

# The Autumn Migration

## August 1-November 30, 1985

### A Note on New Names

Some readers might be jarred by a few unfamiliar bird names used in Regional Reports in this issue. The Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of the American Ornithologists' Union (widely known as the "A.O.U. Check-list Committee") has made recent taxonomic decisions, published in the *Auk* for July 1985, that affect what we call some of our birds.

The two "color phases" of Western Grebe are now recognized as two full species; the "light-phase" bird is now known as Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*), with the "dark-phase" bird retaining the name Western Grebe. Clark's seems to be the less common of the two over most of their shared range in North America, but its status is still poorly known.

Following the recent recognition of the Red-breasted Sapsucker of the Pacific coastal regions as a full species, the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker has been split again, with the birds of the Rocky Mountains and Great Basin areas now known as Red-naped Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*); the more northern and eastern bird is still called Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*S. var-*

*ius*). The Yellow-bellied is known to stray into parts of the West and Southwest, but we know relatively little about the Red-naped's wanderings.

The loons present a slightly different case. In most Regions, it may seem that the name "Arctic Loon" has been simply changed to "Pacific Loon." Actually (as discussed by D.D. Gibson in the Alaska Region report in this issue) this is a taxonomic split, not a name change; Arctic and Pacific loons are now regarded as two species, overlapping locally in western Alaska. Pacific Loon is the widespread breeding and wintering bird in North America. Isolated records out-of-range may now be tinged with some doubt, however, because no one is sure how to distinguish the two species in winter plumage.

Each of these situations gives the field birder new challenges and new opportunities for discovery. We hope that observers will pay special attention to these "new" species, and report their findings to their Regional Editors.

—Kenn Kaufman

### Abbreviations Frequently Used in Regional Reports

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

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

We regret that at press time, we had not received the Northeastern Maritime Regional Report.

QUEBEC REGION

Richard Yank and Yves Aubry

The first one-half of August was generally warm and dry while the balance of the month was variable, with cool and wet conditions prevailing in the south. September was mild with below-average precipitation throughout. The tail end of hurricane Gloria brought heavy rain and strong winds to southern Quebec September 27-28, but no storm-related vagrants. The month of October continued mild with precipitation above normal in the north and below normal in the south. Temperatures in November averaged colder than the mean, after a mild first week was followed by record low readings at mid-month.

**LOONS THROUGH RAPTORS** — Quebec's 2nd *Cory's Shearwater* was sighted off Blanc-Sablon July 20 (NB, MB, GSA, JM). A few shearwaters were again observed in the Upper St. Lawrence Estuary: a Greater and a Manx were off Tadoussac Aug. 24 (PL), another Greater was off Bergeronnes Oct. 8 (AB), and up to two Manx were seen from the Trois-Pistoles ferry Sept. 13 (YG, GGe) & 15 (JPO, DL). A new form of pelagic birding appeared to be in the making as windsurfing birders (!) identified a storm-petrel, probably a Wilson's, off Beauport Sept. 23 (CS) and a Leach's Storm-Petrel off Saint-Michel-de-Bellechasse Aug. 5 (CAR). Two more Wilson's, rare on the St. Lawrence R., were seen from shore at Sainte-Luce Oct. 11-12 (YG) and another was noted at I. aux Basques Oct. 12 (MD *et al.*). A Canadian Wildlife Service survey of Corossol I. off Sept-Iles found 675+ pairs of Leach's Storm-Petrels this summer (GChp, PBr). This previously-unknown colony extended the species' breeding range to the w. An **American White Pelican** was sighted at Repentigny during the first week of September (*vide* GSe). An imm. Great Cormorant, also unusual along the St. Lawrence R., reached Pointe-au-Père Oct. 4 (YG).

In July, 6 Great Egret nests containing eight young were censused on Dickerson I., where the species first bred last year (MJ). Lone Great Egrets wandered to Saint-Félix-de-Kingsey (PBe), Saint-Fabien-de-Panet (BF, JL), and Saint-Lambert, Lévis Co. (SC *et al.*), in late August. Southern herons were otherwise absent this fall. An imm. Black-crowned Night-Heron was considered late at Quebec City Nov. 11 (CV). A White Ibis that turned up in downtown Montreal in July (*vide* ND) was found to have escaped from a nearby zoo.

An imm. Tundra Swan stopped briefly at I. des Soeurs Oct. 19 (IR, BM). Additional "summer" records of Snow Geese included one each at Saint-Fulgence (*vide* CC) and Bromptonville (GGr, VL), and eight at Rivière-Ouelle (CA) in mid-August. Particularly rare during the fall, a ♀ Eur. Wigeon was reportedly at Aylmer Oct. 14 & 16 (RS). A Harlequin Duck at La Baie Oct. 23-Nov. 19 (ST, HS *et al.*) was locally rare, as was a Ruddy Duck at Pointe-Lebel Oct. 9 (CT). The latter species was also found at Aylmer Oct. 16 (RS), Montmagny Oct. 19 (CA), and Cap Tourmente Oct. 21-Nov. 1 (at least two birds—DT, v.o.).

Notable Turkey Vulture concentrations involved 16 at Georgeville Sept. 2 (JPC) and 38 over Philipsburg Sept. 14 (MJ). Montreal hawkwatchers (MM, BB) tallied high totals for N. Harrier (84), Cooper's Hawk (17), Red-tailed Hawk (1172), and



Am. Kestrel (128) this fall. Virtually nothing is known of raptor migration patterns along the N. Shore. Of interest, therefore, was the following flight detected at Pointe-aux-Outardes Oct. 20 (GC *et al.*): two Bald Eagles, 100 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 12 N. Goshawks, 125 Red-tailed and 50 Rough-legged hawks, a Golden Eagle, and 250 unidentified falcons. A Red-shouldered Hawk at Rimouski Aug. 8 (GGe) was at the limit of its normal range and a Rough-legged Hawk was described from La Vérendrye P.P. on the unusual date of Aug. 1 (DC).

**PHEASANT THROUGH TERNS** — The increasing frequency with which captive-bred game species are being released into the wild makes it impossible to establish the origin of birds such as the Ring-necked Pheasant at Dunham Oct. 19 (JSR). This fall, for example, species released at a Quebec City site included Chukar, Ring-necked Pheasant, Wild Turkey, and Gambel's and California quail, in addition to several more exotic species. There are currently no regulations governing the release of such birds when acquired within the province.

A total of 219 Spruce Grouse, captured on the N. Shore, were released at 2 sites on Anticosti I. in late July and August under a joint project of the University of Quebec at Rimouski and the provincial wildlife agency. The species was not previously established on the island. An ad. Wild Turkey seen with 10 young near Huntingdon Sept. 2 & 8 (PBA) was likely from the group of five birds released locally this spring. A late report was received of two Yellow Rails at the n. end of Mitchinaméus Res., July 2-3 (AG). Three young Virginia Rails discovered at Pointe au Boisvert Aug. 5 (AP) provided additional evidence of breeding along the N. Shore. A high count of 30 Am. Coots originated from Cap Tourmente Oct. 25 (PO, ABé).

The shorebird migration was generally unspectacular. Nevertheless, an impressive total of 4500 Black-bellied Plovers stopped at Pointe-au-Père Sept. 2 (YG) and 500 were encountered on I. aux Coudres Oct. 12 (MG, JPO *et al.*). A late Semipalmated Plover lingered at Quebec City Nov. 17 (CV). A Piping

Plover, extremely rare in this Region away from its Madeleine Is. breeding range, was apparently sighted at L. aux Araignées, Frontenac Co., Aug. 29 (PF, FF). Like last year, Whimbrels made a good showing in the w. part of the Region with singles at Lachine Aug. 12 (GD) and Sherbrooke Aug. 19 (YB), three at Métabetchouan Aug. 19-Sept. 6 (MAB, HL, SL), and a group of 44 at Aylmer Aug. 25 (RLD). Noteworthy were eight Hudsonian Godwits at Beauport Oct. 4 (CS) and one at I. Dupas Oct. 14 & 19 (SB, JT). Buff-breasted Sandpiper sightings were limited to one at Taureau Res. (FH) and two at Mont-Joli Sept. 1 (YG). Now annual, an imm. Long-billed Dowitcher was identified at Montmagny Aug. 29 (MG) [surprisingly early—K.K.]. Single Red Phalaropes were observed at Trois-Pistoles Aug. 30 (GGe, DR) and Saint-Fulgence Sept. 15 (NB).

Jaegers were evident in w. Quebec this fall. A Pomarine on L. Deschênes at Aylmer Nov. 10 (BDL) furnished one of very few inland records. Single Parasitic Jaegers at Lachine Sept. 2 (EF *et al.*) and on L. Saint-Pierre Oct. 5 (DJ) were not unexpected, but a group of seven at Côte-Sainte-Catherine on the record late date of Nov. 23 (GD *et al.*) was rather astonishing. A Franklin's Gull visited La Baie Aug. 26 (GSa), and L. Saint-Jean's first Little Gull was at Saint-Gédéon Aug. 16 (MAB, SL, HL). There were reports of five Com. Black-headed Gulls from the Lower St. Lawrence R., and one in first-winter plumage visited Beauharnois Nov. 9 (BB). The only Thayer's Gull reported was at Aylmer Nov. 30 (JD) while Lesser Black-backed Gulls were found at Boischatel Oct. 9+ (RB, CV), Kirkland Nov. 10 (BB) & 23 (PT, m.ob.), and Beauharnois Nov. 16-17 (PBa). An injured Black-legged Kittiwake inland at Saint-Joseph-de-Mékinac Nov. 18 (JA) was quite a surprising find. A Forster's Tern at Pointe-au-Père Oct. 25 (GGe) represented our first report e. of Quebec City.

**DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES** — A Mourning Dove was discovered at Kangiqsualujuaq (58°41'N 65°57'W) Aug. 10 (RSi), providing our most northerly sighting ever. Yellow-billed Cuckoos, irregular fall vagrants into e. Quebec, staged a minor influx with birds at Pointe-Lebel Sept. 19 (CT, GCh), La Pocatière Oct. 4 (CA), L. Beauport Oct. 15 (YH), and Cap Tourmente Oct. 19 & 24 (RB *et al.*). No owl incursion was apparent: Snowy Owls, which typically reach s. Quebec in early November, were scarce, and only one N. Hawk-Owl was reported from Hudson Nov. 30 (RP, m.ob.). A Red-bellied Woodpecker was seen briefly at Cap Tourmente Oct. 30 (JPO). Vagrant w. flycatchers included the Region's 5th **Say's Phoebe** at Deschambault, Portneuf Co., Aug. 28 (EG) and a W. Kingbird photographed at Ile-du-Grand-Calumet Oct. 19-20 (TB).

At the n. limit of their known range were three Tree Swallows found at Kuujuaq (58°06'N 68°24'W) Aug. 5 (RSi). Three cases of albinistic swallows were reported: a Tree at Stoke in late July



Western Kingbird at Ile-du-Grand-Calumet, Que., Oct. 20, 1985. Photo/Tony Beck.

(DLi, MLi), a Cliff at Laprairie Aug. 13 (GD), and a Barn at Dorval in September (BS). Gray Jays moved into the Saguenay lowlands in unusual numbers this fall with at least 15 sightings after mid-September (*fide* CC). The species also invaded the N. Shore: the area from Tadoussac to Baie-Comeau produced 109 sightings averaging 3.9 birds each (comparable figures for 1984 were 4 and 2.0 respectively), with a high count of 33 at Pointe-aux-Outardes Aug. 26 (*fide* GC). A **Black-billed Magpie** that appeared at Saint-Etienne-de-Beauharnois in mid-October (ND, m.ob.) was still present at the end of the period; while the bird's behavior was characteristically unwary, nothing in its physical condition eliminated the possibility of a true vagrant.



Black-billed Magpie at Saint-Etienne-de-Beauharnois, Que., November 1985. Photo/N. Breton.

Extralimital White-breasted Nuthatches were notable at Pointe-Lebel Sept. 22 (CT), Bergeronnes Oct. 30 (AB), and Alma Oct. 30-Nov. 5 (MC *et al.*). Up to two Carolina Wrens frequented I. des Soeurs Oct. 14-Dec. 8 (PBa, v.o.), and a House Wren found at Rimouski Aug. 24 (GGe, DR) was at the n. edge of its range. In recent years Blue-gray Gnatcatchers have become rare but regular fall vagrants in e. Quebec. This year, individuals showed up at Mont-Saint-Pierre Aug. 28 (CB), Percé Sept. 8 (RBI, PP), and Pointe-au-Père Sept. 10 (YG). Continued good news for the E. Bluebird included the sighting of one at Chandler Oct. 12 (GL). The Region's 9th and 10th **Townsend's Solitaires** ranged to Ripon Nov. 12-20 (*fide* MG) and Sainte-Luce Nov. 13 (YG). A Wood Thrush at Pointe-au-Père Sept. 27 (YG) provided a rare fall report from an area where summer sightings have been increasing.

**VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES** — A Red-eyed Vireo was late at Pointe-Claire Nov. 23 (MM, BB), as were surprising numbers of warblers: a Golden-winged at Ancienne-Lorette Sept. 22 (GDé), a Tennessee at Cap Tourmente Nov. 30 (CV, JPO), a Black-throated Blue, record late by 12 days, near Huntingdon the same day (PBa), and a Black-throated Green at Courville Oct. 26 (PL). A Pine Warbler was a rarity at Rimouski Oct. 5 (GGe) and a Prairie Warbler at Westmount Sept. 1 (GSe) was about Quebec's 11th. An Am. Redstart was also record-late at Sainte-Foy Nov. 6 & 11 (CA) and an ad. ♂ Connecticut Warbler was discovered on Mt. Sir-Wilfrid, Labelle Co., Sept. 1 (RLD, EB).

A Scarlet Tanager wandered to Pointe-Lebel Oct. 23 (CG) and N. Cardinals were also n. of their usual range at Quebec City Oct. 12-19 (RB, CV *et al.*) and Tadoussac Nov. 3-30+ (YD, GO). A Dickcissel was seen at Hauterive Nov. 12-13 (SM) and also noteworthy was a Clay-colored Sparrow at Cazaville Aug. 3 (PBa, PLe). Extremely rare for the N. Shore was a Field Sparrow at Bergeronnes Nov. 23 (AB *et al.*), while a Vesper Sparrow at Campbell's-Bay Nov. 30 (TB) was record-late. Quebec's 10th



Lark Sparrow at Cap-aux-Os, Que., November 1985. Tenth record for Quebec. Photo/J. Gaudreault.



Henslow's Sparrow at Yamaska Provincial Park, Que., Aug. 1, 1985 (see Summer 1985 report). Photo/S. Desgreniers.

Lark Sparrow remained at Cap-aux-Os Nov. 11-22 (GCa, JG, m.ob.). Three Sharp-tailed Sparrows were discovered Aug. 1 at Saint-Fulgence (GSa), where the species was last seen in 1981. A notable flock of 100+ Fox Sparrows was found on I. des Soeurs Oct. 20 (FH).

A Yellow-headed Blackbird at Mont-Joli Aug. 25 (YG) was a first for the Gaspé Pen., and an exceptional concentration of 1000± Rusty Blackbirds was noted at Thurso Sept. 29 (BL, ML). A N. Oriole strayed to Hauterive Oct. 27 (RL). The unusual report of two ♂ Pine Grosbeaks at Pointe-aux-Trembles, on Montreal I., Aug. 12 (PM, *vide* PBa) was made more plausible by the arrival of substantial numbers in s. Quebec in early November. A pair of House Finches was observed Oct. 13 at Quebec City (CV *et al.*), where the species does not yet appear to be established. It promised to be a good winter for Com. Redpolls as good numbers reached s. Quebec during November as well.

**CORRIGENDUM**—The Connecticut Warbler at Cap Eternité June 22 (see summer report) should be deleted.

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## HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

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

The most dramatic feature of fall 1985 was a series of tropical storms that passed along the Atlantic seaboard. Hurricane Gloria, the most powerful of these, billed as even stronger than the killer hurricane of 1938, hit Long Island September 27, weakening and travelling very fast. The eye crossed Merrick, Long Island, shortly after noon, having grazed Cape Hatteras the night before. Its deposit of storm-borne birds was rich in terns and some passerines, but poor in real pelagic rarities, at least in this Region. Reflecting the storm's trajectory, their composition indicated origins in the southeastern United States and its immediate

offshore waters more than the Gulf Stream, and the tropics hardly at all (see frigatebird, tubenoses, terns, shorebirds, swifts, warblers, Bobolink). These storms at last filled the reservoirs and ended several years' accumulated water deficit.

For the rest, the weather was mild and a bit wetter than average. It was marked by a remarkable number of rarities, many of them well documented by photographs or by critical write-ups that explained how the observer ruled out other likely species.

**ABBREVIATIONS**—† = description submitted; Bombay Hook = Bombay Hook Nat'l Wildlife Ref., near Smyrna, Del.; Brig = Brigantine Unit, Edwin B. Forsythe Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Atlantic Co.,

N.J.; J.B.W.R. = Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref., New York City; L.I. = Long Island, N.Y.; Tincum = Tincum Nat'l Recreation Center, Philadelphia. Place names in *italics* are counties.

**LOONS THROUGH STORM-PETRELS** — Red-throated Loons were much commoner than usual. Inland, where far fewer are normally grounded during migration than Com. Loons, 43 at Round Valley Res., *Hunterdon*, N.J., Nov. 11 (PAB) was a record count. Five during the season in the Allentown, Pa., area made an "all-time high" (BLM) and five Nov. 3 along the Hudson R. in *Rockland*, N.Y., were "unprecedented" [C. Weiss, RFD]. Along the coast, loon migration seems to have been tightly concentrated in mid-November. Ward counted 20,720, mostly Red-throated, moving past Avalon, *Cape May*, N.J., Nov. 14, "the biggest movement of loons in 7 years of watching;" 600/hr were moving down the Delaware coast the same day (WWF). The next day more than 100 Com. Loons were counted over the Raccoon Ridge hawk watch, *Warren*, N.J. (FTi), and 150-200 farther down the ridge at Hawk Mt., Pa. (JB, LG). On Nov. 16, 4800 Red-throated Loons and 180 Com. Loons passed Island Beach S.P., *Monmouth*, N.J., in 3 hours (DF, BMo). We received a plausible description of a **Pacific Loon** at Liberty S.P., Jersey City, Nov. 30 (N. Halmi).

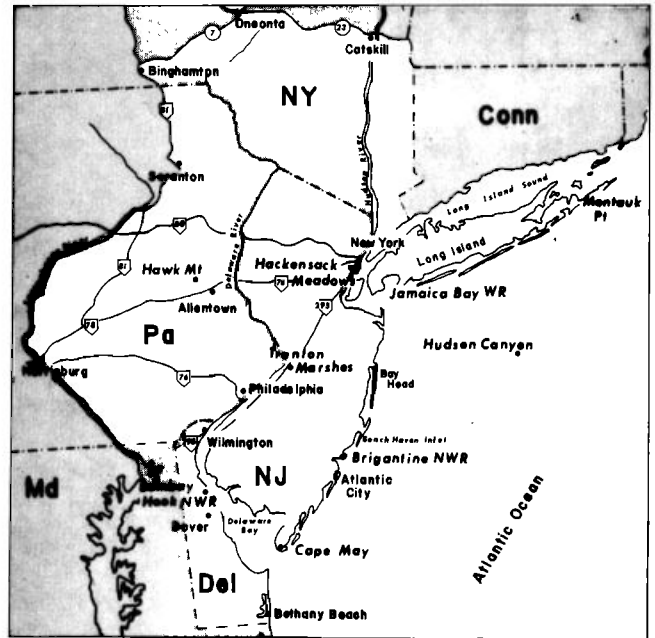
Remarkable concentrations of Pied-billed Grebes included 25 at Bombay Hook Oct. 17 (WJW, E & SS, M. Madders), and 44 at L. Musconetcong, N.J., Oct. 28 (D. Harrison). The only Red-necked Grebe inland was one grounded with other waterbirds in a storm Nov. 26 at Leaser L., *Lehigh*, Pa. (SS). This season's only Eared Grebe was at J.B.W.R. sporadically Sept. 22-Nov. 18 (I. Cantor, AMo, m.ob.).

A light-phase **Northern Fulmar** was picked up in a roadway in Chappaqua, *Westchester*, N.Y., Sept. 30, where Hurricane Gloria had probably deposited it. Suffering from a fish bite on one leg, it was taken to a rehabilitation center where it was still alive Dec. 9 (S. Cassone, ph. E. Treacy). We know of only one other inland Regional record, another light-phase bird picked up at Brookhaven, L.I., Oct. 22, 1976 (*Kingbird* XXVII:25-26). The only shearwater report related to Gloria was of a "black and white shearwater" off Montauk Sept. 28 (AMo). A Leach's Storm-Petrel was found dying at Moriches Inlet, L.I., Sept. 28 (H. Turner), and a few Wilson's Storm-Petrels were inside Me-cox and Shinnecock Bays the same day (AMo, JDiC, PAB). As in the summer, Wilson's Storm-Petrels continued to feed close inshore near Delaware Bay during August, the most remarkable of many observations being of five to six at Brown's Shoal, 10 mi up into the Bay (WAF).

**TROPICBIRDS THROUGH IBISES** — The season's prize record was of an ad. **White-tailed Tropicbird** that stunned 14 members of the Summit Nature Club by making several passes over the 8th Street jetty at Barnegat Light, *Ocean*, N.J., Nov. 23, before heading out to sea (†T. Halliwell *et al.*). The only previous fully-confirmed Regional records were on Long Island after the 1938 hurricane. It is tempting to connect this sighting with the tropicbirds observed in New England after Hurricane Gloria.

Very unusual was a sick imm. N. Gannet picked up in a field near Vincentown, *Burlington*, N.J., in late October (J. Balliet, E. Woodford, B. Jones). Single Am. White Pelicans—possibly the same—were over Bombay Hook Aug. 17 (GKH, L. Falk *et al.*), Brig after Nov. 14 (JCM, DF *et al.*), and the Cape May hawk watch Nov. 23 (FNI, CS). Long after the summer's Brown Pelicans had disappeared about Aug. 20, a single passed over the Cape May hawk watch Oct. 15 (FNI).

The grounding of the tanker Grand Eagle several miles below the Delaware-Pennsylvania line in Delaware Bay Sept. 28 released 435,000 gallons of oil, the largest spill yet. Improved emergency procedures contained most of it. Because wintering waterfowl had not arrived, the main casualties were Double-crested Cormorants. Seventy oiled cormorants were treated at Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research, Inc. (L. Frink), but uncounted others could not be salvaged. Migrant Double-crested Cormo-



rants are "now expected" inland (GH), but a record day count of 105 over Hawk Mt., Pa., Oct. 11 was outstanding. Following scattered summer sightings of single **Magnificent Frigatebirds**, a female was seen sporadically along the s. Jersey shore Aug. 7-9 (*vide* PD), and a single frigatebird, presumably of this species, was recognizably photographed with a 50mm lens at South Beach, Staten I., N.Y., on the day of Hurricane Gloria (D. Morrese, P. Kearney).

The summer's mini-flight of imm. White Ibises spilled over into early fall; the northernmost one was at Cold Spring Harbor, L.I., Aug. 13 (RL, BSp); in Pennsylvania, one was at Berwick Aug. 24 (DG) and at least two at the Conejohela Flats, Washington Boro, *Lancaster*, through August (RMS, m.ob.); two were at Cape May Pt., Aug. 1 (PD), and one Aug. 16 (FNI). The farthest-flung Glossy Ibises were singles at Green Lane Res., *Montgomery*, Pa., Aug. 5 & 19 (GLF, L. Mattioli), and at the Conejohela Flats Aug. 7 (RMS, DHe). An imm. Wood Stork found at nearly-dry East Branch Res., *Putnam*, N.Y., Aug. 23 (T. Gass) died 5 days later (\*N.Y. State Museum, Albany). It furnished only the 2nd Regional record in the 1980s.

**WATERFOWL, RAPTORS** — A single **Fulvous Whistling-Duck** was at Cape May Nov. 17-Dec. 8 (KB, CS, BMo), for the 2nd Regional late fall record in a row. Several years after Mute Swans were discreetly removed from Delaware, small numbers are now reestablished at Assawoman W.A. and Little Creek (*vide* APE). Among scattered reports of Greater White-fronted Geese, nine, believed to be of the Greenland race, near Leipsic, Del., Sept. 27 (GAI) and around Bombay Hook thereafter were a notable number. A Ross' Goose, now annual, was seen off and on in October and November at Brig (DF).

About four Eur. Wigeon for the Region were a little fewer than normal. Two King Eiders settled in early at Cape May Sept. 20 (RWi, CS, JCM), well before the more usual group at Montauk Pt., L.I. As usual, Black Scoters far outnumbered the others in inland groundings, and, as usual, Culver's L. hosted the largest assemblages: 125 after a rainy night Oct. 20, and 100 Oct. 29.

The Black Vulture frontier is now definitely in s. New York. One was over the Thruway s. of New Paltz Aug. 10 (R. Arbib); singles over the Mt. Peter hawk watch, *Orange*, Oct. 8 & 9 (JC) provided first fall records there. Five over the Warren sod farms Nov. 9 (L. & L. Dumont) were the most ever reported in *Orange* (JPT). Turkey Vultures are still doing well in the n. of this Region. Fall totals of 105 at Mt. Peter (JC) and 238 at Upper

Montclair, Essex, N.J. (ABi) were both records. Ospreys were not quite up to recent autumns along the ridges, but Cape May's 3018 during the fall hawk watch (Aug. 15-Dec. 10), with a peak of 308 Oct. 6, was a local record (FNi).

While scattered Bald Eagle reports were too numerous to summarize, a record 32 at Cape May (FNi) and above-average counts of 37 at Hawk Mt. (JB, LG) and 20 at Raccoon Ridge, Warren, N.J. (FPW) were encouraging. Northern Harrier numbers continued good, most hawk watches having above-average totals (Cape May 2403, Hawk Mt. 363). Upper Montclair's 272 was the best ever there (ABi). Sharp-shinned Hawk totals at the hawk watches ran below the peaks of the late 1970s and 1981, but Cooper's Hawks set records at Cape May (2679) and Upper Montclair (54). A localized N. Goshawk flight brought a near-record 86 down the coast to Cape May, but ridge totals were only somewhat above average (e.g., 82 at Hawk Mt.), far below the great flight years of 1975 and 1981.

For the 3rd fall in a row, Broad-winged Hawks slipped through without major concentrations. The passage was early and easterly, most of the birds apparently passing through c. New Jersey. September 12, the 2nd day of a brisk cold front after many days of light and variable winds, was the biggest day from *Dutchess* and *Westchester*, N.Y., to Delaware, and the 7027 counted that day at Upper Montclair was the largest assemblage observed. Hawk Mt. counted the fewest Broad-wingeds since 1946. Up to six Swainson's Hawks were reported, above average but below the 1981 record of 11: one immature photographed on the ground and in flight at the Warren sod farms, *Orange*, N.Y., Sept. 15 (JCS), a light-phase adult at Hawk Mt., Oct. 8 (JB, m.ob.), possibly two within 20 minutes at Baer Rocks, Pa., Sept. 20 (KK), and singles at Cape May Oct. 6 & 26 (FNi, CS).



Immature Swainson's Hawk at the Warren sod farm, *Orange Co.*, N.Y., Sept. 15, 1985. Note the small bill, strong face-pattern, white forehead, and long wings (with the wingtips extending at least to the tip of the tail). Photo/John C. Stellwagen.

A Golden Eagle was exceptionally early Aug. 29 at Cimmarron Pond, *Sullivan*, N.Y. (JPT), and they put on a good show in the mountains. Hawk Mountain's 57 (JB, LG) and Raccoon Ridge's 20 (FPW) have been exceeded only once in the last decade, and day counts of seven Nov. 6 at Baer Rocks (KK), eight Nov. 6 and Dec. 3 at Hawk Mt., and 12 at Bake Oven Knob Oct. 28 (F. Brock) were spectacular.

American Kestrels fared modestly better than last year at some hawk watches, but most totals remained far below the

highs of 1977-1981, and Long Island beach counts (Fire Island, C. Safina; Breezy Pt., H. Richard) hit bottom. Merlins, on the other hand, were abundant both on the coast (a record 2869 at Cape May) and, more unusually, in the mountains where Mt. Peter's 10 was more than twice the previous high (JC), and Upper Montclair's 21 was a record. Peregrine Falcon passage along the coast was a bit below last year, but above average along the ridges. For the first time in this decade, this Region reported no Gyrfalcon.

**RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS**— A Black Rail, extremely hard to find at this season, was at S. Cape May, N.J., Aug. 19 (PD). An oiled Purple Gallinule was picked up at Sea Bright, *Monmouth*, N.J., Sept. 16 (B. Starks).

More vagrant Sandhill Cranes turned up than ever. Two appeared Nov. 17 in a spinach and soybean field at Mt. Sinai Harbor, L.I. One was picked up with injured legs Nov. 23, while the other called overhead. It was emaciated, and apparently had been bitten by an animal (\*Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.). The other remained about a week (C. Bergold, C. Wakefield, H. Brown, FF, AJL, C. Helms). In the Cape May area, two passed the hawk watch Oct. 28 and one Oct. 30 (FNi, CS), and one (a different one?) hung around Nov. 9-15 (KB, CS).

As usual, the best shorebirding reflected favorable local conditions so that general trends were hard to discern. Ponds freshly drawn down after several fallow years, such as Shearneck Pool at Bombay Hook and a fishing lake at Kurtz's, near L. Struble, *Chester*, were especially rich, and so were some inland lakes which remained low until Gloria, such as Green Lane, *Montgomery*, Pa., and Spruce Run Res., *Hunterdon*, N.J., where 17 species were recorded (EP). There was some good rainpool shorebirding in the wet last one-half of the season.

Lesser Golden-Plovers were spotty, with a few very good counts. The best location was the Warren sod farm, *Orange*, N.Y., where they were present Aug. 13-Oct. 12, with a peak of 165 Sept. 13 (JCS). Other good counts were 160 near Riverhead, L.I., Sept. 24 (PB), 105 at Strawberry Ridge, *Montour*, Pa., Oct. 23 (PSa), and 70 near Elmer, *Salem* N.J. (JH).

#### S.A.

Now that American Oystercatchers have learned to breed back in the salt marsh, they are also discovering inland wetlands. After "explosive increases" in recent falls at J.B.W.R., they reached an unprecedented 125 there Oct. 19 (AMo). One at Caven Cove, Jersey City, Oct. 31 (JDo) provided a first record there.

Spillovers from the usual Am. Avocet build-up at Bombay Hook included eight at Brig Aug. 10 (RK), one at J.B.W.R., Aug. 6 (*fide* TWB), and after Gloria at Jones Beach S.P., L.I., Sept. 28 (AW). Upland Sandpipers continue to decline. We received only 3 reports better than 20: 30 at the Warren sod farm, *Orange*, N.Y., Aug. 13 (JCS), 23 near Elmer, *Salem* N.J., Aug. 5 (JH), and 20 at the Columbus sod farm, *Burlington*, N.J., Aug. 24 (RJB, D. Roche).

A **Bar-tailed Godwit** was carefully studied at Nummy I., *Cape May*, N.J., Sept. 21 (†R. Mellon *et al.*, ph. S. Hopkins). It was believed to belong to the nominate race, which is important since vagrant palearctic shorebirds are often thought to reach us from Siberia. Hudsonian Godwits were widely scattered along the coast, the only important concentration being of 18 on the Line Is., in Great South Bay, L.I., Aug. 5 (*fide* TWB). Noteworthy inland were one at Tincum Sept. 3-28 (JCM *et al.*) and two at Kurtz's, *Chester*, Pa. (PHu). About 25 Marbled Godwits were reported, all on the coast except a remarkable one at Spruce Run, *Hunterdon*, N.J., Aug. 31 (EP). Two were at Jones Beach S.P., L.I., after Hurricane Gloria (AW).

About 21 Baird's Sandpipers were a bit above normal, the larger inland counts being two each at the Warren sod farms Aug. 16 (JCS), at L. Marburg, *York*, Pa., Aug. 18 (DHe), and at

Kurtz's, *Chester*, Oct. 13 (PHu). The best coastal counts were of three each at Cape May Sept. 20-21 (JCM) and at Port Mahon, Del., Sept. 28 (MVB, GKH). Fifty Pectoral Sandpipers were at a rainpool at New Sharon, *Monmouth*, N.J., Sept. 30, in the aftermath of Gloria (RK). Three Dunlins, rare inland, were at Strawberry Ridge, *Montour*, Pa., Oct. 16-23 (PSa).

About five Curlew Sandpipers for the Region were about normal, but one in "fresh juv." plumage at J.B.W.R., Sept. 25 (AMo) was an exceptionally interesting report. Stilt Sandpipers were below normal except in a few choice spots such as Sheariness Pool, Bombay Hook, where there were 200-300 Aug. 17 (APE); fewer juveniles than usual were at J.B.W.R. (AMo). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were in poor numbers again. The best counts were of eight near Riverhead, L.I., Sept. 24 (B. Adamo), and five Sept. 30 with the Pectoral Sandpipers noted above (RK). We had reports of only five Ruffs (MVB, PBe, N. Sumner, A. Guarente), but one at J.B.W.R., Sept. 25 was the first ever reported to us in "exceptionally fresh juv." plumage (AMo; photo unfortunately didn't turn out). Morris, whose care with molts and age classes is exemplary, wonders about "North American breeding possibilities" (cf. Ron Weir's similar conjectures in Ontario in spring 1984, *AB* 38:905).

Wilson's Phalaropes were uncommon in s.e. New York, but counts at Bombay Hook of 10 Aug. 11 (CS) and 15 Aug. 24 (E & SS) brought up the average. Only two Red-necked Phalaropes were reported before Hurricane Gloria, from Brig and Bombay Hook (JDo, APE, JFS), but three were at Jones Beach S.P. in its aftermath (PPo). A Red Phalarope was very well described at Strawberry Ridge, Pa., Oct. 13-16 (PSa, A. Schweinsburg), and another was found dead at Timber Pt., L.I., after Hurricane Gloria (RL).

**GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS** — The fall Laughing Gull build-up in the Delaware R. reached 3000 at the Philadelphia Airport Sept. 17 (JCM). We heard of only two Little Gulls, both in New Jersey (DF, JDD, JKM), and only two Com. Black-headed Gulls, both in Delaware (DHe, AM). About seven Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported, all but one from s.e. New York, the other being around Cape May (MG, JGi). One adult photographed at Jones Beach S.P. after Hurricane Gloria appeared to belong to the nominate race, rather than to the usual *gracillii* (PPo). A similar black-backed bird was photographed in Texas in March 1984 (*AB* 38:933).

Terns were a major fall-out of Hurricane Gloria. The groups of Caspian, Royal, Sandwich, and Forster's terns and Laughing Gulls that huddled in sheltered spots on the Long Island beaches as the storm receded Sept. 27 reflected the s.e. coastal origins of most of its cargo. Two Caspian Terns at Spruce Run Res., *Hunterdon*, N.J., Sept. 28 (J. DeMarras, H. Drinkwater) were probably related to the storm, as were the 50 at Cape May Sept. 28 (DSi). Ward counted 1040 Royal Terns passing Cape May Pt. westward Oct. 14, perhaps to feeding grounds in Delaware Bay. A few Sandwich Terns had been scattered along the coast from Stone Harbor Pt., *Cape May*, N.J., to Cape Henlopen in August (CS, F. Hayes). In the hours following Gloria there were at least 25 between Fire I. Inlet and Montauk, L.I. (PAB, K & SF, m.ob.), a dozen at Cape May (DSi), and nine at Cape Henlopen (APE, WJW, GKH, JFS, WAF, R. Hilton), and as many as six remained at Mecox, L.I., Oct. 1 (*vide* BSp). Occasional Roseate Terns continued to be seen along the New Jersey coast into August (JDo), and one as late as Oct. 5 at Nummy I., N.J. (DF). Several hundred Com. Terns were at the L.I. inlets and at Montauk in the aftermath of Gloria, although the local population had left as usual at the beginning of September. Only one Arctic Tern was certain among them, a *portlandica* bird at Democrat Pt. (PAB). Forster's Terns were the most numerous fall-out from Gloria on L.I. (peak counts 120 at Mecox—JDiC, and 70 at Fire I. Inlet—K & SF). Twenty remained at Zach's Bay as late as Nov. 5 (FF). Two at the Lincoln Park gravel pits, *Morris*, N.J., Sept. 27 (RR) were firsts there. The Forster's Terns found occasionally in fall along the inland rivers likely come from the Great Lakes, but

65+ at Muddy Run, *Lancaster*, Pa., Oct. 15, and three there as late as Nov. 3 (RMS) were remarkable numbers.

As usual, the juiciest hurricane birds were e. of the eye. One imm. **Bridled Tern** at Mecox, L.I., and at least two **Sooty Terns** at Montauk Pt. in the waning moments of Gloria (AJL) were the only tropical tern reports associated with the storm. Black Terns have become rare fall migrants here. We heard of only about eight along the coast, with three at Bombay Hook Aug. 25 (G. & J. Charles) the only multiple occurrence. Three at Green Lane Res., *Montgomery*, Pa., Sept. 27-28 (GLF, GAF) were consorting with a large flock of Tree Swallows also "downed" by the fringes of Gloria; they furnished a first record there. A single Black Skimmer at the Bashakill, *Sullivan*, Oct. 15 (A. Gutsche, m.ob.) was a first for the s. Catskills.

The only alcid report was of two Dovekies at Montauk Pt., L.I., Nov. 30 (R. Kelly).

**DOVES TO WOODPECKERS** — A **White-winged Dove** was at the Cape May hawk watch Aug. 27 and again Sept. 6 (FNi *et al.*). A very few Snowy Owls had reached e. Long Island by the season's end. A **Burrowing Owl**, which a hunter building a blind nearby reported had been around for 4 or 5 days, was on the Long Island barrier beach at Shinnecock Oct. 21-23 (S. Elliott *et al.*). It provided the 5th state record, the 3rd in a decade. Pat Sutton watched a Short-eared Owl migrate around Cape May Pt., about 100 yards offshore, in mid-morning Oct. 28.

Chimney Swifts, perhaps migrants brought back up from farther s., were numerous on the Long Island beaches in the waning hours of Hurricane Gloria. One very late at Cape May Pt., Nov. 10 was carefully checked (negatively) for a possible Vaux's Swift (RBa, FNi).

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (one of which visited the flowers on a pair of pajamas on a clothesline—R.T.W.B.C.) seemed recovered to many observers, and Hawk Mt. confirmed that impression with the highest autumn total (120) since our figures began in 1976 (JB, LG). A *Selasphorus* hummingbird, believed an imm. ♂ Rufous, was at a feeder at Red Mill Acres, Del., Nov. 28-Dec. 2 (ph. WAF), and another came to a feeder at Kempton, Pa., twice Oct. 3, too quickly to be photographed (A. Nagy).

A record-low seven Red-headed Woodpeckers passed Hawk Mt. (JB, LG), and they were absent from some recent strongholds. However, Tetlow found 10 at the High Point Beaver Swamp, *Sussex*, N.J., Sept. 22, and a pair was still feeding young in the nest Sept. 19 at Cape May County P. (KB).

**FLYCATCHERS TO WARBLERS** — A **Say's Phoebe** hung around the Fire Island, L.I., hawk watch all day Oct. 6 (D. Panko, m.ob.). An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** at Cape May after



*Ash-throated Flycatcher at Cape May, N.J., Nov. 24, 1985. Photo/Clay Sutton.*

Nov 24 furnished the 2nd fully-confirmed New Jersey record (ph. CS, m.ob.). Some two dozen Western Kingbirds, about average, were all on the coast except one at Pawling, *Dutchess*, N.Y., Oct. 9 (J. McIlwain, S. Gilbert), and one at Brandywine Creek S.P., Del., Nov. 3-7 (E. Collins, R.L.W. *et al.*). A **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** was well described for Delaware's first record Oct. 19 at Port Mahon (†J. Zerbe); it was about 14th for the Region.

The Red-breasted Nuthatch flight that began precociously in July spread over most of this Region (although not in n.e. Pennsylvania), but dissipated after September. An imm. **Northern Wheatear** was well described at Cape May Pt., Nov. 12 (†A. Bacon, R. Myers), but could not be found subsequently. The ordinary thrushes seemed to be low everywhere. The only Varied Thrush was one reported with Am. Robins at the Norwood Boy Scout Camp, *Bergen*, N.J., Nov. 9 (J. Hausen, J. Serrao, D. Miranda *et al.*).

A **Sage Thrasher** was impeccably described from Bombay Hook Oct. 31 (†E. Wilson), for a first record for Delaware and one of only about one-half dozen from the Region. The only N. Shrikes of the season were at Pound Ridge Reservation, *Westchester*, N.Y., Nov. 15-17 (E. Kanze) and Cape May Oct. 28 (MG). Five Loggerhead Shrikes were faintly encouraging, four on the coast in September and October (A. & E. Kretz, G. & W. Renkins, FF, W. Hope, MG, FNi), and one at Assunpink W.M.A., N.J., Oct. 28-Nov. 30 (N. & W. Lilly, BMo).

Warbler numbers seemed low to some observers, but that may have been because the season was steady and protracted. Many moved early, and it was already possible to find 25-26 species in a day at Higbee's Beach, Cape May, in late August (RBa). Male Wilson's Warblers in e. Pennsylvania Aug. 6 (singing, S. Roth) and in *Cumberland*, N.J., Aug. 10 (RBa) were exceptionally early.

All the warbler rarities of this season were native to the s.e. United States, most of them so soon after Hurricane Gloria as to seem related to it. A case in point was a Golden-winged Warbler, very rare on Long Island, at Jones Beach S.P., Oct. 1 (*fide* TWB). Jones Beach was a unique sight when the first birders gained access after the storm; it was aswarm with exhausted small birds, especially Cape May Warblers, a species believed to migrate normally offshore. A Yellow-throated Warbler, very rare on Long Island especially in fall, was at Jones Beach Sept. 28 (J. Popp). A Prothonotary Warbler at Cape May Sept. 29 was very late (*fide* PBa). Two Worm-eating Warblers at Jones Beach after the storm until Oct. 1 (AW, FF) were remarkable for Long Island. A Swainson's Warbler, the rarest warbler of this season, was photographed and banded at Cape May Oct. 5 (J. Clark, C. Pease), for the 3rd New Jersey banding record.

**TANAGERS TO FINCHES** — The historic Summer Tanager that spent last winter at a feeder in Medford Twp., *Burlington*, N.J., settled in at the same feeder Nov. 3, now in ad. ♂ plumage but still wearing the band applied last Feb. 20 (B. Woodford; see photo in *AB* 39:153). A ♂ Scarlet Tanager in basic (winter) plumage was impeccably described at Cape Henlopen S.P., Del., Nov. 23 (†B. Murphy). A W. Tanager, less unexpected, was reported from Jones Beach S.P., L.I., Nov. 9 (R. Villani).

Blicharz observed a "textbook" ♀ Painted Bunting in the Princeton Ave. woods, *Mercer*, N.J., Sept. 16. A good inland Dickcissel observation was at Stony Kill, *Dutchess*, N.Y., Oct. 18 (MVW, MY, EPi), joined by another Oct. 24 (H. Manson, P. Fasciani). As for the coastal Dickcissel passage, our most systematic measurement in many years was the "over 20" counted through the season at the Cape May hawk watch (FNi).

About five Clay-colored Sparrows was normal. An imm. or ♀ **Lark Bunting** was seen and its distinctive soft 2-note call heard near Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Sept. 21, a few yards from the site of a 1968 record of the same species (WR). Of the 11 Lark Sparrows reported, only one (Princeton Ave. woods, N.J., Sept. 16, RJB) was away from the coast. For the 7th consecutive year a Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco frequented a feeder near Blairstown, *Warren*, N.J., after Nov. 13 (T. Jensen).

Bobolinks were among the most conspicuous species along

the Long Island beaches in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Gloria. Five Yellow-headed Blackbirds, all from the coast, August-Nov. 13 (JCM, JDo, BMo *et al.*) were a bit above average. Two ♂ Brewer's Blackbirds were carefully picked out of a flock of Red-winged Blackbirds at the Warren sod farm, *Orange*, N.Y., Nov. 11 (JPT). One or two were around the Beanery, Cape May, off and on in October and November (RBa, JDD, A. Brady). Boat-tailed Grackles at Tinicum Oct. 10 (JCM) were very unusual in s.e. Pennsylvania.

It was a moderately good winter finch year, the first since fall 1981. Small numbers of Pine Grosbeaks were rather widespread in the n. and along the ridges as far s. as Baer Rocks, Pa. (three Nov. 23, KK). The best counts were of 12 on the Vassar College campus, *Dutchess*, N.Y., Nov. 27 (R.T.W.B.C.), and nine at Sunrise Mountain, *Sussex*, N.J., Nov. 23 (RR). Purple Finches were in good numbers in the n. of the Region, but only sporadic in s.w. New Jersey. It was hard to find any pattern in crossbill distribution. Small numbers of Red Crossbills appeared along the ridges (KK, FPW, S. Radis), and a single was at Cape May Oct. 30 (FNi). Small numbers of White-winged Crossbills were widespread in e. Pennsylvania in November (WR, B & NM), and singles were at Staten Island and Rye, N.Y. (*fide* TWB). A very few Com. Redpolls moved down the Hudson and the coast as far as Cape May (five, Oct. 30, FNi), but appeared in e. Pennsylvania only in December. Pine Siskins were erratic, reaching feeders as far s. as Delaware. Evening Grosbeaks moved early and widely, reaching *Sussex*, N.J., by Aug. 18 (RR) and Cape May by Sept. 28 (RBa, P. Holt).

**UNCONFIRMED REPORTS** — We received a careful description of a peep identified as a Little Stint at Port Mahon, Del., Aug. 11 (B & NM), but without information about molt or age class the record cannot be definitively confirmed.

A minutely-detailed diagnostic study of a *Spizella* believed to be a Brewer's Sparrow, at the Beanery, Cape May, Nov. 9 (†RBa) has been examined by K. Kaufman and judged highly probable, but the bird could not be found again or photographed for definitive confirmation.

**EXOTICS** — An Egyptian Goose was at Spruce Run Res., *Hunterdon*, N.J., Nov. 17 + (JE). A Blue-and-yellow Macaw was at Haddonfield, N.J., Sept. 21 (JKM, J. LaVia, B. Tannery). European Goldfinches frequented feeders near Compass, *Chester*, Pa., in late November (PHu) and at Sellersville, Pa., after Nov. 4 (AM).

**CORRIGENDUM** — The Lapland Longspurs reported in the spring 1985 column were in rural *Chester*, Pa., not urban Chester.

**OBSERVERS** (Subregional compilers in boldface) — **Peter Balcinski** (PBa) (coastal NJ: 511 Prospect Place, Lyndhurst, NJ 07071), Robert Barber (RBa), M.V. Barnhill, Paul Bernath (PBe), **Irving Black** (n.e. NJ: Eagle Rock Village, Bldg. 26, Apt. 8B, Budd Lake, NJ 07828), Andrew Bihun (ABi), **R.J. Blicharz** (n.c. NJ: 827 Pennsylvania Ave., Trenton, NJ 08638), Kate Brethwaite, Jim Brett, P.A. Buckley, Joe Burgiel (Jbu), **T.W. Burke** (s.e. NY: 235 Highland Ave., Rye, NY 10580), Judy Cincquina, J.D. Danzenbaker, **R.F. Deed** (*Rockland*, NY: 50 Clinton Ave., Nyack, NY 10960), Joe DiCostanzo (JDiC), Jim Dowdell (JDo), Peter Dunne, John Ebner, **A.P. Ednie** (*New Castle & Kent*, DE: 21 N. Wells Ave., Glen Olden, PA 19036), Fran File, W.A. Fintel, G.A. Franchois, **W.W. Frech** (*Sussex*, DE. Carr. Rt. 3, Box 1144, Lewes, DE 19958), G.L. Freed, Dave Freeland, Ken & Susan Fuestel, John Ginaven (JGi), Laurie Goodrich, Doug Gross, Mary Gustafson, Jerry Haag, **Greg Hanisek** (n.w. NJ: RD 3, Box 263, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865), Dorothy Hartmann (DH), Dan



Heathcote (DHe), Otto Heck, G.K. Hess, Robert Hilton, Phyllis Hurlock (PHu), G.A. Inskip, Rich Kane, Ken Kranick, D.E. Kunkle, Robert Laskowski, A.J. Lauro, Bob Lewis (BLe), Leonard Little, J.K. Meritt (s.w. NJ: 809 Saratoga Terrace, Turnersville, NJ 08012), J.C. Miller, August Mirabella, Arthur Morris (AMo), B.L. Morris (e. PA: 825 N. Muhlenberg St., Allentown, PA 18104), Brian Moscatello (BMo), Bill & Naomi Murphy, Frank Nicoletti (FNi), Ed Patten, Eleanor Pink (EPi), Peter Plage, Peter Post (PPo), William Reid (n.e. PA: 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702), Richard Radis, Paul Saraceni (PSa), R.M. Schutsky, Dave Sibley (DSi), Steve Smith,

Esther & Steve Speck, M.J. Spence, Barbara Spencer (BSp), J.C. Stellwagen, Clay & Pat Sutton, J.F. Swiertinski, Fred Tetlow, Fred Tilly (FTi), J.P. Tramontano (Orange & Sullivan, NY: Orange Co Community College, Middletown, NY 10940), Guy Tudor, Marion Van Wagner, David Ward, R.T. Waterman Bird Club (Dutchess, NY), W.J. Wayne, R.L. West, Rick Wiltraut (RWi), F.P. Wolfarth, Al Wollin, Mary Yegella.—ROBERT O. PAXTON, 460 Riverside Dr., Apt. 72, New York, NY 10027; WILLIAM J. BOYLE, JR., 13A Kensington Rd., Chatham, NJ 07928; and DAVID A. CUTLER, 1110 Rock Creek Dr., Wyncote, PA 19095.

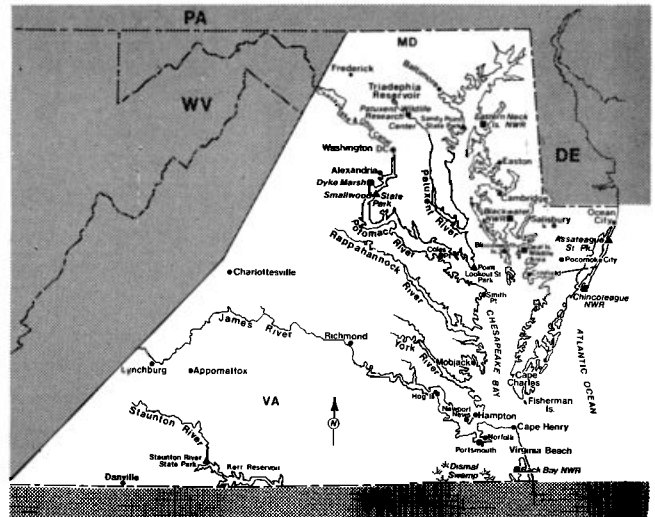
## MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

### Henry T. Armistead

Several tropical storms brushed the Region but resulted mostly in heavy rains, and there were no fallouts of tropical birds even from hurricane Gloria on September 27. Although the drought ended in most areas in mid-August, reservoirs—especially Liberty and Loch Raven in the Baltimore area—remained way below capacity, providing excellent birding. The fall was very wet and warm with a lack of cold fronts. Deviation from normal of precipitation: Aug. +1.16 in., Sept. +1.47 in., Oct. +0.60 in., Nov. +3.00 in.; of temperature: Aug. -0.6°F, Sept. +0.5°, Oct. +3.2°, Nov. +7.3°. Shorebird reporting was outstanding, some of it the result of temporary conditions: dredge spoils, low water levels in impounded ponds, and the Potomac River sections where the exotic water plant *Hydrilla* is spreading and also attracting waterfowl and other waterbirds. Several commented on the excellent wild food crop, especially acorns and other mast, yet there were no corresponding reports on the response of birds to it, and the lack of cold fronts meant the passerine migration was rather dismal. November, over 7°F above normal, induced many birds to linger. At the end of the period Scott reported that for the first time on record no below-freezing temperatures had hit Richmond, and he cut his lawn for the last time December 8!

**ABBREVIATIONS** — Assat. I. = Assateague Island, Md./Va.; Balt. = Baltimore; the Bay = Chesapeake Bay; C.B.B.T. = Chesapeake Bay Bridge & Tunnel, Va.; Chinc. = Chincoteague Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Va.; Craney = Craney Island Disposal Area, Portsmouth, Va.; Fish. I. = Fisherman Island Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Va.; Hart = Hart and Miller islands, e. of Baltimore; Kipt. = Kiptopeke Banding Station near Cape Charles, Va. Place names in italics are counties; dates in italics indicate birds were banded.

**LOONS THROUGH FLAMINGOS** — Red-throated Loon singles were seen at 7 non-coastal Maryland localities Oct. 19 (Hart, RFR) to Nov. 20 (Loch Raven Res., SWS), a much better showing than usual. A tremendous loon migration took place at Chinc., Nov. 16-17 with a ratio of 3:1 Red-throateds to Commons (BM); 254 Commons plus four Red-throateds were at Pt. Lookout, Md., Nov. 16 (MO), and 80 Commons were at Hooper's I., Md., Nov. 9 (SD, WR, HTA). The exotic water plant *Hydrilla* continues to spread in the Potomac R. area s. of D.C., attracting birds with an affinity for shallow water, and apparently having beneficial effects on both water clarity and fishing. In the Hunting Creek area near Alexandria, Va., where it has spread, counts of Pied-billed Grebes reached 68 Sept. 30 (EMW), 97 Oct. 23-25 (JMA, DFA), and 50+ Nov. 6 (EPW, who had a high of eight in 1984!). Across the Potomac at Piscataway Cr., Md., 40 were seen Oct. 26 (PN). At Piney Run, Carroll, Md., 19 were seen Oct. 20 (RFR) and the high at Loch Raven Res., reached 21 Nov. 11 (SWS). A count of 45 at Chinc., Sept. 25-26 (CPW) was notable.



These are excellent counts by Regional standards. Totals at Deal Island, W.M.A., Md., of 59 Aug. 13 (MO) and 44 Sept. 21 (HTA) were merely representative for that stronghold. The best Horned Grebe reports were of 224 at Eastern Neck N.W.R., Md., Nov. 12 (JG) and 80 at D.C., Nov. 21 (DC); they continued to be scarce.

Following several days of strong onshore winds an unusual migration of shearwaters was reported seen from shore at Back Bay N.W.R., Va., Nov. 2, most of them Greater Shearwaters (DFA). Wilson's Storm-Petrels continued their incursion into the lower Bay with small numbers seen from Cape Henry, Va., July 30-Aug. 17 (TK). Six were seen at Ocean City, Md., Aug. 6 (FEH *et al.*) and a very late one was there Oct. 14 (DC). The pelagic highlight was a **White-faced Storm-Petrel** 59.6 mi off the Virginia coast e. of Assat. I., Sept. 21 (RN, HLW, EB, WK *et al.*), the same group also sighting one **Leach's** and 356 Wilson's storm-petrels, plus 12 Cory's, one Greater, and 50 Audubon's shearwaters, the majority of these also in Virginia waters. This was an exceptional pelagic trip, the White-faced providing only the 2nd or 3rd Regional record and the Audubon's count perhaps a new high.

A single Am. White Pelican was present at Chinc. in November and December (CPW, BM *et al.*) and presumably the same bird was at nearby Wallops I., Oct. 10 (CRV). Brown Pelicans continued to occur in superlative numbers, especially in Virginia, with as many as 300 at Chinc. during August (*vide* TF), 120 at Kipt., Sept. 2 (HTA), 175 on Fish. I., Oct. 5 (HTA *et al.*), 75 at Back Bay N.W.R., Nov. 29 (TRW), 77 at Cape Henry Nov. 16 (TRW), 83 at Wallops I., Aug. 10 (CRV), 31 at New Pt. Comfort Sept. 28 (JBB), 16 at Plumtree Island N.W.R., Nov. 19 (DD), and 35 at C.B.B.T., Nov. 29 (BY). As recently as 5 years ago this sort

of invasion was unheard of. The only Maryland reports on hand were of three at Ocean City Aug. 7 (FEH *et al.*) and four at Assat. I., Aug. 13 (MO). Great Cormorants first appeared at favored localities such as C.B.B.T., Sept. 27 (FRS), Ocean City Sept. 22, and Pt. Lookout Oct. 6 (MO). Up to 10 were at Lower Machodoc Creek, *Westmoreland*, Va., Nov. 20 (JEJ), but one to two far up the Bay at Hart during October were a surprise (RFR, EB, HK, MO). Three Double-crested Cormorant nests near Hopewell, Va., still held young as late as Aug. 25 (FRS, JWD, BRz), at the only Regional site where they have ever bred. At Kipt., 855 were counted as early as Aug. 31 (HTA) and the usual mid-fall spectacles included 5000 at Chinc., Oct. 17 (JHB), 3000 at C.B.B.T., Nov. 18 (HCI), and 2500 at Virginia Beach Nov. 2 & 9 (TRW). Inland, two in *Amherst*, Va., Oct. 19 were notable (MRB), and counts near Balt. at Hart and near D.C. at Hunting Creek surpassed 100 (RFR, DFA, EPW *et al.*). Unique was an Anhinga at favored Stumpy L., Virginia Beach, Va., Aug. 10 (BP, *fide* TK).

Most herons were in low numbers, especially at Chinc. where the drought provided few feeding areas in usually-favored impounded sections and where Wilds found 5-year low counts of Great and Snowy egrets, but where the high of 397 Cattle Egrets Sept. 12-13 (CPW, EMW) eclipsed her previous fall top count of 107. An ad. Tricolored Heron at Liberty Res., *Carroll*, Aug. 22-25 (RFR) was properly described as "accidental inland in Maryland." Also notable on the Cattle Egret circuit were 365 at Kipt., Aug. 31 (HTA), and the 3rd *Carroll*, Md., record, one at Piney Run Oct. 20 (RFR). Green-backed Herons left exceptionally early in the Chinc. area (CPW) yet a late individual was still at Ft. Hunt, Va., Nov. 23 (DP). There was a respectable showing of White Ibises with imm. birds at Loch Raven, n. of Balt., Aug. 2-9 (MR, RFR, ph.), the first for that area since 1977, and one along the Rapidan R. 8 mi n. of Orange, Va., Aug. 17 (JM). Slightly off course were single Glossy Ibises at Lilypons, *Frederick*, Md., Oct. 5 (DHW), and in D.C., Sept. 11 (DC), still a scarce species away from the coastal plain. Unconfirmed was the report of a Wood Stork at Owl Creek, L. Rudee, Virginia Beach in September (*fide* TRW). Single Greater Flamingos were seen at Craney October to December (TRW, HCI, DLH *et al.*), at Wallops I. in October (*fide* CRV), on Fish. I., August to September (TK *et al.*), and at Chinc. in November (v.o.), both the origin and the number of birds involved remaining uncertain.

**WATERFOWL** — Most species continued in dismal numbers. A bright note was a flock of 25 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at Pt. Lookout Nov. 11, one of the highest Regional counts ever (RFR). Not so bright was a record *Dorchester*, Md., total of 82 Mute Swans Sept. 21 at Hooper's I. (GDa, HTA), their s. outpost on the Bay. Two Greater White-fronted Geese were at Presquile N.W.R., Nov. 9 (BB, *fide* FRS), and two were at Hog I., *Surry*, Nov. 20 (DS), possibly the same birds since both these places are on the James R. s. of Richmond. Counts of 170 "Blue" Geese



Snow Geese at Back Bay Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Va., November 1985. Photo/Donna Dewhurst.

in the Presquile N.W.R. area Nov. 27 (BPk) and 900 at Blackwater N.W.R., Md., Nov. 30 (HTA), good anywhere else in the Region, were not surprising for these two sites; but five at Hart Oct. 26 were noteworthy (MO). Extraordinary was the report of 200 Brant Nov. 8 at Broad Bay, *Prince Georges*, far up the Potomac R. in Maryland (HS, *fide* JMA), these birds now being scarce anywhere away from the coast since the dieoff of their favorite grasses. One was at Hunting Creek during November in the *Hydrilla* (EPW, RAA *et al.*). Four Canada Geese at Hog I., Nov. 20 bore Mississippi Flyway neck bands (DS).

Good Hunting Creek *Hydrilla* counts of dabblers included 392 Green-winged Teal, 350 Am. Black Ducks, 512 Mallards, 498 N. Pintails, 486 Blue-winged Teal, and 27 N. Shovelers Oct. 16 (JMA). Eight early N. Pintails were at Hart Aug. 15 (RFR *et al.*). A Eur. Wigeon was at Fish. I., Oct. 19 (TK *et al.*). As usual Deal I. furnished some of the best duck totals such as 1750 Am. Wigeons Oct. 6 plus 500 Blue-winged Teal and 1000 N. Pintails Sept. 29 (SHD). The best Ring-necked Duck count was of 250 on the Georgetown Res. in D.C., one of the best places for them in the Region, Nov. 9 (DC). A Com. Eider was on Cobb I., Va., Aug. 31 (HG), and two were seen from the C.B.B.T., Nov. 16 (TH, DW). An imm. ♂ King Eider was walking ludicrously on the beach at Kipt., Aug. 31 and Sept. 2 (HTA), an ad. male was seen nearby Oct. 3 (GCG, HG, ph.), while another was at Ocean City Oct. 13 (DC). A ♀ Harlequin Duck was at C.B.B.T. on the very early date of Oct. 17 (FRS). Forty Oldsquaws at Hunting Creek Nov. 6 made a good total for the D.C. area (EPW). At Dismal Swamp N.W.R., Schwab found 300 Hooded Mergansers on L. Drummond in the center of the swamp Nov. 17. Peak Ruddy Duck counts were of 1100 at Hart Oct. 19 (RFR *et al.*) and the same number at Hunting Creek Nov. 20-23 (JMA).



Male King Eider at Wise Pt., Cape Charles, Va., Oct. 3, 1985 Photo/Greg Greer.

**RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS** — Late Ospreys were at Little Creek, *Somerset*, Md. (SHD), and Pocahontas S.P., *Chesterfield*, Va. (WE, *fide* FRS), Nov. 23 & 24 respectively. The peak Osprey report from the Kipt. hawk watch was of 98 Oct. 11, when 111 Merlins and 25 Peregrine Falcons were also reported (MA), plus 200 Broad-winged (WK). September 25 was another good flight day here with 85 each for N. Harrier and Osprey, and 1090 Am. Kestrels (DSy). The best days for Sharp-shinned Hawks were Sept. 26 with 2168 and Oct. 17 with 1519 (DSy). Coverage here is still incomplete and uneven. It is to be hoped that soon continuous coverage can be achieved, a difficult situation because most observers live far from the area or a \$9 toll away. However, on 42 days 18,892 raptors were seen in 330 hours or an average of about 58 per hour from Aug. 31-Oct. 28 based on the preliminary results at hand.

Elsewhere an early Sharp-shinned Hawk was in D.C., Aug. 26 (DC), and the best Broad-winged Hawk count was of 525 in

Arlington, Va., Sept. 12 (RAA). A late Broad-winged was in D.C., Nov. 10 (DC). Golden Eagle records included singles on the lower Susquehanna R., Md., Nov. 12 (RMS), at Loch Raven Res., Oct. 27 (HK, SWS), and an adult pursued by a Rough-legged Hawk at New Design Rd., Frederick, Md., Nov. 23 (RAA). Ward completed his 16th conservative year of Peregrine Falcon studies on Assat. I., banding 147 Sept. 16-Oct. 22 in 552 man-hours, his 2nd best numerical total but 6th best in terms of man-hours. Eight of the birds captured had been banded previously elsewhere. Efforts were hampered by the after-effects of Hurricane Gloria which struck Sept. 27. Reports from other raptor watch areas were incomplete.

A late N. Bobwhite nest was found at Hampton, Va., where a female was incubating 11 eggs Sept. 9; however, birds have been found on eggs into mid-October in some years. At Mt. Landing Creek off the Rappahannock R. near Tappa, Va., 12 Soras were found Oct. 12 (BPK), and 25 ± were at Jug Bay on the upper Patuxent R., Md., Sept. 14 (JB, *fide* CPW), classic w. shore settings for their fall flights. Best Am. Coot counts included 1000 at Piscataway Cr., Md., Nov. 24 (PN), 1500 at Ft. Hunt during November (JMA), and 415 at Chinc., Oct. 31 (CPW), while 160 at Piney Run on the Maryland Piedmont Nov. 23 were notable (RFR) as were 165 at Loch Raven Res., Nov. 22 (SWS).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Weather hindered shorebirding at the Region's best shorebird site, Chinc. First, until mid-August the drought dried up most impounded areas there. From then on, heavy rains topped them off, making them practically useless for shorebirds except for some the refuge was able to partially drain. However, the rains continued and storms prevented complete coverage of some areas. In spite of these problems Wilds conducted 14 surveys here finding high numbers of Willets (western race), Whimbrels, and Sanderlings, poor numbers of Lesser Golden-Plovers, Piping Plovers, Least and Buff-breasted sandpipers, and Long-billed Dowitchers. Selected counts of note included: Aug. 1-2, Whimbrel 250, Red Knot 554, Sanderling 6080, Short-billed Dowitcher 201; Aug. 8-9, Semipalmated Plover 860, Ruddy Turnstone 193, Lesser Yellowlegs 554, Hudsonian Godwit eight, Pectoral Sandpiper 94, Least Sandpiper 428, Semipalmated Sandpiper 2472; Aug. 22-23, Piping Plover 13 (only), Com. Snipe one, Spotted Sandpiper 10, Solitary Sandpiper two (latter 3 species usually scarce here), Wilson's Phalarope four; Aug. 29-30, Black-bellied Plover 334, Willet 107; Sept. 12-13, Baird's Sandpiper one, Red-necked Phalarope one; Sept. 25-26, White-rumped Sandpiper eight, Stilt Sandpiper 68, Buff-breasted Sandpiper two, Am. Avocet nine; Oct. 3-4, Long-billed Dowitcher 28, Marbled Godwit eight; Oct. 17-18, Dunlin 2800, W. Sandpiper 246; Oct. 24-25, Greater Yellowlegs 71. Other exceptional Sanderling counts were 5400 Aug. 29-30 and 5750 Oct. 17-18, both tallies more than twice her previous high from late August on.

In spite of their poor showing at Chinc., Lesser Golden-Plovers were more widespread than usual elsewhere, with two in Howard, Md., Aug. 31-Sept. 2 (HM, RFR) for a first county record, 20-38 at Hunting Creek, Va., Sept. 9-Oct. 24 (EPW, JMA *et al.*), 17 at Deal Island W.M.A., Sept. 21 (HTA), 16 at Summit Hall Turf Farm, Montgomery, Md., Sept. 28 (MO), and numerous other records. A true rarity was a Piping Plover at Loch Raven Res., Sept. 27 (SWS, BD), providing a first inland record for Maryland. The high count of Killdeer was at Kipt., where Williams saw 212 Oct. 12. Deal Island W.M.A. monopolized the Black-necked Stilt market with five there Aug. 2 (MO), two Aug. 13 (MO), and one Aug. 17 (FEH *et al.*). The Am. Avocet flock at Craney peaked at 37 Aug. 7 (FRS, JWD), a shadow of its former self, but birds were present there throughout the period (TRW). Six at Wallops I., July 24 were unusual for there (CRV) as were three along the causeway to Chinc. (town) Aug. 27 (TF). Rare anywhere in Maryland, two were at Hart Aug. 15 (RFR *et al.*) and one was at Ocean City Nov. 29 (MO).

One of the surprises of the fall was the discovery of a new shorebird hotspot on Kent I., Queen Annes, Md., at North West

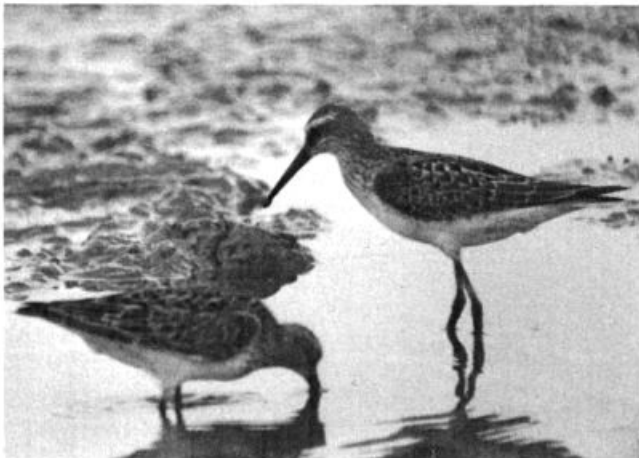
Creek, most of the E. Shore of Maryland usually being rather mediocre for shorebirds. Records of interest here included 300 Lesser Yellowlegs Aug. 25 (RFR), a Red Knot Sept. 6 (WK), 24 Stilt Sandpipers Sept. 8 (MO), a Ruff Sept. 2 (MO, PO), 10 Wilson's Phalaropes Aug. 31 (EB, RFR, a new Maryland high count) plus six there Sept. 8 (MO) plus seven and a Red-necked Phalarope Aug. 28 (AH, JW).

Latish were a Spotted Sandpiper in Balt., Nov. 2 (RFR, EB) and two Solitary Sandpipers at Loch Raven Res., Oct. 24 (SWS), 11 Willets nearby at Liberty Res. were unusual for Piedmont Maryland (EB, RFR). Seven Upland Sandpipers were at New Design Rd., Aug. 4 (PO), up to nine were at Langley A.F.B., Aug. 20-Sept. 5 (TK), four were at Oceana N.A.S., Va., Sept. 9 (TRW), and four were at Tilghman I., Talbot, Md., Sept. 15 (JGR). A Whimbrel was unusual at Hart in late September-early October (*fide* RFR, ph.). Rare on the Piedmont was an unusual group of 14 Hudsonian Godwits at Beltsville, Md., Oct. 4 (WS), three were at Grand View, Hampton, Va., Sept. 7 (TK), and one to two were present in the *Hydrilla*-infested areas of Hunting Creek in September and October (RAA, EPW *et al.*). Marbled Godwits were also more widespread than normal with one at Hart Aug. 11 (RFR *et al.*), four at Ocean City Oct. 13 (RFR), five on Assat. I., Oct. 19 (MO), up to nine at Grand View in September (TK), and 29 (low) at their Thoms Creek stronghold e. of Mockhorn I., Va., Sept. 1 (FRS, HTA *et al.*) with 13 there Oct. 5 (HTA *et al.*).



Juvenile Curlew Sandpiper at Hart-Miller Impoundment, Baltimore Co., Md., Oct. 19, 1985. First confirmed record for Maryland. Photo/Bob Ringler.

A Red Knot at Liberty Res., Aug. 19 provided a first Piedmont record for Maryland (RFR) and three Sanderlings there Sept. 21 were notable (RFR). On the late side were five Least Sandpipers at Hog I. Nov. 24 (FRS) and three White-rumped Sandpipers at Blackwater N.W.R., Nov. 29 (MO). A Baird's Sandpiper was at Liberty Res., Aug. 25-26 (EB *et al.*), another was at Craney Oct. 12 & 20 (TK), and an extremely late one was at Chinc., Nov. 16 (BM *et al.*). Maryland's first confirmed record of **Curlew Sandpiper** was provided by one at Hart Oct. 19 (HK, HLW, RFR *et al.*, ph.). This was a good fall for Stilt Sandpipers with up to 175 at Hart Aug. 15, a late one there Oct. 19 (RFR), and an extremely late individual at Back R. Sewage Treatment Plant e. of Balt., Nov. 6 (HLW, CPW). Ten at Liberty Res., Aug. 25 made the highest inland count ever for Maryland (RFR, EB). Buff-breasted Sandpipers turned up at unexpected localities such as e. of Williamsburg, Va., Aug. 14-18 (BT, TA), at Leading Pt., Balt., Sept. 15-16 (JW, AH), at Hart Sept. 12 (HK, RFR), and at Liberty Res., Sept. 22 (HM, RFR). One to two Ruffs were at Chinc., Aug. 6 & 17 (FEH, NB *et al.*). This was a super Wilson's Phalarope fall with six at Hart Oct. 11 and four there Oct. 19 (RFR *et al.*) and up to 12 at Craney Aug. 13 & 22 (eight Sept. 12; TRW) plus numerous singles and doubles elsewhere (v.o.). Single Red-necked Phalaropes were at Deal Island W.M.A., Aug. 13 & 19 (MO, AH) and eight were off Wachapreague, Va., Sept. 6 (GR). A Red

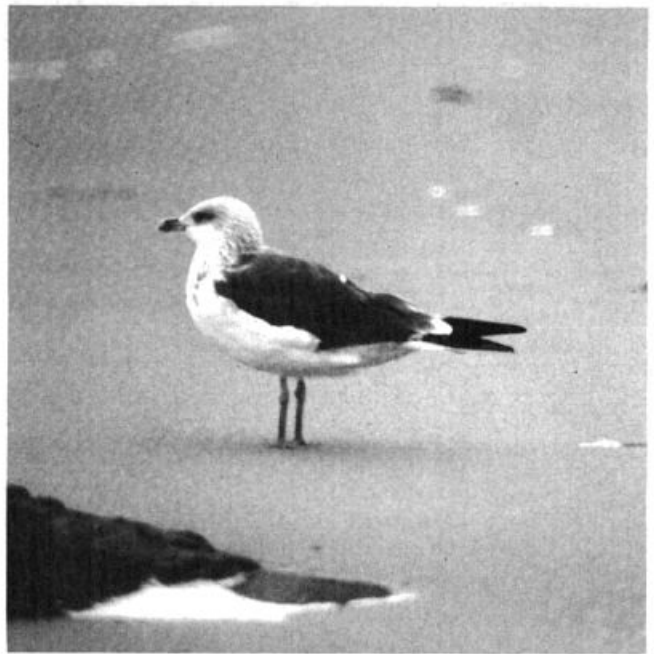


Two juvenile Stilt Sandpipers at Nokesville, Va., Aug. 16, 1985. Photo/Ken Bass.

Phalarope was reported from Chinc, Aug. 17 (NB) and four were seen in Virginia waters off Assat. I., Sept. 21 (RN, HLW *et al.*). The *Hydrilla* shorebirds along the Potomac s. of D.C. were studied intensively by numerous observers on an almost daily basis with carefully tabulated data, an important record of a temporary (?) phenomenon (JMA, EPW).

**JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS** — The hit of the season was a Parasitic Jaeger present in the general D.C. area Sept. 7-Oct. 21, affording scores of observers an opportunity for repeated studies of this light-phase, subad. bird (DC, EMW, VBK, RAA *et al.*). In Virginia waters off Assat. I., Naveen *et al.* saw a Pomarine and 12 jaegers (sp.) Sept. 21. At Back Bay N.W.R., Nov. 2, a large jaeger flight was observed as a result of strong onshore winds (DFA). Inland Laughing Gulls were seen at Nokesville, Va., Sept. 1 (two—KHB) and at Beltsville Nov. 3 (two—RFR). There were 48 Laughing Gulls Oct. 25 at Loch Raven Res. (SWS), where the season's only Franklin's Gull was seen Oct. 27 (HK, SWS), the first for Piedmont Maryland. At Blackwater N.W.R., 225 Laughing Gulls were grounded by warm, driving rain Nov. 30 (GLA, HTA). Wilson found an early Bonaparte's Gull at Hunting Creek Aug. 26. In D.C., 1300 Herring Gulls (DC) were a remarkable count for there, the buildup due to a big flood after remnants of Hurricane Juan passed through interior, upstream areas. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen at 11 sites with a peak of seven on C.B.B.T., Oct. 26 (RDB, DH, KK), plus sightings at less-expected locales such as N. Beach, Calvert, Md., Nov. 1 (JLS, ph.), at Presquile N.W.R., Nov. 14 (BPk), and two at Salisbury, Md., Nov. 29 (MO). They materialized for the 7th straight year at Ft. McHenry in Balt. (BM) and the 6th straight in D.C. (DC). At Hart 400 Great Black-backed Gulls were a fine late-summer count Aug. 15 (RFR *et al.*). Kittiwakes were at C.B.B.T., Nov. 16 (TH, DW) and at Back Bay N.W.R., Nov. 29 (TRW).

As is often the case, tern counts from Hart were outstanding,



Lesser Black-backed Gull at North Beach, Calvert Co., Md., Nov. 1, 1985. Photo/Jim Stasz.

with 400 Caspian Terns Oct. 5, decreasing to 230 Oct. 11 and six Oct. 26, plus eight Royal Terns Oct. 5 and seven Oct. 11 (RFR *et al.*), Royals being scarce this far up the Bay. On Aug. 4, 675 Forster's Terns were seen here and they increased to 1000 by Aug. 15, four Black Terns also being noted on these last 2 dates (RFR *et al.*). Other good Caspian totals were 85 at Hunting Creek Sept. 23 and 134 at Chinc, Sept. 12-13 (CPW), and a late bird was at D.C., Nov. 7 (DC). Unprecedented for the Maryland part of the Bay were as many as seven Sandwich Terns at Scotland Beach, *St. Mary's*, Aug. 24 (RFR); 27 at Chinc. were a new high there for Wilds Aug. 15-16. Representative counts of Forster's Terns were 500 at Hooper's I., Sept. 8 (HTA), 461 at Rock Hall, Kent, Md., Nov. 1 (JG), and 310 at Bivalve, *Wicomico*, Md., Aug. 19 (AH). One on the Piedmont at Lilypons Oct. 5 was of interest (DHW). Almost unprecedented were two **Bridled Terns** seen off Assat. I. in Virginia waters Sept. 21 (RN *et al.*). Black Terns had a poor year at Chinc. with the peak of 19 on Aug. 8-9 (CPW), but a late one was there Oct. 6 (HTA). Black Skimmers are scarce far up the Bay, so singles at Sandy Point S.P., *Anne Arundel*, Md., Oct. 13 (WK) and Nov. 24 (AH *et al.*) were interesting, as were three immatures at Hunting Creek Oct. 12 (JMA, EPW) and two in D.C., Oct. 24 (DC). The first sight record of **Black Guillemot** for the Region since Audubon was of an adult seen at close range Nov. 30 from C.B.B.T. (RLK, SF), all the more unusual because of the rather sedentary nature of this alcid.

**OWLS THROUGH SHRIKES** — Single N. Saw-whet Owls were at Kent, Md., Oct. 14 (JG) and Laurel, Md., Nov. 9 (CSR). Excellent counts of Com. Nighthawks came from Maryland Piedmont areas such as 900 at Lanham Sept. 2 (BM), 700 at Beltsville Aug. 30 (BM), and 1139 at Rockville Sept. 2 (BA, *vide* CPW). A watch for them at Richmond Aug. 9-Sept. 24 revealed a maximum of 309 Sept. 1 (CRB). A bird believed by many to be a Lesser Nighthawk was in D.C., Oct. 29-Nov. 15, invariably seen in flight and under crepuscular conditions. Finally good photographs were made by George Jett. These were examined in excruciating detail by CPW, HLW, R. Clapp, G. Graves, J. Marshall, and R. Zusi. All independently reached the same conclusion: the bird was an ad. ♀ Common Nighthawk. Clearly any late season, low-flying nighthawk in the East cannot be automatically tagged a Lesser, even if the white stripe seems closer to the wing-tip. As a consolation prize, however, this may have



*Eastern Wood-Pewee at Patuxent River Park, Md., Oct. 31, 1985 (a very late date). Photo/Bill Portlock.*

been the latest fall date for the Region. Another nighthawk seen Oct. 13 in D.C. was believed to be a Lesser but is best left as inconclusive (BM).

At Kipt., a count of 2002 N. Flickers was made Oct. 6 in just 1½ hours (BW). There were 7 reports of Olive-sided Flycatchers, most in late August-early September (v.o.). Very tardy was an E. Wood-Pewee at Patuxent R. Park, *Prince Georges*, Md., Oct. 31 (Bpk, ph.). Five reports of W. Kingbirds were received with birds in both Maryland and Virginia (v.o.). Williams' best E. Kingbird totals at Kipt. were of 1778 Aug. 31 and 1347 Sept. 1, the vast majority of these birds seen 6:40-7:40 a.m. and flying N. The monster Purple Martin roost at Hampton built up again this year to 80,000 with 15-20 thousand still there Sept. 2. Up to 10,000 were in one tree, snapping off branches from their weight like Passenger Pigeons, but only one was seen there Sept. 27 (TK). Extremely unusual was a rash of late N. Rough-winged Swallow sightings including singles at Lilypons Nov. 11 (DHW), at New Design Rd., Nov. 17 (MO), and an exceptional bird at Piscataway Cr., Dec. 1-15 (PN). A late Cliff Swallow was at Fish I., Oct. 5 (HTA), and the last Barn Swallow was at White Hall, *Harford*, Md., Oct. 29 (DK). Typical Fish Crow highs, all roost-associated, were 935 at Kipt., Sept. 2, and 500 at Bellevue, *Talbot*, Md., Oct. 12 & 26 (HTA).

There was no Black-capped Chickadee flight (v.o.) but Red-breasted Nuthatches arrived extremely early such as Aug. 19 in *Kent*, Md. (JG), one in *Nokesville*, Va., the same day (KHB), and two at *Janes Island S.P.*, Md., Aug. 23 (AH), and by Aug. 31 Scott had seven at Kipt. Sedge Wrens were seen only at Kipt. (TK), *Irish Grove Sanctuary* near *Crisfield* (five, Nov. 16, CES), one in *Eakin Community P.*, *Fairfax*, Va., Oct. 10 (EMW), one in *Mathews*, Va. (JBB, date?), and one at *Deal Island W.M.A.*, Aug. 8 (PO, MO). Based purely on banding totals, Veeries at Kipt. peaked *Sept. 12* (21), *Swainson's Thrushes Sept. 29* (17), and *Gray-cheeked Thrushes Oct. 7* (16—FRS, CH, KT, *fide* WPS). This season's best landbird was a **Sage Thrasher** at *Chinc.*, Oct. 10, for apparently the 2nd Virginia and 3rd Regional record, seen along the road at the *Wash Flats* (CPW). A *Water Pipit* at *Hart* Sept. 12 was early (HK, RFR). *Loggerhead Shrikes* were seen at only 4 places including three at *Hopewell*, Va., Aug. 25 (FRS, JWD, BRz). One of the less-appreciated aspects of fall migration here is the small passage of this species through the coastal plain in late August and early September.

**VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES**—A pronounced lack of cold fronts, combined with very warm weather and hurricanes or their remnants, made for a dull fall for warblers and most other passerines. At Kipt., 4621 birds of 83 species were banded in 50

days *Aug. 31-Oct. 20* in 7985 net-hours, the most frequently banded birds being *Am. Redstart* 1204, *Yellow-rumped Warbler* 782, *Com. Yellowthroat* 595, *Gray Catbird* 221, and *Black-throated Blue Warbler* 218 (WPS *et al.*). *September 25* produced a good flight there with seasonal highs for bandings of *Tennessee*, *Magnolia*, *Cape May*, *Black-throated Blue*, and *Blackpoll* warblers (JHB *et al.*). *Philadelphia Vireos* were reported more frequently than usual (v.o.). Very late was a *Tennessee Warbler* at *Arlington* Nov. 20-21 (RAA). *Orange-crowned Warblers* were reported on only 7 dates, the earliest being not until *Oct. 8* at *Adventure Sanctuary* near *Potomac*, Md. (MD, *fide* CPW). *September 12* was another good warbler day with highest bandings of *Black-and-white Warblers* and *Am. Redstarts* at Kipt. (FRS) and of *Magnolia*, *Bay-breasted*, *Tennessee*, *Mourning*, and *Canada* warblers, plus *Ovenbirds*, at *Tolchester Beach*, *Kent*, Md. (JG *et al.*). This latter site banded 1506 birds of 86 species on 24 days *Aug. 7-Nov. 2* in 9290 net-hours (JG *et al.*). A genuine rarity was a *Cerulean Warbler* closely seen on *C.B.B.T.*, Aug. 10 (JL, TK *et al.*).

*Single Clay-colored Sparrows* were on *Assat. I.*, Oct. 12 (DC, MO, GG) and at *Rockville*, Md., Oct. 1-5 (MO, PO), where three birds believed to represent the *nelsoni* race of *Sharp-tailed Sparrow* were seen Oct. 23-28 (MO). Early was a *Fox Sparrow* at *Ocean City* Oct. 13 (RFR, MR). High numbers of *Lincoln's Spar-*



*Lincoln's Sparrow at Rockville, Md., Sept. 26, 1985. A regular migrant in this Region, but uncommon and elusive, and not often photographed. Photo/Michael O'Brien.*

rows were seen including singles at *Stevenson*, Md., *Sept. 13* and *Oct. 17* (BR) and 15 were detected in *Rockville* *Sept. 17-Oct. 23*, five of these *Oct. 1* (MO). Early were a *White-throated Sparrow* at *Hampton* *Sept. 11* (TK) and a *White-crowned Sparrow* at *Bellevue*, Md., *Sept. 29* (HTA). Six *Lapland Longspurs* were at *New Design Rd.*, Nov. 11 (MO), and the first *Snow Buntings* were widely reported in the last 3 days of *October* at *Cape Charles* (HG), *Eastern Neck N.W.R.* (JG), *Hart* (MO), *Chinc.* (CPW), and *Back Bay N.W.R.* (DD).

*Single Yellow-headed Blackbirds* were at *Beltsville*, Oct. 28-Nov. 2 (AH, WS, MO *et al.*) and at *Newport News City P.*, Va., Oct. 14-19 (*fide* D & MM). Unique and rare was a *Brewer's Blackbird* at *Manassas Battlefield N.P.*, Va., Oct. 28 (VBK, DT *et al.*). At Kipt., 141 N. Orioles were counted *Sept. 1* (BW), the state record count being 210, and a late one was at *Stevenson*, Md., Nov. 20 (BR). Exceptionally early was a *Purple Finch* at *Patuxent*, Md., Aug. 28 (SD) as were a *Red Crossbill* at Kipt., Aug. 31 (BW) and an *Evening Grosbeak* there Oct. 12 (BW). There was a little flurry of *crossbill* and *Com. Redpoll* records but for the most part the northern finches, although present in many localities and several years overdue, staged only a minor flight.

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## SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

**F**all 1985 in the Southeast tended to be somewhat warmer than usual, in part because there were very few strong cold fronts, especially during the crucial late September to late October migration period. Precipitation was very variable over the Region, depending on whether a locale was in the rain shield of a hurricane. In fact, hurricanes dominated the weather, as no fewer than four (five counting Bob in late July) dumped rainfall (but not necessarily rare birds) on the area, particularly Georgia and the entire Coastal Plain.

The passerine migration was lackluster in most places because strong fronts were scarce. Shorebirding inland was exciting in August, but rain covered many mudflats for the remainder of the season. There was a noticeable movement of Red-breasted Nuthatches, Pine Siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks during the fall, a welcome change from the virtual absence last year. The dozens of pelagic trips taken off the Region this season failed to turn up a completely unexpected seabird (a *Ja* Buller's Shearwater off New Jersey last year), but they provided a wealth of valuable distributional and abundance data, especially regarding storm-petrels. The season's highlight was the remarkable array of western landbirds, which includes a Mountain Bluebird in the North Carolina mountains this summer; two species have hardly ever been seen east of the Mississippi River.

**HURRICANES** — Hurricane Elena in late August and Hurricane Juan in early November somewhat bypassed the Region and brought essentially no storm-related sightings. Hurricane Kate struck the Gulf of Mexico and travelled northeast from southern Georgia to eastern North Carolina on November 22 and 23. This storm did bring a scattering of notable records, mainly to inland Georgia. But the "storm of the century"—Hurricane Gloria—was an ornithological bust in the Southeast, because it hit land only at Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. Had it made landfall farther southwest in Carteret County, where predicted to hit, a number of noteworthy records surely would have been forthcoming. However, hurricanes generally "produce" rarities only: (1) when the eye hits land and passes inland, carrying seabirds inside the eye and then dispersing them, and (2) on the east and northeast side of the eye, where the strong S and SE winds can pile up pelagic birds along the coast (but not force them inland). A hurricane that skirts the coast without really making landfall, such as Gloria, seldom produces rare birds. Despite adequate birder coverage of the North Carolina Outer Banks after the storm, a dead Cory's Shearwater was all that could be attributed to the storm.



**LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS** — Red-throated Loons were encountered inland twice: on a fog-shrouded road at Winston-Salem, N.C., Nov. 19 (RS *et al.*), and at Jordan L., Chatham Co., N.C., Nov. 28 (RD). The always-notable Eared Grebe was reported at an ash pond in Monroe Co., Ga., Nov. 19-20 (TJ). The Region's highest-ever fall count for N. Fulmar was of 20+ seen by Lee off Oregon Inlet, N.C., Oct. 25; and a live bird, a victim of Hurricane Juan, was found on the beach at Buxton, N.C., Nov. 4 (DCh, ph.). Black-capped Petrels are now a "gimme" on pelagic trips off Oregon and Hatteras inlets, N.C. (see Table 1). Lee had an unforgettable day for shearwaters off Oregon Inlet Aug. 8, and he had the only rare-in-fall Sooty Shearwater (see Table 1). The most sought-after pelagic species at present is the White-faced Storm-Petrel—six were seen on 3 trips off Oregon Inlet Aug. 23-29 (DL *et al.*). Two other sought-after storm-petrels—Leach's and Band-rumped—were seen in remarkable, if not unbelievable, numbers (Table 1). It must be pointed out that the identification of the three dark storm-petrels (including Wilson's) is difficult, especially on a rocking boat, and counts for a given trip tend to be guesstimates with a large margin of error. Thus, a tally of 10 Band-rumped, for example, may be a compromise; some birders believe only several were seen, while others say 25 or more were noted. One fact is certain; both Leach's and Band-rumped are present off North Carolina in considerable numbers (although greatly outnumbered by Wilson's), as Lee has made numerous collections to verify the sight records.

A few White-tailed Tropicbirds were seen off North Carolina, as expected, including one photographed off Hatteras Aug. 10



Adult White-tailed Tropicbird off Hatteras, N.C., Aug. 10, 1985. Photo/Larry Rosche.

[LR]. A good total of Am. White Pelicans inland was of eight at Macon, Ga., Oct. 11, with one present in early September (TKP, TI). Along the coast were nine Nov. 5-16 near the Santee R. delta, S.C. (SG, BD, PM), and single returnees at Charleston, S.C., all fall (StC) and at Hatteras Inlet Nov. 29 (CW). For some unknown reason, all the fall sightings for Great Cormorant came

from South Carolina: a record-early immature at Huntington Beach S.P. (where regular) Aug. 16 (CA), several there in late October (CW, SW), and immatures at Charleston Oct. 20 (DF) and at Sullivans I., Nov. 16 (DF). Magnificent Frigatebirds were observed at St. Simons I., Ga., Sept. 1 (LH) and at N. Myrtle Beach, S.C., Nov. 1 (RM, *vide* DiB).

**HERONS THROUGH WATERFOWL**— For the 2nd consecutive summer, an imm. Reddish Egret was seen at Huntington Beach S.P., S.C.; this year's bird was noted Aug. 14-16 (PL, HF, CA). Additional notable wader records were of two late Cattle Egrets near Tyrone, Ga., Nov. 3 (PB); a good total of 13 Black-crowned Night-Herons near Fayetteville, N.C., Sept. 1 (PJC, MW); an imm. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Winston-Salem, N.C., Sept. 29 (RD, AB, HL); and a Glossy Ibis at Falls L., N.C., on the very late date of Nov. 7 (JM, MS). Extremely rare away from the coast was a Roseate Spoonbill seen with Wood Storks at Cadwell, Laurens Co., Ga., Aug. 28 (S & SR). Another spoonbill, an immature, flying over Oak I., N.C., this fall (BB) provided one of fewer than 10 records for that state. For whatever reasons, Wood Storks were unusually numerous in the Region this fall. Seldom seen on the N.C. Outer Banks was one at Bodie I., Sept. 4-5 (JV *et al.*). Unusually far inland was another at the Wateree R., Kershaw Co., S.C., Aug. 17 (CW); and storks ranged inland in Georgia to Twiggs, Bleckley, and Laurens counties (BP, TKP), with a roost of over 100 birds in the last county (TKP).

The annual late fall influx of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks was detected almost solely in South Carolina, with the only report

Table 1. Pelagic observations off the North Carolina coast, Autumn 1985

Species	8/6 O.I. <sup>1</sup> (DL)	8/8 O.I. (DL)	8/17 O.I. (DC)	8/23 O.I. (DL)	8/24 O.I. (DL)	8/25 O.I. (DL)	8/26 O.I. (DL)	8/27 O.I. (DL)	8/29 O.I. (DL)	9/1 H.I. (RA, PD)	9/2 H.I. (RA, PD)	10/3-5 C.F. (SC)	10/5 O.I. (DC)	10/13 H.I. (RA, PD)	10/25 O.I. (DL)	
Northern Fulmar																20+
Black-capped Petrel	57	8	71	18	64	69	1	5	54	2	25+	10 <sup>2</sup>	11	37		
Cory's Shearwater	106	1252	123	138	131	98	17	31	74	43	√ <sup>3</sup>	223	336	23		√
Greater Shearwater	14	362	17	10	2	2			2	1	5	6				
Sooty Shearwater							1									
Audubon's Shearwater	64	1209	51	85	151	12	7	19	11	10	√	13	16	22		
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	149	32	303	223	356	187	110	166	1898	26	√		17	7	2	
White-faced Storm-Petrel				1				1	4							
Leach's Storm-Petrel	3	1	1	3	133	12	2	7	75				2			
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	22	22	8+	11	64	47		2	14		2+					
White-tailed Tropicbird	4	1									1					
tropicbird sp.		1														
Red-necked Phalarope			3	1		8	12	43	38		1		4			
Red Phalarope												2				
Pomarine Jaeger			1								1	1		4	90	
Parasitic Jaeger											2			1	20+	
jaeger sp.		6		2				2	1			1	1	2		
South Polar Skua		2														
Black-legged Kittiwake																1
Bridled Tern			1	1	8	4	4	5		2	1	11				
Sooty Tern		20		2						2	1					

<sup>1</sup>O.I. = Oregon Inlet; H.I. = Hatteras Inlet; C.F. = Cape Fear

<sup>2</sup>Numbers in this column are combined three-day totals

<sup>3</sup>√ = Observed, but numbers not reported

outside that state being of one Nov. 7 at Falls L. (MS, JM), for one of just a few records ever for the North Carolina Piedmont. The Palmetto State's best records were of 30+ at Huntington Beach S.P., Nov. 30 (HH) and eight at Middleton Gardens near Charleston Nov. 12-20 (MP, CaB, PN). The only report of Greater White-fronted Goose was of one at Commerce L., Ga., Oct. 18 (JP). The Falls L. whistling-duck was part of a very large flock of ducks that included excellent totals of 400 Green-winged and 300 Blue-winged teals Nov. 7 (JM, MS). Very early was a N. Shoveler Aug. 11 near Dublin, Ga. (TKP). The always-noteworthy Eur. Wigeon was reported twice, both from North Carolina refuges—one at Mattamuskeet Nov. 10-17 (HW *et al.*) and three at Pea I., Nov. 23 (JD, *vide* DC). Out-of-season divers in central Georgia were a Ring-necked Duck banded in Monroe County Aug. 10 (TJ) and single Ruddy Ducks summer to September at Peachtree City L. (*vide* TM) and Sept. 1 in Carroll County (NI). Quite early was a ♀ Com. Eider Oct. 27 at Huntington Beach S.P. (CW, SW *et al.*). Disappointingly, only one inland scoter report was received—a ♀ Surf at Jordan L., N.C., Nov. 17 (HL).

**HAWKS THROUGH CRANES** — Because of the scarcity of strong cold fronts, few good hawk flights were reported, the best coastal flight being Sept. 29 at Sullivans I., S.C., highlighted by 40 Ospreys (PN). At the other end of the Region, large numbers of Broad-winged Hawks passed SW along the foothills Sept. 13-14, surprisingly early dates; 1331 were counted at Pilot Mt., N.C., on the 13th (PC) and 2100 at the Cartersville Dam, Ga., on the 14th (LG, HG). Extralimital kite records included an Am. Swallow-tailed Kite n. of Monroe, N.C., Aug. 9 (BS) and a Mississippi Kite between Kinston and New Bern, N.C., Sept. 27 (SP). Bald Eagle sightings were probably the highest, especially inland, in over 10 years; the best totals were in c. North Carolina at Jordan L. (18 on Sept. 21—KKu *et al.*) and Falls L. (14 on Aug. 24—MWe *et al.*). An ad. N. Goshawk reported at Moore's Landing, S.C., Oct. 26 (PN) would be only the 3rd ever for the state, if accepted by the South Carolina Records Committee. Disappointingly, only one Golden Eagle was reported, an immature at Bluff Plantation near Charleston Nov. 9 (PN, CWa). Five inland reports of Merlins was also on the low side; and all 3 inland sightings of Peregrine Falcons were from Georgia—at Cartersville Dam Sept. 14 (LG, HG), Augusta Oct. 1 (CB), and Peachtree City L., Oct. 5 (DB, PB).

All six rail species were seen this fall. Fussell flushed a Yellow Rail twice at high tide from a mowed marsh near Atlantic Beach, N.C., Oct. 14; and Nugent and Walters flushed two Black Rails from a dike Nov. 23 at Magnolia Gardens near Charleston. An imm. Com. Moorhen was swimming with 1000+ Am. Coots near Raleigh, N.C., on the late date of Nov. 10 (HL). Hurricane Kate was likely responsible for five Sandhill Cranes flying N at Thomasville, Ga., where rare, Nov. 23 (RLC); and five more cranes were equally notable at Augusta Oct. 1 (CB).

**SHOREBIRDS** — A large flock of 24 Black-bellied Plovers, with one Lesser Golden-Plover, was quite unusual at Falls L., Aug. 17 (HL). The peak Lesser Golden-Plover count was of just three; the most notable records were of late birds in the Atlanta, Ga., area with three Nov. 2 at Peachtree City L. (PB, CL) and two Nov. 9-13 in Clayton County (PB *et al.*). Four Wilson's Plovers were late Nov. 30 at Sunset Beach, N.C. (MO), and 2000 Lesser Yellowlegs made an impressive total at impoundments in Pamlico Co., N.C., Aug. 25 (PJC, MW). Inland Willets were found at Falls L., Aug. 8 (RD), in Clayton County Aug. 30 (HG), and near Dublin, Ga., Sept. 1 (TKP). Surprisingly, all Long-billed Curlew reports came from North Carolina, where the species is less numerous than in the other 2 states—one at Portsmouth I., Sept. 13 (JF), two at nearby Ocracoke Sept. 22 (JF, HHa), and one on the Outer Banks (no specific locale) Nov. 28 (AC).

Although South Carolina had a few previous records of **Hudsonian Godwit**, one photographed (and later collected) at a park in Charleston Oct. 31-Nov. 12 (StC *et al.*; \*C.M.) furnished the first documented occurrence. Except for one at Bogue Inlet,



*Hudsonian Godwit at Charleston, S.C., Nov. 1, 1985. First documented record for South Carolina. Photo/Steve Compton.*

N.C., Oct. 28 (JOP, EP), all other Hudsonian records came from the North Carolina Outer Banks, including 12 at Pea I., Nov. 5 (DCh) following Hurricane Juan. A **Marbled Godwit** at Falls L., Aug. 16 (DW, HWa, HWh) provided just the 2nd inland record for North Carolina. Other rare species inland included Ruddy Turnstones at Pineville, N.C., Aug. 18 (HWa), Bibb Co., Ga., Sept. 2 (TKP), and Townville, S.C., Oct. 2 (CW); and two Red Knots at Winston-Salem Aug. 9-11 (JC, PC, CF, RS). Four reports of Baird's Sandpipers was about par for the fall; two each near Sumter, S.C., Aug. 14 (ED, JB, LGL) and Aug. 17 in Clayton County (PB, MO), and single birds at Clemson Aug. 7 (CW) and Hatteras Inlet Aug. 31 (GM, MB *et al.*).

Stilt Sandpipers must be on a population upswing on the continent, as the species seemingly is more common each fall. There were far too many reports to publish, with highlights being numerous records at L. Hartwell in the Clemson area (CW *et al.*) and an outstanding count of 40 tallied at Falls L., Aug. 10 (RD, HL). On the other hand, Buff-breasted Sandpipers, which were widespread in the Region in the mid- and late 1970s, have been few-and-far-between over the past few autumns. Unbelievably, not a single report came from North Carolina; the only sightings were of Georgia singles in Clayton County Aug. 31-Sept. 2 (PB) and in Forsyth County Sept. 14-15 (JP). The most exciting shorebird of the season was an inland **Ruff** at Falls L., N.C., Aug. 14-15 (RD *et al.*), for the 2nd inland record for the state and first this century! Another Ruff was more expected, but still a good find, at Ocracoke July 22 (DS). Several Long-billed Dowitchers were near Townville Oct. 24-Nov. 2 (CW), and one was very early in Clayton County Aug. 10 (PB). The Clayton County Water Treatment Plant, which hosted 17 species of shorebirds this season, was also home to as many as three Wilson's Phalaropes Aug. 17-31 (PB). Other inland Wilson's appeared near Dublin Aug. 25 and Sept. 8 (TKP) and at Winston-Salem Sept. 1-3 (RS, AS, BPa). The other two phalarope species were reported on a handful of pelagic trips, although most of the Reds were off South Carolina (300+ off Charleston Nov. 30—DF) and Georgia.

**JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS** — Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers were encountered on numerous pelagic trips, off all 3 states, but numbers were typically small except for the astonishing Regional record totals on Lee's Oct. 25 trip (see Table 1). No Long-tailed Jaegers were reported, but because most Long-taileds look very similar to Parasitics in fall, it cannot be assumed that none was seen. A few imm. Laughing Gulls were seen in August at Falls L. (HL, RD) and near Greensboro, N.C. (HH), and near Millen, Ga., July 27 (DS); but quite surprising were two adults Nov. 23 at Falls L. (HL). Lesser Black-backed Gulls keep increasing and keep appearing earlier in fall; of the 6





*Sabine's Gull at North Inlet, S.C., Sept. 7, 1985. First record for South Carolina. Photo/Clay Sutton.*

coastal reports, 2 were in October and one was extremely early Sept. 8 at Bogue Inlet, N.C. (HHa). South Carolina's first ever **Sabine's Gull** was a winter-plumaged adult photographed one mi off North Inlet Sept. 7 (C & PS).

Caspian Terns are mysteriously rare in inland Georgia, so of interest were two in Monroe County Aug. 21 (TJ, RSh). A Roseate Tern in winter plumage was thoroughly described at Ft. Fisher, N.C., Sept. 27 (SC), but even rarer was the first **Arctic Tern** in North Carolina seen onshore—there are many offshore records—at Cape Hatteras point Aug. 21 (NB). As many as 13 Forster's Terns were present in the Greensboro area in mid-August (HH), and one was very late Nov. 28 at Jordan L. (RD). Among the pelagic tern records were two or more late Bridleds off Jekyll I., Nov. 16 (TM *et al.*), a surprising 20 Sooties Aug. 8 off Oregon Inlet (DL), and three Sooties off Charleston Sept. 5 and two more Sept. 8 (DF).

**DOVES THROUGH SWALLOWS**—A White-winged Dove at Jekyll I., Nov. 17-18 (PB) was about the 8th or 9th for Georgia, yet 3rd in 5 years. The best of the handful of Black-billed Cuckoo records were of individuals banded at Jekyll I., Oct. 7 & 17 (TM) and one late Nov. 2 in Forsyth Co., Ga. (JP, JCa, SM). Rarely reported in inland Georgia was a Short-eared Owl at the Gainesville airport Nov. 9 (JP, GV). There were a few late records of Com. Nighthawk in the Atlanta-Decatur area to Nov. 8 (MO). A nighthawk at Decatur Nov. 22 (AA) was probably a Common; but it should not be assumed a *Chaetura* at Hilton Head I., S.C., Nov. 21 (MC) was a Chimney Swift. (Chimneys depart the Region punctually in late October and are rarely seen in early November).

Although it could not be documented by photograph or by expert birders, an ad. ♂ **Broad-billed Hummingbird** at a Seneca, S.C., feeder July 30 (D & JW) was impeccably described and compared with noticeably smaller Ruby-throateds to rule out all other species. This was, of course, a first for the Region if not for the Atlantic Coast. North Carolina's 3rd *Selasphorus* record was special, as it was of an ad. ♂ **Rufous Hummingbird**—the other 2 records involved ♂ birds that could only be assumed to be Rufous. It was photographed at Cape Carteret, Sept. 2-3 (HHa *et al.*). Two ♂ *Archilochus* hummingbirds appeared at a Sumter, S.C., feeder Nov. 11 and remained into winter (BE, ED).

Olive-sided Flycatchers were noted on 5 occasions: at Pea I., Aug. 18 (WI), Fayetteville Aug. 26 (PJC), Atlanta Aug. 23 and Sept. 1 (PR *et al.*), and Dublin, Ga., Sept. 29 (TKP). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers are not as rare in the Region as the previous species, but as they are secretive and difficult to identify, they are not often reported. Birds were identified at Pea I. (WI, NB), Fayetteville (PJC), Pendleton, S.C. (CW), Mt. Pleasant, S.C.

(WP), and Atlanta (PMo, TM, PR). As usual, all *W. Kingbird* reports were coastal, and all involved single birds except for six seen by Greenberg Nov. 2—four on Jekyll I. and two near Darien, Ga. He also had a Gray Kingbird on this date at Jekyll I., probably a lingering breeder. The sole sighting of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher occurred Oct. 29 near Bath, N.C. (RC, ph.). Nearly all the notable swallow reports involved late individuals: three Purple Martins Oct. 4 at Wilmington, N.C. (KK), three Trees Nov. 8 at Falls L. (HL), a N. Rough-winged in Forsyth County Sept. 28 (JP), and two Cliffs Nov. 3 at Peachtree City L. (PB).

**CROWS THROUGH WARBLERS**—In an earlier report I incorrectly stated that Fish Crows had never been reported in the Atlanta area. A few *have* been reported in recent years, although no record has been thoroughly corroborated by numerous birders. Perhaps one calling in nearby Clayton County Nov. 9 (PB, DH) will satisfy sticklers for details. A Fish Crow roost on Drum I. at Charleston contained an estimated 55,000 birds Nov. 16 (WP, DM).

By early September it had become obvious that a good flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches was underway, and by the end of the month they were fairly common or common in most of the Region. A very early Winter Wren was noted Sept. 25 near Marietta, Ga. (NI). Davis saw all five spotted thrush species Oct. 12 at Nags Head, N.C., a rare feat in fall in the Region. Post ran a banding station in the Charleston area for the 2nd consecutive fall, and he was rewarded with South Carolina's first **Bell's Vireo**, Oct. 14 at Mt. Pleasant (\*C.M.). He also found a late (in more ways than one) Yellow-throated Vireo Nov. 4 in a TV-tower kill near Awendaw, S.C.; whereas Lee's best find in a tower kill Sept. 27 in Bladen Co., N.C., was a Philadelphia Vireo. Philadelphia Vireos definitely seem to have increased in the Region over the past few autumns, not likely just a matter of more thorough coverage. There were at least 10 reports, with outstanding counts of four to six near Atlanta Sept. 22 (PR) and five near Pilot Mountain S.P., N.C., Sept. 29 (AB, RD, HL), with three in the same binocular view. But, alas, no Warbling Vireo was detected.

At nearly all stations (except Winston-Salem) the passerine migration, particularly of warblers, was disappointing. The numerous Golden-winged Warbler reports included two from the coast: Sept. 28 at Wilmington (JN, KK) and Sept. 12 at nearby Wrightsville Beach (GM). "Brewster's" hybrids were seen at Augusta Sept. 3 (AW) and at a Fayetteville Sept. 9 (PJC), while the first fall specimen of Nashville Warbler for the South Carolina coast was taken Oct. 29 at Mt. Pleasant (WP). Late departing warblers included a Tennessee at Crowders Mountain S.P., N.C., Nov. 22 (PH), a Magnolia Nov. 9 at Augusta (AW, VW, CB), a Black-throated Green at Augusta Nov. 23 (AW *et al.*), a Prairie near Raleigh until the end of November (JMu), a Cerulean to the e. of its range at Buxton, N.C., Oct. 13 (RD), a Prothonotary at Nags Head, N.C., Oct. 12 (RD), a Wilson's in a Raleigh yard Nov. 27-Dec. 1 (LD), and a Canada at Oriental, N.C., Nov. 6 (DFoy). Wooten made a special effort to search for Cerulean Warblers at Clemson in August, finding singles Aug. 10, 15, & 20; and Atlanta birders had 7 reports Aug. 12 to early September (*vide* TM). Not unexpectedly, Connecticut Warblers were found only along the coast; singles were observed at Buxton Sept. 28 (WI) and Oct. 12 (RD, HL) and banded at Jekyll I., Oct. 8 & 11 (TM *et al.*). There were many reports of Wilson's Warblers in late September, especially along the coast of North Carolina, and a Canada Warbler during the season at Wilmington (JN) was quite a rarity for the coast.

**TANAGERS THROUGH CARDUELINES**—A *W. Tanager* studied in an Oriental, N.C., yard Sept. 7-8 (DFoy) was the sole report; most are seen in winter.

When I was at Cape May, N.J., for the falls of 1982 and 1983, I heard migrating Dickcissels calling overhead every few days; however, few birders in this Region report Dickcissels from the coast, probably because most people are unfamiliar with the buzzing call as the birds pass overhead out of binocular range. I

and others (RD *et al*) saw and heard three such migrants Oct 6 at Pea I. Another Dickcissel was a feeder visitor Oct. 20-Nov. 2 at Morehead City, N.C. (CLi, *fide* JF). The coast was also the only province where Clay-colored and Lark sparrows were found, with the former noted at Pea I., Oct. 6 (HL, RD, ML), Bald Head I., N.C., Sept. 29 (DC), and Mt. Pleasant Sept. 25 (WP, \* C M.); and the latter several times at Pea I., and at Hilton Head I., Oct. 20 (MC). The always-exciting Le Conte's Sparrow was seen Nov. 13-14 at Mt. Pleasant (JA, StC); however, the elusive yet "numerous" Lincoln's Sparrow was reported at only 4 locales. The best Lincoln's reports involved 10+ records from Townville Sept. 27-Nov. 20 (CW *et al.*) and three netted at Mt. Pleasant in October (WP). Seldom seen on the South Carolina coast was a Lapland Longspur Nov. 13 at Hilton Head I. (MC). It was another poor fall for Snow Buntings, with the only reports being from the North Carolina coast at the bridge over Currituck Sound Nov. 1 (two birds—JO, *fide* JFP) and at Oregon Inlet Nov. 3 (eight birds—ML).

The North Carolina Outer Banks had additional notable records: 8000+ Bobolinks Sept. 28 (WI) flying N across Oregon Inlet and presumably correcting for wind drift, and single Yellow-headed Blackbirds from mid-August to early September near Buxton (LR), Hatteras Inlet (GM, MB), and Pea I. (BA, JV, FD). It is not certain whether this is good news or bad news, but House Finches continue to increase, and they were more common than ever this fall; the better records were of three Aug. 14 near Pinehurst, N.C. (JHC), a first specimen for the South Carolina coast Nov. 16 at Mt. Pleasant (WP), and 50 in one flock at Augusta Nov. 23 (AW).

Although a good winter finch flight occurred this season, Red Crossbills again failed to take part, with the only sighting being of one near Wilson, N.C., Nov. 9 (RD). Pine Siskins began pouring into the Region in mid-October and were fairly common in November in many areas. Evening Grosbeaks staged a smaller flight, mainly in November; however, most were confined to North Carolina. Most unusual were two early grosbeaks Sept. 27 at a Winston-Salem feeder (BPa, DP). Last but not least, a well-described imm. **Lesser Goldfinch**, apparently a male, was seen Sept. 27 at Winston-Salem by Ramona Snavelly and her family. Unfortunately, the bird—the first ever reported for the Region—stayed in her yard only several minutes and thus did not pose for a camera or other birders.

**OBSERVERS** — Clyde Adkins, Robert Ake, Bill Akers, Jeanine Angerman, Anselm Atkins, Maurice Barnhill, Jimmy Beaty, Clarence Belger, Carroll Belser (CaB), Ned Brinkley, Donna Brisse, Patrick Brisse, Bill Brokaw, Dick Brown (DiB), Allen Bryan, Derb Carter, J.H. Carter III, Ric Carter, Jack Carusos (JCa), David Chamberlain (DCh), Charleston Museum (C.M.), Steve Compton (StC), Anson Cooke, Mike Cooper, Sam Cooper, R.L. Crawford, P.J. Crutchfield, Jim Culbertson, Pat Culbertson, Evelyn Dabbs, Ricky Davis, Fenton Day, Jan DeBlieu, Leigh DeNeef, Bill DeSousa, Paul DuMont, Betty Edmunds, Dennis Forsythe, Dorothy Foy (DFoy), Charles Frost, Henry Fuseler, John Fussell, Hugh Garrett, Liz Garrett, Sidney Gauthreaux, Lex Glover (LGI), Joe Greenberg, Henry Haberyan (HHa), Dale Hardee, Paul Hart, Herb Hendrickson, Liz Horsey, Nancy Iha, Wayne Irvin, Ty Ivy, Terry Johnson, Kitty Kosh, Kathy Kuyper (KKu), Chris Lambrecht, Dave Lee, Harry LeGrand, Paul Lehman, Charles Lincoln (CLi), Merrill Lynch, Peter Manigault, Greg Massey, Jim McConnell, Douglas McNair, Peggy Moore (PMo), Steve Moore, Terry Moore, Jim Mulholland (JMu), Rick Murray, Jeremy Nance, Perry Nugent, Mark Oberle, John Ogden, Barbara Page (BPa), Dick Page, John Paget, J.F. Parnell, T.K. Patterson, Will Post, Skip Prange, Mike Prevost, Bill Pulliam, Elizabeth Pullman, J.O. Pullman, Paul Raney, Susan & Stoughton Richmond, Larry Rosche, Mike Schultz, Bill Scott, Ronnie Shell, Dave Sibley, Alan Snavelly, Ramona Snavelly, Clay & Pat Sutton, Greg Valpey, Jerry Via, Steve Wagner, Heathy Walker (HWa), Charlie Walters (CWa), Anne Waters, Vernon Waters, Melinda Welton (MWe), Morris Whitfield, Harriet Whitsett (HWh), Claudia Wilds (CWl), Haven Wiley, David & Julia Wise (D & JWi), Charlie Wooten, David Wright.—**HARRY E. LeGRAND, JR., 331 Yadkin Dr., Raleigh, NC 27609.**



## FLORIDA REGION

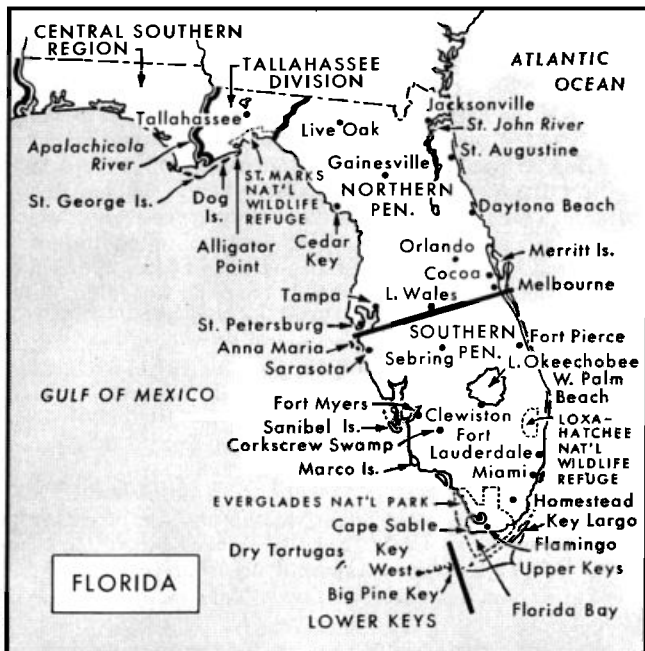
Lyn S. and Brooks H. Atherton

**T**he 1985 fall season was very much like last year's; only there was more of everything—except birds! There was more warm air, more showers, more hurricanes, but not more birds. The high pressure ridge that developed this year was more massive than last year's and covered the entire northern Gulf and the Bahamas. The resultant winds were light and variable at the surface. The stronger airflow occurring at higher altitudes maintained a generally west to east direction as opposed to the northwest/southeast pattern which seems to bring larger numbers of migrants to Florida. Hurricane Elena harassed the Gulf Coast from August 20 to September 2; Juan chugged by October 27-31; and, Kate, an unusually late hurricane occurring November 17-22, slammed ashore at Apalachicola. Beyond these storms, only a weak front that pulled up stationary off the southeast coast October 6-7 and the cold front that followed Juan November 1-6 provided any significant numbers of birds. Warm weather and mosquitoes persisted well beyond the end of the season.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — E.N.P. = Everglades Nat'l Park; F.O.S.R.C. = Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee; S.T.P. = Sewage Treatment Plant; Tall. Div. = Tallahassee Division, T.T.R.S. = Tall Timbers Research Station; date with a "+" = recorded through end of period. Place names in *italics* are counties

**LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRD** — Good numbers of Com. Loons had arrived by season's end. Offshore, two were 30 mi e. of Cape Canaveral Nov. 11 (JJ) and 39 were headed S 4 mi w. of St. Petersburg Beach Nov. 24 (L & BA). A Horned Grebe at Loxahatchee N.W.R., Nov. 29 (RF *et al.*) was a *Palm Beach* rarity, and 10 Eared Grebes at Clear Springs Mine, Polk, Nov. 29 (CG) were perhaps the same as were there last fall (AB 39 43). Approximately 25-30 mi e. of Cape Canaveral were nine Cory's Shearwaters Sept. 28 and four Oct. 21, one Sooty Oct. 17 and three Nov. 11, a Manx Oct. 21, and two Audubon's Sept. 23 and five Sept. 28 (JJ *et al.*). Four shearwaters of Cory's/Greater size were offshore of Boca Raton Nov. 19 (BH).

Masked Boobies were late at several locations. An apparently ill immature was hand-fed by fishermen at the White Street Pier in Key West Nov. 6-16 (M & PB *et al.*). Others were an adult offshore of Lantana Nov. 19 (TT, HL, BH), and on Nov. 30 both



an immature offshore of Juno Beach (BH) and an adult viewed from the Lake Worth Pier (TT, GH, HL). Two early ad. N. Gannets just offshore of Port Canaveral Aug. 7 (ER) and another found dying at St. Teresa Beach, *Franklin*, Sept. 4 (RW) were perhaps signalling the good numbers that arrived by the end of the period. In the Keys, an immature was on shore at Molasses Reef Light Oct. 27 (TB) and 62 (including many adults) were about 6 mi offshore of Duck Key Nov. 30 (HND). Others were scattered throughout the state and at the Lake Worth Pier the species was recorded every day from Nov. 17+ (*fide* HL). Twenty Am. White Pelicans at St. Teresa Beach Aug. 24 (NW) were thought to be very early migrants (*fide* HMS) as were 75 heading SSE at Casey Key, *Sarasota*, Sept. 30 (A & SS). East Point's 450 Brown Pelicans Aug. 24 (HMS) was a very good number for the Tall. Div. and, hopefully, was indicative of the species' continued breeding success. The most visible species affected by Hurricane Elena was the Magnificent Frigatebird, with many usually-rare inland sightings made throughout the state. On Sept. 1, *Polk* had at least 150, including 64 headed S tallied in 35 minutes at Saddle Creek P. (CG *et al.*), and five were as far n. as *Clay* and s. Jacksonville (JW, JPC). One was late at Alligator Point Nov. 1 (HMS).

**WADERS THROUGH DUCKS**—Least Bitterns are rare in the Keys because there is little fresh-water habitat. One was brought to the Key West Bird Sanctuary Aug. 6 (JO) and another was on Conch Key Nov. 2 (HND). Rare inland, a "Great White" Heron that summered at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary remained through fall (*fide* THB). Few pelagic trips submit reports of herons migrating offshore, so noteworthy were 29 Great Blues 31 mi e. of Cape Canaveral Oct. 13 and eight near there Oct. 17 (JJ). Rare in the Tall. Div. were lone Reddish Egrets near the F.S.U. Marine Lab on US 98, *Franklin* (HMS), and another at St. Marks Light (m.ob.), both Sept. 2. Nesting very late were Cattle Egrets with young and eggs at Greynolds P., *Dade*, Nov. 16 (BN). Late migrants were two near Crawfordville Nov. 22 (HMS) and 35 flying at night over Plantation Key Nov. 24 (KS). In E.N.P. there were fewer than usual sightings of Roseate Spoonbills and little evidence of breeding at traditional nesting sites (*fide* OB). The drought undoubtedly accounted for the 600 Wood Storks concentrated in a flooded field at Zellwood Aug. 7 (LA, DG, AM). Exciting to see in the wild, the rare Greater Flamingo was at the Key Largo Ranger Station Oct. 26 (AN), and six adults and an immature flew over Cape Sable Nov. 13 (OB).

Two Fulvous Whistling-Ducks near St. Marks Light Nov. 30 (DCB) were well n. of their usual range. Contrary to last year when Snow Geese were reported virtually throughout the state, the only ones mentioned this fall outside the Tall. Div. (where the species is regular) were two "Blues" at St. Augustine Nov. 10 (MD). Many observers noticed the lack of dabbling ducks in their areas. However, *Polk* was an exception as Clear Springs Mine hosted 850 Green-winged Teal Nov. 30 and 2200 N. Shovelers Nov. 11 (PF). A slime pond in the vicinity had 400 Am. Wigeon Nov. 17 (CG). A copulating pair of Mottled Ducks at Duda Farms/Belle Glade Sept. 8 (PS, BH) was perhaps evidence of late breeding. An ad. ♂ Cinnamon Teal in Stony Bayou Pool near St. Marks Light Nov. 10-15 (C & SF, JEC) was probably the same as one that spent last winter in that pond (AB 39:582). Merritt Island N.W.R. had the only Eur. Wigeon Nov. 8 (DD, DS). Although *Collier* had "almost no ducks at all" coastal or inland, thousands of Ring-neckeds and scaup were at L. Okeechobee Nov. 1 (THB, JJP). Three Greater Scaup at Clear Springs Mine Nov. 28 (CG) were the first-ever for *Polk* and a Lesser Scaup that summered at the Tallahassee S.T.P. was still there Aug. 13 (HMS, TAM).

Black Scoters invaded the state and were found on both coasts as far s. as Naples and N. Miami Beach. Approximately 1300 were tallied from the Lake Worth Pier Nov. 17+ (*fide* HL) with a high of 395 Nov. 28 (GH, A & PW, TT). Eighteen in Mounds Pool near St. Marks Light Nov. 28 (B & LA *et al.*) were probably there as a result of Hurricane Juan. Two imm. Surf Scoters at the St. Marks Light picnic pond Nov. 7 (JEC) were early, and the only White-wingeds were in *Palm Beach* Nov. 23+ (nine total—TT, KR, BH). Red-breasted Mergansers were also abundant with highs of 129 offshore of Lake Worth Pier Nov. 19 (HPL, TT, BH) and 255 heading S offshore of St. Petersburg Beach Nov. 23 (B & LA). Although a rare breeder in the N. Pen., a breeding-plumaged Ruddy Duck at Zellwood Aug. 7 (LA, DG, AM) appeared to be alone.

**RAPTORS**—American Swallow-tailed Kites are usually gone by September, yet one was quite late at Key West Oct. 3 (MB). A Snail Kite at Taylor Slough, E.N.P., Sept. 18 (OB) was considered very unusual at that location. One of the best areas to observe the raptor migration is the Keys, and this fall was no exception. The first hawk flight reported was at Plantation Key Sept. 22 (JCO) where 300 Sharp-shinned Hawks were accompanied by Am. Kestrels, N. Harriers, and a Broad-winged Hawk. On Sept. 24 (JO), 35 Broad-wingeds passed over Ft. Taylor. Plantation Key had 2500 raptors Oct. 5-6 (JCO) with over 400/hour each day during early afternoon counts. These were mostly small falcons and Sharp-shinned but also included Peregrines, Broad-wingeds, Ospreys, and harriers. At Key West, over 1200 Broad-wingeds moved SW Oct. 15, 150 in reverse migration headed NE Oct. 18, and a kettle of 65 Broad-wingeds and 33 Turkey Vultures, followed soon after by 26 more vultures, appeared Nov. 7 (M & PB, JO). On Sept. 29 during a 2-hour watch, Ft. De Soto had five Ospreys, one ad. Bald Eagle, one harrier, 131 Sharp-shinneds, one Red-shouldered, 44 Broad-wingeds, one Red-tailed, four kestrels, one Merlin, and one Peregrine (B & LA). Also there Nov. 9-10 were an Osprey, two harriers, 156 Sharp-shinneds, one Cooper's, one Red-shouldered, 70 Broad-wingeds, one Red-tailed, and two Merlins (LA *et al.*). On Oct. 22 (WF) 75 unidentified hawks were moving SE at Orlando.

Short-tailed Hawks were at Key West Oct. 15 (dark phase—MB), Venus, *Highland*, Oct. 21 (light phase—JAS), Big Pine Key Oct. 30+ (two, dark and light phases—M & PB), and Greynolds Park Nov. 29 (ad. white phase—EA). The only Swainson's Hawks were eight at Royal Palm Visitor Center, E.N.P., Nov. 3 (two dark, six light—CM). A Crested Caracara 15 mi e. of Immokalee Nov. 16 (JJP, DDB) was outside its usual range and a rarity for *Collier*. Again Merlin and Peregrine Falcon sightings were well below those of 1983 (see AB 38:192). However, several were especially interesting. A Merlin at St. Marks Light Sept. 14 (NW) was the earliest for the Tall. Div. and possibly the Region,

*fide* HMS A transmitter whip antenna was visible on an immature at Hypoluxo I., Oct. 5 (PS), and another immature frequenting the passes just n. of Marco I., Oct. 15 (THB, VB) had a "picric-dyed head and breast." Two were 31 mi e. of Cape Canaveral Oct. 13 (JJ *et al.*).

**RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS** — A Purple Gallinule, another species rarely found in the Keys because of its affinity for fresh water, was a road kill at Key West Aug. 25 (JO). Late-nesting Am. Coots with two young approximately 2 weeks old were at the s. St. Petersburg S.T.P., Nov. 23 (AM, LA). By season's end, the number of coots at E.N.P. was well below normal (*fide* OB). Rather unexpected in such atypical habitat, three Sandhill Cranes were photographed standing in sawgrass at mi marker 122, US 1, 8 mi s. of Florida City Nov. 2 (GG).

Rare anytime, two Lesser Golden-Plovers were at Zellwood Sept. 12-15 (TR, m.ob.) and one stopped at Palm Beach Sept. 15 (WG). Four Black-necked Stilts at Clear Springs Mine Nov. 29 (CG) were rare inland so late. Also there Nov. 30 (PF) were 319 Am. Avocets, perhaps the state's most ever. Upland Sandpipers were observed "on numerous occasions in early August" 6 mi s w. of Homestead (CM) and one was a fall rarity at Ft. De Soto Sept. 9 (LA). A **Hudsonian Godwit** at Sharps, *Brevard*, Sept. 20 (JJ, SCJ); †F.O.S.R.C.) was overshadowed by the 3rd state record of **Bar-tailed Godwit** found at Honeymoon Island S.R.A., Sept. 17-26 (DJD, m.ob.; ph. & †F.O.S.R.C.). A Semipalmated Sandpiper was late at the Tallahassee S.T.P., Nov. 22 (HMS). Another outstanding shorebird was the beautiful breeding-plumaged **Curllew Sandpiper** discovered at Zellwood Aug. 17-19 (PF, BC, m.ob.; ph., †). High counts of Stilt Sandpipers were 2065 at Duda/Belle Glade Aug. 17 (PS, BH) and 1300 at Clear Springs Mine Nov. 23 (CG). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was late at Tallahassee S.T.P., Oct. 16-19 (TAM, DCB). Another Keys rarity due to lack of habitat was a Com. Snipe at Big Pine Key Oct. 17 (M & PB). Red-necked and Red phalaropes are rarely reported from the Gulf Coast at any time. A Red was near the F.S.U. Marine Lab, *Franklin*, Sept. 2 (HMS), five Reds were offshore of St. Petersburg Beach Nov. 2 (BA, RL), and Longboat Key had both a Red Nov. 3 and a Red-necked Nov. 4 (M & RS).

**JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS** — One adult and two imm. Pomarine Jaegers were very early at St. George I., Aug. 31 (NW, SJ), and another immature was found ill in Boca Ciega Bay Nov. 1 It was taken to the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary where it subsequently died, *fide* LH (\*U.S.F.). From Nov. 17-27, 444 jaegers streamed by the Lake Worth Pier with high one-day counts of 107 Nov. 18 and 160 Nov. 19 (HL, GH). Others were scattered along both coasts, and even in the Keys, where one was quite close to shore at Key West Nov. 16 (HND, M & PB). An imm. Laughing Gull at the Tallahassee S.T.P., Nov. 22 (HMS) was late inland for *Leon*. The *St. Lucie* landfill had both a first-basic-plumaged Franklin's Gull and an ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull Nov. 22 (H & WD). One of the latter offshore of Ramrod Key Nov. 10 (JO) and another on Boca Chica Nov. 23 (HND, M & PB) were possibly the same individual. Great Black-backed are rare outside the n. and c. east coast so one at Boca Chica Nov. 10 (JO) and lone adults in *Pinellas* at Pass-a-Grille Nov. 17 and just offshore of Treasure I., Nov. 24 (possibly the same individual—B & LA, DJD) were noteworthy. Single imm. Black-legged Kittiwakes were at the Lake Worth Pier Nov. 17 (TT), 30 mi e. of Cocoa Beach Nov. 18 (JJ), and offshore of Boca Raton Nov. 19 (BH). The best find was an imm. **Sabine's Gull** offshore of Ft. Lauderdale Nov. 18 (WG, †F.O.S.R.C.).

Common Terns usually migrate well offshore of the peninsula but the fall hurricanes forced many to shore, especially in the Tampa Bay area. Wandering far inland, two at L. Ariana in Auburndale Sept. 1 (PF *et al.*) were *Polk's* first-ever. Honeymoon I.'s 700 Sept. 17 (DJD) had increased to 3000+ by mid-November (m.ob.), and 300 more spent October at Longboat Key (M & RS). Two thousand were 25 mi e. of Cape Canaveral Oct. 20 and another 1000+ were near there Nov. 18 (JJ). On Aug. 16, there was still no evidence of nesting by the 21 Least Terns that

had summered and were still present at the *Leon* spray field ponds (HMS, GM).

Storm-plagued Bridled and Sooty terns appeared along both coasts and inland. On Sept. 1, Bridleds were at several coastal locations in the Tall. Div. (*fide* HMS), and a dozen Bridleds and several Sooties were at Bahia Beach, *Hillsborough* (FS) An imm. Bridled was brought to the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary Sept. 2 (\*U.S.F.) and three more were at the Banana River, *Brevard*, Sept. 19 (JJ). Two Bridled/Sooty types were n.w. of Moore Haven Sept. 15 (HMS). An ill Sooty found on the beach at Casey Key Nov. 3 was treated for a virus by a veterinarian and released after 2 weeks (*fide* A&SS) but another was found dead at Bokeelia Nov. 5 (RR). Seven Bridleds were 25 mi e. of Cape Canaveral Oct. 17, two others were near there Nov. 11 (JJ, SCJ), and one was offshore of Boca Raton Nov. 19 (BH). Two Sooties were 30 mi e. of Cape Canaveral Sept. 23, three were near there Sept. 28, and one was 15 mi e. of the Cape Oct. 21 (JJ). Two hundred Black Terns at Wards Bank, *Duval*, Aug. 17 (LM) was a high count for that area.

Our Region is rarely visited by any alcid, no matter the season, so quite unexpected were two this fall. An apparently healthy **Dovekie** flew by the Lake Worth Pier Nov. 27 (HL *et al.*, †F.O.S.R.C.) and an imm. **Razorbill** was found dying on the beach at S. Hutchinson I., *St. Lucie*, Nov. 15, *fide* H & WD (\*F.S.M.).

**DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — A White-winged Dove at St. Marks Light Nov. 3-14 (LA, m.ob.) was surely a w stray as possibly were ones Nov. 7 at Rockledge, *Brevard* (HC), and at Key West (M & PB, JO). Budgerigars, well-established along the c. Gulf Coast, tend to disperse in flocks along the coast during late fall and winter. However, lone Budgies at Flamingo Aug. 17 (CM) and along Shark Valley Road, E.N.P., Oct. 16 (BL, JCh, RC) perhaps were escapees rather than wild. A Plum-headed Parakeet at Ft. De Soto Oct. 20 (L & BA) was probably an escapee as no wild populations are known to exist anywhere in the Tampa Bay area. However, a Rose-ringed Parakeet there Oct. 13 (LA) and one at Venice Oct. 19-20 (A & SS) could have been wild, as small breeding populations do exist in the area. In early September, a Maroon-fronted Parrot [details?—K.K.] at the Miller Drive parrot roost in Maimi added to the ever-growing list of species recorded there (MC). Florida's Breeding Bird Atlas surveys starting in 1986 should determine the status of exotics in the Region and will be a welcomed source of information.

Especially scarce this year, single Black-billed Cuckoos were at Ft. De Soto Sept. 2 (B & LA) and Summerland Key Sept 27 (MB), the latter unfortunately a road-kill. Spanish River P., *Palm Beach*, had a high count of 49 Yellow-billed Cuckoos Oct 6 (RF). The only Groove-billed Ani was at Paynes Prairie State Preserve Oct. 12 (CP). A Great Horned Owl at the Shark Valley Visitor Center, E.N.P., Aug. 23 (MC) was a rarity for the Everglades (*fide* OB). During a 15-minute count at dusk Sept. 5, 150 nighthawks flew SE over Upper Matecumbe Key (KS). Late Com. Nighthawks were at St. Petersburg Nov. 2 (JM) and Ft De Soto Nov. 3 (BA, RL). A Whip-poor-will "whipping" at dawn at Ft. Pierce Aug. 17 (H & WD) was perhaps the earliest ever for the state and it upstaged another early one at the Wakulla River Sept. 3 (JE). Chimney Swifts "poured" through the state as a result of November's first cold front, with the Tall. Div. recording large numbers Nov. 1-3 (HMS, GM), and a "heavy migration all day" at Ft. Pierce Nov. 2 (H & WD) with 800 tallied in one hour that afternoon. Seven Ruby-throated Hummingbirds coming to a feeder in late August at the Wakulla River was a noticeable increase over past years and perhaps indicative of more breeders in that area (JE). The only Rufous Hummingbird came to a feeder near Tallahassee Nov. 9-12 (D & LB, JEC).

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH MYNAS** — A xanthochroic Red-bellied Woodpecker discovered during summer in Orlando was last seen Aug. 24 (DWF, WFF). Two Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were still at a location in s. *Brevard* first discov-

ered last fall (see AB 39 44—DD, NS, DS) Most Regional sightings of Olive-sided Flycatcher, a rare migrant, have been in the coastal Tall. Div., so one at St. Marks N.W.R., Sept. 28 (JMS, NW, SJ) was true to form. For the e. coast, six E. Wood-Pewees and five *Empidonax* at Hypoluxo I., Oct. 6 (PS) was an exceptionally good count. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was banded at Casey Key Sept. 10 (A & SS) and two were observed calling at Spanish River P., Oct. 6 (B & JH). An Acadian was late at Tallahassee Nov. 1 (HMS) and a Traill's was banded at Casey Key Sept. 18 (A & SS). An E. Phoebe was an extremely early migrant at Seminole, *Pinellas*, Sept. 2 (JF). The only Vermilion Flycatchers were an immature at St. George I., Sept. 26 (JEC) and an adult at St. Marks Light Oct. 4 (RLC, NW, PL). A **Brown-crested Flycatcher** at Ft. De Soto Nov. 3-4 (LH, BA, m.ob.; ph, †F.O.S.R.C.) was the first for *Pinellas* and one of few n. of the Everglades. There seemed to be fewer than usual reports of W. Kingbirds and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, rare but regular migrants found mostly along the coast. Two W. Kingbirds were inland at Brighton Indian Reservation, *Glades*, Oct. 20 (JAS) and seven Scissor-taileds at Key West Nov. 3 (JO) was an increase there over the past few years. An ad. **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** was studied for 25 minutes at Merritt Island N.W.R., Nov. 24 (T & KY, CJ—†F.O.S.R.C.) but typical of that species it disappeared soon after its discovery.

Two N. Rough-winged Swallows were late at Alligator Point Nov. 1 (HMS). Since Cliff Swallows are rarely reported from the s w coast, 17 found 12 mi e. of Naples Aug. 16 (THB) were notable. Fish Crows calling at several locations where formerly considered rare raised the possibility that the species is expanding its range. The Jetport, *Collier*, had one Sept. 30 (BN), 26 were at Homestead Nov. 16, and 24 roamed Cutler Ridge, *Dade*, Nov. 26 (OB). Quite contrary to last year's lone sighting of Red-breasted Nuthatch, many were found in the Tall. Div. by season's end. Early ones were at Wakulla Beach Road Oct. 4 (RLC, NW, PL) and St. George I., Oct. 6 (JEC). There was an "invasion" of 24 at Cedar Key Oct. 17, but only a few remained on Oct. 27 (DF) Considered late for the Tall. Div. was a Wood Thrush that fell victim to the WCTV tower Nov. 3 (RLC; \*T.T.R.S.). Seven in *Pinellas* Nov. 2-4 (RK, LA, AM) was a good number there that late. Last year, Am. Robins were still hard to find by Christmas but this year many appeared throughout and had even reached Key West by mid-November (MB). Gray Catbirds are very rare breeders in the Tall. Div. and the Jacksonville area. In Tallahassee, three discovered in summer about one-half mi from the original nest site of past years were still present Aug. 16 (HMS, GM) and were presumed to have nested there. One wonders why five Com. Mynas at Kendall and three Crested Mynas at Miami Nov. 23 (BN) were attracted to shopping malls. Perhaps they were trying to get off the streets and back into the safer confines of a cage!

**VIREOS AND WARBLERS**— On Nov. 3 lone Yellow-throated Vireos were late at Alligator Point (JC) and Ft. De Soto (BA, RL) Although a small number of Philadelphia Vireos moved through in October as expected, others were unusually late: one near St. Marks Light Nov. 1 (LA *et al.*), five in n. *Pinellas* Nov. 2 (LH *et al.*), four at Ft. De Soto Nov. 4 (LA, AM *et al.*), and two there Nov. 9 with one remaining the following day (LA). Singles were banded daily at Casey Key Nov. 2-4 (A & SS) and another was at Colohatchee P., *Broward*, Nov. 3 (HL, WG, TC).

Also very tardy were two Blue-winged Warblers at St. Marks N W R. Visitor Center Nov. 3 (LA, m.ob.), and ♂ and ♀ Golden-winged at Seminole Nov. 3 (JF) and a female at Ft. De Soto Nov. 4 (PF, LA *et al.*). Quite to the contrary, exceptionally early Orange-crowneds Sept. 21 were at Seminole (JF) and Ft. De Soto (LA, AM). Another was considered early at St. George I., Oct. 6 (JEC). The only Nashvilles were at Saddle Creek P., Oct. 6 (PF), Ft. De Soto Nov. 4 (PF, LA *et al.*), and Brooker Creek P., *Pinellas*, Nov. 8 (RK). Late for the Tall. Div. and WCTV tower casualties were N. Parula, Black-throated Blue, and Blackburnian Nov. 2, plus Ovenbird and Hooded Nov. 3 (RLC; \*T.T.R.S.). Other divi-

sion stragglers were N Parula Nov. 1 and ♂ Hooded Warbler Nov. 3 near St. Marks Light (LA, m.ob.), Yellow Nov. 1 (HMS) and Chestnut-sided Nov. 3 (JC) at Alligator Point, and a Bay-breasted at the Wakulla R., Nov. 17 (JE). A good fallout of late warblers in n. *Pinellas* Nov. 2 (LH *et al.*) included 12 Black-throated Greens, 20 Magnolias, and 20 Bay-breasteds. A rare Keys migrant was a Blackburnian at Plantation Key Sept. 12 (KS, NP). A Prothonotary was late at Wellington, *Palm Beach*, Nov. 24 (EF) and a Worm-eating at the Wakulla R., Aug. 12 (JE) was rare and early in the Tall. Div. Swainson's Warbler, a rare peninsular migrant, stopped at Dunedin Hammock, *Pinellas*, Sept. 9 (LH), and Oct. 6 at both Taylor Birch P., *Broward* (WG *et al.*) and Hypoluxo I. (two—TT). A total of six Hoodeds in *Palm Beach* and *Broward* Sept. 8 through Oct. 19 (BH, PS, WG) was unusually high for the s.e. coast, and six in *Pinellas* Nov. 2-4 (LH, JM, LA) were exceptional so late. Another tardy one was at e. Sarasota Nov. 4 (JRP). Six Wilson's Warblers included the earliest at Lake Worth Sept. 18 (TT) and the latest at Cape Florida Nov. 2 (DLy). A Canada Warbler at Spanish River P., Sept. 29 could have been the same as one there Oct. 6 (RF, BH) Interestingly, the only others were on the latter date in *St John's* (PP) and at Saddle Creek P. (PF). Especially rare in the peninsula was a Yellow-breasted Chat at Lake Worth Sept. 15 (TT).

**TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES**— An ad. ♂ Stripe-headed Tanager was at Cape Florida Oct. 14 (JS). St. Marks Visitor Center's Summer Tanager Nov. 3 (LA, m.ob.) was late, as were at least six in *Pinellas* Nov. 2-4 (JF, JM, BW) and one at Sarasota Nov. 3 (EM). Hypoluxo Island's five Scarlet Tanagers Oct. 6 (TT) were more than usual for the lower e. coast. Honeymoon I had an exceptionally high 20 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks Oct. 6 (DJD). One was early at Tallahassee Sept. 20 (HMS) but many were late along the Gulf Coast Nov. 1-4 (m.ob.). Another was rare at Conch Key Nov. 5 (HND). A Black-headed Grosbeak appeared at Alligator Point Nov. 1 (HMS) where, interestingly, the only prior record for the Tall. Div. occurred, *vide* HMS

November's first front resulted in large numbers of Indigo Buntings at various locations with 15 at Key West Nov. 3 (JO) high for the Keys and 100 at Ft. De Soto Nov. 4 (LA, AM) exceptional there in fall. One coming to a feeder at L. Jackson Nov. 27 (JEC) was late, although the species has wintered in the Tall. Div., *vide* HMS. The only Dickcissel visited St. George I., Oct. 6 (JEC). Lark Sparrows were at L. Jackson Sept. 16 (NW) and Hickory Mound, *Taylor*, Sept. 20 (JEC). Fort De Soto had an unprecedented number of rare sparrows: Clay-colored Nov. 4 (PF, LA *et al.*), Lincoln's Nov. 4-5 (LA, LH *et al.*) and another Nov. 7 (BC, LG), three White-throateds Nov. 6 (BA), and four White-crowneds Nov. 4 (LA, LH *et al.*). A Grasshopper Sparrow was rare at Key West Nov. 7 (M & PB, HND) and a Song Sparrow was farther s. than usual at Virginia Key Nov. 2 (DO). A Dark-eyed Junco was 6 weeks early at s. Jacksonville Oct. 23-29 (PA) and a Lapland Longspur was a surprise at Wakulla Beach Oct. 19 (JC).

Duda Farms/Belle Glade had high counts of Bobolinks, 1760 Aug. 31 and 1800 Sept. 8 (PS, BH). Adult ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at St. Marks Light Sept. 14 (NW) and 20 mi w of Palm Beach on US 441 Oct. 3 (PS). A ♀ "Bullock's" N. Oriole visited Ft. De Soto Oct. 2 (LA, AM). Late-nesting Spot-breasted Orioles were feeding fledglings at Lake Worth Sept. 15 (TM) The influx of Am. Goldfinches noted in most areas was welcomed since there were so few in the peninsula last fall and winter.

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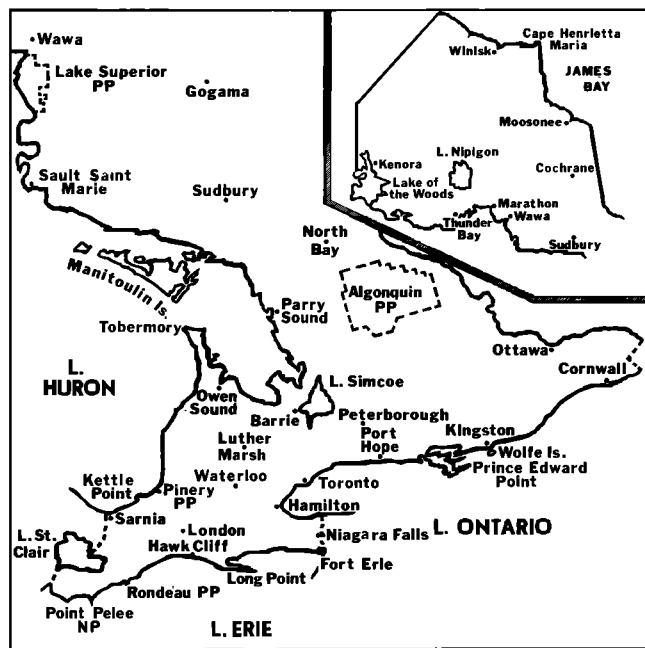
## ONTARIO REGION

Ron D. Weir

The autumn was marked by fewer than the usual number of cold fronts with the necessary North-Northwest winds needed to ground migrants. Most observers found the period uneventful and disappointing. Waterfowl and gull numbers were down, but hawks made a good showing. In sharp contrast to last autumn, there was an almost complete lack of cones and berries through the northern and central areas. In response, migrant songbirds moved out early and completely, so that few latest departures were noted. Owls did not move, presumably because their food supplies seemed assured, but many of the irruptive species did so. Gray Jays and chickadees moved westwards out of the Lake Superior region, while Red-breasted Nuthatches and Purple Finches departed the province *en masse*. Large numbers of winter finches and Bohemian Waxwings poured southwards all the way to the extreme southwest. They were accompanied by small numbers of Black-backed Woodpeckers. Carolina Wrens and Tufted Titmice pushed into the south from areas in the United States as did unprecedented numbers of Laughing Gulls. A few of the rarities were Tricolored Heron, American Oystercatcher, Curlew Sandpiper, Least Tern, Say's Phoebe, and Bell's Vireo.

**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 IBISES**—Red-throated Loon movement at Ottawa was again spectacular as 275 migrated along the river Nov. 10 (BMD *et al.*) followed by seven Nov. 11 (MR, MG). About 70 were found elsewhere in the south. The **Pacific Loon** at Inverhuron Oct. 14 & 25 was reported without details (MP) and another was at East Pt., James Bay Oct. 29 and Nov. 4 (RDM, PHS). Leading totals in a strong flight of Commons were 150 at Kettle Pt., Oct. 27, 140 at P.E. Pt., Nov. 3, and 120 at Winona Oct. 20 (AHR, K.F.N., RC). Horned Grebes continued to appear in high numbers along the lower Great Lakes led by several hundred at P.E. Pt., where the one-day peak Nov. 3 was 150 (K.F.N.). About 100 were at Kettle Pt., Oct. 26 (AHR). Although the 97 Red-necked Grebe reports were more than the 57 in the same period during 1983 and 1984, their numbers remained low and nowhere were concentrations reported. Five Eared Grebes were noted to bring the 1985 total to seven, the annual average since 1972. Two birds appeared regularly from Ajax and Whitby to Toronto's e. Headland Sept. 7-Oct. 20 (m.ob.). Singles were at Strathroy Oct. 11-13, *Middlesex's* first in 10 years (AM, WEM, WRJ), Port Colborne Nov. 16 (RC), and Kettle Pt., Nov. 17 (AM). The **Western Grebe** at Pinery P.P., Oct. 31-Nov. 2 furnished the first autumn report since 1982 (ph. TCr, AHR). Three **Northern Fulmars** at East Pt., James Bay, Oct. 19 &



21 (RDM, PHS) were rare, but the species is probably regular there. An ad. and imm. **American White Pelican** remained at Presqu'ile Aug. 28-31 (WE *et al.*) and two others were near Clinton Sept. 1 (ph. WD).

It is not unexpected that numbers of Double-crested Cormorants continue to rise. Record counts were 2000 at P.E. Pt., Oct. 5 (K.F.N.), 1060 at Presqu'ile Sept. 3 (RDM), 135 at Hamilton Sept. 8 (G. Bryant *et al.*), and 202 at Holiday Beach Sept. 29 (*vide* AC, MK). Late birds were in Georgian Bay Islands N.P., Nov. 25 (BH), P.E. Pt., Nov. 23 (K.F.N.), and at East Pt., James Bay, Oct. 26 (RDM, PHS). Late Am. Bitterns were in Algonquin Oct. 13 (RGT, RP) and at Houston Pt., Akimiski in James Bay Oct. 15 (KFA). Single late Great Blue Herons tarried at East Pt. to Nov. 9 (PHS, RDM) and North Bay Nov. 30 (GH). Impressive for Ontario were the 96 Great Egrets that passed the hawk lookout at Holiday Beach P.P., Sept. 7, and there were 31 reports away from the extreme southwest. Farthest n. was a single at Sibley Oct. 8-12 (ME, RH, TD). Singles appeared on Wolfe I., Aug. 8-9 (RT *et al.*) and at Peterborough Aug. 23-Sept. 20 and Oct. 17 (JE *et al.*), while four were in Ottawa Aug. 20-Oct. 2 (*vide* BMD). The juv. Little Blue Heron at Pelee Sept. 4-7 (MPW) provided the only sighting of this wanderer. The **Tricolored Heron** at Long Pt., July 29-Aug. 1 (DC, M & LE) was only the 2nd ever for the period, the previous occurrence having been in 1980. Cattle Egrets numbered only nine, two of which were out of range at Lake Superior P.P., Nov. 1-8 (ERA, JHA, CB). Single imm.

Black-crowned Night-Herons in Algonquin Aug 21-26 and Sept 12 furnished only the 2nd and 3rd records for the park and the first since 1938 (RGT). The only Glossy Ibis report was of an individual in the St. Clair N.W.A., Nov. 15-22 (*vide* KJB).

**SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS** — A summering Tundra Swan was at Bowmanville Aug. 10 (GC, SM) and another or the same spent 2 weeks at St. Catharines later in August (MEF, AB). Some 2500 arrived at the St. Clair N.W.A., Nov. 17 (PDP), and 2000 were in w. *Elgin* Nov. 15 (*vide* WRJ). An ad. and imm. Greater White-fronted Goose were found in Ottawa Nov. 9 & 25 (RAB, BMD, RBL *et al.*). On the n. coast, an ad. Ross' Goose was at East Pt., Oct. 20 followed by an immature there Oct. 26 (PHS, RDM). The Brant flight was exceptional at the w. end of L. Ontario, led by 350 at Winona Nov. 10 (RC *et al.*) and good numbers in the Toronto area (*vide* CEG, BP). Some 177 appeared farther w. at Sarnia Nov. 10 (AHR *et al.*), the same day 60 were at Long Pt. (L.P.B.O.). Numbers of Canada Geese were again low everywhere and observers suggested they trickled through steadily.

Thirteen Wood Ducks lingered at the Wawa lagoons to Sept. 25 (ERA, JHA), and 435 in Ottawa the same day made a noteworthy concentration (BMD). Mallards peaked at 10,000 at Holiday Beach P.P., Oct. 27 (*vide* AC, MK), the largest number reported. A late Blue-winged Teal was shot at Presqu'île Nov. 23 (MI) and another was at Whitby Nov. 24 (MJB). Other concentrations included 252 N. Shovelers at Ottawa Nov. 8 (BMD), 150 Gadwalls at Kingston Nov. 10 (JHE), 10,000 Canvasbacks at Long Pt. about Nov. 15 (L.P.B.O.), and 1200 Ring-necked Ducks at Ottawa Nov. 11 (BMD). King Eiders totalled 20 in the s., Nov. 2-Dec. 1, a higher number than normal. Of the nine at Presqu'île, eight were shot (*vide* RDM). Four each were at Niagara (*vide* RWK, GBe) and Sarnia (AHR, SC *et al.*), two at Long Pt. (TCh, BL), and a single at Port Stanley (*vide* WRJ). In the n., 52 were counted at East Pt., Nov. 8 (RDM, PHS). The only Harlequin of the period was in Toronto's Humber Bay Oct. 16 & 23 (CEG, BJ). The flight of scoters was strong on the lower Great Lakes and peak numbers were 300 Surfs at Sarnia Nov. 11 (DFR) and 4500 White-winged at P.E. Pt., Nov. 28 (RKE). Ottawa's ♂ and ♀ Barrow's Goldeneyes were back Nov. 3-29 (BMD). Common Mergansers increased their numbers to 7000 at the Cornwall dam by Nov. 28 (BMD, DJM), but peak numbers of Red-breasteds at Pelee were only half those of recent years, totalling 25,000 by Oct. 25-26 (*vide* AW).

**RAPTORS** — The flight of Turkey Vultures was very strong all along the lower Great Lakes involving at least 9000 birds, probably the most ever. Some 1097 passed Holiday Beach Oct. 16 (RLBe *et al.*), and the season's total at Hawk Cliff (Table 1) was a record high (DEF *et al.*). One lingered in Quetico P.P. to Nov 4 (SFP). Apart from the totals in Table 1, there were 55 Osprey and 33 Bald Eagle migrants noted in the s., more than their usual numbers. The 88 Ospreys at Hawk Cliff set a record high there (DEF). The season's total of 1006 N. Harriers at Holiday Beach was a 10-year high (RLBe) and the 973 at Hawk Cliff were a sharp rise (DEF). The 92 N. Goshawks in the s. reflected another non-invasion year. The 1056 Red-shouldered Hawks at Holiday Beach were again well above their 7-year running average of 815. The species' peak numbers were 92 at P.E. Pt., Oct. 6 (RDW) and 90 at Pelee Oct. 25 (GTH *et al.*). A late imm. Broad-winged was still in the Thunder Bay area Sept. 29 (AJR, AW). Ontario's 7th Swainson's Hawk appeared at Hawk Cliff Oct. 20 (DAM). The lone Rough-legged at Melbourne Aug. 19 was early and may have summered in the area (DM). Ahead of last autumn's record by one were the 48 Golden Eagles, of which 44 were in the s., where numbers continue to increase gradually. The 182 + Merlins in the s. were up by 40% over the long-term average. At East Pt. along James Bay, 69 were migrating Aug. 27-Nov 18 (PHS, RDM). Seventeen Gyrfalcons were seen there Oct 19-Nov. 13 (RDM, PHS) and singles came S to Ottawa Nov. 23-30 (TH, CH, PJ) and Sault Ste. Marie in late November (*vide* TDM).

**Table 1. Hawk totals at two Ontario stations, Autumn 1985**

Species	Holiday Beach P.P. <sup>1</sup>	Hawk Cliff <sup>2</sup>
Turkey Vulture	5351	2336
Osprey	60	88
Bald Eagle	15	10
Northern Harrier	1006	973
Sharp-shinned Hawk	14,974	7114
Cooper's Hawk	482	464
Northern Goshawk	35	28
Red-shouldered Hawk	1056	148
Broad-winged Hawk	42,588	4136
Red-tailed Hawk	5161	2394
Rough-legged Hawk	63	4
Golden Eagle	17	5
American Kestrel	3481	1797
Merlin	18	34
Peregrine Falcon	14	23
unidentified	368	1132
Totals	74,689	20,686

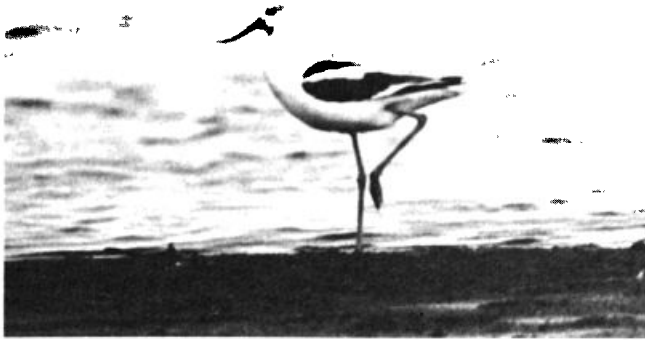
<sup>1</sup>(RLBe *et al.* Aug. 27–Nov. 30, 89 days)

<sup>2</sup>(DEF *et al.* Aug. 28–Nov. 24, 65 days)

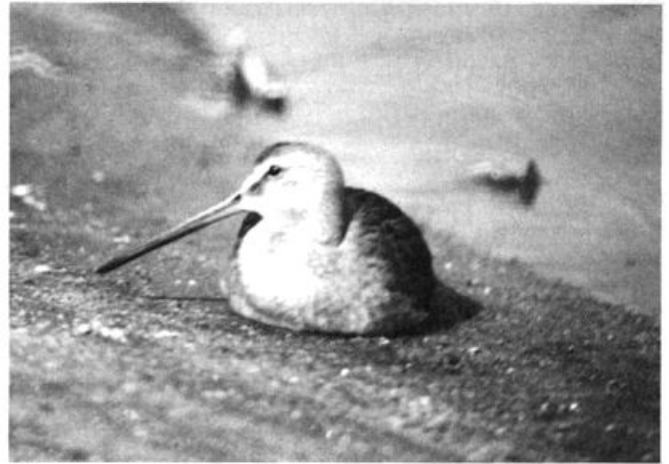
**S.A.**

The 220 Peregrine Falcon sightings in the s. were over double the impressive 106 of last autumn. Birds were reported from widespread areas, but it was at Long Point where the greatest numbers were found. Of the 105 sightings there Sept. 1–Nov. 20, 83 appeared at the peninsula's tip where they were seen to arrive from the NE over the lake and fly out SW over the water without lingering. The peak number was 22 at the tip Oct. 5 (DS). The 23 at Hawk Cliff were up again (DEF), but the 35 at Pelee and 14 at Holiday Beach were considered normal numbers (AW, RLBe). In the n., 15 Peregrines migrated past East Pt., Oct. 10-24, and all were thought to be of the race *tundrius* (RDM, PHS).

**COOTS THROUGH PHALAROPE** — The Am. Coot in Algonquin P.P., Oct. 9-13 was only their 3rd (RGT *et al.*). Few Sandhill Cranes were reported anywhere. The one at Presqu'île Sept. 24-Oct. 14 and two Nov. 17 were firsts in autumn for the park (AG *et al.*). Four Piping Plovers appeared, all at Long Pt. One of the two present Aug. 9-18 wore a colour band and singles were seen Sept. 19-21 and Nov. 3 (L.P.B.O.). The ad **American Oystercatcher** at Hamilton Nov. 2 (ph. DG, HGC, HE *et al.*) provided the 2nd Ontario record. The Am. Avocet at the Woolwich Dam near Floradale lingered Oct. 18-27 and was a first for *Waterloo-Wellington* (ph. VM *et al.*). The 18 Willets seen Aug. 5–Oct. 20 were over double the normal autumn numbers and appeared at Neys P.P., Kettle Pt., Presqu'île, Oshawa, Toronto, Hamilton, St. Catharines, and Pelee. At Long Pt., one of their four was of the e. race *sempalmatus* (DS). Only 20 Whimbrels were noted Aug. 3–Sept. 22, a poor flight. However, the 225 + Hudsonian Godwits surpassed their big invasion numbers of 1975. Their strongest showing was from Hamilton e. to Kingston and Ottawa. A flock of 122 appeared at Ottawa Aug. 25 (MG *et al.*). Only two Marbled Godwits were noted, singles at Blenheim Sept. 4-7 (PAW, JW, KJB) and the Dundas marsh Sept. 5-9 (KMCL). Western Sandpipers were displaced from farther s. in record numbers. Six were at Presqu'île, five at the Dundas marsh, two each at Kingston, Oshawa, and Strath-



American Avocet at the Woolwich Dam near Floradale, Ont., October 1985. First local record. Photo/D.R.C. Prescott.



Long-billed Dowitcher at Ottawa, Ont., Sept. 18, 1985. Photo/B. M. DiLabio.



Juvenile Willet at Neys Provincial Park, Ont., September 1985. Photo/Alan Wormington.

roy, and a single at St. Catharines, to total 18 birds. At Long Pt., their numbers were way up with an incredible 44 present Sept. 4. Three of these were netted and banded (DS). In the s., there were reports of only 46 + White-rumped and 57 + Baird's sandpipers.

The 34 Purple Sandpipers in the s., Oct. 20-Dec. 5, compared with the invasion years 1965 and 1969, but were well below the record 57 in 1983. Birds appeared at Pelee, Long Pt., Port Stanley, Niagara, Toronto, and Virginiatown. Largest numbers were 12 at Presqu'ile Nov. 22 (RDM, PHS) and seven in Ottawa Nov. 5 (TB, BMD, RPH). The Curlew Sandpiper in breeding plumage at Presqu'ile lingered Aug. 11-20 (ph. RDM, JJD *et al.*). For the 3rd consecutive year, Stilt Sandpiper numbers surpassed 200, led by 61 at Kingsville Aug. 5 (AW), 38 at Dundas Aug. 14 (WL), and 36 at Long Pt., Aug. 6 (L.P.B.O.). The only Buff-breasted e. of Niagara were six at Ottawa Aug. 25-Sept. 2 (BMD, RPH, FWM) and the 14 others away from the extreme southwest

constituted a weak flight. The only Ruff was at London Aug. 11 (RKH), which compares with an autumn average of two annually since 1977. The 32+ Long-billed Dowitchers were an increase in numbers and were seen in Ottawa, Kingston, Presqu'ile, Oshawa, Pickering, Dundas, Long Pt., and Kettle Pt., Aug. 21 and Sept. 5-Oct. 17. The 32 Red-necked Phalaropes Aug. 6-Sept. 23 occurred over wide areas from Quetico P.P., Sudbury, Ottawa, Kingston, Winona, and the Blenheim and Essex sewage lagoons. Away from the James Bay coast, six Red Phalaropes were in the s. including singles at Ottawa Oct. 4-6 (BMD *et al.*), Winona Nov. 19 (RBa), and Long Pt., Nov. 4, where five appeared Nov. 5 (BS, DC).

Late shorebird occurrences included a Lesser Golden-Plover at Pelee Nov. 24 (AW), a Solitary Sandpiper in Algonquin Oct. 14 (RGT), Ruddy Turnstones at Sarnia Nov. 5 (AHR) and Alder-shot Nov. 10 (KMCL), Red Knot and Semipalmated Sandpiper at Presqu'ile Nov. 3 (AGC *et al.*), Semipalmated Sandpiper at Kingston Nov. 3 (K.F.N.), Least Sandpiper at Dundas Nov. 21 (WL), Baird's Sandpipers on Amherst I., Nov. 3 (K.F.N.), Am. Woodcock at Sibley Nov. 24 (MJM), and Wilson's Phalarope in the Dundas marsh Oct. 25 (WL).

**JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS** — Single Pomarine Jaegers were at Hawk Cliff Sept. 26 for Elgin's first (ph. MFH *et al.*), Long Pt., Oct. 5 (TCh *et al.*), East Pt., Nov. 9 (PHS, RDM), and Ottawa Nov. 10 (BMD). Numbers of Parasitics were low again at 40. Only Presqu'ile experienced a good year at nine birds Aug. 21-Oct. 5 (*vide* RDM). Single Long-taileds, the rarest of the jaegers in the s., were an adult at Pelee Sept. 17 (GTH), immature at Long Pt., Oct. 1 (AWH *et al.*), and Southeast Shoal, Essex, Oct. 4 (AW). In autumn 1981, there were four Long-taileds, which equalled their total for the previous 25 years.

The 10 Franklin's Gulls in the s. were normal numbers and were at Pelee, Blenheim, Long Pt., Fort Erie, Niagara Falls, Hamilton, P.E. Pt., and Ottawa, Aug. 25-Nov. 30. Away from their traditional sites on L. Erie, Little Gulls totalled 10 at Presqu'ile Aug. 5-Sept. 7 (*vide* RDM), four at P.E. Pt., Oct. 5 (JHE, RDW), seven and one at Cornwell Nov. 6 & 28 (BMD *et al.*), and two well n. at East Pt., Oct. 25 (RDM, PHS). The upsurge in Com. Black-headed continued this autumn. Singles were at P.E. Pt., Oct. 5 (JHE, RDW), Cornwall Oct. 27-Nov. 9 (MG *et al.*), Niagara Falls Nov. 9-30, joined by a 2nd bird Nov. 17 (GCo, GBe *et al.*), and Long Pt., Nov. 17 (TCh). Thayer's Gulls numbered 15, of which nine were in the s., while only nine Icelanders were noted by season's end. The 14 Lesser Black-backed Sept. 12-Nov. 28 were fewer than in the past 2 autumns, but above the average of nine over the past 9 years. Only three were away from the lower Great Lakes: at the Nepean dump Oct. 15 (BMD), Guelph Lake Nov. 5 (CEP), and East Pt., Nov. 11 (RDM, PHS). The 60 Black-



legged Kittiwakes Oct. 22-Dec. 2 were invasion numbers, of which 29 were in the Sarnia area, 20 at Hamilton, and the rest at Pelee, Long Pt., Toronto, P.E. Pt., Cornwall, and Ottawa. In addition an early single was at Oshawa Sept. 14 (MJB) and a freshly dead immature was found at Pembroke Sept. 15 (CM). The only Sabine's Gulls were one at Strathroy Sept. 24 (PR, WR, AM) and an immature at P.E. Pt., Nov. 3 (RDW *et al.*). Of the 173+ Forster's Terns, the only birds away from L. Erie were singles at Oshawa Sept. 15 (MJB), Pickering Oct. 3 (HGC, HK), Ottawa Oct. 13 (JRH), Hamilton Oct. 20 (RC *et al.*), and two adults on Amherst I., Oct. 13 (K.F.N.). The **Least Tern** at Long Pt., Sept. 24 (M & DT) was nicely described and was Ontario's 2nd ever. The first occurred at Niagara in June 1958.

—S.A.—

Laughing Gulls provided the surprise of the Laridae. At least 23 were reported, of which 20 were from sites on L. Erie; correction for duplicate counting has been attempted. This unprecedented number compares with only eight in the past 11 autumns! Two juveniles were in Kent Aug. 10-Sept. 5 (PAW, *vide* KJB), four juveniles and a 2nd-winter bird in Essex Aug. 7-Sept. 29 (*vide* AW), the same juvenile at Hawk Cliff Sept. 17 and Port Stanley Oct. 25 (ES, AM, MSS), and 12 sightings of adults and immatures at Long Pt., Aug. 12-Sept. 24 (*vide* DS). Away from L. Erie, single 2nd-year birds were at Niagara Oct. 11 & 18 (GBe, RWK) and Kingston Dec. 5 (RDW), and a juvenile was in Ottawa Oct. 15 (MR). Whether a hurricane was responsible for their displacement from the Atlantic coast was unclear.



Juvenile Laughing Gull at Southeast Shoal, Essex Co., Ont., Sept. 5, 1985. Unprecedented numbers reached Ontario during this season. Photo/Alan Wormington.

**CUCKOOS THROUGH GNATCATCHERS** — Late cuckoos included a Black-billed at West Lorne Nov. 1 (JRM) and a Yellow-billed at Brantford Nov. 3 (WL). Single Com. Barn-Owls appeared twice at Hamilton in early autumn (R. Baker) and in Orillia Nov. 13 (WEZ). A Great Gray Owl was in Englehart Oct. 7-8 (J. Wallace) and another at Atikokan was killed on the road Sept. 6 (*vide* SFP). An imm. ♀ Boreal Owl involved in a collision at Hearst Sept. 18 later died from its injuries (KMCK). The N. Saw-whet Owl migration was normal after the disastrous 1984 season. At P.E. Pt., where 226 were netted, 64% were hatching-year birds (K.F.N.). The comparable data from Long Pt. were 200 and 74% (DS). The 10 reports of Red-bellied Woodpeckers reflected a weak recovery and singles away from the s.w. were at Orillia Oct. 27 (E. Somers) and Peterborough Nov. 25 (RS). Downies irrupted in numbers from Marathon to Thunder Bay Sept. 26-Oct. 22 (AW, AJR), but their migration along the lower Great Lakes was weak. The only Three-toed Woodpecker reported out of range was near Algonquin Sept. 20 (WCC). However, Black-backed irrupted in their strongest flight since 1974. In the Thunder Bay area, one to three were seen daily along the L. Superior shore Sept. 26-Oct. 28 (AW). The birds were more numerous in Algonquin from late September (RGT) and about 15 passed S through Ottawa (BMD). Singles reached P.E. Pt., Sept. 29 (RDW, LSW), Sandbanks P.P., Sept. 18 (RTS, NZ), Presqu'île Sept. 14 as the first of five there (*vide* RDM), Cobourg Oct. 13 (ERM), Aberfoyle Oct. 14 (ADB), and Holiday Beach Sept. 14-15 (ph. *vide* MK, AC).



Black-backed Woodpecker at Holiday Beach Provincial Park, Ont., Sept. 15, 1985. Photo/Allen Chartier.

Ontario's 6th Say's Phoebe since 1948 frustrated banders at the tip of Long Pt., Sept. 24, when it sat on their Heligoland trap and refused to enter (DC, BS, BC). For the 2nd consecutive autumn, five W. Kingbirds were reported. Singles appeared at Oshawa Aug. 16 (MJB), Beamsville Aug. 24 (DBF), Long Pt., Sept. 1 (DC, MJ), Morrisburg Sept. 2 (TB, CG, MG), and Presqu'île Sept. 15 (WE, J & JT *et al.*). One Scissor-tailed Flycatcher appeared at Cheltenham Oct. 11 (RAG), the 5th for 1985 in Ontario. A recently-discovered swallow roost in the Great Catarqui marshes at Kingston held up to 200,000 birds, mostly Tree Swallows, in the 2nd week of August (DVW). The roost at Pembroke contained 175,000 swallows Aug. 8 (*vide* MPW). About 25,000 Tree Swallows were at Huff's I., Prince Edward, Sept. 22 (SB) and the Barn Swallow at Long Pt., Nov. 7 was their latest ever (L.P.B.O.).

Small groups of Gray Jays were migrating W between Mara-

thon and Thunder Bay Sept. 26-Oct. 28 [AW], but their irruption was not detected elsewhere. Blue Jay numbers were apparently back to normal. At Holiday Beach, some 305,000 were tallied, with 103,000+ on Sept. 25 & 27 and Oct. 3 (*fide* MK). Black-capped Chickadees had emigrated *en masse* from Marathon to Thunder Bay by late September (AW) and they too may have moved W along the L. Superior shore, since this flight was undetected at Wawa and all points south. The only Boreal Chickadees out of range were singles at Presqu'île Oct. 20 (RP) and P.E. Pt., Nov. 23 (K.F.N.). Tufted Titmice had rebounded in the southwest, led by at least five each at feeders in Niagara-on-the-Lake and St. Catharines in November (*fide* RWK). One was in Kingston Oct. 6 (RKE) and another near Peterborough Nov. 23 (D. Reid *et al.*). A mass exodus of Red-breasted Nuthatches occurred that will probably leave few wintering in the province. Single White-breasteds were in Marathon and Terrace Bay Oct. 18 (AW, MKM) and in Wawa Nov. 13-16 (ERA, JHA). The strongest influx of Carolina Wrens since 1974 began at Long Pt., July 30 (DS). Birds arrived at Kingston by Aug. 9 (RKE), Ottawa Sept. 5-8 (PM *et al.*), Oshawa Sept. 8-Oct. 7 (*fide* MJB), and Kettle Pt., Oct. 30 (AHR). A 2nd push in November was seen at Pelee, Long Pt., and Niagara Falls. Highlights of numerous reports of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were one n. to Thunder Bay Aug. 18 (HHA) and a late bird at Kingston Nov. 8 (*fide* JAW).

**THRUSHES THROUGH WARBLERS** — Grounded at dawn Sept. 21 following a heavy night flight were 2000 Gray-cheeked and 4000 Swainson's thrushes at Presqu'île (J & JT). About 300 Swainson's were at Long Pt., Sept. 22 (L.P.B.O.). The Wood Thrush at Pelee Nov. 5 was late (GTH). A ♂ Varied Thrush was at Kitchener Nov. 5 (MS). Northern Mockingbirds well n. were one at Lake Superior P.P., Oct. 1 (JC) and another at Schreiber Oct. 28 (AW). Bohemian Waxwings arrived in Thunder Bay Sept. 24 (MJM) and reached Ottawa by late October, where 2400+ were seen Nov. 29 (BMD). In a rare push into the southwest, small flocks were at P.E. Pt. and Toronto Oct. 20 (K.F.N., HK *et al.*), Guelph Oct. 24 (MDC), Long Pt., Nov. 6 (L.P.B.O.), Dundas and Pelee Nov. 14 (KMCL, MPW), and Niagara Falls Nov. 24 (KR, GBe *et al.*). Five Loggerhead Shrikes were seen Aug. 16-31 from Allenford, Oshawa, Beamsville, and Long Pt. A juv. White-eyed Vireo at Winona Sept. 21 was the only one noted away from Pelee (RC). The documented **Bell's Vireo** at Rondeau P.P., Oct. 7 (RY) was Ontario's first in autumn. The species is known in fall on the Atlantic coast of New York where netted Sept. 24, 1959 and Sept. 26, 1970.

Nine Blue-winged Warblers were at Pelee Aug. 11-Sept. 11, and a "Lawrence's" hybrid was there Aug. 27 (GTH, RE). Another "Lawrence's" was netted at Long Pt., Sept. 7 (L.P.B.O.). Five Louisiana Waterthrushes were in the s. at Long Pt., Aug. 3 (GP *et al.*), Rondeau Aug. 17 (KJB, PAW), Fort Erie Aug. 20 (GLO), Pelee Aug. 27 (GTH, RE), and Garden I. off Wolfe I., Sept. 2 (DVW, LW). The only reports of Connecticut Warblers e. of L. Erie were from Garden I., Sept. 2 (LW, DVW), Presqu'île Sept. 15 (J & JT), and P.E. Pt., Sept. 29 (RDW). Hoodeds wandered n.e. to Oshawa Aug. 19 (NLV), P.E. Pt., Sept. 7 (RDW), and Pickering Oct. 12 (WE). The only Yellow-breasted Chat away from Long Pt. was in Ottawa Nov. 6-26 (TD *et al.*).

Late warblers were fewer than usual. A Tennessee and a Palm were in the Thunder Bay area Oct. 26 (AW *et al.*). At Long Pt., a Yellow tarried to Oct. 6, Am. Redstart Oct. 26, and a Wilson's Nov. 20 (L.P.B.O.). Other lingerers were a Cape May at Aldershot Nov. 25 (DKP *et al.*), Bay-breasted in Toronto Nov. 10 (DH, HK), and Blackpoll on Amherst I., Nov. 3 (KH).

**GROSBEAKS THROUGH FINCHES** — A late Rose-breasted Grosbeak was in Wawa Sept. 27-Oct. 4 (ERA, JHA). A ♂ Blue Grosbeak, especially rare in autumn, arrived at Long Pt., Aug. 16 (VF). The Moosonee area's 4th Indigo Bunting was at East Pt., Oct. 12 (RDM). Four Lark Sparrows made an excellent number for this rare visitor. The first appeared at Wiarton Aug. 3 (ph. *fide* GMB) followed by one at Toronto's e. Headland Sept. 21-22 (HE *et al.*). The bird in Algonquin Oct. 13 was their 2nd



Immature Smith's Longspur at Thunder Bay, Ont., Sept. 29, 1985. Photo/Alan Wormington.

ever and first since Oct. 8, 1962 (ph. RGT *et al.*). The 4th was at Camden East near Kingston Nov. 30 (PG *et al.*). The latest of 4 Henslow's Sparrow reports was from Toronto I., Oct. 14 (GF). Of the other secretive sparrows, a Le Conte's was in Oshawa's Cranberry marsh Aug. 31 (LR) and two were netted at Long Pt., Sept. 28 and Nov. 17 (L.P.B.O.). The 13 Sharp-tailed Sept. 14-Nov. 13 were normal numbers and were at Long Pt., Dundas, Oshawa, and Richmond, and at Presqu'île and Algonquin, a new species for both parks. Numbers of Harris' Sparrows were sharply higher than normal at Atikokan and Kenora, and birds were e. to Marathon Sept. 26-30 (AW *et al.*) and Wawa Oct. 19 (ERA). An imm. Smith's Longspur was photographed at Thunder Bay Sept. 29 (AW *et al.*). Late sparrows included a Vesper at Ottawa Dec. 1 (BMD *et al.*) and Lincoln's in Algonquin Oct. 13 (DAS).

Late Bobolinks were three at Heron Bay near Marathon Sept. 26 (AW, AJR) and one at Long Pt., Oct. 27 (L.P.B.O.). Noteworthy among 10 Yellow-headed Blackbirds were a male and female at Moosonee Sept. 26 and Oct. 3 respectively (NT, AMM) and a male in Wawa Sept. 25-Oct. 3 (ph. ERA, JHA). The only Orchard Oriole report was from Presqu'île Sept. 19 (NM) and a late ♂ N. Oriole stayed at a Port Hope feeder Nov. 14-20 (*fide* ERM). Pine Grosbeaks moved S in numbers, reaching Ottawa in late October and the L. Ontario shores as far w. as Burlington by mid-November. A few penetrated the southwest reaching Pelee by Nov. 11 (MPW). The Purple Finch exodus matched that of Red-breasted Nuthatch and most had left by mid-October. Crossbills were scarce and the few reports were without any pattern. Common Redpolls also invaded the s. in large numbers. Flocks passed Matachewan Oct. 15 (LT) and Sudbury Oct. 20 (JCN) and reached the shores of lakes Ontario and Erie by Oct. 30. The Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak flights were heaviest in the extreme southwest from Long Pt. to Holiday Beach. By the end of the period, both species were still present in small numbers over wide areas.

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## NIAGARA—CHAMPLAIN REGION

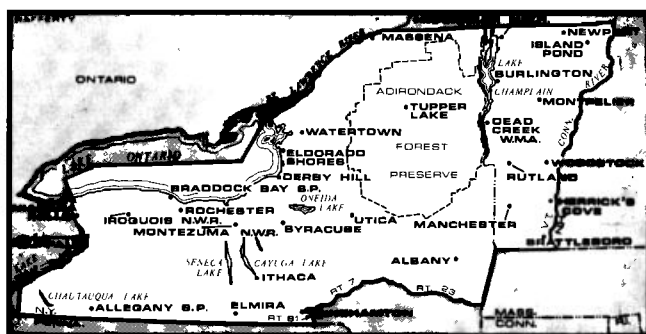
Douglas P. Kibbe and Cheryl M. Boise

Although spring migration may induce more bird watchers to partake in the pleasures of birding, it is the fall season which appeals to the elite members of our sport. Anything becomes possible (or, depending on the zeal of the observer, probable), and in the absence of regimented projects (e.g., atlasing, Christmas Bird Counts) it is the quest for the unusual which induces observers to spend hours scanning silhouette shorebirds or garbage-grubbing gulls. Others, equally fanatic, ferret out and sort through the hordes of grounded passerines or sit glued to mountaintops tallying larger quarry overhead. This fall yielded something for everyone (over 270 species), although as often happens few were content (e.g., "too mild", "few groundings", "lackluster"). Vermonters were especially fortunate with two new state records while New Yorkers had a fine assortment of rarities to add to their year lists.

The season overall was mild with November wetter than usual. Hurricanes, although much in the news, contributed little to the ornithological scene (with the possible exception of the unconfirmed Fish Crow in the Connecticut River valley following Gloria's passage). Some late departures were noted and a major winter incursion of several species was apparent by season's end.

**LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL** — Not only has the degree of coverage within the Region increased dramatically over the past decade but the quality of data continues to improve. Daily counts are still the exception to the rule but many observers are finally tallying the commoner species, particularly waterbirds. Best loon counts were as usual from L. Ontario with 275 Red-throateds off Hamlin Beach Nov. 23 (WS *et al.*) and some 2000 Commons in Sodus Bay Nov. 9 (ST).

Few grebes were reported, none in significant concentrations. A **Great Cormorant** at Braddock Bay Nov. 24 (JB *et al.*) was unexpected although it is the wintering cormorant in coastal New England. Double-crested Cormorants, apparently on the verge of breeding on Oneida L. this past summer, should be closely watched at this and other sites [particularly along the St. Lawrence R.] in 1986 as their populations continue to increase despite past persecutions. The population explosion is reflected even in migration counts in the Connecticut R. valley with flocks of up to 70 being reported over Herricks Cove (WE). A fall



count of 400 on Four Brothers Is. in L. Champlain further reflected the increase. Least Bitterns were surprisingly well reported in w. New York (eight birds) and Vermont (three) considering their relative scarcity most falls. Staging Great Blue Herons peaked at 21 at Otisco L., Nov. 13 (RP), late for such numbers. Lest one consider this number exceptional, however, consider the size of the colony in DeKalb (80 nests) or the huge colony of 621 nests on Ironsides Is. in the St. Lawrence R., where deforestation is rapidly proceeding due to heron-induced deaths of nest trees (KC, GS).

Great Egrets also lingered late, until mid-October at both Tonawanda W.M.A. and Montezuma N.W.R., and a wayward one at Pt. Peninsula Nov. 23 was headed north (LG, *vide* LC)! Only singles were sighted in Vermont, while at least one-half dozen frequented sites in New York. An imm. Snowy Egret seen in and around Burlington, Vt., in August and early September was the Region's only representative. A **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at Buffalo Aug. 4 (RA) was the rarest long-legged wader to appear, although Glossy Ibises at Dead Creek W.M.A., Oct. 11 (DC), Manlius Aug. 7-16 (DWC), and Cheddamo, N.Y., Nov. 3 (FS, RK) were notable. Given the track of many hurricanes this season, can we assume White-faced Ibis was ruled out?

Seven sightings of up to seven Mute Swans reflected this species' recent increase in the Region. The magnitude of the Snow Goose movement through Vermont in early November had even non-birders commenting. In reality the movement was probably normal, but weather-induced groundings made it more noticeable than usual. The top count included 2500 at Shoreham (WE, EW) and Bellows Falls. Although most puddle duck numbers were modest, an exceptional concentration of nearly 1400 Wood Ducks occurred at Toad Harbor near Brewer-

ton Oct 4 (FS) Best diving duck tallies in New York included 2000 Lesser Scaup on Lewiston Res., 300 Black Scoters off Hamlin Beach (WS *et al.*), and 1070 Hooded Mergansers at Chautauqua L. (B.O.S.). Often underrated, L. Champlain's waterfowl migration might better be termed 'under-reported'; witness the 2100 Canvasbacks at Alburg Nov. 7 (DC, DM), 3000 Ring-neckeds at Missisquoi N.W.R., 2700 Greater Scaup among the Champlain Islands Nov. 7 (DM), and 410 Black Scoters between Addison and Panton Oct. 25. A Harlequin Duck on a woodland pond near Maryland Nov. 16 (DK) was a long way from Great Lakes areas which traditionally harbor this rare visitor

**HAWKS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS** — Turkey Vultures lingered well into November, continuing a trend. Ospreys apparently nested on Beaver L. in Onondaga County this summer. Although no nest could be found, a "freshly-fledged young" was present in early August (*fide PD*). As populations show every sign of continued increase, we encourage observers to watch for other new nesting localities. Other raptors especially well reported this fall included Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, and Merlin. A migration count at the e. end of L. Ontario Oct. 20 yielded a record 419 Red-tailed Hawks (FS, RK). A single Golden Eagle was seen Sept. 22 in Allegany County (HW) and two were spotted migrating into the Region near Massena.

New York, in addition to managing its endangered Spruce Grouse population, is seeking to expand the range of Gray Partridge into "appropriate habitat" along the e. and s. shores of L. Ontario. In Vermont 10 Gray Partridge at Missisquoi N.W.R. (JG) provided the sole report. Was a single Sora report reflective of the species' Regional status? A genuine rarity was the Yellow Rail found dead in a Lisbon, N.Y., driveway Sept. 30 (*fide KC, GS*)

The shorebird migration was good despite generally mild weather which allowed the vast majority of birds to overfly the Region. Every normally-occurring shorebird was reported, a few in excellent numbers. The better sightings included at least three Willets, five Whimbrels, four Hudsonian and several Marbled godwits, several Buff-breasted Sandpipers (including one at Dead Creek W.M.A.—AP *et al.*) and two Ruffs. Laggards included Baird's Sandpipers at Little Sodus Bay Nov. 2 and Sandy Pond Nov. 7 (FS) and an injured Spotted Sandpiper through Nov. 8 at Hamlin Beach (WS *et al.*). Purple Sandpipers were much in evidence from mid-November on, even reaching Dunkirk Harbor on L. Erie. Thanks to improved coverage of L. Champlain islands there were reports there of at least eight birds (RL, WE). We suspect (and have often stated) that better coverage of that lake would reveal that the species is a frequent, perhaps annual, visitor.

**JAEGERS TO OWLS** — Both Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers could be found in modest numbers on L. Ontario from September through mid-November. Do most of these jaegers escape from the Great Lakes, or eventually succumb as did the imm. **Long-tailed Jaeger** found dead Sept. 3 on Sylvan and Verona Beach (SH, *fide PD*)? Although there were at least 4 reports of ad Laughing Gulls between Sept. 25 and Oct. 26 on L. Ontario and Nov. 11 on L. Erie, there was little indication that the occurrences were hurricane-related, or even that more than one or two birds were necessarily involved. Franklin's Gulls appeared at Buffalo in late August (B.O.S.), and Oct. 20 at Hamlin Beach (R.B.A., G.O.S.) and Derby Hill (FS, RK). Most Little Gulls apparently bypassed normal concentration points along the s. shore of L. Ontario on their way to the seacoast from their n. shore L. Erie breeding areas. Best numbers were recorded at Eldorado Shores and Sandy Pont, indicating an easterly fall migration still occurs on L. Ontario. Vermont had its 6th and 7th records at Bixby and Young Islands Oct. 14 (RL). All Black-legged Kittiwake reports fell in November with a maximum of five immatures at Hamlin Beach Nov. 5 (R.B.A.). One to two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at Adam Beck Hydro Dam and Niagara Falls (WD *et al.*) and a **Common Black-headed Gull** was

at Moses-Saunders Dam on the St. Lawrence Oct 27 to Nov 10 (JVR *et al.*). Long overdue, a **Forster's Tern** photographed on L. Champlain at St. Albans Bay Oct. 7 (WE, RL, NM) was, amazingly, Vermont's first, although the species is seen regularly in migration on L. Ontario.

Very few Snowy Owls were reported by the close of the season and an incursion seemed unlikely. Although presumably a widespread and regular breeder in Vermont, a Long-eared Owl seen at Dead Creek (MW, AB) provided the first report from the state in some time. We encourage observers in the L. Champlain valley to search conifer stands for this species and N. Saw-whet Owls during winter and migration periods.

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS** — Recently-fledged E. Wood-Pewees seen on Vermont's Bald Mountain Sept. 1 and fledgling E. Kingbirds at Quechee Aug. 25 (WE, NM), were late. Vermont's first **Say's Phoebe** was carefully described by 2 observers familiar with the species, who found it at Shoreham in November (E & LW). The Tree Swallow seen Nov. 23 at Tonawanda W.M.A. (B.O.S.) was exceptionally late, as was a "large mixed flock" of N. Rough-winged and Cliff swallows Oct 13 at Montezuma N.W.R. (C.B.C.). Common Ravens continued to be regularly reported in s.w. New York, and the Rochester area apparently hosted another Oct. 25: There are few species more elusive than Sedge Wrens in fall; nonetheless there were 2 sightings in c. New York, Sept. 12 & 29. This year's tardiest (or will there be another winter record?) Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were at Rochester Oct. 25 (EB, WS) and Shoreham Nov 20 (WE). A widespread influx of Bohemian Waxwings was evident in portions of the Region by November. Loggerhead Shrikes were seen in 2 known or suspected breeding locations, and in migration at Herricks Cove Aug. 12 (WN). A **Northern Wheat-ear** was discovered Sept. 23 at Vershire (JW, JD) to become Vermont's 3rd record.

The vireo and warbler migration was less than spectacular with few weather-induced groundings and, despite relatively mild conditions, little by way of exceptional departure dates. A Sept. 13 Golden-winged Warbler in c. New York (*fide PD*) was relatively late, as were the Nov. 30 Orange-crowned Warbler at Durand-Eastman (AC *et al.*) and Sept. 8 Prairie Warblers at Amity L. (VP) and Winhall, Vt. (WN). A Yellow-breasted Chat was near Springfield Sept. 3 (WN), always an exciting find in Vermont, as would be a Yellow-throated Warbler at Burlington in November had adequate supporting details been provided

**DICKCISSEL THROUGH FINCHES** — Easily overlooked in the flocks of House Sparrows they often associate with, and thus doubtless more common than Regional records reflect, a Dickcissel was discovered in Ithaca Oct. 14 (EL, DCo). Interesting was a report of a Sharp-tailed Sparrow seen by a single observer in a cattail marsh at the mouth of the Winooski R., Oct 3 (SA). The species is rarely seen migrating through the Region. This, the first report from Vermont, is at best hypothetical but points out the need for observers throughout the Region to be on the watch. Although the first Lapland Longspur was spotted Oct. 4, Snow Buntings arrived *en masse* Oct. 26 over a broad front. A belated report of at least one Yellow-headed Blackbird at Sandy Pond in June (GS, *fide PDB*) was received. Two Brewer's Blackbirds were found Oct. 27 at Westfield, N.Y. August 24 was the last Orchard Oriole departure date. How have House Finches become so populous? Perhaps by breeding longer, judging from the nest with three young found Aug. 23 in Amity Lake (VP).

The winter finch situation seemed to be shaping up as a reversal of last year's. Crossbills were very rare while Pine Grosbeaks, Am. Goldfinches, and Com. Redpolls were staging a strong invasion. Mixed flocks of the latter two species were much in evidence along the L. Ontario plains in early November. On Nov. 7, 1020 (80% goldfinches) were tallied in 1½ hours (EB, BS).

A final word is overdue on the failure of observers to thoroughly document several important sightings in recent seasons

Reportedly, filing of rare bird reports is ignored because it is "too tedious", or the observer "feels only sightings by records committee members are accepted" or "believes their field abilities to so far exceed the reviewers' that such review is demeaning." Whatever the rationale the end result is the same: undocumented reports do not become part of the permanent ornithological record, and potentially valuable data are lost.

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## APPALACHIAN REGION

George A. Hall

If the spring migration had been a "birdless" event, what can we say about the fall migration? There were some bright spots, and the season had more than the normal number of really rare birds, but on overall balance most observers felt that it was a poor time for birding.

Summer prevailed almost to the end of the period. All four months were warmer than normal and at several stations November was the warmest on record. There were no killing frosts until November. Some spring flowers were blooming in early November and from Waynesboro, Virginia, came the report of the last monarch butterfly on November 20 (RS). The early part of the period was very dry, and indeed there was almost no precipitation in places during September. The drought ended in November, which was the wettest on record at many places. In early November, coupled with Hurricane Juan, the West Virginia mountains experienced exceptionally high rainfall which produced the most devastating floods in recorded history. Whole towns were essentially wiped out, but the ultimate effect on bird-life will be small.

August and September were characterized by a lack of pronounced cold fronts, which led to a dull migration. Hurricanes Danny, in mid-August, and Elena, in late August, did bring some interesting waterbird records. The warbler and flycatcher migration was generally below average. Things picked up a little in October and the sparrow flight was fairly good at places, but was later than normal. The mild season, of course, induced many birds to stay north later than usual, and there were many late records with warblers still present in numbers in mid-October. In November the northern finches (and the other carduelines) began to arrive and were in good numbers. The winter season promised to be a good one.

As usual many of the numerical data of the migration came from the two big banding stations, Powdermill Nature Reserve and the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory. At Powdermill 7570 birds were banded in the four months (fourth highest total) while at Allegheny Front 8506 birds were banded in six weeks (third highest). The September counts of 2267 birds banded at Powdermill and 6735 banded at the Allegheny Front illustrated the lack of consistency between locations that was typical of the season. The peak at Allegheny Front was September 7-9 when 2849 birds were banded. Oddly, no cold front had reached the Region at the time of this heavy flight. The two other banding stations in the area, at Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania, and at Norris, Tennessee, had disappointing seasons.

On the nights of October 15-16 there was a major kill of



migrants colliding with the illuminated structures near the top of the mountain at a ski resort in Pocahontas County, West Virginia. A total of 1336 dead birds of 30 species, including mostly Tennessee, Bay-breasted, and Blackpoll warblers, was picked up there (JCr). No other reports of migrant crashes came in.

Despite the poor migration two species, Northern Fulmar and Northern Wheatear, were added to the Region list and there were several other unusual records.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — A.F.M.O. = Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, Grant Co., W.Va.; B.E.S.P. = Bald Eagle State Park, Centre Co., Pa.; E.B.F.H. = Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery, Clinton Co., Tenn.; G.S.M.N.P. = Great Smoky Mountains Nat'l Park; P.I.S.P. = Presque Isle State Park, Erie Co., Pa.; P.N.R. = Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland Co., Pa. Place names in *italics* are counties.

**LOONS THROUGH STORKS** — There were many more reports of Red-throated Loons than usual: Boone L., Tenn., Nov. 8 (FW, SG); Augusta, Va., 2nd county record (SR); B.E.S.P., Pa., Oct. 27-Nov. 30, with a peak of six Nov. 30 (m.ob.); and seven in Huntingdon, Pa., Nov. 30 (CY). Common Loons were more widely reported than normal, and were generally in good numbers. There were some rather early dates: all summer to Aug. 4 at Donegal L., Pa. (RCL, RM), Aug. 25 at B.E.S.P., Pa. (CH, MW), and Sept. 9 at Watts Bar L., Tenn. (EB). At Elizabethton, Tenn., the heaviest flight of loons on record was observed, Nov. 17-26,

climaxing at 125 at Watauga L., Nov. 22 (RC, GE). An Eared Grebe was at P.I.S.P., Nov. 29 (JM, LS).

A new species for the Region was a **Northern Fulmar** that was seen well for several minutes flying over the rain-soaked crowd at the Penn State-Notre Dame football game in State College, Pa., Nov. 16 (J & BP). Double-crested Cormorants continued to be reported more commonly than in the past with records coming from throughout the Region.

There were reports of Am. Bitterns from P.I.S.P., Sept. 2 & 6 (JM, JS), and Hopwood, Pa., Sept. 27 (GC), while six Least Bitterns were seen at Yellow Creek S.P., Pa., Aug. 1 (AHe, EH) and one was at P.I.S.P., Aug. 24-Sept. 7 (TS). Great Blue Herons were widely reported in late summer and were in good numbers, with a count of 18 at L. Arthur, Pa., Aug. 5 (MG) and 42 seen flying by the hawk lookout on Tuscarora Summit, Pa., Oct. 11 (CG). Great Egrets were more widely reported but were in smaller numbers than usual, but the only report of a Snowy Egret came from E.B.F.H., Tenn., Aug. 15-Sept. 6 (LF, CN). Little Blue Herons were found at Harrisonburg, Va., through August (R B.C.); Chicamauga L., Tenn., Aug. 16 (PL); E.B.F.H., Tenn., Aug. 1-16 (LF); Fairlane L., Va., Oct. 3 (BH); and Hiwassee, Tenn., Oct. 12 (RR). The best heron record for the season was of a **Tricolored Heron** at Salem, Va., Aug. 6-10 (BK *et al.*). The only reports of Cattle Egrets came from w. Tennessee, at E.B.F.H., Aug. 1-15 (LF) and Hiwassee Recreation Area through August (RR, DC).

An imm. White Ibis was seen at the Hiwassee Rec. Area, Tenn., Aug. 25 (DC). There were 3 reports (all rather late) of *Plegadis* ibises: Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan, Ky., Oct. 28 (FB), Presque Isle Bay, Pa., Nov. 2 (AT), and Daleville, Va., Nov. 3-4 (m ob.). The last two were reported as Glossy Ibis, but the first was reported only to genus, which is perhaps the best idea for all records w. of the Alleghenys. Most unusual for the Region were the 4 reports of Wood Storks: three at Waynesboro, Va., Aug. 21 (RS), Boalsburg, Pa. (ph.), Sept. 2-9 (DP), Warren, Va., Sept. 6 (RSi), and two at Elkins, W.Va., Sept. 8 (ph. JCR).

**WATERFOWL** — The waterfowl migration brought the usual mixed results. While most places found the flight on the light side and in w. Pennsylvania it was considered the "poorest migration in memory" (PH), in e. Tennessee there was a good flight in late October (GE, LF). At P.I.S.P. on L. Erie the flight was poor, but on Nov. 11 1000 scoters were seen there and on Nov. 29, 15,000+ Red-breasted Mergansers (JM). The flight of Tundra Swans was generally good and they were reported from such places as Huntington, W.Va. (TI), Kingsport (ES), and E.B.F.H., Tenn. (LF), all well out of the normal migration route. One summered near State College and remained into October (TS). On Nov. 15, 531 flew by the Tuscarora Summit hawk-watching station (CG). A Mute Swan was seen at B.E.S.P., Nov. 24 (CH). The only report of Greater White-fronted Geese came from Hiwassee Is., Tenn., Nov. 9 (BS). Snow Geese were reported from P.I.S.P., Nov. 6, a record high count of 23 (JM); Mosquito L., O., Nov. 15-25 (CB); Knox, Tenn., Nov. 9 (AH *et al.*); and Huntington, W.Va., Oct. 18 (CW). The usually-rare Brant was widely reported and was in unusual numbers. A total of 254 was counted at P.I.S.P., Nov. 11 (JM); 32 were seen at State College, Pa., Nov. 14 (TS, MW); eight were seen in *Montour*, Pa., Nov. 15-18 (SSt); one at B.E.S.P., Nov. 23-27 (CS); four were at Kyger Cr., Nov. 16 (GH); and one was in *Augusta*, Va., Nov. 16 (RS).

Most of the dabbling ducks were in short supply and the divers were little better at most places. There were some unusually early records, as for example the N. Pintail at P.I.S.P., Aug. 10 (JM), and a Bufflehead summered in *Warren*, Pa. (HJ). Ninety Com. Mergansers were counted on a 4-mi stretch of the Allegheny R. in *Warren*, Pa., in August (JK). It was, however, an exceptional year for scoters. All 3 species were recorded at P.I.S.P., but the large flock mentioned above was mostly of Black Scoters, normally the rarest species in this Region (JM). Other records were: Black Scoter at Pymatuning L., Pa., Oct. 30 (RFL, ML), Teter L., W.Va., Nov. 1-4 (KB), Lock Haven, Pa., Nov. 13

(PS), and State College, Pa., Nov. 13 (HH), Surf Scoter at Lock Haven Nov. 13 (MC) and State College Nov. 14 (TS, JP), and White-winged Scoter at Teter L., W.Va., Nov. 29 (KB) and Lyndhurst, Va., Nov. 29 (MH).

Of some interest was a probable hybrid Mallard x Gadwall at B.E.S.P., Nov. 30 (TS *et al.*). A Ruddy Shelduck at Kyger Cr., O., for several days in early November (TI *et al.*) added some fuel to the "wild" vs. "escape" debate for this species.

**RAPTORS AND GALLINACEOUS BIRDS** — Black Vultures continued to increase with more than usual seen at Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE), and 56 counted at the Peter's Mt. hawk lookout (GH).

Hawk-watching from the ridges produced variable results this year. At Bear Rocks, W.Va., only 630 birds were seen in some 20 days of observation (GP) but at Rockfish Gap on the Blue Ridge 24,019 were counted in 66 days (RS). Harvey's Knob, Va., had 8174 in 56 days (*vide* BK). Peak days were Sept. 12 at Rockfish Gap with 8550, Sept. 14 near Chattanooga with 3380 (LD), Sept. 14 at Cartersville Dam, Ga., with 2100 Broadwings (L & HG), and Sept. 13 at Peter's Mt., W.Va., with only 383 (GH).

Ospreys and N. Harriers were more widely reported than usual, and there was a total of 31 sightings of Bald Eagles from 13 locations (not all hawk watches). There was a good Sharp-shinned Hawk flight at Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE), but they were in poor numbers in w. Pennsylvania (PH). Northern Goshawks seen in *Butler*, Pa., Aug. 18 (DF) and *Allegheny*, Pa., Aug. 24 (PH) were very early and may have indicated breeding near there. Other records came from near State College, Pa., Oct. 16 & 28 and Nov. 17 (TS *et al.*), P.N.R., Oct. 1 (RCL), Laurel Hill, Pa., Oct. 6 (RT), and Ligonier, Pa., Oct. 12 (HS). An unusual total of 751 Red-tailed Hawks was seen Nov. 6 at Rockfish Gap, Va. (RS). A few Rough-legged Hawks had appeared by the end of the period and one was seen as far s. as Spruce Knob, W.Va., Nov. 6 (JP). A total of 35 Golden Eagles was reported from 8 locations. The 17 counted at Bald Eagle Mt., Pa., were remarkable (TS), and the two at Bear Rocks, W.Va., did not appear to be following the normal migration route and may have been part of the hypothesized (but as yet unlocated) local breeding population.

Nine locations reported a total 14 Merlins, and 8 locations listed a total of 23 Peregrines.

The N. Bobwhite, which had almost vanished from the n. part of the Region, seemed to be making a modest comeback.

**CRANES THROUGH TERNS** — A Sandhill Crane near *Butler*, Pa., Nov. 11 provided the first s.w. Pennsylvania record since 1902 (FP, DP). Cranes were seen at the Chattahoochee N.F., Ga., Nov. 19 (HD). One was present in *Loudon*, Tenn., Aug. 1-Sept. 24 (JBO) but November sightings in w. Tennessee were below normal (LF).

It was a good year for shorebirds. In addition to the usual hotspots such as P.I.S.P., reports came from a wide assortment of places throughout the Region. The mild weather resulted in a lot of late records. A spectacular fallout of Hurricane Danny was observed at Roanoke, where 280 individuals of 18 species were observed Aug. 18 (BK). Black-bellied Plovers were widely reported, and Lesser Golden-Plovers were unusually common with up to 30 seen at Wareford, *Erie*, Pa., Sept. 2 (JM), and several observations from *Butler*, Pa. (PH), *Rowan*, Ky. (FB), Roanoke (MP, MD), and E.B.F.H., Tenn. (LF). The rare Piping Plover was at E.B.F.H., Tenn., Aug. 6 (LF) and at P.I.S.P., Oct. 17-19 (JM, DFl). The only report of Am. Avocet came from Roanoke, Va., Aug. 8 (MD), while the shorebird of the year was a **Black-necked Stilt** (ph.) at E.B.F.H., Tenn., Aug. 1 (LF). Willets were reported from P.I.S.P., Aug. 7 (EF), Chattanooga, Tenn., Aug. 7 (RR), Kingston, Tenn., Aug. 7 (A & RH), and Roanoke, Aug. 18 (BK). Whimbrels were seen at P.I.S.P., Aug. 11 & 25 (JM, DFl), Pymatuning L., Pa., Oct. 19 (RFL), and Kingston, Tenn., Aug. 10 (Pha, BJ). Eight Hudsonian Godwits were in the fallout at Roanoke Aug. 18 (BK). The only reports of Ruddy Turnstones

came from E B F H, Tenn., Aug. 6 (LF), Roanoke Aug. 18 (BK), and Kingston, Tenn., Aug. 25 (BS). Red Knots were at P.I.S.P., Aug. 10 & 15 and Oct. 3 (JM), and at Roanoke Aug. 18 (BK). Such normally unusual species as Sanderling, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, and Stilt Sandpiper were widely reported throughout the Region. At P.I.S.P. over 400 Dunlins were counted Oct. 26 (JM). Purple Sandpipers were seen at P.I.S.P., Nov. 6, 16, & 29 (JM *et al.*). Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers were at Roanoke Aug. 18 (BK) and one was at P.I.S.P., Sept. 6-21 (JM, RSt). Short-billed Dowitchers were reported in numerous places throughout the Region and Long-billed Dowitchers were reported from P.I.S.P., Aug. 5 and Sept. 20-22 (JM, BF), and from Pymatuning L., Pa., Oct. 19 (ML, RFL). Wilson's Phalaropes were reported from Pymatuning L., Pa., Oct. 19-20 (RFL *et al.*), Roanoke Aug. 25 (MD, NMI), and the Hiwassee Rec. Area, Tenn., Aug. 3 (B & JC).

At P.I.S.P., a Parasitic Jaeger was seen Oct. 19 and two were there Nov. 11 (JM, ME). At least 5 Laughing Gull sightings were made at P.I.S.P. during the period (JM) and this unusual species was also seen at B.E.S.P., Aug. 7, 10, & 25 (TS, CH), Hiwassee Rec. Area, Tenn., Aug. 8 (RR, L & KD), and Roanoke Aug. 18 (BK). Little Gulls were at P.I.S.P., Nov. 6 & 9 (TS, SS). At Pymatuning L., 500 Bonaparte's Gulls were seen Nov. 11 (RFL, ML), while 33 at Kyger Cr., O., Nov. 24 were unusual at that location (MGR). The now-regular Great Black-backed Gull arrived at B.E.S.P., Nov. 30 (TS). Caspian Terns were reported from B.E.S.P., Huntington, W.Va., Lyndhurst, Va., Watauga L., Tenn., Kingston, Tenn., and Nickajack L., Tenn. Forster's Terns were found at P.I.S.P., Aug. 24-Sept. 8 (JM), Watauga L., Tenn., Aug. 31 (GE), and Pittsburgh, Pa., Sept. 5 (DF). A Least Tern was at Hiwassee Rec. Area Aug. 15 (DC).

**OWLS TO NUTHATCHES** — The Com. Barn-Owl was more widely reported than usual, while the E. Screech-Owl remained in low numbers in most of the Region. At Lock Haven, Pa., the population of Great Horned Owls was thought to be increasing (PS). The only Snowy Owl report came from Tuscarora Summit, Pa., Nov. 17 (CG). Long-eared Owls were at A.F.M.O., Oct. 8 (KF, RB), P.I.S.P., Nov. 2 & 3 (JM, DD), and Athens, W.Va., Nov. 18 (JP). Short-eared Owls were at P.I.S.P., Nov. 2 (JM) and B.E.S.P., Nov. 12 (HH). A N. Saw-whet Owl was banded at A.F.M.O., Sept. 26 and one was heard calling there Oct. 5-6 (KF), and one was at P.I.S.P., Oct. 2 (BG).

The only heavy flight of Com. Nighthawks reported was a count of 2000 over Staunton, Va., in early September (YL). At P.N.R., the 95 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds banded was 23% above the 9-year average (RM, RCL), while at A.F.M.O. between Aug. 15 and Sept. 16 146 hummingbirds were liberated from the nets and an additional 350 were seen flying by with a peak of 114 fly-overs Sept. 2 (GAH). Good details were submitted to the local group of a **Rufous Hummingbird** [presumably an adult male?—K.K.] seen at Elizabethton, Tenn., Sept. 27 and Oct. 11-12 (RC).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported more widely than usual. Red-bellied Woodpeckers were found at Athens, Pa., just s of the New York-Pennsylvania state line, Oct. 19 (PS), a n. record for the Region, and one was at B.E.S.P., also out of range, Sept. 29 (CH). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were in low numbers.

Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported from more locations than usual but most of these reports were of one or two. Most of the small flycatchers were in low numbers. A W. Kingbird was seen at Roanoke Oct. 6 (HT, MP) and a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was found at Hiwassee Rec. Area for several weeks in August (m ob.)

The mild weather resulted in some late dates for swallows, Oct. 5 at Pittsburgh (RSf) and Tree Swallow Nov. 7 in *Indiana*, Pa (AHe, MHi). The Com. Raven continued to thrive in the higher country and there were several out-of-range records: Hiwassee Rec. Area, Tenn., Aug. 7 (DC); Twin Falls S.P., W.Va., Aug. 16 (JP); *Greene*, Pa., Sept. 16 (RB); Cumberland Gap, Ky.-Va., Sept. 21 and Nov. 8 (BA); and Brasstown Bald, Ga., Sept. 28 (B & WD).

The n part of the Region had a good flight of Black-capped Chickadees during late September and October, but this was not as heavy as in some previous years. Red-breasted Nuthatches were noted moving S at A.F.M.O. as early as mid-August and most parts of the Region experienced a very good flight. At A.F.M.O. a record 114 were banded (GAH). Not many of these remained in the Region at the end of the period. Brown-headed Nuthatches were reported as usual from Chattanooga, where they are increasing (RR).

**WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS** — The Carolina Wren is making a good comeback in most of its n. range. At Mosquito Cr., O., the first ones since 1977 were seen (CB), and there were several records in *Warren*, Pa. (WH), in the extreme north. Both Marsh and Sedge wrens were reported more widely than usual.

The flight of kinglets was not impressive. At P.N.R., Golden-crowned bandings were 47% above average but Ruby-crowned bandings were 38% below average (RCL, RM). Another first for the Region was a **Northern Wheatear** at Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., Sept. 17 (TG). Veeries were more common than usual, and more people reported Gray-cheeked Thrushes, but the picture for Swainson's Thrushes remained bleak. At Elizabethton the flight was considered to be a good one (GE); but at P.N.R. only 235 were banded, 41% below average and down from last year's 619 (RM, RCL), and at A.F.M.O. only 255 were banded, 52% of average numbers (GAH). This poor fall flight followed a poor spring flight.

A N. Mockingbird was found at an elevation of 3400 ft in the Chattahoochee N.F., Ga., the first sighting in that Ranger District (HD). Water Pipits were very widely reported and were in good numbers.

A N. Shrike was first seen at B.E.S.P., Oct. 27 (very early—TS) and remained through the period. One was seen at Pittsfield, Pa., Nov. 3 (DO). Loggerhead Shrikes were not listed on the Fall Count in the Knoxville, Tenn., area (LF), but 15 were counted in *Rockingham* and n. *Augusta*, Va. (R.B.C.). Other reports came from *Hardy*, W.Va. (KF), Athens, W.Va. (JP), several sightings near Monterey, Va. (LT), 4 sightings at Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE), and 3 areas near Chattanooga, Tenn. (RR).

Forty-five Philadelphia Vireos were banded at A.F.M.O., a record high (GAH), but at P.N.R. the bandings were 47% below average (RCL, RM). Solitary Vireos were more common than usual.

Most observers reported a generally poor warbler flight, but as usual there were places that saw a good many birds. At Norris, Tenn., only 16 species were banded and 6 of these were in low numbers (CN). At P.N.R., 4 species were in well-above-average numbers and 6 others were in above-average numbers, while 9 were at or slightly below average, and 9 were in well-below-average numbers (RCL, RM). On the other hand, at A.F.M.O., 12 species were above average, 4 in average numbers, and only 4 in below-average numbers (GAH). There was little agreement between these 2 big banding operations as to which classification a given species belonged. At A.F.M.O. the 2 extremes were represented by the 578 Blackpolls banded (average = 827) and the 1103 Blackburnians banded (average = 293). On Sept. 7, 305 Blackburnian Warblers were banded there, in most years only about 800 Blackburnians are banded in North America (GAH). Of the more unusual species, the Orange-crowned was reported from about 12 stations over the Region, and the Connecticut was more widely reported than usual. A Yellow-throated Warbler was at Pittsburgh, Aug. 23 (TF).

**CARDINALINES THROUGH FINCHES** — Several observers commented on the general scarcity of N. Cardinals at feeding stations in late November. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings were banded in average numbers at P.N.R. (RCL, RM), but the grosbeak was below average at A.F.M.O. (GAH). Dickcissels were reported from Ashton, W.Va., Sept. 16 (TI), Daleville, Va., Sept. 22 (BK, MD), and Monterey, Va., Nov. 3 (LT).

American Tree Sparrows were in good numbers near Youngstown, O. (CB), but elsewhere they were almost completely ab-

sent, a condition that has prevailed for 3 years now. At P N R most of the Emberizines, which are October migrants, were above average in numbers, and the Fox Sparrow staged the biggest flight ever there with 86 banded (RCL, RM). In *Washington*, Pa., Henslow's Sparrows with newly-fledged young were found in early August (NK). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was seen at Lavalette, W.Va., Oct. 18 (TI). Lapland Longspurs were at P I S.P., from Sept. 22 (early) through the season (JM), in *Montour*, Pa., Oct. 31 (SSt), and one was seen in Kingston, Tenn., Nov. 27 (SSd). Snow Buntings were in *Greene*, Pa., Oct. 29 (*vide* RB), in *Montour*, Pa., Nov. 1 (SSt); Pymatuning L., Pa., Nov. 3-17 (RFL); L. Arthur, Pa., Nov. 5 (N & TM); B.E.S.P., through November (TS); and Pipestem S.P., W.Va., Nov. 7 (JP).

Rusty Blackbirds were more common than usual, but no large blackbird roosts were reported by the end of the period. A N. Oriole was still at Clarksville Oct. 14 (RB).

Purple Finches were widespread but not in very large numbers, while House Finches continued to thrive. Red Crossbills were reported from Shenandoah Mt., Va., where they breed (R B.C.), but migrants were seen at Blacksburg, Va., Sept. 19 (JMu), State College, Pa., Nov. 8 (HH), Bald Eagle Ridge, Pa., Nov. 21 (TS), Harvey's Knob, Va., Nov. 16 (BK), several records near Monterey, Va. (LT), Chattahoochee N.F., Ga., Nov. 22-30 (HD), and G.S.M.N.P., Oct. 16 (PHa, HHu).

The only report of Com. Redpolls came from P.I.S.P., where up to 100 were present Nov. 8-17 (TH). Pine Siskins were in Fairview, N.C., through the summer until Aug. 18 (R & JY). Small flocks began to appear in late October and by the end of the period they were scattered widely over the Region. It did not appear to be a major invasion, however. Evening Grosbeaks began to appear in the Region in mid-October and by the end of the period were reported from throughout. Distribution was spotty, however, and no great concentrations were reported.

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## WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

### Daryl D. Tessen

The autumn was characterized by an abnormal amount of rainfall and the remarkably early and intense arrival of winter. August had warm periods punctuated by cold fronts and occasional severe storms. Rainfall was heavy throughout most of the Region, with localized flooding occurring in several areas. The first one-half of September was unusually hot and humid with abundant rainfall continuing. During the last one-half, temperatures proved more variable. Minnesota was cool, Wisconsin about average, and Michigan above normal. However, precipitation continued heavy, even including some snow in the Twin Cities on the 23rd, the earliest in 100 years. October saw the normal variation in temperatures, with it generally continuing wet. But November produced a meteorological shock. Total possible sunshine was only 6-15% of normal, making it a dismally cloudy month. Temperatures continued dropping until by Thanksgiving record lows of  $-16^{\circ}$  to  $-32^{\circ}\text{F}$  were being recorded in northern Minnesota! Accompanying these low temperatures were record snowfalls. During the second week, five to sixteen inches fell over most of the Region. When the shock of this had almost worn off, the November 29-December 1 blizzard arrived. One to two feet (!) of snow fell over a large portion of the area. Needless to say, most of the Region was snow-covered by the period's conclusion. For example, the Keweenaw Peninsula, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, already had 60 inches with winter still officially three weeks away.



The fall migration was a contrast to last year's. Several excellent passerine waves moved through during the late August-September period. Good numbers of standard species were seen, in particular the thrushes and warblers. This was especially true for Wisconsin and Minnesota. October also had several good flights, predominantly during the first two-thirds of the month, this time in all three states. Thereafter the numbers and variety decreased markedly, more so than is normal.

While the number of birds observed was a pleasant surprise this fall, the rarities were not. In contrast to last year



the exciting finds were a disappointing few. The best of the meager offerings included for Michigan a Green-tailed Towhee, for Minnesota a White-winged Dove, Eurasian Wigeon, Least Tern, and Great Black-backed Gull, and for Wisconsin a Black-billed Magpie, Great Black-backed Gull, and very cooperative Brant.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — Place names in *italics* are counties.

**LOONS THROUGH HERONS** — Eight Red-throated Loons were tallied during October-November from 5 Wisconsin sites including inland sightings in *Chippewa* (JP) and *Forest* (BR). Michigan had 2 sightings. Early were two Horned Grebes Sept. 9 at Crex Meadows W.A., Wis. (JH), with 250 counted Nov. 3 in Michigan's *Bay* (CF, TW). Sightings of Red-necked Grebes away from their Wisconsin breeding territory included two Oct. 23 at Superior (RJ) and one Nov. 16 at Madison (PA). In Michigan sightings occurred Oct. 17 in *Baraga*, Oct. 21 & 23 in *Kalamazoo* (JG), and Nov. 9 in *Berrien* (RSi *et al.*). The only Eared Grebe observation of the period was of one Sept. 19-21 near Duluth (KE). The only W. Grebe seen away from its nesting territory was one Oct. 13 in *Ozaukee*, Wis. (DH).

American White Pelican sightings away from their nesting territory included Aug. 27 at Duluth (RN), Sept. 7 in *Marquette*, Mich. (L & GM, GG), and two Sept. 20-27 at Rush L., Wis. (TZ) and Oct. 22-31 in *Dunn*, Wis. (JP, DT). About 4000 Double-crested Cormorants were observed by the Millards migrating Sept. 29 in *Otter Tail*, Minn. Two were still present in Green Bay at the end of November (EC). During the blizzard at the end of the period, three Great Blue Herons were found at LaCrosse (FL). A late Great Egret was found Nov. 3 in *Dakota*, Minn. (TT). Snowy Egrets were found at Green Bay and in *Otter Tail*. Good numbers of Cattle Egrets were found at 2 locations, Green Bay (30+) and Minnesota's Pelican L. (33). Unusually far n. were sightings at Ely Aug. 13-16 (SS) and three at Ashland Oct. 8 (DV). Tardy was a Green-backed Heron Nov. 2 in Wisconsin's *Marathon* (K & JL). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was seen in Michigan's *Van Buren* Aug. 6 (*fide* RA). In Wisconsin single birds were in *Winnebago* Aug. 7 (DT), Milwaukee Aug. 14 (WM), and Manitowoc Sept. 18-Oct. 16 (CS).

**WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES** — Besides the summering Tundra Swan at Crex Meadows, Wis. (JH), other unusually early sightings included Aug. 23 at Michigan's Pt. Mouille (PL, AR, TH) and Sept. 24 in Wisconsin's *Fond du Lac* (JB). Numbers on Wisconsin's traditional resting areas were considerably below average, *i.e.*, 1000-2000 instead of 10,000-15,000, but substantial numbers were seen migrating E during mid-November. Minnesota had an impressive 10,000 at the Weaver marshes Nov. 13-14 (D & WM). Eleven Greater White-fronted Geese were seen at Wisconsin's Horicon N.W.R., Oct. 26 (JB). Six Brant were found at Port Huron Oct. 10 (KK). A Minnesota

hunter shot one Nov. 13 in *Olmsted* (*fide* JBo). In Wisconsin Sontag discovered two at Manitowoc Nov. 21, with one (photographed) lingering into December (m.ob.). Most impressive was a massive movement of Canada Geese into n. Wisconsin Oct. 2-4. It was estimated 200,000+ descended upon the n. counties, to be found resting in almost every available field (m.ob.). Peak numbers at the traditional stopover sites included 25,000 at Shiawassee N.W.R., 70,000 at Lac Qui Parle W.A., and 125,000+ at Horicon N.W.R.

At Minnesota's Lac Qui Parle W.A., 6500 Wood Ducks were counted Oct. 1 (*fide* FE). A Eurasian Wigeon was watched by many Minnesota birders during late October at Wood Lake Nature Center, *Hennepin* (ph.). Three King Eiders were seen Nov. 23-24 on L. Huron in Michigan's *Alpena* (BP, RP). A Harlequin Duck was seen at Superior's Wisconsin Pt., Oct. 26 (RJ) with one at Grand Marais Nov. 9-12 (K & MH, WP). There was a smattering of Oldsquaw and scoter sightings from inland lakes. The scoter migration was a poor one Regionwide. All three species were found somewhat earlier than normal—late September—but thereafter only single birds to small-sized flocks were noted. In Michigan's *Bay* good numbers of mergansers were found, including 6000 Commons Nov. 29 and 8000+ Red-breasted Nov. 3 (TW). For Wisconsin the duck migration was unusually poor, eliciting numerous comments from observers about the poor variety and particularly the *extremely low* numbers found.



Male Eurasian Wigeon at Woodlake, Minn., Oct. 26, 1985. Photo/Oscar L. Johnson.

A concentration of 210 Turkey Vultures was noted Oct. 8 (SSw) at Devil's Lake S.P., Wis. Late was one Nov. 19 in *Pepin*, Wis. (CW). The Osprey flight in Wisconsin was very good. Northern Goshawk sightings continued their downward trend with fewer seen than their reduced number of last fall. Again this autumn the Broad-winged flight was unimpressive. Out of range Swainson's Hawk sightings included Oct. 5 in Wisconsin's *Wood* (DF) and four birds at Duluth during the season. Unusually early were Rough-legged Hawks in 2 Wisconsin counties, *Taylor* Sept. 1 (SR) and *Dunn* Sept. 4 (JP). This species was very scarce in both Minnesota and Michigan. Twenty Golden Eagles were recorded during the season at Hawk Ridge. For Wisconsin there was a total of 5 sightings and for Michigan one. The Merlin flight was early and impressive in Wisconsin and Minnesota, with migration already underway by late August. The Peregrine Falcon flight proved to be varied. In Michigan it was very poor, while Minnesota was only slightly below average. However, Wisconsin recorded good numbers. For the season Hawk Ridge had a total of 43,912 hawks. This was below average, attributed to too many warm days and predominantly E winds.

Leshner found two Spruce Grouse in *Douglas*, Wis., Aug. 16; they are harder to locate in Wisconsin than in the other states.



Brant at Manitowoc, Wis., Nov. 24, 1985. Photo/Charles Sontag.

Peak Sandhill Crane numbers included 1434 for Michigan and 796 for Wisconsin. In the latter state an injured bird was captured in late November and was being rehabilitated (K & JL).

**SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS**— At Manitowoc, the Piping Plover that appeared in late July remained until Sept. 6 (m ob.). At least one more was found Sept. 19 & 29. In *Marquette* three were present Sept. 8-14 (NI). Single Am. Avocets were found in Michigan at the Erie Gun Club Aug. 31 (KK) and Shawassee N.W.R., Sept. 25 (CF, BG, MHu). Minnesota had a late observation of one Oct. 23 in *Clay* (NH). Late Greater Yellowlegs sightings included Nov. 2 in *Marathon* (K & JL), Nov. 5 in *Dunn* (JP), and Nov. 9 in *Fond du Lac* (JB), all Wisconsin. The Willet that appeared at Manitowoc during late July remained through Aug. 9 (m.ob.). Also in Wisconsin was one at LaCrosse Sept. 2 (FL). In Michigan one was found Aug. 7 in *St. Clair* (HD). Between Aug. 27 and Sept. 9 a total of about six Whimbrels was seen at Manitowoc (CS, JF, SSw). At Michigan's Pt. Mouillee one was seen intermittently Aug. 23-Sept. 1 (PL, AR *et al.*). Surprising numbers of Hudsonian Godwits were found in the Region this fall including three in Michigan, two in Wisconsin, and a very late one Nov. 1 in Minnesota's *Nicollet* (JFr). Two Marbled Godwits were at Manitowoc Aug. 9 (CS) with one during September at the Erie Gun Club, Mich. (*vide* PY). Impressive were the 30+ Red Knots during August and September in Michigan's *Monroe* (*vide* PY). Additional sightings included another in Michigan and a total of four in Wisconsin. Eight to ten W. Sandpipers were found during the early part of the season in both Wisconsin and Michigan. The Pratts observed a **Purple Sandpiper** in Milwaukee Nov. 17. Buff-breasted Sandpiper totals included 22 in Michigan and 12 in Wisconsin, down considerably from the previous autumn. A **Ruff** was in *Monroe*, Mich., Oct. 18 (JR). The Am. Woodcock seen Nov. 9 in *Marathon*, Wis. (K & JL), was late. Small numbers of Red-necked Phalaropes were found in all 3 states including a sighting of six at Duluth, the first there in years.

There were few jaeger sightings this fall. Minnesota had an unidentified individual Sept. 5 at Lake of the Woods L., and a Parasitic there Sept. 7 (AJ). At Duluth two unidentified birds were found Aug. 29-Sept. 21 (m.ob.). For Michigan single Parasitics were at Port Huron Oct. 10 (KK) and *Bay* Oct. 27 (TW). Franklin's Gulls were reported from one Michigan and 5 Wisconsin sites. There were fewer Little Gull sightings this fall than in previous years. Wisconsin had several birds at Manitowoc until Sept. 4 (CS *et al.*), two at Racine Aug. 25 (GD), and one at Milwaukee Nov. 3 (K & DL). In Michigan one was at Sturgeon Pt., Oct. 23 (RP). Thayer's Gulls were found in Minnesota at Duluth, Grand Marais, and Black Dog Lake. Glaucous Gulls turned up at 4 Wisconsin sites including a very early individual Sept. 12 at Manitowoc (CS).

**Great Black-backed Gulls** were found in all 3 states. In Wisconsin Glueckert saw an adult Oct. 1 at Algoma. LaFond briefly watched an adult at Duluth Nov. 17. In Michigan, where the species is less rare, were one at Tawas Pt., Oct. 26 (RP), two at Whitefish Bay Nov. 5 (RP), and several in *Monroe* during November (m.ob.). The only Black-legged Kittiwake for the Region was found at Michigan's Holland S.P., Nov. 20 (JM). Two different **Sabine's Gulls** were seen on Lake of the Woods L., Minn., Sept. 3 & 17 by Johnston. In Michigan one was seen in mid-October at St. Joseph (RS). A concentration of 225 Caspian Terns was at the Manitowoc impoundment Aug. 1 (CS). An imm. **Least Tern** was discovered by Kyllingstad Aug. 11 at Cottonwood. It remained through the 14th, enabling many Minnesota birders to enjoy it.

**DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS**— Minnesota established its first record for **White-winged Dove** when Backstrom carefully studied one at close range Oct. 13 (wild?). Late was a Black-billed Cuckoo Oct. 17 in *Barron* (AG) and a Yellow-billed

Cuckoo Oct 6 at Harrington Beach S P (DT *et al.*), both Wisconsin. The Com. Barn-Owl family (four young) watched during the summer at Deerfield, Wis., remained in the area at least through September. For a 4th consecutive year, Snowy Owls were extremely scarce. In general this condition prevailed with other owl species—Long-eared, Short-eared, N. Saw-whet—traditionally found at the major banding stations (Hawk Ridge and Cedar Grove). Minnesota had 4 Great Gray Owl reports during October and November. Duluth observers witnessed a massive Com. Nighthawk migration Aug. 27 when literally thousands passed through. They were impossible to count as all day they swarmed around many points of the city. At Oshkosh, Wis., 2000 Chimney Swifts were noted Sept. 10 (TZ). There were two very late hummingbirds in Wisconsin. Both were coming to feeders in *Chippewa*, with one Nov. 16 and the other found dead Nov. 19. While both were believed to be Ruby-throateds, the latter bird was being checked for positive identification (*vide* JP).

Far n. was an imm. Red-headed Woodpecker Sept. 20 at Redridge in the Upper Peninsula. Minnesota had a surprising number of Three-toed Woodpecker sightings. Birds were found in *Cook* and *Crow Wing* but most impressive were the 12 counted Oct. 6-Nov. 14 migrating through Duluth (m.ob.). Also representing a record migration were the 100+ Black-backed Woodpeckers tallied during the season at Duluth (m.ob.), including 16 Oct. 16 (MS). The latter species was found at 4 n. Wisconsin and one Michigan site. Duluth also recorded a substantial N Flicker flight of 2200 Sept. 20 (DB).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES**— Very late was a Great Crested Flycatcher at Grand Marais Oct. 18-19 (K & MH, BL). Western Kingbirds were found Sept. 16 at Stoney Pt., near Duluth (*vide* KE) and Sept. 26 at Redridge, Mich. A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was watched and photographed by the Gellers along a country road in *Dane*, Wis., Aug. 17. One was seen at Minnesota's Grand Marais Oct. 2 (K & MH). A concentration of 3000 Purple Martins was found in *Hennepin*, Minn., Sept. 5 (OJ). Thousands of Cliff Swallows migrated through Duluth during the 3-day period Aug. 18-20 (*vide* KE). There was a localized invasion of Gray Jays in Minnesota, mainly in Duluth. The movement commenced in September and continued into December. A **Black-billed Magpie** was observed at the w edge of Appleton, Wis., Nov. 14 by Compton. This represented the first sighting in the state in several years. The Red-breasted Nuthatch picture proved highly variable this year. The migration was poor in Wisconsin, good in Michigan but only for the first one-half of the period, after which the birds almost totally disappeared. For Minnesota the movement, especially in the s one-half, was early and substantial. The only Carolina Wren report was from Michigan with one found Sept. 15 and Oct 30 at Reed's L. (JM *et al.*). Good numbers of Golden-crowned Kinglets migrated through Wisconsin and Michigan, especially during October. The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher found Sept. 22 at Grand Marais was unusually far n. for Minnesota (K & MH).

Three Mountain Bluebirds were found in Minnesota: Aug 24 in *Beltrami* (KL), Oct. 13 in *Lac Qui Parle* (AB), and Oct 24 at Duluth (MS *et al.*). Two Townsend's Solitaires accompanied a flock of robins feeding on berries at Devil's Lake S.P. (SSw) with another appearing during November in Baileys Harbor, Wis (*vide* RL), remaining into December. For Minnesota single birds were recorded in Duluth and Grand Marais. Thousands of Am Robins migrated through Duluth Oct. 5 (*vide* KE). Four Varied Thrushes appeared in Wisconsin with three of them remaining at feeders into December (Colby—BC; near Hurley—BLE, near Taylor—VC). Northern Mockingbirds were seen at Duluth and the Twin Cities, the only reports this fall. Bohemian Waxwings appeared in n. Minnesota and n. Wisconsin during November. There was a substantial N. Shrike flight in Wisconsin this fall, birds were surprisingly numerous, especially during November. Loggerhead Shrikes were observed in Wisconsin—five birds, and Michigan—two birds.

**VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES** — A White-eyed Vireo was at Warren Woods, Mich., Aug. 31 (KK). Late were two Yellow-throated Vireos in *Oakland*, Mich., Oct. 16 (CH). North of its normal range was a Golden-winged Warbler in *Lake of the Woods*, Minn., Aug. 25 (RJa). Minnesota had one of its few sightings of the "Audubon's" race of Yellow-rumped Warbler with an individual Nov. 21 at Grand Marais (K & MH). Record late dates for Pine Warbler were Nov. 24 in *Wright* (RJa) and Nov. 27-28 in Austin, Minn. (m.ob.). Also late was a Blackpoll Warbler at Grand Marais Oct. 19 (K & MH, BL). The Ovenbird that fed with juncos Nov. 13 at Sundell's feeders in Cedarburg, Wis., was very late. Kentucky Warblers were seen at Kalamazoo Nature Center Aug. 13 (ND, banded) and Sept. 8 in *Fond du Lac* (JB) and Sept. 15 in *Winnebago* (TZ), Wis. A ♂ Hooded Warbler Oct. 6 at Wisconsin's Harrington Beach S.P. was late (BCo, DT). Also late was a Canada Warbler Oct. 21 in *Waukesha* (RSm).

On Oct. 3 Hardy had a Summer Tanager in her yard in *Price*, Wis. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak commenced coming to a feeder in *Taylor*, Wis., during November (K & JL *et al.*). The Blue Grosbeak seen Oct. 3 in Minnesota's *Murray* represented a record late date (MD). Very late was a Dickcissel Oct. 13 in *Ozaukee*, Wis. (JB). A **Green-tailed Towhee** appeared at the Toby feeder in Sylvan Lake, Mich., in late October. It remained into December and was seen by many birders. The Le Conte's Sparrow found Nov. 10 in *Scott* represented a record late date for Minnesota (RJa). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was seen Sept. 29 in *Dane*, Wis. (ST). Early was a Lapland Longspur Sept. 19 in *Door*, Wis. (BCo). Michigan found this species to be very scarce this fall. There were several early Snow Bunting sightings in Wisconsin including Oct. 8 in *Bayfield* (SSw). A N. Oriole appeared at Kyllingstad's feeder Oct. 20 in Marshall, Minn., where it fed on oranges and grapes. It remained until Nov. 10 when "it was sent to Texas by car!" Another came to a feeder through Nov. 16 in *Chippewa* (*vide JP*).

The winter finches provided a confusing picture this year. A few species showed signs of a movement similar to the banner ones of earlier years. Other species appeared in good numbers only to disappear almost totally by period's end. And still other species were hardly recorded at all. Good Pine Grosbeak numbers were noted during November in the Upper Peninsula with some filtering into the Lower Peninsula by December. Numbers were considerably lower in Wisconsin and especially Minnesota. The Purple Finch movement in Wisconsin was excellent until late November when numbers rapidly decreased. A comparable situation existed in Michigan. A **House Finch** Sept. 2 at Pipestone N.M. (RG) represented one of the few Minnesota sightings, the first away from a feeder. In s. Michigan the species continued to increase rapidly, now being classified as common.

Both crossbill species were remarkably scarce Regionwide. Early Com. Redpoll reports from Wisconsin included Sept. 22 in *Taylor* (SR) and Sept. 26 at Superior (RJ). Average numbers were found in both Minnesota and Wisconsin commencing in mid-October. However, Michigan had its best flight since 1981-1982, with good numbers in early November and increasing thereafter. A few Hoaries were found mixed in with the Commons in Minnesota, and Wisconsin had one sighting. Only Michigan recorded good Pine Siskin numbers, mainly in October and early November. Early Evening Grosbeak sightings in Wisconsin included Aug. 4 in LaCrosse (FL), mid-August in Eau Claire (JP), and Aug. 29 in Milwaukee (JF). Once again Michigan recorded the best flight with large numbers in October and November, *e.g.*, 1000 Oct. 19 in *Allegan* (JE), representing the best movement in 4 years.

**ADDENDUM** — The **Royal Tern** seen at Manitowoc, Wis., from mid-June into early July was accepted by the records committee. Photographs conclusively proved it to be this species, enabling it to be added to the state list.



*Royal Tern in Manitowoc, Wis., June 18, 1985. First Wisconsin record. Photo/Jeff Baughman.*

**CORRECTION** — The Blackpoll Warbler reported Apr. 2, 1985 in Michigan should read Apr. 25, 1985.

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## MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

Bruce G. Peterjohn

Summer's relatively cool and dry weather patterns continued through August. They were reinforced by several cold fronts during the last one-half of the month which were accompanied by the first waves of migrant passerines. Unusually warm temperatures returned briefly in early September and slowed migration to a trickle. Cold fronts during the latter one-half of the month, especially September 21-22, brought normal temperatures and impressive passerine movements to many areas. October had normal temperatures and rainfall, with strong cold fronts October 5-6 and 11-13 producing spectacular movements along the Great Lakes. During most of November, a stationary front bisected the Region extending from northern Missouri to northern Illinois. A series of low pressure cells moved along this front, bringing winter-like conditions to the north and above-normal temperatures plus record-setting precipitation to the south. Excellent waterbird movements accompanied most of these cells. In summary, it was one of the best fall migrations of the past decade with unprecedented movements of various birds plus an excellent assortment of rarities.

**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.; Spfld. = Springfield, Ill. *Italicized* place names are counties.

**LOONS THROUGH IBISES** — An unprecedented number of Red-throated Loons appeared in the Great Lakes states Oct. 13+ with at least 13 individuals in Ohio, eight in Illinois, and one in Indiana. A casual migrant farther w., singles were detected near St. Louis Nov. 12 (†DBe) and at Saylorville Res., Ia., Nov. 30 (SD, †RM). The only acceptably documented Pacific Loon was described from Spfld., Nov. 9 (†H). An early Com. Loon in Buchanan, Mo., Sept. 12 (L) presaged an excellent migration through the n. states. Largest flocks totaled 60-191 in Illinois Oct. 20-Nov. 16, 125-246 in Indiana Nov. 3-17, and 71-79 in Iowa Nov. 10-11, while many flocks of 75-214 passed through Ohio Nov. 13+.

The grebe migration was equally impressive. Flocks of Pied-billed appeared in all states with maxima of 492 at Saylorville Res., Ia., Sept. 22 (SD) and 237 in LaPorte, Ind., Oct. 10 (D & SP). Horned Grebes returned in mid-September with above-normal numbers in Missouri and Iowa where 41 made the largest flock. Farther e., numbers remained low with maxima of 40-90. A normal number of Red-necked Grebes included 2 Iowa reports, where four congregated near Ames Oct. 19 (†D *et al.*), plus one or two at 3 Illinois sites. Above-normal numbers of Eared Grebes passed through the Great Lakes states Sept. 15+ with 12 sightings throughout Illinois, 3 in Ohio, and 2 in Indiana.

Since the morphs of Western Grebes have been recently split, observers should carefully distinguish between them. Within this Region, all Clark's Grebes must be documented, as should all Westerns e. of the Mississippi R. Western Grebes also appeared in unusual numbers. They are rare migrants through the w. states where 5 Iowa reports included 14 at Saylorville Res., Oct. 26 (FM, RM) and one was noted in Missouri. Farther e., one or two W. Grebes were adequately described from 3 Illinois locations Oct. 26-Nov. 16 although 6 additional reports could not be assigned to species, another unidentified grebe appeared in Indiana, and a Western was photographed at Bay Village, O., Nov. 24 (†WK). A Clark's Grebe was studied at Saylorville Res., Oct. 13 (†FM), providing the 2nd record for Iowa.

The expected concentrations of Am. White Pelicans totalled 600-1000 in w. Iowa and Missouri. They are rare fall migrants through Illinois where 5 sightings included unusual flocks of



91 at Mark Twain N.W.R., Sept. 27-Oct. 26 (†DBe, m.ob.) and 23 in Hancock Sept. 30 (RAD). Two also wandered e. along L. Erie to Cleveland Sept. 1. Healthy numbers of Double-crested Cormorants were indicated by concentrations of 1200 at Saylorville Res., Ia., in early October (SD), 900 at Independence, Mo., Oct. 1 (KH), 700 at O.W.R., Sept. 19 (JP), 200-270 at 5 Illinois locations, 76 along L. Michigan in Indiana, and 55 at Louisville Nov. 25 (BP).

Both bittern species improved slightly from last year with 13 American Bittern reports, including one found stuck in tar on the roof of an urban Cincinnati apartment building (*vide* W), and 10 sightings of Least. Largest concentrations of Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets totalled 100-150 and 165-195, respectively, in Illinois, where a late Great Egret remained at Decatur through Dec. 1 (RP, MD). Snowy Egrets flocked near their nesting colonies with 39 at Horseshoe L., Ill., Aug. 4 (SR), 19 in Fulton, Ky., Sept. 1 (BP, RCi), and 11-20 along w. Lake Erie. Smaller numbers from 12 additional sites constituted a good number of fall reports. Little Blue Herons congregated at Horseshoe L., Ill., with 150 on July 30 (RG), but only small numbers appeared elsewhere with 18 in w. Kentucky and 16 in s.w. Iowa. One in Fulton, Ky., Oct. 21 was late (*S et al.*). Tricolored Herons were noted at traditional sites along w. Lake Erie and at L. Calumet, Ill., during August, and one appeared at Horseshoe L., Ill., Aug. 25 (†JV). Fewer Cattle Egrets were reported with maxima of 100 at Horseshoe L. and 35 along w. Lake Erie; there were 3 November sightings through Nov. 16 in w. Kentucky. Migrant Green-backed Herons remained fairly low, peaking at 10-25 in several states. Late birds lingered through Nov. 9 in Illinois. Thirteen Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at Dayton, O., Sept. 4 (CM *et al.*) and 10-12 at Louisville in mid-August (BP) were fairly large flocks for this Region. *Plegadis* ibises appeared at single sites in Iowa, Ohio, and Missouri, plus 3 Illinois locations Aug. 26-Nov. 3; their identities were debated but conclusive descriptions were not provided.

**WATERFOWL** — A record Tundra Swan movement through the n. states began with nine early migrants in Lyon, Ia., Sept. 23 (*vide* DH). As expected, most were noted during November with strong movements Nov. 13-16 & 23-28. Representative maxima included Iowa flocks of 675 at Dubuque Nov. 15 (BS) and 500 in Allamakee Nov. 16 (FM), Illinois counts of 190 at Oswego Nov. 13-14 (EB) plus 3 Chicago area flocks of 93-136 between Nov. 13-28, an Indiana report of 500 in Lake in addition to a maximum of 113 along L. Michigan, while 13,000 massed at O.W.R., Nov. 23 (*vide* TB). The s. states hardly shared in this flight; Missouri had 2 sightings with 18 at S.C.R., Nov. 21 (BH, m.ob.) and Kentucky's only report was of 19 near Burlington Nov. 23 (LM).

Unusual numbers of Greater White-fronted Geese appeared only in Illinois where they were found at 10 locations Oct. 11+

including flocks of 55 at Spfld., Oct. 24 (H) and 42 at Batavia Oct. 23 (DCa). Three at Killdeer Plains W.M.A., Nov. 17-18 (DO, GO) provided a rare fall record for Ohio. Snow Geese returned to w. Kentucky by Sept. 19. November flocks in w. Iowa and Missouri were estimated at 350,000+ and harbored the expected small numbers of Ross' Geese with a maximum of eight at S.C.R., Nov. 7 (L). Farther e. where they are still casual migrants, Ross' Geese appeared at *St. Charles*, Mo., Nov. 2, Baldwin L., Ill., Nov. 3 (+DBe *et al.*), and Spfld., Nov. 16 (H *et al.*). Brant staged an unprecedented movement along the s. shore of L. Erie when 290+ migrated past *Erie* Nov. 11 (J, TL *et al.*). Many smaller flocks were noted e. along the lake through Nov. 30+ but only one Brant appeared at Toledo. A few wandered inland with 14 near Lawrenceburg, Ind., Nov. 16 where six remained Nov. 17-25 (+PW, m.ob.) and one was noted at Hoover Res., O., Nov. 16-18 (+J, MG *et al.*).



Immature male King Eider at Port of Indiana, Nov. 29, 1985. Photo/Tim Keller.

Puddle ducks were generally unremarkable although 1000 Green-winged Teal were noted in *Fulton*, Ill., Oct. 19 (RP) and Mallards were abundant along w. Lake Erie and in c. Illinois. A ♂ Cinnamon Teal was reported from Forney L., Sept. 7 (RC), providing a rare fall record for Iowa, while a female was closely studied Sept. 30 at Spfld. (+H) where they are casual during either migration. While Eur. Wigeon are decidedly rarer in fall than spring, a male near St. Joseph, Mo., Oct. 24 (+L *et al.*) was exceptional in a state where they are accidental at any season.

In contrast, diving duck numbers were reasonably good. Canvasbacks peaked at 17,000 near Keokuk, Ia., Nov. 14 (RCe), and early migrant Redheads returned to Cleveland Aug. 10. Scattered inland Greater Scaup reached a maximum of 10 at Louisville while Lessers totalled 9200 at Keokuk, Ia., Oct. 27. A small flight of King Eiders developed along L. Erie Nov. 8-25 where 4 reports included a maximum of seven at Lorain Nov. 24 (+TL *et al.*). A single male also appeared at Port of Indiana, Ind., Nov. 28+ (CF, †m.ob., ph.). Two King Eiders were eventually correctly identified at DeSoto N.W.R., Ia., Nov. 10-24 (JD *et al.*, †m.ob., ph.); there were few previous records from Iowa. Single Harlequin Ducks at 2 L. Erie and 2 L. Michigan sites made a normal number for fall. Oldsquaw numbers improved over recent years with a maximum of 150 at Chicago Nov. 17 (R & MB) plus a total of 17 inland reports from all states beginning with an early migrant at Waterloo, Ia., Oct. 11 (FM). Black Scoters also appeared along L. Erie in unprecedented numbers when 600+ migrated past *Erie* Nov. 11 (J *et al.*) and many smaller flocks were noted farther e. through Nov. 25+. A remarkable 23 inland sightings included Iowa singles at Spirit L., Nov. 14 (+DH) and DeSoto N.W.R., Nov. 16 (+BPr *et al.*), where they are casual, plus a maximum of 11 at Louisville Oct. 28 (BP). Surf

Scoters were not as impressive although 55 were recorded at Wilmette, Ill., Oct. 20 (R & MB). The 17 inland sightings from all states except Missouri constituted an unusually large number for the 2nd consecutive year. An early White-winged Scoter returned to Cleveland Aug. 26-27 (J & DHo). Once again, White-winged was the least numerous scoter on the Great Lakes with maxima of 14-18 although small numbers were noted at 22 inland sites in all states. Other early ducks included single Com. Goldeneyes at Evanston, Ill., Sept. 21 (BHU) and Moga-dore Res., O., Oct. 2 (LR) plus a Bufflehead in *Worth*, Ia., Oct. 6 (*vide* JH). Hooded Mergansers were numerous with flocks of 100-300+ in most states. Lastly, an Ohio Division of Wildlife aerial survey estimated 210,000 ( $\pm 20\%$ ) Red-breasted Mergansers along L. Erie Nov. 29, demonstrating their abundance along the lake during November.

**HAWKS THROUGH CRANES** — Migrating hawks accumulated in few noteworthy concentrations. Black Vultures did not wander far, appearing in Dayton, O., and Springfield, Mo. Ospreys returned in good to excellent numbers; 31 migrating past Chicago Sept. 24 (R & MB, m.ob.) was exceptional for this Region. The mild weather enticed many to linger into November with a total of 17 reports through Dec. 1 at Cedarville Res., Ind. (*vide* Haw), and *De Witt*, Ill. (LA, KR), and Nov. 24 at Wellington Res., O. (J & DHo). Improved numbers of Bald Eagles appeared in most states. Sixty N. Harriers in *LaPorte*, Ind., Nov. 29 (T & LSt) were noteworthy since relatively small numbers appeared elsewhere. Increased numbers of Cooper's Hawks were very encouraging. The N. Goshawk flight was strong in Illinois with 15 reports beginning Oct. 5-6 in the Chicago area, although only four were noted in Iowa and two in Ohio. Singles wandered s. to *Miami*, O., Nov. 12 (*vide* CM) and Clinton L., Ill., Oct. 26 (RCh).

The largest Broad-winged Hawk movement totalled 2000 in *Clinton*, Ia., Sept. 24 (*vide* P) while kettles of 200-600 were scattered across Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri Sept. 14-Oct. 1. The only Illinois Swainson's Hawk was reported at Spfld., Oct. 13 (+H *et al.*) and late migrants remained in *Vernon*, Mo., Nov. 11 (*vide* KH) and Cedar Falls, Ia., Nov. 3 (FM). Rough-legged Hawks returned to the n. states by Sept. 21-Oct. 5 and moderate numbers appeared by late November. Golden Eagle sightings were above normal, beginning Sept. 17 in *Dickinson*, Ia. (*vide* DH), with 14 reports from Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, and n.w. Ohio. The falcon migration was encouraging. Approximately 33 Merlin reports peaked with 10 at Evanston, Ill., Sept. 25 (RB) and eight at Illinois Beach S.P., Ill., Sept. 24 (JWi). Increased Peregrine Falcon reports were augmented by Cornell-released birds that were noted as early as late August. The 65+ Peregrine sightings included 23 at Evanston, Ill., Sept. 25 (RB), the best flight in many years. A gray-phase Gyrfalcon was briefly studied at Wilmette, Ill., Nov. 17 (+R & MB *et al.*) while the only Prairie Falcon was reported from *Winnebago*, Ill., Nov. 6 (+DWi).

Rails were poorly represented this fall. The only acceptable Yellows were a tower kill at *Alleman*, Ia., Sept. 21 (SD) plus one in *Greene*, Ia., Sept. 30 (+RM). Otherwise, Kings were discovered at 6 locations in the n. states, Virginias lingered through Nov. 29 at Spfld. (H) and Nov. 30 in *Seneca*, O. (TB), and Soras peaked at 25-40 in Missouri and Ohio. Common Moorhens were rather numerous with groups of 30-32 in Indiana and Illinois plus a late bird at M.M.W.A., Nov. 6 (JP). Impressive Am. Coot flocks totalled 31,650 near Keokuk, Ia., Oct. 27 (RCe) and 10,000 at Willow Slough W.M.A., Ind., Nov. 17 (CK, TK), while a "white-shielded" coot was discovered at Chicago. A Sandhill Crane at O.W.R., Aug. 7 (JP) was probably a non-breeder. Migrants passed through n. Illinois Sept. 24-Oct. 27 with a maximum of 585 at Chicago Oct. 6 (JL). The November movement from Jasper-Pulaski W.M.A., Ind., included 1236 over Bloomington, Ind., Nov. 4 (LS) and 9 w. Ohio reports where 96 constituted the largest flock. Extralimital birds appeared in *Dickinson*, Ia., Nov. 19 (*vide* DH) and *Sangamon*, Ill., Nov. 11 (H, DOe).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Shorebirds were fairly well distributed in most states. Both Black-bellied Plovers and Lesser Golden-Plovers were numerous along the Great Lakes with respective maxima of 250 at O.W.R., Aug. 5 (JP) and 500 at Evanston, Ill., Oct. 9 (RB). Both plovers remained through Nov. 21-23 at Cleveland (TL, m.ob.). Piping Plovers staged a modest comeback with 8 Illinois sightings through Oct. 13, 4 reports from Ohio, one from Missouri, and one at Louisville Aug. 12-16 (BP, m.ob.). It was a good fall for Am. Avocets with 26 reports from all states. The largest flock was of 20 at Barrington, Ill., Sept. 19 (NG), and a late avocet remained at L. St. Mary's, O., through Nov. 7. A total of 500 Greater Yellowlegs at Banner, Ill., Oct. 9 (TP) was large for this Region. Willets were also numerous with 19 reports from all states except Missouri. An unprecedented early August movement brought flocks of 117 to Atterbury W.M.A., Ind. (JM, BG), and 23 to Louisville (BP) Aug. 5, plus 4 Great Lakes flocks of 10-17 during Aug. 5-10. A late Spotted Sandpiper remained at Cleveland Nov. 11 (J & DHo). The only sizable flock of Upland Sandpipers totalled 44 in Lake, Ind., Aug. 21 (KB *et al.*).

As usual, Whimbrels were restricted to the Great Lakes, where they were found at 7 locations through Oct. 13 with a maximum of 10 at Cleveland Aug. 10 (TL). Hudsonian Godwits were numerous along w. Lake Erie where 40 at Metzger Marsh W.M.A., Oct. 5 (JP) was the largest flock. Inland Hudsonians were noted at 5 Illinois and 3 Ohio locations with maxima of six at Hoover Res., O., Oct. 1 (J) and Rend L., Ill., Oct. 6 (LH). In contrast, Marbled Godwits were scarce, with only one observed along L. Erie, while inland birds appeared at single locations in Illinois and Indiana. Ruddy Turnstones were widely reported with the latest at Michigan City, Ind., Nov. 27 (KB). A normal number of Red Knots appeared along the Great Lakes where the largest flock was of seven. Most noteworthy of 6 inland reports were singles at Fisher L., Ia., Sept. 19-20 (†SD *et al.*), St. Charles, Mo., Aug. 24 (†VB), and Rend L., Ill., Sept. 22-23 (TF), where they are casual migrants, plus a late bird at Spfld., Oct. 25 (H). Least Sandpipers peaked at 1000 near Banner, Ill., Oct. 12 (TP) and late birds remained through Nov. 30 at Barberton, O. (LR). White-rumped Sandpipers were scarce but Baird's were widespread with a maximum of 15 at Oregon Aug. 20 (PL) constituting a large flock for Ohio. The largest reported flock of Pectoral Sandpipers was of 2000 at Banner, Ill., Sept. 28 (TP). A juv. **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** again graced the Region when one was



Juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Chicago, Ill., Oct. 6, 1985. Photo/Jim Landing.

photographed at Chicago Oct. 6 (†JL, m.ob.), providing the 2nd record for Illinois. As expected, single Purple Sandpipers appeared at 2 L. Michigan and 4 L. Erie locations Oct. 31-Nov. 17. One was thoroughly studied near Lima, O., Nov. 29 (†DS), providing the first inland record for Ohio. Stilt Sandpipers were numerous only in Iowa with flocks of 420 at Union Slough N.W.R., Aug. 23 and 217 at Bays Branch Sept. 8 (SD).

Buff-breasted Sandpipers were generally scarce although a remarkable 78 congregated in Ottawa, O., Sept. 12 (JP). The only acceptably documented Ruff was a female at Crane Creek S.P., O., Aug. 16 (†JP). Dowitcher numbers were generally fair although Long-billed concentrations of 200 at O.W.R., Oct. 8 (TL), 94 at Bays Branch, Ia., Oct. 12 (SD), and 100 at Banner, Ill., Oct. 5 (MBa) were respectable for those states. The mild weather allowed Am. Woodcocks to linger through Dec. 5 at Carbondale, Ill. (TF), Nov. 28 at Spfld. (H), and Nov. 26 near Dayton, O. (PF). Wilson's Phalaropes attained a Great Lakes maximum of 19 at Chicago and the largest inland flock totalled eight. Surprisingly, Red-necked Phalaropes were more numerous inland than along the Great Lakes with flocks of 23 at Union Slough N.W.R., Ia., Aug. 23 (SD) and nine at Banner, Ill., Sept. 28 (RP *et al.*). A late migrant was noted at Headlands S.P., O., Nov. 9 (MG). The 5 Red Phalarope reports from the Great Lakes Sept. 25-Nov. 20 were expected while inland singles were documented from Havana, Ill., Sept. 14-15 (†RP, m.ob.) and near Banner, Ill., Oct. 2-5 (RS, †m.ob.), where they are casual migrants.

**JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS** — It was certainly a good fall for jaegers. Unfortunately, most reports lacked sufficient details to positively identify them. Brock reported 15 jaeger sightings along L. Michigan in n.w. Indiana this year; singles on Sept. 21 and Nov. 24 were noted to have small white crescents on the underprimary coverts, possibly indicative of Pomarines. No other Pomarines were adequately documented. Parasitic jaegers were scattered along both Great Lakes with maxima of two to three in the Chicago area during October and November. Inland Parasitics were described from Saylorville Res., Ia., Oct. 13-17 (†RM, †m.ob.) and Chautauqua N.W.R., Ill., Oct. 19-27 (†KR, †TP *et al.*). Unidentified jaegers also appeared at 2 inland locations in Illinois and one in Missouri.

#### S.A.

While Laughing Gulls have become rare but regular visitors to the Great Lakes states, this fall's movement was truly remarkable. They first appeared Aug. 7 with one at Louisville (BP), two at Cincinnati (†AK *et al.*), and small numbers along L. Erie which rapidly grew to flocks of 18 at Cleveland and 10 at Lorain by Aug. 12 (*vide* RHa). These numbers diminished by late August although scattered individuals remained along the lake all fall. Some wandered inland where there were 3 reports from Kentucky and 2 from Ohio through Sept. 2 including a flock of 12 at C.J. Brown Res., O., Sept. 2 (†DO, m.ob.). In Illinois and Indiana, they first appeared Aug. 12-18 but most were observed in September. They were found at 10 Illinois locations with a maximum of three at Alton Sept. 8-9 (†PS, m.ob.) and there were 2 Indiana sightings. Single birds remained unusually late, through Nov. 20 at Carlyle L., Ill. (BR), and Nov. 29 at Lorain, O. Most of these gulls were juveniles.

Franklin's Gulls were abundant in portions of Iowa as evidenced by flocks of 20,000 at Saylorville Res., Oct. 11 (SD) and 2500 at Rathbun Res., Oct. 6 (T). Illinois flocks of 150 at Havana Oct. 19 (RP) and 100 at Carlyle L., Oct. 25 (BR) were exceptional for that state. Little Gulls remained scarce along L. Erie but were reported from 4 Chicago-area locations Aug. 14+. They are accidental inland where an adult appeared at Decatur, Ill., Nov. 29 (RS, †RP *et al.*). An ad. California Gull was briefly studied at Oberlin Res., Nov. 29 (†JP, †LR), providing the 4th record for Ohio. Thayer's Gulls returned to the Chicago area by Oct. 26 where there were 10+ reports, and one appeared in Alton, Ill. by Nov. 7 (BR *et al.*). Lesser Black-backed Gulls (a daily maximum of three) were scattered along L. Erie Sept. 12+ as their numbers continued to slowly increase. The only other sighting was of an adult at Carlyle L., Ill., Nov. 14-17 (†LH, m.ob.). Small

numbers of Glaucous Gulls were scattered across the n. states during late November. Away from the Great Lakes, a single Great Black-backed Gull was noted in the Alton, Ill.-Mo., area Nov. 7-9 (BR, +CP *et al.*) where they are becoming regular visitors. A few Black-legged Kittiwakes were found at 2 L. Michigan and 4 L. Erie sites, and a normal number of inland singles appeared at Spfld., Nov. 11 (H), Alton, Ill., Nov. 15 (BR), and Kentucky Dam, Ky., Nov. 17 (BP, DE). Sabine's Gulls were detected in fair numbers with 4 Great Lakes sightings Oct. 5-Nov. 10, including an adult at Wilmette, Ill., on the latter date (+R & MB), plus inland singles at Spfld., Oct. 8 (+H) and Hueston Woods S.P., O., Nov. 3-13 (DSt, +m.ob., ph.).

Tern reports were rather discouraging although several exceptional rarities compensated for the low numbers. The largest Caspian Tern concentration totalled 221 at Cleveland Aug. 12 while a late bird lingered in *La Salle*, Ill., through Nov. 16 (JMc). A **Royal Tern** was photographed at L. Calumet Sept. 7 (AS,



*Royal Tern at Lake Calumet, Ill., Sept. 7, 1985. First Illinois record. Photo/Jim Landing.*

RHu, +JL *et al.*), providing the first record for Illinois. Common Terns peaked at 700-1000+ along both Great Lakes and remained along w. Lake Erie through Nov. 24. Flocks of 75-300 Forster's Terns were reported from the Great Lakes and a late migrant lingered at Fairfax, Ind., Nov. 18 (*fide* LS). The only concentration of Least Terns was of 20 in *Fulton*, Ky., Aug. 10-11 (BP). Most noteworthy of 4 extralimital sightings were singles n. to Havana, Ill., Aug. 10 (+RP), Waterville, O., Aug. 18 (+MA), and a late bird at Gary, Ind., Oct. 5 (+RGr). Black Terns congregated at Cleveland where 400-550 were present during August and flocks of 115-130 were also reported from Iowa and Indiana. Not to be overshadowed by the Royal Tern, Indiana had its first photographic record of a **Black Skimmer** at Winona L. during the first week of August (SB, ph., *fide* CK).

**CUCKOOS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — Both cuckoos remained scarce. While Yellow-billed will regularly linger into late October, one at New Haven, Ind., Nov. 6 was late (Haw). A few Greater Roadrunners are still encountered in s.w. Missouri as evidenced by one or two in *Taney* during mid-October (BGe, PMA). The only Com. Barn-Owls reported were in *Clarke*, Ia., Sept. 10-23 (JF *et al.*). Snowy Owls remained to the n., as there was only one report from n. Illinois. Iowa's nesting Burrowing Owls were noted in *Cherokee* through Sept. 27 (*fide* JD, DB). Moderate numbers of the other migrant owls comprised 8 Long-eared sightings, 12 Short-eared reports, and 10 observations of N. Saw-whets including an early migrant at Rathbun Res., Ia., Oct. 5 (EM) and seven banded in the Cincinnati area (RA). Common Nighthawks staged a good migration with a remarkable 3000+ at Chicago Aug. 29 (AA, m.ob.) and 921 at Dayton,



*Adult male Rufous Hummingbird at Westerville, Ohio, Aug. 17, 1985. Photo/Mike Flynn.*

O., Sept. 2 (B & CB) plus many flocks of 150-500 between Aug. 23 and Sept. 4. Late Whip-poor-wills were discovered in *Pocahontas*, Ia., Oct. 20 (JC) and Hammond, Ind., Oct. 12 (KB). It was also a good year for migrant Chimney Swifts with peaks of 5000 at Ames, Ia., Sept. 15 (JD) and 3700 at Danville, Ill., Oct. 8 (ME). Only small numbers of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were reported but they remained fairly late, through Oct. 23 in *Johnson*, Ia. (*fide* RH), and Oct. 20 at Mode, Ill. (KF). A cooperative ♂ **Rufous Hummingbird** was photographed at a Westerville, O., feeder Aug. 15-18, providing a first record for Ohio (P & MV, +m.ob.). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were numerous only along s. Lake Michigan where groups of 16 and 36 were encountered Oct. 6-12.

The flycatcher movement was not particularly notable; the only large concentration was of 70+ E. Wood-Pewees at M.M.W.A., Oct. 5 (JP). However, there were many late sightings including an E. Wood-Pewee near Bloomington, Ind., Oct. 23 (LS), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Euclid, O., Oct. 6 (DC), Acadian at Louisville Oct. 15 (BP), Willow Flycatcher at Euclid, O., Oct. 2 (DC) and Least at Decatur, Ill., Oct. 16 (MD) and Spfld., Oct. 14 (\*H). A **Say's Phoebe** was discovered in Illinois for the 2nd consecutive year; this bird appeared at Chicago Oct. 1 (+KS *et al.*). Normal numbers of W. Kingbirds migrated through the w. states including a late bird at Sunken Grove, Ia., Oct. 20 (JC). Extralimital birds were detected at *Cook*, Ill., Sept. 3-5 (AS, DJ), Cleveland Sept. 4 (KO), Clinton L., Ill., Sept. 14 (+RCh), and near Kirksville, Ind., Sept. 29 (D & BW). Scattered flocks of 30-46 E. Kingbirds represented normal numbers for recent falls. One at M.M.W.A., Nov. 4 (JP), was very late, as was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in *Lawrence*, Mo., Oct. 27 (KH).

Swallows staged a good migration in many areas. Encouraging numbers of Purple Martins included 9000 in *Lee*, Ia., Aug. 8 (RCe), 3000 at S. Bass Is., O., Aug. 29 (KA), and 2100 at Chicago Aug. 29 (JL). Tree Swallows flocked in Iowa and Illinois with maxima of 8000 at DeSoto N.W.R., Ia., Sept. 28 (EM) and 7000 at L. Chautauqua, Ill., Sept. 21 (RP), plus 1000-5000 at 5 additional locations. As expected, N. Rough-winged Swallows congregated in *Buchanan*, Mo., with 2500 Aug. 27 (L). Bank Swallows peaked at 2500 on S. Bass Is., O., Aug. 29 (KA) and 1000 at L. Chautauqua Aug. 17-18 (SBa, RCh), while one at Spfld., Oct. 19 (H) was rather late. Other noteworthy swallow concentrations included 5000 Cliffs and 5000 Barns at Sweet Marsh, Ia., Aug. 11 (FM) and 1000 Cliffs at Big Creek L., Ia., Aug. 28 (SD).

**JAYS THROUGH SHRIKES** — The Blue Jay migration across w. Lake Erie peaked Sept. 28 when 4600 were noted. An ad. **Black-billed Magpie** was documented near Larchwood, Ia., Oct. 6 (+DH), providing Iowa's first record in more than a decade. American Crows formed roosts estimated at 12,000 in *Henderson* and *Merger*, Ill., Nov. 8 (MBa) and 10,000 at Keokuk, Ia., Nov. 23 (RCe). Only a handful of Black-capped Chickadees migrated along L. Erie this fall. In contrast, Red-breasted Nuthatches moved in considerable numbers with maxima of 30-50 along the Great Lakes; they first appeared in the n. states Aug. 10-20 and elsewhere by mid-September. Brown Creepers at *Lee*, Ia. (RCe), and *Steuben*, Ind. (TLa), Aug. 20 may have been summer residents rather than early migrants. The only Bewick's Wren reported was at Urbana, Ill., Sept. 23 (RCh). Winter Wrens staged an impressive movement along the Great Lakes Oct. 11-13 with several reports of 29-75 and a remarkable 150 at Chicago Oct. 12 (FS, m.ob.). It was also a good fall for Sedge Wrens with maxima of 10-15 in Iowa and Illinois. Six at Reelfoot N.W.R., Ky., through Sept. 1 may have nested (BP), while 8 reports along L. Erie included a late bird at Huron, O., Nov. 3 (J *et al.*). A late Marsh Wren at Spfld., Nov. 29 (H) may have been overwintering.

The kinglet movement was impressive along L. Michigan but not elsewhere. An early Golden-crowned returned to Cincinnati Sept. 11 (*fide W*) but the largest movement totalled 500 at Chicago Oct. 20 (JL). Early Ruby-crowned returned to Iowa and n. Ohio Aug. 27-28 and the Chicago peak was 135 Oct. 6 (JL). The latest Blue-gray Gnatcatcher remained at Chesterton, Ind., Oct. 21 (KB). Townsend's Solitaires are accidental in Illinois



Townsend's Solitaire at Chicago, Ill., Oct. 22, 1985. Photo/Jim Landing.

where one was photographed at Chicago Oct. 22 (R & MB *et al.*). Veeries were universally scarce and Gray-cheekeds elicited few comments except for an early migrant at Ames, Ia., Aug. 17 (PM). An early Swainson's Thrush returned to *Cuyahoga*, O., Aug. 12 (RHr) but they were generally scarce except for 500 on Kelley's Is., O., Sept. 29 (KA). Late birds were banded at Laurens, Ia., Nov. 11-14 (+JC) and closely studied at Dunes S.P., Ind., Nov. 9 (KB *et al.*). Good numbers of Hermit Thrushes moved along the Great Lakes Oct. 6-12 with Chicago maxima of 100-135 (RB, JL). A late Wood Thrush managed to survive in downtown Cleveland Nov. 29+ (RHa, m.ob.). The Varied Thrush in *Cherokee*, Ia., Oct. 22 (JHu) provided one of few fall migrant records for the Region.

Mimids were noteworthy only in Iowa where 75 Gray Catbirds flocked at Iowa City Sept. 22 (T) and a **Sage Thrasher** was closely studied at Waterloo Sept. 23-Oct. 13 (TS, +FM, m.ob.). The only Bohemian Waxwing report was of a flock of seven at

Chicago Oct. 31 (HR). Cedar Waxwings were abundant in the Great Lakes states with a peak of 1800 on S. Bass Is., O., Sept. 13 (KA), plus many smaller flocks throughout the period. A large movement of N. Shrikes developed in Iowa where there were 17 sightings while 9 reports from the Great Lakes states Oct. 26+ constituted only slightly above-normal numbers. Loggerhead Shrikes remained in low numbers in n. portions of the Region where only 10 were observed.

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — Vireos were generally unremarkable although 11 Bell's in *Vermilion* Aug. 28 (MC) made a good total for Illinois. A Solitary Vireo in *Lee*, Ia., Aug. 22 (RCe), was early, while late vireos included Solitaires at Euclid, O., Nov. 22 (DC) and Lexington, Ky., Nov. 18 (BA), plus a Yellow-throated in *Johnson*, Ia., Oct. 22 (T). Philadelphia Vireos peaked with 12 at Spfld., where one remained through Oct. 31 (H), while a late Red-eyed Vireo was reported from Jasper-Pulaski W.M.A., Ind., Nov. 2 (Haw, SS).

The warbler migration received mixed reports but included several locally-noteworthy concentrations. Golden-winged Warblers peaked at nine in Illinois and one "Lawrence's" hybrid was reported. An early Tennessee Warbler at Euclid, O., July 31 (DC) presaged a good movement, with 60 in *Lee*, Ia., Sept. 6 (RCe), plus late birds at Springbrook S.P., Ia., Nov. 3 (+RM) and Lexington, Ky., Nov. 5 (BA). Other early warblers included Orange-crowned at George Wyth S.P., Ia., Aug. 25 (FM) and a Nashville at Louisville Aug. 20 (BP). Nashvilles were well-represented with totals of 47-66 in Illinois and Iowa plus a late bird banded at Blue Island, Ill., Nov. 24 (KBa). Other late warblers were a N. Parula at Spfld., Nov. 7 (H) and a Yellow at Louisville Oct. 1 (BP). An exceptional 280 Magnolia Warblers were noted at S. Bass Is., O., Sept. 28 (KA). Seven Cape May Warbler reports constituted a large number for Iowa and one remained at Spfld. through Nov. 20 (+H). Four Black-throated Blue Warbler reports were also unusual for Iowa.

Yellow-rumped Warblers were integral components of the October flights along the Great Lakes, with 7500 estimated at Crane Creek S.P., O., Oct. 5 (JP) and 1100 at Chicago Oct. 12 (JL). An early Black-throated Green Warbler returned to Blue Island, Ill., Aug. 18 (KBa) and the species remained through Oct. 29 in Indiana and Kentucky. Yellow-throated Warblers are casual fall migrants in Iowa where singles appeared at Amana Woods Aug. 29 (CB) and George Wyth S.P., Sept. 22 (FM). A Pine Warbler in *Erie*, O., Nov. 8 (JP) was late as were Prairies at Louisville Oct. 18 (BP) and in *Lee*, Ia., Aug. 27 (+RCe), where there are few fall records. Palm Warblers peaked with 150 at Chicago Oct. 5 (AA) and remained through Dec. 1 at Urbana, Ill. (RCh). Concentrations of 100-120 Bay-breasted and Blackpoll warblers were reported from w. Lake Erie and a late Bay-breasted was studied at Burlington, Ky., through Nov. 16 (+LM). A Prothonotary Warbler at Beverly Shores Sept. 24 (KB) provided an unusual fall record for n.w. Indiana, while Worm-eating Warblers were equally unusual in s.e. Iowa through Sept. 10. Good numbers of Ovenbirds totalled 50-61 in Iowa and Illinois. The expected small numbers of Connecticut Warblers were reported, while Mournings were represented by an early migrant at Sweet Marsh, Ia., Aug. 11 (FM), a maximum of 13 at Chicago Aug. 31 (JL), and an exceptionally late imm. female closely studied at Euclid, O., Nov. 2 (+DC). A Hooded Warbler at Sweet Marsh Aug. 11 (FM) provided one of few fall records for Iowa and a returning Wilson's Warbler at Eubank, Ky., Aug. 16 (JE) was early.

**TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES** — A Scarlet Tanager at Spfld., Oct. 21 (H) was fairly late. Two Black-headed Grosbeaks were documented Sept. 17 at Springfield, Mo., where they are infrequently observed (+EE). An Indigo Bunting at New Haven, Ind., Nov. 18 (Haw) was tardy, while scattered Dickcissel reports included late birds at Cuyahoga Falls, O., Nov. 24-Dec. 1 (+PH *et al.*) and Mode, Ill., Nov. 11 (KF).

As was true for most other October migrants, sparrows also appeared in good numbers. The flock of 100 Chipping Sparrows



at Lexington, Ky., Nov. 13 (BA) was unexpectedly large for such a late date. Clay-colored Sparrow reports from the e. states consisted of 2 n.w. Indiana sightings Sept. 22-25 and 5 reports from Illinois Oct. 5-14 including a maximum of three found dead beneath a Spfld. TV tower (\*H). Two Lark Sparrows in Cook Oct. 11 (EL) were late and unexpected in n. Illinois. Migrant Henslow's Sparrows were noted only from Ohio and Illinois with the latest at Clinton L., Ill., Oct. 27 (+RP, MD). Le Conte's Sparrows peaked with 35 at Rathbun Res., Ia., Oct. 6 (RC) and the expected numbers appeared e. to 3 Indiana sites. One was discovered Oct. 13-20 at Cleveland (RH<sub>a</sub>, m.ob., ph.) where they are casual transients. A greater interest in Sharp-tailed Sparrows resulted in 14 reports from the n. states. Most noteworthy were sightings in *Greene*, Ia., Sept. 30 (+RM), Fairfax, Ind., Sept. 29 (LS *et al.*), Barberton, O., Oct. 3 (LR), and Rend L., Ill., Oct. 13 (LH), where there are few previous records.

The October migration waves included peaks of 30-42 Fox and Lincoln's sparrows, and a tardy Lincoln's remained at Cleveland through Nov. 24+ (RH<sub>a</sub>). Both White-throated and White-crowned sparrows were numerous along the Great Lakes during the first one-half of October when a number of flocks of 100-500 were reported. An unusual number of Harris' Sparrows accompanied this movement with 12 reports from Illinois Oct. 6+, five birds in n.w. Indiana Oct. 5-26 (*fide* KB), and one at Irwin Prairie, O., Oct. 11 (+MA). The earliest Dark-eyed Junco returned to Naperville, Ill., Sept. 5 (JWi). Lapland Longspurs also returned early, appearing in Cleveland (RH<sub>r</sub>) and Hammond, Ind., by Sept. 21 (KB). They were abundant in Iowa with 10,000 in *Wright* Oct. 26 (SD) plus flocks of 1000+ during late November, while flocks of 200-600 were reported from Illinois. The only Smith's Longspur was reported from Spfld., Nov. 5 (H).

Blackbirds were scarcely mentioned. Extralimital Yellow-heads were noted only in Ohio with one at L. St. Mary's Aug. 18 (CC) and two in *Seneca* Aug. 25 (TB). Great-tailed Grackles continued to expand in w. Missouri with 35+ in *Cass* during the period (JG) and nine in *Barton* Nov. 10 (KH). The latest N. Oriole remained along L. Erie through Oct. 20.

An eventful finch migration was highlighted by the Region's first **Brambling** that appeared at a *Hendricks*, Ind., feeder Nov.



*Brambling near Indianapolis, Nov. 10, 1985. First record for Indiana. Photo/Bill Brink.*

10 (TD, tm.ob., ph.). Pine Grosbeaks made a respectable showing for recent years with 5 reports along the Great Lakes Nov. 1-27 with a maximum of 14 at M.M.W.A., Nov. 27 (+JP). Purple Finches returned early, by Sept. 1 in portions of Iowa, Indiana, and Ohio, but the movement was not particularly impressive. Concentrations of 52-96 were found in Iowa and Illinois but much smaller numbers passed through the other states. The

ever-expanding House Finch was reported from 8 Illinois sites, with a maximum of 15 in the Chicago area, while one in Ames, Ia., Oct. 12 (+PM) and two in Cape Girardeau, Mo. (JPe), were noteworthy in states where permanent populations have not yet become established. Crossbills largely avoided the Region. An early Red at Gahanna, O., Aug. 30 (J) plus 10 at Decatur, Ill., Sept. 6 (RP) were followed by only 5 reports Oct. 21+ s. to Lexington, Ky., Nov. 18 (BA). Single White-winged were noted only at one Iowa and 2 Illinois locations Oct. 30+. An early Com. Redpoll at Evanston, Ill., Oct. 19 (AZ) presaged a moderate flight in the n. states with maxima of 50-60 along L. Erie and reports s. to Urbana, Ill. Pine Siskins returned to Ames, Ia., Aug. 20 (EM) and *Johnson*, Ind., Aug. 29 (BG) but most appeared during the last one-half of October and November. This movement produced moderate numbers in most areas with flocks of 15-30 in all states plus scattered concentrations of 60-85. Evening Grosbeaks moved at the same time as the siskins but numbers were larger with flocks of 50-150 reported from every state.

**CONJECTURAL REPORTS** — One must wonder about the origins of an ad. Gray Jay documented near Craig, *Holt*, Mo., Nov. 21, especially since the bird was observed along a fence-row in an extensively cultivated area. Since Gray Jays seldom move far from their breeding range, this bird's presence in Missouri may have been the result of its escape or release from captivity.

**ADDENDA** — Diagnostic photographs have been provided for the **Long-billed Curlew** in *Meredosia*, Ill., Apr. 2-3, 1985, and **Burrowing Owl** in *Jasper*, Ill., Apr. 6-17, 1985. Both records should be considered valid.

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## CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

Robert D. Purrington

Whatever else the fall of 1985 may have been, it was certainly remarkable. After several years of virtually no tropical activity, *four* hurricanes made landfall on the coastal areas of the Region. The last two, Juan and Kate, occurred at the end of October and in mid-November, respectively. The result was that rather than affecting only the early stages of fall migration, especially shorebird migration, and causing a dispersal of water birds, Juan clearly had a major effect on the southward movement of passerines. October was without any frontal activity after the first week and, indeed, was more like September ought to be—warm and wet. The next front came November 3, just on the heels of Hurricane Juan, and the combined effects of these two weather features provided some of the most spectacular birding ever experienced in coastal Mississippi on the weekend of November 2 and 3. The season, then, was long and mild, and to a large extent dominated by the tropical storms.

Hurricane Danny hit south of Lake Charles, Louisiana, August 15, doing relatively little damage. Elena, whose wanderings will not soon be forgotten, made landfall in Mississippi on Labor Day after harrassing the Gulf coast from Louisiana to Florida for the better part of a week; damage reached \$1 billion. Juan formed just off the Louisiana coast on the very late date of October 25, made landfall near Lafayette, and after a couple of loops finally went ashore for good in the Florida panhandle four days later, raking the Mississippi and Alabama coasts in the process. Damage was estimated at \$1.5 billion, much of it to Louisiana's sugar cane crop. Kate, extraordinary for her tardiness but not for the bird records she produced, hit Florida near Panama City November 21.

Even a summary of just the seabird records associated with the storms is exciting: Danny—Sooty Tern, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, and Brown Noddy in Mississippi (plus Roseate Spoonbill and White Ibis in Arkansas); Elena—Bridled Tern, Sooty Shearwater, and Parasitic Jaeger in Mississippi; and Juan—Sooty and Bridled terns in Florida and Mississippi and Wilson's Storm-Petrel and jaeger sp. in Mississippi. Juan also seemed to have scattered Franklin's Gulls across the lower part of the Region, sometimes in unprecedented numbers. Owen Fang observed that many terns were emaciated, or had perished, during the periods when the coastal waters were churned up by hurricane conditions.

Easily the next most significant feature of the season (and not entirely unrelated to the tropical weather) was the extraordinary lateness of the end of passerine migration, which was still in full swing as late as mid-November, fully three weeks after it has ordinarily slowed to a trickle. In southeastern Louisiana, for example, all-time record late dates for 16 species of warbler were set in November! A trip to Venice, Louisiana, November 10 yielded 16 species of warblers (NN, RDP). Species which are usually gone by early October were present in November, sometimes in numbers. Contributing to the lingering were the generally mild conditions, and the disturbed weather at the beginning of November seemed to stop transgulf migration.

By the end of the period, there had been little evidence of a western movement, but indications were that at least some of the northern finches were or would be pushing deep into the south. Red-breasted Nuthatches were definitely staging an invasion.



**ABBREVIATIONS**—P.R.M. = Pascagoula River Marsh, Jackson Co., Miss.; D.R.U. = Duck River Unit, Tennessee Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Tenn.; L.O.S. = Louisiana Ornithological Society; M.O.S. = Mississippi Ornithological Society; T.O.S. = Tennessee Ornithological Society. Place names in *italics* are parishes (in Louisiana) or counties.

**LOONS THROUGH STORKS**—The 2 records of Red-throated Loons were of one at St. Andrews S.P., Aug. 8 (TF, DS), the first summer record for n.w. Florida, and two Nov. 30 on Woods Res., Franklin, Tenn. (DJS, SJS, BHS, SAB, FLB). Common Loons were seen in good numbers on L. Ouachita, Garland, Ark., and on the Mississippi Gulf coast in November, but the largest concentration reported, 145 on Woods Res. on Oct. 19 (SJS), was considered below normal. One at Wheeler N.W.R., Sept. 14 (GDJ) furnished the earliest fall record for Alabama of an obvious migrant. While the 250 Horned Grebes on Lake Ouachita Nov. 17 (MP, HP) were notable, an Eared Grebe in the P.R.M., Aug. 22 (GM, DK, JT) was the earliest for the coast by a month. A Red-necked Grebe was on L. Shelby, Gulf Shores, Ala., Nov. 23 (OF). Perhaps the most interesting product of the hurricane season was a **Sooty Shearwater** at Ocean Springs, Miss., Sept. 2 (MH) in the wake of Elena. This was the first record for the state and about the 20th for the n. Gulf. The first records of Wilson's Storm-Petrel for mainland coastal Mississippi were of storm-driven birds seen at Gulfport Aug. 15 (DK), a product of Danny, and Oct. 29 (JT, MH) as Juan came ashore. An unidentified storm-petrel on L. Pontchartrain after Hurricane Elena was unprecedented (RDP).

An imm. Masked Booby at Pensacola Beach Aug. 14 (SD) was probably storm-related, but a Brown Booby 50 mi. s. of Panama City, Fla., Aug. 4 (RH) furnished only the 2nd August record for n.w. Florida. Very early was an imm. N. Gannet found dead on Fourchon Beach, La., Sept. 11 (GHR, DM). Double-crested Cormorants were up to a month early in returning to coastal areas of Louisiana; five were in Cameron Aug. 31 (MS, KR, GHR, JG) and one was at Lafitte N.P., Sept. 3 (DM). The 450+ recorded at D.R.U., Nov. 15 (SJS) prompted Stedman to venture that they might be returning to numbers of 35 years ago. As often happens, Magnificent Frigatebirds were driven inland or piled up along the coastline as Danny, Elena, and Juan made landfall. These included a female at Baton Rouge Aug. 15 (BC, LH) and

200 in coastal *Harrison*, Miss., the same date, six in *Escambia* and *Santa Rosa*, Fla., Sept. 1 & 2, several over L. Pontchartrain Oct. 27 (AD, *fide* RJS, PW) and up to 23 over Baton Rouge Oct. 28-29 (KR, GHR, AM, BL). Also of interest, but not obviously storm-related, were 24 immatures near Venice, La., Sept. 14 (PMcK, JK, MS).

A Least Bittern in *Benton*, Ark., Aug. 1 & 4 (CR, VR) represented only the fifth record for w. Arkansas, while single birds in *Maury* and *Humphreys* were unusual for middle Tennessee; Snowy Egrets at Cross Creeks N.W.R., Tenn., as late as Sept. 20 (SJS, DWB) were similarly unusual there. While Tricolored Herons at L. Millwood Sept. 2 as Elena was making landfall and in *Chicot* Sept. 7 were notable for Arkansas, there were numerous records of Reddish Egrets in which the tropical activity may have been involved. These included inland records in *Iberia*, La., Aug. 16 (BC, BN), New Orleans Sept. 2 (CL, DM), and late August to early September records in *Orleans* and *Cameron*, La. (including four white-phase birds) and *Hancock*, Miss. A roost in *Covington* containing 3000-5000 Cattle Egrets Aug. 30 (GDJ, HHK, BG) had the highest numbers found in Alabama in the last 15 years (TAI). Up to 35 Black-crowned Night-Herons seen in *Pulaski* Aug. 17-18 (RS, CMI, FM, JD) represented a large number for Arkansas. The 1500 White Ibises and 2500 *Plegadis* sp. (mostly White-faced) in a small area of *Plaquemines*, La., Nov. 10 (NN, RDP) were notable, as were 17 Glossy Ibises at Gulf Breeze, Fla., Aug. 31 (RAD, LD). Inland records of Roseate Spoonbills included small numbers in *Pointe Coupe* and *Concordia*, La., in August, not obviously related to Hurricane Danny, and likely storm-related occurrences in *Pulaski*, Ark., Aug. 17 (RS, CM, JD, FM), L. Millwood, Ark., Sept. 2 (BS, NW, JB), and the Bonnet Carre Spillway, La., Sept. 7 & 14 (MW, RJS). Numerous Wood Stork records were submitted from Louisiana and Arkansas from late August to early October, including nine at Goose Point, *St. Tammany*, Oct. 5 (AS, GS), for the first s.e. Louisiana record in 5 years, and there were also nine in *Hancock*, Miss., Sept. 22 (JT).

**WATERFOWL, HAWKS** — A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck in *Shelby*, Nov. 24 + (JRW, MGW, m.ob) was thought to provide the 2nd record for Tennessee. An aerial survey at Wheeler N.W.R., Ala., Nov. 10 counted 19,000 Canada Geese, 800 "Blue" and Snow geese, and 25,000 ducks (TA). A Brant at Alabama Pt., Ala., Nov. 16 + (GDJ, CDC) provided the 4th record for the state and the first coastal record. Of an estimated 594,000 ducks counted in an aerial census in s.e. Louisiana in mid-November, 412,000 were Gadwall. Overall numbers for the coastal marshes were as high as 1.6 million ducks, down only slightly from previous years. An imm. ♂ Cinnamon Teal at Decatur Oct. 19 (GDJ, HHK) provided the 3rd Alabama record. Although a flock of 800 Canvasbacks in *Lonoke*, Ark., Sept. 27 (DJ) was probably the largest ever for the state in fall, they went virtually unrecorded in s.e. Louisiana and s.w. Mississippi. Greater Scaup seen inland at Baton Rouge Oct. 28 (KR, GHR) during the approach of Juan, and in *Washington*, Ark., Nov. 16 & 29 (JCN, BS, MMI), might have been influenced by the tropical weather. Over 500 migrating Lesser Scaup at Baton Rouge Oct. 28-29 (SWC, DLD) were evidently fleeing, or being held up by, Hurricane Juan.

Oldsquaw reports from late October and November suggested an above-normal flight for the fall. Black Scoters were noted Nov. 6-11 at Radnor L., *Davidson*, Tenn. (MLB, SJS, m.ob.), Nov. 23 in *Hancock*, Miss. (JT, DK, MH, ph.—the first documented record for the Mississippi coast), one was at Gulf Shores, Ala., Nov. 24 (GDJ, DGJ), and a total of at least 18 were found on L. Pontchartrain Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 (JK, RDP). Six reports of Surf Scoters were received, totalling 19 individuals; one in *Colbert*, Ala., Oct. 23-Nov. 1 (JP, JoP, NP, DJS, PK) was picked up on a highway, banded, and released; two on L. Fayetteville Oct. 15-25 (JCN, m.ob.) represented the 7th Arkansas occurrence. The three reports of White-winged Scoters included a total of nine in coastal *Hancock* and *Harrison*, Miss., Oct. 27-28 (MH, JT, CR, DK, DoK) as Juan approached, and one at



A group of Black Scoters at New Orleans, La., Dec. 1, 1985. Photo/Robert D. Purrington.

Cross Creeks N.W.R., Tenn., Nov. 15-16 (JCR, DWB). Earliest ever for s.e. Louisiana was a Com. Goldeneye at New Orleans Nov. 9 (NN), and while a Ruddy Duck on a pond in New Orleans Sept. 2 (CL, DM) was the earliest ever by nearly 2 months, the possibility that it was a cripple could not be ruled out. Ruddy Ducks were also earliest ever in *Williamson*, Tenn., Oct. 1 (SJS) and in *Hancock*, Miss., the following day (JT, DK). An aggregation of 200 ♀ Red-breasted Mergansers on Sardis L., Nov. 22 was the largest ever recorded by Davis in 20 years of scanning n. Mississippi reservoirs.

Paul McKenzie and Chuck Feerick continued to provide enormously important data on raptor migration in s. Louisiana and their work was augmented by the efforts of Whelan and the Smalleys in s.e. Louisiana. McKenzie and Feerick tallied a total of 10,419 raptors in 205 hours of observing Aug. 3-Nov. 12; some specific observations will be given below. Sightings of migrating Turkey Vultures included a fall peak of 243 in *Benton*, Ark., Oct. 2 (CRi, JF) and 350 in 2 flocks in *Cullman*, Ala., Nov. 22 (JEK, CA). Reports of at least 79 Ospreys were received, including 29 from middle Tennessee Aug. 11-Nov. 2 (*fide* SJS); 13 of the reports were from coastal Mississippi (*fide* JT). For whatever reason, reports of migrating Am. Swallow-tailed Kites in fall are much less frequent than in spring. This fall sightings of four individuals were received from New Orleans w. to Sabine Pass. The latter record, Sept. 21 (PMcK, CF), was quite late and rather far west. Crider, having failed to find any in 5 trips to the Atchafalaya Basin, La., during the summer, raised the possibility of a decline there. His count of 95 Mississippi Kites along the protection levees on both sides of the basin Aug. 4 was encouraging. Sightings of at least 32 Bald Eagles included over 15 in middle Tennessee—among which were wintering birds arriving as early as Aug. 12 (SJS, BHS) in *Maury*—the first record for a Baton Rouge hawk watch, Sept. 8 (PMcK, CF), and a pair rebuilding its nest in *Harrison*, Miss., damaged by Elena, on Oct. 1 (JS, EJ). Reports of N. Harriers were highlighted by two at Goose Point, *St. Tammany*, La., Sept. 21 (GS, AS), the earliest ever for s.e. Louisiana, and 23 in a *Cameron* hawkwatch Nov. 3 (CF). Reports of 50 Sharp-shinned Hawks from various parts of the Region were swamped by the one-day count of 613 moving W along the coastline in *Cameron* Oct. 5 (PMcK, CF); all but one of those birds were immatures. Peak count for s.e. Louisiana was of 115 in *St. Tammany* Oct. 5 (AS, GS). Of 66 sightings of Cooper's Hawks, 20 were from middle Tennessee. As if the total of 2232 Broad-winged Hawks counted in the Oct. 5 hawkwatch (PMcK, CF) in *Cameron*, La., wasn't impressive enough in its own right, consider the fact that most came out of the Gulf and migrated NW! Feerick speculated that an impressive late movement of Broad-winged that resulted in a count of 3029 from the same location Nov. 3 was due to the lack of frontal activity and to the presence of Hurricane Juan. Single Swainson's Hawks were recorded in Baton Rouge Aug. 31 (PMcK, CF), at Fayetteville, Ark., Sept. 29 (JCN), in *Cameron* Oct. 6 (PMcK, CF), and in Foley, Ala., Nov. 20 (GDJ). Two reports of Golden Eagles were received, both from Tennessee N.W.R.: one was at D.R.U., Nov.

6 (SJS, TJW) and the other at Big Sandy Unit Nov. 15 (SJS) A count of 175 Am. Kestrels in 6½ hours in the *Cameron* hawk-watch Oct. 5 was notable, but as it was the only report on this species, little can be added except this writer's comments that numbers may have been on the downside. Of Merlin, however, there were reports of at least 52 individuals. Most of the birds were seen in coastal Louisiana, including nine Oct. 5 in *Cameron* (PMcK, CF). Other notable records were of six at Gulf Breeze, Fla., the same date (RAD, SD, LD) and one in *Chicot*, Ark., Sept. 29 (D & CS); there were 3 records from w. Tennessee (*vide* BBC). Peregrine Falcons were represented by 28 reports of at least 41 individuals, highlighted by 12 in *Cameron* Oct. 5 (PMcK, CF); coastal Louisiana had 26 of the individuals and eight were from Tennessee.

**RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS** — A calling Black Rail in *Mobile* Aug. 18 (GDJ) provided only the 2nd August record for Alabama. One of the more interesting reports that resulted from Hurricane Juan was of 350 Clapper Rails counted along the *Hancock* and *Harrison*, Miss., beaches Oct. 28-Nov. 2 (*vide* JT). Reportedly, one 50-meter stretch of beach at Waveland held 250, "crawling over storm-blown debris." All 7 reports of migrating Sandhill Cranes came from Tennessee, Oct. 5-Nov. 21; 76 s. of Murfreesboro Oct. 29 (WJH, REH) were earliest ever for the Nashville area and one of the highest totals ever. The largest number reported was 150 in *Pickett* Nov. 8 (EW).

Lesser Golden-Plovers, rare in the Region in fall migration, were noted Sept. 15 & 16 in *Jackson*, Miss. (MH, JT, GM), Sept. 15 and Oct. 6 & 27 in *Cameron*, La. (SWC, DLD), and, most surprisingly, Nov. 20 in *St. Tammany*, La. (KR, BH). There is one later record for s.e. Louisiana. The proximity of all but one of these records to hurricane dates was only suggestive. Records of Snowy Plovers on the coastal Mississippi mainland Sept. 7 and Oct. 27-29 (DK, JT, MH, CR) were considered notable, and one on Island 13, Mississippi R., *Lake*, Sept. 9-18 (WGC, SJS, BBC) was only the 2nd for Tennessee. Increased interest in the status of Piping Plover resulted in an unusual number of reports, from which it was difficult to draw a definitive picture. Tennessee records prompted Stedman to comment that it had been an excellent fall for the species. Neal, in Arkansas, reported only one sighting, of two birds; to Troups, Piping Plovers were scarcer than usual on the Mississippi coast. There was about the usual number of records from coastal Louisiana, totaling over 50 individuals, the high count being of 12 in the Grand Isle area Sept. 29 (NN). Evidently driven to the mainland by the winds and high tides of Juan were two Am. Oystercatchers at Pass Christian, Miss., Oct. 28-29 (DK, MH, JT). A number of records of Black-necked Stilts away from the coast, highlighted by the first middle Tennessee record of one in *Stewart* Nov. 2-4 (JCR, SJS, DWB) were consistent with other indications of increasing numbers; Upland Sandpipers, on the other hand, were said to have been scarce this fall. There were several records of Whimbrels, a rare fall transient, all from the Mississippi and Louisiana coasts except for an Aug. 11 sighting in Memphis (JRW, DD). A Long-billed Curlew in *Lake* Sept. 1 provided the first record for Tennessee (DWB, JRW); up to three at Gulfport, Miss., Oct. 28-29 (DK, JT, ph.) were notable storm waifs. Single birds in *Mobile*, Ala., Sept. 21 (GDC, CDC) and Oct. 30 (GDJ) were interesting. Also evidently storm-driven was an imm. Hudsonian Godwit at Gulfport Oct. 31 (JD, JT, MH, DK, JS), for the 2nd state record. Inland Louisiana occurrences of Ruddy Turnstones Aug. 17 & 24 at the Bonnet Carre Spillway (MW) and Sept. 2 at New Orleans (CL, DM) were probably storm-related (Danny and Elena), while another in *Lauderdale* Nov. 17-18 (DJS, NP, PK) represented the first inland November record for Alabama. Quite unusual for fall were records of White-rumped Sandpipers in *Sumner* (Aug. 17 and Sept. 14) and *Lake* (Oct. 3), Tenn., and in *Cameron*, La. (Sept. 29). Records of Baird's Sandpipers included four near Decatur, Ala., July 20-22 (DCH), the earliest inland record for the state, and one in *Sumner*, Tenn., Nov. 3 (DTC, JPC), the latest ever in fall for the Nashville area. Pectoral Sandpipers were late at Baton Rouge



Hudsonian Godwit at Gulfport, Miss., Oct. 31, 1985. Photo/Judy Troups.

Nov. 14-15 (PMcK, RM, MS, KR) and at P.R.M., Nov. 21 (JT, DK, MH). Latest ever for the Nashville area were single Stilt Sandpipers in *Stewart* and *Sumner* Oct. 19 & 20 (DTC, JPC, DWB). Also very late, this time for the Gulf coast, were eight in *Cameron* Nov. 25 (JK). A Long-billed Dowitcher at Pensacola Aug. 6 (RAD) was noteworthy, as the species is considered casual there, and an unidentified dowitcher in *Rutherford*, Tenn., Nov. 23 (RVM, MRM) provided the latest record of a dowitcher for the Nashville area. Earliest ever, on the other hand, was a Com. Snipe at P.R.M., Aug. 17 (MH, DK). Although Wilson's Phalaropes were below normal in middle Tennessee (*vide* SJS), a high count of 78 at P.R.M., Aug. 31 (JT, MH) set a coastal Mississippi record. In Louisiana, three in *Cameron* Nov. 24 (GRH, KR, BH, SH, JVR) were very late. A Red-necked Phalarope at P.R.M., Sept. 7-8 (JH, AS, GO, m.ob.) furnished the 6th record for the Mississippi coast and the 4th in fall.

**JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS** — A number of records obviously resulted from tropical weather, but in other cases there was no apparent connection. A case in point is Parasitic Jaeger; there was one seen in *Jackson*, Miss., Aug. 26 (JT), another was s. of Horn I., Miss., Sept. 26 (MH), and a dark morph immature at Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., Oct. 6-22 (SJS, JCR, m.ob.) was the first ever for Tennessee. An unidentified jaeger at Biloxi, Miss., Oct. 29 (MH) was clearly associated with Juan, while an imm. jaeger 10 mi off *Baldwin*, Ala., Nov. 16 (GDJ, CDC) was on a date when such an observation is not unexpected.



Jaeger in Henry County, Tenn., October 1985. Identified by the observers as a Parasitic (although this photo by itself would suggest Pomarine—K.K.). Photo/Wallace Todd.

Laughing Gulls inland in central Louisiana and middle Tennessee in August arguably had the same origin. Seven thousand Laughing Gulls on coastal Mississippi beaches Oct. 17—just before Juan—represented a state maximum. Franklin's Gulls, which ordinarily slip by just w. of this Region in their fall movement, were seen from one end of the Region to the other. More than 300 were seen in *Benton*, Ark., Oct. 19 (JCN, BS, NW). An earlier record in middle Tennessee Oct. 5 (JCR) was notable as well, but the remainder of the records, while coming in late October when they are most likely, had the stamp of Hurricane Juan on them. Farthest e. were single birds in *Escambia*, Fla., Oct. 30 & 31 (RAD, SD, OF) and 50 Nov. 1 at Gulf Breeze, Fla. (RLB); Mississippi had up to five individuals Oct. 28-Nov. 6 (MH, JT, m.ob.); there were 1000+ on the Mississippi R. at the Bonnet Carre Spillway, *St. Charles* (RJS), and up to 30 in *Cameron* Oct. 26 (MM, DM, NN, RDP). Finally, there were 30 in Baton Rouge Oct. 29 (DLD, SWC, GHR). The first record of **Little Gull** for Arkansas was furnished by two Nov. 22-23 on L.



*Little Gull in second-winter plumage on Lake Millwood, Ark., Nov. 23, 1985. Photo/Charles Mills.*

Millwood (MP, HP, CMA, EH, HH); one bird, in 2nd-winter plumage, was seen into December. Louisiana birders who had been looking for **California Gull** might not have been surprised to hear that the species had finally been found by some of the recent California expatriates. Such was indeed the case, when a first-winter bird was found Sept. 29 at Rutherford Beach, *Cameron* (SWC, DLD, GHR)\*. That three more distinct birds should be seen Oct. 12-13 on the same beach (SWC, DLD)—an adult and two 2nd-winter birds—boggled the imagination! One of the 2nd-year birds was still present Oct. 25 (SWC *et al.*), and it, or another was seen 20 mi to the w. Oct. 27 (RJS, MW, MM, DM, NN, RDP). Still another bird, an adult, was found on Rutherford Beach Nov. 27 (DLD, SWC) and was present into December—at least the 5th state record. Not to be outdone, **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** appeared in almost astonishing numbers in coastal s.w. Louisiana. On Sept. 25 alone, at least four were seen on Rutherford Beach, *Cameron* (DM, JS, MW). The analysis of Cardiff and Dittman led to the conclusion that at least seven separate birds were present along Rutherford Beach between Sept. 25 and Nov. 27. Even earlier than the *Cameron* record was one Sept. 11 at Fourchon Beach, *Lafourche* (DM, GHR), by far the earliest ever for the state. This bird was present at least until Sept. 29 (RDP, NN). Recall that the first record of the species for Louisiana came in the winter of 1981-1982 and that prior to last fall (1984-1985) there had been only 4 records. An adult found at Gulfport Oct. 27 (JT, MH, CR) was thought likely to be the same bird that had been present the previous 2 winters. The only report of Great Black-backed Gull was of a first-winter bird on Rutherford Beach, *Cameron*, Sept. 25-30 (DM, RJS, MW *et al.*)\*. The first record for Arkansas of **Black-legged Kittiwake** was obtained Nov. 24 when a first-winter bird was seen on L. Millwood (CM, DB).



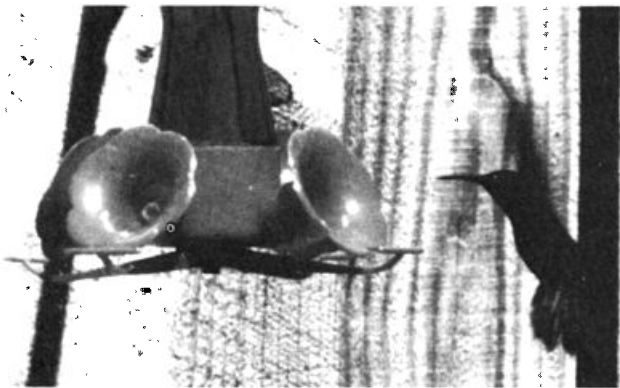
*Immature Bridled Tern (one of nine) in Harrison County, Miss., Oct. 29, 1985. Photo/Mal Hodges.*

Sandwich Terns were seen in numbers in unusual locations, including July to mid-November on L. Salvador, *Jefferson*, La. (DM), with numbers as high as 50, in *St. Mary* and *Iberia* Sept. 16 (BC, RJN) in the wake of Danny, and Oct. 29 on the Mississippi coast (JT, MH) during Juan. The 100+ Com. Terns seen 4-15 km s. of Horn I., Miss., Sept. 26 were unprecedented. Twenty on the mainland in *Hancock* and *Harrison* Oct. 29 (MH, JT) were undoubtedly hurricane-related. Common Terns were first seen in *Cameron* at the end of October, and 30 were in *Santa Rosa*, Fla., Nov. 2; both occurrences were apparently connected with Hurricane Juan. Extraordinarily late was a Least Tern at *Cameron*, La., Nov. 9 (DLD, SWC). There were 7 records of **Bridled Tern** associated with Elena and Juan, dominated by 4 records of seven individuals from Mississippi Sept. 2. Extremely interesting was a single bird well inland at the Hattiesburg sewage ponds (TG, LG), but the other six seen independently by three observers (JT, MH, DK) in *Jackson* and *Harrison* were no less exciting. Also clearly driven inland by Hurricane Elena was a remarkable **Bridled Tern** on L. Millwood Sept. 7 (CM) for the first Arkansas record (excellent details). Two records resulted from Juan: nine imm. Bridleds on the Mississippi coast Oct. 29 (JT, MH, ph.), and one at Gulf Breeze, Fla., Oct. 31 (SD, LD, RLB, SB). Several had been seen earlier 50 mi s. of Destin Aug. 5 (RH). Records of storm-driven Sooty Terns were as follows: two Aug. 15-16 in coastal Mississippi (DK) with Hurricane Danny, single birds Oct. 29 & 31 in *Escambia* and *Santa Rosa* (AF, DF, LD), and three on the Mississippi coast Oct. 29 (MH, JT). The final storm-related record to be reported was of a **Brown Noddy** at Gulfport Aug. 15 (DK), courtesy of Hurricane Danny.

**DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS**—Eight Inca Doves in Lake Charles, La., Sept. 1 (JK) helped document the establishment of a small breeding population there. Unusual attention was given to Com. Ground-Dove by contributors, reflecting in part the decline in wintering numbers along the coast. Reports of 15 ± individuals were submitted, including four from coastal Mississippi and 10 ± from the Louisiana coast. Especially notable were records of single birds in *Chicot*, Ark., Sept. 2 (DRS) and at Cross Creeks N.W.R., Tenn., Nov. 3 (JCR), the latter approximately the 6th record for the state. Very late was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Gulfport, Miss., Nov. 26 (JT). While Groove-billed Anis were perhaps low in numbers in coastal Louisiana, one in *Dyer*, Tenn., Oct. 17 (WGC, DWM) furnished the 2nd record for the state, and another in *W. Baton Rouge* Nov. 17 (JG) was notable there. Two Short-eared Owls were reported: one found injured in *Washington*, Ark., Nov. 1 (*vide* JCN), unusual for the Arkansas Ozarks, and another at Holla Bend N.W.R., Ark., Nov. 29 (HP, MP). The lone record of Lesser Nighthawk was of one seen in *Cameron* Sept. 15 (KR). Chuck-will's-widows were late in *Cameron* Nov. 9 (SWC, DLD) & 24 (JVR, KR, GHR), as was a Whip-poor-will at Venice Nov. 10 (NN).

Chimney Swifts were remarkably late and in unprecedented numbers for these late dates; latest of all were single birds in *Harrison*, Miss., Nov. 17 (JT) & 30 (HS), and the latest in Louisiana were six in Lafitte N.P., Nov. 17 (DM) and one in Baton Rouge Nov. 18 (DLD). The latest record from n.w. Florida was Nov. 21 at Gulf Breeze (RLB). An estimated 4000–5000 were seen over Baton Rouge Oct. 28–29 (JPO, RW, MS, RH); these concentrations were no doubt associated with Hurricane Juan, as perhaps many of the other late records were. Over 300 were seen in *Hancock*, Miss., Nov. 2 (JT), 100± were seen in coastal Mississippi Nov. 6 (JT *et al.*), and 75 were in Baton Rouge Nov. 14 (NLN). A single bird in *Grenada* Nov. 1 (WMD) was extraordinarily late for n. Mississippi.

It was at best an average year for the w. hummingbirds, although according to Newfield there was an explosion of reports of Buff-bellied Hummingbirds around Thanksgiving, “the first reports since the Christmas freeze of 1983.” Sightings (all from Louisiana) in Covington, Madisonville Nov. 30 (JH), and Baton Rouge were the first ever for these localities. As was the case with many other species, the mild fall led to the lingering of many Ruby-throated Hummingbirds; one that stayed in Baton Rouge until Nov. 16 (PMcK, NLN) had been banded by Newfield Nov. 3. A Black-chinned that she had banded in Baton Rouge last year returned to the same feeders in October, as did two Rufous Hummingbirds banded last year and recovered Oct. 11 (NLN, PMcK). Numbers were somewhat below average. A Rufous Hummingbird in Huntsville Nov. 20–22 (IP, TAB) furnished the 2nd inland record for Alabama. Seven *Selasphorus* hummingbirds were reported from coastal Mississippi (*vide* JT). The *ne plus ultra* of the hummingbird reports was a **Green Violet-ear** at a Ft. Smith, Ark., feeder Oct. 7 (BB, BBe). Photographs of the bird were painstakingly scrutinized by Cardiff and Remsen at L.S.U.M.Z. and by James and Neal at the University of Arkansas.



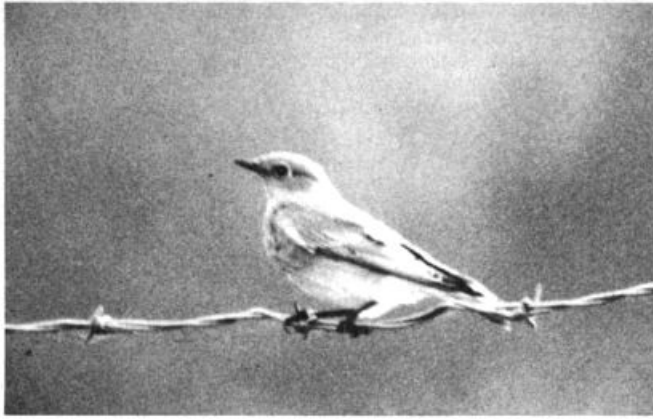
*Green Violet-ear* at Ft. Smith, Ark., Oct. 7, 1985. First record for Arkansas and one of only a few for North America. Photo/William Brazelton.

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWING**— Only 5 reports of Olive-sided Flycatcher were submitted. While there were certainly other sightings, it is not unlikely that numbers migrating through the Region have been in a slow decline. Eastern Wood-Pewees, which ordinarily depart even the coastal portions of the Region by about Oct. 20, were impressively late. Daily counts of 10–15 were amassed by 3 separate parties in s.e. Louisiana and s.w. Mississippi Nov. 2 & 3 (M.O.S., TG, LG, AS, GS), eight were recorded in *Hancock*, Miss., Nov. 6 (JT, DK, MH, GM, LS), and the latest—latest ever for s.e. Louisiana—was at Lafitte N.P., Nov. 17 (DM). Two Yellow-bellied Flycatchers in *Hancock*, Miss., Nov. 3 (TG, LG) were singing. Hurricane Juan was apparently responsible for late records of Acadian Flycatchers, which included 11 Oct. 29 in Lafitte N.P. (DM), later than any previous s.e. Louisiana record, and three Nov. 3 at the same location (DM, CL), perhaps the latest ever for Louisiana. Al-

though a “Traill’s” Flycatcher collected in *Cameron*, La., Oct. 26 (JVR) was the latest verified for the state, a Willow Flycatcher was singing in New Orleans Nov. 3 (AS), later than any previous s.e. Louisiana record for the genus in fall. A **Say’s Phoebe** in *Davidson*, Tenn., Sept. 28 (DR), CGD, MLB, SJS, ph.) provided the first record for Tennessee, and a Vermilion Flycatcher in *Lafayette* Oct. 5 (VT) established the first record for n. Mississippi. The other reports received were of one in *Hancock*, Miss., Nov. 11 (MH, JT, DK, ph.), and of another at Ft. Morgan, Ala., Nov. 7–10 (RAD, GDJ, CDC, DGJ). Three Ash-throated Flycatchers were reported, Sept. 28 in *Cameron* (DLD,\*), Oct. 31 in Gulf Breeze, Fla. (RAD, SD, LD, OF), the 5th for n.w. Florida and putatively due to Juan, and Nov. 8 in *Cameron* (SWC). A bird thought to be a Brown-crested Flycatcher was seen in *Iberia*, La., Nov. 23 (MJM). While W. Kingbirds were seen in the coastal part of the Region in something like normal numbers, single birds inland in *Lake*, Tenn., Sept. 14 (JAF, GRP) and at Porter, Ala., Sept. 28 (TAI) were notable. Of 17 records of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, including five from coastal Mississippi, the most interesting records were of single birds in *Chicot*, Ark., Sept. 5 (DS, CB), in *Shelby*, Tenn., Sept. 30 (RC), Oct. 17 in Gulf Breeze, Fla. (RAD), Oct. 21 at Ft. Morgan (GDJ, MF), and Nov. 10 in *St. Tammany*, La. (JH), the first record for that parish.

Late records were established in many parts of the Region for all of the swallows except Cliff, many of these records in early November as Hurricane Juan made landfall. The most notable records were: Purple Martin Nov. 2 in *Hancock*, Miss. (JT, LG, TG); a Tree Swallow at Wheeler N.W.R., Tenn., Nov. 23 (MLB *et al.*); N. Rough-winged Swallows Nov. 6 at Waveland, Miss. (JT *et al.*), and Nov. 26 in *Cameron*, La. (SWC); Bank Swallow at Waveland Nov. 6 (GM *et al.*), latest for Mississippi; and Barn Swallow Nov. 3 in *Franklin*, Tenn. (SJS, BHS) and Nov. 21 at P.R.M. (JT, MH, DK). All species except Purple Martin were represented in a count of 51,000 migrating swallows made during a Sept. 15 hawkwatch in Baton Rouge, La. (PMcK). Red-breasted Nuthatches invaded the Region for the first time in 4 years, led by records Sept. 12 & 15 in middle Tennessee and n. Alabama, and they had reached the Louisiana coast by Sept. 27 (MM, NN). Although Davis thought it the best invasion in 21 years in n. Mississippi, it was only moderate in coastal Louisiana. Reports of Bewick’s Wrens included one at *Cameron*, La., Oct. 6 (SWC, DLD), another in *Lafayette*, Miss., Oct. 12 and Nov. 9 (WMD), and two in *Limestone*, Ala., Nov. 30 (GDJ, CDC). Although no other contributors commented on Marsh Wren, Tousps found it scarce or absent in good habitat in coastal Mississippi. One of the highlights of the L.O.S. fall meeting was a **Rock Wren** found roosting under the raised first floor of the “Jetties” restaurant at East Jetty, *Cameron*, La., Oct. 26 (BC, RJN, m.ob.). Furnishing the 2nd or 3rd Louisiana record, the bird was present until Oct. 30.

It was a good fall for Golden-crowned Kinglets, especially on the coast where the species is very erratic. A huge migratory movement of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was observed Aug. 20 (KR *et al.*), as 300–500 were observed in the coastal cheniers of *Cameron*, all moving W. Excellent photographs were obtained of a ♂ **Mountain Bluebird** in *Garland*, Ark., Nov. 9 & 10 (HP, MP, JPS). While all of the migrant thrushes were scarce along the coast, a number of late records were established as Juan battered Louisiana and Mississippi: a Gray-cheeked Thrush was latest ever in *Hancock* Nov. 2 (BT, DT, JS), Swainson’s Thrushes were late at Lafitte N.P., La., Nov. 1 (DM) and in New Orleans Nov. 3 (AS), and a Wood Thrush was latest ever for the Mississippi coast in *Hancock* Nov. 2 (BT, DT, JS). While a pair of Gray Catbirds in *Orleans* Sept. 1 (CL, NN) were the earliest ever by 11 days if migrants, they appeared territorial and thus represented possible breeding. The 100+ catbirds seen in *Plaquemines* Nov. 10 (NN, RDP) were remarkable for such a late date. Early Arkansas records of Cedar Waxwings from *Washington* Aug. 7 (CH, KS) & 26 (MM) and *Newton* Aug. 17 (JCN, NE) perhaps indicated nesting in the nearby Ozarks. While they were “particularly abundant” in the Starkville, Miss., area at the end of the period (JA), few reached s. Louisiana. Jerome



Mountain Bluebird in Garland County, Ark., November 1985.  
Photo/Max and Helen Parker.

Jackson commented that Loggerhead Shrikes had a good breeding season, with numerous juveniles present.

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — A Bell's Vireo at Ft. Morgan, Ala., Oct. 7 (GDJ, CDC, RAD) was notable, as was a very late Solitary Vireo in Franklin, Tenn., Nov. 23 (SJS, BHS). Also late were Yellow-throated Vireos Nov. 3 in New Orleans (GS, AS), Lafitte N.P., La. (DM, CL), and Hancock, Miss. (TG, LG). Almost astounding for such a late date were 80 Philadelphia Vireos as part of the Nov. 3 fallout in Hancock, Miss. (TG, LG); two there Nov. 6 (MH, LS, GM, JT, DK) tied the previous late date for the Mississippi coast. Also late was one in Orleans Nov. 9 (NN).

Summarizing the 175+ warbler records submitted is indeed a challenge. Many of these were all-time late records, while others documented the extraordinary passerine birding which accompanied some of the tropical weather, especially Hurricane Juan. Blue-winged Warblers normally depart the Region by the first of October; this fall there were numerous early November records, capped by singles in Waveland, Miss., Nov. 15 (MH, DK, GM) and in St. Tammany, La., Nov. 17 (JH), both latest for their respective states. Other unprecedentedly late records, omitting dozens of other notably late sightings: Golden-winged Warbler Nov. 2 in Gulf Breeze, Fla. (RLB, JWB) and Nov. 3 in Hancock (TG, LG) and New Orleans (AS); Tennessee Warbler Nov. 26 (TD) and Dec. 3 (PMcK), both in Baton Rouge; N. Parula Nov. 16 in Gulfport, Miss. (JT); Yellow Warbler Nov. 3 in Metairie, La. (SP), and Nov. 6 in Waveland, Miss. (JT, MH); Chestnut-sided Warbler Nov. 13 at New Orleans (NN) and Nov. 18 at Waveland (JT, et al.); Magnolia, Nov. 17 at New Orleans (RDP), Nov. 18 at Waveland (JT)—10 individuals; Black-throated Blue, Oct. 17 at Wheeler N.W.R., Ala. (AM), and Nov. 6 at Waveland (JT et al.); Black-throated Green Warbler, Nov. 13 at New Orleans (NN) and Nov. 19 at Gulfport (JT); Blackburnian, Nov. 7 at New Orleans (NN) and Nov. 17 at Gulfport (JT); Yellow-throated, Nov. 10 in Plaquemines (RDP, NN); Bay-breasted, Nov. 6 at New Orleans (NN), Nov. 15 at Gulf Breeze, Fla. (RLB), and Nov. 17 at Gulfport (JT); Black-and-white, Nov. 10 in Plaquemines (RDP, NN) and Lafitte N.P. (CL); Am. Redstart, Nov. 16 at Lafitte N.P. (CL) and Grand Isle, La. (AS, GS), as well as Nov. 18 at Waveland (JT, MH); Worm-eating Warbler, Nov. 2 at Waveland (GM) and Nov. 10 in Plaquemines (RDP); N. Waterthrush, Nov. 10 in Plaquemines (NN, RDP); Louisiana Waterthrush, Oct. 30 in New Orleans (NN); Hooded Warbler, Nov. 12 at Waveland (JT, MH et al.) and Nov. 19 at New Orleans (MM); and Yellow-breasted Chat at Gulf Breeze Nov. 1 (JWB, RLB).

Other notable records included 150+ Tennessee Warblers at Waveland Nov. 2, eight N. Parulas on the late date of Nov. 10 in Plaquemines (RDP, NN), large numbers of Magnolia Warblers in coastal Louisiana and Mississippi at the time of Hurricane Juan (100+ several places), and an unprecedented number of Cape May Warblers, heretofore almost unknown in fall migra-

tion, including one in Davidson, Tenn., Sept. 22 (MLB), another in Cameron Oct. 26 (MM, RDP, DM, NN), 25 at Waveland Nov. 2 (TG, LG), and one in Washington, Ark., Nov. 7 (MML). An "Audubon's" Warbler was seen in Hancock Nov. 3 (TG, LG) and a Black-throated Gray Warbler was there the day before (TG, LG). A Palm Warbler in Washington, Ark., Oct. 15 (JCN) furnished the first local fall record. A Bay-breasted Warbler Aug. 25 at Grand Isle, La. (RDP, NN), was earliest ever by nearly a month for s.e. Louisiana; numbers in coastal areas in the week following Juan were in the 30-60 range, topped by an estimate of 170 in Waveland, Miss., Nov. 2 (JT, MH, GM). A Blackpoll Warbler, carefully described, was seen in Hancock, Miss., Nov. 2 (TG, LG). Earliest ever for s.e. Louisiana was a Worm-eating Warbler in Lafitte N.P., Aug. 3 (LV, fide DM). Given that Swainson's Warblers are hard to find after breeding season, one that was still singing Sept. 7 & 18 at Logtown, Miss. (JT, DK, MH) was of interest. Ten Mourning Warblers in the coastal cheniers of Cameron Sept. 1 (KR) may have been a Louisiana record number, and one was seen in coastal Hancock, Miss., where considered accidental, Sept. 28 (MH, JT, DK). A MacGillivray's Warbler collected in Cameron Sept. 15 (SWC, DLD, GHR)\* provided the 3rd record for Louisiana.

**TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES** — Summer Tanagers lingering well into November were latest ever in s.e. Louisiana, Nov. 10 in Plaquemines (NN, RDP) where five were seen and in St. Tammany Nov. 17 (JH); latest for the Mississippi coast was one in Gulfport Nov. 30 (JT). Also latest ever for s.e. Louisiana were two Scarlet Tanagers in Plaquemines Nov. 10 (RDP, NN). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks lingered into mid-November, the latest records being Nov. 17 at Grand Isle, La. (AS, GS), W. Baton Rouge, La. (GJ), and Hancock, Miss. (LS). The three records of Black-headed Grosbeaks submitted were of singles in Hancock, Miss., Oct. 2 (JT, DK), Cameron Nov. 8 (SWC)\*, and Ft. Morgan, Ala., Nov. 10 (GDJ, DGJ). Indigo Buntings could be found well into mid-November, and numbers in the first week of the month, as Juan went inland, were in the hundreds in the coastal sections; Painted Buntings lingered as well. One in Jefferson, Ala., Sept. 28 (BG) established only the 2nd fall inland occurrence for the state. Two Rufous-crowned Sparrows found in Yell, Ark., Nov. 16 (WMS, MWh) were the first for this county and established the westernmost occurrence for Arkansas. Records of Clay-colored Sparrows were submitted from coastal Louisiana, L. Millwood, Ark., where two were seen on Oct. 19 (CM), and Ft. Morgan, Ala. Louisiana records Sept. 28-Oct. 30 involved at least 18 individuals, with a high of seven in Orleans Oct. 6 (RDP, NN).

Sharp-tailed Sparrows are rarely reported in migration through Arkansas and middle Tennessee; this fall one was seen Sept. 29-30 in Davidson (CGD, RCE, SJS, m.ob.), and another was at Cross Creeks N.W.R., Tenn., Oct. 1 (JCR, DWB). Lincoln's Sparrows, which winter regularly only as far e. as coastal Louisiana, were encountered Oct. 31-Nov. 2 in Santa Rosa and Escambia, Fla., and Oct. 31 in Jackson, Miss. (MH), coinciding with the landfall of Juan. There were 3 reports of Bobolinks, rare in the Region in fall: Aug. 31 in Benton, Ark. (MML), for the 2nd record for the Arkansas Ozarks, Sept. 29 in Cameron (SWC, DLD, GHR), and Oct. 18 in Lafourche (AS, GS). A singing W. Meadowlark at Abbeville, Miss., Oct. 2 (GK) was thought to provide the first record for n.c. Mississippi. There were 3 records of single Yellow-headed Blackbirds: Sept. 25 (KR et al.) and Oct. 27 (DLD, SWC, JVR, GHR) at Cameron, La., and Nov. 2 in Ocean Springs, Miss. (SG, JT et al.). An Orchard Oriole in Davidson, Tenn., Sept. 29 (DFV) was latest ever for the Nashville area, and one in Hancock, Miss., Nov. 18 (JT, MH) was late by nearly 2 months. An imm. ♀ Scott's Oriole in Cameron, La., Oct. 26 (SWC, GHR, DLD)\* represented about the 9th record for the state. Purple Finches were early and in numbers in the n. part of the Region, appearing in Tennessee in Stewart by Oct. 2 (JCR) and at Birmingham, Ala., Oct. 29 (MHu); they reached the Alabama Gulf coast by Nov. 5 (GDJ), the earliest ever there, and s. Louisiana by Nov. 20. House Finches continued their spread,

as documented by four at Jonesboro, Ark., Aug. 11 (CS, RS, EP, EJ) and 10-12 at Starkville, Miss., Nov. 29 (JA). The presence of small flocks of Pine Siskins, containing one to five birds, by Oct. 12 in middle Tennessee (*vide* SJS) signaled the start of at least a mild invasion. Evening Grosbeaks reached middle Tennessee in flocks of 20-30 birds by Oct. 26 (RCH), were first seen in Arkansas Nov. 4 (RT), and had reached Birmingham, Ala., by Nov. 6 (HAW, SB). An invasion of sorts was clearly under way.

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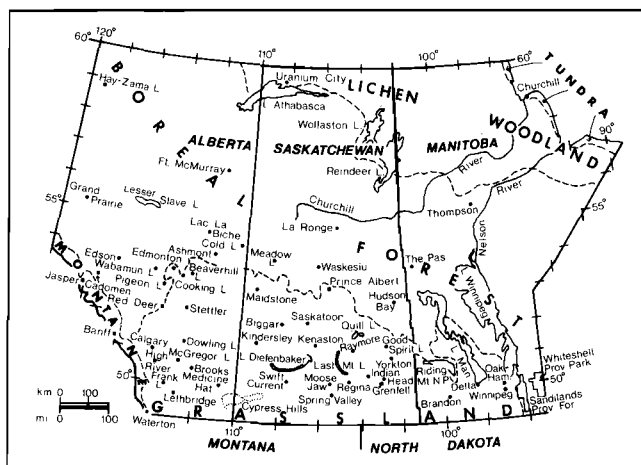
## PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

Wayne C. Harris

The weather was not normal for this time of year. We were hard pressed to call anything an "Indian Summer." The generally hot and dry July led into an extremely dry August, then came September and the much needed rain. September is usually the harvest season for most of the farm crops grown in this area and the crops decimated by the drought literally sat in the fields and rotted. It was not until the end of October that the sun returned and what was left to be harvested could be removed from the fields. How does this relate to birds? Well, ask any Mallard or Sandhill Crane. The field feeding ducks, geese and Sandhill Cranes flourished on the tremendous amounts of swathed but unharvested grain lying in the fields. They certainly must have been in excellent condition when they moved south with the arrival of cold weather in early November. And cold weather it was. Temperatures plummeted to  $-20^{\circ}\text{F}$ ,  $-30^{\circ}\text{F}$ , and finally  $-40^{\circ}\text{F}$  by the end of the month. Water bodies froze over rapidly forcing waterfowl south, and the cold temperatures either forced our normal fall stragglers south or they simply perished in the cold as virtually none was left at the end of November.

In summary it was cold and for the most part wet. In fact it was the wettest and one of the coldest falls this century in southern Manitoba. It was also one of the poorest migrations in years with fewer than usual rarities.

**LOONS THROUGH HERONS** — A possible Yellow-billed Loon was seen on Lake Diefenbaker Nov. 9 just prior to freeze-up (WCH). Arctic Loons, now considered rare but regular fall migrants, were seen on Blackstrap L., Sept. 14 and Oct. 20; Broderick, Sask. Oct. 30, all singles and two at Regina Beach Nov. 10 (CJE, SJS, JAW, BL, TR). A group of 55 Black-crowned Night-Herons on a marsh near St. Leons, Man., was a larger concentration than is normally encountered (CC, PS).



**WATERFOWL** — Whistling Swans continue to increase in numbers in the area south of Moose Jaw—Swift Current in s Saskatchewan presumably from areas around Saskatoon, where they concentrated 15 years ago. At a relatively small lake near Spring Valley 2000 ± were present at the end of September (FB). Four Greater White-fronted Geese at Whitewater Lake, Man., Aug. 14 was 2 weeks earlier than normal (CC). A Brant was present at Last Mountain Lake W.M.U., Sept. 14-16 (GWB). The thousands of Snow Geese seen at White Bear were the most ever seen in that area as this species usually frequents the lakes farther n., avoiding the river habitat present in this area (SOJ). American Black Ducks were more common this fall with 6 reports from the Saskatoon area, 11 from Raymore and a peak of 68 at Oak Hammock, the highest at the latter since 1978 (CJE, MAG, WCH, RFK). The only Greater Scaup reports were from the Calgary area with six Oct. 15 and five Nov. 11 (RS, EM, JS). Single Harlequin Ducks were seen at Calgary Oct. 13, Saskatoon



Sept 7-8, and near Regina Beach Nov 11 (JS, MDG, SJS, CA) Barrow's Goldeneyes are either increasing dramatically e. of the foothills or more birders are spending time watching and actually identifying them. I suspect the latter. There was one Oct. 20 followed by seven on Blackstrap Lake Oct. 26 and 5 sightings Nov 2-17 at Regina Beach (BL, TR). On Nov. 16 at Regina Beach, a strange duck that appeared to be a hybrid between a goldeneye and a Hooded Merganser was described in detail by Luterbach. Nature defies the impossible.

**DIURNAL RAPTORS** — One of the most unexpected sightings of the past few years would have to be the **Mississippi Kite** found at Regina Aug. 12 (TR, m.ob., ph.). The bird remained until Aug. 18 and was in almost adult plumage with only sparse remnants of immature plumage leading to the conclusion that the bird was in its second year. This record represents a first record for the Prairie Provinces with the most northerly record in the Great Plains of North America previous to this record being from South Dakota.

Northern Harrier numbers were lower possibly in response to low vole populations over much of this Region (HC, WCH). Northern Goshawks were reported from most of the localities s. of the forested areas, an increase over the past few years (SOJ, WCH). Large numbers of Swainson's Hawks were seen in the Moose Jaw—Spring Valley area with 50 at the latter Sept. 10 and 300-400 at the former Sept. 21 (FB, DP).

**GROUSE THROUGH CRANES** — Ruffed and Spruce grouse numbers remained very low throughout and Sharp-tailed Grouse numbers were also down, probably owing to the harsh winter of 1984-1985 (CC, WCH). A flock of 3000 Sandhill Cranes Sept. 2 at Whitewater Lake was a good count for s.e. Manitoba (GO).

**SHOREBIRDS** — A late Hudsonian Godwit was found at Oak Hammock Oct. 27 (KG). A flock of 300+ Marbled Godwits was present at Spring Valley Aug. 4-10 (FB). Single W. Sandpipers were reported at Old Wives Lake s. of Moose Jaw, Aug. 5, 6 & 17 (MJL) and one was photographed n. of Radisson, Sask., Sept. 19 (CJE) At Calgary, where they are more regularly reported, the following dates and numbers were recorded: two Aug. 10, three Aug. 17, and singles Sept. 14 & 28 (JS).

**JAEGERS, GULLS AND TERNS** — A Parasitic Jaeger was seen at the s. end of Turtle Lake Sept. 2 (MC), but far rarer was the Pomarine Jaeger seen at Gardiner Dam, Sask., Oct. 31 (JAW). Two Thayer's Gulls were seen at Patricia Beach, Man., Oct. 26 and a single at Victoria Beach Nov. 2 (RP, BB, RFK). An imm. Sabine's Gull was present at Blackstrap L., Sept. 7-15 (CJE, HL, ph) Alberta's first **Little Gull** record was of an adult and an immature at Namaka L., near Calgary Sept. 22-29 (JT, m.ob., ph) At Lac des Arcs, w. of Calgary, a Glaucous Gull was found Nov. 2 (JS, RS), while in Manitoba there were singles at Victoria Beach Oct. 19 and Oak Hammock Oct. 25 (RFK, MGS). Waterton Lakes N.P. recorded its first Caspian Tern Sept. 21, a species which is rare anywhere in Alberta (RS).

**PIGEONS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — A Band-tailed Pigeon was seen at Good Spirit Lake Aug. 28 making this the 3rd consecutive year that this species has been seen in Saskatchewan (WJA). A dead Rufous Hummingbird was seen near Lethbridge Aug. 9 (*fide* MO's) and another was seen at Livelong, Sask., Aug. 8 (SP).

**WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS** — A Black-backed Woodpecker at Saskatoon Oct. 21 seemingly indicated that at least a few of this species have moved S again this year (JBG). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher Aug. 14, n. of Maidstone, Sask., was w. of its normal migration routes in the province (CJE). A very intriguing report of what may have been a Gray Flycatcher was received. The bird seen Aug. 27 was observed for about 5 minutes and a detailed description was submitted (MDG). However,

considering the difficulty of identifying this species this record has to be considered hypothetical.

**JAYS THROUGH WRENS** — Blue Jays were more widespread and more abundant than usual (PLB, WCH). Again this fall considerable numbers of Com. Ravens were reported s. of the forest (WCH, WJA). The reason for this sudden regularity s. of the forest after the breeding season is unknown but whatever the reason, ravens have not been seen with such regularity on the prairies since the 1800s and the times of the Bison. Red-breasted Nuthatches staged an unusual early fall southward invasion. At Raymore, where the norm is less <10 observations for the entire fall they were seen daily from the beginning of August to late October and then sporadically to the end of November (WCH, SML). The amazing part was that it was not just one or two individuals seen regularly but large groups with daily totals reaching 30+ in late August. At Saskatoon, 79 were seen Aug. 24, and on Aug. 29, a total of 23 was seen in one small area (CJE, JAW). Nor was this an instance of isolated occurrence as virtually every locality in the Region reported the species and most indicated that the overall numbers were greater than usual (RFK, MB, PLB, WJA, FH). A rarity at any time in the Calgary area but totally unexpected on Nov. 11 was a Sedge Wren (RS).

**THRUSHES THROUGH CATBIRD** — At Calgary all three species of bluebirds were reported at the same time, the normal being the Mountain, the rare being a ♂ Eastern and three imm. Westerns all Aug. 26 (DE). A Townsend's Solitaire was found dead in Stonewall, Man., Oct. 13, a rare species in that province (KG). Gray Catbirds, normally gone from this region by late September, were reported at Pinawa Nov. 11 and at Brandon Nov. 17 (C. Aitken, MM).

**VIREOS AND WARBLERS** — The vireo and warbler migration was lackluster with few rarities and virtually no large numbers reported. A Yellow-throated Vireo Aug. 13 at Regina furnished a first local record and follows the increase in sightings farther e. as reported during the summer (RK). Single Philadelphia Vireos were seen n. of Maidstone Aug. 1 & 14, farther w. than usual (CJE), as was a N. Parula seen at Saskatoon Aug. 10 (CJE). A Chestnut-sided Warbler seen n. of Maidstone Aug. 15 was of interest as the species is considered rare anywhere w. of Saskatoon (CJE). A **Golden-winged Warbler** at Medicine Hat Sept. 28 was very unusual (RG).

**FRINGILLIDS** — Like the warblers, the sparrow migration was very poor in this area. A Swamp Sparrow found dead near White Bear in early November provided an exceptionally late record (SOJ). At Bromhead, three ad. Field Sparrows were seen Sept. 7 (CB). There were two Smith's Longspurs seen at Fort McMurray, Alta., Sept. 4 and there were 25 at Medicine Hat Sept. 28 (JRG, RG). A Rosy Finch at Pinawa Nov. 20 furnished the first record in Manitoba since 1979 (*fide* RFK). A House Finch was seen near Oakbank, Man., Oct., 5 (GDG). There was a relatively heavy movement of winter finches southward towards the end of November, which may be better evaluated by the end of the winter season.

**OBSERVERS** — (provincial compilers in boldface; local compilers in italics) C. Adam, W. and J. Anaka (WJA), B. Ball, P. L. Beckie, G. W. Beyersbergen, C. Bjorklund, F. Bogdan, M. Carlson, D. Collister, H. Copland, C. Cuthbert, R. Dixon, D. Elphinstone, C. J. Escott, K. Gardner, R. Gardner, M. D. Gilliland, J. B. Gollop, M. A. Gollop, G. D. Grief, J. R. Gulley, W. C. Harris, F. Haug, J. D. Hayward, S. O. Jordheim, E. W. Kern, R. F. Koes, R. Kreba, S. M. Lamont, H. Lane, M. J. Lewis, B. Luterbach, E. Mah-Lin, M. McCowan, G. Ogilvie, M. O'Shea, R. Parsons, J. H. Paton, S. Pavka, N. Postey, D. Pyle, T. Riffel, S. J. Shadick, M. G. Siepman, J. Steeves, P. Stonehouse, R. Storms, J. Thompson, J. A. Wedgwood.—WAYNE C. HARRIS, Box 414, Raymore, Saskatchewan. SOA 3JO.

## NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

David O. Lambeth

The season was cool and wet throughout, breaking the prolonged drought in Montana, where Lewistown received 11 inches of rain during August and September. A frontal system September 18 brought an influx of waterfowl, hawks, and sparrows. Otherwise, the early migration was dull. A major snowstorm in early October dumped 15 inches of slushy snow in Ward County, North Dakota, that may have weakened many birds and accounted for a number of late records there (GBB). The weather then turned mild until November 8-11 when a cold spell resulted in rapid freezeup across the Region. The last one-third of November was so bitterly cold and snowy that the total snowfall and temperature averages for the month ranked first to third in many localities. Glasgow, Montana, set record low temperatures for six consecutive days, the highs at Billings and Great Falls on the 26th were below the previous record low for that date, Grand Forks received two feet of snow, and Pembina, North Dakota, recorded a low of  $-37^{\circ}\text{F}$  during this period. Sprawling Lake Sakakawea iced over by November 30, nearly a month ahead of schedule. With such severe conditions, only the hardiest of species might be expected to remain for the winter season.

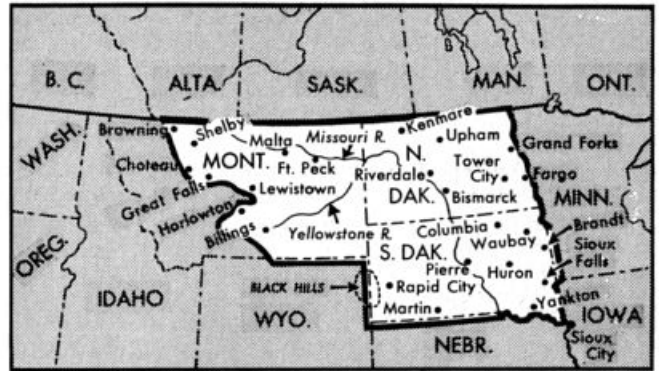
Among the highlights was North Dakota's first record for Pygmy Nuthatch.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — Place names in *italics* are counties.

**LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL** — A Red-throated Loon at Angustora Res., S.D., provided only the 2nd state record (RCR, *fide* JB), while North Dakota's 3rd Pacific Loon was at Bowman Haley Res., Oct. 27 (D & CG). The 27 Com. Loons at Ft. Peck, Mont., Oct. 6 (CC) exceeded the seasonal totals for the Dakotas. Red-necked Grebes were still feeding young Sept. 7 near St. John, N.D. (DLK), while one on L. Sakakawea Nov. 16 was probably the latest ever for the state (GBB). The Clark's Grebe reported as Montana's 2nd record in the Summer report was actually Carlson's 2nd at Ft. Peck. The species was also observed there Sept. 21 (CC), and near Billings Nov. 7 (BR, HC). Double-crested Cormorants peaked at 3000 at Waubay N.W.R., Oct. 8 (RB). Great Egrets ranged n.w. as far as Ward, N.D., and 18 were at Kelly's Slough, N.D., Aug. 4-Sept. 18. Some of this year's exceptional number of Snowy Egrets remained in North Dakota to mid-September while one in Kingsbury, S.D., Oct. 21 was the latest ever (LW). Up to 70 Cattle Egrets, including several immatures, were seen during August in pastures adjacent to their suspected nesting area near Minnewaukan, N.D. (SL, GBB). A count of 105 was made Sept. 1 near a nesting colony in South Dakota (DS, MS).

This was the year the popular press emphasized the long-term decline in the numbers of certain waterfowl species. Such declines are no surprise to those who have witnessed the continual and deplorable loss of wetlands in this Region. However, the populations of certain species which nest n. of the agricultural belt, for example, the Snow Goose, are at record levels.

After freezeup, November 8-11, 4000-5000 Tundra Swans were recorded each at Devils L. and Stump L., N.D. (GBB, MJ), and Waubay N.W.R., S.D. (RB). Tewaukon N.W.R., N.D., recorded a record high of 64,000 Snow Geese Nov. 8 (GE), and 250,000 were at Lord's L., Rolette, N.D., Oct. 27 (RM, GBB). Unharvested grain appeared to hold the geese until freezeup when an unprecedented migration down the Missouri in South Dakota occurred Nov. 9 (GS, DLL). A Ross' Goose was taken by a hunter near Lake Alice N.W.R., N.D., Oct. 7 (DJ), and one was on L. Elmo near Billings, Mont., Nov. 7 (BR).



In general, reporters to this journal leave the responsibility of monitoring duck populations to fish and wildlife personnel. However, among the more notable counts received were 40,000 Mallards at Upper Souris Nov. 9, 15,000 Blue-winged Teal on one lagoon cell at Grand Forks Sept. 2, and 3500 Am. Wigeon, 15,000 N. Shovelers, and 5000 Canvasbacks in early October at Waubay N.W.R. (RB). Aerial surveys of Devils L., N.D., indicated that 200,000 or more Lesser Scaup staged there. Oldsquaws and Surf Scoters were again reported from each of the 3 states, and there is no longer any doubt that they are rare but regular migrants through the Region. Black Scoters were observed at Grand Forks Oct. 5 (DOL), and near Minot Nov. 1 & 8 (RM). A ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye was seen at Rapid City for the 8th consecutive winter (JB), and eight were at Ft. Peck Oct. 24 (CC). The 43 Red-breasted Mergansers at Upper Souris Nov. 2 were exceptional numbers for fall (RM, GBB).

**RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS** — There were 20 reports of Ospreys. Area editors considered Bald Eagle numbers high, with adults and immatures in equal proportions. A most unusual observation was the killing of a pheasant by a N. Harrier in Charles Mix, S.D. (DS). At least 15 N. Goshawks were reported with some, if identified correctly, appearing as early as Sept. 1. Broad-winged Hawks were found in September at Minot and as far w. as Ft. Peck (CC) and Malta, Mont. (DP).

A flock of 23 Swainson's Hawks near Grand Forks Sept. 18 was considered unusual that far e. (DOL). Numbers of Rough-leggeds were low, but early sightings included one Aug. 21 at C.M. Russell in Montana (LM) and Sept. 7 at LaCreek N.W.R., S.D. (GS). A total of 23 Am. Kestrels was found Sept. 1 near Denbigh, N.D. The 17 reports of Peregrines were scattered throughout the period. A large falcon with a broken wing found near Grand Forks in late October was identified as an imm. Gyrfalcon at the rehabilitation facility in St. Paul (*fide* R. Crawford). A Gyrfalcon was at Ft. Peck Nov. 30 (CC).

Ruffed Grouse were drumming near St. John, N.D., Oct. 5 and Nov. 3 (DLK) while Sharp-tailed Grouse were dancing at the N. Unit of Roosevelt N.P., Oct. 25 (SS). The only report of N. Bobwhite came from Jackson, S.D. (KG). At least 20,000 Am. Coots were at Upper Souris in mid-September (RM). A Whooping Crane heard over Minot Sept. 23 (GBB) may have been the same individual seen at Long Lake N.W.R., Sept. 26. Fifteen Whoopers were found in South Dakota with a surprising number (eight) e. of the Missouri R.

Shorebird migration was generally rated as poor. A dozen Semipalmated Plovers were seen Sept. 2 at Bowman-Haley Res. (JB), a potential migrant "trap" for water-associated species in that area of North Dakota. A Lesser Yellowlegs in Charles Mix, S.D., was the latest ever (DS). A Willet with an injured foot remained at Grand Forks through Oct. 2, a month beyond the usual departure. Ten Hudsonian Godwits were at Fargo Sept. 28 (GN), and this species may prove to be a regular fall migrant.

A Ruddy Turnstone at Fargo Nov 10 was very late (GN) One ad and two juv. Red Knots were at Grand Forks Aug. 18 (DOL), and singles were seen at Devils L., Sept. 7 (GBB) and Fargo Sept. 11 (MB). In addition to the usual flocks of 100+ Sanderlings found at the Fargo and Grand Forks lagoons, the species was found farther w. with 18 at Bowman-Haley Res., Sept. 2 (JB), one at Lewistown Aug. 14 for a first record in L19 (LM), and four Oct 19 at Ft. Peck (CC).

Semipalmated and Least sandpipers in *Ward*, N.D., Sept. 28 were the latest ever (RM). Pectoral Sandpipers were found a week after freezeup with one in a ditch below Garrison Dam Nov 16 (GBB) and another at Fargo Nov. 17 (GN). Even later were the two Dunlins in *Minnehaha*, S.D., Nov. 23 (GB). Fall Dunlins are normally found in the e. Dakotas in winter plumage in October, but this year a juv.-plumaged bird was observed at Grand Forks Sept. 21 (DOL). Sightings of Buff-breasted Sandpipers included three at Fargo Aug. 28 (MB), three in juv. plumage at Grand Forks Sept. 2 (DOL), and six in *Jackson*, S.D., Aug. 27 for only the 2nd state record w. of the Missouri R. (KG). A Com Snipe was found Nov. 19 in an open spring at Nelson Res., Mont (D. Hultman). Excellent photos were obtained of the ♀ Red Phalarope reported previously at Bowdoin N.W.R., July 22 (J. Stutzman).

**GULLS THROUGH OWLS** — Counts of Bonaparte's Gulls exceeded 500 at Devils L. in October, and they were last seen at Yankton, S.D., Nov. 22 (WH). Two first-year and one 2nd-year Thayer's Gulls were below Garrison Dam Nov. 9 (GBB, RM). A decision regarding an unidentified gull (Iceland vs. Thayer's) at Yankton awaited the return of hopefully-definitive photos (WH) A **Black-legged Kittiwake** was compared closely with nearby Bonaparte's Gulls at Ft. Randall, S.D., Nov. 15 (DS), and an imm. Sabine's Gull at the Grand Forks lagoons Sept. 29-Oct. 5 provided the 3rd record there (SL). Caspian Terns were found in North Dakota at Sully's Hill Sept. 7 (RM), Fargo Sept. 11 (CS), and Arrowwood N.W.R., Sept. 17 (RaH). A Least Tern at the Sioux Falls lagoons Aug. 17 was outside the normal range (GB) while a Black Tern in *Charles Mix*, S.D., Oct. 28 was the latest ever by 3 weeks (DS).

A red-phased E. Screech-Owl at Grand Forks Nov. 2 was unexpected, as only the gray phase had been noted previously. An influx of "Arctic" Great Horned Owls had reached as far s. as *Dewey*, S.D., by Oct. 15 (DEK). The first Snowy Owl was at Salyer Oct. 3 (GAE). A N. Pygmy-Owl was in a yard in Joliet, Mont, Nov. 11 (N. Duke). Census of a breeding colony of Burrowing Owls in *Custer*, S.D., totaled 24 (MM). No Long-eared Owls were reported, but it was the best season for Short-eareds in several seasons with one count of 50 Nov. 23 in *Bottineau* and *Renville*, N.D. (B. Weber). The only N. Saw-whet Owl was heard Aug. 3 in the N. Unit of Roosevelt N.P. (SS).

**NIGHTHAWKS THROUGH WARBLERS** — A Com. Nighthawk at Grand Forks Oct. 10 was exceptionally late, while a Whip-poor-will there Sept. 21 provided a first fall record (DOL). An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Ft. Peck Sept. 4 was the first documented for L10 (CC), and an **Eastern Phoebe** at Lewistown Aug. 13 was Montana's 4th (LM). A fledgling Great Crested Flycatcher in *Ward*, N.D., furnished the first confirmation of nesting there (GBB). Purple Martins peaked at 2000 and 5000 in Fargo and Grand Forks, respectively, and lingered until Sept 26 at Grand Forks. Upper Souris N.W.R. hosted 20,000 Barn Swallows in mid-September (RM).

A few Com. Ravens were seen in n.c. North Dakota in early November (DH, GBB). Perhaps the strongest appearance of Red-breasted Nuthatches in 10 years began in early August. The first record for **Pygmy Nuthatch** in North Dakota occurred Aug. 17 in *Ward* where it was both seen and heard calling (GBB, RM). A Winter Wren was banded in *Gregory*, S.D., Oct. 17 (GS), and another was seen in *Codington* Sept. 21 (J. Wylie). A poor migration of Golden-crowned Kinglets was seemingly over by the end of October.

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were present in *Lincoln*, S.D.,

through Sept 18 (LA) Eastern Bluebirds numbered 50 in *McHenry*, N.D., Sept. 14. A total of four Gray-cheeked Thrushes was found in Minot Sept. 20-Oct. 4, and one was banded in *Gregory*, S.D., Sept. 26 (GS). A Varied Thrush reached Bismarck, N.D., by Oct. 1 (PK), and one was in Pierre, S.D., Nov. 11 (D. Backlund). Water Pipits were last recorded at Grand Forks Nov. 10. Sprague's Pipits were carrying food near Dunseith, N.D., as late as Aug. 18 (DLK). A Loggerhead Shrike at Minot Sept. 21 was the latest by 23 days, whereas the earliest N. Shrike for the Region was at New Town, N.D., Oct. 8 (BH).

A Philadelphia Vireo was banded in *Brown*, S.D., Oct. 7 (DT), while one at Minot Oct. 10 was the latest ever there by 5 days. Approximately 40 Red-eyed Vireos were in Turtle River S.P., Aug. 23 (GSL). An Orange-crowned Warbler at Minot Oct. 31 was the latest ever by 18 days (GBB). Rare records for warblers in South Dakota included Golden-winged in *Minnehaha* Aug 30 and Sept. 22 (GB). Parulas in *Lincoln* Sept. 8 (MS) and *Charles Mix* Sept. 22 (DS), and a Black-throated Blue in *Roberts* Sept. 16 (BKH). The latter species was also observed in North Dakota in *Ward* Sept. 8 (GBB) and Fargo Sept. 21 (GN). Cape May Warblers were reported for North Dakota in Fargo Aug. 26 (MB), Sully's Hill Sept. 7 (RM), *Ward* Sept. 8 (GBB), and New Town Sept. 18 (BC). A **Canada Warbler** photographed near Malta Aug. 23 provided only the 3rd record for Montana and the first documented by photo (DP).

**CARDINAL THROUGH EVENING GROSBEEK** — Northern Cardinals may be increasing in the Bismarck area where they were present at 3 feeders (RNR), and four were banded in *Brown*, S.D. (DT). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Bismarck Oct 19 was exceptionally late (DR). Blue Grosbeaks were singing in *Spink*, S.D., Aug. 9 (P. Martsching), and were feeding fledglings in *Charles Mix* Aug. 23 (DS). Lark Sparrows, like a number of other species at the n. limit of their range, usually disappear soon after the young fledge. Thus one at Upper Souris Oct. 27 provided Berkey's first fall record. A Vesper Sparrow at Fargo Nov. 3 was very late (LF) as was a Savannah Sparrow at Salyer Oct. 27 (RM). South Dakota's first "Gray-headed" Junco e. of the Missouri R. appeared in *Brown* (DT), and another was in Rapid City Nov. 18 (NW).

Flocks of 30+ Smith's Longspurs were seen Sept. 29 in *McHenry*, N.D., Oct. 5 at Upper Souris (RM, GBB), and Oct. 19 in *Deuel*, S.D. (BKH). Rosy Finches were present in South Dakota by Oct. 24, and counts exceeding 200 were made in November in the Black Hills (NW) and in the North Dakota Badlands (RM). It was a surprise to see a repeat of last year's invasion by Pine Grosbeaks, beginning by Nov. 1 at Denbigh, N.D. (RM). The 2 species of crossbills were reported only for the Minot and New Town, N.D., areas. Purple Finches were widely present in good numbers after being nearly absent last winter. Cassin's Finches were observed in *Fall River*, S.D. (MP), Rapid City (NR), and Lewistown, Mont. (LM). The e. and w. populations of House Finch may be expected to meet in the e. Dakotas. Thus the reports of an imm./♀ bird at Grand Forks in August (GL), and of one banded in *Brown*, S.D., Nov. 12 (DT), were of particular interest. Common Redpolls were present in large numbers for the 3rd consecutive year, appearing Oct. 9 at both Minot and Lewistown, Mont. (LM). Their arrival in *Roberts*, S.D., Oct. 27 was the earliest ever (BKH). Dependent, fledgling Pine Siskins appeared at a Grand Forks feeder on the surprisingly late date of Aug. 31. The best flight of Evening Grosbeaks in years occurred from mid-October through early November. Most flocks appeared at feeders for only a few days before moving on.

**CITED OBSERVERS** (Area Editors in Boldface). MONTANA — **Chuck Carlson**, Helen Carlson, Larry Malone, D. Prellwitz, Bill Roney. NORTH DAKOTA — **Gordon B. Berkey**, **Mary Bergan**, Gary Erickson, Gary A. Eslinger, Larry Falk, Dave & Carolyn Griffiths, Bernice Houser, Don Hultman, Dave Jones, Mike Jacobs, Donald L. Kubischta, Paul Konrad, **David O. Lambeth**, Greg Lambeth, Sharon Lambeth, Ron Martin, Gary Nielsen, Donna Rieckmann, Robert N. Randall, Carol Spurbeck, Skip Snow. SOUTH DAKOTA — Leon

Anderson, Jocie Baker, Gil Blankespoor, Ralph Bryant, Ken Graupman, **Bruce K. Harris**, Willis Hall, Doug E. Kreger, Dennis L. Lengkeek, Michael Melius, Marjorie Parker, Richard C. Rosche, Dennis

Skadsen, Mark Skadsen, Galen Steffan, Dan Tallman, Lois Wells, Nat Whitney.—**DAVID O. LAMBETH**, 1909 20th Ave S, Grand Forks, ND 58201.

## SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Frances C. Williams

The season was unusual for the many "earliest ever" records, more than could be included in this report, but there were also many late migrants. There was another invasion of montane and northern species, but the crossbills, bluebirds, solitaires, and Cassin's Finches of last fall were replaced by Pinyon Jays, Mountain Chickadees, Pygmy Nuthatches, Golden-crowned Kinglets, and Evening Grosbeaks.

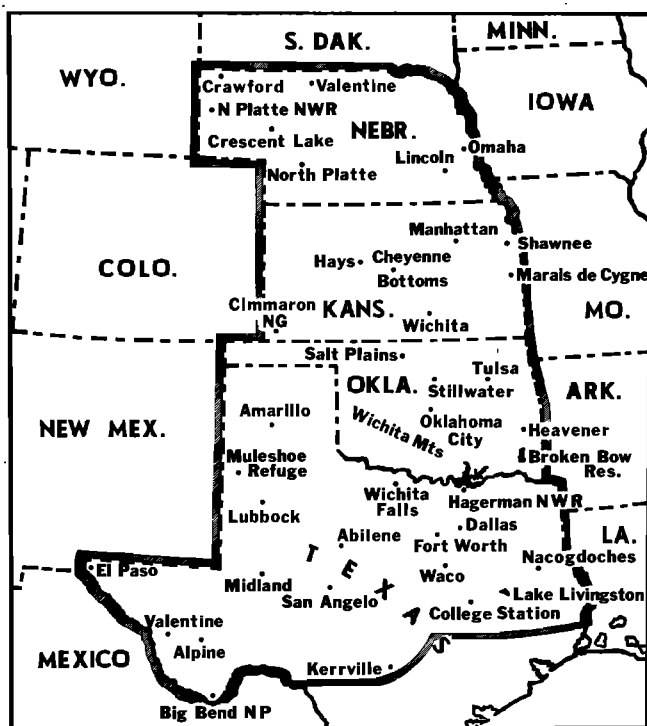
At El Paso, Zimmer reported "the most exciting fall migration ever," with 29 species of shorebirds, nine species of waders, and nine species of gulls and terns. There was also an excellent migration in the Omaha area, where twenty species of warblers were seen. In the vast area between these two cities, birding was generally good and the last ten days of September were outstanding.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — B.B.N.P. = Big Bend Nat'l Park; G.M.N.P. = Guadalupe Mountains Nat'l Park; Hagerman = Hagerman Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Tex.; U.T.E.P. = University of Texas at El Paso. Place names in *italics* are counties.

**LOONS THROUGH STORKS** — A Red-throated Loon in *El Paso* Oct. 30 provided a new county record (BZ, JD). A Pacific Loon visited Cedar Bluff Res. in w. Kansas Nov. 23-27 (SS). The highest number of Com. Loons reported was 47 at Lake o' the Pines in e. Texas Nov. 23 (D & LB). At Bellevue, Neb., 400 Pied-billed Grebes congregated Sept. 29 (RG). A Horned Grebe at El Paso Aug. 28 was early and farther w. than usual. Red-necked Grebes were discovered in *Osage*, Kans., Nov. 8 (DB) and *Tulsa* Nov. 23 (SCa). There were at least eight W. Grebes in e. Nebraska and 25 in w. Kansas. The only one reported in Oklahoma was at Black Mesa S.P., Oct. 3 (MH). One in *Randall*, Tex., Aug. 24 was the earliest on record there (KS). The newly separated Clark's Grebe was recorded at *Cheyenne Bottoms* W.M.A., Kans., Aug. 31-Sept. 2 (m.ob.), and four were sighted at *Kirwin N.W.R.*, Kans., Oct. 19 (SS).

Six Am. White Pelicans which strayed to arid *Brewster*, Tex., Oct. 16 had a difficult time finding a large enough body of water on which to rest (SCo). Two Double-crested Cormorants in *Hudspeth* provided one of the few records for far w. Texas. A Double-crested Cormorant at *Lubbock* must have been of a literary turn, for he frequently perched on a corner of the Godeke Branch Library. Two Olivaceous Cormorants in *Linn*, Kans., Aug. 18 provided a new county record (LM, MC), and two near *Manhattan*, Kans., Aug. 22 were also noteworthy (TTC). Olivaceous Cormorants were common in n. Texas, with a peak of 12 at *L. Benbrook* Aug. 1 (CBH). Haynie was surprised to see one that still retained white plumes on its ear coverts as late as Oct. 26. An Anhinga was seen at *Dallas* Sept. 26 (TG).

An Am. Bittern was surprised on a *Bartlesville*, Okla., golf course Sept. 5 (EL). At *Oologah Res.*, *Nowata*, Okla., a Least Bittern flushed from cockleburs Sept. 28 (DV). Least Bitterns were tower fatalities in *Saunders*, Neb., Sept. 23 (JG), and one was discovered in B.B.N.P., Dec. 2 (JSt). A Great Egret on the salt flats of *Hudspeth*, Tex., Sept. 13-19 was surprising (OVO). There was a widespread N dispersal of Tricolored Herons in Texas and one reached *Tulsa* Aug. 25 (BB). One in *Hockley*, Tex., Aug. 4 provided a new county record (GJ). Reddish Egrets visited *Burleson*, Tex., Oct. 5 (KA, m.ob.) and *Balmorhea L.*, *Reeves*, Tex., Aug. 10 (DAS).



Flocks of Cattle Egrets comprising 300 birds were present near *El Paso* throughout the period. A congregation of herons in *Hudspeth* Aug. 26 included Yellow-crowned Night-Herons and Little Blue, Snowy, and Tricolored (BZ). A White Ibis fed with many herons and egrets at the Ft. Worth Nature Center Sept. 7 (MCa). An astounding 300 White-faced Ibises assembled in *Hudspeth* and *El Paso*. One remained at *Midland* as late as Nov. 29. Roseate Spoonbills were reported in *Jones*, Tex., Aug. 24 (BH), *Hagerman* Aug. 24-Sept. 4 (JHB, BV), and *Dallas* Sept. 12 (BV). A Wood Stork provided a first record for *Canadian*, Okla., Aug. 14-Sept. 3 (JP, FL). In *Hardin*, Tex., 150 Wood Storks were counted Sept. 26 (AM), 30 were in *Dallas* Sept. 12 (BV), five were in *Panola*, Tex., Aug. 6 (SaC), and one was in *Van Zandt*, Tex., Sept. 25 (RK).

**WATERFOWL, RAPTORS** — Nearly 300 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks assembled in *Uvalde*, Tex., Nov. 12 (E & KM). Other sightings included 15 at *Dallas* Sept. 2 (BV), 13 at *Keene*, Tex., Sept. 22 (CWE), and two in *Wagoner*, Okla., Aug. 30-Sept. 27 (JLN, JCH). Tundra Swans graced *Sarpy*, Neb., Nov. 10, *Platte*, Neb., Nov. 13, and *Washington*, Neb., Nov. 20. One in *Carson*, Tex., Nov. 16 was the earliest on record there (PA). A lone Trumpeter Swan in *Trego*, Kans., Nov. 27 was of unknown origin (SS). Snow Geese in e. Nebraska were said to be the most abundant "in living memory" (WJM). Ross' Geese were found in *Pottawatomie*, Kans., Nov. 13 (TTC), *Sequoyah N.W.R.*, Okla., Nov. 16 (JLN), *Castro*, Tex., Nov. 14 (GL), *Lubbock* Nov. 27-30 (ML), and *Hagerman* Nov. 9-30 (m.ob.). A Barnacle Goose (also of unknown origin) rested on a farm pond with 50 Canada Geese in *Caddo*, Okla., Nov. 20 (BE). Wood Ducks were reported in w. Texas at G.M.N.P., *El Paso*, *Armstrong*, and *Taylor*. A



*Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at Keene, Tex., Sept. 22, 1985.*  
Photo/Charles Easley.

well-described Garganey was sighted in the marshes at Sanford Dam, *Hutchinson, Tex.*, Nov. 22 (FC).

An eider at DeSoto N.W.R., *Washington, Neb.*, was believed to be a Com. Eider, but final determination was awaiting examination of the photographs by experts (BJR, M & EB). Oldsquaws were sighted at *Pierce, Neb.*, Nov. 19 (BJR), *Douglas, Neb.*, Nov. 26 (BJR), and *Lubbock* Nov. 28-30 (KR). Surf Scoters visited DeSoto N.W.R., Nov. 11-20 (BJR) and *Jefferson, Kans.*, Nov. 3 (MC, m.ob.). White-winged Scoters were observed at DeSoto Nov. 3-10 (m.ob.) and *Trego, Kans.*, Oct. 15 (SS). Hooded Mergansers moved into the Region in late November, with a peak of 50 in *Trego* Nov. 23 and single individuals as far w. as El Paso and B.B.N.P. A Red-breasted Merganser at B.B.N.P., Nov. 11-13 provided a first confirmed record there (AB *et al.*).

Two Black Vultures in *Hudspeth, Tex.*, Oct. 2 provided a first El Paso area record (BZ). More than 50 Ospreys were reported in the Region. In *Riley, Kans.*, 35 Mississippi Kites were counted Sept. 14 (TTC) and 41 were in 2 trees in Ft. Worth Aug. 25 (A & EB). The seldom-reported N. Goshawk was seen in *Washington, Neb.*, Oct. 5 (EV), B.B.N.P., Sept. 10 & 26 (AB, CS), and G.M.N.P., Oct. 26 (KV-R, FW). At El Paso, a Com. Black-Hawk was photographed Sept. 27 (BZ). A Red-shouldered Hawk in B.B.N.P., Aug. 26 was out of range and out of habitat (WS). A Broad-winged Hawk in *Morton, Kans.*, Sept. 21 was w. of the usual route of the species (SS, TTC). Few flocks of Broad-winged were seen: 668 at *Nacogdoches, Tex.*, Oct. 2, 188 at *Panola, Tex.*, Oct. 4, 78 in *Hardin, Tex.*, Sept. 28, and 50 in *Van Zandt, Tex.*, Sept. 25.

At least 2000 Swainson's Hawks were seen between Dumas and Dalhart in the Texas Panhandle Sept. 30. Other large congregations of Swainson's Hawks included 150 at Post, Tex., Sept. 29, 200 in *Jackson, Okla.*, Oct. 2, and 500 in *Glasscock, Tex.*, Oct. 15. Two Zone-tailed Hawks were discovered in G.M.N.P., Aug. 22 (BW). A Golden Eagle visited *Wyandotte, Kans.*, Nov. 29 (LM). A Merlin in *Barton, Kans.*, Sept. 1 was early. Only 12 Merlins and 20 Peregrine Falcons were reported in the Region. Peregrines were early in *Randall, Tex.*, Aug. 25 and *Midland* Aug. 24. Prairie Falcons were noted e. to *Douglas, Neb.*, *Tulsa*, and *Tarrant, Tex.*

**QUAIL THROUGH TERNS** — A Gambel's Quail in B.B.N.P., Sept. 7 provided one of the few recent records of the species there (ML). A Yellow Rail was a tower fatality in *Mead, Neb.*, Sept. 23 (JG). Virginia Rails were discovered at El Paso Oct. 2 (BZ) and *Uvalde, Tex.*, Nov. 12 (E & MP). An ad. Com. Moorhen with three juveniles provided a first breeding record in *Castro, Tex.*, Aug. 4 (KS). This species was found in *Kerr* and *Uvalde, Tex.*, in October. Sandhill Cranes visited *Sarpy, Neb.*, Sept. 18.

In *Howard, Tex.*, 15 Snowy Plovers Nov. 9 were late. A Piping Plover remained at *Platte, Neb.*, Aug. 1-Oct. 3 (BJR). Others were sighted at *Cheyenne Bottoms* Aug. 31, *Tulsa* Sept. 22, and

*Ft. Worth* Aug. 17. Five Mountain Plovers were seen Aug. 30 in *Cimarron, Okla.* (JAG), 50 were in *Randall, Tex.*, Nov. 14 (GL), and 47 rested in *Armstrong, Tex.*, Nov. 15 (PA). Sixteen Am. Avocets in *Riley, Kans.*, Nov. 2 were late. A Solitary Sandpiper at G.M.N.P., Sept. 6 provided a new park record (OVO). Two Upland Sandpipers in *Kerr* Sept. 11 were unusual (E & KM). Marbled Godwits visited *Hudspeth, Tex.*, Oct. 18, *Amarillo* Aug. 14-Sept. 17, and *Hagerman* Aug. 25. Red Knots were found in *Douglas, Neb.*, Aug. 17 (BJR), *Cheyenne Bottoms* Sept. 7 (SS), *Oklahoma City* Sept. 13 (JAG), *Dallas* Aug. 17 (HK), *Gray, Tex.*, Aug. 11 (KS), and *El Paso* Aug. 24 (BZ). Sanderlings stopped at *Oklahoma City* July 14-Oct. 5, *Gray* Aug. 22, and *El Paso* Sept. 16 and Oct. 18. Dunlins were found at *Cheyenne Bottoms* Oct. 26 and Nov. 14, *Oklahoma City* Oct. 9, *Hagerman* Oct. 20, *Uvalde* Oct. 3, *Dallas* Nov. 10, and *El Paso* Oct. 18 & 26.

Buff-breasted Sandpipers rested at *Cheyenne Bottoms* Aug. 31 and Sept. 7, *Norman, Okla.*, Sept. 6, *Tulsa* Sept. 8, *Ft. Worth* Aug. 13, and *Dallas* Sept. 2 & 14. American Woodcocks were found at *Oklahoma City* Sept. 21 and *Ft. Worth* Nov. 3. All 3 species of phalaropes fed at the *Elkhart* sewage ponds in *Morton, Kans.*, Sept. 21 (SS, TTC). Both Red and Red-necked phal-



*Red Phalarope at Lake Hefner, Oklahoma, Sept. 24, 1985.*  
Photo/Mitchell Oliphant.

aropes were at *Cheyenne Bottoms* Oct. 1 (SS), *Willow Creek Res.*, *Pierce, Neb.*, Sept. 23 (M & EB), and *Oklahoma City* Sept. 18-28 (JGN). Red-necked Phalaropes also stopped at *Boone, Neb.*, Oct. 6 (WJM) and *Dallas* Sept. 28 (BT). At El Paso, where usually only a dozen Red-necked Phalaropes are seen, more than 200 passed through. A Red Phalarope at *Lubbock* Sept. 17 marked the 4th consecutive year one has appeared there (ML).

Birders at *Cheyenne Bottoms* Aug. 31-Sept. 1 had a pleasant problem: how many jaegers were present and what species were they? Possibly three birds were present. Each time one of the birds flew by the birders saw new and confusing field marks. Jaeger expert Wayne Hoffman identified one as a 3rd-year Parasitic. A 2nd, immature, bird was identified as a Parasitic by Crawford and Seltman. Crawford believed a 3rd bird was present and called it a Long-tailed. Confusing, but fun! A jaeger believed to be a Pomarine was seen at *Great Salt Plains N.W.R.*, Oct. 17 (JKH) and another possible Pomarine was observed at *Oklahoma City* Sept. 25 (JGN).

A Laughing Gull in *Washington, Tex.*, Nov. 4 provided a 2nd area record (KA). A Com. Black-headed Gull in *Douglas, Neb.*, Nov. 18 was well described (BJR). Details of a sighting of a California Gull near *Ardmore, Okla.*, Nov. 30 have been submitted to the Oklahoma Records Committee (BF). A Thayer's Gull remained near *Manhattan* Nov. 9-30 and two Glaucous Gulls were in the same area Nov. 20-30 (TTC). Sabine's Gulls were seen at *Oklahoma City* Sept. 15 & 24 (B & PP *et al.*) and at *Hagerman* Sept. 24 (KH). A Gull-billed Tern was discovered at

Waco, Tex., Nov. 4 (LMB, SB). Common Terns were found at Oklahoma City Sept. 14-20 and Oct. 12 (JGN) and El Paso Sept. 4, 11, & 27 and Oct. 18 (BZ, JD). Least Terns were seen at Optima Res., Okla., where nesting is suspected, July 28 and Aug. 9 (MDa). Least Terns were also seen in *Platte*, Neb., at Tulsa, where 16 fledged this summer, and in *Rains*, Tex. Black Terns were seen at 10 localities, but 15 was the largest number counted. In *Rogers*, Okla., only two Black Terns were seen all year.

**DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — White-winged Doves visited Kerrville Aug. 7 and Oct. 7 (L & BW). Common Ground-Doves were located in *Uvalde* Oct. 3 and *Hudspeth* Sept. 20. Monk Parakeets were found in Amarillo Oct. 1 (KS) and College Station, Tex., Nov. 1 (RP). Black-billed Cuckoos were located at Tulsa Oct. 27 and Bartlesville Sept. 9 & 23. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo nest with eggs was found in *Cimarron* Aug. 18 (JAG). One Yellow-billed Cuckoo remained in *Washington*, Okla., until Oct. 27 (DV). Groove-billed Anis were found in *Cass*, Neb., Sept. 9 (C & MK, RG), *Ector*, Tex., Nov. 24 (JH), and B.B.N.P., Sept. 6 (RD, CS). Five Flammulated Owls wandered to El Paso—three were found dead and two were alive. Two E. Screech-Owls visited *Hudspeth* Sept. 18-20 (BZ, JD). A Burrowing Owl in Lone Star, Tex., Nov. 15-27 lived in a pipe that was in use as a parking lot barrier (D & LB). A Burrowing Owl visited Waco Oct. 23 (LMB). A most unlikely vagrant was a Spotted Owl which was found dead in El Paso Nov. 15 (\*U.T.E.P.). Short-eared Owls were reported only in *Saunders* and *Lancaster*, Neb. In Tulsa, a N. Saw-whet Owl found injured Nov. 3 (PW) was rehabilitated and returned to the wild Nov. 24 (B & BS).

Late Com. Poorwills were detected at Oklahoma City Oct. 27 (JGN) and Midland Oct. 31 (JH). A Chuck-will's-widow banded at Lubbock Sept. 15 provided a 2nd county record (AS). Congregations of Chimney Swifts included 2600 in *Panola*, Tex., Oct. 24 (SC) and 800 in *Hardin*, Tex., Oct. 15 (AM). A Broad-billed Hummingbird in *Hudspeth* Sept. 18 provided a first El Paso area record (BZ, JD). At least five Anna's Hummingbirds visited El Paso feeders Oct. 15-Nov. 30+. Anna's Hummingbirds provided first records in *Crosby*, Tex., Aug. 23-Sept. 16 (ML) and Lubbock Oct. 15-Nov. 4 (RE). The Anna's reported at Kerrville in the summer departed Sept. 18 (E & KM). A Calliope Hummingbird photographed in *Crosby* provided a first county record Aug. 14 (ML). A Rufous Hummingbird in Bellevue Nov. 10-17 furnished a first record for e. Nebraska (AD *et al.*). A Rufous that arrived in Norman Nov. 7 was found dead Nov. 27 (MHO, JAG). In Texas, Rufous Hummingbirds were e. of their usual range in *Kerr*, *Kendall*, *Johnson*, *Waco*, and *Bryan*.



Anna's Hummingbird in Crosby County, Tex., August-September 1985. First county record. Photo/Mark Lockwood.

A Green Kingfisher appeared in B.B.N.P., Oct. 16 and Nov. 5 (CS *et al.*). About 20 Lewis' Woodpeckers flocked in *Cimarron*, Okla., Sept. 1 (DV), and two visited G.M.N.P., Oct. 7 and Nov. 11-30 (OVO, BJ). An Acorn Woodpecker in Amarillo Sept. 30 provided a 2nd Panhandle record (FC). A Red-bellied Woodpecker at Midland Nov. 16-30+ provided one of the few records there. A Williamson's Sapsucker visited G.M.N.P., Oct. 10-Nov. 30+ (OVO, BJ). Red-naped Sapsuckers were reported in *Cimarron* Oct. 3 (MH) and El Paso in October (BZ). Ladder-backed Woodpeckers were feeding nestlings at Lubbock as late as Oct. 5 (DS).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH NUTHATCHES** — Two E. Wood-Pewees called all day in *Crosby*, Tex., Sept. 22 (ML). A Black Phoebe visited Lubbock Sept. 5 (DS). In G.M.N.P., an E. Phoebe was discovered Oct. 18 (BJ, OVO). A pair of Vermilion Flycatchers attended two short-tailed young in *Cimarron* Aug. 16 (JAG). A Brown-crested Flycatcher strayed to B.B.N.P., Sept. 26 (JS). The Thick-billed Kingbird first reported in B.B.N.P., July 31, remained until Sept. 24 (m.ob.). In *Hudspeth*, an E. Kingbird traveled with a large group of W. Kingbirds Sept. 4. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers are rare w. of the Pecos R., so one in *Hudspeth* Sept. 4 and one in B.B.N.P., Oct. 20 were noteworthy. There were more reports than usual of "late" Scissor-taileds, the latest being one at Ft. Worth Nov. 22. More than 1000 Blue Jays moved S through *Riley*, Kans., Sept. 28 (TTC), and on Oct. 6 large flocks passed through *Rogers*, Okla. (MD), and *Rains*, Tex. (RK). One reached *Presidio*, Tex., Oct. 26 (JMi).

Pinyon Jays invaded Chadron, Neb., Sept. 1 and remained a month, eating seeds of sunflower, thistle, and millet, as well as suet (RCR). The Pinyon Jay invasion extended to *Morton*, Kans., Sept. 21 (SS), *Cimarron*, Okla., Sept. 1 (DV), G.M.N.P., Sept. 11-Oct. 17 (BJ), and El Paso Sept. 23 (BZ). Mountain Chickadees wandered to Black Mesa S.P., *Potter* and *Randall*, Tex., and El Paso in mid-October. Bushtits were located in *Morton* Sept. 14 & 21 (SS, TTC).

Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported at 21 localities. They arrived in Black Mesa and Omaha in mid-August and were widespread by early October. White-breasted Nuthatches were unusually common in their normal haunts, and were found at several locations where they are rare visitors. **Pygmy Nuthatches** arrived in *Morton*, Kans., Sept. 21 (SS, TTC), and in Amarillo (KS) and Lubbock (AS, DS) in late October. Flocks of up to nine individuals were seen in Amarillo.

**WRENS THROUGH VIREOS** — Winter Wrens were found at 5 localities during October. Golden-crowned Kinglets were everywhere, with a peak of 150 in *Hardin*, Tex., Nov. 2 (AM). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Palo Duro Canyon S.P., Tex., Nov. 24 was very late (KS). Four E. Bluebirds brightened *Cimarron* Oct. 3 (MH). Mountain Bluebirds were reported at Black Mesa S.P., Oct. 16 (JKH), B.B.N.P., Nov. 7 (BMcK), and G.M.N.P., Oct. 18 (OVO). Four W. Bluebirds graced Palo Duro Canyon Oct. 31. A Wood Thrush in *Crosby*, Tex., Sept. 28-Oct. 2 provided a first county record (ML). At least 100 Sage Thrashers inhabited Black Mesa Oct. 16 (JKH). A Sage Thrasher discovered in *Washington*, Okla., Nov. 23 provided a new county record (DV *et al.*). Curve-billed Thrashers were out of range at Garden City, Kans., Nov. 25 (LH). Sprague's Pipits were common in w. Kansas Sept. 29-Oct. 25. Others were observed at Tulsa Oct. 8, Hagerman Oct. 17, and B.B.N.P., Nov. 17. The only Bohemian Waxwing appeared in *Beaver*, Okla., Nov. 13 (RKi). A Cedar Waxwing in Atchison was feeding dependent young Sept. 12 (E & JS). Five Cedar Waxwings arrived in Amarillo as early as Aug. 17 (PA). During the season, five N. Shrikes were found in w. Kansas, six in *Boone*, Neb., and three in the Amarillo area. Single N. Shrikes were located in *Pierce* and *Platte*, Neb.

At one breeding locality of Black-capped Vireos on the Kerr W.M.A., *Kerr*, Tex., Aug. 31, 14 males, three females, and four young (two recently fledged) were found in 16 known territories—not an encouraging report. At a 2nd locale, no birds were found in 7 territories (JAG). A Solitary Vireo at Dewey, Okla.,



Sage Thrasher at Bartlesville, Okla., Nov. 23, 1985. First local record. Photo/Michael L. Gray.

Nov. 3 was a month late. Yellow-throated Vireos were sighted at El Paso Oct. 10 (JD), Atchison Sept. 12 (E & JS), and College Station Nov. 22 (GD). Late Philadelphia Vireos were found in Palo Duro Canyon S.P., Oct. 31 (KS) and College Station Nov. 12 (GD).

**WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS** — The only good warbler fallout occurred Oct. 17 at Ft. Worth when 200 Orange-crowned Warblers, 50 Nashville Warblers, 35 Yellow-rumped Warblers, and six Black-throated Green Warblers were counted (JSy *et al.*). A Tennessee Warbler in Custer, Okla., Oct. 14 provided a new county record (PWW) and one visited Waco Sept. 13 (YD). A Nashville Warbler banded at Jay, Okla., Aug. 27 provided a new early fall record for the state (FMB, AMB). Fifteen Nashville Warblers were banded in Custer Oct. 14-16 (PWW) and 36 were banded at the Plano Outdoor Learning Center Oct. 20 (AV). A Virginia's Warbler at Black Mesa S.P., Aug. 17 was early. During the last week of September, the species was noted in Texas in Carson, Lubbock, Crosby, and Midland. Large numbers of Chestnut-sided Warblers arrived at Omaha Sept. 20-21. Others were seen at Lincoln Sept. 26 (MBO) and Washington, Okla., Sept. 15 (DV). A Magnolia Warbler in Jefferson, Kans., Sept. 22 was unusual (LM). Black-throated Gray Warblers appeared in Morton, Kans., Texas, Okla., Lubbock, and G.M.N.P., Aug. 28-Sept. 22. Townsend's Warblers were noted only at Lubbock Sept. 28 (AWF) and B.B.N.P., Sept. 27 (JS). Hermit Warblers visited the Davis Mts., Tex., Aug. 30 (JS) and B.B.N.P., Sept. 4 (CS). Blackburnian Warblers were noted at Tulsa Sept. 12 and Denton, Tex., Aug. 28.

Pine Warblers were found at Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy, Neb., Sept. 1 and Lincoln Sept. 21. A Prairie Warbler at Midland Sept. 20 was the first there since 1971 (JMe, RMS). Palm Warblers visited Tulsa Sept. 26, Oklahoma City Sept. 29, Midland Oct. 24, and B.B.N.P., Oct. 17. Bay-breasted Warblers were seen at Omaha Sept. 20, Ft. Worth Oct. 5, and Crosby Oct. 6. A Prothonotary Warbler brightened Midland Aug. 26. In Custer, Okla., a N. Waterthrush provided a new record Aug. 31 (PWW). Two were seen at Ft. Worth, where there are few fall records, Sept. 8 & 26, and one was at G.M.N.P., Sept. 10. An Ovenbird visited Clay, Kans., Sept. 17 (E & JS), and one in Amarillo Oct. 8-21 was very late (RS). Mourning Warblers made a good showing in the c. part of the Region, and one strayed w. to Crosby Oct. 13 (ML). A MacGillivray's Warbler was observed in Barton, Kans., Sept. 2 (MC). Two Wilson's Warblers in Cimarron Aug. 17 provided a new early date for Oklahoma (JAG). Canada Warblers wandered s.w. to Midland Sept. 13 and B.B.N.P., Aug. 13. A Red-faced Warbler inhabited B.B.N.P. throughout August. A Painted Redstart was photographed near El Paso Sept. 23 (BZ).

A Hepatic Tanager stopped in El Paso Oct. 2. A very late Summer Tanager was found in Papillion, Neb., Oct. 30 (PS). Scarlet Tanagers brightened Lubbock Aug. 11 (AWF) and Crosby Sept. 22 (ML). At least 12 W. Tanagers moved through Morton in September, and one in Cimarron Aug. 17 was early. In Kerr a new record was provided by a W. Tanager Aug. 26 (E & KM).

**GROSBEAKS THROUGH FINCHES** — A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was found dead in El Paso Sept. 28 (\*U.T.E.P.) and one was seen in Kerr Sept. 29 (CW). A Blue Grosbeak in Washington, Okla., Oct. 23 was a month late. There were early arrival dates for nearly all sparrow species. Le Conte's Sparrows were found at 8 locations, with a peak of 48 in Lyon, Kans., Oct. 20. Elusive Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found in Cumming, Neb., Sept. 24, Blaine, Neb., Oct. 5, Linn, Kans., Oct. 20, and Rush, Kans., Oct. 26. Fox Sparrows and White-throated Sparrows were unusually abundant in w. Texas in early November. A White-crowned Sparrow arrived at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Tex., Aug. 18, the earliest date on record.

McCown's, Lapland, and Chestnut-collared longspurs were common at all the usual sites. Small groups of Smith's Longspurs were found in Cass, Neb., Nov. 24, Lyon, Kans., Oct. 27, and Osage, Okla., Nov. 17. A Smith's Longspur in El Paso Nov. 22 provided a first county record (BZ, JD). Snow Buntings arrived in Boone, Neb., Nov. 27 (WJM) and Douglas, Kans., Nov. 2 (MC, AC, LM).

Only W. Meadowlarks are supposed to inhabit the w. Panhandle of Texas, so E. Meadowlarks at Buffalo L. and Muleshoe N.W.R., Nov. 13 were newsworthy (GL). Rusty Blackbirds in Randall, Tex., Nov. 15 were the first there in 5 years. Great-tailed Grackles flocked in Coffey and Osage, Kans., Nov. 19. A "Baltimore" Oriole was seen in El Paso Aug. 28. A Scott's Oriole visited Crosby Aug. 24 (ML).

A House Finch was observed in Lyon, Kans., Aug. 17. Common Redpolls were seen in Boone, Neb., Nov. 9, but they moved on and none was found later. Two Lesser Goldfinches at Dinosaur Valley S.P., Somervell, Tex., Sept. 8 provided one of the few records there (CBH). A flock of 30 Am. Goldfinches in Presidio, Tex., Oct. 26 was also unusual (JMi).

The big news of the fall was the Evening Grosbeak invasion. The earliest ones arrived in Garden City, Kans., Oct. 24, where six visited feeders daily until Nov. 2 (LH). They were found at 5 locations in Nebraska, the largest flock comprising 33 birds in Washington Nov. 29. Grosbeaks were throughout Kansas by the end of the period with flocks of 25 visiting some feeders. In Oklahoma, they were found in 4 cities, with a flock of 50 in Bartlesville. A small flock in Ft. Worth Nov. 17 moved on by Nov. 20. Several large flocks of 20 to 30 birds each could be found in Palo Duro Canyon S.P. beginning Nov. 13. A lone Evening Grosbeak visited Panola, Tex., Nov. 22.

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## SOUTH TEXAS REGION

Greg W. Lasley and Chuck Sexton

Rainfall was generally lacking through August and September, but beginning in late September, heavy rains quickly made up the deficits over most of the Region. The early season was quite hot. A weak front trailing across the Upper Texas Coast in late August brought scattered showers and may have been responsible for numerous unusually early arrival dates for fall migrants. Quite a few other fall and winter arrivals coincided with the first major wet front, which came through the Region September 28-30. This front was followed on October 1 by what Morgan termed "among the best ever fall birding days." No fewer than 25 species of warblers were found on the Upper Texas Coast, including several exceptional rarities. The front also ushered in the earliest-ever Whooping Crane October 3 at Aransas, the first of a record flock. Excessive rains along a slow-moving front caused flooding in central Texas in mid-October, but seemed to be accompanied by less-than-anticipated migrant pile-ups. A second major front crossed the coast November 2 with good birding on the Upper Texas Coast the following day.

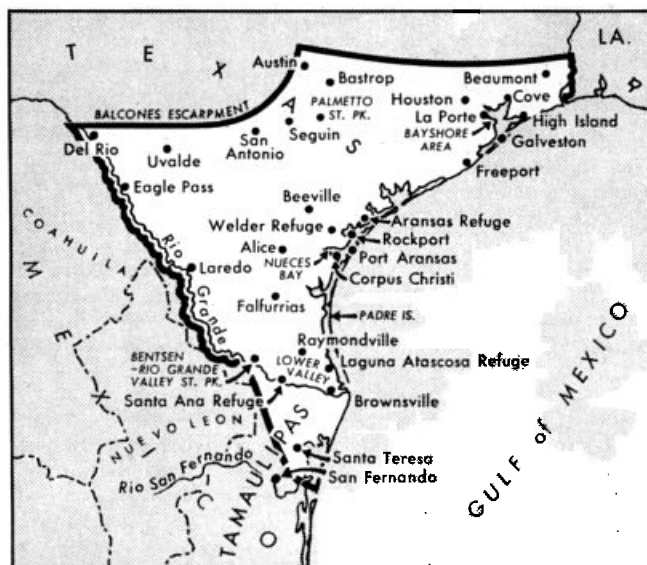
Despite the fact that three tropical storms hit the Central Gulf coast hard during the period, the Texas coast was spared from significant effects of this weather. With one remarkable exception (*the tropicbird*), no ornithological fallout followed any of the storms.

In general, the migration was deemed "steady and rewarding most of the time" on the Upper Texas Coast (JM) but "awful" (for passerines) on the central coast (CC). The latter assessment by Clark differed substantially from the results of his waterbird observations, which detected some notable concentrations of birds. The Region was blessed with an unusual array of tropical rarities that showed up not only in the Lower Rio Grande Valley but at several other localities as well.

Edgar B. Kincaid, Jr., died in Austin August 12, 1985. He was best known to ornithologists for his editorship of *The Bird Life of Texas* to which he dedicated many years of his life. He was one of the most beloved and intriguing figures in Texas ornithological circles. We dedicate this column to his memory.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — Aransas = Aransas Nat'l Wildlife Ref.; Attwater = Attwater Prairie Chicken Nat'l Wildlife Ref.; Bentsen = Bentsen Rio Grande Valley State Park; Laguna Atascosa = Laguna Atascosa Nat'l Wildlife Ref.; L.R.G.V. = Lower Rio Grande Valley; Santa Ana = Santa Ana Nat'l Wildlife Ref.; T.P.R.F. = Texas Photo Record File (Texas A & M University); U.T.C. = Upper Texas Coast; Welder = Welder Wildlife Refuge. Place names in *italics* are counties.

**TROPICBIRDS THROUGH STORKS** — One of the most surprising finds of the season was a **Red-billed Tropicbird**. The Houston resident who found it in his front yard Nov. 13 unable to fly described it as "some kind of seabird, it has webbed feet."



He contacted a local wildlife rehabilitation group. Initially identified as a White-tailed (the *only* tropicbird species ever reported for Texas previously), the bird was taken to the Houston Zoo where veterinarians found the bird to be exhausted, but not injured otherwise. The bird foiled the efforts of the rehabilitators and died Nov. 16. Collins went to the zoo to retrieve the specimen and began researching tropicbird plumages. He quickly realized that the bird was actually a Red-billed. As such, it represented the first record for Texas, and perhaps for the n. Gulf of Mexico as well (\* to Texas A&M, KA, TE, FC *et al.*). (See Duncan and Havard 1980, *AB* 34:122.)

The successful Brown Pelican nesting seasons of recent years are showing their effects on their fall distribution in most coastal areas of the Region. Concentrations of 100 or more were reported in the Corpus Christi area during October (CC *et al.*), and increased numbers were noted as far s. as Laguna Atascosa and up the coast to Galveston. A first Reddish Egret for the Austin area visited McKinney Falls S.P., Sept. 6 (JBo *et al.*) and remained until late in the month. Reports of ibises increased this fall, especially on the U.T.C., where the *Spoonbill* recorded 19 reports of White Ibises for a total of 988, and 12 reports of White-faced for a total of 2571 during September alone. One flock in w. *Harris* contained 1600 White-faced Sept. 21; as late as Nov. 29, over 800 White and 800 White-faced were counted at Attwater (JM, TE). A *Jabiru* appeared in *Hidalgo* near Bentsen Aug. 5-8; it was unannounced to the general birding community because it was on private land. The landowner did, however, allow several observers onto the property to photograph the bird (ph. to T.P.R.F., TP *et al.*). The Wood Stork migration was quite impressive at many coastal areas with a total of 606 reported on the U.T.C. in September.

**WATERFOWL, RAPTORS** — Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks began staging at Warren L. in w. *Harris* earlier than normal this



year. Between 200 and 500 were present all September (JM). One ad. Black-bellied was noted with seven young on the late date of Oct. 26 in Austin (BF). Mottled Ducks typically gather into small groups during the fall, but 740 concentrated in one small area near Rockport Aug. 3 surprised Clark. An early-arriving N. Pintail was noted at Rockport Aug. 3; by Aug. 21, there were 80 at the same location (CC). A flock of 350 Canvasbacks on one small pond near Rockport Nov. 23 was an unusually high number for the area. A Surf Scoter was completely out of season at Sea Rim S.P., Aug. 16 (+ MAC). The bird was apparently injured. Appearing at a more typical date for the species was a Surf Scoter Nov. 16 at Warren L. (JM), although its occurrence inland was notable.

It was unclear if an Am. Swallow-tailed Kite July 18 in Jefferson was a summering bird or an early migrant; a few of this species were noted throughout August at Santa Ana. In Falfurrias, O'Neil recorded the only substantial flights of Mississippi Kites with a notable season total of 750. Major movements of Broad-winged Hawks pushed through the c. coast and the L.R.G.V., Sept. 21-24 (38,000+), Sept. 30-Oct. 1 (11,000), and Oct. 3-4 (26,000). September 28 was clearly *not* a flight day as the largest organized hawk-watch ever in Texas (125+ diligent observers Regionwide) recorded a paltry 208 Broad-wingeds (CS, Hawk Migration Association of North America).

Swainson's Hawk movements are obviously complex through this Region. The earliest migrants passed through Austin and the L.R.G.V. in the latter one-half of August and sizable flocks showed up as expected in late September and especially Oct. 3-15 (AO, RH, CS, GL, m.ob.). This contrasted with the Del Rio area where the *last* of their Swainson's moved out Sept. 11 and none was recorded during concerted migration watches later on (VH *et al.*). A late migrant was noted in the Houston area Nov. 9. It seems uncertain now that we could term any portion of our Region "out of range" for migrant or wintering Zone-tailed Hawks. The species showed up Aug. 12 near Bastrop (JB), Aug. 19 in Kleberg (three birds; EK *et al.*), and Nov. 9 at Eagle Lake (JD). A White-tailed Hawk over Beaumont Oct. 9 was a first for Jefferson (WG), and illustrated the continued gradual expansion of the species' range eastward. A probable Prairie Falcon at Warren L., Nov. 14 was only the 3rd ever reported on the U.T.C. (LW).

**GALLINULES THROUGH TERNS** — An imm. Purple Gallinule was still stalking the edges of a pond at Anahuac N.W.R. on the very late date of Nov. 9 (GW, BC).

#### S.A.

The arrival of an early Whooping Crane at Aransas on the morning of Oct. 3 was followed by a 3-week period with no new cranes (the previous early record was Oct. 4, 1949). Thirty-two more arrived Oct. 28-31 on NW winds, and then an estimated 44 more showed up Oct. 31-Nov. 5. By Nov. 12, all 28 nesting pairs had safely completed their journey. The census flight Nov. 18 counted a record 94 cranes! All 16 chicks that had been hatched in Canada this summer survived to reach Aransas (TS). Stehn also reported an interesting development due to the increases in the number of Whoopers. Because of the limited acreage at Aransas itself, all the suitable habitat for the cranes is being utilized. Whoopers are now taking up winter quarters on nearby San Jose I., Matagorda I., Lamar Pen., and Welder Point. Nearly one-half of the entire population of 94 is currently wintering *outside* the boundaries of Aransas.

Clark counted a flock of 600 Black-bellied Plovers near Rockport Sept. 22, a notable concentration. Lesser Golden-Plovers moved through in typical numbers during September, but a report of a lone individual Nov. 24 in Galveston (+ JM) was

especially intriguing. The written description of the bird more closely fit the race *fulva*, unrecorded in Texas (*fulva* winters in small numbers on the Pacific coast). The date would be exceptionally late for our typical race *dominica*, but may be equally probable for a vagrant w. bird. This record should inspire other observers to take detailed notes (or photographs) of exceptional out-of-season birds of this or any other species. Clark reported an impressive 190 Semipalmated Plovers Oct. 26 near Rockport.

An imm. N. Jacana was at Santa Ana Nov. 7+ (TP), and another immature was near Bentsen from mid-November through the end of the period. Entirely unexpected was yet another imm. N. Jacana at Welder on the c. coast Nov. 24-30 (GB, *fide* CC). A Red Knot was at an Austin sewer pond Sept. 13-18 (CS) for the 3rd area record. A Pectoral Sandpiper was reported at Galveston Nov. 11 (GW, BC), an exceedingly late date for the U.T.C. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported from several areas in good supply. O'Neil counted 115 July 29 at Riviera, and by Aug. 1 there were over 300 in the same field. A ♀ Ruff was at San Antonio Aug. 25 (*fide* SH), perhaps the same individual that had been seen there sporadically for the previous 2 years. A Red-necked Phalarope found at Rockport Sept. 22 (CC) furnished an unusual record.

An apparent Parasitic Jaeger was certainly out of place over Bentsen Sept. 26 (GD). A Lesser Black-backed Gull returned to Mustang I. at Port Aransas Sept. 30 for its 3rd or 4th winter on the same beach, and was still present at the end of the period (CC, SBU *et al.*). An imm. Sabine's Gull was in Austin Sept. 12-18 (ph. to T.P.R.F., + CH, m.ob.); there are fewer than 10 state records, 3 of them from Austin. A large flight of 1430 Black Terns was grounded by high winds Sept. 5 at Rockport (CC).



Juvenile Sabine's Gull at Austin, Tex., Sept. 17, 1985. Photo/ Carl Haynie.

**DOVES THROUGH KINGFISHERS** — Common Ground-Doves were reported in higher numbers than in the previous 2 or 3 years in several locations s. of San Antonio (KA *et al.*). Green Parakeets and Red-crowned Parrots returned in substantial numbers to many L.R.G.V. locations by early October. The editors still need good quality photographs and/or *detailed* written descriptions of individual Green Parakeets. Such information may help clarify the origin of these birds. A Black-billed Cuckoo Oct. 27 at Austin (JL) furnished a rare fall record. A Short-eared Owl seen foraging over grasslands at Falcon S.P., Nov. 19 & 20 (GW, BC) was a rare bird for that area. A huge migratory movement of 600+ Com. Nighthawks was noted moving SE over Kenedy Sept. 9 at dusk (JA, DH). Ten Chimney Swifts seen Nov. 13 over Aransas were very late (GW, BC), and six White-throated Swifts over Hidalgo Sept. 24 (GD) furnished an unusual record.

Buff-bellied Hummingbirds were identified on numerous occasions on the c. coast during the period (CC *et al.*), and at least two had reached all the way up the coast to Beaumont by Nov. 21-24 (BCr). A ♂ Blue-throated Hummingbird was at Falfurrias Sept. 2 (AO), a very rare visitor to the Region. Even rarer, a ♂ **Magnificent Hummingbird** was studied at Beaumont by a single observer Nov. 27 (+ BCr). Unfortunately, the bird did not remain for photographs. The Ruby-throated Hummingbird migration on the c. coast and inland was described as "absolutely spectacular" (KM, AO *et al.*). Increases in Ruby-throated numbers were noted Aug. 15-Oct. 3, with the largest concentrations after Sept. 7. There were several reports of 75-125 hummers buzzing around residential yards with feeders in Corpus Christi, Falfurrias, Sinton, Robstown, Kingsville, and elsewhere. A probable Black-chinned Hummingbird in Beaumont Nov. 15-29 (KK) was unusual but not entirely unexpected, considering the numbers reported wintering in coastal Louisiana in recent years. Banding studies of Texas coast wintering hummers may well show this species to be more common than previously thought. Rufous Hummingbirds had arrived at Falfurrias by Aug. 4 (AO), and several individuals were still present in Austin, Columbus, and Beaumont at the end of the period (GL, JD *et al.*). A ♀ Ringed Kingfisher was far out of its normal range at Austin Sept. 28 (+ GP, BF).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SILKY-FLYCATCHERS** — *Empidonax* flycatchers were all noted in normal numbers during the period. An Alder Flycatcher was identified by call Sept. 7 at Bentsen (JA, DH). Although there are few references to this species in print in the Region because of identification problems, it is probably of regular occurrence. Vermilion Flycatchers were reported in increased numbers in several locations, especially the U.T.C., where Behrstock remarked on "quite a flurry" of observations beginning in early October. A Brown-crested Flycatcher, well described and photographed in Galveston Nov. 3 (TE *et al.*), provided the 2nd U.T.C. record. Four Couch's/Tropical Kingbirds were at L. Corpus Christi Nov. 15 (GB, *vide* CC). Western Kingbird migrants were noted in high numbers by many observers Regionwide. Graber commented on a roost of 300+ Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in a ½-acre area near Winnie at dusk Sept. 25. These migration gatherings of Scissor-taileds are a spectacular sight to behold.

A large Purple Martin roost near Corpus Christi, first described last fall, was again active this year. Martins began massing at the roost site July 1, and by late August numbers again



Gray Silky-flycatcher at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., Tex., Nov. 9, 1985. Photo/Nick Jackson. VIREO x05/1/006.

peaked near 9000 birds (KM *et al.*). Thirty Barn and eight Tree swallows Nov. 17 at Austin were late (BF). A few Blue Jays still lingered in the Kingsville area from last fall's invasion (N & PP, SB). An Am. Crow just s. of Corpus Christi in Nueces Nov. 2 was considerably s. of its usual range (SB, PP, LA), and two Mexican Crows Sept. 17 at Laguna Atascosa (SL) were unexpected. A flock of 500+ Chihuahuan Ravens in La Salle Sept. 23 (DS) was a large number for the location and date.

Finally, after several years with very few reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches, the species staged a "mini-invasion" into s. Texas. The first individuals were detected in Houston Sept. 28 and Austin Sept. 29 (WC, EK). Soon thereafter, they were noted at High I., Oct. 3 (MA), Bastrop Oct. 14 (DM), and Rockport by Nov. 3 (CC). By mid-November the species was described as fairly common in Bastrop and other piney woods areas, as well as at residential feeders in Austin and elsewhere. Brown Creepers were in somewhat low numbers Regionwide. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were plentiful in most areas of the Region by November, perhaps recovered from their low numbers after the 1983-1984 winter. Clay-colored Robins were reported regularly at Bentsen all period, but one Nov. 24 at Welder (GB, *vide* CC) was totally unexpected.

#### S.A.

Probably the most exciting bird of the season was the **Gray Silky-flycatcher** (*Ptilogonys cinereus*) discovered Oct. 31 at Laguna Atascosa (+ TP *et al.*). This montane Mexican species was found in lowland thorn brush and deciduous woods where it found local berries and insects to its liking. Written details and photographs were submitted by a number of the 200+ observers who saw the bird through Nov. 11. Details of the record will be published elsewhere. There have been 2 other sightings of this species in the United States (California and Arizona), but no officially accepted record (ph. to T.P.R.F., NJ, GL *et al.*).

**VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES** — Judging from the lack of reports, the vireo migration in general was not particularly noteworthy one way or another. There were a few interesting occurrences, however, including a Bell's Vireo at Sabine Pass Oct. 1 (JM, TE), providing a 5th or 6th U.T.C. record. A *plumbeus* race Solitary Vireo was seen and recorded Oct. 15 at San Ygnacio, Zapata (GL, CS), for a first L.R.G.V. record. Two Warbling Vireos Aug. 25 at High I. (JM) tied the early arrival date for the U.T.C. A "Yellow-green" Vireo was noted briefly at Bentsen in early October.

A ♂ Blue-winged Warbler Aug. 16 in Austin (BR) provided the first August and 4th fall record for the area. Two early Blue-wingeds were also noted in Houston the same date (WC). A Chestnut-sided Warbler at Driftwood Sept. 26 (+ DC) furnished only the 2nd fall record for the Austin area, and an ad. ♂ Cape May Warbler Sept. 12 in Galveston (DMu) provided the first September U.T.C. record of this rare fall migrant. Black-throated Blues were reported at High I., Oct. 1 (JM, TE) and at Weslaco Oct. 18 (DA). Many observers felt that Yellow-rumpeds were late in arriving this fall, but one individual at San Antonio Sept. 24 did not get the message; it was the earliest ever in that area (SH). Another rare fall migrant, Black-throated Gray Warbler, was reported Sept. 28 at Sabine (WG, EW) and Oct. 1 at High I. (JM, TE). A Townsend's Warbler was also at High I., Oct. 1. A N. Waterthrush Aug. 25 at Houston was early, as was a Mourning Warbler there Aug. 26 (WC). A Mourning at the state capitol grounds Nov. 9 (JW) set a new late date for Austin. One never knows what to expect when birding the L.R.G.V. Such was certainly the case Aug. 18 when a **Red-faced Warbler** was found in a mesquite thicket (the *exact same spot* where the Gray Silky-flycatcher would be discovered 2½ months later) at Laguna Atascosa (ph. to T.P.R.F., + EK, JB *et al.*). This furnished the 3rd photographed state record.



Red-faced Warbler at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., Tex., Aug. 18, 1985. Photo/ Joe Bryant.

A ♂ Scarlet Tanager in winter plumage Sept. 28 at Sabine was an uncommon sight (WG); the species is seldom seen in fall in the Region. A ♀ Rose-breasted Grosbeak was found dead in Corpus Christi Nov. 18 (*fide* KM), a very late date. By the end of the period, almost all sparrow species were well represented as evidenced by 13 species at Attwater Nov. 29 (JM). A rather late family group of seven Seaside Sparrows (two ad., five imm.) was seen at a marsh near the mouth of the Rio Grande at Boca Chica Sept. 6 (JA, DH). An Orchard Oriole at Welder Nov. 24 (GB, *fide* CC) was quite late. An Am. Goldfinch arrived early at

Del Rio Aug. 4 (VH); however, later reports indicated the species was not as numerous as in the past 2 fall seasons.

**ADDENDUM**— The Fork-tailed Flycatcher mentioned in the winter 1984-1985 report was thought by some to have a complete white collar indicative of the n. race *T. s. monachus*, which thus far has not been documented in the United States. The editors have recently examined several slides taken by Cunningham that clearly show a gray stripe at the nape connecting the cap and the back indicating that this bird, like the other U.S. records so far, was probably *T. s. savana*, the highly migratory s. race (ph. to T.P.R.F.).

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## NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION

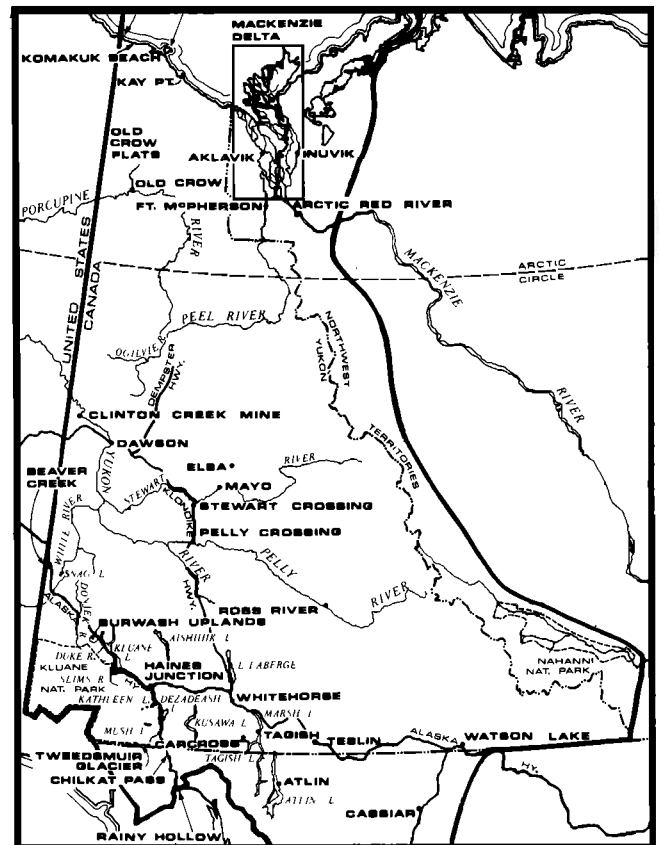
### Helmut Grünberg

The first three months of the fall season appeared to be fairly normal as far as weather was concerned. Before the end of October winter set in, characterized by snow that stayed. November was a month of record-breaking low temperatures (Fort St. John had minus 39 degrees Celsius on November 26 while Whitehorse experienced minus 37 degrees Celsius on November 28; the lowest temperature, minus 54 degrees Celsius, was recorded at Braeburn, just 100 kilometers north of Whitehorse). Despite these low temperatures a few song birds that should have been far south of us survived well into November.

Forty-one observers reported 189 species. Some of the "regular" birds that were missed were Snow Goose, Brant, Osprey, Blue Grouse, Rock Ptarmigan, Glaucous Gull, Common and Arctic terns, Northern Hawk-Owl, Rufous Hummingbird, Tree and Violet-green swallows, and Song and Golden-crowned sparrows.

**ABBREVIATIONS**— C.W.S. = Canadian Wildlife Service program in the northern Yukon; F.N. = Fort Nelson, B.C.; F.S.J. = Fort St. John, B.C.; Whse. = Whitehorse, Yukon.

**LOONS THROUGH CRANES**— The only Red-throated Loon observation of the season was made when two adults were seen on Ross R., Yukon, at various locations below Otter Cr. in late August (RD). Two Yellow-billed Loons were seen on Kathleen L., Kluane N.P., Oct. 13 (HG, TMu, GS, JS). This fall, as many as 600 Tundra Swans staged at Nisutlin Bay, s. Yukon, Sept. 27 (G, CMcE). The first record for F.S.J. of Harlequin Duck was obtained when two males were seen at Cecil L., Sept. 21 (EZ, *fide* CS).



An ad Peregrine Falcon was considered a rare migrant at Boundary L., F.S.J. area, Oct. 5 (CS, GP). The only Gyrfalcon report of the season came from Haeckle Hill near Whse., Oct. 20 (GJ, DP). Near F.N., 440 Sandhill Cranes were reported Sept. 14-15 (JB); at least 2951 were counted as they were leaving an old airstrip and flying E at Liard Hotsprings Sept. 17 (DW, *fide* CS); one day later, Sept. 18, 400 were noted s.e. of F.S.J. (WS, *fide* CS), and again a day later, Sept. 19, 2000 individuals were seen near Cecil L., F.S.J. area (HB, *fide* GP, *fide* CS). This migratory pattern from Liard Hotsprings to F.N. to e. of F.S.J. agrees with that suggested by Brina Kessel in 1984 ("Migration of Sandhill Cranes, *Grus canadensis*, in East-central Alaska with Routes through Alaska and Western Canada," *Canadian Field-Naturalist*, Vol. 98, No. 3).

**SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — A Greater Yellowlegs was seen at a small lake near Whse.-Pilot Mountain Sept. 20 (GJ, DP). A Ruddy Turnstone was observed at F.S.J. sewage lagoons Aug. 28 (CS, JB). Four W. Sandpipers were seen near F.N., Aug. 10 (JB). Five Baird's Sandpipers were noted at Bonnet L., w. of Richardson Mts., Aug. 3 (JH-C.W.S.), and three were seen near F.N., Aug. 31 (JB). The first fall record of Buff-breasted Sandpiper was obtained when one was observed at F S J sewage lagoons Aug. 27 (CS, JB).

A very rare observation in the s. Yukon of an ad. Sabine's Gull was made at Field L., 190 km from the mouth of the Ross R., in late August (RD), and an imm. bird was sighted at Charlie L., F S J area, Sept. 15 (CS). Only one Snowy Owl was recorded at F S J this season: an exhausted imm. bird, encountered Nov. 4, died the next day (CS). The only fall observation of a Great Gray Owl was made when one was noted in a patch of muskeg s.e. of Baldonell near F.S.J., Oct. 28-29 (WS, *fide* CS). A Boreal Owl was heard at Andy Baily L., mi 278 Alaska Hwy, F.N. area, Aug. 29 (CS, JB), and one was identified from a photograph taken after the owl had been stunned by flying against a balcony door at night Sept. 15 (B & BT, *fide* CS). A Black-backed Woodpecker was sighted near F.N., Sept. 1 (JB), and a Pileated Woodpecker was seen at Charlie L., Aug. 28-29 (CS, JB, KB).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES** — Two Dusky Flycatchers were observed in the F.N. area Aug. 2 (JB), and two to three were described in detail at Taylor, F.S.J. area, to establish a new record for the Peace River, B.C., area Aug. 28 (JB, CS). At F N , an E. Phoebe was observed Aug. 2 and a record high number of 18 E. Kingbirds Aug. 22 (JB). A "vagrant" Steller's Jay was noted at North Pine, n. of F.S.J., Oct. 26. The number of

Blue Jays seemed to be increasing in the F S J area (CS) Two to eight Mountain Chickadees were seen at Tagish, s. Yukon, Nov 17-24 (WH).

Six N. Wheatears were seen at Bonnet L., w. of Richardson Mts., Aug. 3 (JH-C.W.S.). A late observation of an Am. Robin came from F.N., where one was seen Nov. 2 (JB), and an even later one was noted in Whse., Nov. 11; this bird must have survived temperatures of  $-29^{\circ}\text{C}$  and appeared healthy (HG) A N. Mockingbird spent August to Nov. 23 in the garden of GB in Taylor, near F.S.J. She reported the bird to CS on Nov. 17, on Nov. 23, after surviving several nights of  $-25^{\circ}\text{C}$  weather, the bird collapsed in the snow and was rescued by GB who allowed CS to photograph it. Although apparently not physically harmed, the bird died in the care of 2 local veterinarians after refusing to eat. This was the 3rd record of this species for the area (CS). Bohemian Waxwings appeared in record numbers around F.S.J. in November, probably in response to the summer's excellent berry crop (CS).

A Magnolia Warbler was reported from the F.N. area Aug 12 (JB), and a very late Yellow-rumped Warbler was seen at Yellowknife Oct. 22 (KS). One Palm Warbler each was seen at F N , Aug. 13 & 30, and a Mourning Warbler was noted here Sept 1 (JB). A female or imm. MacGillivray's Warbler was seen in the Alsek Valley, Kluane N.P., Aug. 19 (HG, DR). An Am. Tree Sparrow was spotted at the Shipyards in Whse. as late as Oct 20 (TMu). Flocks of Dark-eyed Juncos numbering up to 10 birds were seen in Whse. in early November (HG), and a very late observation was made at Tagish Nov. 23 (WH). Another very late sighting was that of a Rusty Blackbird in downtown Whse , this bird must have survived temperatures of at least  $-37^{\circ}\text{C}$  (GJ). Two Rosy Finches were noted at Bonnet L., w. of Richardson Mts., Aug. 3 (JH-C.W.S.). In November, record numbers of up to 20 Pine Grosbeaks per day were reported in F.S.J. (CS)

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## NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

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Thomas H. Rogers

**A**fter a hot, very dry summer the Region experienced a cool fall period, starting out dry, becoming abnormally wet in September, then dry in October. Undoubtedly the most significant weather came in November, the coldest on record for many localities. Winter began early in the month, blanketing the Region with snow that never left, and simultaneously bringing early freezeup of most water, driving out waterfowl. There were indications of hardship for birds and of early arrivals and increased numbers of northern species. Paradoxically, there were sightings of very late lingering summer individuals.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — Hart Mt. N.A.R. = Hart Mountain Nat'l Antelope Ref., Lake Co., Ore.; Malheur = Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Ref, Ore. Place names in *italics* are counties.

**LOONS THROUGH IBISES** — A Red-throated Loon appeared at Mann's L., Lewiston, Ida., Oct. 19 (RN). Single Pacific Loons were reported at Sunnyside, Ida. (PRS), w. of American Falls, Ida. (DT, CHT), and at Malheur (A & MA). Washington had four on Clear L., e. of White Pass, *Yakima* (EC, DG, AS), two near the *Yakima* R. delta, Richland (REW); one at Central Ferry (NB); one at McNary N.W.R., Burbank (BH, DH); and one on Soap L., *Grant* (JA). Red-necked Grebes were reported to be spreading in s.e. Idaho (CHT). Single Red-necked and Eared grebes appeared at Hood R., Ore., for Anderson's first county sightings. Up to 10 Clark's Grebes were sighted on Moses L., Wash. (DG, PM, m.ob.), and one was at the *Yakima* delta (REW) The species also was noted at Hart Mt. N.A.R. (WHP). *Deschutes*, Ore., had its first record of the species when three were identified in a large flock of W. Grebes (TC, CM).

Single Great Egrets, rare in the American Falls-Blackfoot area of s.e. Idaho, furnished 3 sightings (JT), and one to two were

sighted at the Walla Walla R. delta near Wallula, Wash., Aug. 26-Oct. 19 (BH). The species produced 1092 young this year at Malheur and Snowy Egrets there showed an increase this year with 410 young. At least 2 pairs of Cattle Egrets nested again this year in the Malheur Basin (CDL). One Cattle Egret at Kootenai N.W.R., Ida., Nov. 3 made the 2nd record there (LDN), and two appeared near College Place, Wash., Nov. 2 (NB). A single bird was at Tranquille, B.C., Oct. 28 (WT). A Green-backed Heron appeared at Hat Rock S.P., *Umatilla*, Ore., for the only report (TG). An imm. Black-crowned Night-Heron along the Salmon R., 25 mi n.w. of Salmon, Ida., provided that area's first record (HR), and one at Swan L., Vernon, B.C., was noteworthy (PR). White-faced Ibises established an all-time record at Malheur, producing 3318 young. A near-certain indication of recolonization by the species in the Warner Valley between Adel and Plush, Ore., was the observation of 143 adults and 26 immatures Aug. 7 (WHP).

**WATERFOWL** — Minidoka N.W.R., Ida., reached a peak of 1000 Tundra Swans. An ad. Trumpeter Swan made a surprise appearance at Walla Walla, Wash., Nov. 13 (BH, LMCC). Three Trumpeters, thought to be victims of lead shot poisoning, were picked up in the Coeur d'Alene R. drainage of n. Idaho (JN) for the first record in that area since 1914. A Ross' Goose was seen at Stratford, Wash., in October (DG, EM, BW, m.ob.), and 32 flew over Hart Mt. N.A.R., Nov. 3 (WHP). Columbia N.W.R., Wash., reported a peak of 10,000 Canada Geese in mid-November. One "Cackling" Goose accompanied Canadas on the Snake R., w. of Clarkston, Wash., Nov. 9 (LL). An ad. Brant at Stratford Oct. 13 was a rarity (BW) and an ad. **Barnacle Goose** there Oct. 12-13 (BW, m.ob.) was considered by most observers to be wild [Why?—K.K.].

Canada Goose and Mallard numbers were down drastically at Metcalf N.W.R., Mont., and the duck population at Minidoka N.W.R. was the lowest in 30 years although Canada Geese there reached 2000. The fall duck migration at Malheur was the worst in recent history. Other than the 3000 Mallards using refuge grainfields in late August, no concentrations of ducks occurred there. By contrast, ducks at Columbia N.W.R. peaked at about 40,000 in mid-November. Mallard numbers at Kootenai N.W.R. continued their downward trend. Single Eur. Wigeons appeared near Helena, Mont., for a latilong first (JJ), on Flagstaff L. in Oregon's Warner Valley (WHP), and at Bend, Ore. (TC, CM). "Thousands" of Am. Wigeon were at the Walla Walla R. delta, Wash., in September. A brood of four young Ring-necked Ducks at Hart Mt. N.A.R., Aug. 10 provided the first breeding record there (WHP). Single ♀ Greater Scaup were identified at Walla Walla (DH) and at Klamath Falls, Ore. (SS). The Pack R. delta, Pend Oreille L., n. Idaho had 300-400 of this species Nov. 28 (BM). One to two Oldsquaws were sighted in the Pasco-Walla Walla area (BH, DH, B.M.A.S., m.ob., TG), and at Coulee City, Wash. (JA). Okanagan Landing, B.C., had two (MCO, PR). Kootenai N.W.R. had one for the 2nd record there. A ♀-plumaged bird at Springfield, Ida., was notable (JT *et al.*).

A Black Scoter on a pond w. of Wapato was *Yakima's* first, and the 3rd for e. Washington (DG, AS). A Surf Scoter at Kootenai N.W.R., Oct. 3 was the refuge's first (LDN), and one appeared at Robinson L., extreme n. *Boundary*, Ida., a few days later (JM). Three females shot on the Pend Oreille R., n. Idaho, provided the first record in that latilong since 1970 (JM). One was identified at Libby Dam, *Lincoln*, Mont., for the latilong's first (JH, BC, MS), and a female at Malheur was the 3rd there (MA). In s. Idaho a male appeared at American Falls, a female was sighted near Eagle Rock s.w. of there (CHT), and a female showed up at the Idaho Nat'l Engineering Lab, Arco, for the first there (TR, BV). Eastern Washington had a few sightings, mostly in the s.c. part, and Trail, B.C., had three birds (ME). A total of 17 Surf Scoters was sighted in *Walla Walla*, Wash. (BH, DH, m.ob.). A White-winged Scoter at Robson, B.C., Nov. 3 was apparently that area's first (ME), and one at Hayden L., n. Idaho, was noteworthy (PH). A few White-wingeds appeared in e. Oregon and Washington, s.e. Idaho, and at Libby Dam. Several



hundred Red-breasted Mergansers spent October on the Snake R. below American Falls. The only others reported were six on the Snake R. near Asotin (C.B.) and three near Central Ferry, Wash. (NB).

**RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES** — A phenomenal 90 Turkey Vultures circled over Armstrong, B.C., Sept. 7 (JG). Malheur counted 79 on its late August raptor transects. The nest at Kootenai N.W.R. that fledged two Bald Eagles this summer was demolished by strong winds, but the parent birds replaced it in October in the same tree. Migrating numbers of this species were down markedly there, as were they in the Libby area. Five N. Goshawk sightings were reported. Swainson's Hawks continued their decline at Malheur. Three Ferruginous Hawks lingered until Nov. 30 in Fort Rock Valley, *Lake*, Ore., at the n. edge of their wintering range (CM). A Rough-legged Hawk broke the all-time record for early fall appearance at Malheur, arriving Aug. 21 (MA, SH). In the Nov. 10 snowstorm in the Walla Walla area, 77 Rough-leggeds were counted (B.M.A.S.). Golden Eagle numbers at Malheur remained low, as there has been no build-up of jackrabbit numbers. Two Peregrine Falcon and 3 Gyrfalcon sightings were reported.

Two to three thousand Sandhill Cranes stopped at Chaperon L., w. of Vernon, B.C., Sept. 15 (MC, RH *et al.*). The peak movement of Greater Sandhills out of Malheur was Sept. 22. Counts of migrating cranes leaving the refuge totalled 4292; about 1.2% were Lesser Sandhills. Peak staging population of Greater Sandhills at Grays Lake N.W.R., Ida., reached 2900, down from last year (ECB).

**S.A.**

Foster parent Sandhill Cranes fledged 11 Whooping Crane chicks at Grays Lake N.W.R., Ida. About 23 older Whooping Cranes were thought to be surviving as of migration time. An all-time high of nine summered at Grays Lake (ECB).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Black-bellied Plovers were noted migrating through the w. part of the Region Sept. 9-Oct. 16. Eight were at Kootenai N.W.R. on the latter date for a rare sighting (LDN). At least 30 Lesser Golden-Plovers accompanied Black-bellied Plo-

vers at American Falls Res., Oct. 12 (CHT), and single birds were sighted at the Walla Walla R. delta and near the state line s. of Walla Walla (BH *et al.*). One to two Semipalmated Plovers stopped in the Lewiston, Ida., vicinity (PP, MK, WH, OM); Fortine, Mont., had four (WW); and one was sighted at Wenas L., n.w. of Yakima (AS). Latest sightings of the species were Oct. 14 at Malheur (CDL) and Nov. 12 near Central Ferry (NB), both late dates. At least 20 Black-necked Stilts were found w. of Potholes Res., Moses Lake, Wash., Aug. 4 (PM), and two to three appeared at the Yakima delta in August (REW).

Five Greater Yellowlegs along the Columbia R. shore at Brisco, B.C., Sept. 26 were catching and eating the fish chased toward them by Com. Mergansers (LH). One Greater Yellowleg lingered at Vernon until Nov. 10, very late (JG, MCo). Two Lesser Yellowlegs were migrating through Brisco Aug. 19 (LH). The lake at Reardan, Wash., had a surprising 150 Aug. 17 (BW). A Solitary Sandpiper at Cow L., *Boundary*, Ida., was noteworthy (PRS), as was one along Dodson Road, Columbia N.W.R. (BMo). Singles appeared at Malheur (MA), the Yakima delta (REW), and in the Klamath Falls vicinity (SS). Reardan had three (BW); *Grant*, Wash., seven; Tumalo Res., Ore., three (TC); Springfield, Ida., four (CHT, CW); and Somers, Mont., three (EH). The only Willet reported was at Kamloops, B.C., where the species is rare (CR). Mann's L., Lewiston, had a Marbled Godwit Aug. 27 (C.B.) and single birds were observed near Hart Mt. N.A.R., July 12-13 and Aug. 1 (WHP). Three appeared at Rajneeshpuram, Ore. (SDR), and the Yakima delta hosted up to seven (BH, REW, TG, SM *et al.*). Two **Black Turnstones** reported at Ochoco L., Sept. 8 would apparently provide e. Oregon's first record (VT, DL).

The only Red Knots were one that showed up at the Walla Walla delta (DH) and another at Ochoco L., Ore. (BC). Sanderlings could almost have been called common at American Falls Res., Lewiston, Malheur, and the Yakima and Walla Walla deltas. Two at Hood River made latilong firsts (DA); singles were observed at Bend and at Haystack Res., s. of Madras, Ore. (MR). Semipalmated Sandpipers were supposedly the most common shorebirds at Fortine, with up to 34 (WW), and a few were sighted at Cold Springs N.W.R. (CC) and at the Walla Walla delta (BH, DH). A single bird was found at Dodson Rd., *Grant*, Wash., and 50 were in the Kalispell-Somers, Mont., area Aug. 13 (EH). A White-rumped Sandpiper reported at Dry L. near Fortine Aug. 29 would be n.w. Montana's first (WW). Baird's Sandpipers were moving through the Region Aug. 13-Oct. 14; a surprising concentration of 35 was at Bend Aug. 14 (TC). The largest groups of Pectoral Sandpipers were of 70 at Ochoco L. (TC), 50 at Cascade Res., Ida. (HR), and 32 s. of Klamath Falls (SS). The only Dunlins reported were near Hart Mt. N.A.R. (WHP), three at Lewiston (CV), and two at Bend (TC).

Up to 45 Stilt Sandpipers were spotted at the Walla Walla R. mouth (BH, DH) and 25 appeared near Somers, Mont. (EH). Singles were found at American Falls Res. (CHT), up to four appeared at Reardan, Wash. (JA), and one to two appeared at Wenas L. (DG, AS). Surprising were up to seven at Swan L., Vernon (MCo, PMcA) and one at Kamloops (RH). Single Buff-breasted Sandpipers made rare stops at Vernon Sept. 3 and at Commonage, s. of Vernon, Sept. 12 (MCo, PR, PMcA). Five Short-billed Dowitchers were noted near Klamath Falls (SS), three at Hood R., Ore. (DA), one at Reardan (JA), and one at American Falls Res. (CHT). One at Dry L., Fortine, was noteworthy (WW). Long-billed Dowitcher numbers reached 1000 at Malheur Sept. 27 (CDL). A winter-plumaged Red Phalarope was identified at the Walla Walla delta Oct. 4 (DH).

**JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS** — A Pomarine Jaeger at McNary Dam near Umatilla, Ore., in early September was a rare find (CC, MC). A Parasitic Jaeger at Sandpoint, Ida., Sept. 22 was the latilong's first, and a surprising four jaegers of unknown species were sighted at nearby Sunnyside the same day (PRS). Up to five Parasitic Jaegers were sighted in the Walla Walla R. delta-McNary Dam area, also in September (TG, REW, BH, SM, B.M.A.S.) and one was at Swan L., Vernon, Sept. 7 (PR). At

Malheur, jaegers thought to be Parasitics were present most of September with a phenomenal 15 at mid-month (CDL, MA). The species is reportedly becoming a regular fall migrant at American Falls Dam (CHT).

The Walla Walla delta had a Franklin's Gull (BH) and a Mew Gull (BH, L & JG). The Tachie R. delta n.w. of Fort St. James, B.C., also had a Mew Gull Aug. 29, and two first-winter Ring-billed Gulls the previous day for probably the first record there (GRAE). Single Thayer's Gulls appeared at Vernon (MCo, PR, JG) and Sandpoint (PRS), and up to six visited Ice Harbor Dam e. of Pasco (BH). Many sightings of first-year birds of this species near American Falls Dam indicated they are regular fall migrants there (CHT). A nearly adult-plumaged W. Gull was photographed as it stayed around American Falls Dam Aug. 19-Nov. 10 (CHT) and one was carefully identified at Ice Harbor Dam e. of Pasco, Wash., in late November (BH). The only Glaucous Gull was one at Richland, Wash., Nov. 28 (REW). The Walla Walla delta was visited by Glaucous-winged Gulls (BH, B.M.A.S.) and a Sabine's Gull (BH). One of the latter at Sandpoint was the latilong's first (PRS). Single Sabine's were photographed at Libby Dam (JH, KC, MS) and at American Falls Dam (CHT), and one was sighted on 2 dates at McNary Dam, Ore. (CC, MC, TG). Moses L. also had a visit from one (EH) as did the Walla Walla delta (BH).

Twenty Com. Terns were sighted at Sandpoint Sept. 22 (PRS), up to eight appeared at the Walla Walla delta (BH), and one was seen at Malheur Oct. 22 (CDL). Over 100 were near American Falls Dam in September (CHT). Three Forster's Terns lingered at Creston, B.C., until Sept. 14 (GD, LV), three were at Lewiston Sept. 18 (CV), and one was at Sandpoint Sept. 22 (PRS). The Walla Walla delta had a Black Tern as late as Sept. 30 (BH).

**CUCKOOS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS** — *Jefferson*, Ore., had its first Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Haystack Res., Sept. 3 (BC). Swan L. had a Com. Barn-Owl Aug. 26 (PR). The only Snowy Owl reports were of one at Robson Nov. 12 (MB) and one at Fortine (WW). An owl survey of *Ferry*, *Pend Oreille*, and *Stevens*, Wash., included one pair and four individual Barred Owls and at least 13 male, four female, and two imm. Boreal Owls (BO, BW). One Boreal was located at Harrison L., w. of Bonners Ferry (CN). A Barred Owl was heard in the Blue Mts. of n.e. Oregon Oct. 26 (MC). Two imm. Great Gray Owls were found in *Benewah*, Ida. (D & CG), and two were reported in n.c. Oregon (B.M.A.S.). A canyon in the Peola, Wash., area yielded another (MJP). An injured Long-eared Owl picked up at Bonners Ferry was apparently the latilong's first (KE).

A dead imm. **Black Swift** at Frenchglen provided s.e. Oregon's first record; the bird showed no external evidence of having been brought in on a car grill (CDL). A Black Swift was with Vaux's Swifts at Hat Rock S.P., *Umatilla*, Ore., Sept. 8 for a latilong first (TG). Malheur had 2 Red-breasted Sapsucker sightings (M & AA, TC, CDL). A Gray Flycatcher was sighted in Navarre Canyon 10 mi s.w. of Chelan, Wash.; an Ash-throated Flycatcher appeared at Colockum Cr., 10 mi s.e. of Wenatchee, Wash., Aug. 2, and an immature of this species was at Vantage, Wash., Sept. 9 (EH).

**JAYS THROUGH FINCHES** — Blue Jays frequented Woodland Park at Kalispell, Mont. (EJ), and one appeared in Lewiston Orchards, Ida. (NN). In British Columbia lone birds visited Lavington (WC), Nakusp (JS), and Robson (MB). Two Clark's Nutcrackers visited a Umatilla, Ore., yard Aug. 1 for a very unusual place and date (MC). Possibly a family group of four Black-capped Chickadees along the Link R. near Klamath Falls suggested breeding in that area (SS). A few Boreal Chickadees along Trout Cr. in the Selkirk Mts. of *Boundary*, Ida., Aug. 13 indicated probable breeding there (CHT). The species appeared at Hayden L., Ida., Aug. 7 for the latilong's first record (PH). A Winter Wren in the Elkhorn Mts. s.e. of Helena provided the latilong's first record (LMcE). A Varied Thrush showed up in the Helena Valley, where the species is rarely seen (GH), and a

very late one was sighted near Stevensville, Mont., Nov. 27 (C & SC). Bohemian Waxwings apparently had scarcely arrived before the period's end; the only report was of four in Richland Nov. 22 (REW). Vernon had a very late Cedar Waxwing nest with four young Sept. 5 (JB, JG).

A **Philadelphia Vireo** was reported at Panhandle L. near Newport, Wash., Sept. 11 (EL). Malheur banded a Black-throated Gray Warbler Aug. 19 and two were sighted there Oct. 12 (C B). A carefully-examined **Blackpoll Warbler** at Richland Sept. 2 apparently made the first acceptable record for Washington (REW, PW). A warbler that hit a window near Missoula, Mont., in late August was identified in hand as a **Blackpoll Warbler** for w. Montana's first fall record (PLW). Malheur had one Sept. 13 (MSm). An imm. Am. Redstart in Richland Aug. 16 was REW's first ever there, and he had an ad. male there Sept. 10. A N. Waterthrush at the Walla Walla R. delta Aug. 24 was a real surprise (BH, DH), and one at Haystack Res., Sept. 3 was the 2nd for *Jefferson*, Ore. (BC).

Single White-throated Sparrows were sighted at Vernon (JQ), Malheur (TC), College Place, Wash. (RL), near Spokane (JA), and at Troy, Mont. (KB). An imm. Harris' Sparrow frequented a Kootenai, Ida., feeder for apparently the first fall record for the latilong (PRS). Hart Mt. N.A.R. recorded its first Harris' Nov. 11-17 (WHP), and two birds w. of Oroville, Wash., supposedly provided the first record in that latilong (KBr). The species apparently has become a regular but scarce migrant through the Region, with every state and British Columbia reporting a few. A **Smith's Longspur**, apparently Idaho's and the Region's first, was well seen on Michaud Flats between Pocatello and American Falls Res., Nov. 14 (CW, CHT). The same place had a McCown's Longspur Nov. 23 (JT, CHT) and up to 15 Lapland Longspurs Nov. 11-23 (CHT). An imm. Lapland Longspur was sighted on Round Top Mt., n.e. *Pend Oreille*, Wash., Sept. 29 (BW, BO). A few Laplands showed up at Knutsford, Vernon, and Creston, and three appeared on Steens Mt., *Harney*, Ore., Oct. 20 (MA). Two Rusty Blackbirds at Robinson L., 15 mi. n. of Bonners Ferry, Ida., Oct. 5 were the latilong's first (JM).

Large numbers of White-winged Crossbills invaded the northern rim of the Region and the Cascade Mts. as far s. as *Klamath*, Ore. Common Redpolls were reaching e. Washington and Oregon in November. They were "numerous" in *Walla Walla* and "invaded" Burns, Ore. Six Hoary Redpolls were reported with Common Redpolls at Vernon Nov. 1 (JQ). A pair of Lesser Goldfinches was sighted at Malheur Oct. 12 (PS, C.B.).

**CORRIGENDUM** — The Ancient Murrelet picked up near Elkford (AB 39:80) was interior British Columbia's 3rd, not the first (LH).

**OBSERVERS CITED** — James Acton, David Anderson, Anne & Merle Archie, Nigel Ball, Eugene C. Barney, John Baumbrough, Blue Mt. Audubon Society (B.M.A.S.), Ken Brunner (KBr), Kay Burk, Mae Burrows, Chuck & Suzi Campbell, Wayne Campbell, Canyon Birders (C.B.), Mary Collins (MCo), Barb Combs, Bobbie Couvillion (BCo), Craig Corder, Marion Corder, Tom Crabtree, Emily Cragg, Gary Davidson, G.R.A. Ebel, Maurice Ellison, Ken English, Margaret Flerchinger, Dale & Carole Goble, Larry & Jacque Goodhew, Danny Granstrand, Tony Greager, James Grant, Jean Habeck, Larry Halverson, Bill Hayes, Winnie Hepburn, Steve Herman, David Herr, George Holton, Rick Howie, Peg Hughes, Eugene Hunn, John Jancic, Elly Jones, Kay Kasperson, Merlene Koliner, Earl Larrison, Susan Lattomus, Louise LaVoie, Ruth Lepiane, C. D. Littlefield, Donna Luthoff, Phil Mattocks, Pat McAllister (PMcA), Larry McCloskey (LMcC), Lawrence McEvoy (LMcE), Opal McIntyre, Craig Miller, Ed Miller, Bob Moate, Jean Monks, Margaret Morris, Bob Morse (BMo), Shirley Muse, Larry D. Napier, Ron Neu, Nora Nicely, John Nigh, Craig Norris, Bill O'Connell, Peggy Pedigo, W. H. Pyle, John Quirk, Phil Ranson, Swami Deva Rashid, Tim Reynolds, Clara Ritcey, Mike Robbins, Hadley Roberts, Max Robertson (MRo), Paul R. Sieracki, John Sloan, Mark Smith (MSm), Andy Stepniewski, Paul Sullivan, Steve Summers, Marjorie Swanson, Dan Taylor, Verda Teale, Walt Tennant, Joel Tinsley, C.H. Frost, Linda VanDamme, Carole Vande Voorde, B. Vogel, Cheryl Webb, Winton Weydemeyer, Bart Whelton, Pat & Robert E. Woodley, Philip L. Wright.—**THOMAS H. ROGERS, E. 10820 Maxwell, Spokane, WA 99206.**

## MOUNTAIN WEST REGION

Hugh E. Kingery

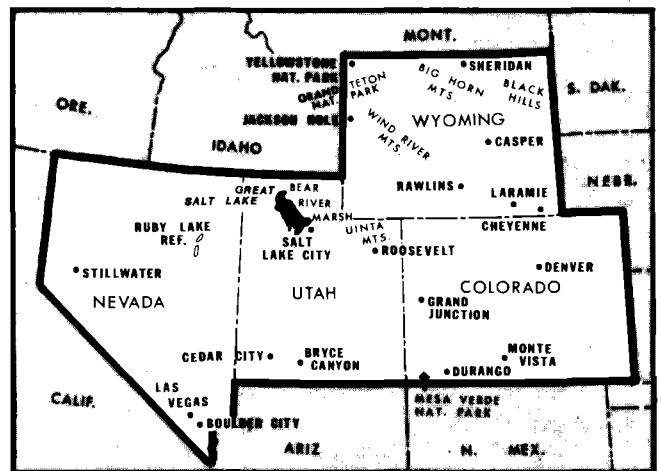
All 1985 brought, for the Mountain West, large numbers of shorebirds and warblers and an impressive influx of coastal species, plus a dozen first and second state records.

Coastal species: The Region attracted record numbers of jaegers and Sabine's Gulls, average numbers of Pacific Loons, scoters, and Oldsquaws. Of the other coastal species identified in this space last fall, the Region reported one Red-throated Loon, one Heermann's, one Glaucous-winged, and 16 Thayer's gulls, but no Red Phalaropes or kittiwakes.

Few northern migrants moved into the Region, and only a few mountain birds dropped from the high country to the plains and valleys.

The Region reported a record 377 species (four higher than in any of the 8 years of records): 335 in Colorado (12 more than ever before), 276 in Utah (six more than ever), 253 in Wyoming, 235 in Nevada. Among these were 36 warbler species, indicative of the weight of their migratory numbers. Utah added three to five new species to the state list, Nevada and Colorado added two, and Wyoming one.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — † = written description on file; †† = written description submitted to state or local records committee; # = no written description; L/L/B/L = Longmont/Lyons/Berthoud/Love-



land area, Colo.; 1st Lat = first record in a Latilong (the area bounded by one degree of latitude and longitude).

**LOONS TO IBISES** — In n.e. Colorado, a Red-throated Loon visited Jackson Res., Oct. 12 (JC, LH). With 13 Pacifics and 150

Commons, the Region had double its usual numbers of loons. Utah had one Pacific at Wallsburg Oct. 27 (†DF, MW) and two at Stockton Nov. 15-20 (JBU—1st Lat), and Wyoming had one Oct. 10 (†HD). Colorado reported nine, including one to two at Whitewater Oct. 13-18 (A.S.W.C., MJ—1st Lat). Several observers reported more Pied-billed and Horned grebes than usual; D.F.O. had 97 and 73 respectively on its field trips *cf.* 59 and 12 a year ago. Yellowstone reported its first Red-necked Grebes, with seven seen Aug. 11-Sept. 21 (S & LF, AS). The rise in the Great Salt L. has caused a drop in salinity, and with it a drop in the brine shrimp population, thus causing an enormous decline in the Eared Grebe population there (CKn). Numbers are unavailable because of inaccessibility of the grebe strongholds. However, Eared Grebes also dropped at Denver and L/L/B/L: 261 and 15 *cf.* 394 and 52 last year. Westerns also dropped: Denver and L/L/B/L counted 567 and 882 *cf.* 871 and 4243 last year. They may have migrated a little farther E: other reservoirs in n.e. Colorado had 3300-4200 Westerns Sept. 21-Oct. 12 (JR). Observers reported about 100 Clark's Grebes, including 50 at Lamar, Colo., Aug. 31, with 53 Westerns (D & JW) [remarkable ratio—K.K.], 30 at L. Mead, Nev., by the season's end (VM), and one at Fillmore, one of Utah's few records away from the Great Salt L. breeding locations (SH).

Anaho Island N.W.R., Nev., produced 4171 young Am. White Pelicans to flight stage (ST). Yellowstone's Molly I. colony sported 650 juveniles Aug. 10 (up from the summer estimate, JZ). Riverside Res., Colo., produced 900 young (JD), and Latham Res. near Greeley, Colo., sported 3000 pelicans (JC). Dead and dying fish in the Carson Sink kept 2600 pelicans and 700 Double-crested Cormorants into November at Farson, Nev. (ST). The July Olivaceous Cormorant at Julesburg, Colo., apparently stayed to Sept. 6 (JR, MJ), and a probable one visited Delta, Colo., Oct. 31-Nov. 2 (†MJ)—1st Lat).

#### S.A.

Bizarre: in a Colorado mountain valley a **Magnificent Frigatebird** met its demise, stoned to death by wind surfers whom it attacked! First report of Colorado's first frigatebird came from a Denver street Sept. 14, when she soared N over a busy suburban intersection (†HF). Identified as the same bird by missing primaries, she arrived the same day at Green Mountain Res., Summit Co., where one resident mistook her for a hang glider. She gashed the hand of the wind surfer whom she attacked, who made it safely to shore with the bird in pursuit. She apparently found little suitable food during her journey; a necropsy at D.M.N.H. showed severe emaciation. Judging by the presence of an empty, enlarged ovarian follicle, she also had bred in the previous season. Her arrival in Colorado very likely related to the perverse winds of Hurricane Elena (BW, CC).

Snowy Egrets peaked at Fish Springs Aug. 23 at a respectable 493 (CD), Provo had 209 Aug. 27 (DF), Stillwater W.M.A., Nev., hosted 100 during September, along with 100 Great Egrets (ST), and Latham Res. had 69 Snowies Sept. 2 (JC), for higher totals than reported in the Region for years. During August Little Blue Herons visited Salt Lake City, Ordway, Denver, and Longmont, Colo. (m.ob., #). A Tricolored Heron stopped at Latham Res., Sept. 8 (†JC). New reporting sites for Cattle Egrets included one at Eyre's cattle pasture in Eureka, Nev., Sept. 10, two at Beaver Dam Wash, Utah, Sept. 2 (GB), and a forlorn, cold-looking egret standing with gulls at the edge of a snowy reservoir at Delta, Colo., Nov. 19 (MJ). Latham Res. attracted the most, a peak of 117 Sept. 1 (WWB). A Green-backed Heron Nov. 11 + at Kirch W.M.A., Nev., fed around the refuge headquarters on fishes endemic to the desert springs (CS). Stillwater reported 5000 Black-crowned Night-Herons, mostly immatures, during September (ST). The Eureka ranch had some spillover: one Aug. 8

and two Sept. 8 (JE). Denver had a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron Aug. 25 (†PY) and Lamar, Colo., reported two Aug. 31 (D & JW).

**WATERFOWL** — Destruction of marsh habitat along the Great Salt L. has had a disastrous effect on waterfowl numbers, especially of dabblers (MW). Peak population in the Utah refuges came Aug. 16-31 at 144,543, of which 77,194 were N. Pintails and 23,079 Am. Wigeons. During that period in 1984 the refuges held 240,068 ducks (U.D.W.R.). Fish Springs peaked at 50% of last year: 26,100 ducks Sept. 6, including 8700 pintails and 9300 Green-winged Teal. Kirch peaked Aug. 26 with 6055 ducks, including 2335 Cinnamon Teal. Stillwater had 136,885 ducks Oct. 3: 122,415 dabblers including 39,000 N. Shovelers and 42,350 Green-winged Teal, and 14,470 divers including 10,325 Canvasbacks. Monte Vista N.W.R. had its peak in November, 29,090, mostly Mallards; nearby Alamosa had 6935 ducks in November. A frozen Bear River refuge on Nov. 23 had 26 ducks and no Tundra Swans; in previous years it would have held thousands of each (JN). Ruby Lake N.W.R., Nev., reported the most Tundra Swans—1000 flying S Oct. 28-Nov. 5 (CE). The only other high count reported was of 350 at Cody, Wyo., Nov. 9 (OT). Ruby Lake's Trumpeter Swans maintain a static population of 25; the group produced three cygnets in 1985 (CE).

More Greater White-fronted Geese stopped in the Region. Lamar reported 10 Oct. 15 (KH), and Julesburg had one to three Nov. 3-29 (m.ob.). Yellowstone had its first, two August 23 and Nov. 7 (JZ). One at Boulder, Colo., Nov. 13 had field marks like the Greenland form that winters in the British Isles: orange bill, extensive breast barring (D & JW). Top counts of Snow Geese came from e. Colorado, with 36,000 in November, 8000 of them at Lamar (C.D.W.), and Jackson, Wyo., with 600 in 6 flights counted Nov. 7 (BR). With the Snows were "Blue" Geese at Yellowstone, Jackson Res., and Julesburg, and at Bonny—113 Blues with 350 Snows Nov. 16 (MJ). Utah reported three Ross' Geese, Wyoming had two, and Colorado had six.

An Am. Black Duck visited Jackson Res., Nov. 29 (†LH). The Ruby L. area had record numbers of Gadwalls: 22,300 Sept. 17 and 12,000 Oct. 31 (NS, CE). Regional observers reported 30 Greater Scaup, including 19 at Delta Oct. 19-23 (MJ). Oldsquaws, nine altogether, visited Ruby L., Oct. 16-19, Tooele and Logan, Utah, and Denver Nov. 17-30, and Casper Oct. 27-Nov. 9. Each state attracted three to four Surf Scoters, all in November except an early one at Las Vegas Oct. 9 (VM). Utah and Colorado each mentioned eight White-winged Scoters, the first at Grand Jct., Colo., Sept. 20 (RL), but the rest arriving Oct. 24+. Top counts of Com. Mergansers were 3700 at Stillwater in November and 2500 at Denver Nov. 18. Stillwater also had an impressive 12,000 Ruddy Ducks in November (ST).



Surf Scoter at Fort Collins, Colo., Dec. 2. Photo/Dave Leatherman.



**RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES**— Utah State University revived the hawk watches of a few years ago; during 9 days, Sept. 19-28, the watchers counted 1620 raptors in the Promontory Mts and 738 in the Wellsville Mts. (JGe). Reno observed a paucity of raptors, with an Oct. 27 field trip counting 12 Red-tails and one Rough-legged *cf.* 53 and 12 on a comparable trip last year; a 15" snow cover may have affected the hawks. Yellowstone reported 20 active Osprey nests, with 37 juveniles Aug 5 (JZ). A crowd of 22 Sharp-shinned Hawks (one ad., 21 imm) passed through a Sheridan ranch Aug. 6 (PW). A pair of Swainson's Hawks raised one young within the city of Cheyenne (H.P.A.S.). Sheridan had its annual fall Gyrfalcon Nov. 2+ (PW).

Two adult and two imm. Soras at Rock Springs provided a 1st *Lat* breeding record (FL). Soras seem to stray to unlikely spots; one that flushed into a lilac bush in a ranchyard at Eureka, Nev., may tell something about their migratory routes (JE). Observers thrilled to large flocks of migrating Sandhill Cranes, such as 4000+ in s.e. Colorado Oct. 15-16, and 1500 at Denver Oct. 12. On Oct. 26, the 500 at Cheyenne and the 450 over Keenesburg, Colo., 70 mi s., might have been the same flock; however 200 were also 40 mi e. at Ft. Morgan that day. The San Luis Valley, Colo., reported 14,000 cranes at their November peak (RS). About 1000 people saw at least one of the two Whooping Cranes in the Ft. Collins, Colo., area Sept. 11-Oct. 29. Both from the Grays Lake flock, one was a 1982 bird, the other 1984 (JD).

**SHOREBIRDS**— The Great Salt L. and Utah L. finally began receding; the extensive mud flats attracted more migrating shorebirds that stayed longer (CKn). We received no official counts from Bear R. refuge, but a September visit there produced 10,000 dowitchers, 5000 avocets, and 2000 Marbled Godwits (PL). Throughout the Region more Black-bellied Plovers (total, 130-150) stayed longer. Earliest was one Aug. 5-12 at Kirch W.M.A., Nev. (CS); the most were 38 at Lamar, Colo., Oct. 15 (KH) and 14 at Great Salt L. Sept. 11 (CKn); the last left Greeley, Colo., in early November (JC). The less common Lesser Golden-Plover reflected the same pattern, a record total of about 40 birds Sept. 7 (Great Salt L., Jackson Res., Colo.) to Nov. 3 (Delta). Other reports came from Logan, Casper, Cheyenne, Grand Jct., Greeley, and Longmont. In s.e. Colorado 25-30 pairs of Snowy Plovers nested, at Rocky Ford, Cheraw, and Lamar (CC) They peaked at 14 at Fish Springs N.W.R., Utah, Aug. 23 (CD) and 10-20 appeared at several Great Salt L. locations (CKn, MT, DF). Stillwater reported 11,770 Am. Avocets Sept. 12 (ST).

Yellowstone had its first Upland Sandpiper, well-described Oct 27 (+TMa), a surprisingly late date. Denver Sept. 11 (DN, DS) and Greeley Oct. 1 (JC) each reported a Ruddy Turnstone. The 17 Red Knots included four at Bear R., Aug. 29-Sept. 10 (DF, PL), one at Lamar Aug. 19, and one to four at Longmont Oct 4-12 (D & JW, JC). Semipalmated Sandpipers, by conventional wisdom, occur only sparingly in the Mt. West; experts debate their status. At Bear R., Sept. 4-10, 11 juv. Semipalmateds were reported without details, as were 200-350 in a flock of 5000 Westerns plus other species, Aug. 22, a ratio of 2-4%. With the tremendous numbers of shorebirds which use this migration stopover, that proportion of Semipalmateds seems plausible, but identification needs careful attention and documentation [Amen—K.K.]. The Region had 3 times the usual Pectoral Sandpipers, a total of roughly 350 birds. Peak counts were of 100 Sept. 15 at Greeley and 66 Aug. 22 at Bear R. A respectable 12 Dunlins included three at Layton, Utah, Oct. 26 (DF, MW), singles at Cheraw, Greeley, and Grand Jct., Sept. 1-Oct. 20, and five seen at Delta Oct. 19-Nov. 30+ (MJ).

Small numbers of Stilt Sandpipers pass through all the Mt. West states; observers reported about 175 Aug. 17-Sept. 20 (44 in Utah, four at Las Vegas), plus three at Delta Oct. 12. The **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** at Las Vegas Aug. 26 probably will not make the state list, as a single-observer report, despite a good description (VM). Colorado reported four: Aug. 19 at Rocky Ford (+D & JW), Aug. 22 in n.e. Colorado (+JR), Sept. 7-8 at Pueblo (+RW), and Greeley Oct. 1 (JC). Reports of 14 Short-

billed Dowitchers came from Provo, Great Salt L., Bear R., Lamar, and Denver, and Yellowstone—a 1st *Lat* Aug. 15 (RR #) Away from Bear R., Regional observers found only 1200 Long-billed Dowitchers. The only sizable count of Red-necked Phalaropes came from Stillwater Sept. 12, with 16,200 (ST). Whether or not the usual million or so visited Great Salt L. is not known

**JAEGERS TO TERNS**— An influx of jaegers included three Pomarines in Colorado and 14 Parasitics—one in Nevada, six in Utah, and seven in Colorado. Leitner found two of the Pomarines at the same Denver reservoir, where they stayed Sept. 16-22 and Nov. 17-30 (m.ob.); the other graced Jackson Res., Oct 5 (LH, D & JW). September saw six Colorado Parasitics, at Denver, Julesburg, Pueblo, and Sapinero (1st *Lat*—+RM), and Denver had one Nov. 3-8. The Utah Parasitics clustered around Great Salt L., Sept. 7-14 (three) and Oct. 25-26 (two), plus one Sept 8 at Fillmore, far from the great lake (+SH—1st *Lat*). The Nevada bird flew along a highway near Carson City Sept. 1 (+GM).

Most of the 125 Bonaparte's Gulls, except for a very early arrival at Lamar Aug. 19 (D & JW) and 10 at Stillwater Sept 5 (ST), arrived in the Region in November. Numbers seemed about average, although Utah showed an increase, to 23, attributable to better coverage. A **Heermann's Gull** was reported from Logan Nov. 2 (+MT *et al.*), for the first Utah and 2nd Regional record. At Antero Res. near Fairplay, Colo., breeding California Gulls have, in 5 years, doubled—this year 1200 pairs nested although the lake level rose and flooded 200 of them. The increase coincided with the rise of the Great Salt L. water level, as did similar increases at Riverside and 5 Wyoming colonies (CC). At the same time they have started staying later in e. Colorado, e.g., 15 seen Nov. 23 at Denver (D & JW). Utah reported 10 Tayer's Gulls and Colorado reported nine. Glaucous-winged Gulls returned to Utah, with birds seen in Provo and Salt Lake City on the same day, possibly the same birds (+DF, MT). A juv. or imm. gull which dominated other gulls including two Herring's was identified Nov. 20-27 as Utah's first **Great Black-backed Gull** (+DF, MT, JL). Colorado enjoyed at least 16 Sabine's Gulls, a high count comparable to last year's record numbers. They occurred at Denver, Longmont, and Brush Sept 19-Nov. 3. In addition, singles visited Rock Springs, Wyo., Sept 17 (+FL—1st *Lat*) and Las Vegas Sept. 28. The numbers of Com Terns reported—in Utah and Colorado only—probably reflected both better observers and higher numbers. Most were in scattered groups of one to seven, Aug. 11-Oct. 5; eight Sept. 22 near Riverton, Wyo., provided a 1st *Lat* (MA). Ogden Bay, Utah, Sept. 7 boasted a carefully-counted extraordinary flock of 65 Com. Terns (+PL, ES). Two pairs, only, of Least Terns nested in s.e. Colorado, one each at Rocky Ford and Lamar, but 20 other pairs plied the reservoirs in s.e. Colorado. Longmont, Colo., had one to two Aug. 17-21 (D & JW).

**DOVES TO CORVIDS**— An Inca Dove was found in Washington, Utah, Nov. 6, for the state's 3rd or 4th record (+NSt). At Cedar City, Utah, a Flammulated Owl was found dead in a rain barrel on a late date, Oct. 25 (BE). A tape recorder produced at least three Boreal Owls on a night expedition to Grand Mesa, Colo., Oct. 1 (+MJ, 1st *Lat*). Now recorded practically from the New Mexico line to Yellowstone, this species probably occurs throughout the Colorado and Wyoming mountains, and perhaps the rest of the Rockies. Similarly secretive, N. Saw-whets presented themselves for 9 observations at L/L/B/L Aug. 1-Sept 15 (F.A.C.), and rare reports at Ogden Nov. 15 (MK—banded), Evanston, Wyo., Nov. 15 (\*CK), and Casper Nov. 11 (RB). Common Nighthawks stayed into October at Rock Springs, Wyo., Denver, Eagle, and Glenwood Spgs., with the last Oct. 10 at Lamar (PLo), except for one at Florence, Colo., Nov. 1 (NP) A Whip-poor-will was reported at Bonny Res., Sept. 21 (+WV).

A hummingbird (sp.) arrived during a heavy Sheridan snow-storm Sept. 28, and every 15 minutes patronized a feeder hastily put out; it was not seen again when the weather moderated Oct. 1 (MR). At Westcreek, Colo., another hummingbird (sp) was seen Oct. 7 (RWi). Nevada recorded its first **Broad-billed**



*Anna's Hummingbird at Salt Lake City, Nov. 23, 1985. First record for Utah. Photo/Joelle Buffa.*

**Hummingbird** at a feeder at Alamo Sept. 22-23, documented with a good description of a closely-observed bird (SP, VM, †J & MC). Utah's first **Anna's Hummingbird** visited a Salt Lake City feeder Oct. 24-Nov. 25 (HC, †ES, m.ob.). October 2 saw the last Broad-tailed Hummingbird, at Durango, Colo., and the last Rufous at Cedar City, but then Logan reported two late Rufous Oct. 6 (KD) & 19 (SV). Utahans have found Lewis' Woodpeckers more frequently lately, but a surprisingly large migrant flock of 24 occurred along Salem Canal at Provo (JCs). An **Acorn Woodpecker**, first found climbing and foraging in dead ponderosas at Coral Pink Sand Dunes near Kanab, and seen Aug. 15-Sept. 2, provided Utah's 2nd record (††SH, MW).

The Cimarron R. in extreme s.e. Colorado attracted a singing E. Wood-Pewee Aug. 18 (††LH). A Say's Phoebe Nov. 20 at Grantsville, Utah, perched on ice near open water, would fly after insects and return to its icy perch (ES). On a windy Sept. 25 at Greeley a Vermilion Flycatcher clung to a fence wire (†VW—1st Lat). Late swallows included six Trees Oct. 18 at Grand Jct. and a Violet-green Oct. 12 at Ft. Morgan. A collection of 1500 Bank Swallows sat on mud flats at Delta Aug. 10 (MJ). Bear R. reportedly had an "incredible" 50,000 Banks in mid- to late August (MT #). Blue Jays visited Grand Jct., Aug. 1, and 3 Cody, Wyo., yards in November. Pinyon Jays stuck mostly to their usual locations, except for a flock of 30 near Denver Sept. 13, 300 at Franktown, Colo., Oct. 26-27, four to five at Ft. Morgan Oct. 5-30, and 11 in Baca Co., Colo., Sept. 1. A shut-off of irrigation water in the Carson R., Nev., combined lack of fresh water with ice and low oxygen and killed thousands of fish. One stretch of the river, solid with dying and dead fish for one-half mile, attracted over 600 Com. Ravens, six Bald Eagles, and many magpies.

**NUTHATCHES TO VIREOS** — Few Red-breasted Nuthatches strayed to the plains and valleys; L/L/B/L and Denver reported 26 cf. 70. A few did wander farther E—Ft. Morgan, Lamar, and Baca County each had a couple. At Paradise Valley, Nev., during an August reconnaissance, the most common bird was Rock Wren; every pile of rocks had one, and it occurred in all habitats except meadows (AW). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher stayed at Loveland Sept. 6-Oct. 10 (RH). Bonny produced a surprisingly high count of 25 E. Bluebirds Sept. 21, and three found Denver Oct. 5 (VE). Varied Thrush reports came from Yellowstone (two Sept. 28—JZ), Promontory, Utah, Oct. 5 (two—†ES), and Las Vegas Oct. 5-6 (VM, J & MC). Two Brown Thrashers appeared Nov. 7-30 at L/L/B/L (F.A.C.) and one at Denver Nov. 29 (AH). A Curve-billed Thrasher at Jackson Res. provided a 1st Lat record Oct. 5 (D & JW). Sheridan L., Colo., had a large flock of 600 Water Pipits Oct. 15 (KH). Except for

their usual winter haunts in n. Wyoming, Bohemian Waxwings did not venture farther s.; only Salt Lake City and Hygiene, Colo., reported small flocks. Feeders attracted N. Shrikes at Sheridan, Evanston, Denver, and Ogden, where they preyed on small birds. A Bell's Vireo, singing, visited Las Vegas Aug. 22 (RMC). A few Solitary Vireos waited until October to pass through e. Colorado, and Denver had one Nov. 5 (AH). One with very yellow underparts—presumably of the e. race—stopped at Rock Springs, Oct. 12 (FL).

**WARBLERS** — This year a wealth of warblers supplanted last fall's dearth. The warbler migration seemed much more noticeable this fall, both for regulars and for rarities. First the regulars, then the others: Denver reported a striking increase of Orange-crowneds—32 cf. five last year—and Rock Springs had 15 Sept. 2. Utahans now recognize Nashville Warbler as a regular, although not common, migrant; this fall they reported 52 birds Aug. 13-Sept. 22. Yellow-rumpeds increased in several locations—Denver, Eagle, Casper—and both Bonny and Provo reported hundreds in late September and early October. Townsend's Warbler, until a few years ago regarded as a sparse migrant, appeared in numbers in Utah (40 reported) and Colorado (47). Wilson's Warblers streamed through e. Colorado and Wyoming; Regional reports hit 960. They seemed particularly abundant at Casper (92 Sept. 7, 58 Sept. 17), Green River, Wyo., Sept. 1-2 (60—FL), and Denver (211 reported—D.F.O., D.A.S.—including 22 banded in one yard—MOS). Utah had a few Wilson's, including 20 Sept. 21 at Fish Springs N.W.R., and two stopped at Eureka, Nev., Sept. 21.

The irregulars, telegraphically: Blue-winged at Denver Sept. 10 (# BRi); two Chestnut-sideds at Las Vegas and four in Colorado; Magnolia at Las Vegas Oct. 13 (VM, J & MC, KW), Denver Oct. 15, and Boulder Oct. 2 & 11-14; a Cape May Oct. 12 at Ft. Morgan (LH, D & JW); Black-throated Blue: Las Vegas Oct. 15, Casper Sept. 19-23, Estes Park, Colo., Sept. 18 (†JCh), plus eight other Colorado birds; Hermit, one Aug. 20 at Provo, for the first Utah report in 30 years (†DF); Black-throated Green, one at Cheyenne, nine in Colorado including one Sept. 30 at Penrose (RW—1st Lat); Blackburnian, three in Denver and Boulder; Yellow-throated, Aug. 24 in Denver, Sept. 20 in Boulder (MJS, SL, †D.F.O.); Pine at Casper Sept. 23 (# OKS), and four in the Denver area including a 1st Lat (†DM, MJS, †D.F.O.). Prairie at Denver Oct. 9-12 (JR, WF, DS, †D.F.O.); Palm, one of the yellow race at Las Vegas (KW), one at Logan Nov. 24 feeding in shrubs during a light snow (†JS), and two in Colorado; Bay-breasted, one at Evanston Oct. 13 (†CK) for the 6th Wyoming record, plus four in Colorado; Blackpoll at Corinne, Promontory, and Park Valley, Utah, Casper, and three in Colorado; Black-



*Ovenbird banded at Ogden, Utah, Sept. 21, 1985. Photo/Merlin Killpack. VIREO x05/1/010.*

and-white: Sept. 6 at Milford, Utah (PL, ES—1st Lat), Sept. 30 at Arches N.P. (†CW—1st Lat), three at Casper Sept. 1 and another Oct. 15 (JH), two at Denver; Prothonotary at Las Vegas Sept. 21 (KW, J & MC), Casper Aug. 27 for the 3rd Wyoming record (†VH *et al.*), and Denver Aug. 20-22 (††DN *et al.*); Ovenbird, Milford Sept. 6 (†PL—1st Lat), Ogden Sept. 21 and Oct. 1 (MK, banded and ph.); Kentucky: one Sept. 23 and Oct. 13, perhaps the same bird, at Las Vegas (†MC, KW), and Lamar Aug. 31 (††D & JW); and three Hoodeds in Colorado. In addition, Utah had two first state warblers, if accepted by the state records committees; each was essentially a one-observer report so neither may qualify. At Milford Sept. 6, Lehman identified a much-discussed imm. ♀ **Mourning Warbler**, separated from its congeners mainly by bright yellow “all the way up through center of breast and including entire throat,” a characteristic which several experts define as diagnostic and sufficient to separate MacGillivray’s. At Corinne Sept. 4 Sorenson observed and described well a **Hooded Warbler** which Lehman heard but did not see.

**TANAGERS TO FINCHES** — Although Denver and L/L/B/L reported a drop in W. Tanagers, Killpack banded 21 Aug. 8-Oct. 29 and saw another Nov. 19 after a snowstorm. Surprising numbers of Field Sparrows—six Sept. 21 and four Oct. 19—were reported from Bonny (D & JW, WL, JR), plus single birds Sept. 8 at Denver and Sept. 19 at Greeley (D.F.O., D & JW). Sheridan reported 475 Vesper Sparrows Aug. 9 (HD), Casper had 15-70 through Sept. 25 (JH), and Pawnee Nat’l Grassland, Colo., had 135 Sept. 19 (D & JW). They even strayed to timberline near Eagle Sept. 1 & 5 (JM), and a late one was at Crook, Colo., Nov. 29 (LH). Fish Springs had a peak of 320 Savannah Sparrows Aug. 16 (CD). Three observers reported a **Henslow’s Sparrow** at the intake canal to Jackson Res., for Colorado’s first report (††LH, WL, JR). White-throated Sparrows straggled W to Las Vegas, Logan, and Durango Oct. 4+. Golden-crowned Sparrows straggled E to Las Vegas and Zion Oct. 8 and Oct. 26-Nov. 4 (KW, JG). Snow Buntings arrived in November in small numbers as far s. as Bear R., Logan, Rawlins, Wyo., Boulder, and Longmont. On Oct. 13 Las Vegas had its first Rusty Blackbird in 5 years (VM), and one was at Ft. Morgan Nov. 13 (MJ). Delta reported Great-tailed Grackles for the first time, two females leading two males Nov. 19 flying SE without stopping (MJ).

**Bramblings** came back! Wyoming had two, for its first records: Nov. 10-26 at Dubois, a brilliantly-colored bird came to Welty’s feeder with House Sparrows (MB). A week later, one



*Brambling (with Pine Siskins and House Finches) at Sheridan, Wyo., November 1985. Second Wyoming record. Photo/Helen Downing. VIREO x05/1/008.*

came to a feeder in Sheridan, Nov. 18-30 (†HD). Both birds submitted to excellent photographs. Then came Utah’s 2nd record, of a bird that arrived Nov. 28 at Brigham City and remained at least into late January (†SA, ES, m.ob.).

Few Cassin’s Finches left the mountains; L/L/B/L reported 39, after 85 last fall. Only Yellowstone reported substantial numbers of Red Crossbills—417 in 48 observations (JZ); a poor cone crop dropped their numbers elsewhere. The Region’s only White-winged—and the only crossbill reported from Utah—was on Mt. Timpanogas Oct. 5 (MW). Pine Siskins stayed in the mountains later; Yellowstone had 521 observations and Denver and L/L/B/L collectively tallied 269 (619 last year). The Region also reported fewer Evening Grosbeaks: 381 at L/L/B/L compared with 842 last fall.

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*Brambling in Dubois, Wyo., Nov. 11, 1985. First Wyoming record. Photo/Mary Back.*

## SOUTHWEST REGION

### Arizona, Sonora

David Stejskal, Janet Witzeman

After the driest August on record in many parts of Arizona, the amount of rainfall returned to normal during the remainder of the period. Although Mexican Chickadees and Pygmy Nuthatches were found at lower elevations than usual in the Chiricahua Mountains, and a few other highland species were found in the lowlands, there was no real evidence of an invasion of montane species this fall. Records from the northeastern part of the state (until recently, only sparsely covered) continued to enlighten us. Throughout the state, a fine assortment of unusual shorebirds and warblers highlighted the migrations; and a wagtail was responsible for increasing the state list by one.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — L.C.R. = Lower Colorado River.

**LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL** — Three Pacific Loons, slightly more than usual, were recorded in the state this fall with one bird at Willow L. in Prescott Oct. 14-15 (BT), one at Katherine's Landing on L. Mohave Nov. 9 (RN, DS), and another individual at Willow L., Nov. 12 (BT). A surprising total of 16 Horned Grebes was reported from various locations including two at Willow L., Sept. 16 (BT), two at Willcox Sept. 22 (AP), one at the Grand Canyon S. Rim sewage ponds Oct. 8 (GM), one at Tucson Oct. 17 (JBa), two more at Willow L., Nov. 18 (BT), and eight on upper L. Havasu Nov. 22 (CH).

American White Pelicans showed up in numbers again in n.e. Arizona with six on Many Farms L., Sept. 14, and 191 there Sept. 22 (Brj). This species might be found regularly in this area of the state now that it is receiving good coverage. Brown Pelicans invaded the state this fall, as usual, with the most noteworthy records being of eight flying over I-10 e. of Tucson Nov. 16 (RBo) and an exhausted immature found by a highway patrolman in a snowbank n. of Flagstaff Nov. 13 (*fide* JC). There are very few records of this species in n. Arizona. Even more amazing was the imm. Magnificent Frigatebird photographed near House Rock Rapids on the Colorado R. at the bottom of the Grand Canyon (ph. S. Hester, M. Sharp, ph. B. Dierker), the only frigatebird recorded in the state this fall. Two Cattle Egrets at St. John's Aug. 11 provided the earliest fall record for n.e. Arizona (BH). A Wood Stork at Roosevelt L., Aug. 1 was a nice surprise (J. Poe).

A Fulvous Whistling-Duck, of uncertain origin, returned to Tucson (did it ever leave?) in mid-August for its 3rd consecutive year (JBa). The only Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks reported this fall were 34 (including young) at Nogales Aug. 29 (JBo) and a flock of 13 (4 ad., 9 imm.) at the Gilbert sewage ponds s.e. of Phoenix Oct. 21 (DS). This latter flock remained through the period. A Tundra Swan was observed being chased by a Golden Eagle high overhead at the Hyannis Cattle Co. near McNeal Nov. 15 (AM). The only other Tundra Swan reported was a single bird on Mormon L., s. of Flagstaff, Nov. 16 (AG, VG). Six Greater White-fronted Geese, extremely rare in n. Arizona, were found at Ganado L., Sept. 21 (Brj, CL). Eight Ross' Geese, which is about average, were found during the period Nov. 9+. The records were about evenly distributed between the L.C.R. and s.e. Arizona.

A ♂ Eur. Wigeon was found at the Buenos Aires Ranch w. of Arivaca during the last week of October (WSh). The Phoenix Zoo individual, which began wintering there in the season of 1979-1980, returned for its 7th consecutive winter Nov. 13 (MC). The only Greater Scaup reported during the period was a ♀ bird at the Parker sewage ponds Nov. 9 (DS, RF, RN). A ♀ Surf Scoter was found the same day at Havasu S.P. (DS, RN, RF).



Red-breasted Mergansers are very rarely reported from n.e. Arizona, so seven at Many Farms L., Nov. 2 and one at Tsaille L., Nov. 10 were noteworthy (Brj). One Hooded Merganser Oct. 16 and another Nov. 15 were seen at Willow L. (BT). This species is still very rare in the Prescott area.

**RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES** — Two hawk-watches in the Sulphur Springs Valley Sept. 7 and Oct. 19 (AM, DD, TD) provided some interesting numbers for migrating raptors, including 437 Turkey Vultures and 482 Swainson's Hawks Sept. 7, and 114 N. Harriers, 354 Red-tailed Hawks, and 23 Ferruginous Hawks Oct. 19. Some other interesting finds included two Black-shouldered Kites and four Harris' Hawks Sept. 7, both still quite rare in the Sulphur Springs Valley, and 11 Harris' Hawks and two Merlins Oct. 19.

Ospreys seemed to be much more common than usual this fall away from the L.C.R. and the larger lakes and reservoirs in the state, with no fewer than 25 being reported from various locations in c. and s.e. Arizona. Black-shouldered Kites continued to be recorded at numerous scattered locations from w. of Phoenix s.e. to Douglas. Totally amazing was a report of an ad. light-phase **Short-tailed Hawk** seen near the Rustler Park-Barfoot Rd. intersection in the Chiricahua Mts., Aug. 7 by an observer very familiar with the species (†). Arvin). If accepted by the Arizona Bird Committee it would represent a first state record. Short-tailed Hawk occurs regularly as far n. as c. Sinaloa with one sight record for the Alamos area of s.e. Sonora (GM). In addition to the Harris' Hawks mentioned above, four more were found at San Bernardino Ranch e. of Douglas Oct. 26 (AM, DD). The refuge manager maintained that the hawks had nested there earlier in the year. The last record of Harris' Hawk at this location was in 1892! An ad. Ferruginous Hawk was seen n. of Chino Valley in suitable breeding habitat on the early date of Sept. 2 (JC, K. Dial, N. Czaplewski). This species has bred in the Prescott region historically, but not since the 1920s.

A flock of 32 Wild Turkeys (*M. g. mexicana*) was found near Arroyo Cajon Bonito in extreme n.e. Sonora Aug. 23 (AM, S. Shemnetz). This race is not definitely known from Arizona. Reports of Montezuma Quail have been on the increase lately, especially in the Chiricahuas and the Santa Rita Mts. According to S. Spofford, this species may finally be rebounding from the last 5-8 years of low populations throughout the state. The status of Chukar in the state is very poorly known, so the presence of good numbers near Chilchinbito on the Navajo Indian Reservation was noteworthy (CL, Brj). Sandhill Crane had been unrecorded in n. Arizona since 1936, so an individual at Many

Farms L., Oct. 20, was a true surprise (Brj). A flock of 50 Sandhills of San Simon Oct. 15 was in an area where they do not normally occur (RM).

**SHOREBIRDS THROUGH GULLS** — The ad. N. Jacana first found in June near Nogales remained through the period. Black-bellied Plovers are apparently not as rare in n.e. Arizona as we had previously thought; several at both Many Farms L. and Ganado L. through September and part of October added to the growing number of recent reports (Brj *et al.*). A Lesser Golden-Plover (*P.d. dominica*) was found at Many Farms L., Sept. 14, providing the second record for n.e. Arizona (†Brj, CL). An amazing four Lesser Golden-Plovers were found at the 83rd Ave (Phoenix) sewage ponds after a storm Oct. 18-21 (†DS *et al.*) These too appeared to be *dominica*. Arizona usually averages one Lesser Golden-Plover every 1-2 falls. Snowy Plovers were more common than usual with no fewer than eight being reported from scattered locations throughout the state, including a late individual at Willow L., Nov. 24 (BT). Only two Mountain Plovers were reported Nov. 26 near McNeal in the area where up to 100 individuals have wintered in recent years (AM) Black-necked Stilt is still rarely reported in n. Arizona, so three at Ashurst L. near Flagstaff Sept. 4 were noteworthy (JC).

The same storm that downed the four Lesser Golden-Plovers mentioned above also downed two of the rarest shorebirds in Arizona. Among the numerous shorebirds at the settling ponds was a juv. Ruff and a juv. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, both of which established 2nd state records. The Ruff remained Oct. 18-20 and was seen by many, but the Sharp-tailed remained only one day, Oct. 18, and was seen by a lucky half-dozen birders (†DS *et al.*). Two Ruddy Turnstones were found in n.e. Arizona this fall, one at Tsaile L., Sept. 1-3 and the other at Round Rock L., Sept. 8 (Brj). There was one previous record for that part of the state. Three Sanderlings, about average, were recorded from Willcox (two) Sept. 1-2 (AM, CG *et al.*) and Avondale Oct. 6 (TG, MJ). A late Least Sandpiper was found at Tsaile L., Nov. 10 (Brj), and three more were at Ashurst L., Nov. 14 walking in 8 inches of snow at the edge of the lake (JC). Four Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported with one in mid-August in Tucson (JS), another at Willcox Sept. 2-8 (SG, JBo, †JBa), a late bird at Avondale Sept. 23 (†DS), and an even later individual at Willcox Oct. 4 (J & AP). Observers should be reminded that all Semipalmated records must be accompanied by full details, especially after late September. More Short-billed Dowitchers than usual were reported again this fall, including 3 records from n.e. Arizona, where it is especially rare. Two juveniles were at Many Farms L., Aug. 14 and another at Tsaile L., Sept. 13-16 (Brj), and another juvenile was at the Chinle sewage ponds Sept. 15 (DS, CB, CH, RN). Three late Long-billed Dowitchers were at Many Farms L., Nov. 16 (Brj).

A Pomarine Jaeger was found at Becker L., n. of Springerville, Oct. 14 (†GR *et al.*). This was only the 2nd record for n. Arizona and only the 5th for the state. A 2nd-year Heermann's Gull at Topock Marsh near Golden Shores Nov. 9 was a surprise (DS, RF, RN). A first-year Herring Gull was found in Tempe Oct. 10 (TC) and another was at L. Havasu Nov. 22 (CH). Five Sabine's Gulls were reported this fall: an adult and an immature at Tsaile L., Sept. 13 (Brj), single immatures at Avondale Sept. 23 (DS) and at L. Havasu Oct. 12 (K.V. Rosenberg, A. Higgins), and an adult near Centennial Wash Oct. 11-13 (ph. T. Rogers, D. Scarbrough). The Tsaile L. birds provided only the 2nd record for n.e. Arizona.

**DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — A Ruddy Ground-Dove was observed with Inca and Mourning doves at Paloma, w. of Gila Bend, Sept. 6 (PB). This was the 6th record for Arizona. See last fall's report for a thorough discussion of this bird's status in the state. A group of three Groove-billed Anis was discovered near Arlington Oct. 2 (BDu). This was the 2nd record of this species this year w. of Phoenix.

White-eared Hummingbird is still quite rare in the Santa Rita Mts., so of interest was at least one immature at Madera Canyon

from July to the very late date of Nov. 4 (KK *et al.*) The two Plain-capped Starthroats found earlier this year near Portal remained until Aug. 12 with one staying until Sept. 2 (RT). Single Lucifer Hummingbirds were found at Madera Canyon, where still very rare, Aug. 17 and Sept. 23 (m.ob.). At Portal, where it is more regular, an imm. ♂ Lucifer and a female were seen Oct. 12, with one bird remaining until Oct. 18 (S & WSp, KK, GR *et al.*), at least three individuals remained at feeders in a nearby area until the 3rd week in October (RM).

Elegant Trogon has been recorded only once before in the Baboquivari Mts., w. of Nogales, so a ♀ trogon there Nov. 5 was very interesting (R. Harm). An Eared Trogon along the S. Fork trail in Cave Creek Canyon, Chiricahua Mts., Oct. 22 (ph. K. Lawrence) suggested that the species continues to occur in the area where it was first found in 1977. The Green Kingfisher at Kino Springs remained until Aug. 21 (m.ob.). An imm. Green Kingfisher was found at Sycamore Canyon Aug. 31 (JS), and another individual was discovered at Arivaca Oct. 27 and remained through the period (J & AP *et al.*). A very early Lewis' Woodpecker was found along the Salt R. in s.w. Phoenix Sept. 23 (DS). Two more were seen in Portal Oct. 13 (W & SSp) and another was near Kansas Settlement Nov. 27 (GM). The only Yellow-bellied Sapsucker reported was on the Salt R., e. of Phoenix, Oct. 12 (CH).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRUSHES** — Complete surprises were the discoveries of two N. Beardless-Tyrannulets e. of the Boyce Thompson Arboretum near Superior Aug. 23 (CB) and five to six at the Arboretum Sept. 9 (DS). The closest area of regular occurrence is near the confluence of the San Pedro and Gila rivers about 35-40 mi to the southeast. A Greater Pewee remained in Tucson from Oct. 30 through the end of the period (JBa). Another individual was in a Phoenix yard Nov. 17 (RBr). An E. Phoebe was reported in s.w. Phoenix Nov. 28 (RN). The first E. Kingbird reported in several years was seen in Flagstaff Sept. 15 (JC, T. Myers). A surprising three Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported this fall with one Aug. 2-7 near Marana (JBo *et al.*), one s. of Chandler Oct. 13 (R. Knorr *et al.*), and another Oct. 15 near Pima (BDu).

"Hundreds" of Pinyon Jays near Young Oct. 7 were thought to be the prelude of an invasion this fall, but the invasion never materialized (J. & W. Spencer). A single Clark's Nutcracker was seen in the Santa Rita Mts., Oct. 12 (R. Eastman).

Mountain Chickadees were common in many lowland riparian areas in n.e. Arizona from mid-August on, including many locations where they do not normally occur, straying as far as Petrified Forest N.P. (Brj, RN, GR *et al.*). The only lowland Red-breasted Nuthatches were two in Tucson Oct. 30 (FH, JBa), and the only lowland Golden-crowned Kinglet was found at Quitobaquito Spring, Organ Pipe Cactus N.M., Oct. 26 (RBo, B. Dunning). Numbers of Black-capped Gnatcatchers continued to be reported from both Chino and Sycamore canyons through late August (*vide* JBa).

A very early Mountain Bluebird was found at Willcox Sept. 1 (AM, CG). A Rufous-backed Robin was found dead at the Buenos Aires Ranch in mid-October (WSh), but the one found at Canoa Nov. 24 was still very much alive (JS, BS). Another Aztec Thrush was found in Madera Canyon Aug. 16-17 (P. Baicich, †D. & D. Traver) and provided the 4th record for that canyon and 6th for the state.

**THRASHERS THROUGH WARBLERS** — The only Gray Catbird reported this fall was at E. Stronghold Canyon, Dragon Mts., Nov. 22 (TD). The most exciting bird of the season (and the most frustrating) was the imm. White/Black-backed wagtail found at the Grand Canyon S. Rim sewage ponds Oct. 7-10 (ph. C. Rudd, K. Berggren, ph. S. Hadapp *et al.*). Since immature birds of these two species are inseparable in the field, Arizonans had to be content with only adding a new genus to the state list.

A Philadelphia Vireo, an extremely rare vagrant in the state, was observed in Keams Canyon in n.e. Arizona Sept. 14 (CL,



*Immature White or Black-backed wagtail at Grand Canyon Nat'l Park, Ariz., Oct. 6, 1985. First record of any wagtail for Arizona. Photo/Connie Rudd. VIREO x05/1/012.*

†Br]). Red-eyed Vireo was recorded more commonly than in recent years with four reported: one in Guadalupe Canyon Aug. 6 (S. Ruden), one at Guevavi Ranch Aug. 22 (SG), another at Keams Canyon Sept. 21 (Br), CL), and another at Chiricahua N.M., Oct. 4 (JP).

An Orange-crowned Warbler in Sycamore Canyon Aug. 5 provided the earliest fall record for this species in s. Arizona (DS, RN). Reports of Chestnut-sided Warblers have increased in recent years, so it is no surprise that three were reported for the period: at L. Patagonia Sept. 21 (JBo, JBa), at Many Farms L., Sept. 22 (Br]), and at Phoenix Nov. 22 (RN). Two ♀ Black-throated Blue Warblers were reported, from Patagonia Sept. 22 (RS) and from e. Tucson Sept. 29 (FH). A Palm Warbler was found behind a hotel in Tempe (near Phoenix) during the A.O.U. meetings Oct. 11 (†K. Parkes) and another was near Buckeye Nov. 16 (†CB); there are now about 28 state records.

An impressive three Prothonotary Warblers were found during the period: at S. Fork, Cave Creek Canyon, Aug. 19 (D. Viess, R. Rust], at Patagonia Aug. 29-Sept. 1 (JS, AP), and at Sabino Canyon Oct. 10 (†A. Bradford, J. Tedford). A Worm-eating Warbler was at Chiricahua N.M., Sept. 29 (AP); Arizona averages two to three individuals a year. Remarkable was the report of a **Swainson's Warbler** at Patagonia, first discovered by a pair of anonymous British birders Sept. 4, then rediscovered Sept. 8 (†BS *et al.*); if accepted, it would provide the 2nd record for the state and one of very few in the West. The only Ovenbird was one found at Ganado Wash, n.e. Arizona, Oct. 6 (RF). Two Louisiana Waterthrushes were reported: one at Sycamore Canyon Aug. 4 (†DS, RN) and the other at Patagonia Nov. 16 (RS), presumably the same individual that has wintered there the past 2 years. The August bird fit neatly into an emerging late-summer pattern of records for Arizona, being the 4th to be recorded during late July-early August. The ♂ Hooded Warbler at Page Springs remained until Oct. 8 (VG). Exciting was the discovery of an imm. ♂ **Mourning Warbler** at Ganado Sept. 15 (†DS, †CH, †RN, CB); if accepted, it would provide the 2nd state record and the first for fall.

Two Black-and-white Warblers, five Am. Redstarts, and about 15 N. Waterthrushes (more than usual) were reported for the period.

**BUNTINGS THROUGH FINCHES** — Two Painted Buntings were reported this fall, an ad. male at Portal Aug. 24 (†AP *et al.*) and an immature in e. Tucson Sept. 12 (CD *et al.*). More Dickcissels than usual were found, with nine reported: one banded in e. Tucson Sept. 12 (P. Walters, CD *et al.*), one each at Becker L. and the Hooper Ranch near Springerville Sept. 14 (†CH, DS *et al.*), two at Ganado Wash Sept. 15 (†CH), and four s.e. of Tucson Sept. 14 (RBo). Three Clay-colored Sparrows, more than usual,

were found in n. Arizona: an immature at Ganado L., Aug. 17 (†RN), an immature at Richville, near Springerville Sept. 14 (†CH, RF, RN, DS), and one at Page Springs Sept. 20 (RF). Only two White-throated Sparrows were reported, one in Oak Cr. Canyon Oct. 18 (SD, HL, JW) and one at Bisbee Nov. 28 (AM, DD). Two early White-crowned Sparrows were found in Tucson Aug. 20 (K. Rawlins). Golden-crowned Sparrow has rarely been recorded in n. Arizona, so of interest was one at the Grand Canyon S. Rim sewage ponds Oct. 8 (GM). Three Harris' Sparrows were reported: one at Ganado Oct. 6 (RF) and two immatures at Prescott Nov. 28 + (B. Sullivan *et al.*) and Nov. 30 + (V. Miller). McCown's Longspurs were found again in the Sulphur Springs Valley Nov. 23 for the 3rd consecutive year (JS, BS).

A ♀ Orchard Oriole near Springerville Sept. 14 (†CH, RN) was the first for n.e. Arizona; an imm. ♂ Orchard Oriole was found at Topock Marsh, L.C.R., Nov. 9 (†DS, RN, RF). The first record of "Baltimore Oriole" for n.e. Arizona was provided by an imm. male at Becker L., Sept. 14 (†CH). Evening Grosbeaks were reported again in Portal; 13 were counted there Nov. 25 (RM).

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## New Mexico

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### John P. Hubbard

**ABBREVIATIONS** — Bosque Refuge = Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge; T or C = Truth or Consequences. Place names in *italics* are counties.

**LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL** — Common Loons were more frequent than usual, with one Oct. 12 at Santa Fe (PI *et al.*) and nine others almost statewide Nov. 11-27 (v.o.). The state's first breeding of Clark's Grebe was documented in upper Elephant Butte L., with 60-80 adults and young there Aug. 16-18 & 29 (TM, GS). Reliable reports of migrants were of singles at Zuni Nov. 24 (JT) and Bosque Refuge Aug. 22 (BZ, Y. Zimmer), plus three at L. McMillan Nov. 15 (RT *et al.*). Some 130+ W. Grebes (and almost as many "westerns") were reported—including late ones near Las Vegas Nov. 15 (RT *et al.*) and montane ones at Snow L., *Catron*, Oct. 3 (S. Williams).

Easterly was a Double-crested Cormorant at Clayton L., Oct. 5 (WC). Tricolored Herons were more numerous than usual, with up to six at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Aug. 2-Sept. 28 (KW), and one near Hobbs Aug. 25 (CL). Cattle Egrets continued to prosper in the middle Rio Grande Valley, as evidenced by 60-80 (75% imm.) near Belen Aug. 14 (WH). One near Silver City Nov. 27 (HS) furnished the only far w. record. One to two Green-backed Herons at Zuni Sept. 1-5 (JT) were notable, and a possible family group was at Mangas Springs, *Grant*, Sept. 2 (RF). Black-crowned Night-Herons in areas where infrequent included up to six near Clayton Sept. 14 & 20 (WC), plus singles at Zuni Sept.

1-6 (JT) and Hobbs Oct. 2 (CL). Unusual was a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron near Chamberino, *Dona Ana*, in early October (*fide* BZ). White-faced Ibis maxima included 152 at Zuni Aug. 31-Sept. 7 (JT), 50+ at Bosque Refuge Aug. 29 and Sept. 22 (RT), and 200+ at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Aug. 17 (KW).

A Greater White-fronted Goose Nov. 11 was the first ever in the Clayton area (WC). The highest peak ever for Snow Geese at Bosque Refuge was over 50,000 in late November (*fide* RD). Out-of-range were one to two near Cliff Nov. 16 (H. & A. Parent) and Zuni Nov. 24-26 (JT). Wood Ducks in areas where infrequent were one to two at Zuni Sept. 3-5 (JT) and near Alamogordo Oct. 7 (O.C.B.C.). A dark, Mallard-like duck with a purplish speculum near Clayton Sept. 29 (WC, MM) could have been an Am. Black, Mottled, or hybrid duck. In November, small numbers of Hooded Mergansers were scattered from Clayton (WC) to Zuni (JT) and Bitter Lake N.W.R. (KW), and a few Red-breasted Mergansers were at Bosque Refuge (RT), Bitter Lake N.W.R. (KW), and L. McMillan (JH, WH) in the same month.

**RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS** — A season-long (Sept. 6-Nov. 2) raptor count in the Manzano Mts., *Torrance*, yielded 2924 birds of 15 species (JWD *et al.*). Impressive highs included 968 Sharp-shinned and 533 Cooper's hawks, 22 N. Goshawks, 519 Red-tailed Hawks, 135 Golden Eagles, and 425 Am. Kestrels. Ten Ospreys were recorded there Sept. 13-Oct. 8, compared to about 15 elsewhere in the state—including one at Hobbs Sept. 19-Oct. 17 (CL) and late singles at Bosque Refuge Nov. 29 (RT) and Percha Dam, *Sierra*, Nov. 26-30 (DM). Notable was a Black-shouldered Kite at Bosque Refuge Nov. 23-27 (JS *et al.*). Mississippi Kites in areas where local were singles n. of Clayton in August (*fide* WC) and in Albuquerque Aug. 19 (WH). Early Bald Eagles included single adults at Maxwell N.W.R. in August and September (W. Mobley), Algodones Aug. 27 (J. Bass), and Flora Vista Sept. 15 (AN). A largely albino N. Harrier was near Otero Mesa, *Otero*, Nov. 16 (B. Morrison). A Com. Black-Hawk near San Marcial Aug. 16 and Sept. 12 (ph. TM) was the first documented in *Socorro*. Single Broad-winged Hawks were over the Manzano Mts., Sept. 26 and Oct. 1 (JWD *et al.*) and in *Dona Ana* Oct. 5 (BZ)—the latter a local first.

Two broods of White-tailed Ptarmigans were in the Truchas Peaks, *Rio Arriba*, transplant-area Aug. 13-14 (A. Sandoval). Wild Turkeys at rather low elevations were four along Las Animas Cr., *Sierra*, Sept. 23 (EW, T. Wootten) and one near Rocky Arroyo, *Eddy*, Sept. 16 (WE). Northern Bobwhites in August and October near Roswell were apparently the result of releases made there recently (ES). High counts for Soras included 25 at Zuni Aug. 31-Sept. 7 (JT), eight at Quemado L., Aug. 27, and 10 at Bernardo Aug. 17 (WH). Very early Sandhill Cranes were heard over Tesuque Sept. 6-7 (P. Shultz), with the next recorded Sept. 21 near Bosque Refuge (RT); unusual was a report at Nogal L., *Lincoln*, Oct. 14 (SB *et al.*). Up to 40 Whooping Cranes were expected in the period (RD), while out-of-range was one at Las Vegas N.W.R., Nov. 15+ (E. Hesse).

Semipalmated Plovers were "abnormally common" in *Dona Ana* (BZ *et al.*), and a new local high was eight at Morgan L., *San Juan*, Sept. 12-15 (H.H. Lesperance). High counts of Killdeer included 117 near Clayton Aug. 30 (WC), 130 at Zuni Aug. 31-Sept. 7, 60 at Bluewater L., Sept. 3-4 (JT), and 75 near Los Lunas Aug. 18 (WH). Some 400+ Mountain Plovers were near Moriarty Aug. 3 (WH), with 40-50 still there Oct. 8 (PS, RT); also, 80+ were near Los Lunas Aug. 29, and 50-60 Sept. 27 (PS, RT). Small numbers of Upland Sandpipers were in *Dona Ana* Aug. 8-Sept. 8 (BZ *et al.*); the only other one was near Los Lunas Aug. 18 (WH). Uncommon "peep" in the period included three Sanderlings, a Stilt Sandpiper, and up to eight Pectorals at Zuni Sept. 2-6 (JT), four Pectorals near Los Lunas Sept. 27 (PS, RT), and a probable Semipalmated at Bosque Refuge Aug. 29 (RT). Very late was a phalarope at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Nov. 18 (KW).

**JAEGERS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS** — An ad. Pomarine at L. McMillan Nov. 17 (WH) was the only jaeger reported in the



Juvenile/first-winter Common Tern and juvenile Sabine's Gull at Bluewater Lake, McKinley Co., N.M., Sept. 3, 1985. Photo/John Trochet.

period. Eleven Franklin's Gulls there the same date (WH) were late, as were 11 California Gulls at Heron L., *Rio Arriba*, Oct. 3 (LS), four at Bluewater L., Nov. 27 (JT), and two at Caballo L., Oct. 4 and Nov. 13 (JH). Single Sabine's Gulls were at Cochiti L., Sept. 11 (WH), Bluewater L., Sept. 3-4 (JT), and Bitter Lake N.W.R., Oct. 4-6 (KW). An imm. Com. Tern was at Bluewater L., Sept. 3-4 (ph. JT); a probable one was at L. McMillan Nov. 11, along with an equally late Forster's Tern (JH). Overdue was New Mexico's first **Ancient Murrelet**, an immature found alive along a highway near Santa Fe Nov. 6 (A. Miller); the bird later died (\*U.S.N.M.).

The high for White-winged Doves at Socorro was 15 Nov. 22 (JS); only two were at T or C at the end of the period (DM), with one at Roswell Aug. 10 (ES). The last Inca Dove at T or C was Aug. 28 (DM), while up to four were at Alamogordo into October (O.C.B.C.). New Mexico's 2nd **Ruddy Ground-Dove** was at Owens' Farm, *Dona Ana*, Oct. 31 and Nov. 4, in the same place and a year after the first report (ph. BZ). Single Com. Ground-Doves were there Oct. 31-Nov. 4 (BZ). A Groove-billed Ani at Mangas Springs Nov. 20 (D. Hunt, *fide* RF) furnished the only report. A late Com. Poorwill was at Roswell Nov. 14 (KW). Lucifer Hummingbirds were present in the Peloncillo Mts. near Rodeo until at least Oct. 6, after a summer in which up to 12 (including immatures) were observed (RS). Unusual hummingbirds were two Magnificents at Cloudcroft through Sept. 15 (O.C.B.C.); two Magnificents and a ♂ Blue-throated at Silver City Sept. 22 (RF), plus an Anna's there Sept. 11+ (HS); and an Anna's at Durlings' Farm, *Dona Ana*, Oct. 8 (BZ). Calliope Hummingbirds occurred in the Rio Grande Valley s. to s. *Dona Ana*, with the latest Sept. 24 at T or C (DM); also late was one at Farmington Sept. 30. East of the usual range was a Belted Kingfisher near Hobbs Sept. 9-Oct. 1 (CL).

Out of range was a Gila Woodpecker near Rodeo Sept. 10-11 (RS). Two Lewis' Woodpeckers were winging S over the Manzano Mts., Sept. 13 (WH), while one to two other out-of-range birds were at Corona Nov. 12 (PS, RT) and Durlings' Farm Sept. 23-25 (BZ). "Yellow-bellied" sapsuckers outside the usual range were singles at Clayton Sept. 6 (WC) and Hobbs Sept. 25 (CL). An imm. Three-toed Woodpecker was being fed by an adult at Sandia Crest Aug. 11 (B. D'Angelo, WH). A purported Gray Flycatcher at Bosque Refuge Nov. 30 (J. Saba) was extremely late, as was an empidonax at Mangas Springs Nov. 24 (RF). Out-of-range was a Black Phoebe at Quemado L., Aug. 28 (WH). The only E. Phoebes were singles at Albuquerque Nov. 21 and Bosque Refuge Sept. 21 (RT). Northerly was a ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher n. of Clayton in August (*fide* WC). Late was an Ash-throated Flycatcher at Owens' Farm Nov. 2 (JD), and the only Great Crested was at nearby Durlings' Farm Sept. 13 (BZ). Extraordinary was a **Couch's Kingbird** at Bosque Refuge Sept. 23-30 (J. Durrie *et al.*; ph. v.o.; recorded JS), assuming that the "breerer" call is definitive for this species.

**SWALLOWS THROUGH NUTHATCHES** — Notable were two Purple Martins at Albuquerque Sept. 28 (CH), while very late were two each Violet-green and Barn swallows at Percha Dam Nov. 26-30 (DM). Steller's Jays staged localized lowland incursions, mainly in small numbers in the Rio Grande Valley and vicinity s. to Albuquerque; others included one to two in Mills Canyon, *Harding/Mora*, Oct. 12-13 (JH) and near Villanueva Sept. 19 (WE). Scrub Jays also joined that invasion and were somewhat more widespread, including a few in the Roswell area Nov. 14-16 (KW). Blue Jays were present in the Roswell area through the period, including a family group there Aug. 9 (ES); several were at Clayton Oct. 5 (WC). Some Pinyon Jays also moved to lower elevations, including 30+ in the Albuquerque area Aug. 25-28 (CH, WH), 16 at Mangas Springs Sept. 21 (RF), and five at Queen, *Eddy*, Sept. 14-15 (WE). Several Clark's Nutcrackers were in the Manzano Mts., Sept. 13 (WH), plus one at Zuni Sept. 2 and 17 in the Zuni Mts., Sept. 4 (JT). A new locale for Am. Crow was the Moriarty area, with 70+ Nov. 10 (JH); also notable were six near Villanueva Sept. 19 (WE), one at Belen Aug. 14 (WH), and 18 at Mangas Springs Sept. 21 (RF). The most northerly Rio Grande Valley reports yet of Chihuahuan Ravens were of two to three near Isleta and Los Lunas Aug. 17 (WH).

Mountain Chickadees invaded lower elevations more widely and in greater numbers than usual, including in the Rio Grande Valley to *Dona Ana* by mid-October (v.o.); easterly was one at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Nov. 16 (KW). One to two Bridled Titmice were at Percha Dam Oct. 25 and Nov. 26-30 (BZ *et al.*), while northerly were two Verdins at La Joya Refuge Aug. 17 (GH, WH). On Oct. 19, 12 Bushtits were at Albuquerque (CH)—where infrequent. Red-breasted Nuthatches were widely in evidence beginning mid-September, including in the Rio Grande Valley s. to *Dona Ana* (v.o.); birds in the latter area were "almost abundant" (BZ). Also notable were 15+ in the Zuni Mts., Sept. 2-4 (JT) and a few in the Roswell area Sept. 10-Nov. 22 (KW). Pygmy Nuthatches also moved into the Rio Grande Valley, with one at Albuquerque Sept. 7-14 (CH, WH) and several in November (S. Hoffman), plus two at Bernardo Sept. 22 (WH); two at Aguirre Spring, Organ Mts., Aug. 27 (BZ) may also have been migrants. Incursions of White-breasted Nuthatches are more difficult to detect, because of the species' lowland residency; however, the species was numerous in *Dona Ana* beginning in early October (BZ), and one at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Oct. 18 (KW) may have been a migrant.

**WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS** — An albino Rock Wren was near Clayton Sept. 6, following a "wave" of normally colored birds Sept. 4 (WC). The only Winter Wren was one at Anthony Oct. 3 (H. Bigelow). Early was a Marsh Wren at Bosque Refuge Aug. 17 (GH, WH), where the species is not known to summer. Golden-crowned Kinglets appeared in lowland areas in small numbers, including one to two at Albuquerque Sept. 21 (*fide* RT) and Oct. 19 (CH) and in *Dona Ana* Nov. 6 (S. Wilson). Montane reports included four in the Zuni Mts., Nov. 25 (JT), one to two in the Manzano Mts., Sept. 13 (WH), and two in the Burro Mts., Sept. 14 (RF, M. O'Byrne). A few E. Bluebirds were near Clayton Oct. 25 (WC, A. Krehbiel), while Mountain Bluebirds strayed away from breeding areas only in the northeast. Early Townsend's Solitaires near Santa Fe were singles Aug. 15 & 24 (JH *et al.*), plus an easterly one at Hobbs Sept. 30 (CL). Very rare in New Mexico, a Veery was at Zuni Sept. 5 (JT). An imm. Am. Robin was in T or C Sept. 11 (DM); a few robins showed up in other lowland areas by late September or early October, but no large influxes were noted.

Migrant Gray Catbirds s. of breeding areas were singles at Bosque Refuge Aug. 17 (GH, WH), and in *Dona Ana* Oct. 21 (EW *et al.*) and Nov. 4 (JD, BZ). Late N. Mockingbirds included singles in Mills Canyon Oct. 12-13 (JH) and Santa Fe Nov. 22-26 (SB). Early were 30 Sage Thrashers in the Willard area Aug. 3 (WH *et al.*), while late were six at Zuni Nov. 26 (JT). The only Brown Thrasher was at Farmington Sept. 20 (R. Pritchard). Curve-billed has become almost annual in autumn-winter at

Santa Fe, this year one arriving early, Sept. 22 (SB). A few Cedar Waxwings were in the n., except for one (!) at Three Rivers, *Lincoln*, Sept. 21 (O.C.B.C.). Late was a family group of Phainopepla at Mangas Springs Sept. 21 (RF). Late was a Bell's Vireo at Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy*, Sept. 16 (WE). A Gray Vireo at Aguirre Springs Aug. 27 (JD, BZ) was these observers' first in the Organ Mts. Rare vireos for the state were single **Yellow-throated Vireos** at Santa Fe Aug. 24-Sept. 30 (SB) and Albuquerque Sept. 11 (RT); a Philadelphia at Hobbs Sept. 9 (CL), and an apparent **Yellow-green** (Red-eyed) **Vireo** at Bosque Refuge Aug. 29 (RT).

Rare warblers included a ♂ Blue-winged at Zuni Sept. 6, a ♂ **Golden-winged Warbler** at Los Alamos Sept. 10 (B. Lewis), a **Blackburnian Warbler** at Anthony Oct. 4 (ph. BZ), plus one and a Kentucky at Rattlesnake Springs Sept. 16 (D. Tomaso, *fide* WE); and a Prothonotary at Albuquerque Sept. 9 (RT), and a **Canada Warbler** there Oct. 13 (ph. CH). Only one Tennessee was reported, plus a few Nashvilles, Myrtils (Yellow-rumped), Black-and-whites, and Am. Redstarts, and moderate numbers of N. Waterthrushes. Late were a N. Parula at Albuquerque Nov. 20 (CH *et al.*), two Orange-crowneds near La Mesa, *Dona Ana*, Nov. 13 (BZ), a Townsend's at Albuquerque Oct. 26 (ph. B. Halstead), and Wilson's at Columbus Oct. 15-23 (DM). Notable lowland occurrences were a ♀ Hermit in s. *Dona Ana* Sept. 27 (JD, BZ), plus a Painted Redstart at Percha Dam Sept. 25 and earlier (BZ *et al.*). Two immatures of the latter species were being fed by adults in the Black Range Sept. 14 (RF).

**TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES** — Unexpected was a Summer Tanager at Zuni Sept. 1 (JT), for the 2nd record there. The only Rose-breasted Grosbeak was a male near San Ildefonso in late August (E. Espinoza), while a few Indigo Buntings were at Three Rivers Aug. 3 (O.C.B.C.) and near Sitting Bull Falls, *Eddy*, Sept. 14 (WE). Out-of-range was a Painted Bunting at Albuquerque Sept. 11 (*fide* RT); at least three were in s. *Dona Ana* Sept. 13-14 (BZ *et al.*). Early Green-tailed Towhees were at Santa Fe Aug. 28 (SB) and Mangas Springs Aug. 30 (RF), while one at Zuni Nov. 24 (JT) was late; easterly was one at Hobbs Oct. 2 (CL). A Cassin's Sparrow at Zuni Sept. 5 (JT) was a w straggler. A Rufous-crowned Sparrow in Frijoles Canyon Sept. 7 was a first for the Jemez Mts.; on Sept. 19, three were near Villanueva (WE)—where the species has only recently been reported. American Tree Sparrows reaching s. points included a few at Zuni (JT), Albuquerque (CH *et al.*), and Bitter Lake N.W.R. (KW), Nov. 10-24. The "handful" of Clay-colored Sparrows in *Dona Ana* were down from the numbers of last year (BZ), but at least 40 were counted in the Artesia-Queen area Sept. 14-16 (WE). Elsewhere, one was reported at Socorro Sept. 14 (JS) and 12 at Mangas Springs Sept. 15 (RF). A highly probable **Field Sparrow** at Zuni Sept. 3 (JT) was well w. of the usual range. Grasshopper Sparrow numbers were up in the Clayton area in August, with six still there Sept. 4 (WC). Early were single Savannah and Song sparrows at Quemado L., Aug. 27 (WH), plus two of the latter at Bluewater L., Sept. 3 (JT) and three near Sitting Bull Falls Sept. 14 (WE). A few Swamp Sparrows were at Bitter Lake N.W.R. (KW) and Mangas Springs (RF) in November. Early White-crowneds were at Mangas Springs Sept. 2 (RF) and Zuni Sept. 5-7 (JT).

Eastern Meadowlarks were still at Zuni Sept. 1-6 (JT), while early Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Aug. 1-2 (KW). Great-tailed Grackles in areas where infrequent included up to nine at Zuni Aug. 31-Sept. 6 (JT), four at Quemado L., Aug. 27 (WH), one near Cliff Sept. 28, and eight at Silver City Sept. 17 and Oct. 28 (RF); seven were still at Las Vegas Sept. 29 (PI *et al.*). The only Cassin's Finches were one to three at Chama Aug. 1-21 (LS) and in the Zuni Mts., Nov. 25 (JT). The sole Red Crossbills reported were near L. Roberts, *Grant*, Oct. 24 (JH). Pine Siskins were widespread after mid-September, with earlier reports at Santa Fe (JH), La Joya (WH), and Peloncillo Mts. (JH). Late were 30 Lesser Goldfinches at Zuni Nov. 26 (JT), while early were small numbers of Am Goldfinches at Bernardo and Bosque Refuge Aug. 17 (WH).



Evening Grosbeaks were at Chama Aug. 5-6 (LS) and in the Santa Fe area Aug. 3-Nov. 1 (v.o.)—with a few persisting in the latter to Nov. 28 (SB). Elsewhere, four each were at Espanola Aug. 25 (PI, CR) and Cloudcroft Sept. 1-12 (O.C.B.C.), plus seven to eight stragglers at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Nov. 12-13 (KW).

**ADDENDA** — Late 1985 reports include a Crested Caracara near Rodeo Feb. 5 and Mar. 5 (RS); a Mountain Plover near Tularosa Mar. 19 (R. Jenness *et al.*); up to 18 White-winged Doves in T or C in June-July, plus a pair each of Magnificent Hummingbirds June 2-22 and N. Cardinals as late as June 29-July 4 (DM); two **Dickcissels** near El Rito June 22 (D. Huntington); four Cassin's Sparrows near La Cienaga June 28 (J. Travis); and a ♂ Bronzed Cowbird at Columbus June 4-6 (DM).

**CORRIGENDUM** — No actual nest of White-winged Dove was discovered at Roswell in the summer of 1985, but the species almost certainly now breeds in that area.

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## ALASKA REGION

### D. D. Gibson

**A**utumn 1985 was mild until October, when an abrupt change to prolonged cold weather prompted nostalgic discussions of a return, finally, to a normally-cold Alaska winter. At Fairbanks the average temperature October 18-31 was  $-1^{\circ}\text{F}$ , with lows to  $-30^{\circ}$ , resulting in the 4th-coldest October ever there; at Kasilof, Kenai Peninsula, first snowfall was October 18, local lakes were frozen by October 24, and temperatures remained below freezing through November 10; freshwater freezeup took place at Anchorage October 23, and subfreezing temperatures and six inches of snow hit Southeastern Alaska November 2-10 (coldest  $+9^{\circ}\text{F}$  at Juneau November 9). Precipitation was slightly above normal, but at sea level in Southcoastal Alaska it fell mostly as rain, not snow; indeed, Anchorage still had no snow cover at the end of November. Two results of the weather were 1) that most possible lingering birds were driven from Central Alaska in mid-October by the cold, and 2) that lingerers and visitants of interest in Southeastern (where snow did not persist) and Southcoastal were only irregularly constrained, because of the lack of snow cover, to visit the feeding stations where first seen. The timing of many of the records discussed herein can be seen to have been a direct result of the arrival of the cold front outlined above.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — U.A.M. = University of Alaska Museum, Fairbanks.

**LOONS TO WATERFOWL** — The A.O.U.'s formal 'split' of Arctic (*G. arctica*) and Pacific (*G. pacifica*) loons (*Auk* 102:680, 1985) provided a new generation with a pre-1931 field problem at the species level (the two had been merged in 4th A.O.U. Check-list in 1931) and illuminated a substantial gap in our information: we do not know which of these closely-related birds is the uncommon visitant in the c. and w. Aleutian Islands. Both are known in the Pribilofs, and Pacific Loon breeds on the adjacent Alaska Peninsula. One Pied-billed Grebe at Sitka Nov. 8 (MEI, TGT) provided the only report of this rare fall/winter visitant.

A juv. Short-tailed Albatross observed n.w. of Akutan I., e. Aleutians (at  $54^{\circ}29'\text{N}$ ,  $166^{\circ}13'\text{W}$ ), Aug. 30 (EM+) furnished the season's only report. Another rare visitant, Flesh-footed Shearwater, was seen halfway between Kodiak and Seward Aug. 9, one bird amid 1500 Short-taileds (DWS+). A "constant stream" (est. 40/min., totaling several thousand birds) of Short-tailed Shearwaters and hundreds of N. Fulmars flying N past Northwest Cape, St. Lawrence I., Oct. 2 (RAM) seemed a peculiar phenomenon at that date.



Following two 1984 records of less-than-adult *Fregata* (at Kodiak [AB 38:1052] and in Montague Strait [CK, ph. U.A.M.], both in late June), a '1st-stage' juv. **Magnificent Frigatebird** was observed at close range and at length as it flew about upper Belkofski Bay, Alaska Pen., Aug. 15, 1985 (JEL, ph. U.A.M.) —Alaska's first frigatebird identified to species. The identification was corroborated by experts (PH+, RWS+). It seems likely that these occurrences were related to the recent *El Niño*.

Six Whooper Swans at Shemya I., w. Aleutians, Nov. 3 (VV, *vide* CFZ) and three at Adak I., c. Aleutians, Nov. 10 (CE, TE *et al.*) were on schedule. Two pairs of Redheads at *Ugashik Bay, Alaska Pen.*, Oct. 13 (REG, KSB, MRP) provided one of few Southwestern Alaska records and the first in autumn. In a year when the arctic coast of Alaska became ice-bound early, in mid-September, hundreds of  $\emptyset$ -plumaged King and Common eiders migrating W past Pt. Barrow Oct. 30 (CG), presumably from the w. Canadian arctic, seemed dangerously late.

**SHOREBIRDS** — Three juv Black-bellied Plovers seen at Fairbanks Oct. 5 (PDM, DDG) were late—perhaps the first record of any plover in the Interior in October. A Com. Greenshank observed at St. Paul I., Probilof Is., Aug. 31 (MW, *vide* GVB) provided the earliest of the only 4 autumn records (Aug. 31-Sept. 6) of this bird in Alaska; it is regular only in spring. Near the w. limits of their range, Greater Yellowlegs were abundant at Ugashik Bay and Cinder R., Alaska Pen., through late September (e.g., flock of 252 Sept. 28); by Oct. 12 numbers had diminished, but a movement Oct. 16-17, presumably of birds finally evacuating the rest of the peninsula in advance of the cold front, comprised flocks of up to 700 birds, all flying E up the Ugashik R. (REG, KSB, MRP). One at Blind Slough, Petersburg, Nov. 7 (MEI, TGT) was record-late in the state. A single Lesser Yellowlegs and a Least Sandpiper studied at Fairbanks Sept. 28 (DDG, RHD) were both latest-ever in the Interior.

—S.A.—

After unconfirmed reports of Upland Sandpiper at Kodiak I., Aug. 8 & 27 (*vide* RAM), one was studied well atop Pillar Mt. (400 m) Aug. 31 (JBA+) for the archipelago's first certain record. Singles at Skagway Aug. 31 (TGT) and at Juneau Sept. 6 (MEI) were also of interest. Upland Sandpiper is a scarce (primarily fall) migrant on or near the coast of SC and SE Alaska. That at least some of these birds cross the Coast Range into interior British Columbia, heading E (Kessel and Gibson, unpubl. records), instead of departing Alaska by continuing down the coast, helps to explain the dearth of records on the Pacific coast to the south.

A single Marbled Godwit observed repeatedly at Ugashik Bay Oct. 1-16 (REG, KSB, MRP) was record-late, furnishing the first October record. One juv. Semipalmated Sandpiper with Westerns and a Rufous-necked Stint at St. Matthew I., Aug. 17 (BEL, \*U.A.M.) was of interest because there are few certain records of this bird anywhere in the Bering Sea beyond the Alaska mainland coast. Juvenile Rufous-necked Stints at St. Matthew included one with 15 W. Sandpipers Aug. 11 and *eight* accompanied by four Westerns Aug. 14 (PDM, RR, \*U.A.M.), and at least one Aug. 17 (above). Starting the same day, birds identified as Rufous-necked/Little stints were seen also in the Pribilofs: one at St. George I., Aug. 11, and two Aug. 12 (GVB, DED), and one to five at St. Paul almost daily Aug. 14-31 (GVB, MW); except for one adult, a Rufous-necked, all were birds-of-the-year. A Curlew Sandpiper observed at St. Matthew Aug. 14 (PDM) provided the first autumn record on any of the Bering Sea islands and the only report this season. One juv. Stilt Sandpiper at Fairbanks Aug. 10 (DDG) furnished a first autumn record in the Interior. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported only at Kodiak I., where casual: one at Kalsin Bay Aug. 30; one atop Pillar Mt., Aug. 31; and *four* at Kalsin Bay Aug. 31, two remaining through Sept. 2 (RAM, JBA).

**OWLS TO THRUSHES** — Three N. Pygmy-Owls were present in the Juneau area in November (m.ob.). Whether these birds actually breed on the Alaska side of the Coast Range, descending to sea level in winter, or disperse from adjacent Canada to the SE Alaska coast remains to be determined. A loose group of six Com. Nighthawks on passage at Juneau Sept. 4 (MEI) provided a new high count for the state. A ♂ Anna's Hummingbird was seen in Anchorage Sept. 26 (EE+ *et al.*) and perhaps the same bird was reported some distance away Oct. 17 (*vide* TGT)—adding to few records of this species w. of Prince William Sound. Other Anna's, within their annual range, included a female at St. Petersburg in early November (MEI, TGT) and a male at Wrangell at least to Nov. 4 (VKG). Two Black-backed Woodpeckers at Mole Harbor, Admiralty I., Nov. 10 (PFS) were of interest; scarce anywhere in the Region, this species is apparently of only irregular occurrence in SE.

Two late Hammond's Flycatchers at Ester, near Fairbanks,

Sept 12 (RSH) set a new departure record for the Interior. Although stubbornly continuing to resist efforts to elucidate its Alaska breeding range and seasonal movements, Siberian Tit was seen twice in Kaltag, on the Yukon R., in w.-C Alaska one bird Sept. 12 and one in a flock of Black-capped Chickadees Oct. 1 (MLW). None was seen thereafter. Red-breasted Nuthatches were more numerous than usual in SC, beginning in September: at least three near Palmer to mid-October (MTB) and three or four daily in Anchorage through the period (TGT). One at Fairbanks Sept. 4 (BK) provided the only Interior report. The species was fairly common on passage at Juneau in late September-October, and small numbers were still on the move Nov. 2-9 at Juneau, Petersburg, Sitka, Wrangell, and Ketchikan (MEI, TGT). A Brown Creeper that visited a Kaltag suet feeder Sept. 28 (MLW) furnished a westernmost record of the species—which is poorly known in C Alaska in any case. A flock of eight-plus Mountain Bluebirds seen e. of Delta Jct., Sept 7-8 (SD, *vide* JMW) probably reflected a good breeding season in e.-C Alaska; a flock of seven at Wrangell Nov. 5 (MEI, TGT) was not record-late. There are few departure data for this species, at the periphery of range in easternmost Alaska.

**WAXWINGS TO FINCHES** — Flocks of Bohemian Waxwings totaling 250 birds at Petersburg Nov. 6-8 and 1500+ birds at Juneau Nov. 9 were substantial counts; a very few Cedar Waxwings (one Nov. 5, Wrangell; one Nov. 7, Petersburg; and one Nov. 8, Sitka) were also seen in SE that week (MEI, TGT). No waxwings were seen at Craig (TEK). Two Orange-crowned Warblers at Ketchikan Nov. 3, single Yellow-rumped Warblers at Ketchikan Nov. 3 and at Wrangell Nov. 5, and a Wilson's Warbler at Ketchikan Nov. 4 (MEI, TGT) were *late*. A **Swamp Sparrow** observed at Saxman, near Ketchikan, Nov. 3-4 (MEI, TGT, RLS; \*U.A.M.) provided Alaska's 2nd record (see AB 35 970) and only specimen. *Three* White-throated Sparrows in fall 1985 was exceptional: one at Juneau Nov. 1+ (RHA *et al.*), one near Ketchikan Nov. 3 (MEI, TGT, RLS), and one at Homer Nov. 2+ (EPB, *vide* GCW, *et al.*). Three Harris' Sparrows had been banded at Auke Bay, Juneau, traps through Nov. 17, and all remained through the close of the period (RBW). At least two Harris' Sparrows, an immature and an adult, arrived at Homer feeders Oct. 19-20 (GCW, MKD *et al.*; ph. U.A.M.). These birds were seen irregularly thereafter.

Well e. of its annual migratory range in this Region, Brambling was distinctly newsworthy this season, when found at an unparalleled 4 localities in SC and SE Alaska: one at a Seward feeder Nov. 20+ (REM *et al.*, ph. U.A.M.); one at an Auke Bay, Juneau, feeder—where banded—Nov. 13+ (RBW *et al.*); one at Ketchikan Nov. 23+ (REW); and *two* at Port Alexander, Baranof I., for "10 days in November" (AL, *vide* RHA, ph. U.A.M.). An imm. ♀ **Purple Finch** trapped and banded at Juneau Oct. 4 and present thereafter at intervals through November (RBW *et al.*) added to few Alaska records (see AB 39:340). Widespread finches—Pine Grosbeak, White-winged Crossbill, and redpolls—were described by observers across forested Alaska as less, or much less, numerous than in autumn 1984 (at St. Marys [BJM], Fairbanks [DDG], Anchorage [TGT, JMA, RLS], Kodiak [RAM], Kasilof [MAM], Juneau [MEI, RHA], and Craig [TEK]). Pine Siskins were abundant in SE, at Juneau, until October; at the end of the period the species was uncommon there (MEI).

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## NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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We regret that at press time, we had not received the Northern Pacific Coast Regional Report.

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## MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

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We regret that at press time, we had not received the Middle Pacific Coast Regional Report.

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## SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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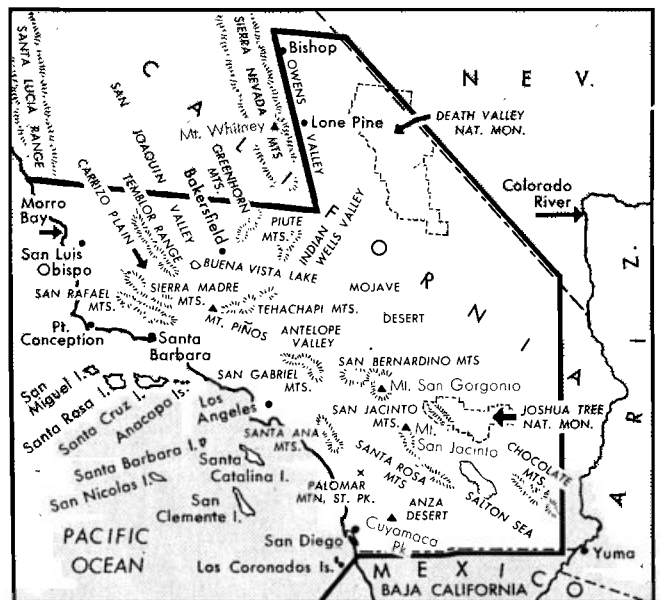
Guy McCaskie

The fall period was relatively dry through October, with less than the expected amount of coastal fog and no Santa Ana conditions, but with above-average rainfall during November. Waterfowl were noticeably scarce, but included a couple of rarities, and the passage of southbound shorebirds was about average with only one true rarity. Numbers of migrant landbirds were low, this being especially noticeable in the numbers of wood warblers found at the traditional vagrant traps, even though 38 species were reported. In contrast to last fall there was no movement of finches within the Region or into the Region.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — F.C.R. = Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley, Inyo Co.; N.E.S.S. = north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.; S.C.R.M. = Santa Clara River mouth near Ventura, Ventura Co.; S.D.N.H.M. = San Diego Natural History Museum; S.E.S.S. = south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial County. As virtually all rarities found in southern California are seen by numerous observers, only the observer initially identifying the bird is included. Documentation is on file with the California Bird Records Committee (c/o Don Roberson, 282 Grove Acre, Pacific Grove, CA 93950) for all rarities listed in this report, and records submitted without documentation are not published.

**LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS** — Two Red-throated Loons on L. Henshaw in the mountains of San Diego County Nov. 12-17 (RH) were well inland where considered casual. Unexpected numbers of Pacific Loons were found inland, with one seen to crash-land in an alfalfa field at Oasis Oct. 15 (DAS), one found on the highway near Scotty's Castle, Inyo Co., Nov. 9 (SM), two on Quail L. in the Antelope Valley Oct. 24-Nov. 10 (DAS), one on L. Perris, Riverside Co., Oct. 23 (CMcG), one at N.E.S.S., Nov. 3 (GMcC), and two on L. Henshaw Nov. 12-15 (RH). A flock of 211 Com. Loons on L. Henshaw Nov. 12 (RH) was an exceptional concentration for an inland location. A Red-necked Grebe at Avila Beach Nov. 18 (CM) was the only one reported.

In general Procellariiformes were scarce off s. California, especially so off the s. portion of the Region during August and September. The only Black-footed Albatross reported was one near the Rodriguez Seamount off Santa Barbara County Sept. 16 (JO). A Flesh-footed Shearwater, rare off s. California, was off Pt. Estero Sept. 28 (JMcD). Some 75 Buller's Shearwaters were



reported off San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties between Aug. 22 and Nov. 2 with 25 on Estero Bay Sept. 28 (TME) being the largest single-day count. Three Short-tailed Shearwaters off San Pedro Nov. 8 (CTC) and another off Pt. Loma Nov. 20 (REW) indicated at least a few were off s. California during November. Ten thousand Black-vented Shearwaters off Shell Beach Oct. 31-Nov. 3 (MA) made an impressive concentration. A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel off Pt. Conception, Santa Barbara Co., Sept. 14 (JO) was quite far south. Two dark-rumped Leach's Storm-Petrels among 125 ± Leach's over the San Juan Seamount off Santa Barbara County Aug. 22 (JLD) were exceptionally far north. No Least Storm-Petrels were seen, even though coverage of the offshore waters was better than usual.

The only Red-billed Tropicbirds reported were four in the area of the San Juan Seamount Aug. 22 (JLD). An incredible 500 Brown Pelicans were on the Salton Sea Sept. 29 (GMcC) but only one could be found Nov. 28 (GMcC). The **Olivaceous Cormorant** found at N.E.S.S., July 27 was last seen Aug. 31 (REW) Eight imm. Magnificent Frigatebirds at N.E.S.S., Aug. 10 (AS) was a large number; one at N.E.S.S., Aug. 17 (GMcC) and one over Bolsa Chica Aug. 14 (JBe) were the only others reported

**HERONS THROUGH RAILS** — Two or three ad. Little Blue Herons around San Diego through the period (EC) were the only ones known to be present in s. California. An ad. Tricolored Heron near Imperial Beach Nov. 28+ (BR) was the only one found. An ad. Reddish Egret on s. San Diego Bay Nov. 9+ (EC) was undoubtedly the same bird that has spent the past 3 winters in this area. A Wood Stork on L. Henshaw Sept. 2 (RH) and another near Oceanside Nov. 6-10 (SB) were the only ones found away from the s. end of the Salton Sea.

Two Fulvous Whistling-Ducks on the Santa Ana R. in Anaheim Nov. 11 (DRW) acted as if wild; formerly small numbers occurred along the coast with vagrants recorded as far n. as Mendocino County in n. California in fall, and we may be too quick to treat all such birds found today as escapees. The only Tundra Swans reported were two at Los Osos Nov. 30-31 (MC). A flock of 15 Greater White-fronted Geese flying S over Pt. Loma Sept. 22 (JO'B) established one of the earliest records for fall migrants in s. California. A "Cackling Goose" (*Branta canadensis minima*), rare in s. California, was near Santa Maria Nov. 1-2 (PEL). A ♂ Eur. Green-winged Teal in Goleta Nov. 13+ (GTi) was undoubtedly the same bird that spent the past 4 winters at this locality, and another in Huntington Beach Nov. 17+ (GTo) was the same bird first seen here during the 1983-1984 winter. A ♂ Eur. Wigeon on San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co., Sept. 29 (JC) was the earliest ever to be found in s. California, and at least eight others were known within the Region by the end of the period. A ♂ Tufted Duck on Quail L., Oct. 15+ (RMcK) was undoubtedly the same bird present here during the past 2 winters, and possibly the same bird as that present during the 1978-1979 and 1979-1980 winters; another male was on L. Perris Nov. 8 (RMcK). A ♀ King Eider, a casual straggler to California, was on Morro Bay Oct. 28+ (TME). A ♂ Harlequin Duck at Bolsa Chica Sept. 27+ (LRH) was undoubtedly the same bird present here last winter, which probably never departed. An Oldsquaw, casual inland, was on L. Perris Nov. 25 (HL). A ♀ Black Scoter, accidental inland, was at F.C.R., Nov. 2 (DRW), and an ad. male was at Little Lake, Inyo Co., Nov. 28 (TW). A flock of 238 Surf Scoters on L. Henshaw Nov. 12 (RH) was an exceptional number for an inland locality in fall; three at Nipton in e. San Bernardino County Oct. 6 (EAC) were at an unusual locality, and three on the Salton Sea near Salton City Nov. 3 (GMcC) were the only others found inland. White-winged Scoters were rare this fall but one on Quail L., Nov. 16 (JO) was inland. A ♀ Hooded Merganser on L. Elsinore Aug. 24 (GMcC) appeared to be flightless and undoubtedly summered at that locality.

—S.A.—

Clapper Rails were quite common in the large saltwater marshes of Orange and San Diego counties 5 years ago, but have all but disappeared during the past 2 years as indicated by the recording of only two in the extensive Seal Beach marshes during a census there Nov. 13 (LRH) and the presence of no more than two individuals in the marshes at the mouth of the Tijuana R. in Imperial Beach, where a year and a half ago there were 40 pairs (EC).

The presence of a juv. Black-shouldered Kite in Bishop Aug. 7 (JLD) strongly suggested this species is now nesting in the Owens Valley. An imm. Mississippi Kite flying S down Pt. Loma Sept. 21 (GMcC) was the first to be found in s. California in fall. An imm. Bald Eagle, now very rare on the immediate coast, was at Pt. Mugu Nov. 17 (CDB). A Red-shouldered Hawk at Iron Mountain Pump Station in s.e. San Bernardino County Sept. 25 (WDW) was far out of range. The only Broad-winged Hawks found were one (dark phase) over Morro Bay S.P., Oct. 7 (JA), and single immatures at Cambria Oct. 15 (JLD), Los Osos Nov. 2 (KLG), Goleta Sept. 28 (PEL), and flying S over Pt. Loma Oct. 6 (LS). A Swainson's Hawk over Santa Barbara Aug. 23 (LB) and another near Imperial Beach Sept. 29 (EC) were along

the coast where now exceptionally rare. A "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk, casual to accidental in s. California, was at Big Pine Nov. 10+ (TW). A Ferruginous Hawk migrating S with a flock of Swainson's Hawks near Bakersfield Sept. 2 (MOC) was very early. A Rough-legged Hawk migrating down Pt. Loma Nov. 20 (DP) and another hunting over the Silver Strand State Beach in Coronado Nov. 24 (EC) were far s. and on the coast where rare.

**SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS** — Single Lesser Golden-Plovers at Tulare L., Kern Co., Sept. 28 (MH) and Oct. 5 (RS) were the only ones found inland; 30± along the coast between Sept. 1 and Nov. 27 was about average. A Mountain Plover on the beach at Morro Bay Oct. 15 (LT) was in atypical habitat. Nineteen Black Oystercatchers on the Long Beach/Los Angeles Harbor breakwater Oct. 11 (LRH) was an exceptional concentration for this locality. A juv. **Spotted Redshank** near Santa Maria



Juvenile Spotted Redshank near Santa Maria, Cal., Oct. 25, 1985. Photo/Paul Lehman.

Oct. 25 (LB, ph.) was the 3rd ever to be found in California. A Solitary Sandpiper in Encino Oct. 17 (CF) was late. Ten Ruddy Turnstones at various localities on the Salton Sea Aug. 3-24, and single birds at Lancaster in the Antelope Valley Aug. 3 & 26 (BWK), were inland. An ad. Surf-bird at Salton City Aug. 25 (JLD) was the first to be found inland in fall. A Red Knot on L. Isabella, Kern Co., Aug. 15 (SAL), two on Tulare L., Aug. 3-4 (JWi), and another near Lancaster Sept. 16-17 (PS) were the only ones found inland away from the Salton Sea. A Sanderling, rare inland away from the Salton Sea, was near Lancaster Aug. 3 (BWK) and another was on L. Isabella Aug. 22 (SAL). Fifteen juv. Semipalmated Sandpipers between Aug. 8 and Sept. 17 were fewer than expected. A flock of 92 Baird's Sandpipers on L. Henshaw Sept. 2 (RH) was an unusually large concentration, and one at S.C.R.M., Nov. 1 (JSR) was exceptionally late.

Single Pectoral Sandpipers at S.E.S.S., Sept. 3 & 4 (DAS) were in an area of California where the species is unexplainably rare. A juv. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, casual in s. California, was near Santa Maria Oct. 20 (TW). A Rock Sandpiper at Avila Beach Nov. 18 (TME) was at the s. extreme of the species' winter range. A Stilt Sandpiper at Tulare L., Aug. 18 (JWi) was the only one found inland away from S.E.S.S., and single birds near Santa Maria Sept. 6 (JML) and Anaheim Aug. 31 (DRW) along with three at Bolsa Chica Sept. 12 (LRH) and four on San Elijo Lagoon Sept. 2 (REW) were along the coast where rare. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper, casual in California, was near Lancaster Sept. 7-11 (NBB, ph.) and two more were near Imperial Beach Sept. 11 (EC). The ♂ Ruff found near Imperial Beach July 28 remained through the period (EC) and was the only one known to be present in the Region this fall. A Red Phalarope at Baker Oct. 13 (BED) was far inland.



*Buff-breasted Sandpiper near Lancaster, Los Angeles Co., Cal., Sept. 10, 1985. Photo/Robert McKernan.*

At least 10 Parasitic Jaegers were found inland at various points around the Salton Sea between Aug. 31 and Sept. 29 and another flew over the "Condor Lookout" along the Mil Potrero Highway near Mt. Abel Aug. 31 (EJ). A juv. Long-tailed Jaeger found dead at S.E.S.S., Sept. 5 (REM, \*S.D.N.H.M.) and another juvenile near Lancaster Sept. 7-11 (AS) were both inland where



*Juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger near Lancaster, Los Angeles Co., Cal., Sept. 11, 1985. Photo/Jon L. Dunn.*

considered casual to accidental. The only S. Polar Skuas found were two off Morro Bay Sept. 28 (KH), four in the area of the San Juan Seamount Aug. 22-23 (JLD), and one off Pt. Conception Sept. 14 (JO). A young Franklin's Gull in Anaheim Oct. 6 (DRW) was the only fall transient found; single birds at S.E.S.S., Aug. 10 (JLD) and N.E.S.S., Aug. 16 (BWK) probably summered locally. A subad. Heermann's Gull, casual inland, was at S.E.S.S., Aug. 17-Sept. 3 (GMcC). A juv. Thayer's Gull at Salton City Sept. 29 (GMcC) was very early. A W. Gull at N.E.S.S., Sept. 21-29 (BED) and at least five at Salton City between Sept. 29 and Nov. 28 (GMcC, DAS) were far inland where considered accidental. A one-year-old Sabine's Gull at N.E.S.S., Aug. 7-9 (BD) and a juvenile near Palm Springs Sept. 16 (BCa) were inland, and two at Pismo Beach Nov. 9-10 (CMW) were late. Two Least Terns were found inland at S.E.S.S., Aug. 31 (REW). A Black Skimmer in Goleta Aug. 23-24 (CDB) was quite far north.

Small numbers of Craveri's Murrelets were present along the coast during August and September as indicated by four off San Diego Sept. 7 (GMcC), two near San Miguel I., Sept. 15 (TW),

one in Santa Barbara harbor Sept. 16 (CDB), a sick bird in Morro Bay Aug. 18 (GPS), and 15 off Morro Bay Sept. 28 (TME). An Ancient Murrelet off Pt. Loma Nov. 18 (REW) was quite far south.

**DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Single White-winged Doves on San Nicholas I., Aug. 19 (TM), near Santa Maria Aug. 24 (BS), and in San Simeon Oct. 27 (TME) were the northernmost of 15 found along the coast. An Inca Dove at Iron Mountain Pump Station Oct. 23 (WDW) was at an unusual locality. A Com. Ground-Dove nest with eggs near Fillmore Sept. 11 (KS) provided the first breeding record for Ventura County, and the presence of up to three in Carpinteria Sept. 17-Nov. 19 (TW) along with single birds in Goleta Aug. 18 (A & JC) and Santa Barbara Sept. 1-3 (AP) suggested the species is attempting to extend its range northward into Santa Barbara County. Totally unexpected was a ♀ **Ruddy Ground-Dove** at Iron Mountain Pump Station Oct. 9 (WDW, ph.); a male present at this location last fall (AB 39:103) is felt to have been a N wandering vagrant rather than an escapee.

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo, now exceedingly rare on the coast of California, was near Imperial Beach Aug. 18 (JO). A Long-eared Owl in Gaviota Oct. 6 (GTO) and a N. Saw-whet Owl at Deep Springs Oct. 16 (DAS) were both at unusual localities. A Black Swift over Carpinteria Sept. 26 (LRB) and another over Pt. Loma Aug. 23 (REW) were the only ones reported from along the coast this fall. A migrant flock of 3000 Vaux's Swifts over Burbank Oct. 20 (KLG) was a little late considering the number involved. An imm. ♂ Broad-billed Hummingbird, a casual stray to s. California, was in Goleta Oct. 16-25 (MN) and another was at San Marcos Pass above Santa Barbara Nov. 3-5 (J & GH).

Lewis' Woodpeckers were virtually non-existent this fall, but one was at the remote Iron Mountain Pump Station Oct. 16 (WDW). Single Acorn Woodpeckers in Mojave, Kern Co., Aug. 31 (MH) and nearby California City Sept. 13 (MH) were well out of range. An imm. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Santa Ysabel Oct. 19 (CGE) was the only one reported. A Downy Woodpecker near Imperial Beach Aug. 25 (EC) was at the s.w. extreme of the species' range. A White-headed Woodpecker near Mojave Sept. 22 (JWi) was at a most unusual location.

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES** — Single W. Woodpeewees at Los Osos Oct. 19 (JH) and in Huntington Beach Oct. 22 (LRH) were very late. The only Least Flycatcher found this fall was one on Pt. Loma Sept. 10 (REW). An E. Phoebe, a rare vagrant to California, was in Carpinteria Oct. 19-20 (BDP) and another was on Pt. Loma Nov. 5-13 (REW). A Vermilion Flycatcher at F.C.R., Oct. 12-13 (BED) and another in nearby Death Valley Junction Oct. 13 (JO) were quite far n., and single birds near Imperial Beach Oct. 12 (CGE), on Pt. Loma Oct. 4-5 (REW), in Ventura Oct. 31+ (RJ), and in Goleta Nov. 5+ (CDB) were along the coast where now very rare. A Great Crested Flycatcher, a casual vagrant to California, was in Doheny State Beach Sept. 30 (DRW). A young Brown-crested Flycatcher in San Pedro Aug. 24-Sept. 7 (JLD) was only the 3rd ever found along the California coast. A Tropical Kingbird in the San Joaquin Marsh of Orange County Sept. 14 (DRW) was, remarkably, the only one found in s. California this fall. A **Thick-billed Kingbird** in Peter's Canyon near Tustin Oct. 26+ (TW) was evidently the same bird that spent the past 3 winters at this location. Five E. Kingbirds were found with an early individual on Santa Cruz I., Aug. 11 (MAR), three in Santa Barbara between Aug. 30 and Sept. 21 (LB, HR), and the 5th inland at Thousand Palms Oasis Oct. 3 (RMcK). An ad. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, a casual straggler to California, was near Lompoc Sept. 6-Oct. 13 (BB).

A Chestnut-backed Chickadee in Goleta Sept. 6 (KB) was significantly s. of the species' range, but was the 2nd to have been found in this area. Two Winter Wrens on Mt. Pinos Aug. 27 (JLD) and another in Mojave Sept. 2 (MH) were very early migrants, and one on Pt. Loma Nov. 13 (REW) was quite far south. An Am. Dipper in Malibu Canyon Nov. 24+ (KLG) and



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Lompoc, Cal., Sept. 11, 1985.  
Photo/Paul Lehman.

two in Whitewater Canyon, Riverside Co., Oct. 2+ (DCH) were at unusual localities. A Bendire's Thrasher near Lancaster Oct. 12 (FH), the only one found this fall, was in an unexpected area. A calling imm. **White/Black-backed wagtail** seen well in flight when flushed from the San Joaquin Marsh, Orange Co., Oct. 27 (JBo) was the fourth such bird found in s. California during fall and early winter. A Red-throated Pipit, very rare along the coast during October, was near Imperial Beach Oct. 6-11 (GMcC), and another at F.C.R., Oct. 5 (JLA) provided our first inland record. An imm. N. Shrike at Oasis Nov. 10 (SM) was in the extreme n.e. corner of the Region where one or two occur most years.

**VIREOS, WOOD WARBLERS** — A Bell's Vireo at Oceano Sept. 11 (CM) was the first to be found in San Luis Obispo County in recent years and one in Huntington Beach Sept. 7+ (BED) appeared to be settled for the winter. A Solitary Vireo in Carpinteria Sept. 30-Oct. 5 (PEL) and another there Nov. 1 (LRB) were both felt to be of the nominate form *solitarius*; at least 10 gray birds of the Great Basin form *plumbeus* were found along the coast during October. Three Yellow-throated Vireos, casual vagrants to California, were found with one in Santa Barbara Oct. 1 (HR), another in Huntington Beach Sept. 26-28 (BED), and the 3rd on Pt. Loma Nov. 13-20 (D & MH). The only Philadelphia Vireo found this fall was in Oceano Sept. 18 (JA). Single Red-eyed Vireos were found in Carpinteria Aug. 22-24 (KB) and Sept. 30 (JLD), and a 3rd was in Goleta Sept. 29-30 (CDB).

A Tennessee Warbler at the Kern R. Preserve above L. Isabella Aug. 17 (SAL) was exceptionally early for a fall migrant. A Lucy's Warbler near Otay Aug. 18 (GMcC) and one to two near Imperial Beach Aug. 31-Sept. 21 (JO) were along the coast where very rare. A N. Parula at Yucca Valley, San Bernardino Co., Sept. 21 (NBB) and another in Oceano Oct. 19-Nov. 1 (BS) were the only ones found. Six Chestnut-sided Warblers were reported with single birds in Carpinteria Sept. 20-24 (PEL) and Oct. 30 (TW), one near Malibu Sept. 21 (KLG), one in Arcadia Sept. 28 (BCo), another in Huntington Beach Oct. 3 (AS), and the 6th on Pt. Loma Oct. 5 (REW). Magnolia Warblers were commoner than normal with 14 along the coast during October, and single birds inland at Deep Springs Oct. 17 (DAS) and F.C.R., Nov. 9 (SM). Eight Black-throated Blue Warblers at various locations in the Region between Sept. 19 and Nov. 4 was about an average number. A Townsend's Warbler at Deep Springs Aug. 7-8 (JLD) was exceptionally early for a fall migrant. A Black-throated Green Warbler in Carpinteria Oct. 10-13 (JLD) was the only one found. Three of the eight Blackburnian Warblers found along the coast between Sept. 20 and Oct. 28 were together, near Cayucos Oct. 12-16 (GPS)!

A Yellow-throated Warbler, a very rare vagrant to California, was on Pt. Loma Oct. 12 (REW). Three Prairie Warblers were found with one in Oceano Oct. 12-21 (KZ), another in Goleta

Oct. 27-28 (HR), and the 3rd at S.C.R.M., Sept. 15 (JSR). A Palm Warbler on Pt. Loma Oct. 15 (CGE) was a yellow bird from the n.e. population *hypochrysea*. Single Bay-breasted Warblers on Pt. Loma Sept. 29 (REW) and Nov. 20 (CGE) were the only ones found. Thirty Blackpoll Warblers were found along the coast, including an exceptionally late individual in Mission Viejo Nov. 14 (DRW); single birds in California City Sept. 6-8 (JA) and at Iron Mountain Pump Station Oct. 30 (WDW) were inland. A Cerulean Warbler in Cambria Oct. 13-15 (JH) was only the 7th found in s. California. Four Prothonotary Warblers were found with one in Cambria Oct. 13-19 (TME), single birds in Carpinteria Sept. 2-18 & 15-21 (LRB), and the 4th in Inglewood Oct. 18 (L & NMCC). An early Worm-eating Warbler in Goleta Aug. 21-22 (TW) was the only one found. Five Ovenbirds along the coast, Aug. 25-Oct. 21, were fewer than normal. A Louisiana Waterthrush at Deep Springs Aug. 7 (JLD) was only the 2nd ever found in California, the first having been in Mecca Aug. 17, 1908. A ♂ Kentucky Warbler was in Carpinteria Aug. 22-23 (LB) and a female was inland at Oasis Sept. 15 (AME). A Connecticut Warbler, very rare in California, was in Oceano Oct. 13-14 (BS). Three Mourning Warblers were found with one in Goleta Sept. 26 (PEL), a 2nd on Pt. Loma Oct. 2 (REW), and the 3rd near Imperial Beach Sept. 21 (GMcC). The only Canada Warblers found this fall were one in San Pedro Sept. 28 (DS) and one in Oceano Oct. 13 (BS). Three Painted Redstarts reached the coast with one at Morro Bay S.P., Sept. 18 (WO), another on San Nicholas I., Sept. 25-26 (TM), and the 3rd on Pt. Loma Oct. 17-18 (JWo).

**TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES** — A ♂ Hepatic Tanager in Santa Barbara Nov. 16+ (JEL) was evidently the same bird present there during the past 3 winters and another on Pt. Loma Oct. 4+ (GJ) was undoubtedly the same bird present during the past 2 winters. Fifteen Summer Tanagers along the coast during the period was about a normal number. Three Scarlet Tanagers were found with one in Santa Barbara Oct. 6-7 (PWC), another in Ventura Oct. 27 (JSR), and the 3rd on Pt. Loma Nov. 13-16 (REW). Fifteen Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at various localities in the Region Sept. 1-Nov. 8 were somewhat fewer than expected, as were 17 Indigo Buntings Aug. 16-Nov. 10. Five Dickcissels were found along the coast between Sept. 11 and Oct. 5 and a 6th was inland at Kelso Oct. 10 (ALC).

Single Am. Tree Sparrows at Mesquite Springs Nov. 9 (SM), Baker Oct. 20 (EAC), and Nipton Nov. 3 (CMcG) were in the e. portion of the Region where small numbers can be found each fall, but one on Pt. Loma Oct. 25-27 (REW) was on the coast where very rare. Ten Clay-colored Sparrows along the coast Sept. 17-Oct. 23 were fewer than expected. A Black-throated Sparrow in Anaheim Sept. 1 (DRW) and another on Pt. Loma Oct. 5 (REW) were both on the coast where most unusual. The only Lark Bunting found this fall was one in Goleta Sept. 6-7 (HR). Up to 15 Grasshopper Sparrows near Figueroa Mt., Santa Barbara Co., Nov. 16+ (SS) were totally unexpected. Swamp Sparrows were unusually scarce with single birds at F.C.R., Oct. 12-13 (CM), Pismo Beach Nov. 2 (PEL), and Malibu Oct. 27 (HMB) being the only ones found.

Five Harris' Sparrows in the n.e. corner of the Region Oct. 4-Nov. 2 were fewer than expected. A Dark-eyed (Gray-headed) Junco in Santa Barbara Nov. 1-10 (JEL) was one of only a few ever found this far n. on the coast. A McCown's Longspur near Pt. Mugu Oct. 17 (JLD) was on the coast where considered casual. Thirteen Lapland Longspurs were reported from 6 localities including a somewhat early individual in Goleta Oct. 10 (PEL), one at Desert Center Oct. 16 (RMcK), and up to four on the Plano Trabuco, Orange Co., Oct. 20+ (BED). Chestnut-collared Longspurs were exceptionally scarce with seven at Deep Springs Oct. 14-17 (DAS), single birds in Goleta Oct. 17-18 (PEL) and Pt. Mugu Nov. 2 (JSR), and up to three on the Plano Trabuco Oct. 27-Nov. 9 (TW).

Twenty-five Bobolinks along the coast between Sept. 1 and Oct. 27 were fewer than normal, and one at F.C.R., Oct. 20 (DAS) was the only one found inland. A Great-tailed Grackle in

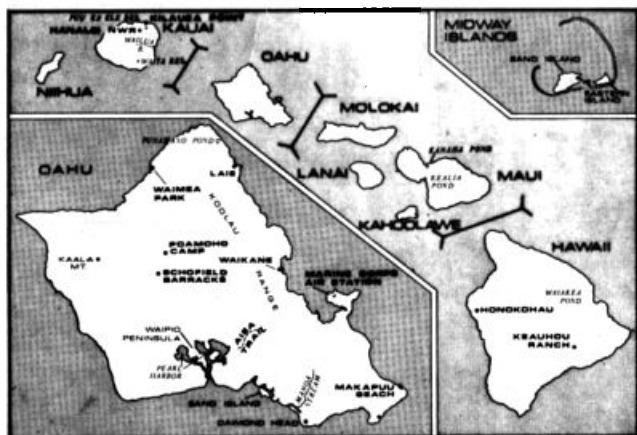
Ventura Nov. 15 (JG) and another in San Diego Aug. 18 (CGE) were both along the coast where casual. Four Orchard Orioles in the Santa Barbara area Sept. 30+ (LRB, JLD) and one in Ventura Sept. 21 (JLD) were the only ones reported. A Red Crossbill in Long Beach Aug. 4 (BED) had undoubtedly summered locally, leaving the two at Mojave Oct. 18 (JWi) as the only "migrants" this fall.

**CORRIGENDUM** — The ♂ Hooded Warbler reported on San Nicholas I. in "late August" (AB 39:212) was actually present Sept. 5 (TM).

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## HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION



**Robert L. Pyle**

**R**ainfall picked up during the fall, bringing above-normal amounts to Maui, Oahu, and much of Kauai and Hawaii, although annual totals for 1985 were still below average for more than half the stations in the state. The trade winds were interrupted more often than usual during the period, accounting for some heavy showers and record-breaking hot spells. Several weak hurricanes approached from the east in August and early September, and one from the south in late October, but all passed by without important impact on the weather.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — F.F.S. = French Frigate Shoals; H. = Hawaii I.; K. = Kauai I.; M. = Maui I.; O. = Oahu I.

BPBM = prefix of catalog number for specimens in B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu; H.V.N.P. = Hawaii Volcanoes National Park on Hawaii; J.C.N.W.R. = James Campbell Nat'l Wildlife Ref. on Oahu; K.M.C.A.S. = Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Sta. on Oahu; P.H.N.W.R. = Pearl Harbor Nat'l Wildlife Ref. on Oahu; P.M.R.B.S. = Pacific Missile Range Facility at Barking Sands on Kauai.

### GREBES THROUGH STORM-PETRELS —

S.A.

The pair of **Pied-billed Grebes** at Aimakapa Pond, H., went into a breeding frenzy during 1985. Following the 2 nestings reported in the Spring Report, and the 3rd one mentioned in the Summer Report, the birds hatched two more chicks in mid-October that were seen well Oct. 19 (RD). They were at it again in December, tending another nest. Still another nesting attempt may have gone undetected in late spring or summer.

Pied-billed Grebe was recorded in Hawaii as a vagrant first in 1974, and then in several winters during the next decade. Two wintered at Aimakapa in 1983-1984 and again in 1984-1985, the latter remaining to breed this year. The population at Aimakapa had increased from one pair in January to at least six birds, possibly eight, by November 30 (RD).

This event may give some insight on how the chance arrival of one pair of colonizers to an isolated island may indeed give rise to a viable population of a new native species for the island, and rather rapidly at that.

The subad. **Short-tailed Albatross** found at Sand I., Midway Atoll, Nov. 20-28 (KM *et al.*) was the same banded bird that wintered there last year. The first Laysan Albatross to return this fall to P.M.R.B.S. was sighted there Nov. 15 (TT). No albatrosses were seen Oct. 18 by observers on a research vessel during its final day approaching Hilo, H., from the s. (see below).

A fledgling Hawaiian (Dark-rumped) Petrel (*Endangered*) with down remaining on breast and belly was found dead at Kilauea Military Camp near H.V.N.P., H., Nov. 6, apparently having been attracted to lights at night (SM). This provided further evidence that the species continues to breed in probably very small numbers on Hawaii. On Manana I. off O., 7 nests of Bulwer's Petrel fledged young successfully during late summer (JS). On K., in the annual Shearwater Rescue Project this fall, about six downed Hawaiian (Dark-rumped) Petrels were turned in along with over 1500 Newell's Shearwaters (*Threatened*), virtually all fledglings (TT). The birds were measured, banded,

and released. The figure was higher than last fall, but not as high as in 1983. No Band-rumped Storm-Petrels were turned in this year (TT). Nesting of Band-rumpeds on K. has been suspected for nearly a century, but is still unproven.

Unusual circumstances resulted in good observations of several rarely-reported species of petrels and shearwaters this fall in waters close offshore of the main Hawaiian Is. A birder (CT) taking the weekly interisland cruise aboard the loveboat USS CONSTITUTION reported one Bulwer's Petrel off the e. end of Kauai Channel between K. and O., Aug. 11, Wedge-tailed Shearwaters numerous off all main islands Aug. 11-17, a Christmas Shearwater (well-described) off the s.w. coast of M., Aug. 12, and a Newell's Shearwater off the s.w. coast of K., Aug. 11. On Sept. 20 a lightly-oiled Sooty Shearwater was taken from the cruise ship after it docked in Nawiliwili Harbor, K., and was later released (TT). Two experienced and highly skilled pelagic bird observers (BP, LS) reported the following sightings from aboard the NOAA R/V RESEARCHER Oct. 18 during the final day of its approach from the s. to Hilo, H., where it docked at dusk: White-necked (Juan Fernandez) Petrel (about 10-12); **Mottled Petrel** (about 125 seen, first ones 75 km s.e. of H. in the morning and in increasing numbers until arrival, some on the water, others flying S); **Kermadec Petrel** (one); **Stejneger's Petrel** (two); Bulwer's Petrel (none); Wedge-tailed Shearwater (a few near Hilo); Sooty Shearwater ("common", flying S, not as numerous as Mottled Petrels); Newell's Shearwater (two, about 40 km from Hilo); storm-petrel (two, possibly Leach's). And finally, one **Mottled Petrel** and two Sooty Shearwaters were seen from Laie Pt., O., and four Newell's Shearwaters and 100 ± Wedge-tailed Shearwaters total from Laie Pt. and nearby Kahuku, all on Oct. 27 (AE, BP, LS). These last sightings were aided by unusually powerful optical equipment. Also, the occurrence of these unusual species close to shore may have been related to Hurricane NELE which passed by the islands that week.

**TROPICBIRDS THROUGH HERONS** — Three White-tailed Tropicbirds together at Sacred Falls Sept. 1 (LP) and six at Lyon Arboretum Sept. 8 (LP, SS) were high counts for O. "Many" White-taileds were seen from the cruise ship approaching Nawiliwili Harbor, K., Aug. 11 (CT), and two each of White-tailed and Red-tailed tropicbird were seen from the R/V RESEARCHER off H., Oct. 18 (BP, LS). Young were fledged successfully from 7 of the 11 known nests of Red-tailed Tropicbird on Manana I., off O., this season (JS). One Masked Booby was seen from the cruise ship off the n. coast of K., Aug. 11 (CT), and two were observed from Kahuku and Laie Pt., O., Oct. 27 (AE, BP, LS, AN). Masked Boobies are seldom reported from the main islands anywhere other than at Moku Manu I. off O. Two Brown Boobies were found off Kahului Harbor, M., Nov. 9 (AE, TP). An evening flight of 100 ± Red-footed Boobies passed by Kahului and Laie Pt., O., Oct. 27 heading SE (AE *et al.*) toward the colonies at Moku Manu and Ulupau Head.

A **Great Blue Heron** (well-described) was seen in a wetland in seldom-visited Pololu Valley at the n. tip of H., Oct. 5 (JL). Another, or perhaps the same bird, was reported at Kakahaia N.W.R., Molokai I., Oct. 24 and Nov. 6 (DW). This species is a rare vagrant to the state. One ad. Little Blue Heron, a perennial visitor over the past 2 decades to Waipio, O., for a brief time in late summer or early fall, appeared there again this year Aug. 25 and Oct. 27 (MO). It was not otherwise seen despite intensive coverage of Waipio by many observers during the season.

**WATERFOWL THROUGH COOTS** — Two ad. Fulvous Whistling-Ducks with 10 chicks and one adult with seven chicks were reported at Amorient Ponds, O., Aug. 9 and Sept. 2 respectively (PD). A single bird was seen again at Kealia Pond, M., Nov. 9 (AE, TP). A Greater White-fronted Goose was at Sand I., Midway Atoll, Nov. 20-28 (KM *et al.*, ph.). An influx of Brant to the islands this fall included one at Kakahaia N.W.R., Molokai I., Nov. 6 (DW), two at K.M.C.A.S. first seen in late November (DD), and one probably this species at Omao, K., about Nov.

26 (*vide* TT). Four to five Canada Geese at Amorient Ponds through the fall (RS, SB *et al.*) were identified Oct. 27 as resembling the form *taverneri* (AE, LS).

Migrant duck populations at Kii and Waipio ponds on O and at Aimakapa Pond on H. were noticeably lower again this fall, compared to 5 and more years ago. Numbers were better at Kealia Pond, M., where on Nov. 9 AE & TP found 240 N. Shovelers and about 70 other ducks of 11 species. Among the latter were some considered casual to accidental in Hawaii: a Eur Wigeon in ♀ plumage, an eclipse ♂ Canvasback, two first-year ♂ Tufted Ducks, one male and two ♀ Greater Scaup, and a ♀ **Red-breasted Merganser**. The Canvasback was reported again Nov. 23 (TW, *vide* CK). At Tern I., F.F.S., a tiny sandbar and airstrip with no wetland habitat, one Eur. Wigeon was found Aug. 2, and three N. Pintails were there through most of August (KM). These wanderers were too weak to go farther, and soon perished. Three N. Pintails and single Green-winged Teal, N Shoveler, and a wigeon were at Sand I., Midway Atoll, Nov 20-28 (KM). Here, rainwater catchment ponds provide a bit more habitat for ducks, but not much. On Oahu, seven ♀ Greater Scaup and an eclipse ♂ Ring-necked Duck at Haleiwa Pond Oct 27 (AE *et al.*) were nice finds. Perhaps the same Ring-necked was seen up the coast at Punamano Unit, J.C.N.W.R., Oct 30 (SB), and three Ring-neckeds were there Nov. 14 (PD).

Oahu's resident Osprey (a species that is normally a casual straggler to Hawaii) was seen at Kii Unit of J.C.N.W.R. and Waiawa Unit, P.H.N.W.R., frequently from Aug. 1 through November (PD, KN, SB, DW). One reported at Wilson Res near Wahiawa beginning in late November (*vide* TS) was possibly but not certainly the same bird. An Osprey was seen flying over Honokohau small boat harbor on H., Oct. 7 (JL). A Peregrine Falcon (well-described) was sighted at Sand I., Midway Atoll, Nov. 25 (KM). A freshly-dead Japanese Quail (BPBM 161938), rarely reported in Hawaii and not known to be established on O., was found on the highway at Waiale'e n. of Haleiwa, O., Oct 27 (AE). A pair of Kalij Pheasants was sighted on the Bird Park Nature Trail, H.V.N.P., Sept. 3 by an observer (KI) familiar with the species in its native Pakistan. These pheasants continue to increase and have now spread over most of Hawaii I. A ♂ Green (Ring-necked) Pheasant was seen well Aug. 10 near Keahole Energy Lab on the w. coast of H. (PB), an unusual locality for this form. A Wild Turkey seen at Mo'omoi Beach on n.w. Molokai I., Aug. 13 (TP) suggested that turkeys may be foraging on the beaches of Molokai as they have been doing on nearby Lanai I.

At Aimakapa Pond the "North American" form of Am Coot was first seen this fall Sept. 7 (RD). This form has the small red button above the bill in contrast to the large bulbous shield (usually white) of the Hawaiian form (*Endangered*). Total coot counts at Aimakapa were unusually high this year: 185-196 Sept. 15-Oct. 7, including four to five of the North American form on each count (RD, JL). Earlier, at Lokoaka Pond across the island, RD found 25 coots Aug. 31 including four of the North American form.

**SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS** — At Waipio, O., counts of 200-350 Hawaiian (Black-necked) Stilts (*Endangered*) in August and early September (PD, MO) were higher by 50% than in the past 3 years. Among the common migrants, Sanderlings were more numerous at Waipio this fall but Lesser Golden-Plovers and particularly Ruddy Turnstones were down. Single Bristle-thighed Curlews were observed at Kii Ponds, J.C.N.W.R., their favored locality, in mid-August (JJ, *vide* DW) and at Waipio, an unusual locality, Sept. 20 & 25 (PD). This species normally occurs as a scarce fall migrant in the main Hawaiians, and was not reported at all last year. At least 16 uncommon, casual, or vagrant species of shorebirds were reported by one-half dozen regular observers during fall at the usual wetland places (Waipio, Kii, and Amorient Ponds, O., and Aimakapa Pond, H.). Most notable of these was a small *Calidris* sandpiper at Waipio Sept. 14-25, well studied and photographed, which was tentatively identified as probably a Little



Stunt or possibly a Rufous-necked Stunt (PD, RLP) Two ad Least Sandpipers in basic plumage were at Amorient Ponds Oct 27 (AE), and one Least was found at Waipio Nov. 18 (PD). A Spotted Sandpiper was seen well at Waipio Sept. 6 (PD, RLP), and one was reported on the reef near Aimakapa Pond, H., Sept. 15-16 (RD, JL). Two **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** at Waipio Sept. 6-11 (PD, MO, RLP) provided the 3rd or 4th record for Hawaii. Four Short-billed Dowitchers (two juv. & two basic-plumaged ad) carefully identified with Long-billeds at Waipio Oct. 27 (AE *et al.*) were unprecedented in number and in late date. One Short-billed had been seen at Amorient Ponds Sept. 6 (PD, RLP)

An early Pomarine Jaeger was seen from a boat 2 mi off Keahole Pt., H., Sept. 19 (RD), and four were seen well off Sand I., O., Oct. 27 (AE *et al.*). In the 1970s several hundred Pomarines could be counted off Sand I. during winter before the sewer outfall there was shut down. An ad. Laughing Gull in winter plumage reported at Kanaha Pond, M., Nov. 9 (AE, TP) could well have been one of the three seen on Maui last July.

A small tern found dead at Tern I., F.F.S., June 2 has been identified at U.S. National Museum (*vide* RC) as the Old World species **Little Tern**, *Sterna albifrons*. Small terns, probably Least or possibly Little, have been observed as casual visitors to Hawaii over the years, but this was the first positive documented record for either species in the state (BPBM 161866). Two Gray-backed Terns were seen together Aug. 11 from a cruise ship off the e. end of Kauai Channel between K. and O. (CT). An observer (JS) monitoring Manana I. off O. steadily through the summer reported that *no* Brown Noddies successfully fledged young there this year. They normally nest in the thousands, peaking in July in recent years. Although adults were present in normal numbers this year, a careful search of the island Aug. 26 yielded only 36 adults on egg(s), nine small chicks, and no large chicks or fledglings (JS). All failed to fledge successfully.

**PARROTS THROUGH ESTRILDIDS** — A flock of 15-20 *Amazona* parrots, probably Red-ored, was seen briefly in the early morning Aug. 17 in a yard in Pearl City, O. (PD), some 20 km from the Kapiolani P. area where free-flying parrots are most frequently reported. This added to the question of how many of these large parrots are in Honolulu and how far-ranging are they. On K., the flock of Rose-ringed Parakeets in Kuliolono P. near Kalaheo now numbers around 40 birds, suggesting that breeding may be occurring although not confirmed (TT).

Six observations of Com. Barn-Owls at Waipio near dusk, Oct. 27 (AE *et al.*) was an unusually high number. A Short-eared Owl was at Tern I., F.F.S., Oct. 4 (*vide* KM), and one was seen at Midway Atoll Nov. 22 (Sand I.) & 25 (Eastern I.) (KM). The

Midway bird, at least, may well have come from the Asiatic side rather than from the main Hawaiian Is. Six Eur. Skylarks were at the s. end of Punamano Pond, J.C.N.W.R., Sept. 1 (MO). From one to three N. Mockingbirds seen regularly at Tern I., F.F.S., August to November further indicated that this species is becoming a quasi-permanent resident on this tiny mid-ocean island.

An imm. Yellow-billed Cardinal was reported Aug. 11 at Mauna Kea Beach resort near Kawaihae, H. (TP), a far n. locality for this expanding species. The ♀ Great-tailed Grackle at Waipio, of unknown and debatable origin, was sighted there 9 times between Aug. 26 and Nov. 27 (PD, MO, RLP). It was first seen there in May 1980. Yellow-fronted Canaries were still doing well at Makalawena Marsh (= Opaepala Pond), H. Twelve were counted there Sept. 14 (JL).

The U.S.F. & W.S. party surveying in the upper Hanawi drainage on Maui Nov. 12-17 found most of the native forest species (CK, AE *et al.*). The super-rare **Maui Nuku-pu'u** (*Endangered*) was seen once Nov. 13, a drab individual in a loose mixed feeding flock of Maui Creepers, 'Amakihi and Maui Parrotbills (AE). Another super-rare species, the **Po'o-uli** (*Endangered*) was found on several days. One group of three included one brightly-patterned bird and two drab ones. Two other *Endangered* species were recorded daily: **Maui Parrotbill** with counts of up to six and Crested Honeycreeper with counts of 20 to 50. The more common species—'Amakihi, Maui Creeper, 'Iiwi, and 'Apapane—were found in expected numbers.

A House Sparrow reported to have totally white plumage was seen repeatedly Sept. 13-Oct. 18 in Kailua-Kona, H. (JL). The legs were pale cream or pinkish, the bill pale horn-colored, and the eye appeared dark. Red Avadavats were reported in good numbers at the n. tip of Oahu. Twenty were at the s. end of Punamano Pond, J.C.N.W.R., Sept. 1 (MD), and Oct. 27 some were found at Kulima Pond and outside the gate to Kii Pond (AE *et al.*). Warbling Silverbills were found Nov. 9 at Kanaha Pond and Wai'ale Res. near the n. coast of Maui (AE, TP), across the island from their original stronghold in the Kula and Ulupalakua districts.

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## WEST INDIES REGION

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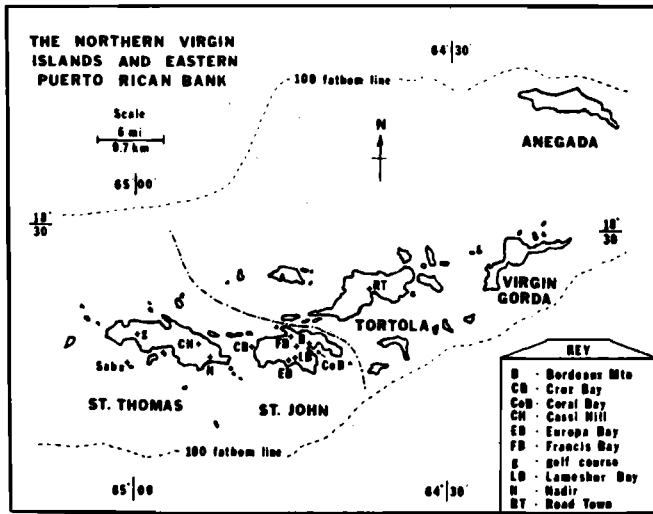
Robert L. Norton

**"H**E lands us on a grassy stage, safe from the storm's and prelate's rage, and sends the fowls to us in care, on daily visits through the air."—BERMUDAS, Andrew Marvell. And thus, a poetic description of the fall's climate and avian fallout in the Caribbean Region, which produced both notable climate and avian records in numbers and occurrence.

Tropical waves, storms and hurricanes (*Bob, Gloria, Juan, and Kate*) passed through the Antilles and caused severe damage in some areas, *e.g.*, Puerto Rico, and Providenciales, in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands suffered 60 hours of rainfall (15+ inches in Puerto Rico) beginning October 6. Hardest hit was the south coast of Puerto Rico. (*San Juan Star*, Oct. 8, 1985).

Rainfall during the fall season as measured at Cruz Bay, St. John, was 32% below average for August, 46% below average for September, 151% above average for October as a result of a major storm, and 22% below average for November. Although the net precipitation for the period was 13% above average, late summer and early fall rainfall (July-September) was well below average (-46%), suggesting a reduction in the wild food crop until October.

Two small fish species (*Harengula* spp.) were reported in massive die-offs on the Puerto Rico Bank (Puerto Rico to Tortola) from mid-August to early September (IC). Frigatebirds and other seabirds were noted to be feeding on them in the Virgin Islands. No definitive cause of the fish-kill has been ascertained. Ambient air temperatures (daily highs) during that period had a mean of 90.3°F (range 87-101°F) which may have influenced in-shore sea surface tempera-



tures and possibly thermal requirements and food preferences of the small fish.

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

**BOOBIES THROUGH FALCONS**—Masked Boobies were noted as nesting (21 nests) at Cockroach Cay, St. T., Sept. 5 (RR, AS). At Frenchcap Cay, St. T., Red-footed Boobies continue to nest (RLN). Hurricane *Kate* was believed to have brought Cattle Egrets to Providenciales Nov. 17 (BA) and a Glossy Ibis was also noted there Nov. 15-24 (BA) for the first record. White-cheeked Pintails were in record numbers (72) at St. M., Oct. 20 (RLN), and an impressive total of 105 was at St. C., Nov. 30 (FS). Blue-winged Teal apparently reached record levels (62) at St. M. on Oct. 20 (RLN). Five Cinnamon Teal Oct. 12 at St. C. (FS, RLN) continued the appearances of recent years, supporting the increased occurrences along the Atlantic Flyway (see recent *AB* indices). A pair of Am. Wigeon was noted at St. C. (FS) Nov. 30. Further evidence of an extensive anatid incursion, perhaps related to hurricanes *Bob*, *Gloria*, *Juan*, and *Kate* in the Gulf-Caribbean Basin, was a repeat record of **Greater Scaup** at St. C.: one Nov. 8 and two Nov. 27 (FS); two Lesser Scaup were also at St. C. on the latter date. A pair of Ospreys (*ridgwayi*) was noted copulating Nov. 23 at Providenciales (BA). A Merlin was noted at St. C., Oct. 10 (FS), and three Peregrines were seen there Oct. 12 (FS, RLN).

**COOTS THROUGH TERNS**—American Coots (25), some with extended and light brown-yellow tinted shields, were territorial at Fresh Pond, St. M., Oct. 20 (RLN). Single Lesser Golden-Plovers were noted at St. C., Aug. 27 and Sept. 25 (FS). Killdeers nested rather late this season at St. C.; a 4-egg nest was discovered Oct. 10 (FS). Four Black-necked Stilts were noted at Providenciales (BA) Nov. 23 after Hurricane *Kate*, and 200 were noted at Grand Case, St. M., Oct. 20 (RLN). Solitary Sandpipers

numbered 25 at St. C., Sept. 16 (FS), and 15 **Hudsonian Godwits** made a record appearance at St. C. (FS) Oct. 9 and remained in reduced numbers for another week. A single Red Knot at St. M., Oct. 19 (RLN) provided the first record for that island while 35 appeared at St. C. (FS) Oct. 2. Large numbers of Pectoral Sandpipers were noted at St. C., with 217 Oct. 7 (FS), and St. M., with 60 Oct. 19 (RLN). A Ruff was reported at St. C., Oct. 9 (FS), providing one of the few records for the V.I.

A winter-plumaged **Common Black-headed Gull** was seen at Tortola, British V.I., Nov. 17 for a new record there (RG), and another sighting, most likely of the same bird, was recorded at St. C., Nov. 27 (FS) for perhaps only the 2nd record there and only 2 days earlier than its previous November 1982 occurrence. A Gull-billed Tern at St. M., Oct. 19-20 (RLN) provided only the 2nd occurrence there since September 1965 (Voous 1983). Five Com. Terns were noted Sept. 29 (FS) at Buck Island, St. C., and a **Forster's Tern** seen in the wake of Hurricane *Kate* at Tortola Nov. 17 (RG) provided one of the few occurrences for the British V.I. Sladen reported that Least Tern chicks fledged as late as Aug. 20 at Buck Island, St. C. The last date Brown Noddies were seen at Pillsbury Sound, St. J., was Sept. 20 (RLN).

**CUCKOOS THROUGH WARBLERS**—Yellow-billed Cuckoos were noted at St. C. (FS) Oct. 1 and at Providenciales (BA) Oct. 20-Nov. 23. A single Antillean Nighthawk was seen at Cinnamon Bay, St. J., Aug. 25 (RLN) and a *Chordeiles* (sp.) was seen at St. C., Oct. 12 (RLN, FS). Three swifts (sp.) were noted at St. C., Nov. 9 (FS). Antillean Crested Hummingbird was reported nesting at St. J. (PW) Oct. 25, possibly in response to increased rainfall after a long dry period. A wood-pewee (*Contopus* sp.) seen at Providenciales Nov. 3 may have been either a migrant Eastern or a Greater, resident in the n. Bahamas, Cuba, and Hispaniola, dislocated as a result of tropical storms or a hurricane.

Swallows really made their fall trip worth any observer's efforts to carefully separate field marks. A Tree Swallow was carefully noted at St. C. (FS) Nov. 28, providing one of the few records from the V.I. A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was observed at Providenciales Nov. 24 (BA) for the first record in the Turks and Caicos Is. Bank Swallows are increasing at least in observation status in the V.I., with one Oct. 27 (RLN). Three **Cliff Swallows** were noted at St. C., Oct. 12 (FS, RLN), and at least two were seen at St. M. for a new record Oct. 20 (RLN). A vagrant Cave Swallow (probably from P.R.) was noted at St. C. (FS) Nov. 17 in the wake of Hurricane *Kate*.

A Gray Catbird was seen Nov. 4-25 at Providenciales (BA), and a Yellow-throated Vireo was there Nov. 2-5 for one of the few records (BA). A Worm-eating Warbler seen Oct. 20 at St. M. (RLN) provided a first record, as did Hooded Warbler in the same vicinity near the summit of Paradise Peak, St. M. (RLN). Both species are frequently encountered in winter in the V.I.

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