmated Plover 1094, Ruff one; Aug. 16-17, Spotted Sandpiper 23, Hudsonian Godwit 11; Aug. 30-31, Willet 66; Sept. 6-7, Am. Avocet 12, Greater Yellowlegs 263, Lesser Yellowlegs 407, Marbled Godwit 8, Least Sandpiper 1239, Buff-breasted Sandpiper 39, Short-billed Dowitcher 312; Sept. 13-14, Pectoral Sandpiper 1067; Oct. 4-5, White-rumped Sandpiper 28; Oct. 25-26, Black-bellied Plover 277, W. Sandpiper 294, Dunlin 6456, Long-billed Dowitcher 93; Nov. 1-2, Red Knot 754 (CPW, JB, EMW). Other records of note from these surveys, in progress now since 1974, were 20 Lesser Golden-Plovers still present Nov. 1-2, the big influx of knots in late October-early November with 534 seen Oct. 25-26, 21 White-rumped Sandpipers on the late dates Nov. 8-9, single Baird's Sandpipers on 2 September surveys, 700 Pectoral Sandpipers Sept. 6-7, a Curlew Sandpiper Aug. 16-17 & 23-24, a late Buff-breasted Sandpiper Oct. 18-19, and one to two Wilson's Phalaropes July 26-27 to a late one Oct. 18-19. Wilds has compiled cumulative lists for each species showing their numbers over the years for several periods each month, a most useful and easy-to-consult mass of data. The prize sandpiper of the season at Chinc. was a juv. **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** present at least Sept. 16-22 (BT, TA, JB, m.ob., ph.), perhaps the only truly satisfactorily confirmed one ever seen in this Region. Other Chinc. records included 63 Lesser Golden-Plovers Sept. 30 (HTA, RR), a Curlew Sandpiper Aug. 8 (RC), and six Wilson's Phalaropes Aug. 8 (RC).

At Hunting Creek, David Abbott made 27 shorebird counts July 19-Nov. 3 finding 66 Killdeer Sept. 4, 44 Greater Yellowlegs Oct. 6, 50 Lesser Yellowlegs Oct. 9, two Willets Aug. 24, one Red Knot Sept. 19,



Juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Chincoteague N.W.R., Va., Sept. 22, 1984. Photo/Teta Kain.



Juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Chincoteague N.W.R., Va., Sept. 22, 1984. Photo/Robert L. Anderson.



Adult California Gull at Sandy Point S.P., Md., Aug. 14, 1984. Photo/John O'Brien.

117 W. Sandpipers Sept. 14, 110 Least Sandpipers Aug. 30, a late White-rumped Sandpiper Nov. 3, 75 Pectoral Sandpipers Oct. 9, fine records for this locality near D.C. In D.C., 22 Lesser Golden-Plovers were seen Oct. 6, and Ringler found 60 in Balt. on the late date of Oct. 28. Craney Am. Avocets reached 175 birds Oct. 11 (TRW) with 92 there Nov. 30 (FRS), and six Wilson's Phalaropes were there Aug. 26 (BT). A Whimbrel in Balt., Sept. 23 was an oddity (RFR). A Hudsonian Godwit was at Hog I., Surry Co., Va., Oct. 6 (PBr). A Marbled Godwit at Summit Hill Turf Farm Aug. 4-5 (MO, LDB, HM, ph.) was new for Montgomery Co., Md., and a Wilson's Phalarope and up to five Buff-breasted Sandpipers were there in early September (RA, HM, JO *et al.*). On Ship Shoal I., 44 Marbled Godwits were seen Aug. 20 (JSW), 51 plus 100 Willets were at Mockhorn I., Sept. 6 (TRW, HTA, GLA) and 44 Marbleds with 315 Am. Oystercatchers and 750 Short-billed Dowitchers were there Sept. 2 (BW, HTA), these all in Virginia. A Baird's Sandpiper was at Balt., Aug. 18 (RFR, EB). The only Red-necked Phalarope was one at Deal I., Aug. 30 (CEL).

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMERS — The only jaegers seen were Parasitics with one at Assat. I., Oct. 28 (MO), five the same day at Chinc. and three also there Oct. 27 (NS, *fide* RLA). Unusual inland and over the Virginia Piedmont were six Laughing Gulls at Nokesville Sept. 9 after strong SE winds (KHB). A first-winter Franklin's Gull was well seen at Chinc., Nov. 1 (CPW) and a California Gull was at Sandy Point S.P., Md., Aug. 14 (MO, ph.). Lesser Black-backed Gulls continued as a growth industry returning to spots frequented for years now in Balt. (RFR, EB), Berlin, Md. (RFR *et al.*), and D.C. (DC), and four adults were at C.B.B.T., Sept. 29 (HTA) with at least six there Nov. 12 (RLA, DLH), apparently a record count for this Region. Counts of 300 Great Black-backed Gulls Sept. 6 and 400 Sept. 10 at New Pt. Comfort, Va., were symptomatic of another gull species on the way up (JBB). No "white-winged" or "European" gull species were reported.

A Gull-billed Tern at Chinc., Oct. 11-12 was late (CPW). Weske found an early concentration of Caspian Terns on Cobb and Ship Shoal Is. totalling 112 Aug. 20; 62 were at Hunting Creek Sept. 18 (DFA) and 55 were at Susq., Sept. 13 (RMS). At Hooper's I., one of the best places for them on the upper Bay, 175 Royal Terns were seen Aug. 4 (HTA); two at Pt. Lookout, Md., Nov. 17 were late (MO). Most of the biggest concentrations of terns were at Chinc. where Wilds had 119 Caspians Oct. 18-19, 633 Royals Sept. 27-28, 604 Commons Aug. 30-31, 898 Forster's Oct. 25-26, and 621 Black Skimmers Sept. 27-28. Notable

also were 275 Forster's at Bivalve, Wicomico Co., Md., Sept. 1 quite far up a Bay estuary (RFR), 142 at Hunting Creek Sept. 28 (DFA) and 600 at Ocean City with nine lingering Royal Terns Nov. 24 (MO). Unusual far up the James R. at Hopewell were 39 Least Terns Aug. 3 (JWD, BR, FRS). A Black Tern at Piney Run Park Aug. 19 provided only the 2nd Carroll Co., Md. record (RFR) and the high at Chinc. was only 15 (Aug. 30-31). The only Black Skimmer reports far up the Bay were two at Barren I., Aug. 4, where they have bred the past 2 summers, and one at Deal I., Aug. 5 (HTA).

DOVES THROUGH SHRIKES — New to the Region as well as Virginia was a **White-winged Dove** at Chinc., Aug. 10, seen by Curry, who submitted an excellent description already accepted by the state rarities committee. A late Yellow-billed Cuckoo was in Charles Co., Md., Oct. 28 (PN). A genuine rarity was a Snowy Owl, new to the refuge list for Chinc., Nov. 20-Dec. 10 (CPW, ph.). The lone N. Saw-whet Owl was seen at Bellevue, Talbot Co., Md., Nov. 10 by Spitzer. In the D.C. area Com. Nighthawk counts of note were 209 at Annandale, Va., Aug. 30 (DFA) and at Rockville 218 Aug. 27 and 330 Sept. 10 (BA, *fide* CPW). Seldom found during fall, two Chuck-will's-widows were banded at Tolchester, Kent Co., Md., Sept. 30 (JG, DAM). The last Chimney Swifts were three in D.C., Oct. 27 (DC).

Six Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen from Aug. 26 (one at Sterling, Va.—EMW) to Oct. 2 (Glebe Harbor, Va.—JEJ), a rather typical showing. At Kipt., 15 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were caught Sept. 2-28 (DSc *et al.*) and Adv. tagged 16 Aug. 25-Sept. 23 (MD *et al.*). "Traill's" Flycatchers peaked at Kipt. on Sept. 2 & 6 with 13 each day (DSc *et al.*). An Acadian Flycatcher was still singing at Richmond Sept. 21 (FRS). An early W. Kingbird was at Chinc., Sept. 8 (MP, *fide* CPW) and a well-described **Gray Kingbird** was there Oct. 2 (PBr, DB), for the 3rd Virginia record. At Cape Charles E. Kingbirds were counted during their morning flight up to 8 a.m. only when most activity ceased: 861 Sept. 2, 1854 Sept. 3, 515 Sept. 4, 1253 Sept. 5, 157 Sept. 7, 75 Sept. 8 (HTA); italicized figures represent new Virginia highs, these birds flying N on the Bay side of the peninsula. At nearby Oyster an evening flight of S bound birds on the seaside was discovered of a similar order of magnitude but during the last hour or so of daylight Sept. 2-3 (DFA, HA).

Several mammoth Purple Martin roosts formed, such as 10,000 ± at Gum Springs, Fairfax Co., Va., Aug. 15, which broke up about Sept. 6 (JMA), 80,000 ± at Hampton, Va., Aug. 22; at Salisbury, Md., 25,000 martins in company with 12,000 Com. Grackles were estimated Aug. 22 (PY), and 1800 ± martins were banded there (CRV, MKK *et al.*). The last N. Rough-winged Swallows were 10 at Lucketts, Va., Oct. 29 (EMW). At Cape Charles were 1600 Barn and 27 Cliff swallows Sept. 3 (HTA), and seven Cliffs were seen at C.B.B.T. the same day (BT); Cliffs are usually seen in singles or pairs along the coast here. A Fish Crow roost at Cape Charles held 1052 birds Sept. 8 (HTA). Red-breasted Nuthatches were almost nonexistent. The only Sedge Wrens were three singing birds at Elliott I., Md., Aug. 4-14 (MO, HTA). An early Golden-crowned Kinglet was at D.C., Sept. 22 (DC). On Fox I., Va., a treeless salt marsh locality in the mid-Bay, a Blue-gray Gnat-

catcher was out of place Sept. 5 (BP).

The thrush migration seemed diffuse and weak with few peaks, especially at banding sites, although Swainson's Thrushes were abundant Sept. 22 (v.o.). A late Wood Thrush was calling at dusk at Bellevue Nov. 3 (PRS, HTA, MEA). Cedar Waxwings, after unprecedented widespread breeding in most of the Region, were abundant in August and early September but not so later on, with counts of definite migrants at Kipt. such as 141 Sept. 1 (BW) and 106 Sept. 2 (HTA) but little activity there afterwards. Loggerhead Shrike singles were only at Beltsville, Md., Aug. 20 (WS), Denton, Md., Sept. 6 & 9 (MN) and Chinc., Sept. 13-14 (CPW), early September often being the best time to look for this curious species when there is an apparently ever-declining passage of them through here.

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS — A lack of strong cold fronts plagued birders and led to lackluster results at banding sites. At Kipt. nets were run 51 consecutive days Sept. 1-Oct. 21 with 4527 birds of 86 species banded in 9750 net-hours, with the best variety, 31 species, coming on the unlikely early date of Sept. 2. The most frequent catches were Yellow-rumped Warbler 1763, Am. Redstart 618, Com. Yellowthroat 421, Gray Catbird 149, Black-throated Blue Warbler 141, Sharp-shinned Hawk 127 and Ruby-crowned Kinglet 111 (WPS, FRS, JHB, CH, DSc). At Adv. nets operated every day save one Aug. 15-Oct. 31, 76 days, catching 3101 birds of 90 species in 25,973 net-hours, the most banded birds being Yellow-rumped Warbler 377, Swainson's Thrush 273, White-throated Sparrow 255, Gray Catbird 210, Magnolia Warbler 143, Ovenbird 139 and Canada Warbler 128 (MD *et al.*). Tolchester ("Damsite") ran 26 days Aug. 1-Nov. 3 catching 1947 birds of 88 species in 10,448 net-hours, the most frequent banding 189 White-throated Sparrows, 112 Dark-eyed Juncos, 112 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 97 Ovenbirds, 86 Tennessee Warblers, 85 Magnolia Warblers and 81 N. Cardinals.

A late Solitary Vireo was seen at Curles Neck, Henrico Co., Va., Nov. 25 (FRS *et al.*). A "Brewster's" Warbler was reported from Laurel Grove, St. Mary's Co., Md., Aug. 25 (RRR). Semi-rare on the coast was a Golden-winged Warbler at Chinc., Sept. 30 (RR *et al.*). Forty Tennessee Warblers were at Tolchester Sept. 6 with 30 there Sept. 7 (JG). A Yellow-throated Warbler at Richmond Oct. 7 was tardy (FRS *et al.*) as was a Prairie Warbler at Bellevue Nov. 10 (HTA), a Bay-breasted Warbler at C.B.B.T., Nov. 4 (BT), a ♀ Am. Redstart at Rockville Nov. 20 (MO) and a Mourning Warbler at Adv., Oct. 21 (MD). Rare and late was a Swainson's Warbler at C.B.B.T., Sept. 30 (BB, AB, *vide* FRS) and also rare on the coast in autumn was a Louisiana Waterthrush at Kipt., Sept. 2 (DSc).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — A late Summer Tanager was at Glebe Harbor Oct. 11 (JEJ). Scott observed N. Cardinals feeding fledgling young as late as Oct. 6 in Richmond. A Black-headed Grosbeak was closely studied at Chinc., Nov. 23-24 (ECS *et al.*, ph.), for about the 10th Virginia record. A Dickcissel at Summit Hill Turf Farm Sept. 16 was unique (GD) as was a Clay-colored Sparrow in Rockville Oct. 19-21 (MO, ph.). One to two Lark Sparrows were spotted at Chinc., Aug. 17-Sept. 8 (FRS, BRz, RH, PN). Three Lincoln's Sparrows were seen at Piney Run Park Sept. 19 (EB, RFR) and 10± were at Rockville Sept. 26-Nov. 16, with two Oct. 5 & 10 (MO), yet the major banding stations had few or none. At Deal I., 200 Seaside and six Sharp-tailed sparrows Aug. 5 were expected counts for an entire day spent hiking in this prime marsh area (HTA) but a Lapland Longspur at Chinc., Sept. 30, carefully studied at leisure at point-blank range, apparently provided the earliest fall date for the Region (RR, HTA *et al.*). Snow Buntings went almost unrecorded except for three at Hog. I., Surry Co., Va., Nov. 17 (RLA).

At Oyster, Va. a tremendous evening flight of many thousands of Bobolinks was discovered Sept. 2 (DFA) with 5900± seen passing there Sept. 3 from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. (HTA, MEA); 1560 were at Cape Charles Sept. 4 (HTA). Single Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Laurel Grove, St. Mary's Co., Md., Aug. 20 (RRR) and Chinc., Sept. 16 (BT). Absurd as it may seem, a Brown-headed Cowbird at Kipt., Sept. 5, was the first ever banded in the 20-year history of the station (DSc). At Cape Charles 55 N. Orioles Sept. 5 was the high count for the season, a rather modest total for that location (HTA). This fall was another dismal and abysmal one for all northern finches, even Purple Finches,

an excellent cone crop in the northern states being the villain. It has been several seasons since there has been a good influx of these birds and the next one is certain to be received with great enthusiasm as well as relief.

CORRIGENDA — AB 38:187, photograph of Rufous Hummingbird was by David Czaplak not Byron Swift. AB 38:304, Wilson's Warbler was seen Dec. 23, not Dec. 17.

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SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION /Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

The fall of 1984 will be remembered in the Southeast for hurricanes and tropical storms. Three major storms, hurricanes *Diana* and *Josephine* and Tropical Storm *Isadore*, passed near our coastline between September 10 and October 13, though only *Diana* made landfall and was a major producer of significant pelagic and coastal records. Otherwise, the weather was definitely bland and poor for birding. The season was quite dry, and October was the second warmest in the Region in the last 50 years. More importantly, frontal systems in September and



especially in October were infrequent, with most being weak and dry Winds during the crucial passerine migration period from late September through October were primarily from the northeast; northwest winds were very scarce.

Had it not been for the remarkable bird records at Lake Waccamaw, North Carolina, as a result of Hurricane *Diana*, and excellent numbers and species of tubenoses on pelagic trips, this would have been an unmemorable season. The migrations of passerines, shorebirds, and hawks were all lackluster, and winter finches really never appeared at all

HURRICANE DIANA — *Diana* was the most devastating storm to hit the Region in over 20 years, yet it originated in a most unusual manner. Rather than being born in the eastern Atlantic, it began Sept. 8 as a low that formed on a stalled cold front several hundred miles east of Florida. This low intensified and moved north within 100 miles of our coast, and by Sept. 12 it was situated precariously close to land. On this day it stalled just east of Carolina Beach, North Carolina, but in the pre-dawn hours of Sept. 13 it moved onshore and crossed the southern part of Brunswick County. *Diana* turned northward and at 4 p.m. it reached Lake Waccamaw, about 27 miles from the coast. By the morning of Sept. 14, the storm had weakened and moved rather harmlessly north-east and out to sea.

Attempting to observe birds along the coast during and immediately following the storm was essentially impossible where it came ashore. The hurricane was much smaller in overall size yet more intense than most, and it lingered just off the coasts of New Hanover and Brunswick counties for two days. High water, fallen trees, downed power lines, and security personnel were more than enough to make a venture anywhere within several miles of tidal water out of the question. Thus, there were no coastal reports of hurricane waifs from this area, though farther north Grant found an adult White-tailed Tropicbird and two Audubon's and six Cory's shearwaters dead at W. Onslow Beach Sept. 21. What made this hurricane ornithologically famous was the fact that the eye passed over Lake Waccamaw, N.C., and unprecedented numbers of pelagic species were "dumped" onto this 3.5 by 5.5-mile lake.

Derb Carter ventured into the hurricane at L. Waccamaw on the afternoon of Sept. 13. On Sept. 14 he was joined by LeGrand, Davis, and several other birders, and Lee and Irvin toured the lake by boat Sept. 15. Below is a summary of the significant sightings at the lake; all birds were alive and in reasonably good health, and no dead individuals were found.

Black-capped Petrel: one seen Sept. 13-14, for a first inland record for the Region. **Cory's Shearwater:** two Sept. 13 with one remaining to Sept. 15, another inland first. **Greater Shearwater:** five Sept. 14, still another first. **Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** two Sept. 13, a first for inland North Carolina and second for the Region. **Red-necked Phalarope:** one Sept. 13. **Pomarine Jaeger:** three Sept. 13, apparently providing the Region's second inland record. **Parasitic Jaeger:** 10 Sept. 13, with three the following day; a handful of inland records. **South Polar Skua:** one immature dark-phase bird seen resting on the water with the other jaegers, within 30 feet of shore, by Carter Sept. 13; it remained the next day. This is, of course, a first inland sighting for the Region and one of the few such records for North America. **Great Black-backed Gull:** one Sept. 14. **Royal Tern:** peak of 10 Sept. 14. **Sandwich Tern:** 20 Sept. 13 and three the following day. **Bridled Tern:** three Sept. 13 and two the next day; a first inland for the Region. Other species noted, and their peak numbers, were Laughing Gull five, Ring-billed Gull five, Herring Gull two, Caspian Tern four, Common Tern 100, Forster's Tern 30, Least Tern six, and Black Tern 50. Surprisingly, no Sooty Terns were observed.

ABBREVIATIONS — C.C.P. = Clayton County Water Treatment Plant, Ga.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — An outstanding inland count was six Red-throated Loons on Peachtree City L., Ga., Nov. 3 (JG). Always exciting in the East, single Eared Grebes were at C.C.P., Aug. 18-Sept. 5 (PB *et al.*) and a pond on Ocracoke I., N.C., Oct. 7-8 (HW, BL *et al.*). Potentially the most exciting find of the season was the apparent **Soft-plumaged Petrel** carefully observed by Haney and Faanes Nov. 9 about 90 mi e. of St. Catherine's I., Ga. This would be

just the 2nd sighting for North America, with Lee's 1981 observation off North Carolina being the first (AB 38.151-163). It was quite a big season for tubenoses offshore (see Table 1; totals for Sept. 1 & 2—*fide* MG), with especially encouraging totals of Black-capped Petrels and Greater Shearwaters, notably the 301 Greaters off Oregon Inlet, N.C., Aug. 14 (DL). Leach's Storm-Petrel is very rare in South Carolina; thus, unusual were one seen Aug. 12 off Charleston (DF) and another that flew aboard ship, was photographed in hand, and released Oct. 17 off the same city (CH). **White-faced Storm-Petrels** were again found off North Carolina, by Lee out of Oregon Inlet (see Table 1). **Band-rumped Storm-Petrels** again made news. Besides the good numbers in Table 1, particularly the Georgia record 19, one was well seen off Charleston Aug. 7 (C.N.H.S.) for just the 2nd state record. A probable Red-billed Tropicbird was seen Sept. 29 during the heavy rain and high wind of Tropical Storm *Isadore* at Mount Pleasant, S.C. (PN, CW). Because the sighting was made under poor viewing conditions and there are no previous state records, the "probable" modifier seems appropriate.

Remarkably, there were 4 records of **Masked Booby**; besides those in North Carolina (Table 1), singles were noted off Charleston Sept. 23 (DF) and e. of Sapelo I., Ga., Sept. 2 (*fide* SGR). Apparently new for inland North Carolina was a sick or injured **Northern Gannet** at Jordan L. approached to within 15 ft Aug. 25-26 (MW). American White Pelicans were reported once coastally in each state; whereas the slightly rarer Great Cormorant was noted at N. Charleston, S.C. (no date—SC) and at Wrightsville Beach, N.C., Nov. 24 (three birds—GM). An unusual sight must have been the Anhinga soaring with vultures far inland near York, S.C., Sept. 8 (BH *et al.*). The hurricanes and tropical storm came too late in the season to produce any frigatebirds, but one was detected Aug. 2 at Charleston harbor (DH).

WADERS — Heron roosts in the Piedmont are rare; thus, quite a surprise was a flock of waders seen in flight in early morning at Jordan L., Sept. 16 (RD)—98 Great Egrets, 12 Snowy Egrets, 48 Little Blue Herons, 21 Tricolored Herons, and 10 Cattle Egrets. Fairly good counts of inland Snowy Egrets were 12 at Augusta, Ga., Aug. 18 (AW, VW), five at Falls L., n. of Raleigh, N.C., Sept. 12-29 (RD, HL, RJH), and four at C.C.P., Aug. 4 (RM *et al.*). Rare in the Region, though somewhat regular along the Georgia coast, were individual Reddish Egrets there Oct. 11-14 at Cumberland I. (CH, TM) and at Jekyll I., Oct. 13 (MAV, AWY). Ten Cattle Egrets at L. Hartwell, S.C., Aug. 19 (CW) was a good total, and both species of night-herons were seen by Davis at Falls L. during the season. It was another lackluster summer-fall for White Ibises inland, nor were there any such reports of Glossy Ibis. However, a tally of 25 Wood Storks was notable Sept. 22 at Sunset Beach, N.C. (PJC, MP), the state's only regular stork locale.

WATERFOWL — The sole report of the erratic Fulvous Whistling-Duck was a flock of up to 11 near Darien, Ga., Nov. 20-23 (JPe, CH). Tundra Swans continue to increase in the Region; 15 near Darien Nov. 23 (D & PMcC) was a respectable Georgia count, and the 33,000 tallied by air on a L. Mattamuskeet, N.C., survey Nov. 15 (*fide* AB) was certainly more than just respectable! All 4 reports of Greater White-fronted Geese involved two birds—Okefenokee Swamp, Ga., Oct. 31 (TT), N. Santee R., S.C., Nov. 12 (PMA), Eufaula N.W.R., Ga., Nov. 14 (JS), and L. Mattamuskeet Nov. 16 (AB). A Brant seen at Folly Beach, S.C., Nov. 10 (CW, PN) was rare for that state. There were a number of unusually early waterfowl inland, such as a Green-winged Teal at Pendergrass, Ga., Sept. 6 (JP), N. Shovelers near Pineville, N.C., Sept. 3-5 (DW) and Falls L., Sept. 12 (HL), and a Gadwall near Atlanta Sept. 22 (JSt). Apparently nesting was a ♀ Ring-necked Duck with a half-grown young at Augusta in late summer (AW, VW, CB). The ad. ♂ Com. Eider that spent last winter at Hatteras Inlet, N.C., was present again this fall (R & LB *et al.*); however, the bird apparently cannot fly, and it has perhaps been there continuously for over a year. Definitely volant was a ♀ King Eider near Morehead City, N.C., Nov. 10-30+ (LC, JF). Inland scoters, always good finds, were an ad. ♂ Black at Falls L., Nov. 11 (RD) and White-winged Nov. 3 at both Atlanta (JG) and Jordan L. (AB, RD).

HAWKS THROUGH CRANES — With the great scarcity of NW winds during the fall, it was no surprise that hawk flights were light. In fact, the best movements occurred following hurricanes/tropical storms

Table 1. Pelagic observations in the Southern Atlantic Coast Region, Autumn 1984

Species	8/1-2	8/7	8/9	8/10	8/14	8/16	9/1	9/2	10/15-19	11/8-10	11/29-30	
	Ga. (CH)	N.C. (DL)	N.C. (DL)	N.C. (DL)	N.C. (DL)	N.C. (DL)	N.C. (DL)	N.C. (RA,PD)	N.C. (RA,PD)	S.C. (CH)	Ga. (CH)	Ga. (CH)
Soft-plumaged Petrel											1	
Black-capped Petrel	64	25	30		40	12	47	76	31	63		5
Cory's Shearwater	9	587	81	132	698	351	108	296	398	177		
Greater Shearwater		65	5	47	301	64	4	9	3	8		
Sooty Shearwater		1										
Audubon's Shearwater	19	34	21	23	186	183	239	385	66	29		4
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	26	435	372	617	419	114	39	72				
White-faced Storm-Petrel					1	1						
Leach's Storm-Petrel	2	4	8	5	4	4			1			
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	19	3+	4		29+							
tropicbird, sp.		✓	✓	✓								
Masked Booby					2		1					
Red-necked Phalarope					52			1				
Pomarine Jaeger	1	1		1	1	1	1	3	6	15		1
Parasitic Jaeger							1	3				
Long-tailed Jaeger					2							
jaeger, sp.				1	1	1						
South Polar Skua					1			1		1		
skua, sp.					✓	✓			1			
Black-legged Kittiwake										4		2
Arctic Tern								1				
Sooty Tern					4			4				
Bridled Tern	4	7		5	21	4+		8	9			1

✓ = observed but numbers not provided

When such low pressure centers have moved N past our coast and are positioned near the Northeastern States or Maritimes, this Region receives N or NW winds from the back side of the storms, frequently under clearing skies. Such conditions (a "pseudo-front") often provide excellent flight conditions for hawks. Coastal birders noted strong Peregrine Falcon flights, as well as respectable totals of other raptors, following both *Isadore* and *Josephine*. Another certain impact of *Isadore* was the obvious northward displacement of 60 Mississippi Kites, presumably from near the Gulf Coast, to Mesic, Pamlico Co., N.C., Sept 29 (CB, *vide* BHo). This remarkable flock provided a record count for the state. Single Mississippis were out of range also near York, S.C., Aug 2 (BH, RR) and Conyers, Ga., Aug. 31 (FM, PW). The best Bald Eagle action inland centered on Falls L., where the peak for the season was eight Aug. 25 (RD); however, the only Golden Eagle of the fall was an immature near Garnett, S.C., Nov. 29 (SG). Inland records of both Merlins (just four) and Peregrine Falcons (only two) were clearly down from the last few autumns, but it would be inadvisable to relate these low totals to the scarcity of NW winds during the season.

As has been proven by tower kills in the past, Clapper Rails migrate over inland sections of the Region. One collided with a building in downtown Raleigh Sept. 28 (JFn). The Sandhill Crane flight through Georgia was uneventful, and surprisingly, none was reported away from the narrow migration corridor.

SHOREBIRDS — With the exception of one near Atlanta Sept. 23 (D & PMcC), inland reports of Black-bellied Plovers were limited to c. North Carolina, highlighted by 14 at Jordan L., Nov. 3 (AB, RD). Of the 9 Lesser Golden-Plover sightings, the peak was just three, at Falls L., Sept. 22 (RD). Upland Sandpipers, rare inland in fall, were discovered 4 times: at Jordan L., Aug. 4 (RD, HL), at Pineville, N.C., July 28 (CIW) and another there Sept. 2 (DFr), and Aug. 25 in Laurens Co., Ga. (TKP), where the species is seen each spring and fall. It is always stunning to see how few recent sightings there are of Long-billed Curlew for regions to our north. Though a rarity here, a few occur each fall and undoubtedly overwinter on extensive mudflats. Reports for the season were six along the Jekyll I. causeway, Ga., Aug. 12 (D & DC), one at Folly I., S.C., Sept. 23 (DA), and one at Ft. Fisher, N.C., Nov. 18 (CL). Ruddy Turnstones were notable inland Sept. 2 at Falls L. (RD) and nearby Jordan L., Sept. 2-13 (RD, AT, PT); and a roost of 1000 at Breach Inlet, S.C., Nov. 19 (DM) was an excellent total. There were 6

inland reports, about par, for Sanderling; whereas the 5 inland sightings for White-rumped Sandpiper, all in North Carolina, were more than usual.

Baird's Sandpiper reports may have reached an all-time peak, with seven, but this is likely due to observer awareness. Locations of the Baird's were Charlotte (DW, HWa), Ocracoke (AB), Cape Hatteras (AB, RD), and Sunset Beach (PJC) in North Carolina; Huntington Beach (CW, CM) and Folly Beach (CW *et al.*) in South Carolina, and C.C.P. (PB, DB) in Georgia. The most amazing shorebird was the Region's first inland **Purple Sandpiper**, an individual carefully studied with Dunlins at C.C.P., Nov. 3 (PB). The best counts of the many inland Stilt Sandpipers were six at Falls L., Oct. 20 (HL), six near Clemson, S.C., Sept. 18 (CWo, SW), and four near Vass, N.C., Aug 10 (DT, SP). The 12 reports of Buff-breasted Sandpiper may have been a record; those representing more than two birds were seven at Falls L., Sept. 20 (AB), six near Dublin, Ga., Sept. 14 (TKP), and three s. of Atlanta Sept. 2 (D & PMcC). Perhaps inland birders are becoming more proficient at identifying Long-billed Dowitchers; the species was found at 4 inland sites, with the best records being five in c. Halifax Co., N.C., Nov. 11 (FE) and a late bird Nov. 4-30+ at C.C.P. (PB *et al.*) Wilson's Phalaropes were found in North Carolina at Pineville (DW *et al.*), Falls L. (AB, RD), Ft. Macon S.P. (JF, JW), and Pea I. (AB), in South Carolina at Clemson (CWo, SW); and in Georgia at Hutcheson I near Savannah (11 birds—CH).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — The three Pomarine Jaegers that stopped over during July at L. Townsend, N.C., remained to Aug. 12 (AB, HH). The species was encountered in small numbers on most pelagic trips, but it was seen from shore only at Bodie I., N.C., Sept. 29 (AB, RD) and at Folly Beach, S.C., Nov. 22 (CW). South Polar Skuas were found on 3 pelagic trips (see Table 1), but Long-tailed Jaeger, apparently most numerous in late May and June, was seen only on Lee's incredible Aug. 14 trip off Oregon Inlet (15 pelagic species, including four storm-petrels!). In addition to those on L. Waccamaw, the only other Laughing Gulls inland were three at Fayetteville, N.C., Sept. 25 (PJC) and one at C.C.P., Oct. 7 (FM). Incredibly early and rare was an ad. Iceland Gull at Sullivans I., S.C., Sept. 11 (DF), a day after passage of *Diana*. Georgia's annual October Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Jekyll I. were there Oct. 5-14 (two birds—TM *et al.*), and one was perhaps record early for North Carolina at Pea I., Oct. 6 (JOP, EP). Caspian

Terns were widespread inland in North Carolina, though no lake had more than three birds. Good tern counts inland were 12 Forster's at L. Townsend Aug. 3 (HH), nine Blacks at L. Norman, N.C., Sept. 18 (DW), and seven Blacks at C.C.P., Aug. 4 (RM, PB).

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — The first Com. Ground-Dove records for Augusta in about 10 years were singles near downtown Oct. 19 (AW, VW) and at the edge of town Nov. 13 (AW). The elusive Black-billed Cuckoo was reported only 4 times, with the best record being one banded at Sullivans I., S.C., Oct. 22 (WP). A Com. Night-hawk was late Nov. 1 near York (BH), and at least 120 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at Patriot's Pt. at Mount Pleasant, S.C., Oct. 4 certainly provided a spectacle (WP). Georgia's 2nd **Rufous Hummingbird** was a subad. male at a feeder at Duluth from early October to Nov. 30+ (CH *et al.*, ph.); one of the few for South Carolina was one seen and captured in a greenhouse in Irmo Nov. 15, taken to a zoo in Columbia, and released a few days later (*vide* LG).

One of our rarest migrants, the Olive-sided Flycatcher, was observed in w. Ft. Bragg Sept. 1 (JHC, JM) for the 3rd record for the North Carolina Sandhills; and the Region's most reliable spot, the Chattahoochee R. just n. of Atlanta, had four birds between Aug. 27 and Sept. 23 (PM, A.A.S.). Post's banding station at Mount Pleasant trapped Yellow-bellied Flycatchers Sept. 4 (*C.M.), 7 (two birds), & 8; this is quite a rare species in South Carolina. The more numerous Least Flycatcher was netted there only twice—Aug. 25 and Sept. 28 (WP). The first inland W. Kingbird in fall in several years was possibly a hurricane-displaced bird in Bladen Co., N.C., Sept. 15 (DL, WI), and another at the Chowan Co., N.C., airport Nov. 25 (AB) was rare away from the immediate coast. An imm. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was notable at Cedar I., N.C., Nov. 18 (TB).

SWALLOWS THROUGH VIREOS — The swallow migration was definitely lackluster in the Region, with 45 Bank Swallows near Townville, S.C., Aug. 5 (CWo) the only notable record. Fish Crows have yet to reach Atlanta and most places in Georgia's n. Piedmont; four at L. Oconee Sept. 2 (PM, TM, VJ, TJ) established a good Piedmont find and apparently a new locale. The few Red-breasted Nuthatches seen this fall were almost a fluke; the species was, for all intents and purposes, absent from our area all fall and early winter. Always noteworthy in the Region, single Bewick's Wrens were found in s. Iredell Co., N.C., Sept. 27 (DW) and Pendergrass, Ga., Oct. 13 (JP). The thrush flight was one of the poorest in a decade, not at all surprising considering the scarcity of strong cold fronts. Extremely rare in fall was a carefully studied Warbling Vireo at Raleigh Oct. 3 (GW). Over 15 records of Philadelphia Vireo was quite an impressive total, though about 7 came from the Atlanta vicinity Sept. 12-Oct. 21 (*vide* TM) and 4 from the Clemson-Townville area Sept. 23-Oct. 16 (SG, CWo).

WARBLERS — Charleston area birders turned up both Blue-winged and Golden-winged warblers, rare along the coast—the former banded at Mount Pleasant Sept. 4-Oct. 2 (six birds—WP) and the latter observed at Mount Pleasant Sept. 15 (PN) and Moore's Landing Sept. 28 (TR). A "Brewster's" hybrid was notable near Chapel Hill, N.C., Sept. 5 (P & LH). A Tennessee Warbler was quite late at Charlotte Nov. 27 (HWa), and at that city was a possibly wintering Orange-crowned Warbler Nov. 25-30+ (HWa). Nashville Warblers were sighted approximately 15 times, a good total, though this is likely a measure of the increase in birder numbers and skill over the situation a few years ago. One Nashville was late Nov. 4 at Raleigh (GW). A Cape May Warbler was several weeks early at Pea I., Aug. 26 (WS). As happens each fall, Cerulean Warbler records from Atlanta (eight) far outnumbered those from the rest of the Region combined (two). Unlike most n. breeding warblers, which tend to be evenly distributed at most Piedmont locales in fall, the Cerulean appears to be moderately numerous in Georgia's n. Piedmont, but a genuine rarity elsewhere in the Piedmont (and almost casual in most of the Coastal Plain). A "heavy" flight of the scarce Connecticut Warbler passed over the coast Sept. 27-28, as evidenced by five dead individuals at Cape Hatteras at the bases of the lighthouse and a transmission tower (AB, RD), several live birds in nearby Buxton Woods (AB, RD), and a tower kill bird at Mount Pleasant (WP, *C.M.). Only one was noted inland—an ad. male near Pineville Oct. 6 (DW, BB, DFr). The handful of Wilson's Warblers spanned

the dates of Sept. 2-Oct. 18, a bird on the latter date was collected at Mount Pleasant (WP, *C.M.). Quite a rarity on the coast, single Canada Warblers were banded by Post at Mount Pleasant Aug. 30 and Sept. 10

TANAGERS THROUGH CROSSBILLS — Though W. Tanagers have been regular in winter lately in Fayetteville, two ♂ birds were early at a feeder in the 2nd week of October (RC). The only Dickcissel reports were of one seen near York Nov. 24 (BH, KC) and one netted Sept. 30 at Mount Pleasant (WP, *C.M.). Post's netting operation at Mount Pleasant provided a specimen for Clay-colored Sparrow Oct. 7, and Wooten discovered a rare and late inland Clay-colored near Townville Nov. 5 and again Dec. 2. Quite noteworthy inland in fall were single Lark Sparrows at Aiken, S.C., Oct. 2 (JH) and at Athens, Ga., Oct. 31 (CF). Other rare sparrow reports included a Henslow's at Hutcheson I., Ga., Oct. 13 (CH), an inland Sharp-tailed near Atlanta Oct. 2 (FM), and four Grasshoppers banded Oct. 3-30 at Mount Pleasant and another banded at nearby Sullivans I., Oct. 13 (WP). Lincoln's Sparrow is the classic indicator of birder coverage. Apparently, coverage was moderate in October, as there were five inland reports, plus five banded or collected Oct. 3-Nov. 6 at the stations operated by Post at Mount Pleasant and Sullivans I. An outstanding count of White-crowned Sparrows for the Region's Coastal Plain was 34 at First Colony Farm near L. Phelps, N.C., Nov. 17 (AB).

Quite rare for South Carolina was a Lapland Longspur at Huntington Beach S.P., Nov. 20 (DM); McNair also had 17 at a regular wintering site, the Laurinburg-Maxton Airfield, N.C., Nov. 27. Another Lapland was rather early Oct. 12 at Pea I. (JOP, EP), and two were with pipits in c. Halifax Co., N.C., Nov. 26 (FE). The prospects for any kind of winter flight of Snow Buntings seemed slim, as the only fall sighting was of one at Huntington Beach S.P., Nov. 27 (DM). What was likely a record Regional count for Yellow-headed Blackbird was *five* (no ad. males) at a tidal pool at Cape Hatteras point Sept. 3 (BP, LR). Other Yellow-headed were near Savannah Sept. 30 (CH) and at Hilton Head I., S.C., Oct. 28 (GD). Well described was a ♀ N. (Bullock's) Oriole at Augusta Nov. 17 (AW). Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins went essentially unreported, and even Purple Finches were in unusually low numbers. Quite surprising, therefore, was the sighting of a Red Crossbill at Beaverdam Res. near Raleigh Oct. 7 (RD).

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FLORIDA REGION

/Lyn S. and Brooks H. Atherton

The season was dominated by a massive high pressure ridge that kept temperatures high and precipitation low over much of the southeastern United States. Observers characterized the migration as not only late, but also low in numbers. For instance, on November 3 at St. George Island Bay-breasted Warblers outnumbered "Myrtles" by about 2:1 (HMS), and the Casey Key banding station reported fewer bandings than any time since 1979 (A & SS).

August was hot, dry and rather boring, but September was the most active month. A cold front September 4-7 and Hurricane *Diana* September 8 dumped heavy rain, causing minor fallouts across the state. On September 17 another cold front reached into the state, stalled near Tampa, then slowly passed through. It was a wet front that brought down many migrants. Hurricane *Isadore* spun erratically across the state September 27-30. Its swirling cyclonic wind pattern typically produced sightings of misplaced birds in unusual settings.

Except for the fallouts caused by the cold front which brought record lows to Tallahassee October 2 and by Hurricane *Josephine* October 13, there was little action in October, which was otherwise hot and dry. The remainder of the season was rather uneventful except for the flurry of activity November 3-4 caused by the last cold front.

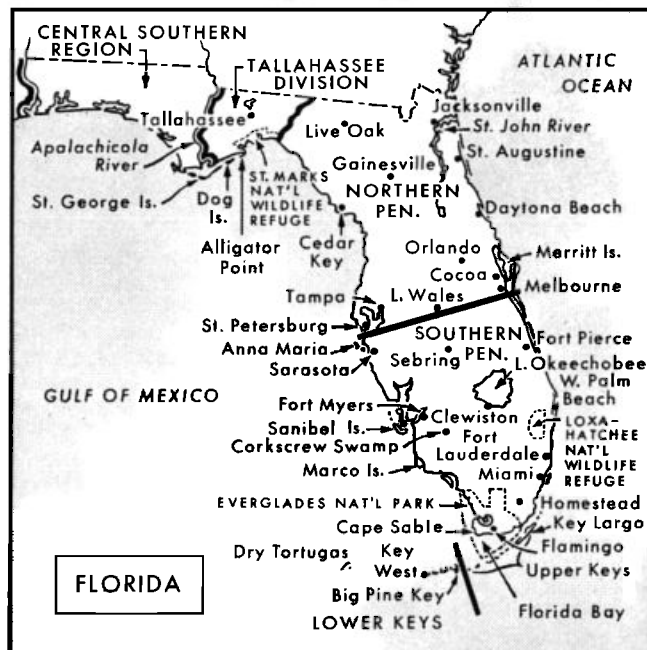
ABBREVIATIONS — E.N.P. = Everglades Nat'l Park; F.O.S.R.C. = Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee; H/Y = hatching-year; S.G.I. = St. George Island; S.T.P. = Sewage Treatment Plant; Tall. Div. = Tallahassee Division; T.T.R.S. = Tall Timbers Research Station; date with a "+" = recorded beyond end of period. Place names in *italics* are counties.

GREBES THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — The rare Eared Grebe, unreported elsewhere in the Region, appeared again at Clear Springs Mine, *Polk*, where 10 on Nov. 5 (BC, LG) were expected to stay through the winter (see 1983-1984 Winter Report). Two Cory's Shearwaters were offshore of Clearwater Sept. 22 (LH, DG *et al.*) and a Greater Shearwater was s.w. of Cedar Key Oct 17 (TO). Southeast of Cape Canaveral were the following: 27 Cory's, two Greaters and four Audubon's Sept. 30; 101 Cory's Oct. 14; and one Cory's and two Audubon's Nov. 5 (JJ). An Audubon's found ill at Ft. De Soto P., *Pinellas* Aug. 12 was taken to the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary where it died (*vide* LH; * to U.S.F.) and another was found dead on the beach at Ft. Pierce Aug. 13 (JMB).

Single Masked Boobies were 2 mi w. of Egmont Key, *Hillsborough* Aug. 18 (DMc) and at John Pennekamp Reef e. of Key Largo Aug. 24 (imm.—FH). Two others accompanied by two Brown Boobies were at the latter location Nov. 7 (H & WD) and another Brown Booby was 15 mi e. of Boynton Beach Oct. 7 (WH). At Alafia Banks, *Hillsborough*, a Brown Pelican nest with 2 eggs was very late Sept. 2 (RTP, SP). Unusual inland, two Magnificent Frigatebirds at Windemere, *Orange* Sept. 28 (H & WD) were attributed to Tropical Storm *Isadore*, and another off Shell Point, *Wakulla* Oct. 7 (MCK) strayed farther N than usual. Hundreds remained through mid-November at their wintering roost on Tarpon Key, *Pinellas*, and many were still frequenting the area at season's end (LA).

WADERS, GEESE AND DUCKS — North of their usual range, "Great White" Herons appeared at Alafia Banks Aug. 25 and Sun City Center during September (RTP), and at Cortez in Sarasota Bay Nov. 18 (WH). Two were unusual inland on the Tamiami Trail (U.S. 41) s. of Naples Nov. 21-25 (RTP). Reddish Egrets are rare in the Tall. Div., so singles at Hickory Mound, *Taylor* Aug. 14-21 (imm.—JC) and at the F.S.U. Marine Laboratory, *Wakulla* Oct. 8 ("white-phase"—DCB) were noteworthy. Approximately 100 night-herons were tallied along a 40 mi stretch of the Tamiami Trail s. of Naples Oct. 21 (RTP, JMP), and the WCTV tower n. of Tallahassee recorded its first Wood Stork casualty Aug. 6 (RC; *T.T.R.S.). A Greater Flamingo in n.e. Florida Bay at the s. end of the Nest Keys, E.N.P., Oct. 10-11 (TG) was away from the species' usual foraging area in the park and was probably "legitimate" (*vide* OB).

North of their usual breeding range, Fulvous Whistling-Ducks again



nested at Zellwood where a pair with nine ducklings was discovered Aug. 25 (TR, m.ob.). At Key West, one was observed regularly during the first 2 weeks of September (FF) and seven near St. Marks Light Sept. 17 (CSG, RW) were early Tall. Div. arrivals. There were numerous sightings during October and November in E.N.P., at West L. and Shark Valley. A flock of 600±, the largest reported, was at West L., Nov. 28 (MC). An unprecedented 19 **Tundra Swans** near St. Marks Light Nov. 24+ (JC, m.ob.) thrilled refuge visitors. Outside the Tall. Div., where Snow Geese are uncommon but regular, there were numerous sightings—perhaps indicating a greater influx than usual. Five at L. Placid Nov. 30 (JWF) were *Highland's* first-ever. One "blue" Snow Goose was circling with a flock of 45 Am. White Pelicans near St. Marks Light Nov. 17 (HMS, JMS).

In *Collier*, Green-winged Teal appeared earlier than normal and Mallards were fewer than usual with individuals described as "very thin and unhealthy looking" (JP). In the Tall. Div., the largest number of Blue-winged Teal ever reported—6500—was near St. Marks Light Sept. 17 (CSG, RW). A Canvasback in the same vicinity Nov. 4 (DCB) was rather early. By the end of the period, both *Collier* and *Pinellas* had greater than usual numbers of Ring-necked Ducks (*vide* JP and LH). A White-winged Scoter found ill at St. Petersburg Beach Nov. 10 was taken to the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary where it was to be treated and eventually released (*vide* LH). A rather unhealthy-looking Red-breasted Merganser that summered at the Tallahassee S.T.P. was still there Aug. 31 (HMS). An ad. ♂ **Masked Duck** at West L., Nov. 27 (D & JB—† to F.O.S.R.C.) was the first reported since last winter.

RAPTORS — An Am. Swallow-tailed Kite was late at Bartow Sept. 22 (PF), and an ad. **Black-shouldered Kite** frequented ranchland w. of Ft. Lauderdale Sept. 21-Oct. 25 (RB, m.ob.; WG ph. and † to F.O.S.R.C.)—unlike others of recent years which have disappeared just after being sighted. An immature or ♀ Snail Kite at the Savannas Recreation Area, Ft. Pierce Sept. 10 was apparently just passing through (H & WD), but many reported good numbers at the most reliable viewing area along the Tamiami Trail near the Miccosukee Restaurant. Approximately 80 were swirling over that area Oct. 21 (RTP, JMP). In the Tall. Div., 20 Mississippi Kites flying S near Tallahassee Sept. 24 (TE) established the first local record of significant numbers in September. Rare s. of Gainesville, singles were at Hypoluxo I., Oct. 2 (HL, BH) and Pa-Hay-Okee observation area, E.N.P. in early October (DH).

Three sightings of single ad. Bald Eagles at Alum Bluff, *Liberty* Aug. 3-21 and another Nov. 9 were unusual so far w. and inland (WB). In a 2-hr period at Hypoluxo I., Oct. 11 (HL, GSH) were four N. Harriers, 235 Sharp-shinneds, four Cooper's Hawks and two Peregrine Falcons. Higher than usual numbers of Cooper's Hawks were reported from the *Dade* and E.N.P. areas in early to mid-October (*vide* OB), and 40 Broad-

winged Hawks headed S at Sarasota Sept 21 (R & WH) Swainson's Hawks appeared in good numbers in s. Florida: 17 immatures flew by the w. end of Upper Matecumbe Key Nov. 7 (H & WD), seven were in a kettle over Anhinga Trail, E.N.P., Nov. 10 (HL *et al.*) and two were at Wellington, *Palm Beach*, Nov. 11 (PS, BH, RF). Despite the eight Peregrine Falcons at Taylor Birch P., Oct. 1 (WG, BH) and nine at Merritt Island N.W.R., Oct. 9 (BC, LG), there were far fewer Merlins and Peregrines than last year. Just on the heels of last winter's first state record of **Ferruginous Hawk** (see 1983-1984 Winter report), an immature was at Stoney Bayou, St. Marks N.W.R., Nov. 16 (JC; † to F.O.S.R.C.).

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — A Black Rail struck the Crystal River Power Plant Oct. 3 (DSM; *F.S.M.). Six Sandhill Cranes flying E near St. Marks Light Nov. 17 (HMS, JMS) were joined by another that flew up suddenly from the water.

This year in *Polk*, the ponds of Clear Springs Mine and IMC's Noralyn Mine provided more evidence that, if conditions are favorable in an area (even far inland), large concentrations of shorebirds and other normally rare species are likely to occur. Several species made first or 2nd *Polk* appearances: Lesser Golden-Plover Sept. 29, two Ruddy Turnstones Oct. 7, Buff-breasted Sandpiper Sept. 1 and 95 Sandwich Terns Sept. 16 (most-ever inland—*fide* HMS). *Polk's* highest-ever counts included 173 Am. Avocets Oct. 20, 1150 W. Sandpipers, 1200 Least Sandpipers and 505 Stilt Sandpipers Nov. 9, 1414 Forster's Terns Sept. 15, 500 Black Terns Sept. 16 and 488 Black Skimmers Oct. 13 (most-ever inland—*fide* HMS). Other species, usually *Polk* rarities, were 52 Black-bellied Plovers Nov. 9, one Willet Sept. 24, two Marbled Godwits and three Sanderlings Sept. 17, three White-rumped Sandpipers Sept. 14 and 13 early Dunlins Sept. 3 (BC, PF, CLG, LG, m.ob.).

Zellwood had five Lesser Golden-Plovers Aug. 25 (LA, LH, m.ob.); up to four visited the Palm Beach Polo Grounds Sept. 9-17 (BH, GH *et al.*) and two stopped at Virginia Key Sept. 16 (BH, WG, GH). In *Dade*, where Piping Plovers are usually rare, there were numerous sightings during the period at Virginia Key (BN). Unusual inland, an Am. Oystercatcher standing on a boat dock at L. Arietta in Auburndale Sept. 30 (PF) was thought to be there as a result of Hurricane Isadore. A fall rarity in the Tall. Div. was a Black-necked Stilt at Hickory Mound Aug. 14 (JC). Twenty-seven Am. Avocets at Blount I., *Duval* Aug. 18 (PP) furnished the highest-ever county total and another at Duda Farms-Belle Glade Aug. 26 (BH, RF) was a rarity for the s.e. coast. In the Tall. Div., where the species is also rare, several sightings of lone individuals at the Tallahassee S.T.P., Oct. 4-Nov. 4 (TM, DCB) were thought to be of the same bird.

Solitary Sandpipers were late at San Felasco S.P., *Alachua* Nov. 10 (MS) and Loxahatchee N.W.R., Nov. 13-21 (HL, RF). *Dade* had few previous reports of Upland Sandpiper (*fide* OB), so numerous sightings near Florida City Sept. 4-9 (CM) were noteworthy. For the Tall. Div., 51 Marbled Godwits at the F.S.U. Marine Lab Sept. 25 (JC) was a high total, and two Ruddy Turnstones at the Tallahassee S.T.P., Aug. 3 (HMS; one *T.T.R.S.) were early. At least nine White-rumped Sandpipers, usually rare in fall, were widespread along the e. coast with four at Anastasia State Rec. Area, St. Augustine Sept. 7 (CLG, HF) the earliest, and one at Port Canaveral Oct. 9 (BC, CLG) the latest. Stilt Sandpipers were late at Virginia Key Nov. 7 (HL *et al.*) and Loxahatchee N.W.R., Nov. 11 (three—PS, RF), although some winter in the Region. Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Boca Polo Sept. 16-17 (BH, GH) and one at Tallahassee S.T.P., Oct. 1 (TM) were rare in those vicinities, and Zellwood had the only Ruff Sept. 29 (D & GM). Duda Farms-Belle Glade had high counts of Wilson's Phalaropes, 50 Aug. 26 and 95 Sept. 2 (BH, GH, RF), and others were rare at Tallahassee S.T.P., Sept. 8-15 (four—JC) and Virginia Key Sept. 16 (three—WG *et al.*). Red-necked Phalaropes, normally found well offshore, were at Zellwood Sept. 8 (TR, CT) and *Marion* S.T.P., Sept. 29 (two—JRS; ph T.T.R.S.); one was close to shore near Lantana Beach Nov. 27 (HL).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — During August, a Pomarine Jaeger in Florida Bay, E.N.P. (AS) was a first for that area (*fide* OB). Jaegers were present in good numbers the first 2 weeks of November s e of Cape Canaveral with a 2:1 ratio of Pomarines to Parasitics of those identified (JJ). A light-phase subad. Parasitic Jaeger was one mi

w of the Sunshine Skyway, *Hillsborough* Nov 18 (WH, SP, L Hanners). The only Franklin's Gull was at the *St. Lucie* Landfill Oct. 8 (H & WD). In *Pinellas*, two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were discovered at N Redington Beach Oct. 29+ (GA, m.ob.) and one foraged at the county's solid waste disposal plant Nov. 20 (LH). Another visited Port Canaveral Nov. 5 (JJ). Far s. of its usual range was a Great Black-backed Gull at Marathon Nov. 17 (CLG). The earliest-ever Black-legged Kittiwake was an immature at Sebastian Inlet Oct. 2 (JB). Others were two s.e. of Cape Canaveral (JJ) and one at the Melbourne Beach S.T.P. (H & WD) Nov. 12, and one at Port Canaveral Nov. 24 (JJ)

Pelagic terns n.w. of Clearwater Sept. 22 included 300 Commons, five Bridleds and 300 Blacks (LH *et al.*), and Nov. 4-5 there were 4500+ Commons and 32 Bridleds s.e. of Cape Canaveral (JJ). A Least Tern at Port Canaveral Nov. 24 (JJ) was either very late or wintering

DOVES THROUGH SWIFTS — A White-crowned Pigeon at Taylor Birch P., Ft. Lauderdale Oct. 1 (BH, GH, CK, ME) was n. of its usual range of E.N.P. and the Florida Keys. A Ringed Turtle-Dove at the visitors' center, E.N.P., Aug. 23 (DP) was only the 2nd recorded for the park. Single White-winged Doves appeared at Fort De Soto P., Oct. 30 (BC, PF, m.ob.) and Nov. 26 (LA), and at Sarasota Nov. 17 (G & VS) By October in *Collier* and *Charlotte*, reports from hunters indicated Mourning Doves were scarce, despite an "excellent" food supply; they were still down 50% by season's end (*fide* TB).

The only Black-billed Cuckoos were at Cape Florida Sept. 22 (MC) & 29 (JS), Taylor Birch P., Oct. 1 (BH), Tallahassee Oct. 5 (TM) and John's I., *Brevard* Nov. 24 (very late—JWF). An early migrating Yellow-billed Cuckoo was a WCTV tower-kill Aug. 28 (RC; *T.T.R.S.) and 30 at S.G.I., Nov. 3 (HMS, JMS) furnished an exceptionally high number for so late. Two Groove-billed Anis were near St. Marks Light Nov. 6+ (JC, m.ob.) and another was *Polk's* first, at Homeland Mine near Bartow Nov. 23 (LT, PF, HE).

Orange Park, *Clay* had 1500 Com. Nighthawks moving S Aug 16 (HC) and Loxahatchee N.W.R. had one late Nov. 17 (calling—HL, PS) for *Palm Beach's* first-ever November record although some have wintered there. A Whip-poor-will was a *Pinellas* rarity at Brooker Creek P., Sept. 22-Oct. 20 (LA, LH *et al.*). Late Chimney Swifts lingered until the end of October in many areas, but the identity of three silent swifts at Lake Wales Nov. 25 (CLG) was not determined, as Vaux's was a possibility.

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS — Four Red-cockaded Woodpeckers at a nest hole w. of Melbourne Nov. 11 (NS, DD, BS) were at a previously unknown nest site. Orlando had this fall's earliest E. Wood-Pewee Aug. 19 (MK), and in *Pinellas*, 15 on Oct. 13 and 12 on Oct. 14 (LH, LA) were rather high counts. Banded at Casey Key were three Yellow-bellied Flycatchers Sept. 4-30 and a H/Y Alder Flycatcher Sept. 3 (A & SS), and Florida's latest-ever Acadian Flycatcher visited S.G.I., Nov. 3 (HMS, JMS). An ad. ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher was photographed at S.G.I., Oct. 9 (JC) and another was at the Key Largo Ranger's Station Oct. 24 (TG). The state's first **Cassin's Kingbird**, perched on a utility wire opposite the fort at Ft. De Soto Oct. 29 (LA; † to F.O.S.R.C.), fed on spiders snatched from their webs in a *Ficus* tree. Western Kingbirds were widespread, but noteworthy was a very early one w. of Homestead Sept. 5 (OB). Large migrant flocks of E. Kingbirds were in *Alachua* Sept. 2 (200—BM) and S.G.I., Sept. 6 (450—JMS) and a Gray Kingbird was quite late n. of Homestead Nov. 8 (HL). When discovered, a **Loggerhead Kingbird** at Hypoluxo I., Oct. 5 (LA, RP, DHG, AM; † to F.O.S.R.C.) was associating with a mixed flock of Eastern and Gray kingbirds, affording excellent comparisons; however, it disappeared minutes later and was not relocated. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers away from the Gulf Coast (where the species is rare but regular) were at Merritt Island N.W.R., Oct. 22 (DS) and Peace R. near State Road 60, *Polk* Nov. 29 (TP). Two **Fork-tailed Flycatchers** perched on a utility wire w. of Florida City, *Dade* Sept. 15 (A & MC; † to F.O.S.R.C.) However, much to the despair of local birders but typical of the Tyranninae, the two diurnal migrants departed minutes after their discovery

SWALLOWS THROUGH WAXWINGS — Seven Cliff Swallows in *Pinellas* Sept. 19 (LH) was a high one-day total for the peninsular Gulf Coast, and an early Red-breasted Nuthatch visited S.G.I., Sept. 29 (JMS). Several area editors mentioned low numbers of thrushes. For

example, Swainson's and Veery bandings were down 50% at Casey Key (A & SS) and numbers were "very disappointing" on the s.e. coast (HL). Considering that, 16 Veeries in *Pinellas* Sept. 19 (LH) was a rather high count. Some thrushes were late: single Gray-cheeked and Wood at S G I., Nov. 3 (HMS, JMS), and at Ft. De Soto a Gray-cheeked Nov. 3, Veery Nov. 10 and Swainson's Nov. 26+ (LA). An Am. Robin at Sawgrass Lake P., *Pinellas* Aug. 8 (LH, RH) was most likely a post-breeder from Tampa (see 1984 Summer Report), rather than a n. migrant. *Pinellas* had a high count of 229 Gray Catbirds Oct. 13 (DG *et al.*), and Loxahatchee N.W.R. hosted a very early Cedar Waxwing Oct. 4 (RF).

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — During September and October vireos were the most abundant casualties at the Crystal River Power Plant towers with 188 White-eyeds and 100 Red-eyeds killed (DSM). Single late Yellow-throateds were at S.G.I., Nov. 3 (HMS, JMS; *T.T.R.S.) and Gainesville Nov. 24 (MS). Philadelphias are especially rare along the Atlantic Coast, so singles at Ft. Clinch S.P., *Nassau* Sept. 29 (HC), Matheson Hammock, *Dade* Sept. 30 (JS), and Loxahatchee N.W.R., Oct. 4 (RF) were significant.

Although the overall migration was considered rather disappointing by some, many species of warblers made noteworthy appearances. The cold front of Nov. 3-4 produced not only many later-than-usual migrants at several coastal locations (particularly S.G.I.), but also an estimated 500 warblers in one hour tallied from a boat s.e. of Cape Canaveral Nov. 4 (JJ). There were good numbers of both Blue-wingeds and Golden-wingeds, especially in the northeast which recorded nine Blue-wingeds and at least seven Golden-wingeds, many more than usual for that area (PP, HC). In *Alachua*, where Golden-wingeds were also "more common than usual," a very late Blue-winged visited River Rise State Preserve Nov. 28 (BM). The very rare "Lawrence's" Warbler stopped at Bulholtz Woods near Gainesville Sept. 3 (J & RS), and South Jacksonville recorded *Duval's* first-ever "Brewster's" Warbler Sept. 19 (PP). Three "Brewster's" at Dunedin Hammock, *Pinellas* Sept. 22 (all differently plumaged—LA, MW) were the most ever at one location. Lone Tennessee straggled through *Pinellas* Nov. 2 (JF) & 3 (DG), and 20 at S G I. on the latter date was a very high total so late (HMS, JMS). An analysis of locations, dates and plumages indicated that at least six different Nashvilles—an unprecedented number at one locality—visited Ft. De Soto Sept. 15-Nov. 4 (LA, m.ob.). Others were singles at Seminole Sept. 16-17 (JF), Ft. Lauderdale Sept. 23 (BH), Taylor Birch P., Oct. 1 (GH, WG, BR) and Rabbit Key, Florida Keys Oct. 14 (TG).

An extraordinary 30 Chestnut-sided Warblers were at S.G.I. and vicinity Oct. 1 (JMS, CW *et al.*), and s.e. coast rarities were at Hypoluxo I. and Loxahatchee N.W.R., Oct. 2 (HL, RF *et al.*). Late Chestnut-sided Warblers lingered at S.G.I., Nov. 3 (HMS, JMS) and S. Jacksonville Nov. 4 (JPC). In *Pinellas*, 14 Magnolia Warblers Oct. 13 (LA, LH) was high. Others were late Nov. 3 at S.G.I. (seven—HMS, JMS) and Ft. De Soto (two—LA), as was a ♂ Black-throated Blue at S. Jacksonville Nov. 4 (PP). Perhaps unusually mild weather farther n. accounted for the lack of many Yellow-rumped Warblers, for few had arrived by November as evidenced by the low count of 35 at S.G.I., Nov. 3 (HMS, JMS) and low numbers reported elsewhere. A **Townsend's Warbler** s. of Tallahassee Sept. 26 (TM; † to F.O.S.R.C.) was the first for the Tall. Div. and one of few for Florida. *Pinellas* had a high count of 10 Black-throated Green Warblers Oct. 13 (LH *et al.*) and three Blackburnian Warblers were late at S.G.I., Nov. 3 (HMS, JMS; * to T.T.R.S.). Twenty-one Prairie Warblers at S.G.I., Sept. 9 (JMS) was a very high total and one at Alligator Pt., Nov. 9 (RC) was quite late. Although Bay-breasted Warblers are late migrants, 70 at S.G.I., Nov. 3 (HMS, JMS) was an exceptionally high number. Rare away from the e. coast were Blackpoll Warblers at Saddle Creek P., Sept. 28 (PF) and Ft. De Soto Sept. 30 (LH, LA, JF). Five Cerulean Warblers at Sawgrass Lake P., Aug. 17 (LH, JH) was a high total, and unusual e. coast migrants were singles at Orange Park, *Clay* Sept. 1-2 and Ft. George I., *Duval* Sept. 9 (HC).

Two Am. Redstarts and two N. Waterthrushes were late at S.G.I., Nov. 3 (HMS, JMS). Swainson's Warblers are usually quite rare in fall, therefore a total of seven in *Broward* and *Palm Beach* Sept. 20-Oct. 1 (BH, WG, HL) was rather surprising, especially since the only one noted otherwise was a casualty at the Crystal River Power Plant Oct. 7 (DSM; *F.S.M.). Rare for the e. coast was a Kentucky Warbler at

Taylor Birch P., Sept. 27 (WG, BR) Exceedingly rare in fall, lone Connecticut Warblers were at Ft. Clinch S.P., Aug. 25 (very early—HC) and Taylor Birch P., Sept. 27 (WG). A H/Y Mourning Warbler was at the latter location Sept. 29-30 (WG, BH *et al.*). St. George Island's 14 Hooded Warblers Sept. 6 (JMS) furnished a high fall total, and one was late at the Wakulla R., Nov. 12 (JMS). Five Wilson's Warblers included the earliest at S.G.I., Sept. 16 (JMS) and the latest near St. Marks Light Oct. 16 (JC). Of seven Canada Warblers, Saddle Creek P.'s was the earliest Aug. 15 (PF) and *Palm Beach's* two were the latest Oct. 2 (HL, TT). Rare in the peninsula anytime, a Yellow-breasted Chat was at Dunedin Beach Aug. 27 (LH), one stopped at Loxahatchee N.W.R., Sept. 24 (RF) and another was a casualty of the Crystal River Power Plant Oct. 7 (DSM; *F.S.M.).

TANAGERS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS — Single Summer and Scarlet tanagers were quite late at S.G.I., Nov. 3 (HMS, JMS), and the only W. Tanager was at Flamingo, E.N.P., Nov. 15 (GY). Very late were five Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at S.G.I., Nov. 3 (HMS, JMS; one *T.T.R.S.) and a Blue Grosbeak near Tallahassee Nov. 16 (JMS). A high count so late was 25 Indigo Buntings at S.G.I., Nov. 3 (HMS, JMS). Perplexing was a female or imm. Painted Bunting at Lake Worth Oct. 9 (GSH) which had a red band on the right leg, but no F. & W.S. band. The only Dickcissels were at Ft. Clinch S.P., Sept. 29 (two immatures—HC).

Late-nesting Rufous-sided Towhees hatched three young in n. *Leon* Aug. 23 (HMS *et al.*; one *T.T.R.S.). An early Bachman's Sparrow was a WCTV tower-kill Sept. 17 (RC; *T.T.R.S.) and a rare Clay-colored appeared at Sawgrass Lake P., Nov. 12 (LH). Florida's earliest migrating Field Sparrow visited S.G.I., Oct. 1 (JMS, CW *et al.*), the only Lark Sparrow was near St. Marks Light Sept. 9 (TE, SJ), and a Grasshopper Sparrow was a Florida Keys rarity at Boca Chica Nov. 9 (HL *et al.*). Destruction of habitat has made the Seaside Sparrow a rare find in many areas, especially the s.e. coast; so three in a wet field at Port Everglades Sept. 8 (WG, BH, RF) were quite unexpected. Elusive Lincoln's Sparrows were at Hypoluxo I., Oct. 2 (LH, AL), near Oldsmar, *Pinellas* Oct. 13 (JM, DG) and near Lutz, *Hillsborough* in mid-October (DHG). Sparrows appearing farther s. than usual were: an imm White-throated banded at Casey Key Oct. 14 (A & SS), a White-throated, adult and imm. White-crowneds and a Dark-eyed Junco at Ft. De Soto Nov. 7 (LA, JB, LH) and at least three White-crowneds at E.N.P., Nov. 10-17 (JB, ER, HL, m.ob.).

In *Pinellas*, Sunshine Stables hosted a ♀ Yellow-headed Blackbird, a ♂ Bronzed Cowbird and at least two Brewer's Blackbirds Nov. 13+ (LH, LA, m.ob.). Another Yellow-headed fed at Duda Ranch, Cocoa Nov. 15 (JJ, KE), and a ♂ Brewer's at Flamingo Campground Nov. 27 (J & DB) was well s. of its usual range. Usually a fall rarity in the peninsula and Florida Keys, at least seven Orchard Orioles appeared at various locations including Loxahatchee N.W.R., Sept. 11 (RF) and Lower Matecumbe Key Sept. 24 (Mrs. Dehn). Six at S.G.I., Sept. 6 (JMS) was a high September count for the Tall. Div. By Oct. 17, at least 16 N. Orioles had arrived at a roost in Haines City that the species used the previous 2 years (TP). Not only rare but very early was a ♀ "Bullcock's" N. Oriole at Ft. De Soto Aug. 31 (2nd county record—LA, BA) Intriguingly, the first county record—also of a female—was at that park the previous spring.

ADDENDUM — A Lark Sparrow was rare and late at Ft. De Soto May 10, 1984 (LH, LA, AM).

CORRIGENDUM — Experts are still debating the age and sex of the Townsend's Warbler photographed at Ft. De Soto Sept. 14, 1983 (see 1983 Fall Report).

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ONTARIO REGION

/Ron D. Weir

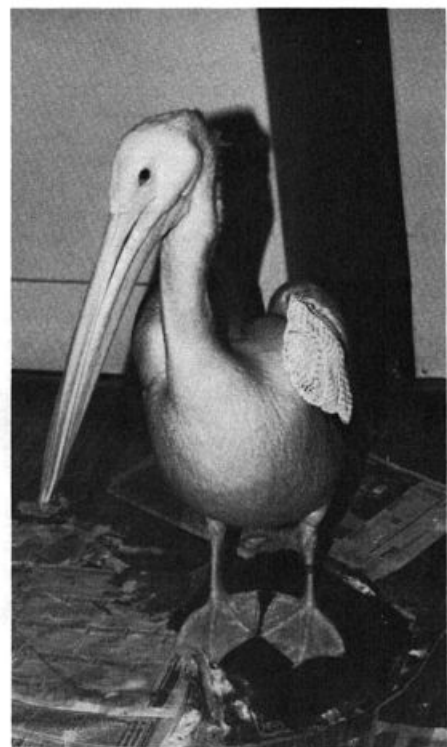
Another mild autumn was experienced, leading some observers to consider this the norm. Between August and early November, the almost total lack of cold fronts (characterized by large temperature drops followed by North-Northwest winds which are needed for grounding migrants) was both atypical and disappointing. Passerine migration was lacklustre virtually everywhere. A reverse migration into extreme southwestern Ontario occurred August 28-30 just ahead of the busiest period at the Long Point Bird Observatory August 31-September 2. Heavy night flights went over eastern Ontario at Kingston September 10/11 and Ottawa September 11/12. In the Kingston flight, 12,000 Swainson's Thrushes were counted. An unprecedented movement of waterfowl was witnessed at Ottawa November 12 and the species composition, including Northern Fulmar, Great Cormorant and Black-legged Kittiwake, suggested Atlantic origins.

Berry and cone crops were sensationally heavy over most of the province so it was not surprising that nuthatches, chickadees and winter finches did not irrupt into the south. The warm season, coupled with abundant food supplies, helped to explain many late records. A strong showing was made by loons, the heron family, Peregrine Falcon and waders. Among the rarities were Curlew Sandpiper, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Smith's Longspur and Rosy Finch.

ABBREVIATIONS — P.E. Pt. = Prince Edward Point; Pt. Pelee is a National Park and Algonquin, Presqu'ile and Rondeau are Provincial Parks. Place names in *italics* denote counties.



LOONS THROUGH PELICANS — Loon movement was impressive. Red-throated were widespread, led by 150 moving W along the river at Ottawa Nov. 12 (RAB, BMD) and 40 at Kettle Pt.-Sarnia Oct 14-Nov. 18 (*fide* DFR). There were 26 reported elsewhere. Peak numbers of Commons were 2000 at Ottawa Nov. 12 (RAB, BMD), 500 at Kettle Pt., Nov. 6 (*fide* DFR), 208 at P.E. Pt., Nov. 7 (K.F.N.) and 150 on one lake in Quetico P.P., Sept. 1 (SFP). Horned Grebes were down in numbers at Kettle Pt., but up at Ottawa and in normal numbers at P.E. Pt., where 190 were counted Nov. 7 (K.F.N.). The Red-necked Grebe flight was again weak and only 57 birds were noted. Four Eareds were located off Amherst I., Sept. 3-9 (RKE, JHE, PM), Presqu'ile Sept. 27 (AGC, HM), Port Stanley and Sarnia Oct. 20-21 (MPW, DFR), bringing the annual total to 6 sightings. The yearly average since 1972 has been 7. A light-phase **Northern Fulmar** at Woodlawn, n.w. of Ottawa Nov. 12 (BMD, DM, RBr) constituted only the 5th Ontario record in the s.; 3 of the 5 are of specimens. The only **American White Pelican** reported out-of-range was an imm. male at Kingston Oct. 20, which apparently hit a wire along Hwy 401 and miraculously escaped death. The bird had been banded in Minnesota in June 1984. It was rehabilitated by Avian Care and its release in Florida was arranged by World Wildlife Fund (MW, NC, KC).



American White Pelican being rehabilitated at Kingston, Ont., Oct. 28 1984. Photo/R. Holland.

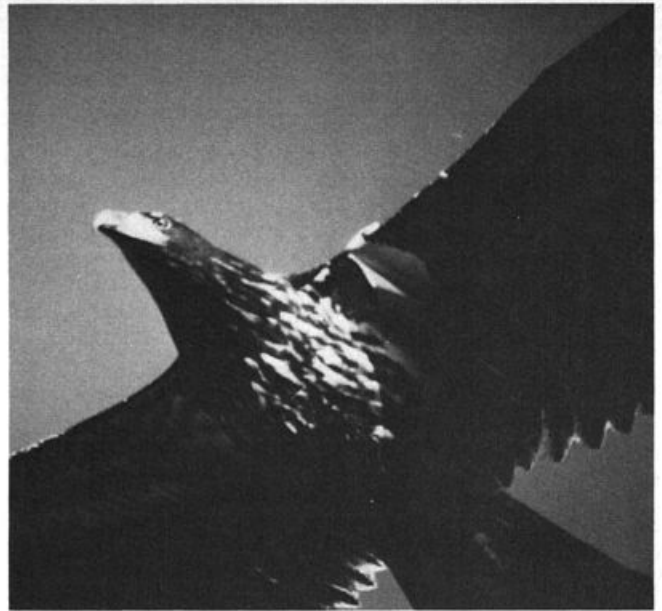
CORMORANTS THROUGH IBISES — Single Great Cormorants, very rare inland to the Great Lakes and Ottawa R., were at Darlington Aug. 24 (MJB) and Ottawa Nov. 12 (BMD, RBr, DM). Numbers of Double-crested remained high. In eastern L. Ontario, dispersal from revitalized breeding colonies resulted in 1000 at South Bay *Prince Edward* Sept. 16 (JHE, PG), 500 daily at P.E. Pt., Aug. 26-Sept. 16 and 350 on Amherst I., Sept. 13 (K.F.N.). In western L. Erie, many thousands of migrants were seen flying at high altitudes and dropping out of the clouds into waters around Pelee Sept. 20-21 (DFR). Six Least Bitterns were noted, among which were a first confirmed nesting in years in the Dundas Marsh Aug. 17 (BL) and Atikokan's first record ever Aug. 22 (DHE), that bird being found on the town street! Noteworthy among the 30 Great Egret reports were one n. to Oliphant Sept. 9 (DL, GL), three near Peterborough Oct. 21 (*fide* DCS), and a late individual at Whitby Nov. 19 (MJB). The lone Snowy Egret on Wolfe I., Nov. 11 (JHE, RDW), Kingston's latest ever, was the only one reported in the period.

Cattle Egrets numbered 19 for their best autumn showing since 1980 and appeared Oct. 18-Dec. 1. Birds were seen at Wheatley, Long Pt., Port Rowan, Mountsberg, Sarnia, Hamilton, Bloomfield *Prince Edward* and near Sault Ste. Marie. Two at Providence Bay, Manitoulin I., were still present Dec. 1 (JM, CTB). Late Green-backed Herons were singles at Peterborough Oct. 13 (PH) and North Bay Oct. 19 (GFC). Two imm. Black-crowned Night-Herons were in Oshawa's Second Marsh to Nov. 14 (LR). The three Glossy Ibises located were the most in autumn since 1976 and the first since 1980. One in Wellington Oct. 17 was the first in fall for *Prince Edward* (RB) and the adult near the Guelph dam Oct. 17-24 was that region's 2nd ever (JEP *et al.*). The 3rd appeared at Long Point P.P., Nov. 7 (*fide* DS).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — Heavy migration of Tundra Swans occurred at Long Pt. from Oct. 29 (L.P.B.O.), and up to 15 were well e. at Peterborough Nov. 9-18 (*fide* DCS), Big I., *Prince Edward* Nov. 14-17 (RTS) and the Kingston area Nov. 13-30 (K.F.N.). The origins of single Greater White-fronted Geese at Aylmer Sept. 27-Oct. 4 (HGC, RJK) and Toronto's e. Headland Sept. 30 (FB) were unknown. Numbers of Brant were lower than usual and their main flight arrived in Kingston, Ottawa and Kettle Pt., Oct. 25-28. The flight of Canada Geese was poor everywhere and one was still on the n. coast at Sutton Ridges Nov. 23 (KFA, RDM).

A late Mallard brood contained 12 freshly-hatched chicks at Vermilion Bay Sept. 15 (SRM). The ♂ Eur. Wigeon on Wolfe I., Oct. 14-21 (K.F.N.) raised Ontario's total for the year to three, which is about average. The largest group of Canvasbacks was 5000 at Niagara Falls Nov. 25 (HGC), and of Ring-necked Ducks, 1000 at Ottawa Oct. 13 (BMD). Hamilton's ♂ Tufted Duck returned Nov. 17 (RC *et al.*), presumably to overwinter. The Sarnia and Niagara Falls areas shared equally all 10 King Eiders reported in the s. At Sarnia, they were present between Nov. 2 & 22 (DFR *et al.*), and along the river from Ft. Erie to Niagara Falls Nov. 10-30 (LRo, RWK *et al.*). Only five Harlequin Ducks were noted at Long Pt., Oct. 26 and Nov. 4 (L.P.B.O.), Humber Bay Nov. 2 (RY), Erieau Nov. 6 (PAW), and Burlington Nov. 10+ (KM *et al.*). Oldsquaw numbers were largest in living memory inland with 400 at Ottawa Nov. 3 (BMD) and 500 at London Nov. 11 (DMar). On Nov. 22 some 50,000 migrated past the tip of Long Pt., where unprecedented numbers of Surf and White-winged scoters were seen during October and November (L.P.B.O.). A male and a ♀ Barrow's Goldeneye were again at Ottawa Nov. 4-16 and Nov. 11-30 respectively (MG, BMD). The largest concentrations of mergansers reported were 6000 Commons at Orillia (WEZ) and 50,000 Red-breasteds at Pelee (GTH).

RAPTORS — The lone Turkey Vulture in Algonquin Aug. 26 was their 2nd ever in autumn (RGT). After correcting for duplication and excluding those in Table 1, Bald Eagle sightings totalled 47 in the s. and 47 in the n. One immature tagged in the New York state marking program was at Melbourne during the fall (WRJ) and another wearing a yellow wing tag N83 was photographed in the Sarnia-Kettle Pt. area Oct. 7-26 (AHR *et al.*). An adult wearing jesses appeared at Niagara-on-the-Lake Nov. 26 (RDM) and presumably it was this same bird seen in Hamilton Dec. 1, 2 & 9 (RDM, PDS). A late N. Harrier lingered in



Immature Bald Eagle (with wing tag) at Kettle Pt., Ont., October 1984. Photo/A. H. Rider.

Sudbury to Nov. 29 (JCN). Northern Goshawk numbers were typical of a non-invasion year. In addition to those in Table 1, two and eight passed Pelee and P.E. Pt., respectively, and there were 8 other sightings. The 1304 Red-shouldereds at Holiday Beach were well above their 6-year average of 733 in fall (RLBe). At P.E. Pt., 100 migrated Nov. 2 and 125, all adults, passed Nov. 17 (K.F.N.). Broad-winged Hawk movement was spectacular in the extreme southwest Sept. 15 when a record 97,000 were counted at Holiday Beach (RLBe), 42,500 at Leamington (AW), 17,949 at Hawk Cliff (DEF) and 15,000 at Morpeth (PAW, HP). The only Swainson's Hawk reported was at Rock Point P.P., Sept. 19-28 (BWD *et al.*). Golden Eagle numbers were a record high at 47, of which 36 were in the s. At Ft. Frances, eight were together Oct. 28 (DHE, JGM). The 131 Merlins tallied were normal numbers, and single Gyrfalcons were at Cranberry Marsh and Pelee Nov. 19 (MJB, GTH).

Table 1. Hawk totals at two Ontario stations, Autumn 1984

Species	Holiday Beach P.P. ¹	Hawk Cliff ²
Turkey Vulture	6271	1402
Osprey	65	46
Bald Eagle	15	1
Northern Harrier	556	527
Sharp-shinned Hawk	12,313	5931
Cooper's Hawk	666	387
Northern Goshawk	42	16
Red-shouldered Hawk	1304	66
Broad-winged Hawk	110,221	24,087
Red-tailed Hawk	7654	1854
Rough-legged Hawk	50	7
Golden Eagle	20	7
Am. Kestrel	2165	1626
Merlin	20	7
Peregrine Falcon	16	21
unidentified	256	376
Totals	141,634	36,361

¹(RLBe *et al.*, Aug. 25-Nov. 30, 90 days) ²(DEF *et al.*, Sept. 1-Nov. 30, 91 days)

The 106 Peregrine Falcons in the s. were a sharp increase and provided some basis for cautious optimism about the species' fortunes. Correction for duplicate counting within sites has been made, but not between sites. Given the species' habit of heading out over water obstacles, migrants at lakeshore sites are unlikely to appear at either Hawk Cliff or Holiday Beach. The 23 individuals seen at the tip of Long Point were unprecedented there and all flew out S over L. Erie (DS). Their numbers were up at Hawk Cliff, where three first-year birds were caught and banded in October (DEF). No birds were reported wearing tags or bands.

RAILS THROUGH PHALAROPES — A Yellow Rail seen and heard in the Dundas Marsh Oct. 4 & 7 provided the first sighting there in decades (RHW, JH *et al.*). Also present was a Sandhill Crane Sept. 27 (RF). Other Sandhills in the s. were five in the Luther Marsh Sept. 23 (S.P.N.) and one in Cranberry Marsh Oct. 20 (MJB, NL). Maximum numbers of Semipalmated Plovers reported were 300 at Ingleside Aug. 24, accompanied by 1000 Semipalmated Sandpipers (BMD). Single Piping Plovers were in the Oshawa area at the Corner Marsh Aug. 27 (EJ) and Frenchman's Bay Sept. 25 (GB). One Am. Avocet remained at Blenheim lagoons Sept. 25-Oct. 2 (PAW *et al.*) and another appeared at Hamilton Oct. 23 (BL). The seven Willets in the period were singles at Thunder Bay Aug. 26 (JFF), Bruce peninsula in early September (DL), London Sept. 16 (WRJ), Wolfe I., Oct. 28 (RBS), and P.E. Pt., Nov. 4 (GV, RDW), and two at Komoka Oct. 11 (ML). In Algonquin Aug. 22, 50 Whimbrels were present and flocks were heard flying over after dark (RGT). The species had been recorded there on only one previous occasion. Otherwise the Whimbrel flight was weak with only 19 sightings. However, 75+ Hudsonian Godwits were many more than usual as the birds were widely reported throughout the s. The largest flock was of 22 in Frenchman's Bay Sept. 9 (GB, HGC, BDP *et al.*). Seven Marbled Godwits were the most in autumn since the record 13 in 1975. Singles were at Port Perry Aug. 11 (EP), Long Pt., Aug. 22 (DS *et al.*), and Ingleside Aug. 24 & 30 (different birds—BMD, RMP), and three were at Whitby Aug. 11 (LR). A Ruddy Turnstone at Thunder Bay Oct. 17 was unusual there (AW). The 7 W. Sandpiper reports were from Amherst I., Presqu'île, Guelph, Long Pt., Kettle Pt. and Sarnia Aug. 9-Oct. 11. A weaker-than-usual flight of White-rumpeds was noted, but 31 at the Amherstview Sewage Lagoons Oct. 8 was a good number (RDW). The 57+ Baird's Sandpipers were also lower numbers than usual.

Purple Sandpipers numbered 17, well below last autumn's record, but above the 20-year average of 13. Aside from one at the mouth of the Moose R., Sept. 23 (RDM), all were in the extreme s. and during November. The largest group was of four at Niagara Falls Nov. 24 (RLB *et al.*). The **Curlew Sandpiper** at Rondeau Oct. 15 (PAW) was well documented and the first for that area. For the 2nd consecutive fall, Stilt Sandpipers were unusually numerous with 200+ reports topped by the 62 in the Corner Marsh Sept. 11 (MWi, DVW). The latest of 75+ Buff-breasted was a single in Wawa Sept. 28-29 (ERA, JHA). The seven Ruffs provided an autumn high, raising this year's total to a record 21. Single female-plumaged birds were at Havelock Aug. 1-9 (AGC *et al.*), Burk's Falls, Parry Sound Aug. 8 (AM, CW), Amherstview Sept. 10 (RDW) and Niagara Oct. 9 (*vide* RWK). Two females were at Scotland, Brant Aug. 3 (*vide* MPW) and a male was near Kingston Nov. 4 (K.F.N.). At least 25 Long-billed Dowitchers were seen in the s., Aug. 31-Nov. 5, of which five were in the Dundas Marsh Oct. 6 (DG, BL, KM). The 15 Red-necked Phalaropes were normal numbers as were the six Reds. The Red Phalaropes were seen at Presqu'île Sept. 15 (AGC, PH, PB), Hamilton Sept. 23 (DG, KM *et al.*), Kingston Nov. 24 (RWO *et al.*), and three at Sarnia Nov. 11 (SC, DFR).

Space restrictions preclude using all of the many late wader records. Extremes include (given in respective sequence): Greater and Lesser yellowlegs and Least Sandpiper at Sudbury Nov. 6 & 2 and Oct. 1 (JCN), Killdeer and Dunlin at Moosonee Oct. 19 and Nov. 11 (RDM, KFA), Lesser Golden-Plover, Killdeer and Sanderling at Presqu'île Dec. 1, 2 & 2 (RDM, AGC), Greater Yellowlegs at Guelph Dec. 2 (SRK), Spotted Sandpiper at Ottawa Nov. 19 (BMD), Upland Sandpiper at Wawa Oct. 21 (ERA, JHA), and Wilson's Phalarope at Port Stanley Nov. 26 (RJK).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — An imm. Pomarine Jaeger at Sarnia Sept. 1 was early (DFR) and singles were at Hamilton Sept. 30 (RR), Niagara-on-the-Lake Nov. 11 (LRo *et al.*), and Ottawa Nov. 14 (BMD). Three were also at Sarnia Nov. 11 (DFR, KJB *et al.*). The Parasitic flight was poorer than usual and of the 41 sightings, 20 and 18 were in the Hamilton and Sarnia areas respectively (KM, DFR). There were 3 records of Laughing Gull: Rondeau Sept. 3 (PAW *et al.*), Oshawa Sept. 24 (DJM, LR), and Rattray Marsh Oct. 4 (WCM). Ten Franklin's Gulls were seen in the s. at Rock Point P.P., Long Pt. area, Kingston, Niagara Falls and Sarnia Aug. 22-Nov. 17. The single immatures at Guelph L., *Waterloo-Wellington* Sept. 22 (MDC) and Strathroy, *Middlesex* Sept. 27-29 (ph. WRJ *et al.*) provided 3rd county records. The 72 Little Gulls were increased numbers made up of 11 at Sarnia, 13 along L. Erie, 20 at Niagara, 27 from L. Ontario and an immature at Constance Bay near Ottawa Aug. 26, where rare (BMD). That the autumn status of the Com. Black-headed Gull has changed is illustrated by its 2 records in the 6 years 1975-1980 and 13 records in 3 years 1981-1983. The upsurge continued this fall with five birds. Three different individuals were thought to be at Niagara Falls Nov. 8-30 (*vide* RWK). An adult was at Sarnia Nov. 11 (DFR, KJB) and an immature at the Long Pt. tip Nov. 18 (L.P.B.O.). A conservative count of Bonaparte's at Queenston Nov. 17 yielded 50,000 birds (BMD) and at Long Pt., Sept. 29, there were 16,000 present (L.P.B.O.). Noteworthy among the 15 Thayer's was one inland at Geraldton Oct. 16 (AW) and five at the Nepean dump Oct. 15-Nov. 30 (BMD, RMP). An Iceland Gull appeared there Oct. 10 (BMD), furnishing one of the very few reports of early arrivals of any species.



Adult Lesser Black-backed Gull at Nepean dump, Ottawa, Ont., Sept. 26, 1984. Photo! B. M. DiLabio.



First-winter Thayer's Gull (foreground) with Herring Gull at Nepean dump, Ottawa, Ont., Oct. 17, 1984. Photo! B. M. DiLabio.

The 25 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were one more than last autumn's record high. The age profile was supplied on 16 birds, of which nine were adults, two subadults, two in 2nd-winter, one in first-summer and two in first-winter plumages. The two first-winter birds were at Long Pt. Sept. 26-Oct. 4 (L.P.B.O.) supporting the hypothesis that the species may be nesting in North America. *Peterborough's* first ever were singles Nov. 12-17 & 16 respectively (RDM, RPi). The seven (probably different) Sabine's Gulls were a high. All were immatures: at Ft. Erie Sept. 20 and Oct. 3 (RFA *et al.*), Long Pt., Sept. 22-23 (L.P.B.O.), Pelee Sept. 25-28 (AW, GTH, RS), Sarnia Nov. 2 & 11 (DFR), and Presqu'île Nov. 4 (AGC *et al.*). Two ranged between Niagara Falls and Queenston from early November to Nov. 25 (G. Bellerby, HGC *et al.*). Late terns included five Caspians at Pelee Oct. 25 (TL, JBe), a Common at Niagara Falls Nov. 25, where 50 were present Nov. 1 (HGC), and single Blacks at North Bay Sept. 16 (RT) and Niagara Falls Nov. 4 (RSc). Of the 56+ Forster's reports, 38 were from L. Ontario sites and a late immature was at Arnprior Oct. 21 (MG *et al.*). Some 300 migrant Black Terns were at Pelee Aug. 30 (AW).

CUCKOOS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Late were single Black-billed Cuckoos in Algonquin Oct. 22 (CB) and Port Hope Oct. 29 (ERM). Late Yellow-billed were killed on a Whitby road Oct. 25 (LR) and at a Manotick window Nov. 17 (BMD). A N. Hawk-Owl appeared near Barron Canyon in Algonquin Nov. 25 (JBo) and another remained near Warton Nov. 24-Dec. 2 (*vide* JWJ). The only out-of-range Great

Gray was seen at Fernleigh, n *Frontenac* Nov 5 (DH), perhaps never having left the area following last winter's irruption. Northern Saw-whet Owl migration was poor, a result of weather conditions and, apparently, a shortage of hatching-year birds. At P.E. Pt., where 3700+ Saw-whets have been banded during autumn since 1975, only 110 were banded this fall of which 78% were adults (K.F.N.). It was the same story at Long Pt., where 40 were banded and 80% were adults (L.P.B.O.). The Owl Research & Rehabilitation Foundation received not a single Saw-whet, which is most unusual (KMCK). Heavy passage of Com. Nighthawks was observed at Kenora Aug. 22-29 (SRM). Near Sudbury along Hwy 17 w. to Espanola, 500 and 300 were migrating Aug 17 & 22 respectively (JCN). A coordinated watch in late August along this highway could result in tens of thousands of migrating nighthawks. A hummingbird seen in Grimsby Oct. 1-4 was thought to be one of the *Selasphorus* species (GM *et al.*), but identification awaits the consultation of experts.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — An ad. Red-bellied Woodpecker was with its flying young during August at Wingham (JBM) and a lone bird was well n. at Silver Islet near Thunder Bay Oct. 18 (AW). Hairy Woodpeckers were completely absent from Pelee and Long Pt. in the period (AW, L.P.B.O.) and neither of the three-toeds was reported out of their breeding ranges. A singing E. Wood-Pewee in Algonquin Sept. 18 furnished a latest record (RGT). Other late flycatchers were single Yellow-bellieds at Long Pt., Oct. 10 (L.P.B.O.) and Pelee Oct. 27 (MF, SF). Single juv. Acadians were banded at Mountsberg Aug. 8 (*vide* SRK) and Long Pt., Aug. 27 (L.P.B.O.). Another was at Pelee Aug. 28 (AW). Five W. Kingbirds were found in a 12-day period at Rainy R., Aug. 29 (MR), Germanicus, *Renfrew* Sept. 4 (CM *et al.*), Pelee Sept. 6 (WW *et al.*), Massey Sept. 8 (JEm, MH, BT) and Long Pt., Sept. 9 (VF *et al.*). Purple Martin numbers were extraordinary at Long Pt., where up to 5000/day migrated Aug. 25-Sept. 4 (L.P.B.O.), and at Presqu'île, where a roost held up to 7000/night Aug. 27-Sept. 10 (J & JT). Some 3000 in a flock were counted at Ottawa Aug. 18 (BMD). Late swallows included a Tree still at Pelee Nov. 30 (AW) and a Barn at Ottawa Oct. 28 (BMD *et al.*). A brood of Barn Swallows at Cochrane left their nest Sept. 16 (LT), leaving little time to prepare for migration.

JAYS TO GNATCATCHERS — Only a minor migration of Blue Jays occurred along the lower lakes and that was late by 2 weeks. Peak numbers were 1000 at Hawk Cliff Oct. 1 and 1500 at Pelee Oct. 2, where tens of thousands normally are seen (DEF, AW). About 10,000 Am Crows migrated silently W at Richmond Hill Oct. 29 (R. Tilt). Red-breasted Nuthatches were virtually absent from s. Ontario in the period, but were numerous in the n. The only Carolina Wrens reported were singles at Pelee Aug. 1 & 5 (MR) and Ft. Erie Aug. 22 (HHA). The Winter Wren flight was strong at P.E. Pt. (K.F.N.) and Long Pt. (L.P.B.O.), and the numbers suggested a recovery from the decimation during the winter of 1976-1977. One in Algonquin Nov. 5 was a latest by 3 weeks (WR). At Marathon Oct. 21, a Sedge Wren and a Marsh Wren were present (AW). Twenty-two of the 44 sightings of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were from P.E. Pt. (K.F.N.). Birds were in Peterborough Aug 16 & 29 (DCS *et al.*) and n. to central Bruce peninsula Aug. 11 (TL) and Port Elgin Sept. 16 (MP). A late gnatcatcher was travelling with chickadees at Cambridge Dec. 2 (TC).

THRUSHES TO VIREOS — A juv. Hermit Thrush with its parent at Sudbury Oct. 7 was from a very late nesting (JCN). One Am. Robin was still in Moosonee Nov. 10 (RDM) and a late Water Pipit remained in Ottawa Nov. 25 (MG). Bohemian Waxwings moved into Thunder Bay and Atikokan with flocks containing 400 birds by Nov. 21 (SFP), but few pushed farther SE. Ten in Sudbury Nov. 20 were the only ones there (JCN) and a flock appeared in Owen Sound Nov. 15 (TRM). Singles were in Sarnia Nov. 26-29 (HM*i*) and Peterborough Nov. 27 (RDM). Cedar Waxwings were abundant in widespread locations. A bumper crop of berries was holding them in Sudbury and on Manitoulin I. into late November (JCN *et al.*). Heavy diurnal migration in August and October was reported at Long Pt., Presqu'île and P.E. Pt., the maximum one-day count occurring at the last site where 3000 waxwings passed Oct. 21 (JHE). Eleven Loggerhead Shrikes were tallied from Ottawa, Kingston, P.E. Pt., Pickering-Whitby area, Cambridge, Mea-

ford Grey and Brechin *Simcoe*. A White-eyed Vireo turned up in Toronto Nov. 5 (HK) and, aside from Pelee's resident male seen Aug. 18 (AW), furnished the only report. Other late vireos were Solitary at Marathon Oct. 21 and Pelee Nov. 6 (AW), Yellow-throated at Rondeau Oct. 15 (PAW), Warbling at Pelee Nov. 5 (AW), Philadelphia at Moosonee Oct. 12 (AW, MJ), and Red-eyed at Niagara-on-the-Lake Nov 11 (LRO *et al.*).

WARBLERS — Late records dominated the warbler accounts. At Marathon, Orange-crowned, Black-and-white and Wilson's were present Oct. 21, and at Pelee, Blackburnian and Blackpoll warblers tarried to Nov. 6 (AW). In Ottawa, a N. Parula was found Nov. 6 (WC) and a Com. Yellowthroat Nov. 3 (RBr). Other dawdlers included Orange-crowned on Amherst I., Nov. 4 (K.F.N.), Cape May at Sudbury Nov. 5 (CGB) and Peterborough Nov. 13 (PH), Pine near Sudbury Oct. 28 (JGL), Am. Redstart at Niagara-on-the-Lake Nov. 17 (MDC), N. Waterthrush at Thunder Bay Oct. 29 (EA), and Wilson's Warbler at Moosonee Oct. 12 (AW).

Notable among the 8 sightings of Blue-winged Warblers were singles at P.E. Pt., Sept. 9 (K.F.N.), Presqu'île Sept. 14-15 (J & JT), and Whitby Sept. 26 (MJB). Banders at Long Point netted their first Audubon's form Yellow-rumped Warbler Oct. 26, which was an imm. male (L.P.B.O.). Ontario's 9th **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, 6th in autumn, appeared at London Nov. 10 (DMar). The resident Prothonotary Warblers stayed at Pelee and Rondeau to Sept. 3. Their migration was underway at Long Point Aug. 25-28 as 11 were sighted, of which eight were netted and banded (L.P.B.O.). At Pelee, single Worm-eating Warblers turned up Aug. 28-29 (AW *et al.*) and Oct. 16 (JK) for their 3rd and 4th ever in fall, and another was at Long Pt., Aug. 31 (KL). Pelee's 3rd Louisiana Waterthrush was found Aug. 28 (GTH) and was the only one reported. The two Hooded Warblers in the period were in the Cranberry Marsh—Whitby area Aug. 30 and Sept. 7 (MJB, NL). Single Yellow-breasted Chats were seen near Ingersoll Sept. 15 (DB) and at Long Pt., Oct. 10 (L.P.B.O.).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS — A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was n. at Moose Factory Oct. 6 (MJ), and late birds were at P.E. Pt., Nov. 4 (GV, MB) and Long Pt., Nov. 10 (TW). An Indigo Bunting was also found at Moose Factory Oct. 6 (MJ) for a 3rd area record. A Dickcissel was banded at Long Pt., Sept. 17 (L.P.B.O.). The Rufous-sided Towhee at Atikokan Nov. 2 established that area's first record (DHE). A Vesper Sparrow remained at Sudbury Nov. 18 (JGL) and a Savannah at Ottawa Nov. 22 (MG). The Lark Sparrow at Matatchewan, *Temiskaming* Oct. 22 was nicely described (LT). Five Le Conte's were seen Oct. 5-18 at Fraserdale *Cochrane*, Sudbury, and Thunder Bay, and 12 Sharp-taileds Sept. 16-Nov. 4 at Port Elgin, Darlington, Dundas Marsh, Long Pt., and Pelee. Twenty Smith's Longspurs were still at the Brant R. mouth, Hudson Bay Oct. 8 (KFA), but the single **Smith's Longspur** at Long Pt., Nov. 1-2 (VF, JHo) was well e. of the usual migratory route of the species. An early Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting were at Pelee Sept. 21 (TK) and Dwight Oct. 10 (RGT) respectively.

A Bobolink was late at Cranberry Marsh Nov. 22 (LR, MJB) as were six Com. Grackles at Moosonee Nov. 11 (KFA *et al.*). Vagrant meadowlarks were an Eastern w. to Thunder Bay Oct. 17 and a Western e. to Marathon Oct. 21 (AW). Ontario's 4th **Rosy Finch** was photographed at a Dryden feeder Nov. 3 (F. Ray, L. Howe, HJG *et al.*) and identified as the Gray-crowned form. The 3 previous records were also of this form and occurred at nearby Thunder Bay. Pine Grosbeaks occurred in numbers from Ft. Frances e. to Sudbury, but few reached Algonquin and Ottawa. There were 25 at Kettle Pt., Oct. 30 (AHR). Purple Finches remained nearly everywhere through the period and the largest flock reported was 3000 at P.E. Pt., Nov. 14 (K.F.N.). House Finches migrated past Long Pt. in early October, peak of 15 on Oct. 7 (L.P.B.O.), and 10 were killed Aug. 19 at London in a freak hailstorm (MSS). Red Crossbills were common from Kenora e. to Algonquin reaching *Muskoka* and Sarnia in October, Pelee and Long Point Nov. 17. White-winged were also numerous at Moosonee, Thunder Bay e. to Ottawa, but few were s. of L. Simcoe. Unprecedented numbers were migrating W along the s. shore of Manitoulin I. during mornings of Nov. 18-22 with daily counts of 10,000, 2000, 3000, 2000, and 500 respectively (RRT). They were accompanied by Pine Siskins numbering up to 4000

daily Redpolls failed to move in numbers s. of Sudbury-North Bay and very few Evening Grosbeaks were s. of Algonquin.

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NIAGARA-CHAMPLAIN REGION

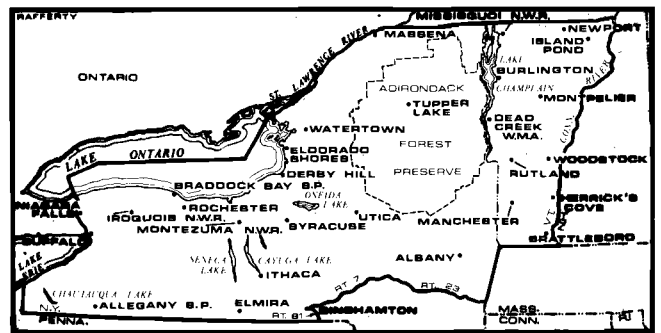
/Douglas P. Kibbe and Cheryl M. Boise

This fall season was generally milder than normal with little frost until late September. Several significant flight days were induced by cold fronts in mid-September but the month was relatively dry. Consequently, tower kills, often most severe under rainy conditions, were low. October and much of November were warm and dry, but moist, and mountainous areas had continuous snow cover from mid-November.

The cone and wild berry yield was so bountiful, the best ever in the opinion of several long-term Regional residents, that prophets and soothsayers prognosticated the advent of an incredibly harsh winter. Those of us less given to such mystique, however, envisioned hordes of late-lingering species lurking in berry-laden bushes and conifers festooned with crossbills and finches to gladden the hearts of all on the upcoming Christmas Bird Counts. The more immediate effects of all this food on local and transient avifauna were more obscure. Certainly a horde of rarities was noted but this was probably due more to ever-expanding coverage than to environmentally-induced phenomena. Belated summer reports, a chronic problem in our Region, are arbitrarily incorporated in the text rather than as an addendum since the seasonal break is, after all, arbitrary.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — A mediocre Red-throated Loon flight peaked in mid-November when 60-80 birds could be tallied at Hamlin Beach S.P. (CC, WS). Although L. Ontario continues to host the biggest concentrations of these and other divers, the growth of the salmon fishery there has affected tabulations from the traditional observation points. An armada of fishermen keeps birds well offshore, thereby lowering counts and making identification (not to mention parking) difficult. The silver lining to this scenario is that dead, beached salmon are attracting Bald Eagles. **Northern Gannets** regularly stray to L. Ontario in the fall. This fact hardly prepared us for the arrival of one in an Eden, Vt. dooryard Oct. 12 (JF, *fide* RSm). Although subsequently released on L. Eden, the bird died shortly thereafter.

Reports of Double-crested Cormorants continue to increase in concert with the increase in the Region's breeding populations. An Am. White Pelican at Hamlin Sept. 26 (R & HDu, *fide* RD) continued this species' record of regular appearances. Least Bitterns on the other hand virtually dropped from sight. Encouraging nesting news was received from Missisquoi N.W.R., where an estimated 680 young Great Blue Herons were produced (JG). About one dozen Great Egrets were seen at various locations, while Snowy Egrets were, as usual, much less numerous, two at Basic Creek (BC) constituting the only record. Other s. strays were lacking unless one counts a Glossy Ibis at Braddock Bay Oct. 8 (TPa,



GH) and the Cattle Egrets that appeared in November at several locations. The latter species breeds late in the Region and is known on occasion not to leave the L. Champlain heronry vicinity until snow flies. Consequently, these late records may represent laggards dispersing from the Regional colonies on Little Galloo and Young Is., both of which were active this year.

Mute Swans have apparently successfully colonized Perch River W.M.A. (LC). Groups of seven seen at Perch River and Lyons Pond were doubtless family flocks as was a group on Cayuga L. Continued spread of the species is probable despite desires of some to see the species "eradicated," a view we find ill-conceived. A Greater White-fronted Goose seen at Pitt Beach S.P., Nov. 8 (FS) and another shot (mistakenly as a Snow Goose) at Missisquoi N.W.R., Oct. 21 (HC, *fide* RS) continued that species' string of migration season appearances. Unfortunately, this species' historic record is incomplete since early observers assumed sightings were of escapees. The Greater White-fronted appears to be a very rare but regular transient at present and we anticipate ever-improving observer coverage to result in its detection nearly every migration period.

Both Snow Goose and Brant migrations were particularly well reported. An imm. "Black" Brant spent the first week of November at Hamlin Beach and an equally miraculous adult was present Nov. 14 (WL, CC *et al.*). The remainder of the waterfowl migration was largely unremarkable although Ring-necked Ducks made an impressive showing and scoters of all descriptions were present in excellent numbers at many locations in November. Vermont's many small lakes seldom harbor migrant waterfowl for any length of time, consequently many observers have grown to consider those portions of the state falling outside the Champlain valley depauperate. More extensive coverage this fall of a number of these lakes in or e. of the Green Mts. revealed exceptional numbers of scoters on a few dates indicating that the L. Memphremegog/Connecticut R. flyway may be more heavily utilized

than was previously appreciated. Short or irregular stopovers and skimpy coverage may have led observers to a premature assessment of the potential of the e. segment of the state. Rare but regular waifs included King Eiders at Buffalo and Hamlin Beach S.P., plus a couple of Harlequin Ducks at the latter location and a Barrow's Goldeneye at the mouth of the Winooski R. (JM). The latter site is, for its size, potentially the best all-around birding area in Vermont.

HAWKS AND SHOREBIRDS — Osprey hacking continued this year with six young released at Allegheny Res. At least one member of the pair that built a nest there this summer was a 1981 graduate of this program. Bald Eagles were also much in evidence, presumably also thanks to their hacking program. A surprising number of Golden Eagles were also noted, seven Vermont sightings including no fewer than three seen over Lincoln Hill in Hinesburg in October.

Peregrine Falcon reports tend to outnumber Merlins', probably because the latter slip by unseen or misidentified. Despite the success of the Peregrine reintroduction there has not been a consequent increase in Peregrine reports, perhaps because birds seen near release sites aren't reported. The future of the Ring-necked Pheasant continues to appear bleak judging from the miniscule number of sightings reported and assessments from some areas where the species once thrived. American Coots, often ignored in seasonal reports, appeared in mass at Chautauqua L. in mid-November when 1100 were present (R. Sundell, D. Gagne). A Sandhill Crane at Rygate, Vt., Sept. 19 (JB, *vide* MM) continued that species' record of regular migration season appearances. More surprising was the summer occurrence of one at Hammond, N.Y., June 9-14 and July 20-22 (*vide* KC and GS).

Shorebirds were, overall, exceptionally well reported with a fine diversity and several exceptional tallies. The best showing was, as usual, in c. and w. New York but the Champlain Valley also hosted more than usual. A few species were early but the season was more remarkable for the numbers that appeared or lingered late. These included Black-bellied Plover and Greater Yellowlegs Oct. 28 on L. Memphremog (DC), 40 Killdeer Nov. 28 at Watertown (LC), and, at Montezuma N.W.R. on Sept. 23, 500 Lesser Yellowlegs and an equal number of Pectoral Sandpipers (ST). Other areas commented on the scarcity of the latter species, hence underscoring the difficulty of drawing conclusions from fragmentary observation data obtained during the migration (or any) season. Increased observer awareness is doubtless responsible for a dramatic increase in reports of Western and Baird's sandpipers in recent years but despite all efforts only solitary Buff-breasted Sandpipers were seen in the Rochester area and at Dead Creek W.M.A. The latter location has hosted all 4 of Vermont's past sightings. Vermonters along L. Champlain enjoyed an exceptionally fine shorebird fall topped off with a Whimbrel at Blodgett's Beach (DC) and up to 16 Hudsonian Godwits at Dead Creek W.M.A., plus representatives of all 3 phalaropes. A juv. Long-billed Dowitcher at Dead Creek W.M.A., Sept. 9 (WE) was surprisingly early as was a Red Phalarope there Aug. 26 (WE, NM). Elsewhere there was the usual smattering of noteworthies: a Willet at Montezuma N.W.R., up to four Whimbrels at El Dorado Shores plus six or more farther w. at Hamlin Beach S.P. and other c. New York sites, a few Hudsonian and Marbled godwits, a fine array of all 3 phalarope species, and by the close of the season at least four Purple Sandpipers.

GULLS THROUGH OWLS — Although not up to the numbers of recent years Parasitic and Pomarine jaegers were, nonetheless, well represented on L. Ontario from mid-August through October. This year they were reportedly accompanied by a **Long-tailed Jaeger** seen Aug. 31 at Hamlin Beach S.P., N.Y. (WS *et al.*, *vide* R.B.A.). Gulls seem particularly adept at appearing extraliminally making us wonder at times how noteworthy such "surprise" appearances are. If the season was slow at your favorite sewage outfall, it was because: in mid-September the **Sabine's Gull** was at Buffalo while the Ivory Gull graced the mill pond at Belmont, Vt. (BB); by November Little Gulls had been seen all along the L. Ontario shore plus single sightings from Westport, N.Y. and Addison County, Vt. (the latter at the same sewage plant which hosted Vermont's earlier confirmed sighting), Black-legged Kittiwakes were present in numbers (up to three/day) on e. Lake Ontario and an ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull visited Hamlin Beach S.P. (CC *et al.*) Nov. 2. Terns, for a change, were unremarkable.

Black-billed Cuckoos, previously reported as down throughout the

Region, were (we're told) hiding out in Cattaugus County amidst the latest gypsy moth outbreak which is marching progressively westward. Only one "Common" (?) Barn-Owl was reported, at Chatham, N.Y. (BC) and only a modest influx of Snowy Owls appeared prior to the close of the season. An invasion of rarer n. nocturnal raptors seemed unlikely.

NIGHTHAWKS THROUGH WAXWINGS — A minor question open for investigation is whether local Com. Nighthawks leave when the mass of migrants appear in late August. Color dyeing the young's wing patches would tell us, if someone inquisitive with less aversion to heights and greater access to rooftop breeding sites became so inclined. A **Rufous Hummingbird** frequented a Castleton garden Aug. 26-27 (J & JC, *vide* ER). In the absence of an accepted Regional record an in-hand examination of any *Selasphorus* type "hummer" is desirable. An E. Wood-Pewee's nest with 2 eggs found Aug. 15 (VP) provided the latest reliable Regional record by more than a week. Unfortunately the nest subsequently failed. Both W. Kingbird reports, from Long Point S.P., N.Y. and W. Brattleboro, Vt., were documented slightly less than we consider adequate although respective state review committees may feel otherwise. A flock of 15 Purple Martins Sept. 23, a Barn Swallow Oct. 14 and a Cliff Swallow 4 days later were all relatively late migrants seen at Derby Hill (FS).

Common Ravens continued to occur regularly in Allegany County and we predict a nesting record there in the near future. Another exceptional record from that county was of the nest of four young House Wrens Sept. 1 (EB). A **Northern Wheatear** drew crowds to the Lake Placid bobsled run Sept. 28-29 (C & RL *et al.*, *vide* H.P.A.S.). Easily overlooked, wheatears are probably far more frequent transients than the 10± Regional records would indicate. If fruits and berries mean anything to overwintering survival, the N. Mockingbird may be on the verge of a population explosion. Regional populations have been building steadily and the bumper wild food crop this fall should enhance survival rates this winter. Although Cedar Waxwings appeared to be making the most of the plethora, Bohemians were very scarce.

SHRIKES THROUGH WARBLERS — A belated report of Loggerhead Shrikes nesting successfully (one young produced) in Jefferson County (*vide* KC, GS) was followed by reports of migrants near Canastota (DWC) and at Hamlin Beach S.P. (R.B.A.). Loggerhead sightings have lagged far behind the increase in Regional coverage over the past decade and extirpation seems closer than ever. Despite a couple of belated summer reports, White-eyed Vireos are still unconfirmed as Regional breeders.

Blue-winged Warblers, early migrants, often elude fall observers, consequently a number of August and a mid-September report were of interest. This species has continued to spread N as well as increase in numbers, this summer occurring at Depauville, N.Y. (J & RW). Although the fall was generally mild, lingering warblers were relatively scarce. A ♂ N. Parula, displaying a hardiness belying its size, seen in Webster Nov. 17-18 (A & BK) took top honors in this category. News of the Region's 2nd Yellow-throated Warbler nesting, in Allegany S.P. (TB), finally reached us. Observers should expect to find this N expanding species at other locations in the future. Prairie Warblers, also on the move N, bred in Jefferson County for the first time (*vide* KC, GS). Seldom seen in Vermont away from its single breeding colony on L. Champlain, a Cerulean Warbler Sept. 1 at Winhall (WN) was a surprise. A possible Worm-eating Warbler, stunned by a Barnard, Vt. window (JF), recovered before it could be photographed or examined by an observer experienced with the species.

SPARROWS, BLACKBIRDS, AND FINCHES — Northern Cardinals may raise 2-3 broods farther s., but a pair feeding young Oct. 6 at Salamanca (VP) was unprecedented at this latitude. The only sparrows of note were a possible Lark Sparrow reported Aug. 25 at New Haven, Vt., and an Am. Tree Sparrow at Clare, N.Y., June 28 (KG, *vide* KC & GS). A **Blue Grosbeak** at Winhall Aug. 20 (WN) was one of the few apparently valid Vermont sightings. Written reports on this or any species are always suspect. One received this past spring, now accepted by the Vermont records committee, appears (upon examination of the photo which was subsequently submitted) to have been an Indigo Bunting. The Aug. 14 reappearance of the Hamlin Brewer's Blackbird (AS,

DW) generated more questions about possible Regional nesting although this year no birds were seen there during the breeding season. Orchard Orioles bred in Columbia County (*vide* BC) and a ♀ Northern lingered until Nov. 26 at wintery Tupper Lake (CD). A mammoth cone crop brought in a few Red Crossbills and the start of a massive influx of White-wingeds. Both species are notoriously difficult to confirm as breeders but alert observers in the Adirondacks produced 3 White-winged confirmations this fall. Crossbills, figuratively and literally, frequently "bite the dust" along roads during the winter, speeding cars taking a heavy toll of these unwary northerners as they pick up salt and/or grit from roadsides. How many of these unfortunate victims were examined for physiological evidence of breeding?

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APPALACHIAN REGION

/George A. Hall

Dullsville. That seems to sum up the fall migration of 1984. Most reporters did in fact use the word "dull" to describe their results for the fall. The season was unusually mild and there were few pronounced frontal systems. One presumes that good numbers of the migrants dribbled through, but individual observers saw rather few birds.

At Pittsburgh, August was warmer than normal and wetter, while September was on the cool side and much drier than normal. October was much warmer than normal and had average precipitation as did November. Similar conditions prevailed over the whole Region. There were no killing frosts, even in the north, until late November, and only the far north had any snowfall.

The shorebird flight in late July and early August was poor at most places. The warbler migration started at the normal time in mid-August, but was undistinguished except that the mild weather caused many warblers to remain well into October. The October landbird migrants were in good numbers, but waterfowl were not. By late November there were very few landbirds around and many observers reported few birds coming to feeders. There was no sign of a winter invasion of northern species, and as this is being written in mid-December temperatures have soared to the mid-60s. One wonders what the Christmas Bird Counts will show this winter.

As usual many of the quantitative data for the migration came from the two big banding stations, Powdermill Nature Reserve near Ligonier, Pennsylvania and the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory near Petersburg, West Virginia. Other banding operations in the area are at Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania, Austin Springs, Tennessee, and Norris, Tennessee. It is always problematical just what relation there is between banding station data and actual bird numbers. This was certainly well illustrated this year: Powdermill banded 7919 birds (third highest total and 15% above average—RCL, RM) as compared with the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory where the 5818 birds banded gave the eighth highest total which was 4% below the average of recent years (GAH). The Norris, Tennessee station banded only 708 birds, the poorest year there (CN), while at Presque Isle a record-low 333 birds were banded (RFL), but the Austin Springs station banded a record high of 408 (RK). The peak day at Powdermill was October 24 when 409 birds were banded (RCL, RM) while at the Allegheny Front the biggest day was September 21 when 837 birds were banded.

Despite the low numbers of migrants there seemed to be more than the usual number of unusual species, as such things as Greater White-fronted Goose, Common Ground-Dove, Black-backed Woodpecker, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Yellow-headed Blackbird were reported.

ABBREVIATIONS — A.F.M.O.—Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, West Virginia; P.I.S.P.—Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania; P.N.R.—Powdermill Nature Reserve, Pennsylvania. Place names in *italics* are counties.



LOONS THROUGH IBISES — The only report of a Red-throated Loon came from Shenandoah L., Va., Nov. 4-24, for a first county record (R.B.C.). Common Loons were widely reported but were generally not in the numbers that occurred last year. On Nov. 13, 98 loons were counted from the hawk lookout on Tuscarora Mt., Pa. (CB). Two Red-necked Grebes were at P.I.S.P., Nov. 15 (JM), and an Eared Grebe was seen near Tenth Legion, Va., Oct. 25 (R.B.C.).

Double-crested Cormorants were reported from throughout the Region and most locations found them to be in unusually high numbers.

American Bitterns were found at P.I.S.P., mid-August to Sept. 29 (JHS, SS), Akeley Swamp, Warren, Pa., Sept. 17 and Oct. 3 (WH), Rockingham, Va., Oct. 10 (R.B.C.), and Austin Springs, Tenn., Aug. 18 (RK). There was an unusual number of reports of Least Bitterns: P.I.S.P., mid-August (JHS) to Nov. 4 (SS), very late; Roanoke Oct. 2 (MP); Chattanooga (found dead in a shopping center) Sept. 30 (MH); and Knox, Tenn., Sept. 30 (BS). In August and early September Great Egrets were found in good numbers throughout the Region and one was at Latrobe, Pa., as late as Oct. 26 (RCL, RM). The only reports of Snowy Egret came from the Hiwassee R. Area near Chattanooga, Aug. 4 and Sept. 8 (DJ). Little Blue Herons were at Montoursville, Pa., Aug. 5-6 (SSt), Shenandoah L., Va., Aug. 18 (R.B.C.), Harrison, Tenn., Aug. 8 (JB, KB), Hiwassee R. Area, Aug. 4 (JS, KD, DJ), Nickajack Dam, Tenn., Nov. 20 (DJ, KD), and Douglas L., Tenn., Aug. 26-Sept. 5 (AK). Cattle Egrets were reported from the Hiwassee R. Area Sept. 8-Oct. 13 (DJ) and Roanoke, Va., Nov. 1 (MP, NM).

An imm. Wood Stork was present at Stuart's Draft, Va., for several days in late August (YL). Three to five White Ibises were at Douglas L., Tenn., Sept. 5-6 (WJ), eight were at Harrison, Tenn., Aug. 1 (JB, KB), and one was at the Hiwassee R. Area Aug. 4 (DJ).

WATERFOWL — The flight of Tundra Swans was a little early and was generally not impressive as no location reported very large numbers. Swans reported from Boone L., Tenn. (RK), Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE) and S. Holston L., Tenn., Nov. 23 (WC) were out of the usual flight path. Most noteworthy for this Region were 2 reports of **Greater White-fronted Geese**: Milton, W. Va., Sept. 20 (very early—TI) and L. Arthur, Pa., Oct. 20-29 (DF *et al.*). Snow Geese were reported from Jefferson, Tenn., Oct. 16 (AK), 29 were at L. Arthur, Pa., Oct. 29 (DF, MG, JG), and 32 flew by "The Pulpit" on Tuscarora Mt., Pa., Nov. 13 (CB). Fourteen Brant were at P.I.S.P., Oct. 28 (SS, JM). At Pymatuning L., numbers of Canada Geese peaked at 7000 (RFL) but generally the flight was not remarkable.

Except at P.I.S.P. the waterfowl migration was generally on the poor side Green-winged Teal and Blue-winged Teal were in unusually low numbers, although the latter was plentiful at Pymatuning L., Pa. (RFL). There were encouraging reports of good numbers of Am. Black Ducks, which had been becoming scarce in this Region. Ruddy Ducks were numerous in several places and 250 Gadwall at Pymatuning L., Pa., Nov. 18 (RFL, ML) were noteworthy. A pair of Redheads at P.I.S.P., Aug. 12 was remarkably early (JM). A total of 400 Oldsquaws at P.I.S.P., Nov. 6 (JM) was noteworthy and this species was seen also at Lyndhurst, Va., Oct. 25—early (JH); Long Pine Dam, Pa., Nov. 4 (CG); and Lock Haven, Pa., Nov. 5 (PS). For the 2nd year in a row all 3 scoter species were widespread and numerous in this Region, with Surf Scoters seen as far s. as Austin Springs, Tenn. (RK). There were 300 of the usually-scarce Black Scoters in *Montour*, Pa., Oct. 29 (SSt).

RAPTORS — Hawk-watching on the e. ridges produced some mixed results. At Rockfish Gap, Va. (YL), Peter's Mt., W. Va. (GH), East River, W. Va. (JP), and the several Tennessee lookouts (CN), total counts were well below those of last year, which had been considered a bad year; but at Tuscarora Summit (The Pulpit), Pa. (CB) and Bear Rocks, W. Va. (GP), counts were above or about the same as those of last year. Certainly worthy of note were the 98 Turkey Vultures which flew past the East River Mt., W. Va., lookout in 10 minutes' time Nov. 5 (JP). The highest daily count of Broad-winged Hawks was from Harvey's Knob, Va., where 3029 were seen Sept. 18 (MM). At Rockfish Gap one day's count went over 2000 (YL), but elsewhere peak days showed much lower counts. Of the other species 23 Red-shouldered Hawks Oct. 27 and 30 N. Harriers Oct. 30 at The Pulpit both represented new high counts for one day (CB).

Ospreys were in good numbers throughout. It was an excellent year for Golden Eagles with 56 reported from 11 locations, seven away from the hawk-watching stations. Tuscarora Summit reported 31 for the season and eight Nov. 3 (RB). Bald Eagles were not so numerous but 37 were reported from 16 locations of which 22 birds were not at hawk watching stations. A Golden Eagle was shot in *Bath*, Va. (YL) and a Bald Eagle hacked in *Albany*, N. Y. in September was shot in November in s. West Virginia (W.V.D.N.R.). Thirteen N. Goshawks were reported from 7 locations. An early one was at A.F.M.O., Aug. 25, but it may nest near that station (GAH). A pair was present all summer near State College (MO). One was seen in downtown Chattanooga Nov. 22 (JS, DJ). A few Rough-legged Hawks were reported but only two of these were at mountain lookouts. A total of 29 Peregrine Falcons was reported from 8 different stations. Of these eight were seen at Harvey's Knob, Va (MM) and three at Cumberland Falls S.P., Ky. (AS).

CRANES AND RAILS — The only reports of Sandhill Cranes came from e. Tennessee: Knoxville—at least 5 flocks seen from Nov. 13 to Dec. 3 (CN) and Booker T. Washington S.P., two Nov. 17 (PR, DJ). Both Virginia Rails and Soras were reported from Austin Springs, Tenn. (RK), Athens, W. Va. (JP), and Shenandoah L., Va. (R.B.C.) but the outstanding railid was a **Yellow Rail** in Canaan Valley, W. Va., Aug. 26 (EH), providing the 4th state record.

SHOREBIRDS — The shorebird flight was mediocre and while a few unusual records came in, no great flights were observed. The best shorebird location in the Region, Presque Isle S.P., Pa. had an average flight with several rarities (JM). On the other hand, water levels at the other "hot spot," Kingston Steam Plant, Tenn., were too high for shorebirds (CN). Lesser Golden-Plovers were more common than usual, being reported from 6 locations. Two Am. Avocets were at Roanoke

Oct. 25-28 with one still present Nov. 2 (MP, MD). Whimbrels were seen at P.I.S.P., Aug. 19 (JM) and Sept. 9 (FH, BH) and at L. Arthur, Pa., Aug. 18 (DF) for a 2nd local record. A Hudsonian Godwit was at P.I.S.P., Sept. 15 (TS). Sanderlings and Short-billed Dowitchers were widely reported. A Purple Sandpiper was at P.I.S.P., Nov. 12 (JM). Other notable records were of Red Knot at P.I.S.P. on 5 dates in August and September (*vide* JM) and at Pymatuning L., Pa., Sept. 3 (RFL); and Buff-breasted Sandpiper at P.I.S.P., Sept. 8-9 (SS, JM) and Waterford, Pa., Sept. 1 (JM). Long-billed Dowitchers were at P.I.S.P., Sept. 22 (SS) & 25 (JM) and at Roanoke Sept. 28 (MP). Wilson's Phalaropes were reported from Blacksburg, Va., Aug. 16 (*vide* JM) and at Lyndhurst, Va., Sept. 9 (MHe). Red Phalaropes were at Stuart's Draft, Va., Nov. 1-2 (YL) and at Roanoke Nov. 23 (m.ob.), while a Red-necked Phalarope was in *Washington*, Pa., Aug. 13 (RI).

GULLS AND TERNS — The L. Erie shore in *Erie*, Pa., which usually produces several unusual gull records, had only the Little Gulls this season, one Oct. 26 providing the first record away from P.I.S.P. (JBa) and one at P.I.S.P., Nov. 6 (JM). After a cold front in early November 15,000 Bonaparte's Gulls were present at P.I.S.P. and Erie Bay (JM). At Pymatuning L., Pa., Ring-billed Gull numbers varied widely from 250 up to 4500 Nov. 22 (RFL), while a concentration of 1000 at Douglas L., Tenn., Nov. 24 was unusually high for that area (JHo). Ring-billed Gulls are becoming common on the parking lots of some shopping malls, even rather far from bodies of water.

Caspian Terns were reported from P.I.S.P., Sept. 1 & 29 (RFL, DF), Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., Aug. 8-12 (CH), Watauga L., Tenn., Sept. 11 (MDi, KBi), Austin Springs, Tenn., Oct. 1 & 18 (RK), and at the Hiwasee R. Area, Tenn., Sept. 15 (DJ) and Nov. 10 (late—JT). Forster's Terns were found at P.I.S.P., Aug. 12-26, again in October, and rather late on Nov. 10 (JM); at Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., Sept. 15 (PS); at Princeton, W. Va., Sept. 28 (JP); in *Bell*, Ky., Sept. 30 (AS); at Austin Springs, Tenn., Aug. 9 (SG); and at Watauga L., Tenn., Aug. 19 (GE).

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — At Morgantown, W. Va., Mourning Doves were abundant at the beginning of the period with numbers declining by late November (GB, GAH), but at Ona, W. Va., they were considered to be in low numbers (LW). One of the best records of the year was of a **Common Ground-Dove** in *Buncombe*, N. C., Oct. 31 (RY). Ringed Turtle-Doves seen at Dalton, Ga., Aug. 5 (HD), at Vienna, W. Va., Aug. 21 (LR *et al.*) and at West Fairview, Pa., Nov. 24-25 (SSt) were no doubt escapes, but their origins remain puzzling. Both species of cuckoo were thought to be in good numbers, and at P.N.R. bandings of the Black-billed were up 74% over average (RCL, RM).

Common Barn-Owls were reported from State College, Pa. (KJ) and 2 locations at Lyndhurst, Va. (RS); at Elizabethton a late nesting, with an unfledged young on Nov. 3, was discovered when a tree was cut (GE). Eastern Screech-Owls remained uncommon at most places. The only report of a Snowy Owl came from State College, Pa., Nov. 7-14 (DD). Northern Saw-whet Owls were banded at A.F.M.O., Sept. 29 (GAH) and at P.N.R., Oct. 6 (RCL, RM), and one was seen at State College, Pa. in September (WD).

The Com. Nighthawk flight was not a heavy one at most places, but some of these birds remained until Oct. 9-11 in West Virginia and Virginia and as late as Oct. 30-31 in e. Tennessee. An aggregation of 10,000 Chimney Swifts over Chattanooga Oct. 31 (DJ) was noteworthy. Bandings of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at P.N.R. were about average (RCL, RM), but elsewhere they were in somewhat above average numbers.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH TITMICE — For the 2nd year in a row the flight of Red-headed Woodpeckers was encouragingly good. After a brief setback the Red-bellied Woodpecker is again increasing to the n. The flight of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers was good at most places, but Hairy Woodpeckers seemed in short supply. The woodpecker of the year was a **Black-backed Woodpecker** Nov. 6 at Union City, Pa (ME). At P.N.R., N. Flickers were felt to be in low numbers and an intergrade "Yellow-shafted" x "Red-shafted" was banded there Oct. 2 (RCL).

Three Olive-sided Flycatchers were banded at P.N.R. (RCL) and one was heard in *Augusta*, Va., Sept. 1 (LT). At P.N.R., 114 Yellow-

bellied Flycatchers were banded (highest ever—RCL, RM) and at A.F.M.O. the 14 banded was also the highest count ever (GAH), but in the Pittsburgh area none was reported for the season (PH). The other small flycatchers were in normal numbers. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen at the Hiwassee R. Area, Tenn., Sept. 15 (JS, DJ, SK).

There were some unusually late reports of swallows: N. Rough-winged Swallows Oct. 13 at Ft. Gay, W. Va. (TI), Oct. 27 at Roanoke (FD), and Nov. 27 at Troutville, Va. (BK), Cliff Swallow Oct. 14 in Rowan, Ky. (FB), and Barn Swallows Oct. 22 at Pymatuning L., Pa. (RFL).

At A.F.M.O. the usual heavy Blue Jay migration had not taken place at the time the station closed Oct. 7 (GAH). The Com. Raven continued to increase and spread to lowland locations. There was no S flight of Black-capped Chickadees this fall and at P.N.R. only 41 (down 70%) were banded (RCL). Carolina Chickadees have apparently displaced Black-capped in some areas near Pittsburgh (RM, KP).

NUTHATCHES THROUGH THRUSHES — There was no flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches. A few were to be found at high elevations in the Tennessee mountains and there were only scattered records elsewhere. On the other hand Brown Creepers were quite common and remained so through the end of the period.

The Carolina Wren is making a strong comeback. In the normal range populations are almost back to the early 1970s level, and there were several records in the Warren, Pa. area (*vide* WH), and from Erie, Pa. (JM, RFL). The only report of a Bewick's Wren came from Shenandoah L., Va., Oct. 9 (R.B.C.). A singing ♂ Winter Wren was heard in Shenandoah N.P., Va., Aug. 11 (DC). The species has not been known to nest in that part of Virginia. Both Sedge and Marsh wrens were reported from more locations and in greater numbers than is usual for the fall season.

The flight of both kinglet species was excellent almost everywhere. At P.N.R., 398 Ruby-crowneds (145% above average) were banded (RCL, RM), while Golden-crowneds were more nearly average. Thrushes presented a mixed situation. At P.N.R. the 577 Swainson's Thrushes banded was 50% above average and represented one of the best years on record (RCL, RM) but at A.F.M.O. the 257 banded was the lowest total in 15 years and was 40% below average (GAH). Most other reporters thought they were average or below. Wood Thrush bandings at the 2 stations paralleled those for Swainson's Thrushes. On the other hand, the flight of Veeries was generally heavier than usual, and in the s. somewhat later than usual. American Robins were in good numbers everywhere in October and early November with a roost in Indiana, Pa. totalling 13,600 birds by the end of October (RH, MHi).

MIMIDS THROUGH VIREOS — A N. Mockingbird seen at Girard, Erie, Pa. (JBa) was well n. of the usual range and one seen at P.N.R. was the first there in many years (RM). Water Pipits were reported from Bald Eagle S.P., Pa. (CH), Mosquito L., O. (CBA), Lyndhurst, Va. (RS), Austin Springs, Tenn. (RK) and Chattanooga (DJ).

Cedar Waxwings, as usual, were in good numbers where they occurred but were absent from many places. A N. Shrike was at P.I.S.P., Nov. 25 (JHS). A Loggerhead Shrike in Allegheny, Pa., Aug. 24 (DF) was noteworthy and the only other reports came from the usual locations in the Shenandoah Valley (R.B.C., RS) and in e. Tennessee (GE, CN).

White-eyed Vireos were common but Red-eyeds were in much below average numbers. Only 2 reports came in of Warbling Vireos. Philadelphia Vireos were more widely reported than usual but the 2 big banding stations handled only average numbers.

WARBLERS THROUGH CARDINALINES — As usual the warbler flight produced mixed reports but the consensus of field birders was that the migration was on the poor side. The contrasts were particularly well illustrated by the results from P.N.R. where 22 species were banded in above-average numbers, 3 species in average numbers and only 5 in below-average numbers (RCL, RM), while at A.F.M.O. only 4 species were banded in above average-numbers, 6 in average numbers and 9 in below-average numbers (GAH). The 2 stations agreed only that Blackburnian and Blackpoll warblers were above average. Similar contrasts came from the field birders, but it was generally felt that the late season migrants, Yellow-rumped and Palm, were in good numbers. A "Lawrence's" hybrid was seen at State College, Pa., Sept. 4 (TS) and one was

at the Chattahoochee N F, Ga, Sept 19 (HD) while a "Brewster's" hybrid was banded at P.N.R., Sept 2 (RCL, RM) Orange-crowned Warblers were more widely reported than usual for this Region, although bandings at P.N.R. were down (RCL). The usually overlooked Pine Warbler was reported from several places including six at Cook Forest S.P., Pa., Oct. 8 (RFL, ML). Yellow-throated Warblers continue to expand N. Nine were banded at Clarksville, Pa., during the fall (RB) and one was seen at Pittsburgh Aug. 24 (TF). The mild fall caused many warblers to remain well into October and there were many "latest dates" reported.

The flight of Scarlet Tanagers at P.N.R. was above normal (RCL) Blue Grosbeaks continue to increase in the Ohio Valley of West Virginia where five were found in Mason in late July (GP). A Dickcissel was at Daleville, Va., Oct. 7 (BK).

EMBERIZINES THROUGH FINCHES — For the 2nd year in a row Am. Tree Sparrows were almost nonexistent in the Region. There were 3 records of **Clay-colored Sparrows**: P.I.S.P., Sept. 29 (DF); L. Arthur, Pa., Oct. 6 (DF); and one banded at P.N.R., Oct. 14 (RCL, RM), a first for that station. A Lark Sparrow was seen at Shenandoah L., Va., Oct. 13 (R.B.C.). **Sharp-tailed Sparrows** were seen at Austin Springs, Tenn., Sept. 29-Oct. 2 (RK, RC) and at Ashton, W. Va., Sept. 29 (TI) Lincoln's Sparrows and White-crowned Sparrows had a good migration, while Fox Sparrows were in low numbers. White-throated Sparrows were in good numbers in migration but rather fewer than in recent years remained in the n. as the season ended. Lapland Longspurs were reported from P.I.S.P. (JM) and Pymatuning L., Pa. (RFL), and one was seen as far s. as Daleville, Va., Nov. 24-25 (BK *et al.*). Snow Buntings were common in the Erie, Pa. area with as many as 600 seen Nov. 10 (JM). There were a few other scattered records in the n., and two were found near Daleville, Va., Nov. 24-25 (BK *et al.*).

Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found in Allegheny, Pa., Aug. 26 (DF) and at P.I.S.P., Aug. 26 (SS, JB) and Sept. 22 (SS, JM) A Brewer's Blackbird was at P.I.S.P., Sept. 29 (JM *et al.*).

There was essentially no movement of "northern finches" and even the more usual Purple Finch was not in good numbers. Besides the permanent station on Shenandoah Mt., Va., Red Crossbills were reported only from Bergton, Va., Oct. 14 (R.B.C.), Harvey's Knob, Va., Nov. 3 (BK), and Great Smoky Mountains N.P., Oct. 13 (MO) A White-winged Crossbill was seen in Allegheny, Pa., Oct. 21 (DF) Pine Siskins were reported in small numbers from a variety of places, even as far s. as Chattanooga, but no flight was evident. There were a few scattered records of Evening Grosbeaks, including two at Erie on the early date of Sept. 26 (JGS).

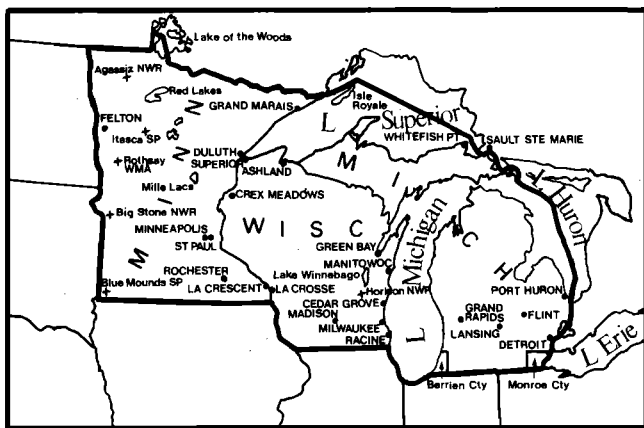
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WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

/Daryl D. Tessen

August and September were primarily characterized by very warm temperatures and limited rainfall. During scattered periods of August very hot, humid weather settled into the Region (90s-100°F) with similar warm bursts (90s) in September, especially at the beginning and middle. October had an unexpected cloudy, foggy and rainy period during the second and third weeks. During this time the fog was often so dense that visibility was almost nonexistent. In Wisconsin rainfall was 100-300% above average. Because the low temperatures were higher than normal it seemed almost spring-like. Not unexpectedly some northward movement of birds could be observed. Early November was much colder with snow arriving in the northern areas. However a warm spell during the last 1½ weeks eliminated any snow that had accumulated.

This autumn proved more interesting than the last few. Highlighting this year were several truly outstanding finds including a Sooty Tern and Lesser Black-backed Gull in Wisconsin, the same Lesser Black-backed Gull and a possible Dusky Flycatcher in Minnesota and a Gray Kingbird in Michigan. In addition there was a wave of almost equally exciting finds sighted intermittently during the season. This stimulated considerable interest among the Region's birders. Nevertheless there was a general consensus that this fall's migration again lacked the substantial numbers expected/associated with the season. Contributing to this feeling was the poor movement of warblers and of passerines in general, and especially the general absence of most winter finches in the southern two-thirds of the Region for the third consecutive fall.



S.A.

A taste of pelagic birding was afforded four Michigan birders this fall. On November 11 at Port Huron, at the junction of Lake Huron and the St. Clair River, Ryff, Fowler, Wells and Tom Will had the great fortune to witness an impressive migration of larids, ducks and shorebirds. A strong cold front had passed through the area. Consequently a stormy north wind was blowing. The flight commenced around 7:30 and continued unabated until about noon. During this time approximately 25 jaegers—Parasitics, Pomarines and unidentifieds, 12 Black-legged Kittiwakes, one Sabine's, two Little and one Glaucous gulls, four eiders—three identified as Kings, three Red Phalaropes plus several waterfowl species and thousands of Bonaparte's Gulls were observed moving down the lake, often just offshore, into the river. For "landlocked" birders such as we in the Midwest, such an experience is at best accidental.

ABBREVIATIONS — M.W.S.—Muskegon Wastewater System, Michigan. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — During late October-November a total of 10 Red-throated Loons was found, with seven in Michigan and three in Wisconsin. The very rare Arctic Loon was seen at Duluth, Minn., and Superior, Wis. For Duluth different birds were found Oct.

14 (BH) and Nov. 3 (KE), while at Superior different birds were present Oct. 29 (KE) and Nov. 4 (RJ, JP). Several Com. Loons were seen well into December at Madison and Milwaukee. The summering immature bird remained at Devil's Lake S.P., Wis. until September. Late Red-necked Grebes were found in Wisconsin with four Nov. 17 in *Ozaukee* (MB) and one Nov. 25 at Madison (FF). In Michigan the species is infrequently seen, so one at the M.W.S., Sept. 28 (JPo, GW) and three in *Chippewa* Nov. 12 (CT, BT) were noteworthy. There was a surprising number of Eared Grebe sightings in the Region. Michigan had numerous sightings at M.W.S. during August-September with a maximum of four Sept. 15 (GW), with another sighting Sept. 8 at Three Oaks (RS, WB). Wisconsin had singles Sept. 3 at the Sandhill Wildlife Area (SS), Sept. 21 at Necedah N.W.R. (FB), and Nov. 11-18 at Milwaukee's Coast Guard Impoundment (m.ob.). One was at Duluth Oct. 16 (KE).

There was an unusual number of W. Grebe sightings in Wisconsin. One was in *Dane* Nov. 11 (ST), another in *Ozaukee* Nov. 17 (MB, WW), one in *Chippewa* Nov. 20 (JP), plus in Milwaukee one to four birds were seen Nov. 17-25 (BC, JF, MB, DW). In Minnesota, unusually far e. were sightings in *Frontenac* Oct. 19 (BL) and *Lake* Nov. 12 (SW, MS). Likewise there was an unusual number of Am. White Pelican reports away from their breeding areas. In Minnesota this was especially true on L. Superior, even including Grand Marais Oct. 26-28 (K & MH *et al.*). In Wisconsin it included single birds at Manitowoc Sept. 17 (CS), in *Trempealeau* during September-October (JP), and at Crex Meadows Oct. 22-23 (JH), plus 16 on Oct. 27 in *Price* (MH) and two Oct. 24 with 17 Oct. 25 at Ashland (DV). Both Wisconsin and Minnesota had late November Double-crested Cormorant sightings.

Unusually far n. was a Great Egret Sept. 1 in *Roseau*, Minn. (KL), with several seen in s.e. Minnesota well into November. Minnesota had the Region's only sightings for 3 s. heron species. A Snowy Egret was seen Aug. 13 at Pelican L. (KL), a Little Blue Heron was found Aug. 3 in *Anoka* (KL) and a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was in Duluth Aug. 21 (KE). Cattle Egrets were found in Wisconsin at the Green Bay rookery, plus three Nov. 9 in *Bayfield* (JB, TS). For Michigan two were seen at the Saginaw River disposal island Sept. 29 (CF, BGr). The Green-backed Heron found in Michigan's *Sent* Nov. 19 (CB) was late. The ibis found Oct. 4-12 at Gun Club L., Minn. (m.ob.) was seen well enough to be identified as a White-faced. However, the one observed flying along L. Michigan in Wisconsin's *Ozaukee* Oct. 20 (BC) could only be called a *Plegadis*.

WATERFOWL — Tundra Swans peaked at *La Crosse*, Wis., at 15,000 Nov. 6 (FL) and at Weaver, Minn., at 8000 Nov. 11-26. In Wisconsin there was an unusual number of sightings in the s. one-third of the state during November, with flocks remaining for one to two weeks. As usual birds were present into December in *Trempealeau* (TH). Both Wisconsin and Minnesota had an unusual number of Greater White-fronted Goose sightings, including peaks of 17 Oct. 13 in *Columbia* (RH) and 65 Oct. 18 in *Otter Tail* (OJ), respectively. Early arrival dates for Snow Geese included Sept. 11 at Agassiz N.W.R. (JM) and Sept. 19 at Duluth (KE). Both Michigan and Wisconsin had peaks of 500-700, slightly higher than normal. The accidental **Ross' Goose** was found twice in the Region. Donald observed two Oct. 16 along Hwy 28 at Theresa Marsh, Wis. Longley found one at Rochester Nov. 12 with it remaining through the 24th (m.ob.). **Brant** were likewise observed twice this fall. One was at Fergus Falls, Minn., Oct. 28 (LN) with the other at New Buffalo, Mich. from Nov. 16 into December (MC *et al.*). Peak Canada Goose numbers included 12,000 at Michigan's M.W.S., 78,000 at Minnesota's Lac Qu Parle W.A. and 165,000 at Wisconsin's Horicon N.W.R. At 2 Mississippi River ponds in *LaCrosse* 75,000 Canvasbacks were counted Nov. 6 (FL). The rare **King Eider** was found in Michigan with three females at Port Huron Nov. 11 (TWi, TW) with another unidentified female also seen then (AR, JFo). One of the few observations for any eider species in Wisconsin occurred with the 2-hour sighting and photographing of a ♀ **King Eider** along the L. Michigan shoreline at Sheboygan Nov. 25 (D & MB). Harlequin Ducks were found in all 3 states. Early was a female observed Sept. 28 at Manitowoc (CS); single birds were at the Fremont sewage ponds Oct. 16 (ES) and at New Buffalo Nov. 17-18 (CN, BB, DP *et al.*); and Minnesota had 2 sightings along L. Superior. Inland sightings for Oldsquaws occurred in *Todd*, *Dakota* and *Cottonwood*, Minn. The scoter migration



King Eider at Sheboygan, Wis., Nov. 25, 1984. Photo/Dave & Margaret Brasser.

was above average in Minnesota with a surprising number of inland sightings for all 3 species. Wisconsin's movement was average, also punctuated by several inland sightings. Only Michigan had a subpar movement.

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES — Lange observed 150 Turkey Vultures Oct. 19 in *Sauk*, Wis. Fewer N. Goshawks were seen in the Region this fall. This was especially true in Michigan where only three were reported. Numbers were higher for Wisconsin and Minnesota, e.g., 934 at Hawk Ridge, but still below the previous several autumns. The Broad-winged Hawk flight at best could be characterized as irregular in the Region. There were a few excellent flights, but most hawk stations and observers felt the flight was like that of last fall, unimpressive. A record late bird was seen at Hawk Ridge Oct. 31. Swainson's Hawks were seen Aug. 30 at Cedar Grove (DB) and Sept. 19 in *Eau Claire* (JP). The four observed during the period at Hawk Ridge were unusually far n. There was an unusually low number of Rough-legged Hawks noted in the Region. Minnesota had three **Ferruginous Hawk** sightings including the first Hawk Ridge record Aug. 30, *Kanabec* Sept. 29 (KL) and Roghsay W.A., Oct. 21 (S & DM). There was an unusual number of Golden Eagle sightings in all 3 states. Four were found in Michigan, about 10 in Wisconsin and about 45 in Minnesota including a record 37 at Hawk Ridge. An excellent Merlin flight was noted in Wisconsin—230 at Cedar Grove, with observers commenting on good numbers Oct. 20-31 along much of the L. Michigan shoreline, and in Minnesota—62 at Hawk Ridge. The Peregrine Falcon flight was very poor in Michigan (total of six birds) but only slightly below average in Wisconsin (e.g., 48 at Cedar Grove) and Minnesota (33 at Hawk Ridge). In the latter state, of the five birds hacked last summer near Toffe, two appeared this fall at Duluth. One was killed by a car but the other was surviving on a pigeon diet as of mid-December. A Gyrfalcon was seen in *Ozaukee*, Wis., Oct. 21 (BC) and *Roseau*, Minn., Nov. 28 (AJ). Five Prairie Falcons were tallied in Minnesota's *Otter Tail*, including three Sept. 30 (S & DM). Record Hawk Ridge counts this year included 247 Ospreys, 11,665 Red-tailed Hawks, 37 Golden Eagles and 62 Merlins with near-record tallies including 376 Bald Eagles, 961 N. Harriers, 917 Am. Kestrels and 33 Peregrine Falcons.

Ruffed Grouse numbers remained low in the Region except for Michigan's Upper Peninsula. A Yellow Rail was seen Sept. 17 by Mattsson at Agassiz N.W.R., Minn., with one seen Oct. 9 by Allen s. of Whitefish Pt., Mich. Again this fall the only King Rail sightings came from Horicon N.W.R. (staff). Very late was a Com. Moorhen Nov. 3 at Horicon N.W.R. (JB). A peak of 2000 Sandhill Cranes was noted Sept. 15 at Agassiz N.W.R. (JM). Very late were single birds in *Sauk* Nov. 16 (SS) and Spencer Dec. 1 (K & JL), both Wisconsin. The latter bird was injured.

SHOREBIRDS — A combined total of several hundred Black-bellied Plovers and Lesser Golden-Plovers was found during September-October n. of Beaver Dam, Wis. (m.ob.). A very late Black-bellied was at Pt. Mouillee, Mich., Nov. 29 (AR). There were no fall sightings of

Piping Plovers. Unusual, perhaps unprecedented, was this fall's movement of Am. Avocets. Not only were the numbers found atypical in fall, but also their lateness (October). Minnesota had 16 Oct. 19 in *Goodhue* (BL) and one Oct. 21 at Duluth (PE). Michigan had one Oct. 21 in *Muskegon* (BB, DP) and two Oct. 24 at Shiawassee N.W.R. (BG, LP) But it was in Wisconsin where the outstanding numbers were noted. On Oct. 20 there were no fewer than 5 sightings statewide. They included 60(!) at Crex Meadows W.A. with at least 20 remaining through the 28th (JH), 17 at Wisconsin Pt. decreasing to a single, dead bird on the 30th (JP, KE *et al.*), 10 in *Ozaukee* (RG) and several birds at Green Bay through the 27th (m.ob.) and also at Milwaukee (DT *et al.*). In addition two were found Oct. 21 at Manitowoc (FB) and one Oct. 23-27 on the *Chippewa-Eau Claire* line (JP).

Very late was a Greater Yellowlegs into December in *Berrien* (RS) Concentrations of several hundred Lesser Yellowlegs were found during August in both Michigan and Wisconsin. Late was an Oct. 27 Solitary Sandpiper at Madison (ST). The Region's 3 Willet sightings all occurred Sept. 8. They included in Wisconsin one in *Columbia* (SS) and two at Manitowoc (CS), and in Michigan one at Shiawassee N.W.R. (PY *et al.*). Very late were Spotted Sandpipers at Manitowoc Nov. 27 (CS) and Muskegon Nov. 29 (GW). Whimbrel sightings included one Aug. 29 at Grand Marais (K & MH); single birds Aug. 27 at Manitowoc (CS), Aug. 30 at Milwaukee (JF) and Sept. 1 at Sheboygan; one at New Buffalo Sept. 15 (JJ), and several during the latter one-half of September at Pt. Mouillee (*vide* PY). Hudsonian Godwits, unusual during fall migration in contrast to spring, were found in Minnesota at Thief River Falls Aug. 24 and Oct. 18 (S & KS) and at Mille Lacs L., Sept. 29 (KL, WN), while in Michigan two to five were found in *Monroe* during late September-October (*vide* PY). A Marbled Godwit at Duluth Aug. 12 (KE *et al.*) represented the area's first fall record. Four individuals were seen intermittently during September at Pt. Mouillee (BBI, PY).

Red Knots were observed in all 3 states with an injured bird remaining at Warroad through Oct. 21, representing a record departure date for Minnesota. In Michigan 500+ Semipalmated Sandpipers were noted by McDonnell Aug. 22. McDonnell also had a remarkable concentration of 25 W. Sandpipers Aug. 16. A total of three Westerns was observed during late August in Wisconsin (DT, FB). Surprising numbers of White-rumped Sandpipers were observed Regionally. Wisconsin particularly had good numbers well into October. Late were Baird's and Pectoral sandpipers at Madison Nov. 10 (ST). Very late was a Pectoral Nov. 25 at Black Dog L., Minn. (ES, TT). The rare **Purple Sandpiper** appeared 3 times in the Region. Two were found in Michigan with one Oct. 17 at M.W.S. in breeding plumage (TW, TWi, HM) while the Nov. 10 individual at St. Joseph was in the expected winter plumage (RS, WB, KLB). The one found by Gustafson at Milwaukee Nov. 10 represented one of Wisconsin's infrequent recent records (DG, BC, RSu). Tardy Dunlins were found in Minnesota (November) and Wisconsin (December). Good concentrations of Stilt Sandpipers were found during August in Wisconsin and Michigan.

Again this fall there was an impressive Buff-breasted Sandpiper flight. Michigan had a total of 60-65 birds from 8 sites, Wisconsin 40+ birds from 3 sites and Minnesota also had good numbers from 7 sites. Two **Ruffs** appeared this fall: Aug. 12 at Minnesota's Carlos Avery W.A. (KW), and Sept. 9 just n. of Beaver Dam, Wis. (MD, RSu) There was a fine concentration of dowitchers in *Dodge*, Wis., commencing during late August and peaking in late September. Several hundred were noted, primarily at Horicon N.W.R. Both Wisconsin and Michigan had about seven Red-necked Phalaropes recorded, mainly during the first one-half of September. Three **Red Phalaropes** were watched Nov. 11 at Port Huron as they repeatedly drifted into the confluence of the St. Clair R. and then flew back out to L. Huron (JFo, AR, TW, TWi).

LARIDS — The jaeger flight in Minnesota and Wisconsin was unusually poor. Only three were found at Duluth, Sept. 1 and Oct. 6 & 8, all unidentified. Wisconsin had two, both along L. Michigan with one at Manitowoc-Two Rivers Sept. 25 & 28 (CS *et al.*) and at Port Washington Oct. 17 (FB), both also unidentified. However, Michigan had one outstanding burst of sightings when several birders were fortunate enough to observe a remarkable larid migration during the morning hours of Nov. 11 at Port Huron. At least one, possibly three **Pomarine Jaegers** were seen (TW, TWi) and in the period of 65 minutes no fewer

than 19 Parasitics were counted flying by the lucky observers (JFo, AR, TW, TWi). Additional Parasitic sightings included single birds at New Buffalo Sept. 8 (RS, WB) and Nov. 17 (CN).

Several Franklin's Gulls were observed in Berrien, Mich., during August (*vide* RS). Wisconsin had reports from 7 sites between August and October with a late Nov. 25 sighting at Milwaukee (DT). Most reports represented single to several birds. However Minnesota tallied an excellent peak of 5000+ at Fairmont Sept. 30 (KL). The usual fall build-up of Little Gulls along the Wisconsin side of L. Michigan occurred. One was found at Kewaunee Sept. 2 (JB, TS), up to 10 were at Manitowoc until early September (CS, JF *et al.*), and up to four at Milwaukee during most of the period (m.ob.). Michigan had single birds at St. Joseph Aug. 25 and Sept. 2 (WB), Muskegon S.P., Oct. 13 (GW) and two at Port Huron Nov. 11 (m.ob.). For Minnesota the sightings were unusual as they occurred away from L. Superior. One was at Worthington Aug. 14-19 (JSc *et al.*) and another at Lake of the Woods L., Oct. 24 (AJ). An ad. **Common Black-headed Gull** was seen twice in Wisconsin. Originally it was watched at the s. end of L. Winnebago at Fond du Lac Aug. 11 by Tom Schultz. Randy Hoffman found the same bird 2 weeks later, Aug. 26, at Horicon N.W.R. Apparently thousands of Bonaparte's Gulls were observed migrating by Port Huron Nov. 11. Unfortunately no accurate count was kept. An ad. **California Gull** was found Nov. 25-27 at Duluth, Minn. (KE *et al.*). Thayer's Gull sightings were up at Duluth, with several birds also frequenting the Superior dump on Wisconsin Pt. (JB, TS, RJ, KE *et al.*). Photographs were taken and a dead immature was found, both providing Wisconsin with its first verification for this species. Prior to this there had been only a few sight records. An additional Minnesota sighting was of one Nov. 4 at Black Dog L. (m.ob.).

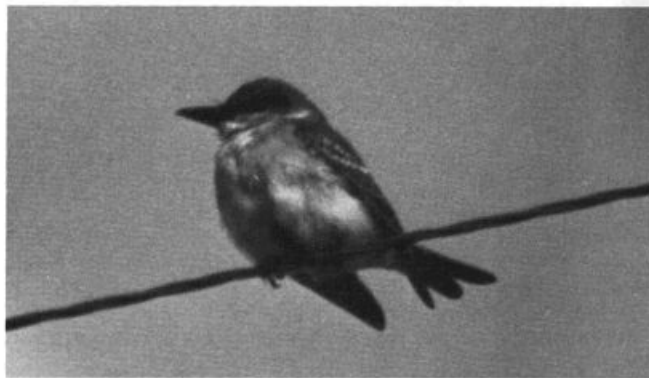
Minnesota had its first state record and Wisconsin its 2nd of a very cooperative ad. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** that moved between Duluth and Superior. The bird was originally discovered at Duluth's Park Point Oct. 19 when it was watched by many birders. Thereafter it spent most of its time, Oct. 20-Nov. 4, at Wisconsin Pt., Superior (RJ *et al.*), being relocated at Duluth only on the 23rd. Glaucous Gulls were found in Wisconsin Aug. 27 (very early) at Manitowoc (SS), Minnesota Oct. 7-8 (record arrival date) at Duluth (MHe), as well as Nov. 4 on Black Dog L. and Nov. 17 on L. Osakis (KL). Michigan had one at Port Huron Nov. 11 (m.ob.) and at M.W.S., Nov. 23 (JPo, JW). At Michigan's Pt. Mouillee 25 Great Black-backed Gulls were present Sept. 2 (JFo). Surprising numbers of Black-legged Kittiwakes were noted this fall. In Minnesota singles were seen Aug. 11 at Leech L., Cass (RJa) and Oct. 26 at Stoney Pt., St. Louis (SW, MS). Michigan had singles at St. Joseph Oct. 28 (RS) and Nov. 17 (WB) but most outstanding were the 12 counted migrating at Port Huron Nov. 11 (JFo, AR, TW, TWi). A **Sabine's Gull** was also observed at Port Huron Nov. 11 (JFo, AR). Minnesota had 3 sightings(!), late August at Worthington, Sept. 9 at Adams (R & RK), and Sept. 24 at Warroad (AJ).

Very late was a Caspian Tern Oct. 27 at Mille Lacs L. (KL). Late was a Com. Tern Oct. 22 at Manitowoc (SS). Unusual, due to its location, and very late was a Forster's Tern Oct. 18 at Duluth (WR). The **Least Tern** seen by Leshner on the Mississippi R. at LaCrosse Aug. 2 probably was the same individual he had observed during mid-June. Wisconsin had its most outstanding find thanks to Hurricane Diana. During mid-September Peter McCormick (12 years old) had the presence of mind to recognize the dead bird along the road near Wyocena, *Columbia* as unusual. He brought it to the relatives he was visiting who agreed as to its uniqueness. The bird ultimately was frozen, brought to the Horicon Marsh D.N.R. office before being transferred to the Milwaukee Public Museum for identification. The bird proved to be an ad. **Sooty Tern**, obviously a first for Wisconsin. During the preparation of the skin for preservation it was discovered the bird's body carried no traces of food. Death resulted from starvation (*Milwaukee Journal*).

CUCKOOS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Late were a Black-billed Cuckoo Oct. 17 at Milwaukee (MB) and a Yellow-billed Oct. 22 in *Marathon* (K & JL), both Wisconsin. Also late was a Yellow-billed Oct. 12 in *Ontonagon*, Mich. (JMc). Far n. was a Yellow-billed in *Lake*, Minn., Aug. 21 (SW, MS). For the 3rd consecutive fall there were few Snowy Owl sightings within the Region. There were 6 Great Gray Owl reports from Minnesota. A Boreal Owl was banded Nov. 5 at Hawk Ridge. Only Minnesota found an excellent N. Saw-whet Owl migration

as evidenced by the 741 recorded for the season at Hawk Ridge (previous high 407). The peak Com. Nighthawk flight occurred within a 2-day period. Thousands were seen moving over Duluth (KE) and between Tower and Isabella (SW, MS) Aug. 28. The following day in Wisconsin, 2300-3000+ were noted migrating in *Monroe* (EE) and *Sauk* (KL). A ♀ Ruby-throated Hummingbird was still sitting on eggs Aug. 25 at Itasca S.P. (m.ob.).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SHRIKES — Red-bellied Woodpeckers sighted in Duluth (KE *et al.*) Oct. 24 and Nov. 25 and Thief River Falls (RJa, S & KS), Nov. 14-30 were unusually far n. The ♀ **Three-toed Woodpecker** studied Aug. 4 in *Vilas* (RSp) provided Wisconsin with one of its very few records. There were 3 reports from Minnesota's *St. Louis* during late October-November. Besides the usual substantial number of Black-backed Woodpecker sightings in the n. one-third of the Region there were 2 s. records. One was watched in *Sauk*, Wis., Nov. 10 (KLa *et al.*) and one was in Northfield, Minn., Nov. 25 (KJ). The **Western Wood-Pewee** heard and seen by Eckert in Duluth Aug. 16 provided only the 4th state record. Most interesting, if accepted by Minnesota's records committee, was an *Empidonax* studied at Grand Marais Oct. 21 by many birders including Will Russell. It was felt that this individual was a Dusky Flycatcher, which would represent Minnesota's first record. The E. Phoebe at Duluth Oct. 31 represented a very late sighting (RN).



Gray Kingbird in *Oceana Co.*, Mich., Oct. 19, 1984. Photo/James Ponshair.

Certainly Michigan's most unexpected and top find was the **Gray Kingbird** discovered when a group of birders stopped to view a pheasant (bet that pheasant never received a second glance!). It was originally seen Oct. 14 in *Oceana* (JWa, WWo, MV, WV). Fortunately it remained in the area for at least the 4 ensuing days enabling other birders to enjoy and photograph it. Apparently the bird was this year's young, as it retained many brown feathers on the wings and tail. **Scissor-tailed Flycatchers** were seen Aug. 18 near Babbitt, Minn., by Chanleu and Oct. 31 in *Chippewa*, Mich. by Allen. Late were Tree Swallows Oct. 20 in *Ontonagon*, Mich. (AM) and Oct. 28 at Duluth (KE); very late were the three Nov. 16 in *Dane*, Wis. (RH). Peak swallow numbers included 5000 Cliffs and 1000 Barns Aug. 24 at Thief River Falls, Minn. (S & KS), and 1000 Purple Martins Aug. 9 at Milwaukee (JF). A Sept. 25 cold front in *Mahnomen*, Minn., killed a number of Barn Swallows while others allowed themselves to be picked up before flying away (MHa).

Mattsson reported a large but very localized invasion of Gray Jays in n.w. Minnesota with hundreds at Agassiz N.W.R. in October and November. Only the w. Upper Peninsula noted a substantial movement of Red-breasted Nuthatches (NI). The remainder of the Region found this species considerably below average, with some locales noting a total absence. Unusual and most difficult to explain were the actions of Brown Creepers in the Duluth area during the 2nd one-half of October. One was found sleeping on the outside of a wood building at mid-day, allowing itself to be picked up. Even more bizarre was Camburn's experience. While he was standing in a dense pine stand searching for owls a creeper landed on his pants, crawled up, picked off a small spider, continued up to his shoulder, looked him briefly in the eye and then flew off. And finally a deep crevice in a tree was found to contain a dozen dead creepers crowded inside—this with no previous severe

weather A Carolina Wren was at Hartford, Mich., Aug. 8-9 (C & LW). Late was a House Wren at Oshkosh, Wis., Oct. 28 (CSc), and very late for Grand Marais was a Nov. 20 Winter Wren (K & MH).

A Mountain Bluebird was watched Oct. 12-13 at Duluth (KE *et al.*), and two were seen Nov. 20 at Grand Marais (K & MH). Also in Minnesota Townsend's Solitaires were found Oct. 21 in Lake (GS), Nov. 11 at Afton S.P. (m.ob.) and Nov. 29 at Bloomington (m.ob.). Wisconsin had two appear at Devil's Lake S.P., Nov. 6 (SS). They were seen intermittently for the remainder of the month. Unusually early were Varied Thrushes that appeared at Cedar Grove (banded) Oct. 26 (DB) and Lac du Flambeau Oct. 31-Nov. 9 (CG), both Wisconsin. One was at Northland, Mich., Nov. 11 (NI, RT) with two during late November in Minnesota (Duluth, Twin Cities). There were several Michigan and 2 Wisconsin sightings of N. Mockingbirds. Late was a Nov. 11 Water Pipit observed in Chippewa, Wis. (JP). A few small flocks of Bohemian Waxwings were reported in n. Wisconsin and Michigan during November. Both Wisconsin and Michigan had fewer than usual N. Shrike sightings. In keeping with the summer pattern there were few Loggerhead Shrike sightings. None was recorded in Wisconsin, only two in Michigan and a few in Minnesota with a very late individual Nov. 10 in Aitkin (WN).

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS — The White-eyed Vireos that were present during the summer in Hillsdale, Mich. lingered into the fall with sightings Aug. 21 and Sept. 18 (JR). A Bell's Vireo was found at Fort Snelling S.P., Minn., Aug. 5-11 (TT). Very late were Solitary Vireos at Grand Marais (K & MH) and Minneapolis (SC) Oct. 22, and at Milwaukee (MB) Nov. 4. The family group (two adults, three juveniles) of Yellow-throated Vireos found at Duluth Aug. 14 by Eckert represented the northeasternmost nesting record for the state. Late were a Warbling Vireo at Duluth Sept. 29 (FL) and Red-eyed Vireos at Lutsen, Minn., Oct. 27 (KE) and Hillsdale, Mich., Nov. 4 (JR). A Tennessee Warbler in Appleton, Wis., Aug. 1-2 (DT) was early. Also early were Orange-crowned Warblers at Muskegon S.P., Mich., Aug. 19 (SM) and in Green Lake, Wis., Aug. 30 (TS). Late were birds in Dakota, Minn., Nov. 4 (TT) and at the Kalamazoo Nature Center into December (CW, JG). A Yellow Warbler in Duluth Sept. 29 was late (KE). A Cape May Warbler commenced coming to Hunter's feeder Nov. 4 in Trempealeau, Wis.

The **Yellow-throated Warbler** found Sept. 22 at Moorhead, Minn., by the Falks represented only the 4th state record. Minnesota had several late warbler sightings. They included an Oct. 21 Black-throated Green at Grand Marais (D & GW), Oct. 21 Pine in Cook, Oct. 21 Black-and-white at Grand Marais (KE *et al.*), Oct. 20 Am. Redstart at Knife River (KC), Oct. 20 Ovenbird in Winona (JBo), Oct. 5 Connecticut at Hastings (JD) and a Nov. 10 Com. Yellowthroat at Duluth. Late Wisconsin sightings included a Palm at Manitowoc Nov. 8 (CS), Blackpoll in Green Lake Oct. 18 (TS), Am. Redstart at Eau Claire Oct. 31 (JP) and N. Waterthrushes in Dane (DCe) and Ashland (DV) Oct. 21. Out-of-range Prothonotary Warblers included a family group at New Ulm, Minn., Aug. 9 (JS) and at Shiawassee N.W.R., Mich., Aug. 29 (TWi, BGr). Interesting s. species included a Worm-eating Warbler Aug. 27 at the Kalamazoo Nature Center (CW), Hooded Warbler Aug. 26 in Ottawa, Mich. (SM) and a Yellow-breasted Chat Sept. 15 at Centerville, Minn. (DS).

TANAGERS THROUGH GROSBEAKS — Polk had a Summer Tanager at Eau Claire Aug. 22. Three different birds were found in Duluth Aug. 8, Oct. 2-3 & 19 (*vide* KE). Late were Scarlet Tanagers Oct. 20 in Lake (TT) and Oct. 21 in Cook (KE *et al.*), Minn. Most unexpected was a **Western Tanager** discovered along a Necedah N.W.R. roadside Aug. 1 (RB). This represented one of the few Wisconsin records. Far n. were N. Cardinals in Superior Oct. 27-Nov. 3 (RJ) and at Thief River Falls Nov. 3 (S & KS). A Blue Grosbeak was found in Redwood, Minn., Sept. 15 (KL).

Very late were Chipping Sparrows at Fergus Falls Nov. 28 (S & DM) and Minneapolis Nov. 30 (SC). Remarkable was a Clay-colored Sparrow that appeared at the Newman feeder in Duluth Nov. 7, feeding daily into December. Field Sparrows were found in Duluth Aug. 18 (LE) and Oct. 20 (KC). Late were Savannah Sparrows Nov. 6 in Grand Marais (K & MH) and Duluth (KE). A record late date was established with the sighting of a Grasshopper Sparrow Oct. 21 in Grand Marais (WR). A

LeConte's Sparrow at Two Harbors Oct. 27 was late (PE). Kemper banded a Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Chippewa Falls, Wis., Oct. 3. Very late were Lincoln's Sparrows in St. Louis, Minn., Nov. 3 (BL, GS) and especially in Eau Claire Nov. 27 (JP). A Dark-eyed Junco was found in Michigan's Oakland July 31 and mid-August (CBo). A Smith's Longspur was observed Sept. 15 in Duluth (BL, DZ *et al.*). Early was a Snow Bunting at Duluth Sept. 14 (MH).

Northern Orioles came to Hunter's feeder through Nov. 11 in Trempealeau, Wis. and Evers' feeder from mid-November into December at Aurora, Minn. For the 3rd consecutive autumn the winter finch picture was bleak, although a few rays of encouragement finally appeared. Indications were that the n. sections of all 3 states would have a fair to almost average movement of many finch species but the remainder of the Region would find finches most difficult to locate. This proved true for Pine Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak. Common Redpolls were also present in n. Minnesota in fair numbers, but only a few birds were found in Wisconsin and none in Michigan. Both Minnesota and Wisconsin had excellent numbers of Red Crossbills already appearing during August and increasing downstate during November. In some areas they bordered on record numbers. Concentrations of White-winged Crossbills were much more localized (*i.e.*, n. e. Minnesota) with few present elsewhere. For Michigan more modest Red Crossbill numbers were found and almost no White-wingeds. Michigan's House Finch expansion/explosion continued unabated, with 12 reporting counties. The state also had an excellent Am. Goldfinch migration.

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MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

/Bruce G. Peterjohn

It was a season of contrasting weather patterns. August was generally hot and dry except in Kentucky where rainfall was nearly twice normal. Temperatures were below normal during September while precipitation was above normal. Unusually warm weather returned during October, followed by below normal temperatures in November. Precipitation was excessive in most areas although the first winter storm did not arrive until early December.

This season will be remembered for its generally good numbers and variety of waterbirds and shorebirds. In contrast, the passerine movement was rather poor and only distinguished by late migrants remaining into November. As usual, a few rarities were scattered across all states.

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

ABBREVIATIONS — S.C.R. = Squaw Creek Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Mo.; O.W.R. = Ottawa Nat'l Wildlife Ref., O.; M.M.W.A. = Magee Marsh Wildlife Management Area, O.; I.B.S.P. = Illinois Beach State Park, Ill.; Spfld. = Springfield, Ill. *Italicized* place names are counties.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — Eight Red-throated Loon reports were slightly more than normal. Noteworthy among 6 inland sightings were a maximum of three at Spfld., Oct. 26 (H) plus singles w. to Alton, Mo., Nov. 2 (BR, †m.ob.) and s. to Crab Orchard N.W.R., Ill., Nov. 10-11 (†TF). Casual anywhere in the Region, single Arctic Loons were well-described from Clinton L., Ill., Oct. 30-Nov. 11 (RS, †m.ob.) and Porter, Ind., Nov. 10 (†KB *et al.*). The Com. Loon migration was normal for recent years. Except for a large movement along L. Erie Nov. 12, 20-60 constituted the maximum concentrations in most areas. Pied-billed Grebes were widely reported but few large concentrations developed. The largest flock totalled 114 near Madisonville Oct. 29, a large number for Kentucky (JH). Early Horned Grebes returned to Iowa, Indiana and Ohio during August but subsequent numbers were low in most areas. The largest reported flock was of only 55. Illinois hosted the only 2 Red-necked Grebe sightings including one s. to Crab Orchard N.W.R., Nov. 10-17 (JR, m.ob.). Eared Grebes were scarce in the w. states while one to five at 4 Illinois, 2 Indiana and 2 Ohio locations Aug. 29-Nov. 24 were normal for recent falls. Eleven W. Grebes at Saylorville Res., Nov. 1 made up a large flock for Iowa where they are regular migrants (BE, m.ob.). Elsewhere, singles appeared at Alton, Mo., Oct. 24-26 (†PS, m.ob.) and Clinton L., Ill., Nov. 3-4 (†RCh).

Normal numbers of Am. White Pelicans appeared in Iowa where the largest flock totalled 900, while flocks of 170-250 were well below Missouri's usual peak numbers. Eight sightings in Illinois were considerably above normal including a flock of 30 in Carroll Oct. 17 (BB). They were noted e. to L. Erie and remained well into November at a number of locations. Double-crested Cormorants were widely reported but numbers were much lower than last year. Largest concentrations included 750 at Coralville Res., Ia., Oct. 7 (T), 350 at I.B.S.P., Sept. 26 (RB) and flocks of 130-300+ from all other states except Kentucky.

HERONS, IBISES — Both bitterns continued to decline with only 6 reports of Americans including a late bird in Buchanan, Mo., Nov. 25 (L) and 4 sightings of Least. However, most other herons appeared in locally exceptional numbers. Flocks of 500+ Great Blue Herons at L. Chautauqua, Ill. throughout September (LA) and 443 at Coralville Res., Ia., Sept. 16 (MN) were nearly double normal fall maxima. Great Egrets were equally numerous with 538 at L. Chautauqua Oct. 12 (KR) and 500 in Fulton, Ky., Aug. 27 (BP *et al.*), while smaller concentrations were widely reported. They remained well into November in many areas with the latest sighting at Gary, Ind., Dec. 1 (KB). Nine Snowy Egret reports through Oct. 20 were more than normal and included a remarkable 10 in s.w. Iowa at Fremont Aug. 26 (SD *et al.*). Little Blue Herons also appeared in unprecedented numbers in s.w. Iowa with 125 at Folsom L., Aug. 4 (B & LP). Few were noted in Illinois while normal numbers elsewhere included a maximum of 125 in w. Kentucky. Single Tricolored Herons were only detected in the Chicago area, Aug. 15 (JLa) and a late bird Oct. 30 (†HR).



Kentucky's 2nd Cattle Egret nesting colony was belatedly discovered near Louisville Aug. 18 (BP *et al.*). Unprecedented numbers appeared in s.w. Iowa with 350 at Folsom L., Aug. 4 (B & LP *et al.*) and 300 in Fremont Aug. 26 (SD *et al.*), while 200 each in Fulton, Ky., Sept. 1 (BP, RCa) and Henderson, Ill., Aug. 17 (RC) provided large fall concentrations for those areas. Smaller numbers were widely reported elsewhere. As usual, a few lingered into November with one w. Kentucky and 2 s. Illinois sightings Nov. 26-30. Green-backed Herons received mixed reports although flocks of 30-45 were reported from 3 locations. Latest of 3 November sightings was at Chicago Nov. 20 (JLa). Black-crowned Night-Herons improved slightly with 196 at Louisville Aug. 16 (LRa) and 141-150 at 2 Illinois locations. Small numbers also lingered well into November with the latest at Chicago Nov. 22 (HR). The 16 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in Fremont and Mills, Ia., Aug. 18 (TB, RS) constituted a large flock for fall. Smaller numbers were reported from 10 additional locations including a tardy adult at Springfield, Mo., Nov. 13 (LC). *Plegadis* ibises were also more widely reported with a total of 10 sightings from Iowa, Indiana, Missouri and Illinois through Nov. 23; unfortunately, none could be identified to species.

WATERFOWL — Eight early Tundra Swans at Mode, Ill., Oct. 4 (KF) presaged a very impressive movement across the n. states. Peak movements occurred Oct. 30-Nov. 3 and during mid-November although they were widely reported throughout the month. Largest concentrations included a record high 800 at Mississippi River Dam 9, Ia., Nov. 3 (FM, RM), 200-500+ along L. Erie Oct. 31, and 64 at Palos Nov. 3-28, a very large number for n. Illinois (JLa, m.ob.). The flock of 878 Greater White-fronted Geese at S.C.R., Oct. 30 was unusually large for this uncommon migrant through the w. states (HB *et al.*). As many as six appeared at 4 Illinois sites where the species is a regular fall migrant. Large Snow Goose flocks in the w. states harbored above-normal numbers of Ross' Geese with 10 at DeSoto N.W.R., Ia., Nov. 10 (*vide* JD) and eight at S.C.R., Nov. 15 (L). Casual migrants through Illinois, one to two Ross' Geese were discovered at Baldwin L., Nov. 12-23 (†JR, m.ob.). Brant were rather scarce with only one to three from 3 L. Erie locations Oct. 29-Nov. 3.

In contrast with other waterfowl, puddle ducks were generally observed in low numbers. Only local concentrations of Green-winged Teal, Gadwall and Am. Wigeon were reported. Diving ducks received mixed comments although Canvasbacks were universally scarce. An impressive movement Oct. 28-Nov. 2 brought mixed flocks of 500-2000+ to many lakes. However, numbers at other times were not particularly noteworthy. Unidentified eiders were observed along L. Erie Nov. 12 and single Harlequin Ducks appeared at 3 L. Erie locations Nov. 2-30. Oldsquaws remained scarce with a maximum of 65 along L. Michigan and one to four at 6 inland locations Oct. 30-Nov. 20 s. to Kansas City (CH) and Carlyle L., Ill. (CPa).

Scoters staged one of their largest movements ever. Early Black Scoters returned to Michigan City, Ind., Sept. 29 when 21 were noted (P & BG). Their main migration occurred during late October and early November with a Great Lakes maximum of 56 at M.M.W.A., Oct. 31 (JP). Noteworthy among 10 inland reports were six along the Mississippi R. at LeClaire, Ia., Oct. 26-29 (†CB, m.ob.) and four near Burnside S.P., Ky., Nov. 5 (JE) where the species is very infrequently reported. Four early Surf Scoters also returned to Michigan City Sept. 29 (KB). This species was not as abundant as the preceding one along the Great

Lakes, where maxima were generally 10-23, but it was numerous inland with 17 reports. As many as nine were found at Louisville Oct. 24-25 when they were joined by the other 2 scoter species, a remarkable occurrence for any inland location (LRa, BP *et al.*). Surfs are casual migrants through the w. states where reports consisted of five at Saylorville Res., Ia., Oct. 27 (†MD), three in *St. Charles*, Mo., Oct. 25 (m.ob.) and two at Kansas City Nov. 3+ (CH). White-winged Scoters were fairly scarce along the Great Lakes where maxima were generally 12-25. The 18 inland reports scattered across all states were more than normal and included flocks of 18 at Spfld., Oct. 29 (H), and 10-13 in c. Illinois and n. Ohio. Mergansers were fairly scarce except for 293 Hoodeds at L. Rockwell, O., Nov. 28 (LR) and the customary large flocks of Red-breasteds along L. Erie. Ruddy Ducks were well reported with flocks of 400-1000 in most states.

HAWKS THROUGH CRANES — The S hawk migration was very poor this year. Black Vultures wandered N only into c. Ohio with 10 in *Delaware* Oct. 10 (BC, *fide* J). Turkey Vulture flocks generally numbered fewer than 100 with late birds lingering through mid-November in Ohio and Illinois. Ospreys received mixed reports, being most numerous in the w. states where the maximum was 12. Latest of 3 November sightings was in *Lee*, Ia., Nov. 19 (RC). Extralimital Mississippi Kites appeared at Warrensburg, Mo., Sept. 2 (OH) and *St. Louis* Sept. 6 (RK). A few Bald Eagles returned during late August and September but the expected large concentrations in the w. states did not develop during November. Northern Harriers were generally scarce except for 35-41 in the Chicago area Oct. 20. No sizable movements of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks were reported although improved numbers of Cooper's were noted in several states. The N. Goshawk movement was small compared with those of the previous 2 years. Most were observed in November with singles at 13 locations in Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, and Ohio.

Red-shouldered Hawks were thought to be increasing in w. Missouri. As expected, the main Broad-winged Hawk movement occurred during the last one-half of September, with Sept. 16 flocks of 500 at Sand River S.F., Ill. (MBa, LM) and 400-764 in *Johnson*, Ia. (MN *et al.*), 2000+ at Compton, Ill., Sept. 17 (*fide* JHa), 440 at Spfld., Sept. 18 (H) and 400 at Jefferson City, Mo., Sept. 26 (JW). One lingered through Nov. 4 at Bell Smith Springs S.P., Ill. (RA). As many as nine Swainson's Hawks were detected at 4 Iowa and 3 Missouri locations and near the Illinois nesting site, a normal number of fall reports. Rough-legged Hawks were universally scarce. A normal number of Golden Eagle sightings consisted of one to three at a total of 7 Iowa, Illinois and Missouri locations Oct. 21+. Falcons were widespread but did not appear in the flights noted during previous years. Approximately 35 Merlin reports were received although the maximum was only three. The 30 Peregrine Falcon reports were similar to the past 3 years but the maximum number was only two. Single Prairie Falcons were noted Oct. 27-Nov. 24 at 5 Iowa locations where they are regular migrants. One also flew past I.B.S.P., Oct. 20 (†DJ *et al.*).

Rail reports were not particularly impressive this year. Two Yellow Rails were closely observed at Busch W.M.A., Mo., Oct. 20-21 (†JLo, †JZ, m.ob.). Breeding King Rails were belatedly discovered in *Lake*, Ind., during August (KB). Six additional reports from Iowa, Ohio and Missouri showed a slight improvement over recent falls. Virginia Rails were fairly scarce although they lingered into November at 3 locations including an injured bird in *Buena Vista*, Ia., Nov. 26 (V & EC). Maximum Sora concentrations totalled 21-25, and one remained until Nov. 2 at Louisville (DN). Common Moorhens were fairly scarce although the largest reported group was 24. While numbers of Am. Coots were locally reduced, noteworthy concentrations included 10,000 at S.C.R., Nov. 3 (L) and 4500 near Madisonville, Ky., Oct. 29 (JH). Migrant Sandhill Cranes passed through n.e. Illinois Sept. 15-Oct. 29, with 7 flocks of eight to 187 reported. As many as 173 in 5 flocks were noted over Kentucky while extralimital reports were limited to six at Jefferson City, Mo., Oct. 22 (JW) and one in *Mills*, Ia., Oct. 20-24 (BW).

SHOREBIRDS — As usual, this group received mixed reports depending upon the availability of suitable habitat. Large concentrations during August and September were largely restricted to Illinois while a large movement during late October and early November was noted in



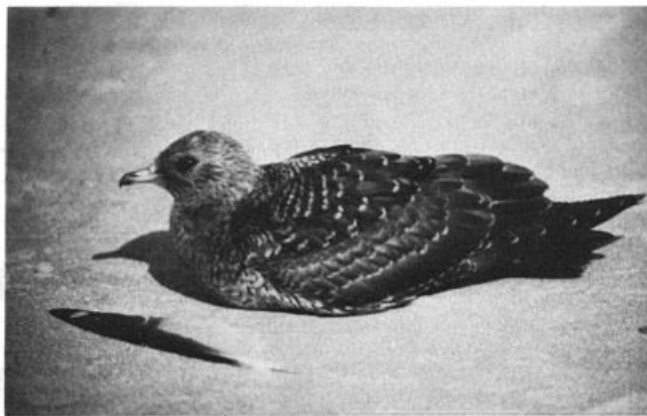
Juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Cleveland, Ohio, October 1984. Photo/Larry Rosche.

most states, producing many late records. Black-bellied Plovers peaked with flocks of 24-58 in several states while Lesser Golden-Plovers were locally numerous. Flocks of 320 at Coralville Res., Ia., Sept. 16 (MN) and 302 at Chicago Sept. 16 (JLa) were exceptional for autumn. Single migrant Piping Plovers at 7 locations in Ohio, Illinois and Missouri Aug. 5-Sept. 9 constituted a normal flight for recent years. American Avocets were widely reported with a total of 19 sightings from all states. They were prominent in the late October flight and lingered through Nov. 4. Fewer than 10 appeared at most locations although a flock of 20 flew past I.B.S.P., Oct. 20 and finally came to rest at Miller Beach, Ind. (DJ *et al.*, KB). Greater Yellowlegs were also very numerous in late October with many lingering well into November; singles remained through Nov. 23-25 in Iowa, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri. Lesser Yellowlegs were also present well into November but their largest concentration was formed in August with 3050 at Chicago Aug. 11 (JLa).

Late Solitary Sandpipers lingered into late October at several localities and to Nov. 11 at L. Lemon, Ind. (D & BW). Willets were also fairly numerous with one to three at 15 sites. Latest encounters included singles in *Douglas*, Ill., Nov. 3 (RCh) and Coralville Res., Oct. 20 (†CT). Whimbrels were restricted to the Great Lakes with a total of 8 sightings of one to two from Ohio and Illinois. Hudsonian Godwits were scarce along L. Erie but a maximum of eight appeared at L. Calumet, Ill., Aug. 30-Sept. 3 (JLa). They appeared at 4 additional locations including one at Riverton W.M.A., Ia., Aug. 4 (JF) where casual in fall, one in *Lake*, Ind., Aug. 23 where casual anytime (†KB *et al.*), and a very late bird at Beaver Creek Res., O., through Nov. 23 (TBa). Marbled Godwits were not particularly numerous with 4 sightings along L. Erie plus singles in Iowa and Illinois. Red Knots staged a strong movement. Great Lakes maxima consisted of 10 in n.w. Indiana Aug. 25 (KB) and 43 at Cleveland Sept. 9 (TLe), unprecedented numbers for fall. Nine inland sightings were more remarkable. Iowa had only 2 previous records before singles appeared at Hampton, Ia.-Ill., Aug. 31-Sept. 9 (†P *et al.*), Hendrickson Marsh Sept. 15 (†SD *et al.*) and Coralville Res., Sept. 15-27 (†MN, m.ob.). Other noteworthy records included one to two at 2 Louisville locations Sept. 2-3 (BN, BP *et al.*) and one in *St. Charles*, Mo., Aug. 18 (†VBu *et al.*) where there had been few previous records.

Although they were widely reported, the largest flock of W. Sandpipers was of only 12. Late Least Sandpipers remained at Land between the Lakes, Ky., Nov. 30+ (CP). White-rumped Sandpipers were fairly conspicuous during late October and one remained in *Erie*, O., through Nov. 24-29 (J, JP). Baird's Sandpipers were locally numerous with a maximum of 25 at Chicago (JLa). Small numbers were associated with the late shorebird movement and lingered into November at 3 locations with the latest Nov. 23 at S.C.R. (L, MRo). Pectoral Sandpipers were very numerous with a maximum of 5000 at L. Chautauqua, Ill., Aug. 14 (TP). A very tardy individual was noted at S.C.R., Nov. 25 (L *et al.*). Certainly the shorebird of the season was a cooperative juv. **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** banded and photographed at Cleveland, Ohio, Oct. 6-23 (†LR, m.ob.—ph.). The expected small numbers of Purple Sandpipers appeared at one L. Michigan and 2 L. Erie sites Oct. 23-Nov. 12. Dunlins were abundant during late October with many reports of 100-700. Stilt Sandpipers were locally abundant. Largest groups frequented inland sites with 196 at L. Chautauqua Aug. 6 (KR) and 130 in *Fulton*, Ky., Sept. 1 (BP, RCa) while an exceptionally late bird remained at Land between the Lakes, Ky., Nov. 30+ (CP).

It was another good fall for Buff-breasted Sandpipers with maxima of 30-34 at 3 Illinois sites and 10-18 in Kentucky and Iowa. A late bird was reported from L. Lemon, Ind., Oct. 31 (D & BW). Generally less numerous in fall, single Ruffs were found in Winfield, Ill., Aug. 2-5 (†MS, m.ob.), Oregon, O., Aug. 30 (†JP) and Iowa's 3rd sighting at Hendrickson Marsh Sept. 1 (†MP, BPr, PM). Dowitchers were in short supply everywhere; the largest flock was of 125 Long-billeds at O.W.R., Nov. 4. A maximum of 22 Wilson's Phalaropes at L. Chautauqua Aug. 30 highlighted a normal fall migration of this species (KR). Two late birds were noted at S.C.R., Nov. 12 (L). Only small numbers of Red-necked Phalaropes migrated along the Great Lakes while 10 inland sightings included a remarkable 26 at L. Chautauqua Aug. 30 (KR). Away from their regular L. Erie haunts, where there were 2 reports Oct. 6-Nov. 2, Red Phalaropes appeared in *St. Charles*, Mo., Sept. 15-16 (†BRe, †PS *et al.*), one to two at Lake St. Mary's, O., Sept. 25-29 (†Haw *et al.*), one at L. Merom, Ind., Sept. 28 (†MBr) and at I.B.S.P., Nov. 18-19 (DJ, †m.ob.).



Juvenile Parasitic Jaeger at Michigan City Harbor, Ind., Sept. 29, 1984. Photo/Ken Brock.

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — Jaegers staged a good flight along L. Michigan in n.w. Indiana with 10 sightings and Parasitics identified on 4 dates Sept. 22-Nov. 11 (m.ob.). Three L. Erie jaeger reports included an acceptable Parasitic Nov. 24-25 while two unidentified jaegers were noted in c. Illinois during September. Always less numerous in fall, Laughing Gulls were noted twice at Cleveland including a late bird through Nov. 16 (TL) while singles appeared at 3 c. Illinois sites Aug. 2-Sept. 14. Unusually large numbers of Franklin's Gulls migrated e. of the Mississippi R. during the last one-half of October. Largest reported flocks consisted of 90 at Spfld. (H) and 62 at Clinton L., Ill. (RCh) on Oct. 20, and 35 at Alum Creek Res., O. (JM) and 18 at L. Lemon, Ind., Oct. 28 (D & BW, LS). Little Gulls were observed only along L. Erie where they were still scarce; the largest reported number was only two. Concentrations of the common gulls were normal in most areas with the usual massive numbers congregating along L. Erie during November.

Small numbers of Thayer's Gulls were noted along the Great Lakes, primarily in November. Inland reports consisted of singles at Spfld., Nov. 3-4 (H) and Louisville Nov. 8-11 (JC, †BP *et al.*). One or two Lesser Black-backed Gulls at 3 L. Erie locations Oct. 23 + were normal for recent years. They are still unexpected elsewhere with inland Illinois singles at L. Chautauqua Oct. 6 (†LA, †MBa), Alton Nov. 10 (†GB, †CPa) and Spfld., Nov. 11 (†H). An early Glaucous Gull returned to Chicago Sept. 22 (JLa) but there were few sightings later. An incredibly early juv. Black-legged Kittiwake was well observed at Spfld., Aug. 25 (†H). They did not return to the Great Lakes until late September when one to two at one L. Michigan and 6 L. Erie sites constituted an above-normal flight. Other inland kittiwakes were reported from L. Lemon, Ind., Nov. 18-19 (D & BW, LS) and Saylorville Res., Ia., Nov. 21-22 (†DT, m.ob.). Sabine's Gulls also appeared in above-normal numbers. The only Great Lakes report was of an unprecedented flock of eight including an adult at Huron, O., Sept. 15 (†TLe *et al.*). Documented

inland records consisted of Kentucky's first Sabine's Gull at Louisville Sept. 8-11 (†BA, †m.ob.), and one to two at Montrose W.M.A., Mo., Sept. 29-Oct. 1 (TS, †m.ob.).

Tern numbers were disappointing. Caspians were numerous in the w. states with peaks of 225 at Saylorville Res., Sept. 20 (SD, EM) and 83 at S.C.R., Sept. 16 (L). Great Lakes maxima were only 45-48. They remained until Nov. 1-2 in Illinois and Kentucky. Largest Com. Tern concentrations along the Great Lakes totalled 300-800. They also remained much later than normal, until Nov. 23 at Baldwin L., Ill. (LA). Forster's Terns exhibited a similar pattern with Great Lakes peaks of 75-120 and the latest sighting at Raccoon L., Ind., Nov. 10 (AB, RHe). As many as five Least Terns were noted from 8 locations in w. Iowa, Missouri and along the Mississippi R. in Kentucky. Black Terns remained distressingly scarce in most areas although 300 were reported from Lorain, O., Aug. 19-21 (TLe).

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Black-billed Cuckoos were universally scarce while Yellow-billeds were locally common into September. A total of 5 Com. Barn-Owl reports from Iowa, Ohio and Missouri was normal for recent years. A moderate Snowy Owl movement was first detected Nov. 13 with a total of 14 reports from all states. A few wandered S to Boone, Ky. (*vide W*) and *St. Charles* and *Lincoln*, Mo. (*vide JW*) by the end of the month. Other migrant owls were scarcely reported with a total of 6 Long-eared and 12 Short-eared sightings while the only N. Saw-whet Owl was found dead at Land between the Lakes, Ky., Nov. 24 (CP). Common Nighthawks were not particularly numerous although flocks of 250-500 were locally reported. They remained through Oct. 28 in Kentucky while a very late Whip-poor-will was discovered in *Allamakee*, Ia., Nov. 3 (FM, RM). Chimney Swifts were unusually abundant with flocks of 2500 at Ames, Ia., Aug. 28 (EM) and 2000 at Palos, Ill., Sept. 26 (JMi) and Danville, Ill., Oct. 5 (SB). A very late Chimney Swift was well described from Iowa City Nov. 26 (†MN). Numbers of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were similar to last year's with peaks of 10-20 in most states. They remained well into October at several localities, and reports from Springfield, Mo., Oct. 29, Louisville Nov. 2 and Charleston, Ill., Nov. 3 probably pertained to this species although the details did not eliminate similar potential strays from the West. *Selasphorus* hummingbirds appeared in unprecedented numbers. A Springfield, Mo. feeder hosted a remarkable eight Sept. 4-11 including an ad. ♂ Rufous Hummingbird (†AS) and an imm. male that was most likely of that species (†PS). Another ad. ♂ Rufous remained at St. Joseph, Mo., Sept. 21-Nov. 23 (HM, †L *et al.*). Iowa's first *Selasphorus* hummingbird appeared at Chester Sept. 25-Oct. 2, although details and photographs of this imm. male were insufficient for specific identity (†E & ST, m.ob.). Observers attempting to identify these immature hummers should read G.F. Stiles, 1972, *Condor* 74: 25-32, carefully describe the shape and color pattern of the tail feathers and obtain clear photos of the fanned tail if possible.

Red-headed Woodpeckers made a noticeable exodus from portions of Missouri, Iowa and Illinois this fall. A Black-backed Woodpecker photographed at Lorain, O., Sept. 27 was totally unexpected since the date was remarkably early and there was virtually no movement reported from within its normal range (†JP—ph.).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — Flycatchers elicited few comments; apparently numbers were normal in most areas. The only Alder Flycatchers were noted in Indiana and Ohio during the first week of August. A Say's Phoebe was discovered at Spfld., Nov. 30+ (†H), providing one of a handful of Illinois records. A late Great Crested Flycatcher was banded in *Ottawa*, O., Oct. 17 (JP). Western Kingbirds were reported only from Iowa where a late bird was detected at Ames Nov. 3 (BS). Eastern Kingbirds were generally scarce; only Iowa and Illinois reported groups of 20-35. Extralimital Scissor-tailed Flycatchers appeared during a brief period in late October with singles at Belleville, Ill., Oct. 26 (BST, †TF), near Cherokee, Ia., Oct. 27 (†VB), and in the Indiana Dunes area Oct. 28 (†LT).

Purple Martins congregated at Louisville in late August with a maximum of 7500+ (BP *et al.*) while 6000 flocked at Keokuk, Ia., Aug. 15 (RC). A very late martin was noted at Carlyle L., Ill., Oct. 30 (CPa). Tree Swallows were abundant with 8500+ at L. Chautauqua Sept. 26 (KR), 6000 near Marshall, Ind., Oct. 11 (AB) and 5 reports of 1000-5000. They lingered into November at 6 locations; the latest sighting

was of four at Woodburn, Ind., Nov. 25 (BWA) Congregations of 2500 N Rough-winged Swallows returned to Buchanan, Mo., Aug. 26 (L) and were detected in Union and Alexander, Ill., Oct. 8 (JR). They also remained into November at 2 sites with the latest at O.W.R., Nov. 4. Other noteworthy swallow flocks consisted of 4200 Banks along L. Erie in August, 1300 Cliffs near Cherokee, Ia., Aug. 13 (MB), and 2000 Barns in Buchanan, Mo., Oct. 3. The only November Barn Swallow was in Ft. Wayne, Ind., Nov. 28-30 (TL).

JAYS THROUGH SHRIKES — Without a doubt, the most unusual passerine of the season was Illinois' first **Scrub Jay** thoroughly described at I.B.S.P., Sept. 29-Oct. 30 (†RCh, †BCh, m.ob.). Although its origins can certainly be debated, there was nothing in its plumage or behavior to indicate the bird had been recently held in captivity. A large winter roost of Am. Crows developed at Keokuk, Ia., with 17,000 present Nov. 27 (RC). Thirty Fish Crows were fairly late in Jackson, Ill., Oct. 10 (JR). Black-capped Chickadees did not move S noticeably this fall while Red-breasted Nuthatches were virtually nonexistent. An early Brown Creeper in Oakville, Ia., Aug. 29 was probably a summer resident (P). A **Rock Wren** documented in Shannon, Mo., Oct. 7 (†JG) provided a 3rd record from the state. Carolina Wrens received mixed reports, still recovering from last winter's severe weather. The only Bewick's Wren was reported from s. Illinois. Winter Wrens were also observed in reduced numbers, reflecting the effects of last winter's weather. Sedge Wrens were scarce in the e. states although they were described as abundant in Missouri.

Both kinglets were reported in lower numbers with maxima of 50-83 along the Great Lakes but much smaller numbers inland. An early Ruby-crowned returned to Sioux Center, Ia., Aug. 29 (JV). The brown thrush migration was dismal in most areas except along L. Erie where large numbers were reported, such as 46 Gray-cheekeds banded in Ottawa Sept. 24 (JP). Late reports included a Veery banded at Marion, Ind., Oct. 31 (CW) and Swainson's Thrush at Chicago Nov. 15 (PC, HR). Northern Mockingbirds remained scarce in most n. areas. Water Pipits also passed through in unimpressive numbers; the largest reported flock was of 50. Bohemian Waxwings appeared in Iowa where they are considered casual visitors. One was banded at Laurens Nov. 2-12 (RHa) and another observed at Hawkeye W.M.A., Nov. 11 (†RH, †CB *et al.*). Cedar Waxwings were abundant throughout the season. An exceptional 2900-3000 were present at I.B.S.P., Oct. 20 (DJ) and Urbana, Ill., Oct. 19-21 (RCh) while many November flocks peaked with 1500 in St. Joseph, Ind., Nov. 10 (M & VR). A total of 8 N. Shrike reports from Iowa, Indiana and Illinois was normal for fall. Loggerhead Shrikes remained unchanged with only 10 sightings from the n. states.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — Judging from the paucity of reports, their migration was not particularly noteworthy with few sizable movements. Many species returned with the late August cold fronts while a number of individuals lingered well beyond normal departure dates. The latest White-eyed Vireo was noted at O.W.R., Nov. 4. Bell's Vireos appeared e. to c. Ohio and remained through Sept. 29 in Illinois. Solitary Vireos also lingered into November at 3 sites with the latest at Marshalltown, Ia., Nov. 11 (MP). Philadelphia Vireos received mixed reports with a maximum of 10 in Iowa.

Fair numbers of Golden-winged Warblers appeared in most states during September with concentrations of nine to 10 discovered in Illinois. Numbers of Tennessee Warblers were reduced in many areas. An early Orange-crowned Warbler banded at Chicago Aug. 25 (SPa) pre-saged a good flight including a maximum of 17 at Spfld., Oct. 22 where one remained through Nov. 27 (H). The latest Nashville Warbler was noted in LaPorte, Ind., Nov. 5 (S & DP) while three N. Parulas lingered at Ft. Wayne, Ind., Oct. 23-24 (TL, DW). Noteworthy concentrations included 225 Yellows in Ottawa, O., Aug. 3 (JP) and 211 Chestnut-sideds in Henderson and Mercer, Ill., Sept. 22 (MBA). Cape May Warblers at one Missouri and 2 Iowa locations constituted a normal number of sightings for this scarce migrant through the w. states. Equally unusual there, Black-throated Blue Warblers were noted twice in Iowa while a first sighting for Springfield, Mo. was recorded Oct. 2 (†AS). Yellow-rumped Warblers were not particularly numerous except for 1800 at Chicago Oct. 7 (JLa). Other late warblers included a Black-throated Green at Shimek S.F., Ia., Nov. 3 (RC), Blackburnian in Eubank, Ky., Oct. 28 (JE) and Pine at Cincinnati Nov. 22 (JSh). Still

considered casual in Iowa, a Prairie Warbler was unexpected at Shimek S.F., Aug. 24-Sept. 15 (†RC, †FM)

Since they are normally uncommon in autumn, 120 Palm Warblers at Chicago Oct. 14 (JLa) were remarkable. This late migrant remained in c. Ohio through Nov. 25 while an exceptionally late Black-and-white Warbler was noted at Chicago Nov. 28 (RB). A Worm-eating Warbler at Shimek S.F., Sept. 15 provided one of a handful of Iowa fall sightings (RC). One at Spfld., Nov. 26 easily provided the latest record for this Region (†H). Ovenbirds straggled into November at 3 sites, surviving at Spfld. through Dec. 5 (H). A late Louisiana Waterthrush was noted at Chicago Oct. 7 (†JLa). Expected small numbers of *Oporornis* warblers were widely reported. The latest Hooded Warbler was reported at Columbia, Mo., Oct. 20 (IA).

TANAGERS THROUGH EMERIZINES — A Summer Tanager wandered N to L. Erie during October while a late bird was noted at Louisville Nov. 3-4 (DN). A Scarlet Tanager at Davenport, Ia., Oct. 20 was equally tardy (P). A family group of Blue Grosbeaks was unusual in w. Indiana at Sullivan (MBr); very late birds were reported from Eubank, Ky., Oct. 10 (JE) and Andrew, Mo., Oct. 20 (L). Other late records were provided by an Indigo Bunting at Big Creek S.P., Ia., Nov. 4 (JS) plus 4 November Dickcissel sightings through Nov. 23 in Buchanan, Mo. (L, MRo) and Nov. 30+ at Kansas City (CH, m.ob.)

Sparrow numbers were generally excellent, even exceeding numbers reported during the past 2 years. An early Am. Tree Sparrow returned to Schell-Osage W.M.A., Mo., Oct. 8 (JW *et al.*) although they arrived late in most other areas. Clay-colored Sparrows wandered E to only 2 Illinois sites Sept. 21-Oct. 10. Savannah Sparrows were abundant in w. Missouri with 400 in Henry and St. Clair Oct. 28 (CH *et al.*). A late Grasshopper Sparrow was reported from Central Kentucky W.M.A., Ky., Nov. 22 (GR). Henslow's Sparrows were found at only 2 sites with a maximum of six in w. Missouri. LeConte's Sparrows were numerous in Iowa where the maximum count was 30. Fewer were noted in Illinois while singles appeared at Big Island W.M.A., O., Sept. 29 (J) and Louisville Oct. 28 (BP *et al.*) where the species is casual. As many as five Sharp-tailed Sparrows were scattered across 9 locations in the n. states Sept. 20-Oct. 20, a typical fall flight for this species. Fox and Lincoln's sparrows received mixed reports with maxima of 30 and 24, respectively. *Zonotrichia* sparrows were well represented. White-throated Sparrows peaked at 100-300+ in most states although lesser numbers of White-crowneds were reported. Above-normal numbers of Harris' Sparrows appeared in Illinois and Indiana where as many as two were discovered at 5 and 4 locations, respectively. Lapland Longspurs returned to the Great Lakes Sept. 21 and staged a major movement through the w. states during November where the largest flocks totalled 5000 in Bates and 3000 in Jasper, Mo., Nov. 28 (L, MRo), 3100 in Story, Ia., Nov. 11 (PM), 2500 at Colo, Ia., Nov. 10 (HZ) and 1850 at Spfld., Nov. 23 (H). The only Smith's Longspurs were 31 at Taberville Prairie, Mo., Nov. 27 (L, MRo). An early Snow Bunting returned to Chicago Sept. 27 (HR). Normal numbers were scattered across most n. areas by the end of November.

BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES — Bobolink numbers were generally poor although a few lingered through Oct. 20. The only extralimital Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported from Spfld., Aug. 18 (H) and Huron, O., Sept. 2 (TBA). Great-tailed Grackles continued to do well in n.w. Missouri with 100 in Bates Nov. 11 (KJ) while two were noted at their regular Riverton W.M.A., Ia., site during August. A N. Oriole at M.M.W.A., Nov. 4 was quite late (JP).

This fall certainly will not be remembered for its winter finch movement. Single Pine Grosbeaks were fairly early at Lamoni, Ia., Nov. 8 (†JB, †JL) and in Cass, Ia., Nov. 11 (†B & LP). Purple Finches were universally scarce. Still novelties in Illinois, House Finches were reported from 5 locations there this fall. A moderate movement of Red Crossbills developed during November. They were first noted in Illinois and Iowa Nov. 2-4 and scattered birds appeared in all states except Indiana and Kentucky by month's end. Largest flocks totalled 10-50 except for 200 at I.B.S.P., Nov. 4 (ASi). These flocks were joined by White-winged Crossbills only in Iowa where as many as five appeared at 4 sites Nov. 11-18. Small numbers of Com. Redpolls were found at a total of 8 locations in the n. states during November. Pine Siskins staged a major flight through Iowa beginning Aug. 30. A maximum of 300 appeared at Muscatine, Ia., Nov. 22 (RC). They were also common in the Kansas

City area where as many as 200 were reported during October (*vide* CH). However, they were scarcely reported elsewhere, generally as singles with occasional flocks of 20-30. Evening Grosbeaks did not move S in appreciable numbers with only one to three individuals reported from isolated sites in all states except Illinois.

UNCORROBORATED REPORTS — The following sightings were not satisfactorily documented but may have been valid: Say's Phoebe at Independence, Mo., Nov. 11 and Black-headed Grosbeak in Barry, Mo., Nov. 28+.

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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

/Robert D. Purrington

It was a warm fall, wet in some areas, dry in others, as befits a Region as large and diverse as this one. During a critical three-week period beginning in late September (following a strong early cold front) there were no fronts at all. The mild, balmy weather that prevailed, almost an "Indian summer," was not conducive to the grounding of transients. While November, too, was mild, a strong front brought freezing temperatures all the way to the coast on the 30th.

Many wintering species were late in reaching the southern part of the Region, and there were frequent late records of species lingering in inland areas. While Imhof described drought conditions at Birmingham, Neal, in Arkansas, reported the wettest September ever and mourned the flooding of shorebird habitat. At New Orleans, October, which is usually dry, was also much wetter than normal. While the impact of these conditions on fall migration is problematical, what is clear is that the general lack of decisive frontal weather (and of the low ceilings and overnight rains associated with it) led to a rather bland and uninteresting fall, although as usual there were some exciting vagrants. Upper level winds were predominantly from the west and southwest, with some strong northwesterly episodes during November. Of approximately eleven fronts after mid-September, the most effective, to judge by records submitted, were those of September 15-16 and 26-27, a confused sequence of three late October fronts beginning on the 17th, each of which backed up as a warm front, and those of November 2 and 5.

Although winds in the Region were influenced successively by *Diana*, *Isadore*, and *Josephine* as they moved up the Atlantic coast, there was again no tropical weather to contend with. Evidence of an influx of species breeding in the west and northern Mexico was mixed, and with Red-breasted Nuthatches and Purple Finches essentially absent, only the Pine Siskin showed any sign of an irruption.

ABBREVIATIONS — D.R.U. = Duck River Unit, Tennessee Nat'l Wildlife Refuge; L.O.S. = Louisiana Ornithological Society; L.S.U.M.Z. = Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology; M.S.U. = Mississippi State University; P.R.M. = Pascagoula River Marsh, Jackson Co., Miss.; T.O.S. = Tennessee Ornithological Society. Place names in *italics* are counties or parishes.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — While the only Red-throated Loon reported was from Woods Res. near Nashville Nov. 10-11 (CRD, MI)—the 5th middle Tennessee record—records of Com.



Loons included the earliest ever for s.e. Louisiana Sept. 16 at Mandeville (JH), large numbers on Woods Res., Nov. 1-3 (CGD, SJS, ARL) where the peak was 280, and in Mississippi Sound, Miss., Nov. 3 (JM), and an albinistic bird at Cross Creek N.W.R. on Nov. 17 & 25 (SJS, DWB). An Eared Grebe at the P.R.M., Sept. 25 (JT) was the earliest for the coast by 30 days. A W. Grebe in *Craighead*, Ark., Oct. 25 (ELH) provided only the 2nd record for n.e. Arkansas and the 15th for the state. There were 2 records of Greater Shearwaters from the Alabama-Florida coast: Aug. 26 at Pensacola Pass, Fla. (SD, LD) and Oct. 13-14 at Mobile Pt., Ala. (DMB, CDC). The latter was the latest for Alabama. A Masked Booby seen at Mobile Pt. on the same dates (CDC, DMB) represented the 2nd October record for Alabama. Of records of N. Gannet off the Mississippi-Alabama coast, two found debilitated on the beach at Long Beach and Biloxi, Miss. on the very early dates of Aug. 21 & 23 (JT, m.ob.) were most interesting.

Inland observers commented on the large movement of Am. White Pelicans from Oct. 15 to late November, especially following the Oct 16-17 frontal passage. Records in Alabama's Tennessee Valley from Oct. 30 to the end of the period and from Woods Res., Tenn., Nov. 25-

26 were unusual. The 35 Brown Pelicans seen in coastal Jackson, Miss., Sept. 9 (MH) were encouraging. Immature Great Cormorants were reported from Jackson Sept. 8 (HW *et al.*) and Ft. Morgan Oct. 4-7 (GDJ, m.ob.). Although details were not furnished this writer for either record, the species has been seen in Alabama since 1972 and this was the earliest ever. Double-crested Cormorants were early in reaching the Gulf coast in mid-September and were noted in large numbers in Arkansas, n. Alabama, and w. Tennessee from late October on, while a single Anhinga at Little Oak I., Orleans, La., Nov. 23 (DM) was very late. The sighting of 700 Magnificent Frigatebirds near North I. in the Chandeleur chain off the Louisiana coast Oct. 3 (JT, JD) was interesting, especially since the islands are not often visited after August, and one off Horn I., Miss., Nov. 25 (JS) was very late.

HERONS THROUGH SPOONBILL — An Am. Bittern at Waveland, Miss., Aug. 14 (JSP, CC) was extremely early, while a "Great White Heron" at St. Joseph Peninsula S.P., Fla., Oct. 11-13 (SJS, BHS, ARH) was far from its s. Florida haunts. Snowy Egrets in middle Tennessee in late August and early September were unusual (DWB, SJS, BHS, RCS), as were single Tricolored Herons in Baton Rouge, La., Aug. 25 (PMcK) and at L. Millwood, Ark., Nov. 4 (CMA, CM); the species is rare anywhere in Arkansas. Paul McKenzie, in the course of aerial Mottled Duck surveys, counted 4520 Cattle Egrets in 5 s.w. Louisiana parishes Aug. 24 & 25. The high count in Lonoke, Ark. was 234 Aug. 24 (EMH, HH) and there were late inland records from Ross Barnett Res., Miss., Nov. 4 (JT, GM, MB, JD) and from Williamson, Tenn., Nov. 10 (SJS). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were scarce in Lonoke according to the Halbergs. Post-breeding records of White Ibises in middle Tennessee and near Memphis during August were unusual (SJS, BHS, DWB, JW), as were Glossy Ibises in Santa Rosa, Fla., Oct. 20-22 (FW, CA, BS, JoH, OF, BM). Two Arkansas records of *Plegadis* ibises, Sept. 21-23 at Centerton (RIC, EN) and Oct. 25 in Lonoke (RC, m.ob.), were the 8th and 9th for the state. Single Roseate Spoonbills in the Reserve-Bonnet Carre Spillway Aug. 2 & 19 (RJS, MW) were well e. of their normal range in Louisiana; single post-breeding wanderers also turned up at Shreveport Aug. 8 & 14 (HMH, PMD).



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck in Tensas Parish, La., June 4, 1984. Photo/Don Simons.

WATERFOWL — A single Fulvous Whistling-Duck was seen at Mobile, Ala., Nov. 4 (SD, RD) and a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was seen in Tensas, La., June 4 (DRS, CB, JB—ph.), belatedly reported. It has become clear that recent records of this species from across Louisiana, which had been dismissed as being the result of birds introduced at Rockefeller Refuge, cannot be so easily explained. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks evidently are either now breeding in Louisiana or many of these birds are vagrants from Texas. There were several records of Tundra Swans: one Nov. 3 at Wheeler N.W.R. (NP, B.A.S.), 3 n.w. Florida records from Nov. 21 to the end of the period (BP, SK, TD, JDy) involving at least 16 individuals, 12 reported by hunters in St. Charles, La., Nov. 22 (*vide* RJS), an immature in Maury, Tenn., Nov. 22-25 (WJ), and three near Madisonville, La. verified Dec. 2 (RDP, MM, DM, NN—ph. RDP) but apparently present during the

previous 3 weeks. The latter records were the 6th and 7th for s.e. Louisiana. While peak numbers of Canada Geese at the D.R.U. were 12,500 Nov. 26-30 (*vide* WC), and an aircourt Nov. 26 at Wheeler N.W.R. showed 18,000 (TA), a small flock of about 30 in Jackson, Miss., Nov. 29 (GM) was unusual. Early records of ducks included the following: 30 Green-winged Teal at Mobile Sept. 11 (GDJ); N. Shovelers in Cameron, La. (PMcK) and at Hattiesburg, Miss., Aug. 24 (TG, LG); a scaup, probably Greater, at the Bonnet Carre Spillway Sept. 8 (MW, RJS); and single Ruddy Ducks at Baton Rouge Aug. 25 (PMcK—summering?), and on Oct. 6 in Dickson, Tenn. (CGD), the earliest ever in the Nashville area, and Waveland, Miss. (JT, DR, DK), the earliest ever by a month.

For the 3rd year in a row Eur. Wigeons were seen at Cross Creeks N.W.R., Tenn., in this case one or two from Oct. 19 to Nov. 25 (DWB *et al.*). Canvasbacks were scarce on the Mississippi coast (JT) and virtually absent in s.e. Louisiana. Scaup, on the other hand, were present in huge numbers on Mississippi Sound in November—witness 20,000 in Jackson, Miss., Nov. 9 (DR) and an estimated 250,000 off Harrison, Miss., Nov. 29, building up to one million in early December (JT, DK)! On L. Pontchartrain, however, numbers were low except for an impressive early movement of 5000-10,000 Oct. 28 (NN, PW). Single Oldsquaws in Mobile, Ala. (SD, RD) and at Sabine N.W.R., La. (*vide* JWa) Nov. 4 were early for the Gulf coast and numbers of this rare winter visitor seemed above normal. There were 7 records of Surf Scoters totalling 12 individuals, and 4 records of White-winged Scoters totalling 13 birds. A Surf Scoter in Craighead Oct. 25 (ELH) provided the first record for n.e. Arkansas and the 6th record for the state.

DIURNAL RAPTORS — Ospreys continued to do well, as represented by well over 30 reports submitted, including up to 15 seen at L. Millwood, Ark., Sept. 2-Oct. 8 (CMI *et al.*). Sightings of Black-shouldered Kites came from extreme s.w. Louisiana, where single birds were seen Sept. 16 (DD, GR, DM, VR) and Nov. 5 (TS, GR, DH), and from Hancock, Miss. between Oct. 19 and Nov. 10 (DR, JT, MB, GM, m.ob.), the first since their June nesting in the area. Late Mississippi Kites were seen in s.w. and s.e. Louisiana Sept. 30 (DD, GR, GS, AS) and at Hattiesburg Oct. 14 (TG). Records of 110 Bald Eagles were submitted (14a, 54i), including at least 40 (2a, 38i) in the s.w. corner of Reelfoot L., Tenn., Nov. 17 (RCS). Another good concentration was in Lauderdale in the W. Tennessee Valley, where 12-14 were seen Nov. 18 (JM, NP); Cross Creeks N.W.R., Tenn. had 15 by the end of the period (*vide* CLR, FFR). The only mention of a nest was at the White Kitchen, La., site. In spite of a Louisiana-record 1500 migrating Sharp-shinned Hawks in Cameron Sept. 29-30 (RJS, MW, DM), they were thought by some to be down from the fairly good numbers of recent years. Peak count in s.e. Louisiana was 72 on the n. shore of L. Pontchartrain Sept. 30 (AS). Cooper's Hawks continued to be scarce, the only exception being the report of 20 during the fall by various observers in middle Tennessee (*vide* SJS). A single N. Goshawk was reported from Lake, Tenn., Nov. 17 (RCS).

Somewhat surprisingly, the only large movements of Broad-winged Hawks reported were in Cameron in s.w. Louisiana where 5000 were seen Sept. 29 & 30 (DM, RJS, MW), and at Baton Rouge Sept. 29 (PMcK *et al.*) when 1871 were counted. Other reports included 600 at Baton Rouge Sept. 15-17 (PMcK) and 198 seen from the n. shore of L. Pontchartrain Sept. 30 (AS, GS). The hawk watches organized by McKenzie at Baton Rouge yielded a total of 2583 Broad-wingeds in 55 hours of observation. The large movements described above mostly followed on the heels of the frontal passage of Sept. 26. The only flocks observed in middle Tennessee were small ones Sept. 15 & 29 (SJS, MI, BHS). Swainson's Hawks were reported from Clermont Harbor, Miss., Oct. 20 (JT, GM), when two were seen, and from Ft. Morgan, Ala., Nov. 12 (DB, RB, MLM—ph.). A very impressive late movement of 600+ Red-tailed Hawks was noted in Santa Rosa and Escambia, Fla., Nov. 21-23 (DB, RB, OF), including 422 on the 22nd. The only record of Rough-legged Hawk came from Benton, Ark: a light-phase bird Nov. 24 (BR, BCe, KS, CH, JN). Two Golden Eagles were seen, Oct. 2 on the Tombigbee R. near Macintosh, Ala. (CDC, RR) and Nov. 22 at Gulf Breeze, Fla. (SD, RD, LD, TK, SKi, DB). The latter, an immature bird, furnished the 6th record for n.w. Florida. A Crested Caracara seen at Gum Cove, Cameron Nov. 18 (DM, NN) was at the only known breeding site in Louisiana. Records of 22 Merlins were reported, including

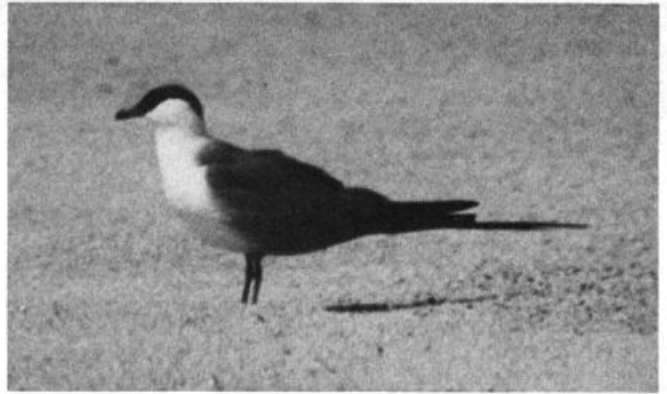
one on Dauphin I., Sept. 1 (HHK, BG), the earliest ever for coastal Alabama. The 30 records of Peregrine Falcons submitted included eight seen by the Duncans in s. Alabama and n.w. Florida Sept. 16-Nov. 4. One Prairie Falcon was reported, without details, from *Lake*, Tenn., Oct. 19 (WGC, RCS).

MOORHEN, CRANES, SHOREBIRDS — Common Moorhens in mid-late October in *Maury* and *Rutherford*, Tenn., were unusual (RCS, ARL, TJW). Migrating Am. Coots peaked at 850 on L. Fayetteville, Ark., Oct. 23 (JN) and numbered several thousand on Woods Res. and D.R.U. in early November (KHD, RCH). Although the sight record of a Limpkin by a single observer may not warrant the addition of this species to the state list, one was reported, with persuasive details, from *Jackson*, Miss., Oct. 7 (DR). Of several reports of Sandhill Cranes after Oct. 18, the only coastal record was of five at Panama City, Fla., Nov. 23 (TF). In addition to one near Decatur, Ala., Oct. 18 (RCO) and four at Jacksonville, Ala., Nov. 1 (CWS), a high of 212 was counted Nov. 13 in *Pickett*, Tenn. (DRH, RCH), where approximately 10 flocks were seen after late October.

There were several inland records of migrating Black-bellied Plovers, including sightings on 17 dates in September and October in *Lake*, Tenn. (WGC) and a late record Nov. 24 at D.R.U. (SJS). In spite of its rarity in fall, there were at least 7 records of Lesser Golden-Plover from Aug. 22 to Nov. 10, the latter being a bird seen in *Lauderdale*, Ala. (NP, DS). Also unusual were 3 inland records of Piping Plovers: Aug. 25-29 at D.R.U. (SJS, BHS); *Lake*, Tenn., Sept. 25 (WGC); and *Lauderdale*, Ala., Oct. 7 (NP). Three Am. Oystercatchers in the vicinity of North I. in the Chandeleurs Oct. 3 (JT, JD) were of interest because of the lack of information about the species outside the breeding season. Judging from August numbers in *Jackson*, Miss. and *Mobile*, Ala., Black-necked Stilts had a successful nesting season (JT, MH, JD, CR, DK, GDJ, DGJ). Unusual records of Am. Avocets included inland sightings at L. Millwood, Ark., Sept. 30 (CM) and in *Washington*, Ark., Oct. 22 (TH), as well as a single bird in *Okaloosa*, Fla., Nov. 21 (DW, RD, SD). There are few n.w. Florida records. Late as migrants in w. Tennessee were two Greater Yellowlegs at Wapunuca N.W.R., Nov. 22 (BBC, LCC). There were a few records of Whimbrels, always rare in fall, mostly from coastal areas. A notable exception was one near Decatur, Ala., Sept. 16-20 (DCH); another at the Mobile Causeway Nov. 18 (GDJ, DGJ) was very late. A Long-billed Curlew, seen with the Whimbrel Nov. 18, was present there from Sept. 11 to at least Nov. 27 (GDJ, DGJ, RD). A Hudsonian Godwit at Florence, *Lauderdale*, Ala., Sept. 24 & 25 (PK, DS, NP) established the 4th record for the state, all but one in fall.

Unusual at the inland Bonnet Carre Spillway, La. were a Ruddy Turnstone Aug. 12 (MW) and a Red Knot Aug. 9 (RJS). There were 4 records of knots from Tennessee Sept. 2-15. Sanderlings, on the other hand, were seen in unusual numbers on the Mississippi R. in *Lake*, Tenn., Sept. 5-Oct. 8 (WGC). Peak counts of Semipalmated and W. sandpipers at the P.R.M. were Aug. 11, when 2000 and 5000, respectively, were tallied (JT, MH, CR, DK, JD). White-rumped Sandpipers, notably rare in fall, were recorded 3 times: Aug. 20 at Cross Creeks N.W.R., Tenn. (DWB), Aug. 30 in *Jackson*, Miss. (JT, MH, DK), and Sept. 16 in *Cameron*, La. (VR, SWC, GR, DD, DM—*L.S.U.M.Z.), the latter providing the first fall specimen for Louisiana. A Pectoral Sandpiper at Ft. Walton Beach Nov. 24 (BP) was the latest ever for n.w. Florida; Troups remarked that this species was seen in lower numbers than normal. A Dunlin at Cross Creeks N.W.R., Aug. 27 (RVM, ASA) was early, while Stilt Sandpipers in *Cameron*, La., Nov. 18 (NN, DM), in *Santa Rosa*, Fla., Nov. 19 (BM, OF, CLK, m.ob.), and 10 still present at the end of the period in *Jackson*, Miss. (JT) were late. Peak numbers at the P.R.M. were 300 Aug. 12 (MH). Among the usual reports of Buff-breasted Sandpipers, two in *Baldwin*, Ala., Oct. 15 (GDJ, CDC, DMB) stood out as the latest for the state by over 2 weeks. Quite early, on the other hand, was a Com. Snipe in *Maury*, Tenn., July 23 (BHS). The only records of Red-necked Phalaropes and Red Phalaropes came on Oct. 6, the former on the Mississippi R. in *Lake*, Tenn. (WGC), the latter on Radnor L., *Davidson*, Tenn. (CJM, SJS *et al.*).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS — There were 5 records of jaegers, 3 from inland localities. A single imm. jaeger seen at some distance on L. Millwood, Ark., Sept. 2 (CM) was possibly a Long-tailed. The one



Adult Long-tailed Jaeger near Tiptonville, Tenn., September 1984
First record for Tennessee. Photo/Stephen J. Stedman.

record of Pomarine Jaeger was of an immature near Ft. Morgan Sept. 23 (CDC, GB, EB); according to Imhof, the species is becoming regular on the Alabama coast. There were 2 records of Parasitic Jaegers, one of two about 500 yards off Waveland, Miss., Sept. 4 (JT, MH), the other of an adult on L. Millwood Sept. 30 (CM), the 3rd record for the lake and for Arkansas. The bird was well-described. Topping these records was the first of a **Long-tailed Jaeger** for Tennessee—an adult seen and beautifully photographed on Island 13 in the Mississippi R. near Tiptonville Sept. 2-4 (SJS, BHS, ARH, RDH). This was only the 2nd record of a jaeger for the state.

Franklin's Gulls attracted more attention than usual, especially along the coast where, being circum-gulf migrants, they are unexpected. While records at Mandeville, La., Sept. 22 (JH) and at Ft. Morgan a day later (CDC, GB, EB) were very early, there were several records in *Cameron*, La., Oct. 27-Nov. 11 and on the Mississippi coast at Waveland Oct. 27-Nov. 10 (*vide* JT), and there was a very late observation Nov. 30 at Gulf Shores, Ala. (GDJ). Three or four **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were seen in coastal Louisiana and Mississippi from late October to the end of the period. One was an adult at Gulfport Oct. 25-Nov. 30 (JT, m.ob.); the others were up to three found at Cameron on the weekend of the L.O.S. Fall Meeting. A fully adult bird was reported Oct. 27 (SH), another adult was found 12 mi to the w. the next morning (DM, RDP), and two birds, evidently the original adult and a 3rd-winter bird, were seen at Rutherford Beach by many observers (ph.—RDP). At least one individual was present through Nov. 17 (DM, NN). There had been only 3 previous records for Louisiana, all since 1982. The famous one-legged black-backed gull was again reported, on Aug. 22 at Pensacola (RD). There was also an August record of Great Black-backed Gull, an adult Aug. 26 at Pensacola Pass (SD, LD). When recorded in the Region, **Sabine's Gulls** are usually seen in September; this year was no exception. The 2 records were Sept. 17 at the mouth of Mobile Bay (GDJ, CDC—ph.), the 5th record for Alabama and the first to be documented, and Sept. 23 on L. Millwood, Ark. (CM, HP, MP), the 7th record for the lake and the state.

Caspian Terns were unusual inland in *Boone*, Ark., Sept. 16 (JR, ER) and at Baton Rouge Nov. 5 (PMcK). Common Terns were reported as follows: single birds in *Rutherford*, Tenn., Sept. 14 and Nov. 3 (CPN, SJS, RVM); 50 Sept. 17 in *Hancock*, Miss. (JT, MB); 10-23 on L. Millwood, Ark., Sept. 23 and Oct. 1 (CM, HP, MP); and four in *Colbert*, Ala., Nov. 18 (NP), the latest inland record for the state. They could be found at Grand Isle, La., throughout the summer (RDP, DM, NN, MM). Forster's Terns near Columbia, Ala., in *Lauderdale*, Ala., and in *Henry*, Tenn. between Oct. 23 and Nov. 17 were quite late. Also late was a Black Tern in *Cameron* Nov. 18 (DM, NN).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A single Inca Dove was reported from Louisiana, in *Iberia* Oct. 14 (MJM). Late Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported from Little Chenier, *Cameron*, La., Nov. 17 (DM, NN) and Venice, La., Nov. 25 (VR, DM). While Groove-billed Anis were seen in coastal Louisiana and Mississippi in rather low numbers, one was in Gulf Breeze, Fla., Nov. 6 (RD). From Arkansas there was one record of Burrowing Owl, Nov. 17 at the Stuttgart airport, *Prairie* (WMS, MWh), and 2 records of Short-eared Owl on the same

date, also in *Prairie*. A Lesser Nighthawk in *Cameron* Nov. 5 (TS, GR, DH) was not only a w. vagrant, but also very late. Reports of Com Nighthawk migration showed major movements in late August, including 450 at Memphis Aug. 30 (JW), and again in the last week of October in w.-c. Mississippi (LCT, JM) in concert with several closely spaced fronts; one in Decatur, Ala., Oct. 26 (CRG) was the latest ever for the Tennessee Valley. At least two lingered to the end of the period in downtown Birmingham (RRR, GA, m.ob.). Chimney Swifts stayed into early November in several Tennessee locations, the latest being Nov. 17 at Dyersburg (RCS, JRS). A *Chaetura* swift in Laplace, La., Nov. 10 (RJS) was suspicious, given the sporadic occurrence of Vaux's Swift there in recent years, but one in Baton Rouge Nov. 29 (MS) was even more likely to have been of the latter species. In neither case was identification possible.

The fall was average to poor for w. hummingbirds, with Black-chinned below normal and Buff-bellied Hummingbird totally absent. In the latter case Newfield conjectured that last winter's freeze in the Rio Grande Valley and n. Mexico may have depleted the breeding population from which these vagrants derive. Significant records included Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at Reserve through the end of November (RJS), three Black-chinned Hummingbirds there in late October (RJS), and another in Baton Rouge Nov. 10-12 (PMcK). Among records of *Selasphorus* hummingbirds was an especially early one Aug. 21 at Covington, La. (ML) and a high of up to 12 in Reserve Sept. 4-Nov. 30 (RJS, MW). In Baton Rouge, where McKenzie had as many as five *Selasphorus* hummingbirds throughout November, the highlight was an ad ♀ **Allen's Hummingbird** first seen Nov. 30 and collected Dec. 3 (*L.S.U.M.Z.). Elsewhere, a member of the genus was seen in N. Little Rock, Ark., Oct. 8-18 (RC, m.ob.) while another was at Brookhaven, Miss. from Nov. 26 well into December (LCT). A census of D'Arbonne N.W.R., Miss., turned up 5 active colonies of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in an area threatened by the drilling of 58 gas wells (JAJ, BJ).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — There are now several records of W. Wood-Pewee for *Cameron* in s.w. Louisiana, the only substantiated records for the e. United States. This fall two were recorded Sept. 23 (TP, TS—*L.S.U.M.Z.) and another was found Oct. 21 (SWC, DD—*L.S.U.M.Z.). An E. Wood-Pewee in Baton Rouge Nov. 3 (VR) was very late. Among the records of *Empidonax* flycatchers identified to species were: a singing Yellow-bellied Flycatcher Oct. 9-14 in Hattiesburg (TG, LG), an Acadian Flycatcher heard at Murfreesboro, Tenn., Oct. 20 (TJW), and a **Hammond's Flycatcher**, providing the 2nd record for Louisiana, collected in *Cameron* Oct. 27 (TS, NK—*L.S.U.M.Z.). A very late empid at Triumph, La., Nov. 25 (VR, TP, DM, RDP) was probably a Least Flycatcher. Earliest ever for coastal Mississippi in fall was an E. Phoebe at Ocean Springs Sept. 8 (DR, TB, TSi, HC, CC). There were 4 reports of Vermilion Flycatchers received, all from Louisiana, the most interesting being of a male near Shreveport Nov. 4-30 (CMD, PMD, HHJ). Ash-throated Flycatchers were seen at Ft. Morgan, Ala., Sept. 4 (CDC) and in *Cameron*, La., Oct. 21 (SWC—*L.S.U.M.Z.). A Brown-crested Flycatcher, the 4th Louisiana specimen, was collected in *Cameron* Sept. 23 (SWC—*L.S.U.M.Z.). There were at least 11 coastal records of W. Kingbirds from w. Louisiana to n.w. Florida, the earliest being Sept. 7 at New Orleans (NN). Peak movement of E. Kingbirds on the Mississippi coast occurred Sept. 15, when 195 were counted (JT, MH). One Nov. 23 at Little Oak I., *Orleans*, La. (DM) was unprecedentedly late. Scattered Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were seen along the coast from Grand Isle to Ft. Morgan.

Unexpected so far s. were six Horned Larks in *Cameron* Nov. 11 (SWC). While an ad. Purple Martin seen feeding fledglings Aug. 26 at Williamsport, Tenn. (KGA) represented a very late nesting, single individuals in *Jackson*, Miss., Oct. 26 (JT, MB) and at Laplace, La., Nov. 2 (LT *et al.*) were very late migrants. A concentration of 10,000 Tree Swallows at Bay St. Louis Nov. 20 (JT, JSp) was unprecedented for the Mississippi coast. Late N. Rough-winged Swallows were seen at Wheeler N.W.R., Ala., Nov. 17 (AHM, ADM) and a day later in *Okaloosa*, Fla. (BP).

TITMICE THROUGH SHRIKES — Tufted Titmice, which are not normally found on Louisiana's coastal cheniers, separated as they are from any extensive woodlands by 10-30 mi, surged all the way to the

coast in s.w. Louisiana in late October and early November, including one in roadside weeds in *Cameron* Nov. 5 (DH, GR, TS). New Orleans' City Park also had its first record in memory Nov. 3 (RDP). The only record of Red-breasted Nuthatch submitted was, surprisingly, of one at *Cameron*, La., Nov. 11 (SWC, DD). Early at Dyersburg, Tenn. was a Winter Wren Oct. 3 (RCS). Reports of Sedge Wrens included several on territory at D.R.U., Aug. 12 and at Cross Creeks N.W.R. the next day (SJS, BHS, DWB), as well as an early arrival Sept. 29 at Ft. Walton Beach (BP) and a late migrant Nov. 17 at Stuttgart, Ark. (WMS, MW). It was a good year for Golden-crowned Kinglets, and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet in *Cameron* Sept. 16 (DD, DM) was the earliest ever for Louisiana. Although thrush migration was poor in coastal areas where concentrations are often the rule, specific records of interest included an early Veery at Hattiesburg, Miss., Sept. 7 (LG, TG), a late Gray-cheeked Thrush Nov. 8 at Nashville (ATT), and a lingering Wood Thrush in *Cameron* Nov. 17 (DM, NN). Among the true highlights of the season was a **Varied Thrush** at Ft. Pickens, Fla., Nov. 8-12 (TB, RD), establishing the first record for the Florida section. Gray Catbird migration, while foreshadowed by a very early individual in Baton Rouge Aug. 25 (PMcK), peaked in *Hancock*, Miss., in late September and early October (JT, DK). One in *Spartina* on North I. in Louisiana's Chandeleur chain Oct. 3 (JT, JD) was interesting. A Sprague's Pipit seen in *Hancock* Nov. 29 (JT, DK) provided one of only a few records for coastal Mississippi; they continue to be found yearly in the Bonnet Carre Spillway, La. The news that a Loggerhead Shrike in *Lonoke*, Ark., Sept. 1 was the *only* one seen by the Halbergs during the fall was hardly encouraging.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — There were 2 records of Bell's Vireo, Sept. 17 on Dauphin Island (CDC, GDJ) and Nov. 5 in *Cameron* (TS, DH, GR). A Solitary Vireo collected in *Cameron* Sept. 16 (VR) proved to be of the *plumbeus* race, establishing the first record for the e. United States of a subspecies which may ultimately be elevated to the status of a full species. A number of late records of Yellow-throated Vireo were received, from as far inland as middle Tennessee, due no doubt to the mild fall. Philadelphia Vireos were early Sept. 7 in Ocean Springs, Miss. (DR, HC, CC) and Sept. 9 in *Williamson*, Tenn. (BHS, JCA), late records were Oct. 28 in *Davidson*, Tenn. (BHS, JCA) and Nov. 2 in Hattiesburg, Miss. (LG). A Black-whiskered Vireo at Dauphin I., Sept. 28 (MAF) provided the first fall record for Alabama, and one apparently was seen at Ft. Pickens, Fla., Sept. 23 (PJ, *fide* TAI), the first in fall for that section.

Among many late records of warblers were: 6 reports of Blue-winged Warblers, which normally depart the Region by Sept. 20, from late October into early November; Golden-winged Warblers Oct. 21 in *Cameron* (VR, BC, DM), tying the latest ever for Louisiana, and Oct. 28 at Ocean Springs, Miss. (DR); Tennessee Warblers in *Cameron* Nov. 17 (NN) and at Baton Rouge the next day (VR); Nashville Warblers in *Cameron* Nov. 11 (VR) and in *Santa Rosa*, Fla., Nov. 15 (BM), this the latest ever by 8 days; a N. Parula in *Davidson*, Tenn., Nov. 3 (SJS, CPN), the latest ever for the Nashville area; records of Chestnut-sided Warbler Oct. 21 & 29, respectively, in *Colbert*, Ala. (NP *et al.*) and at Hattiesburg, Miss.; Oct. 25 records of Yellow-throated Warblers at Hattiesburg (LG) and at Murfreesboro, Ark., and one at Baton Rouge Nov. 21 (PMcK) that may have been overwintering; Prairie Warblers Oct. 19 in *Davidson*, Tenn. (DFV) and Oct. 27 in *Cameron* (VR), a ♂ Cerulean Warbler in *Cameron* Oct. 21 (VR, BC, DM), the latest ever for Louisiana; late Black-and-white Warbler and Am. Redstart at *Cameron* Nov. 17 (DM, NN); an Ovenbird at Birmingham Nov. 26 (MAH), the latest ever for Alabama by 12 days; several records of lingering N. Waterthrushes in late October; a Hooded Warbler at Homewood, Ala., as late as Nov. 1 (AHM); and a Yellow-breasted Chat at Murfreesboro, Tenn., Oct. 21 (TJW).

There was one record of each of the canonical Blue-winged x Golden-winged hybrids: a "Lawrence's" Warbler at Radnor L., *Davidson*, Tenn., Sept. 21 (CGD) and a "Brewster's" Warbler in *Cameron* Oct. 27 (SWC—*L.S.U.M.Z.). There were 4 records of Cape May Warblers, always rare in fall and posing a difficult identification problem: Sept. 16 in *Cameron* (DD, SWC, DM, GR—*L.S.U.M.Z.), Oct. 19 in *Hancock*, Miss. (JT, MB, DR), Nov. 3 at New Orleans (RDP), and Nov. 11 at *Cameron* (SWC—*L.S.U.M.Z.). There were 8 records of Black-throated Blue Warblers from *Cameron* to Ft. Morgan, Ala., but only a single report of a Black-throated Gray Warbler, on the early date of

Sept 1 at Ft Morgan (CDC, DMB), furnishing the 9th record for the state. There was a report of a Townsend's Warbler at Baton Rouge Nov. 27 (PMcK) that would establish the 3rd record for the state if accepted by the L.O.S. Bird Records committee. A count of 18 Mourning Warblers in *Cameron* Sept. 2 (PMcK, JK, MS) was probably an all-time high for Louisiana. The movement of Com. Yellowthroats in late October was especially impressive; the highest counts submitted were of 200 and 300 Oct. 27 & 28 in *E. Baton Rouge* (VR, SWC, DD). Wilson's Warblers were more common than usual in s.e. Louisiana during the fall

TANAGERS THROUGH CARDUELINE FINCHES — There were several late records of Summer Tanagers in late October and early November, and a late Scarlet Tanager was in *St. Tammany*, La., Oct. 24 (JH). There were three W. Tanagers seen, one on the extraordinary date of Aug. 23 near Athens, Ala., found dead the next day (*M.S.U.), one in New Orleans Oct. 6 (DM, DC), and another at Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., Nov. 24 (BP, DN). While a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Gulfport Nov. 1 (JT) was the latest ever for that area, 40-50 were seen at the Bonnet Carre Spillway, La., Nov. 5 (NLN), and one was in *Cameron* Nov. 17 (DM, NN). The 2 records of Black-headed Grosbeaks were from *Cameron*: Oct. 21 (DD) & 27 (NLN). A Blue Grosbeak there Nov. 18 (NN) was quite late. Also in *Cameron* was a ♀ **Lazuli Bunting** Sept. 23 (SWC—*L.S.U.M.Z.), furnishing the first documented record for Louisiana. The bird was generally duller and grayer than an Indigo Bunting and had the expected 2 distinct wing-bars. Indicative of the number of Indigo Buntings present in the coastal cheniers of *Cameron* the weekend of Oct. 27-28 were counts of 325 in one square mile of habitat at *Cameron* and a like number in one linear mile of chenier scrub about 15 mi to the w. (VR, SWC, DD).

A Bachman's Sparrow Nov. 11 in *Hot Spring*, Ark. (TH) was very late for a species for which there is no winter record. The 5 records of Clay-colored Sparrow received were all from Louisiana and somewhat later than usual, the earliest being Oct. 16 at New Orleans (NN, DC, MD) and the others being from *Cameron*, the latest Nov. 5 (TS). A Savannah Sparrow in Birmingham Aug. 27 (TAI, MW) was the earliest ever for Alabama by 3 weeks; sightings Sept. 1 & 3 from middle Tennessee were also early (SJS, ARH, DFV). Unusual at a *Washington*, Ark, locality was a Sharp-tailed Sparrow Oct. 22 (TH). Very early White-crowned Sparrows were seen Sept. 30 at Ft. Morgan, Ala. (GDJ, DGJ) and at *Cameron*, La. (VR, GR), the latter the earliest ever for the state by 9 days. Two Harris' Sparrows Nov. 12 in *Yell*, Ark. (WMS, MSc) were unusual, as were six Lapland Longspurs Nov. 17 in *Lake*, Tenn. (RCS) and 10 Smith's Longspurs at the Stuttgart, Ark., airport the same day (WMS, MWh). Two **Snow Buntings** were recorded in the Region, Nov. 12 in *Lake* (WGC), providing the 3rd w. Tennessee record in 57 years, and Nov. 14-15 in *Davidson*, Tenn. (RVM).

Although Bobolinks are rare in the Region in fall, there were 5 records, 3 of them in mid-September, one in late September, and a very late Oct. 21 sighting of four at Cherokee, Ala. (NP). Among several records of Yellow-headed Blackbirds from coastal Alabama and Louisiana, the most notable was one Sept. 2 at Ft. Morgan (HHK, BG), equalling the earliest ever for Alabama. A young ♂ **Scott's Oriole** at New Orleans Oct. 24-25 (NN, m.ob.) established the first documented occurrence for s.e. Louisiana, although there were 2 previous sightings. Definitive photographs were obtained (MM). The only report of Red Crossbill from anywhere in the Region was of a male Nov. 4-5 in Harrison, Ark. (MM, JR). Pine Siskins were seen sparsely and sporadically in several parts of the Region, from late October through mid-November, after which they were even harder to find. Interesting, although clearly an escape, was a Red Bishop at Pensacola Sept. 4-Nov. 4 (PJ, OF, m.ob.).

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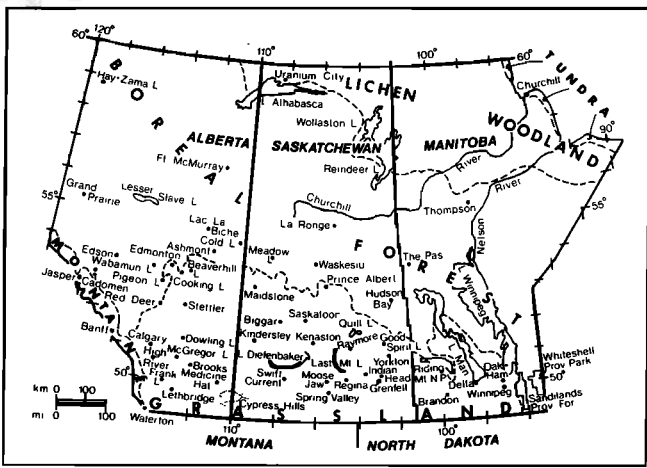
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PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

/Wayne C. Harris

The hot dry weather of the summer continued well into the fall for most of the Region. It was on September 21-22 that things took an abrupt change as up to 12 inches of snow fell in southern Saskatchewan and Alberta. From then to the end of the period more winter-like weather prevailed. Although most of the birds which were stopped by the September snowfall were able to continue their southward journey the following week, the ones stranded by the up to 24 inches of snow on October 16 may not have fared quite as well, since this snow remained over much of the Region. Only in southeastern Manitoba did more typical fall conditions prevail. Here, September was cool but frost-free and there was little snow by the end of November.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — A single Red-throated Loon at Victoria Beach Nov. 3 furnished only the 3rd record for s. Manitoba (*fide* RK). The continued reporting of Arctic Loons in fall in s. Saskatchewan has changed their status from vagrant to rare-but-regular, as singles were seen Sept. 29 and Oct. 24 in the Regina area and two were at Saskatoon Oct. 19 and another Nov. 30 (BL, CA, CE, SS, HL). Reports from s. Alberta indicate the same there with one at Calgary Oct 14 & 16, and three Oct. 18-19 (DC, AS). At Calgary Com. Loons were forced down during the October storm with 10 on the 18th increasing to 12 on the 19th. After this same storm five dead Com. Loons were found on the highway near Hinton, Alta., where they had apparently landed. At Prince Albert N.P. there was a significant S movement of Double-crested Cormorants Sept. 8 when hundreds moved with pelicans; another 300-400 moved S Sept. 22 (MSy). At St. Adolphe, Man., two Green-backed Herons were present to at least Sept. 2 (LL, GG).



were numbers near normal with 7 sightings (KG, *vide* WH). Gyrfalcon reports were normal with 2 Alberta, 5 Saskatchewan and 2 Manitoba reports (LG, KL, WH, SJ, GH, DH, KG).

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Gray Partridges had a productive summer with coveys being more common and larger than last year in Saskatchewan (LB, WH). A report of a partial albino Sandhill Crane Oct. 6 at Outlook, Sask., was unusual (SS) but not unique as one was present in the early 1970s near Last Mountain L. for several falls in succession. Although more widespread than they had been for several years, the 76 Whooping Cranes seen were close to the normal for this Region (B. Johns).

Migrant shorebirds passed through earlier than usual with most gone prior to Aug. 15. There were a few noteworthy dates and numbers: two Black-bellied Plovers at Ille à la Crosse, Sask., in late October (NM), a total of 128 Lesser Golden-Plovers sighted this fall at Fort McMurray, Alta., compared to nine last year, and 48 Upland Sandpiper sightings also at Ft. McMurray compared to 23 in 1983 and three in 1982 (JG). At Whitewater L., Man., 700 Am. Avocets Aug. 7 were exceptional for that province (CC). A late Baird's Sandpiper was at Calgary Nov. 3-4 (DC, JS). Two species formerly thought to migrate through this Region during spring but not fall are now reported regularly: White-rumped Sandpiper and Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Eight White-rumped were reported Aug. 25 at Saskatoon (*vide* CE), while two Buff-breasted were seen at Ille à la Crosse Sept. 26 and one at Buffer L., Aug. 25; in Manitoba, 100+ were at Oak Hammock Aug. 11-Sept. 3 including a peak of 51 Aug. 11 (NM, *vide* CE, *vide* RK). Rare shorebirds included 14 W. Sandpipers at Oak L., Aug. 14, one at Strathmore, Alta., Aug. 12 and one at Saskatoon Aug. 25 (*vide* RK, JS, *vide* CE); also a Red Phalarope Sept. 3 at Winnipeg (SH).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — Parasitic Jaegers have become regular rare fall migrants in the s. one-half of this Region as indicated by singles at Calgary Sept. 16 and Valeport, Sask., Sept. 29-30 (JP, BL, TR). There were the usual reports of n. gulls in the south, with s. Manitoba's first Mew Gull Oct. 14 at Winnipeg (SH) heading the list. Thayer's Gulls were reported at Regina Beach Oct. 25 and Winnipeg Nov. 9 (MS, DH). At Calgary an imm. Glaucous-winged Gull was seen Nov. 3-10 (DC, RS, LG). At least five Glaucous Gulls were present in s. Manitoba Oct. 21-Nov. 12 while there were singles at Calgary Oct. 31-Nov. 11 and Saskatoon Nov. 30 (*vide* RK, DC, CE); finally there were three Sabine's Gulls at Buck L., s. of Regina Sept. 16-17 and two there Sept. 18 (CA, BL). There were two Arctic Terns at Ft. McMurray Oct. 16, rarities in the s. (JG).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A Band-tailed Pigeon July 3 near Bromhead and Aug. 24-Sept. 5 in Weyburn (possibly the same bird) provided Saskatchewan with its first fully documented (6th overall) record (V. & E. Bjorklund, NP, m.ob., ph.). There was another at Calgary Sept. 23-24 (JP, m.ob., ph.). A late Burrowing Owl was near Manyberries, Alta., Oct. 20 and a Boreal Owl was found well s. of the forest at Ft. Qu'Appelle, Sask., Nov. 28 (LG, *vide* CA). Rufous Hummingbirds are very rare in Saskatchewan, but this fall at least two were present. Presumably the individual at Waskesiu reported during the



Band-tailed Pigeon at Weyburn, Sask., Sept. 1, 1984. First fully documented record for Saskatchewan. Photo/Chris Escott.

WATERFOWL — One of the more interesting discoveries this fall was not a rarity but a die-off. On Sept. 29, 130 Greater White-fronted and two Ross' geese were found at Soda L., n. of Saltcoats, Sask. Autopsies revealed that the cause of death was perforation of the intestinal tract due to ingestion of cereal awns (*vide* WJA).

A possible Bewick's (Tundra) Swan near Saskatoon would, if confirmed, represent the province's 3rd record (CE, ph.). The general E shift in staging areas for the arctic geese continued, with heavy concentrations of Snow Geese in s. Manitoba (HC, RK). With the Snows were 33 Ross' Geese at Oak Hammock, a record high for s.e. Manitoba (GG, GH, RK). At Calgary there was a single (Black) Brant Oct. 21-28 (C. Wershler, I. Halliday) and a ♂ Mallard x N. Pintail was on Blackstrap L., s. of Saskatoon Oct. 19-20 (BG, CE). Wood Ducks were unusually common in the Medicine Hat area, present Aug. 19-Sept. 29, peaking at 13 Sept. 8 (RG). There were also two in Edmonton in late October (O. Hohn, *vide* RE). Greater Scaup were more widespread but total numbers were down primarily due to fewer reports from Saskatoon and Regina. For the Region the dates were Oct. 13-Nov. 6 with singles in Saskatchewan at Eyebrow L. and Blackstrap L., and pairs at Echo L. and Saskatoon (PB, CE, CA, MG). Calgary had three Nov. 4 and four Nov. 6 (RS, AS), and there was one at Rivers, Man., Oct. 28 (CC). Two ♀ Com. Eiders were seen in Winnipeg; the first arrived Nov. 2 and stayed to Nov. 6 while the other arrived Nov. 3 and was found dead Nov. 5 (MS, RK, m.ob.). This furnished the 2nd s. Manitoba record (the previous one was in 1911) and established the 2nd consecutive fall for the species in the s. portions of this Region.

Oldsquaws were more common and widespread than usual with one in s. Manitoba Nov. 3-25, seven in Alberta Oct. 17-Nov. 20, and 22 in Saskatchewan Oct. 13-Nov. 24 (RK, DC, KL, WH). There were fewer Black Scoter reports than last year with singles at Regina Beach Oct. 20-21 and Calgary Oct. 27-28 (CA, BL *vide* DC). In Manitoba there were four at Natalie L., Oct. 21 and two to three at Grand Beach Oct. 25-27 (PT, MS, GG). Surf Scoters were more common with up to 26 in the Regina area Sept. 26-Oct. 28 (BL, CA), up to eight at Blackstrap L., Sept. 28-Oct. 26 (MG, BG, FR, CE), and up to six at Calgary Oct. 12-28 (*vide* DC). Brandon had four Sept. 23-27, three were at Natalie L., Oct. 13-14, and one was at Grand Beach Oct. 25-27 (CC, PT, MS, RT). Other sightings included 12 females Oct. 7 at Bragg Cr., Alta. (RC), one Oct. 21 at Broderick, Sask. (CE), two Sept. 28 at Steinbach, Man. (DF), and one Nov. 10 at Lockport, Man. (DF, GG). Barrow's Goldeneyes were reported in s. Saskatchewan again this fall with a male at Regina Beach Oct. 20-28 and one at Blackstrap L., Oct. 19 & 25-26 (BL, CE, SS).

DIURNAL RAPTORS — Again this year there was a noticeable movement of N. Goshawks s. of the forest (WH, WJA, SJ). There were 5 Ferruginous Hawk reports from s. Manitoba vs. their normal zero! Rough-legged Hawks were very common in s.e. Manitoba with 18 seen Nov. 3 (KG). Some of these lingered to period's end and may have spent the winter. This species was also more common than usual near Cumberland House, Sask., this fall (WH). Peregrine Falcons were down in both Alberta (no sightings) and Manitoba (one). Only in Saskatchewan

summer stayed until at least Sept. 10 (*vide* DHj) and another male appeared at a feeder at Bangor July 31 and stayed until Aug. 7 (J. & G. Hilton). There appeared to be a S movement of boreal woodpeckers in Saskatchewan with a Pileated being seen s. of Saskatoon in early November. Both Black-backed and Three-toed woodpeckers were present in Regina (CE, CA) and both were more common than usual in Edmonton (RE). Rarities this fall included a Williamson's Sapsucker Sept. 20 at Calgary (LG); 3 different Red-bellied Woodpecker reports were received from s. Manitoba (*vide* RK, HC).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAGTAILS — Some exceptionally late dates were recorded for flycatchers in s. Manitoba; an unidentified wood-pewee Oct. 9 in Winnipeg (RK, GH) and single Great Crested Flycatchers Oct. 4 & 14 in the Winnipeg area (MS, SH) were the latest. At Winnipeg a spectacular Purple Martin roost had an estimated 10,000 birds Aug. 27 and still 8000 Sept. 8 (L. Kolt, DH, RK).

A minor S irruption of Gray Jays occurred this fall with reports from Oak L., Birds Hill P.P., Kleefeld and Winnipeg in Manitoba; Good Spirit L., Regina and Moose Mountain P.P. in Saskatchewan, and at Lethbridge, Alta. Although not mentioned outside of Saskatchewan, a major influx of Com. Ravens occurred s. of the forest right to the U.S. border. Twenty-three localities in s. Saskatchewan reported ravens, usually only one or two but as many as five at one point (*vide* WH). Two rare corvids were reported from Cypress Hills, a Steller's Jay photographed Nov. 10 and a Clark's Nutcracker the next day (WH). Large numbers of Boreal Chickadees moved through Edmonton (RE) and the species was present at Grande Prairie (KL) but the movement was quite local as it was not evident elsewhere. Up to five Chestnut-backed Chickadees were present at Waterton N.P. (RS, LG).

A very late Sedge Wren was found Oct. 25 at Blackstrap L. (CE). Townsend's Solitaires are still sufficiently rare in s. Manitoba to warrant mention; singles were seen at Lyleton and Pierson Oct. 28 & 30 respectively (J. & J. Murray, RW). Two well-described imm. **White/Black-backed Wagtails** were reported from Water Valley, Alta., a first for this Region (CH).



Steller's Jay at Cypress Hills P.P., Sask., Nov. 10, 1984. Photo/W. C. Harris.

EMBERIZIDS — The warbler migration was very poor in both Saskatchewan and Alberta. In Edmonton, Edgar Jones, who has operated a banding station for a number of years, reported his lowest warbler totals ever. This poor migration resulted in no exceptional numbers, rare species or late dates from these 2 provinces. In s. Manitoba, where September was frost-free, numerous warblers lingered beyond normal departure dates. The most significant were a Magnolia Oct. 21 (GH), a Black-throated Blue Oct. 29 (S. Sealy), a N. Waterthrush Oct. 9 (RK) and a Wilson's Oct. 29 (KG), all in Winnipeg. There was a Scarlet Tanager at Lumsden, Sask., Oct. 17 and another Aug. 12 at Calgary, both well w. of their normal range (A. & B. Binnie, DE). Three very late Black-headed Grosbeaks were at Moose Jaw Nov. 3-4 while farther e. there was one Aug. 9 and another Sept. 15 in s. Manitoba (EK, *vide* RK). There were few late sparrow dates recorded: a Harris' at Ille á la

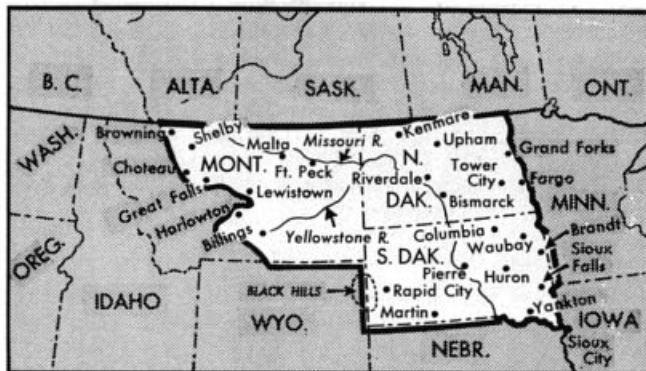
Crosse Nov. 4 (NM), a Fox to Nov. 27 and a Savannah to Nov. 21 both at Raymore (WH, SL). Although the storm of Sept. 21-22 caused a large fallout of migrant sparrows it was the mid-October storm which had the greatest impact. Thousands of juncos and Am. Tree Sparrows were grounded at Raymore (WH). The birds remained for weeks afterward, and slowly filtered S during brief mild spells so that most were gone by period's end. Although few dead birds were found, numerous sick and weak-appearing birds (mainly juncos) were seen which undoubtedly succumbed. Dead juncos were also found at Melfort (GB). Rusty Black-birds were also grounded by the storm with 150+ at Good Spirit L. and 700+ at Raymore (WJA, WH). At Seven Sisters, Man., outside the main storm area, there were 1500± Oct. 21 (PT).

FRINGILLIDS — There was a significant E movement of Rosy Finches into s.e. Alberta and s.w. Saskatchewan during November. On Nov. 11, small flocks were seen all the way from Manyberries to Val Marie, Sask., on the Milk and Frenchman R. systems (WH). There were 100-150 present at Lethbridge and they first appeared at White Bear, Sask., Nov. 16 (MO, SJ). A single Rosy Finch was seen at Ft. McMurray during late October, well n.e. of the normal range (JG). With the exception of Evening Grosbeaks, which were uncommon, all the winter finches were very prominent. Pine Grosbeaks were common across the s., and both crossbill species were reported throughout. Common Redpolls were well distributed and more Hoarries than usual were reported.

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NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION /David O. Lambeth

This was the most interesting season in years due to a remarkably early and impressive invasion of "northern finches," more than the usual number of rarities including several first and second state records, and a variety of unusual observations for the usual avifauna. Moisture conditions varied from severe drought in parts of Montana to near normal in South Dakota. At Glasgow, Montana, the total precipitation for the past two years is just 14 inches, less than even in the worst of the "dirty thirties." Conditions were also dry in North Dakota, except in October when Fargo recorded her second wettest October ever. An early blizzard



Oct. 27-28 provided strong north winds that swept out most of the remaining waterfowl and brought in many finches and other wintering species. However, this storm was not the onset of a harsh winter; rather, the last one-half of November was notable for widespread and record-breaking temperatures.

In the text following, *italicized* place names indicate counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — North Dakota's 2nd **Arctic Loon**, and the first documented (ph. DLI), was on L. Darling at Upper Souris N.W.R., Oct. 14-20 (RM, GB). Another **Arctic Loon** at Fort Peck Nov. 22 furnished about the 3rd record for Montana and the first documented (ph. CC). The Regional total of 30 Com. Loons was higher than usual. Some of the breeding population of Red-necked Grebes remained in the Turtle Mts. through Oct. 6 (DLK). A still downy W. Grebe at Upper Souris Oct. 28 undoubtedly perished when the lake froze the next day (RM). Twenty-five Snowy Egrets were in *Brookings*, S.D., Sept. 13 (KH), and one was at Tewaukon Ref., Oct. 21 (DP). Two Little Blue Herons in *Sanborn*, S.D., Oct. 7 were the latest ever, and 200 Cattle Egrets were there Sept. 29 (RR). Belated reports were received of a **Least Bittern** and its nest found at Tewaukon, N.D., July 4 (DP), and of a **White-faced Ibis** in *Cass*, N.D., July 3-23 (Paul DuBow). The latter species was also observed at Lacreek N.W.R., S.D., Aug. 31-Sept. 8 (DDP, JC).



Arctic Loon at Fort Peck, Mont., Nov. 22, 1984. About the third record (first documented) for Montana. Photo/ Charles Carlson.



Arctic Loon at Upper Souris N.W.R., N.D., Oct. 18, 1984. Second record (first documented) for North Dakota. Photo/ Dave Linehan.

WATERFOWL — Tundra Swans appeared by Sept. 15 at Salyer N.W.R., N.D. (GB), and 10,000+ were, appropriately enough, on Swan Lake near Lidgerwood, N.D., Oct. 30 (DB). Concerns were expressed that state game officials in the Dakotas are trying to drum up a demand for a hunting season on swans. The best fall flight of Greater White-fronted Goose in years peaked in the Dakotas Oct. 14-20 when numbers reported included 275 at Upper Souris (GB), 560 at Tewaukon (GE), 5000 at Salyer (JFP), all in North Dakota, and 500 in *Charles Mix*, S.D. (DS). A **Ross' Goose** was shot near Lignite, N.D. (*vide* TF), and one at Salyer Nov. 13 appeared weak (WW).

Rarer ducks for this Region included three Cinnamon Teal in *Pennington*, S.D., Sept. 3 (DDP, JC); a Greater Scaup in *Brookings*, S.D., Nov. 19 (KH), and 18 more in North Dakota Oct. 28-Nov. 21 (GB, RM); an Oldsquaw at Fort Peck Oct. 28 (CC), and at least five among 4 locations in North Dakota Oct. 27-Nov. 30 (PK, RM, DP). A **Black Scoter** was at the Grand Forks lagoons Sept. 29 (SL), and another at Oahe Dam, S.D., Oct. 29 (DDP). **Surf Scoters** were amazingly common; observations included one at Fort Peck Sept. 26 (CC), four at the Grand Forks lagoons Oct. 5-7 (DL), and at least 14 in the Minot area Oct. 5-20 (RM, GB). Because most Surf Scoters seen here are in female or immature plumage, identification is usually confirmed by seeing the outstretched wing. However, an unmistakable ad. male was at Buffalo Lodge L., N.D., Oct. 12 (RM). Approximately 25 White-winged Scoters were observed. High counts of mergansers included 213 Hoodeds at Upper Souris Oct. 27 (RM), 200 Commons in *Brown*, S.D., Nov. 11 (DT), 200 Commons at Tewaukon Nov. 10 (GE), and nine Red-breasteds at Ft. Peck Oct. 28 (CC).

RAPTORS — More injured raptors were reported than usual, which served to cast a pall over an otherwise good season. One wonders how many injured raptors go unnoticed in this sparsely populated Region. Three crippled Turkey Vultures were found in e. South Dakota Sept. 24-

Oct. 24. Most of the dozen Osprey sightings were in the last one-half of September, but one Nov. 13 in *Gregory*, S.D., was very late (GS). A Bald Eagle near Sisseton, S.D., Nov. 25 succumbed to lead poisoning acquired by eating crippled waterfowl. There were 20+ reports each for Cooper's Hawk and N. Goshawk with the latter species present in exceptional numbers for the 3rd consecutive fall. An ad. **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen Sept. 9 in *Brown*, S.D. (DT), and two Broad-winged Hawks were unusually far w. at Malta, Mont., Sept. 20 (DMP). An adequately-described Swainson's Hawk in w. North Dakota Nov. 23 was quite unexpected on that date (DW). A total of 26 of the Harlan's race of Red-tailed Hawk was found in c. North Dakota, mostly in October (RM, GB, PK). A wing-tagged Ferruginous Hawk near Kenmare, N.D., Aug. 24 was 170 mi n.w. of where it was tagged as a nestling in June (RM). A count of 33 Ferruginous Hawks was recorded in *Shannon*, S.D., Sept. 7 (WH).

An exceptional flight of Rough-legged Hawks occurred in the w. Dakotas and Montana with Berkey and Martin reporting a total of 71 on 19 dates in n.c. North Dakota. Golden Eagles were e. of their usual range in early November at Grand Forks, Tewaukon N.W.R., and in *Yankton*, S.D. Reports of 13 Peregrines included a sick bird turned in to the Sisseton rehabilitation laboratory, and one killed by a powerline in *Sargent*, N.D. The only sighting of a **Gyr Falcon** (this editor's first ever!) was of a cooperative gray-phase bird perched near Dodge, N.D., Nov. 25. Prairie Falcons were frequently seen at Fargo (MB), and one found injured at another s.e. North Dakota location was transferred to a rehabilitation center.

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Three Blue Grouse were found in the Little Rockies of Montana 50 mi s.w. of Malta, Mont., where they are uncommon (DMP). Most reports of Whooping Cranes in flight can be discounted as mistaken identification of Am. White Pelicans, Snow Geese, or Sandhill Cranes, however, three independent descriptions of 27 Whoopers flying over Minot Oct. 16 seemed credible despite the perhaps unprecedented number for a single flock in migration (JB, Mike Thompson, DD). The mass movement coincided with the end of unfavorable migratory conditions which had lasted several days. Four subadults remained for a week beginning Oct. 21 in a small area on the edge of L. Sakakawea near New Town, N.D. (BCH, m.ob.).

Until recently, it was thought that Hudsonian Godwits and White-rumped Sandpipers, both common spring migrants, almost never occurred in this Region after June. A total of 13 Hudsonian Godwits was observed in 3 locations in the Minot area Aug. 5-Oct. 27 (GB, RM), and one was at Fargo Oct. 28 (TD). Reports of White-rumped Sandpipers included seven in *Minnehaha*, S.D., Aug. 11 (MS), and singles at Grand Forks Sept. 2 (DL), Fargo Oct. 26 (MB, CS) and Minot Oct. 27 (RM, GB). Other noteworthy records for shorebirds included 5000 Lesser Golden-Plovers at Fargo Sept. 19 (MB, CS), a Semipalmated Plover in *Yankton*, S.D., Oct. 24 (WH), 100 Long-billed Curlews at Big Lake near Billings, Mont., in early September (BHi), and W. Sandpipers reported from all 3 states. Dunlins may migrate in numbers only in the extreme e. Dakotas. Peak numbers exceeded 100/day at Fargo and Grand Forks (MB, DL), but one seen at Minot Oct. 27 was only the 2nd fall observation in 9 years (RM, GB).

GULLS THROUGH OWLS — The ability of the tailrace at Garrison Dam to attract and hold rare gulls long after they have departed the rest of North Dakota was demonstrated once again this fall. Up to four immature and one ad. **Thayer's Gulls** (see comments on identification below) were there Oct. 21-Nov. 25 (RM, GB, DL). Photographs were obtained (DL) for the 2nd North Dakota record for **Iceland Gull** present Nov. 18-Nov. 25 (GB, RM). This bird, in first-year plumage, was smaller than nearby Herring Gulls and was compared with one adult and two first-year Glaucous Gulls. An imm. **Black-legged Kittiwake** present Nov. 18-25 was photographed as it rested on the water (GB).

First-year gulls identified as Thayer's Gulls were also seen away from Garrison Dam. Two were at the Minot landfill Oct. 26 (RM), and photos were taken of one at the Grand Forks landfill Oct. 14 (DL). Some variation was noted in the plumages of the seven imm. Thayer's reported here, raising the question of whether one or two of the lighter-plumaged birds may have been the Kumlien's race of Iceland Gull. Two of six Franklin's Gulls seen in *Deuel*, S.D., Nov. 4 still had black heads (BH, DK), reminiscent of one at Garrison Dam 2 winters ago.

A **Groove-billed Ani** in *Gregory, S.D.*, Sept. 22 provided the 5th state record (GS). Snowy Owls were seen in all 3 states in low numbers, and the total of only 10 Short-eared Owls reported continued the trend of the last several seasons. A Barred Owl was present in Fargo Nov. 30 (MB, CS), and a N. Saw-whet Owl was near Chester, Mont., Oct. 1-3 (HM).

NIGHTHAWKS THROUGH CORVIDS — The highest count of Com. Nighthawks was 230 in *Minnehaha, S.D.*, Sept. 12 (MS). Fifteen Com. Poorwills in the Little Rockies of Montana Sept. 27 was unusual (DMP), and two Whip-poor-wills in *Minnehaha, S.D.*, Oct. 14 were the latest ever (MS). At Yankton, 1500+ Chimney Swifts used one chimney Aug. 27-Sept. 26 (WH). A ♂ **Rufous Hummingbird** and a female thought to be of this species at a feeder in Rapid City Aug. 13 provided the 3rd record for South Dakota (NW).

A Red-bellied Woodpecker was in Fargo Oct. 27-Nov. 1 (JHP). A **Black-backed Woodpecker** was seen in the Turtle Mts., Oct. 19 (DD), and a female in the experimental conifer forest near Denbigh, N.D., Nov. 11-23 was photographed (DW *et al.*). Latest ever records for South Dakota included a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Nov. 2 in *Codington (JG)*, an Olive-sided Flycatcher Sept. 30 in *Yankton (SV)*, an E. Phoebe Nov. 3 in *Aberdeen (DT)*, and both Say's Phoebe and E. Kingbird Oct. 16 in *Custer (RP)*.



Female Black-backed Woodpecker near Denbigh, N.D., Nov. 23, 1984. Photo/David Lambeth.

Sightings of **Gray Jays** in North Dakota included two in *Pembina* Oct. 28 (SL), one near *Crystal (LM)*, and one in *Minot* Nov. 11-22 (RM, GB). A flock of 20 **Common Ravens** was seen near the International Peace Gardens, N.D., Nov. 4 (DLK), in contrast to the single birds occasionally reported. A flock of 46 Pinyon Jays was in *Pennington, S.D.*, Sept. 8 (NW), and up to 14 Clark's Nutcrackers were in *Custer, S.D.*, Sept. 10-Oct. 29, an unusual number for this sporadic visitor (RP).

THRUSHES THROUGH WARBLERS — Twenty Mountain Bluebirds were near *New Town, N.D.*, Sept. 15 (BCH). Townsend's Solitaires made a very strong showing with 39 seen in the North Dakota badlands Nov. 23-25 (RM, GB), and additional sightings much farther e. near *Denbigh* and *Grand Forks* in North Dakota, and *Brookings* and *Beadle* in South Dakota. **Varied Thrushes** were found near *Malta, Mont.*, Sept. 18 (DMP), *Minot* Oct. 25, and *Grand Forks* Nov. 4-13. Northern Mockingbirds were in *Mandan, N.D.*, Oct. 27 (JOS), and *Fargo* Nov. 17 (TD). The 30± *Sprague's* Pipits in one field in *Ward, N.D.*, Aug. 24 included adults actively feeding young (RM, GB). *Bohemian Waxwings* were present in large flocks by the end of November. Northern Shrikes arrived by Oct. 5 in the *Minot* area where a total of 51 was recorded on 20 dates. More than half were immatures whereas in most years, adults predominate (GB, RM).

Although the warbler migration was poor in terms of overall numbers, several unusual species were recorded. A well-described **Blue-winged Warbler** was far out of range in *Billings, Mont.*, Sept. 9 (HC, BR), and a Golden-winged was at *Fargo* Sept. 3 (TD). **Northern Parulas** were

found in *Fargo* Sept. 17 (MB), and at *Upper Souris* Oct. 7, the latter only the 2nd observation in 9 years in the *Souris R. valley (GB, RM)*. A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was in *Aberdeen, S.D.*, Oct. 27 (DT, GP). A documented report of an ad. ♂ **Townsend's Warbler** at *Lacreek N.W.R.* furnished South Dakota's first record (DDP, JC). A **Prothonotary Warbler** at *Rapid City* provided only the 2nd South Dakota record in 30 years, both in the *Black Hills (KH, NW)*.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — A **Scarlet Tanager** in *Mandan* Sept. 17 was unusual that far w. (JOS). A **Blue Grosbeak** in *Charles Mix, S.D.*, Sept. 22 (BH), and an imm. **Indigo Bunting** banded in *Brown, S.D.*, Oct. 14 (DT) were very late. A snowstorm grounded more than 100 Rufous-sided Towhees at a ranch in *Perkins, S.D.*, Sept. 23-25 (GH). Two **Chipping Sparrows** at *Grand Forks* Nov. 4 were late by 2 weeks (DL). *Le Conte's Sparrows*, which are extremely difficult to confirm nesting, were observed carrying food near *Minot* Aug. 11 (RM), and near *Dunseith* Aug. 12 (DLK). **Sharp-tailed Sparrows** were feeding young near *Minot* as late as Aug. 12 (RM). *Smith's Longspurs* were found on 3 dates Oct. 21-Nov. 4 in *Deuel, S.D. (BH)*, and Sept. 8 near *Granville, N.D. (GB)*. Large flocks of **Snow Buntings** were in *Pembina, N.D.*, in late November, but were scarce farther s.

All of the finches expected in this Region, even the sporadic visitors, arrived early with all in good numbers except **Purple Finch**. The representation was so complete that one wonders about the cone and seed crops in their normal haunts. Four flocks of **Rosy Finches** found in the North Dakota badlands Nov. 23-25 totaled 800 (RM, GB). **Pine Grosbeaks** were first observed Oct. 10 at *Grand Forks (S. Foss)*, but they (like both redpoll species) increased sharply in the n. part of the Region just after the storm of Oct. 27 when flocks of 10-20 became common. North Dakota's 4th record of **House Finch** appeared at a *Minot* feeder about Nov. 17 (RM), and one was at *Fort Peck* Nov. 6. **Red Crossbills** were widespread throughout the period, but numbers increased in November when flocks of 20-100 were often reported. **White-winged Crossbills** were found in both Dakotas as early as mid-August with flocks exceeding 25 in November at *Denbigh (GB)* and *Crystal, N.D. (LM)*. **Common Redpolls** had arrived in *Minot* by Oct. 7 (GB), and flocks of several hundred were feeding in sunflower fields in late November. **Redpolls** began moving to feeders with the harsher weather of mid-December. **Hoary Redpolls** arrived surprisingly early, by Nov. 2 near *Jordan, Mont. (HM)* and Nov. 4 at *Grand Forks (DL)*. Both subspecies were present in exceptional numbers with some redpoll flocks of ten or fewer at *Grand Forks* and *Minot* being entirely *C. h. hornemanni* (DL, GB). More than 500 **Pine Siskins** were banded at *Aberdeen (DT)*. A brood of dependent fledgling Am. Goldfinches appeared at a thistle feeder in *Grand Forks* Oct. 4-7 (DL). **Evening Grosbeaks** were widely reported, but in low numbers. With all of the finch activity this fall, feeder watchers could actually look forward to an enjoyable winter in the frigid Northern Great Plains.

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SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

/Frances C. Williams

While fall migration in the eastern one-half of the Region brought very little to excite observers there, in the west the opposite was true. The largest, most widespread irruption of montane species in many years took place in the vast unpopulated (especially by birders) western one-half of the Region. If the numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches, Mountain Bluebirds, Townsend's Solitaires, Pine Siskins and Red Crossbills which were sighted in those few counties covered by bird watchers were equaled in all the counties not so covered, the invasion must have been of massive proportions.

ABBREVIATIONS — B.B.N.P. = Big Bend National Park; G.M.N.P. = Guadalupe Mountains National Park; K.O.S. = Kansas Ornithological Society; T.C.W.C. = Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection at Texas A & M.



LOONS THROUGH ANHINGA — Common Loons arrived at El Paso and L. Meredith, *Hutchinson*, Tex., on the early date of Oct. 19. Two at Cedar Bluff Res., *Trego*, Kans., Nov. 10 provided a new county record (SS). At L. O' the Pines, *Marion*, Tex., 52 Com. Loons were counted Nov. 17 (D & LB). Horned Grebes were widespread, with a high count of 71 at L. O' the Pines Nov. 16. Red-necked Grebes were sighted in Oklahoma at Hulah Res., *Osage*, Nov. 2 (DG) and Copan Res., *Washington*, Oct. 31 (MV). In w. Texas, W. Grebes were numerous with a high count of 12 in *Hudspeth* Nov. 5, and the species was seen as far e. as *Linn*, Kans., *Copan Res.*, and *Tulsa*. The population of Double-crested Cormorants continued to explode, with flocks comprising more than 1000 birds in the e. one-half of the Region and many small groups in the w. one-half where the species was formerly accidental. Olivaceous Cormorants were present at *Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A.*, Kans., Aug. 25 and *Kerr*, Tex., Aug. 9-Oct. 11. At *Tulsa*, Am. Anhingas were sighted Nov. 3-4.

HERONS THROUGH STORKS — Only two Am. Bitterns were reported: one each at *Tulsa* and *Oklahoma City*. Least Bitterns were conspicuous at *Cheyenne Bottoms* in August. Three Great Egrets and four Snowy Egrets in *Keith*, Neb., Aug. 15 were "a lot of egrets at one time for w. Nebraska" (R & DR). Tricolored Herons at B.B.N.P., Aug. 3 & 17 and at *El Paso* Aug. 26 were rather far w. There were sporadic reports of this species at *Cheyenne Bottoms* and *Quivira N.W.R.*,



Immature Reddish Egret at Balmorhea Lake, Tex., Aug. 12, 1984. Photo/Greg Lasley.

Kans., into early September. A Reddish Egret remained at Balmorhea L., *Reeves*, Tex., Aug. 12-Sept. 4 (B & GL, m.ob.). Cattle Egrets visited B.B.N.P., Sept. 4 (RM) and G.M.N.P., Sept. 28 (MB). More than 200 Black-crowned Night-Herons congregated at *Buffalo Lake N.W.R.* in mid-September. Five imm. White Ibises visited *Panola*, Tex., Sept. 15 (JSC) and one was seen at *Oklahoma City* July 24 (JGN). Just about the time Fort Worth birders received word that their photographs of a *Plegadis ibis* taken Nov. 3, 1983 did indeed portray a Glossy Ibis, another (or the same) Glossy Ibis appeared. It remained Oct. 20-Nov. 30+ (CH, m.ob.). The photographs provided the first documented record of the species in Texas. White-faced Ibises now appear in such unlikely localities as G.M.N.P., while their numbers have burgeoned in their usual haunts. Two imm. Roseate Spoonbills were seen in *Lincoln*, Okla., Sept. 1-3 while at L. *Somerville*, *Washington*, Tex., 18 were counted Oct. 6. Two Wood Storks were discovered at *Hagerman N.W.R.*, Sept. 6, and 12 were seen at *Waco*, Tex., Oct. 10.

WATERFOWL — A Fulvous Whistling-Duck was found in *Jeff Davis*, Tex., Aug. 29 (BMcK). In 1979 and 1980, Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks fledged young at the *Abilene*, Tex., zoo, and it is assumed that birds of that species which sometimes winter near *Abilene* are zoo-raised birds. One was sighted Sept. 2 this year (*vide* BH). Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were present at *El Paso* Sept. 1-5 and *Dallas* Sept. 8. Tundra Swans graced *Platte*, Neb., *Wheeler*, Tex., and *L. O' the Pines*. In *Randall*, Tex., 95 Greater White-fronted Geese rested on a playa Oct. 2 (KS). Observers were startled to see Snow Geese flying over B.B.N.P., Oct. 31 and G.M.N.P., Oct. 30. Ross' Geese were carefully identified at *Sequoyah N.W.R.*, Okla., Nov. 21 & 30 (DV, JMcM) and *El Paso* Nov. 6 (BZ, SWi). Cinnamon Teal were discovered in *Rogers*, Okla., Sept. 3 (MV) and *Ft. Worth* Sept. 17-23 (CH). Greater Scaup were recorded in *Osage*, Kans., Nov. 11, *Comanche*, Okla., Nov. 4 and *Nacogdoches*, Tex., Nov. 4. Oldsquaws were discovered in *Osage*, Kans., Nov. 11, *Lubbock* Nov. 20-30 and *Lancaster*, Neb., Nov. 29-Dec. 1. A Black Scoter in *Linn*, Kans., was carefully documented (CHo). A Surf Scoter was located in *Linn* Nov. 3 (MC, LM) and one was photographed in *Kimble*, Tex., Sept. 27-Oct. 1 (NJ). In e. Nebraska, seven White-winged Scoters were found Oct. 30-31; five were in *Jefferson*, Kans., Oct. 28 and three were in *Comanche*, Okla., Oct. 30. Hooded Mergansers were reported in *Coffey* and *Trego*, Kans., *Tulsa* and *El Paso*.



Surf Scoter in Kimble County, Tex., Sept. 30, 1984. Photo/Nick Jackson.

RAPTORS — Ospreys arrived early, stayed late and were present throughout in good numbers. Mississippi Kites were unexpected in *Sarpy*, Neb., Aug. 16 (AG) and *Linn* Sept. 9 (CHo). Seven Bald Eagles s.e. of Lincoln Nov. 7 were unusual, as were four in *Kerr*, Tex., Nov. 29. In *Boone*, Neb., an irate farmer shot a N. Goshawk inside his chicken coop (*vide* WM). Goshawks visited *Rush*, Kans., Oct. 21 (SS) and *Crosby*, Tex., Nov. 20 (ML). The increase in reports of Com. Black-Hawks is puzzling—are the hawks really wandering so far from their original range or do some of the reports refer to misidentified Zone-tailed Hawks which have historically inhabited the Edwards Plateau of Texas? More photographs are needed. On Sept. 25, 1900 Broad-winged Hawks soared above Nacogdoches (DW) and 2000 flew over *Gregg*, Tex., Sept. 29 (JSC). One in *Brewster*, Tex., Sept. 2 was out of range (BMcK) and one at *Amarillo* Oct. 20 was very late (KS). The peak of Swainson's Hawk migration came the first week of October, when 600 were estimated in *Jefferson*, Neb., 300 in *Thomas*, Neb., 40 in *Barton*, Kans., and 200 at Oklahoma City. In Texas the migration was later, with four at Nacogdoches in the last 2 weeks of October and 150 in *Kendall* Nov. 15.

In downtown Bartlesville, Am. Kestrels nested in the eaves of a bookstore. A nestling which fell from the nest Aug. 24 was judged to be about 4 weeks old. Merlins were widely distributed. Only nine Peregrine Falcons were reported, and most of those were in the e. one-third of the Region. Prairie Falcons were present in good numbers in the w. one-half of the Region and strayed E to *Coffey*, Kans., and Bartlesville.

QUAIL THROUGH CRANES — Montezuma Quail are being reintroduced to G.M.N.P. The first 28 birds (which had been captured in Arizona) were released in early December. Originally a part of the Guadalupe Mts. avifauna, Montezuma Quail were extirpated in the 1950s, before the park was established. King Rails were observed in *Lancaster*, Neb., throughout August. A very early Virginia Rail reached *Brewster*, Tex., Sept. 12 (BMcK), but all other sightings were Sept. 20-28. One foraged among the picnic tables in a park in downtown Omaha (GP), one was killed at the Coweta, Okla., TV tower (JN), and others were found in *Comanche*, Okla. (KM), and Ft. Worth (CH). A Sora provided a not-unexpected first record in *Kimble*, Tex., Aug. 3 (DJ). A pair of Com. Moorhens fledged nine young in a *Lancaster*, Neb., marsh (BG) and one was seen there as late as Sept. 9. In *Jones*, Tex., a Com. Moorhen was observed Sept. 5 & 16 (BH). American Coots established new nesting records in *Jeff Davis* and *Presidio*, Tex., where they successfully raised young (PE, JM). Flocks of Sandhill Cranes comprising up to 300 birds flew over G.M.N.P., Oct. 9-29. A Whooping Crane rested at *Washita* N.W.R., *Custer*, Okla., Oct. 24-28 (*vide* IB).

SHOREBIRDS — Throughout the Region, shorebirds lingered well past their normal departure dates. At *Quivira* N.W.R., Aug. 14, there were 40 Snowy Plovers including three downy young (R & DR). A Wilson's Plover was discovered at *Waco* Aug. 27 (JO). Piping Plovers were seen at 5 localities during August, and one remained in *Rogers*, Okla., until Sept. 16. The elusive Mountain Plover was seen in *Morton*, Kans., Sept. 16 (SS), *Randall*, Tex., Nov. 3 (PA) and *Dallas* Sept. 22 (RD). In *Randall*, Sept. 4, four half-grown Black-necked Stilts provided a 2nd nesting record for the Texas Panhandle (KS). A Black-necked Stilt visited *Quivira* N.W.R., Aug. 14 (R & DR). Willets were observed in *Bailey*, Tex., Sept. 1-3 (CSt) and *Jones*, Tex., Sept. 2 (VMcC). An Upland Sandpiper was heard over the B.B.N.P. desert Aug. 10 (CSe). This species was abundant in the Bartlesville area, which is unusual in fall. At *Balmorhea* L., 250 Long-billed Curlews were counted Aug. 12 and 93 were in *El Paso* Nov. 27. One in *Brazos*, Tex., Aug. 16 provided only the 3rd fall record there. A Marbled Godwit in *Kerr* Oct. 11 provided a first county record (E & KM). Others were reported in *Nowata*, Okla., Sept. 9-18 and *Randall*, Tex., Oct. 9.

Ruddy Turnstones visited *Morton*, Kans., *Rogers*, Okla., and *Waco*, Tex. in September. Three Red Knots were found in *Gray*, Tex., Aug. 26 (KS) and one was in *Hudspeth*, Tex., Aug. 1 (KZ). In *Rogers* Oct. 7, 25 Sanderlings were counted, and 10 visited *Burleson*, Tex., Sept. 23. A single Sanderling in *Kimble*, Tex., Sept. 15 provided a new county record and one in *Cimarron* Aug. 22 constituted one of the few records for the Oklahoma Panhandle (JAG). A flock of Pectoral Sandpipers estimated at 500 birds was in *Nowata*, Okla., Sept. 7. The only Dunlins reported were at *Waco* Aug. 19 and Sept. 24. In *Brazos* more than 100 Stilt Sandpipers were present Sept. 2, 10 were in *Cimarron* Aug. 22 and

10 were at *El Paso* Sept. 22. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were numerous and widespread, with peaks of 35 in *Nowata* Sept. 22 and 50 in *Tarrant*, Tex., Sept. 1. In August, Short-billed Dowitchers were reported in *Rogers*, *Hagerman* N.W.R., *Balmorhea* L., and *Waco*, and two were at *Buffalo Lake* N.W.R. on the late date of Nov. 4. An Am. Woodcock enjoyed a wooded lawn in *Edmond*, Okla., Sept. 26-Oct. 5 and allowed observers to approach to within 10 ft (MCR, m.ob.). Red-necked Phalaropes were widespread Aug. 17-Sept. 30. Five Red Phalaropes were banded at *Cheyenne Bottoms* Sept. 20 and one was sighted in *Crosby* Sept. 28-30.

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMER — A Long-tailed Jaeger was reported at *Cheyenne Bottoms* Sept. 20. A Laughing Gull provided a first *Tulsa* record Oct. 15 (E & KH). The species was also observed at *Cheyenne Bottoms* Aug. 1-Sept. 2 and *Oklahoma City* Oct. 12. A **Little Gull** which remained in *Linn*, Kans., Nov. 3-11 provided a 3rd state record (m.ob.). More than 300 Bonaparte's Gulls congregated at a cooling reservoir for a power plant in *Linn* Nov. 3. A California Gull in *El Paso* Nov. 5-6 established a first county record (BZ, SWi) and one was discovered in *Dawes*, Neb., Aug. 19 (R & DR). A Black-legged Kittiwake visited *Kerr*, Tex., Oct. 18 (E & KM *et al.*). Caspian Terns were reported at 6 localities, with a peak of 19 in *Panola*, Tex., Sept. 27. Common Terns visited *Oklahoma City*, *Nowata*, Okla., and *El Paso*. Least Terns were seen at *Quivira*, *Rogers* and *Oklahoma City* in August. In the 1960s, Black Terns migrated through w. Texas in flocks comprising up to 75 birds. Now it is rare to see more than one-half dozen birds. Have the Black Terns changed their migration route? Black Skimmers were discovered at *Hagerman* N.W.R., Aug. 9 (KH) and *Waco* Oct. 19 (JO).

DOVES THROUGH SWIFTS — Common Ground-Doves wandered to *Edwards*, Kans., Oct. 6, *Stephens*, Tex., Sept. 7, *El Paso* Oct. 8 and *Kinney*, Tex., Aug. 2. An Inca Dove was found in *Palo Duro Canyon* S.P., Tex., Nov. 28. A **Groove-billed Ani** nest with four nestlings was located at *Lubbock*, Tex., Sept. 8. There were four adults and two flying young present, so 2 nests were suspected (CSt, m.ob.). A Flammulated Owl was discovered at *El Paso* Oct. 3 (JDP) and one was heard in G.M.N.P., Aug. 4 (BW). A Burrowing Owl rescued from an underground parking area at *Tulsa International Airport* and released at a park was last seen flying back toward the airport. In *Sarpy*, Neb., N. Saw-whet Owls were discovered Nov. 3 & 7 (AS, m.ob.). A Com. Poorwill flushed from a grassy area at *Oklahoma City* Oct. 24 (JGN). Chimney Swifts remained late at *Keene*, Tex., where 750 were counted Nov. 16. Chimney Swifts which somehow entered a boiler room at a public school in *Bellevue*, Neb., were captured with a butterfly net and released (RG).

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — Hummingbirds lingered until Nov. 30+ at several Texas localities. Visitors to B.B.N.P. did not have to take arduous hikes to see a wide variety of hummingbirds: Blue-throated, Lucifer, Black-chinned, Calliope and Rufous could be seen around the Basin parking lot in mid-August. Those who did go into the high country saw a White-eared Hummingbird Aug. 4 (KZ *et al.*) and a Magnificent Hummingbird Aug. 12 (CSe).



Greater Pewee at *Big Spring*, Tex., autumn 1984. Photo/Garry Spence.

A Ruby-throated Hummingbird in the foothills Aug. 24 completed the roster of Big Bend hummers (RM). Anna's Hummingbirds visited El Paso Oct. 28 (DT) and Ft. Davis Oct. 15-Nov. 14 (PE). A Calliope Hummingbird was found in G.M.N.P., Aug. 4 (BW). A Rufous Hummingbird was photographed at Topeka in late September. A Red-headed Woodpecker frequented oaks and pecans in G.M.N.P., Oct. 16-Nov. 30+. Williamson's Sapsuckers appeared throughout trans-Pecos Texas. A Greater Pewee photographed (to T.C.W.C.) at Big Spring Oct. 22-Nov. 17 provided the first Texas record e. of the Pecos R. (SC, m.ob.). Black Phoebes were found at Lubbock Aug. 25 and Crosby, Tex., Oct. 13.

SWALLOWS THROUGH DIPPER — Violet-green Swallows were reported at Cheyenne Bottoms Sept. 2 & 25 and Crosby, Sept. 26. A Blue Jay in G.M.N.P., Nov. 10 provided a first park record (BJ). Pinyon Jays appeared at Scotts Bluff N.M., Neb., Sept. 18 (RCL) and G.M.N.P., Sept. 8 (TLF). A Clark's Nutcracker was found in G.M.N.P., Oct. 30 (TB). As many as 500 Am. Crows per day flew on a SW course over Amarillo and Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Oct. 9-11. A Fish Crow reported at Marais des Cygnes W.M.A., Kans., Sept. 30 would provide the first state record if the details are accepted by the K.O.S. records committee (CHo, KSi). Red-breasted Nuthatches were abundant throughout the Region, beginning with a very early individual at Black Mesa S.P., Okla., Aug. 22 (JAG). Winter Wrens were seen at 5 localities during October and early November. An **American Dipper** discovered Nov. 8 (JGu) in the Franklin Mts., El Paso, Tex., and photographed Nov. 16 (KZ) provided a 2nd documented record for Texas. Another dipper was found in G.M.N.P., Oct. 14, just s. of the New Mexico line (OVO).



American Dipper at Apache Springs in the Franklin Mts., El Paso Co., Tex., Nov. 16, 1984. Apparently the second documented record for Texas. Photo/Kevin Zimmer.

THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS — In far w. Texas, E. Bluebirds were found in El Paso Nov. 6 and G.M.N.P., Oct. 30 and Nov. 30. During the last one-half of October, Mountain Bluebirds were seen almost daily in *Pawnee* and *Rush*, Kans., but they disappeared in November. A few were found in *Blaine*, Okla., Nov. 12 (ESh) and large flocks were in w. Texas throughout November. A Townsend's Solitaire visited *Wayne*, Neb., Nov. 18 & 22 (E & MB). This species was widespread and abundant in w. Texas. A Gray-cheeked Thrush was located at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Sept. 22 (KS). Gray Catbirds lurked in *Bailey*, Tex., Oct. 20 (CSSt), *Taylor*, Tex., Sept. 28 (BH) and B.B.N.P., Oct. 29 (CSi). Two Sage Thrashers were found in *Real*, Tex., Nov. 29 (E & KM). A Brown Thrasher in G.M.N.P., Nov. 10 provided a 2nd park record (OVO). The only Bohemian Waxwing reported was in *Wayne*, Neb., Nov. 18 (E & MB). A Phainopepla graced Big Spring in November. There were N. Shrikes in 4 Nebraska counties, 3 Kansas counties and one Texas county. Three Black-capped Vireos in *Crockett*, Tex., Aug. 14 provided a new county record (B & GL). Eleven Philadelphia Vireos were picked up at the Coweta TV tower this fall, more than any other vireo species (JN).

WARBLERS — On Sept. 9, following the first cool front of the

season, 6 birders in 3 parties found about 500 warblers of 21 species at Marais des Cygnes W.M.A., Kans. On Sept. 27 at San Angelo, Tex., 90 warblers were banded within a 5-hour period. Blue-winged Warblers graced Dallas Sept. 16 and Nacogdoches Oct. 8 & 10. Golden-winged Warblers were seen at Sherman, Tex., Sept. 23, Nacogdoches Oct. 12 and Ft. Gibson, Okla., Sept. 15. Tennessee Warblers were unexpected at Amarillo, Kerrville and Midland. A Virginia's Warbler was sighted in *Crosby*, Tex., Aug. 23 (ML). Chestnut-sided Warblers were widespread. A Magnolia Warbler brightened El Paso Oct. 14-18. A Cape May Warbler provided a first county record in *Kerr*, Tex., Nov. 15 (E & KM). The appearance of Black-throated Blue Warblers at 4 w. Texas sites was unprecedented. Observers at Amarillo do not expect to see more than one or two Townsend's Warblers in an entire year, but 10 were found at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Sept. 16, and three more were seen in the Amarillo area in October.

Hermit Warblers were discovered in B.B.N.P., Sept. 14 (RM) and El Paso Oct. 17 (BZ). A Black-throated Green Warbler remained in *Wayne*, Neb., until Nov. 18 (E & MB). Blackburnian Warblers were seen at Lincoln Sept. 14 (MBO) and *Bailey*, Tex., Oct. 5 (ML). A Pine Warbler was captured in a mist net at Custer City, Okla., Nov. 3 (PWW) and one was banded at Lincoln Sept. 14 (MBO). A Prairie Warbler was seen near Custer City Oct. 6. Bay-breasted Warblers were recorded at *Bailey* Sept. 25 (KH) and Black Gap W.M.A., Tex., Sept. 20 (BMcK). A Worm-eating Warbler visited El Paso Oct. 12 (BZ). A Kentucky Warbler banded in *Comanche*, Okla., Sept. 10 provided a first county record (LEM). Four Mourning Warblers were banded at San Angelo during the period and 10 were picked up at the Coweta TV tower. Others were noted at Bartlesville, Ft. Worth, Plano, Tex., and *Burlison*, Tex. A Hooded Warbler was seen in *Crosby* Oct. 5 and a Canada Warbler in *Barton*, Kans., Sept. 2.

CARDINAL THROUGH LONGSPURS — A N. Cardinal provided a 2nd record for G.M.N.P. in late October (RMS). A Green-tailed Towhee was found in *Kimble*, Tex., Oct. 29 (NJ). American Tree Sparrows had reached Jefferson, Kans., by Oct. 7 (MC, LM) and Tulsa by Oct. 28 (m.ob.). A Sage Sparrow was discovered in *Crosby* Oct. 1 (ML). More than 1000 Savannah Sparrows swarmed in a section of land in *Cleveland*, Okla., Oct. 26 (JAG). Baird's Sparrows were carefully identified in *Lyon*, Kans. (JS—no date given) and *Crosby* Oct. 6 (ML). Le Conte's Sparrows were discovered at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Oct. 2 and at *Tulsa*, *Comanche* and *Crosby* in November. The elusive Sharp-tailed Sparrow was found in *Linn*, Kans., Nov. 8 (JGa, MSt). A "White-winged" Junco accompanied a mixed flock of juncos in *Morton*, Kans., Nov. 23 (SS) and a "Gray-headed" Junco visited a feeder at *Norman*, Okla., Nov. 24 (JAG). Seltman reported a McCown's Longspur in *Norton*, Kans., Sept. 7 with the comment "I never expected to see longspurs in Kansas in September." About 100 McCown's Longspurs were in *Jackson*, Okla., Nov. 7 (JDT). Smith's Longspurs invaded *Lyon*, *Morris* and *Chase*, Kans., Oct. 20-Nov. 30 (JS et al.), *Tulsa* Nov. 20 and *Osage*, Okla., Nov. 2 (DG). In *Hudspeth*, Tex., 40 Chestnut-collared Longspurs were seen Nov. 27 (BZ).

BOBOLINK THROUGH CARDUELINES — A Bobolink provided a first county record in *Cleburne*, Tex., Oct. 6 (CWE). At least 1000 Yellow-headed Blackbirds brightened *Alpine*, Tex., Sept. 29-30 (JS). Rusty Blackbirds were found in *Washington*, Okla., Nov. 28 (MD) and *Val Verde*, Tex., Nov. 10 (NJ). A N. Oriole fed on pears and grape jelly at a feeder in *Lyon*, Kans., Nov. 21-30+ (AA). "Gray-crowned" Rosy Finches swarmed in *Sioux*, Neb., Oct. 26-27 (E & MB, RG). Pine Grosbeaks were found at *Bellevue*, Neb., Nov. 6 (PS) and *Amarillo* Nov. 21 (DM, m.ob.). There were few reports of Purple Finches. Cassin's Finches moved into G.M.N.P. in mid-October, and one was discovered in *Kerr*, Tex., Nov. 13 (MS, E & KM).

It had been more than 10 years since Red Crossbills had descended on the Region in such numbers. The invasion began inauspiciously, with a single bird in G.M.N.P., Aug. 17, and picked up at the end of October with groups of two to eight in *Douglas* and *Sarpy*, Neb., and *Crosby*, Tex. By Nov. 10, Red Crossbills had reached the Rio Grande at B.B.N.P. and El Paso. Most localities reported fewer than 50 birds, but there were at least 200 in *Hays*, Kans. A White-winged Crossbill was banded at *Hays* Nov. 24, and 10 visited *Albion*, Neb., Nov. 12-15. Evening Grosbeaks seem to have by-passed Nebraska, Kansas and

Oklahoma, but were discovered at Hueco Tanks S.P., Tex., Nov. 4-30, G.M.N.P., Oct. 29-Nov. 12, Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Nov. 4 and Midland Nov. 21.

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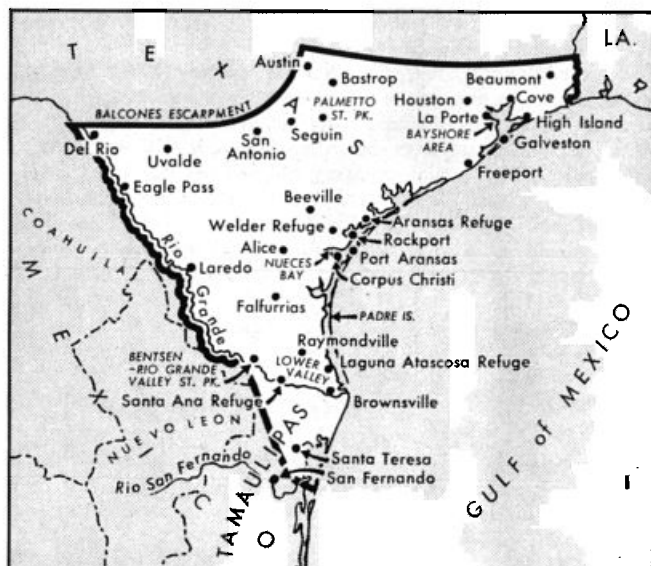
SOUTH TEXAS REGION

/Greg W. Lasley and Chuck Sexton

The period began with a moderate to locally severe drought over much of the area except the Upper Texas Coast. Through August and into September there was little change in this pattern. Starting in mid-September and continuing through October, the drought broke dramatically in various parts of the Region. The rains were irregularly distributed and tended to be very excessive. For example, a torrential storm dumped 20 inches of rain in eastern Cameron County September 17-20, causing that area's worst flooding in 17 years, while the western end of the Lower Rio Grande Valley and the Sarita area to the north remained parched. Flooding occurred in the Austin area in mid-October, and, in a case of the-rich-getting-richer, the entire Upper Texas Coast was deluged by 10 to 20 inches of rain in October. Another fickle 20-inch rain flooded Sinton in October, while very little rain fell over the adjacent drought-stricken watershed of Lake Corpus Christi. The period ended with the Lower Rio Grande Valley "favorably moist" (according to the National Weather Service), the Upper Texas Coast "excessively wet," and still with local areas in the interior in a mild drought. Except for the Upper Texas Coast, most area observers agreed the rains came too late to aid summer residents or enhance seed crops for fall migrants.

With a few exceptions noted below, there seemed to be no evidence of broad influxes of invasive northern species. A handful of Pine Siskins noted in October and November proved to be a false alarm as an influx never arrived. The Red Crossbill "invasion" to the north of this Region barely reached South Texas: a single crossbill was found dead in San Antonio November 6 (specimen to Witte Museum), and two crossbills were observed near Concan November 11 (GB, EP). However, the mild, warm and wet weather of October was cited as the probable cause for an array of very late lingering neotropical migrants. The diversity and abundance of such lingerers were unprecedented in recent years. They included cuckoos, goatsuckers, swallows, warblers, and tanagers among others. Space constraints allow us only to include the more spectacular occurrences below. Perhaps part of a related phenomenon, an unusually large number of rare fall migrants was found. Major fallouts of migrants on the coast were relatively few but occasionally spectacular. Local rains produced concentrations of birds at High Island September 2. Frontal systems caused major pile-ups of birds in eastern Cameron and Willacy counties September 17-19 and on the Upper Texas Coast September 16 and 22.

A large oil spill from the tanker *Alvenus* hit Galveston Island August 3-4. Thankfully, major staging areas for birds such as Bolivar Flats and Galveston Bay were spared damage, and only about a dozen avian casualties from the spill were observed (RP, MA *et al.*). Away from the coast, observers in Kingsville and elsewhere again noted that the federal government's "Payment-In-Kind" program (to take croplands out of production) significantly affected local distribution (and numbers?) of geese and cranes; flocks were absent from grain fields where they had traditionally concentrated in past years (SB, N & PP). In contrast, the completion of a new 200-acre marsh at Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge had a major beneficial effect for migrant waterbirds in that area.



A Texas Ornithological Society conference in Del Rio in early November provided an influx of observers to an under-birded part of the Region. The sightings included an intriguing cross section of species: Great Kiskadee, Gray Hawk, Groove-billed Ani, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Winter Wren, and Rusty Blackbird.

This column is dedicated to the memory of Gerald Harding, a tireless and respected observer from San Antonio, who passed away July 31, 1984.

ABBREVIATIONS — Attwater = Attwater Prairie Chicken Nat'l Wildlife Refuge; Bentsen = Bentsen Rio Grandé Valley State Park; L.R.G.V. = Lower Rio Grande Valley; Santa Ana = Santa Ana Nat'l Wildlife Refuge; U.T.C. = Upper Texas Coast. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH SPOONBILL — An elusive Arctic Loon in San Antonio was found Oct. 27 and sighted sporadically through the end of the period (WS *et al.*). Less elusive were one to three W. Grebes there Oct. 18-30 (SH, m.ob.). A Greater Shearwater found off Port Aransas Oct. 13 provided the 5th state record (CS, m.ob., ph. CA). Other notable pelagics included three Wilson's Storm-Petrels off Port Aransas Aug. 14 (*fide* TAmo), an imm. Brown Booby Aug. 25 also off Port Aransas, and 35 N. Gannets Nov. 11 off Galveston Island. Seven Magnificent Frigatebirds Oct. 20 at Port Aransas (BF) were very late.

Although herons and egrets generally made a poor showing in San Antonio and Austin, notable exceptions included three Reddish Egrets in Karnes and Bexar (including a white-phase bird at Mitchell L. in September), five White Ibises at L. Gonzales Aug. 4 (PHa), an imm. White Ibis at Mitchell L. in late November (WS), and Roseate Spoon-

birds in Bastrop and Austin in early August (DM, m ob)

WATERFOWL — Whistling-ducks were numerous at Attwater in August with up to 1000 Fulvous and 200 Black-bellieds noted (WSh). Seventy-five Fulvous still remained on the late date of Nov. 12. Over 500 Black-bellieds moved into w. *Harris* by early November, continuing a trend first described last fall (JM). A "Black" Brant at Warren L., Oct 4 provided the 2nd U.T.C. record (SP). Over 8000 Blue-winged Teal discovered the new marsh at Attwater Sept. 4, and by Sept. 26 their numbers increased to 30,000 (WSh). Scoter sightings were noteworthy with all 3 species noted off Bolivar Peninsula and Freeport in October and November. Eubanks counted 125 White-wingeds off Bolivar Nov. 22, a single White-winged at San Antonio furnished one of very few inland records for the Region (C & SS *et al.*).

RAPTORS — A peak movement of Mississippi Kites occurred on the U T C., Aug. 20-22, and sizable flocks were noted near Corpus Christi Aug 29 and at Falfurrias Sept. 13 (AO). However, totals for the season numbered fewer than 300 on the U.T.C. (RB *et al.*) and about 400 at Falfurrias. The much larger numbers of kites regularly observed by Neal Smith in Panama suggests we are only finding a small fraction of the birds. A report of 600 Mississippi at Santa Ana Nov. 2 (*fide* SL) was notable for being a month after the species normally vacates Texas. A movement of hundreds of accipiters was noted in *Jim Wells* Oct. 19-20 (KA). Red-shouldered Hawks showed up in the L.R.G.V. in late September and were more numerous than usual through the period. Over 18,000 Broad-winged Hawks were counted near Corpus Christi and Falfurrias Sept. 22-23 after rains ended over coastal South Texas. The biggest Broad-winged push occurred Sept. 27-30 with light N winds. Approximate daily totals in the coastal bend area were: 27th, 8,000; 28th, 24,000 (TL); 29th, 48,000 (CS, m.ob.; 8th annual hawk watch); 30th, 8,000+ (CS, DWo *et al.*). Scattered groups of 100-200 Swainson's Hawks at Austin and Bastrop in September and October were eclipsed by 3000+ seen in *Karnes* Sept. 9 (WS). The timing and distribution of the Swainson's migration in the Region is in need of study.

S.A.

Late correspondence from Brian Wheeler of West Haven, Ct., confirmed our last statement. On Oct. 10-12, Wheeler and his wife witnessed the *largest flight of Swainson's Hawks ever recorded in the U.S.* Early on the afternoon of the 10th, they encountered a "continuous thick cloud of Swainson's" 13 mi w. of Laredo, headed due S. These experienced hawkwatchers made a conservative estimate of 30,000 hawks which passed over in just 90 minutes. The Wheelers raced on to Falcon S.P., where an estimated 10,000 Swainson's put down to roost. After the morning flight at Falcon on the 11th, the Wheelers found a "continuous flight corridor" of Swainson's 5 mi long, 15 mi n.e. of Falcon. Below these, about 3000 Swainson's were seen feeding (on caterpillars) in 2 large fields. These feeding birds left the fields by about 2 p.m., Oct. 12. The Wheelers estimated that they had seen at least 50,000 Swainson's Hawks during these few days.

Another Zone-tailed Hawk was seen over the pine forests of Bastrop Oct 31 (DM). A major influx of hawks was noted in w. *Harris* Nov. 12 with 300 Red-taileds "of all forms" and 360 N. Harriers (JM). Red-tailed Hawks were described as particularly abundant in Falfurrias and Kingsville, and Ferruginous Hawks were a bit more numerous than usual.

RAILS THROUGH SKIMMER — A Yellow Rail was caught by a cat in Austin Oct. 29; the species had not been recorded there in over 10 years (*fide* EK). A Purple Gallinule with young chicks Sept. 15 near Winnie was an extraordinarily late nester (WG). Whooping Cranes arriving at Aransas N.W.R. showed off 14 juveniles, a record number of young. This brought the flock total to 81, also a new record (TS). Notable concentrations of shorebirds included 160 Semipalmated Plovers near Portland Oct. 13 (CC) and 7500 Upland Sandpipers at Galveston Sept. 15 (TE). American Oystercatchers seemed in good supply with 22 at Bolivar Sept. 22 (WG) and 24 at Port Aransas Oct. 27 (GL) especially notable. Rarities included small flocks of White-rumped

Sandpipers in Austin in September and San Antonio in October A Reeve (same bird as last spring?) was at San Antonio's Mitchell L., Aug. 13-Oct. 6 (SH, WS, m.ob.). Red-necked Phalaropes put in appearances at San Antonio Sept. 9-Oct. 6 (WS) and at Padre I., Nov 12 (AC, *fide* RW). A somewhat odd-plumaged Lesser Black-backed Gull, thought to be in its 3rd winter, on Mustang I., Sept. 19 through the end of the period (TAmo, m.ob., ph. GL) may have been a returning bird sighted the previous winter and spring. The Great Black-backed Gull at Kemah returned for its 5th consecutive winter Nov. 4, still showing a black-tipped bill. A subad. Black-legged Kittiwake in San Antonio Nov. 25-26 furnished one of very few inland records for the Region (WS, SH). Four Least Terns, probably of the endangered interior race, provided a first August record for the Austin area (EK). No storm preceded the discovery of a road-killed Black Skimmer near Poth Aug 4, over 100 mi inland (WS).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A ♂ **Ruddy Ground-Dove** at Santa Ana Oct. 18-22 was well described by observers familiar with the species (†JK, TP, SL, TM), but the bird proved to be very elusive and could not be found on later dates. Belated details were also received on a Ruddy Ground-Dove at Bentsen Mar. 7, 1984 (SBu) Small flocks of two to nine Green Parakeets were reported from Santa Ana and Brownsville in September (TP, SL). Twenty wild Red-crowned Parrots were seen regularly in Brownsville, and several Red-crowneds were seen in numerous other L.R.G.V. areas. One or two Red-crowneds at a blackbird roost in Austin were almost certainly escapees. Perhaps inspired by the occurrence of wild parrots in the L.R.G.V., observers are becoming more aware of free-flying psittacids in the Region; over a dozen different species were reported from Austin, Houston, Brownsville, and elsewhere. Look for further information on this topic in future reports.

Single Black-billed Cuckoos, very rare in fall, were seen in Corpus Christi Sept. 30, San Antonio Oct. 2, and *Harris* Oct. 17. An ad ♂ **Broad-billed Hummingbird** in Beaumont Aug. 6-Sept. 15 (JC, m.ob., ph. JM) provided a first U.T.C. and 2nd Regional record. Remarkably, another (or the same?) ad. ♂ Broad-billed was discovered in Columbus (150 mi w. of Beaumont) Nov. 12 and stayed through the end of the period (JD, m.ob., ph. GL). A Buff-bellied Hummingbird in Algoa Oct 12 set a new early arrival date for the U.T.C. Single Ringed Kingfishers are now seen periodically as far upriver as Del Rio. A modest invasion of Red-headed Woodpeckers was evident in Austin, Rockport, Corpus Christi, and elsewhere beginning in September.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRASHERS — On Sept. 16 the U.T.C. hosted 2 species of rare tyrannids: a W. Wood-Pewee was seen and heard at High I. (†MA) for a 2nd U.T.C. record, and a pair of Ash-throated Flycatchers was at Galveston (†JM *et al.*). The swallow migration was described in superlatives by most observers. A massive Purple Martin roost and staging area near Corpus Christi peaked at 7000-9000 birds during an 8-week period July to September (P & JS, TA, KM) Flights of one-to-several thousand swallows, dominated by Barn Swallows, were reported widely in the coastal region throughout September and October, culminating in over 700,000 swallows of 5 species (60% Barn, 20% N. Rough-winged, 15% Cliff, 5% Bank and Tree) passing Santa Ana Oct. 17-18 (SL). Rarities elsewhere included 30 Cave Swallows at San Antonio Sept. 30 (G & BL, VE) and single Violet-green Swallows in Austin Sept. 3 (GP, GL) & 22 (SF) (providing 2nd and 3rd area records). A Violet-green was seen in San Antonio Oct. 2 (SH) for a first area record, and two were observed at Bentsen Aug. 17 (GD). Late lingerers included five Purple Martins in w. *Harris* Oct. 30 (EA *et al.*), a Purple Martin and a Cliff Swallow in San Antonio Nov. 25 (WS, SH), and two Barn Swallows in San Antonio Nov. 29.

Eleven Mexican Crows near Santa Ana Sept. 30-Oct. 1 (JI) provided one of few recent reports away from their traditional wintering area around the Brownsville dump. Good notes on a Com. Raven at Brazos Bend S.P., Sept. 27 (†M & VG) provided a first U.T.C. record, and the species continued to be reported with increasing frequency in the San Antonio area. There were only 4 reports of single Red-breasted Nuthatches in the Region during the period, three at Austin and one at Del Rio. Golden-crowned Kinglets, however, made an excellent showing, arriving in large numbers almost Regionwide Nov. 6-10, occasionally outnumbering Ruby-crowneds. Five Veeries Sept. 22 at High I. (JM,

S.A.

Probably the largest Blue Jay invasion ever recorded in the Region began in mid-October. Arvin alerted observers when he noted 1000+ jays between Bastrop and Columbus moving SSE Oct. 13, even though this is within the normal range of the species. Large numbers of jays had invaded Rockport by Oct. 16, Falfurrias Oct. 20, Corpus Christi Oct. 23, and Alice and San Diego by Oct. 27. The first Blue Jay in the L.R.G.V. from this invasion was found at Santa Ana Oct. 29 (CS, ph. GL, first refuge record). By early to mid-November, Blue Jays were noted in groups of up to 15 birds in Edinburg, Alamo, Weslaco, Mercedes, Harlingen, and Brownsville, and were in "extraordinary numbers" in *Kleberg*, *Brooks*, and *Jim Wells*. Blue Jays were also noted in all wooded areas of San Antonio and increased numbers in Pearsall. Within the regular range of the species, some observers in Austin thought Blue Jay numbers were high but there was little or no comment on the phenomenon elsewhere. Numbers of jays reported to *The Spoonbill* on the U.T.C. totalled only 106 birds among 14 reports for November.

BB) was a large number for fall. Up to six Clay-colored Robins appeared sporadically in Brownsville during September. Sage Thrashers were reported at Santa Ana Nov. 25 and Rancho Santa Margarita Nov. 26 (HF). The highest count of Brown Thrashers was 105 at High I., Sept. 22 (BF).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A Warbling Vireo Oct. 7 at Santa Ana provided a rare L.R.G.V. fall record (*vide SL*). Red-eyed Vireos were well represented in the migrant fallout at High I., Sept. 22 when 220+ were counted by several observers (JM, BF *et al.*). A "Yellow-green" Vireo was seen at Bentsen Oct. 30 (GL, CS). Morgan reported 152 Canada Warblers at High I., Sept. 2, the highest number of this species ever recorded at one time on the U.T.C. This fallout of Canadas occurred just after a massive local thunderstorm. The Sept. 22 fallout at High I. was truly spectacular, especially for the number of warbler species involved. The species total for the day was 25, a number that would rival some of the best spring days. Some impressive fall numbers and noteworthy individuals included: 41 Tennessees, 94 Nashvilles, 45 Magnolias, one Blackpoll (rare in fall), 45 Black-and-whites, 24 Am. Redstarts, 23 Prothonotaries, one Swainson's (late), 21 Hoodeds, and 65 Wilson's (JM, BF *et al.*). Townsend's Warblers were reported at Port Aransas Oct. 8 (WP) and at Santa Ana Oct. 26 (*vide SL*). A Cerulean Warbler Sept. 6 at Bastrop (DM) furnished the first fall record for the Austin area. Other rare fall warblers in the Austin area included Blue-winged and Worm-eating near Bastrop Sept. 9 (BF), Cape May Sept. 26, and Palm Warbler Sept. 30 (*vide EK*). A Worm-eating Warbler in Houston Oct. 29 (RT) set a new late date for the U.T.C. A Black-throated Green at Victoria Nov. 26 (PR) was late, and a Hooded at High Island Nov. 4 provided one of very few November records for the U.T.C.

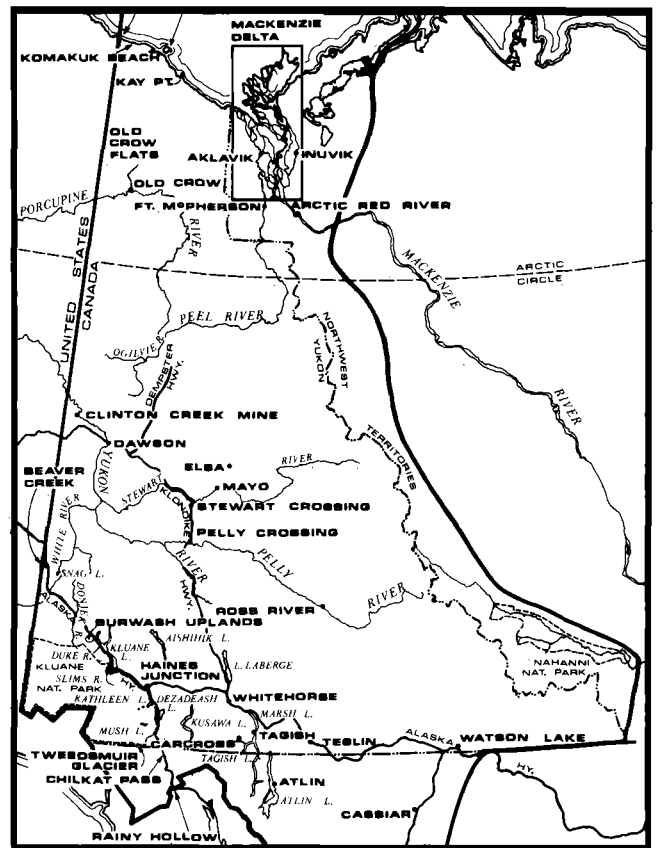
TANAGERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS — There were 6 reports of Scarlet Tanagers on the U.T.C. during the period including a very late individual Nov. 3 in Galveston (J & JH). Blue Grosbeaks were numerous on the U.T.C. during the Sept. 22 fallout; Morgan counted 24 at one *Galveston* location. A late Blue Grosbeak was at the same location Nov. 18 (RP *et al.*). An Indigo Bunting banded at Driftwood Nov. 2 (DC) provided the first November record for the Austin area. Clay-colored Sparrows moved through the Austin area in good numbers during October, and one was well-described in *Galveston* Oct. 6 (RP, JM), a rare bird on the U.T.C. Freeman monitored a large blackbird roost in Austin throughout the period. On Oct. 26 he estimated the roost contained 1800 Red-winged Blackbirds, 16 Yellow-headed Blackbirds, 30,000 Great-tailed Grackles, 10,000 Com. Grackles, 16,000 Brown-headed Cowbirds, and 40,000 Eur. Starlings. Shades of Alfred Hitchcock.

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NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION
/Helmut Grünberg

After a cool summer, a similar weather pattern continued throughout the fall season. Temperatures in each month were below the long-term averages in many parts of the Region. Whitehorse had five frost days in August, seventeen in September, twenty in October (including a severe cold spell with temperatures down to minus 30°C) and twenty-nine in November with a cold spell to minus 35°C. In Fort St. John, record low temperatures were reported for October. Precipitation in Whitehorse was twice the normal amount during August, within normal range in September and October while November precipitation was well below normal. As a result of many low temperature days, the number of



insects, an important part of the food chain for many birds, was low during the season. The number of bird species observed during this season was only 195 which compares unfavorably with the 243 species recorded a year ago. This may be partly a result of the above-mentioned conditions during summer and fall, but the lack of August observations from the northern Yukon may also have played a role. All observations reported by J. Hawkings (JH) are part of a Yukon Government program headed by D. Mossop.

ABBREVIATION — F.S.J. = Fort St. John, B.C.

GREBES THROUGH GROUSE — Over 500 Eared Grebes were still present at Cecil L., F.S.J. area Aug. 19 while over 200 birds were seen on Boundary L., F.S.J. area Aug. 22 (CS). A record high 14 dark-phase W Grebes were observed on Charlie L., Oct. 7, and one was there Oct. 27 just hours before the lake froze up (CS). An imm. Great Blue Heron, representing the first fall record for this species, was noted near F.S.J., Aug. 17 (CS).

No unusual waterfowl observations were made this season. However, it should be noted that flocks of Snow Geese seem to be passing through the s. Yukon regularly as one group was seen again in a slough w. of Marsh L., Sept. 29 (MLa). Ninety were seen at the Oldsquaw Lodge, North Canol Rd., N.W.T. near the Yukon border in early September (SM), and 14 were reported from Wood Buffalo N.P., Sept. 20 (JS, JT). Redheads are rarely reported in fall; the identification of a male and two females or immatures on Charlie L., F.S.J. area Oct. 21 was therefore of significance (CS). A rare Hooded Merganser, an imm. female, was noted near F.S.J., Aug. 17, and a ♀ Red-breasted Merganser, a rare fall migrant, was seen at Charlie L., Oct. 27 (CS).

Raptors were observed in slightly lower numbers than normal. Peregrine Falcons showed healthy populations in the c. Yukon (TM, JL, PW *et al.*). Up to two were seen in the Nisutlin Delta, s. Yukon, during August and September (JH), and one was observed at Wood Buffalo N.P., Sept. 6 (JT). The only reported Gyrfalcon observation of the season came from the Tagish area, s. Yukon Nov. 21 (WH). Spruce Grouse seemed to be increasing in numbers in many parts of the Region (m ob.).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH NIGHTHAWKS — Up to three Upland Sandpipers were observed in the Nisutlin Delta, s. Yukon Aug. 14-31 (JH), and one was seen by the MacIntosh Lodge near Kluane N.P., Sept. 3 (HG). This species appeared to have been more common than usual in the F.S.J. area as three or more birds were noted Aug. 17-19 (CS). A Hudsonian Godwit was observed in the Nisutlin Delta Aug. 29 (JH), and six imm. Hudsonians were noted near F.S.J., Sept. 2 (CS). A Ruddy Turnstone appeared at Swan L., 20 km n. of Whitehorse, Aug. 20 (HG), and two were seen in the Nisutlin Delta Aug. 18 (JH). At least four Sanderlings were observed at Kluane L., Aug. 26, Sept. 1-2 (SC). An amazing 100 birds were recorded in the Nisutlin Delta Aug. 30, and two each Aug. 12 & 20 as well as one Sept. 1 (JH). Three imm. Sanderlings were seen in the F.S.J. area Aug. 29-Sept. 8 (CS). A W.

Sandpiper was identified in the Nisutlin Delta Aug. 13, and up to 12 Stilt Sandpipers were noted there Aug. 12-30 (JH). At Swan L., 20 km n. of Whitehorse, a Stilt Sandpiper was observed Aug. 20 (HG) and Sept. 16 (BD, HG, TM), and over 50 were present near F.S.J., Aug. 17, dwindling slowly to one individual Sept. 22 (CS). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was seen in the Nisutlin Delta Aug. 23 (JH). Near F.S.J., a Short-billed Dowitcher was recorded Aug. 17-18 (CS).

A Parasitic Jaeger was observed in the Nisutlin Delta Aug. 24-Sept. 1 (JH), and one was reported from Charlie L. near F.S.J. on Aug. 27 as the 3rd Peace R., B.C., record (CS). A Long-tailed Jaeger appeared in the Nisutlin Delta Aug. 24 (JH). An ad. Sabine's Gull was seen at Charlie L., Sept. 1 and an immature Sept. 8 (CS).

A Snowy Owl was observed s. of Tuktoyaktuk, N.W.T., Sept. 5 (MBe), and only two were reliably reported in the F.S.J. area: one Nov. 3 (JJ, *fide* CS) and an immature Nov. 25 (CS). The first documented Peace R., B.C., record of a **Northern Pygmy-Owl** was obtained near F.S.J., Oct. 20 (CS). A Great Gray Owl was reported from Graham Inlet, Tagish L., B.C. (MBr). Near F.S.J., one was spotted Oct. 25 (DW, *fide* CS) and another Nov. 24 (JJ, *fide* CS). A Short-eared Owl was photographed near F.S.J., Nov. 17 (CS). A late Com. Nighthawk observation was reported in Yellowknife Sept. 23 (KS).

PERCHING BIRDS — Mountain Chickadees in small numbers were seen throughout the season at Tagish, Yukon (HG, WH) and Whitehorse-Porter Creek (LS). Two Golden-crowned Kinglets were observed in the Nisutlin Delta Aug. 26 (JH). A large group of 16 Mountain Bluebirds was noted in Whitehorse-Riverdale Sept. 5 (KJ). Up to four Philadelphia Vireos, normally rare in the F.S.J. area, were seen in 3 different places Aug. 24-Sept. 2 (CS). Two Townsend's Warblers were reported from the Nisutlin Delta Aug. 30 and Sept. 1 (JH). One was seen at the Oldsquaw Lodge, North Canol Rd., N.W.T. near the Yukon border in September (SM), and three were observed near F.S.J., Aug. 26-28 (CS). Two Mourning Warblers were seen for the first time in early fall in the F.S.J. area: Aug. 24 and Sept. 2 (CS). A Harris' Sparrow was noted at Yellowknife Sept. 23 (KS) and one in Wood Buffalo N.P., Sept. 20 (JS, JT). Near F.S.J., three different immatures were observed (one photographed) for the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Peace R., B.C., area records Sept. 23, Oct. 7 & 10-14 (CS). An estimated 12,000 Lapland Longspurs were seen flying over the fields near F.S.J., Sept. 15 (CS, DW). After last year's cone crop 'of the century' the large flocks of crossbills have dwindled down to a few remnants. Two ♂ and two ♀ Red Crossbills were feeding on pine cones at Tagish Nov. 22 (WH).

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NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

August in the Region was hot and dry in most areas. The trend thereafter varied from normal to dry until near mid-October, when the weather suddenly turned cold, with early snows in the mountains and accelerated migration noted in some localities. November was mild and very wet, with little or no snow in the valleys until the month's end.

ABBREVIATION — N.A.R. = National Antelope Refuge.

LOONS, GREBES — A Red-throated Loon appeared at the Yakima R delta near Richland, Wash., Oct. 28 (CB, REW). Arctic Loons, mostly singles, showed up at a few localities in e. Washington, e.

Oregon, s. interior British Columbia, s. Idaho and n. Yellowstone Park. Remarkable concentrations of Com. Loons were over 75 on Banks L., Grant Co., Wash., and 70 on Potholes Res., Moses L., Wash. One or two Red-necked Grebes were sighted near Eureka and Fortine, Mont., near Joseph, Ore., at Clarkston, Wash., and at the Yakima delta. Adults and young were sighted at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont (TM). Western Grebes did very well at Malheur N.W.R., Ore. with 3423 young produced. A pair of W. Grebes, Clark's form, was feeding young on Moses L., Aug. 25 (GG).

PELICANS, CORMORANTS — The largest Am. White Pelican flock was of 300 on Potholes Res. A few lingered into late October in the vicinity of Hart Mountain N.A.R., Lake Co., Ore., where they were abundant during the summer, and 12 stopped at Carty Res., Boardman, Ore., Aug. 16. Noteworthy were five on the Snake R. near Lewiston, Ida. (DC) and one on the Okanogan R. near Monse, Wash. (BW). Double-crested Cormorants produced 1647 young, the highest ever



recorded in the Harney Basin, which includes Malheur N.W.R. Nine visited fishless Hatfield L., Bend, Ore., Aug. 12 (TC), and a few on the Snake R. in the Clarkston-Asotin, Wash. area were unusual (CV, SI, PS). One Double-crested, rare in interior British Columbia, was at Tranquille Aug. 2 (CR), and five on the Flathead R. s. of Kalispell, Mont. were noteworthy (EH).

HERONS THROUGH IBISES — High water levels at Malheur benefited Great Blue Herons, which produced 1446 young. Great Egret production in the Harney Basin came to 1049 and Snowy Egrets there raised 204 young. The only other Great Egrets reported were one near Springfield, Ida., up to five in the Warner Valley, Lake Co., Ore., and one at Boardman. Cattle Egret numbers were exploding in s. Idaho; 39 were seen going to roost near Springfield (JS, CHT). A cow pasture near Grand View hosted four (JSM). Near Lewiston, up to 20 appeared (C.B.). One was spotted near Umapine, Ore. (AL), one was along the Yakima R. near Granger, Wash. (T & KD, Y.A.S.), and four were along the Columbia R. between Bridgeport and Brewster, Wash. (MH). Single Green-backed Herons showed up at Hood River, Ore., Sept. 29 (DA) and at Wardner, B.C., Aug. 14 (FL). Black-crowned Night-Heron production at Malheur was only 347. The flock at the Yakima delta contained one albino. The Harney Basin produced 2385 young. A single bird visited Swan L. near Vernon, B.C. in August (MCO).

WATERFOWL — A number of localities reported higher than usual numbers of Tundra Swans. The count of 657 on n. Idaho's aerial count Nov. 9 was over twice that of any previous count (I.F.G.). Up to 500 stopped at Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville, Mont. Trumpeter Swans at Malheur reared only six cygnets, the lowest since 1977, but the tiny flock at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash. produced three. Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont. also did poorly on Trumpeters with only four fledged on the refuge and 13 in the remainder of the Centennial Valley. Weather there was mainly responsible, a hailstorm wiping out 75% of the cygnets and high water taking its toll. An adult and an imm. Trumpeter were sighted on Wallowa L., Joseph, Oct. 27 (C.B., FC).

A few Greater White-fronted Geese passed through n. Idaho, e. Oregon and e. Washington, the largest numbers 14 at Richland and 12 at Hatfield L. One at the Colville, Wash., sewage ponds Sept. 7-10 probably established a county first (DS). Up to 130,000 Snow Geese stopped at the Anaconda Company's old settling ponds at Warm Springs, Mont. The early ice cover at Freezeout L. near Fairfield, Mont., their usual stopping place, was believed responsible. The 4000 at Red Rock Lakes

was also high, supposedly for the same reason. The Warner Valley, Lake Co., Ore. reached a high count of 937. A Brant was shot by a hunter near Challis for one of very few Idaho records (HR) and one was sighted in Waterton Lakes N.P., Alta., Nov. 6 (KB; LH, SL). Benton County, Wash., had its 2nd record for the species with one at Richland Nov. 15+ (HE, DJ, REW). Peak Canada Goose numbers were: n. Idaho aerial count, 13,403; n. Columbia Basin, Wash., 17,421 (mostly at Columbia N.W.R.); Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, Ida., 8078; S.E. Idaho Refuge Complex, 5000; Turnbull, 2687; and "1000s" on the Columbia R. at Roosevelt, Wash. "Very large" flocks were reported in the vicinity of McNary N.W.R., Burbank, and Wallula, Wash. Malheur had its lowest production ever for the species, only 523; nearly 3600 Canadas were there at November's end. A "Blue Goose" appeared with Canadas near Fortine, Mont. (WW). It was suspected of being a hybrid with the latter species (PLW) as was one on Brooks L., Stratford, Wash. (DS).

Northern Idaho's aerial count revealed about 59,000 ducks, down nearly 9% from last year. Mallards, Am. Wigeons and Redheads accounted for about 87% of the total and Wood Ducks posted the highest number ever at 282. Other peak duck counts were 157,994 in the n. Columbia Basin; 41,476 at Deer Flat; 29,241 at Turnbull; and 20,000 (low) at Carty Res., Boardman. Mallards accounted for most of the counts at Columbia, Deer Flat and Turnbull. The S.E. Idaho Refuge Complex aerial survey found 8500 ducks, mostly Mallards. A concentration of Mallards estimated at over 100,000 was on Ice Harbor Dam reservoir e. of Pasco, Wash., Nov. 17. About 1000 Mallards died from aspergillosis from eating moldy silage at Kalamalka L. near Vernon, B.C. Minidoka N.W.R., Rupert, Ida. reported waterfowl numbers 50% below average.

The oddest duck sighting was of a Rosy-billed Pochard, presumably an escape, on Kootenay L. near Nelson, B.C. (VB). An Am. Black Duck was reported at Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville, Mont. (WH, RE). In Oregon single Eur. Wigeons appeared at Silver L., Lake Co. (MR), Bend (TC), and near Frenchglen (GI); Washington's only sighting was at Richland (REW). At least 30 Greater Scaup were on the Pend Oreille R. in n. Idaho Nov. 10 (BM). A few were sighted at Sparwood, B.C. (DFF); Chewelah (DS); Sandpoint, Ida. (PRS); Upper Klamath L., Ore. (SS); and Haystack Res., s. of Madras, Ore. (TC). Three Oldsquaw sightings of perhaps the same bird were obtained in the American Falls Res. area, Ida. (CHT, JS, GLC). One was at Genesee, Ida. (SI) and a male appeared near Sparwood (DFF). Single birds were shot by hunters at Red Rock Lakes (*vide* TM) and at Sheppard L., s. of Sandpoint (BM).

A small invasion of Surf Scoters took place. In e. Oregon up to six visited Hatfield L. (TC, MR), two stopped at Wickiup Res., w. of La Pine (TC), and one was at Haystack Res. (MR). Upper Klamath L. had one (SS), two were on Phillips Res., s.w. of Baker (CC, MC, NB) and one was at Umatilla (CC, NB). In Washington one appeared at Richland (REW); three on L. Lenore (JA), all in Grant Co.; singles at two spots near Anatoné (C.B., JG), and two on Coeur d'Alene L., Ida. (PC, PS). Idaho had two on Fairchild Res., n.n.e. of Weiser (JSM). More notable White-winged Scoter sightings were: up to six near Sparwood, for that area's first (DFF); 15-20 on Moses L. (JT, DP) and 20-25 on Alkali L. (RF), Grant Co., Wash.; eight at Bend, three on L. Billy Chinook w. of Madras (MR) and seven on Haystack Res. s. of Madras (TC, MR); six at Cascade Locks, Ore. (DA) and three on Unity Res., s.w. of Baker, Ore. for latilong firsts (CC, MC, NB). A female at Minidoka N.W.R. provided only the 2nd record in 17 years (JH). Single birds were near Lewiston (PS, MK, MS) and Newport, Wash. (EJL) for rather rare sightings. An amazing nine were at Libby Dam, Mont. (WH, m.ob.) and two appeared at Green L., Helena, Mont., both latilong firsts (DSu). Pasco had a vagrant Red-breasted Merganser (TG) and Umatilla was visited by two (CC, NB).

HAWKS THROUGH CRANES — Two adult and two imm. Bald Eagles were at an active nest at S. Twin L., w. of Inchelium, Wash., Aug. 26 for the county's first breeding record (BW *et al.*) and a nest was reported at Rimrock L., w. of Yakima (Y.A.S.). The annual gathering of the birds to feed on spawning salmon along McDonald Cr. in Glacier N.P., Mont. numbered 571 Nov. 20. A Red-shouldered Hawk near Klamath Falls made the 4th county record (SS). Four Peregrine Falcon sightings were reported, plus a pair believed to have raised two young. Eight Gyrfalcon sightings came in, some likely of the same individuals.

Up to 67 Sage Grouse were found in the Warner Valley vicinity. A Wild Turkey was seen in the Winchester, Ida. area (PP).

The peak for Am. Coot in n. Idaho was 21,622, down 40% from last year. The top number at Columbia N.W.R. was 23,164 and at Turnbull, 2000. Following a storm over 2000 were on Haystack Res., Nov. 4 and "1000s" were on the Columbia R. near Cascade Locks on the same date. Greater Sandhill Cranes peaked at Malheur at 2720.

S.A.

Fourteen young Whooping Cranes hatched by Sandhill Crane foster parents at Grays Lake N.W.R., Ida., brought the population up to 38. Except for one fledgling, which died of a defective heart, all migrated out Oct. 3-20 (SB). A Whooping Crane seen at Oxford, Ida., Sept. 1 supposedly spent the summer there (EC).

SHOREBIRDS — Black-bellied Plovers put in a good appearance. One near Sparwood was that area's first (DFF). In Idaho up to 10 were near Rathdrum (JTa) and up to 27 were observed at Mann's L., Lewiston (PS, m.ob.). Ten were reported at Springfield Bottoms near Springfield, Ida. (CHT) and Malheur had up to five (M & AA). The species was noted at Millcreek Res., e. of Walla Walla (SM), and the Richland-Wallula area had up to 25, a high number (REW). Up to four stopped at Colville's sewage ponds for apparently the latilong's first (DS). Good for latilong firsts were up to four Lesser Golden-Plovers at Colville (DS, BO, JN) and three on reclaimed coal mining spoils at 2100 m elevation in the Sparwood area Sept. 7 (DFF). Two at Bend made a county first (TC). Six appeared near Anatone, Wash. (JP, PS, MK) and a surprising 26 stopped at Mann's L. (PS, MS, MK). Conversely the Yakima delta had only two (TG, REW) as did Springfield Bottoms (CHT). Idaho led the list for Semipalmated Plover sightings with one at L. Lowell, Nampa (KBP); up to five at Spangler Res., Weiser (JSM); four at Springfield Bottoms (JS, CHT); and one near Moscow (PS). Up to 10 were sighted near Wallula (MD, SM, BH) and two at Chewelah's sewage ponds (DS, BO). A few stopped at Hatfield L. and Tumalo Res., Deschutes Co., Ore. (TC). Montana reported one at Somers (EH). A carefully-described Mountain Plover at Springfield Bottoms Nov. 3 was apparently Idaho's 2nd (CHT, JTi, CW).

Black-necked Stilts lingered at Reardan, Wash. until Aug. 25 (JA, BW). Swainson's L., s. of Creston, Wash. had three Aug. 14 (JH). A scattered group of 2350 Am. Avocets at Summer L., Nov. 10 was surprising that late (MR). A **Hudsonian Godwit** photographed at Malheur with 25 Marbled Godwits was e. Oregon's first and the state's 3rd (TC). Reardan had one Aug. 25, apparently for e. Washington's 4th (JA). Two Marbled Godwits were on Hubbard Res., Ada Co., Ida. (KBP) and one was sighted at Wallula (BH). Up to three Ruddy Turnstones appeared at Malheur (ref. pers., M & AA) and one visited Swan L., Vernon, Aug. 18-24 (PR, m.ob.). One at Springfield Bottoms Sept. 29 established a latilong first (CHT, JT) and one at Somers, Mont., was noteworthy (EH). Single Red Knots appeared on the Yakima delta (REW), at Bend (TC, CM), and at Hubbard Res. (KBP). Two Sanderlings near Sparwood were the first for that area (DFF) and one at Colville was the latilong's 2nd (DS). Sightings at Bend and Tumalo Res. made Deschute County's first (TC, CM). Latilong firsts were birds on the Snake R., e. of Bruneau, Ida., and at the nearby Bruneau R. mouth (KBP). Sanderlings appeared also at the Yakima delta, Wallula, Lewiston and Springfield Bottoms. A Semipalmated Sandpiper at Wenas L., n.w. of Yakima was apparently that latilong's first (Y.A.S.). Colville's sewage ponds had one or two (DS) as did Reardan (BW). Turnbull N.W.R. had one. A flock of six Semipalmated and one Baird's at White L., s. of Penticton, provided firsts for that latilong (DFF, TGe). Other noteworthy Baird's sightings were of singles at Midland and Worden, Ore. (SS), Wenas L. (Y.A.S.), and Mann's L. (PS, MK, RN, C.B.).

Two Pectoral Sandpipers appeared in Washington Co., Ida., where rare (JSM). Little Camas Res., n.e. of Mountain Home, Ida. had five and the Snake R., e. of Bruneau had one (KBP). Up to four Stilt Sandpipers were seen frequently at Swan L. (PR, m.ob.) and four were near Kamloops, B.C. (RH). Mann's L. had one (JP, DPa, PS, MK) as did Valley, Wash. (DS). Reardan had three (JA) and Somers, Mont., one (EH). In the Pasco area singles appeared at the mouth of the Walla R. (BH, MD, SM, CS, PD) and at the Yakima delta (REW). Short-billed Dowitchers were becoming routine in the Region, being reported at 9 localities s. of Canada. One at Colville was the latilong's first (DS,

BO) Decided rarities were single Red Phalaropes on the Yakima delta (REW) and at Willow L., Spokane Co., Wash. (WAH, JA)

JAEGERS THROUGH MURRELETS — A Pomarine Jaeger, extremely rare in interior British Columbia, was picked up dead at Tranquille (WE, *fide* RH). Three sightings of single Parasitic Jaegers were at Malheur and one was at Springfield Bottoms (CHT, JS). A Long-tailed Jaeger at Trail, B.C. furnished the first sighting there in 50 years (ME). The only Franklin's Gulls reported were up to six in the Sandpoint vicinity (WT, PRS) and single birds near Wallula (BH). A **Little Gull**, described by an observer familiar with the species, appeared at Sandpoint Oct. 28 for Idaho's first record (PRS). Impressive numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls appeared in e. Washington. Some 150 were on Soap L., Oct. 28 (JA); Richland had at least 64 (CB, REW) and up to 50 were at McNary Dam s. of Richland (SM *et al.*, CC). In Oregon an unprecedented 115 were sighted at Tumalo Res. (TC). Several at Wallowa L. and Enterprise, Ore. were noteworthy (C.B.). Two Mew Gulls at Hood River (DA) and at Colville (DS, BO, BW) apparently were latilong firsts.

A flock of up to 40 Herring Gulls roosting on the Elk R. near Fernie, B.C. was highly unusual (DFF). The decomposed remains of one were found at Malheur after a botulism outbreak (ref. pers.). Wickiup Res. had four Herring Gulls and one Thayer's Gull (TC). Two Thayer's were at Hood River for that latilong's first (DA). Springfield Bottoms also had one (JS, CHT). A **Western Gull** photographed Oct. 21 at American Falls Dam was apparently Idaho's first (MT, CHT). Two Glaucous-winged Gulls appeared at McNary Dam (SM, MD) and single Glaucous Gulls were sighted at Kamloops (RH) and Osoyoos, B.C. (WWe). A Sabine's Gull was photographed at American Falls Dam Oct. 20 (CHT, JS) and one appeared at the Yakima delta (REW).

Two Caspian Terns at Hood River provided a latilong first (DA), Mann's L., Lewiston also had two (C.B.). A sighting of the species at Red Rock Lakes was the first for the latilong (TM). Several Com. Terns were observed at American Falls Res., including adults feeding young, which would establish Idaho's first breeding record if the birds were hatched locally (CHT, CW). Several sightings of Com. Terns were made in the Sandpoint area (SHS) and one was identified at Malheur (TC, JGi). Four Forster's Terns at the Colville River's mouth near Colville, Wash. made a latilong first (DS, BO). A Black Tern at the Yakima R. delta was notable (Y.A.S.). An exhausted **Ancient Murrelet** picked up and photographed near Elkford, B.C., Oct. 16 after a severe snowstorm was supposedly interior British Columbia's first (DFF, m.ob.).



Ancient Murrelet picked up near Elkford, B.C., Oct. 16, 1984. Possibly a first for interior British Columbia. Photo/David Fraser.

DOVES THROUGH OWLS — The only Band-tailed Pigeon reported was one at Malheur (GI). A road-killed imm. Black-billed Cuckoo, still warm, was picked up and photographed near Fernie Aug. 18 (DFF *et al.*). Pocatello had a window-killed Yellow-billed Cuckoo, * to Idaho State U. (CHT). A Com. Barn-Owl was found at Horseshoe L., n.e. of Reardan Sept. 1 (BW). The Flammulated Owl was reported as resident

at Panhandle L. near Newport (EJL), and one was sighted near La Grande, Ore. (SM). Snowy Owls had reached as far s. as Boardman. One at Wilmer, B.C. made a rare sighting (LH). A Barred Owl, rare in the Helena area, was heard to the s.w. in Colorado Gulch (G & NN). The species was widely reported in the valleys of s. interior British Columbia; at Kamloops a road-killed bird, definitely of this species, had yellow eyes! (RH).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH MIMIDS — Red-breasted Sapsuckers are becoming rare but regular migrants through s.e. Oregon; one was sighted Sept. 22 & 24 at Fields (DI, DA). Single Blue Jays were sighted near Helena, s. of Troy, and s.e. of Libby, Mont.; at Mountain Home and s. of Pocatello, Ida.; at Malheur; n.w. of Prairie City, Ore.; and at Rosalia, Wash. The only Scrub Jays reported were up to seven at Hart Mountain N.A.R., Lake Co., Ore. (SSu) and a few at Odell and Cascade Locks, Ore. (DA).

A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was observed in the Warner Valley Sept. 29 (SSu). One or two Bewick's Wrens appeared in the Warner Valley (SSu) and near Cascade Locks (DA), and singles were seen at Malheur and s. of Fields, Ore. (M & AA), all for latilong firsts. A Canyon Wren was sighted near Vernon; the species is very uncommon in the n. Okanagan Valley (MCo). The number of young bluebirds fledged in w. Montana (presumably in nest boxes only) has grown from 371 five years ago to over 5000 this year; 974 of over 2000 boxes provided them were occupied (N.A.B.S., *fide Hungry Horse News*). Reportedly they were mostly Mountain Bluebirds. Oregon's first **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was photographed at Fields Sept. 20 (TC, JG, DI, RS). Page Springs, Ore. had a N. Mockingbird Aug. 12.

WARBLERS — A Tennessee Warbler was sighted near Oliver, B.C. (DFF, EL). A Nashville Warbler, rarely seen in s.e. Idaho, was at Pocatello Sept. 1 (JJ). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was observed at Malheur on several dates Sept. 21-Oct. 13 (TC, m.ob.). An ad. ♂ Magnolia Warbler appeared in Waterton Lakes N.P., Sept. 9; the species is not on the park's list (DFF). A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** photographed at Creston Sept. 22 was the first ever for interior British Columbia (GD, LV) and a male was at Malheur Oct. 12-13 (PS, m.ob.). Single Black-throated Gray Warblers, rare e. of the Cascades, were sighted at Malheur (M & AA) and at Cle Elum, Wash. (EH). A Townsend's Warbler in the mountains s. of Livingston, Mont. was apparently the latilong's 2nd (CBL). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Mountain Home, Ida., Aug. 24 was the Region's first ever (KBP). Malheur had the only Black-and-white Warbler (M & AA).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES — Two Clay-colored Sparrows were sighted at Fields, Ore. (DA). Breeding of Brewer's Sparrow was confirmed for Elk Valley e. of Sparwood (DFF). Two Black-throated Sparrows were sighted on Steptoe Butte, Whitman Co., Wash., July 28 for the latilong's first (JP). Grasshopper Sparrows were reported only from Turnbull. A Swamp Sparrow was reported at Umatilla Nov. 23 (MC). A White-throated Sparrow accompanied Harris' Sparrows at Sparwood for the Elk Valley's first record (DFF). Washington had sightings of single White-throated Sparrows at Davenport (WAH, JA) and Yakima (Y.A.S.). Malheur had one (M & AA), as did Vernon. "Several" were reported at Libby Dam (C.O.E.). Golden-crowned Sparrows were migrating through Hart Mountain N.A.R. with 10 the highest count. Yakima reported three, Malheur one, Bend "a few", Panhandle L. two, Reardan one and Davenport three. Harris' Sparrows appeared near Livingston, at Red Rock Lakes, and Missoula, Mont.; near Pocatello; at Sparwood; at Spokane and Umatilla. Flocks of up to 16 Lapland Longspurs were seen on high-elevation reclaimed mine spoils near Sparwood and one was with Horned Larks near Richland (RJ). Twenty appeared on Lower Klamath N.W.R. Snow Buntings were moving into the Region in good numbers; one had even reached as far s. as Malheur.

An ad. ♂ Tricolored Blackbird accompanied other blackbirds near Pruneville, Ore., Nov. 11 (MR). Ten Rusty Blackbirds were observed near Revelstoke (JW), one was at Stum L., w. of Williams Lake, B.C. (RH), and four were seen at Lundbreck, Alta. (D & MA). One was in the Helena Valley for apparently the first sighting there (GH).

The largest numbers of Rosy Finches were observed in the Sparwood area, with several flocks of over 1500, and near Hartline, Wash., with a

like number Pine Grosbeaks were appearing in the valleys in n.w. Montana and e. Washington. Some 35 Purple Finches were reported with Pine Siskins at Harvey Pass, extreme s.e. British Columbia (DFF) and up to 40 reportedly were with many Cassin's at Libby, Mont. feeders (D & DH). Five appeared at Malheur (DA) and one at Umatilla (CC, MC, NB). A pair of House Finches at Fernie, a female in Sparwood (DFF), and two males at Blairmore, Alta. (DC), all at feeders, were the first for that area. Three males showed up at Kalispell, Mont., Nov. 3 (EJ). Very few Red Crossbills were reported, except that they were unusually plentiful at Waterton Lakes N.P. The Big Snowy Mts. s. of Lewiston hosted an invasion of White-winged Crossbills, with up to 1000 reported (BWa, KF). Over 35 were on Mt. Spokane and a pair appeared at the Davenport cemetery (JA). A few Com. Redpolls had appeared in the Region. Nicola, B.C. had two Hoary Redpolls Nov. 25 (RH). Pine Siskins seemed scarce. Malheur had a big influx of Lesser Goldfinches; refuge personnel banded 60. One was noted near Parkdale, Ore., Aug. 4 (DA). Evening Grosbeak appearances were spotty, with the largest numbers on Mt. Hood, Ore.; at Walla Walla feeders; at Mountain Home; in the Elk Valley area; and at Libby.

ADDENDUM — Steve Summers reported that Dennis Paulson examined the original photos of the Laughing Gull (AB 37:893) and agreed with the identification.

CORRIGENDUM — The date for the Parasitic Jaeger at Springfield (AB 38:230) was early September, 1983, not November.

OBSERVERS CITED — James Acton, Dave Anderson, Merle & Anne Archie, Diana & Mike Axtell, Carl Berkowitz, Nancy Bock, Stephen Bouchard, Keith Brady, Vernon Byrd, Canyon Birders (C.B.), Peggy Chevalier, Eddie Chew, Denise Coccioni-Amatto, Del Collier, Mary Collins (MCo), Frank Conley, G. L. Copeland, Craig Corder, Marion Corder, Corps of Engineers (C.O.E.), Tom Crabtree, Priscilla Dauble, Gary Davidson, Mike Denny, T. & K. Doyle, Maurice Ellison, Howard Ennor, Wayne Erickson, Ron Escana, Kim Forrest, David F. Fraser, Ron Friesz, Tracee Geernaert (TGe), George Gertz, Jeff Gilligan (JGi), John Gimbel, Tony Greager, Warren A. Hall, Marc Hallet, Larry Harbridge, William Harryman (WHa), Bill Hayes, Dick & Della Hermsmeyer, Willis Heron, John Hill, George Holton, Rick Howie, Eugene Hunn, Idaho Fish & Game Dept. (I.F.G.), Shannon Irby, David Irons, Gary Ivey, Joe Jeppson, Dennis Johnson, Ray Johnson, Elly Jones, Merlene Koliner, Frank Lanchester, Earl J. Larrison, Audrey Lehman, Eric Lofroth, Cary B. Lund, Simon Lunn, Terry McEneaney, Jeffrey S. Marks, Craig Miller, Bob Moate, Shirley Muse, Ron Neu, Jack Nisbet, Gene & Norma Nixon, North American Bluebird Society (N.A.B.S.), Bill O'Connell, Jeff Palmer, Deanna Palmer (DPa), Dick Parker, Patty Pedigo, Kerry B. Provance, Phil Ranson, Clara Ritcey, Mike Robbins, Hadley Roberts, Millie Schmidt, Don Schmoltd, John Shipley, Paul R. Sieracki, Richard Smith, Shirley H. Sturts, Dan Sullivan (DSu), Paul Sullivan, Siobhan Sullivan (SSu), Steve Summers, Charles Swanson, Jim Tabor, Joe Taggart (JTa), Joel Tinsley (JTt), Ward Tollbom, C. H. Trost, Mike Tove, Linda Van Damme, Carole VandeVoorde, Bob Watts (BWa), Cheryl Webb, Wayne Weber (WWe), Winton Weydemeyer, Bart Whelton, R. E. Woodley, John Woods, P. L. Wright, Yakima Audubon Society (Y.A.S.).—**THOMAS H. ROGERS, E. 10820 Maxwell, Spokane, WA 99206.**



MOUNTAIN WEST REGION /Hugh E. Kingery

Data from scores of *American Birds* contributors in the Mountain West states expose trends from sightings which might otherwise look like isolated occurrences. By combining individual reports we can chart several Mountain West fall migration indicia: *e.g.*, incursions by coastal species, descents by mountain species to the plains, and the arrival of winter visitors from the North. Our field data spotlight trends and should challenge researchers to figure out what directs the birds to perform these movements.

Coastal species: Scoters stimulated many Mountain West observers this year. By the end of the season, 30-40 observers had seen 65 of them—14 Surfs and 51 White-winged—over twice as many as in any other year. The Region also logged more Sabine's Gulls than any other year and a few Oldsquaws. But we saw few other coastal species: only five Arctic Loons, two Brants, two jaegers, one kittiwake, no Red Phalaropes. Perhaps a few other species belong in this category—Red-throated Loon (none) and Heermann's (one), Glaucous-winged (one), Glaucous (low) and Thayer's (probably average) gulls.

Mountain species: The vertical migration (from mountains to plains) of various montane species corresponds to a migration from the boreal forests of Canada. Yet since these species live nearby and since it's easier to scour a reservoir than a city, they do not attract as much attention as Oldsquaws or jaegers. Denver Audubon Society collected reports of about 50 Red-breasted Nuthatches from 15 Denver yards—obviously a small percentage of those present; the city probably had 1000—or maybe 5000. Various cities reported a few Steller's Jays, nutcrackers, Mountain Chickadees, solitaires, Golden-crowned Kinglets, and Cassin's Finches, plus a surprising handful of Red Crossbills seeking cone crops in the ornamental spruces.

Northern species: Most northern winter visitors to Colorado, Utah, and Nevada occur typically in Wyoming in winter. Bohemian Waxwings and Common Redpolls moved south into Colorado in fair numbers, but we heard of only two Snow Buntings outside Wyoming (in Utah), and Wyoming had the only Snowy Owl and only Gyrfalcon. Many species which indicate northern invasions in other parts of the country, *e.g.*, Pine Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, Purple Finches, chickadees, and northern owls, do not do so in the Mountain West. They either do not occur here or qualify as vertical migrants.

If weather impels these movements, very likely it's not Mountain West weather. The Region enjoyed a fairly typical fall, with only two major storms: one which hit northern Wyoming September 23-24 and one which pummeled eastern Colorado October 15-19. In Sheridan, Wyoming, last April's storm left lasting effects, noticeable on a few species like robins, meadowlarks, and pheasants (HD).

Regional observers reported 365 species: 321 in Colorado, 261 in Wyoming, 239 in Nevada, and 178 in Utah.

ABBREVIATIONS — † = written description on file; †† = written description submitted to state records committee; # = no written description; L/L/B/L = Longmont/Lyons/Berthoud/Loveland area, Colo.; R.M.N.P. = Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park; *1st Lat* = first record



in a Latilong (the area bounded by one degree of latitude and longitude).

LOONS TO IBISES — Observers found only five Arctic Loons in November: singles at Las Vegas, Sheridan, Wyo., Denver, and Longmont, Colo. Horned Grebes near Longmont increased from 50 Oct. 21 to 110 Nov. 6 and then dropped again by Nov. 20 (LH)—up from last year's peak of 50. A Red-necked Grebe visited near Denver Oct. 20-25 (D.F.O.). Eared Grebes peaked at 885 Aug. 13 at Kirch W.M.A., near Lund, Nev. (CS) and 400 Sept. 30 at Bear River N.W.R., Utah (LW). A budget cutback has eliminated the U.D.W.R. count on Great Salt L. near Antelope I., where 100,000 used to stop during migration; we have no report on their presence or absence. At Anaho Island N.W.R., Nev., Am. White Pelicans produced 4700 young, up from 3330 last year (EL). At Great Salt L., pelicans produced 3000 young. Success there came in spite of the rising waters—they simply moved to higher ground and fed on a large carp population in the fresh waters of Bear R. Bay (U.D.W.R.). The C.D.W. count Aug. 10 found 2516 pelicans in n.e. Colorado—1778 of them at their Riverside nesting site (JD). They dispersed after the nesting season; one even visited the sewage ponds below Zion N.P., Utah Oct. 14 (LP). A handful remained in n.e. Colorado in November—four Nov. 12 and two Nov. 27 (JD *et al.*).

Matching the habitat taste of Zion's pelican, a Double-crested Cormorant spent Sept. 18-22 in a 2-acre pond in the ponderosa pine foothills of Evergreen, Colo. (WWB) and an Am. Bittern above Davis Dam, Nev., Sept. 13, stood in a patch of creosote bush (CL)! At Provo, Utah, the last of several Least Bittern observations this year came Aug. 7 (MW). Great Egrets at Stillwater W.M.A., Nev. produced 80 young. Besides those, the Regional total for the year was 61—two in Wyoming, eight each in Nevada and Utah, and 43 in Colorado. Stillwater produced 140 Snowy Egrets (EL). On Aug. 26, some 400 Snowies had gathered into a compact group on the w. side of Great Salt L., perhaps an alternate staging area to the flooded marshes on the e. side (ES). Both e. and w. Colorado reported Little Blue Herons—at Ordway Sept. 17 and at Delta Nov. 1 (††MJ—*1st Lat*). Pueblo, Colo. had a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron Aug. 12 (DJ *et al.*). Stillwater fledged a pitiful 25 White-faced Ibises (EL). In contrast, Bear R. attracted 6000 Aug. 1, 7 times last year's peak (LW), and 200-400 stopped at Provo Aug. 4-Sept. 8 (MW). Latest report came of a stray at Rock Springs, Wyo., Nov. 12 (FL).

WATERFOWL — The paradox of high water levels in the desert plagues the wildlife refuges in Utah and Nevada. All the Great Salt L. refuges, Ruby L., and Stillwater suffer from the problem. Bear River's peak of 35,750 ducks compared poorly with last fall's peak of 195,475; most severe drops occurred to N. Pintails (from 75,500 to 2620) and Am. Wigeons (from 26,500 to 1010—LW). Monte Vista and Alamosa refuges in Colorado, on the other hand, enjoyed high counts—15,000 at Monte Vista Nov. 26, mostly Mallards (JK). Aerial surveys by C.D.W. of scattered reservoirs over 12,000 square mi in n.e. Colorado counted a peak of 65,702 Nov. 12, not particularly high. Jumbo Res. near Julesburg tallied the most—15,000. The same aerial counts tallied a peak of



White-winged Scoters at sewage ponds below Zion N.P., Utah, Oct. 31, 1984. Scoters reached the Mountain West in unprecedented numbers during autumn 1984. Photo/Jerome Gifford.

30,214 Canada Geese Nov. 27, with most in the Ft. Collins area (JD).

The number of Tundra Swans dropped drastically because Bear River's peaked Nov. 1 at a paltry 100 (LW). The usual thousands must have stopped *somewhere* in the Utah/Idaho area. Top counts for the Region were 140 at Pahrangat N.W.R., Nev., Nov. 11 (VM) and 120 at Cody, Wyo., Nov. 3-4 (UK). Delta, Colo., had a Greater White-fronted Goose Sept. 25 (MJ—*1st Lat*). Snow Geese peaked in s.e. Colorado, at Lamar, at 32,000 Nov. 1 (C.D.W.). Observers reported 21 Ross' Geese in the Region: two in s. Utah, two in Wyoming, two in e. Colorado, and 15 in w. Colorado at Delta and Grand Jct. Brants appeared at Boulder Nov. 1-3 (JW) and Denver Nov. 28 (KH). The first Wood Duck in 3 years at Las Vegas was pursued by a Cooper's Hawk when last seen (VM). By Nov. 23, for the 4th straight winter, a Eur. Wigeon had arrived at the Lava Hills Golf Course in St. George, Utah (MW, JG). Canvasbacks peaked at 800 Sept. 1 at Ruby L., and Redheads at 700, down substantially due to poor production. Five half-grown Canvasbacks at Sheridan, Wyo., Aug. 9 provided a *1st Lat* breeding record (HD). A flock of 450 Ring-necked Ducks at Gunlock, Utah Nov. 23 was unusually high (MW). The Region topped out at a big 13 Oldsquaws, all Nov. 5-18: one at Casper, Wyo. (JH), three at Logan, Utah (KA, MT, JBa), four at Kirch W.M.A., Nev. (†CS), three at Loveland, Colo. (AM), and two at Ft. Morgan, Colo. (D & JW).

S.A.

Scoters inundated the Region: 14 Surfs and 51 White-wingeds. Ruby L. had the most: eight White-wingeds Oct. 28 swimming among decoys (†JN) and one Surf Nov. 23-30 (†CE). Minersville, Utah, had five White-wingeds Oct. 31 and one Surf Nov. 14 (†SH), while Zion's sewage ponds attracted one to four White-wingeds Oct. 25-Nov. 6 (†JG, JwG ph.). Other Surfs appeared at Rock Springs, Sheridan, and Casper, Wyo., Estes Park, Pueblo, Denver, and Hudson, Colo. Other White-wingeds came to Salt Lake City; Rock Springs, Dubois, Sheridan, and Casper; Pueblo, Colorado Springs, Denver, Hudson, Longmont, and Sapinero, Colo., all Oct. 25-Nov. 30 except Salt L. (Sept. 4), Dubois (Sept. 15), and Sheridan (Oct. 2). The numbers exceeded any previous fall collection by 2-3 times.

RAPTORS — Osprey reports doubled—mainly because of 25 seen in Yellowstone N.P. to Sept. 17 (JZ), but each state reported a few more. "A fantastic Osprey, with a fish still in its talons, perched atop a pole in front of our house!" This was about a mile, as the Osprey flies, from Evergreen L. (WWB). A Black-shouldered Kite w. of Cheyenne Nov. 13, observed without binoculars as it flew floppily along fence lines, provided Wyoming's 2nd report (†AK). A Mississippi Kite Aug. 23 cruised over the interstate highway traversing downtown Pueblo, Colo. (LH). At Casper a Bald Eagle roost census counted 81 Nov. 29 in 4 separate canyons, plus 25 Golden Eagles. Nevada reported five Red-shouldered Hawks, at Las Vegas, Pahrangat Ref., and Kirch W.M.A. Unusual fall Broad-winged Hawks came to Niwot, Colo., Oct. 6-7 (LH) and to a Provo banding station Sept. 15 (DF). Several observers had the luck to see migrating flocks of Swainson's Hawks: 200 at Denver Sept. 3 (JLe), 100 at Sheridan Sept. 23 (HD), and 100 at Hudson, Colo., Sept. 29 (VD). Meanwhile at Logan, Utah Sept. 15-17, 19 still occupied summer nest sites, eight of them defended vocally; 10 still remained at 4 sites Sept. 30 (KD). Pahrangat Refuge boasted 19 Ferruginous Hawks Nov. 11 (VM). How does one explain a **Crested Caracara** observed



Crested Caracara in Yellowstone N.P., Wyo., September 1984. Photo/ Jim Peaco.

along a Yellowstone Park road Sept. 8-12 (JP *et al.*)? Photographs leave no doubt of its identity. It appeared wild although logic suggests an escape from somewhere. The caracara did allow people to approach within 40 ft—perhaps not unexpected for a raptor at least 850 mi from home? Observations of both Merlins and Peregrine Falcons dropped, to 18 and 13 respectively, but a Gyrfalcon appeared, typically, at Sheridan Nov. 26 (PW).

GROUSE TO CRANES — The C.D.W. attributed a 30-50% drop in Ring-necked Pheasants to a bad winter, wet spring, and floods which inhibited nesting; an article in *The Denver Post* blamed the drop, in n.w. Kansas at least, on the previous year's drought, an insect plague, and consequent use this year of the pesticide Parathion which caused a lost hatch. However, grouse populations dropped throughout the Region—Blue Grouse in R.M.N.P., N. Bobwhite in n.e. Colorado, and Sage Grouse and Chukars at Ruby L. A Com. Moorhen at Minersville, Utah gave a *1st Lat* (ES#). Water problems at Great Salt L. affected Am. Coots—the 49,250 on Sept. 5 compared with an Oct. 1, 1983 peak of 107,000 (LW). Although reports of Sandhill Cranes dropped in half, the sites of this year's high counts implied that the flocks do not always follow the same migratory route. Last year observers saw substantial numbers along the Front Range; this year, the biggest Front Range flock—100—flew over Longmont Oct. 5, and the high count came 50 mi to the e.—400 at Ft. Morgan Oct. 7 (JCR). Western cranes used more typical routes—200 Oct. 15 and 180 Oct. 27 at Grand Jct., 104 at Kirch Oct. 8, 140 at Flaming Gorge Nat'l Recreation Area Sept. 26. Single strays spent the day in a field at Holyoke, Colo., Sept. 28 (CH) and in a beaver pond at Ridgway, Colo., Oct. 26 (JRG). During November, the San Luis Valley, Colo. tallied 29 Whooping Cranes (JK).

SHOREBIRDS — Bear River's shorebird count plummeted as the waters rose, with a peak Sept. 1 of 1310, *cf.* 44,320 last year. This year's total included 500 Black-necked Stilts, 500 avocets, 160 Long-billed Dowitchers, and 150 Marbled Godwits—no sandpipers (LW)! Shorebirds found alternate feeding grounds on mud flats e. of Refuge headquarters: Webb found 5000 Marbled Godwits and Tove found 2000 W. Sandpipers Sept. 3-4, and Nelson found 2200 Long-billed Dowitchers Sept. 8. Denver's Fall Count posted a respectable (for Denver) 828 shorebirds (346 Killdeer, 329 Baird's Sandpipers) and Jackson Res., near Ft. Morgan, had 2312 on Sept. 16 (1000 Killdeer, 800 Baird's, 200 Stilt Sandpipers—D.F.O.).

The 69 Black-bellied Plovers reported included groups of one to nine at Casper, the last Nov. 4 (JH), similar groups at Barr L. near Denver, late birds Nov. 1 at Delta, Colo. (MJ) and Cheyenne Oct. 30-Nov. 6 (†FL). Surprisingly, Regional observers found almost as many Lesser Golden-Plovers—45-50—as Black-bellied. Provo had 10-16 Oct. 27-Nov. 12 (†MW, DF *et al.*). Other observations included one at Casper Sept. 30 (JH), one to three at Delta, Colo., Sept. 22-Nov. 8 (MJ—*1st Lat*), three Oct. 20-21 at Monte Vista N.W.R. (JK, TJ), and one to six in n.e. Colorado Sept. 22-Oct. 31 (D.F.O.). Late Greater Yellowlegs included one at Dubois Oct. 21 (MB), one at Cheyenne Oct. 30-Nov. 3 (†FL), and one Nov. 18 in the same Denver greenbelt where one has wintered for 2 years (D.F.O.). One Whimbrel visited Durango, Colo., Aug. 21 (EF) and eight were at Denver Aug. 30 (WWB). A Hudsonian Godwit stayed at Jackson Res. near Ft. Morgan Sept. 16-23 (D.F.O., JRe). Casper reported a Ruddy Turnstone Sept. 16-22 (JH). Only two Red Knots were noted: at Jackson Res., Sept. 16-18 (D.F.O.) and at Las Vegas Sept. 22 (R.R.A.S.).

At Logan Tove estimated one Semipalmated to 80 Western Sandpipers—10 Semipalmateds in all, Aug. 26-Sept. 4. Eight locations reported single Dunlins; they included *1st Lat* observations at Rock Springs, Wyo., Oct. 7 (†FL) and Desert Lake W.M.A., Utah Nov. 21 (†FL). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was reported at Jackson Res., Oct. 7 (†JW). Sharp-eyed [or -eared?] observers found a record number of Short-billed Dowitchers at a record number of locations: three at Bear River Sept. 3-4 (†MT); four to five at Logan, Utah Sept. 1-7 (†MT); one at Delta, Colo., Sept. 19 (†MJ—*1st Lat*); and two at Denver Sept. 9 (#D.F.O.). A Com. Snipe perched on top of a roof in a snowstorm Sept. 30 in the narrow canyon of the mining town of Blackhawk, Colo. (Russels). Flocks of Red-necked Phalaropes outnumbered the usually commoner Wilson's—including 350 at Rock Springs Sept. 1 (FL), 140 at Casper Aug. 28 (JH), and 82 at Loveland, Colo., Sept. 13-26 (*cf.* five last

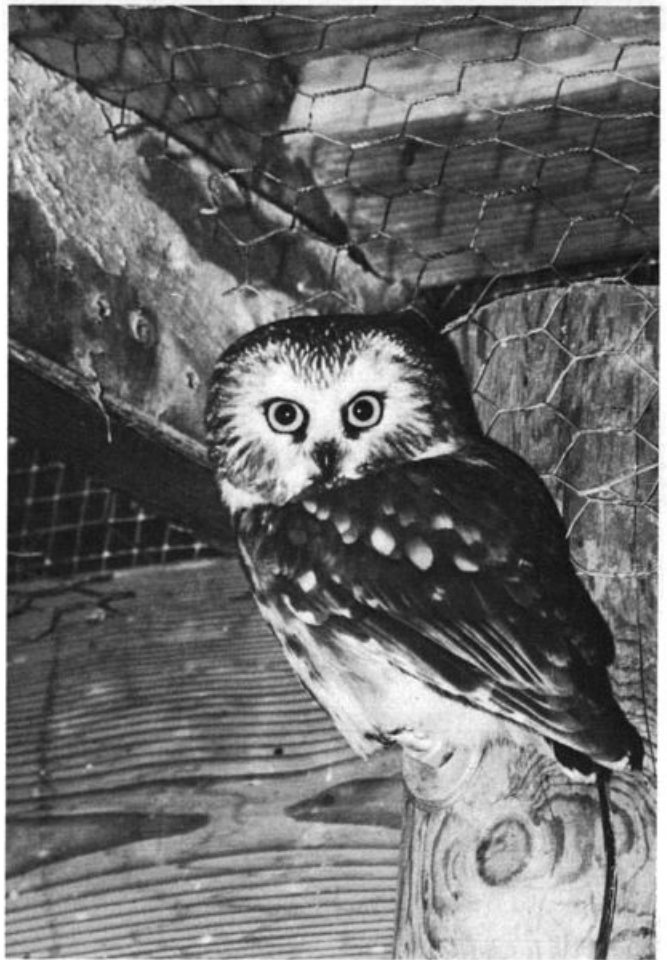
year—F.A.C.).

JAEGERS TO TERNS — The Region reported only two jaegers, both at Denver—a Parasitic Sept. 2 (DW, ph.) and a jaeger (sp.) Oct. 13 (BA). Bear R. had a puzzling gull population: peaks of 5000 Franklin's and 2000 Ring-billeds compared with 400 and 1100 last year—yet 2000 Californias compared with 45,000 last year (LW). Numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls fluctuate each fall. Colorado had high numbers in 1974 and 1979 (roughly 367 and 251 respectively), half as many in 1975 and 1980, and then half that the next few years. This year they increased slightly—88 in 3-4 locations. At Casper 3 observers found an apparent first state **Heermann's Gull**, described tersely by the dean of Wyoming birders (†OKS *et al.*). Ring-billed Gulls increased at L/L/B/L—2657, *cf.* 136 last year, and Las Vegas—800 Nov. 29 including 20% immatures. As observers look at gulls carefully, they discover new local species; a Herring at Rock Springs Nov. 12 provided a 1st Lat (FL). Tove and Fischer began a survey of landfills in several Utah cities; they estimated 18,000 gulls at the various sites—and found a few unusual species. They found 30 Herrings at Provo and 50 at Salt Lake City Nov. 23-24, at least 11 Thayer's including one to two at Provo Oct. 30+ (†DF) and one to seven at Salt Lake City and Farmington Nov. 17-24 (†MT), plus one at Logan Oct. 28 (MT). The prize graced the Provo, Utah, dump Nov. 20-21: a **Glaucous-winged Gull** photographed at rest, wing-stretching, and flying (†DF). At Logan Oct. 29 an apparent Glaucous x Herring hybrid offered a good comparison with other gulls (†MT). Other Thayer's included one at Las Vegas Nov. 29 (VM) and four in n.e. Colorado Nov. 4-22. Colorado reported the only three Glaucous, at Longmont and Ft. Morgan in November, but Denver did host a Black-legged Kittiwake Sept. 6 (††LH). The Region attracted more **Sabine's Gulls** than ever before—one reported at Casper, Wyo., Sept. 16 and Oct. 6, and in Colorado, 15-17 from Pueblo, Colorado Springs, Denver, Longmont, Greeley, and Ft. Morgan, Sept. 10-Nov. 3. A Caspian Tern at Pueblo Sept. 16 provided a 1st Lat (†RW).

OWLS TO HUMMINGBIRDS — Debate continued over screech-owls: D.F.O. reported *eight* Western Screech-Owls seen and heard in Cottonwood Canyon, Baca Co., Colo., Sept. 6 (WL, DM). Despite its location in the s.e. corner of Colorado, Baca County has a s.w. avifauna (*e.g.*, nesting Lewis' Woodpeckers, Ash-throated Flycatchers, Bewick's Wrens, and Rufous-crowned Sparrows). Other investigators have identified screech-owls there as Easterns. A Casper newspaper discovered and photographed the Region's only Snowy Owl Nov. 23. The N. Pygmy-Owls included one at Yellowstone Aug. 22 (JZ), an injured one found at Lyons, Colo., Oct. 29, and one at R.M.N.P., Oct. 18 which "chose to share identical space with an automobile—a lifeless lifer" (JL). The San Luis Valley of s.c. Colorado produced four Boreal Owls in 3 locations Sept. 9 (JJR). The Region's latest Com. Nighthawk was one Oct. 26 at Denver (UCK) and the last Com. Poorwill sat in a road—a car almost hit it—at Lyons, Colo., Nov. 4 (F.A.C.). Zion



Boreal Owl near Lake City, Colo., Sept. 9, 1984. The Boreals in this area (the San Luis Valley of south-central Colorado) constitute the southernmost known population. Photo/John Rawinski.



Northern Saw-whet Owl s.w. of Sheridan, Wyoming. Photo/Lambert Niedringhaus.

attracted its typical plethora of hummingbirds—estimated at 2 feeders Aug. 1 as 850 Black-chinneds plus 40 Rufous. At Westcreek, Colo., one house had 50 Broad-taileds Aug. 15 (RWi). Latest Broad-taileds were at Eldora, Colo., Oct. 6 (GS) and Denver Oct. 14 (GR). At R.M.N.P., Ligon heard the last trilling Broad-tailed Sept. 3, but saw them through Sept. 24; he suggested that the males may lose their trilling flight in the fall.

WOODPECKERS TO JAYS — Zion reported its first Lewis' Woodpeckers since 1982—a total of 12, Sept. 28-Nov. 29, topped by eight on the Kolob Plateau Oct. 12 (JG, JwG, MW). Olive-sided Flycatchers left in late September—but Hawkins found one at Denver Nov. 25. A late-fledging Hammond's Flycatcher accepted food from a parent in R.M.N.P., Sept. 3 (JL). A late E. Kingbird was at Las Vegas Nov. 15 (J & MC). Wandering Scissor-tailed Flycatchers visited Grand Jct., July 29 (†CR) and Las Vegas Sept. 7 (AA, *vide* CL). Steller's Jays, a few, dropped out of the foothills into urban areas of Ogden, Utah, Durango, Colo., and Evanston, Casper, and Cheyenne, Wyo.—and Blue Jays ventured into the foothills at Evergreen and Penrose, Colo. (SD, RW). Clark's Nutcrackers likewise came down from their mountain heights to Casper, Penrose, Eagle, Colorado Springs, and even Denver—at the zoo (RCL)! Figgs reported that numbers of nutcrackers dropped in the higher mountains of Boulder Co., Colo., but that they became widespread in the foothills. Ruby L. attracted a cacophony of 200 Com. Ravens Nov. 23 (CE).

CHICKADEES TO GNATCATCHERS — A few Mountain Chickadees dropped to the plains in Denver and Ft. Morgan, but most stayed among their mountain conifers. Red-breasted Nuthatches scattered widely. They "yank-yanked" in lowland communities throughout the

Region, from Las Vegas (where each golf course sported a few) to Denver (where flocks of one to 20 populated any section of the city with spruces), and even e. to Holyoke, Colo., Oct. 7-8 (CH). Traditional wisdom places Pygmy Nuthatches exclusively in ponderosa pines, yet flocks have moved into the lodgepole pines of Summit Co., Colo. Their arrival coincided with the severe beetle attack on ponderosas on the e. side of the Continental Divide—possibly propelling some to depart for presumably non-optimum lodgepole habitat. Las Vegas attracted its first Winter Wren in several years, seen Sept. 21, Oct. 6, and Nov. 6 (VM). Zion had three or four Nov. 4+ (LP, ES). Golden-crowned Kinglets seemed more numerous in the Colorado high country than usual, from Durango to R.M.N.P., and they descended into the lowlands in both Wyoming and Colorado—six at Cheyenne Oct. 22-30 and eight Nov. 5 (H.P.A.S.), six to 10 in Eagle, Colo., Sept. 17-29, one in Denver Nov. 2, and even three in Baca Co., Colo., Nov. 11 (DB).

SOLITAIRES TO VIREOS — Townsend's Solitaires appeared only in small numbers in the lowlands. Residential Sheridan had a good flight—11 counted Nov. 7; they came to Eagle, Cheyenne, Ogden, and Logan, and one or two flew out to Ft. Morgan and Holyoke, 50-100 mi e. of the mountains. One Varied Thrush stopped at Las Vegas Oct. 7 (J & MC), another Nov. 23 (KW). Big Piney, Wyo., had one Nov. 12 (†MR, BJ—*1st Lat*). A late N. Mockingbird ascended into R.M.N.P., Nov. 19 (JL). Brown Thrashers strayed far W into Nevada: one Oct. 26 at Beatty (RWe) and one Nov. 11 at Lund (†CS). An early snow blanketed the alpine reaches of R.M.N.P., Sept. 8, and drove Water Pipits down from the tundra; 400 were counted in the montane parks (JL). Bohemian Waxwings spread over n. Wyoming as usual—2500 Oct. 30 at Sheridan (HD), but earlier were single ones found farther s.: Sept. 14 at Boulder, Sept. 19 in Cheyenne, and Sept. 24 in Reno. Colorado reported four Philadelphia Vireos Sept. 1-8—at Pawnee Nat'l Grassland, Denver, and Two Buttes.

WARBLERS — The Region had a dearth of warblers—the regulars failed to pass through in their usual numbers and the rarer ones were particularly rare. Orange-crowns seemed especially scarce. Utah turned up nine Nashvilles, and Evanston, Wyo. had a *1st Lat* Sept. 1 (CK); e. Colorado reported five. The first Chestnut-sided in several years stopped at Las Vegas Oct. 11 (CL). On Oct. 4 a Las Vegas backyard boasted two Black-throated Blues (CL), Casper had one Oct. 4 (JH), and R.M.N.P. recorded its first Sept. 30 (JL). Of the regular migrants, only reports of Townsend's increased, and only modestly. Two Blackburnians appeared: one Sept. 9 at Evergreen (WWB) and one Oct. 14 at Las Vegas, the first since 1975 (†CL). A Palm Warbler visited Colorado Springs Sept. 7 (EW). A Prothonotary Warbler presented itself for close scrutiny Nov. 9 at Reno, for the 4th state record (†FR). In Cheyenne a late Ovenbird stopped Oct. 21 (H.P.A.S.).

TANAGERS TO SPARROWS — A ♀ Summer Tanager strayed N to Denver Aug. 27 (BR). A cold front Aug. 23 grounded 50 W. Tanagers at Lyons, Colo. (F.A.C.). Blue Grosbeaks nested in at least 2 places near Cheyenne. A female carried food to two young Sept. 12 and another nest was active through Sept. 23 (H.P.A.S.). Casper had two Baird's Sparrows Aug. 14 (R & RF), Sheridan had its 17th observation Sept. 25 (HD), and one stopped at Colorado Springs Sept. 27 (EW). A McCown's Longspur appeared in a backyard at Ogden, Utah Nov. 20 (*vide* JN). November found Snow Buntings at Casper and Cheyenne, in s w Wyoming at Farson (FL—*1st Lat*) and Big Piney (BJ, MR); two slipped over the line to Logan Nov. 11 (MT).

MEADOWLARKS TO FRINGILLIDS — At Sheridan, roadside surveys counted high numbers of W. Meadowlarks: 118 and 135 on Sept. 16 & 26, compared with averages of 55 and 49 (HD). Also at Sheridan, during a severe storm Sept. 24, a meadowlark killed a small sparrow by sharp blows to its head with the bill, and then pecked at the carcass and ate it (MG). "A good way to rid backyard feeders of House Sparrows is to have lots and lots of Rosy Finches around" (LS). Not many of us can enjoy that solution, but it's fun to contemplate it. Pine Grosbeaks increased on the Indian Peaks Fall Count (w. Boulder Co., Colo.), up 64% to 30 birds Sept. 22 (MF). In Wyoming they descended to Story Aug. 21 (HD), Cody Nov. 15-18 (UK), and Cheyenne Nov. 18 (D & EH)—un-

usually low elevations for them. Cassin's Finches poured into the low country—all over Grand Jct. and Durango, many feeding on the bumper pinon nut crop around Colorado Springs, 85 counted in L/L/B/L cf. four last fall, scattered birds in Denver, Cheyenne, Evanston, and Logan, and even two Nov. 21+ in Ft. Morgan. Red Crossbills echoed the dispersion of Cassin's Finches. Many observers saw them in oddball places—apparently searching for cone crops. Sample observations: at 12,000 ft above Loveland Pass, Colo., headed down and easterly; Salt Lake City, Denver, Boulder, Casper; 91 counted in L/L/B/L—15 last year; scattered over the foothills in Boulder County and Reno. Small numbers of White-winged Crossbills also appeared: single juveniles in Yellowstone Park Aug. 22 and Sept. 7 (JZ), one to two Aug. 10 and five Nov. 29 at Sheridan, where they apparently summered (PO), two Nov. 1-5 at Casper (JH), one at Colorado Springs Sept. 23 (DV), and one at Ft. Morgan Nov. 21 (*vide* JCR). From the n., Com. Redpolls arrived in modest numbers. Sheridan had the most—80 Nov. 12—but they ranged s. to Denver and Ft. Morgan. Sheridan even had two Hoary Redpolls Nov. 7-9 (†HD). Evening Grosbeaks recovered from their relatively low numbers last fall to large counts like 150 at Sheridan in November, 842 at L/L/B/L for the fall (72 last year—F.A.C.), and hundreds in Boulder. They arrived in Las Vegas Oct. 23, early by a month (CL), Cheyenne by Oct. 6, Denver by Sept. 3, and even out to the Kansas line at Lamar Nov. 9 & 17 (PL—*1st Lat*).

EXOTICS — A Ruddy Shelduck visited Grand Jct., Nov. 12+, consorting with Mallards on the Colorado R. It lacked leg bands; photographs left no doubt as to its identity, so it ranked with [or below] the caracara as a properly-identified bird of mysterious or dubious origin (†BT, †FK, ph. TA).

CORRIGENDA — Eyre corrected my account of the Starlings which roosted in her Eureka, Nev. garage—the droppings were 3-4 inches deep, not feet (AB 38:342). At our request Condor Recovery Team reviewed the description of the California Condor reported from Lida, Nev., Feb. 23, 1984 (AB 38:341). The commenter felt more details would be necessary to confirm the observation, based on the known whereabouts of 10 nesting pairs and the lack of details in this description which fit the appearance of the other known birds (EJ).

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SOUTHWEST REGION

Arizona, Sonora

/David Stejskal and Janet Witzeman

The fall invasion of montane and irruptive species that many of us have been anticipating for the last three years finally materialized this fall. By early September, nuthatches, jays, Lawrence's Goldfinches and Red Crossbills were being reported throughout southern Arizona and by late September-early October woodpeckers, bluebirds, American Robins, Cedar Waxwings, Mountain Chickadees and other species joined the movement. Although this fall was no match for the invasion of 1972-1973, it did provide additional excitement for Arizona birders.

Several interesting reports were received from the little-birded north-eastern corner of the state this fall. Especially interesting were the waterfowl and shorebird records, some of which provided first records for the northeast. Continued coverage of this area will help us to re-evaluate the status of many species previously unknown or little-known in that section of the state.

Readers will notice an obvious lack of records from the Lower Colorado River this fall. It should be pointed out that most of the active observers on the river in recent years were involved with an Arizona State University revegetation project which has recently lost much of its funding and, consequently, most of its employees. Observers in other areas of the state should make an increased effort in the future to bird this very productive section of the state.

ABBREVIATION — L.C.R. = Lower Colorado River.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — The only loons reported this fall were Commons, and the only Com. Loons away from the L.C.R. were one at Picacho Res., Oct. 2 (JB), up to seven by mid-October around Prescott (CT), and one at Menagers Dam on the Papago Indian Reservation Oct. 20 (GM). A Horned Grebe Oct. 30 at Sunrise L. in the White Mts. was in an area where the species is rarely reported (GM). At least one light-phase "Clark's" W. Grebe was on Ganado L., Oct. 7 (CH *et al.*). "Clark's" is found chiefly in the w. part of the state (L.C.R. especially) and is reported occasionally in s.e. Arizona. This may represent the first record of "Clark's" for n.e. Arizona. An Am. White Pelican in Chino Valley Sept. 29-Oct. 28 was in an area where considered uncommon (CT).

Unprecedented numbers of Am. White Pelicans were recorded in n.e. Arizona this fall with 175 Sept. 30 on Many Farms L., building up to 300 by Oct. 4. Two were still present Oct. 25. Two more were at Ganado L., Oct. 7. Another flock of 200 was at Round Rock L., Oct. 15 (all BrJ). American White Pelican is normally thought to be a rare migrant in n. Arizona. The usual post-breeding dispersal of Brown Pelicans from the Gulf of California brought at least seven to s.w. Arizona, including two immatures on L. Havasu Aug. 20-Nov. 12 (S. Vaughn, S. Ranney *et al.*), two immatures at Painted Rock Dam Aug. 5 (DS *et al.*), and one immature at Bartlett L., n.e. of Phoenix, in early September (J. Burton). Two birds on L. Pleasant n. of Phoenix were



reported as adults, but this seems unlikely (date & observer unknown). An imm. Magnificent Frigatebird w. of Tucson Oct. 1 was both late and very far e. for this uncommon wanderer from the Gulf of California (J. Boone, L. Lawrence).

HERONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — A Great Egret at Prescott Oct. 12 was unusual (CT). Another at Ganado L., Nov. 5 represented one of the few recent records for n.e. Arizona (BrJ). Sixty+ Cattle Egrets n. of Nogales Sept. 2 was a high number for s.e. Arizona (SSu, SG). Seven were at Prescott Sept. 23-25 (CT). In n.e. Arizona, 26 were at Many Farms L., Nov. 6 with at least one remaining through the period. Six more were found 3 mi n. of Many Farms Nov. 13 and an additional 19 were at Moaning L. near Chinle Nov. 9 (all BrJ). Prior to this fall, Cattle Egret was considered accidental in n.e. Arizona with the only records being of single birds in spring.

As usual, Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were found at scattered locations in s.c. Arizona n. to n. of Phoenix and e. to Dudleyville, with a high count of 24 at Nogales Aug. 23 (TC *et al.*). Most unusual was a pair with 10 young at Sun Lakes s. of Phoenix in August (RB). The species is an uncommon breeder in the state and has bred only once before in Maricopa County. Tundra Swan is considered a rare migrant in n.e. Arizona, so of interest were two Nov. 4 at Many Farms L. (BrJ), five Nov. 21 at Luna L. (R. Fisher), and another Nov. 30 at Tsaila L. (BrJ). More unusual were 18 Snow Geese Nov. 3 at Many Farms L. with two to three remaining to Nov. 9 (BrJ). Two Ross' Geese were found near McNeal Nov. 7 with Snow Geese (AM). Ross' Goose has occurred nearly annually in s.e. Arizona recently. Unexpected was a Ross' Goose found Oct. 25-31 at Many Farms L. and three more there Nov. 3, with one remaining until Nov. 20 (all BrJ). This species was previously unrecorded in n.e. Arizona. A ♂ Wood Duck was found Aug. 9 at Nelson Res., 10 mi s. of Springerville (N. & J. Strickling), where it is considered rare at any time of year, especially in summer. A complete surprise was the ad. ♂ Black Scoter shot by a hunter at Mormon L., Nov. 14 (*Univ. of Ariz.). This provided only the 5th record for Arizona, and 4 of the 5 are from November. A Ø White-winged Scoter found at Parker Dam Nov. 11 remained through the period (BrJ *et al.*). There are still fewer than 2 dozen records for this species in the state.

RAPTORS — A total of 19 Black-shouldered Kites was reported with 13 in s.e. Arizona, five in c. Arizona and one on the L.C.R. An imm. Mississippi Kite was found at Patagonia Aug. 13 (KK, SSu, RT) and another or the same there Sept. 2 (SSu, SG). Mississippi Kite is unusual away from the Lower San Pedro R. Very unusual was an imm. Gray Hawk at Douglas Sept. 14 (AM). There are few authentic records away from the regular breeding areas in the state. Almost as unusual was a Crested Caracara at McNeal Oct. 31 (AM). Another was seen 3 mi s. of Green Valley, where less unusual, Nov. 27 (B. Buttery).

SHOREBIRDS — More Black-bellied Plovers than usual were found, especially in the northeast where considered casual. One was found on the Santa Cruz R. (location?) Sept. 28 (C. Faanes); two were near McNeal Oct. 16 (AM); one was at Many Farms L., Sept. 30; one was at Ganado L., Oct. 14; three to four were at Many Farms L., Nov. 3-4, and another was there Nov. 13 (all BrJ). A Lesser Golden-Plover at Chandler Oct. 9-10 was unexpected (DS *et al.*). There have been few records of this species in the state during the last 7-8 years. Three to four dozen Mountain Plovers e. of Kansas Settlement were in an area where they are becoming regular in winter (AM). A Black-necked Stilt at Ganado L., Sept. 30 provided only the 2nd or 3rd record for the n.e. (BrJ). A Solitary Sandpiper s.w. of Phoenix Nov. 2+ was in the same area where one attempted to winter in 1982-1983 (DS). A Whimbrel at Kino Springs Aug. 27-Sept. 5 (B. Bates Sr. *et al.*) added to the handful of recent records from the Nogales area; Whimbrels are otherwise quite rare in s.e. Arizona. Red Knot is becoming almost annual in the state during fall. This year, one was at Chandler Oct. 2-3 (CB, PB *et al.*). Four Sanderlings were at L. Havasu Sept. 3 (J. Sterling, KVR, CH), and another was at Chandler Oct. 2-10 (CB *et al.*). Three juv. Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported this fall with one w. of Tucson Aug. 14-16 (R. Stallcup, SSu, JS), another at Willcox Aug. 26 (TC *et al.*), and a 3rd at Avondale Aug. 30 (†DS); it is interesting to note the brief span of dates. Dunlin had previously been unrecorded in n. Arizona, but this fall two to three were at Many Farms L., Nov. 4+ (BrJ). More Short-billed

Dowitchers than usual were reported in the Willcox area and also w of Phoenix Several were at Willcox between Aug 12 and Oct 20 (KK, SSu, RT, JS *et al.*); an adult was at Avondale Aug. 23 (DS); four immatures were there Sept. 7 (DS *et al.*) with at least one still there Sept. 9 (KVR, CH, JW); another immature was there Oct. 13 (DS). One Red Phalarope was recorded this fall, Oct. 4 at Avondale (DS).

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMER — Surprising was the juv. Parascitic Jaeger shot by a hunter n. of Gila Bend Sept. 1 (ph. DT). There are at least a dozen records for the state from late August to mid-October, with all coming from the L.C.R. and Lower Gila R. An ad. Laughing Gull in basic plumage was found at Nogales Oct. 25 (†JS). Interestingly, this was the 3rd Laughing Gull in 3 years at this location, all during fall There are fewer than 10 records for the state. A first-year Herring Gull at Menagers Dam Oct. 19 was at an unusual locality (GM, D. Fischer). Herring Gull is unusual anywhere away from the L.C.R. This fall's Sabine's Gulls were one at L. Havasu Sept. 6 (obs.?) and one w. of Tucson Sept. 26 (ph. TG). Incredible was the discovery of two **Black Skimmers** at Willcox Aug. 4 (†J. Price). The 2 or 3 previous records for the state were from along the L.C.R. and almost certainly originated in the Gulf of California. The origin of these birds is not so readily discernible It may be more reasonable to think these birds arrived at Willcox via the Mexican highlands; see AB 36: 255-257 for a discussion of this possibility.

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS —

S.A.

The status of **Ruddy Ground-Dove** (*Columbina talpacoti*) in Arizona has become something of an issue during the past few years in light of the recent records that have accumulated in this state and elsewhere. No fewer than five records have been obtained in Arizona since the fall of 1981. A summary of these records is as follows: Oct. 21, 1981, two at the Stockton Ranch s.w. of Phoenix (KVR, ph. CH); Dec. 31, 1981, one with Inca Doves on a lawn at Rio Verde Ranch n.e. of Phoenix (SD *et al.*); Sept. 24, 1983, an ad. male with Inca Doves and Com. Ground-Doves feeding in a dirt road in Patagonia adjacent to Sonoita Cr. (DS, J. Bates, JS, CD); Nov. 17-Dec. 27, 1983, a male in a Green Valley yard feeding with Inca Doves (ph. D. Garver *et al.*); Oct. 14, 1984, a male at the Gila Bend sewage ponds n. of Gila Bend (†DS).

The origin of these birds is uncertain, but it is interesting to note that all these records fell between late September and late December, which is nearly the same as the pattern of vagrancy for Com. Ground-Dove in North America and for Ruddy Ground-Dove in s. Texas. It is also interesting to note that s. California has had two Ruddy Ground-Doves during this period (Nov. 24-26, 1978 and the fall of 1984). Another bird was recorded in New Mexico near El Paso Oct. 29-31, 1984, and yet another was in s. Texas in the fall of 1984.

Although Ruddy Ground-Dove can be found regularly n. to the Rio Fuerte Valley in n. Sinaloa, the status of this bird in Sonora is still unclear. The first report of this species was near Alamos in s.e. Sonora in early November 1982 (RT *et al.*) without any further comment. On Nov. 23, 1984, an ad. male was found on the Rio Chuchuaqui s. of Alamos (SB, CH *et al.*), and Dec. 29, 1984 a pair was found w. of Alamos in an overgrown field (DS, N. Krug). Since there are no records between s.e. Sonora and the Arizona border, the possibility of the Arizona birds (or the California and New Mexico birds) being escapees or releases cannot be ruled out. We will have to await further records n. of s.e. Sonora that fit the pattern in Arizona before a decision can be made on the wild status of these birds.

Amazing was the report of a **Black-billed Cuckoo** w. of Portal Oct. 2 (J. Arvin). This species is still on Arizona's hypothetical list because the two previous records for the state (also in fall) were also single-observer sight reports. Black-billed Cuckoo is exceedingly rare anywhere in the far West. A late Buff-collared Nightjar was flushed during the daytime in Chino Canyon Sept. 7 (B. Keelan). The five Chimney Swifts that spent most of the summer on the Univ. of Arizona campus in Tucson were last seen during the last week of August (m.ob.). A ♂ White-eared

Hummingbird, a sparse visitor to the mountains of s e Arizona, was at Portal from the beginning of the period to Sept 1 (W&SSp) A ♀ Berylline Hummingbird was found in Chiricahua Nat'l Mon. on Aug 18 feeding in a thistle patch, and Sept. 5 it was observed on a nest with two young birds! The two offspring fledged Sept. 14 & 15. Berylline Hummingbird has nested twice in the state before, only once successfully (†S. Williams, ph. TC, m.ob.). A ♀ Lucifer Hummingbird was found in Copper Canyon, Coronado Nat'l Mon., Aug. 16 (DD); another female was found near Sonoita Aug. 29 (GM); two to three individuals were present in Portal from August to Oct. 16 (W&SSp, RM).

KINGFISHERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — The Green Kingfisher at Kino Springs this summer remained through the period (m.ob.), another was seen along Sonoita Cr. near Patagonia Aug. 22 (W. Hopf), one was near Arivaca Sept. 5 (GM); yet another was above Patagonia L. along Sonoita Cr. from Sept. 17 to at least Sept. 25 (GM, JS). Green Kingfisher is usually found during the fall and winter months in the state. There are few previous summer records.

Lewis' Woodpeckers staged one of the more impressive flights to the lowlands in recent years. They were termed "common" in places in s e Arizona from Sept. 25 on (*vide* SSu) and were also found at scattered locations in c. Arizona during the period. A few Acorn Woodpeckers were found in the lowlands this fall, including one at McNeal Sept 19 (AM), one at Cook's L., Sept. 29 (DS, RF, RN), one at Tempe Sept 30 (SB), and two more on the ASU campus in Tempe (S. Rissing, CH). As usual, a few Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers of the e. race *varius* were reported. One was at Becker L., Oct. 6 (CH *et al.*) and another was at Ganado L., Oct. 7 (CH *et al.*). Another ad. female was at Paloma, w of Gila Bend, Oct. 14 (DS). One immature in the Sierra de Alamos of s e Sonora Nov. 24 represented one of the few records for that state (CH *et al.*). A Red-breasted Sapsucker was at Harshaw near Patagonia Nov 5-8 (m.ob., *vide* SSu). Lowland reports of Williamson's Sapsucker included a female Oct. 7 at Rackensack Gulch n.e. of Phoenix (RB) and another individual at the Tucson sewage ponds Nov. 27 (E. Bessler)

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CORVIDS — A Greater Pewee at Patagonia Aug. 29 was exceptionally low for that date (GM). Another in Madera Canyon Nov. 23 was late for that location (H. Ranson). Buff-breasted Flycatchers continued to show up in unexpected locations: one was in Madera Canyon Aug. 17 (B. Brock) and another was at Pima Canyon, Santa Catalina Mts., Sept. 9 (SSu). Historically, Buff-breasted Flycatcher was much more widespread in s. Arizona and occurred n. to the Prescott area and the White Mts. region; the origin of these two individuals is uncertain. Two Tropical Kingbirds Aug. 25 near Winkelman on the San Pedro R. were n. of where they are usually found on that river (CH). The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher found this summer at Patagonia remained until Sept. 22.

Jays staged one of the best invasions to the lowlands since the fall of 1972, although it was hardly what one would call impressive. Steller's and Scrub jays were each reported from several lowland areas from late September on, but no more than one or two individuals at each location Pinyon Jays were reported in the southeast from late September on Records there included a few small flocks in the Chiricahuas (m.ob.), numbers at Safford Sept. 23 (CH), two+ at Ash Flats Sept. 10 (BeJ), and about 75 Nov. 15-20 in the Dragoon Mts. (m.ob.). Exceptional was a small flock flying over the Salt R. bed s.w. of Phoenix Oct. 27 (DS) Unusual was a Clark's Nutcracker reported near Greaterville in the Santa Rita Mts. foothills Oct. 17 (D. Garver). Truly perplexing were the scattered reports of Black-billed Magpies in and around Tucson after mid-October (m.ob.). Most reports were of single birds, but there were several reports of pairs, adding to the confusion of speculating their origin; however, it was suggested that all the reports pertained to just two wide-ranging escapees (KK). Two Am. Crows s.w. of Phoenix Nov. 7 were at an unusual locality (TC).

CHICKADEES THROUGH VIREOS — Mountain Chickadees began to appear at lower elevations in s. Arizona by the first week of October with one at Rackensack Gulch Oct. 7 (RB); two were at Globe Oct. 10 (BeJ); numbers appeared in the Chino and Verde valleys by mid-October (CT); five to 10 were at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum Nov 3+ (RF *et al.*); one was on the ASU campus from late November on (CH). In n. Arizona, 10 ± were found in Ganado Wash Sept. 16, which seemed early for that location (KK, DS, CH). Red-breasted Nuthatches

appeared at various lowland locations in s. Arizona beginning Sept. 6. A Canyon Wren at Paloma Oct. 14 was at an odd location (DS). Single Townsend's Solitaires in Litchfield Park Oct. 25 (TC) and s.w. Phoenix Oct. 27 (DS) were the only ones reported in the lowlands. The only Rufous-backed Robin of the fall was at Patagonia Nov. 12+ (†A. & J. Price, M. White). A Gray Catbird was found at Chinle Sept. 22 (BrJ) and another was at Hereford Nov. 11 (†J. & V. Bealer). Individual Red-eyed Vireos were seen in Madera Canyon Aug. 17 (B. Brock) and e. of Tucson Sept. 9 (B. Sutton).

WOOD WARBLERS — Single Tennessee Warblers were found during the period at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum Sept. 23 (RF) and at Tucson Oct. 30 (JB). A N. Parula was found near Winkleman Aug. 25 (CH). Northern Parula is much more frequent as a spring vagrant than it is in fall. One of the Tropical Parulas in Madera Canyon remained until at least Sept. 13 (B. Barber). At least two Yellow Warblers were s.w. of Phoenix Nov. 2+ in their usual wintering spots (DS, TC). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was s.w. of Phoenix Oct. 27 (DS, CB) and another was in a Phoenix yard from Nov. 4 on (RB). A Magnolia Warbler at Becker L., Sept. 15 was in an area of the state where it may prove to be a rare but regular migrant (CH, †KK, DS). An imm. ♂ **Cape May Warbler** was netted at Tucson Nov. 29 and was seen in the area through early December (C. Corchran, CD). There are only about one-half dozen records for Arizona. A Palm Warbler at Ganado L., Oct. 7 furnished only the 2nd record for n.e. Arizona (RF *et al.*). A Blackpoll Warbler was found along Ganado Wash Sept. 16 (CH, KK, DS). Like Palm Warbler, Blackpoll records are almost exclusively from the fall. A Louisiana Waterthrush was reported from Madera Canyon Nov. 23 (†H. Ranson). Most Arizona records are from canyons in the Mexican border ranges during late fall-winter. A ♂ Kentucky Warbler at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum Nov. 9 provided the latest fall record for the state (ph. RF *et al.*). Five Black-and-white Warblers, three Am. Redstarts, and three N. Waterthrushes were reported for the period.

GROSBEAKS THROUGH SPARROWS — Only two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported with one at Parker Sept. 3 (CH *et al.*) and another at Ganado L., Sept. 16 (DS, KK, CH). An imm. Painted Bunting was banded at Wilmot Cienega, Tucson Aug. 13 (RBo). Remarkable for both the date and location was a ♀ Painted Bunting at Page Springs w. of Sedona Nov. 15 (RF). No fewer than nine Dickcissels were reported with two males and three females near Nogales Aug. 19 (J. Palting), one at Willcox (date? J. Price), one Sept. 15 at Becker L. (KK, DS, CH), one at the Rough Rock sewage ponds Sept. 19-22 (BrJ), and one at Canoa Pond Sept. 24 (JS). Only one or two individuals are usually reported each fall. Two Clay-colored Sparrows were netted at Wilmot Cienega Aug. 28 (RBo). Ten to 20 Am. Tree Sparrows were found 3 mi n. of Many Farms Nov. 30+ (BrJ). This bird is probably much more common in n.e. Arizona than is generally believed. A Golden-crowned Sparrow was at Menagers Dam Oct. 20 (GM) and another was at Page Springs Nov. 15 (RF).

ICTERIDS THROUGH FINCHES — A Bobolink was found at the Rough Rock sewage ponds Sept. 19 (BrJ). At least one E. Meadowlark was singing n. of Marana Aug. 19 in a lush, overgrown field. This species was previously unrecorded in this area during the breeding season (DS, RN).

The only Purple Finch reported was a female at Ahwatukee Oct. 25 (PB). Cassin's Finches were reported in and around Portal beginning in late October (m.ob.) and also in the Santa Rita Mts. in late October. Red Crossbills were reported by a number of observers in s. Arizona from late October on. Exceptional were four around Portal for most of the summer through late September (W&SSp) and at least one small flock in Tucson from early August until mid-November, when large numbers suddenly arrived in town (KK). Many reports were also received for Lawrence's Goldfinch throughout s. Arizona w. to the Gila Bend area from late August on.

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ABBREVIATIONS — Bitter L. = Bitter Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge; Bosque = Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge; Zuni = the Zuni Reservation. Place names in *italics* are counties.

GREBES THROUGH CORMORANTS — "Small young" Eared Grebes at Hollomon Lakes, *Otero* Sept. 29 (RH) represented a local first breeding record. Western Grebes were more widespread than usual, including e. to Clayton Sept. 29 (WC, MM), Conchas L., Sept. 27 (BE, JH), and Bitter L., Oct. 27-Nov. 2 (KW); other records included Storrie L., *San Miguel* Nov. 18 (PI *et al.*), Zuni Aug. 15-30 (TR) and Oct. 7-8 (JT), Bosque Oct. 26 (PS, RT), Evans L., *Grant* Oct. 28 and Nov. 4 (RF), Las Cruces Aug. 5 (RH), and Hollomon L., Aug. 18 (WB *et al.*) and Oct. 21 (RH); except for the last record—which was of a "light-phase" bird—all reports with details referred to "dark-phase" birds. American White Pelicans outside the usual range were 20 at Clayton Oct. 29 (WC, N. Gray) and 170 at Sumner L., Oct. 17 (H. Oltmanns). At Bitter L., birds were present through the end of the period (KW), which is somewhat late. Small numbers of Double-crested Cormorants were at Clayton L., Sept. 29 (WC, MM), in the Gila Basin Aug. 25 and Oct. 28 (RF), and at Hollomon L., Oct. 6 (RH).

HERONS THROUGH SPOONBILL — An Am. Bittern was at Hollomon L., Sept. 29-Oct. 21, and one to two Little Blue Herons were there Aug. 23-Oct. 6 (RH, KZ). Three Snowy Egrets were still at Bitter L., Nov. 30 (KW). Cattle Egrets staged a moderate invasion of the lower and middle Rio Grande Valley in late September, with the last bird reported in the Bosque area Nov. 12 (PS, RT). Elsewhere, 16 were near Clayton Oct. 9 (WC *et al.*), while singles were at Tucuman L., Sept. 1 (JH), Hollomon L., Oct. 6 (RH), and L. McMillan Sept. 29 (JH). Single Green-backed Herons were at Clayton Oct. 9 (WC, AK) and Bell L., *Lea* Sept. 29 (BE), plus two or more at Hollomon L., Oct. 6 & 21 (RH). Rare in the state, an imm. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was at Hollomon L., Aug. 18 (KZ *et al.*). White-faced Ibis lingered at Bitter L. through Nov. 10-16 (KW). The state's 3rd report and 2nd verified record of **Roseate Spoonbill** was established by a dying immature found at Portales Aug. 20 (*vide* A. L. Gennaro).

WATERFOWL — The 2nd verification of **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** for the state was obtained when two were photographed near La Union, *Dona Ana* Sept. 1; another was at nearby Randals Pool Sept. 25 (BZ). Snow Geese in areas where the species is rarely reported were at Raton Oct. 28 (RY), and singles near Wagon Mound Nov. 3 (JH) and Zuni Oct. 7 (JT). Early were five at Bosque Sept. 25 (PS, RT), as were four Canada Geese at Zuni Oct. 7 (JT) and one at Weatherly L., *Union* Aug. 11 (JH); 12 Green-winged Teal at Mangas Springs, *Grant* Aug. 22 (RF); and two Redheads at Chicosa L., *Harding* Aug. 4 (JH). The highest count of Redheads was about 2200 at Zuni Oct. 6-8 (JT). Rare ducks included a **Surf Scoter** at Bitter L., Oct. 28 (KW) and a **White-winged Scoter** at Espanola Nov. 4 (PI *et al.*).

RAPTORS — Raptors were again counted atop the Manzano Mts., with 822 birds of 14 species seen on 18 days in the period Sept. 3-Oct. 14 (SH *et al.*). Compared to a similar period in 1983, this year's count yielded about 45 birds per day—versus about 72 last year. Highlights for 1984 included five Ospreys and three N. Goshawks; Ospreys also made a good showing elsewhere in the state, with a minimum of 19 reported (v.o.). A Mississippi Kite at Albuquerque Aug. 26 (WH) and three s. of Las Cruces Sept. 1 (KZ *et al.*) were the only ones reported w. of the Pecos Valley. Sustained rainy weather probably accounted for several notable aggregations of Swainson's Hawks in the s.e. lowlands, *ie*, 71+ near McDonald, 77+ near Malaga, and 81+ near Black River Village Sept. 28-29 (BE, JH). Some 75-100 birds were also reported at about 10,500 ft, about 30 mi w. of Espanola Oct. 13-14 (W. Guess-

well). A new locality for Zone-tailed Hawk was near Terrero, *San Miguel*, where a single adult was seen Sept. 7 (BE). Two early Rough-legged Hawks were reported in tundra areas of the Pecos Wilderness Sept. 9 (BE). A Crested Caracara was said to have been photographed near Rodeo Nov. 14 (LS, S. Strong).

GALLIFORMES THROUGH TERNS — A flock of seven Wild Turkeys was seen along the Dry Cimarron Valley, *Union* Aug. 11 (JH). Seventeen Sandhill Cranes passed over the Manzano Mts., Oct. 14 (SH), outside the usual migration route. Sandhills were observed Oct. 5-Nov. 5 at Clayton (WC *et al.*), and at Raton Oct. 16 (RY); the first at Redrock were four Oct. 7 (AF). Up to 38 Whooping Cranes were expected in the period in New Mexico, and 29 had arrived in the state as of the end of November (*vide* SH). A downy young Snowy Plover at Hollomon L., Aug. 18 (KZ *et al.*) was rather late. Mountain Plovers continued to show an affinity for turf farms, with 250 on one near Moriarty Oct. 7 and 115 at another near Los Lunas Aug. 17 (WH *et al.*). The species may actually breed on the latter site and may have done so since 1981 (*vide* WH).

Three downy Am. Avocets at Hollomon L., Aug. 16 (BZ, KZ) were late. The only Upland Sandpipers reported during the period were 12 s. of Las Cruces Aug. 21 (SW, BZ). Sanderlings and Pectoral and Stilt sandpipers made a better than average showing, with a combined 50+ between late August and early October (v.o.). Semipalmated Sandpipers were reliably reported only at Hollomon L., with up to three Aug. 23-Oct. 5 (KZ *et al.*); also reported there was a Short-billed Dowitcher Aug. 16-18 (KZ *et al.*). The site also yielded the only reports of Red-necked Phalaropes, with up to 80 Aug. 26-Oct. 21 (RH *et al.*).

An ad. **Long-tailed Jaeger** was photographed at Tekapo L., Zuni, Aug. 25-30 (TR *et al.*), for only the 2nd record from the state—the first being a 1956 specimen from *Socorro*. An ad. **Laughing Gull** was at Hollomon L., Aug. 5-Sept. 7 (RH *et al.*); the specimen (KZ) is only the 2nd from the state. Other notable gulls were an imm. California at Caballo L., Nov. 17 (RH) and an imm. Thayer's there Oct. 31-Nov. 17 (JH *et al.*). Sabine's Gull made a notable showing, with one to two immatures at Hollomon L., Sept. 29 and Oct. 5 (RH, KZ), an immature at L. McMillan Oct. 20 (JH), and a bird [age?] at Bitter L., Sept. 27 through Oct. 5-12 (KW). A "white" tern at Bitter L., Oct. 27-Nov. 2 (KW) was late.

PIGEONS THROUGH ROADRUNNER — Band-tailed Pigeons in areas where infrequently reported included 10 in the Manzano Mts., Sept. 9 (PI *et al.*) and one in Clanton Canyon, Peloncillo Mts., Sept. 18 (JH). Five White-winged Doves at Hollomon L., Aug. 18 (WB *et al.*) represented a high count for the area. Stragglers were single Inca Doves at Mangas Springs Nov. 12 (RF), Redrock Oct. 9 (AF), and Hollomon L., Aug. 18 (WB *et al.*). A most unexpected find was a ♂ **Ruddy Ground-Dove** in s. *Dona Ana* at Owens Farm Oct. 29-31 (BZ *et al.*). The bird, which seemed wild and was in undamaged plumage, was photographed and constituted the 450th species to be confirmed on the New Mexico list. One to two Com. Ground-Doves were also present at the site Oct. 25-Nov. 11 (BZ *et al.*), which is in an area where the species is now rare. Single **Black-billed Cuckoos** were recorded at Owens Farm Sept. 8 and Durlings Farm (different bird?) Oct. 1-10 (SW, BZ), and at Rattlesnake Springs Sept. 29 (BE, JH). A Greater Roadrunner n. of Quemado Nov. 17 (WH) was in an area where very rarely reported.

OWLS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — Fresh feathers of a **Whiskered Screech-Owl** were found Sept. 17 in Skeleton Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. (JH), for only the 2nd confirmed record of the species for the state. A Whip-poor-will was at Durlings Farm Oct. 13 (SW, BZ). Late White-throated Swifts included two at Cochiti L., Oct. 28 (PI) and 12 in the lower Gila Box, *Grant* Nov. 3 (RF). A female or imm. Lucifer Hummingbird was reported Aug. 15 near Gray Peak (LS), only the 3rd locality—all in the Peloncillo Mts.—from which the species has been recorded in the state. A notable vagrant was a ♂ Costa's Hummingbird at Owens Farm Nov. 11 (BZ). A few Calliope Hummingbirds were present in the same area Aug. 14-19 and Sept. 26 (BZ *et al.*).

A Downy Woodpecker was at Bitter L., Oct. 5-12 (KW), while a probable Hairy was at Hollomon L., Oct. 21 (RH). On Nov. 3-4, two Hairies were in Mills Canyon, *Harding/Mora* (JH), a treed area sur-

rounded by prairie. On Sept. 2, a Least Flycatcher sang at Boones Draw, *Roosevelt* (JH), a known area of occurrence. Unconfirmed reports of birds thought to be of this species included singles at Percha Dam, *Sierra* Sept. 23 (RH) and Durlings Farm Sept. 19 (KZ). A Great Crested Flycatcher was observed Sept. 2 at Boones Draw (JH); more unusual was one at Durlings Farm Sept. 18-19 (JD *et al.*). Hundreds of kingbirds (mainly Westerns, but with scattered Cassin's e. to Yates) were staging Aug. 4 in the n.e. plains region, from Las Vegas to the Oklahoma state line. High counts included nine-plus E. Kingbirds at Maxwell N.W.R., Aug. 11, as well as 17+ Scissor-tailed Flycatchers Sept. 27 near Porter, *Quay* (BE, JH). Other northerly Scissor-taileds were singles at Dora Sept. 28, near Caprock Sept. 30 (BE, JH), and Bitter L., Sept. 29 (KW).

SWALLOWS THROUGH THRUSHES — A Purple Martin was at Hollomon L., Aug. 18 (WB *et al.*), while easterly Tree Swallows included several at Clayton Aug. 17 (WC) and one near Tatum Sept. 28 (JH). Late was a Tree Swallow at Percha Dam Nov. 11 (RH), as were 20 Violet-greens in the lower Gila Box Nov. 3 (RF), a N. Rough-winged at Randals Pool Nov. 25 (J. Donaldson), and a Barn at Owens Farm Nov. 2 (BZ). A Blue Jay was in Raton Oct. 7-14 and Nov. 17 (RY). Steller's Jays were also present there in the period, and up to eight were at Alameda Oct. 29 (JP). Small numbers of Scrub Jays were in Socorro in September (PB), the lower Mimbres Valley Sept. 20 (JH), and near Mesilla Oct. 22 (KZ *et al.*). Pinyon Jay numbers were up in parts of the s.w., including at Socorro (PB) and in the Silver City area (v.o.). A Clark's Nutcracker was seen near the Gila Cliff Dwellings Sept. 6 (C. Long), and several appeared in Raton as well (RY). Others were reported in the Manzano Mts., Sept. 9 (PI *et al.*) and the Magdalena Mts., Aug. 28 (J. Shipman), both being areas in which the species may be a migrant rather than a resident. American Crows may be increasing in the Gila Valley area, as further suggested by the appearance of up to 30 at Mangas Springs Nov. 17-18 (RF). Ten-plus crows were near Folsom Falls and three at Weatherly L., Aug. 11 (JH). Chihuahuan Ravens were again at Silver City, with at least two there Aug. 21 (JH).

The only southern lowland reports of Mountain Chickadees were of one on lower Las Animas Cr., *Sierra* Sept. 23 and up to five at Percha Dam Oct. 14 and Nov. 10 (KZ *et al.*). Lowland riparian Bridled Titmice were two birds in the Mimbres Valley Aug. 20 (JH) and ten along Las Animas Cr., Sept. 23 and Oct. 14 (KZ *et al.*). Red-breasted Nuthatches staged a notable influx into lower elevations, including into the e. plains (Clayton, Boones Draw, and Bell L., *Lea*), s. lowlands (Las Animas Cr. to Durlings Farm, Hollomon L.), and places between (v.o.). On Nov. 6 or 7, an Am. Dipper was in Embudito Canyon in the Sandia Mts. (B. Halstead), where the species is a rare migrant. Mountain Bluebirds staged local incursions into nonbreeding areas, including up to 100 s. of Animas Nov. 25 (RH, KZ); also noted were several at Clayton Oct. 12 (WC, AK), four near Moriarty Oct. 14 (BE, WH), 20 e. of Caballo Peak



Wood Thrush at Durlings Farm, Dona Ana Co., N. Mex., Nov. 7, 1984. Photo/Barry Zimmer.

Nov. 23 (RH), and one in the lower Gila Box Nov. 3 (RF). A **Wood Thrush** at Durlings Farm Nov. 5-7 (SW *et al.*) was photographed (BZ) for only the 2nd verified record for the state.

MIMIDS THROUGH WARBLERS — Migrant Gray Catbirds in areas where seldom recorded were singles at Clayton Sept. 27 (AK), n. of Moriarty Sept. 13 (PI, W. Stone), and at Corona Oct. 9 (PS, RT). A Curve-billed Thrasher near Endee, *Quay* Sept. 1 (JH) appears to have been a local first; other records included singles at Santa Fe Oct. 3-Nov. 22 (S. Boles) and Bitter L., Oct. 13-19 (KW). Westerly Sprague's Pipits were two w. of Santa Rosa Oct. 7 (J. Hill, WH) and at least six near Cloverdale Nov. 25 (RH, KZ). Apparent e. Solitary Vireos (*V. s. solitarius*) were singles at Boones Draw Sept. 28 (JH) and Bell L., plus possible ones near Black River Village and Rattlesnake Springs Sept. 29 (BE). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was at Rattlesnake Springs Sept. 29 (BE), while the only Red-eyed reported was one at Durlings Farm Sept. 22 (RH).

An apparent "Brewster's" Warbler was reported at Durlings Farm Sept. 27 (BZ); this Blue-winged x Golden-winged hybrid is unverified in the state. Other exceptional rarities reported were **Blackburnian Warbler** and **Mourning Warbler**, the former a female at Percha Dam Oct. 14 (KZ), the latter killed against a window in Tesuque Sept. 14 (W. Huey). Reports of uncommon warblers included a purported Tennessee at Socorro on the late date of Nov. 12 (RT); a Black-throated Blue at Percha Dam Oct. 20 (KZ *et al.*); a Prothonotary at Percha Dam Sept. 8-9 (KZ *et al.*) and one to two in s. *Dona Ana* Oct. 8-9 (SW, BZ); and single Ovenbirds at Albuquerque Oct. 12 (WH), near Mesa, *Chaves* Oct. 10 (J. Bednarz), and Durlings Farm Oct. 10-12 (SW, BZ). Also notable were a Hermit Warbler at Durlings Farm Oct. 22 (SW, BZ), a reported Olive Warbler at Silver City Aug. 24 (H. Williams), and a Red-faced Warbler Aug. 15 near Gray Peak in the Peloncillo Mts. (LS). Nashville, Myrtle (Yellow-rumped), and Black-and-white warblers, Am. Redstarts, and N. Waterthrushes made reasonably good showings in the state, in terms of overall distribution. Two Audubon's (Yellow-rumped) Warblers at Santa Fe Aug. 23 (JH) were early, while a Virginia's near Mesilla Oct. 27 (KZ) was late.

TANAGERS THROUGH EMBERIZINE FINCHES — Unusual lowland occurrences were a Hepatic Tanager at Durlings Farm Sept. 12 (BZ) and a very late one reported at Alameda Oct. 29 and Nov. 2 (JP). The only Rose-breasted Grosbeaks reported were singles at Albuquerque Sept. 30 (*fide* RT) and at Percha Dam Oct. 14 (C. Jensen, KZ) & 20 (KZ *et al.*). Very late was a Lazuli Bunting at Percha Dam Nov. 11 (RH). The only definite Dickcissel reports were of one to two birds at Durlings Farm Sept. 26-28 (BZ). A very early migrant was an imm. Spotted (Rufous-sided) Towhee Aug. 4 in a prairie grove near Yates (JH). The species was "abnormally abundant" in s. *Dona Ana* in the period, beginning in late September (BZ). Another occurrence of Abert's Towhee at San Simon Cienega, *Hidalgo* was of a bird Sept. 17 (JH). Easterly Rufous-crowned Sparrows included singles near Folsom Falls Aug. 11, Mills Canyon Nov. 4, and Ute Cr., *Harding* Aug. 4 (JH). Very early were two or more Am. Tree Sparrows in the Pecos Wilderness Sept. 9 (BE); could this species arrive in such tundra areas that early on a regular basis?

Late was a Chipping Sparrow at Albuquerque Nov. 29 (WH), while Clay-colored Sparrows were detected there Aug. 25-Sept. 7 (*fide* RT);

the latter species was uncommon in *Dona Ana* in the period, with up to four at Owens Farm on the very late date of Nov. 20 (BZ *et al.*) Hundreds of Lark Buntings were in evidence between Wagon Mound and the Oklahoma state line Aug. 4 (JH), and a vanguard of 15 had reached the Alamogordo area by Aug. 5 (RH). A singing, richly-colored Grasshopper Sparrow (possibly *A. s. amolegus*, unconfirmed in New Mexico) near Cloverdale Aug. 19 was unusual for both date and location. Single reddish Fox Sparrows (presumably *P. i. zaboria*) were seen in Water Canyon, Magdalena Mts., Oct. 9 (PB) and at Percha Dam Oct. 20 (KZ *et al.*). Northerly McCown's Longspurs were three to four w. of Santa Rosa Oct. 7 and up to 15 near Moriarty Oct. 7 (WH) & 14 (BE, WH).

ICTERIDS THROUGH CARDUELINE FINCHES — Up to eight E. Meadowlarks were in the Zuni area as late as Oct. 6-7 (JT). Juvenile Great-tailed Grackles were at Roberts L., *Grant* Aug. 25, where the species now breeds; also noteworthy were four birds at Silver City Aug. 9 (RF). Late were 20-25 Com. Grackles near San Antonio Oct. 26 (RT) and six near Las Vegas Nov. 18 (PI *et al.*). A Bronzed Cowbird was at Las Cruces Sept. 18 (KZ). An apparent female or imm. Baltimore (N) Oriole was photographed Sept. 21 at Owens Farm (BZ), where a late Scott's Oriole was also present Nov. 7-8 (KZ *et al.*). A Pine Grosbeak at Farmington Nov. 1-8 (H. Lesperance) was a first for that lowland site, this species and Rosy Finches were on Sandia Crest Nov. 11 (G. Parker). Easterly were five-plus Cassin's Finches in Mills Canyon Nov. 4 (JH), while one at Owens Farm Nov. 2 (BZ, KZ) was low. Red Crossbills dispersed into places were not normally present, including Raton Nov. 11 (RY), six at Clayton L., Nov. 5 (WC, AK), 15+ in Mills Canyon Nov. 4 (JH), two in Albuquerque Sept. 2 (*fide* RT) and several there late October through November (WH), and one at Aguirre Springs, Organ Mts., Nov. 3 (KZ); also two-plus were present in Santa Fe Sept. 25-Oct. 9 (JH). Up to 12 White-winged Crossbills were seen Sept. 30 on Wheeler Peak (S. Zack *et al.*), for only the 2nd record in the area.

Early was a Pine Siskin near Folsom Falls Aug. 11 (JH); the species was rather widespread in the e. lowlands beginning in late September, including e. to Clayton and the Pecos Valley (v.o.). Two ♂ **Lawrence's Goldfinches** were along lower Las Animas Cr., Sept. 23 (KZ). Evening Grosbeaks staged a notable influx into parts of the state, including one e. to Clayton Nov. 5 (AK), 12 in Mills Canyon Nov. 4 (JH), several s. to Bitter L., Sept. 27-Oct. 2 and Nov. 19-21 (KW), flocks in Albuquerque late October through November (WH), and 13 in the Silver City area Nov. 10-11 (RF); also 13 were at Espanola Nov. 4 (PI *et al.*), and the species was present in Santa Fe from Sept. 3 through the end of the period—with numbers building into the scores (JH *et al.*).

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ALASKA REGION

/D. D. Gibson

In Alaska south of the Alaska Range autumn 1984 was mild, with average or above-average temperatures and very little snow—from the Aleutian Islands to Anchorage to Southeastern Alaska. North of the Alaska Range, on the other hand, the fall was cool, including the coolest November since 1977. Migration began and proceeded in an orderly fashion, but it was protracted at the end, in southern Alaska, for many species that either produced late departure records or, in some cases, remained to overwinter. There were two (Nearctic) additions to the state list during the period (see sparrows).

ABBREVIATIONS — SC = Southcoastal Alaska; SE = Southeastern Alaska; SW = Southwestern Alaska; W = Western Alaska.

ALBATROSSES TO HERONS — An annual visitant in small numbers to Alaska waters, the endangered Short-tailed Albatross was recorded twice this season: an adult observed n.w. of Kiska I., w. Aleutians, at 52°10'N 177°12'E, Aug. 2 (†FBL, †PMT); and an immature observed at the continental shelf break in the c. Bering Sea, at 58°49'N 177°44'W, Nov. 13 (†DB). A Pink-footed Shearwater off Gull Pt., Aug. 26 (JBA) provided the observer's 2nd record in 2 years off e. Kodiak I. Closely paralleling the timing of Alaska's first record in late 1981, **Cattle Egrets** returned N in late 1984. One was seen in the Clover Pass-Knudson Cove area n. of Ketchikan Nov. 7-10 (REW, CS), one was seen in Sitka Nov. 8-10 (CHJ); one was seen in Peril Strait, n. e. of Sitka, Nov. 11 (LLJ); and, its assisted passage notwithstanding, one bird broke new ground for the species when it was caught alive aboard a barge that had just docked at *Whittier*, Prince William Sound, Nov. 10, after a nonstop voyage from Seattle (JF). This last bird was subsequently air-shipped to San Francisco and released in late November (JLT)



WATERFOWL — October migration peaks for geese at Cold Bay, Alaska Pen., included 4300 Emperor Geese, 124,000 Brant, and 41,000 Canada Geese; at the beginning of December, 6000 Brant had remained to winter (CPD). Forty-seven "Aleutian" Canada Geese at Adak I., c. Aleutians, Oct. 27 (FD, *fide* CFZ) and five there Nov. 6 (PK, *fide* CFZ) were surpassed only by the Nov. 9 (1970) departure record there (CFZ). A single Canada Goose at Dutch Harbor, e. Aleutians, Oct. 7 (JL, *fide* CFZ) might have been of this form. A ♂-plumaged Garganey at Shemya I., w. Aleutians, Sept. 20-22 (DWS) was the only one reported this fall. A flock of 21 Tufted Ducks at L. Andrew, Adak, Oct. 30 (CA, *fide* CFZ) constituted a record-high count for the c. Aleutian Islands. Accompanying other waterfowl at Clevenger L., Amchitka I., Nov. 7 & 14 (RPS, CFZ), an ad. ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye provided the 2nd record at that location—the westernmost Alaska records. One ♂-plumaged Smew at Upper L., Shemya, Sept. 19-20 (DWS) provided the *earliest* fall record in the state and the only report this season. An ad. ♂ Hooded Merganser at Kasilof Oct. 12-18 (G & RP, MAM) furnished the only report w. of the breeding range this fall.

FALCONS, RAILS, SHOREBIRDS — A **Northern Hobby** observed at St. George village Aug. 15 (DMT, JMW, MB *et al.*, ph.) provided a first Pribilof Islands record and the only report in Alaska in 1984. Soras are rare and local in Alaska; more than one record in an autumn is unusual. In 1984, one was shot by a hunter on the *Copper R. Delta* in mid-September (SR, *fide* PI); three single birds were seen at Sergief I., Stikine R. mouth, SE, Sept. 20, 25, & 27 (DDG, PI); and one was shot by a hunter in Nakwasina Sound, n. of Sitka, Nov. 6 (DLM). Single Am. Coots shot by a hunter on the Knik R., Anchorage, Sept. 23 (*fide* TGT) and observed at Sergief I., Sept. 25 (PI, DDG) were on time; one present at L. Hood, Anchorage, Oct. 24-Nov. 1 (GJT *et al.*) established the latest record in that area, and one seen at Pilot Pt., Alaska Pen., Oct. 16 (KB) provided only the 2nd SW record of the species.

Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were first seen at Kodiak Aug. 31 (RAM), and the maximum reported this season was 20/day at Shemya I., Sept. 19-26 (DWS). But up to 11/day (on 26th) in sedge marshes at *Sergief I.*, Sept. 14-26 (DDG *et al.*) were most interesting, since there have been few prior SE records and since it had been assumed that most Sharp-taileds in this part of Alaska were either to be found along the outer coast or were offshore, on an over-water passage. A single Sharp-tailed at *St. Marys* Oct. 6 (BJM) furnished an interesting record on the *inland* side of the Yukon-Kuskokwim R. Delta. Stilt Sandpipers were distinctly newsworthy in SC and SE, in both of which regions they are poorly-known

migrants. Up to 11 (on 24th) were seen at Juneau Aug. 9-28 (PI, MWS), two were seen at Kalsin Bay, Kodiak I., Aug. 22 & 28-29 (RAM, JBA), and up to two/day were seen at intervals at Wrangell and on the lower Stikine R., Aug. 31-Sept. 15 (TGT, PI). A Wilson's Phalarope observed at Juneau Aug. 26-28 (PI, MWS) provided Alaska's first *autumn* record of this bird, which breeds in small numbers due n. of Juneau, in Yukon Territory (AB 33:880).

OWLS — from the 3rd week of October through the close of the reporting period there was an "invasion" of Snowy Owls on the Alaska Pacific coast from Kodiak and Anchorage to Dixon Entrance. Earliest birds were singles reported in Anchorage Oct. 22 (TGT, RLS) and at Heceta I., SE, Oct. 24 (LB, *fide* TEK). Individuals were subsequently reported at Kodiak (RB, others, *fide* RAM); Juneau, Sitka, and Ketchikan (*fide* PI); Petersburg (JE); and Prince of Wales I. (*fide* TEK). All sightings were of one or two birds; an estimated nine different birds reported on Prince of Wales I. in November was maximum (*fide* TEK). Elsewhere, in the Aleutians, one or two Snowy Owls were seen in August at Adak (GP, RC), where unusual at that season, and perhaps seven were present at Amchitka in early November (RPS, CFZ). It is not a certainty that these Aleutian birds and the Pacific coast "invasion" farther e. were related.

NIGHTHAWKS TO WOODPECKERS — Common Nighthawks were on schedule and well-reported in SE this season: one at Eagle Beach, Juneau, Aug. 31 (FAG); *three* together at Barnes L., Stikine R., Sept. 2 (TGT, PI, RLS); one at Sergief I., Sept. 12 (TGT); one at Mitkof I., Sept. 22 (PW); and one at Sergief I., Sept. 23 (RSH). Annual in fall in SE, Anna's Hummingbirds were first seen at Auke Bay, Juneau, feeders in late September (two males, one female); only one male stayed after the first week of November, and it remained into December (*fide* RHA). Two ad. males arrived at Wrangell feeders Oct. 15, but they disappeared about the 25th (VKG). An ad. ♂ Anna's at garden flowers in *Dillingham* daily from late July to Oct. 6 (†JMW *et al.*) provided a new westernmost record for the species, the first in SW. A N. Flicker ("red-shafted") observed about utility poles and wooden rooftops at treeless *Amchitka I.*, Nov. 7 (CFZ, RPS) established the first record of a woodpecker in the Aleutian Is.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS — Late departure records were set this autumn on the lower Stikine River for all 3 regularly-occurring Alaska *Empidonax*, for any of which there have been few prior post-August records: an Alder Flycatcher at Limb I., Sept. 19 (PI); two Hammond's Flycatchers at Sergief I., Sept. 21 (*DDG, RSH, PI), and a W. Flycatcher netted and banded at Sergief I., Sept. 18 (DDG *et al.*). Single **Dusky Flycatchers** at Sergief I., Sept. 15 & 21 (*DDG, RSH, PI, TGT) provided the first SE records of this difficult-to-identify species—which might be a regular migrant on the lower Stikine, since it occurs in summer in adjacent n. and w. British Columbia (Godfrey, 1966, *The birds of Canada*). The rare E. Kingbird was recorded on 4 occasions in SE this fall: singles at the Stikine R. mouth Sept. 3, 6, & 14 (DDG *et al.*); and at Craig, Prince of Wales I., Oct. 1 (TEK).

NUTCRACKER TO ACCENTOR — Casual anywhere in this Region, Clark's Nutcracker was recorded at 2 widely-separated localities: at least one Aug. 1-2 near timberline at Reflection L., on the SE mainland n. of Ketchikan (†REW), and two at timberline above Mile 85 Glenn Hwy., Sept. 6 (TS). Also a casual visitant in fall and winter, a Mountain Chickadee appeared at a Juneau feeder Nov. 6 (AFG) and remained in the neighborhood through the close of the period (FAG *et al.*). Red-breasted Nuthatches seemed to be numerous only in SC this season, with the species described as numerous at Kodiak (RAM, JBA) and more numerous than usual in the Anchorage area, where present at feeders through Nov. 30 (TGT). In SE, none was seen at Prince of Wales I. (TEK), and the species was distinctly uncommon on the lower Stikine R. during a September-long migration survey there (DDG *et al.*). Two nuthatches were seen in the *Fairbanks* area Oct. 11 (AMS), and one arrived at a feeder there about the same time and remained into December (GEM). A **Siberian Accentor** was well-described from West Glacier Trail, Juneau, Nov. 10 (†GvV)—providing a first for SE and the 7th Alaska record since 1978.

VIREOS THROUGH SPARROWS — Latest 1984 records of several SE "specialties" for which there are few departure data included Warbling Vireo Sept. 15, Red-eyed Vireo Sept. 2, Tennessee Warbler Sept. 15, Magnolia Warbler Sept. 12, MacGillivray's Warbler Sept. 15, Com. Yellowthroat Sept. 27, and W. Tanager Sept. 16, all on the lower Stikine River (DDG *et al.*), and an Am. Redstart at Peterson Cr., Juneau, Sept. 17 (TGT). A MacGillivray's Warbler at Mile 16 Copper R. Hwy., Aug. 22 (PI) provided one of very few records w. of SE. A **Palm Warbler** was observed briefly but well at the Naiman Pen., Kodiak I., Oct. 11 (†RAM) for Alaska's 2nd single-observer sighting of the species.

A ♂ **Rufous-sided Towhee** ("Spotted") that frequented an Auke Bay, Juneau, feeder from Oct. 6 on (HHH, MWS, RHA, PI, ph.) provided Alaska's first substantiated record of the species. An imm. ♂ **Clay-colored Sparrow** observed at Sergief I., Sept. 21 (*DDG) furnished Alaska's first record of that species, which breeds as close as e. British Columbia. Two Savannah Sparrows Sept. 25, a Fox Sparrow (not *P. i. zaboria*) Sept. 26, up to four imm. Golden-crowned Sparrows Sept. 23-26, and an imm. White-crowned Sparrow Sept. 22 provided a most unusual aggregation at *Shemya I.* (†DWS); both Fox and White-crowned were new to the w. Aleutians, and the others were known there from very few records. An imm. Harris' Sparrow at a *Hope* feeder from Nov. 6 on (WT, TGT *et al.*) provided the 4th Kenai Pen. record; none was recorded in SE this period.

FINCHES — Fall and early winter 1984 was a good finch season in this Region. In C and in forested W Alaska, Pine Grosbeaks, White-winged Crossbills, and redpolls were widespread and locally numerous, from the Fairbanks area (m.ob.) to St. Marys (BJM) and Palmer (MTB). In SC, Pine Grosbeaks, White-winged Crossbills, redpolls, and Pine Siskins were present all autumn at Kodiak, where Red Crossbill, which in Alaska is confined to the Pacific coast, was not at all common (RAM). Pine Grosbeaks, White-winged Crossbills, and redpolls were also present in good numbers on the Kenai Peninsula, at Kasilof (MAM)

and Seward (REM), but siskins, which had been more numerous than usual at Seward, disappeared from both areas in October (MAM, REM). In SE, Pine Grosbeaks, crossbills (both), and redpolls were here and there, not at all common, on the mainland (RBW, RJG, MWS, GvV); siskins were, on the other hand, very common and conspicuous all season in the Alexander Archipelago, at Prince of Wales I., where few (Red) crossbills were seen, and no redpolls (TEK). Several large (500±) flocks of redpolls were reported at Ketchikan Nov. 29 (PI), however. Beyond the forests, finches (in most areas = only redpolls) were scarce. Two redpolls at Amchitka Nov. 7 (CFZ) furnished the only report from the Aleutians; redpolls were few this season at Cold Bay, at the tip of the Alaska Peninsula (CPD); and a redpoll heard overhead at Deering, on the Kotzebue Sound coast of the Seward Peninsula, Sept. 16 (JW) was the observer's only record there. Accompanying a few Pine Grosbeaks, a ♀ **Evening Grosbeak** briefly visited a *Fairbanks*-area feeder Oct. 25 & 28 (CSI, ph.). There was no prior C Alaska record, and there have been apparently only 2 records in Yukon Territory (AB 34:797), the presumed direction whence this bird came.

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NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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

August was warm and dry in the populated core of the Region with virtually no rain at Portland and Seattle. October was cool and November very wet. Unusual migratory phenomena clearly related to the weather included the arrival of Bar-tailed Godwits and a Far Eastern Curlew on the heels of a polar air mass. A strong storm front in mid-October drove migrating Northern Fulmars and storm-petrels to within sight of coastal vantage points. Finally, many species behaved as if a hard winter were in the offing, as indeed proved true. Note the Snowy Owl and Gyrfalcon numbers, the rapid departure of swallows, and the early presence or unusual abundance of many boreal and montane species.

ABBREVIATIONS: S.J.C.R. = South Jetty of the Columbia River; V.I. = Vancouver Island. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — Nine Yellow-billed Loons were reported, about twice the normal number. The first for the season was one Sept. 26 at Vancouver, B.C. (MP). One Nov. 26 on the Columbia R., 18 mi e. of Astoria, Oreg., provided the only report s. of Puget Sound.

This fall's pelagic data were based on 11 one-day trips to the vicinity of the continental shelf. Ten of these were between Aug. 15 and Sept. 23. Oregon trips left from Coos Bay (AM), Tillamook (2, DI, JGa), and Astoria (DA). Washington trips left from Westport (5, TW) and Ocean Shores (ESH). One British Columbia trip left Ucluelet, V.I., for La Perouse Banks (MS).



Black-footed Albatross numbers off Westport during August were 60% of 1983 totals, while numbers in September dropped to 20% of last year's. A Laysan Albatross 25 mi s.w. of Ucluelet Sept. 11 (†D. Hanson) furnished the sole report. Northern Fulmars off Westport averaged 4.6/trip, less than 5% of last year's high counts. Fifty on La Perouse Bank Sept. 2 fit the 1983 pattern of N. Fulmar concentration there. The extraordinary occurrence of hundreds of N. Fulmars migrating S at Cape Meares, Lincoln, Ore., Oct. 13 (DF *et al.*) coincided with the passage of a strong cold front. Pink-footed Shearwater counts peaked at 73 off Westport Aug. 25 and at 120 off Ucluelet Sept. 2, continuing a downward trend evident last year. The rare Flesh-footed Shearwater was noted 4 times with maxima of two off Westport Aug. 15 and Sept. 23. Singles appeared Sept. 2 on La Perouse Bank and Sept. 22 about 60 mi w of Newport, Ore. (G. Lester, *vide* EE). Buller's Shearwaters were observed on 4 of 9 trips before mid-September, with a high count of four birds. Thereafter Wahl counted 62 off Westport Sept. 23 and J. Gachet had 16 off Tillamook Oct. 20 (*vide* HN). Single Short-tailed Shearwaters were noted on just 2 offshore trips this year.

The largest concentration of Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels this fall was the 120 reported Aug. 5 from Blackfish Sound and Johnstone Strait in the shelter of northern V.I. (MS). Offshore totals peaked in mid-August with 62 off Westport, but the species was very scarce or absent thereafter. "Hundreds" of Leach's Storm-Petrels Aug. 11 in Clayoquot Sound, halfway up V.I.'s w. coast (R. Weber), was a most unusual inshore phenomenon. Fifty-six seen off Westport Aug. 15 was a near record high pelagic trip total, but this was the only offshore trip to record the species. More than 20 counted Oct. 13 at Cape Meares (DI *et al.*) was coincident with the strong cold front and N. Fulmar passage noted above.

The Brown Pelican migration was less notable than those of the past 2 years. Four just e. of Neah Bay, Clallam, Wash., Sept. 23 were the farthest n. (BP). Sixty-three on Grays Harbor Sept. 28 (BM) and a high count of 250 at Tillamook Bay during September (HN) were about 25% of last year's El Niño-swollen numbers. Twenty-six Great Egrets on Yaquina Bay, Ore., was the high site count (BL, *vide* DF), and four birds were noted n. of the Columbia R. Snowy Egrets continued a slight advance, as the wintering group on Coos Bay in s. Oregon had grown to six or more (DI). The single adult at Ocean Shores, present since late July (m.ob.), was last seen Sept. 9. Cattle Egrets staged perhaps their best showing to date. About 100 were reported, beginning in a rush after Nov. 1. By the end of the month w. Oregon observers had reported 40+, those in w. Washington 38+, and in s.w. British Columbia and s. V.I., another 18+. As usual, they had largely vanished by mid-December.

SWANS THROUGH CRANES — Tundra Swans first appeared Oct. 20-21, and reached a maximum concentration of 1000 s. of Forest Grove, Ore., Nov. 18 (VT, *vide* HN). A blue phase Snow Goose reported Nov. 17 at Reifel I., near Vancouver, B.C. (MP *et al.*) was one of very few Regional reports. This phase apparently is unknown from the Wrangell I. populations that normally visit our Region. Other Canadian arctic strays were the four Ross' Geese identified at Iona I., B.C., Oct. 11, with singles nearby Oct. 19 & 29 (†BK, †GT). There had been only 3 previous Vancouver area records. Several reports of Barnacle Geese were received, but they are presumed escapees until proven otherwise. Two white-bellied Brant on Sauvie I., Oct. 28 (F. Belrose, D. Marshall, *vide* HN), with one staying through November, furnished the first reports we have received of this form since the brants were lumped. Likewise of interest were the four Aleutian Canada Geese at Vancouver, B.C., Oct. 18 (†BK). This form winters in n.w. California but may, like Brant, migrate directly from its breeding grounds, thus rarely dropping in to visit us.

An eclipse ♂ Eur. Wigeon was picked out of the returning wigeon flocks Sept. 17 at Yaquina Bay, Ore. (DI) and two others were found Sept. 18 at Victoria, V.I. (E. Coffin, *vide* VG). In addition, several hybrid wigeon were reported (†BK, HN, VG). Three Tufted Duck reports was a decided increase over the average of 0.7/fall recorded since 1977. Single imm. males appeared Oct. 21-Nov. 7 in Seattle (ESH, PWM *et al.*), and in C. Saanich, V.I., Nov. 17+ (†AM, H. Hosford, m.ob.), and a female was at Vancouver, B.C., Nov. 3-25 (BK, MP *et al.*). A ♂ King Eider Nov. 5-18 at Vancouver (†BK, †MP, †CA, †V. Thomas *et al.*) provided the 5th fall report for the Region in the past 8 years. Fix counted 100 Com. Goldeneyes on Diamond L.,

near the Cascade crest in c Oregon, Nov. 4. This could indicate a montane migratory path, as the species breeds no closer than n.e. Washington.

Victoria observers again took the pulse of the V.I. Turkey Vulture population as it passed in migration. About 947+ individuals were counted Aug. 23-Oct. 21. The peak passage came Sept. 29 with 202 birds sighted. An immature Nov. 19-21 at Tatoosh I., off Cape Flattery (BP) and one Nov. 24 on Puget I. (*vide* AR), both in Washington, were the last stragglers n. of the Columbia R. A pair of Black-shouldered Kites took up residence in coastal pastureland w. of Hoquiam in late August (DP *et al.*). At least 33 had been reported in Oregon by the end of the period, with the usual concentrations at Fern Ridge Res. near Eugene (DF *et al.*) and in the Ashland area (*vide* MM). Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks were widely reported in their usual frequencies. Reported numbers of each were roughly equal except in the Victoria area where Cooper's reports outnumbered those of Sharp-shinned 3:2. The 13 N. Goshawks noted were widely distributed. A single Red-shouldered Hawk strayed beyond its usual range in Oregon to Finley N.W.R., Sept. 22 (*vide* DF) and Monmouth Oct. 9 (R. Gerig, *vide* DF, HN). Single "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawks were reported in Washington at Nisqually N.W.R., Oct. 22 (†WW) and at Everett Sept. 26 (†JA), and at Sooke on s. V.I., Sept. 27 (M & VG).

Reports of falcons were up this fall with unprecedented counts received of more than 100 Merlins, 75 Peregrines, and perhaps 10 Gyrfalcons. All of the Gyrs were within the Victoria-Vancouver-Skagit-Dungeness trapezoid. A single Prairie Falcon migrating down the Cascade crest at Hart's Pass in n. Washington (T. & A. Spencer, S. Howard) was the only report n. of Oregon. One Sept. 14 at Tillamook Bay was rather far w. (M. Hunter, *vide* DF). Sandhill Cranes first appeared on Sauvie I., Sept. 1 (VT), peaked at 1000 Oct. 7-13 (DB, DI), then thinned to 450 by period's end (HN).

SHOREBIRDS — Lesser Golden-Plovers peaked at 95 Sept. 30 at Ocean Shores, Wash. (DP). Seven *fulva* types counted in a flock of 60+ there Sept. 22 (DK, BK, M. McGrenere) was a typical percentage. Eight Snowy Plovers remained at Tillamook Bay Oct. 7+ (HN) for the high count. A flock of six Am. Avocets Aug. 28-30 on Sauvie I. furnished the sole report (Tbi, DI). A few avocets stray w. of the Cascades each year, mostly in August. Single Lesser Yellowlegs lingered until Oct. 28 at C. Saanich, V.I. (TZ) and Nov. 14 at Reifel I., near Vancouver, B.C. (JI). Seven Solitary Sandpipers were reported Aug. 2-Sept. 23 from s. British Columbia south. Two Willets at Pt. Angeles, Wash., Aug. 29 (S. Smith) were the northernmost recorded. One remained there through November, probably the individual that wintered there the past 2 seasons. The last Wandering Tattlers noted were singles Sept. 26-29 at Delta, B.C., Seattle, and Yaquina Bay, Ore. (JI; TS; S. Jagger, *vide* HN).

The bird of the season was the imm. **Far Eastern Curlew** carefully observed and photographed Sept. 24 on Mud Bay, s. of Vancouver, B.C. (†JI, †DK, †BK, ph. E. Sian), for a first North American record outside Alaska. The bird showed a brown rump, unstreaked crown, white underwing linings barred brownish-black, and a heavily streaked breast. The photographs were compared with specimens at the Univ. of Washington (DP). It is noteworthy that the date of this sighting coincided closely with the appearance of all four **Bar-tailed Godwits** reported. One was on Leadbetter Pt., Wash., Sept. 22 (†SA, R. Widrig *et al.*), one was at Delta, B.C., Sept. 22-24 (†MF *et al.*), and two were at Victoria, V.I., Sept. 23-Oct. 14 (J & RS *et al.*, ph. TZ). The V.I. Bar-tailed provided the island's 2nd record; the Delta bird was the Vancouver area's 3rd; and the Leadbetter Pt. bird was Washington's 14th. These sightings were likely attributable to a "severe invasion of polar air [that] followed the passage of a deep low" across the U.S.-Canadian border region on the 21st-23rd (D. M. Ludlum, *Weatherwatch*, Sept. 1984). One to two imm. Hudsonian Godwits were also in the Boundary Bay area s. of Vancouver Aug. 23-Sept. 30, a more usual occurrence for local observers (†J. Williams *et al.*, ph. MF).

As usual, most Semipalmated Sandpiper reports came from Iona I., where twelve Aug. 23 was the season's high count (GT). Oregon observers reported at least five, with only one noted in Washington. The W. Sandpiper migration was diffuse with the largest concentration noted being a mere 3000 Aug. 10 at Tillamook Bay, Ore. (TC, *vide* HN). Eight hundred remained there Oct. 18 (HN). The numbers of Least Sandpipers reported on the Oregon coast nearly equalled those of West-



Bar-tailed Godwit near Victoria, B.C., Sept. 30, 1984. Note the pattern of the axillars, typical of the Siberian-Alaskan race *L. l. baueri*; *L. l. lapponica* of Europe would have much narrower brown barring there, as well as more extensive white on the rump. Photo/Tim Zurowski.

erns Aug. 10 when 2000 were estimated at Tillamook (TC, *fide* HN). Later, the 1500 Least at Tillamook Oct. 12 were double Western numbers (HN). Elsewhere in the Region, Western totals were 5-10 times those of Least. An imm. **Rufous-necked Stint** photographed Aug. 27-31 at S.J.C.R. (ph. †HN, S. Jones) appeared convincing based on reddish-edged coverts, short thin bill, and length of exposed wing-tip at rest (DP). Peak counts of Baird's and Pectoral sandpipers came from Vancouver's Iona I. sewage ponds. Twenty-two juv. Baird's were there Aug. 21 (MF, BK) and 400 Pectorals Oct. 2 (RP). In addition, at least 10 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were noted Sept. 6-Oct. 19 passing through the Vancouver area (*fide* DK), with another at C. Saanich, V.I., Sept. 27-Oct. 9 (BW *et al.*, *fide* VG), and five at 3 Washington locations Sept. 15-30, for an average showing. Iona I. also produced this fall's only Curlew Sandpiper, an immature Sept. 4 (†R. Cannings, †MF *et al.*), establishing the 7th record for British Columbia and the 4th fall in a row that this rarity has been noted in the Region. Seventy-five percent of the 25 Stilt Sandpipers reported were in s.w. British Columbia, with seven immatures Sept. 29 at Reifel I. the high count (BK, JH, WW). This fall was the worst in a decade for Buff-breasted Sandpipers and Ruffs. The only Buff-breasted was singles at the S.J.C.R., Sept. 13 (R. Smith, *fide* HN) and at Meares L., Tillamook Aug. 29-Sept. 2 (HN *et al.*), both in Oregon. This is compared to an average of 17.4/fall for 1977-1983. The lone Ruff was a female at Yaquina Bay, Oreg., Oct. 21-31 (HN, DI *et al.*), which may be compared to the 1977-1983 average of 9.6/fall. Red Phalaropes were scarce on offshore trips and no storm-related onshore movement was noted.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — Pomarine Jaeger counts averaged 11 on offshore trips from Grays Harbor and V.I., Aug. 15-Sept. 23, an average showing. Long-tailed Jaegers were below par, being noted on just 4 of 11 offshore trips. The high count was five+ off Tillamook Sept. 15 at a large commercial fishing operation (DI *et al.*). Inshore reports were of one Sept. 16 at Cattle Pt., San Juan I. (SA, FS), and two very late at Pt. Roberts, Wash., Oct. 17 (†BK). Nine S. Polar Skuas were recorded on 6 pelagic trips with high counts of three Aug. 18 off Westport (TW) and Sept. 15 off Tillamook (DI *et al.*).

A Franklin's Gull in *juv.* plumage—strikingly similar to an imm. Laughing Gull—was at Seattle, Aug. 3-6 (†ESH, DP, TS). Over one-half of the Region's 60+ Franklin's Gulls were reported from *Snohomish* and *King*, Wash. The 20+ at the Snohomish sewage ponds Sept. 16 was the high count (DP) and two Nov. 10 at Cannon Beach, Oreg. (OS, *fide* HN) were the latest. Four Little Gulls were reported: a first-winter bird at Victoria, V.I., Sept. 17 (†KT), a subadult at Iona I., Aug. 8 (†MF), and single adults in Friday Harbor, San Juan I. (†ML), and at the Everett sewage ponds Sept. 23-Oct. 10 (R. Thorne, †PWW *et al.*). An ad. **Common Black-headed Gull** returned to Victoria Aug. 17-Sept. 30 (†VG *et al.*), perhaps the same individual seen there in previous years. Ten thousand California Gulls were feeding offshore at La Perouse Bank off s. V.I., Sept. 2 (MS). On Oct. 13 they were noted streaming S off Cape Meares, Oreg., at 1000 birds/hr. (DF *et al.*),

giving us a glimpse of their peregrinations in our Region. Adult "**Kullien's**" **Iceland Gulls** were reported Nov. 9+ on Sea I., s. of Vancouver, B.C. (†BK, †MF *et al.*). Descriptions suggest that more than one individual was involved. Photos by MF are definitive. An imm. Glaucous Gull Nov. 25 at Salem (DF, T. Love) and another at Sauvie I., Nov. 22 (HN, DB), both in Oregon, were the only reports. As usual, Sabine's Gulls focused their efforts at La Perouse Bank off s. V.I. where 500 were gathered Sept. 2 (MS). High counts elsewhere offshore were <30. A flock of 15+ mixed with Bonaparte's off Pt. Roberts Sept. 20 was an unusual inshore event (†BK, JH).

Last year's historic **Elegant Tern** invasion was followed this fall by a single bird Oct. 15-18 at Coos Bay on the s. Oregon coast (M. Graybill, B. Griffin, *fide* AM). A Forster's Tern at Vancouver, B.C., Sept. 1 (†MP), another at Blaine, n. Wash., Oct. 8 (BK, J. Jellicoe), and a 3rd at Tillamook Bay, Oreg., Sept. 15 (J. & R. Krabbe, *fide* DF) were strays. A single vagrant Black Tern was spotted, Sept. 10 at Dungeness, Wash. (†ESH *et al.*). Single **Xantus' Murrelets** were noted in flight off Grays Harbor, Wash., again this fall Aug. 15 and Sept. 8-9 (TW, ESH, DP, AR). Ancient Murrelet concentrations were a small fraction of last year's, with a peak count of 233 off Victoria Nov. 13 (VG). Cassin's Auklets rebounded somewhat after last year's El Niño depression, averaging 45 on 8 pelagic trips offshore from n. Oregon to s. V.I., Aug. 15-Sept. 23. Last year's trips averaged 19 for that time period. Normal numbers approach 200/trip.

OWLS THROUGH CHICKADEES — Snowy Owls made their strongest move into the Region since 1974. A flurry of sightings came in late October, with the first Oct. 22 at Delta, B.C. (JI). By early November numbers had reached 10 on s. V.I. (*fide* VG), 36 near Ladner, B.C. (*fide* DK), and four at Ocean Shores, Wash. (B. & G. Ramsey), with one individual s. to Salem, Oreg., Nov. 9 (ph. H. Hoffer, m.ob., *fide* EE). An immature reached Medford in extreme s. Oregon Nov. 21 (ph. OSw, m.ob., *fide* MM). Perhaps in response to the same forces, a **Northern Hawk-Owl** turned up Nov. 25+ at Pitt Meadows, e. of Vancouver, where one wintered in 1980-81 (W. Robinson, JI). Nine Barred Owls were noted in the Victoria and Vancouver areas, B.C. (*fide* VG, DK). Short-eared Owls also appeared in good numbers after mid-October, with high counts of seven Nov. 23 on Boundary Bay, B.C. (JI), nine Nov. 18 at American Camp, San Juan I., Wash. (ML) and 11 Nov. 16 at Nisqually N.W.R., near Olympia, Wash. (C. Chappell).

Common Nighthawks were last reported Sept. 12-14 in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. Twenty-five Black Swifts over Victoria Oct. 7 (M & VG) and three over Vancouver, B.C., Oct. 13 (MP) were quite late. An imm. ♂ *Selasphorus* hummingbird Nov. 21 at Salem, Oreg., was late (B. Bellin, *fide* HN). Lewis' Woodpeckers increased to 45+ by November in the Ashland area of s. Oregon (MM). Elsewhere wanderers appeared in mid-September in suburbs of Seattle (ER, BMe) and Victoria (†B. Phipps, *fide* VG), and in the w. foothills of the Cascades, up the Skagit R. in Washington Sept. 16 (F. Krause) and up the Umpqua R. in c. Oregon Oct. 4 (DF). "Red-naped" Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were identified at N. Saanich, s. V.I., Sept. 22 and Oct. 13 (BH, *fide* VG) and near Goldstream, also s. V.I., Sept. 26 (A. Cassidy, *fide* VG). A Black-backed Woodpecker on the U.B.C. campus was a first for the Vancouver checklist area (†D. Haddow).

Black Phoebes dispersed N to Eugene, Oreg., Oct. 25 (M. Mathews, *fide* DF) for a 2nd *Lane* record, and to n. of Roseburg by mid-November (M. Sawyer, *fide* DF). As usual a few *Myiarchus* turned up, all apparently Ash-throated Flycatchers. Singles were at Tillamook Bay Aug. 25-Sept. 8 (R. O'Brien, SH), at Portland Aug. 2-Oct. 1 (DI), at Saanich, V.I., Sept. 23 (H. Vander Pol, *fide* VG), and at Delta, s. of Vancouver, B.C., Oct. 2 (†F. Walker). Four **Tropical Kingbird** sightings constituted a minor invasion. All were near salt water shores Sept. 30-Oct. 6, and appeared in order from s. to n.: Yaquina Bay, Oreg., Sept. 30 (J. Kemp, DI), North Cove, *Pacific*, Wash., Oct. 1 (R. Rowlett), near Aberdeen, Wash., Oct. 4 (ph. J. Skrieltz), and at Pt. Angeles, Wash., Oct. 6 (KT). Other kingbirds included one Eastern Aug. 27 at Coos Head, for a *Coos*, Oreg., first (K. Hansen, AM), and stray West-erns at Portland, Oreg., Aug. 10 (L. Richards, *fide* HN), Sydney, V.I., Oct. 5 (M & VG), and very late at nearby C. Saanich Nov. 6 (M. Edgell, *fide* VG).

The last Purple Martin flocks noted were of 20 at Nehalem, Oreg., Sept. 9 (J. Gilligan, *fide* HN), 10 at Seattle Sept. 9 (ER), and three at Victoria, V.I., Sept. 12 (RS, M & VG). Single Tree Swallows at

Toketee Ranger Station Nov. 3 (DF) and at Eugene Nov. 8 (SH) were late. Fifteen hundred Violet-green Swallows over the Rogue R. near the California line Oct. 18 (OSw, *vide* MM) were the rearguard. Northern Rough-wingeds went virtually unnoticed but for ten Aug. 26 at Seattle (ER). Nine Bank Swallows Aug. 23-Sept. 22 were typical numbers. Cliff Swallows were last noted near Vancouver, B.C., Sept. 22-24 (MF, BK). The last Barn Swallow to leave was noted in Seattle on the rather early date of Oct. 29 (K. Aanerud).

A **Blue Jay** at Sauvie I., Oreg., Oct. 30+ (m.ob., ph. OS) provided the only report of this vagrant. Single Scrub Jays strayed W to Cannon Beach, Clatsop, Oreg., Oct. 23 (DI), E from Roseburg into the Oregon Cascade foothills to Toketee Res., Oct. 17 (DF), and N to an Olympia, Wash., feeder Oct. 7 (BM). A Clark's Nutcracker descended to Gabriola I. in the s. Straits of Georgia Sept. 24 (M. Lee, *vide* KT, VG). Two Black-billed Magpies drifted W to near Ashland Sept. 22-29 (MM). A few Mountain Chickadees appeared in the lowlands w. of the Cascades. One was at Seattle Oct. 7-Nov. 4 (DBe, *vide* ESH) and four in the Vancouver, B.C. area Oct. 18-Nov. 28 (*vide* DK).

WRENS THROUGH CROSSBILLS — Rock Wrens drifted upslope to the 9200-ft summit of Mt. McLoughlin in the s. Oregon Cascades Aug. 18 (DF) and down to Seattle's Discovery P., Oct. 29 (†DH, †DBe). Another on Stuart I. in the Washington San Juan Is., Sept. 29 was near a possible nesting site (FS, ML). Late House Wrens included one Oct. 3 on Fidalgo I. near Anacortes, Wash. (FS) and two Oct. 14 at Camano Island S.P., n. of Stanwood, Wash. (SA). One to six W. Bluebirds in the Victoria area Sept. 13-Nov. 27 (*vide* VG) were the only ones reported n. of c. Oregon. A single Mountain Bluebird in Seattle Oct. 18 provided a most unusual local record (†E. Norwood). A nocturnal passage of Swainson's Thrushes was noted over Portland, Oreg., in the first one-half of September with 660 individuals estimated passing in ½ hour at midnight Sept. 11 (DI). Birds were also heard at night moving over Ocean Shores, Wash., Sept. 9 (ESH, J. Pierson) and Victoria, V.I., Sept. 17 (MS). Single N. Mockingbirds were found near Medford (MM), Salem (C. Pucky, *vide* HN), and Portland (*vide* HN), all Oregon. A Sage Thrasher turned up on the Oregon coast at Tillamook Bay Sept. 1 (R. Ekstrom, M. Robbins).

A harbinger of the heavy winter to come was the appearance of Bohemian Waxwings in the lowlands. Ten were seen Nov. 13 at Blaine, n. Washington (L. Miller), and reports of up to five were received from the Vancouver, B.C., area after Nov. 24 (MF *et al.*). Northern Shrikes arrived a week to 10 days early as well, with initial sightings at Iona I., Sept. 27 (BAM) and on Shaw I. in the Washington San Juans Sept. 29 (TB). Vic Goodwill noted they also were twice as numerous as usual in November on s. V.I. Last sighting of Solitary Vireo was at Dash Pt., near Tacoma, Wash., Oct. 15 (TB); of Warbling Vireos, singles at Saanich, V.I., Oct. 1 (R. MacKenzie-Grieve, *vide* VG) and n. of Ashland, Oreg., Oct. 2 (BS, *vide* MM); and of Red-eyed, one at Ashford near Mt. Rainier Sept. 6 (ESH *et al.*).

A Tennessee Warbler was reported Aug. 27 at Sedro Wooley, Skagit, Wash. (†K. Knittle), providing the 8th state record, and another was found Sept. 7 in Vancouver, B.C. (†MP). Nine Nashville Warblers were noted Aug. 26-Sept. 23 throughout the Region, with a late straggler Oct. 13 at N. Saanich, V.I. (BH, *vide* VG). Yellow Warblers were last noted at Seattle Sept. 25 (SA), near Victoria Sept. 28 (VG), at Vancouver, B.C., Oct. 1 (BK), and at Ashland, Oreg., Oct. 5 (BS, *vide* MM). **Magnolia Warblers** were spotted Sept. 6 at Cape Blanco, Curry, Oreg. (D. & J. Rogers, *vide* DF), for a 3rd county record, and Sept. 7-8 at Olympia, Wash. (ph. G. & W. Hoge *et al.*) for a 4th state record, the first to be documented photographically. A Black-throated Gray Warbler in Seattle Nov. 11 (DBe) was the last one reported and quite late at that latitude. Ten Hermit Warblers Sept. 6 in a large mixed flock at Ashford, just w. of Mt. Rainier (ESH *et al.*) was the only report received and was at the n. limit of that species' Cascade breeding range. Five Palm Warblers were recorded Sept. 27-Nov. 24, an average number. One seen at Auburn, s. of Seattle, Nov. 7 (†JA) furnished the only non-coastal report. Black-and-white Warblers were reported from Portland, Oreg., Aug. 29 (J. Beckman, *vide* HN) and Poulsbo, Kitsap, Wash., Sept. 17 (J. Carson). This vagrant has now been reported in the Region in 5 of the past 6 years. Two stray N. Waterthrushes were found in s. British Columbia, one Sept. 3 at Vancouver (†JI, BAM) and another at Richmond Sept. 10 (GT). They nest not far up the Fraser R., but



Green-tailed Towhee at Comox, Vancouver I., B.C., Nov. 17, 1984. First for British Columbia. Photo/Tim Zurovski.

typically migrate E in the fall. A MacGillivray's Warbler at Salem, Oreg., Oct. 22 (BL, *vide* DF) was the latest noted by a full month. Single Wilson's Warblers in Seattle Nov. 12 & 18 (DBe) and in Victoria Nov. 30 (M & VG) were also very late.

The **Green-tailed Towhee** Nov. 10-30 at Comox, V.I., was British Columbia's first (E. Bowen, ph. TZ, m.ob.). Six Am. Tree Sparrows Oct. 14+ in the Vancouver, B.C., area (*vide* DK) and one to two at Seattle Oct. 15-Nov. 5 (W. Crill, ER) were more than usual. A Clay-colored Sparrow Aug. 16 at Delta, B.C., provided the sole report of this rare visitor (†BK, J. Grass). Chipping Sparrows were numerous Aug. 24-Sept. 17 only in extreme s. Oregon (OSw, MM) and were scarce as usual northwards. Lark Sparrows likewise were seen in numbers up to 20, Aug. 10-Sept. 30 near Ashland, but only three vagrant individuals were seen to the n.: Sept. 2 at S.J.C.R. (P. Dickenson, *vide* HN), Sept. 10 in Portland (TBi, *vide* HN), and Oct. 16 at the Toketee Ranger Station e. of Roseburg (DF). Twenty-one White-throated Sparrows Sept. 22+ was nearly the same total as last year. Reports were concentrated as usual in s. Oregon and s. V.I. Four Harris' Sparrows was one-half last year's total. The first arrived Nov. 10 in N. Saanich, B.C. (TZ, KT, *vide* VG), the others Nov. 21-23 in Surrey, s. of Vancouver, B.C. (JW), and at Portland and Corvallis, Oreg. (D. Mason, *vide* HN; U. & V. Kiigemagi, *vide* EE). Snow Buntings were widespread Oct. 26+ with 30± in the Vancouver, B.C. area (*vide* DK), 10 about Victoria (*vide* VG), and up to 17 at March Pt., near Anacortes, Wash. (m.ob.). One at Seattle Oct. 29-31 was a local rarity (†DH *et al.*).

Vagrant Bobolinks were noted on the Oregon coast at Coos Bay Sept. 14 (F. & A. Parker, *vide* AM) and at Yaquina Bay Sept. 23-Oct. 6 (B. & S. Towner *et al.*, *vide* DF), with two or three initially. Eight Rusty Blackbirds Aug. 30 about Pemberton, B.C., 75 mi n. of Vancouver, were near the s.w. limits of the breeding range for the species (MP *et al.*). Singles on Fidalgo I., near Anacortes, Wash., Oct. 3 (†FS), at Sea I., s. of Vancouver, B.C., Oct. 28 (BK), and at 3 locations on the Saanich peninsula, V.I., Oct. 26+ (m.ob., *vide* VG) were vagrants. An ad. ♂ "Baltimore" N. Oriole Nov. 24-26 at Victoria provided one of few Regional records for this near species (B. & B. MacDonald, KT, *vide* VG). A ♂ **Brambling** Oct. 29-Nov. 4 at Longdale, s. of Sechelt, V.I. (ph. L. Patterson, T. Greenfield) furnished a faint echo of last winter's Siberian invasion. Two Rosy Finches in Vancouver, B.C., Nov. 2 provided an unusual lowland record (GT). Pine Grosbeaks are likewise rare at low elevations w. of the Cascades. One was in Seattle Oct. 16 (E. Smirnov), five were s. of Sequim Oct. 20 (SA), and other singles were near Vancouver, B.C., at Reifel Refuge Oct. 31 (JI, BAM) and in Surrey Nov. 5 (J. Williams). Three Cassin's Finches in Surrey and W. Vancouver, B.C., Oct. 14-20 (†BK, †A. Vikens, †S. Hosie *et al.*) and at Ashland, Oreg., Nov. 26 (MM) were also suggestive of a hard winter in the offing. Red Crossbills were widely noted as unusually common in the lowlands all fall, and one of the rare White-winged Crossbills was sighted at Vancouver, B.C., Sept. 19 (BK).

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MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

/John Sterling and Kurt F. Campbell

Summer's swelter dominated the Region through the first half of the fall, but by November we were receiving almost continual rains and temperatures significantly below normal (but no hard frosts in the lowlands). Better-than-average upwelling kept sea surface temperatures 1-3°C below normal for September, with October near normal. A single strong migrant wave was evident on the Farallones, but *what a wave!* Some 1700 landbirds arrived there October 2, both western species and many vagrants. For no other fall in the Region's history would the cliché, "quality not quantity" have been so accurate. Many regular 'vagrants' were down in numbers, yet the great variety of truly first-rate birds (many seen by few birders) made for a stunning overview of the rarer landbirds.

All sightings from Palomarin and S.E. Farallon Island should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory. A dagger (†) indicates that documentation is on file with the Regional Editors.

ABBREVIATIONS — C.B.R.C. = California Bird Records Committee; C.V. = Central Valley; F.I. = S.E. Farallon Island; P.R.B.O. = Point Reyes Bird Observatory; S.F. = San Francisco; Gray Lodge = Gray Lodge State Wildlife Area. References to the *Gull* refer to Golden Gate Audubon Society's publication, whose observations column is written by Stephen F. Bailey. Italicized names refer to counties.



LOONS THROUGH TUBENOSSES — The inland Arctic Loon found summering at Iron Gate Res., *Siskiyou* (MR) remained through the end of the fall. Last fall a bloom of pelagic red crabs (*Pleuroncodes plan-*

ipes) was detected for the first time off F.I., and this fall the phenomenon appeared again in larger magnitude but attracted only 50+ Arctic Loons in contrast to last year's 4000 (PH). An unusually pelagic Pied-billed Grebe was found 4 mi offshore in Monterey Bay Sept. 7 (JML, EH). As usual only a few Horned Grebes were reported inland with 12 on Camanche Res., Oct. 7 (DY) a notable concentration. Light-phase W. Grebes are scarce along the coast; one at Elkhorn Slough, Sept. 12 (DR) and another along the Mad R., Nov. 4 & 18 (KVR, JSt) were the only ones reported. Observers should look for this form on the coast as its status is not completely understood. Anchovies attracted large flocks of Brown Pelicans with 1000-3000 off Pescadero Aug. 19 (WB) and F.I.'s all time high of 5220 Sept. 4 (PH, P.R.B.O.).

Northern Fulmars arrived early with five on Monterey Bay (over-summering birds?) Aug. 3 (JD) with numbers increasing to 75+ Oct. 20 (JM *et al.*) and 400 Nov. 11 (JML *et al.*). Low numbers of Pink-footed Shearwaters were recorded, but in Monterey Bay 350 Sept. 12 (JD *et al.*) and 150 Sept. 19 (RS *et al.*) were normal counts. As usual, a few rare Flesh-footed Shearwaters were found with one on Monterey Bay Sept. 1, 3, & 12, and two Oct. 13 & 20 (AB, BDP, JD, SFB *et al.*). Another off Ft. Bragg Oct. 7 (JSt) may represent a first *Mendocino* record. Very few Buller's Shearwaters were found as they were absent near F.I. until a few hundred appeared during the last week of October (PH). Elsewhere numbers varied from an early one off Crescent City Aug. 18 (JSt) to a high of 35 on Monterey Bay Nov. 11—the last recorded date (JML, DLS, AB). Sooty Shearwaters were nearly absent on some pelagic trips, but huge numbers were associated with an anchovy run: 103,000 off Pescadero Sept. 2 (WB), 8800 in 5 min. at F.I., Aug. 28 (PH, P.R.B.O.) and 75,000 in 2 hours off Pt. Reyes Sept. 2 (LCB, BDP). Arriving at Monterey Bay in mid-September with two Sept. 19 (RS), Short-tailed Shearwaters were seen until Oct. 20 with five to eight as the high count (JM).

This fall's most spectacular pelagic event was the unprecedented invasion of Black-vented Shearwaters. About 100 were on Monterey Bay Aug. 22 (DLS) and increased to 4000 Oct. 20 (JM). Large numbers were commonly spotted from shore from Monterey to Pt. Reyes with high counts of 1000 in 5 min. off Pescadero Oct. 14 (WB), 1100 from Pt. Reyes Sept. 29 (LCB) and 2000 there Oct. 3 (JE). Northward, 10 were off Ft. Bragg Oct. 7 (JSt), and one off *Del Norte* Sept. 27 (GSL) provided a first county record.

Wilson's Storm-Petrels were again found on Monterey Bay with singles Aug. 26-Oct. 7 (DR *et al.*), and two Sept. 16 (JM, JML *et al.*). In contrast to last fall's invasion, only one Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel was encountered—Sept. 16 at Cordell Banks (BDP). The large rafts of Ashy and Black storm-petrels on Monterey Bay were found Aug. 26-Nov. 11 and peak numbers were on Oct. 7 with 8000 and 6000, respectively (JML, DLS, AB). Although fewer were present than in last year's unprecedented invasion, Least Storm-Petrels were found on Monterey Bay in good numbers Aug. 18-Oct. 14 with peaks of 200+ Sept. 16 & 19 (JM, RS).

BITTERNS THROUGH IBISES — Five Least Bitterns were reported from the C.V. where they are present in small numbers: three adults and one immature at S. Wilbur Flood Area, *Kings* Sept. 1 (GG) and one at Sacramento N.W.R., Oct. 14 (NG). Single Great Egrets at L. Almanor Aug. 25 and Oct. 26 were locally rare (DAA), and Snowy Egrets were at the n. end of their coastal range with four Aug. 13-18 at Smith R., and five at L. Talawa Oct. 6 (RAE *et al.*). They have been increasing tremendously in *Humboldt* in the last decade and an increase in *Del Norte* seems likely. Cattle Egrets staged an invasion to the coast in mid-November that increased into the winter. Flocks of 20-60 were encoun-

tered at 7 locations, including 29 on F I in late November. Smaller groups were scattered all along the coast, and high counts were of 220 at Prunedale (RS) and 96 in Arcata (JSt). White-faced Ibis numbers fluctuated at Colusa N.W.R. through the period with a peak of 125 Dec. 1 and as few as one to three on several dates (GM). Other peak numbers from C.V. locations included 90 at Delevan N.W.R., Oct. 25 (*fide* GM), 30 at S. Wilbur Sept. 19 (GG), and 220 in and near Merced N.W.R., Nov. 24 (KFC). At Honey L., 14 were present Aug. 18 (TM). Single coastal vagrants were at Salinas Sewage Ponds Sept. 12-17 (H. Hall, DR *et al.*), Elkhorn Slough Sept. 8 (DSe), and Davis Sewage Ponds Aug. 18-30 (*fide* TM); one at Durham Ferry P., Aug. 17 provided the first *San Joaquin* record in many years (DY).

WATERFOWL — Uncommonly seen on the coast, single Snow Geese were found at Laguna Beach Oct. 19 (DG), and one at Crespi Pond Monterey Nov. 2+ joined one to two Ross' Geese found Oct. 25+ (BW, DR *et al.*) Other coastal Ross' Geese were at Castle Rock with one Nov. 3-4 and two Nov. 5-12 (*fide* RAE), two immatures at San Lorenzo R., Santa Cruz Nov. 30+ (BLaB *et al.*) and four in Napa Nov. 20 (MRi). Different individual Brant were rare inland at Tulelake N.W.R., Nov. 13 & 18 (MR). Eleven Eur. Wigeons were reported from the S.F. Bay Area, with an early date of Sept. 22 at Bolinas Lagoon (RS). Only two were reported from traditional C.V. locations where the bulk of sightings normally center. A good concentration of inland Greater Scaup was a migrant flock of 15 at the Stockton Sewage Ponds Oct. 5 (DY). Several Harlequin Ducks were reported with singles at Moss Landing Oct. 20 and Nov. 10 (JM *et al.*) and Natural Bridges, Santa Cruz Nov. 23 (DG), and two at Big Sur Sept. 30-Oct. 6 (BT, DR *et al.*). Peak numbers at Point St. George were 10, Sept. 4 and nine Oct. 21 (RAE). Six Oldsquaws found on the coast was normal but one at Abbott's Lagoon Sept. 9 (RS) probably summered locally. Black Scoters arrived at Pt. Reyes Sept. 22 (BDP, LCB), and a female shot at Tulelake N.W.R., Oct. 31 (*fide* MR) was most unusual. Many of our rare waterfowl records come from hunters' bags, and since many hunters' records are probably never reported, we may only have a sketchy knowledge of rare waterfowl patterns, especially from inland concentrations. Other rare inland scoters included three Surfs at Capco L., *Siskiyou* (CY, RE) and one White-winged shot at L. Almanor for what may be the first *Plumas* record. Salinas Sewage Ponds, 7 mi inland, had five Surf and seven White-winged scoters Nov. 7 (DR), and a pelagic trip spent several hours 1-2 mi off Monterey and reported no scoters Sept. 9 (JML). Summering populations may be very local in that area. Only 2 reports of Barrow's Goldeneye was low with a pair at Berkeley Nov. 13 (DSi) and one inland at Redding Nov. 23 (BV). A locally rare Hooded Merganser was at the Stockton Sewage Ponds Oct. 12 (DY).

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES — Migrating Ospreys were at locations where they are uncommon: Elkhorn Slough Sept. 8-12 (JD), Carmel R. mouth Sept. 10 (BW), Salinas Sewage Ponds Sept. 18+ (BT), and Hayward shoreline Sept. 24 (BR). A Black-shouldered Kite on Point St. George Sept. 13 was the "first seen there in months" (RAE) and signaled a big influx to the coast (two on F.I.). Groups of 30 and 40 were noted, and numbers were reported as high from the S.F. Peninsula to Arcata (m.ob.). Immature Bald Eagles at Santa Clara Oct. 1 (BBa) and Palo Alto Nov. 3 (D. Stovel), and an adult at Del Valle Dam, Alameda (AE) were at interesting locations; six others on the n. coast were expected. A N. Goshawk at Pt. Diablo was a rare coastal migrant Oct. 15 (*fide* CF). Reaching the n. limit of their range, Red-shouldered Hawks were found in *Siskiyou* Sept. 11, 15 & 17 (RE, MR). Point Diablo had fewer Broad-winged Hawks than normal as only nine were seen (*fide* CF), including three Sept. 28 (LCB, KFC). One in Monterey Nov. 5 (DR) furnished the only other report. Two large groups of Swainson's Hawks were encouraging with 12 at San Luis N.W.R., Aug. 5 (JD) and 27 migrating at Woodland (ML). Very few immatures were seen in the San Joaquin Valley despite a good breeding population (DY). Migrants at Pt. Diablo Sept. 21 (*fide* CF) and at Oakland Oct. 27 (late—JL) were locally rare. A "Harlan's" Hawk was reported from McArthur, Shasta Oct. 16+ (BY, BV). Typical numbers of Ferruginous Hawks were inland, but a high of 14 on the coast included two in *Humboldt* where rare, Table Bluff Sept. 30 (KVR) and Blue L., Nov. 6+ (J. Brack). This fall was the best for coastal Rough-legged Hawks in years as 30 were reported from *Marin* and *Sonoma*, and numbers were

high in *Humboldt* and *Del Norte*. Merlins also made a good showing with 53 sightings beginning with an early one Sept. 12 at Pt. Reyes (RS). An exceptional record of a Peregrine Falcon of the Siberian race *harterti* was reported on F.I., Sept. 26 without details (PH, P.R.B.O.).

Seven Black Rails were seen at the s. end of Tomales Bay Nov. 21-25 (JE). An easier-to-see relative, a Sandhill Crane, was spotted flying over the Arcata Bottoms Nov. 15 (PP) for one of few n. coast sightings, of which nearly all have been in the last 4 years. Away from the coast on Patterson Meadows, Warner Mts., a family group was observed Aug. 25, which may establish the first breeding record for that range (JW).

SHOREBIRDS — Lesser Golden-Plovers were scattered along the coast Aug. 18-Nov. 17 with an equal number of *dominica* and *fulva* identified. Unlike other years reports from the C.V. were mostly of *fulva*: three at Lodi Sewage Ponds Sept. 2-11 (K. Salzman, DY) and one at Hacienda, Kings Sept. 18 (RG, GG). Two others were not identified to race: Woodland Sugar Ponds Sept. 30 (TM), and Davis Sewage Ponds Sept. 23-Oct. 26 (TM *et al.*). Mountain Plovers are very local in the C.V., and one near the Sacramento Airport Nov. 24 was unusual in the county (D. Shaw, *fide* TM). Unlike most falls, coastal vagrants were not reported.

Brooks I. in S.F. Bay, *Contra Costa* was the site for "rocky shorebirds" rarely encountered in that county. Two adult and one imm. Black Oystercatchers, a Wandering Tattler, and 17 Surfbirds were there Sept. 16 (BR). Four Black-necked Stilts was a good number for Bodega Bay Sept. 1 (KFC) as they are unusual n. of S.F. Bay on the coast. These were possibly from the breeding colony at Cader Lane, Petaluma, but it remains unclear where stilts n. of *Sonoma* originate. Fewer Lesser Yellowlegs were reported than normal, and lack of habitat was thought to be responsible for low numbers in *Del Norte*, San Joaquin Valley, and Palo Alto (RAE, DY, WB). Only 2 locations had good concentrations—Tulare with 50+ (GG) and Humboldt Bay with 40 (JSt). Both of these areas had more last fall. Seven coastal Solitary Sandpipers was a good showing Aug. 17-Oct. 19, with one at outer Pt. Reyes Sept. 26-29 (LCB, RS *et al.*) being the first for that heavily-birded locality. Two others were found inland, Aug. 27 at Mono L. (DS) and at Lundy Pass at an elevation of 10,230 ft, Aug. 26 (DS)—the same individual? At Honey L., Marbled Godwits were in good numbers with 21 on Aug. 19, and perhaps the first *Lassen* Ruddy Turnstone was an adult there Aug. 18 (T & AM). Four other inland sightings were: Petaluma Aug. 25-Sept. 3 (BDP, KFC), Sears Pt., Aug. 26 (JLo), Hacienda Sept. 18 (RG, GG) and Woodland Sept. 1 (*fide* TM). Also rare but regular inland, Sanderlings were noted with one at Lodi Sewage Ponds (DY) for *San Joaquin's* first September record, two at Hacienda Sept. 18 (RG, GG) and four more at Jackson Farms, Kings (GG).

A minimum of 14 Semipalmated Sandpipers Aug. 4-Sept. 29 was a poor showing although seven in *Monterey* was "better than most years" (DR). The last record was late and of the only adult reported, at Salinas R. mouth (RS, P.R.B.O.). Average numbers of Baird's Sandpipers migrated through Aug. 5-Sept. 23; one at the Mad R. mouth Oct. 11 was late (JSt). Large flocks of Pectoral Sandpipers were reported, with 100 at the Salinas Sewage Ponds Sept. 15 (JML, DR *et al.*), 89 on the Hayward shoreline Sept. 22 (BR), 50 on L. Talawa Sept. 22 (RAE, SS), 40 at Wilbur, Kings Sept. 18 (RG), and 30 at the Tulare Sewage Ponds Sept. 13 (GG). It was another good fall for Sharp-tailed Sandpipers as seven were seen, with two at Mountain View Forebay for the 2nd *Santa Clara* record (P. Browning) and singles at Elkhorn Slough Sept. 3-16 (WR, DR), Salinas Sewage Ponds Sept. 2 (BW), F.I., Sept. 9 (PH, ph P.R.B.O.), Watsonville Sewage Ponds for a first *Monterey* record Oct. 6-21 (DG, JM), and at S. Humboldt Bay Oct. 18 (KI, KVR, RAE). A Dunlin at Abbott's Lagoon Aug. 18 apparently summered (KFC). *Siskiyou's* 2nd Stilt Sandpiper at L. Shastina Oct. 5 (MR), one at Smith R., Sept. 17 (RAE, GSL) and one at Zmudowski State Beach Sept. 1 (WR) provided the only reports. Cader Lane in Petaluma is becoming a traditional site for Buff-breasted Sandpipers with one immature for the 3rd fall in a row Aug. 25 (BDP). Three found at the Salinas Sewage Ponds Sept. 15-25 (ML *et al.*) established a new locality for this species that seems to favor specific sites in migration. Ruffs were found in typical locations, with a juvenile at the Salinas Sewage Ponds Sept. 15-22 (JML *et al.*), a rare adult at S. Humboldt Bay Oct. 16-24 (KI *et al.*), a juvenile at Watsonville Sewage Ponds Oct. 19-26 and another inland at Merced N.W.R., Nov. 29+ (RBa *et al.*) where they are being found in increasing regularity. A Wilson's Phalarope at the Stockton Sewage Ponds

Nov 15 was late (DY) Red-necked Phalaropes were well studied at Bodega Harbor Aug. 4-Sept. 18, and 91 of 92 identified to age by plumage were found to be juveniles. Speculation is that adults migrate offshore (KFC). No Red Phalaropes were reported on the coast.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — Few Parasitic Jaegers were reported with five on Monterey Bay Oct. 7 (JML, EH) being the high count. This was the lowest in years. However, a maximum of 11 Long-tailed Jaegers on 7 trips on Monterey Bay was a good showing with three Sept. 12 (JD) and Oct. 7 (JML, EH). Five S. Polar Skuas there Sept. 23 (BBa) were remarkable, and three were also seen off Trinidad Sept. 27 (GSL) and off Ft. Bragg Oct. 7 (JSt).

On the coast, seven Franklin's Gulls were found Aug. 17-Oct. 23, which was typical. One was inland at L. Shastina Oct. 24 (CY, RE), and another at the Stockton Sewage Ponds Oct. 17+ was joined by the Little and Com. Black-headed gulls Oct. 26 & 20 respectively (DY). This was the 7th year that the latter 2 species were found there (same individuals?). Off Ano Nuevo, 5000-10,000 Heermann's Gulls converging on anchovies Sept. 19 (WB) was a spectacular concentration, with few precedents for the Region. A juv. Mew Gull at Yreka Oct. 12-19 (CY, RE) was truly inland, where there are few records. Elsewhere, single adults were along the Sacramento R. at Nimbus Fish Hatchery Nov. 3 and Walnut Grove Nov. 12 (TM). Also inland where rare were Thayer's Gulls at Yreka Oct. 19 (CY, RE, MR), and three at Nimbus Fish Hatchery Nov. 3 (T & AM). An exceptionally inland W. Gull was described from Hacienda, Kings Aug. 7 (GG). Inland birds are very rare. On F.I., W. Gulls were present in incredible numbers Nov. 10-23 during the pelagic red crab bloom (PH, P.R.B.O.). A Glaucous-winged Gull, unusual inland but annually found there, was at Redding Oct. 29 (JSt). The usual small numbers of Glaucous Gulls were found with singles at Salinas R. mouth Oct. 24 & 26 (DG) and Trinidad Nov. 15 (SH *et al.*). A juv. Sabine's Gull along the Hayward shoreline Sept. 20 (BR) was unusual, and 143 off Monterey Sept. 28 (AB *et al.*) was the high count.

Although this fall's influx of Elegant Terns was smaller than last year's unprecedented invasion, large flocks were seen, with up to 3000 at Bolinas Lagoon, 1250 at Bodega Bay (NTC), and a record high of 120 for F.I. (PH, P.R.B.O.). Three reached Crescent City for the 3rd fall in a row (RAE). A Com. Tern at L. Shastina Oct. 5-9 (CY, RE, MR) provided the "first *Siskiyou* record away from the Klamath Basin." Good numbers of Forster's Terns were at Crescent City where they are uncommon at best. Five there July 28-Sept. 20 were surpassed by three on the very late date of Nov. 13 (GSL). Rarely seen in migration, a Least Tern was at Moss Landing Aug. 2 (BW). Two Black Terns were at the Davis Sewage Ponds Aug. 26-29 (TM). They are becoming scarcer in the C.V. and have "become very rare locally" (TM). Two Black Skimmers were found at Elkhorn Slough where they have been seen in past years, Sept. 8-15 (DR, GMcC) with one remaining until Oct. 13 (BLaB).

At Ano Nuevo, Marbled Murrelets were found in healthy numbers with 61 Aug. 25 (JML). Both Xantus' and Craveri's murrelets were found again on Monterey Bay but in fairly low numbers with 15-20 and two being the respective maximum counts. Elsewhere Xantus' Murrelets were found in *Del Norte* for the 2nd and 3rd times with two Aug. 18 (RAE *et al.*) and two Sept. 27 (GSL). Two more off n. *Humboldt* Sept. 27 (GSL) provided one of few county records. A well-described Craveri's Murrelet off Bodega Head Sept. 10 (NTC) was very far n. Tufted Puffins were unsuccessful breeders on F.I., as last year, and one remained very late until Oct. 2 (PH, P.R.B.O.).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Four coastal White-winged Doves Aug. 23-Oct. 9 was down from last year's high, but most of the Regional records have occurred in the last 4 years. The few notes on Mourning Doves were of low numbers (DY, P.R.B.O., KFC). A Flammulated Owl on Valentine Ridge, *Tehama* Nov. 18 (†CB *et al.*) provided our latest Regional record by 18 days. A Burrowing Owl at the Crescent City harbor Sept. 14 (RAE) was early for the immediate coast. Two ad. Long-eared Owls along with two juveniles were in Little Grizzly Valley, *Plumas* Aug. 14-16 (JW). A modest irruption of Short-eared Owls brought us records of 43 ±, mostly coastal, with one Sept. 13 at Coyote Hills, *Alameda* (BR) the earliest. Two juv. N. Saw-whet Owls near Golden Trout Camp, *Inyo* Aug. 13-14 (†MLO *et al.*) were from an area with virtually no records. The 10,100 ft elevation was

remarkable, although the circumstances otherwise fit most Sierran nest records: open pine forest on the e. slope. A Lesser Nighthawk at the Watsonville sewage ponds Aug. 25 (*fide Gull*, no details) would be one of very few coastal fall records; a Com. Nighthawk heard well over Pt Diablo Aug. 28 (JR) was almost as unusual. Most of our 35+ November to February Com. Poorwill records are from *Marin*, making one Nov. 28 at Palomar less surprising. Two Chimney Swifts were carefully observed and described 3 mi s. of Big Sur Aug. 19-26 (†DR *et al.*), no notes were received for a Chimney Swift reported from F.I. on the exceptional date of Oct. 2.

Reports are received each fall of "♀" *Selasphorus* hummingbirds apparently identified as Rufous or Allen's by assumptions the observers make of each species' status in their area. Yet much in the literature is wrong, and what is known is sketchy. Except in well-seen or displaying ad. males or birds proven to be nesting (thus Allen's), extreme caution in species identification should be the rule. Allen's *do* occur inland, and Rufous Hummingbirds *do* migrate down the coast. Acceptably documented records of Allen's in the Region after late August are few (*e.g.*, October specimens labeled "Allen's" recently proved to be Rufous, *fide DR*). Of *Selasphorus* closely studied in *Monterey* Aug. 25-Sept. 30 the few identified were Rufous Hummingbirds (†DR), as were three whose outer tail feather widths were examined at very close range Aug. 12-23 in Bodega Harbor (KFC). Much still needs to be learned here. Reports of Lewis' Woodpeckers totalled only seven individuals Sept. 25-Nov. 29, most or all migrants. A "Red-naped" Sapsucker returning to winter in S.F., Nov. 3 (*fide Gull*) furnished the only report of that form. A ♂ Nuttall's Woodpecker frequented Lee Vining, *Mono* (where very rare) all fall (DDeS).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS — Four W. Wood-Pewees were late Oct. 9-18. Two were inland, with the last, at Oak Grove P., *San Joaquin* (DY) the Region's latest-ever by a day. All were Westerns by presumption only. Willow Flycatcher reports totalled 40 (about average) Aug. 10-Sept. 27. Of 7 Least Flycatcher reports, 4 were adequately documented: Sept. 24, Lanphere Dunes, *Humboldt* (†JSt); Sept. 30, outer Pt. Reyes (†TM, JM *et al.*); Oct. 6, Carmel R. mouth (†DR *et al.*), and Oct. 14, Watsonville Sewage Ponds (†KVV). The *Humboldt* record was said to establish the 2nd n. coast sighting, the *Monterey* bird their 3rd. One Hammond's Flycatcher was coastal Sept. 12 at Año Nuevo (GJS), as were three Dusky Flycatchers: Sept. 1 on the Hayward shoreline (BR), Sept. 10, Rodeo Lagoon (†JE), and Sept. 21, outer Pt. Reyes (RS). A Gray Flycatcher on outer Pt. Reyes Oct. 1 (†KFC) apparently provided our latest non-F.I. record, while one visited the latter locale Sept. 13. An Ash-throated Flycatcher at Lanphere Dunes was remarkable on Oct. 25 (JSt); observers are urged to regard all *Myiarchus* sightings after Sept. 1 with a critical eye—and document (including any vocalizations). Our 13th **Great Crested Flycatcher** was at the Big Sur R. mouth Sept. 30 (†BT), but it established only the 4th record away from F.I. (and a first for *Monterey*). The 13 Tropical Kingbirds Sept. 20-Nov. 15 were slightly fewer than the recent average. Six W. Kingbirds were reported coastally Sept. 1-23; the last in the interior were two Sept. 16 near Auburn, *Placer* (BB). Only our 2nd fall report in 3 years, an E. Kingbird was at Seaside, *Monterey* Sept. 19 (BE, DR). The **Eurasian Skylark** returned for its 7th winter at Pt. Reyes Oct. 27 (JM).

Purple Martins were last reported Aug. 27 coastally (Lake Earl—RAE) and Sept. 13 in the C.V. (Sacramento—BK); these both appeared to be very early dates for their regions. Both Tree and Violet-green swallows appear to stage in large flocks in lowland areas at the outset of migration; 1000+ Violet-greens above 5 coastal canyons at Big Sur, *Monterey* Aug. 5-19 (DR) may be found to be typical at that time and place. Such early, large flocks of Tree Swallows are mostly noted in the C.V. Amazing was a Nov. 7 Bank Swallow over Arcata (†JSt). The closest records on file are 5 for Oct. 7-28, 2 of which were coastal. Nine Clark's Nutcrackers on High Divide, *Del Norte* Oct. 2 (GSL) was a big group for the coast, but dwarfed by 200 ± in one flock near Chester, *Plumas* Nov. 30 (DAA)—apparently the Region's largest report ever. In contrast to last fall's coastal irruption of Mountain Chickadees, none was reported this season. P.R.B.O. recorded their 3rd and 4th Rock Wrens at Palomar Sept. 23 & 26, and their 4th and 5th Marsh Wrens Sept. 28 and Nov. 28. All could well have indicated migration and not just local dispersal.

MUSCICAPIDS — Many have considered the magical Farallon Islands' best record to have been the Dusky Warbler that appeared Sept. 27, 1980 (AB 35:223), and have assumed that if any bird deserved the appellation "accidental"—not to be expected again—that one did. Thus it was stunning to the Region's birders when Luther discovered our 2nd **Dusky Warbler**, this one Sept. 28-29 in Hayward, *Alameda* (†JL, †JM, †RAE, †m.ob.). Over 200 birders viewed it the 2nd day, and the volume of film used in documenting it should have been enough to boost the value of Kodak stock significantly. The possibility of an escapee appears nil. Although Swainson's Warbler (still unrecorded in California) was at first considered, it appears at this time that other possible species, including *Locustella* spp. and other *Phylloscopus* spp., have been eliminated; the record is now under review by the C.B.R.C. This was apparently the first mainland record in North America.



Dusky Warbler (Phylloscopus fuscatus) in Hayward, Calif., Sept. 28, 1984. Second North American record south of Alaska. Photo/Arnold Small.

Golden-crowned Kinglets apparently had a good fall, with September to November banding totals at Palomarin 97% of last year's influx. This year however they seem to have appeared later: September bandings were below 10% of last September's. The first observer reports were for Oct. 2 (*San Mateo*—PJM, and Pt. Reyes—JE). Surprisingly, 110 on Willow Creek Rd., *Sonoma* Oct. 25 (KFC *et al.*) made the largest report on file for the Region, but many reports contained only statements such as "ubiquitous" and "excellent numbers." After describing last fall's 88 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers noted at Palomarin as "exceptional", what do you say about this year's 154? Elsewhere 17 were noted coastally through the period, with one Oct. 27 at Fairhaven (KVR) being about the 10th for *Humboldt* in 5 years, and about the 12th there ever. This suggested a non-cyclic increase; the next 3-4 years should tell. October 13 is about par as a first arrival for Mountain Bluebirds in the lowlands; two were near Oroville, *Butte* on that date (TM). Townsend's Solitaires occasionally flock in fall, generally in response to an abundant local food supply; 30-40 among junipers at Kirkwood Meadows, *Amador* Oct. 6 (DY) furnished an example. Three visited the S.F. Bay area Oct. 24-Nov. 19. The Region's 2nd-latest Swainson's Thrush was at F.I. on the impressive date of Nov. 15. The latest was Nov. 24, 1975 (also F.I.), not previously published here. The few reports of Am. Robins indicated below-average numbers early and above-average numbers late in the period, coastally. At Palomarin P.R.B.O. reported "an incredible influx [of Varied Thrushes] this fall. Perhaps the biggest flight year ever." Yet other reports, Oct. 13+, gave no indication of this elsewhere; will winter clarify?

MOCKINGBIRDS THROUGH VIREOS — More than 20 N. Mockingbirds were reported from the immediate coast, *Marin* to *Del Norte*, apparently the most ever. They are surely still on the increase in our Region. Two Sage Thrashers on F.I. were typically timed for there: Oct. 2-3 and Oct. 3. A Brown Thrasher was at Ft. Ord, *Monterey* Oct. 14 (J. Sinclair, *vide* DR); 40% of our records are for October. An imm. **Red-throated Pipit** Sept. 29 at the Salinas sewage ponds (HC, †DR) was within the range of our few previous records (all coastal); details were

sent to the C.B.R.C. First migrant Cedar Waxwings were one immature on outer Pt. Reyes Sept. 8 (LCB) and eight at Sacramento N.W.R., Sept. 11 (NG). A *Phainopepla* on F.I., Sept. 26 was the 2nd ever recorded there.

S.A.

Only a few years ago, few would have believed that several Siberian vagrants would vie for the 'season's best bird,' but this fall's skylark and Dusky Warbler took a back seat to North America's 4th (and first non-Alaskan) **Brown Shrike** (*Lanius cristatus*) at F.I., Sept. 20 (†PP, *vide* P.R.B.O.). A heavily-barred immature, it was photographed, measured and banded during its full-day's stay, and a selection of feathers was secured for comparison with specimens. It was wary and vocal. Red-backed and Isabelline shrikes (*L. collurio* and *isabellinus*) seem to have been solidly ruled out, and as of this writing it appears most likely the bird was of the nominate, northeasternmost race (apparently unlike the only North American specimen). Clearly, few of the Siberians capable of reaching Alaska can be called impossible for us. What's next?



Brown Shrike (Lanius cristatus) on Southeast Farallon Island, Calif., Sept. 20, 1984. First North American record south of Alaska. Photo/Phil Henderson.

Eleven N. Shrikes from Pt. Arena, *Mendocino* north made the best n. coastal fall showing yet. The only other report was also coastal: Palomarin's 2nd-ever sighting, an immature Oct. 23-Nov. 1 (killed when it struck a window) was also the first record this fall. A single Loggerhead Shrike at Cape Mendocino, *Humboldt* (*vide* JSt) from September to Oct. 20 filled the n. coast's quota. Remarkably, two Solitary Vireos of the e. form (*V. s. solitarius/alticola*) were reported: Sept. 27-Oct. 2, Pt. Reyes (†KFC, †JE *et al.*) and Oct. 6, n. *Mendocino* (†JSt). This brought the Region's total to 11 ± records, all Sept. 10-Nov. 5 and all *Marin* or F.I. until this year's last. A "Plumbeous" Solitary Vireo Oct. 13 on Coyote Cr. at Oakland Rd., *Santa Clara* (PLaT) was very near last fall's record. Observers are cautioned to rule out other gray vireos as well as other forms of Solitary Vireo when documenting a record. Sixteen Hutton's Vireos in *San Joaquin* and the Sacramento area (Aug. 13+) made a good fall showing there. Full details should accompany reports of Philadelphia Vireo, as this form is easily and frequently misidentified (*e.g.*, see AB 37:230). One Oct. 6-7 at Carmel R. mouth was not (†GMcC *et al.*), but 2 other reports lacked details. Single Red-eyed Vireos visited S.F., Sept. 26-28 (*vide* Gull), and Inverness Sept. 28 (RS). A "Yellow-green" Red-eyed Vireo at Fairhaven, *Humboldt* Oct. 9-10 (†JSt) was our 3rd or 4th; current research suggests this form is indeed a valid species (*vide* N. K. Johnson).

WOOD WARBLERS — Many (but not all) "eastern" warblers were down in numbers, especially in September. Of our 5 most common such species, Tennessee, Palm and Blackpoll warblers were at about one-half their average numbers, Am. Redstarts were down 60%, and Black-and-

held more than interior mountains, where the best report was "at least 300 at the peak" near Chester, *Plumas* (DAA). Thirty-three were reported from *Yolo* and *Sacramento* in the C.V., Oct. 28+. Hundreds could be seen on any day in much of *Marin*; the largest count, 2000 on Mt. Tamalpais Aug. 11 (*vide Gull*) tempts one to contemplate the absolute numbers present. An abundance of douglas-fir cones provided food in most areas. Several specimens appeared to be referable to "West Coast" races (*vide* N. K. Johnson), but there were no signs of breeding. Pine Siskins as well had a most impressive fall through all (?) the Region. Palomarin recorded over 100 on one day in August, then on 8 days in September (1600 Sept. 23), 16 days in October, and 4 days in November. They were "widespread and abundant" in *Sacramento* (TM), but no reports informed us of their status in interior mountains. Lesser Goldfinches had "perhaps the best year ever" at Palomarin (peak 26 Oct. 2). Twelve Lawrence's Goldfinches on the immediate coast Sept. 8-28 could be tied to this spring's irruption. Scattered sightings of one to four Evening Grosbeaks on the n. coast Sept. 7+ (*vide* RAE) were not unusual, but 10+ sightings of singles and small flocks from *Sonoma* to *Monterey* and in *Sacramento* (first and largest: 40± Oct. 13 on Willow Creek Rd., *Sonoma*—KFC, NTC *et al.*) indicated a lowland invasion.

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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

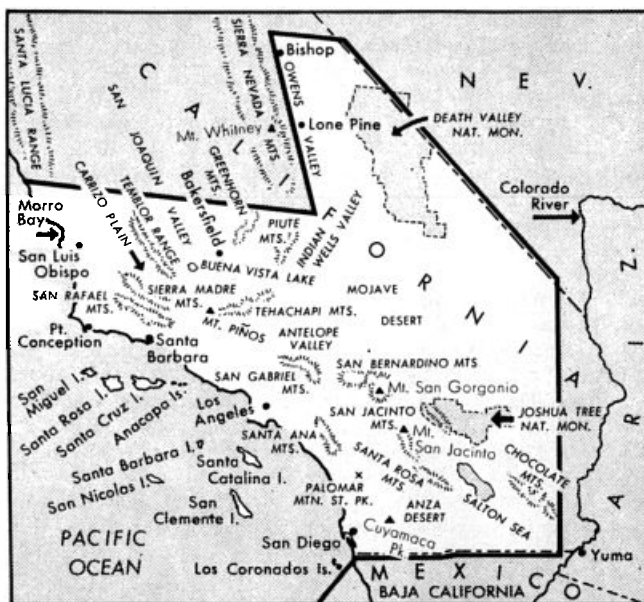
/Guy McCaskie

The fall period was relatively dry with no major storms. The shore-bird migration was about average, but most observers felt landbirds were scarcer than normal. However, some extreme rarities were found including North America's first Little Curlew along with California's first White Wagtail. Large numbers of Black-vented Shearwaters offshore and a movement of jaegers through the interior were the most notable events among the waterbirds, and an influx of finches, including Red Crossbills, was the major event among the landbirds.

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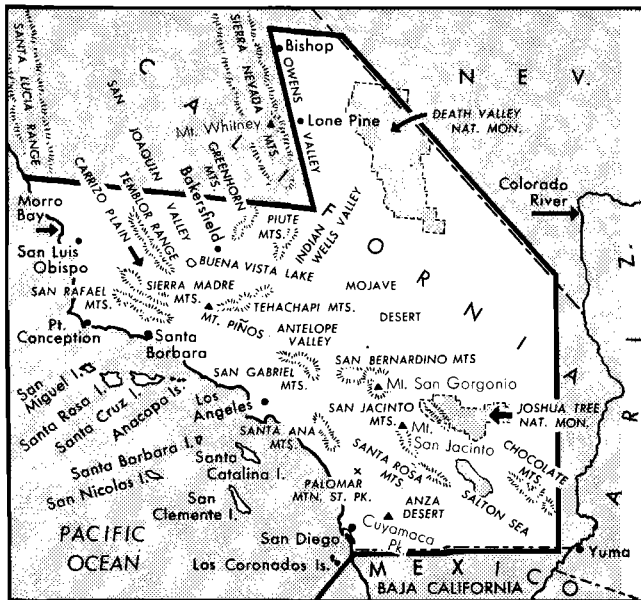
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PELICANS THROUGH HERONS — Ten Brown Pelicans on the Salton Sea Sept. 16 (JO) were the latest at this inland location this year. Thirteen imm. Magnificent Frigatebirds at various points around the Salton Sea Sept. 16 (B & MMcl) were unexpected considering the paucity of sightings during the summer.

The only Little Blue Herons found away from San Diego, where three or four now appear to be resident, was a calico bird near Imperial Dam along the Colorado R., Aug. 26 (PU). A Tricolored Heron in Anaheim Oct. 9 (P & JR) and one to two on s. San Diego Bay Oct. 28+ (GMcC) were the only ones believed present. An imm. Reddish Egret, a casual visitor to s. California, was in Anaheim Sept. 10 (LRH) and another was on s. San Diego Bay Oct. 28+ (LF). The numbers of Cattle Egrets found in the n.e. part of the Region during late October and November, along with the numbers found along the coast during that same time each year, suggest this is the time of the year these birds disperse N; this year 35 near Scotty's Castle at the n. end of Death Valley Oct. 20 (JO), 18 at F C R., Nov. 14 (JLD) and 10 at Panamint Springs, Inyo Co., Nov. 24 (JO) along with such concentrations along the n. coast as 30 in Encino Nov. 29 (SW), 50 in Malibu Canyon Nov. 8 (PJ), and 42 in Goleta Nov. 10 (PEL) would support this idea, and should be monitored. The elusive ad Yellow-crowned Night-Heron seen off and on at San Elijo Lagoon since 1981 was present Aug. 19-Oct. 8 (EC).

WATERFOWL — Two Tundra Swans on L. Cachuma, Santa Barbara Co., Nov. 17 (GT) were the only ones found away from the Owens Valley. Four Greater White-fronted Geese on Baldwin L. in the San Bernardino Mts., Sept. 22 (EAC) and two near Imperial Beach Sept. 29 (REW) were a little early; a flock of 34 in flight over Huntington Beach Oct. 15 (BED) was a large number for along the coast, and one in Baker, San Bernardino Co., Oct. 13 (EAC) was at an unusual location. As appears normal, a few Ross' Geese occurred along the coast in November, and three in California City Nov. 16 (MHe) were at a desert oasis. A flock of 31 Wood Ducks on L. Cachuma Nov. 14-19 (PEL) was a large concentration for s. California. A ♂ Eur. Green-winged Teal in Goleta Nov. 3+ (CDB) was apparently the same bird known to have spent the past 3 winters at this location. A Eur. Wigeon in Santa Barbara Oct. 15 (JLD) and another on San Elijo Lagoon Oct. 23 (LuS) were the first of the wintering birds to be found this year.

Up to three Oldsquaws, rare but regular winter visitors to s. California, were at Arroyo Grande Creek mouth, San Luis Obispo Co., Oct. 27+ (BS), one was at S.C.R.E., Oct. 21 (JP), one flew S past Pt. Loma Nov. 15 (REW) followed by two more Nov. 18 (REW), and one to two were on n. San Diego Bay Nov. 26+ (JO), to give us an above-average number for this time of year. Twelve Black Scoters were found along the coast after Oct. 15 including three around San Diego, where rare, Oct. 31+ (REW, JO). Two ♂ Surf Scoters on L. Henshaw in the mountains of San Diego County Nov. 17-18 (RH) were the only ones found inland. White-winged Scoters were more numerous than usual along the coast, particularly from Los Angeles County n.; inland, where considered casual, one was near Lone Pine, Inyo Co., Nov. 23 (JO), another was on Holiday L. in the Antelope Valley Nov. 18-26 (KLG), one was on L. Cachuma Nov. 22 (LB) and a 4th was near Anaheim Nov. 20-30 (DRW).

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES — Black-shouldered Kites were found e. of the species' normal range in California, with one in the Fremont Valley of e. Kern County Nov. 10-23 (MHe), another near Mojave Oct. 14 (JW), one at Morongo Valley Oct. 18 (DRW), one at N.E.S.S., Oct. 16 (JLD), and single birds in the Imperial Valley s. of the Salton Sea near Seeley Aug. 25-Sept. 30 (PU), near Calexico Aug. 21 (REW) and at Calipatria Nov. 25 (JLD), indicating a range expansion. An ad. Northern Goshawk at Tecopa, Inyo Co., Oct. 25 (JLD) was in an area where small numbers may occur most falls. The only Broad-winged Hawks to be found this year were an immature in Long Beach Sept. 13 (BED), another in W. Los Angeles Oct. 11 (KLG), one over Carpinteria Oct. 20 (LB) and another near Santa Maria, Santa Barbara Co., Nov. 10 (LB). A Swainson's Hawk at L. Henshaw Sept. 30-Oct. 1 (RH) was at an unusual locality. An imm. Zone-tailed Hawk, a casual migrant through s. California, was seen over Cuyamaca Rancho S.P. in the mountains of San Diego County Sept. 3 (MR) and an adult near Vista Oct. 19+ (CW) was undoubtedly the same bird frequenting this general area each winter since 1977-1978. Rough-legged Hawks appeared more widespread than normal after the first was reported Nov. 10, and includ-

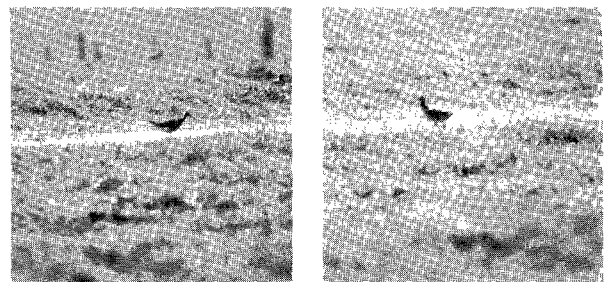
ed one along the coast in Carpinteria Nov. 25 (LRB) where considered most unusual.

The origin of 40 Gambel's Quail seen near Rosamond, Kern Co., within one mi of the Los Angeles County line Aug. 10 (MHe) is open to speculation, but it would appear no quail were originally native in this area. Five Sandhill Cranes near Needles Nov. 24 (GT) were probably part of the small flock still believed to winter in this area.

SHOREBIRDS — The only Lesser Golden-Plovers found inland were two *dominica* near Rosamond Sept. 22-Oct. 20 (MHe) and one at N.E.S.S., Oct. 13 (GMcC); 30± along the coast Aug. 14-Nov. 24 appeared about average, and up to 25 *fulva* near Santa Maria Sept. 1+ (JLD) and two at Seal Beach Sept. 18+ (LRH) were at known wintering localities. An ad. Wandering Tattler at Salton City Aug. 25 (EAC, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) was one of very few ever to have been found inland, and only the 7th during the fall.

S.A.

A juv. **Little Curlew** (*Numenius minutus*) near Santa Maria, Santa Barbara Co., Sept. 16-Oct. 14 (PEL) was the first to have been found in North America, and thanks to the generosity of Mr. Mahoney, the landowner on whose property this bird was staying, literally hundreds of birders were able to see it. This species has a limited breeding range in n. central Siberia, and winters primarily in Australia, with 2 records of fall vagrants in Europe (Norway and Great Britain). It is closely related to the Eskimo Curlew, from which it can best be separated by the color of the underwings, and was considered a possible vagrant to North America by Farrand (AB 31:137-138, 1977).



Little Curlew (*Numenius minutus*) near Santa Maria, Cal., Oct. 2, 1984. First record for North America. Photo/Bruce Peterson.

Single Ruddy Turnstones, rare inland in fall, especially away from the Salton Sea, were near Lancaster Aug. 4-9 (JW), Aug. 20-23 (BB) and Sept. 15 (KLG), and single birds were seen on the Salton Sea Aug. 4 (DLD), Aug. 25 (ASa) and Sept. 11 (REW). A Red Knot, very rare inland away from the Salton Sea, was near Rosamond Aug. 25 (MHe), single birds were near Lancaster Sept. 2 (GMcC) & 15 (KLG), and a 3rd was at Desert Center Sept. 21 (BW); four at S.E.S.S., Nov. 17 (RN) were unusually late for migrants. A Sanderling, rare inland away from the Salton Sea, was on L. Elsinore Aug. 19 (JLD) and another was near Lancaster Sept. 15 (BWK). Twenty-two Semipalmated Sandpipers, all identified as juveniles, were found Aug. 4-Sept. 11, including one in Bishop, Inyo Co., Aug. 8 (JLD), up to two in Long Beach Aug. 9-13, and another at Bolsa Chica Aug. 5 (BED), indicating this species is indeed a regular fall migrant through California in limited numbers. A Baird's Sandpiper near Rosamond Oct. 13 (MHe) was a little late, most having moved through the Region during August and September as is normal. Pectoral Sandpipers were found between Aug. 12 and Nov. 1 with a late individual in Anaheim Nov. 9-16 (DRW); 40 near Imperial Beach Sept. 22 (GMcC) 33 at San Jacinto Sept. 15 (RMcK) and 23 on L. Henshaw Sept. 20 (RH) were the largest concentrations reported. A juv. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at the Santa Maria R. mouth Sept. 26-29 (PEL) was along the coast, but another near Lancaster Oct. 12-14 (GM) was inland where accidental. The appearance of two **Curlew Sandpipers**, both juveniles, with one near Santa Maria Sept. 16-20 (LB) and the other at N.E.S.S., Oct. 13-16 (GMcC, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) brought the total number of records for the Region to 5. The only Stilt Sandpipers

found away from S E S S were one at the Los Angeles R mouth Aug 7 (BED) and one to three on San Elijo Lagoon Sept. 29-Oct. 14 (REW). The only Ruff was the male found near Imperial Beach July 15 which remained on s. San Diego Bay through the period, and is now believed to be the same bird present the last 2 winters.

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMER — Parasitic Jaegers were apparently more numerous than usual on the Salton Sea with one or two constantly present Sept. 10-Nov. 25, and concentrations of 10 Sept. 10 (D Sibley, *fide* JLD) and 24 Sept. 16 (GMcC); two on Tinnemaha Res. in the Owens Valley Sept. 2 (GMcC) were the first to have been found in Inyo County. An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger, casual inland, was at N E S.S., Sept. 10-11 (D. Sibley, *fide* JLD) and an immature was there Sept. 11-16 (REW). Six Franklin's Gulls between Sept. 16 and the end of the period was about an average total. A Little Gull on L. Elsinore Sept. 3-5 (GMcC) was only the 2nd in juv. plumage to have been found in California, the first having been one in Crescent City Aug. 15, 1981 (AB 36:214); such birds must originate from North American breeding colonies, possibly closer than the Great Lakes. An ad. Mew Gull on Morro Bay Sept. 7-13 (GPS) and another at the Santa Maria R. mouth Sept. 25 (DL) were both exceptionally early. Three ad. Herring Gulls at the Santa Maria R. mouth Sept. 26 (LB) were the earliest this fall, and only 3 days short of the earliest ever, and a 3rd-winter Herring Gull at Diaz L. in the Owens Valley Nov. 13 (REW) was only the 2nd ever to have been found in Inyo County. A Thayer's Gull at N.E.S.S., Oct. 13 (GMcC) established the earliest date for fall in s. California. Western Gulls continued to be found inland on the Salton Sea, with a first-winter bird at Salton City Sept. 11 (REW) and an ad. *wymani* there Nov. 18 (LB, *U.C.S.B.), suggesting the species may be very rare to casual there, rather than accidental as originally thought. A first-winter Glaucous-winged Gull at N.E.S.S., Oct. 16 (JLD) was very early for this inland locality. An imm. Glaucous Gull in Anaheim Nov. 9 (DRW) was remarkably early, the previous earliest record having been Nov. 24. An ad. Sabine's Gull, casual inland, was at a small pond in the Lucerne Valley, San Bernardino Co., Sept. 5 (BW), a juvenile was near Lancaster Oct. 4 (REW), an adult was at N.E.S.S., Sept. 16 (GMcC) and a juvenile was there Oct. 13-15 (GMcC). An ad. Elegant Tern well-studied on L. Elsinore Aug. 18 (BED, DRW, LRH) was the first ever to have been found inland in s. California, which is remarkable considering the numbers that evidently move from the Gulf of California to the Pacific each year. A concentration of 41 Black Terns on L. Henshaw Aug. 10 (RH) was a large number for a locality away from the Salton Sea. Black Skimmers have declined appreciably on the Salton Sea, but continue to increase in numbers along the coast in San Diego County, with six to 10 at Bolsa Chica throughout the period (LRH), up to five in Ventura County Aug. 25-Nov. 10 (JB, KS) and two on Morro Bay Oct. 12-15 (GS) being n. of San Diego County.

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — A White-winged Dove north of Lompoc Oct. 24 (PWC) was the northernmost of the 20 found along the coast. An Inca Dove at Iron Mt. Pump Station, San Bernardino Co., Oct. 13 (GMcC) was outside the species' known range. Common Ground-Doves were found n. of their range with three to four in Carpinteria between Oct. 4 and Nov. 23 (PEL, MH, TW) and one in Goleta Sept. 13 (LB).

— S.A. —

Intriguing was a ♂ **Ruddy Ground-Dove** at Iron Mt. Pump Station Oct. 11-Nov. 3 (BW, ph. S.D.N.H.M.). The Nov. 24-26, 1978, occurrence near Fillmore, Ventura Co., was treated as a probable escapee because of a lack of records n. of Sinaloa. However, the closely related Com. Ground-Dove, also considered largely resident, has wandered far to the N of its range in fall/early winter, and there are now fall/early winter records of Ruddy Ground-Doves for Arizona and New Mexico along with those for s. Texas. Iron Mt. Pump Station is a remote oasis in s.e. San Bernardino County, far from any possible source for escapees. Consequently, I feel it necessary to review all records from the Southwest prior to arbitrarily treating this, and the others, as escapees.

A Lesser Nighthawk near Camarillo, Ventura Co., Sept. 25 (KS) was in an area where considered rare. Two Black Swifts over Goleta Aug. 31 (PEL), two over Carpinteria Sept. 7 (LRB), one near Santiago Peak, Orange Co., Aug. 18 (DRW), two over Pt. Loma Sept. 8 (CGE), another there Sept. 15 (B & MMcI), one over Mt. Palomar Oct. 4 (RH) and two over nearby L. Henshaw Oct. 7 (RH) were all considered migrants, but we still know little about the movements of this species. Five Chimney Swifts present over downtown Los Angeles all summer were present through Aug. 16 (KLG). Twenty thousand Vaux's Swifts near Griffith Park, Los Angeles Co., Oct. 5-11 (LaS) formed an impressive concentration. A Black-chinned Hummingbird near Imperial Beach Oct. 5 (EC) and another in Huntington Beach Oct. 10-13 (DRW) were the latest this fall. An Anna's Hummingbird at Deep Springs, Inyo Co., Oct. 3 (REW) and another at F.C.R., Oct. 4 (REW) were in an area where very few have previously been recorded. A ♂ Costa's Hummingbird at Elk Hills on the w. side of the San Joaquin Valley Nov. 26-30 (RSa) was at an unexpected locality. A ♀ hummingbird exhibiting the characters of a Broad-tailed Hummingbird was carefully studied in California City Aug. 10 (MHe) and a 2nd was seen there Sept. 2 (JW), this species does nest in the White Mts. immediately to the n., but was previously unrecorded in this area of California.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — Lewis' Woodpeckers were widely scattered throughout most of the Region, with no concentrations reported other than 30 at Chilao in the San Gabriel Mts during October and November (BED), but including a few along the immediate coast such as two near Goleta Nov. 10+ (LB), one in Del Mar Oct. 24 (MV) and single birds on Pt. Loma Oct. 7 & 13 (REW). An Acorn Woodpecker at Deep Springs Oct. 7 (KLG) was far out of range. A Gila Woodpecker at N.E.S.S., Sept. 3 (BWK) was only the 2nd ever to be found n. of the Salton Sea. A ♂ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Goleta Oct. 3 (PEL), an immature there Oct. 21 (ABi) and another in Morongo Valley Oct. 24+ (BAC) were all identified as birds of the nominate race *varius*, considered casual in California. A Pileated Woodpecker seen on Breckenridge Mt., Kern Co., Oct. 14 (MOC) was the first ever to have been found s. of the Kern R., although a small population is known to be resident in the Greenhorn Mts. immediately n. of the river.

A Greater Pewee, a casual straggler to California, was on Pt. Loma Oct. 6-7 (REW); one in Santa Barbara Nov. 10+ (JLD) and another in San Diego Nov. 10+ (REW) both remained and were clearly wintering. A W. Wood-Pewee in Carpinteria Oct. 18-23 (PEL) and another in Huntington Beach Oct. 25 (SG) were the latest this fall. Seven Least Flycatchers were reported with one inland at Shoshone, Inyo Co., Oct. 25 (BED) and the rest along the coast with one in San Simeon Sept. 23-24 (CM), four in Santa Barbara County between Oct. 3 & 29 (JLD, LB, LRB) and one at Playa del Rey Sept. 16-19 (HLJ). At least 15 Hammond's Flycatchers were found along the coast, where considered quite rare in fall, with the latest being one on Pt. Loma Nov. 5 (REW). A Gray Flycatcher, rare along the coast in fall, was in Goleta Oct. 1-3 (PEL) and three were seen on Pt. Loma between Aug. 24 and Nov. 18 (REW, GMcC). A ♀ Vermilion Flycatcher at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley Oct. 10 (LB) was at an unusual locality.

A Great Crested Flycatcher at Montana de Oro S.P., Sept. 26-29 (GPS), another in Carpinteria Oct. 19-20 (LRB) and a 3rd in Santa Monica Oct. 28 (JA) were the 10th through 12th to have been found in s. California. A **Brown-crested Flycatcher** carefully studied in Goleta Oct. 21-24 (JLD) was only the 2nd to have been positively identified along the coast of California, the first having been captured on the Farallon Islands Sept. 17, 1983 (AB 38:243), even though it is a regular summer visitor to the s.e. portion of the state. Tropical Kingbirds were unusually scarce this fall with only eight reported, but including a remarkably early one at Atascadero Beach on Morro Bay Sept. 5 (LD). A **Thick-billed Kingbird** in Peters Canyon near Tustin Nov. 8+ (DRW) was believed to be the same bird present during the preceding 2 winters, and another in Claremont Nov. 3+ (MB) was the first to have been found in Los Angeles County. The only E. Kingbird reported was a worn adult near Tinnemaha Res. in the Owens Valley Sept. 15 (RSt). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, casual to accidental along the coast, was seen briefly in flight on Pt. Loma Oct. 1 (REW). A N. Rough-winged Swallow near Imperial Beach Nov. 17 (GMcC) was one of very few ever found along the coast between mid-November and late January.

KINGLETS THROUGH VIREOS — A minor flight of Golden-crowned Kinglets brought fair numbers to the mountains of extreme s California, such as 30 in the Laguna Mts., Nov. 17 (CGE), as well as smaller numbers to the coast all the way s. to San Diego County, such as up to seven on Pt. Loma Oct. 18-28 (REW), and a scattering of individuals throughout the e. portion of the Region, including one at Finney L., Nov. 17 (LB). A flight of Mountain Bluebirds brought some to the immediate vicinity of the coast such as 34 in Goleta between Nov. 16 and the end of the period (ABi), 17 in Carpinteria Nov. 30 (LRB), one near Oxnard Nov. 19 (KS) and one on Pt. Loma Oct. 25 (REW). Up to two Townsend's Solitaires on Pt. Loma Oct. 27-29 (GMcC) were right along the coast where rare. A Gray Catbird at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley Oct. 4 (REW), one in Baker Oct. 12-14 (BED, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) and another at Iron Mountain Pump Station Nov. 3 (GMcC) provided only the 4th through 6th fall records from interior s. California. A Sage Thrasher near Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo Co., Oct. 4 (BS) was one of only a few ever found in this area of California. The only Brown Thrashers this fall were one on Pt. Loma Oct. 27-30 (EB) and another in Bakersfield Nov. 17+ (MHe).

S.A.

An ad. **White Wagtail** (*Motacilla alba*) at the mouth of Arroyo de la Cruz immediately n. of Pt. Piedras Blancas, San Luis Obispo Co., Oct. 5-8 (GPS) was the first to be so identified in California. However, in addition to two definite Black-backed Wagtails, there are 5 records of unidentified imm. White/Black-backed Wagtails for California, including one at the mouth of Arroyo de la Cruz Oct. 9 of last year (AB 38:247) that may well have been the same bird as this year; adults are the only birds being identified to species.

A Water Pipit at the Santa Maria R. mouth Sept. 9 (LB) was very early. A Sprague's Pipit in Goleta Sept. 21-22 (BED) was the first for Santa Barbara County. An ad. N. Shrike in Westguard Pass of the White Mts., Nov. 13 (REW) was in the extreme n.e. corner of this Region where considered rare but regular in late fall and winter. Single Bell's Vireos in Gaviota, Santa Barbara Co., Sept. 21-24 (DB) and Oct. 16-17 (DB), one in Carpinteria Oct. 12 (LB) and a 4th on Pt. Loma Sept. 15 (REW) were all migrants away from known nesting localities. A Solitary Vireo in Huntington Beach Oct. 4-6 (DRW) and another on Pt. Loma Oct. 10 (REW) were felt to be of the nominate race *solitarius*, considered a casual fall vagrant to California. A Yellow-throated Vireo in Newport Beach Sept. 23 (DRW) was only the 3rd found along the coast in fall. Three Red-eyed Vireos along the coast of San Luis Obispo County between Sept. 8 & 30 (BS, CM) and a 4th in Carpinteria Sept. 17 (LRB) furnished an average number for fall.

WOOD WARBLERS — Most observers felt the number and variety of wood warblers encountered this fall were below average and no doubt that was true. However, with the increased number of observers and the continuing interest in finding vagrants from the e., a total of 39 species of wood warblers was reported, more than any state e. of the Mississippi R could hope for. A ♂ Golden-winged Warbler in La Jolla Oct. 6-12 (JM) was the first for San Diego County. A Virginia's Warbler in Montana de Oro S.P., Oct. 10 (DH) was the northernmost of the 11 found along the coast. A Lucy's Warbler at Turtle Rock Nature Center, Orange Co., Aug. 4 (BED) and another on Pt. Loma Aug. 9 (REW) were both along the coast where considered very rare. The only N. Parulas, always inexplicably rare in fall considering the numbers found in spring, were one in Carpinteria Sept. 25-26 (LRB), another near Oxnard Oct. 17-21 (JLD) and a 3rd inland at Morongo Valley Oct. 13 (BAC). Fifteen Chestnut-sided Warblers along the coast between Sept. 18 and Nov. 11 were more than expected, and 12 Magnolia Warblers there between Sept. 13 and Oct. 30, along with one inland at F.C.R., Oct. 24-26 (JLD), was about average. Of the 11 Black-throated Blue Warblers found between Oct. 13 and 29 only five were along the coast, the rest being at desert oases in the e. portion of the Region. The only Black-throated Green Warblers found this fall were one at the mouth of Zuma Creek, Los Angeles Co., Sept. 3 (H & PB), another on the Palos Verdes Peninsula Oct. 21-25 (MK) and a 3rd in Huntington Beach Sept. 23 (V & WG).

Blackburnian Warblers were scarcer than in recent years with only six reported between Oct. 10 and Nov. 4, but did include one inland in Riverside Nov. 3 (EAC). A Grace's Warbler, one of the rarest vagrants to be found along the coast, was in Carpinteria Oct. 12-13 (LRB) and a 2nd was on Pt. Loma Oct. 11-12 (REW). A Pine Warbler near Imperial Beach Nov. 4-6 (EC) was the 13th found in the Region. Six Prairie Warblers along the coast between Sept. 2 and Oct. 7 was more than in recent years. Only 18 Palm Warblers were found along the coast, but did include an unusually early bird in Anaheim Sept. 21 (DRW); inland, where decidedly rarer, three were found with one at Oasis Oct. 3 (REW), another at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley Oct. 3 (REW) and the 3rd at L. Henshaw Oct. 1 (RH). The only Bay-breasted Warblers reported were one in Montana de Oro S.P., Sept. 18-21 (CM) and another near Imperial Beach Nov. 4 (TM). A Blackpoll Warbler in Whitewater Canyon, Riverside Co., Oct. 11 (DCH) and another at Iron Mt. Pump Station Oct. 14 (BAC) were inland where rarely found. Eight Prothonotary Warblers was a remarkable total with single birds in Oceano Sept. 1-7 (BS), near Oxnard Sept. 16-18 (TW), on Pt. Fermin Sept. 19 (BED) and on Pt. Loma Sept. 25 (REW) being along the coast, and single birds at Scotty's Castle Oct. 3 (REW) and F.C.R., Oct. 20 (GMcC) along with two in Baker Oct. 13-14 (EAC, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) being inland. A Worm-eating Warbler on Pt. Loma Sept. 16 (BF) was the only one found. Three Ovenbirds along the coast between Sept. 19 and Oct. 10 were fewer than we have become accustomed to. A Kentucky Warbler in California City Oct. 19 (JW) was the 15th found in the Region, and a Connecticut Warbler in Oceano Oct. 1-2 (BS) the 12th for the Region. A Mourning Warbler, only slightly more frequent than the 2 previous species, was in Carpinteria Sept. 17 (LRB), and a ♂ Hooded Warbler in Montana de Oro S.P., Oct. 25-31 (CM) and another in Santa Barbara Oct. 18 (HR) were only the 18th and 19th found in fall. Single Canada Warblers, also rare vagrants to California, were in Oceano Oct. 2 (BS), Santa Barbara Oct. 18 (LB), on Pt. Loma Sept. 22 (REW) and Oct. 11 (REW), and inland at Twenty-nine Palms Oct. 10 (BW, *L.A.C.N.H.M.). A Painted Redstart, always an exciting find, was inland at Zaca L., Santa Barbara Co., Oct. 19 (PWC).

TANAGERS, BUNTINGS — A ♂ Hepatic Tanager on Pt. Loma Oct. 29 (REW) could well have been the same bird present there last winter. A Summer Tanager at F.C.R., Oct. 24-25 (JLD) was the only one found inland away from known breeding localities. Four Scarlet Tanagers, very rare stragglers to California, were found with one in Morro Bay S.P., Nov. 11 (KLG) and single birds on Pt. Loma Oct. 12 (REW), Oct. 21 (MH) and Oct. 23 (REW). A Blue Grosbeak in Goleta Oct. 31 (HB) and another on Pt. Loma Nov. 1 (REW) were both quite late. Seven Dickcissels were found along the coast between Sept. 16 and Oct. 10 along with one inland at F.C.R., Oct. 8 (KLG); this species was more numerous 20 years ago.

SPARROWS — The only Am. Tree Sparrow found this fall was one in California City Nov. 10 (MHe). Nine Clay-colored Sparrows along the coast between Sept. 13 and Oct. 29 was close to average. A Black-chinned Sparrow, casual along the coast in fall, was in Santa Barbara Sept. 21 (HM), another was on Pt. Fermin Sept. 15 (BED), and single birds were on Pt. Loma Aug. 12 (REW) and Oct. 21 (REW). Single Black-throated Sparrows, also casual along the coast, were in Gaviota Sept. 1-2 (JLD), at Pt. Mugu Sept. 21 (BED) and Irvine Sept. 9 (DRW) along with three in the San Diego area between Aug. 20 and Oct. 11. The only Lark Buntings found this fall were one on the Carrizo Plains Nov. 23 (GPS) and another in Goleta Oct. 4-9 (JLD). A Grasshopper Sparrow in Goleta Sept. 30-Oct. 7 (DB) and another on Pt. Loma Oct. 25-Nov. 1 (REW) were both at unusual localities. Four Swamp Sparrows between Oct. 11 and Nov. 12, and six Harris' Sparrows between Oct. 22 and Nov. 24 were far fewer than expected. The only Lapland Longspurs were one to three near Santa Maria Oct. 28-Nov. 3 (PEL), one on Pt. Loma Oct. 23 (REW), one near Imperial Beach Oct. 27 (GMcC) and another inland at F.C.R., Oct. 28 (REW). Chestnut-colored Longspurs were remarkably scarce with one near Santa Maria Oct. 28 (JLD), two in the Fremont Valley of e. Kern County Nov. 10-23 (MHe) and three in the San Jacinto Valley Nov. 29 (RMcK) being the only ones reported.

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES — About 75 Bobolinks were reported along the coast with one in Goleta Nov. 3-8 (PEL) being exceptionally

late. A ♂ Great-tailed Grackle in Sylmar, Los Angeles Co., Nov. 24 (ASm) was well w. of its normal range. Only three Orchard Orioles were reported with one near San Simeon Sept. 23-24 (CM), one in Goleta Oct. 2 (PEL) and the 3rd inland at Iron Mt. Pump Station Oct. 13 (JO).

FINCHES — A flock of 175 Rosy Finches, an erratic late fall visitor to the extreme n.e. portion of this Region, was encountered in West-guard Pass of the White Mts., Nov. 13 (JLD) along with a flock of eight in nearby Gilbert Pass the same day (JLD). Purple Finches were commoner than normal along the coast during October and November with small numbers scattered across the e. portion of the Region, and a concentration of 80 in Brawley at the end of the month (GMcC). A few Cassin's Finches in the e. portion of the Region, including a group of six at F.C.R., Nov. 24 (GMcC), were undoubtedly associated with the Purple Finch movement, as were the increased numbers of Pine Siskins throughout the Region. Red Crossbills were widely reported, with small numbers along the entire coast s. to San Diego with one on Pt. Loma Oct. 25 (REW) and two more there Oct. 29 (REW); in the foothills and mountains numbers were higher as indicated by 20 on Figueroa Mt., Santa Barbara Co., Nov. 3-4 (JMCD) and up to 50 at Chilao in the San Gabriel Mts. during November (JB); a few were scattered about the deserts, with up to 14 at California City between Oct. 14 and Nov. 10 (MHe), nine at Iron Mt. Pump Station Nov. 9 (JLD), and one as far s. as Brawley Nov. 25-Dec. 1 (JLD), and along the Colorado R. valley with nine near Blythe Aug. 14 (JLD). The only Evening Grosbeaks reported were one in Goleta Nov. 17 (PEL), one to two at F.C.R., Oct. 13-28 (DRW), one at Harper Dry Lake Oct. 26 (JLD) and 18 on Mt. Palomar Nov. 25-30 (RH).

CORRIGENDA — The Am. Tree Sparrow reported in California City (AB 38:248) was near Bakersfield.

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HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

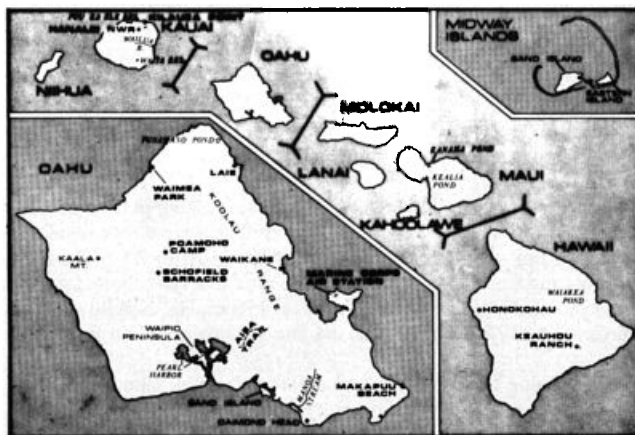
/Robert L. Pyle

Hawaii's long, persistent drought conditions continued into early fall, but welcome relief finally came with increased trade wind showers in late September and October. Water use restrictions on Oahu were lifted in late fall, and the fields and scrubland finally turning green again should stimulate nesting by those introduced landbird species which tend to breed in the wetter seasons rather than by the calendar. On October 7 the temperature at Honolulu Airport reached 94°, an all time record high for the state.

ABBREVIATIONS — F.F.S. = French Frigate Shoals; H. = Hawaii I.; O. = Oahu Island; N.W.H.I. = North West Hawaiian Islands; H.V.N.P. = Hawaii Volcanoes National Park on Hawaii; J.C.N.W.R. = James Campbell Nat'l Wildlife Ref. on Oahu; P.H.N.W.R. = Pearl Harbor Nat'l Wildlife Ref. on Oahu.

GREBES — A Pied-billed Grebe was found at Aimakapa Pond, H., Oct. 7, and a 2nd bird still in full breeding plumage had arrived by Oct. 21 (RD). Two Pied-billeds, rare stragglers to Hawaii, had wintered last year at this same pond.

PROCELLARIDS — It was a banner season for reports of petrels and storm-petrels in Hawaii. Eight of the Endangered Hawaiian (Dark-rumped) Petrels were turned in at the shearwater salvage stations along the Kauai coast Nov. 20-27. All were hatching-year birds, evidently from nest sites in interior Kauai, and all were banded and released (TT). Also, on Hawaii I. where these petrels have been recorded very rarely, three were reported heard at dusk Aug. 17 along Highway 11 in H.V.N.P. (RW). These reports reinforced previous indications that this species nests fairly certainly on Kauai and possibly on Hawaii in addition to the main colony at Haleakala Crater on Maui and a probable smaller group on Lanai.



An ad. Bonin Petrel brought into a salvage station near Lihou, K., Nov. 12 with sprained carpals, was "hospitalized" until Nov. 24 when it was photographed and released unbanded near Waimea (TT, DY). Bonins breed abundantly in the N.W.H.I., but are very rarely if ever found in the main Hawaiians.

Two observers (PP, BE) skilled in seabird identification had a rare opportunity to observe birds offshore of the Northwest Hawaiian Islands from a research vessel this fall. While travelling from Midway to Laysan I., Nov. 3-4, they recorded four **White-necked Petrels**, one **Kermadec Petrel**, four **Cook's Petrels**, two **Buller's Shearwaters**, one **Short-tailed Shearwater**, and three **Wilson's Storm-Petrels**. All of these are Southern Hemisphere breeders and all, as might be expected, were flying southward. The Cook's Petrel and Wilson's Storm-Petrel had not been reported previously in Hawaiian waters. Hawaiian breeding species recorded included an estimated 250 Bonin Petrels, no Bulwer's Petrels, 150 Wedge-tailed Shearwaters and six Sooty Storm-Petrels. Three Leach's Storm-Petrels, a Northern Hemisphere breeder wintering

in Hawaiian waters, were also seen Ten days later, between Laysan and French Frigate Shoals Nov. 14-15, birds were much scarcer. Only one White-necked Petrel, one Cook's Petrel, two Bonins, about 250 Wedge-taileds, one Leach's Storm-Petrel and one Sooty Storm-Petrel were recorded despite equally intensive observation effort. A few more Bonins, Wedge-taileds and Sooty Storm-Petrels were found Nov. 16 just off Tern I., F.F.S. Full details about these sightings, including identification notes, have been prepared for publication in 'Elepaio.

Of the 9 Bulwer's Petrel nest sites confirmed on Manana I. off Oahu this summer, only 3 successfully fledged young (JS).

A tentative count of Newell's Shearwaters (Threatened) turned in to the salvage stations on Kauai this fall was 1125 banded and released, and 117 more found dead or died before release (TT). This number is down significantly from recent years. "Fallout" was about normal along the e. coast, but was well below normal along the s. coast, particularly near the Kauai Surf Hotel where shields were installed on street lights this year. The shields were probably not totally responsible for the lower numbers since bright moon during the peak departure period this year also reduced the fallout (TT). Two **Band-rumped Storm-Petrels**, both hatching-year birds found near Kekaha town, were turned in to the salvage station Oct. 29 and Nov. 1. The species is very rarely reported, but is presumed to breed in small numbers on Kauai.

One hundred eleven Wedge-tailed Shearwaters found on Oahu beaches were turned in to Sea Life Park and released in November and early December (IK). The state Wildlife Division had built a new release pen at the park this year to help the salvage effort.

TROPICBIRDS THROUGH HERONS — One White-tailed Tropicbird near Kahaluu, O., Aug. 25 (AE, BB), four circling together in upper Kuliouou Valley, O., Sept. 25 (NH) and one far at sea between Laysan and F.F.S., Nov. 15 (PP, BE) provided interesting distributional records. Five of the 10 Red-tailed Tropicbird nests on Manana I. off Oahu this year fledged young successfully (JS). Blue-faced Booby nesting on Christmas I., 1500 mi s. of Honolulu, was in full swing in late August with well-developed chicks, nestlings and eggs all present (SS). The same observer reported that the Lesser Frigatebird nesting population on Christmas is up considerably over previous estimates, and the colony has moved to a larger area. Nest status in late August varied from adults on eggs to 6-month old nestlings, with peak numbers around 5 months old.

The elusive Little Blue Heron appeared briefly at Waipio, O., Nov. 6 (AE, RLP), but was not seen again. An ad. Little Blue has appeared in fall at this same locality numerous times over the past 18 years (AB 34 204).

WATERFOWL — Following their successful nesting in the Kahuku area of Oahu last summer, Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were seen regularly there this fall with a high count of 13 found Nov. 30 (JK). The oversummering Canada Goose in the same area was last reported Aug. 25-26 (AE, BB, PD). The Brant at Aimakapa Pond, H., died July 9 and was preserved (BPBM-161231) as the 2nd specimen known from the state.

Reports of one to five Green-winged Teal this fall came from the usual locations on Oahu and Hawaii, but also included one at Midway Nov. 1 (BE) and five at Laysan Nov. 7 (PP). Two ♂ Mallards at Midway Nov. 1 (PP) were certainly wild migrants, but those seen in the Kahuku and Pearl Harbor areas of Oahu were probably derived from local feral stock. Their interbreeding with the endemic Koloa (Hawaiian Duck, Endangered) continues to cause considerable concern. Koloa, however, continue to do well on Oahu. An astounding 60 were counted at Punaho'olapa Pond near J.C.N.W.R., Aug. 31 (JK, DW *et al.*).

Migrating N. Pintails and N. Shovelers had arrived at J.C.N.W.R. and P.H.N.W.R. in about usual numbers by November's end. At Aimakapa Pond, H., the first 30 shovelers arrived during the night of Oct. 20-21 and had built up to 75+ by Oct. 26 (RD). A Garganey in female plumage was at Midway Nov. 1 (PP, BE). Blue-winged Teal evidently oversummered again at Aimakapa Pond; five in female or eclipse plumage were there in August (CM) and four on Sept. 22 (RD). Three at Kii Pond, J.C.N.W.R., Nov. 6 (AE, RLP) and one at Waipio, O., Nov. 14 (PD) were fall arrivals. A female or eclipse male Eur. Wigeon was at Midway Nov. 1 (PP, BE), and Am. Wigeon were reported at at least 6 localities on Oahu, Molokai and Hawaii during November. A Tufted

Duck in female plumage was found and photographed at Tern I., F.F.S., Nov. 18-19 (PP, BE)

HAWKS THROUGH QUAIL — Oahu's 1984 Osprey was seen Aug. 31 at Punaho'olapa Pond (JK, DW *et al.*) and again along the beach opposite nearby Kii Pond, J.C.N.W.R., Sept. 8 (AE, RLP). It has not been reported since, but one was observed by visitors near the Spouting Horn on Kauai Nov. 26 (LS). Peregrine Falcons turned up in Hawaii again this fall. One nice adult at Kii Pond first seen Nov. 1 (DW) was reported several times through November including the 30th (JK). One that was thought to be an imm. *tundrius* was seen well and photographed at Tern I., F.F.S. (PP, BE). Kalij Pheasants continue to increase over much of Hawaii I., now being seen from sea level to above 6000 ft elevation at the end of Mauna Loa Strip Road in H.V.N.P. (RD). More than 40 Wild Turkeys were found at Puu Laau, H., Oct. 12, along with 50+ California Quail in several large coveys and a Japanese Quail (RD).

COOT — This has been an excellent year for Hawaiian (Am.) Coots (Endangered) nesting at Aimakapa Pond, H. Counts of 137 to 165 were obtained in August and early September (RD, LH), and 11 one-week-old chicks were there in late October. After 3 days of intensive study Oct. 19-21, RD was confident that none had a small red button on the frontal shield or a dark bill ring associated with the mainland coot. The high numbers thus have resulted evidently from local production. Whether or how many mainland coots migrate to Hawaii in fall has long been an interesting question. Coot numbers also have been good this year elsewhere in the state, including 78 at infrequently visited Paialoa Pond on Molokai Nov. 27 (JK, DW).

SHOREBIRDS — The two Black-bellied Plovers at Waipio since July remained at least until mid-November, and were joined by a pair of Semipalmated-type Plovers from late August through mid-September (PD). Hawaiian (Black-necked) Stilts (Endangered) continue to increase on Molokai with the improvement of Kakahaia N.W.R. Fifty-three counted at Kakahaia Nov. 19 was the highest number ever recorded there (JK, DW). A careful island-wide survey on Laysan Nov. 7 (PP) produced the following counts of regular shorebird migrants: 2600 Lesser Golden-Plovers, 450 Wandering Tattlers, 125 Bristle-thighed Curlews, 4500 Ruddy Turnstones and 25 Sanderlings. Less common species included a Lesser Yellowlegs, three Bar-tailed Godwits, one Pectoral and one Sharp-tailed sandpiper, one Dunlin, one Ruff, one Short-billed and two Long-billed dowitchers; a remarkable list. Elsewhere, shorebird records of note included a well-described imm. Spotted Sandpiper at Aimakapa Reef, H., Sept. 3 (LH), a well-photographed Western Sandpiper and two Pectorals at Aimakapa Pond Sept. 21-22 (RD), and two Pectorals and four Sharp-tailed sandpipers at Midway Nov. 1 (PP, BE). On Oahu, a Short-billed Dowitcher at Waipio Sept. 1-16 (PD, m.ob.), much earlier than Long-billeds normally arrive, was one of very few if not the first Short-billed to be confidently identified in the main Hawaiians. Two Least Sandpipers and a Ruff at Waipio throughout the fall (m.ob.), a snipe (sp.?) in flight at Amoriant Aquafarm Aug. 25 and a Wilson's Phalarope at Kii Pond Sept. 8 (both by AE, BB) rounded out an interesting collection of shorebirds for the islands this fall.

TERNs THROUGH KINGFISHER — One or two Least/Little Terns were seen at Waipio, O., sporadically from July 30 to Sept. 20, and regularly from Nov. 7 to month's end (PD). On Manana I. off Oahu many Brown Noddies had newly-hatched chicks, and a few adults were still on eggs in mid-September. Some recently fledged young from an earlier nesting cycle were also there (JS). At Christmas I., very large numbers of Sooty Terns were present in late August, one colony containing half 6-month-old fledglings and half adults on eggs (SS). Sooty Tern nesting on Christmas had normally peaked in June and December before the recent El Nino anomalies, so that the timing of the nesting this year is evidently still feeling some effects of these anomalies.

A Gray Swiftlet was observed well Nov. 26 in upper Kahaluu Valley, O. (AS, 'Elepaio 45:65), less than 2 mi across the main mountain ridge from the caves where the species is known to nest. This sighting followed by only 6 months the first reported sighting of this bird e. of the Koolau crest and not far from the Kahaluu site. The species was intro-

duced in Oahu in 1962. A vagrant ♀ **Belted Kingfisher** was observed catching fish at Aimakapa Reef, H. Oct. 3 (FD), but could not be found thereafter. Kingfishers have been recorded in Hawaii only about half a dozen times.

PASSERINES — On Christmas I., 4 pairs of the endemic warbler and a nest were found in late August, but no eggs or evidence of young birds (SS). Two 'Elepaio were seen alive and a 3rd found dead near Barbers Pt., O., during a survey Sept. 29 (LF). The locality is on the Ewa Plain near the ocean and far from the species' nearest expected range in the Waianae Mts. Two or possibly three Kama'o (Kauai Thrush) were heard in the Alakai Swamp area, and the single 'O'o'-a'a was heard and seen near its traditional nest site there, both on Sept. 26 (MM *et al.*). Both are seriously Endangered.

Yellow-billed Cardinals, continuing to increase along the Kona coast of Hawaii I., are now seen commonly s. to Kealakekua Bay (LH) and

Honauau. An 'Amakihi in a Honolulu yard at 400 ft elevation Aug. 27 (FH) was unusually low for a summer occurrence. An 'Akiapola'au was seen at Puu Laau in August (CM), and twice during early fall at Pohaku-loa (FD). Both localities are in scrubland on the w. side of Hawaii Island's central saddle where the species is less frequently seen. Eighteen Java Sparrows coming to a yard in Princeville, K. in mid-October (BP) demonstrated that this introduced species, expanding rapidly on Oahu and Hawaii, now also has a foothold on Kauai.

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WEST INDIES REGION

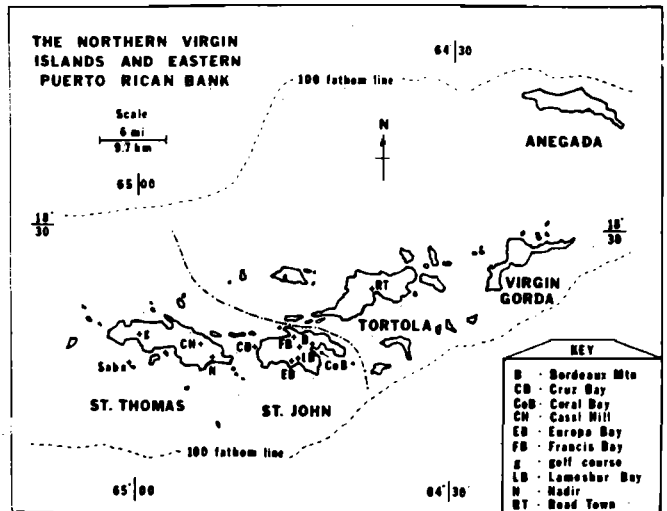
/Robert L. Norton

The fall season's precipitation in the Virgin Islands as measured at Cruz Bay, St. John was 22% above normal in August but began to decrease to 23% below average for September and 35% below for October. However, Hurricane *Klaus*, which originated as such on the Puerto Rico Bank November 6, and rainfall during the balance of the month surpassed the November average by 236%. Upper-level troughs, depressions or storms from late September (23-27) through October (5, 18) produced some notable avian fallout. During the first week of November, *Klaus* in its infancy as a tropical depression and later as a storm dropped 13 inches of rain in Trinidad, 11 inches in Barbados and nine inches in Antigua before slicing through the Virgin Islands. Antigua had been experiencing drought conditions since 1982 and its lowest August rainfall in 110 years. The Virgin Islands' anomalous, above-average August rainfall disguised the creeping drought conditions in neighboring islands. In Puerto Rico, only a few kilometers to the west, it was shaping up to be the driest year since 1977 (*San Juan Star*, Aug. 27, 1984).

Avian fallout from Hurricane *Klaus* included two species new to areas on the Puerto Rico Bank. Larids were also notable fallout as a result of tropical waves and storms in the area. Apart from these climatological influences, the fall migration was mediocre on the Puerto Rico Bank, but more significant on St. Croix.

ABBREVIATIONS — P.R. = Puerto Rico; St. C. = St. Croix; St. J. = St. John; St. T. = St. Thomas; V.I. = Virgin Islands.

BOOBIES THROUGH TERNS — Red-footed Boobies were confirmed as nesting at Frenchcap Cay, St. T. for the first time Sept. 25 (DN). Survival of nesting and fledgling Brown, Masked and Red-footed boobies during *Klaus*, however, was expected to be low. In the wake of *Klaus*, eight Glossy Ibises were noted at Cabo Rojo, P.R., Nov. 7 (SF). On Nov. 9 a Greater Flamingo was reported at Mangrove Lagoon, St. T. (SM *et al.*), and it remained there until Nov. 14 (LH). At Vieques, P.R., 17 km s.w. of St. T., MW reported a Greater Flamingo Nov. 16. It was undoubtedly the same bird making its way back towards its probable colony at Beata Island, Hispaniola (RLN). These occurrences represented the first confirmed reports of the species for these locations in this century. On Nov. 10, eight **Canada Geese** were observed at Cartagena Lagoon, P.R., providing the first record for that island and e. of Cuba (SF). **Cinnamon Teal** were observed again at St. C., Sept. 22 (FS, RLN) and as many as four during October. A pair of N. Shovelers was seen Oct. 15 at St. C. (FS). Another fallout species as a result of *Klaus* was a Hooded Merganser seen Nov. 10 at Cartagena Lagoon, P.R. (SF). Furniss also reported six Ospreys at Cabo Rojo, P.R., Nov. 7. A N. Harrier was noted at St. C., Oct. 23 (FS) for one of the few records from that island. Sladen also reported that as many as four Peregrine Falcons were present at St. C., Oct. 10.



A Lesser Golden-Plover was observed at a golf course on St. T., Sept. 2-3 (PF). Sladen noted two at St. C., Sept. 18, and counted 183 Sept. 27 and 140 Oct. 4. Five Whimbrels were noted there Aug. 11 (FS), increasing to 42 by Sept. 27. A Baird's Sandpiper was noted at St. C., Aug. 18 and again Oct. 16 (FS). Two **Dunlins** were carefully noted by FS Oct. 10 at St. C. Another casual visitor to St. C. among the shorebird ranks observed irregularly but carefully studied by FS was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper Sept. 18. A **Long-billed Dowitcher** was observed (FS) Oct. 24 at St. C. for one of the few records for the V.I. A **Wilson's Phalarope** was also seen at St. C., Aug. 11 (RR), and later seen by others (FS, RLN) providing the first known record for that island and the V.I. A first-winter Ring-billed Gull was noted at St. C., Nov. 10 just after *Klaus* moved out of the area, followed by two Herring Gulls seen at St. C. as well (FS).

Sladen reported several tern species from St. C. including a Gull-billed Aug. 11, Sandwich (two) Aug. 29 and one **Arctic Tern** Sept. 30. Two **Arctic Terns** were carefully noted Sept. 9 and Oct. 28 at St. J. among feeding Common (20+) and Roseate (90+) terns offering good views for comparison. A single **Forster's Tern** was observed Nov. 10 at St. C. (FS), as a result of *Klaus* which may have transported it from San Juan where the species has been seen with more regularity in recent times. On Aug. 29 FS observed the rarely-encountered Black Tern at St. C. on migration through the V.I.

CUCKOOS THROUGH BOBOLINK — A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was noted on St. C., Oct. 21 (FS). An early report of a Chuck-will's-widow Sept. 26 at St. C. (FS) suggested a major landbird wave in late September, perhaps related to Storm *Hortense* or another low pressure system n. of the Greater Antilles at that time. Further evidence of storm-

assisted migrants or accidentals in the V.I. came from reports of a N. Rough-winged Swallow Sept. 23, Bank Swallows (11) Sept. 27 and Cliff Swallows (eight) Sept. 27 and Oct. 23, all from St. C. (FS). Cliff Swallows (two) were also noted at St. J. (RLN) Oct. 19, a day after an upper-level trough had passed through the area. A Red-eyed Vireo was noted by FS Oct. 6 for St. J.'s first record. A Cape May Warbler was very early Aug. 26 at Santo Domingo, D.R. (ASD). A Prairie Warbler was also noted by ASD on that date while the first Am. Redstart for the season was seen at Santo Domingo as well Sept. 3 (ASD). The first N. Waterthrush for Santo Domingo was noted Sept. 1 (ASD) and the first

report from the V.I. was Sept. 10 at St. T. (RLN). Bobolinks were noted on migration through the V.I. on Oct. 2 (five) at St. C. and Oct. 5 (one) on St. J. (RLN).

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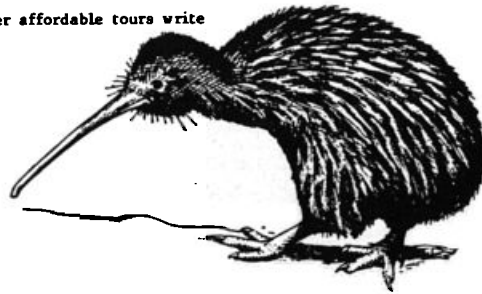
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