

The Autumn Migration

August 1 - November 30, 1989

ATLANTIC PROVINCES REGION

Bruce Mactavish

The tail end of two hurricanes and the very poor cone and wild fruit crop did little to add any spice to the avian season. But this Region—at the northeast corner of the continent, closest to Europe and the last refuge for birds riding the prevailing westerly air movement across North America—needs no help from extraordinary events for excitement. From Corn Crane, Black-tailed Godwit, and Redwing to Mountain Bluebird, Hermit Warbler, and Townsend's Warbler, and to Magnificent Frigatebird, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (and almost anything in between) there was spice aplenty.

Temperatures and rainfall were close to normal throughout the fall season. Bohemian Waxwings began an early invasion of moderate proportions. It was a definite off year for Snowy Owls. Finches were fairly common and widespread but not in the numbers of the previous 12 months. Golden-crowned Kinglet and Red-breasted Nuthatch were present in good numbers.

Coverage was good at the vagrant-hunting locations in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland but spotty elsewhere. Reporting was good from all areas except Prince Edward Island.

ABBREVIATIONS — S.P.M. = Saint Pierre et Miquelon.

LOONS TO HERONS — The timing of Red-throated Loon migration was suggested by counts during lengthy seawatches at Cape Jourimain, NB, of 19 on Sept. 24, 41 on Oct. 6, and 78 on Oct. 24 (DM). Thirty-five Com. Loons Sept. 8 off Grand Manan I., NB, were all juveniles (ST *et al.*), and 50 of unspecified age were off Cape Jourimain, NB, Oct. 6 (DM).

Three Pied-billed Grebes made the expected fall total for St. John's, NF. An Aug. 8 Red-necked Grebe at a sewage lagoon in Doaktown, NB, was probably a non-breeding summering individual (GP). On the whole, neither Red-necked nor Horned grebes received much comment except from the Northumberland Strait. There, counts of 80 Red-necked and 25 Horned grebes Oct. 12 at Baie Verte, NB, and 40 Red-neckeds and 40 Horneds Oct. 28 at Tidnish Dock, NS, made Regionally high but locally routine counts (ST). Details were a little shy on a bird reported as a Clark's Grebe in Nova Scotia. However, the description provided strongly suggested at least one of the two *Aechmophorus* grebes.

No N. Fulmars were reported from Nova Scotia. In Newfoundland, where they are common residents, 500 were noted Sept. 10 at Tooker Bank, 40 mi n.e. of St. Anthony (BO *et al.*). Fifteen hundred Sooty Shearwaters Sept. 10 at Tooker Bank, NF, made a high fall count, and was very unusual in that no



Map illustrations/Dense L. O'Brien

Greater Shearwaters were seen with them (BO *et al.*). The usual sprinkling of Cory's Shearwaters in late summer was noted on Georges Bank, NS (RD). Manx Shearwaters were typically in ones and twos wherever shearwaters were seen, with the larger numbers in the north: ten Aug. 24 at St. Pierre, S.P.M. (RE), and 20 Sept. 9 between St. Anthony and Quirpon, NF (BO, BMy *et al.*).

An imm. N. Gannet Oct. 18 at Plaster Rock, NB, 90 mi from the sea, was believed to provide the 2nd inland record for the province and one of very few inland in the Region (Roger Jenkins *et al.*). An American White Pelican Aug. 20–Sept. 10 at Inkerman, NB, furnished the 3rd provincial record in this century (Jean-Guy Robichaud *et al.*). Four Great and 25 Double-crested cormorants Sept. 13 on Belle Isle, NF, made unexpected numbers for this northern locality (BO, BMy *et al.*). October was Double-crested Cormorant migration month in Nova Scotia with flocks flying southwest and west totalling 500 Oct. 8 at Seal I. (BMy *et al.*); 800 Oct. 6–9 at Crescent (J & SC); 1200 (one flock!) Oct. 15 at Wolfville (*fide* RGG); and 1500 Oct. 18 at Kingsport (Dan Toews). Nova Scotia's 7th Magnificent Frigatebird flew past Chebucto Head Nov. 1 (BS). There were no unusual storms in the previous weeks that

could be blamed for the occurrence

Hérons straying north were Great Blue Heron: one Nov. 23 at St. John's, NF (KK), and one Sept. 9 & 23 at Churchill Falls, Labrador (*fide* BMt); Great Egret: one August to mid-September at Saint John, NB (*m.ob.*), and one Sept. 2 at Bon Portage I., NS; Little Blue Heron: one Aug. 12 at Lower W. Pubnico, NS (*fide* IM); Cattle Egret: one Oct. 25–Nov. 5 at St. Basile, NS; one Nov. 7–14 at Beaver Harbour (*fide* DC); one Sept. 2 at Bon Portage I., NS; one Oct. 24 at W. Lawrencetown, NS (*fide* IM), one Oct. 27 at Port-aux-Basques, NF (*fide* RB); and one Oct. 27–29 at Bay Bulls, NF (*m.ob.*).

WATERFOWL — An imm. Greater White-fronted Goose Oct. 20–25 at Goose Bay, Lab., had an orange bill so was presumably of the Greenland breeding subspecies *A.a. flavirostris* (Frank Phillips). Snow Goose numbers continue to be slightly higher with each migration season in the western part of the Region. A flock of 200 Oct. 27 near Woodstock, NB, was possibly the largest flock yet reported in the Region (*fide* DC). Eight Snow Geese reported from 5 locations in Nova Scotia Sept. 16–Oct. 23 was more than usual (*fide* LP). The easternmost individual was one shot at St. Pierre, S.P.M., Nov. 27 (*fide* RE). A Barnacle Goose Nov. 18–21 at Kingsport, NS, with a large flock of Canada Geese, seemed as countable as one could be without wearing Eurasian leg bands (*m.ob.*). The largest flocks of Canada Geese reported were of 2000 in late October at Payson Lake, NB (*fide* DC), 3000 in October at St. George, NB (*fide* DC), and 10,000 Oct. 22 at Port Joli, NS (*fide* LP).

Thirty N. Shovelers were still present Nov. 7 at Sackville, NB, a result of the unusual summer influx (ST). Gadwalls appear to be slowly increasing in the Region but are still scarce. There were 9 reports totalling 20 birds from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, with most reports coming from Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary (LP, DC). Newfoundland continued to hold the monopoly on non-adult-male Eurasian Wigeons. Since the American counterpart of this species is almost equally rare there, every wigeon seen in Newfoundland has to be identified carefully. October as usual was the best month with one Oct. 17 and two Oct. 28 around St. John's (KK, BMt *et al.*). Each bird was identified by the color of the head and neck, brown or reddish brown as opposed to gray in American Wigeon. The only other Eur. Wigeon reported was a male with an impressively large flock of 125 Am. Wigeons Oct. 30 at Tabusintac, NB (C.N.P.A.).

A ♂ Canvasback Nov. 15 near Fredericton, NB, was the only one reported (DS). Nova Scotia reported the only Lesser Scaups with five Sept. 30 at Sheffield Mills and three Nov. 1 at the Pictou Causeway (*fide* LP). A subadult ♂ King Eider Sept. 2 at Cape Jourimain, NB (MM), and a female Sept. 14 at the head of St. Marys Bay, NS (AMc *et al.*), probably represented rare summering individuals rather than early fall migrants. Harlequin Ducks reported away from traditional wintering grounds were one Oct. 21 at Canso Causeway, NS (FL), four Oct. 29 at St. Pierre, S.P.M. (RE), and one Nov. 26 at Shediac, NB (*fide* ST). The largest concentration of scoters reported was a mixed flock of 200 Black, 2000 Surf, and 300 White-winged scoters at Baie Verte, NB, Oct. 12 (ST). The easternmost Hooded Mergansers were one Aug. 5 at Grand Falls, NF (RB), and seven Oct. 1 at Glace Bay, NS (*fide* LP). There was a poor showing of Ruddy Ducks: only five in the Region with two Oct. 22 at Goulds, NF, being the easternmost (MP *et al.*).

RAPTORS TO CRANES — Yet another Black Vulture appeared in New Brunswick, where the species is approaching annual status although it is extremely rare elsewhere in the Region. This year's report was of a well-substantiated individual at a pig farm at Hillsborough, NB, Sept. 23–25 (Mrs. Hank Braam *et al.*). Turkey Vultures continued a gradual increase in the Region. Three were seen in August at separate locations in New Brunswick (*fide* DC) and there were numerous sight-

ings from Digby Neck and Brier I., NS, with up to 10 at a time from August to mid-November (*m.ob.*). A spectacular concentration of 50 Ospreys hovering over a rip tide at Bellevue Beach, NF, Aug. 20 was apparently a regular occurrence at low tide during the breeding season (BMt). Twelve to 14 N Harriers at Cape Race Sept. 4 made a high count for e Newfoundland (BMt *et al.*). Northern Goshawks and Rough-legged Hawks appeared to be present in mundane numbers. An ad. Red-shouldered Hawk Sept. 6 was well described from Brier I., NS, where rare but regular (*fide* IM). The best concentrations of Broad-winged Hawks were as usual from Brier I., NS, where 1000–2000 were circling Sept. 18 (DC). As usual none was seen to continue SW across the Bay of Fundy. The next day, several hundred were seen flying back NE from Brier I. along Digby Neck. A further concentration of 400 was noted at Brier I. Oct. 1 (RS). It is possible that these Broad-winged Hawks do eventually cross the Bay of Fundy rather than follow a longer land route around the bay. In past years, small flocks of Broad-winged have been seen sailing SW high over Seal Island, off Nova Scotia's s.w. coast, and disappearing out of sight still going in the direction of the New England States some 250 mi away.

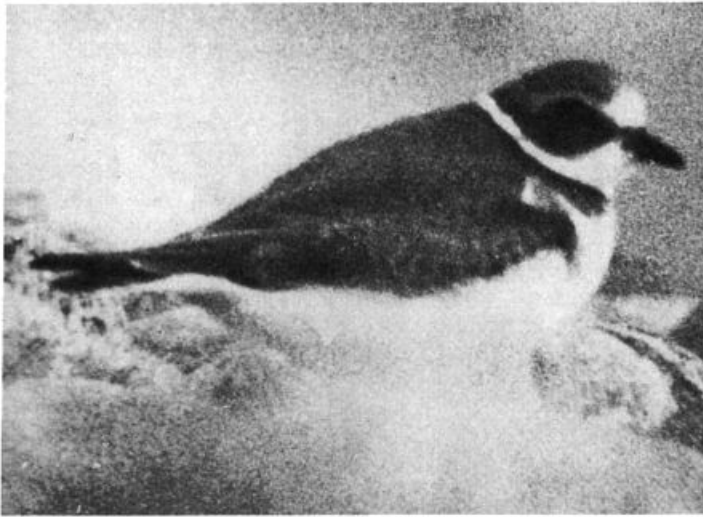
Raptors completing significant pelagic trips were two N Harriers Aug. 26 on Funk I., 40 mi n.e. of Newfoundland (WM), and two late Ospreys Oct. 27, one Bald Eagle in early October, and one N. Harrier and five Peregrine Falcons Oct 7 on Sable I., 90 mi s.e. of Nova Scotia (AM). Six Am. Kestrels and 22 Merlins were forced to Cape Race in extreme s.e. Newfoundland by very strong west winds Sept. 4 (BMt *et al.*). Good numbers of Peregrine Falcons were reported from all areas with a total of 67 individuals. Of those identified to subspecies, ten were *tundrius* and seven *anatum*. Two early Gyrfalcons both in the southern part of the Region were a "gray" morph Sept. 30 at Grand Manan I., NB (PP *et al.*), and an "intermediate" morph Oct. 9 at Cheeseman P.P., NF (RB).

Willow Ptarmigan and Ruffed Grouse were in the highest numbers of recent years in Newfoundland. A Yellow Rail on Seal I., NS, Oct. 7 was only the 3rd found there in 20 falls of tramping through the marshes of this vagrant-trap island, indicating its rarity status as a migrant in the Region (IM *et al.*). Nothing short of sensational was the well-substantiated record of a **Corn Crake** shot by a hunter Oct. 22 at St. Pierre, S.P.M. The dead bird was photographed and the wings were preserved (AD). There are a number of old records of Corn Crake in e. North America, including 3 from the Region: Newfoundland in 1857 and 1928 and Nova Scotia in 1874. Since its serious decline as a breeder in Europe in recent decades, there have been very few *bona fide* records for North America. A Purple Gallinule, the travelling ambassador for the Rallids, added Waverly, NS, to its remarkably long and varied list of sites visited when an immature showed up Oct 20–27 (*m.ob.*). Single Com. Moorhens were at Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary, NS, Oct. 30 (FL) and Sable I., NS, Nov. 7 (AM). There were rumours of Sandhill Cranes in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, but no clear-cut reports.

SHOREBIRDS — High counts of Black-bellied Plovers were of 200 Aug. 18 at Cape Sable, NS (BMy), 800 Aug. 20 at Grand Pre, NS (RE *et al.*), and 200 Sept. 13 at Miquelon, S.P.M (BL). The only significant numbers of Lesser Golden-Plovers encountered were in extreme s.e. Newfoundland with 335 Aug. 27 at Cape Race (JW, CB) and 400 Sept. 4 at St. Shotts (BMt *et al.*). There were numerous other reports in numbers up to 75 at coastal areas across the Region.

The highest numbers of Semipalmated Plovers were seen in Nova Scotia with concentrations of 300 Aug. 17 at Hartlen's Pt. (FL), 600 Aug. 18 at Cape Sable (BMy), and 365 Aug. 19 at Grand Pre (*fide* FS). Just one Piping Plover was at Great Barasway, NF, Aug. 11, where in June a survey had revealed eight. This suggests an early southward migration from the area (JB).

A rare but recently annual fall vagrant, an **American Avo-**



This juvenile plover at Seal Island, Nova Scotia, on October 7, 1989, was identified as a Common Ringed Plover. In this crouched position the neck band appears narrow, but notice the relatively large bill (compared to that of Semipalmated Plover) and the apparent lack of a pale orbital ring. Photograph/Ian McLaren.



American Avocet at Cape Sable Island, Nova Scotia, September 1, 1989. Photograph/Blake Maybank.

S.A.

A well-scrutinized plover on Seal I., NS, Oct. 7 was probably a juv. **Common Ringed Plover** (IM, Eric Mills, FL, BMy). Some key phrases in the written description were, "large for a Semipalmated Plover, relatively longer bill, more blocky head, a small amount of white above the eye, no hint of an orbital ring, distinctly greyer back, very long wing extension beyond the tail, crown paler and white of forehead not so sharply demarcated as in juvenile Semipalmated Plover, paler legs, small but distinct webs between the middle and outer toes and none whatsoever between the middle and inner toes." The secrets of separating juv. Common Ringed and Semipalmated plovers have barely begun to be unravelled because of our lack of trying in the past. Detailed notes on unusual "Semipalmated Plovers" will help clear up the identification mysteries as well as tell us more about the true status of Common Ringed Plover. There is one previous reliable sighting for the Region, an adult in August 1980 in Newfoundland, and 2 or 3 other possibly good sightings.

cet was at Cape Sable, NS, Sept. 1 (PB et al.). There was an average to good flight of Lesser Yellowlegs to Newfoundland with sightings from many locations, the maximum count being of 11 (RB et al.). The largest flocks of Whimbrels reported were 75 Sept. 4 at St. Shotts, NF (BMT), and 60 Sept. 8 at Lingan, NS (fide FS). Two reports of Long-billed Curlew from Nova Scotia in August lacked supportive details. Exciting were two **Black-tailed Godwits** in Newfoundland: one Oct. 7 at Stephenville (RB) and one very cooperative juvenile, Oct. 14-24 at St. John's (BMT et al.). There had been 5 previous records from the Region, one at St. Pierre et Miquelon and four in Newfoundland, all during spring migration. There were the usual reports of Hudsonian Godwits in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia with the largest flocks being of just 15, at both Shediac, NB, Sept. 4 (ST) and Cape Sable, NS, Aug. 18 (BMy). In Newfoundland, where they are less routine, four Oct. 7 at Stephenville made the largest flock (RB). The rare Marbled Godwit was at Kouchibouguac N.P., NB, Aug. 13 (D. Allain).

Four hundred Ruddy Turnstones Aug. 8-9 at Cheverie, NS (JWW), and 500 Sanderlings Sept. 19-Oct. 22 at Crescent Beach, NS (SF), were large flocks for these species. Semipalmated Sandpiper peaks were 100,000 Aug. 6-7 at Grand Pre, NS (RS), and 70,000-80,000 Aug. 6-14 at Mary's Pt, NB (DC). Western Sandpipers reported were two Aug. 16 at Hartlen's Pt., NS (PM), and singles at Castalia, Grand Manan, NB, Sept. 9 (AMc) & 22 (JGW). High concentrations of Least Sandpipers were of 800 Aug. 17 at Hartlen's Pt., NS (PM), and 1500 Aug. 19 at Cape Sable, NS (BMy). It was a good fall for Baird's Sandpiper with at least 23 individuals reported: two in New Brunswick, 15 in Nova Scotia, and six in Newfoundland. A bird in Nova Scotia identified as a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was described as a juvenile, but on the improbable date of Aug. 9. This record is best left on hold until more information is obtained on mid-summer plumages of this Asiatic species.

It was a fairly good fall for Stilt Sandpiper with five Aug.



Juvenile Black-tailed Godwit at St. John's, Newfoundland, in late October 1989. This flight shot shows that the contrasty tail pattern is like that of Hudsonian Godwit, but that the wing-linings are white, not dark. Photograph/Bruce Mactavish.

15–Sept 4 in e. Newfoundland doubling the all-time total for the province (CB, RB). A respectable total of 18 Buff-breasted Sandpipers Regionwide began with an early single Aug. 6 at Mary's Pt. NB (DC), and ended with a late one Oct. 9 at Brier I., NS (JWW). A Ruff was at Lawrencetown Beach, NS, Aug. 7–10 (PM *et al.*). Long-billed Dowitcher reports were typical in both numbers and dates for recent years with five Oct. 8 at Sackville, NB (ST), one Oct. 10 at Cherry Hill, NS (SC), and one Oct. 28 at Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary, NS (IM, BMy). Last dates for the abundant Short-billed Dowitcher were Oct. 7 in both Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Close to average was the total of nine Wilson's Phalaropes Aug. 17–Sept. 3 Regionwide with two in New Brunswick, four in Nova Scotia, and three in Newfoundland. Traditionally the New Brunswick side of the Bay of Fundy was home to migrating Red-necked Phalaropes, whereas Red Phalaropes preferred the Nova Scotia side. This still holds true as was shown by counts made during whale watching cruises on both sides of the bay: 2000 Red-necked and six Red phalaropes Sept. 8 off Grand Manan I., NB, and 30 Red-necked and 5000 Red phalaropes Sept. 11 off Brier I., NS (BMT, ST).

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS — The slim total of 35 jaegers reported reflected the token effort put into pelagic birding in our rich oceanic waters. The exception to the overall pelagic effort was Bob Odear's organized excursions to Tooker Bank, 40 mi n.e. of Anthony, NF, Sept. 10–14. These trips produced a total of 13 Pomarine, 12 Parasitic, and two Long-tailed jaegers. Of more interest to the birdwatcher, on the same trip were birds identified as nine Great Skuas and one South Polar Skua. Such numbers of skuas were found in this area in September during the 1970s before the knowledge of identification of the two species of skua was well known (BMT, JW). The status of South Polar and Great skuas in the Region is still poorly understood. Other skua reports were both of South Polar: one Sept. 10 at Brier I., NS (RS) and one Sept. 15 about 20 mi s.w. of Yarmouth, NS (ST *et al.*).

The peak count of Com. Black-headed Gulls at St. John's, NF, was typically in November; and at 146 (35 adults, 111 first-winters) on Nov. 24, it was by 20 a new high count. This continued the general increase through the 1980s in which numbers have doubled (BMT). The only Little Gulls were a 2nd-winter bird Sept. 7 at Deer I., NB (ST *et al.*), and an adult Nov. 12 at Grand Manan I., NB (BD). Laughing Gulls reported were one Aug. 20 at Lamaline, NF (RB), one Sept. 10 at Crescent Beach, NS (JSC), and one Sept. 20–29 on Sable I., NS (AM). A distinctly marked Mew Gull appeared at St. John's, NF, Oct. 17 for the 4th consecutive fall (MP *et al.*). There were 10 Lesser Black-backed Gulls in the Region, two in New Brunswick, two in Nova Scotia, and six in Newfoundland.

Rare in the Region, Forster's Tern was reported twice in New Brunswick: one Aug. 15–18 at St. Andrews (D. Clark *et al.*) and one Oct. 8 at Lameque I. (H. Chiasson). The only Black Terns were both eastern: one Aug. 9 at Miquelon, S.P.M. (*fide RE*), and one Aug. 27–Sept. 4 at Chance Cove P.P., NF (JW *et al.*). An Aug. 1 Dovekie at Miquelon, S.P.M., furnished a rare summer sighting (DD).

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS — It was a very poor fall for Yellow-billed Cuckoo with only three reported: one in New Brunswick and two in Nova Scotia. Actually a poor showing of Yellow-billed Cuckoo in our Region may be a good thing for the species, since it is a vagrant here with a poor record of survival. Only one fall migrant Snowy Owl, Oct. 29 at Lameque, NB (C.N.P.A.), heralded a poor winter for the species. Other Snowy Owls, one Aug. 27 at St. John's, NF (DP), one Aug. 27 at Cape Race, NF (JW), and one Oct. 1 and Oct. 15–16 on Sable I., NS (*fide IM*), probably oversummered in the Region. Northern Hawk Owl sightings were of one during September at Tracadie, NB (C.N.P.A.) and one in early October at Carmanville, NF (GB). A Long-eared Owl that was

picked up injured in Harbour Grace in late November, and later died, furnished Newfoundland's first record. Its occurrence was not completely unexpected since there were previous suggestive sightings and it had occurred twice on neighbouring St. Pierre et Miquelon. A Boreal Owl mist-netted Oct. 1 at Hartlen's Pt., NS, was a surprise (*fide IM*). Another was calling in mid-August at Butter Pot P.P., NF, where a nesting attempt had failed (*fide RB*). Northern Saw-whet Owls were banded at Bon Portage I. off s.w. Nova Scotia by Acadia University again this fall with totals of eight Sept. 29–Oct. 1, six Oct. 6, and 11 Oct. 27–29 (*fide IM*).

The largest of many flocks of Com. Nighthawks seen was of 200 Aug. 5 at St. Leonard, NB (GP). One Oct. 1 & 2 at Carmanville, NF, was a rarity (GB). Two Chimney Swifts Sept 16 at Bear Cove (JW *et al.*) and one Oct. 4 at St. John's (JP) were rarities for Newfoundland. An ad. ♂ Rufous Hummingbird Aug. 29 at Sandy Cove, NS, furnished the 4th or 5th record for the Region (Rob Inskter, *fide IM*). Although they are vagrants to the Region, the fact that neither Red-bellied nor Red-headed woodpecker was seen this fall was a little unusual.

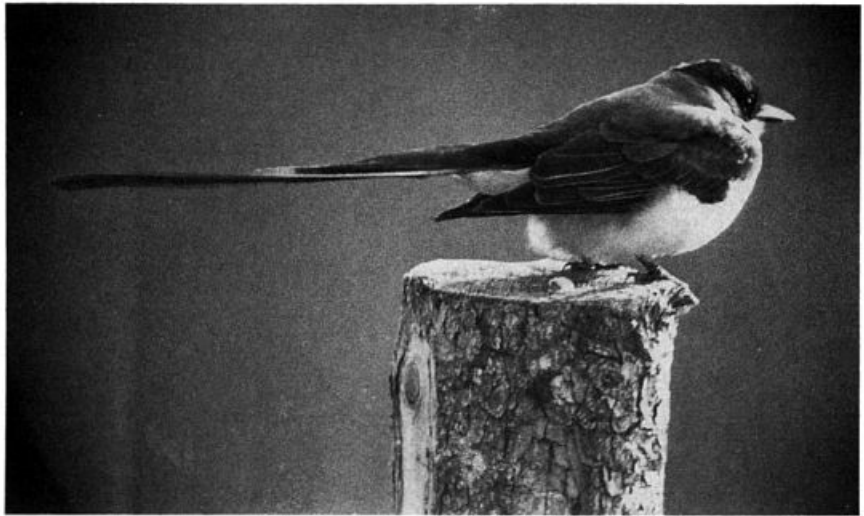
FLYCATCHERS TO STARLING — An E. Wood-Pewee Oct. 22 was late at Hartlen's Pt, NS (*fide RS*). An Eastern Phoebe Aug. 21–26 at St. John's, NF, furnished the first uncontested sighting for the province (JW *et al.*). Eight Western Kingbirds—two in New Brunswick, four in Nova Scotia, and two in Newfoundland—made a fairly good Regional total. In Newfoundland, where E. Kingbird is rare in fall, there was one Sept. 2 at Blackhead (JW *et al.*), one Sept. 27 at St. John's (DP), and one Oct. 7 at Bear Cove (BMT *et al.*). An ad. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher Sept. 18–22 at Saint-Amateur, NB, was followed by another, thought by some to be the same bird, 50 mi away at Trout Brook Oct. 23–25 (m.ob.). More exciting was an ad. Fork-tailed Flycatcher Oct. 29–30 at Apple River East, NS, on Blaine and Kathleen Spicer's farm (m.ob.). This represented the 4th sighting for Nova Scotia.

A Purple Martin Sept. 21 at St. John's, NF, was a provincial rarity of almost annual occurrence (BMT). Late Tree Swallows were three Oct. 17 at St. John's, NF (JP), and one Oct. 23 at Miscou I., the latest ever for n.e. New Brunswick (*fide DC*). The latest Barn Swallow was one Oct. 22 at St. John's, NF (BMT). Late Cliff Swallows were well represented, especially in Newfoundland despite being a provincial rarity: four Sept 24 at Waterside, NB (DC), one Oct. 9 at St. John's, NF (BMT, JW), three Oct. 15 at Ferryland, NF (RB, BMy), and two Oct 17 at St. John's, NF (JP).

There were widespread reports of good numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches, with highest counts coming from the islands off s.w. Nova Scotia: 120 Aug. 27–29 at Brier I. (JC, SC) and 350 Oct. 8 at Seal I. (IM). Newfoundland's 2nd House Wren Oct. 7 at Renewes (BMT, KK) coincided with a substantial wave of the species on Seal I., NS, where up to eight a day were seen Oct. 8–10 (BMy *et al.*). Quite scarce in the Region, a Sedge Wren was at Bon Portage I., NS, Oct. 7 (PM *et al.*). The same island had a Marsh Wren Oct. 7 (PM *et al.*) and nearby on Seal I., NS, there were two Marsh Wrens Oct 10 (BMy *et al.*). Golden-crowned Kinglets were very numerous everywhere in the Region with the highest counts typically coming from the migrant trap islands off s.w. Nova Scotia 250 Aug. 27–29 on Brier I. (J & SC) and 400 Oct. 9–10 on Seal I. (BMy *et al.*). Ruby-crowned Kinglet does not fluctuate in numbers as dramatically as the Golden-crowned, but it is an abundant bird in the Region and large concentrations can occur, such as 300 Oct. 9–10 at Seal I., NS (BMy *et al.*). The routine fall vagrant Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was found in 3 provinces: one Oct. 1 at Grand Manan I., NB (PP), one Sept 3 on Bon Portage I., NS (*fide SC*), one Sept. 15 at Broad Cove, NS (SF), and one Nov. 17–25 at St. John's, NF (BMT *et al.*)

At least one N. Wheatear is expected each fall somewhere in the Region. This fall's birds were one Sept. 15 on Miquelon (FM) and one Oct. 19 at St. Pierre (FU), S.P.M., while St. Paul's

Adult Fork-tailed Flycatcher in Cumberland County, Nova Scotia, October 30, 1989. Photograph/Stuart Tingley.



Inlet, NF, had one Oct. 23 and again Nov. 8 (HD). A ♀ **Mountain Bluebird** Oct. 25 at Hartlen's Pt., NS, provided a first provincial and 2nd Regional record (PM, BS). The increase in birders over recent years had revealed that **Townsend's Solitaire** is only a little short of being annual in the Region. This fall there were two: one Oct. 27 at Tracadie, NB (Jean-Yves Paulin), and one Nov. 25 at Cape Spear, NF (JW, JP). Exciting was the **Redwing** discovered on Sable I., NS, Nov. 25 feeding with a flock of Am. Robins into December (AM). This was a first provincial and 5th Regional record. The other four records of this Eurasian thrush were from Newfoundland and included two that were also found in late November or early December. Sable Island had another vagrant thrush but this one from the west, a Varied Thrush Oct. 16 (AM). In recent years the species has showed up almost annually at feeders during the winter, especially in Nova Scotia.

Bohemian Waxwings staged an unprecedentedly early invasion. The forerunners were three Sept. 10 at Middle Cove, NF, almost as far east as you can go (JP, CB). It was almost a month later before the next sightings, Oct. 8 at Miscou I., NB (C.N.P.A.), Oct. 11 at Alma, NB (fide DC), and 45 Oct. 15 at Lower W. Pubnico, NS (fide SC). Flocks of 10–30 became more widespread in late October and November in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia but remained scarce in Newfoundland until a flock of 35 was found Nov. 26 at Cape Spear (JW et al.). Watch the Winter Report for further news. Cedar Waxwings all but disappeared from Newfoundland in early September after a good breeding season. They remained fairly numerous in Nova Scotia throughout the period. It appeared to be an average fall for N. Shrikes everywhere in the Region except Newfoundland, where they were distinctly difficult to find.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — An unprecedented fall total of six White-eyed Vireos was reported in the Region, all from Nova Scotia: one Oct. 8 at Bon Portage I. (PM et al.), one immature Oct. 22–29 and one adult Oct. 22–27 at Hartlen's Pt. (BS, IM et al.), and three banded Oct. 27–29 on Bon Portage I. (CC). The only report of the rare Yellow-throated Vireo was of one Oct. 22–26 at Hartlen's Pt., NS (JT et al.).

Other Warbling Vireos were from Nova Scotia, one Sept. 30 at Hartlen's Pt. (IM) and one Oct. 8 on Seal I. (IM et al.). A Philadelphia Vireo Oct. 9 at Cheeseman P.P., NF, was both uncommon and late (RB). The latest vireo was a Solitary Vireo Nov. 5 at Renewes, NF (KK).

Thirty-five species of warbler were seen in the Region. Southern vagrant warblers as well as November warblers seemed fewer than in recent years.

Southern vagrant warblers were—Blue-winged Warbler: one Sept. 24 at Grand Manan I., NB (KZ), one Sept. 3 on Bon Portage I., NS (PM, BS), one Sept. 17 at Petite Riviere, NS (SC),

one Sept. 24 at Chebucto Head, NS (DC), and one Oct. 3 & 8 on Bon Portage I., NS (PM, BS); Yellow-throated Warbler: one Nov. 12 at Halifax, NS (CS) and one Oct. 11–Dec. 10 at a feeder in Traytown, NF (fide RB); Pine Warbler: eight in Nova Scotia Sept. 30–Nov. 30, two in New Brunswick Oct. 29 and Nov. 23, and one Nov. 17 into December at St. John's, NF; Prairie Warbler: four Aug. 11–Sept. 21 in Nova Scotia (low), three Sept. 6–Oct. 15 on St. Pierre et Miquelon, and four Aug. 15–Oct. 1 in Newfoundland; Prothonotary Warbler: one Aug. 6 & 7 at Hartlen's Pt., NS (DC et al.); Louisiana Waterthrush: one Sept. 24 at Chebucto Head, NS (CS); Kentucky Warbler: one Aug. 27 at Hartlen's Pt., NS (DC); Connecticut Warbler: one Sept. 11 at Halifax, NS (BS); Hooded Warbler: singles Aug. 22 and Oct. 7 & 22 on Sable I., NS (AM); Yellow-breasted Chat: one Sept. 16 in New Brunswick, nine Sept. 2–Nov. 5 in Nova Scotia, and two Oct. 11 and Nov. 11 in Newfoundland.

Orange-crowned Warblers were present in fair numbers with singles in New Brunswick Sept. 22 and Oct. 1, a total of eight in Nova Scotia Sept. 17–Nov. 15, and four in Newfoundland Oct. 7–Dec. 10. Rare in eastern Newfoundland were a Canada Warbler Aug. 20–26 at St. John's (BMT et al.), Blackburnian Warbler Aug. 29 at Cape Spear (BMT), and single Black-throated Blue Warblers Sept. 7 at Middle Cove (KK) and Nov. 5–11 at Cape Spear (RB et al.).

Despite a warm November there were fewer notably late warblers. The most unusually late warblers were Nashville Warbler: one Nov. 25 at Wolfville, NS (S. Bleakney); Yellow Warbler: one Nov. 11 at Halifax, NS (FL et al.); Chestnut-sided Warbler: one Oct. 22 at Pollock Pt., NS (SC); Black-throated Blue Warbler: one Oct. 27–29 on Bon Portage I., NS; Blackburnian Warbler: one Oct. 27–29 on Bon Portage I., NS; Black-and-white Warbler: one Nov. 26 at St. John's (JW); Wilson's Warbler: one Nov. 17–30 at St. John's, NF (BMT et al.); Am. Redstart: one Nov. 11–13 at Blackhead, NF (JW et al.); Ovenbird: one Nov. 6 at St. John's, NF (JW).

Last but not least were two western warblers seen just a mile apart in Newfoundland. The province's 3rd record of **Townsend's Warbler** was furnished by one at Cape Spear, NF, Nov. 5 (RB, JP). Far more unusual was a **Hermit Warbler** Nov. 11–13 at Blackhead, NF (JW et al.). The bird, confirmed with photographs, was the 3rd individual to be seen in the Region. The previous two birds were from Sable I., NS, in May and June 1975. There are only a handful of records from eastern North America, almost all in spring.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES — An ad. ♂ Summer Tanager Oct. 22–24 at Riverview, NB, was a good find for autumn (John Loch et al.). At least five N. Cardinals at as many locations in s.e. New Brunswick during November was termed a good number (DC et al.). Four Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in the St. John's, NF, area between Oct. 19 and Nov. 11 made an

The most impressive show of a mass displacement of migrating passerines was illustrated by vireos, especially the Red-eyed, in Newfoundland. On Oct. 7, six hours of intensive birding in alder beds at Renew's, in extreme s.e. Newfoundland, revealed one Warbling, one Philadelphia, one Solitary, and 23 Red-eyed vireos (KK, BMT). On the same day 50 mi farther north at St. John's an additional two Warbling and nine Red-eyed vireos were seen (CB, JW). The significance of these numbers is that there were only 7 previous provincial records of Warbling Vireo, and Philadelphia, Solitary, and Red-eyed are scarce breeders in central Newfoundland and occur on the east coast mostly as rare fall migrants. The previous best total for the entire fall for all of Newfoundland for Red-eyed Vireo was 10-15 in 1988.

The birds were not brought here by a storm. The weather Oct. 4-6 had been unsettled with mainly overcast skies. During the night of Oct. 6-7 a large high-pressure area moved in over the Region and cleared the skies. At dawn on Oct. 7 winds were light WSW at Renew's and the sky was very clear. The weather remained that way for the rest of the day. It seemed to have been a perfect set-up for migration: a clear night with light winds preceded by 3 consecutive poor migration nights. But why did so many birds go astray on such an ideal night for migration?

Could the very clear night skies have allowed the migrating birds to rise to altitudes high enough to be affected by strong upper atmospheric winds? Here west

winds could be strong enough to transport birds at high speed off course. The large number of Red-eyed Vireos eliminates Newfoundland as the origin of the migrants. The three Warbling Vireos strongly suggest birds from somewhere west or south of the Region, since Warblings are rare in all of the Region except s.w. New Brunswick. The closest place to Renew's where Warbling Vireo is fairly common is New England, 1000 mi to the south-west. Other birds seen Oct. 7 at Renew's that were late or rare for eastern Newfoundland but associated with New England were House Wren, two Indigo Buntings, three N. Orioles, three Ovenbirds, and an E. Kingbird.

The number of birds seen must represent a minute percentage of the vireos and other birds that landed in Newfoundland on the night of Oct. 6-7. But what about the ones that overflew the coast in the dark or went just 30 mi south of Renew's and never saw land? Untold numbers, unable to find land, must have fallen from fatigue into the sea. There was a significant drop in the number of vireos found Oct. 8 & 9 but there were frequent sightings of Red-eyed Vireos up to Oct. 31. This suggests that the majority tried to correct their mistake as soon as possible. The few that remained to the end of October probably left it too long to find enough food in the rapidly dwindling insect population and perished.

We can do little more than speculate the causes and results of avian displacements such as what happened Oct. 7, but the Atlantic Ocean was probably one of the biggest killers of Red-eyed Vireos in the fall of 1989.

above-average fall total (KK, JW, BMT). A **Blue Grosbeak** Nov. 17-24 at Middle Cove, NF, furnished only the 4th provincial record (KK et al.), whereas three in Nova Scotia were almost routine: one Oct. 14 at Hartlen's Pt., one Oct. 21 at Little Harbour (DY), and one Nov. 4 at Cow Bay (PM, DM). Another Blue Grosbeak was at Evan Smith's feeder in Saint John, NB, Oct. 22. Unusually high numbers of Indigo Buntings were reported from the Region, perhaps as a result of same weather system that carried the unprecedented numbers of Red-eyed Vireos to Newfoundland on Oct. 7, since most sightings began around that date. There were 20 reports from Nova Scotia, mostly of ones and twos, but with high counts of 12 Oct. 8-10 on Seal I. and seven Oct. 21-27 at Hartlen's Pt. (m.ob.). A record fall total of at least 11 was seen in e. Newfoundland Oct. 7-Nov. 19 with top one-day counts being of two Oct. 7 at Renew's (BMT) and three Oct. 29 at Ferryland (JW, CB). Five together at St. Pierre, S.P.M., Oct. 23 made an impressive count (GB). It was also a good fall for Dickcissel with at least five in New Brunswick, 21 in Nova Scotia, and seven in Newfoundland. Eight Oct. 10 at Seal I., NS, furnished one of the highest single-day count ever in the Region (BMy et al.).

Fair numbers of Clay-colored Sparrows were seen with one Sept. 16 at Saint John, NB (JGW), one Sept. 1 aboard a ship on George's Bank (RD), one Oct. 7-8 on Seal I., NS (IM et al.), one Oct. 29 in Halifax, NS (IM), and one to two Oct. 9-Nov. 12 at Blackhead, NF (JE et al.). It was the best recent fall for Field Sparrow sightings with three Oct. 6 at Bon Portage I., NS (JT et al.), six Oct. 8 at Seal I., NS (IM et al.), one Nov. 2 at St. Pierre, S.P.M., for a 2nd record (GB), and one **Field Sparrow** Nov. 11 at Blackhead, NF, for a 2nd reliable provincial record (RB, DP). New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland each had two Lark Sparrows with one at a feeder in Sackville, NB, starting Nov. 26 being exceptionally late. A Lark Bunting Oct. 25 at Hartlen's Pt., NS, was a good find (PM et al.). Three Grasshopper Sparrows were found, as one might guess on the vagrant trap islands of Bon Portage and Seal off s.w. Nova Scotia, and during the prime window of occurrence in the Region Oct. 6-9 (m.ob.). A Seaside Sparrow at Economy, NS,

Sept. 19 added yet another sighting of this Regional rarity to the surprisingly long list of occurrences at this almost-inland location. Isn't it more likely that they are nesting nearby than that they are strays from the New England states? White-crowned Sparrows were thought to be in better than average numbers in both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

There were 4 reports of Yellow-headed Blackbird: one Sept. 15 at Grand Manan I., NB (fide DC), one Aug. 29 at Cow Bay, NS (fide DC), one Sept. 1-3 at Sable I., NS (AM), and one Sept. 14 at Conrad's Beach, NS (fide IM). A Northern (bullockii) Oriole was well studied at Mary's Pt., NB, Nov. 12-14 (DC et al.). Eight N. Orioles Oct. 9 at Blackhead, NF, made a record high one day count for this regular fall stray in Newfoundland (JW).

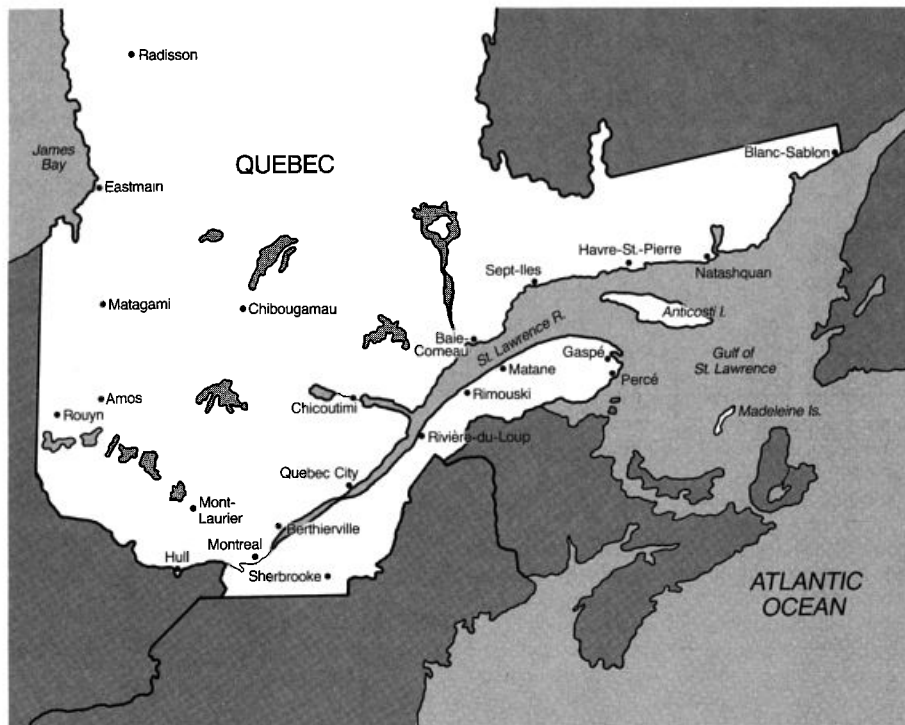
Finches in general were present in fair numbers with most species being widespread in the Region. Pine Grosbeaks seemed to be in better numbers than last year, being common in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland. White-winged Crossbills were widespread and common but not in the amazing numbers of the previous year. There were many striped young seen early in the season. The cone crop was very poor as expected after the bumper crop of 1988. In Newfoundland many White-winged Crossbills were feeding on alder seed heads. Red Crossbills were reported in small flocks, especially from e. Newfoundland, but were nowhere common. Pine Siskins were fairly common in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Small numbers of Com. Redpolls were seen. A large pale Hoary Redpoll was unexpected at Cape Spear, NF, Nov. 18 & 25 (RB, BMT). Several small flocks of Am. Goldfinches around St. John's, NF, were unusual, as the species is rare in e. Newfoundland. House Finches continued to make progress into New Brunswick with feeders attracting seven in Moncton, seven in Fredericton, and four in Newcastle (fide DC). House Finch is still a bit of a rarity in Nova Scotia, three Sept. 7 on Brier I. being the only sighting (MC). Making up for last year's scarcity at feeders, Evening Grosbeaks began appearing at sunflower seed feeders in early October across the Region in moderate numbers.

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QUEBEC REGION

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Northern Quebec experienced below-normal temperatures throughout the period. While the summer drought extended into August, precipitation levels were above normal thereafter. The Gaspé Peninsula and the Lower North Shore received above-average rainfall in August, as had been the case in July. Elsewhere in the province, August and September averaged warmer and dryer than usual, although several storm fronts did cross the province during September. On September 22–23, Hurricane Hugo brought strong winds and heavy rain to extreme southern Quebec and Gaspé. October temperatures averaged higher than normal in the south, largely owing to an idyllic Indian Summer near month's end. Central Quebec, however, saw more than 10 cm of snow during October. Bone-chilling cold descended on the province in mid-November; for many areas this was the coldest November in 50 years. Precipitation was above normal, with western Quebec recording twice the mean snowfall for the month.

GREBES TO WATERFOWL—Two Pied-billed Grebes, seldom encountered along the N. Shore, were seen near Mingan Sept. 12 (JD, AG). Only two Manx Shearwaters were sighted in the St. Lawrence Estuary this fall, off Matane Aug. 13 (CV), but one off the Magdalen Is. on the record late date of Sept. 22 (AP) may have been blown north by Hugo. Unusual, but not unprecedented, were seven Wilson's Storm-Petrels spotted from shore at Rivière-Ouelle Sept. 19 (CA). A Leach's Storm-Petrel picked-up inland at Sherbrooke in late

September may have been a casualty of Hugo's passing (*vide* FS). More fortunate was an imm. N. Gannet grounded among a flock of gulls in a Fabreville schoolyard Nov. 15 (*vide* PBA); once rehabilitated, the bird was flown to Florida courtesy of Air Canada.

Great Blue Herons appear to be colonizing Brion I., as evidenced by eggshells discovered there Aug. 7 (LdA), but an immature present at LG-3 dam Aug. 25 (JLD) was likely a late-summer wanderer. Southern waders invade s. Quebec each fall in varying numbers; this year they arrived in 2 separate waves. On Sept. 3–4, a Cattle Egret was sighted on I. du Moine (JCr et al.) and two Plegadis ibises, probably Glossies, were studied at Saint-Hyacinthe (FB, CD, JPP); a Plegadis was also found on I. aux Fermiers Sept. 14 (GDe, DD). The growing number of early fall sightings of Plegadis ibises suggests a regular northward movement of Glossies into s. Quebec, rather than stray White-faced Ibises. The 2nd influx of waders brought single Cattle Egrets to 5 different localities Oct. 30–Nov. 7, as well as a Snowy Egret, well described at Knowlton on the record late date of Nov. 12 (IF, JBr). The Magdalen Is. hosted only their 2nd Black-crowned Night-Heron, an adult at Grande-Entrée Aug. 6 (DCI).

An exceptionally large flock of 38 Tundra Swans migrated past Hull Nov. 18 (DB). This fall produced only one Greater White-fronted Goose, of the Greenland race, at Newport Nov. 18 (MCA). A Barnacle Goose paused at Montmagny Oct. 14–16 (RBr, DCh), while an intriguing report was received of a Ruddy Shelduck shot by a hunter on L. Saint-Louis Oct. 7 (*vide* AL). Two ♂ Eur. Wigeons were seen at Granby Oct. 1 (RRo, DRy) and another appeared at Aylmer Oct. 11–14 (JPA,

EA) West of their normal migration route were single Com Eiders at Victoriaville Sept. 20 (MG, RLc) and on L. Saint-Pierre the next day (RA). Up to 11 Ruddy Ducks congregated at Saint-Vallier and nearby Berthier-sur-Mer Oct. 14–Nov. 5 (PBr *et al.*), while broods hatched at Baie-du-Febvre this summer were completely wiped out by hunters before they could depart (*vide* Dja).

VULTURES TO SHOREBIRDS — A Turkey Vulture ventured to Forillon N.P. Aug. 13 (MSA). With the exception of Rough-legged Hawks, which reached s. Quebec in good numbers this fall, northern raptors showed little tendency to move southward; only Havre-Saint-Pierre produced a Gyrfalcon, a brown morph bird Nov. 9 & 27 (SP). A surprising discovery was that of a lone Spruce Grouse Sept. 5 (HG, BF) at Cap-aux-Meules on the Magdalen Is., where no wild gallinaceous bird has ever been recorded—the bird had certainly been released locally. A belated report was submitted of two ad. Com. Moorhens along R. Boniface, 40 km e. of Hudson Bay, July 5 (CL, MCh, CM); this represents the most northerly record for the Region. Any coot reported from the Lower N. Shore without adequate details is best termed “coot sp.,” since Eurasian Coot might be possible; two coots were noted at Mingan in late September or early October (PK), and three reached Baie-Johan-Beetz (*vide* SP).

Only one Willet was detected, at Masson Aug. 27 (TH). A record-late Spotted Sandpiper lingered at Saint-Laurent-du-Fleuve until Nov. 18 (JBe); such unseasonable birds should be carefully checked to eliminate the possibility of Common Sandpiper. Six Western Sandpipers, an unprecedented total, were identified, including juveniles at Rimouski Aug. 26 (JLr), Victoriaville Aug. 27–28 (AC, RBI), Cacouna Sept. 2 (FGr), and Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue Sept. 23 (BB, MM). Two record-late birds were studied at Métis-Beach Oct. 30 (AB, GCh) and Gatineau Nov. 12 (RF, GDs, DT0).

A juv. **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** was identified on I. aux Coudres Sept. 16 (JPO, MLf); all details including the buffy breast were consistent with this species, for which this represents the first provincial report. A peak count of 21 Purple Sandpipers at Saint-Fulgence Nov. 7 (Jl *et al.*) was excellent, while three birds turned up in s.w. Quebec, where the species is a rare migrant: at Aylmer Oct. 11 (BMD), Notre-Dame-de-Pierreville Oct. 31 (PM, RA, CD), and Melocheville Nov. 4 (DD, GDe). Four Long-billed Dowitchers were more than usual, with juveniles at Montmagny Aug. 27–Sept. 17 (JLc *et al.*), Cacouna Sept. 4 (JPO, MLf), Longueuil Sept. 27 (DD), and Oka Oct. 8 (DD, PBa *et al.*). Noteworthy were single Red Phalaropes inland at Quebec City Oct. 21 and nearby Saint-Romuald-d'Etchemin Nov. 19 (CV).

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS — Uncommon was a light morph Pomarine Jaeger present at Beauport Sept. 24 (DTa, LM), while “inland” Parasitic Jaeger records involved singles at Beauharnois on the heels of a strong cold front Aug. 6 (PBa), at nearby Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue Aug. 30 (MM), at Gatineau Aug. 27 (TH), and at Saint-Romuald-d'Etchemin Oct. 10 (LR).

Rare larids included lone Franklin's Gulls at Victoriaville Aug. 18 (MGr, JP) and at the Beauharnois dam Oct. 28–Nov. 12 (BH *et al.*), and an ad. Com. Black-headed Gull inland at Granby Sept. 27–Oct. 15 (*vide* YA). The Region's first substantiated **California Gull** was an adult photographed at the Beauharnois dam Oct. 28 (GBy *et al.*). The number of Lesser Black-backed Gull reports continues to increase. Twelve different birds were noted on the Ottawa R., on both sides of the Quebec-Ontario border opposite Aylmer (BMD), at least three returned to Victoriaville (*vide* MGr), and singles were found at Les Escoumins and Rivière-Portneuf (FGr). An apparent first-year hybrid Glaucous x Herring Gull was discovered at Aylmer Oct. 15 (MGo).

In August, up to four Caspian Terns frequented the beach at Oka (GZ, PBa), where a juvenile still begging from an adult was a surprising sight Sept. 8–10 (DS). Uncommon away from

the St Lawrence, two were seen on Blue Sea L. Sept. 10 (Gbc). Unprecedentedly late was a juv. Arctic Tern identified at Quebec City Oct. 20 (GLm), while the only Forster's Tern to be observed in the Region this year was at the same site Oct. 18 (RBo). An imm. Atlantic Puffin picked up on a road in Blainville Nov. 28 (*vide* PBa) later died at the Montreal Aquarium.

CUCKOOS TO WRENS — This fall brought a modest incursion of Yellow-billed Cuckoos with only 4 widely scattered sightings: Cap-Tourmente Sept. 20 (JPO), Maniwaki Sept. 23 & 30 (Gbc), Grande-Rivière Oct. 6 (SH), and La Verrière Oct. 24 (BL). Few records of N. Saw-whet Owls exist for the Magdalen Is., but a dead adult was collected at Pointe-aux-Loups July 22 (*vide* PFr), and another was hit by a car at La Verrière Oct. 14 (GhC). Quite intriguing was the appearance of an imm. Red-bellied Woodpecker at Stratford-Centre Aug. 26 (Dju)—could it have fledged nearby? On Nov. 28 a ♂ Red-bellied returned to Mt. Saint-Hilaire (DH, MB), where one overwintered last year.

The sole vagrant flycatcher was a Western Kingbird viewed at Sainte-Hélène-de-Mancebourg Sept. 3 (Gbc). Contributors reported Gray Jays as abundant in the Saguenay Lowlands (*vide* GS) and the Outaouais (*vide* RLD) in September, and along the Lower N. Shore throughout the period (*vide* SP, GCy); this represented the first major movement of this normally sedentary species since the fall of 1985. A tally of 300 Boreal Chickadees migrating in compact flocks around Tadoussac Oct. 15–16 (PJ, BT) occurred at the same time that several individuals emerged s. of their normal range in s.w. Quebec. A Tufted Titmouse came to a feeder in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu Oct. 27 (DL).

White-breasted Nuthatches continue to expand their range northward: a surprising total of four at Pointe de l'Est Oct. 6 (AP) represented the first ever to reach the Magdalen Is. Only two Carolina Wrens were reported, at Aylmer (HK) and Mont-Royal (*vide* PBa) in November, while record late by almost one month was a Sedge Wren studied at Saint-Hyacinthe Nov. 2 (DRy).

KINGLETS TO WARBLERS — A concentration of 1000 Ruby-crowned Kinglets on I. aux Basques Sept. 27 (MD, CB) was worthy of note. Among the five vagrant Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was one on Bonaventure I., Sept. 16 (RD)—apparently a first for this location. Early snow storms along the N. Shore resulted in evident mortality among southbound Hermit Thrushes Oct. 10–30 (SP). Observers commented on the early arrival of Bohemian Waxwings: first noted along the N. Shore, six were seen at Tadoussac Sept. 27 (BM *et al.*) and a group of seven included a juvenile at Saint-Joseph-de-la-Rive Oct. 1 (JPO). By mid-October, flocks were reported in the Saguenay, at Quebec City, and at Montreal.

On Oct. 9, a displaced Yellow-throated Vireo was at Cap-Tourmente (CV), where an unusually large concentration of 25 Palm Warblers had been noted by the same observer Oct. 4. Rare on the Gaspé Pen., a Pine Warbler visited a feeder in Cap-aux-Os until Nov. 19 (YB). A ♀ Black-and-white Warbler set a new late departure record at Montreal Nov. 10 (YG) Truly exciting was the discovery of a **Prothonotary Warbler** at Grosse-île, Magdalen Is., Aug. 24 (RRi); all 4 previous Quebec sightings had originated from s.w. Quebec in late spring. Almost annual as fall vagrants, single Yellow-breasted Chats were observed at Trois-Pistoles Sept. 9–10 (FGr) and Baie-Saint-Paul Sept. 30 (JPO, MLf).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES — Locally rare was a Scarlet Tanager photographed at Sept-Iles Oct. 14 (*vide* GCy). Lone ♂ N. Cardinals brightened Saint-Blandine Nov. 27 (JBn) and nearby Rimouski the next day (GLg), while a female reached Ragueneau, on the N. Shore, Nov. 8 (Ri); another male at Sainte-Véronique Oct. 20 and later (EB) was also farther north than usual. The Region's first confirmed **Black-headed Grosbeak** was a male seen by many at Chandler Nov. 4–17 (RG)



Smith's Longspur at Ile aux Fermiers, Quebec, September 14, 1989. First confirmed record for the province. Photograph/G. Duquette.

During late October and early November, the Gaspé Pen. was also invaded by three record-late Indigo Buntings and four Dickcissels. The Indigo Buntings were one at Chandler Oct. 25–30 (JRL) and two at Gaspé Nov. 5–10 (JG, GCa). Even later was an Indigo Bunting at Tadoussac Nov. 8–15 (YD). Dickcissels on the Gaspé Pen. included a pair at Chandler Oct. 25–Nov. 25 (JRL, RG), one at Gaspé Nov. 11 (FGu), and another at Carleton also in November (MLr). Elsewhere, up to three Dickcissels turned up at Sacré-Coeur, Saguenay, Oct. 28–Nov. 16 (GDg), and three more appeared in w. Quebec, at Maniwaki Oct. 14–15 (GBc), Warden Oct. 28–31 (PFI), and Laurier-Station Nov. 22–23 (JCh, DRu, LR), to complete an unprecedented fall showing.

Noteworthy stray emberizines included a ♂ eastern Rufous-sided Towhee at Gaspé Oct. 10–11 (GJ), and a Field Sparrow on Bonaventure I. Oct. 8 (JG, GCa, NG). A migrating Sharp-tailed Sparrow paused inland at Maniwaki Sept. 27 (GBc). Totally unexpected was the discovery at Neufchâtel Sept. 19 (DTa) of a small-billed, gray-hooded Fox Sparrow appearing to belong to the northwestern *schistacea* group, while a White-crowned Sparrow apparently of the race *gambelii* was found at Chicoutimi Oct. 5 (CG, MS). Saint-Roch-de-Richelieu was visited by an ad. **Harris' Sparrow** Oct. 8–10 (RLo, NL, m.ob.). A fresh-plumaged **Smith's Longspur**, Quebec's first substantiated individual, was flushed by alert birders on I. aux Fermiers Sept. 14 (GDe, DD, ph.); a series of rainy nights enticed the cooperative bird to remain until Sept. 17 and be seen by many. Five ad. ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported from s. Quebec: two at Beauharnois Nov. 25 and later (PBA) and three at Warwick Nov. 3 (CT).

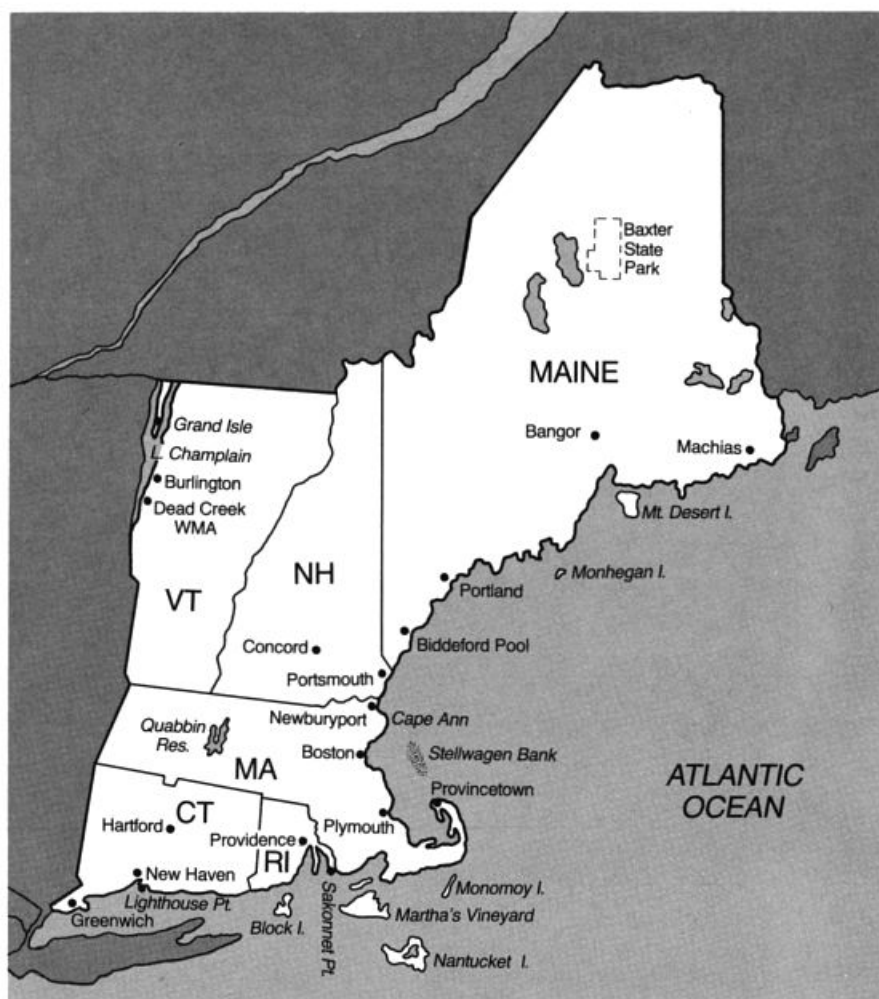
Pine Grosbeaks reached s. Quebec in mid-October, in contrast to their near-total absence a year ago. Another first for the Magdalen Is. was the appearance of two ♂ House Finches at Grande-Entrée Sept. 17–27 (AP), not surprising in view of the on-going range expansion in the Maritimes. White-winged

Crossbills were common in the Laurentians (fide PBA) and the Appalachians (fide FS) this fall. Rather astounding was the tally of 20,000+ Com. Redpolls and 7000+ Pine Siskins between Tadoussac and Godbout Oct. 15–16 (PJ, BT), as these finches failed to appear in any numbers farther south.

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NEW ENGLAND REGION

Charles D. Duncan



Except for the coast of Maine, August (as July before it) was a wet month in New England, with precipitation reaching 200% of normal in some areas. A cold front arriving at the end of the month may have caused the early departure of some migrants. Few of the wished-for cold fronts with northwest winds followed in September, and coastal hawkwatchers, banders, and passerine observers had a dull month. The remnants of Hurricane Hugo arrived September 23 after tracking through New York state, with high winds noted in several areas but no torrential rains. October resumed the wet weather, especially for southern New England. A coastal storm originating off the Carolinas arrived on the 19th, soaking already wet areas and producing flood warnings. It was followed by ten days of classic Indian Summer, with birding "like the old days," according to a Cape Cod observer. The weather stayed mild into mid-November with record high temperatures in many locales. Cold set in at last on November 18, with a major snowstorm on the 21st, and continued through the end of the season.

As befits such a season, shorebirding was good in many locales, although the scoreboard of controversy vs. proven rarity showed a two-to-two tie. Waders and passerines lingered to the end of the mild temperatures, and visits were paid by a better-than-average number and variety of warblers typically found to our south. There were only moderate numbers of western vagrants, but among them were Say's Phoebe and Ash-throated Flycatcher. Several

rare pelagics were found, or more precisely, found their observers, by arriving at L. Champlain or, in one case, landing on a fishing boat.

Much has been said and written about a putative decline in neotropical migrant landbirds, with blame usually laid on destruction of tropical forests. Nonetheless, reports included in this space over the years point to trouble in a very different arena, namely certain of the birds of New England's wetlands, including Pied-billed Grebe, bitterns, Blue-winged Teal, and American Coot. It seems to me, reading the fall reports of the decade just ended, that among the genuine long-distance migrant landbirds, consistent and Regionwide declines can be certainly identified only for some of the thrushes. Perhaps these declines may be as well ascribed to changes in land use in New England as elsewhere. None of this is to be regarded as exonerating the devastating, and probably irreversible, changes occurring in Central and South America which—it can no longer be questioned—will affect both the climate of the earth and the numbers of its birds. Neither is it to suggest that seasonal reports offer particularly high resolution for considering population changes. Instead it is a plea for New England birders to collect and report the best quality data they can for these low visibility species, often poorly censused with otherwise excellent programs like the Breeding Bird Survey.

Coverage of the Region by reporters was generally good this season, although no information was received from

New Hampshire, and the reports from eastern Massachusetts for October and November may be incomplete. An open letter from the four Regional editors, describing deadlines and material desired in reports, has been sent to state editors and reprinted in some newsletters. Readers wishing a copy may request one from this writer.

ABBREVIATIONS — C.N.C.U. = Cutler Naval Communications Unit, ME; Dead Creek=Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, VT; P.M.N.W.R. = Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge, ME.

LOONS TO STORM-PETRELS — A Red-throated Loon in basic plumage appeared on the early date of Aug. 1 at Eastham, MA (SPe), and another was seen the next day at nearby Chatham. Inland areas found relatively high numbers of this species with nine for the season in w. Massachusetts (fide SK) and 13 in Vermont. A single Arctic/Pacific Loon was reported from the Crown Point Bridge on Lake Champlain Nov. 2–12 by a variety of observers (FO, WS et al.). Details were not available to me but are to be provided to the Vermont Rare Records Committee. If accepted it would be a first Vermont record, although identification to species may be virtually impossible. Peak counts of migrant Com. Loons extended across the season with 11 at Chatham, MA, Aug. 2 (SPe), 20 at Kittery, ME (LPh), and 97 at St. Albans, VT, Nov. 14 (JC, RL) being state maxima.

Pied-billed Grebe numbers showed no sign of continuing the rebound reported here last fall. Perhaps incomplete reporting is to blame in some areas, but both Seth Kellogg in w. Massachusetts and Blair Nikula on Cape Cod commented on the species' poor showing. Reports from Vermont totalled only 17 birds, about half those of recent years. A Red-necked Grebe report from Aroostook, ME, on the summer date of Aug. 6 (MTr) was hard to account for. The only large concentration of Red-necked Grebes occurred at the standard spot at C.N.C.U. in e. Maine, with 119 there Nov. 11 (CD et al.). A Western Grebe was found at Plum I., MA, Nov. 5 (RH, JS), but the bird that has returned to Georgetown, ME, virtually every November since 1978 was not yet reported.

Cory's Shearwaters were found in some numbers to Cox's Ledge, RI, with a maximum of 70 Aug. 20 (DF), although this total pales before the numbers seen in the 1970s. One at Pt.

Judith, RI, on the late date of Nov. 1 was brought to port by a fisherman, but later died (fide CR). All the tubenoses were scarce off Cape Cod, perhaps as a result of the unusual depth at which food resources were found (fide BN). Highest counts were unspectacular: 800 Great, 60 Sooty, and 20 Manx shearwaters at Great South Channel, MA, Sept. 10 (WP). In contrast at Machias Seal I., NB, an unprecedented 300 Sooty Shearwaters were found Aug. 3 (CD, PV et al.). Forty Manx Shearwaters there the same date also made a high count for the Region this season. Wilson's Storm-Petrel continued the concentrations of July off Massachusetts with 2500 at Great South Channel Sept. 10 (WP), and 500 at Stellwagen Bank (PT). In contrast, they were scarce off Mount Desert Rock, ME, being seen on only 11 of 17 whale-watching trips in August (BA), with a maximum of 35 seen Aug. 10 (RK). The tubenose record of the season, however, was from Lake Champlain where on Sept. 21 a **Leach's Storm-Petrel** was followed with a boat and photographed well enough to convince any skeptics (RDL). Astonishingly, however, it was not a first state record.

BOOBIES TO STORKS — Scarcely less surprising was an ad. **Brown Booby** that landed on the fishing boat M.V. Supersquirrel and rode back to Pt. Judith, RI, Aug. 19. It was photographed, fed, and the next day, assisted over the rail outside the harbor. It flew away, apparently healthy, and was not seen again (fide DE). Northern Gannets were found unusually close to shore with 75 at Scarborough, ME, Oct. 21 feeding over a tidal river in the late afternoon of a stormy day (GC). Two days later, six were at P.M.N.W.R. where an immature flew off the ocean and over a fresh-water pond before returning to sea (RWd). A combined count of 500 on Nov. 22 from Pt. Judith and Napatree Pt. (including perhaps some overlap) was the peak of an excellent flight all month along the Rhode Island coast (fide DE).

A report received too late for inclusion in the Breeding Season report was of Vermont's 4th **American White Pelican**, found June 5 at Lake Champlain (BT, BB). The species had last been seen in Vermont in 1974. Unfortunately, full details have not yet been received. An adult was found at S. Portland, ME, Sept. 19 (WR et al.), several days before Hurricane Hugo struck the s.e. United States. Double-crested and Great cormorants historically overlapped in seasonality and locality to a certain degree in northern portions of the Region. Both species declined as a result of direct persecution, and enough of the overlap was lost that most observers consider the two species temporally well-separated. The distinctions, however, now blur as populations increase. A few Great Cormorants can be found at any time of year in e. Maine. Elsewhere, this year, one arrived at Plum I., MA, on the very early date of Aug. 8 (RH), and three were seen from the Nantucket ferry Aug. 23 & 28 (HMd). Nine reports involving 13 Great Cormorants came from w. Massachusetts; the total of previous reports there was only 11. The earliest of this year's birds arrived Sept. 6 (fide SK). Similarly, 3 reports well inland in Connecticut were remarkable (fide BK). Double-crested Cormorants peaked at 2000 Sept. 22 at Chatham, MA (JHe), and at 7000 Oct. 8 along the Rhode Island coast where this was considered the "best" migration of the species in recent years (fide DE). An **Anhinga**, only the 3rd for the Region, was reported (without details to this editor) at Weston, MA, Aug. 26 (JHu, fide RS).

American and Least bitterns are species whose populations are poorly known in New England and which may be undergoing major declines. The four Am. Bitterns reported by Vermont birders were dwarfed by the 30 birds censused by refuge personnel at Mississquoi N.W.R. (JG), emphasizing the low visibility of the species to casual observers. Similarly, it took the unusually high tides of Oct. 15 at Ipswich, MA, to put several of the five or six birds present into the air at once, a sight unfamiliar to a careful local birder (JBe). In Rhode Island, 3 reports totalling five birds were considered to denote a slight improvement in the species' status (fide DE). Casual



Leach's Storm-Petrel on Lake Champlain, Vermont, September 21, 1989: Barely visible is the narrow gray line up the center of the rump, ruling out Band-rumped Storm-Petrel. Photograph/Richard B. Lavallee.

reports of five Least Bitterns through the Region plus a census of 10 in August at Mississquoi N.W.R. (JG) reflected similar difficulties for this species' population and its detection by birders.

Great Egret continued to expand its numbers in the Region as witnessed by the comparison of this year's 170 to 1983's 39 as a maximum at the evening heron roost at Plum I., MA. As in the past few years, one or more lingered into November, with a Stratford, CT, individual Nov. 4 being the last reported. The big news, though, involved the **Little Egret** at Plum I., MA, from July 30 to Sept. 10, seen by many observers. It was only the 7th North American occurrence recorded for the species, but the 4th of 1989, and a first for the United States. Counts of 75 Snowy Egrets at Quonochontaug, RI, Aug. 7 (DK) and 1000 at Plum I., MA, Aug. 27 (SPe) were both considered high. Little Blue Herons are at the northern edge of their breeding range in s. New England, but stray northward as part of a post-breeding dispersal. An immature lingered at Hadley, MA, Aug. 19 (PY) to Oct. 8 (JEM), and an adult was a rare find at Weathersfield, VT, Sept. 13 (WN). A peak count of 60 Cattle Egrets at Ipswich, MA, Aug. 18 (JBe et al.) was typical there. Fifty-six at Tiverton, RI, Aug. 31 (DE) was substantially higher than counts for most recent years. The latest record of the species was of one at Essex, MA, Nov. 15 (RH). A **White Ibis** Aug. 5 at Longmeadow (JWi et al.) was a first for w. Massachusetts. In Rhode Island, a Glossy Ibis remained until the record late date of Nov. 16 at Barrington (RB). Most have left the Region by late September. A bird reported as a Wood Stork was at Ludlow, VT, Sept. 23 (CT), coincident with the arrival of the remnants of Hurricane Hugo. Accompanied by a sketch, the report almost certainly referred to some species of stork, but was ultimately rejected by the Vermont Records Committee as no evidence allowed specific identification. Long-term readers will recall a Yellow-billed Stork, presumably an escapee, on Cape Cod during November 1979.

WATERFOWL — Fulvous Whistling-Ducks are found on the Massachusetts coast every 2 or 3 years. This year two were studied at point-blank range at Plum I. Aug. 19 (m.ob., *fide* SPe). Mute Swans are increasing in Rhode Island. This year a count of 554 from Sept. 4 to 17 was double that of the species' 1984 total. A single Greater White-fronted Goose was at Marshfield, MA, Nov. 29 (DL), continuing the species' pattern of annual appearance in New England. Snow Geese were exceptionally well-reported from around the Region. Card and Trustrom ponds, RI, had 180 Sept. 26-30, the earliest ever for significant numbers in that state. In October the state total swelled to 300, representing "the most widespread fall flight ever" there (*fide* DE). One at Monhegan I., ME, Sept. 28 was unusual (BN), but the real numbers came from Vermont, with 10,000 at Dead Creek in late October and early November. Ian Worley stated that from the air, the birds "looked like soapsuds on the lake (Champlain) for a 12-15 mi stretch." Twelve were found in a snowstorm at Dorset, VT, on the late date of Nov. 21 (*fide* BG). Almost all of these birds are of the white morph, so the presence of three imm. "Blue" Snow Geese on S. Monomoy I., MA, Oct. 8-Nov. 5 was a surprise (BN). Interesting Brant occurrences were those inland: a flock overhead at Waterbury, VT, Oct. 7 (BR), and two at Storrs Oct. 21 (WE et al.) and one with an injured leg at Mansfield Oct. 25 (AB et al.) for the 2nd and 3rd records from n. Connecticut. Finally, one was at Windsor, VT, Nov. 3 (LPr).

Numbers of many ducks were mixed. Higher than normal counts were found in Vermont and w. Massachusetts with 60 N. Pintail at S. Quabbin, MA, Nov. 14 (CPa), and 500 Gadwall, 500 Am. Wigeon, and an amazing 15,000 Ring-necked Ducks at Mississquoi N.W.R. in October (JG). Eleven hundred Ring-neckeds were in a single flock at West Newbury, MA, Oct. 24 (RH). Inland in Maine, 400 Com. Mergansers Oct. 28 and 64 Ruddy Ducks Oct. 15 were good counts at Sabbatus Pond (JDe). In contrast, Green-winged Teal were scarce in Rhode

Island, as they have been for 5 years, with a maximum of 45 Oct. 15, while Blue-winged Teal were at an all-time low in that state, with an annual total of only 63 compared to 408 in 1980. David Emerson speculates that as one of the earliest migrant ducks, Blue-winged Teal arrive while Mute Swan concentrations are at their peak, and that the ducks are unable to compete locally with the rapidly increasing swan numbers. Nonetheless, Blair Nikula considered this fall's peak of 150 on S. Monomoy I., MA, Sept. 16 to be low as well.

Also steadily declining were Canvasbacks, whose peak of 100 on Nov. 15 at E. Providence Reservoir, RI (DE), should be compared with 1200 there in 1983. Sea ducks maxima included 600 Black Scoters at Scarborough Beach S.P., ME, Nov. 27 (JDe), and 15,000 White-winged Scoters at S. Monomoy, MA, Oct. 23 (*fide* BN), with 250 of the latter in w. Massachusetts at North Adams Oct. 21 (*fide* SK). Among the rarer ducks, a Eur. Wigeon was at Chatham, MA, throughout November (*fide* BN), six King Eiders in 3 localities in November were typical of recent years, and 30 Harlequin Ducks at Sachuest Pt., RI, throughout November made a good count (GS). A ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye was at Burlington, VT, from Oct. 22 to mid-November. The species is now regular enough there that the Vermont Records Committee no longer requires special documentation.

RAPTORS — One report of Black Vulture at Longmeadow, MA, Oct. 5 (AD) and another from Putnam, CT, only 35 mi away, Nov. 8 (CR), could have both referred to the same bird. Ospreys set local records for migration counts with 4036 at Lighthouse Pt., CT (*fide* NC), and 57 at Napatree Pt., RI, Sept. 24 (CR). It was the second-best year for the species at S Harpswell, ME, with 580 counted, against a 20-year average of 183 (GA). Curiously, Mt. Wachusett, MA, counters felt the species was down, with a total of 183 for the season (E.M.H.W.). Late records continued beyond the mild weather with the latest Nov. 27 at Coventry, CT, after winter weather had already arrived. A sparse but adequate description of a **Mississippi Kite** at Briggs Beach, RI, Aug. 26 (DG) provided the 5th record for Rhode Island (and the 3rd this year) but one of very few for the autumn reporting season anywhere in the Region. Northern Harriers were in good numbers at S Harpswell, ME, where 129 made the third-best year of the last 20 (GA), but elsewhere counts were unspectacular. Sharp-shinned Hawks were slightly above the 20-year average at S Harpswell (2444 vs. 1790), but were considered low at Mt Wachusett with a total of only 484 for the season (E.M.H.W.). Clearly, hawkwatch counts should be used only very cautiously as indicators of population change. A season total of 32 Cooper's Hawks was only one short of the record at S Harpswell (GA), and good numbers were seen at other hawk-watches, although the counts received were by no means complete.

Broad-winged Hawks are sometimes seen in dizzying numbers in the Region. This year's maximum occurred Sept. 13 when 16,000 flew by Mt. Wachusett, MA (E.M.H.W.). Quaker Ridge, Greenwich, CT, recorded 12,521 for the season, part of a state total of 43,000 (*fide* NC). Red-tailed Hawk counts of 156 for the season at Mt. Watatic, Ashburnham, MA, and of 323 on Oct. 19 alone at Ferrisburg, VT (JMD), were both considered high. Only 3 reports comprising four Rough-legged Hawks were received; an invasion it was not. Fourteen reports of Golden Eagle reflected the species' continued slow growth in the Region.

The three routine falcons were counted in excellent numbers at S. Harpswell this year: Am. Kestrel (950, 3rd best year, 20-year average of 552); Merlin (217, 2nd best, average of 86); Peregrine Falcon (64, highest ever, average of 12) (GA). Counters along the Rhode Island coast found a better migration of Am. Kestrels there than in many years with a peak on Sept. 24 of 245 (*fide* DE). Some of the 25 Peregrines at Monhegan I., ME, Sept. 30 (BN) may have been recounted at S Harpswell, but nevertheless showed that island's importance

to the species. Peregrines were also in exceptional numbers on Cape Cod according to Nikula, but were virtually impossible to census, as some linger for days at favored localities such as Nauset and Monomoy. A light-morph Gyrfalcon Nov. 9 at Orwell, VT (BET), furnished the only report this fall. A much bigger surprise was a **Prairie Falcon** photographed and positively identified at Block I., RI, Oct. 7 (JW *et al.*). The species is popular for falconry, of course, and only 2 weeks previously a male Prairie x Peregrine hybrid had escaped from a Rhode Island falconer. Still, this bird had no evidence of jesses, or plumage intermediate between the two species. Prairie Falcons have no history of authentic vagrancy to the Region.

RAILS, SHOREBIRDS — A Yellow Rail was reported Oct. 5 at Tinmouth Channel, MA (*fide* SPe). The species is another exemplar of those birds whose secretive ways prevent accurate assessment of their status on migration. American Coots are in serious trouble in some states. Emerson commented that in Rhode Island, this year's total of 53 was the lowest in 50 years. Compare this with previous counts of 1314 (1971), 1475 (1975), 304 (1980), and 496 (1987). Curiously, though, two showed up in e. Maine, where they are quite rare. One on Nov. 10 was at Roque Bluffs (PD, TW) and another the following day at C.N.C.U. (PD, CD *et al.*) was my first in 8 years here. A Sandhill Crane at Ipswich, MA, Sept. 11 to at least Oct. 10 (m.ob.) was likely the bird first found at nearby Newbury in June.

Lesser Golden-Plovers were well-reported. Representative counts were of 11 at Cherryfield, ME, Sept. 4, (GH), 45 at Dead Creek, VT, Sept. 24 (FP), and 58 at Turner, ME, Oct. 15 (JDe). The latest seen was Nov. 11 at P.M.N.W.R. (RWd). In Massachusetts, Stymeist felt there was "a good flight with many individuals at many locations." Generally it is offshore storms that push this long-distance migrant into New England's fields, but the protracted period of these observations makes any such weather-related explanation tenuous. Concentrations of Killdeer were unusual for at least 3 locales: 255 at Newbury, MA, Oct. 15, perhaps an all-time high for the state (RH); 96 at Randolph Center, VT, Oct. 18 (FP); and 100 at Turner, ME, Oct. 25, later by 2 or 3 weeks than the typical peak (JDe). Willets, too, were strong in number. Fifteen at Biddeford Pool, ME, Aug. 18 made a high count (RK), and one inland at Hadley, MA, Oct. 23 represented only the 3rd fall report for w. Massachusetts (PY). High counts of Whimbrels were received for several areas. Hudsonian Godwits were widely reported but total numbers along the coasts seemed rather typical. A northeast gale was likely responsible for the events of Oct. 19–24 when observers in w. Massachusetts, where only 5 previous records exist, found five in a group at Hadley (JM), six were found at S. Kingston, RI, where the species is rare (JO), and 52 showed up in the Newbury and Ipswich, MA, area, lingering to the late date of Nov. 15. A maximum count of 200 Sanderlings Oct. 14 at Middletown, RI (SH), was thought to be rather typical and a contraindication of any decline in population.

Curious, given the numbers of other northwestern shorebirds (notably Baird's and Buff-breasted sandpipers, and Long-billed Dowitchers), was the paucity of Western Sandpiper reports. Highest counts were only of six, at Plum I. Aug. 20 (*fide* RS) and Scarborough, ME, 3 days later (SPo). One certain **Little Stint** in fading alternate plumage was found at Plum I. Aug. 19 (RA *et al.*). An excellent description of a juv. Little Stint seen the following day, also at Plum I., would have been convincing. Nonetheless, other observers seeing the bird immediately discounted its identification as this species. Adjudication by me at a distance in time and space seems both pointless and dangerous. White-rumped Sandpipers followed the pattern of Hudsonian Godwits: uncommonly high inland counts and rather late coastal concentrations. Twenty-eight were in w. Massachusetts from late October to early November. At Napatree Pt., RI, 58 on Oct. 20 (CR) (again following

that NE storm) was more than was seen the rest of the season. Dead Creek hosted 17 on Oct. 29 (FO, CP), an exceptional count for Vermont. Finally, 33 in the Ipswich/Rowley/Newbury area (RH) Nov. 15 was higher than typical for so late a date.

Baird's Sandpipers showed up in better than average numbers this fall, with six in w. Massachusetts (*fide* SK), 23 in Maine, including a very rare adult Aug. 2 at Scarborough Marsh (JDu *et al.*), nine in Rhode Island (*fide* DE), at least 16 in e. Massachusetts, and one in Vermont. With no small trepidation, I mention a detailed description apparently pertaining to a juv. Cox's Sandpiper at Plum I. Sept. 2. As with the Little Stint report mentioned above, the description is impressive if taken alone, but other observers on the spot were, to say the least, unmoved. For now this report is best considered a hopeful footnote. "Fair-but-convincing" details were reportedly received of a **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**, the 5th ever for the Region, at Newburyport, MA, Oct. 15 (*fide* SPe). A group of 12 Purple Sandpipers seen from the M.V. *Bluenose* off the coast of Maine Aug. 4 was surprising both for date and location (CD, PV). A well-described Curlew Sandpiper was an excellent find for Plum I. Oct. 7 (ABD), and a Stilt Sandpiper at Orange Oct. 22 (JJ, HA) was the first in w. Massachusetts in several years. Plum I. hosted the Regional maximum for Stilt Sandpipers, with 51 Aug. 5 (RH), a rather typical number at a slightly early date. The 39 reported Buff-breasted Sandpipers made an average total for New England, back up after 3 low years.

Ruff is reported less than once per autumn in the Region so one at Plum I., MA, Sept. 17 (DCh) was a good find. A count of 122 Long-billed Dowitchers Sept. 1 at Plum I. (RH) was high but not unprecedented. The ten Wilson's Phalaropes reported for the Region constituted an unimpressive total. The catastrophic decline of Red-necked Phalaropes, described here last fall, continued unabated. The species was entirely absent most days from its former center of abundance off Lubec and Eastport, ME (CD, BH), and a peak count of 164 at Mt. Desert Rock, ME, Aug. 28 was also considered far below normal levels (BA). The only flock of any size mentioned was a group of 100 off Provincetown, MA, Sept. 10 (WP). Plans are shaping up for substantial research efforts to consider the species' whereabouts and the reasons for its disappearance from the Quoddy area (*fide* R.G.B. Brown). The story at sea for Red Phalaropes was hardly better, with a maximum count of only three in the Mt. Desert Rock area by whale watchers making numerous trips. Nevertheless, 3000 were counted from the M.V. *Bluenose* between Bar Harbor, ME, and Yarmouth, NS, Aug. 4 (CD, PV). Typically, most of these were closer to Nova Scotia, and therefore outside the boundaries of this Region. One Red Phalarope did show up inland Oct. 21 at Caspian L., Greensboro, VT (FO *et al.*), for about the 14th record for the state.

SKUAS TO MURRES — Only a single skua, a well-described South Polar seen and photographed on Georges Bank, MA, Aug. 21 (DF), was reported this season. Laughing Gulls are rare inland, so one at Hadley, MA, Sept. 24 was a good find (HA), as was a first-summer Franklin's Gull at Nahant, MA, Sept. 3 (Rfo, KF, MM). Three reports of ad. **Little Gull** from Colchester to Charlotte, VT (a distance of less than 25 mi along L. Champlain), Aug. 6 to Nov. 13 could have pertained to one to three birds. An imm. Little Gull was at Addison, VT, Nov. 7 (BR, DCa, SL). These were the 7th through 10th records for the state. Elsewhere, the only reports came from Ninigret, RI, Aug. 1 (DF, DK) and Scarborough, ME, Sept. 11 (AS). The Regional total of seven Com. Black-headed Gulls was only one-fourth of the counts of a decade ago, although one at Hadley Oct. 13 was just the 2nd for w. Massachusetts. The same or another was found at the same locality Nov. 18 (DS).

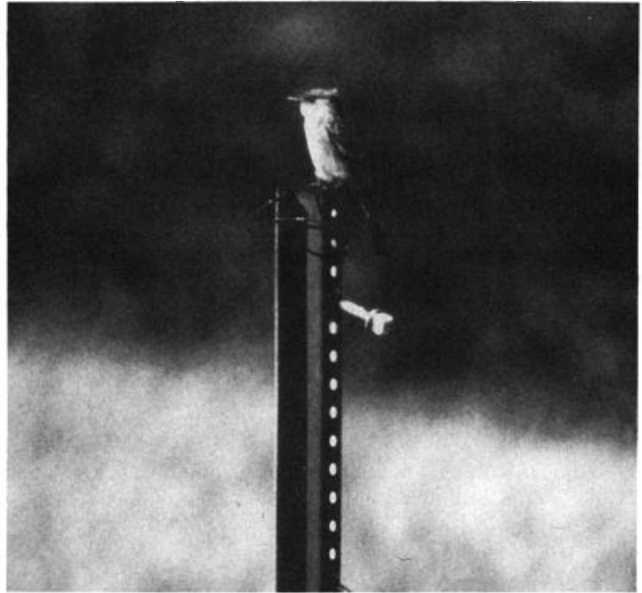
High counts of Bonaparte's Gulls included 650 at Newburyport, MA, in late August and early September, and up to

1000 along the L. Champlain shore near Burlington, VT, in mid-November. Nonetheless, the concentrations of up to 20,000 that were found between Eastport, ME, and Deer I., NB, as recently as 5 years ago never formed, with peak counts there in August being only about 500 (CD). By November, totals in numerous small flocks in these waters may have reached 5000. A well-described ad. **Mew Gull** was found Nov. 6 at Ipswich, MA (RH), for the first fall record since 1983. Seven Lesser Black-backed Gull reports were received, the most notable of a bird at Stellwagen Bank, MA, in first-winter plumage on the early date of Oct. 29. Simon Perkins points out that the occurrence of this rare age class on this date represents a bird at most 5 months old, hinting at the possibility of breeding somewhere in North America. A Glaucous Gull, of unstated age, was early at Barnstable Harbor, MA, Aug. 13. Lake Champlain continued to be an exciting spot for pelagic birds. Besides the Leach's Storm-Petrel mentioned above, it produced an imm. Black-legged Kittiwake Oct. 22 at Pantou and an imm. **Sabine's Gull** well-photographed Sept. 16 (RDL), the latter representing only the 3rd Vermont record. Elsewhere, there were 4 coastal or oceanic reports of Sabine's Gull: three from Massachusetts, and one seen from shore at Pt. Judith, RI, Nov. 28 (DK, AS), by 3 weeks the latest ever in the Region.

The total of 26 Caspian Terns Aug. 19 to Oct. 3 was higher than in recent years but still below totals of 35–45 from the mid-1970s. Two at Southwick, MA, Oct. 3 furnished only the 3rd fall record for w. Massachusetts (SK), the last having been in 1963. Only one report of Royal Tern was received, at Stellwagen Bank Aug. 9 (ML et al.), a remarkably low figure if complete, indicating none of the usual post-breeding dispersal. The peak count of the endangered Roseate Tern was of 600 at Nantucket I., MA, Aug. 4 (SPe). Banding studies have shown that this post-breeding concentration originates at Bird I. in Buzzards Bay. A Black Tern at Lubec, ME, Aug. 3 was rare that far east (CD, PV). A Com. Murre the 3rd week of November was unusual at Wellfleet, MA (fide SPe), as were August Thick-billed Murres on the Maine coast with one at Lubec Aug. 3, three more only a few miles away but into New Brunswick waters (CD, PV), and another near Mt. Desert Rock Aug. 23 (BA). One at Provincetown, MA, Nov. 24 (WBa) was less extraordinary. No other alcid was reported, thereby polishing off a decade of autumnal weakness for this group.

PARAKEETS TO FLYCATCHERS — Thirty Monk Parakeets were tallied Oct. 1 at Riverside, RI (BS), where the species is increasing, not an especially encouraging sign. Barn Owls were reported from 2 Rhode Island locales: Norman Bird Sanctuary (Newport) Sept. 13 and Block I. Sept. 20 (fide DE). Long-eared Owls are not easily detected, so reports of a pair breeding at Little Compton, RI (DE), two at S. Monomoy, MA:—perhaps the first ever there—Oct. 28 (BN), a single at Plum I., MA, Nov. 5 (RH), and three at Madison, CT, Nov. 25, were noteworthy. A seasonal total of eight N. Saw-whet Owls in w. Massachusetts was considered above average (fide SK). Common Nighthawks are visible if often silent migrants. This year a peak of 100 Aug. 17 at P.M.N.W.R. was considered typical (RWd), and 28 at Kittery Sept. 11 made “my highest count in years” (LPh). Apart from these 2 Maine locales, there was a widespread feeling of a very poor migration year. Representative was the count of only nine at Escoheag, RI, Sept. 2, where the 10-year average is 51 (fide DE).

There were six reports of Red-headed Woodpecker, somewhat below average if complete. A ♂ **Red-bellied Woodpecker** at Chester, VT, Oct. 22 (CA) and a female at Grande Isle Oct. 27 to at least Nov. 26 (EH) furnished that state's 9th and 10th records. Olive-sided Flycatchers were either scarce or under-reported this fall, although David Holmes mentioned that this was the first fall since 1974 when the species has been absent at his banding station on Maine's Appledore I. among the Isles of Shoals. An E. Wood-Pewee at Wallum L., RI, Oct. 28 (SM) was remarkably late, as was a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at



Say's Phoebe on South Monomoy Island, Massachusetts, October 14, 1989. Photograph/Blair Nikula.

Plum I. Oct. 21 (RH). Both “Traill's” and Least flycatchers were banded in lower than normal numbers at Appledore I., ME, only about 55% of the 6-year average per net-hour. Eastern Phoebe had a banner year in Rhode Island with many reports and peak numbers the 2nd week of October. One-day maxima of 15 were reported from Trustrom Pond N.W.R. Oct. 8 and Block I. Oct. 11 (fide DE). Truly rare in recent years were the Say's Phoebe photographed at S. Monomoy, MA, Oct. 14 (BN) and the Ash-throated Flycatcher at Martha's Vineyard, MA, Nov. 5 (GD), although both fell neatly within the typical dates for these vagrants. Interestingly, each of these species was a more routine visitor to New England during the 1970s than the 1980s. A W. Kingbird at E. Quabbin Aug. 27 (ML, SC) was the earliest ever and the first in 10 years for w. Massachusetts and another **Western Kingbird** handsomely sketched at Barnard Sept. 22 (NM, JHa) provided a first documented record for Vermont. Still, the total of 8 reports for the Region was, if anything, below average, with Holmes missing the species at Appledore I., ME, for the first time in 15 years of banding. Eastern Kingbirds numbered a prodigious 197 at a roost in Norfolk, MA, Aug. 26 (BC), and one on the late date of Oct. 27 at Little Compton, RI (KCS), continued the pattern of lingering set by other tyrannids this fall.

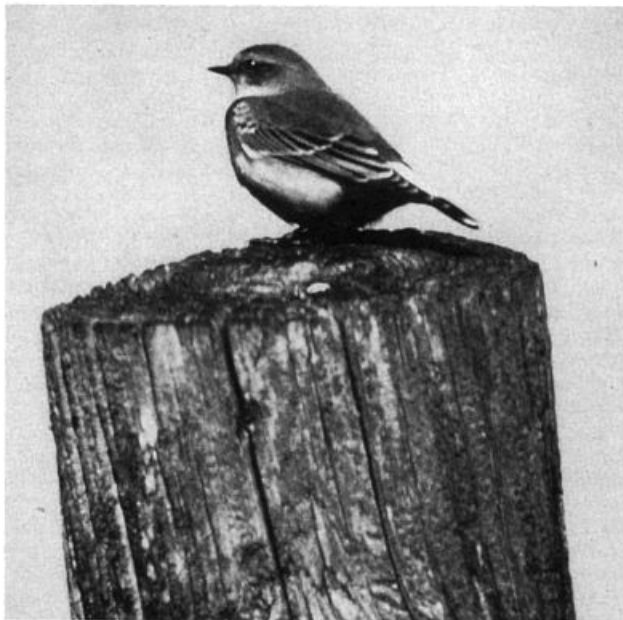
SWALLOWS TO SHRIKES — The movement of Tree Swallows through Plum I., MA, continued to leave observers struggling to estimate their abundance. Attempts included reports of 300,000 Aug. 5, 100,000 Aug. 20, and one million Sept. 3 (fide RS). The migration of this species in Rhode Island was also thought to be the best in years with a high one-day count of 8000 at Little Compton Sept. 18 and a state total for the season of 24,600 (fide DE). A Barn Swallow on the late date of Nov. 11 fit “like clockwork” into the pattern now expected for reverse migrants of this species in New England (RH, JS), with at least 12 November records in the last 15 years. One or perhaps two Gray Jays were responsible for Oct. 24 & 29 sightings at central and E. Quabbin, MA, where the decade had seen only 2 records, totalling four birds (fide SK). Common Ravens continued their rapid southward expansion, with three at New Hartford, CT, Nov. 24 (DTr). Eighteen were reportedly fledged in n. Connecticut this year (fide BK). This was a good flight year for Red-breasted Nuthatch, with a number of “first-ever-at-my-feeder” comments received. The one-day maximum of 800 at Block I., RI, Sept. 29 (RFx et al.)



Sedge Wren near Hadley, Massachusetts, July 29, 1989. The species nested here in August, for the first known breeding in western Massachusetts in over a decade. Photograph/Warren Harrington.

was the 2nd-highest of the decade, behind the 1200 on that same island in early October 1981.

As described in the summer report, Carolina Wren numbers are up substantially in the Region. One measure is the number banded at Appledore I. this fall where 0.16 were caught per 100-net-hours, compared to a 6-year average of only 0.01. One came to a feeder for almost 2 months at Manchester, VT, until Nov. 19, its departure (or demise) matching the arrival of cold Canadian air in the state. Sedge Wrens, too, gained ground. The pair at Hadley, MA, reported last season, was proven to nest, and a 2nd pair was found. The last nesting in w. Massachusetts was in 1976 (fide SK). Single individuals were seen Aug. 29 at Sherman, CT (NP), and Nov. 7, a very late date, at Middletown, RI (REn, JO). Both Golden-crowned and Ruby-



Northern Wheatear on Block Island, Rhode Island, October 8, 1989. Fourth state record. Photograph/Joseph DiCostanzo.

crowned kinglets enjoyed substantial migrations into New England. Monhegan and Block islands tied for the one-day maximum of Golden-crowned with 150 at each on Sept. 29 (BN, RFx). At Block on Oct. 11, the birds were described as unusually tame and feeding on lawns, where many fell victim to island cats (DE). The highest count for Ruby-crowned Kinglets was at W. Brattleboro, VT, on Oct. 22, where an unprecedented 40 were banded in only 2½ hours, and another 60 were heard. During this same period some 25 Golden-crowns were present as well (JC). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Stamford, CT, Nov. 19 (FP, FM) was late.

Rhode Island's 4th Northern Wheatear was seen Oct. 8 at Block I. (BD et al.). Only seven Gray-cheeked Thrushes were reported for the Region. In w. Massachusetts, where one was found Oct. 8, they are said to be almost "accidental" now (SK). Swainson's Thrush is apparently declining as well; only 9 reports, totalling 12 birds, were received in w. Massachusetts, and at Appledore, the number captured per net-hour was barely one-tenth of the 6-year average (DH). Two Varied Thrushes appeared in mid-November, one at Rangeley, ME, Nov. 15, and one, a female, remarkable for not being at a feeder, Nov. 19 at Rockport, MA. The 840 Am. Pipits in several flocks at Addison, VT, Oct. 8 (BR, DCa) made a high count. Flocks of 100 at Turner, ME, Oct. 25 (JDe), and 110 at Ipswich, MA, Nov. 6 (RH), were more typical. It has been almost a decade since the arrival of Bohemian Waxwings occurred as early as October. This year several flocks each in Massachusetts, Vermont, and Maine were noted before that month had ended. The earliest record was of three at Roque Bluffs in e. Maine Oct. 19 (PD, IB). Eight N. Shrike reports were received, all from Maine and Massachusetts, a low total for this irruptive species.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A White-eyed Vireo at Kittery, ME, Oct. 15 (JF) was uncommon, but one at Rockport, MA, Nov. 11 was late enough that it might have been a reverse migrant. The same can be said about a Solitary Vireo Nov. 15 at Marblehead Neck, MA (RH). A "Brewster's" Warbler was an uncommon find at Scarborough, ME, Sept. 18 (JDe) as was a Golden-winged Warbler at Kingston, RI, Aug. 27 (DK). Tennessee Warblers were low in Vermont and at Appledore, ME, but were found in especially good numbers in w. Massachusetts, emphasizing the local variations in populations and migrations. There were reports of only 11 Orange-crowned Warblers for the Region. One at Storrs, CT, Oct. 3 was only the 2nd for that locale. The last was seen on the late date of Nov. 5 at Ipswich, MA (JBe). Other late migrant warblers were N. Parula at Kingston, RI, Nov. 10-11 (DK), Black-throated Blue at Matanuck, RI, Oct. 26 (GAT), Black-throated Green at Kingston Nov. 8 (CS), and single Blackpolls at Lynn, MA, Nov. 2 (RH), and N. Berwick, ME, Nov. 5 (DTu).

The rarest warbler of the season was a ♂ Black-throated Gray at Chatham, MA, Sept. 4-5 (MTu et al.). "Southern" warblers were found in better numbers than normal, generally in coastal portions of the Region, as usual. Late, and possibly reverse migrants, were two *albiflora* Yellow-throated Warblers in Massachusetts, one at Marblehead Nov. 11-30 (RWI) and another at Essex Nov. 25-28 (fide SPe). Massachusetts also hosted two to three Prothonotary Warblers, as well as four Kentucky Warblers, while Rhode Island had one Worm-eating and one Kentucky. Two Hooded Warblers were in Rhode Island and another was at Bolton, MA. The Regional total of 21 Yellow-breasted Chats was above average. Among the 7 Maine records was one at Roque Bluffs Oct. 19, sharing a tree with the Bohemian Waxwings mentioned above, a remarkable combination (PD, IB). The Regional total of 14 Connecticut Warblers was typical, although they were perhaps a little less numerous in Massachusetts than usual, while 5 records in Vermont were more than normal. Mourning Warblers at Kingston, RI, Sept. 14 (DK), and Storrs, CT, Sept. 18 (WBU) were uncommon finds.

TANAGERS TO CHAFFINCH—A Scarlet Tanager at Reading, MA, Nov. 15 was one of the latest ever in New England, but was still just ahead of the change in weather. Northern Cardinal put on a small-scale invasion into Maine with 15 birds found in November. A bird identified as a ♀ Rose-breasted Grosbeak was found at Cape Elizabeth, ME (KG), Nov. 9, but the possibility of Black-headed Grosbeak needs to be examined. Late *Pheucticus* grosbeaks (recorded 4 times this decade) might be lingerers, reverse migrants, or vagrants. New England Blue Grosbeaks numbered only 10, a low total if complete. Two Cape Cod locales were visited by ad. ♂ Painted Buntings, with one at Truro Oct. 29–Nov. 7, and another at Chatham, less than 25 mi away, Oct. 29–Nov. 8 (*vide* SPe). Dickcissels received much comment with Connecticut (13 reports), Maine (10), w. Massachusetts (4), and Rhode Island (3) describing their figures as “high” or “very high.” Still, the New England total of 39 was nothing out of the ordinary. Perhaps there are reports missing from other areas.

The reports of seven Clay-colored Sparrows were fewer than average, as 20–30 have often been found during a New England autumn. Still, an imm. **Clay-colored Sparrow** at Colchester, VT, Oct. 8 furnished only the 4th state record. Seven Lark Sparrows was reported, and this too was far below the figures from 20 years ago. There were five Grasshopper Sparrow reports, with one at Sakonnet Pt., RI, Nov. 24 (DE, RE_m), and another at Portland, ME (RE_a), Nov. 25 as late records. This is apparently more than have been reported for autumn in a number of years in New England. Even rarer are Henslow's Sparrows, so one at Plum I. Nov. 11 (RS) was a good find. A **Le Conte's Sparrow** at Sherwood Island S.P., Westport, CT (m.ob.), represented only the 2nd state record. Sharp-tailed Sparrows were especially numerous in Massachusetts where 35 at Plum I. Sept. 17 was the maximum, and where singles Oct. 9 at Hadley (CH) and S. Quabbin (AM) provided the first definite records since 1970 for that region (*vide* SK). White-crowned Sparrows were numerous along the coastal regions. In Maine, William Townsend described them as “pouring into the state from Oct. 6–10,” with almost daily reports through early November. But in Vermont, they were scarce at a W. Brattleboro banding station (JC). The highest counts of Lapland Longspurs were well above recent totals with 30 at Scarborough, ME, Oct. 22 (JDe), and 90 at Plum I., MA, Nov. 6 (RH).

The only Yellow-headed Blackbirds were singles at Hadley, MA, Sept. 5 (Ann Floyd), S. Monomoy (W. Harrington *et al.*) in early September, and an adult at Block I. and an immature at Galilee, RI, both Oct. 7 (AFr). This was the 3rd consecutive year of reduced vagrancy for the species. Brewer's Blackbird continues to be found annually in Massachusetts, with this year's at Concord Nov. 22 (RFo). Orchard Orioles are especially early to depart the Region, usually leaving after breeding in July. Thus, two at Ferrisburg, VT (JMD), Aug. 11, one at Appledore I., ME, Aug. 20 (DHo), and one at Newport, RI, Sept. 4 (*vide* DE), were remarkable. Late N. Orioles included one at Topsfield, MA, Nov. 18 (RH), and one occasionally visiting a Saco, ME, feeder Nov. 9–25 (SPo). Technology has again entered the Regional report with Maine's 2nd **Common Chaffinch**, identified (PV) well after the fact from a videotape made at Monhegan I. Sept. 28 (DH). Readers are reminded of the “S.A.” sidebar concerning this species in the Spring Season 1989 report for New England, AB 43:451–452.

WINTER FINCHES—Pine Grosbeaks were reported in small flocks only in w. Massachusetts (*vide* SK) and as singles and pairs totalling six birds in Maine in November. Movements of Purple Finches were hard to comprehend, with Connecticut observers reporting them frequently from mid-September onward (*vide* BK), 120 migrating over Peabody Oct. 14 being regarded by Heil as his highest one-day count in Massachusetts, and 25 at Ferrisburg, VT, Oct. 24 being a good

count there (JMD) But in Rhode Island, Emerson found them “extremely scarce, just as all last year,” with a maximum count of only five at Summit Nov. 26. Red Crossbills were reported in flocks of two to 30 at Quabbin, MA, in November, with “dozens” at Lincoln Gap, VT, Aug. 14 specifically identified from a telephoned description of the birds' voices (*vide* JN). White-winged Crossbills were noted across the northerly portions of the Region in August, with thousands, “impossible to estimate,” at Mt. Desert I., ME (RPK). The most southerly record was of 15 at New Hartford, CT, Nov. 13 (DTr). Outside of Maine, very few White-wingeds were reported e. of the Connecticut River. Single Com. Redpolls were noted at Presque Isle, ME (MTr), Plum I., MA (RH), and an unstated w. Massachusetts locale (*vide* SK) in October, but the 30 birds at Canaan, ME, Nov. 23 (WS) represented the only flock. Pine Siskins were generally regarded as numerous, with 1000 at Monhegan I. Sept. 28 (BN), and 2500 in the short distance from New Hartford to the n. end of Barkhamstead Reservoir in n.e. Connecticut Nov. 24 (DTr, LF) as maxima. Nevertheless, the species was utterly absent from my haunts in e. Maine. Evening Grosbeaks were widespread in small flocks across Maine beginning in August, with the largest reported flock being of 70 at an E. Machias feeder (IB). They arrived in w. Massachusetts in late October (*vide* SK), and were considered numerous across n. Connecticut in November (*vide* BK). Rhode Island saw its first flocks “right after the onset of cold weather and snow” with 40 at Wallum L. Nov. 24 (SM).

CORRIGENDUM—An error in data entry led to an incorrect report of Gray-cheeked Thrushes caught by banders at V.I.N.S. during Autumn 1988 (AB 43:66). The correct number was one.

SUBREGIONAL COMPILERS (BOLDFACE) AND CITED OBSERVERS—Robert Abrams, Chester Adams, Bev Agler, Harvey Allen, George Appell, W. Bailey, Ilze Balodis, Jim Berry (JBe), Bob Bopre, Richard Bowen, Andy Brandt, J. Brown (JBr), Winnie Burkett (WBU), Dwight Cargill (DCa), Sheila Carroll, Gloria Carson, Brian Cassie, Eveleen Cecchini, Doug Chickering (DCh), Jeremy Coleman, **Neil Currie**, Gus Daniels, Alan & Barbara Delorey (ABD), **Jody Despres** (JDe), Bob Dewire, Paul Donahue, Art Driscoll, Charles Duncan, Jon Dunn (JDu), John & Margaret Dye (JMD), **Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch** (E.M.H.W.), Richard Eakin (REa), Walter Ellison, **David Emerson**, Robert Emerson (RE_m), Richard Enser (RE_n), June Ficker, Dan Finizia, Ann Floyd (AFI), Kevin Forster, Richard Forster (RFo), Laurie Foulke, Robert Fox (RFx), Adam Fry (AFr), John Gallegos, Kay Gammons, Juanita & Richard Gee (JRG), Betty Gilbert, Duncan Gray, Jay Hand (JHa), W. Harrington, Stephen Haydock, Gwen Hazelton, Richard Heil, E.M. Henning, Don Herriott, Janet Heywood (JHe), Chris Hill, David Holmes (DHo), J. Huntington (JHu), Butch Huntley, Jeff Johnstone, Richard & P. Kane (RPK), **Seth Kellogg**, **Betty Kleiner**, Doug Kraus, Sarah Laughlin, Richard & Dorothy Lavallee (RDL), George Lockhart, D. Ludlow, Mark Lynch, Andy Magee, Frank Mantlick, Jim & Eric Marcum (JEM), Nancy Martin, Mike Martinek, Hugh McGuinness (HM_c), Sigrid Miller, Hap Morgan (HMo), **Julie Nicholson**, **Blair Nikula**, William Norse, Frank Oatman, Jim Osborn, Chris Page (CPa), **Simon Perkins** (SPe), Wayne Petersen, Leon Phinney (LPh), Louise Pierson (LPr), Steve Pollack (SPo), Frederick Pratt, Noble Proctor, Craig Provost (CPr), Fred Purnell, Chris Raithe, Will Reid, Betty Rist, Wayne Scott, J.P. Smith, Ken & Charlotte Smith (KCS), Dave Spector, Barbara Spicer, George Sprague, Clair Stone, Alan Strauss, **Robert Stymeist**, Wally Sumner, Gardner & Ann Taft (GAT), Brian & Eileen Toomey (BET), Bryce Towsley, **William Townsend**, P. Trimble, Dave Tripp (DTr), Melvin Trombley (MTr), Carolyn Tucker, Donald Turner (DTu), Mark Tuttle (MTu), **Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences**, Peter Vickery, John Walsh, Ralph Widrig (RWd), Randi Wilson (RWI), Jay Withgott (JW), Teresa Wood, Ian Worley, Peter Yeskie.—**CHARLES D. DUNCAN, Institute for Field Ornithology, Univ. of Maine at Machias, 9 O'Brien Avenue, Machias, ME 04654.**

HUDSON- DELAWARE REGION

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

This season was marked by the continuation of one of the wettest years on record (on the coast, at least), by some spectacular frontal movements, and by the fringes of Hurricane *Hugo*. Lows tended to roll up the coast along stationary fronts, and rainfall was above average for three of the four months in New York City. August and the first three weeks of September were soggy and still on the coast, producing little interesting migratory movement. Farther inland it was dry, however, and there were some good waves in early September. On September 9, 21 species of warblers were recorded in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania (E & JP).

Hurricane *Hugo* broke the monotony, although its center passed too far west of this Region to have a major impact. Instead of turning up the coast, *Hugo* smashed inland in South Carolina in the early hours of Thursday, September 21, and then veered northward toward the Great Lakes. The center passed just west of Pittsburgh Friday afternoon, September 22. This Region felt its heavy rains and winds only marginally. On the coast, strong onshore winds brought a second-year Brown Booby and a probable immature Sooty Tern to Cape May, and a Long-tailed Jaeger to Jones Beach, Long Island. (See also Gray Kingbird.) Inland, there were pockets of storm-borne birds along the major river systems: the upper Hudson [see Greater Shearwater, Laughing Gull, Least Tern, phalaropes], the lower Susquehanna in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania [see a possible frigatebird, Sabine's Gull], and a tributary of the upper Susquehanna in south-central New York [see Black-capped Petrel]. Oddly, no storm waifs were found along our stretch of the Great Lakes.

Hard on the heels of Hurricane *Hugo*, a powerful cold front swept across the Region September 24, opening a more exciting period of migration. That was "the season's best day" around Princeton, New Jersey (RJB); 23 species of warblers were recorded at Cape May (B & NMu), and there were major Osprey passages at the hawk watches. September's migration, with its dwindling insectivorous tropical winterers, however, was clearly less dramatic than the avalanche of seed- and fruit-eaters and raptors that came in October.

October's biggest migration days were memorable, particularly along the coast. October 3 produced all-time daily records of Osprey and all three falcons at Cape May, and the best American Kestrel day of the season at Hawk Mountain. October 8 was a banner day for phoebes, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Dickcissels and other migrants all the way from Queens (GT) to Cape May. Twenty-six species of warblers and the season's maximum of Cooper's Hawks were observed that day at Cape May.



A dramatic one-two weather punch affected migration between October 18 and 23. First a protracted storm system October 18–21 grounded unusual numbers of waterbirds inland [see Brant, scoters, possible Sandwich Tern, Black Skimmer], and held back raptor and passerine migration. Then a cold front opened the floodgates. October 22 (a Sunday) was an extraordinary raptor day [see Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Merlin]—and night [see Northern Saw-whet Owl]. Because October 23 was a Monday, few birders witnessed that day's spectacle. The lucky few who were out that day within a hundred miles of either side of the Hudson River mouth rated it the greatest migration landfall they had ever seen. On Long Island, Lauro knew something was up when, driving at dawn toward Fire Island, he saw the Robert Moses State Park bridge railings lined with juncos and sparrows. He estimated that 100,000–150,000 migrants were present on the barrier islands from Jones Beach to Robert Moses State Park. At Island Beach, New Jersey, John and Bob Miller called it the biggest day since 1956. Karlson reported that he had never seen anything at Point Pelee, Cape May, or the Texas coast to equal the flood of some 200,000 migrants that day at Sandy Hook, New Jersey. Cape May was less inundated, although it had "thousands" of blackbirds and robins and "thousands upon thousands" of Golden-crowned Kinglets (TL, LC, PS).

After a pause for Indian Summer in late October and early November, winter set in early. Lakes were frozen in upstate New York by the third week in November (VP). Snow fell on Thanksgiving eve throughout the Region. In southwestern New Jersey it was the first white Thanksgiving in 51 years (WD).

In general, the regular stragglers from the west were below par, although there were some striking western rarities such as Townsend's Solitaires and a Lark Bunting.

ABBREVIATIONS — Bombay Hook = Bombay Hook Nat'l Wildlife Ref., near Smyrna, DE; Braddock Bay = Braddock Bay

WM A and vicinity, Rochester, NY, Brig = Brigantine Unit, Edward P. Forsythe Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Atlantic, NJ; Conejohela Flats = Susquehanna R. at Washington Boro, Lancaster, PA; Green Lane = Green Lane Reservoir, Montgomery, PA; H.M. = Hackensack Marshes, between E. Rutherford and Kearny, Bergen and Hudson, NJ; Hawk Mt. = Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, near Kempton, Schuylkill, PA; Hook Mt. = hawk watch n. of Nyack, Orange, NY; J.B.W.R. = Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York City; Little Creek = Little Creek Wildlife Area, near Dover, DE; Montclair = hawk watch on the first Watchung ridge, Upper Montclair, Essex, NJ; Montezuma = Montezuma N.W.R., at the n. end of L. Cayuga, Seneca, NY; Muddy Run = Susquehanna River at mouth of Muddy Run, Lancaster, PA; Raccoon Ridge = the Kittatinny ridge near Millbrook, Warren, NJ; Rye Playland = park on Long Island Sound, Westchester, NY; S.C.M.M. = South Cape May Meadows, Cape May, NJ. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO IBISES — Over 2000 Red-throated Loons passing Pt. Breeze, L. Ontario, set a one-day record in late October (W. Listman). Lake Ontario and the Finger Lakes, NY, had some of the best Com. Loon counts in years, including 1000+ at Webster Park, e. of Rochester, Oct. 20 (K. & D. Traver), and 400 at the s. end of L. Cayuga Nov. 15–17. Only two Eared Grebes were reported: Erie, NY, Nov. 23 (J. Gula, Jr.) and Montauk Harbor Nov. 6 (W. Wilbers).

A hurricane-borne **Black-capped Petrel** was found in a schoolyard at Horseheads, Chemung, NY, Sept. 23 (W. Ostrander, *Cornell). Tantalizingly, a tubenose believed to be a Black-capped Petrel was picked up on Route 20 near New Lebanon, Columbia, NY, the same day; unfortunately, the specimen was lost (*fide* KA). A **Greater Shearwater** at Alcove Res., NY, Sept. 23 as Hurricane Hugo's rain was abating (KA) furnished the 2nd record for the Albany area.

A 2nd-year **Brown Booby** appeared at Cape May on the morning of Sept. 22, while Hurricane Hugo's center was crossing w. North Carolina, and remained to be observed by hundreds the next afternoon (ph. ABr). Following last summer's widespread observations of Am. White Pelicans, singles were observed at Little Creek Aug. 8 (NH) and at the Cape May hawk watch Sept. 27 (TL *et al.*). The summer's Brown Pelican invasion faded rapidly. On Long Island the last four were seen at Shinnecock Inlet Aug. 1 (A. Baldelli). Farther south, 30± lingered into early November at Cape May, as did about the same number in coastal Delaware. The last in the Region were at Indian R. Nov. 10 (WWF) and at Cape May Nov. 18 (J. Woods).

Increasing numbers of Great Cormorants are straggling up the major river systems away from the outer coast. In addition to the now usual five at Riverton, on the Delaware R. near Philadelphia Oct. 29 (TBa), and three at Mercer Co. Park, NJ, Nov. 10–17 (H. Sommers, R. Wright), an immature on the Hudson R. at New Baltimore, NY, Oct. 29 (B. Cook, D. Guthrie) provided the 2nd Albany area record. Two or three immatures at Muddy Run and Holtwood Pinnacle Oct. 10–23 furnished only the 2nd record for Lancaster, PA (RMS). Double-crested Cormorants, sporadic inland 10 years ago, are now common Regionwide. In Pennsylvania, 125 over Hawk Mt. on the cold front of Sept. 24 and 130 at Peace Valley Res. in the storm of Oct. 21 (AMi) were outstanding. In the Great Lakes, "hordes" (RGS) were in Braddock Bay all fall (e.g., 300 Aug. 25).

Plausible descriptions and drawings of a **frigatebird sp.** were provided by 2 observers who saw it at Mount Joy, Lancaster, PA, Sept. 22, on east winds, as the center of Hurricane Hugo was passing several hundred miles farther west (L. & E. McKinne, *fide* RMS).

Gratifying numbers of Am. Bitterns turned up, mostly in November as is normal. The best count was of five at once at the S.C.M.M., early, Sept. 24 (KKA, RC). Herons are not usually thought of as nocturnal migrants, but "hundreds," mostly Great Blues and Black-crowned Night-Herons, were migrating at night over Cape May Pt. Oct. 18 (TL, JBo, K. Stahler). Four Yellow-crowned Night-Herons fledged late near Eden, Lancaster, PA, Sept. 4 (RMS). As is now annual, a few imm. White

Ibises wandered to the southern edges of the Region. One or two were in Bombay Hook or at a rain pond near the refuge entrance through August, and three were a few miles away near Smyrna, DE, Aug. 21 (NH). More remarkable were singles near Elmer, Salem, NJ (J. Haag), in Warwick Twp., PA (F. Habegger), and near Moslem Springs, Berks, PA (D. Lane), all in early August.

WATERFOWL — Only four Greater White-fronted Geese were reported, at Mill Neck, L.I., Oct. 7 (B. Connelly), Brig Oct. 17 (J. Mason, M. Maurer), Bombay Hook in late October (NH), and Salem, NJ, Nov. 26 (TBa, WD). Wintering Snow Geese continue to increase, and more are seen away from the main migration routes. Over 3400 migrated along the s. shore of Fire Island, L.I., Oct. 14–15 (SW *et al.*). Close scrutiny of the immense Snow Goose flocks was rewarded again with single Ross' Geese at both Brig and Bombay Hook after mid-October (JC, KKA, NH, B & NMu). Brant normally overfly the ridges and river systems of this Region, but the storm of Oct. 18–21 downed an unusual number inland, from singles and small groups in n.e. Pennsylvania and n.w. New Jersey to 200 at Muddy Run. Twelve at a sewage pond near Elverson Oct. 19 provided the first Chester, PA, record (B. Cook, *fide* PH).

A few eiders were found south of their Montauk Pt., L.I., stronghold. One or two Com. Eiders were present around Cape Henlopen, DE, where they may have summered (BFI, Gert Huyzers, JA), and one increased to two at Cape May (VE, RK, TL *et al.*). King Eiders outnumbered them at the southern limit, as is often the case. Four females or immatures were at Henlopen Oct. 29 (BFI), two at Indian R. Inlet (WWF, APE), and a female or immature at Cape May in mid-November (AG, FM). One or two Harlequin Ducks were also around Cape Henlopen (B & SFI, JA), seven at Barnegat Light Oct. 20 (DH), and up to six at Cape May in mid-October (BFI, FM).

RAPTORS — Black Vultures, now "regular" in s. Orange, NY (JPT), came down the Hudson in good numbers: five over Iona I., Rockland, NY, Sept. 13, and four over nearby Bear Mt. on the cold front of Sept. 24 (ET). Hawk Mt. had its biggest year ever, with a total of 53. In one of those concordant results that make juggling fistfuls of hawk counts rewarding, Turkey Vulture migration was remarkably concentrated on the cold front of Oct. 22–23. The first day brought the season's maximum over Montclair (43) and Mt. Peter, Orange, NY (22). The 2nd day, 115—almost half the season's total—passed over Fort Washington S.P., near Philadelphia (MK, B & NMu). A leucistic Turkey Vulture, the color of pale coffee, was seen at Cape May for several days after Oct. 25 (F.E. Warburton, m.ob.).

Osprey recovery continued, although perhaps at a slower pace. Only Hook Mt. (436) broke its all-time record; Cape May's 3358 was only third-best of the last 15 years. Osprey migration was concentrated into some amazing one-day totals by weather fronts, however. Hawk Mt. had the largest one-day passage in its 55-year history (175) on September 23 (LG) and 239 passed Rye Playland on Sept. 24. Cape May's best one-day total in the 15 years of the modern count was 1023, rather late, on Oct. 3.

An imm. Mississippi Kite reported by a reliable observer near Berwick, Luzerne, PA, Oct. 20 was unprecedented in both time and place (D. Gross, *fide* WR). Bald Eagles were too widespread to enumerate, but notable concentrations included seven at the Maurice R., Cumberland, NJ, Oct. 11 (CS), five at Muddy Run Oct. 20 (RMS), and four adults together over Medford, Burlington, NJ, Oct. 13 (L. & E. Corn). A "real explosion" in Delaware (APE) brought at least four to Bombay Hook Nov. 22 (J. Citron).

Sharp-shinned Hawks, whose decline the last 4 years has caused concern, continued low on the coast. The total at Cape May (10,625) was only about 25% of the ten-year average. Fire Island (1035) did better than the last 2 years, however, and inland counts like Hook Mt. (3922), Raccoon Ridge (8840), and Hawk Mt. (9833) were well above the ten-year average.

It was the first time in memory that the best inland count nearly equalled the best coastal count. Sharp-shinned were also concentrated on cold fronts. September 24 was the peak day at Rye Playland (754), Sept. 25 at Hook Mt. (356), and Oct. 22 (also a Sunday) at Hawk Mt. (1427), Cape May (1311), Raccoon Ridge (1064), and some smaller inland hawk watches. Cooper's Hawks posted an all-time 55-year high at Hawk Mt., with a season's total of 789 (LG), and they held about steady on the coast. It was just about the worst year in history for N. Goshawk at most hawk watches, although six passed Raccoon Ridge Oct. 22 (TLa) and a few individuals reached as far south as Medford W.M.A., Burlington, NJ, Oct. 8 (WD) and Augustine Beach W.A., DE, Nov. 19 (E. Speck, CCl).

Red-shouldered Hawk continued its long decline. Some good early Broad-winged Hawk kettles were seen at interior hawk watches Sept. 15, but Hurricane Hugo delayed the main body of the migration. The cold front of Sept. 24 started them up again. Two big kettles totaling 4000+ followed the Delaware R. that day at Palmyra, Burlington, NJ (TBa). The big push that day, however, was nearer the coast. A massive 16,233 passed over Rye Playland, while simultaneously, west of the Hudson R., Mt. Peter, Orange, NY, had its best day, with 2312 (A. Martin). One would have expected these birds to be picked up the next day at Montclair, but while a good 5335 passed Montclair the same day, only 2881 were counted the next (EG). Militia Hill, near Philadelphia, did have its best day Sept. 25 with 1089, but the rest must have slipped between the hawk watches. Relatively few went down the coast (Cape May had a mere 822 for the season), although a few good kettles were in s. New Jersey and s.e. Pennsylvania into mid-October (B & NMu).

One Swainson's Hawk was reported from Bake Oven Knob, PA, Nov. 12 (FB, A. Koch), and up to three different light-morph immatures were around Cape May between Oct. 10 and Nov. 12 (TL, D & KKa, PBa, PKe, D. Womer, J. Hecht, B. & J. Smith). Those hawk watches that closed Nov. 1 missed a massive Red-tailed Hawk passage Nov. 12, stretching from 388 at the Port Jervis overlook in Orange, NY (ET) to 479, the season's biggest day, at Hawk Mt. (LG). Rough-legged Hawks were near historic lows. Golden Eagles did not match last year's outstanding totals at the hawk watches, but they were quite widespread. They were found in such unusual spots as passing over Media, PA, Oct. 22. The biggest counts were of five over Raccoon Ridge Oct. 22 (TLa) and four over the Port Jervis overlook Nov. 12 (ET).

American Kestrels, whose decline caused concern in the middle 1980s, showed recovery this fall at inland hawk watches, less so on the coast. Hawk Mt. (839) and Hook Mt. (882) had historic high totals. Cape May had an amazing falcon day Oct. 3 with record one-day counts of Am. Kestrel (1591), Merlin (170), and Peregrine Falcon (157). The Merlin migration inland was by far the greatest ever known. Coastal counts have been climbing for a decade or more while the much smaller ridge counts have had their ups and downs. This fall the mountain figures jumped off the charts. Hawk Mt.'s total for the season, 157, was just over twice the previous record, set in 1987, and other mountain totals like Raccoon Ridge's 104 (TLa) were equally far off scale. The granddaddy of all Merlin migrations came down the ridges Oct. 22 (that date again!). Raccoon had a prodigious 71 that day (TLa, WJB, M. Newlon), almost 4 times the previous one-day record set the previous day. Hawk Mt.'s 34 was the biggest one-day count of Merlins in the 55 years of that hawkwatch (LG); 44 the same day at Baer Rocks was 4 times the previous daily high (T. Kline, fide KKr). On the coast, Fire Island's seasonal total of 1358 (DP) also set a new record, but Cape May's 1504 was well below the five-year average (1952). The mountain Merlins were thus probably diverted in some way from their normal coastal passage.

Peregrine Falcons not only broke their all-time record at Hawk Mt. with 51 (toppling a peak of 45 set in 1941); they also set new records on the coast at Fire Island (195) and Cape



Yellow Rail rescued from a cat in the pine barrens of Ocean County, New Jersey, October 4, 1989. Photograph/Bob Mitchell.

May (703). Many more Merlins and Peregrines than usual were seen away from the hawk watches, too. At least two Gyrfalcons reached the coast. A dark-morph individual was on the Jones Beach barrier island, L.I., after Nov. 5 (ph. AT, m.ob.) and another was at Sandy Hook after early November (B. Fetz, m.ob.).

TURKEY TO SHOREBIRDS — Wild Turkey, restored to the New Jersey avifauna by stocking since 1977, are now common enough in southern New Jersey to permit spring gobble shooting (Philadelphia *Enquirer*, Nov. 26, 1989). We learned of turkeys coming to two feeders in s.w. New Jersey (fide WD) and one at Culver's L., Sussex, NJ (F. Tetlow). Dowdell rescued a Yellow Rail from a cat in the Pine Barrens near Tom's River, Ocean, NJ, Oct. 4; it was treated successfully by the Tom's River Avian Rehabilitation Center (ph. JDo, BMi). American Coot populations have been much reduced for several years. Numbers were low again this season at Peace Valley Nature Center (AMi) and in n. New Jersey (RJB), but some recovery in w.c. New York was suggested by 150 at the Oak Orchard complex Aug. 9 (KCG) and 478 at Iroquois N.W.R. Oct. 15 (Watson). We learned of only one Sandhill Crane, at Cape May Oct. 12 (E. Hodnett, m.ob.).

On the basis of their continuing study of shorebird passage at J.B.W.R., distinguishing adults carefully from juveniles, Morris and Mizrahi found that adults arriving in late July and August were above the 8-year average (AM, DM). The adults were followed by above-average numbers of juvenile Semipalmated Sandpipers and Short-billed Dowitchers (late August through September), Red Knots, Semipalmated Plovers,

S.A.

Thirty to 50 ad. Long-billed Dowitchers were at Bombay Hook Aug. 12 (MO'B), as is now known to be normal. O'Brien noticed that adult Long-billed Dowitchers all showed some primary molt at this time, while Short-billed Dowitchers also present showed no molting primaries. Examination of museum specimens seemed to confirm this difference, which might, on further study, provide a supplemental field mark in early fall.

and Greater Yellowlegs (mid- to late September), Black-bellied Plovers (late September through mid-October), and Dunlins (October).

High water levels made shorebirding generally poor along the Great Lakes and at usually favored inland spots like Green Lane and Peace Valley Res., but it was good to spectacular at flooded fields and rain pools left over from the wet spring and

summer. Along the Jones Beach barrier island, where rain pools formed on the upper beach, 24 species of shorebirds were recorded this fall (KF). At the Conejohela Flats, where the Susquehanna was drawn down in anticipation of Hurricane Hugo, 21 species were present Sept. 24 alone (EW). The Pedricktown spoil banks in the Delaware R., Salem, NJ, had 25 species of shorebirds in September (WD). A group of sod farms and rainpools in Mercer, Middlesex, and Monmouth, NJ, hosted the best shorebirding there in a dozen years (RJB).

The biggest concentrations of Lesser Golden-Plovers were early (presumably adults) on sod farms near Riverhead, L.I., where 158 were present Sept. 4–9 (HMcG, R. Cech, m.ob.). Other notable groups were of 110 on the west lakeshore near Rochester Sept. 1 (CC) and 50 in a newly-plowed field near Auburn, Salem, NJ, Oct. 6 (JKM, SF, WD, R. Confer). Black-necked Stilts peaked at Bombay Hook at only 31, probably reflecting a poor nesting season there (NH). One immature at the Holly Knoll turf farm near Smyrna provided the first New Castle, DE, record (APE, JFS, CCL et al.). The Am. Avocet population at Little Creek and Bombay Hook peaked at 436 Oct. 3 (NH), and individuals strayed as far as Tuckerton, Ocean, NJ, Sept. 9 (CG), L. Marburg, Codorus S.P., Sept. 22 (the first York, PA, record, DH), and Mecox Bay, L.I., Sept. 17 into mid-October (MC). Only two double-digit counts of Upland Sandpipers were received from the whole Region: 42 at the airport near Wilmington, DE, Aug. 18 (L. Falk), and 39 near Elmer, Salem, NJ, Aug. 13 (J. Haag). In Delaware, once-favored pastures are all in corn (WWF).

Hudsonian Godwits were in good numbers at the major coastal sites, especially late in the season. Bombay Hook had the biggest concentrations, Aug. 10–Nov. 17, with a maximum of 45 Oct. 21 (NH). Other good counts were of 28 in the S.C.M.M. Oct. 18 (JBo) and 33 at Woodland Beach, DE, Nov. 7 (Bell et al.).

Flooded fields and rainpools created ideal conditions for "mudpipers." A remarkable 52 White-rumped Sandpipers were at the rain pools along Jones Beach Sept. 1 (HMcG). Those same pools held in early September the greatest assemblage of Baird's Sandpipers recorded in 50 years in New York State: 14 at Cedar Beach and another nearby at West End (KF, HMcG). Seven were still there Sept. 15 (KF). More normal were 12 at Montezuma Sept. 3 (RGS). Other noteworthy groups included six at Iroquois N.W.R., NY, Aug. 18 (D. Roberson), four at Pedricktown Sept. 2 (TBa, WD), and three at the Conejohela Flats Sept. 21 (EW). Elsewhere Baird's Sandpipers were quite widespread in ones and twos at appropriate grassy pools (DM, GLF, C. Vogel, G. Pasquariella et al.).

Over 30 Stilt Sandpipers at Montezuma Sept. 8 (M. Reinhardt) and eight on the Conejohela Flats Sept. 24 were good interior counts. The only sizeable Buff-breasted Sandpiper aggregations were of 16 on sod farms near Riverhead, L.I., Sept. 12 (B. Adamo), and four to 11 near Plainsboro, Middlesex, NJ, Sept. 2–10 (M. & T. Southerland, RJB et al.). Other good counts were of four at Cape May Sept. 19 (JDo), up to five at Great Meadows, Warren, NJ, in September (GH, D. Briede), and five at Pedricktown Sept. 16 (WD). Ones and twos were unusually widespread from the west lakeshore near Rochester (CC, RGS) to the Conejohela Flats to Bombay Hook. Singles at a sod farm in Saratoga in early September (S. Terrill) and at Basic Creek Res. provided first records for the Albany, NY, area. Ruffs were limited to one or two at Bombay Hook in October and November (B. Ringler, NH, J. Miller).

The biggest reported concentration of Wilson's Phalaropes was of 11 at the West End of Jones Beach, L.I., Aug. 25. Red-necked Phalarope passage seems to have been interrupted by Hurricane Hugo. Three at Bird I. Pier Sept. 23 (WD'A) made the Buffalo area's best count of the fall, and several were in the Albany area the same day (KA). Later, an unusual inland record was of a Red-necked Phalarope and a Red Phalarope together at Alcove Res., Albany, NY, Oct. 24 (KA). Other Red Phalarope reports involved one adult at Cape May Sept. 29 (D. Babington, J. Hough, DSi, DWi), another (age unspecified)

at Montezuma Nov. 1 (CC, m.ob.), and an immature at Irondequoit Bay, Monroe, NY, Nov. 5–7 (M. Reinhardt, m.ob.).

JAEGERS TO TERNS — All three jaeger species, including one Long-tailed Jaeger, were reported from Hudson Canyon, 85 mi e. of Barnegat Inlet, Oct. 30 (ABr). Very rare ashore was a juv. Long-tailed Jaeger at Zach's Bay, Jones Beach S.P., L.I., Sept. 23, perhaps exhausted by Hurricane Hugo (P. Buckley, AJL, ph. AT).

More and more common inland, at least 2000 Laughing Gulls were flying north up the Delaware R. past Pedricktown, NJ, Nov. 4 (WD). A few Laughing Gulls were deposited in the Albany area by Hurricane Hugo (KA), and two were unexpected there in the storm of Oct. 21 (B. Crins). A Franklin's Gull arrived early at Buffalo Aug. 30 (MG et al.), but none was reported elsewhere. Little Gulls were in modest numbers. As usual the biggest counts were in the Niagara R. after mid-September (WD'A, RA, m.ob.), with a peak of five Oct. 6. The best gathering elsewhere was of up to three at Higbee's Beach, Cape May, from Aug. 3 on (PHo, DWi, m.ob.). Common Black-headed Gulls were scarcer. We knew only of individuals at Georgica Pond, L.I., Aug. 30–Sept. 9 (HMcG), Manasquan Inlet, Monmouth, NJ, Nov. 27 (DH, RK), and Shark R. Inlet Nov. 27 (RK, H. Wallum), plus two possibles in Delaware, entered without details in the Bombay Hook log. Among the unusually large numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls summering in the Region was the first local summer record at Beltzville L., Carbon, PA, Aug. 11 (RWi). One in juv. plumage joined 10–15 summerers at Overlook Beach, L.I., on the early date of Aug. 3 (KF).

Many Lesser Black-backed Gulls now probably go unreported near the coast. Noteworthy this season were several multiple reports there: three at Rye Playland following Sept. 17 (TWB), three at Johnson Park, Middlesex, NJ, Oct. 4 (TBa), and up to three around Cape May all fall (AK et al.). More unusual were several far inland: an adult well-described at Montezuma Sept. 24 (†D. Sherony, M. Tetlow), possibly storm-related, and the earliest ever in Lancaster, PA, Aug. 26–27 (EW et al.). One of the best birds produced by Hurricane Hugo was a juv. Sabine's Gull on the Susquehanna R. at the Conejohela Flats Sept. 22 & 23 (D & LH, m.ob.; ph. J. Witmer, DH). We suspect it was grounded on what may be a regular overland route, rather than carried inland. A more normal one was at Buffalo Sept. 28–Oct. 1 (Burch, RA et al.). More unusually, an ad. Sabine's Gull was reported at Cape May Aug. 21 (J. Tobias).

Although below last year, 70 Caspian Terns at the mouth of Salem Creek, Salem, NJ, in September were remarkable



Juvenile Sabine's Gull, seen here in an unusual but diagnostic flight view, at the Conejohela Flats, Pennsylvania, September 24, 1989. Photograph/Daniel R. Heathcote.



Sandwich Tern at Cape May, New Jersey, September 15, 1989. Photograph/Bob Mitchell.

(CG). There were also 25 at nearby Mannington Marsh Aug. 31 (JKM, SF). Two at Beltzville L., Carbon, PA, Aug. 13 (R. ZainEldeen) and two at Green Lane Aug. 18 (KCr) were notable so far away from the major river systems. Only one or two Sandwich Terns hung around the Cape May area this fall (P. DeRea). An Arctic Tern in breeding plumage was studied and photographed (distantly) at Indian R. Inlet, DE, Oct. 2 (WWF, BFi, Gert Huyzers). Another in first fall plumage was on both sides of the Niagara R. at the Peace Bridge Nov. 11-19 (EB, H. Wierenga, m.ob.).

Three Least Terns were on the Hudson R. at Catskill, Greene, NY, Sept. 23 in the wake of Hurricane Hugo (D. Guthrie); they usually depart the Long Island coast in early September. A probable imm. Sooty Tern at Cape May Sept. 23 after Hurricane Hugo was described and sketched by Danish birders familiar with the species (†K. Olsen). The White-winged Terns present in late summer at Little Creek and S.C.M.M. were seen into August (NH, ABr). Even though the breeding season in this Region was disastrous, somewhat better numbers of Black Terns were seen in migration. A group of 150 was at Buffalo Aug. 20 (WD'A et al.), and 25 were counted from the Cape May hawk watch Aug. 21 (TL). Nine at the rain pools on Jones Beach Aug. 29 (RJK) made one of the best Long Island counts in recent years. An ad. Black Skimmer at Muddy Run Oct. 20 with the great grounding of

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Remarkable numbers of scoters were grounded in the Oct. 18-21 storm. Muddy Run held an unprecedented 650 Black Scoters, plus eight Surf Scoters and three White-winged Scoters (RMS), while a good 70 Black Scoters were on Mountain Lake, Warren, NJ, Oct. 19, and 75 scoters of all three species (mostly Blacks) were on Culver's L., Sussex, NJ, Oct. 20 (S. Angus). The same storm downed 17 Black Scoters at Harvey's L. (WR) and two Surf Scoters at Sylvan L. (W. Evans), both in Luzerne, PA, plus a scattering of White-winged Scoters in Pennsylvania and New Jersey (AMi, TBa). Hanisek observes that a little over a decade ago Black Scoters were considered rare in upland New Jersey. Close surveillance of lakes and reservoirs during October and November storms, however, has shown that "tight, nervous flocks often arrive and depart in a matter of hours."

Brant, scoters, and terns furnished only the 5th Lancaster, PA, record (RMS).

OWLS TO FLYCATCHERS — Not one Snowy Owl was reported from the entire Region. The owl-banding project at Cape May banded about one-third of the season's total 128 N. Saw-whet Owls in a very few nights: 28 Oct. 22-25 and 18 Nov. 3 (K. Duffy). There were no great passages of Com. Nighthawks. The only three-digit reports were of 100 over Wanaque Res., Passaic, NJ, Aug. 29 (D. Pereksta), 139 at Buffalo Aug. 31 (MG), and 135 at Bayville, L.I., Sept. 8 (MO'B). The season's total of 102 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds counted passing Hawk Mt. (LG) was well above the ten-year average of 89.

It was a poor fall for Red-headed Woodpeckers. Only one was recorded at Hawk Mt. (LG), and only two or three at Cape May. There were about 7 reports in August around Buffalo (RA), and Lauro had eight to 10 in the season at Fire I. hawk watch, but we lack a seasonal total there. Pileated Woodpeckers are now coming to feeders in the Rochester area (RGS).

Not all late *Empidonax* flycatchers are western stragglers, of course. One seen in a yard in Rocky Hill, Middlesex, NJ, after the early snowfall Nov. 23 and caught moribund next day was carefully identified as a Least Flycatcher (P. Rodewald, *Philadelphia Acad. Nat. Sciences, M. Robbins). Phobes swarmed Oct. 8 when 40+ at J.B.W.R., Riis Park, and Fort Tilden made Tudor's "largest flight ever." The next day 50-60 were counted at N. Cape May Beach (J. Wood). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was reported from Cape May Nov. 11 (AK) and Nov. 17-19 (JBo), and a late *Myiarchus* that could have been this species was at Toughkenamon, Chester, PA, Nov. 22 (C. Rimmer). Western Kingbirds were in only fair numbers, with only four reported to the New York R.B.A. and about nine for the season around Cape May. More unusual was a first record for Chester, PA, with two birds near Honeybrook Oct. 12-13 (†EW, m.ob.). A **Gray Kingbird** reported at Montauk Pt., L.I., Sept. 25-27 (B. Purcell et al.), New York's 7th, could have been brought by Hurricane Hugo. A **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** carefully described at Camden, Kent, DE, Sept. 27 (†NH), provided a 2nd state record. The bird was judged to be adult.

CROWS TO SHRIKES — A partial albino Am. Crow was observed in Rockland, NY, Oct. 20 (C. Harten) and two with white backs were over Bake Oven Knob, PA, Nov. 11 (BLM, FB). In Dutchess, NY, Am. Crows have begun coming to feeders, the ultimate suburbanization of these once shy birds. A good 19 Com. Ravens at Hawk Mt. (LG) and five at Raccoon Ridge (TLa) were signs of this species' expansion in the central Appalachians.

A moderate Red-breasted Nuthatch invasion was already apparent in August as far south as e. Pennsylvania (BLM), and "flooded" some areas such as upland New Jersey (GH). But they were not common in s. New Jersey (WD). A Sedge Wren was convincingly described from Shinnecock Inlet, L.I., Oct. 28 (†MO'B), but no late breeding colony was found in the Region this fall. A **Townsend's Solitaire** was well-described at Hawk Mt. Oct. 15 (†JBo, †H. Fink), and another was at Raccoon Ridge Nov. 18 (KKA, W. Wander et al.), continuing the Kittatinny Ridge's streak of records of this less-than-annual western straggler. A **Varied Thrush** turned up briefly on the lawn of Mary Ann Sunderlin in Webster, Monroe, NY, Nov. 4.

Cedar Waxwings continue to increase throughout this Region. French reports that flocks of them often harass Sharp-shinned Hawks and N. Harriers at Hook Mt. (PF). The Adirondacks had a major Bohemian Waxwing flight, as in 1980-1981 and 1985-1986. Over 100 were record-early Oct. 28 on L. Champlain, at Point Au Roches, Clinton (H. Klein). They built to 250 at Peru, Clinton, Nov. 20 (R. Hagar), with smaller flocks in Franklin and Essex (E. McCartney, H. White, JCMP). Elsewhere, an early group of 42 was with Cedar Waxwings in

Golden Hill S.P., Niagara, Oct. 29 (MG, WD'A, Watson) and stragglers reached Monroe in November (R. Marcotte, M. Reinhardt *et al.*). Two N. Shrikes were also reported from that end of the Region—Braddock Bay Oct. 25 (F. Dobson) and Sheridan Twp., Chautauqua, NY (RBU)—but the only one farther south was at Overpeck Creek, Bergen, NJ, after Nov. 22 (L. Pierson, D & KKa). Loggerhead Shrike reports were limited to three coastal singles: along Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn, Aug. 23 (P. Post), Cape May Sept. 13–14 (JBo, ph. BMi), and Primehook N.W.R., DE, Sept. 30 (B & SFi, JA, G. Huyzens).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — An ad. White-eyed Vireo was exceptionally late Nov. 5 at Quogue W.R., L.I. († ph. MC). All six eastern vireos were at Cape May Sept. 24 (VE).

Warbler migration was already well under way by Aug. 9, when 18 species were recorded at Higbee's Beach, Cape May (RDB, PHo, RC). Although an undiminished variety of warbler species was found on big days there and elsewhere, many observers continued to complain of lower numbers. Another trend is banalization: a few successful species—Yellow-rumped Warblers, Am. Redstarts, Com. Yellowthroats—seem to make up an ever-larger proportion of the total.

Orange-crowned Warbler numbers were about normal in upstate New York, but more than usual were found farther south: several at Sandy Hook (RK *et al.*), about 10 around Cape May, and singles inland at Green Lane Sept. 24 (GAF), Lancaster, PA, Sept. 9 (E & JP), and Hatfield Swamp, Essex, NJ, Oct. 22 (D. Hall). Northern Parula went unreported at Hawk Mt. and only one was recorded in the Rochester area (RGS), but there were "hundreds" at Cape May Sept. 24. The count of Yellow-rumped Warblers departing the dike at Higbee's Beach, Cape May, Oct. 2 between 7:00 and 9:30 a.m. was 32,000 (FM, BMi). An imm. ♂ **Audubon's (Yellow-rumped) Warbler** was reported at Cape May Oct. 23 (TL). Black-throated Green Warblers were widely considered above average in numbers, and we have counts of 19 at Hawk Mt. Sept. 8 (LG) and 20 at Trenton, NJ, Sept. 24 (RJB) to prove it. Since Cerulean Warblers depart early and furtively, 3 records at Cape May in August (PHo, AK, DWi, VE, RC) and the first fall record for Lancaster, PA in Providence Twp. Sept. 9 (E & JP) were noteworthy.

TANAGERS TO SPARROWS — A **Western Tanager** was carefully described Nov. 16 at Hidden Valley, Cape May (†JBo, J. Kidd). Delaware's first **Painted Bunting**, a brilliant male, delighted many at Bombay Hook from Aug. 19 (D. & C. Shoch) to the end of the month. Following the last 2 summers' minor invasions of Dickcissels, they seemed more numerous as fall migrants. They were best located by call as they followed the outer beaches southward. At Cape May they were recorded on 30 days, the peak being seven Oct. 23 (TL, LC). The Fire Island hawk watch also had a lot, peaking at four Oct. 8 (AJL). Among a very few interior records were singles at a feeder in Allentown, PA, Nov. 5–7 (FB), the Warren turf farm, Orange, NY, Nov. 10 (L. & L. Dumont), and in Dutchess, NY, Oct. 24 (MVW).

A modest three or four Clay-colored Sparrows were found on Long Island (†RJK, Oct. 21) and a half-dozen on the Jersey shore (PBa), but they were not reported away from the outer beach. Vesper Sparrows were unusually evident near the coast. Seven were reported in n. New Jersey during October (KKa, J. Broschart), eight were reported from Purchase, Westchester, NY, in October, and six were at J.B.W.R. Oct. 21 (RJK). Lark Sparrows were scarce; only one was reported from coastal New Jersey (PBa), at Cape May Sept. 6 (PHo, J. Hough), but there were two at the Fire Island hawk watch Oct. 15 (SW). One of the prize passerines of the season was a ♀ **Lark Bunting** at Johnson Park, Middlesex, NJ, Aug. 27–30 (TBa, m ob., ph. BMi). It, or a very similar bird, turned up a mile or so away Sept. 3 (GT, M. Gochfeld). This seems to be only the 2nd Regional record of the last decade.

Henslow's Sparrows at Sandy Hook, NJ, Oct. 21 (WJB) and

Higbee's Beach, Cape May, Oct. 23 (DSi) were our only reports of this very scarce migrant. Single migrant Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found in 3 places: the now-regular site at Hogan's Pt. near Rochester Oct. 9 (KCG), Green Lane Sept. 3 (R. Bardman, FB), with what may have been another there Oct. 15 (†KCr, B. Sweisford), and the Conejohela Flats Oct. 3 (RMS, K. Leidich). The last two were thought to be *nelsonii*. White-crowned Sparrows arrived by the "hundreds" Oct. 14–16 around Albany (B. Boehm, K. Beale) and were then very prominent in the October sparrow flood, including 50 along Jones Beach Oct. 14 (KF) and 100, mostly in full song, in Salem, NJ, Oct. 29 (JKM, W. Tannery, J. LaVia).

LONGSPURS TO FINCHES — Above-average Lapland Longspur counts were of five or six on the Jones Beach strip (ph. KF Oct. 7), eight near Bombay Hook Nov. 25 (NH), and 15 n. of Intercourse, PA, Nov. 24 (RMS).

Eastern Meadowlarks had a good migration along the Long Island beaches, with a remarkable one-day count of 150 Oct. 14 (AJL), but elsewhere they were scarce. Six Yellow-headed Blackbirds were about average, but they were unusually scattered. Particularly unusual interior sightings were of one Aug. 3 at Pleasant Valley, Dutchess, NY (MVW), and a first-winter female with 300,000 grackles in Fulton Twp., Lancaster, PA (EB). More typically coastal were two at Brig Sept. 22 (RBU) and singles at Cape May in August and September (DSi, m.ob.) and at Millville, Cumberland, NJ, Oct. 11 (JDo) A Brewer's Blackbird was reported from Eden Twp., Erie, NY, Nov. 15 (RA, F. Rew), and an ad. male spent a few hours at Dasey's feeder in Medford, Burlington, NJ, Nov. 24, after the snowstorm. Fifty-five Boat-tailed Grackles at Bombay Hook Nov. 29 represented "the largest flock in years" (B. & H. Cutler).

A few Pine Grosbeaks arrived in the Adirondacks in late November (JMCP), but elsewhere there were only singles in n.w. New Jersey (A. Boyd, DH). Red Crossbills were scarce. The best counts were of seven from Hamlin Beach, Monroe, NY, Oct. 9 (J. Bounds, F. Dobson) and six at Raccoon Ridge Nov. 4 (KKa *et al.*). Farther south, individuals were scattered mostly along the coast, the largest group recorded being three at Howardsville, Ocean, NJ, Nov. 12 (R. Voorhees, *vide* MO'B).

Evidence of an impending White-winged Crossbill invasion continued with two juveniles banded at Alfred, Allegany, NY, Aug. 28 (EBr). They could have nested some distance away, of course. A few other harbingers reached as far south as Eatontown, Monmouth, NJ, Aug. 10 (N. Kazanjian) and Schuylkill, PA, in late August (LG, FB). The anticipated irruption remained highly localized, however. They were widespread in w. and c. New York and "everywhere" in parts of the Adirondacks (T. Mack, JMCP). Elsewhere the only big numbers were far west in Bradford, PA, where up to 800 were seen hurrying south Nov. 27 (R. Miller). Single stragglers reached as far south as Highland Park, Middlesex, NJ, Oct. 27 (C. Woodward), and Long Island in November (AW). The other winter finches were a "dribble" (WD), aside from good numbers of Purple Finches and Pine Siskins. About 50 Com Redpolls appeared around Cape May in late November (JBo), but the only other southerly record was of a single at Rifle Camp Park, NJ, Nov. 25 (PBo). Small flocks of Pine Siskins were common along the Great Lakes and down the coast, but had mostly dispersed by the end of the period. Two reached Red Mill, DE, Nov. 23 (BFi). Evening Grosbeaks were barely seen far from potential breeding areas in the Adirondacks and Catskills.

EXOTICS — Two pairs of Red-crested Pochards at Irondequoit Bay, NY, in November (RGS) were almost certainly escapees. A Chukar at Hawk Mt. Aug. 5 (LG) must have been the product of some stocking program. Numerous psittacids hang around the major population centers now, most of which cannot survive a winter in the wild. The exception is Monk Parakeet, native to temperate Argentina and the object of

extermination campaigns in several states because of its potential damage to fruit. The colony at Rehoboth, DE, has increased to seven birds (WWF).

CORRIGENDA — The cygnets reported hatched to a pair of feral Trumpeter Swans in New Jersey in summer 1989 were, in fact, the offspring of a Trumpeter Swan and a Whooper Swan (RJB). A Short-eared Owl did indeed frequent a duck blind in s.w. New Jersey in spring 1989, as reported in AB 43:457, but nesting was not confirmed.

UNCONFIRMED REPORTS — A Black-browed Albatross was reported Oct. 24 off Manasquan Inlet, Monmouth, NJ (P. Plage). There is no photograph or specimen of this species for the w. North Atlantic, all fully confirmed albatrosses so far having been Yellow-nosed. A description of an ad. Pacific Lesser Golden-Plover at Junius, NY, Sept. 24 (+D. Sherony, +M. Tetlow) is under study. Descriptions and a distant photo of bird believed to be a Sandwich Tern on the Susquehanna R. at Muddy Run Oct. 19–20 (+RMS, B. Haas, H. Morrin) are under study. This would be a first Pennsylvania record. A very thorough description of a bird thought to be a Bachman's Sparrow at Cape May Nov. 2 (+JBo, +A. Humann) will be reviewed by the New Jersey Records Committee. There is no state record, and this bird, which once bred sparingly in the Appalachians north to Pennsylvania, has receded from the n. end of its range.

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Northern Harrier

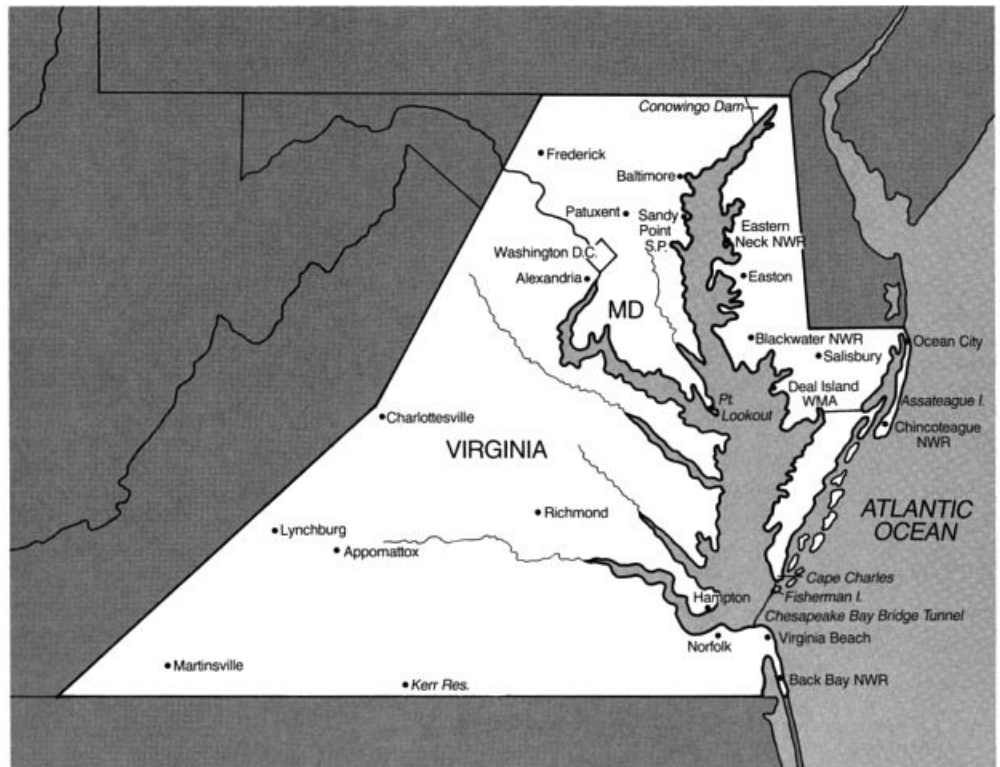


Maria T. Weisenberg

MTW

MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

Henry T. Armistead



The excessive rains that began last spring continued through October. On August 18 the Williamsburg and Gloucester, Virginia, areas received twelve inches of rain in eight hours! A scarcity of strong cold fronts (many of which never reached the southern part of the Region), rain, and northeast winds made for a mediocre passerine migration, and high water levels made it hard to find herons and shorebirds. As usual in fall, landbird banding and raptor watching were intense. In late November, early snows and intense cold made the Region look like a late January deep freeze by the end of the period. Photographic documentation of rarities was the best it has ever been for a fall report in this Region.

Deviation from normal of temperature: August -0.7°F. , September $+0.5^{\circ}$, October $+1.4^{\circ}$, November -0.1° ; of precipitation: August $+1.2$ inches, September $+2.6$ inches, October $+0.7$ inches, November -0.3 inches. Hurricane Hugo, September 22, brought little wind or rain but did deposit a few rarities. Combined with five pelagic trips out of Rudee Inlet, Virginia, in a month-long period August 19–September 17, this made for better than average reporting of seabirds.

ABBREVIATIONS — Adv. = Adventure Sanctuary, Potomac, MD; Assateague = Assateague Island, MD/VA; Back Bay = Back Bay Nat'l Wildlife Ref., VA; the Bay = Chesapeake Bay; Blackwater = Blackwater Nat'l Wildlife Ref., MD; C.B.B.T. = Chesapeake Bay Bridge & Tunnel, VA; Chinc. = Chincoteague Nat'l Wildlife Ref., VA; Craney = Craney I. Disposal Area, Portsmouth, VA; Damsite = banding station in Kent, MD; D.C. = Washington, D.C.; False Cape = False Cape State Park, VA; Fish. I. = Fisherman Island Nat'l Wildlife Ref., VA; Hart = Hart & Miller islands e. of Baltimore; Kipt. = Kiptopeke, VA; S.P.S.P. = Sandy Point State Park, MD; Susq. = lower Susquehanna R., MD. *Italicized date means birds were banded. Place names in italics are counties.*

LOONS TO IBISES — Good numbers of Red-throated Loons for the Bay were five Sept. 29, 15 Oct. 10, and 11 Oct. 13 at N. Beach, Calvert, MD (JLS). One in the Violet's Lock-

Sycamore Landing area along the Potomac north of D.C. was unusual Nov. 11–13 (LDB, PO). Major flights involving thousands took place off Assateague Nov. 24–26 (MO, HTA, GR) Top counts of Com. Loons were not yet available but 45 were already present in one small area near Bellevue, Talbot, MD, Sept. 30, and 135 were there Oct. 28 (HTA, GLA). Modest highs of Pied-billed Grebe were 18 at Loch Raven Res. n. of Baltimore Nov. 25 (SWS) and 12 in D.C. Oct. 22 (DC); two late young were at False Cape Sept. 3 (DFA, BP, ph.). Horned Grebes were underreported. The high report of 22 at Eastern Neck N.W.R., MD, Nov. 28 (J & TG) misrepresented their scarcity, but they are still scarce. Scarce as always were Red-necked Grebes, with one at Cook's Pt., Dorchester, MD, Oct. 29, seen at close range from a boat by Spitzer, and three at Chinc. Nov. 4 (DA). Eared Grebe numbers were about as good as they ever get, with singles in Maryland at S.P.S.P. from late August to December (AH, GMJ, SRI, m.ob., ph.), North Beach Oct. 24 and Nov. 8 by Stasz, and Hart Nov. 12 (RFR et al.



Eared Grebe at Sandy Point State Park, Maryland, November 27, 1989. Photograph/George M. Jett.

Table 1. Pelagic Trips—Atlantic Ocean Off Virginia Beach, VA, Fall 1989.

	8/19	9/2	9/9	9/10	9/17
Cory's Shearwater	15	9	265	210	42
Greater Shearwater	1	1	3	2	—
Audubon's Shearwater	2	—	—	2	—
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	175	125	12	3	185
Red-necked Phalarope	14	—	16	4	6
Pomarine Jaeger	2	1	2	—	—
Parasitic Jaeger	1	1	2	1	1
Long-tailed Jaeger	—	1	—	—	—
jaeger sp.	—	1	6	—	—
Bridled Tern	5	6	3	2	—

ph.), and Virginia birds at Chinc. Nov. 14 into December (DC, DFA, MB et al.) and Back Bay Sept. 30 (DFA, BP, GP), an invasion by Regional standards.

Hurricane Hugo apparently displaced an unidentified shearwater or *Pterodroma* petrel to the soybean fields of Bellevue Sept. 23 (HTA) and a shearwater sp. to Ocean City, MD, Sept. 24 (EB), these both distant views. Pattenon's six-man pelagic trips out from Rudee Inlet, Virginia Beach, summarized in Table 1, indicated low numbers of shearwaters and petrels.

An Am. White Pelican was at Chinc. in October and November (m.ob.). More unusual was one at Blackwater in late September and early October (HTA et al., ph.), for the 2nd Dorchester record. Brown Pelicans continued in optimal numbers with 125 at Assateague Sept. 25 (MO), 45 at Ocean City Sept. 23 (E & CS), and singles lingering well into November (SRI, RD) in Maryland. In Virginia, peak counts were of 515 (with 55 large, flightless young) at Fish I. Aug. 31 (HTA, GLA), 200 at Ft. Story-Cape Henry Nov. 29 (RLA), 149 at Back Bay/

False Cape Oct. 14 (DS, TMP), and 180 at Kipt. Aug. 29 and Sept. 1 (HTA, GLA), and a few birds were still present into December (v.o.). Great Cormorants were seen at 13 or more locations in Maryland, most unusual being one to three at freshwater Susq. Sept. 26–Nov. 28 (EB) and one at Sycamore Landing near D.C. Sept. 26 (MO). Seven were already at C.B.B.T. Sept. 30 (DFA). Up to 1195 Double-crested Cormorants were at Kipt. by the early date of Aug. 30 (HTA, GLA), 99 were all the way up the Potomac to the D.C.–Hunting Creek area Oct. 22 (DC), and a late bird was at Susq. Nov. 30 (EB). One or two Anhingas were at Stumpy L., Virginia Beach, Aug. 10–Sept. 15 (BP, SR, VBK et al.), the only Regional site where they occur with any regularity.

Observers usually do not notice Least Bitterns in autumn but four were at Cove Pt., Calvert, MD, Sept. 10 (JLS) and a late one was at Lilypons, Frederick, MD, Oct. 12 (RAA). Rains and high water dispersed herons, resulting in only meager maxima such as 80 Great Blue Herons in D.C. Aug. 19–20 (DC) and 425 Cattle Egrets and 205 Glossy Ibises at Kipt. Sept. 1 and Aug. 27 respectively (HTA); but 425 Snowy Egrets at Ocean City Sept. 24 made an excellent count (EB) and "hundreds" of Great Egrets were there the same day (LMD, HLW). A Tricolored Heron was out of place in D.C. Aug. 26 (DC, ph.). More unusual were single White Ibises at Fairfax, VA, July to Aug. 10 (VBK, HE, m.ob., ph.), an immature at Nokesville, VA, in early September (fide KHB), and a late one at False Cape Nov. 2 (BP). The imm. Wood Stork near Cove Pt. stayed until Aug. 9 (MI, JHF, HT, m.ob.).

WATERFOWL—The celebrated beds of the exotic waterplant *Hydrilla* were diminished this year, probably owing to excessive rains and water turbidity. Nevertheless some respectable waterfowl counts were made downstream from D.C., such as 490 N. Pintails, 122 N. Shovelers, 760 Lesser Scaup, and 1100 Ruddy Ducks Oct. 29 (DC), and 1500 Canvasbacks and 700 Buffleheads Nov. 19 (JB et al.), the October birds in the D.C.–Hunting Creek area, the November ones in the Piscataway Creek, MD–Ft. Belvoir, VA, area.

There was an invasion of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks: up to 36 at Blackwater Nov. 11–20 (RH, E & CS, JB, HTA, GLA, ph.), 21 at Back Bay Nov. 5 (PWS, RLAK), and up to 12 at Chinc. Nov. 11–22 (DMr, DFA, JHB, BP, ph.). Mute Swans continued to use and abuse the Hooper's I., Dorchester, MD, area as a staging place with 375 there Aug. 6, 305 Sept. 24, and 351 Nov. 5 (GLA, CCW, HTA). Single Greater White-fronted Geese were at the National Geographic Society pond in Gaithersburg, MD, Oct. 15–Nov. 22 (MO et al.), Deal I. Nov. 10 (E & BS), and Curles Neck Farm (along with two Brant, just as rare there) in Henrico, VA, Nov. 9 (BP, FD). Some 250 "Blue" Snow Geese were at Curles Nov. 29 (FRS). Other peak Blue counts were of 1850 at Blackwater Nov. 12 (HTA, GLA); two there as early as Sept. 24) and 400 at Queen Anne, MD, Nov. 10 along with 30,000 Snows (J & TG). The star goose at Blackwater was a **Ross' Goose** present Nov. 25 into January for the first confirmed state record, but hardly a surprising one (HTA, GLA, DC, MO, m.ob., ph.), there having been at least two other Maryland sight records. Brant, scarce on the upper Bay, were seen at at least 4 sites in the Maryland part of the Bay with one errant bird all the way up the Potomac to D.C. Oct. 28–29 (DC, RH).

Six early Green-winged Teal were at Blackwater Aug. 6 (GLA, CCW, HTA). Representative duck maxima were of 900 N. Pintails at Blackwater Nov. 5 (HTA), 300 Blue-winged Teal at Hart Sept. 3 (HK et al.), 200 N. Shovelers at Hart Oct. 15 (RFR et al.), 6000 Lesser Scaup at Swan Pt., Kent, MD, Nov. 21 (J & TG), an extraordinary 7200 Surf Scoters in the Watts I., VA, area on the early date of Oct. 28 (WP), 1100 Com. Goldeneyes at Hodges Bar, Kent, MD, Nov. 12 (J & TG), and 900 Hooded Mergansers at Piney Run Park, Carroll, MD, Nov. 25 (RFR). At Deal I., 850 Am. Wigeon were present Nov. 25 (GLA, HTA), and a Eur. Wigeon was at Mason Neck N.W.R., VA, Nov. 19 (LB, fide CPW). Extremely rare on the Bay, a



Immature White Ibis in Fairfax County, Virginia, August 2, 1989. Photograph/Stanton B. Russell.



A flock of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Maryland, November 12, 1989. The species staged a notable invasion to the Middle Atlantic states. Photograph/George L. Armistead.

Harlequin Duck was at S.P.S.P. Nov. 4 (2nd record for Anne Arundel) along with nine Brant (MI, HT, LMD, HLW, ph.). Another was at Ocean City Nov. 18 (GM) and two or three were at C.B.B.T. Oct. 28 into December (SR, DA et al.). Seventy-five Oldsquaw at Sycamore Landing Nov. 18 made a fine count for this area near D.C. (PO).

RAPTORS TO CRANES—As usual the most intense raptor monitoring activity was in the general vicinity of Cape Charles, VA, with banding operations at Wise Pt. (RFL, RC) and on Fish. I. (PSB) as well as the hawk watch at Kipt. (BW, DSi, DMi et al.). This may have been the last season for the watch, since development finally began there in late 1989. The watch recorded 10,416 raptors in 385.75 hours on 52 days Sept. 1–Nov. 30. Notable species highs were of 92 Ospreys Oct. 3, 813 Sharp-shinned Hawks Sept. 30, 128 Red-tailed Hawks Nov. 22, 519 Am. Kestrels and 123 Merlins Sept. 16, and 30 Peregrines Oct. 6. None of these were exceptional counts for here except the Red-tailed total, which was a new high. The 1989 average of 27 raptors per hour was slightly below 1988 (30.2) and 1987 (27.4) and way below averages of 40–96 birds per hour 1982–1986. Good flight days were Sept. 16, 27, & 30, Oct. 3, 16, 24, & 29, and Nov. 22, although no spectacular daily totals were achieved, the best being, surprisingly, the early date of Sept. 16 when 961 birds were seen. Good individual records were of single N. Goshawks Oct. 28 (BW) and Nov. 22 (DMi), a Golden Eagle Oct. 25 (DSi), and late Broad-winged Hawks Nov. 13 & 22 (DMi), plus interesting off-peak totals of 47 Merlins as late as Oct. 16 (DMi) and 33 Oct. 21 (BW), with 79 Sharp-shinned Hawks as late as Nov. 13 (DMi).

Lukei's expansion of banding hours at nearby Wise Pt. resulted in a record 921 raptors being banded including 56 Am. Kestrels, 285 Merlins, 25 Peregrine Falcons, 405 Sharp-shinned Hawks, and 116 Cooper's Hawks. A Rough-legged Hawk, rare this far south, on Oct. 26 was only the 2nd ever trapped in s.e. Virginia; it was accompanied by another Rough-legged, and the two remained in the area until Nov. 1. The hawks were captured on 54 days in 461 hours. Wise Pt. is one of the best areas for Merlins anywhere and an astounding 45 were banded Sept. 16, with 29 Sept. 13, 24 Sept. 15, and 22 Sept. 18. Only one day was considered a really good banding day—Sept. 16, when 77 hawks were captured—and the best Sharp-shinned Hawk day was Oct. 17, when only 22 were banded. Nevertheless, owing to expanded hours of work here, record or 2nd-highest numbers of all species captured were achieved this year. Wise Pt. is part of the Eastern Shore of Virginia N.W.R. On Fish. I. 99 raptors were banded Sept. 25–Nov. 5 by Baker including 11 Merlins, seven Peregrine Falcons, 31 Cooper's Hawks, 11 N. Harriers, and 19 Red-tailed Hawks, an exceptional achievement for a man in his eighties operating a one-person station!

Farther up the Delmarva Peninsula on Assateague, 813 Peregrine Falcons were sighted and 203 were banded Sept. 20–Oct. 21, 158 of the latter immatures (93♀, 65♂), the 2nd-

highest year out of the 20 years of this operation for falcons sighted, falcons captured, and falcons sighted per unit of effort (FPW, MY et al.): 3.38 Peregrines being captured per 10 man hours. This marked the 50th anniversary of the first captures of Peregrine on Assateague, by Alva Nye, who is featured in a video oral history of this event and who visited the island for the occasion this fall.

Elsewhere notable Bald Eagle counts were of 23 at Susq. Nov. 28 (EB) and 28 at Blackwater Nov. 25 (HTA, GLA). At Blackwalnut Pt. on Tilghman I., Talbot, MD, Reese counted 18 Red-shouldered Hawks Oct. 29 and eight Merlins Sept. 16; on Oct. 22, 136 Sharp-shinned Hawks, four Merlins, and a N. Goshawk were seen here (JE), good counts for the central Bay on the Eastern Shore. The highest count of Broad-winged Hawks was of 2420 at Schooley Mill Park, Howard, MD, Sept. 25 (JS et al.), and a late one was nearby at Clarksville Nov. 18 (MKK). Unusual localities for Golden Eagles were Arlington, VA (one on Nov. 12, RAA) and Stevenson, MD (one on Sept. 17, very early, PW) and they were seen at the more dependable sites of Blackwater, Eastern Neck N.W.R., and Susq. (v.o.).

Very late in fledging were 11 downy young N. Bobwhites at Sparta, VA, Oct. 15 (WP) and a downy Clapper Rail at Mathews, VA, Sept. 3 & 10 (JBB). Incredible but true were a Yellow Rail and a Black Rail in the same small clump of grass on island four of the C.B.B.T. Oct. 4 (BP, FD, RM, both ph.)! The high count for Am. Coot was of 1500 in the D.C.–Hunting Creek area on the Potomac R. Oct. 28 (DC). The Poolesville, MD, Sandhill Crane, present well over a year, was seen throughout the period (MO, MI, HT). Another was seen flying with Broad-winged Hawks over Arlington Sept. 26 (RAA)! And four were near Shirley Plantation near Richmond, VA, Aug. 6 (FRS).

SHOREBIRDS—The most regular shorebird counting was done at Hart, with such notable totals as these: 200 Lesser Yellowlegs, seven Red Knots, 2000 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 400 W. Sandpipers, two Baird's Sandpipers, and a Ruff Aug. 6; 200 Lesser Yellowlegs, 80 Stilt Sandpipers, one Buff-breasted Sandpiper, 100 Short-billed Dowitchers, and seven Wilson's Phalaropes Aug. 13; an Am. Avocet, a Whimbrel, 34 Baird's Sandpipers, and a Red-necked Phalarope Aug. 27; 56 Semipalmated Plovers, an Am. Avocet, a Whimbrel, 49 Sanderlings, 150 Least Sandpipers, 15 Baird's Sandpipers, three Buff-breasted Sandpipers, and nine Wilson's Phalaropes Sept. 3; 14 Lesser Golden-Plovers Oct. 1; and a late White-rumped Sandpiper Nov. 19 (RFR, HK et al.). These were all records of interest for the upper Bay.

A late Lesser Golden-Plover was at Hampton, VA, Nov. 10 (BT), and 18 were in D.C. Sept. 24 (DC). A Piping Plover, extremely rare inland, was at Hogan's Pond, Danville, VA, Sept. 12 (2nd state Piedmont record) along with a Sanderling (JCB, PW). The rarity of the season, if confirmed by museum experts, was an apparent **Common Ringed Plover** Sept. 9 at Craney I., Portsmouth, VA (MB et al.). Numerous photographs were taken before the bird expired, and the specimen will be diagnosed at the U.S. National Museum. Up to 60 Am. Avocets

were seen at Craney Sept. 21 (BP) and four were at Blackwater Aug. 6 (GLA, HTA, CCW). Late was a Spotted Sandpiper at Loch Raven Nov. 26 (KJ). The best counts of Upland Sandpipers were of 12 at Easton, MD, Sept. 2 (JE) and 20 in the Frederick, MD, area Aug. 20 (MO); four were at Wallops I., VA, Aug. 25 (CRV). The only Hudsonian Godwits reported were four at Assateague Sept. 25 (MO), one at Deal I. Oct. 9 (RFR), two in D.C. Oct. 22 (DC, about the 4th D.C. record), and a late bird at Little Neck Rd., Talbot, MD, Nov. 9–10 (JC). At Oyster, VA, 65 Marbled Godwits were seen Sept. 23 (DFA) and at nearby Thoms Creek 25 were present Oct. 8 (HTA et al.).

Best Sanderling counts were of 2565 Aug. 1, 2030 Oct. 14, and 1793 Oct. 30, all at Back Bay/False Cape (DS, TMP), 800 at Ocean City Sept. 24 (EB), 2000 at Wallops I. Nov. 16 (CRV), and 4462 at Chinc. Aug. 2 (DMe). Late were three Least Sandpipers at Cambridge, MD, Nov. 24 (MI, HT). A Baird's Sandpiper was at Danville Sept. 3–8 (JCB, FD, PW), three were at Chinc. Sept. 10 (DFA), and one was at Back Bay Sept. 21 (BP). At Church Hill, Queen Annes, MD, 150 Pectoral Sandpipers were seen Sept. 4 (J & TG). Unique was a Curlew Sandpiper, perhaps the first ever seen on C.B.B.T., Oct. 15 (RLA). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was at Danville Sept. 3 (PW, FD), up to seven were at Hog I., Surry, VA, Aug. 26 (BP), eight were at Craney Sept. 8 (SR), one was at Sudlersville, MD, Sept. 15 (JE), and two were in Howard, MD, Sept. 15–23 (JS, EB, 2nd county record), a more widespread showing than usual. At Craney Sept. 7, nine Wilson's, two Red-necked, and one Red phalaropes were all present (BP). Other Red Phalarope singles were at Centennial L., Howard, MD, Oct. 21 (JW, CC; second county record) and at S.P.S.P. Sept. 23 (LMD, HLW, MI). This was a better than average fall for phalaropes. In spite of these records of interest the rains caused many shorebird locations, especially Chinc. and inland reservoirs, to have too much high water for good shorebirding.

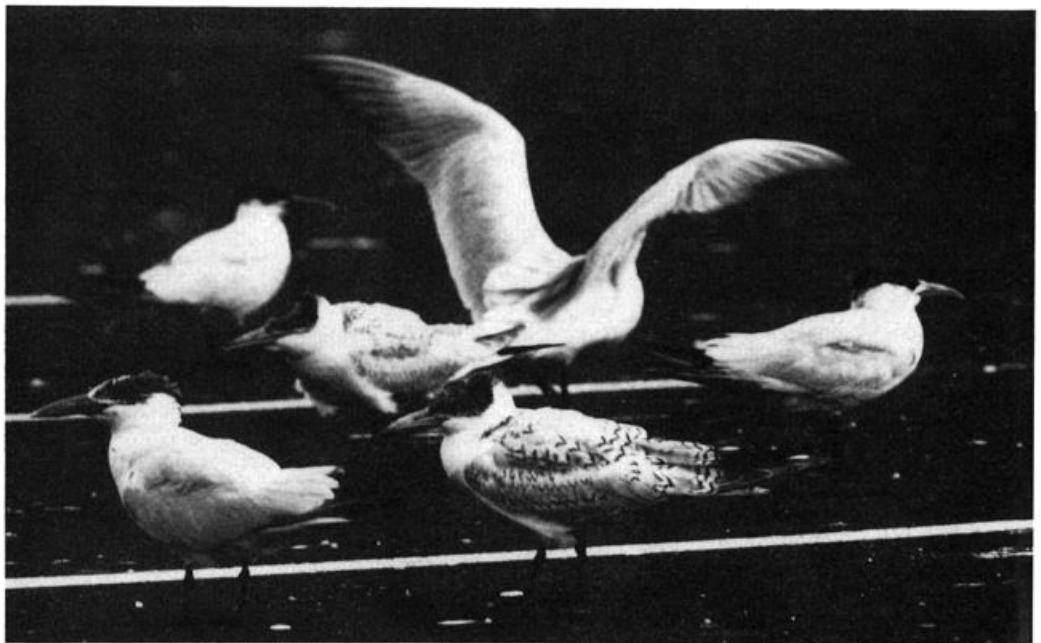
JAEGERS TO SKIMMER — At inland Kerr Res., VA, a jaeger sp., 10 Laughing Gulls, and four Sooty Terns were strays compliments of Hurricane Hugo Sept. 22 (BP, DTS). Laughing Gulls continue to increase in interior areas with 40 at Nokesville Sept. 10 (KHB) and 600 in Howard, MD, a landlocked county, Sept. 17 (NM). A huge gull concentration was at Ocean City Sept. 25 soon after Hugo with 6000 each of Laughing and Herring gulls plus 700 Great Black-backed and six Lesser Black-backed gulls (MO). A Franklin's Gull was in D.C. Aug. 6–7 which, as happens not infrequently here, also

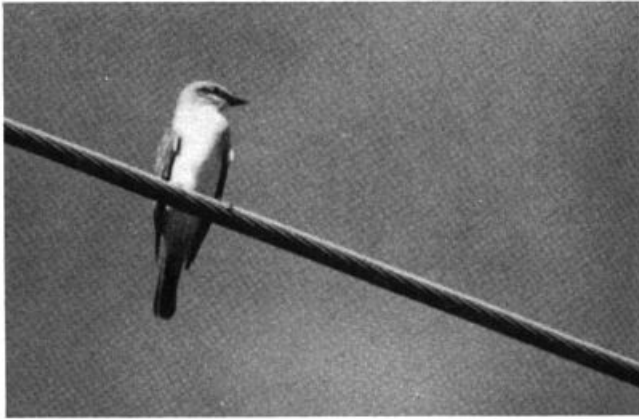
touched down in Prince Georges, MD, and Fairfax, VA, simply by flying a few hundred yards (DC, DFA). A Little Gull was at Chinc. Nov. 24 (DC) and an Iceland Gull summered in D.C. June 10–Aug. 12 (DC). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen at 13 sites, with seven at C.B.B.T. Oct. 8 (LMD, HLW), five at Back Bay Nov. 2 (BP), and two at Susq. Nov. 28–30 (EB). Highs for Great Black-backed Gull included 600 at Susq. Nov. 8 (EB) and 500 at Hart Aug. 6 (RFR et al.). Single Black-legged Kittiwakes were at C.B.B.T. Sept. 30–Oct. 2 (BP, SR, DFA, ph.) and Nov. 18 (MB), and one far up the Bay at Eastern Neck N.W.R., MD, Nov. 12 was a real rarity (CBS, PGD).

Two Gull-billed Terns inland at the Hurlock sewage ponds provided about the 5th record for Dorchester, MD, Aug. 6 (MO, PO). Best tallies for Caspian Tern were of 380 at Hart Aug. 27 (HK et al.), 130 at S.P.S.P. Aug. 19 (HLW, LMD), and 62 in D.C.–Hunting Creek Aug. 26 (DC). A Royal Tern at Towson, MD, n. of Baltimore was completely out of place at this interior location Sept. 3 (HK), and other Royals of note were 150 far up the Bay at Hooper's I., MD, Aug. 6 (GLA, CCW, HTA), plus small numbers lingering into mid-November in the Maryland part of the Bay (HTA, JLS) and into late November at Ocean City (MO) and Chinc. (HTA). Sandwich Terns were seen in Maryland with three at Pt. Lookout Aug. 5 and two at Breezy Pt. Aug. 21 in St. Mary's plus three at Ocean City Aug. 6 (all by MO), and 68 were at Back Bay/False Cape Aug. 1 (DS, TMP). Unique was a Roseate Tern at C.B.B.T. Sept. 24 (BP, FD). Hurricane Hugo was probably the cause of some good tern concentrations such as 650 Forster's and a very late Least Sept. 22 plus 60 Commons and 14 Royals Sept. 23, all at Ramona's Beach east of Baltimore near Hart (EB). Various highs, none exceptional but worth mentioning anyway, were of 750 Forster's Terns at Oyster, VA, Oct. 7 (HTA et al.), 23 Black Terns at Kipt. Aug. 28 (LA, HTA), and 600 Black Skimmers at Assateague Sept. 25 (MO).

DOVES TO SHRIKES — Reese saw 250 Mourning Doves n. of Easton Sept. 17. A late Yellow-billed Cuckoo was banded at Kipt. Oct. 19 (KT). Bass found second-brooded Barn Owls at Nokesville, VA, Oct. 28: 2 pairs, each with five young, at this Piedmont location. The only Long-eared Owl record was of one on Assateague Nov. 25 (LMD, HLW). Short-eared Owl reports were few, with a high of only three at Deal I. Nov. 25 (GLA, HTA). Northern Saw-whet Owls were also scarce, all birds seen in Maryland with one on Assateague Nov. 24 (MO) and other singles at Laurel Nov. 4 & 30 (CSR) and Damsite

Concentration of Caspian Terns at National Airport, Washington, D.C., August 26, 1989. The front center bird shows the striking wing and scapular markings of juvenal plumage. Photograph/David Czaplak.





Western Kingbird at Sandridge, Virginia, October 19, 1989. Photograph/Brian Patteson.

Nov. 5 (J & TG). Iliff estimated 750 Chimney Swifts at Annapolis Sept. 22, and 17 were still in D.C. Oct. 22 (DC). The Grubers captured 45 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at Damsite Aug. 1–Sept. 26 with eight on Sept. 24, and a late one was at Tilghman's I. Oct. 22 (JE). Interesting counts of species not normally observed concentrating in migration were 15 Belted Kingfishers, 20 Downy Woodpeckers, and 25 N. Mockingbirds on Assateague Sept. 25 (MO).

A major passage of *Empidonax* flycatchers took place at Kipt. Aug. 31 with 40 birds flying N along the Bay ridge (HTA, GLA). A late Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was at Harford Glen, Harford, MD, Oct. 10 (BB) and four were at Damsite Sept. 4 (J & TG). Fancy flycatchers in the Kiptopeke area were a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher Nov. 1 (RFL), a Say's Phoebe Sept. 30 (CRV, FRS, JBB, KT, m.ob., ph., 4th Virginia record), and at least three W. Kingbirds Nov. 9–21 (DM, FRS, JWD, BP, MB et al., ph.). An entire meeting that had convened to deliberate on the future of the Kipt. banding station adjourned immediately after Vaughn entered to tell of his discovery of the phoebe, and everyone there got to see it! Twelve species of flycatchers were seen in the Kipt. area this fall. Other W. Kingbird singles were at Sandridge/Back Bay Oct. 19–21 (BP, FD, DFA, ph.), Flag Ponds, Calvert, Oct. 5 (JHF), and Ocean City Oct. 14 (EJ), a good presence for this species. No spectacular four-figure counts of E. Kingbird were made at Kipt. to compare with the 2570 on Aug. 31, 1988, but the period Aug. 27–Sept. 3 did produce daily tallies of 610, 420, 501, 685, 265, 560, and 455 respectively (HTA, GLA, LA).

Selected maxima of migrants were 200 N. Rough-winged Swallows at Lucketts, VA, Sept. 30 (VBK), 6000 Bank Swallows at Hopewell, VA, Aug. 6 (FRS, JWD), 500 Blue Jays at Tilghman I. Oct. 1 (JGR), and 2250 Fish Crows at Deal I. Nov. 25 (GLA, HTA). Red-breasted Nuthatches finally staged a decent flight, the first ones detected in Maryland with two at both Tilghman's I. (JGR) and Damsite (J & TG) Aug. 27. Two Brown-headed Nuthatches on n. Assateague were locally unusual Sept. 24 (EB). Stasz found a Winter Wren at Brandywine, Prince Georges, MD, on the incredible date of Aug. 11, and also had six Sedge Wrens at Irish Grove Sanctuary s. of Crisfield, MD, Nov. 4. Thrush peaks at the 3 major banding stations (Adv., Damsite, and Kipt.) were on these dates: Veery Sept. 7, 7, and 8; Gray-cheeked Thrush Oct. 6, 1, and 4; Swainson's Thrush Sept. 25, 26, and 27 respectively. The thrush flight was poor once again. Miller estimated 4000 Am. Robins at Kipt. Nov. 13. A count of 250 Am. Pipits at Lucketts Oct. 16 was a new high for the Virginia Piedmont (VBK). The flight of Golden-crowned Kinglets was both excellent and early with many more turning up in late September than usual, Portlock finding 200 on remote Watts I., VA, Oct. 28, and 300 (plus 150 Ruby-crowned Kinglets) at Tavern Creek, Kent, MD, Oct. 24 (J & TG). Major flights of Cedar Waxwings were seen Nov. 5, when 1000 were at Damsite (J & TG) and

350 were at Tilghman's I. (JGR). The only Loggerhead Shrikes seen were one at Lilypons, MD, Oct. 28 (RFR) and two there Nov. 25 (GM).

VIREOS TO FINCHES — Lack of strong cold fronts and many days of northeast winds and/or rain meant few good days of passerine migration, or else days that were locally but not Regionally good. For example, Aug. 31 at Kipt. there was a superb early flight of about 310 warblers and 40 *Empidonax* flycatchers (HTA), yet at Damsite only one *Empidonax* was banded and the 49 warblers of 14 species were not exceptional for 720 net hours. By contrast, on Sept. 4, Damsite banded 119 warblers of 16 species including season highs for six of those in 660 net hours (127 warblers, 17 species, five season highs, 660 net hours on Sept. 3; J & TG). Yet at Kipt., Sept. 3–5 were very poor warbler days (DS, WPS); many fronts peter out before they get that far south. Damsite tagged 4602 birds of 107 species on 49 days Aug. 1–Nov. 5 in 19,495 net hours, including 31 warbler species, with good capture days being Sept. 3, 4, 7, 16, 25, & 30 (J & TG). Kiptopeke closed out its 27th and probably final year (unless it relocates to a more secure site) with 3400 birds of 91 species Sept. 2–Oct. 21 in 7661 net hours including 29 warbler species, missing Yellow and Canada warblers for the first time but having an excellent year for Palm Warbler (WPS, DS, KT, JWD, JHB, CH). Kiptopeke had but one strong cold front, 3 minor ones. September 25 was its best day, with season highs for nine warblers and vireos (including Am. Redstart, Com. Yellowthroat, and Black-throated Blue Warbler), but there was an excellent late flight Oct. 21 with 12 warbler species. A "Lawrence's" Warbler was there Oct. 12 (WPS). At Adv. 2347 birds of 82 species were banded Sept. 7–Nov. 12 (MD). Many observers found Sept. 25 (following a cold front right after Hugo) & 30 to be good warbler days.

A late White-eyed Vireo was at Williamsburg Nov. 19 (SR). A "Brewster's" Warbler hybrid, six Blue-winged Warblers, and a Golden-winged Warbler were in Rockville Sept. 17 (MO) and a "Brewster's" was at Damsite Sept. 7 (J & TG). Late warblers were a Nashville at Damsite Oct. 28, a Cape May at Tilghman I. Oct. 29 (RLK), a Blackpoll at Adv. Oct. 21, a Connecticut at Kipt. Oct. 21, and a Wilson's Warbler at Scientists Cliffs, Calvert, MD, Nov. 23 (SH). Other interesting warbler sightings were of 30 Tennessees Sept. 24 at Rockville (MO), 39 Black-throated Blues at Kipt. Sept. 25 (JHB), 22 Black-throated Greens at Daniels, MD, Oct. 1 (SA), three Prothonotaries still at Susq. Sept. 7 (EB), and three Connecticut Warblers at Adv. Sept. 27 (MD).

Very late were a Summer Tanager at Gloucester, VA, Oct. 18 & 24 (TK) and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Salisbury, MD, Nov. 3 (C & DB). Best counts were 27 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and ten Scarlet Tanagers at Rock Creek Park in D.C. Sept. 17 (DC), while Reese had 15 Rose-breasted at Tilghman I. Oct. 1. Other late birds were a Blue Grosbeak at Calvert Cliffs, Calvert, MD, Oct. 28 (JLS), an Indigo Bunting at Arlington Nov. 1 (RAA), and another Indigo at Rock Creek Park Oct. 29 (DC). Notable counts were of 40 Blue Grosbeaks and 35 Indigo Buntings at Pt. Lookout, MD, Sept. 27 (MO) and 32 Blues with 55 Indigos at Calvert, MD, Sept. 17 (JLS). Dickcissels were reported from just 4 sites, with two at Chinc. Sept. 9 (SR).

Bachman's Sparrows were found at 3 of their breeding locations in Sussex, VA, in mid-August with one or two birds at each place (RH, GM, ph.). The C.B.B.T. held a monopoly on Clay-colored Sparrows this fall with three there Sept. 30 (BT, BW). Single Lark Sparrows were at Chinc. Sept. 9 (SR), Back Bay Sept. 30–Oct. 2 (DFA, GP, BP, SR), and Assateague Sept. 24 (LMD). Up to 14 Grasshopper Sparrows were still on breeding territory at Easton, MD, Aug. 20 (JGR) and late migrants were on C.B.B.T. Nov. 12 (SR) and at Rockville, MD, Nov. 22–23 (MO, ph.). Rockville also had a Henslow's Sparrow Oct. 28 as well as a Lincoln's Sparrow Oct. 29 (PO). An inland Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was a good find at James River W.M.A., Nelson, VA, Oct. 14, n.e. of Lynchburg in the Pied-



Clay-colored Sparrow at the notable migrant-trap of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Virginia, October 2, 1989. Photograph/M. R. Boatwright.

mont (BP), and another was at Irish Grove Nov. 5 (JLS). First of their kind here this fall were a Fox Sparrow at Patuxent W.R.C. Oct. 12 (DD), an Am. Tree Sparrow at Adv. Nov. 12 (MD), and a Snow Bunting at C.B.B.T. Oct. 22 (DFA). Lincoln's Sparrows were not widely reported but three were at Schooley Mill Park, Howard, MD, Sept. 30 (NM). The banding stations did not capture many this year.

Best counts included four Lapland Longspurs at New Design Rd., Frederick, MD, Nov. 25 (GM), an outstanding total of 24 Laplands at Craney Nov. 18 (RLA), and 90 Snow Buntings at



Grasshopper Sparrow at Rockville, Maryland, on the late date of November 23, 1989. Photograph/Michael O'Brien.

Hart Nov. 19 (RFR, RD), while 2500 Bobolinks were at Chestertown, MD, Sept. 3 (J & TG). There were 3 records of Yellow-headed Blackbirds: one at C.B.B.T. Sept. 17 (RLA, m.ob.), an ad. male at Patuxent W.R.C., MD, Oct. 26 (MKK), and two near Susq. Nov. 28 (EB). Two ♀ Brewer's Blackbirds were seen near Pungo w. of Back Bay Oct. 8 (SR) where they were also found last winter. Sixty-one Orchard Orioles were banded at Damsite Aug. 2-Sept. 8 (J & TG) and a flight of them was seen moving south along the Bay at Hooper's I. Aug. 6 when 22 were found (HTA, GLA, CCW). At Kipt. a state record of 226 N. Orioles was counted Aug. 31 (HTA, GLA, LA; previous high 210). Most unusual was a report of 50 Orchard Orioles at Damsite Aug. 27 (J & TG). Finch reports were rather meager, Purple Finches being very scarce, and with just a few Evening Grosbeak sightings toward the end of the period and a so-so flight of Pine Siskins (v.o.).

OBSERVERS — D.F. Abbott, I.W. Ailes, R.L. Ake (RLAk), R.A. Anderson, R.L. Anderson, G.L. Armistead, Liz Armistead, Scott Atkinson, Dan Audet, P.S. Baker, K.H. Bass, J.B. Bazuin, Barbara Bilsborough, John Bjerke, J.C. Blalock, B.G. Blodget, Eirik Blom, Michael Boatwright, L.D. Bonham, Larry Brindza, Carol & Don Broderick, Mike Bryan (MBn), J.H. Buckalew, Rudy Cashwell, Martha Chestem, Jeff Chynoweth, Carol Cunningham, David Czaplak (D.C. area), John & Thelma Dalmas, L.M. Davidson, Deanna Dawson, Fenton Day, J.W. Dillard, Robert Dixon, Margaret Donald (Adv.), P.G. DuMont, S.D. Eccles, Jeff Effinger, Ethel Engle, Howard Elitzak, J.H. Fales, Jane Farrell, A.J. Fletcher (Caroline, MD), James & Trish Gruber (Damsite & Kent, MD), Charlie Hacker, Sue Hamilton, M.I. Hawk, Robert Hilton, Al Howry, Marshall Iliff, Kye Jenkins, G.M. Jett, Emily Joyce, Hank Kaestner, Teta Kain (C.B.B.T.), D.L. Kirkwood, V.B. Kitchens, Marylea Klauder, R.L. Kleen, M.K. Klimkiewicz, R.F. Lukei (Wise Pt., Kipt.), Gail MacKiernan, Nancy Magnusson, Paul McQuarry, Debbie Melvin (DMe), Doug Miller (DMr), Mary Miller, Dorothy Miller, Randy Moore, David Mozurkewich (DMo), Dotty Mumford (DMu), Marianna Nuttle, Holly Obrecht, Michael O'Brien, Paul O'Brien, T.M. Padgett, Brian Patteson (pelagic birds), Elizabeth Peacock, Grayson Pearce, Lloyd Phillips, E.L. Pitney (lower Eastern Shore of MD), William Portlock, Kyle Rambo, J.G. Reese (Talbot, MD), George Reiger, Sue Ricciardi (SRi), Sue Ridd (SRd), R.F. Ringler (entire state of MD), C.S. Robbins, Barbara Ross, Stephen Rottenborn, R.R. Runkles, S.B. Russell, Don Schwab, F.R. Scott, D.T. Shoch, Dot Silsby (DSi), S.W. Simon, Eddie & Chris Slaughter, W.P. Smith (Kipt. banding station), Jo Solem (Howard, MD), P.R. Spitzer, Eleanor & Bill Standaert, J.L. Stasz (Calvert, MD), C.B. Swift, Charles Swift, P.W. Sykes, Brian Taber, Hank Taliaferro, Karen Terwilliger, R.J. Tripician, Craig Tumer, C.R. Vaughn (Wallops I., VA), F.P. Ward, Pete Webb, H.L. Wierenga, C.P. Wilds (D.C. area), Jim Wilkinson, Bill Williams (Kipt. hawk watch), G.B. Wilmot, Plumer Wiseman, C.C. Witt, Mike Yates.— HENRY T. ARMISTEAD, 523 E. Durham St., Philadelphia, PA 19119.



SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

(Summer 1989 Report)

Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.



The rains of winter and spring 1989 continued through the summer, and many localities were headed for all-time record yearly precipitation figures. Needless to say, bodies of water were filled to the brim, if not flowing over. Despite the rains, there appeared to be no major storms wiping out colonial waterbirds, a hardship that occurs every few summers. Songbird breeding success was probably mixed, as heavy rains generally wipe out some nesting efforts but on the other hand provide ample food supplies in the form of insects and herbaceous vegetation.

Birders searching inland lakes for early fall shorebirds wasted their time, as no mudflats were present. But there were several exciting records, including a new shorebird for the Region seen in North Carolina, plus a new "scumbird" for South Carolina. Another songbird reported from Georgia might be new to the Region, pending a thorough review.

LOONS TO ANHINGA — Quite rare along the coast in summer were two Red-throated Loons at Cape Hatteras point, NC, July 18 (HH), and another was farther up the coast at Nags Head July 21 (HH). In addition to a few along the coast, Com. Loons were found inland near Atlanta, GA, July 12-14 (HG), near Greensboro, NC, June 6 & 22 (HH), and at Jordan L., Chatham, NC, June 18 (KK). A few Pied-billed Grebes spent the summer at the Clayton Water Treatment Plant, GA, but did not nest (PB).

Only one organized pelagic trip was reported this summer, off Oregon Inlet, NC, July 15 (PD et al.). Tubenoses on the trip included 302 Cory's, 55 Greater, and 107 Audubon's shearwaters, eight Black-capped Petrels, and 96 Wilson's Storm-Petrels. On the other hand, L. Crawford took his own boat off Cape Lookout, NC, on several occasions this summer for birding/fishing. He noted "thousands" of shearwaters June 25, nearly all Audubon's, but also with many Greaters, lesser numbers of Cory's, and four or five Sooty Shearwaters. As usual in summer, a few dead Greaters were found on our Region's beaches, with nine being reported in Carteret, NC, June 11-23 (JF, SH). Quite late, and surprising for its location,

was a weakened Sooty caught by hand in Bogue Sound near Emerald Isle, NC, July 14 (BM, JF). One of the most elusive birds on Regional pelagic trips is White-tailed Tropicbird, and generally no more than one is seen on a given trip. Crawford had the good fortune of seeing three such birds together off Cape Lookout July 23.

I received a second-hand report of a dead Brown Booby from Cumberland I., GA, during the season, but the species is hypothetical in that state, with no known specimens to validate the species. Seven Am. White Pelicans were at Little St. Simons I., GA, July 30 (LT), an excellent 24 were on the Folly R. near Charleston, SC, Aug. 12 (RWK), and one was at Ocracoke Inlet, NC, for several weeks in June and July (JF, DFI, DS). Weske and Browne again banded Brown Pelican chicks in North Carolina; totals were 990 at Oregon Inlet and 517 at Beacon I. in Ocracoke Inlet, but they did not band in other colonies because the chicks were not the proper size and age for banding. No new nesting colonies of Double-crested Cormorants were reported this summer, but non-breeding numbers on inland lakes continued to rise. Notable totals were a peak of 16 on July 3 at L. Oconee, GA (PY), and up to five during the season at Clayton, GA (PB). Anhingas apparently still breed at a water-filled Carolina bay (Dunahoe) near Rex, NC, where at least six birds were noted July 23 (JHC).

WADERS — Was an Am. Bittern seen June 15 at Bodie I., NC (JF), a breeding bird? Was one seen at a wet meadow far inland near Concord, NC, May 12 and Aug. 4 (DB) also a breeder? The species presumably breeds at present at a few coastal sites in the Region; inland breeding is unknown, but not out of the realm of possibility. At the same meadow near Concord, one Least Bittern was heard calling on the former date, and two (one believed to be a juvenile) were flushed on the latter date (DB). Other Leasts inland, where rather rare as breeders, were singles at L. Lanier, GA, June 10-24 (JP) and in Greene, GA, July 22 (PY, KP). A possibly new breeding site for Little Blue Heron was reported from s. Francis Marion N.F., SC, where 150 adults were seen April to June (PN). The only Reddish Egret reliably reported for the season was sur-

prisingly in North Carolina, where an immature was at Sunset Beach June 18–July 22 (ML, KL, ED).

Apparently the first inland nesting of Cattle Egrets in North Carolina was represented by the discovery of perhaps 50 nests at Dunahoe Bay, Robeson, July 23 (JHC). Inland breeding has been suspected at several other sites in that state in previous summers, so this was no major surprise. Another first inland nesting record, this time for South Carolina, was established by single nests of Black-crowned Night-Herons at both Green I. in L. Marion (WP, LG) and Boykin Mill Pond near Boykin (LG). Unlike the situation in other states, heronries in South Carolina in recent years have undergone tremendous fluctuations in numbers and locations, especially as a result of the loss of the Drum I. heronry at Charleston to predation and other disturbances. The White Ibis colony at Green I. on L. Marion increased to 5500 pairs (WP), but the former very large colony farther inland at Boykin dropped to fewer than 100 pairs in 1989 (WP). As usual a few post-breeding White Ibises were reported from inland sites in North Carolina. I received no word on the fate of the handful of Wood Stork colonies in Georgia and South Carolina; however, the very wet season hopefully meant plenty of feeding grounds for the adults and better predator protection at the colony sites.

WATERFOWL — Cooper monitored bird populations at several impoundments near Aurora, NC. He found a pair of nonbreeding Green-winged Teal during the summer, as well as one to two Blue-winged Teal, which also showed no signs of nesting. On the other hand, he had confirmed nestings for Gadwall, Am. Black Duck, Mallard, Wood Duck, and Canada Goose. Completely out of season was a ♀ N. Pintail at Clayton, GA, July 23 (PB). Somewhat less unusual was a ♂ Ring-necked Duck noted July 3–29 in Greene, GA (PY, PS). Other records of straggling ducks included single Lesser Scaups on the North R., Currituck, NC, June 7 (HL), near Aurora, NC, June 8 (SC), and at the Savannah spoil area, SC, June 12 (LG, KC); a Surf Scoter at Ocracoke Inlet, NC, July 13 (JF, DS); and Hooded Mergansers June 21 at L. Lanier, GA (JP), and Aug. 19 at Ocracoke, NC (DW). Although there are a few breeding records for the coastal portions of the Region, as many as 19 Ruddy Ducks at Aurora during the season showed no signs of breeding (SC). Ditto for five Ruddies at Goldsboro, NC, during the summer (ED) and another at Sumter, SC, July 28 (LG, EDa).

OSPREY TO COOTS — Ospreys continued to nest at a handful of Piedmont lakes in all 3 states, including 2 nests at L. Murray, SC (TK), and at least 3 nests at L. Oconee, GA (PY). The only out-of-range Am. Swallow-tailed Kite reported was at Conyers, GA, July 13–16 (FM et al.). A wandering Mississippi Kite was noted over Ocracoke I., NC, in the first week of June (fide MaL); conclusive nesting in that state is still lacking. Although Bald Eagle sightings in North Carolina have skyrocketed in the past few years, the nesting population, now believed to be 3 pairs, is still very shaky. The pair along the Pamlico R., Beaufort, fledged two young this summer (SC). Probably not breeders were single ♀-plumaged N. Harriers in North Carolina near Aurora June 1 (SC) and on Core Banks near Atlantic June 23 (JF).

Broad-winged Hawks have been seen during the summer in coastal North Carolina, particularly in Carteret, in recent years, and such a trend continued this summer, as two were noted near Smyrna June 25 (JF, DS). The species has apparently not been conclusively documented breeding in that state in the lower Coastal Plain. Nugent noted three family groups (two adults and two young at each site) of Am. Kestrels in l'On Swamp near Charleston during the summer. Breeding by kestrels in the Coastal Plain is rare and local.

South Carolina birders needing Black Rail for their life or state lists travelled to Bear Island W.M.A. this summer, where one rail was heard calling in May. In July as many as four birds were heard calling on several dates (TK, RC, m.ob.).

Another hawk that breeds in very low numbers in the Region, the Sharp-shinned, was reported only several times: in Hendrickson's yard in Greensboro, NC, June 24 & 26, and near Lawrenceville, GA, July 11 (HG). A Cooper's Hawk chasing a dove near Eureka, Wayne, NC, June 24 (ED) was perhaps a breeding bird. As ridiculous as this may sound, I feel that the breeding distribution of some of our hawks, such as Accipiters, was better known 70 years ago than today, because the oologists spent considerable time searching for nests of hawks. Of course, there are probably far fewer nesting pairs of Accipiters now than then, but conclusive breeding of most of our hawks is seldom reported any more.

This site, discovered this year, might be the only currently known "breeding" locale for the rail in the state, although undoubtedly there are other sites waiting to be discovered in the coastal marshes (and perhaps inland as well). Fussell found a dead rail at Cedar I., NC, July 3 that he considered "mostly King Rail." He also stated that "many of the Kings/Clappers in these marshes appear to be intergrades."

An excellent breeding count of Virginia Rails for North Carolina was of 14 heard July 15–31 along North R. near Beaufort (JF). A fledged juv. Virginia was seen at Pea I., NC, July 22 (HL, RD, ML, DC) for one of the few conclusive nesting records for the state. Another Virginia, flushed from a marsh well inland in Greene, GA, June 24 (PY), might have been a breeder; the species has conclusively nested inland in Georgia on several occasions. The first confirmed nesting of Am. Coot in South Carolina in 35 years occurred at Magnolia Gardens near Charleston, where 2 of the 3 pairs fledged young (WP). The species did not nest at Goldsboro, NC, this summer because weed control around the margins of the waste treatment ponds eliminated nesting habitat (fide ED). Up to 22 coots spent the summer at impoundments near Aurora but gave no indication of nesting (SC). Nonbreeding coots in Georgia's Piedmont were up to four at Clayton June 4–11, with one all summer (PB), and one at L. Lanier June 12–17 (JP).

SHOREBIRDS — A pair of Black-necked Stilts nested at a park (Brittlebank) in Charleston this season (DF, StC). Although stilts are reasonably common at Pea I., NC, as breeders, a count of 150+ birds July 22 (HL et al.) was outstanding, perhaps indicating a very successful nesting effort. Four Willets were rare inland at L. Oconee, GA, particularly on the early date of July 3 (PY). There were 3 mid-June reports of Spotted Sandpipers, none of which indicated breeding individuals; the species is a very rare and sporadic nester this far south. Fussell had 5 groups of three to seven Marbled Godwits along the North Carolina coast from Hatteras Inlet to Shackleford Banks June 11–22.

Definitely the bird of the season was the Region's first **Little Stint**, apparently furnishing the southernmost Atlantic Coast record, at Cape Hatteras point. The stint was an adult in slightly worn breeding plumage, noted July 22–25 (DC, RD, ML, HL, JF, m.ob., ph.). It took 2 days for the bird to be identified, as the standard field guides were insufficient to distinguish the bird from Rufous-necked Stint. Fortunately, birders arrived on Day 2 with the Viet and Jonsson paper on peep identification (AB 38:853–876) and with the Hayman et al. reference book (*Shorebirds — an identification guide*). The bird closely approached the plumages of those in the AB article in Figure 12 and Plate 5–b.

Other notable calidrid records included five White-rumped Sandpipers near Aurora, NC, June 15 (SC), a Baird's Sandpiper rather early July 21 at Pea I. (DW), and in-between-seasons Pectoral Sandpipers June 8 near Aurora (SC) and June 11 at

Clayton (PB). The best influx of Curlew Sandpipers ever for the Region occurred at Pea I., where birds were noted July 16–31 and later (MO), with a peak of four on July 22 (RD, HL, DC, ML). A fairly good South Carolina count for Stilt Sandpiper was of 20 birds at Bear Island W.M.A., July 23 (WP, WH, PN). The always noteworthy and elusive Ruff—birds seldom remain at a given site here for more than 2 or 3 days—was spotted at Cape Hatteras point July 14–17 (PD, MaL). The breeding status of Am. Woodcock is poorly known near the coast; thus, of interest for the season were single birds flushed at Wilmington, NC, June 19 (KKo), seen in a salt marsh at the Ashley R. at Charleston June 11 (StC), and noted at Mt. Pleasant, SC, July 28 (DCh).

JAEGERS TO TERNS—A bird identified as an imm. Long-tailed Jaeger was a good find on a pelagic trip off Oregon Inlet July 15 (PD, MO). At the southern limit of the breeding range was a pair of Great Black-backed Gulls that raised three offspring at Hatteras Inlet, NC, July 21 (JF). Weske and Browne again banded young Royal and Sandwich terns in North Carolina colonies; they banded 13,450 Royals and 2494 Sandwiches, in 7 colony sites. Again this season, nonbreeding Roseate Terns loitered with other breeding terns in North Carolina—singles July 13 in Ocracoke Inlet (JF, DS) and July 22–29 at Cape Hatteras point (ML et al.). Twelve Bridled Terns off Charleston June 24 (PL) made a good total for South Carolina.

Sooty Terns may have nested at 3 sites in North Carolina this season; but even so, no eggs have ever been reported to hatch in that state, despite a number of such nesting attempts. A pair was present at Sandbag I. near Cape Lookout (JFP), three adults and a nest with one egg were seen at a spit at Cape Lookout June 8 (JF), and one territorial adult plus two other adults were noted July 13 at Vera Cruz Shoal in Ocracoke Inlet (JF, DS). Two adults again present much of the summer at Cape Hatteras almost certainly were not nesting (m.ob.). Quite early (?) Black Terns were seven at Drum Inlet, NC, June 20 (JF) and one at Huntington Beach S.P., SC, June 23 (JB). A report, with no details, was received of a dead Brown Noddy at Cumberland I., GA (fide TM); unlike the Brown Booby situation mentioned earlier, there are previous specimens for the state for the noddy.

PARAKEETS TO SWALLOWS—For what it's worth, a Monk Parakeet was seen in Tryon, NC, May 4–11 (ST). Simon Thompson, conducting a number of Breeding Bird Atlas blocks in Polk, NC, noted an alarming scarcity of Yellow-billed Cuckoos. However, such may have been a local trend, as elsewhere the species drew little comment. A storm during the summer in Simpsonville, NC, split an oak that contained a Barn Owl nest; the four owlets were taken to a local raptor rehabilitation center (PW).

A major breeding season discovery, and a southern range extension, was the locating of perhaps seven singing Willow Flycatchers in a marshy area with willows in n. Greene, GA, in June and July (PY, PS, BP). Although there are a few previous breeding season records for the Piedmont of n. Georgia (but farther north and west), summer reports from the Region in the last 10 years have been sparse, being limited mainly to the area of Winston-Salem, NC. S. Thompson noted with regret that "his" Least Flycatcher did not return this summer to Tryon, the only site in the Region that has been home to the species in summer. There was good news and bad news from Cartersville, GA. Only one member of the pair of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers that nested last year returned in 1989; it was last seen July 5 (JS). A Horned Lark was reported from Cartersville during the season (JS); the species is a rare breeder in that state.

Tree Swallows nest in the Coastal Plain south to Virginia, and it would not be surprising for them to be nesting in North Carolina's Coastal Plain. Tantalizing was the report of large numbers (28+ birds) seen on several dates in June and July at

Foy reported on a "good thing turned bad" in Pamlico, NC. She and others have erected 200 bluebird nest boxes in the county in recent years, and the success in fledging the birds has been outstanding. However, there is a negative side to the story, since the "balance of nature" had been modified. These bluebirds have overrun their nest box supply and have taken over most of the natural cavities. She noted that the birds took apart a Great Crested Flycatcher nest and a Purple Martin nest and forced a Carolina Chickadee off its nest. Fearing that Brown-headed Nuthatches, Prothonotary Warblers, and others will suffer from this over-abundance of bluebirds, Foy plans to remove about 175 of the boxes. However, this may force the bluebirds to utilize natural cavities to an even greater extent and cause a further nesting site crunch for non-bluebirds, at least in the short run.

impoundments with dead trees (= suitable nesting habitat) near Aurora (SC), but no evidence of nesting was seen. Quite early migrants were eight Tree Swallows at Bear Island W.M.A., SC, July 1 (RC, CE, TK). Also on that early date were 75+ Bank Swallows not far from the latter site at the Ashpoo R. (RC, CE, TK). Again this summer, there were no reports hinting at nesting by this species; the only known nesting sites for the Region were in Aiken, SC, in the 1890s and in Wilkes, NC, for several years about a decade ago. Glover found breeding Cliff Swallows at Wateree L., SC, an apparently new site for the species. Ten to 20 pairs were noted on the w. side of the lake at 3 bridges July 16, and 100+ nests were seen under a bridge below Fishing Creek Dam (on this lake?), also on July 16. A major range expansion was the report of another Cliff Swallow colony—in the tidewater of North Carolina at Oriental, where 10+ were nesting under a bridge June 6 (JF). Cliffs have been found nesting on the immediate coast at Oregon Inlet and at Moore's Landing near Charleston, but these sites have apparently been abandoned in recent years.

CROWS TO WAXWINGS—Hendrickson noted the continued presence of apparently nonbreeding Fish Crows at Greensboro, NC, where about 30 birds were roosting in pines. One Fish Crow at a shopping center near Furman University n. of Greenville, SC, June 24 (CE, RC) might have provided a first record for that city. The surprising abundance of House Wrens in recently burned pocosins, as noted in 1988 by Cooper at Holly Shelter Swamp, NC, was repeated in 1989, when LeGrand counted 15+ on June 17 at the n. edge of the swamp at Southwest Ridge. In fact, the wrens are among the most abundant birds in these burned-over shrubby places. Another wren was singing in the pocosin margin of a savanna at Green Swamp Preserve, Brunswick, NC, June 18 (HL); this is likely a major s.e. range extension. Although the species is common in winter in many such shrubby places, it seems bizarre to see and hear House Wrens there in the summer, since they are generally found breeding in the East in farmyards and suburban yards.

Juvenile Am. Robins were seen feeding with an adult Aug. 26 at Hampton Park in Charleston, where the birds are rare breeders (StC). Cedar Waxwings again nested at several sites in Forsyth, NC (BW, RS, PSp). However, there seemed to be many fewer reports of possibly breeding waxwings. The species nests erratically in the Region, mainly in n. North Carolina.

VIREOS, WARBLERS—A first nesting of Solitary Vireo in the South Carolina Coastal Plain was documented by the collecting of a juvenile in Kingstree, SC, Aug. 1; adults were seen during the summer (fide WP). In that state's Piedmont, where the species is rare or overlooked, R. Carter found

singing males in 3 places near Leeds in Sumter N.F.; all were in mature loblolly pine plantations. Adults were feeding a newly fledged young June 10 at one of the sites. On June 4, he had another singing Solitary in that national forest in Newberry. A Solitary Vireo singing at Raven Rock S.P., NC, July 6 (PH) represented a slight s.e. extension of the breeding range. Some out of range breeding records can perhaps be predicted, such as the Willow Flycatchers in c. Georgia in willow habitat. However, a singing **Warbling Vireo** June 28–July 1 in willow thickets near L. Marion, Santee N.W.R., SC, defied explanation. Kalbach discovered the bird, and its song was taped, as—believe it or not—the vireo is a hypothetical species in the state. This species is not known to currently breed in the Region (although it may have formerly done so in North Carolina) unless the out-of-range bird near Scotland Neck, NC, for the past 4 summers has a mate!

A Chestnut-sided Warbler in Polk, NC, was a late migrant June 3 (ST), whereas another was an early fall visitor near Duluth, GA, July 22 (PB, HG, TM). S. Thompson reported that six Cerulean Warblers were on territory near Tryon this summer; this locale lies along the edge of the Blue Ridge, where there are numerous “colonies” of the species in North Carolina. More significant in that same area, Thompson had a ♂ Prothonotary Warbler on territory June 12 to late July at L. Adger. This species has a very spotty range in the foothills of the Region.

Worm-eating Warblers have strange midsummer wanderings. Nearly every summer I receive July (or occasionally late June) reports of non-singing birds out of normal breeding habitat, yet too early for obvious southward migration. Almost certainly these are not breeding birds. Fitting this pattern were singles June 23 and July 16 at Conyers, GA (FM), one July 3 in n. Fulton, GA (PM, TM), two July 3 at L. Oconee (PY), and one July 30 near Lugoff, SC (LG); none was in song.

A Swainson’s Warbler was seen and heard at Clayton, GA, in June and early July (m.ob.) to strongly indicate local nesting, and two were seen July 22 near Athens, GA, at the same location as found in May (PY). Along the Blue Ridge, three birds were on territory during the season at Tryon (ST). An Ovenbird was noted near Providence Canyon in s.w. Georgia June 14 (AA), apparently outside the usual breeding range. Quite early, and very rare, was a Mourning Warbler, apparently an ad. female, seen within 7 ft in c. Halifax, NC, July 15 (FE).

TANAGERS TO CARDUELINES — Far out of range to the southeast, a ♂ Scarlet Tanager was singing June 18 in n.w. Brunswick, NC (HL). This species is spreading eastward into the Region’s Coastal Plain and is now scattered over the northern and western two-thirds of the North Carolina Coastal Plain in summer. After the mini-invasion by Dickcissels last summer, perhaps birds “forced” eastward by the severe droughts in the Midwest, numbers were sparse in 1989. The only reports were of at least four males singing in Hart, between Hartwell and Royston, GA, June 4 (BP) and a pair in Morgan, GA, June 25 (PY). The female of the pair was seen carrying a food item to strongly suggest nesting, whereas no females were noted in Hart.

I received a written report, and an underexposed color photo, of a ♂ Black-faced Grassquit at a feeder at St. Simons I., GA, June through July (JBo); a 2nd individual was reportedly present also. There are a few records for s. Florida of this widespread West Indian species, but none previously for our Region. However, because the photo and the description allow for much speculation about the correct identity of the birds, the report has been submitted to the Georgia Ornithological Society Checklist Committee for detailed review.

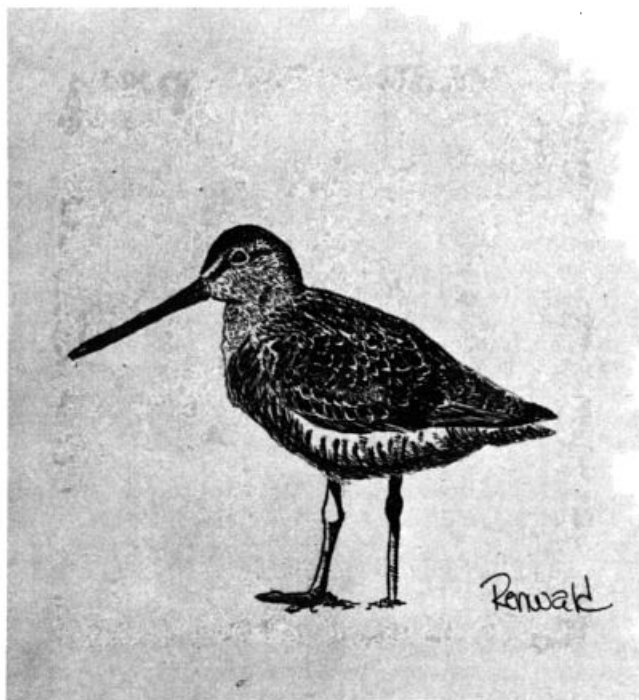
A new and large colony of Henslow’s Sparrows was found in Bertie, NC, a new county for the species in summer, but the birds were expected to be found there sooner or later. Bryan had 10 singing in a recent clearcut in the e. portion of the county July 16. LeGrand noted two singing in a natural

pine savanna on the Green Swamp Preserve, Brunswick, NC, June 18; most “colonies” of the birds are in clearcuts that have begun to grow up with young saplings and a dense cover of herbaceous species. Fussell found Song Sparrows singing as far south as Kathryn Jane Is., Carteret, NC, June 22, close to the s. limit of breeding of the Atlantic race.

It was inevitable! With Georgia having records of **Shiny Cowbird** in late spring, could South Carolina’s first records be far behind? Certainly not! Two males, apparently one first-year and one 2nd-year bird (*fide* WP), were present at a feeder at Sullivans Island July 16–28 (WH, WP, ph.). How long will it be for North Carolina’s first Shiny Cowbird? There was a confirmed nesting of N. (Baltimore) Oriole for Forsyth, NC (RS), the only county in the Region where the species can even remotely be considered regular in summer. Along the coast were one or more pairs of House Finches all summer at Beaufort, NC (LC), but a singing Am. Goldfinch in nearby Morehead City June 30 (JF) might not have been on territory, as it was not seen before or after that date.

CORRIGENDA — The identification of the winter specimen of E. Wood-Pewee (AB 43:465) was made by S.W. Cardiff and J.V. Remsen, Jr. at Louisiana State University, and not by W. Post. The Nov. 18 record for Lesser Golden-Plover in AB 43:300 should be deleted; the date was a typographical error.

OBSERVERS — Anselm Atkins, John Batson, June Boettcher (JBo), Patrick Brisse, Dick Brown, Micou Browne, Allen Bryan, Kevin Calhoun, Derb Carter, J.H. Carter III, Robin Carter, David Chamberlain (DCh), Steve Compton (StC), Sam Cooper, Larry Crawford, Evelyn Dabbs (EDa), Ricky Davis, Eric Dean, Paul DuMont, Caroline Eastman, Frank Enders, David Fletcher (DFI), Dennis Forsythe, Dorothy Foy (DFoy), John Fussell, Hugh Garrett, Lex Glover, Paul Hart, Scott Hartley, Herb Hendrickson, Will Hutcheson, Tim Kalbach, Ken Knapp, Kitty Kosh (KKo), R.W. Kost, Pete Laurie, Harry LeGrand, Karen Lynch, Merrill Lynch, Marcia Lyons (MaL), Francis Michael, Bill Moffitt, Peggy Moore, Terry Moore, Perry Nugent, Michael O’Brien, John Paget, Kathy Parker, J.F. Parnell, Will Post, Bill Pulliam, Ramona Snavelly, Paul Spain (PSp), Deb Squires, John Swiderski, Paul Sykes, Lydia Thompson, Simon Thompson, John Weske, Bob Witherington, Pete Worthington, David Wright, Peter Yawkey.—**HARRY E. LeGRAND, JR.**, N.C. Natural Heritage Program, P.O. Box 27687, Raleigh, NC 27611.



David Renwald

FLORIDA REGION

Richard L. West

The fall season offers a mixture of excitement: the welcoming of winter residents, the passage of many to the tropics which we recognize by the few who stop en route, and the ever-challenging grab bag of off-course migrants, dispersants, storm-driven vagrants, and a few who fit no category.

Weather is always a factor. In August a hurricane bypassed the state, causing a hiatus of migrants in south Florida, yet the same weather system grounded numbers of passerines August 27 at St. George Island and westward. September and October were generally dominated by continental highs. Cold fronts were not reported until October 8 and 19; the latter produced good numbers of migrants along the west coast for several days. In November there were four cold fronts that finally brought down the waterfowl. Because few passerines were grounded by foul weather, observers mostly reported the migration as the worst in recent years. There were exceptions: Dade County had the best migration in many years, but it did not seem to be related to any particular storm system. Peregrine Falcons were seen in good numbers. In Polk County, local bird numbers appeared normal and the phosphate mines continued very productive for waterbirds. In central Florida the season's rainfall was normal, which was not enough to overcome the dry conditions earlier, so that ground water levels were at a historic low for November. The water levels in south Florida were expected to remain very low.

ABBREVIATIONS — B.J. = Bradley Junction phosphate pits, Polk; C.F. = Bill Baggs—Cape Florida State Recreation Area, Dade; E.N.P. = Everglades National Park; S.F.R.C. = South Florida Research Center, E.N.P., Dade; F.O.S.R.C. = Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee; S.H.S.P. = Spring Hill Sewage Treatment Plant, Leon; Tall. Div. = Tallahassee Division, portion of the Florida Region between the Aucilla and Apalachicola rivers. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO FLAMINGO — Common Loons were late coming to Palm Beach; seven were seen migrating in November, down from 50 in November 1988 (HPL). Pied-billed Grebes are normally not flocking birds, yet 300 were found on Lake Pierce, Polk, Nov. 15 (TP), and similarly there was a tight aggregation of 55 on Lake Trafford, Collier, Nov. 25 (LR). An Eared Grebe Nov. 26 at Clear Spring Mine, Polk (PT, CLG), was again the only one reported for the Region, but the species is being found with increasing regularity in the Southeast. The only tubenoses reported this season were 11 Wilson's Storm-Petrels Aug. 23 found 25 mi off Cape Canaveral. An ad. Masked Booby seen Oct. 7 from a fishing boat 5 mi out from Seahorse Key, Levy (RDW), was an unusual fair-weather find so far north in the Gulf. High numbers of N. Gannets were moving S off the e. coast, with a peak of 314 seen Nov. 30 from the Lake Worth Pier during a northeaster (HPL).

The 219 Am. White Pelicans found in Hillsborough Bay Oct. 19 (RTP) made a high local count for early fall preceding the arrival of major cold fronts, so perhaps these were some of those reported around the state during the summer. Two hundred pairs of Double-crested Cormorants were on nests and presumably still incubating Sept. 23 s. of Plant City (GP). Only one nest with young was seen. The final cormorant nest count was 286 at a newly-established colony at Wakulla Springs. Perhaps the reason cormorants were down 25% at



their winter roosts in the Rookery Bay Sanctuary, Collier (TB), was that some of them were still on their breeding grounds in November. A high number of 366 Magnificent Frigatebirds (about twice normal) found roosting Sept. 23 on Cortez Key, Manatee (RTP), may have included visitors from a 2nd roost, as numbers are known to fluctuate.

A "Great White" Heron was unusual as far north as North Port, Sarasota, Sept. 20–28 (BC, JP), and probably the same individual was seen again Nov. 27 at a nearby lake. The abandonment, for no obvious reason, of the large winter wader roosts at Rookery Bay Sanctuary was alarming when discovered Sept. 9. Fortunately the roosts began to recover after a 5-week hiatus, led by the arrival of wintering cormorants, and by November the roosts were approaching normal for most species except Tricolored Herons (TB). Dispersing Reddish Egrets continued to appear on the n. Florida coasts: single birds were seen at St. Marks N.W.R. Aug. 22 (SAC); at Eastpoint, Franklin, Aug. 27 (JMS); and at Ward Bank, Duval, Nov. 5 (IF, CR) & 13 (PCP); but these were overshadowed by six at Hagens Cove, Taylor, Aug. 31, and 12 there Sept. 6 (BPM, JTD). Finding Roseate Spoonbills inland has become more common; two each were seen in e. Orange Aug. 12 (DWF), in a pond south of Brooker Sept. 29 (SD), and in Polk Nov. 26 (CLG, PT). Perhaps "a traveling spoonbill show" dispersed from the very high fall aggregation of 128 seen at Alafia Bank, Hillsborough Bay, Sept. 27 (RTP). Greater Flamingos were reported in numbers up to 20 at Snake Bight, but had dwindled to one adult by Oct. 18 (PWS).

GEESE TO FALCONS — A smattering of Lesser Snow Geese was reported through the n. part of the state s. to L. Seminole, Pinellas, where an immature had been staying since Oct. 16 (KN, m.ob.). Two Brant at Merritt Island N.W.R. Oct. 25 (DC) and one at Bald Point, Franklin, Nov. 25 (DG, BP, m.ob.) were the most unusual geese of the season. The

unusual duck prize goes to the normally sedentary White-cheeked Pintail killed by a hunter Oct. 25 at Merritt Island N.W.R. (*to the refuge, DC). Wintering ducks were reported down or nonexistent throughout the state, except at St. Marks N.W.R. where they finally came in during the last few days in November. There, dabbling ducks were up except for Blue-winged Teal and Mallard, and at least some diving ducks were up—by late November the fall peak for Bufflehead had reached 500 on the managed impoundments, a record high (CSG). A peak count of 3000 Blue-wingeds Sept. 3 was reported 250 mi away at the Polk phosphate mines (PF). The lower numbers downstate of other ducks were probably owing to a combination of a late migration, and a reduced continental population of many species as a result of drought on their breeding grounds.

An Oldsquaw was at Cedar Key Nov. 24–29, and two were there Nov. 25 (DCH). Common Goldeneyes are increasingly uncommon on the Atlantic Coast, but one was seen Nov. 7 at Port Canaveral (JJ). A sea watch from a Lake Worth pier during a northeaster Nov. 30 found 177 Black Scoters and 152 mergansers (HPL, GH, KG). The same day, similar numbers of these plus 70 N. Gannets flew by a Ft. Lauderdale pier some 30 mi south (SW), indicating more than a local movement. The arrival in force of Hooded Mergansers was signalled by 70+ at Lake Lafayette Sink Nov. 24, and 35 on suburban Megginis Arm Nov. 29 (NW). On Nov. 29 there were just 500 Lesser Scaup in 3 groups in s. Hillsborough Bay, where 15 years ago 3000–5000 would have been normal (RTP).

In what appears to have been an isolated event, Osprey nesting success this summer at St. Marks N.W.R. was lowest since 1980; of 85 occupied nests, only 6 were successful, fledging nine young. American Swallow-tailed Kites were seen sailing SE very high over S.F.R.C.: nine Aug. 12 and three Aug. 13 (JCO). A late Swallow-tailed was seen Aug. 21 at St. Marks N.W.R. (CSG). A pair of post-breeding Black-shouldered Kites was found Aug. 22 s. of the Tamiami Trail, w. Dade (MM), and another one Sept. 1 near Chekika Hammock, s.w. Dade (JG), but they have become almost ho-hum there. More unusual was a Black-shouldered farther north, perched at close range in St. Marks N.W.R. Nov. 29 (RC, CC). Water scarcity had a major effect on Snail Kite dispersal this year. Since the s. Florida areas of eastern E.N.P. and Conservation Areas 2B and 3B were dry, the kites moved into central Florida in record highs at L. Kissimmee, L. Tohopekaliga, East L. Tohopekaliga, and the Fellsmere marshes, Indian River, but Area 3A and L. Okeechobee to the south remained the region where most were found at the end of November (JAR). This northward movement provided some hope that the kites could make it through what promised to be a very dry season. Some Snail Kite displacement was in other directions: west to Ft. Myers Regional Airport Sept. 30 (VM), and south to Royal Palm Hammock Nov. 21 (SW) and 15 mi s. of Florida City Dec. 1 (SW).

An imm. Mississippi Kite strayed to s. Jacksonville Sept. 29 (JPC). Very rare in s. Florida, a Mississippi Kite was observed hunting daily near the S.F.R.C. Oct. 16–19 (JCO, m.ob.); was it a trans-Gulf migrant, or wintering? Short-tailed Hawks at Wikiwa Springs S.P., Orange/Seminole (JPC), and 50 mi away at Saddle Creek Park, Polk (MHs, MB), both Sept. 16, were very rare finds that far north. A light morph ad. Swainson's Hawk was seen near the Headquarters, E.N.P., Dade, Nov. 1 (JCO). Merlin and Peregrine Falcon reports were scattered widely around the state, but the most interesting report was of a Peregrine 25 mi off Cape Canaveral Aug. 23 (JJ). One was reported Nov. 26 inland in Polk, where they were once rare but now seem to be increasing (CLG, PT).

RAILS TO SKIMMER — A Yellow Rail was feeding in the open Nov. 3 at Loxahatchee N.W.R. (CK). There were 23 Soras killed at WCTV tower, Leon, Sept. 27, a sad high count (HMS). Farther south, in Coral Gables, a migrant Sora was found dead Oct. 16 in a yard (AM).

There was a Lesser Golden-Plover at the S.H.S.P. Sept. 13–14 (NW, SJ). Two Lesser Golden-Plovers and two late Buff-breasted Sandpipers were on w. Palm Beach sod farms Oct. 8 (PWS). A Piping Plover, presumably of the endangered central population, at S.H.S.P. Sept. 12–15 provided the first Leon record (NW, ph. JEC). American Oystercatchers are extremely rare on the lower e. coast, so one found Nov. 9 at Crandon Marina, Key Biscayne, was noteworthy (JOS). Three Black-necked Stilts were at St. Marks N.W.R. Oct. 10 (CSG). Four Black-necked Stilts Nov. 30 at B.J. (CLG) were considered rare that late in the year, and two more were at Port Canaveral (JJ, MH) the same day. An Am. Avocet, rare inland, was at S.H.S.P. Nov. 10 (NW, SJ), and another was on Paynes Prairie Nov. 12–15 (S & JW).

A good count of 6000 Lesser Yellowlegs was made at B J Sept. 3 (PF, DF). A gathering of 150 Semipalmated Sandpipers Aug. 6 at St. Marks N.W.R. was a significant number (NW). Three White-rumped Sandpipers in e. Orange Sept. 30 (CTR) provided a good record for this scarce fall migrant. It was surprising to find two juv. Buff-breasted Sandpipers with 1000 other shorebirds on a B.J. mudbar Sept. 16 (BDN, m.ob.). A Ruff was found Sept. 10 at Duda Farms near Belle Glade (BH). Ten Long-billed Dowitchers were identified by callnotes Nov. 27 at S.H.S.P. (NW).

Two adult and two imm. Pomarine Jaegers were found 5 mi out from Seahorse Key, Levy, Oct. 7 (RDW). A disoriented Sooty Tern flew into a wall Sept. 28 at Deer Haven Power Station, Alachua (J & JD, *F.M.N.H.). Two Least Terns fledged from a nest platform at St. Marks N.W.R. in mid-August (CSG). In Dade, Black Terns are extremely rare, so one at Virginia Key Aug. 23 was notable (DO, JOS). In contrast, record tern aggregations for the phosphate mines, Polk, occurred Sept. 3, including 964 Black Terns and 821 Black Skimmers (PF).

DOVES TO NIGHTJARS — It must have been a good breeding year for doves, as suggested by these fall aggregations: An estimated 50 White-crowned Pigeons was an almost Hitchcockian number for E.N.P. Aug. 16, but would be considered routine on the keys. The same day about 200 White-winged Doves were in the farmlands w. of Homestead (BDN, JG). There were 1420 Mourning Doves Sept. 9 on the wires at Kingsford Mine, Polk (PF, DF). It is hard to say whether a White-winged on Cedar Key Nov. 20–29 (DCH) was from a s. Florida or a western population. A Hispaniolan Parrot, one of the scarcer escapees here, was seen Oct. 29 at Fuch Park roost, S. Miami, allopreening and billing with an Orange-crowned Parrot (BDN). A good fall count of 26 Yellow-billed Cuckoos was reported at Ft. De Soto Park Oct. 20 (LSA, MW), and one adult Nov. 9 on St. George I. (JEC) was the latest reported. A good spot to find Mangrove Cuckoos this fall was Key Biscayne, where three species of cuckoos were found some days (*fide* BDN). A Groove-billed Ani in w. Tampa during most of November drew many observers (*fide* LSA), and another one was found on St. George I. Nov. 25 (LSA, BHA, m.ob., ph.).

A late-nesting Barn Owl occupied a historic site in a turn-pike overpass near Homestead and had young approximately 2, 4, and 6 days old Oct. 21 (PWS). Such nest locations are not unprecedented, and nest boxes placed in overpasses near good rodent habitat may attract owls. A new way to detect owls Great Horned Owls are considered rare in S. Miami, yet one was discovered courting a captive bird there Oct. 29 (DH). A Short-eared Owl was flushed Nov. 25 at Paynes Prairie (RM). Six hundred Com. Nighthawks migrated over s. Jacksonville Sept. 1–4 (JPC); a very late individual was at Cutlers Ridge Nov. 16 (VE). Three Chuck-will's-widows found at Marathon Aug. 17 were probably migrants (BDN, MCW), and a late fall date for the Tall. Div. was set by one Nov. 16 at St. George I (HMS, JEC).

FLYCATCHERS TO CATBIRD — The only Olive-sided Flycatcher reported was one found Sept. 14 on St. George I

(†JEC) Other notable n. Florida flycatchers were a *Myiarchus* carefully studied on St. George I. Oct. 21 (DS) and a W. Kingbird in *Wakulla* (RC). An *Empidonax* wave was noted Sept. 30 at *Wakulla* Beach, and two were identified as probable Least Flycatchers. Least was identified at C.F. Sept. 15, calling (LSA, DJD), and at Ft. De Soto Park Oct. 10 (LSA, MCW). Others identified were Yellow-bellied Flycatchers banded on Casey Key, Sarasota, Sept. 19 and Oct. 3 (S & AS), and Willow Flycatchers at *Wakulla* Springs S.P. Sept. 23 (NW) and on n. Key Largo Oct. 10 (PWS). By comparison, Acadian Flycatchers were banded Sept. 16, 17, & 23 on Casey Key (S & AS). Massed migrating E. Kingbirds are not uncommon in Florida, but "hundreds if not thousands" passing down Shark Valley Sept. 3 was an encouraging report when so many other migrants are reported in decreasing numbers (PWS). One late E Kingbird was w. of Homestead Oct. 16 (PWS). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were noted at St. Marks N.W.R. Sept. 3 and Oct. 8-10 (RW, CGS).

Unusual August migrants in the Tall. Div. were a Cliff Swallow at St. Marks N.W.R. Aug. 24 (SAC) and three on St. George I. Aug. 27 (JMS). Three large swallow movements were noted: "Thousands" of mainly Barn Swallows were along a squall line at Homestead Aug. 11, among which were 20 Purple Martins, 20 Bank Swallows, 15 Cliffs, and one each Cave, N. Rough-winged, and juv. Bahama swallow (PWS). "Hundreds" of Cave Swallows were reported on the wires with other swallows near Homestead Aug. 17 (Rod Norden). "Low thousands" of N. Rough-winged Swallows were moving through *Broward* and *Palm Beach* Oct. 8 (PWS).

Tufted Titmice are very rare in *Dade*, yet one was seen twice in *Deering Estate* Sept. 4 & 12 (VE, MCW). A high diurnal count of 25 Veeries was made Sept. 9 on *Wakulla Beach Road* (NW). On Casey Key, Veeries and Swainson's Thrushes were banded almost daily, the former Sept. 19 to Oct. 9 and the latter Sept. 20 to Oct. 26. Gray-cheeked Thrushes were banded there Oct. 9 & 15 (S & AS). A high count of 110 Gray Catbirds was made Oct. 20 at Ft. De Soto Park (LSA, MW).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A **Thick-billed Vireo**, Bahamian member of the White-eyed Vireo complex, was found at C.F. Sept. 10 (†MCW, m.ob., ph., recordings). Probably three birds were there, and reports continued up to at least Oct. 26. Previous sight records of this species in s. Florida have not been accepted by the F.O.S.R.C. A number of observers have worked to document this occurrence, which will be published elsewhere. An early Yellow-throated Vireo appeared at *Deering Estate, Dade*, Aug. 25 (VE). Philadelphia Vireos were reported only 4 times again this fall, the earliest a southerly one in *Villages of Homestead* Sept. 24 (PWS), and the last in s. *Jacksonville* Oct. 15 (JPC).

A "Brewster's" Warbler was found Sept. 10 on *Wakulla Beach Road* (NW). Golden-winged Warblers were reported from the s.e. peninsula at C.F. Sept. 22 (MCW) and in residential *Miami* Oct. 2 (JQ). A Tennessee Warbler was banded at Casey Key Sept. 24 (S & AS). An early Orange-crowned Warbler was found at C.F. Sept. 22 (PWS), and one was banded at Casey Key Nov. 10 (S & AS). Nashville Warblers were found at C.F. Oct. 21 (MCW), 23 (VE, MCW), & 26 (AMC). Two were at Ft. De Soto Park Sept. 25 (LSA, DJD) and a female was reported in s. *Jacksonville* Nov. 3 (JPC). A late Magnolia Warbler was banded Nov. 1 on Casey Key (S & AS). A Black-throated Blue Warbler was reported Sept. 29 in *Leon*, where rare (TM). A rare Blackpoll Warbler was carefully identified on St. George I. Sept. 26 (†JEC), and six to eight were at C.F. Sept. 29-30 (MCW). Cerulean Warblers were reported from around the Region; the southernmost was an imm. male Sept. 17 at C.F. (MCW). Large numbers of Magnolia Warblers (21) and Palm Warblers (120) were found at Ft. De Soto Park Oct. 20 (LSA, MW).

Three Swainson's Warblers were reported from *Dade*: two

Sept. 13 (JQ) and one Sept. 23 (HN). Also, one was banded on Casey Key Sept. 23 (S & AS) and another in *St. Lucie* Oct. 1 (SB). Lone Kentucky Warblers, rare in *Dade*, were found at *Deering Estate* Aug. 25 (VE) and at C.F. Sept. 19-22 (DL, MCW, PWS); another was banded at Casey Key Sept. 16 (S & AS). Mourning Warblers, difficult to see and identify, were reported more often than usual: an immature at *Lori Wilson Park, Brevard*, Sept. 14 (DD, MC); one banded at Casey Key Sept. 14 (S & AS); and immatures at C.F. Sept. 22 (PWS), 29 (MCW), & 30 (MCW). Two Mourning and two Connecticut warblers were killed Sept. 27-29 at the WCTV tower, *Leon* (HMS), and another Connecticut was found at C.F. Sept. 29-30 (MCW, PWS). Wilson's Warblers, considered rare but regular, were found at C. F. Sept. 14 & 15 (JOS, PWS), s. *Jacksonville* Sept. 21 & 29 (JPC), and Ft. De Soto Park Oct. 20 (MW, LSA, BHA), and a late one was at *Loxahatchee N.W.R.* Nov. 16 (KG). Canada Warblers, also rare, were at *Saddle Cr. Park* Sept. 17 (PF, m.ob.), C.F. Sept. 17 (MCW) & 30 (PWS), and *Dunedin Hammock Park* Sept. 24 (LAH, BP), and a rather late one was at *St. George I.* Oct. 19 (JEC).

GROSBEAKS TO BLACKBIRDS — A ♀ Black-headed Grosbeak obligingly stopped to take a drink next to a ♀ Rose-breasted in s. *Jacksonville* Oct. 12 (JPC). An unusually high count of 242 Indigo Buntings was made at Ft. De Soto Oct. 20 (LSA, MW). A Painted Bunting on *St. George I.* Aug. 27 (JMS) was a rare fall migrant and provided the earliest record for the Tall. Division. A Dickcissel was found Nov. 12 at *Orlando Wilderness Park* (CTR, RLP), and another arrived at a *Cedar Key* feeder Nov. 12 and stayed—two were seen there Nov. 21 (DCH).

A Clay-colored Sparrow was found Nov. 25 at *Bald Point* (†LSA). Uncommon Lark Sparrows appeared Aug. 16 at *St. Marks N.W.R.* (SAC), Sept. 20 at C.F. (MCW), and Oct. 3 in rural *Gilchrist* (J.R. Allison). A surprising seven Henslow's Sparrows were found Nov. 2 along a power line right-of-way near *St. Marks N.W.R.* (LAH, m.ob.), showing that it pays to search for sparrows under power lines. A Dark-eyed Junco was found Nov. 13 at *Lake Alfred* (LC), and a Field Sparrow appeared Nov. 25 in *Lake Worth* (AYW), both rare that far south. Indicative of the general early and southerly arrival of passerines that normally winter in the s.e. United States were lone White-crowned Sparrows at Ft. De Soto Park Oct. 3 (HMS, DJD), the earliest for the Florida Region (fide HMS); at *St. Marks N.W.R.* Nov. 4. (DS); and in *W. Palm Beach* Nov. 12 (CP). Two stray Yellow-headed Blackbirds appeared at *Cedar Key*, a female Oct. 2 and an imm. male Oct. 2 (DCH).

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ONTARIO REGION

Ron D. Weir



The season began with warmer than usual weather conditions during August and September, especially the period from August 17 to September 20, during which huge numbers of passerines left the province via nocturnal migration. Passage was especially heavy at the eastern end of Lake Ontario at Kingston overnight September 10–11, where during eight hours of darkness about 86,000 migrants per kilometre of front were flying southwards. How many kilometres of front were involved? The exact length is not known, but from the extensive network of bird monitoring in this province, evidence suggests the front stretched 300 kilometres to the southwest as a sharp cold front passed from the west propelling flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, warblers, and others towards the tropics. Assuming a uniform density of flight along the entire front, which is an oversimplification but not one to affect the point being made, then nearly 26 million birds left Ontario that night. However, the following morning at many lake-shore lookouts, relatively few were grounded, leading the unsuspecting observer to assume migration had not occurred. This sequence of events emphasizes the folly in drawing conclusions about the number of grounded migrants as an index of the health or abundance of a species. See the account below describing Gray-cheeked and Swainson's thrushes.

Hurricane *Hugo* stormed through southern Ontario September 21–24 and was apparently responsible for some unusual concentrations of birds as well as for a flurry of heron, egret, and ibis records. Whether the storm helped propel northwards the tropical hummingbird and four species of Carolinian warblers is a more tenuous hypothesis. Along the Hudson and James Bay coasts, major shore-

bird migration was underway by mid-September. Between September 30 and October 4 at Moosonee, tens of thousands of Snow and Canada geese, waterfowl, Sandhill Cranes, Horned Larks, yellowlegs, and robins heeded the ominous signs of winter and headed south. In the south, October was a mild month in spite of a sharp cold front that swept most of the province October 17–22, brought snow to its southernmost latitudes, and encouraged massive migration. The rest of the month was beset by unusual continuous fog along the lower Great Lakes that impeded raptor movement and hindered observers monitoring passerine groundings. These conditions led to the observation of a Sora perched in a cedar tree! November became typically cooler with periods of wintry weather and ideal conditions for hawk and eagle migration.

For the season as a whole, a notably strong flight was noted for loon, ducks, vulture, eagles, harrier, Merlin, Sandhill Crane, and White-rumped Sandpiper, among others. In low numbers were some species of waders, and most gulls and owls. Only the nuthatches and finches erupted from the Boreal Forest. Rarities included a hummingbird new to Canada and a Whimbrel from Eurasia.

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

LOONS TO IBISES — The 132+ Red-throated Loons in the south were fewer than the 1983–1989 autumn average of 170 birds, and nearly all occurred Oct. 8–Nov. 25. The flight of Com. Loons was very strong following last autumn's poor showing. Leading concentrations were of 517 at Pelee Nov. 4,

a record high (AW et al.), 500+ at Whitby Oct. 8 (DB), 450 at Cobourg Oct. 7–19 (B & LW), 350 at P.E.Pt. Nov. 5 (K.F.N.), 250 at Grimsby Sept. 30 (RC et al.), and 200 each at Long Pt. Oct. 18 (L.P.B.O.) and Bright's Grove Nov. 3 (AHR).

Movement of Horned Grebes was especially strong along the lower Great Lakes, led by 300 at Presqu'île Sept. 30 (TFMB), 184 at Pelee Nov. 7 (AW et al.), and 150 each at Long Pt. Oct. 18 (L.P.B.O.) and P.E.Pt. Nov. 5 (K.F.N.). Early arrivals included 40 in Thunder Bay harbour Aug. 27 (NGE, CJE), one at Smithville, Niagara, Aug. 27 (fide RFA), 10 at Salem, Northumberland, Aug. 28 (AW), and a single off Amherst I. Aug. 30 (N.L.B.). Red-necked Grebes totalled 308+ in the south, the best number since 1977, and were led by 150 off Manitoulin I. Sept. 16 (JCN), 47 off Burlington–Oakville Nov. 5 (fide KAM), and 22 at Ottawa Oct. 15 (BMD). Single adults in the Wildwood Reservoir Oct. 9 & 22 provided the 5th and 6th autumn records for Oxford (JMh et al.). The eight Eared Grebes raised the year's total to 17 for Ontario, a record number over double the 17-year average of seven birds annually. This fall's sightings were of singles in the Smithville lagoons Aug. 26–Sept. 2 (AE, AT et al.), e. Hamilton Bay Sept. 2–Oct. 12 (RZD, KAM, PR et al.), Toronto Islands Sept. 3 (RY), Amherstview lagoons Sept. 10–17 (ph. KH, RW et al.), Toronto's e. Headland Nov. 4 (AJ, PB, MK), and Pelee Nov. 8 (MPW), 16–19 (DC et al.), & 18 (AW).

Two imm. Am. White Pelicans, always rare in the south, were on Walpole I., Lambton, Nov. 2 (TA et al.) and apparently the same individuals were at Wheatley Nov. 2–12 (ph. SM et al.). Another e. of range appeared on L. Nipigon Aug. 4 (fide NGE). A late Am. Bittern remained at Presqu'île until Oct. 28 (TFMB). Only three Great Egrets were noted away from their normal range in the southwest, at Kanata Aug. 21–Sept. 24 (MT), Toronto's e. Headland to Sept. 4 (DP), and Whitby Sept. 11–25 (fide MJB). The only Snowy Egret report was of an immature at Long Pt. Aug. 18–Sept. 16 (JMh, DSG, JSk). Autumn sightings of Little Blue Heron have averaged one per season for 1982–1988 and this fall's bird was an immature in the Whitby area Sept. 26 (MWD). At Holiday Beach Sept. 5, a possible Little Blue was reported (fide ATC), but the documentation has yet to be seen. Two imm. Tricolored Herons remained in the St. Clair N.W.A. Aug. 30–Sept. 9 (fide SC, AW). The only previous satisfactory sightings in autumn were of singles in 1980 and 1985.

Record high tallies of Cattle Egret were noted. The 15 at Malden Centre, Essex, Aug. 26 (AW) increased to 45 there Sept. 23–25 (CP, BL, WW) and the last one vanished Nov. 5 (ATC et al.). A flurry of late sightings included one at Stratford Nov. 2–6 (fide MPD) and singles e. to Moscow Nov. 3–5 (K.F.N.), Norham, Peterborough, Nov. 14 (MM), and Seeley's Bay, Leeds, Nov. 17 (MH). The latest of several Green-backed Herons was a single at Hamilton Beach Nov. 5 (RC et al.). Ibises have numbered 18 during the 14 autumns since 1974, and have been annual since 1983. Single Glossy Ibises were at Pickering Sept. 29 (MJB et al.) and Wheatley Oct. 4–16 (AW et al.). Another *Plegadis* sp., probably Glossy, was an adult in the Dundas marsh Oct. 14 (DH et al.).

WATERFOWL — The eight Tundra Swans over Algonquin Sept. 30 and four there Nov. 17 (MR, WC) provided the first fall records ever for the park. Three in Thunder Bay Sept. 30–Oct. 1 (NGE) were rare there. Single ♂ Eur. Wigeons were in Kingston Oct. 7 (M, GY, RWK), Oshawa Oct. 8–19 (GAS et al.), and Ottawa Sept. 4–Oct. 15 (TFMB, RJ). These, together with an additional spring male at Pelee Apr. 9–14 (LH, BL et al.), raised the year's total to nine birds, above the 1980–1988 average of five. The ♀ **Common Eider** off Amherst I. Oct. 9 was carefully studied at close range (RDW, JHE, RW et al.), and was the first in the south since a female was shot during late 1984 also off Amherst I. A ♀ King Eider noted at Whitby Oct. 29–30 (JT et al.) was shot by hunters Nov. 3 (fide DB), and another was at P.E.Pt. Nov. 5 (GV, RDW). Sightings of this species have averaged 11 per autumn since 1981. An eider

(sp.) was at Presqu'île Nov. 19 & 25 (DS, VM). The lone ♂ Harlequin Duck in west Toronto Nov. 11 (LF) furnished the only report, well below the 1980–1988 fall average of eight birds.

The flight of Black Scoters throughout the south was the strongest in many years, with the largest groups numbering 350 in Southampton Oct. 21 (PM), 205 at Pelee Oct. 21 for a record high (AW), 140 at Burlington Oct. 23 (KAM), and 100 each at Ottawa Oct. 15 (BMD) and near Stokes Bay, Bruce, Oct. 28 (MP). Surf Scoters were also in higher numbers than usual, led by the record 110 at Pelee Oct. 21 (AW). Early arrivals appeared off Amherst I. Sept. 17 (HE) and Kettle Pt. Sept. 23 (AHR). About average numbers of the rare Barrow's Goldeneye were single males in Ottawa Oct. 22–Nov. 30 (BMD) and Collingwood Nov. 4 (PM), and a female at Wildwood L., Oxford, Nov. 18 (JMh). First confirmed nestings of Ruddy Ducks in Essex were provided by a female with six young in the Essex ponds Aug. 7 (AW et al.), a female with five young in the Harrow ponds Aug. 7–26, and another with a brood of five also in the Harrow ponds Aug. 26 (AW et al.).

Significant concentrations of several duck species were noted. These included Am. Black Duck, which numbered 3000 at Wildwood L., Oxford, Nov. 25 (JMh), plus 1500 at Kettle Pt. Oct. 22 (AHR) and 1000 at the Townsend lagoons Aug. 6 (SW, MTe); 100,000 Mallards at Long Pt. Sept. 2 (JMh, DSG); and 1100 Blue-winged Teal at Holiday Beach Sept. 7–8 (fide ATC). Local high tallies were furnished by 425 N. Shovelers and 210 Gadwall in Ottawa Oct. 20 (BMD). The 5000 Am. Wigeon at Long Pt. Oct. 7 (JMh, JSk) made the largest number reported during the 1980s anywhere in Ontario in any season. The Zebra Mussel, introduced to the Great Lakes, is apparently responsible for the sharply increased numbers of some diving ducks at Pelee, including the 13,000 Lesser Scaup Nov. 24–30 (DC et al.) as well as the scoters noted above. The largest group of Red-breasted Mergansers was at Pelee Nov. 4 and numbered 40,000 (AW et al.).

RAPTORS — Record numbers of Turkey Vultures were tallied at Holiday Beach (see Table 1) and at P.E.Pt., where 150 passed Oct. 7 and 200 Oct. 8 (K.F.N.). Farther north, they were also in greater numbers at Thunder Bay Aug. 5–Oct. 1 (NGE), and the 26 in Hamilton Nov. 5 made a large number for the late date (fide KAM). Bald Eagles flew in larger numbers than normal, a welcome if not overdue trend. Those at Hawk Cliff were about double the long-term average, while those at Holiday Beach were above the average number. The



Immature Bald Eagle at Long Point, Ontario, November 12, 1989. Photograph/Tim Sabo.

Table 1. Hawk totals at two Ontario Stations, Autumn 1989, compared with the annual average 1982–1988 inclusive.

	Hawk Cliff		Holiday Beach P.P.		
	1989 ¹	1982–1988 avg.	1989 ²	1982–1988 avg.	1974–1988 avg.
Turkey Vulture	3098	2801	12,567*	7688	5241
Osprey	118	79	144	91	80
Bald Eagle	25	13	30	26	18
Northern Harrier	1529*	632	1636*	804	611
Sharp-shinned Hawk	7802	7976	15,845	14,316	13,440
Cooper's Hawk	615	526	847	633	450
Northern Goshawk	10	26	20	37	25
Red-shouldered Hawk	319*	136	1102	1029	777
Broad-winged Hawk	28,452	4349	30,171	43,896	36,754
Swainson's Hawk	1	—	—	—	—
Red-tailed Hawk	2257	2621	7686	6562	5801
Rough-legged Hawk	66	20	197	125	135
Golden Eagle	24*	10	64*	27	22
American Kestrel	4002	1950	5732*	3316	3023
Merlin	76*	31	65*	25	17
Peregrine Falcon	17	16	31*	18	12
Unidentified	990	1004	174	302	447
Totals	49,401	22,190	76,311	78,895	66,851

¹ (DEF *et al.*, Aug. 26–Nov. 30, 1989, 80 days)

² (RLBe *et al.*, Aug. 24–Dec. 3, 1989, 98 days)

* Local record high count

50 elsewhere in the south compared with an average of 40 birds per autumn in recent years. Excellent numbers of N. Harriers moved in the south, and the nest with two young at Pelee July 26 (JR) was the first confirmed there since 1963. For the 3rd consecutive autumn, N. Goshawks failed to erupt, and the 28 sightings s. of the breeding range were typical of a non-invasion year.

The flight of Red-shouldered Hawks was very strong along the lower Great Lakes as record high numbers passed Hawk Cliff and above-average tallies were noted at Long Pt. and Holiday Beach. Well into November, large numbers continued to pass P.E.Pt., where the peaks of this late movement were of 140 Nov. 12 and 45 Nov. 25 (JHE, RDW). One Broad-winged in dark morph plumage was at Thunder Bay Sept. 10 (NGE *et al.*). The ad. Swainson's Hawk at Hawk Cliff Nov. 18 (*fide* DEF) was Ontario's 13th ever, and 7th during autumn. Some 145 Golden Eagles were tallied in the south, an all-time record and well above the 1978–1988 fall average of 49. First arrivals were at Whitby Sept. 29 (*fide* MJB) & P.E.Pt. Sept. 30 (K.F.N.) and the last was at Erie Beach Nov. 28 (KJB). In the north, three were migrating near Moosonee Sept. 30 (WH) and an adult was late at Espanola Nov. 11 (J & KB). Merlin numbers also reached record levels at 366 south of the breeding range, 2.5 times the 1982–1988 average of 144. Noteworthy among this group was an ad. male appearing to be of the race *richardsonii* at Pelee Oct. 21 (AW, MPM). The post-1985 decline of Peregrine Falcons appears to have stabilized, with 107+ sightings this autumn. Two Gyrfalcons were noted, a gray bird at Deep River Sept. 25 (WWr) and a dark bird near Kleinburg Oct. 6 (GMB).

GROUSE TO SHOREBIRDS—The lone Sharp-tailed Grouse at Thunder Bay Oct. 13 was the first there in several years, and may indicate an incursion from the Rainy R. District where several have been shot (ERA). Surprise was the reaction at finding a Sora perched in a cedar tree on Amherst I. Oct. 28 during a period of thick fog that blanketed the island continuously for several days (AS). Farther off course was the brightly-colored Purple Gallinule found in a weakened condition on the ground near Meaford Nov. 29 (DF, MP, JWJ). The bird, which died the next day, provided the first autumn record since 1980. One of the few nestings of Am. Coot in *Temiskaming* was provided by an adult with

young in the New Liskiard lagoons Sept. 17 (AW). Sandhill Cranes flew in unprecedented numbers through counties s.w. of a line joining Wiarton and Hamilton. At least 358 were noted Aug. 30–Nov. 28, with the heaviest movement detected through Bruce, Elgin, Middlesex, and Oxford.

The 15 Semipalmated Plovers at Pelee Oct. 11 made a high number for the late date (AW). Single Am. Avocets were at Pelee Oct. 8 (WHD, MKD, JB *et al.*) and Holiday Beach Nov. 1–14 (LY *et al.*), matching the 1982–1988 fall average of two. Willets numbered eight, matching the 1982–1988 autumn average. Two were along the Moira R. at Belleville Sept. 26 (IK), and the others were singles at Wheatley Aug. 6 (WL *et al.*), Long Pt. Aug. 20 & 21–27 (L.P.B.O.), e. Hamilton Bay Aug. 20 (*fide* KAM), Erieau Sept. 10 (SC), and Turkey Pt. Oct. 22–Nov. 19 (TW, RDM). The first Whimbrels of a moderate flight appeared at Long Pt. and Whitby Aug. 13 (L.P.B.O., JLV). Noteworthy was the juv. (Eurasian) Whimbrel at Pelee Sept. 3, thought to have been of the race *phaeopus* (AW, RGF, JAND, WFS). The 700 Hudson Godwits at the mouth of the Moose R. along James Bay Sept. 21 also made a high tally for the late date (AW). Farther south, the 86 sightings represented a moderate and widespread flight. Birds were noted from Thunder Bay e. to Matachewan, s. to Algonquin Oct. 14–21 for a first park record (ph. MR *et al.*), Ottawa, Kingston, Long Pt., and Pelee. The only Marbled Godwit report was of a juvenile at Moosonee Sept. 19 (AW *et al.*), *cf.* the 1975–1988 fall average of four.

Western Sandpipers numbered 29, a normal autumn total. However, the 886+ White-rumped Sandpipers in the south made an unprecedented number. Among the largest single flocks were the 350 at Ottawa Oct. 19 (BMD), 93 at Woodstock Oct. 25 (JMH), and 65 in the Dundas marsh Oct. 27 (KAM). A strong flight of 185 Baird's Sandpipers developed in the south, above the 1982–1988 fall average of 107. The largest flocks contained 13 each at Presqu'ile Aug. 23 (*fide* SML) and Wildwood L., Oxford, Sept. 10 (JMH), and 10 on Amherst I. Aug. 27 (K.F.N.). Two occurred Aug. 23–31 in Algonquin (GF, MR *et al.*), where the species is rare. The 38 Purple Sandpipers exceeded the 1982–1988 fall average of 27. Early singles arrived at Long Pt. Oct. 5 (L.P.B.O.) and Ottawa Oct. 11 (BMD), but the others were later at Amherst I., Presqu'ile, Niagara, Goderich, and Kettle Pt., Nov. 4–26. Three Curlew Sandpipers

Table 2. Record late dates for shorebirds in Ontario, Autumn 1989.

Black-bellied Plover	Woodstock	Nov. 15	JMH
	Presqu'ile	Nov. 18	D. Bree, MPs, LR
	Holiday Beach	Nov. 26	ATC
	Pelee	Nov. 27	KJB, AW <i>et al.</i>
Greater Yellowlegs	Presqu'ile	Nov. 17	SB, JBI
Lesser Yellowlegs	Wildwood L., Oxford	Nov. 4	JMH
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Pelee	Oct. 30	AW
Western Sandpiper	Wildwood L.	Nov. 6	MPD
	Pelee	Nov. 9	AW
	Nanticoke	Nov. 13	JBM, SJM, GP
White-rumped Sandpiper	Woodstock	Nov. 12	JMH
	Ottawa	Nov. 19	BMD
	Pelee	Nov. 22	AW
	Presqu'ile	Nov. 26	SML
	Pelee	Nov. 27	AW <i>et al.</i>
Baird's Sandpiper	Long Pt.	Oct. 14	L.P.B.O.
Stilt Sandpiper	Holiday Beach	Oct. 30	WW
Short-billed Dowitcher	Pelee	Oct. 13	JAND <i>et al.</i>
Long-billed Dowitcher	Woodstock	Nov. 1	JMH
Am. Woodcock	Woodstock	Nov. 10	JMH

made brief appearances, providing Ontario's 7th, 8th, and 9th autumn records: a single at Presqu'ile Aug. 31 (JT, WHu, IB) and two in n. Toronto Oct. 13 (TH, AR, GMB).

The 103 Stilt Sandpipers were below the average 138 for 1982-1988. Even so, Algonquin's first ever was the juvenile there Aug. 29 (ph. MR), and the 31 at Pelee Oct. 11-13 made a high number for the late date (AW *et al.*). For the 3rd consecutive autumn, the Buff-breasted Sandpiper flight was



Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Oshawa, Ontario, October 9, 1989. The species was considered to be in good numbers during autumn 1989 in some areas, but not in Ontario. Photograph/Tim Sabo.

poor, and extralimitals were singles e. to Presqu'ile Aug. 30-Sept. 4 and Sept. 15 (JT, JaT), and Kingston Sept. 17 (VPM, MHE *et al.*), and up to three juveniles Algonquin Sept. 1-10 for the park's first (ph. JSk, MR). The Long-billed Dowitcher flight Aug. 5-Nov. 12 was again widespread and strong at 45 records, the best of the decade and well above the 1982-1988 fall average of 24, perhaps not unrelated to improved observers' skills. Red-necked Phalaropes totalled 33, all in the south



Red Phalarope at Ipperwash Provincial Park, Ontario, November 25, 1989. Photograph/A. H. Rider.

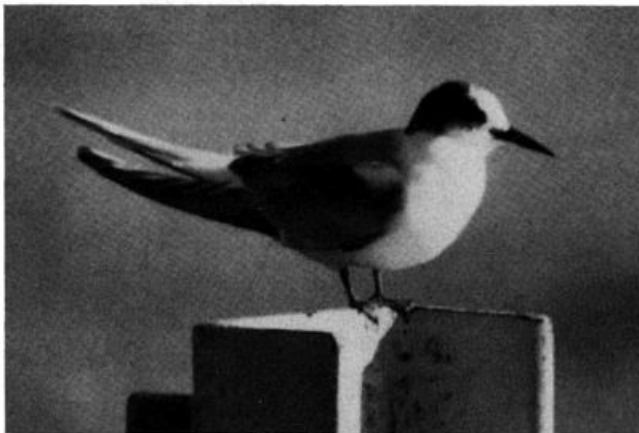
(average 34), and were well dispersed. Red Phalarope movement was also about average at 11 birds. Five were at Pelee, Turkey Pt., and Amherst I. Oct. 13-22 and the remaining six at Long Pt., Pelee, Niagara Falls, Fort Erie, and Ipperwash P.P. Nov. 3-27.

JAEGERS TO TERNS — Single Pomarine Jaegers were at Hamilton Beach Sept. 16 (RZD, KAM, PR) and Oct. 19 (JO, BS), over L. Ontario off Hamilton Sept. 30 (*fide* KAM), and at P.E.Pt. Oct. 6 (KH). This total of four was near the 1978-1988 fall average of five. However, the 50 Parasitics were well above the 1978-1988 average of 28. Some 26 were off Hamilton Bay and out over western L. Ontario during September and October (*fide* KAM, KJ). Several were in the Long Pt. area Sept. 1-Oct. 20 (L.P.B.O.), four were at Pelee Aug. 27-Nov. 11 (*fide* AW), 11 were in the Sarnia area Sept. 10-Nov. 21 (AHR, DFR *et al.*), and singles were at Toronto's e. Headland Sept. 16 (JRe, AJ) and e. to P.E.Pt. Sept. 24 (RDW *et al.*). The only Long-tailed Jaeger report was of a juvenile at Smith Rock Falls, Cochrane, Sept. 23 (AW, MHT, NI).

A Laughing Gull on Amherst I. Oct. 22, in first-winter plumage (JHE, RDW), furnished the season's only sighting (cf. 1974-1988 average of three). Franklin's Gull numbers were also lower at five compared with the 1976-1988 average of 15. Singles were at Fort Erie Sept. 3-29 (fide RFA), Ottawa Sept. 10 and Oct. 4 (TFMB, GPr), Long Pt. Sept. 16-17 (GPl, JW), and Amherst I. Sept. 23 (WB). Low numbers of Little Gulls were noted again from their traditional areas in the southwest. Extralimitals were two at Presqu'île Sept. 11-Oct. 2 (fide SML), six at Sandbanks P.P. Nov. 6 (JBl, SB), five at Kingston Aug. 8-Nov. 11 (K.F.N.), and 11 at Cornwall Aug. 6-Oct. 21 (BMD). One Com. Black-headed Gull was at Niagara Falls Nov. 18-19 (fide MPW), for the lowest autumn total since 1980. The maximum number of Bonaparte's Gulls tallied during nightly flypasts at Niagara-on-the-Lake was 15,000 in November, fewer than normal (GBe).

The imm. **Mew Gull** at Oshawa Oct. 7 (MJB) was thoroughly documented, and was the 10th for the province since the first specimen taken during autumn of 1967. Iceland Gulls (21+) and Glaucous Gulls (31+) were relatively few, with obvious arrivals appearing at the season's close. However, Lesser Black-backed Gulls continued to prosper at 40 birds in the south throughout the period, a record high count for any season. Numbers of Great Black-backed rose further in the extreme southwest with 99 at Erieau Nov. 5 (KJB) and a record 685 at Pelee Nov. 11 (AW, MWJ). This steady increase is probably owing to a combination of the gradual expansion of breeding numbers within the Great Lakes system and greater immigration via the St. Lawrence River. Two were well north on James Bay at Moosonee Sept. 21 (AW et al.). Black-legged Kittiwakes totalled 21, below the 1976-1988 fall average of 36. Led by an early immature at Long Pt. Aug. 28 (RDM, RF), 10 appeared off Hamilton Beach Oct. 12-19 (fide KAM). The others were an immature at P.E.Pt. Oct. 15 (RDW et al.), three immatures at Cornwall Oct. 21 (BMD), five at Sarnia Nov. 18-24 including two adults (DFR, RS, AHR), and one at Niagara Falls in early December (GBe).

For the 3rd consecutive autumn, Sabine's Gulls appeared in numbers triple the 1977-1988 average of seven birds. This autumn's 22+ were highlighted by at least 17 off Hamilton Beach Sept. 14-Oct. 19 (CE, JTr, KAM). Singles were near Sudbury Sept. 2 (ph. JCN, CGB, JGL), Fort Erie Sept. 25 (GBe, MPW), Wildwood L. Oct. 21 (Jsk), Pelee Nov. 4 (AW, SH, AH), and Holiday Beach Nov. 5 & 7 (ph. WLi et al.). The Caspian Tern at Presqu'île Oct. 22 (SB) was the latest ever there. Single Arctic Terns were reported from Woodstock Sept. 23 (JMh) and Fort Erie Nov. 12-19 (ph. RFA, HGC, TS). Nine Forster's Terns were away from the traditional southwest: five at Fort Erie Sept. 9-17 (fide RFA), one in Toronto's Humber Bay Oct. 29 (CEG, JG), and three off Amherst I. Aug. 19-Sept. 23 (K.F.N.).



Arctic Tern in first-winter plumage at Fort Erie, Ontario, on the exceptionally late date of November 13, 1989. Photograph/Tim Sabo.

CUCKOO TO NUTHATCHES — The Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Long Pt. Oct. 31 was tardy (L.P.B.O.). In the southwest, an active Barn Owl nest contained eggs during August, but because of human disturbance the pair abandoned the site Sept. 19. Only three Snowy Owls were reported s. of the breeding range, presaging their poorest flight of the decade. An ad. Great Gray Owl was found Aug. 7 feeding three large fledged young within Algonquin P.P., one of which was seen again Sept. 5 (ph. GF, MR et al.). This sighting represented a significant breeding range extension to the south. The flight of N. Saw-whet Owls was poor at P.E.Pt., where only 113 were netted of which 61 were caught overnight Oct. 22-23 (K.F.N.), and at Long Pt., where the peak catch was nine overnight Nov. 7-8 (L.P.B.O.). The largest groups of Com. Nighthawks were of 500 over w. Toronto during the week of Aug. 29 (MPW) and 100 over Lively Aug. 12 (JCN). The latest Chimney Swift passed Pelee Oct. 23 (WHF, LHF). The rarity of the season was the ♀ **Broad-billed Hummingbird** in Smith Township, Peterborough. The bird appeared at a feeder Oct. 16-27, to be seen by hundreds of observers (ph. L & RM, AGC, DCS et al.); it was a first for Canada. Late Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were at P.E.Pt. Oct. 15 (RDW) and Erie Beach Oct. 24 (KJB). A *Selasphorus* hummingbird visited Pelee Oct. 2 (GTH).

The only report of Acadian Flycatcher was of one netted at Arkell, Wellington, Aug. 25 (DRL). Record-late flycatchers were a Least Flycatcher at Long Pt. Oct. 3 (L.P.B.O.), E. Phoebes on Manitoulin I. Oct. 28 (DEB) and at Kingston Nov. 19 (WB), and single E. Kingbirds at Pelee Sept. 30 (AW et al.) and Presqu'île Oct. 3 (fide SML). The one W. Kingbird was a late adult at Sudbury Oct. 13-14 (ph. CGB, SL, JCN), for the lowest fall number since 1981. The N. Rough-winged Swallow at Long Pt. Nov. 10 represented a latest-ever departure (L.P.B.O.). Gray Jays failed to erupt, and the only one south of range was at Cornwall Oct. 29 (BM), whereas Blue Jay migration was heavy along the n. shore of lakes Erie and Ontario. Some 42,100 Blue Jays passed Holiday Beach on one day, Sept. 27 (W. Weber et al.), where a record 346,455 were tallied during the autumn (fide ATC). Also passing Holiday Beach were 46,712 Am. Crows Oct. 26 (MK, CS). Several Com. Ravens moved south of range: six in the Kingston area Aug. 23-Nov. 10 (K.F.N.), singles in the Luther marsh, Wellington, Sept. 10 (RVT), Long Pt. Sept. 30-Oct. 7 (CD, BA), Kettle Pt. Oct. 9 (AHR), and near Argyle, Victoria, Nov. 5 (RJP et al.).

Heavy passage of Black-capped Chickadees was detected along the n. shore of e. Lake Ontario from Port Hope to P.E.Pt., and up to 200 per day moved through Presqu'île during September (JT, JaT et al.). The irruption was not reported farther southwest. Single Boreal Chickadees were in Ottawa and Kingston Oct. 22 (BMD, RKE) and Port Hope Oct. 25 (ERM). Out-of-range Tufted Titmice were singles in Ottawa Oct. 28 (B. Tate et al.) and Nov. 15-30 (DL et al.) and near P.E.Pt. Nov. 5 (OH). The flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches was very heavy throughout the season all along the lower Great Lakes from Kingston to Pelee. White-breasted Nuthatches also erupted with significant passage during September and October at P.E.Pt., Hamilton, Long Pt., Pelee, and Holiday Beach.

WRENS TO SHRIKES — Carolina Wren sightings remained numerous in the southwest and only three were reported away from this traditional area. One was in w. Toronto Nov. 17 (CEG) and two were e. to Cornwall Nov. 1-30 (B. Ross). Record-late departure dates were set at Presqu'île for Winter Wren Nov. 17 (JBl, SB) and Sedge Wren Oct. 1 (PB, IR, RDM). Kinglets grounded at P.E.Pt. Sept. 30 numbered 5000 each of Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned (JHE, RDW).

Ontario's first autumn record since 1980 of **Northern Wheatear** was provided by an immature at Abitibi Canyon, Cochran, Sept. 23 (AW, Mht, NI). A strong flight of E. Bluebirds was noted, with the largest one-day total of 193 passing Holiday Beach Oct. 29 (ATC). A ♂ Mountain Bluebird at Owen

Sound Oct 9 (PM, DF) was the 2nd for *Grey-Bruce One Townsend's Solitaire* appeared near Hanmer, Sudbury, Sept. 23 (CJW) for the province's 7th autumn record since 1981. Gray-cheeked Thrushes heard during nocturnal migration peaked at 480 birds over one Kingston site Sept. 10–11 (RDW) and 50 each were grounded at Long Pt. Sept. 11 & 23 (L.P.B.O.). High numbers of Swainson's Thrushes were tallied Sept. 10–15 in the south, where 4800 migrated by night over one Kingston site Sept. 10–11 (RDW) and 3600 passed over w. Woodstock Sept. 11–12 (JMH). Some 2000 were grounded at Pelee Sept. 11 (AW). The 500 Hermit Thrushes at Kettle Pt. Oct. 8 made the largest number reported (AHR), and a late Wood Thrush lingered at Waterloo to Nov. 1 (CAC). The 4 Varied Thrush sightings were more than usual: singles in Thunder Bay Nov. 5 (BA et al.), Dorion in late November (*vide* NGE), Gore Bay Nov. 20–27 (R & CC, K & LC), and Evansville Nov. 20–26 (ph. JRo, KC, DEB).

Northern Mockingbirds were numerous throughout the south. Singles were n. to Sudbury Oct. 1–Nov. 30 (OZ) and Moose Factory Oct. 6 (MWJ), and three, probably a family group, were in Marathon Aug. 27–31 (WSC). Bohemian Waxwings staged a massive influx arriving at Thunder Bay Oct. 8 (NGE), Algonquin Oct. 21 (MR, RGT), and Ottawa by the hundreds during early November. The birds spread southwest to P.E.Pt., Hamilton, and London. On Nov. 12, some 950 passed Kettle Pt. (AHR) and 2000+ headed SW along L. Huron between Sarnia and Pinery P.P. (SAC, DFR). Only rarely does this species move southwest of a line joining Thunder Bay, Sudbury, and Ottawa. Six Loggerhead Shrikes were seen Aug. 20–Oct. 15, about normal numbers in recent years for this troubled species. The late record was of a bird well seen at P.E.Pt. Oct. 15 (VPM, MHE).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — Tardy vireos included a Solitary Nov. 18 and a Warbling Oct. 21, both at Pelee (AW), and a Yellow-throated Oct. 5 and Red-eyed Vireo freshly killed on a road Nov. 7, both at Guelph (RVT). Late warblers were the single Yellows at Moosonee Oct. 5 (MWJ) and Queenston Nov. 19 (JMH, DSG), Yellow-rumped Warbler at Thunder Bay Nov. 5 (ERA et al.), Ovenbird Oct. 21 at Wingham (JBM), N. Waterthrush Oct. 14 also at Wingham (JBM); record-late were a Pine Warbler at Long Pt. Dec. 3 (L.P.B.O.) and a Prairie Warbler at Pelee Sept. 24 (MDF, SF).

Several of the Carolinian warblers associated with both extreme s.w. Ontario and the spring season appeared in unusual locations. A Yellow-throated Warbler frequented a feeder along Chesley L., Bruce, Nov. 1–17 (JWJ, PM, DF et al.) and a 2nd was in Ottawa Nov. 21–Dec. 9 (*vide* BMD). Nine have been seen in the province during the past 7 autumns. The ♂ Prothonotary Warbler along James Bay at Moosonee Oct. 3 was far off course (MWJ), and likely represented the most northerly occurrence known. A 2nd bird strayed to Manvers Township, Peterborough, Oct. 18–20 (DPr, AGC) for the county's 3rd ever. One Worm-eating Warbler surprised observers at Presqu'île Oct. 22 (AG). Farther south, a Kentucky Warbler was netted at Long Pt. Oct. 4 (L.P.B.O.) for the first (and last!) autumn report in Ontario during the 1980s. Single Hooded Warblers were at Holiday Beach Aug. 28 (BL) and Presqu'île Sept. 12 (JT, JaT). A lone Yellow-breasted Chat wandered to Evansville Sept. 17 (DEB, BB), the first recorded on Manitoulin I. since 1979. Other noteworthy warbler sightings included the N. Parula well n. at Moosonee Sept. 22 (AW et al.) and the single 'yellow' Palm Warblers at Long Pt. Oct. 7 (JSk) and Hamilton Beach Oct. 15 (RC et al.).

CARDINALS TO FINCHES — The gradual northward expansion of the N. Cardinal continued with two birds at Matachewan Nov. 7 (LT) and one in Virginiatown Nov. 13–29 (PWR). An imm. ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak visited an Evansville feeder Nov. 18–22 (DEB, CTB, JGL), 6 weeks after his congeners had left Ontario. Northern Ontario's first Blue Grosbeak, a male, was found alive at Rosspoint during the first

week of June, but the bird subsequently died and the specimen has been salvaged (NGE et al.). An Indigo Bunting at Moose Factory Oct. 6 (MWJ) was way north of range, and another at Long Pt. Oct. 23 set a record late date (L.P.B.O.) The nine Dickcissels were over double the 7-year fall average of four. Singles were at Pelee Sept. 16 and Oct. 3 (AW, GTH et al.), Hamilton Beach Oct. 15 (RC et al.), Long Pt. Oct. 25 (DO), and Beaverton Oct. 29 (RJP). The others, all at feeders, were a female on Amherst I. Nov. 12–16 (AS et al.), a male and female at Port Hope Nov. 17 & 21 respectively (*vide* ERM), and a female in Sarnia Nov. 24–27 (YRT). A Rufous-sided Towhee tarried in Sudbury to Nov. 15 (SL, WRL, BW).

One Lark Sparrow per autumn is the Ontario average for 1982–1988, and this fall's bird was an immature at P.E.Pt. Oct. 8 (RDW, KLK). Late Grasshopper Sparrows were singles at Whitby Oct. 21 (RGT, DT) and Oshawa Oct. 29 (BH, RJP) Henslow's Sparrows, always difficult to find out of the breeding season, were lone birds at Toronto's e. Headland Sept. 2 (DSt, NM) and Long Pt. Sept. 16 (JMH, WLi). Single Le Conte's Sparrows were at Peterborough Oct. 8 for a county first (PB), Long Pt. Oct. 11 (CD, BA), and Pelee Oct. 21 (AW). The 10 Sharp-tailed Sparrows equalled the 1982–1988 fall average Seven in the Dundas Marsh Oct. 3 made the high tally (*vide* KAM), and singles were in Oshawa Sept. 22 (MJB), Mountsberg, Wentworth, Sept. 27 (MLW), and Presqu'île Oct. 1 (RDM et al.). An ad. **Golden-crowned Sparrow** at an e. Toronto feeder Oct. 20–22 (BC, MJB, DPK et al.) provided Ontario's 7th record. An imm. White-crowned Sparrow lingered at a feeder in Matachewan Nov. 12–30 (LT) and individuals apparently of the *gambelii* race appeared at Pelee Sept. 27 (AW) and Long Pt. Oct. 13 (JSk). Harris' Sparrows, away from their expected range in the far w. of the province, were single immatures at Moosonee Sept. 22–Oct. 13 (AW et al.) for a 3rd local record, Pickering Oct. 14 (MK, K & BH), and Pelee Oct. 26 (AW). The only report of Smith's Longspur was of a single in Thunder Bay Sept. 23 (NGE, SVP).

Late Bobolinks were at Long Pt. Oct. 11 (L.P.B.O.) and Whitby Oct. 27 (BH). Two young Yellow-headed Blackbirds fledged from the nest in Essex ponds Aug. 7 (AW et al.) Extralimital Brewer's Blackbirds were four near Cobden, Renfrew, Sept. 29 (CM, MF, KHo) for a first county record, and a male at Newcastle Nov. 12 (GW et al.). The largest flocks of blackbirds reported were the 92,000 Com. Grackles at Wildwood L. Oct. 5 (JMH) and 15,000 Brown-headed Cowbirds flying S off Pelee's tip Oct. 23 (AW, STP). The latest N. Orioles were a male at a feeder in York Nov. 18–24 (CK) and a female at a feeder near Kingston Nov. 19–Dec. 9 (B & JP).

Boreal and northern finches were well represented in the south. Pine Grosbeaks erupted in moderate numbers reaching Thunder Bay, Matachewan, and Newcastle Oct. 22, and during November they arrived along L. Ontario from Kingston to Oshawa and along L. Huron to Goderich. Purple Finch migration was heavy past lookouts along the lower Great Lakes Sept. 3–Nov. 26. House Finch passage was also heavy past these same lookouts. Along w. Hamilton Bay, 700 passed during a 5-hour period Oct. 7 (RZD et al.) and 2300 migrated during a 3-hour period Oct. 27 (MWJ). At Long Pt., the peak of 250 moved Oct. 13 (L.P.B.O.) while at Holiday Beach and P.E.Pt. House Finches moved in the same direction as other migrants.

Red Crossbill movement was light, with five in the Sudbury area Oct. 23–29 (JCN), seven at P.E.Pt. Oct. 15–Nov. 15 (K.F.N.), one at Long Pt. Oct. 16 (L.P.B.O.), and fewer than 10 in Muskoka, Lambton, and on Manitoulin I. However, White-winged Crossbills irrupted into the south in moderate numbers during September to November, reaching Kingston, Port Hope, and Whitby in the east, *Simcoe, Bruce, Huron*, and *Lambton* in the southwest, as well as *Oxford, Wellington, Waterloo*, Long Pt., and Pelee. Common Redpolls also appeared in moderate numbers arriving at Thunder Bay Oct. 4, Algonquin Oct. 10, Long Pt. Oct. 22, Kettle Pt. Nov. 1, and Holiday Beach Nov. 12 as they enveloped the entire south

Pine Siskins were widespread in large numbers from Sudbury to Algonquin and s. to Toronto, Long Pt., and Pelee. A record number of 4572 Am. Goldfinches was counted at Holiday Beach Sept. 28 (ATC). A light flight of Evening Grosbeaks developed as only a few birds reached Kingston, Port Hope, Long Pt., Pelee, and Holiday Beach.

EXOTICS—One Fulvous Whistling-Duck was in the Newcastle harbour Aug. 24 (JRN) and a lone Bar-headed Goose appeared at Long Sault Sept. 15 (BM). An ad. Egyptian Goose and Ruddy Shelduck frequented the Long Pt. Cuts during August and September (JMH, DSG et al.). Other Ruddy Shel-

ducks were singles at Ayr, Waterloo, Sept. 15 into October (TC) and at Mountsberg, Wentworth, in early November (DDB et al.). The three Black-billed Magpies at Woodstock Nov. 3, one of which reappeared Nov. 9, were known escapees (RSK, JMH). In the same category were the single Eur. Goldfinches at Whitby Sept. 11 (DDC) and Ingersoll Nov. 21–25 (JF, DMB et al.).

CORRIGENDA—AB 43:471, column 1, line 39 should read three birds at Windy Pt. . . . ; AB 43:472, column 2, line 4 should read two birds at Pelee May 11; AB 43:473, column 1, line 36, replace flock of Cliff Swallows with flock of Tree Swallows.

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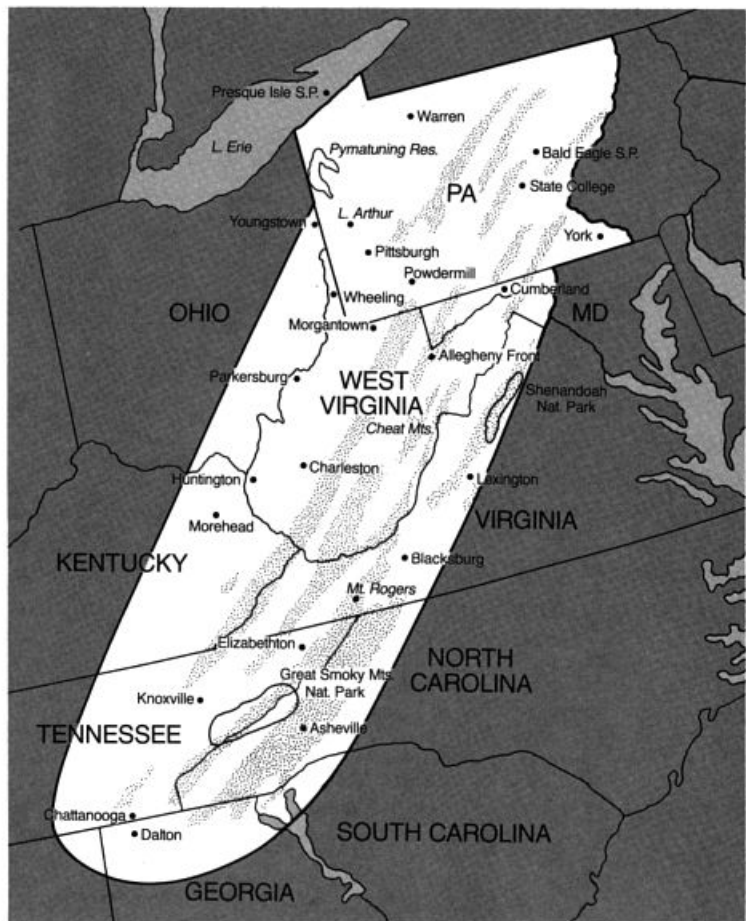
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APPALACHIAN REGION

George A. Hall



With the exception of one event the fall migration of 1989 was almost a carbon copy of the 1988 flight, characterized in this account as “undistinguished.” No observers saw a good migration, and many experienced a very poor season. At Pittsburgh, temperatures from August through early November were above normal, but it cooled off in late November. August, October, and November were much drier than usual, but September was quite wet. At Knoxville all four months were wetter than normal.

A persistent high pressure system off the East Coast produced long periods of little bird movement. There were no pronounced cold fronts until the third week of September. The first major front came on September 23 and brought the first sub-freezing temperatures to the higher elevations. October produced a few more marked cold fronts, and the number of migrants increased. By November 1 most of the landbird migrants had departed but the mild weather did produce a long list of “latest on record” dates for many species. Such “Bluebird” weather, however, was not conducive to a good waterbird flight. At the end of the period most people found few birds coming to feeders, and Pine Siskin was the only northern species arriving in numbers.

The one different event for the year was the occurrence of Hurricane Hugo, which swept through South Carolina on September 21–22 and passed rapidly up to Ohio on the 22nd and 23rd. Coincident with the arrival of the remnants of this hurricane in northeastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania, the season’s first strong cold front arrived. The hurricane brought Black-capped Petrels to Pennsyl-

vania and two jaeger species to Tennessee, as well as some other species. A number of unusual birds arrived on September 22–23 but it was difficult to separate the effect of the hurricane from that of the cold front.

As usual in the autumn, many of the quantitative data were obtained from the two large banding stations. In the accounts that follow, species are considered to be in average numbers if the number captured deviates from the long-term mean by less than one standard deviation of the mean, and are considered above or below average if the deviation is more than one standard deviation above or below the mean. At Powdermill Nature Reserve the 5500 birds banded made the lowest total in many years, and compared with an average of 8000. Nineteen species were banded in lower than average numbers and seven were banded in higher than average numbers (RM, RCL). At Allegheny Front Migration Observatory 4150 birds were banded, compared with an average of 7300. Only 1500 birds were banded during September, the usual height of the migration. Of 42 species analyzed, 20 were in average numbers, 15 in below average and seven in above average numbers (GAH). The banding station at Norris, Tennessee, banded only 377 birds and had the lowest ever number of captures per net-hour (CN). At Austin Springs, on the other hand, the 645 birds banded made the second-best total (RK).

In addition to the organized hawk watches and the banding stations, a new migration monitoring project was started this year with a systematic season-long Waterbird Count at Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania.

ABBREVIATIONS — A.F.M.O. = Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, Grant/Tucker counties, WV; B.E.S.P. = Bald Eagle State Park, Centre Co., PA; Ch.N.F. = Chattahoochee Nat'l Forest, GA; C.F.H. = M.E. Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County, KY; G.S.M.N.P. = Great Smoky Mountains National Park; K.C.P.P. = Kyger Creek Power Plant, Gallia Co., OH; P.N.R. = Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland Co., PA; P.I.S.P. = Presque Isle State Park, Erie Co., PA. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO CORMORANTS — At P.I.S.P. the season's count of Red-throated Loons was of 10 from Oct. 20 to Nov. 12, with seven on Nov. 4 (JM, EK). This species was also reported from Lycoming, PA, Oct. 23 (SSt) and S. Holston L., TN, Nov. 2 (BC). Common Loons were more numerous and more widespread than in most recent years with 1022 counted during the season at P.I.S.P. (JM). Sixty-six flew past the Tuscarora Summit, PA, hawk watch station on Nov. 3 (CG), and 84 were on the Allegheny Res. near Warren, PA, on Nov. 25 (WH). Red-necked Grebes were reported from Rockingham, VA, Oct. 24 (R.B.C.), P.I.S.P., Nov. 11-17 (JM, EK), and at L. Moomaw, Bath, VA, Nov. 17 (LT). A Western Grebe was at Presque Isle Bay, Erie, PA, Nov. 13 for a 3rd county record (RSw).

The most interesting birds resulting from Hugo were six **Black-capped Petrels** found dead or moribund on Sept 23-24. Three were found in Venango, PA (RSt), one in Allegheny, PA (RSt), and one in Lackawanna, PA (RSt), establishing the first state records. Another was in Augusta, VA (*fide* RS) for a 3rd state record. All of these specimens were preserved in various museums. Another Hugo record was of a **storm-petrel** (sp.) seen at Watauga L., TN, Sept. 22 (†BC), providing a 3rd state record for the family.

Single Am. White Pelicans were found in Gallia, OH, Aug. 30 (BGP) and in Rockbridge, VA, Nov. 5-11 (*fide* RS). The Double-crested Cormorant continued its population explosion in this Region with many reports of good numbers from L. Erie (JM) in the north to w. Kentucky (FB) and Asheville, NC (RY) in the south.

HERONS, WATERFOWL — There were 4 reports of Am. Bittern: at P.N.R., Sept. 14 (RM, RCL); Centre, PA, Sept. 29 (JP) and Oct. 24 (PL); and Sullivan, TN, Nov. 2 (BC). The only records of Least Bittern were at P.I.S.P. Aug. 1 (JeS) and Aug. 27 (SS). Great Blue Herons were in unusually good numbers. Great Egrets were widespread and in good numbers, with a high count of 18 in Augusta, VA, Aug. 8 (YL) and a late date of Nov. 26 in Washington, TN (ES). The only report of Little Blue Heron came from Watauga L., TN, Aug. 10 (BC). Cattle Egrets were reported from Washington, TN, Aug. 31 (BC) and Augusta, VA, Nov. 1 (MH). Black-crowned Night-Herons were unusually numerous this season but the only reports of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were from Johnson City, TN, Aug. 2 (DL) and Dalton, GA, Sept. 6 (HD).

Four Tundra Swans at Canfield, OH, Sept. 19 (NB) were unusually early, as the main flight was in the last 2 weeks of November. The flight was not very heavy and the largest numbers were flocks of 100 to 200 at Pymatuning L., PA (RFL, AM). Two Mute Swans were at Pymatuning L., PA, during all of August and September (RFL). Snow Geese were seen during late October at locations in w. Pennsylvania including P.I.S.P. (JM), St. Marys (LC), Huntington (JP), Donegal (RM, RCL), and

Somerset (high count of 200 on Oct. 19—AM), as well as Mosquito L., OH (CB). The anadid feature of the season was the unusual influx of **Brant** into s.w. Pennsylvania, Oct. 19-29. Small flocks showed up in Centre, Fayette, Franklin, Indiana, Somerset, and Westmoreland. Brant were also present Oct. 18-Nov. 6 at P.I.S.P., with 66 counted for the season (JM). At Pymatuning L., PA, the August goose count of 3000 had grown to 6000 by Sept. 23 (RFL). Elsewhere the semi-domestic Canada Geese were thriving. An individual of one of the small races of Canada Goose was in Wood, WV, Oct. 23 (JE).

Most reporters who commented on trends found the duck migration to be on the low side. The only exception seemed to be Somerset, PA, where numbers were above normal (TM). In n.e. Tennessee, several of the common species were not found. The only great concentration reported was a total of 18,000 Com. Goldeneyes at Pymatuning L., PA, Nov. 30 (RFL). There were, however, many more scoter records than usual. The P.I.S.P. season count was of 19 Black Scoters, 120 Surf Scoters, and 154 White-winged Scoters (JM, EK). Surf Scoters were also seen at K.C.P.P., OH, Nov. 4 (MG) and Quemahoning Dam, PA, Nov. 30 (AM). The usually rarer Black Scoter was reported from 8 other w. Pennsylvania locations and from Shenandoah L., VA (R.B.C.), while the White-winged Scoter was reported from 5 other w. Pennsylvania locations and from Cumberland, MD (RKi), and most unusually from S. Holston L., TN, Nov. 13 (RK) and G.S.M.N.P., Nov. 16-18 (DC, RH, AH). The most unusual duck records were at P.I.S.P. where a ♀ **King Eider** (6th record) was seen Nov. 19 and a **Harlequin Duck** (7th record) was seen Nov. 17 (†JM).

RAPTORS — Organized hawk-watching was not very productive. The rains of September all but wiped out the prime Broad-winged Hawk flight days, and the Bald Eagle Mt. Fire Tower, PA, concentrated on the late season and the Golden Eagle flight. The Rockfish Gap, VA, count reported its lowest total since records have been kept (YL). Table 1 summarizes the organized watches that reported.

In e. Tennessee no great flights of Turkey Vultures were seen, but 10 Black Vultures (uncommon there) were seen at Norris Nov. 3 (CN). Ospreys were not reported in the same numbers as in recent years. A **Mississippi Kite** was seen at the hawk watch on Look Rock, Blount, TN, Sept. 24 (†AH). The Bald Eagle count was less than half of last year's, with 43 birds reported from 26 locations. Northern Harriers continued to be reported in high numbers. The only report of N. Goshawks came from Rockfish Gap, VA, where two were counted in late October (YL). Sharp-shinned Hawks seemed to be in good numbers at most places, and the eight banded during the season at A.F.M.O. made a record high for that station (GAH). At Tuscarora Summit, 1549 Red-tailed Hawks were counted, with 300 on Nov. 9 (CG). Rough-legged Hawks were reported from P.I.S.P. Oct. 29 (JM) and Nov. 19 (JeS); Pymatuning L., PA, Nov. 24 (RFL); Warren, PA, Nov. 4 & 9 (DD); and Yellow Creek S.P., PA, Nov. 29 (*fide* JG); but they had not reached the usual wintering grounds in Highland, VA, by the end of the period (LT). A total of 85 Golden Eagles was reported from 6 locations, with season's totals of 38 at Tuscarora Summit (five on Oct. 26) (CG) and 29 at Bald Eagle Mt., PA (14 on Nov. 26) (JP, KS). Remarkable was a count of nine birds in 45 minutes on Nov. 21 at Tussey Mt., PA (ML).

Table 1. Appalachian hawk watch results, autumn 1989.

	Days Obs	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Broad-winged Hawk	Broad-winged High (Date)	Bald Eagle	Golden Eagle	Total
Tuscarora Summit, PA (CG)	91	1969	971	598 (Sept. 17)	7	38	5204
Bald Eagle Mt., PA (JP)	11	50				29	401
East River Mt., WV (JPh)	37	116	232	495 (Sept. 19)	1		1469
Rockfish Gap, VA (YL)	68	1478	3089	1795 (Sept. 1)	6	6	6035

The falcon picture continued to improve. Besides the hawk watches at Tuscarora Summit (CG) and Bald Eagle Mt. (JP), Merlins were reported from Montoursville, PA, 4 records, Aug. 25 (early) to Oct. 2 (SSt); Monroe, WV, Oct. 7 (WA); Radford, VA, Sept. 21 and Blacksburg, VA, Oct. 16 (CK); Carter, TN, Sept. 30 (GW, HL); and Sullivan, TN, Oct. 27 (BC). The Tuscarora Summit Hawk Watch counted 20 Peregrines for the season, a new high total (CG), and the Rockfish Gap station listed eight (YL). Other records came from Huntington, WV, where a pair was observed hunting pigeons Aug. 23 (WA), Brush Mt., Sept. 26 (SBo), Bellfonte, PA, Oct. 4 (found wounded) (MW), P.I.S.P., Sept. 23 (B & FH), Conneaut Marsh, PA, Sept. 23 (RFL), East River Mt., WV, Sept. 12 (JPh), Highland, VA, Sept. 5 (LT), and Dublin, VA, Nov. 16 (CK).

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS — There was a convincing report of a Yellow Rail from near Fairview, NC, Nov. 10 (†RY). An Am. Coot at P.I.S.P. Aug. 2 furnished one of the few summer records there (BCa). As usual the only Sandhill Crane reports came from Whitfield, GA, with a flock of 50 on Nov. 8 (HD), 200+ in Morgan, TN, Nov. 17 (SC), Fentress, Nov. 18 (TB) and Tellico L., TN, Nov. 19 (SH).

The shorebird flight varied from place to place. In the Knoxville region it was generally poor (CN), but other places had fairly good results. The diversity was great, with 32 species reported, and some of the less common species were in unusually good numbers. There were also a number of unusually late dates, e.g., Black-bellied Plover Nov. 25 at Stuart's Draft, VA (SR), Least Sandpiper at K.C.P.P., OH, Nov. 4 (MG), and White-rumped Sandpiper Nov. 26 at P.I.S.P. (JeS). There were many more records of Lesser Golden-Plovers and Black-bellied Plovers than normal for this Region. A Piping Plover was seen at the Kingston Steam Plant, Roane, TN, Sept. 4 (LD). Ten Am. Avocets were found at the C.F.H., KY, Aug. 6 (FB) and eight were at Cumberland, MD, Sept. 8–13 (RKi).

As usual, some of the rarer shorebirds were reported only from P.I.S.P.: Whimbrel Aug. 1 & 7 and Sept. 2 (JM, EK); Marbled Godwit Sept. 5 (JM); Purple Sandpiper Nov. 4–17 (JM, EK); Buff-breasted Sandpiper Sept. 10 (SS, JiS); and a **Ruff** Sept. 24, possibly as the result of Hurricane Hugo (†RFL). The only report of Ruddy Turnstone came from Sunbury, PA, Aug. 31 (SSt). Red Knots were found at P.I.S.P. Sept. 12–17 (JM) and Pymatuning L., PA, Aug. 12 (RFL). Sanderling, Western Sandpiper, and Baird's Sandpiper were more widely reported than in most years, although numbers were not great. The usually rare White-rumped Sandpiper was found at B.E.S.P. Oct. 8 (MHe, EZ), Fayetteville, PA, Oct. 21 (CG), P.I.S.P. Sept. 23–Nov. 5 and a late date of Nov. 26 (JM et al.), and Roanoke Aug. 26 (J & TD) and Oct. 20 (MD). Stilt Sandpipers are seldom reported in this Region but this year reports came from P.I.S.P. Aug. 1 & 20 (JM), Pymatuning L., PA, Aug. 21 (RFL) and 14 there Aug. 26 (EK), Eagle Bend Hatchery, TN, Aug. 1 (CN), Washington, TN, Sept. 23 (RK), Boone L., TN, Sept. 31 (BC), Kingston Steam Plant, TN, Sept. 4 (LD) & 12 (JH), and Rockingham, VA, Oct. 14 for a first county record (R.B.C.). Short-billed Dowitchers were seen at Yellow Springs S.P., PA, Sept. 8 (fide JG), Wood, WV, Oct. 10 (JE), and Centre, PA, Aug. 27 (JP, BP); Long-billed Dowitchers were seen at P.I.S.P. Aug. 20–26 (EK), Pymatuning L., PA, Aug. 20–26 (RFL, EK), and C.F.H., KY, Aug. 25 and Oct. 16 (FB). Wilson's Phalarope was reported from Pymatuning L., PA, Aug. 20–21 (EK), Cumberland, MD, Aug. 22 (RKi), Dublin, VA, in mid-October (SB), and Washington, TN, for a 5th local record, Aug. 19–26 (RK, BC).

JAEGERS TO TERNS — At Watauga L., TN, Hurricane Hugo was apparently responsible for two **Pomarine Jaegers** (2nd or 3rd state record), one **Parasitic Jaeger** (3rd or 4th state record), and four unidentified jaegers, Sept. 22–23 (BC, RK). Also present on Watauga L. at that time were six Laughing Gulls (3rd local record), one **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (first



Bonaparte's Gull in Montour County, Pennsylvania, August 9, 1989. Photograph/Stanley Stahl.

state record) (m.ob.), and two **Royal Terns** (first state record) (BC).

There were a number of remarkable larid records on Sept. 22–24, but many of them could be ascribed to a strong cold front advancing from the north rather than to the hurricane. At P.I.S.P. on Sept. 23 there were an estimated 3000 Bonaparte's Gulls, 1500 Com. Terns, and several other species, but at daybreak on the 24th fewer than 100 birds remained (EK). Another concentration of gulls occurred at Pymatuning L., PA, Nov. 24 when an estimated 15,000 Bonaparte's Gulls and 20,000 Ring-billed Gulls were present (RFL).

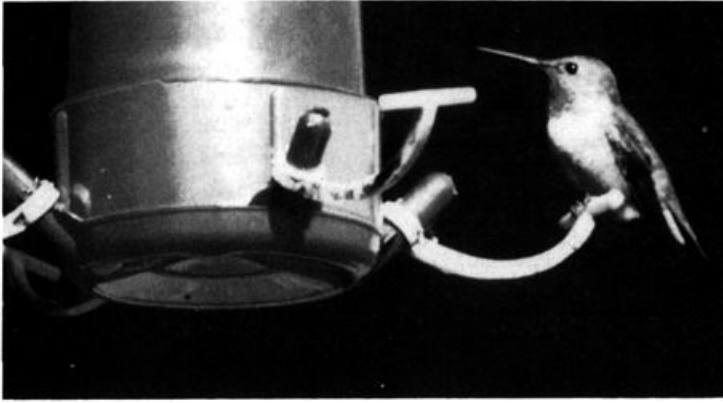
A Laughing Gull was at B.E.S.P. Sept. 23 (HH), possibly a Hugo bird. Little Gulls were found at P.I.S.P. (where they are now regular) from Sept. 5 (juv. plumage) to Oct. 22 (JM). Bonaparte's Gulls staged a good flight at most areas with suitable lakes. A Lesser Black-backed Gull was at P.I.S.P. on the early date of Aug. 2 (JM). The most unusual record at P.I.S.P. on the September 23 cold front was a juv. **Sabine's Gull** for a 3rd county record (†JM).

After their strong showing this spring, Caspian Terns continued to appear in many places, including one at Fairview, NC, Sept. 22, thought to be related to Hurricane Hugo (R & JY). The location seems somewhat too far east, but a **Royal Tern** at Sunbury, PA, Sept. 23 (SSt) may also have been a hurricane-drifted individual. Forster's Terns were scarce at P.I.S.P. with only 13 birds for the season (JM), but this species and Com. Tern were more widely reported than usual.

OWLS TO FLYCATCHERS — Barn Owls were at 2 sites near Johnson City, TN (RK), and there were 2 nestings near Chattanooga, TN (JPa). Other reports came from the Ch.N.F., Nov. 21 (HD) and Jefferson, PA, Nov. 16 (RB). There were seven Short-eared Owls on the recovered strip mines of Clarion, PA, where they probably nested again this year (WF). This species was reported from P.I.S.P. Oct. 28 and Nov. 4 & 13 (JM et al.), and Dublin, VA, Nov. 15 (SB). There were reports of N. Saw-whet Owls from Bear Meadows, PA (G & SY), and P.I.S.P. Nov. 18–23 (LM, DDa).

The southbound flight of Com. Nighthawk was unimpressive with the only large concentration reported being 150 at Johnson City, TN, on the late date of Oct. 2 (RK), and a still later date of Oct. 17 at Knoxville, TN (BM). One was found dead in Pittsburgh Oct. 31 (CJM). The Rufous Hummingbird story continued. Birds were seen at Kingwood, WV, Sept. 24 (†EE), *Unicoi*, TN, for most of October (RK), and Cleveland, TN, Oct. 10 (DC). But more remarkable were two cases of adult males showing up at stations where immature birds wintered last year: Knoxville (fide CN) and Chattanooga, TN (fide JPa).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported from Conneaut Marsh, PA (RFL), Jersey Shore, PA (G & PS), Mosquito L., OH (CB), A.F.M.O. (GAH), Pennsboro, WV (JW), Lyndhurst, VA (SR), Blue Grass Valley, VA (LT), and Murray, GA (HD). A Red-bellied Woodpecker was seen at Sheffield, PA, Nov. 21



Adult male Rufous Hummingbird in Unicoi County, Tennessee, November 30, 1989. Photograph/Rick Knight.

(DW). Three Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were seen at Cumberland Falls S.P., KY, Oct. 7 (FB).

Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported from P.I.S.P. Aug. 20 (JM), Ch.N.F. Aug. 18 (HD), and Allegheny Front, WV, Sept. 20 (NL). A very late Acadian Flycatcher was netted Oct. 25 at P.N.R., where a record 42 were banded for the season (RM, RCL). An Alder Flycatcher was present all summer at Montoursville, PA, and still singing on Aug. 3 (SSt). Another late record was of a Great Crested Flycatcher banded at P.N.R. Sept. 30 (RCL, RM).

SWALLOWS TO VIREOS— There were an estimated 1500 Tree Swallows at Pymatuning L., PA, Sept. 23 (RFL), and 11 seen at Claiborne, TN, Nov. 19 were quite late (GM). The colony of Cliff Swallows at the Kinzua Dam, PA, had 350 nests in late summer (TG). Ten Cliff Swallows at Roanoke, VA, Oct. 26 were very late (MS). There was no evidence of a southward flight of Black-capped Chickadees. Red-breasted Nuthatches staged the best flight in recent years. While numbers were not as high as in some past years, they were widespread and some arrived a little early. The extent of this movement apparently did not proceed as far south as e. Tennessee (CN, RK).

Carolina Wren populations were booming, even in the north, at the end of the period, but it remains to be seen what the abnormal December weather that followed will do to this species. Another reporting period passed without a report of Bewick's Wren. Two late records of House Wrens came from Austin Springs, TN, Nov. 14 (RK) and Tellico L., TN, Nov. 19 (AH). Sedge Wrens were reported from Sullivan, TN (BC), and Erwin, TN, Sept. 30 (SG, BC), while the one seen at Christiansburg, VA, Oct. 23 & 24 (T & AW) was the first in that area for 45 years. Marsh Wrens were seen at 4 sites in the Elizabethton-Johnson City, TN, area, Sept. 24–Oct. 31 (m.ob.).

Golden-crowned Kinglets were in large numbers almost everywhere. At A.F.M.O., 224 were banded and over 200 were released from the nets unbanded on Oct. 13 (CZ). Another entry on the "late list" was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Knox, TN, Nov. 29 (PP). Eastern Bluebirds were in good numbers and many remained until the end of the period. The spotted thrush situation remained gloomy. At A.F.M.O., the Swainson's Thrush captures were down 43% from the 10-year average, and Wood Thrush was banded in the lowest numbers on record (GAH), while at P.N.R. Wood Thrushes were down more than one standard deviation from the long-term average (RM, RCL). As usual, some doubt arises as to the relation of banding data to actual populations, but both Swainson's Thrush and Wood Thrush were almost unanimously reported by field observers to be in low numbers or even missing. On the other hand, P.N.R. bandings of the Veery were greatly up, although the sample size was small (RM, RCL). A Varied Thrush was at Salem, VA, Nov. 18 for a 2nd

local record (tNM et al.).

Those notorious half-hardy species, Brown Thrasher and Gray Catbird, were still present in the Region at the end of November. American Pipits were not common, being reported only from St. Marys, PA (LC), Donegal, PA (RM, RCL), Cumberland, MD (RKi), and Austin Springs, TN (RK). As usual, Cedar Waxwings varied from abundant to missing from places. There were only 2 reports of N. Shrike, at P.I.S.P. Oct. 28 & 29 (EK) and B.E.S.P., PA, Nov. 4 (AF). At the end of the period there were thought to be 12 Loggerhead Shrikes in the Bath-Highland area of Virginia (LT) but there were only 4 reports at Johnson City, TN (RK). Other sightings came from near Gettysburg, PA, Oct. 28 (AK), Monroe, WV, Sept. 14 and Oct. 8 (WA), Catawba, VA, Oct. 15 (CK), and C.F.H., KY, Oct. 6–Nov. 11 (FB).

More late records involved White-eyed Vireo in Highland, VA, Oct. 9 (LT), Yellow-throated Vireo at Roanoke, VA, Oct. 28 (MD), and Red-eyed Vireo at Jefferson, PA, Oct. 26 (RB). Field observers saw more Philadelphia Vireos than usual but the banding total at A.F.M.O. was well below average (GAH).

WARBLERS TO FINCHES— The warbler flight varied from average to very poor, with no place reporting a good one. At P.N.R., 12 species were in below average numbers, and only one (Kentucky Warbler) was in above average numbers (RCL, RM). At A.F.M.O., 13 species were banded in below average numbers, and five (Magnolia, Cape May, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, and Ovenbird), all usually "big ticket" species, were handled in the lowest numbers on record. One example will suffice: 250 Tennessee Warblers were banded at A.F.M.O., compared with a ten-year average of 1059 (GAH). Field observations tended to agree with the banding data. The only "fallout" reported was at Fairview, NC, after Hurricane Hugo (R & JY). Few warblers moved in the first half of September and most of the flight started in late September and early October. Along with the late start there were a lot of late dates with many species still in the Region in mid-October. A Yellow-throated Warbler at K.C.P.P. Nov. 4 (MG) and a Magnolia Warbler at Austin Springs, TN, Nov. 14 (RK) were the extremes.

Orange-crowned Warblers were more common than usual. A Yellow-throated Warbler in Centre, PA, Sept. 24 (ML) was rather far north for a southbound migrant. A Blackpoll Warbler, rare in e. Tennessee, was banded at Austin Springs Sept. 28 (RK) and one was seen at Elizabethton, TN, Oct. 3 (HL). There were two rarities: an "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler was seen at P.I.S.P. for a county first (tEK) and a Kirtland's Warbler was well described from Washington, TN, Oct. 1 (tJB).

Northern Cardinals were still feeding young in Allegheny, PA, Oct. 15 (PH). The flight of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at A.F.M.O. was lower than normal (GAH) and numbers were reported down in Highland, VA (LT). A Dickcissel was seen at Stuart's Draft, VA, Oct. 16 (SR).

The sparrow migration was fairly good at most places. The Am. Tree Sparrow was common in the north, but the only reports from south of Pennsylvania came from Bath, VA, Nov. 17 and Highland, VA, Nov. 23–24 (LT). Lark Sparrows were reported from Rockingham, VA, Oct. 16 for a first county record (R.B.C.) and from Murray, GA, Nov. 20 (HD). The Henslow's Sparrow, declining in numbers and always rare in fall, was seen in Botetourt, VA, Oct. 7 for a 4th local record (BHu, MD), and one was banded at A.F.M.O. Aug. 29 (GAH). There were 4 reports of the rare Sharp-tailed Sparrow: Bath, VA, Oct. 10 (LT), Canfield, OH, Nov. 8 (NB), Austin Springs, TN, Oct. 30, and Sullivan, TN, Nov. 2 (RK). Lapland Longspurs were at P.I.S.P. from Sept. 24 (early) to Nov. 24 (JM), and one was in Marion, TN, Nov. 11 with two at the same place Nov. 18, establishing a first county record (DJ et al.). Snow Buntings were found far south of the normal range on Allegheny Mt in Highland, VA, Nov. 13 & 19 (LT), but the only other report came from Rose Valley L., PA, Oct. 23 & 25 (SSt).

An E. Meadowlark at 5500 ft on Roan Mt., TN, Nov. 4 furnished an unusual record (ES). A Brewer's Blackbird was seen at Stuart's Draft, VA, Nov. 25 (†SR). A ♂ N. Oriole appeared Nov. 21 at the same area where one wintered last year in Knox, TN (MDa, DE).

A first-year Purple Finch was banded at Jefferson, PA, Aug. 24 (RB), raising speculations about local breeding. Besides the usual station on Shenandoah Mt., VA, Red Crossbills were reported from the Ch.N.F., where they are fairly regular, Nov. 21 (HD) and from S. Holston Dam, TN, Oct. 27–Nov. 3 (BC). White-winged Crossbills were reported from Tamarack, Clinton, PA, Nov. 13 (SSt) and from Black Moshannon S.P., PA, Nov. 21–30 (HH). Pine Siskins arrived at many places in early October and later became widespread in large numbers. At a few places they stayed only briefly, but by the end of the period they were abundant at many places. Evening Grosbeaks appeared in small numbers at many widely scattered places, even as far south as Augusta, VA, and Johnson City, TN, but the flight was nothing like the massive influxes of the past.

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WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

Daryl D. Tessen



August and September averaged normal in temperatures and precipitation. Unfortunately, for many areas, this meant there was little or no recovery from the ongoing drought. Parts of Wisconsin and Minnesota were even drier this year than last. Major cold fronts occurred Regionally September 8–13 and September 22–23. Alternating warm and cold spells typified most of October with snowfall even occurring in southern parts of the Region around the 20th. Thereafter an unusually warm period developed for the remainder of the month with temperatures climbing even to the 80s in northern parts of the Region. November was mainly cold, especially at the beginning and the end, with accompanying snow in the northern one-third.

At Duluth's Lakewood Pumping Station, nonraptor migrants were watched following the Lake Superior shoreline for the second consecutive fall. Between August 1 and October 31 the morning flight totaled 262,000 migrants, 15,000 more than last year during 179½ hours of coverage. The majority of birds included Blue Jay, American Crow, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-rumped and Palm warblers, Red-winged Blackbird, and Pine Siskin. Interesting was the fact that not every migratory wave correlated with a cold front (KE et al.).

Comments for the Region were mixed as to the quality of the fall migration. For example, Minnesota felt it an exceedingly dull season while Wisconsin and Michigan were more neutral. Rarities seemed scarce; good sightings

were recorded Regionwide, but again this year most rarities failed to linger for any length of time. Outstanding finds for Michigan included four King Eiders, all three jaeger species, Mew and Lesser Black-backed gulls, Ancient Murrelet, and Northern Wheatear. Highlighting Wisconsin were Black Vulture, Black-shouldered Kite, Prairie Falcon, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and Black-throated Gray Warbler. In Minnesota the unexpected included 15 Prairie Falcons, Western Tanager, and Golden-crowned Sparrow.

ABBREVIATIONS — P.M.S.G.A. = Pt. Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe County, MI; W.P.B.O. = Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, Upper Peninsula, MI. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO HERONS — The W.P.B.O. staff tallied 84 Red-throated Loons between Sept. 8–Oct. 31. The only other sightings in the Region were in Wisconsin with single birds Oct. 29 at Superior (RJ) and on a Madison lake Nov. 4–7 (SR). Early for the southern location were single Com. Loons Aug. 8 in Jefferson, WI (KEH) and Aug. 13 and later at Madison (PA). The W.P.B.O. staff tallied 2469 Commons between Sept. 1–Nov. 21 with a peak of 662 on Sept. 22. For the period a total of 1159 Red-necked Grebes was counted by the W.P.B.O. staff. An Eared Grebe was at Harbor Springs, MI, Nov. 11 (JG), and another was at Lake Geneva, WI, beginning Dec. 1 (PP). Single Western Grebes were found at Superior Nov. 4 (DL) and Wisconsin S.P., WI, Nov. 20 (JP). American White Pelicans were found in all 3 states. Minnesota had more reports than usual, especially in the n.e. section. Single sightings occurred in both Michigan and Wisconsin with one Aug. 8–15 at Nayanquing W.A. (GP, EP et al.) and two Nov. 4 at LaCrosse (TSO).

Late was an Am. Bittern at Spooner, WI, Nov. 23 (JR). Five Snowy Egrets were present during August–September at both Green Bay (m.ob.) and P.M.S.G.A. (PC). Little Blue Herons were found in Michigan and Wisconsin. In the former, single birds were at P.M.S.G.A. Aug. 14 (PC) and the Erie Gun Club Aug. 15 and Sept. 6 (TW). In the latter state, one was in Marathon Aug. 16 (JHo) and two near Green Bay Sept. 16 (MK). The **Tricolored Herons** located just w. of Green Bay in late July remained until late September (m.ob.). Good numbers (25+) of Cattle Egrets were found in all 3 states, a pleasant change from the preceding several years. The only Yellow-crowned Night-Heron report was of one migrating along the L. Michigan shoreline at Port Washington, WI, Nov. 4 (AS et al.). A Glossy Ibis was carefully studied at Trempealeau N.W.R., WI, Nov. 18–19 by Polk et al.

SWANS TO RAILS — The only significant Tundra Swan concentration was of 1000 at Alma, WI, Nov. 4 (TSO), which was minor in comparison to average years. A Trumpeter Swan resided at Green Bay Aug. 8–22 (DT et al.), undoubtedly from the released e. Minnesota flock. The only Greater White-fronted Goose reports were in Wisconsin's Crex Meadows W.A. with two Sept. 18 (JH) and Wood Oct. 7 (fide PR). Two imm. **Ross' Geese** were found in Becker, MN (RG, BJ). **Brant** turned up in all 3 states, most unusual for this rare visitor. Two were at Agassiz N.W.R., MN, Oct. 9–14 (AB et al.); singles were at Port Huron Oct. 18 and Reed's Lake, MI (fide BB); and one was at Sturgeon Bay, WI, Oct. 23, 24, & 26 (TK). The Canada Goose build-up at Horicon N.W.R. was most unusual this fall. During October, when many nonbirders drive to the refuge to watch the fall flight, only about 60,000–70,000 were present. But in early November the numbers swelled to a record 228,000 (BV) with the number in east-central Wisconsin increasing to an amazing 645,000 by early December (BV).

A Eurasian Wigeon was in Kalamazoo, MI, Sept. 15 (RA). At Michigan's W.P.B.O. an eider (sp.) was seen Oct. 1 (LD, RP), with three **King Eiders** Nov. 11 (JG) and one Nov. 21 (LD). Harlequin Ducks were surprisingly common in the Region as evidenced by singles Sept. 15 (LD, RP), Oct. 8–Nov. 2

(LD et al.), and Nov. 25 (JG) at W.P.B.O.; two intermittently at Grand Marais, MN, Oct. 6 to December (K & MH et al.); and two Oct. 28–Nov. 18 in the Milwaukee area (PS et al.) and one Nov. 25 at Sheboygan (TS). The scoter migration for all three species was excellent, especially in Wisconsin and Michigan: Numbers along the Great Lakes ranged from 50–500 on some days! Interesting tallies at W.P.B.O. included 150 Black Scoters between Sept. 23 and Nov. 12, 537 Surf Scoters between Sept. 19 and Nov. 13, 997 dark-winged scoters (sp.) between Sept. 12 and Nov. 12, 1317 White-winged Scoters between Sept. 1 and Nov. 19, 1184 Com. Goldeneyes on Nov. 2, and 2116 Buffleheads on Nov. 3. A Bufflehead in Madison, WI, beginning Aug. 18 (PA) was very early. The 75,000 Com. Mergansers Nov. 18 at Lake City on L. Pepin represented the largest concentration ever for Minnesota (BR).

Wisconsin had two rare Falconiformes sightings this fall. A **Black Vulture** was observed Oct. 7 & 15 at a Turkey Vulture roost at Devil's Lake S.P. by Hartman. There are only a few records for the state. Representing its 3rd state record (2nd was May, 1987) was the **Black-shouldered Kite** watched by Savage Sept. 9 in Burnett, WI. At the Lake Erie Metropark, 6928 Turkey Vultures and 24,778 Broad-winged Hawks were counted during the period (fide TSm). A Swainson's Hawk at Wisconsin's Cedar Grove Sept. 30 was unusual (DB). Twenty-six Golden Eagles were seen in Michigan including two injured birds, one recovering, the other not. Wisconsin had five Golden Eagles during the period. Despite the fine numbers at Hawk Ridge, Peregrine Falcon numbers Regionally were not impressive and in fact were somewhat below par. Always exciting was a Gyrfalcon banded at Cedar Grove Nov. 11 (DB). The **Prairie Falcon** flight in Minnesota was outstanding with 15 individuals reported. Three of these were eastern sightings including Hawk Ridge Aug. 6, Aitkin Oct. 1 (WN), and the

Table 1. Hawk Ridge (Duluth, MN) Fall Totals, 1989.

<i>Species</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Turkey Vulture	869	
Osprey	279	ties record
Bald Eagle	396	record high
N. Harrier	1198	almost a record
Sharp-shinned Hawk	16,992	
Cooper's Hawk	144	record high
N. Goshawk	106	
Broad-winged Hawk	41,900	13,375 on Sept. 22
Swainson's Hawk	2	
Red-tailed Hawk	2831	
Rough-legged Hawk	359	
Golden Eagle	19	
Am. Kestrel	1908	record high
Merlin	209	record high
Peregrine Falcon	53	record high
Prairie Falcon	1	only 2nd record

Minneapolis airport Nov. 4–18 (m.ob.). Even Wisconsin had one seen at Buena Vista W.A. by Semo and Hoppa on Nov. 30. It was photographed, and if accepted by the records committee it would provide a first state record.

Vying for the confused-bird award were 55 ♂ Greater Prairie-Chickens actively booming Oct. 22 at Rothsay W.A. (KE et al.). Apparently this was induced by the 80° weather that characterized late October. A King Rail was found Aug. 20 at Lake Erie Metropark (TSm). An Oct. 23 Virginia Rail at Bemidji, MN, was late (DJ).

SHOREBIRDS — Early to mid-November Black-bellied Plovers and Lesser Golden-Plovers were found in Wisconsin and Michigan. A Piping Plover was found at the late date of Oct. 22 at Sheboygan (DBe). Tardy Greater Yellowlegs included Nov. 11 in Portage, WI (MB), and Nov. 30 at Metrobeach, MI (DL). Late Lesser Yellowlegs included Nov. 13 at

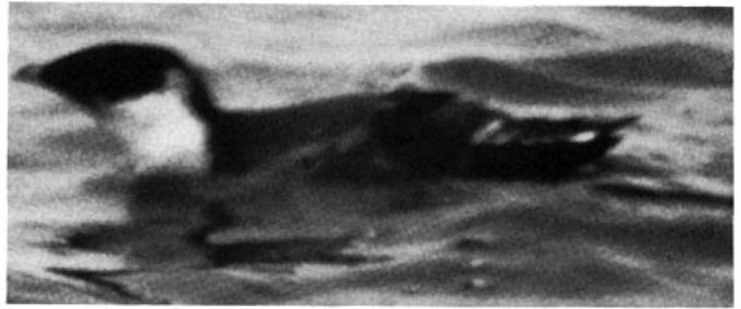
Ashland (DV) and Nov. 18 also at Metrobeach (DL). The only Willets were three found in Michigan during late September–October. Whimbrels in Wisconsin included Aug. 26 at Superior (RJ), Sept. 11 at Manitowoc (CS), and Sept. 13 at Milwaukee (PL, JJ). In Michigan one was at P.M.S.G.A. Sept. 6–16 (PC). Fifteen Hudsonian Godwits were recorded in Michigan during the period, including a late Nov. 9 sighting at Shiawassee N.W.R. (DP). Three were found in Wisconsin. Marbled Godwit sightings included Aug. 28 in Clark, WI (PR), Aug. 18–Sept. 6 at P.M.S.G.A. (PC), and Sept. 8–20 in Bay, MI (JS, DP).

About 40 Red Knots were found in Michigan, but only two in Wisconsin and none in Minnesota. About 24 Western Sandpipers in Michigan and three in Wisconsin were seen this fall. Tardy were White-rumped Sandpipers Nov. 7–9 in Chippewa, WI (JP), and two Nov. 9 at both Shiawassee N.W.R. (DP) and Arenac, MI (GH). Record late was a Baird's Sandpiper on the Chippewa R. at Eau Claire Nov. 28–Dec. 1 (JP). A Purple Sandpiper was found by Soehnel Nov. 16 in Bay, MI. The **Curlew Sandpiper** present during the summer at P.M.S.G.A. remained until Aug. 14 (PC). This represented Michigan's 4th record. There was an outstanding Buff-breasted Sandpiper migration in all 3 states. Numbers included 70+ for Minnesota, 30+ in Wisconsin, and 15+ in Michigan. A number of Red-necked Phalaropes were found in all 3 states, with the majority in Michigan. A **Red Phalarope** was found Sept. 9–10 at P.M.S.G.A. (JHa, KO).

LARIDS—The jaeger flight was disappointing in both Minnesota and Wisconsin as evidenced by a maximum of three Parasitics between Sept. 30–Oct. 22 at Duluth, and single Parasitics Sept. 13 at Milwaukee (PL, JJ) and Oct. 21 at Harrington Beach S.P., WI (DT). However, Michigan tallied all three species, with 95% of all sightings at W.P.B.O. **Pomarine Jaeger** records included Sept. 7, 10 & 28 (JK, RK, BK, LD, PSy, GW). Single Parasitics were found Sept. 10 & 15 and Oct. 4 (LD, PSy, GW, RP). **Long-tailed Jaeger** observations included singles Sept. 15 & 18 and a dead individual Sept. 19 (RP, LD, JK). In addition, unidentified jaegers were found Sept. 5, 8, 10 [four], 23, & 27 also at W.P.B.O. plus one Nov. 4 at the Erie Power Plant (RW) and two Nov. 21 at Port Huron (TW).

Only a few Franklin's Gulls were found out of range this fall. Records included Aug. 7 at Milwaukee (WM), Oct. 4 at Chippewa Falls (JP), and Oct. 29–Nov. 18 at the Erie Power Plant (DPo et al.). The only Little Gulls this fall were found in Wisconsin—Manitowoc until mid-August (DT et al.), and intermittently at Milwaukee during August and September (DH, PL). This species becomes increasingly harder to find each year. A **Mew Gull** was watched by Bouton on the Garden Peninsula in Delta. If accepted by the records committee, this would be Michigan's 5th record. Three Thayer's Gulls were found in Michigan during late October and November. Iceland Gull sightings included Nov. 19 at Minneapolis (SC et al.) and two Nov. 26 in Chippewa, MI (JG). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were found in Wisconsin including one on the Wisconsin R. Nov. 1–6 near Prairie du Sac–Sauk City (SS, SR et al.) and possibly the same individual at Sheboygan Nov. 11 (BH, D & MB). Michigan had different birds Nov. 18 & 25 at the Erie Power Plant (PC). A total of 10 Glaucous Gulls was reported from Michigan and Wisconsin. Great Black-backed Gulls were found in 4 Michigan counties. A part of a **Black-legged Kittiwake** was found Sept. 19 (JK) and a healthy first-year bird was seen Nov. 12 (JG) at W.P.B.O. An **Arctic Tern**, very rare in fall, was seen Oct. 19 at W.P.B.O. (JK, LD). Tardy terns included two Commons in Bay Nov. 16 (JS) and three Forster's in Monroe Nov. 25. A Least Tern was seen Sept. 1 at P.M.S.G.A. (PC).

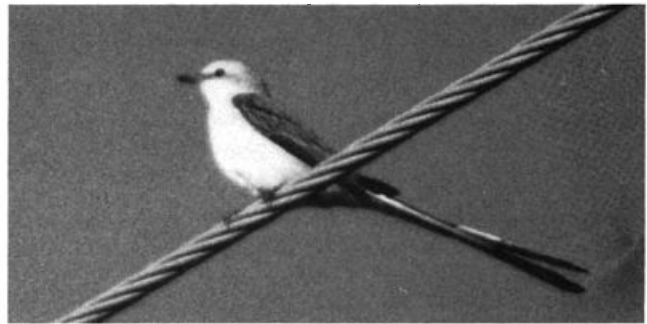
ALCIDS TO SHRIKES—Outstanding was an **Ancient Murrelet** observed Nov. 25–26 at W.P.B.O. (JG, LD, JK, RF, NF, DPo). The bird was photographed and represents only the 2nd Michigan record. Only a few Snowy Owls appeared



Ancient Murrelet at Whitefish Point, Michigan, November 25, 1989. Second state record. Photograph/Rob French.

during the late fall in the Region. Impressive numbers of N. Saw-whet Owls were banded at 2 raptor stations. Near Stevens Point, WI, 348 were banded between Sept. 23–Nov. 22 by Jacobs and Semo. However this pales compared to the Hawk Ridge effort, where 1100+ were banded including 292 alone on Oct. 7–8 [fide KE]. Peak Com. Nighthawk flights included 3570 at Duluth Aug. 27 (MS), about 5000 in Barron and Taylor, WI, also Aug. 27 [fide PR] and 2300 at Cedar Grove Aug. 29 (DB).

Two Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen in n. Lake, MN, during November (JL). Black-backed Woodpeckers are proving harder to find in Minnesota and Wisconsin. An estimated 9000 N. Flickers migrated through Duluth Sept. 22 (KE). An Empidonax (sp.) Nov. 2 in Richfield represented Minnesota's latest record (SC). Late were E. Phoebes Nov. 5 in Cook, MN (MH et al.) and Nov. 13 at Madison, WI (PA). Western Kingbirds appeared Aug. 27 in Dane (PA) and Sept. 15 in Marathon (KM), WI, and Sept. 10 at Muskegon S.P. (DPo). Possibly the same **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** appeared twice in Wisconsin; one was seen and photographed at Caroline Oct. 1 (RKe, MP), as was the one south of Ashland in Bayfield Oct. 14 (DH, DV). Efforts to relocate the bird(s) proved unsuccessful.



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Ashland, Wisconsin, October 14, 1989. Photograph/Dick Verch.

Swallow concentrations included 2500 Purple Martins in late August near Manistee L., MI (FB et al.), and 10,000 Tree Swallows Sept. 30 at Prairie du Sac, WI (SR). Late was a Barn Swallow Nov. 5 in Ozaukee, WI (WM). Far south in Wisconsin were Com. Ravens Nov. 2 at Cedar Grove (DB) and Nov. 12 in Portage (MB). A large influx of Red-breasted Nuthatches was noted in parts of the Region. Five Carolina Wrens were found in both Wisconsin and Michigan. Late was a House Wren at Milwaukee Oct. 19 (SD). Out-of-range Blue-gray Gnatcatchers included Sept. 21 at Duluth (PSv) and a very late Nov. 3 at W.P.B.O. [staff]. Always exciting, a **Northern Wheatear** was present at the Fremont sewage ponds Oct. 20–23 (GW et al.), representing the 5th Michigan record.

Six Townsend's Solitaires were found this fall, an above-average number of sightings. They included five between late September and early November in Minnesota, and one Oct. 9

at W.P.B.O. (staff). Varied Thrush sightings were also up, with 12 individuals recorded, including 10 in Minnesota and one each in Wisconsin and Michigan. Late thrush sightings included a Gray-cheeked Oct. 17 at Superior (RJ) and a Swainson's Nov. 17 in Berrien, MI (CN). Late was a Gray Catbird in Madison Nov. 25 (PA). Northern Mockingbirds were found in Wisconsin Aug. 31 in Door (R & CL) and Nov. 17 in Waupaca (JA). Good numbers of Bohemian Waxwings appeared, commencing during late October and November in the northern parts of the Region. The N. Shrike flight was below average. A Loggerhead Shrike was in Winnebago, WI, Aug. 15-16 (TZ). Late was one Oct. 14 in Chippewa, MI (DPO).

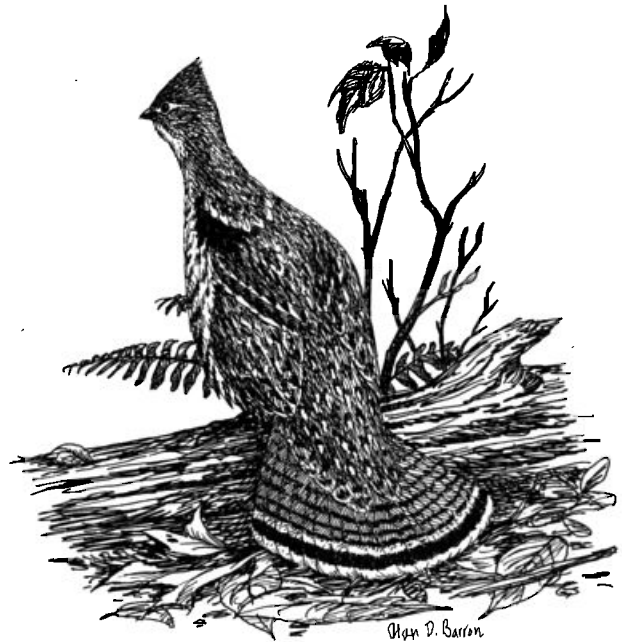
VIREOS TO FINCHES — White-eyed Vireos were present until Sept. 17 at Lost Nations S.G.A. including a maximum of four Sept. 12 (JRe). Interesting/late warbler observations included a Nov. 18 Orange-crowned Warbler in Milwaukee (DW), an Oct. 28 Magnolia Warbler at Sterling S.P., MI (KO), an Aug. 15 Prairie Warbler at Lost Peninsula, MI, a record late Nov. 2 Blackpoll Warbler at Richfield, MN (SC), an Oct. 25 Wilson's Warbler at W.P.B.O. (JK), and a Yellow-breasted Chat bathing in Hardy's yard Aug. 4 in Price, WI. However, the find of the autumn was a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** seen twice in Balstrieri's yard on Sept. 10 near Oconomowoc. If accepted by the records committee, this would represent Wisconsin's first record.

A **Western Tanager** was watched by Svingen at Duluth Sept. 16. This was only the 2nd fall record for Minnesota. Northern Cardinals continue to expand northward in all 3 states. Dickcissel sightings included several Wisconsin locales during August, Oct. 10 at Duluth (KE), and Oct. 9 & 22 at W.P.B.O. (JK, LD). Slightly early were Am. Tree Sparrows at W.P.B.O. on Sept. 20 (staff). Impressive were the 1100 Am. Tree Sparrows in Sawyer, WI, seen by Robinson Nov. 3. Unusually far north was a Lark Sparrow at Grand Marais, MN, Oct. 20 (K & MH). Always interesting were the **Lark Buntings** Aug. 29 at Grand Marais, MN (K & MH) and Sept. 16 at W.P.B.O., MI (JG et al.). Late were Savannah Sparrows Nov. 18 in Kenosha, WI (DW), and Nov. 26 at W.P.B.O. (staff). The only Sharp-tailed Sparrows were single birds at W.P.B.O. Sept. 6-8 (JK, LD) and Milwaukee Sept. 30 (DT). Outstanding was a **Golden-crowned Sparrow** that appeared at a Duluth feeder during mid-November. Word did not get out until December, but fortunately the bird was still coming to the feeder so it could be confirmed. This was only the 2nd Minnesota record. Early was a White-crowned Sparrow Sept. 11 at W.P.B.O. (staff). The Harris' Sparrow flight was good in Wisconsin and Michigan. The Smith's Longspur migration through Rothsay W.M.A. and Felton Prairie was most impressive with 400-500 at both locations during mid to late October (m.ob.).

For the first fall in years there was a noteworthy finch migration for several species. Easily the highlight was the impressive White-winged Crossbill flight that commenced during the summer and spread southward throughout the Region during the fall. For Wisconsin and Minnesota it represented one of the biggest movements ever. For example, hundreds were recorded on single outings in various n. Wisconsin and Minnesota counties. The second-best flight involved Pine Siskins, with good numbers noted in various parts of Wisconsin and Minnesota. Fair numbers of Pine Grosbeaks and Com. Redpolls were seen Regionwide. Lesser numbers of Purple Finches were noted and even fewer Evening Grosbeaks, with the scarcest finch being the Red Crossbill. Of course, the House Finch continued to expand its range in all 3 states.

ADDENDUM — Latest figures on the Boreal Owl die-off in Minnesota for the winter of 1988-1989 have now reached 160. Add to this 30 live Boreals seen, and the 190 represents a record flight for the species (SW, KE).

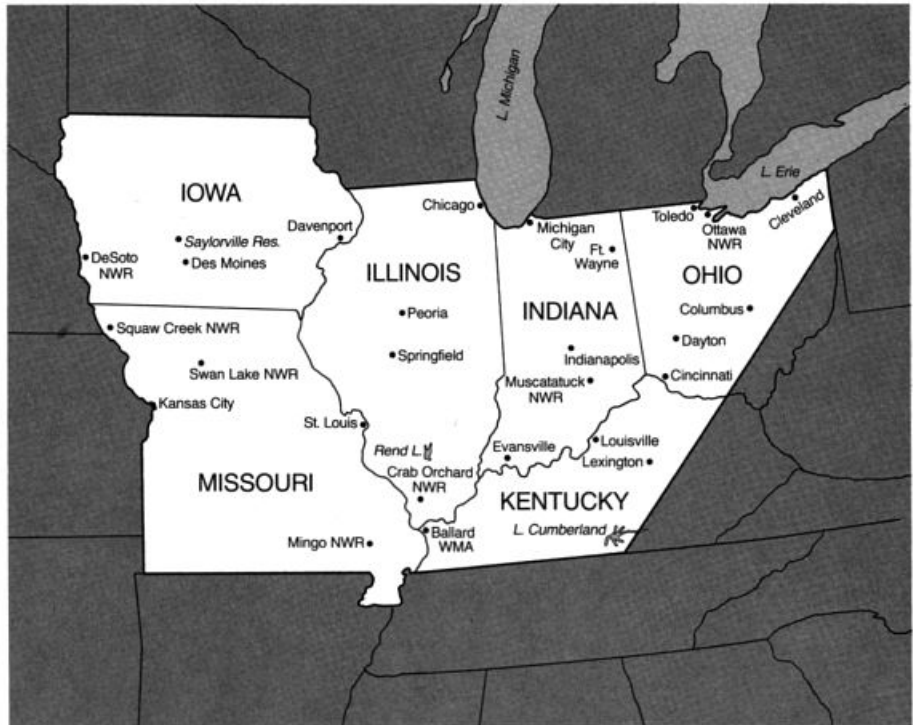
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MIDDEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

Bruce G. Peterjohn



Weather patterns were difficult to characterize. Precipitation was generally above normal east of the Mississippi River, markedly so within Ohio, while portions of northern Missouri remained gripped in a prolonged drought. Temperatures averaged slightly below normal, but these averages hid contrasting extremes. For example, a freak storm dumped up to six inches of snow in portions of Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio October 19–20, yet these states subsequently experienced summer-like temperatures during the last week of the month.

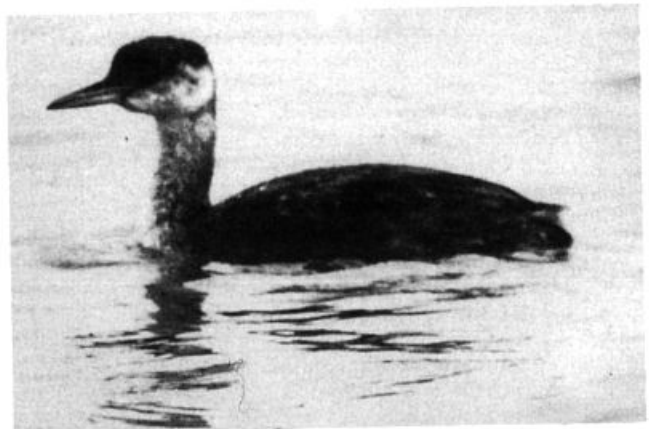
Migration patterns were equally variable. Some observers reported excellent numbers and variety of birds, while others were hard pressed to find any migrants. Large flights were definitely local phenomena. In general, it was a fairly typical fall migration for recent years, in terms of both rarities and expected species. Numbers of waterfowl and marsh birds remained low and showed no signs of improving. The passerine migration was better than that of last year, but numbers of many species were still well below their long-term norms.

ABBREVIATIONS — Say. Res. = Saylorville Reservoir, IA; U.S.W.R. = Union Slough Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, IA; O.W.R. = Ottawa Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, OH; R.L.C.A. = Rice Lake Conservation Area, IL. *Italicized* place names are counties.

LOONS TO ANHINGA — An early Red-throated Loon returned to Huron, OH, Oct. 17 (MG), the prelude to their best fall flight of the decade. Great Lakes reports consisted of at least four in n.w. Indiana and a similar number on L. Erie. Inland records included five in Indiana, four in Illinois, two in Ohio, and one in Iowa. The only acceptably documented Pacific Loon visited Clinton L., IL, Nov. 4–10 (†RCh, m.ob.). Impressive numbers of Com. Loons staged along c. Lake Erie Oct. 22–Nov. 18, such as 686 in Erie Nov. 11 (VF), 300 in Cuyahoga Oct. 31 (TL), and 938 flying past Headlands S.P. Nov. 18 (RH). In the other states, the largest flocks totalled 93–110 along L. Michigan and 95–127 on inland lakes in Indiana and Iowa.

Pied-billed Grebes remained scarce. Flocks of 80–100+ ap-

peared in Illinois and Iowa, but only 24–35 constituted the largest flocks elsewhere. Horned Grebes were disappointing with maxima of 100–119 on the Great Lakes and 44–66 inland. Normally rare fall migrants, Red-necked Grebes appeared in unprecedented numbers. At least eight were noted along c. Lake Erie during November while inland singles visited 4 lakes in Illinois, 3 in Ohio, and 2 in Indiana. Most of these



Red-necked Grebe at Mentor Headlands State Park, Ohio, November 5, 1989. Unusual numbers appeared in the Midwest this season. Photograph/Mary Gustafson.

grebes were adults. Casual migrants through Kentucky, two Eared Grebes were early in Warren Aug. 27 and another was photographed at L. Pewee Nov. 17 (†BP, DP). The expected small numbers wandered to other states e. of the Mississippi R. with 5 records from Ohio, 5 from Illinois, and 2 in Indiana. Five Eareds were also early visitors to Maryville, MO, Aug. 27 (DE). A below-normal passage of Western Grebes was limited to a maximum of three at Say. Res., while reports from Boone, IL, and Gibson, IN, are best treated as *Aechmophorus* (sp.). The power plant lake in Gibson, IN, hosted five

species of grebes Nov. 26 (CMi, DC), a noteworthy event for the midwest.

Good numbers of Am. White Pelicans passed through the w. states with maxima of 2805 at Say. Res., Sept. 10 (SD et al.), and 400-850 at one c. Missouri site and 3 other Iowa lakes. East of the Mississippi R., the only sightings were of singles at Clark L., OH, Sept. 4 (DO, ph.), the Ohio R. at Mehdahl Dam, KY-OH, Oct. 23 (B & TS), and Cook, IL, Oct. 25-Nov. 13 (EW). Indicative of their expanding populations, Double-crested Cormorants peaked with 1500-1690 at 3 Iowa lakes, 500-825+ at 4 c. Illinois lakes, and 800+ in Sandusky Bay, OH. The 450+ over Columbus Nov. 3 (BPj) made the largest flock ever reported from the interior of Ohio. An Anhinga was observed Aug. 1 near Caruthersville (L & RG), the only s.e. Missouri site where they are encountered with some regularity.

HERONS TO STORKS — Numbers of both bittern species improved somewhat with 12 sightings of Americans and 6 reports of Least, but their populations remained low. Herons were not particularly numerous, except at R.L.C.A., where 3000+ Great Blues Aug. 26-Sept. 5 and 2500+ Great Egrets Sept. 5 (KR et al.) easily dwarfed all other Regional concentrations. Flocks of 18 Great Egrets at O.W.R. Nov. 7 (VF) and Runnels W.M.A., IA, Nov. 1 (BBr) were large for these late dates. This species also made news in Kentucky where a late nest at L. Barkley Aug. 19 (BP, DEB) represented the state's 2nd breeding location. Extralimital Snowy Egrets appeared at only 6 locations in the n. states. Late Snowies lingered through Nov. 1-2 in Gibson, IN (†CMi) and Oct. 17 in Erie, OH (MG). The largest reported flocks of Little Blue Herons totalled 20-27 in w. Kentucky and s. Illinois, while 14 sightings of extralimital Little Blues peaked at six in c. Illinois. Two Tricolored Herons were noted at their traditional area on L. Calumet, IL, Aug. 5 (WM).

Cattle Egrets are definitely declining. The largest flocks were composed of 89+ in Will, IL, Sept. 1 (JMj) and 25 in Erie, OH, Aug. 6 (TL, RHa). They were scarce along the Mississippi R. with no more than five to 15 in s. Illinois and w. Kentucky. Away from nesting colonies, they were detected at only 9

sites in the n. states. Late Cattle Egrets remained through Nov. 12 at Buck Creek S.P., OH (CJ), and Nov. 8 at L. Lemon, IN (DW). Green-backed Herons produced maxima of 30-40+ in Illinois, Ohio, and Kentucky, easily their best fall migration in a number of years. A late migrant was noted in Hamilton, OH, Nov. 4 (PG). Black-crowned Night-Herons established a new colony at L. Barkley, KY, where 165 nests were counted (BP, DEB). Expected numbers congregated at traditional locations, while 110+ were unusual at R.L.C.A. Aug. 26 (LA). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were encountered at only 9 locations in the n. states. The only *Plegadis* ibis was an unidentified individual in Iowa. Last but not least, an imm. **Wood Stork** graced Sanganois Conservation Area Aug. 18 (†VK, DBo et al.) for Illinois' first record since 1967.

WATERFOWL — The Tundra Swan migration was restricted to their traditional migration corridor across the n. states. Early migrants included three at L. George, IN, Oct. 14 (KB) and six at L. Rockwell, OH, Oct. 19 (LR). Their November flights peaked at 96 in n.e. Iowa, 11 in n. Illinois, 30 in n. Indiana, and 200-500 in n.e. Ohio. The flock of 28 swans at Caesar Creek Res. Nov. 29 (DD et al.) was exceptional for s.w. Ohio.

It was a good fall for Greater White-fronted Geese. Flocks of 3000 at Riverton W.M.A., IA, Oct. 28 (fide SD) and 200 in Jasper, MO, Oct. 16 (MR) were large for those states. Smaller numbers appeared e. of the Mississippi R. with 188 in Ohio, KY, Oct. 15 (BP, H & KC), 11 at O.W.R. Nov. 5 (EP, TB et al.), and 10-12 at 2 Illinois locations. Of two Indiana sightings, one at Miller Beach Oct. 29 (LH, DJ) was a first for the Dunes area. An impressive 550,000 Snow Geese congregated at DeSoto N.W.R., IA, Nov. 27 (GG). An early Ross' Goose returned to Rice L., IA, Oct. 15 (SD) and up to nine were reported from 3 Iowa locations. Small numbers were associated with Snow Geese passing through Illinois, where 3 records included a maximum of four in Fulton Nov. 19-25 (LA, †LJ et al.). Ohio's 2nd **Ross' Goose** was regularly viewed at L. Rockwell Oct. 21-Nov. 12 (†LR, m.ob.). Brant staged a good movement in Ohio. A large flock of 53 flew over Huron on the early date of Oct. 17 (MG) and small numbers were detected at 5 other



Brant at Portage Lakes State Park, Ohio, November 6, 1989. Photograph/Larry Rosche.

c. Lake Erie sites. Inland singles were observed at Lake St. Mary's Oct. 30–Nov. 9 (†SU, m.ob.) and near Akron Nov. 5–12 (IB, m.ob., ph.).

The duck migration was poor, probably as a result of the continuing drought in their breeding areas. Green-winged Teal produced noteworthy concentrations with 3750 at O.W.R. Nov. 5 (EP et al.) and 600 along L. Michigan at Miller Beach, IN, Oct. 17 (LH). Northern Pintail and Blue-winged Teal have been severely reduced by the drought, while Gadwall appear to be increasing in several states. Exceptionally rare fall migrants, Eur. Wigeon were represented by single males in Cook, IL, Oct. 8–Nov. 11 (JLa, m.ob.) and L. Rockwell, OH, Oct. 11–29 (LR, m.ob.). Large concentrations of Canvasbacks did not develop anywhere. Early Greater Scaup returned to Cook, IL, Oct. 4 (EW). An inland flock of 25+ at Maryville, MO, Oct. 31 (DE) was unexpected. A few large flocks of Lesser Scaup were noted such as 6000 at Say. Res. Nov. 3 (SD) and 3600+ at Maryville, MO, Oct. 31 (DE), but their passage through most areas was disappointing.

King Eiders were restricted to c. Lake Erie with a record early migrant in Lake Oct. 22 (BPj, MG) and four at Avon Lake Nov. 11 including a 2nd-year male (VF). Above-normal numbers of Harlequin Ducks consisted of one or two at 4 L. Michigan and 2 L. Erie locations during November. An early Oldsquaw returned to Huron, OH, Oct. 17 (MG), but their Great Lakes movement was poor with a maximum of only 25 on L. Michigan. Their inland passage was normal with small numbers at 14 locations, beginning with an early migrant at L. Gage, IN, Oct. 22 (Haw et al.). The scoter flight was above average. Black Scoters returned to the Great Lakes Oct. 4 and peaked at 68 in Lake, OH, Oct. 22 (BPj, MG). Two Blacks visited Terre du Lac, MO, Oct. 19 (HF) where they are casually recorded, and inland migrants were encountered at 16 locations in the n. states. Surf Scoters appeared along L. Erie by Sept. 30. Their largest flocks totalled 42 at Miller Beach, IN, Oct. 4 (KB), 26 at Cleveland Oct. 21–24 (TL), and 10 at L. Gage, IN, Oct. 29 (Haw et al.). The most noteworthy of 19 inland reports were single Surfs at Farmington, MO, Oct. 22 (BR et al.) and Boone, KY, Nov. 15–19 (LM, m.ob.), plus two at Maryville, MO, Nov. 5 (DE); they are casual migrants at these locations. White-winged Scoters peaked at 24 along L. Michigan, while 11 at Clear L., IA, Oct. 30 (JHn) constituted a large inland flock. Small numbers of White-wingeds were detected at 17 other inland sites in the n. states. A Com. Goldeneye at Joliet, IL, July 24 (JMi) probably summered locally. An accidental visitor to Iowa, a ♂ **Barrow's Goldeneye** was studied at the IPL ponds near Council Bluffs Nov. 12–15 (†AG et al.). The largest merganser flocks totalled 419 Hoodeds in c. Iowa, 3500 Commons on 2 Iowa lakes, and 50,000+ Red-breasted along c. Lake Erie.

HAWKS TO CRANES — The hawk migration was hardly detectable at most locations. Flocks of 53 Black Vultures in Carroll, KY, Oct. 28 (J & KCa) and 25 in Brown, OH, Oct. 29 (CK) indicated increasing populations near the n. edge of their range. Migrant Turkey Vultures were widespread with flocks of 100–250+ reported from most states. Breeding Ospreys are becoming established in w. Kentucky, as 4 nests were counted at L. Barkley in August (BP, DEb). Migrants were widespread with a maximum of six in Illinois. The latest of five November Ospreys remained in Tazewell, IL, through Nov. 13 (KR). The most unusual raptor was Iowa's first **Black-shouldered Kite**, observed at a distance over Otter Creek Marsh on Sept. 18 (†PP, BBl). A Mississippi Kite wandered to Mason, IL, Aug. 2 (KR), while the only migrant flock was of 15+ in Ballard, KY, Aug. 20 (MM). Bald Eagles were widely reported, as their numbers continue to improve. Northern Harriers returned to most states before Sept. 1. They received mixed reports, although as many as 21–25 congregated in Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois. The only sizable movement of Sharp-shinned Hawks totalled 185+ at Illinois Beach S.P., IL, Oct. 15 (EW et al.). The N. Goshawk flight was nonexistent with only 3

sightings this autumn.

Most Broad-winged Hawks bypassed this Region. The only reported flights were of a paltry 235 in Lucas, OH, Sept. 17 (TK) and 120 in Jones, IA, Sept. 13 (MK). Swainson's Hawks were noted only in Iowa with singles at 6 locations. Rough-legged Hawks did not appear in numbers until December. A normal fall flight of Golden Eagles produced a total of seven reports from Iowa, Illinois, Ohio, and Missouri. Merlins were widely observed with a maximum of seven at Illinois Beach S.P., IL, Oct. 15 (ASt). An early Peregrine Falcon in Warren, KY, Aug. 3 (BP, DP) was probably from one of the midwest release programs. Numbers of migrants continued to increase. This fall's best movement occurred along L. Michigan in n.w. Indiana, with a total of 13 Peregrines, including five on Sept. 23 (KB, LH). The only acceptably described Prairie Falcons were noted in Vermilion, IL, Nov. 26 (†ME) and in Hardin, IA, Nov. 28 (†MP).

An errant Ruffed Grouse wandered to the Dunes area of n.w. Indiana Aug. 26 (LH). Rails have seriously declined during the past few years. King Rails were discovered at one Ohio and 2 Illinois locations, with five at R.L.C.A. Aug. 16–26 (KR, LA). Only small numbers of Virginias and Soras were reported. The latest migrants were noted in Iowa, with a Virginia at the IPL ponds Nov. 8 (DR) and a Sora in Montgomery Nov. 12 (DR, BRo). Even the ubiquitous Am. Coot has noticeably declined. Early Sandhill Cranes included 10 over Kirkwood, MO, Sept. 9 (†MW) and three at Otter Creek Marsh, IA, Sept. 20 (MP, BPr). The Jasper-Pulaski W.M.A., IN, staging area hosted 14,700+ cranes Nov. 11 (AB). Their southward passage through Kentucky peaked Nov. 3–4 & 23–26 when flocks of 50–500+ were noted w. to Henderson. Flocks of 50–112+ cranes flew over n. Illinois Nov. 12–13, and there were three reports of 41–80 cranes in s.w. Ohio Nov. 18–21. Rare migrants through Iowa, single cranes were noted at 3 locations Oct. 25–Nov. 24.

SHOREBIRDS — Abundance of migrant shorebirds varied depending on habitat availability. Black-bellied Plovers peaked at 100–110 in Iowa and Illinois. The largest flock of Lesser Golden-Plovers totalled 490 at Say. Res. Oct. 12 (SD), while 57 in Warren, KY, Sept. 16 (BP) and 266+ in Will, IL, Sept. 8 (JMi) were locally unusual. A Semipalmated Plover at L. Contrary, MO, through Oct. 28 (DE et al.) was fairly late, but singles at Chicago Nov. 10 (EW) and Red Rock Res., IA, Nov. 28 (†BBR) were exceptionally tardy. Piping Plovers staged



Juvenile Piping Plover at Waukegan Municipal Beach, Illinois, August 11, 1989. Photograph/Jim Landing.

their best flight of the decade. At least 17 individuals were reported, including 5 sightings in St. Charles, MO, Aug. 10–Sept. 5 (m.ob.), 4 records from R.L.C.A., July 26–Sept. 1 (KR), and three in Warren, KY, Aug. 20–Sept. 10 (fide BP). Two summering **Black-necked Stilts** at R.L.C.A., IL, were observed through Aug. 26 with one remaining until Sept. 10 (m.ob.).

Another **Black-necked Stilt** appeared in *Ottawa*, OH, Aug 5–16 (†ES *et al.*, m.ob.), perhaps the same individual that had visited various L. Erie locations earlier in the year. American Avocets appeared in every state, producing 15 records for a fairly good fall flight. The largest flocks were of 15 at the IPL ponds, IA, Aug. 27 (TBr *et al.*) and nine at Michigan City, IN, Aug. 5 (HD, AB).

An impressive 1000 Greater Yellowlegs were estimated at R.L.C.A. Aug. 27 (RP). A late flight occurred Oct. 25–Nov. 16 as evidenced by 176 at Runnells W.M.A., IA, Oct. 29 (AJ) and 35 at L. Waveland, IN, Nov. 9 (AB). One at L. Pewee, KY, Nov. 30 (JH) was tardy, as were single Lesser Yellowlegs at L. Waveland, IN, Nov. 20 (AB) and Riverton W.M.A., IA, Nov. 21–22 (SD). The largest flocks of Lesser Yellowlegs totalled 1500–2000 in Iowa and Illinois. Willet numbers improved somewhat, producing 18 records. The only flock was of 11+ at R.L.C.A. Aug. 12 (MD), and an exceptionally late Willet was reported from O.W.R. Nov. 5 (EP, TB *et al.*). The latest Spotted Sandpipers were detected at Louisville with three on Nov. 3 and one through Nov. 11 (LRa, BP). Migrant Upland Sandpipers were noted only in small flocks. One lingered in *Fulton*, KY, Oct. 2 (CP). Whimbrel reports were limited to one or two at scattered sites along both Great Lakes. Small numbers of Hudsonian Godwits migrated along L. Erie as late as Nov. 5. Six inland reports included a maximum of six at Springfield, IL, Sept. 9 (DBo), one in the Dunes area, IN, Oct. 14 (LH, SB), and late singles in Illinois at Marshall Nov. 10–11 (LA) and Sangchris L. through Nov. 15 (DBo). Marbled Godwits were scarce with singles along L. Erie through Nov. 7 and one c. Illinois report. A late Ruddy Turnstone visited Lake St. Mary's, OH, Nov. 4 (CM *et al.*).

Three Red Knots in Warren, KY, Sept. 2–12 (m.ob.), one at U.S.W.R. Aug. 31 (†MK), and up to two at Say. Res. Sept. 2–6 (†RC, m.ob.) were casual migrants through those states. A maximum of seven knots was counted along L. Erie, and the latest migrants were three at R.L.C.A. Oct. 28 (KR). Sanderlings appear to be declining, as evidenced by Great Lakes maxima of 25–73. Tardy migrants were noted at Say. Res. Nov. 11 (R & PA) and Illinois Beach S.P., IL, Nov. 22 (EW). Western Sandpipers peaked with 22 at Runnells W.M.A., IA, Sept. 3 (JSi) and 20 in Warren, KY, Sept. 12 (BP). One remained through Nov. 11 at Buck Creek S.P., OH (DO). An estimated 1000 Least Sandpipers at R.L.C.A. Aug. 5 (RP) dwarfed all other flocks. Late White-rumped Sandpipers produced 4 November records from Ohio, including six at O.W.R. Nov. 5 (EP, TB *et al.*) and one through Nov. 11 in Greene (DO). Baird's Sandpipers peaked at 27 in Iowa, where the latest migrants were two at Say. Res. Nov. 26 (BE). Pectoral Sandpipers were plentiful with maxima of 3000–5000 in Iowa and Illinois. Several lingered into November with six at Kentucky L., KY, Nov. 30 (CP). A Purple Sandpiper at Waukegan, IL, Oct. 25–Nov. 5 (JSo, m.ob.) heralded a good fall flight along the Great Lakes, with 3 records from L. Michigan and at least 8 sightings on L. Erie. As many as five were noted at Headlands S.P., OH, during November (RH).

Impressive tallies of Stilt Sandpipers were of 420 at U.S.W.R. Sept. 15 (MK) and 200+ at R.L.C.A. Sept. 6 (KR). Ten Stilt Sandpipers at Say. Res. Oct. 28 (AJ) were late, as was one at Buck Creek S.P., OH, Nov. 5 (DO). Buff-breasted Sandpipers produced noteworthy flocks of 29 in *Will*, IL, Sept. 8 (JMi), 26 at U.S.W.R. Sept. 4 (MK), and 16 in Warren, KY, Sept. 4 (BP). An injured Buff-breasted was exceptionally tardy at Lake St. Mary's, OH, Nov. 4–5 (CM *et al.*). Ruffs were discovered only at R.L.C.A. with a male Aug. 5–19 and a female Aug. 12–Sept. 6 (KR, m.ob.). Long-billed Dowitchers peaked with 250+ along w. Lake Erie, while inland flocks of 100+ at R.L.C.A. Aug. 31 (RP), 80 at Spirit L., IA, Oct. 11 (DH), and 63 at Runnells W.M.A., IA, Oct. 29 (AJ) were unusual. Except for 35+ Wilson's Phalaropes at R.L.C.A. Aug. 24 (KR), only small numbers were reported. Red-necked Phalaropes were scarce with maxima of six to nine in Iowa and Illinois. Early Red Phalaropes returned to Springfield, IL, Aug. 22 (†DBo) and Erie, OH, Sept.

17 (BP), MG) They produced three records from L. Erie, one from L. Michigan, and an inland Red at Brookville Res., IN, Oct. 21 (†BB *et al.*).

JAEGERS TO TERNS — Migrant jaegers were most numerous on L. Michigan with at least 13 unidentified individuals in n.w. Indiana, including at least nine between Oct. 16–19. Two Parasitic Jaegers were reported from the Chicago area and an equal number were noted along L. Erie. Accidental on the Great Lakes, an ad. **Long-tailed Jaeger** was documented from Miller Beach, IN, Sept. 23 (†RHu, †BSq, ASi), the same date a juvenile was carefully identified at Headlands S.P., OH (†RH). Iowa's first **Laughing Gull** records were furnished by one at Red Rock Res. Aug. 19–26 (†BH, m.ob.), one at the IPL ponds Aug. 27 (†B & LPa), and two on the Mississippi R. near Burlington Sept. 9 (†TKe *et al.*). The species is regularly observed in the other states; single sightings from both Great Lakes and inland reports from one Kentucky, one Ohio, and 3 Illinois locations constituted a sub-par total of Laughing Gulls for recent autumns. Normal numbers of Franklin's Gulls passed through the w. states with maxima of 2000–8900 in Iowa. They were scarce e. of the Mississippi R., where the largest flock totalled 25 in Illinois, and very few were detected along L. Erie. It was a good year for Little Gulls along L. Michigan in n.w. Indiana, where 6 reports included an early migrant at Michigan City Aug. 23 (LH). Scattered singles were also noted along L. Erie. The only acceptable inland record of **Little Gull** was of an adult documented at Say. Res. Oct. 8 (†SD, †B & PA), establishing a first record for Iowa.

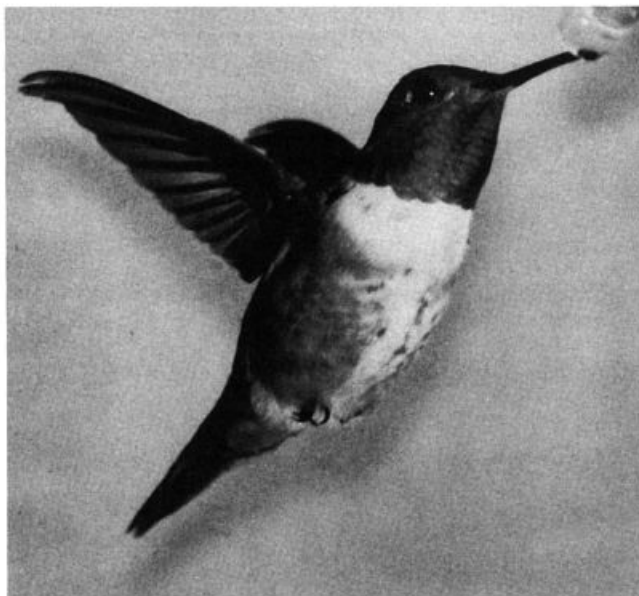
Another overdue first for Iowa was an ad. **California Gull** observed at Davenport Nov. 23–24 (†LA, †PP *et al.*). The only other acceptably documented California Gull was a 3rd-year individual at Lorain, OH, Nov. 23 (†MG, †BPj). Two Thayer's Gulls returned to Miller Beach, IN, Oct. 21 (KB *et al.*), and singles were scattered along both Great Lakes during November. Inland singles were reported from Decatur, IL, Nov. 21 (MD) and Kentucky L., KY, Nov. 18 (BP, DP). The only Iceland Gull was an early visitor to Michigan City, IN, Nov. 11–18 (CKe, †KB *et al.*). Lesser Black-backed Gulls are becoming more widely distributed and may be encountered during most months of the year. August singles were reported from Beverly Shores, IN, Aug. 7 (†KB), Cleveland Aug. 9 (TL), Say. Res. Aug. 19 (†RC, BE), and Lucas, OH, Aug. 28–30 (ET). Other early Lesser Black-backed included one at Decatur, IL, Sept. 8–9 (†RP, †MD) and three at L. Barkley, KY, Sept. 28 (BP). By November, expected numbers appeared along the Great Lakes, a wintering individual had returned to Gibson, IN (S), CKe *et al.*, and two were at Rock Falls, IL, Nov. 29 (†LJ).

A Glaucous Gull at Miller Beach, IN, Oct. 18 (DJ) was early, but only small numbers were noted in Indiana and Iowa by late November. Great Black-backed Gulls produced 3 records from L. Michigan. The only inland sighting was from L. Rockwell, OH, Nov. 26 (LR). A Black-legged Kittiwake at Miller Beach, IN, Oct. 18 (DJ) initiated an average flight. Three singles were observed along L. Michigan, while the only acceptable inland sightings were of an adult at L. Lemon, IN, Nov. 16 (†DW) and an immature at Caesar Creek Res., OH, Nov. 27–Dec. 2 (†BM, m.ob.). A juv. Sabine's Gull appeared at Decatur, IL, on the remarkably early date of Aug. 3 (†MD). An above-average fall flight produced 4 sightings along L. Erie, with a maximum of three between Huron and Lake Sept. 23 (m.ob.) and a late migrant at Oregon Nov. 11 (†ET, MA). Inland single Sabine's were reported from Fremont, IA, Sept. 24 (†J & FBr), Diamond L., IA, Sept. 25 (†DK), Springfield, IL, Oct. 10 (†DBo), and L. Lemon, IN, with a juvenile Oct. 21 and an adult Nov. 4 (†DW, BW). Lake Erie's summering Sabine's Gull was periodically observed at Lorain through November.

The tern migration was typical for recent years. Caspian Terns peaked with 381 at Say. Res. Sept. 12 (SD) and 93 along L. Michigan. One at Buck Creek S.P., OH, Nov. 11 (DO) was tardy. The largest flocks of Common Terns totalled 1500 along w. Lake Erie Oct. 1–8 and 1000 at Michigan City, IN, Sept 9

[KB]. Inland migrants have declined precipitously. Hence, 56 at L. Lemon, IN, Sept. 23 (DW) were unusual. Flocks lingered along w. Lake Erie with 100 present at Oregon Nov. 11 (ET). Forster's Terns congregated into flocks of 97-150 in the n. states. The last migrants were noted Nov. 11-18 in Ohio and Indiana. Least Terns successfully fledged three young in Gibson, IN, where they were last observed Sept. 16 (SJ, CKE). Elsewhere, few were reported along the Mississippi R., and extralimital Leasts were noted at Thomas Hill Res., MO, Aug. 14 (SV), and one or two at 3 c. Illinois sites. Black Terns were represented by flocks of 200 in Polk, IA, Aug. 5 (E & EA et al.), 185 in Warren, KY, Aug. 6 (BP), and 150+ at R.L.C.A. Sept. 10 (KR). However, this declining species has virtually disappeared as a migrant along L. Erie.

CUCKOOS TO FLYCATCHERS — Only small numbers of both cuckoo species were reported, including a late Yellow-billed in Munfordville, KY, Nov. 2 (SK). Barn Owls were limited to singles in Iowa and Missouri. It was not a Snowy Owl year. The only reports were of single Snowies at Mattoon, IL, Nov. 22 (BHu) and Hoover Res., OH, Nov. 24 (BC). Casual migrants through Illinois, single Burrowing Owls were discov-



Adult male Rufous Hummingbird in Grayson County, Kentucky, autumn 1989. First definite state record. Photograph/Herbert L. Clay, Jr.



Burrowing Owl in southern Iroquois County, Illinois, September 29, 1989. Photograph/Joel B. Milosevich.

ered in Iroquois Sept. 22-30 (†MC, m.ob., ph.) and at Illinois Beach S.P. Oct. 14 (†DJ). Long-eared Owls were scarce with only 6 reports from the n. states. Migrant Short-eared Owls were more widely encountered than normal. There were scattered sightings from every state including numerous observations along L. Michigan and a maximum of 12 in Kentucky. Few N. Saw-whet Owls were discovered, only small numbers at 7 locations in the n. states. Fewer Com. Night-hawks passed through the Region this fall. The only notable concentrations were of "thousands" at Toledo, OH, Aug. 27 (ET) and 1000+ at Waukegan, IL, Aug. 22 (JSo).

The largest Chimney Swift flocks totalled 2291 at Fairfield, IA (DPo), and 1360 at Shaker Hts., OH, Oct. 14-16 (VF). These swifts may be declining, and their traditional fall roosts should be monitored. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird nest was still active at Dunes National Lakeshore, IN, Sept. 6 (CF). Migrants were not plentiful, except in Kentucky and Indiana, where 25-30+ congregated at several locations. **Rufous Humming-**

birds remain accidental visitors, although they may eventually prove to be very rare but regular during fall and early winter. An adult male in Grayson Sept. 25-Dec. 14 (H & KC, ph.) furnished the first positively identified record from Kentucky. Other adult males included Ohio's 4th record at Columbus Aug. 9-10 (†JM) and one at St. Joseph, MO, Aug. 9-Nov. 7 (†PPR et al.). Additional immatures in Kentucky and Missouri are best treated as *Selasphorus* sp.

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers remained scarce, except for 17 at Chicago Sept. 23 (JLa). The flycatcher migration was uneventful. Tardy E. Wood-Pewees lingered through Oct. 22 at Brookville Res., IN (BB), and Headlands S.P., OH (BP). An early Yellow-bellied Flycatcher returned to Springfield, IL, July 25 (DBo). Single E. Phoebes at Ft. Wayne, IN, Nov. 24 (JW) and Tuscarawas, OH, Nov. 24 (ES) were late for the n. edge of the Region. The most unusual flycatcher was a **Say's Phoebe** at Hueston Woods S.P., Nov. 26 (†CM), establishing a first record for Ohio. Wandering W. Kingbirds were encountered only in Ohio with singles in Tuscarawas Aug. 30 (†RS), Waterville Sept. 1-3 (†ET), and Dayton Sept. 23 (†SU). The E Kingbird flight peaked at 20-35 in the n. states, normal numbers for recent years. Extralimital Scissor-tailed Flycatchers appeared at St. Joseph, MO, Sept. 10 (KJ) & 20 (LL), and in Washington, IA, Aug. 6 (fide JFu).

SWALLOWS TO SHRIKES — Purple Martin roosts included 1880+ at Evanston, IL, Aug. 9 (EW), 1500 near Dayton, OH, Aug. 18 (GL), "hundreds" at Louisville Aug. 8 (AS et al.), and 606 at Lorain, OH, Aug. 17 (WK). This is another declining species, and these fall roosts warrant annual monitoring. Massive numbers of Tree Swallows passed through Illinois with an estimated 50,000+ in Tazewell, IL, Sept. 25 (KR) and 5000-11,000+ at 4 other locations Oct. 3-8. In the other states, the largest Tree Swallow flocks totalled 10,000 at Dugger W.M.A., IN, Oct. 7 (DW), 6000 at Barberton, OH, Sept. 2-10 (LR), and 4000-6000 at 2 Iowa sites. Bank Swallows also seem to be declining. The only sizable concentrations were of 2700 in Laporte, IN, Aug. 5 (HD, AB) and 1000 in Warren during August (BP), an exceptional fall total for Kentucky. A single Bank Swallow at Springfield, IL, Nov. 3 (DBo) was very late. A flock of 500 Cliff Swallows at Sangchris S.P. Sept. 13-15 (DBo) was sizable for Illinois. Barn Swallows peaked with 2000 at Barberton, OH, Sept. 10 (LR) and 1215+ at Evanston, IL, Aug. 10 (EW).

An estimated 5000 Am. Crows were tallied in Ames, IA (JD), while 1500–2000 were reported from 2 Illinois locations. Two Fish Crows in Ripley Aug. 5 (L & RG) were outside of their normal s. Missouri range, while one at L. Barkley, KY, Nov. 18 (BP, DP) was a tardy migrant. A Red-breasted Nuthatch in DuPage, IL, Aug. 16 (RW, EW) marked the beginning of a moderate invasion. They appeared in the other n. states before Aug. 30 and in most locations by mid-September. They did not become not numerous until October. The largest concentrations were of 20–30+. A Brown Creeper in Hamilton, OH, Sept. 3 (JS) was very early and could have summered locally. A late House Wren nest was still active in Maumee, OH, Sept. 18 (ET). An early Winter Wren returned to St. Louis Sept. 15 (JVB), but their passage was rather poor. A respectable 45 Sedge Wrens were tallied at Say. Res. Aug. 23 (JD). Scattered migrants through the e. states were noted through Oct. 29 at Muscatatuck N.W.R., IN [fide NK]. Early kinglets included a Golden-crowned at Chicago Sept. 11 (EW) and a Ruby-crowned in Franklin, IN, Sept. 2 (PW). Migrants were widespread but no large flights were reported.

A Townsend's Solitaire in Scott, IA, Oct. 13 (fide PP) was early and unusual in the e. edge of the state. The *Catharus* thrush migration was normal. Hundreds of Swainson's Thrushes passed over Ohio during the evening of Sept. 10–11, while the largest number on the ground was 135+ at Evanston, IL, Sept. 21 (EW). One in Summit, OH, Nov. 22 (WS) was late. A Hermit Thrush at Beverly Shores, IN, Aug. 12 (LH, SB) was very early, and the largest movement totalled 48 at Hammond, IN, Oct. 8 (CKe). The only Varied Thrushes detected were in Iowa, with singles in Ames Nov. 25 (fide JD) and Pleasantville Nov. 29 (E & EA). Gray Catbirds were plentiful, with maxima of 42–55 in Ohio and Illinois. Brown Thrashers peaked at 20–22 in Illinois. An early Am. Pipit returned to Chicago Sept. 2 (JLa). The species was scarce in most areas, except for 333 in South Bend, IN, Oct. 15 (V & MI). Casual migrants through w. Missouri, four Sprague's Pipits were discovered in Henry Oct. 15 (RF et al.) and up to seven were noted in Buchanan Oct. 20–22 (MR, DE et al.). There are few recent records of Bohemian Waxwings from Indiana. Hence, six in the Dunes area at West Beach Nov. 12 (DJ, JSt et al.) were noteworthy. Record early N. Shrikes returned to Cherokee, IA, Oct. 1 (DB), O.W.R. Oct. 8 (tMG, BPj), and Cleveland Oct. 15 (m.ob.). A moderate fall flight consisted of 11 sightings scattered across the n. states south to Adams, IN.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — Apparently most vireos were present in expected numbers. The 20 Solitary Vireos in Ames, IA, Sept. 9 (PM) made a large fall concentration. Lingering vireos included single Solitaires remaining through Nov. 1 at Cincinnati (JL) and Charleston, IL (BHu), and a Warbling Vireo in Portage, OH, Oct. 28 (fide LR). The report of 17 Philadelphia Vireos at Shaker Hts., OH, Sept. 11 (VF) was exceptional for any migration.

Several cold fronts during late August triggered the start of the warbler migration. Along L. Erie, the largest flights occurred between Aug. 25–Sept. 5. The only other flight noted was Sept. 23 at Chicago. Small numbers of Golden-winged Warblers were reported from every state, with maxima of eight at several Illinois locations. An early Tennessee Warbler returned to L. Monroe, IN, Aug. 9 (DW). Their passage was strong, peaking with 120 at Shades S.P., IN, Sept. 4 (AB). Late records included one in Grayson, KY, Nov. 12 (H & KC), an injured male at Hoover Res., OH, Nov. 13 (BMA), and one at Marshall, IN, Dec. 3 (AB). Orange-crowned Warblers staged a good movement e. of the Mississippi R., peaking with 13 at Springfield, IL, Oct. 19 (DBo) and at least eight at Headlands S.P., OH, Oct. 22 (BPj, MG). The L. Erie flights produced the following concentrations at Shaker Hts., OH: 37 Chestnut-sideds Sept. 2, 95 Magnolias Aug. 27, and 80 Cape Mays Sept. 2 (VF). Other noteworthy Cape May Warbler reports included an early migrant at Chicago July 28 (RD), a late migrant near

Kirksville, IN, Nov. 19 (LS, DW), and 7 reports from Iowa, where they are rare during autumn. Black-throated Blue Warblers, also rare migrants through the w. states, produced three Missouri and four Iowa reports this fall.

Early Yellow-rumped Warblers included four at Shaker Hts., OH, Aug. 22 (VF) and one in Grayson, KY, Sept. 4 (H & KC). They peaked with 525+ at Evanston, IL, Sept. 29 (EW). Early and late dates for Black-throated Green Warblers were reported from Ft. Wayne, IN with singles Aug. 1 (DWA) and Nov. 5 (TH, TY). A Yellow-throated Warbler at the Dunes National Lakeshore Aug. 25 (KB) established only the 2nd fall record from n.w. Indiana. Late Pine Warblers were noted Nov. 8 at South Bend, IN (V & MI), Nov. 12 in Tuscarawas, OH (ES), and Nov. 15 in Porter, IN (CF). The 240 Palm Warblers at Chicago Sept. 23 (JLa) easily surpassed other Regional concentrations. An early Bay-breasted Warbler returned to Booneville, IA, Aug. 4 (E & EA). Maximum counts of Am. Redstarts totalled 130–140+ along both Great Lakes. One at Chicago Nov. 6–11 (PC et al.) was tardy. A Worm-eating Warbler near Dunes S.P. Aug. 2 (RI) provided an unusual fall sighting from n.w. Indiana. A late Ovenbird tarried at Ft. Wayne, IN, through Nov. 2–6 (AO). Wilson's Warblers peaked with 27 at Shaker Hts., OH, Aug. 30 (VF), while a late Canada Warbler remained at Hammond, IN, through Oct. 10 (CKe).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES — The most noteworthy tanager reports were of late migrants, a Summer at Williamsville, IL, Oct. 26 (tDBo) and a Scarlet in Grayson, KY, Oct. 14 (H & KC). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak remained beyond normal departure dates at South Bend, IN, Nov. 9 (T & LSt). A ♀ Blue Grosbeak accompanied by three dependent young repre-



Blue Grosbeak nest with three young in Will County, Illinois, August 30, 1989, representing a nesting that was both late and far north. The fledged young were later seen with an adult female here. Photograph/Joe B. Milosevich.

sented a late nesting attempt in Will, IL, Sept. 18 (JM). A Dickcissel at Headlands S.P. Oct. 14 (RH) provided an unusual fall record for n.e. Ohio, while the late migrants were noted in Iowa at Scott Nov. 13 (PP) and Marshalltown Nov. 24 (fide BPr).

The sparrow migration was similar to the poor movements of the past few years. The "Spotted" race of Rufous-sided Towhee wandered east of its normal range, producing two St. Louis and two Chicago area records. Early Am. Tree Sparrows returned to Illinois Beach S.P., IL, Oct. 12 (JS) and Allen, IN, Oct. 16 (BPx). There were six reports of Clay-colored Sparrows from Illinois, a normal number for recent years, but the only other record e. of the Mississippi R. was from Beverly Shores, IN, Sept. 18 (LH). Numbers of grassland sparrows remained low, with maxima of 25 Vespers in Iowa and 70+ Savannahs in Missouri. Few migrant Grasshopper Sparrows were en-

countered, and the only migrant Henslow's was reported from Beverly Shores, IN, Sept. 20 (LH). The 19 Le Conte's Sparrows at Say. Res. Oct. 14 (SD) represented a good total for Iowa. Single Le Conte's were observed at Fox Island Nature Preserve, IN, Oct. 14 (Haw) and Sloughs W.M.A., KY, Oct. 21 (BP et al.) where they are casual migrants. The 10 reports of Sharp-tailed Sparrows were normal. One Sharp-tailed was a rare migrant through Kentucky, visiting Sloughs W.M.A. Oct. 21 (BP et al.). Two at Springfield, IL, Oct. 29 (DBO) were rather late.

Early Fox Sparrows were noted at Chicago Sept. 11 (EW) and Cleveland Sept. 25 (VF). The only sizable concentration totalled 41 in DuPage, IL, Oct. 26 (EW). Other noteworthy sparrow flocks were of 45 Lincoln's at Cleveland Sept. 25 (VF) and 150+ Swamp Sparrows at Urbana, IL, Oct. 15 (RCh). Exceptionally early migrants were a White-throated Sparrow at Chicago Aug. 25 (TBw) and a White-crowned at Headlands S.P., OH, Aug. 13 (A & JF). Harris' Sparrows produced 7 records from Illinois, and as many as five were noted in Porter, IN, Sept. 26–Oct. 7 (BPO). Migrant Dark-eyed Juncos returned to L. Erie by Sept. 4 but their numbers were low in most areas. Early Lapland Longspurs returned Sept. 24 to Headlands S.P., OH (LR), and Cook, IL (m.ob.). Only small numbers appeared in most areas, except for a flock of 2000 in c. Iowa. A casual migrant through w. Missouri, one Chestnut-collared Longspur was carefully identified in Buchanan Oct. 20–22 (†TMR et al.). Early Snow Buntings included 65 in Lake, IL, Oct. 15 (JLa) and singles in Maryville, MO, Oct. 20 (DE, MR) and Holmes, OH, Oct. 24–25 (ES). The expected flocks appeared along the Great Lakes but few were detected inland.

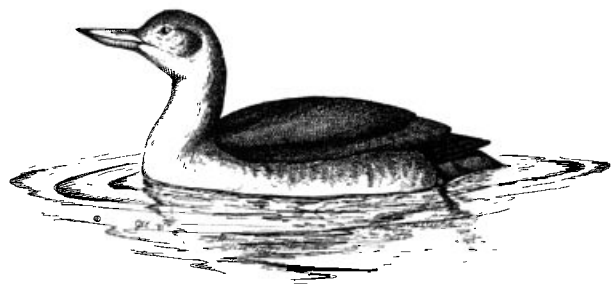
Bobolink numbers improved with a maximum of 112 along L. Erie, but most of the common blackbird species have declined during the past few years. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported in normal numbers east to L. Michigan. Extralimital records included one in Seneca, OH, Oct. 15 (TB) plus singles at 3 c. Illinois sites. Small numbers of Brewer's Blackbirds passed through the n. states. Great-tailed Grackles were unreported, even from traditional locations in w. Missouri. Lingering N. Orioles were reported from Marshalltown, IA, Nov. 18–21 (fide BPr) and Scott, IA, Nov. 29 (fide PP).

The winter finch flight had to improve after last year's dismal numbers. The only Pine Grosbeak reported was from Sioux, IA, Nov. 18 (JVD). After an early migrant at Chicago Aug. 27 (EW), Purple Finches were widely reported but most flocks totalled six or fewer with maxima of 15–30. House Finches continued to spread through the w. states, and a flock of 200+ in Urbana, IL, Sept. 16 (RCh) was indicative of their exploding populations in Illinois. Red Crossbills were scarce, producing only single sightings from Indiana and Ohio plus records from 3 Illinois locations. The earliest arrivals were in Champaign, IL, Oct. 4–6 (EC, RCh) and the largest flock was of 24 at Illinois Beach S.P., IL, Nov. 18 (MD). White-winged Crossbills staged a minor movement. They were first noted Oct. 18–23 with at least four in Atchison, MO (MR), but every other record was during November when they appeared at 2 Ohio, 6 Illinois, and 9 Iowa locations. Most reports were of 10 or fewer, although 61+ congregated in Lake, IL, Nov. 24 (JLa). One wandered south to Hamilton, OH, by Nov. 27 (JB). Early Com. Redpolls returned to Sioux, IA, Oct. 18 (JVD) and Lake, OH, Oct. 22 (BPj, MG), but there were few other reports. Pine Siskins staged the largest invasion, returning to Raymore, MO, Aug. 10 (JG) and the Great Lakes by Sept. 29–30. They became widespread by mid-October and flocks of 100–300+ were encountered during November. An Evening Grosbeak at Shaker Hts., OH, Sept. 11 (VF) was early, especially for a non-flight year. They were reported from only 11 locations in the n. states with a maximum of three.

PROBLEMATIC RECORDS — A Harris' Hawk photographed near Blainstown, IA, Sept. 10–14 was probably an escapee. This species is a favorite among falconers, and most recent extralimital sightings have ultimately proven to be

escapes from captivity.

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Joe Evarich

CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

Robert D. Purrington



Observers anticipate fall more than any other season precisely because it is diverse and unpredictable: it offers prospects of post-breeding wanderers, western vagrants, boreal invasion, hurricane-driven waifs, and so on. Some years none of these materialize in significant proportions; others make one wish fall would never end. If ever there were a confusing fall, lacking distinct or Regionwide patterns but offering considerable excitement, this was it. There was something of a western invasion which, in Louisiana, at least, verged on the spectacular; there was a modest boreal invasion, dominated by Pine Siskins and Red-breasted Nuthatches; and there was a touch of tropical weather in extreme southwest Louisiana (Hurricane Chantal). Climatic conditions ranged from cool and dry in Arkansas to a November in New Orleans that was the wettest month ever.

Among the most notable features of the fall were three possible first state records for Louisiana; 10 species of gulls; and an unprecedented movement of hawks through southwest Louisiana the last week in September. Sadly, another striking feature was the absence of significant concentrations of grounded passerine migrants, the only apparent exception being a significant fallout September 24 noted by Ballman in the Florida section.

I should mention that all records of extreme rarities are subject to action by the appropriate "rare bird committee." Often such committees will not have considered the records published here by this writer's deadline. This move to have official ratification of all "review list" species in each state of this Region is a salutary development; one immediate result seen by Regional Editors is an increase in the quality of documentation of records.

Since the influx of western vagrants is largely coastal, Louisiana often benefits most from whatever forces cause inexperienced or abnormal individuals to stray to the Gulf Coast. This fall there were the usual records of the regular

western vagrants that appear in greater or lesser numbers each year. In addition, Louisiana had Vaux's Swift, at least five Broad-tailed and one Allen's hummingbirds, two (!) Red-naped Sapsuckers, a Western Wood-Pewee, and Lucy's and Virginia's warblers. Yet, as the reports below will show, the movement of western species, if not as dramatic elsewhere, was not confined to the westernmost part of the Region.

ABBREVIATIONS—L.B.R.C. = Louisiana Bird Records Committee; L.S.U.M.N.S. = Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science, Baton Rouge. Place names in *italics* are parishes (Louisiana) or counties.

LOONS TO FRIGATEBIRDS—Early records of Com. Loons included one on Spanish Lake, Iberia, LA, Aug. 9 (MJM), possibly summering, one Oct. 8 in Cameron, LA (DLD, SWC), and another in Hancock, MS, Oct. 14 (JT, MFH). Concentrations of 135 Pied-billed Grebes on Lake Fayetteville, Washington, AR, Sept. 23 (MMI)—the largest ever for n.w. Arkansas—and 425 in the Swan Creek W.M.A., Limestone, AL (GDJ), were notable. Eared Grebes reached the Gulf Coast as early as Sept. 9 in Mobile (PB, GF), and there were records during the next 2 weeks from Arkansas and n. Mississippi. One Oct. 1 in Cameron (SWC) was the earliest ever for Louisiana. Three to seven in Okaloosa, FL, Oct. 13 on (DW, RLB, JHS) were unusual that far east.

Records of early or out-of-season N. Gannets included an immature found freshly dead on the beach in Cameron Aug. 2 (SWC, DLD), for one of few Louisiana records of "summering" birds; one 5 mi e. of Ft. Morgan, AL, Aug. 28-30 (JF*), found to be heavily infested with lice; and a subadult nearly 20 mi n. of Orange Beach, Baldwin, AL, Sept. 16 (GDJ, A.O.S.). Along the coast, migration patterns of Am. White Pelicans are difficult to discern given the frequency of summering, e.g., 1000+ near Port Fourchon, Lafourche, LA, Aug. 20 (NN, RDP, MM, GC). On the other hand, there were 8 reports of migrating White Pelicans from Arkansas, n. Mississippi, and w. Tennes-

see between Sept. 12 and Oct. 1, numbering about 1200 birds, in addition to 3000+ that were seen near Arkansas City, AR, Sept. 19 (JML, WWB). Reports of Brown Pelicans from the coast included 200+ near Horn Is., MS, Aug. 4 (CD, LJ, GM, JT), 65 at Pascagoula Beach, MS, Aug. 9 (LJ), and up to 21 at a time in Cameron, LA, in September and October (peak Oct. 21—JK, MS). They continue to fare well in Barataria Bay, Jefferson, LA, although there is concern that erosion and subsidence threaten their most important current nesting island.

Notable records of Double-crested Cormorants included one Aug. 8–9 in Jackson, MS (MFH), where summer records are rare, and three to four on Bull Shoals L. in n.c. Arkansas Oct. 13 and Nov. 2 (DRM, m.ob.) where they are considered rare; numbers exceeded 1000 at Sardis L., MS, Nov. 18–25 (MD, GK). Reports of Anhingas included one at Noxubee N.W.R., MS, Aug. 11 (TS, MD, MC, JB), several migrating flocks totalling nearly 1000 individuals in Cameron, LA, Sept. 24–25 (JK, CF, SWC, DLD) following a frontal passage, and late individuals in s.e. Louisiana Nov. 19–25 (PW, CK, CGB, NN, RDP). Single Magnificent Frigatebirds in Cameron on 3 dates between Aug. 2 and Sept. 23 (DLD, SWC, DM, AS, GS) were unusual there, and one Nov. 9 in Hancock, MS (MFH), was late.

HERONS TO STORKS — Possibly a delayed consequence of Hurricane Chantal, which had reached the Cameron coast some 3 weeks earlier, was a huge concentration of feeding waders near Holly Beach Aug. 27 (SWC, DLD) which included 6000–10,000 Snowy Egrets, 2500–5000 Great Egrets, 1200 Tricolored Herons, and up to 600 Roseate Spoonbills among an estimated 15,000 waders, gulls, and shorebirds. Remarkably early (if migrating) was an Am. Bittern at Rutherford Beach, Cameron, LA, Aug. 20 (AS, GS); a downy young Least Bittern in Jackson, MS, Aug. 12 (MFH) was the result of a very late nesting, and one at Noxubee N.W.R., MS, Aug. 16 (TS) was at an unusual location. Single birds in Jackson, MS, Nov. 12 (JT) and in Escambia, FL, Nov. 24 (RAD, JP) were quite late.

Two records of "Great White" Herons were noteworthy in view of the small number of previous records for n.w. Florida: Sept. 4 in Bay (RAD, SD, PT), and Sept. 20 in Okaloosa (AD, fide DW). As usual, there were many interesting records of coastal waders inland. These included a Snowy Egret in Lafayette, MS, Oct. 13 (GK, VT), Little Blue Herons in Arkansas at Bull Shoals L. Aug. 2 (DRM) and in Lee Aug. 29 (DE), and two Tricolored Herons in Howard, AR, Sept. 11–15 (CM). Records of Black-crowned Night-Herons from Washington and Benton, AR, Sept. 9 & 16 (MML, RK), and from Lafayette, Noxubee, and Oktibbeha, MS, Aug. 9 to Sept. 14 (GK, MD, TS) were also unusual. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Noxubee N.W.R. Sept. 19 (TS) was the latest there by 18 days. White Ibis were also unexpected in Arkansas between Sept. 2 and Nov. 3, highlighted by 66 immatures in Hemstead on the latter date (CM). An unidentified *Plegadis* ibis in Colbert, AL, Sept. 16–17 (TMH, NP, BRg) was the first of this genus for n.w. Alabama.

Notable coastal records included the observation of some 1000 Cattle Egrets in flocks of 25–200 flying south onto the Gulf near dusk Oct. 8 in Cameron (DLD, SWC), a rare *Plegadis* ibis in Okaloosa, FL, Sept. 15 (DW, CW), and at least 15 Glossy Ibis in s.w. Louisiana between Sept. 3 and Oct. 20 (SWC, DLD *et al.*). On the other hand, a White-faced Ibis in Jackson, MS, Nov. 13–18 (CC, JPe, m.ob.) was east of its normal range.

Roseate Spoonbills wandered widely during August, coastwise and away from the coast, perhaps as a result of Hurricane Chantal. Farthest inland were two at Noxubee N.W.R., MS, Aug. 5–Sept. 10 (TS, m.ob.). Up to 19 near Port Fourchon, Fourchon, LA, Aug. 20–Sept. 9 (NN, RDP, MM, GC *et al.*) represented the largest concentration. Up to five spoonbills in e Orleans July 2 to Nov. 1 represented only the 2nd parish record, and one in Slidell, LA, at about the same time (FB) was a first there. Four were in the Bonnet Carre Spillway,

LA, Aug. 1–Sept. 9 (RJS). Nearly 2 dozen records of post-breeding Wood Storks were submitted, totalling over 500 individuals. The majority were from the Morganza Spillway area, Pointe Coupee, LA, Aug. 11 to Oct. 7 (DWG *et al.*), but other records came from Chicot and Howard, AR, Hancock and Noxubee, MS, and Cameron, Concordia, Vermilion, and even Orleans, LA. The latter record, of six over New Orleans Nov. 5 (AS, GS), was the first ever for the city and very late as well.

WATERFOWL — A Fulvous Whistling-Duck in Mobile, AL, July 8 (PB, GF) was far outside its normal range, and about 50 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were near Laccasine N.W.R., LA, Sept. 8 (GOB, BRC, CAB), in the company of hundreds of their congeners. Over 800 Greater White-fronted Geese in the Johnson's Bayou area of Cameron Oct. 8 (SWC, DLD) represented an exceptionally early movement to the coast, and 67 at Sardis Waterfowl Ref., Lafayette, MS, Oct. 12–13 (GK, VT) were the earliest ever there by 17 days. Four at Panama City, FL, Nov. 1–4 (HL, CH, YF, JSa, TM) established the 8th record for n.w. Florida. While three Snow Geese in Cameron on the early date of Sept. 24 (SWC, DLD, DM, AS, GS) were notable, the ad. Snow Goose seen on Nov. 18 10 miles south of Horn I., MS (m.ob.) may have been disoriented, or simply on the way to wintering grounds near the mouth of the Mississippi River. There were 4 reports of Ross' Geese Nov. 15 in Lafayette, MS (GK, VT), perhaps the 3rd record for the state; Nov. 18 at Wheeler N.W.R. (AM, MB, HF, ASt, PF *et al.*), for the 5th Alabama record; Nov. 19 in Vermillion, LA (KVR); and three Nov. 30 at Holla Bend N.W.R., AR (HP, MP) Forty "greater-type" Canada Geese in Cameron, LA, Sept. 9 & 30 (SWC, DLD) might have belonged to the resident population at Rockefeller Ref.

Although Am. Black Ducks do winter along the Gulf Coast, they are rarely encountered; of interest, therefore, was one in Jackson, MS, Oct. 18 (MFH, CC). Canvasbacks reached coastal Mississippi early, Oct. 11 in Jackson (CD, LJ) and Oct. 14 in Hancock (JT, GO, DC, MFH); elsewhere they continued to be scarce. There were several reports of Greater Scaup from Arkansas and n. Mississippi between Oct. 29 and Nov. 24, and a ♀ Lesser Scaup was in Mobile on the unusual date of Aug. 20 (GDJ, DGJ). There were several early reports of Oldsquaws, all from areas where they are rare: Nov. 4 in Garland, AR (FM, DB, MG *et al.*), Nov. 5 in Henry, TN (DWB), Nov. 7–15 in Hancock, MS (JT), Nov. 11–12 in Lowndes, MS (TS, JM, GK, MC, JB)—earliest for the state by 6 days, and Nov. 19 in Grenada, MS (MD)—earliest there by 18 days. Records of scoters were as follows: four Black Scoters off Biloxi, MS, Nov. 25 (JH, JHH); 9 records of Surf Scoter totalling 17 individuals Sept. 20–Nov. 25, along the Gulf Coast from n.w. Florida to s.w. Louisiana, and in Henry, TN; and 4 records of single White-winged Scoters: Oct. 29 in Henry, TN (DWB), Nov. 16 in Oktibbeha, MS (TS, GK, MD), Nov. 18 in Orleans, LA (DM), and Nov. 19 in Jefferson, LA (DM). Unexpected on Aug. 4 in Jackson, MS, was a ♀ Red-breasted Merganser (CD, LJ, GM, JT).

DIURNAL RAPTORS — Again this fall the untiring efforts of McKenzie and Feerick (and new recruits, especially Kleiman) in carrying out systematic hawk watches paid off handsomely, as the table below makes clear. The great potential of s.w. Louisiana as a hawk-watching locale has been spectacularly demonstrated. During 234.5 hours of hawk watching statewide, 257,803 raptors were counted, of which 248,818 were Broad-winged Hawks! Although the greatest movements were associated with the frontal passage of Sept. 22–23, Baton Rouge experienced a large Broad-winged Hawk migration Sept. 16–18 (PMcK). Further totals and details are given below.

Records of at least 80 Ospreys were received, including 11 during the season from s.w. Louisiana (SWC, DLD), seven or eight from coastal Mississippi, and 34 seen during 40 hours of

Table 1. Species totals during Louisiana hawk watches, Fall 1989.

Mississippi Kite	1461
Northern Harrier	83
Sharp-shinned Hawk	6253
Cooper's Hawk	146
Broad-winged Hawk	248,818
Red-tailed Hawk	27
American Kestrel	564
Merlin	65
Peregrine Falcon	51
Total Raptors	257,803

hawk watch observation in Cameron, LA, Sept. 23–25 (PMcK, CF, JK, et al.). One at Mandeville, LA, Aug. 1 (CGB) was early enough to raise the possibility of nearby nesting. There were 2 records of migrating Am. Swallow-tailed Kites, often missed during fall migration: nine Aug. 19 at Petit Bois L., MS (LJ), and one Sept. 17 at Ft. Pickens, FL (RAD), the latest ever by 7 days. Eight reports of Black-shouldered Kites were received from s. Louisiana and Mississippi, including up to four in a Plaquemines, LA, location where two had been seen in May (NN, RDP, GC), a total of seven Oct. 14 & 23 in Hancock, MS, where the species has become locally established, one quite far east at Ft. Morgan, AL, Oct. 21 (MFF, MN, AF, DF, m.ob.), and up to six in Vermillion, Calcasieu, and Cameron, LA, Nov. 3–11 (JK, RJB, SG, CAB, PW et al.). Locally rare were single Mississippi Kites in Oktibbeha Aug. 6 (GK, SK) and in Loundes Aug. 19 (TS); unusually late on the Gulf Coast were one at Grand Isle, LA, Oct. 9 (GS, PW) and two in Jackson, MS, Oct. 15 (CD). McKenzie, Feerick, and Kleiman recorded 1422 Mississippi Kites at Baton Rouge during the fall, with 1342 of these being seen Aug. 19–Sept. 3. More than 20 Bald Eagles were reported from Sept. 23 on, including pairs returning to nests in Harrison, MS, and St. Tammany, LA. Extremely early in Benton, AR, was a N. Harrier Aug. 26 (MMI).

Of the more than 6000 Sharp-shinned Hawks counted statewide, 4198 were tallied during the Sept. 23–25 period in Cameron (PMcK, CF, JK et al.); 41 Cooper's Hawks were seen during the same period. Elsewhere, 20–30 Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen in Yell, AR, Sept. 18 (WMS, m.ob.), and reports of Cooper's Hawks included early records in Hancock, MS, Aug. 12 (JT et al.) and in Benton, AR, Aug. 26 (MMI). At the end of the period, numbers of Cooper's Hawks seemed slightly increased over the recent past. Migrating Broad-winged represented 97% of the raptors counted during the Louisiana hawkwatches; the numbers are astonishing: 143,323 in Cameron Sept. 24 and 229,237 for the period Sept. 23–26 (PMcK, CF, JK). At Baton Rouge, 15,306 were counted Sept. 16–18 (PMcK, CF), 93% of the season's total there. The largest movement of this species in Yell, AR, accompanied the same front—200 on Sept. 16 (WMS, m.ob.), and 1500 were seen at Lake Charles Sept. 18. Separate Broad-winged in Cameron Nov. 24 & 25 (AS, GS, DM) were quite late.

Three Swainson's Hawks in Benton, AR, on the surprising date of Aug. 26 (MMI) were noteworthy, as was one in Vermillion, LA, Oct. 28–Nov. 10 (JK) and another in Plaquemines, LA, Nov. 19 (RDP, NN). Even farther east was one at Gulf Breeze, FL, Nov. 11 (RAD). A Ferruginous Hawk in Acadia Oct. 28 (JK) furnished the 2nd plausible record in a year (submitted to L.B.R.C.) of a species which is very rare in Louisiana. Totals of 239 Am. Kestrels, 14 Merlins, and 15 Peregrine Falcons were seen during the 40 hours of hawk watching Sept. 23–25 in Cameron (PMcK, CF, JK). In addition, 17 reports of 53 Merlins were received from across the Region from Sept. 16 on; there were reports of 45 Peregrines, including seven at Ft. Morgan Oct. 7 & 8 (PK, DK, RD, GDJ, DGJ) and over 10 in Cameron between Sept. 23 and Oct. 29 (DLD, SWC).

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS — The rice fields of s. Missis-

issippi and Louisiana yielded several Yellow Rails during October and November: one or two on several dates from Oct. 14 on in Hancock, MS (JT, MFH et al.), and nine on Nov. 9 in Vermillion, LA (SWC, DLD). An additional bird was found in Jackson Oct. 31 (CD). A Black Rail reported in Lafourche, LA, Aug. 16 (SG, DG, LaG, LuG) would represent the first record for s.e. Louisiana in decades; furthermore, the early date raises interesting questions. Common Moorhens in Colbert, AL, Sept. 3 (TMH) and at Starkville, MS, Oct. 12–18 (TS) were unusual for those inland localities. A lone Sandhill Crane, seen feeding along a railroad track in Benoit, MS, Nov. 17 (NH), had apparently been present for a week.

Records of 35 species of shorebirds were received; significant concentrations included an estimated 18,600 at Catahoula L., LA, Sept. 14 (SWC, DLD), and totals near Port Fourchon of 10,000 Oct. 9 (DM) and 6500 Oct. 28 (AS, GS, CS, JS). Sizeable numbers were also observed at the minnow ponds in Lonoke, AR, Sept. 13–21 (JML, WWB). Shorebirding downstream from Sardis L., MS, was especially productive, following the opening of flood gates which made available large areas of flooded fields. A number of records of Black-bellied Plovers came from inland locations in Arkansas, central Louisiana, and Alabama between Aug. 12 and Oct. 7. Eleven records of Lesser Golden-Plovers, rare in the Region in fall, were divided nearly equally between coastal and inland locations. Reports of Wilson's Plovers included 80 in a late-summer staging area in Cameron Aug. 3 (DLD, SWC) and several late records highlighted by one at Fourchon Beach, LA, Nov. 19 (RSB) and another in the Pascagoula R. marsh, MS, Nov. 26 (MFH, PR). The 21 reports of Piping Plovers totalled 112 individuals and included 4 inland records: two Aug. 14 in Lafayette, MS (GK, SK), two Aug. 15 and one Aug. 21 in Washington, AR (JCN, MMI), and three between Oct. 16 and Nov. 11 in Hempstead (CM, m.ob.). A juv. Am. Oystercatcher seen in Cameron, LA, Aug. 2 (SWC, DLD) was the first for s.w. Louisiana in many years; there were 5 records of nine individuals from the Mississippi coast, including Horn and Petit Bois islands, between Aug. 25 and Nov. 5 (LJ, JT, MFH, m.ob.).

There were several inland records of Black-necked Stilts: two Aug. 9 in Fayette, TN (KM, GMc), 50–75 Aug. 10 & 19 and Sept. 2 in Pointe Coupee, LA (DWG), and Sept. 8 in Lonoke, AR (BL, PL). Concentrations of stilts included 110 in Mobile, AL, Aug. 20 (GDJ, DGJ) and 600 there Oct. 31 (TAI, MN, PB). American Avocets were unexpected in Columbia, AR, with two Aug. 16 (DLC), in Lake, TN, Sept. 6 (WC), and in Shelby, TN, Sept. 28 (LC, CB). Coastal concentrations included 1600 in Cameron, LA, Oct. 28 (SWC, DLD, AK), 500 in Mobile, AL, Oct. 31 (TAI, MN, PB, GMI), and 130 in Lafourche, LA, Nov. 5 (NN, RDP, MM, GC). An impressive total of 60 Upland Sandpipers in Baldwin Aug. 20 (GDJ, DGJ) established a maximum for coastal Alabama. Sightings of Whimbrels, rare in migration in the Region, in Cameron Aug. 3–7 (SWC, DLD) totalled eight individuals; two were seen inland in Colbert, AL, Sept. 2 (PK, DK). A Marbled Godwit in Benton Aug. 13 (MMI) provided the 3rd n.w. Arkansas record; also unusual were inland Louisiana sightings in Pointe Coupee Sept. 2 (DWG) and at Catahoula L. Sept. 14 (SWC, DLD). Marbled Godwits were present in Lafourche, LA, Aug. 20–Nov. 11 in numbers as high as 165 individuals (NN, RDP, GC et al.). A first ever for the Oxford, MS, area was a Ruddy Turnstone Sept. 9 (JB, MD); three Oct. 9 in Lonoke, AR, were late and unexpected. Also noteworthy inland were Red Knots in Lafayette, MS, Aug. 29 (GK) and Lonoke, AR, Sept. 18 (BL, PL). Semipalmated Sandpipers were late in Cameron, LA, Oct. 8 (SWC, DLD), Starkville, MS, Oct. 19 (TS), Hancock, MS, Oct. 14 (MFH, JT), and Oct. 28 & 29 in Benton and Washington, AR, respectively (MMI).

White-rumped Sandpipers, which generally avoid this Region in fall and migrate down the Atlantic coast, were recorded in Lafayette, MS, Aug. 27 (GK), Hancock, MS, Sept. 26

(JT, MFH), and Washington, AR, Nov 8 (MMI) Five records of Baird's Sandpipers near Oxford between Sept. 6 and Oct. 24 (GK, MD, TS) were the first ever there in fall. For the 3rd consecutive "winter" a **Purple Sandpiper** appeared at Moses Pier in the Gulfport, MS, harbor on Nov. 28 (JT, m.ob.) and was present into December. The 300 Stilt Sandpipers in Mobile Aug. 20 (GDJ, DGJ) represented the largest number ever for Alabama. Although several reports were received of Buff-breasted Sandpipers, there was something approaching a general feeling that numbers may be declining. One at L. Sequoyah, Washington, Aug. 15 (JCN, MMI) was the earliest ever for n.w. Arkansas.

There were 3 records of **Ruffs**, all from inland locations: near Oxford, MS, Aug. 21 (GK, SK, VT), perhaps the first record for the state away from the coast; in Shelby, AL, Sept. 2 (AM, AS), the 3rd record for Alabama (excellent description provided); and in Shelby, TN, Sept. 27–Oct. 12 (MWa, m.ob.), the 3rd record for w. Tennessee, and already ratified by the state records committee. All three phalaropes were recorded in the Region. Among many records of Wilson's Phalaropes was the report of one in Washington Oct. 25 (MMI), the latest ever for Arkansas. The 5 records of Red-necked Phalaropes were as follows: Aug. 31–Sept. 2 in Jackson, MS (MFH), Sept. 4–8 in Lafourche, LA (RDP, MM, DM, m.ob.), the 5th record for s.e. Louisiana, Sept. 18 in Lonoke, AR (BL, PL), Sept. 29 at L. Millwood, AR (CM), and Oct. 1 in Henry, TN (DWB). **Red Phalaropes** were seen in Jackson, MS, Oct. 18 (PR, CC, JPe, MFH), and Oct. 30–Nov. 5 near Port Fourchon (CL, m.ob., ph. GS) for the first record for s.e. Louisiana.

LARIDS — Four records of jaegers were received, including one not identified to species, 15 mi s.s.w. of Grand Isle Aug. 19 (SWC, DLD, DM). Another, thought to have been a Long-tailed Jaeger, was seen at Dauphin I. Sept. 8 (JH); a bird thought to be a juv. Pomarine Jaeger was seen at Rutherford Beach, Cameron, Sept. 28 (DM, AS, GS, DLD, SWC), and one thought to be a Parasitic Jaeger was seen Nov. 18 near Horn I., MS (MFH, JT, m.ob.).

There were 3 reports of Laughing Gulls far inland: Aug. 8–Oct. 1 in Hempstead, AR (CM), Sept. 7–9 in Panola, MS (MD, GK, SK), and Sept. 30 in Webster, MS (TS), for the 3rd area record. Franklin's Gulls were rather scarce. One in breeding plumage Aug. 2 in Cameron (SWC, DLD) was 2 months earlier than expected migrants. Early arrivals of true migrants included Sept. 22 in Cameron, LA (DM), Sept. 29–Oct. 1 in Panola, MS (GK, MD), and Oct. 8 in Harrison (MFH), earliest for the Gulf Coast of Mississippi. While three on Nov. 10 in Jefferson (TAI, MH) represented only the 5th record for Alabama's Mountain Region, one Nov. 12 at Noxubee N.W.R. (TS) was a first there. One California Gull was found at Cameron, LA, Oct. 28 (SWC, DLD, AK, *L.S.U.M.N.S.). Reports of Lesser Black-backed Gulls included one or more adults in Harrison, MS, Oct. 5 & 7 and Nov. 28 (JT, JPe, CC, TS, ES), and two in s.w. Louisiana, a 3rd-year bird Oct. 7–8 in Cameron (SWC, DLD) and a second-winter individual Oct. 29 (SWC, DLD, AK). Potentially the most remarkable bird of the season was an imm. **Western Gull** (molted into 2nd-winter plumage) reported, near dusk, from East Jetty, in Cameron on the odd date of Aug. 2 (SWC, DLD). The record has been submitted to the L.B.R.C. Two Glaucous Gulls were reported, Oct. 31 in Harrison, MS (VL, *fide* JAT), reported to have been in 2nd-winter plumage, and Nov. 30 at Dardanelle Dam on the Arkansas R. (HP, MP, MG), a first-year bird. The only record of Great Black-backed Gull was of an adult photographed on Fourchon Beach, LA, Nov. 19 (JH). A **Black-legged Kittiwake** was seen at Escambia Bay, FL, Nov. 30 (BM) into December. A **Sabine's Gull** near Kilm, Harrison, MS, Sept. 24 (GO, JT, DC) established the 3rd state record, and another was seen on L. Millwood, AR, Oct. 2–5 (CM, DA, DnH, DIH).

Caspian Terns were early in Garland, AR, July 16 (BL, PL) and in Lafayette, MS, Aug. 13 & 16 (GK, SK, VT); over 1100 in Cameron, LA, Sept. 23–24 (SWC, DLD) represented a migra-

tion peak Royal and Sandwich tern nesting was apparently successful on Anderson I., MS (between Horn and Petit Bois), as evidenced by 7000 non-flying young and 3000 adults there Aug. 4 (JT, CD, GM, LJ). There were several inland records of Least Terns Aug. 6–23 from Arkansas and n. Mississippi; over 1000 were seen near Port Fourchon Aug. 20 (NN, MM, RDP, GC). A juv. Bridled Tern was 12 mi south of Orange Beach, AL, Sept. 16 (GDJ, A.O.S.). Sooty Terns were reported from Cameron, LA, Aug. 2 (SWC, DLD, *L.S.U.M.N.S.), following Hurricane Chantal, from Ft. Morgan, AL, Aug. 5 (PB, GF), and in Escambia, FL on Nov. 20 (CLK), the latter bird found dead on the beach. A **Brown Noddy**, accidental in n.w. Florida, was seen in Bay Aug. 6 (JO, *fide* TM) for the 2nd area record

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS — Single White-winged Doves were seen in Mississippi in Jackson Oct. 27 (MD, GK) and in Hancock Oct. 29 (GK, JT, MD, MFH, TS). Toups commented that there were few this fall. On the other hand, 52 at Golden Meadow, LA, Nov. 5 (NN, GC, MM, RDP) were the most ever for s.e. Louisiana. Other reports were of one at Gulf Breeze, FL, Nov. 18 (LD), one at Ft. Morgan, AL, Nov. 13 (JD), and three Oct. 22–Nov. 4 at Destin, FL (*fide* RAD). Louisiana had 2 records of Inca Doves, both in Cameron: Oct. 10 at Holleyman Sanctuary (RJB) and Oct. 22 to at least Nov. 24 in the town of Cameron (SG, CB, DP, m.ob.). A Com. Ground-Dove in Henry, TN, Aug. 27 (DWB) was unexpected. Very late was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo in w. Cameron Nov. 19 (CM) Accompanying the report of a Greater Roadrunner in Marion, AR, Aug. 13 (PH) was the comment that they seem less common than 20 years ago. Although Groove-billed Anis were again scarce in coastal Louisiana and Mississippi, there were 5 records totalling 12 birds Oct. 14–Nov. 19.

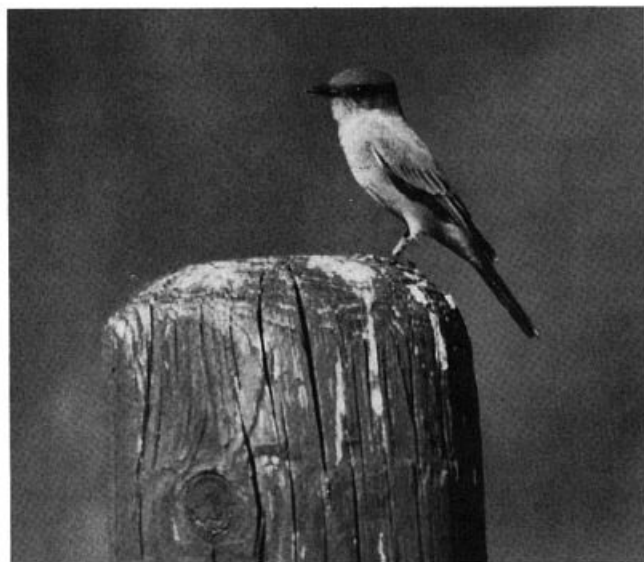
Barn Owls are known to nest in Arkansas from February to June. The report of three nestlings 3–4 weeks of age Nov. 1 (KY, DMcS) clearly extended this range of dates. Short-eared Owls were reported only from n. Mississippi, Tennessee, and Arkansas, except for one on the Gulf at Cape San Blas, FL, Nov. 26 (RH, *fide* TM). As evidence that public service does not go unrewarded, consider the **White-collared Swift** reported by John Sevenair while he was engaged in (actually taking a break from) a beach clean-up operation at Grand Isle, LA, Sept. 23! Subject to ratification by the L.B.R.C., this would be about the 6th North American record, and the first for Louisiana. A Chimney Swift in Lowndes, MS, Oct. 21 (TS) was the latest there by a week, and for the 2nd year in a row, **Vaux's Swifts** were seen in Laplace, LA, in this case Oct. 29 (RJS, MW), when three were seen. Although descriptions seem to rule out Chimney Swift, the L.B.R.C. is still pondering the recent records of this species.

Increased planting of late blooming plants and more extensive feeding has resulted in an increase in hummingbird records, mostly of western species. Much of this interest has been owing to the efforts of Nancy Newfield. This fall McKenzie and others located 35 western vagrant hummingbirds in Baton Rouge, LA, and there were 9 reports of Buff-bellied Hummingbirds, all but one from southern Louisiana. The other was a record of one **Buff-bellied Hummingbird** in Biloxi Oct. 8–17 (CA, m.ob.), for the 4th coastal Mississippi record. There were late reports of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds from Oxford, MS, Oct. 22 (SDa), latest ever there by over 2 weeks, LaPlace, LA, to the end of the period (SN, RJS, MW), Baton Rouge Nov. 1–2 (PMcK), and Pensacola, FL, Nov. 18 (JP, banded—BS, MS). Up to three probable Black-chinned were in coastal Mississippi Oct. 29–Nov. 11 (JT, LS, GM), one was in Baton Rouge Oct. 24–28 (PcM, CMa, CF), three in Escambia and Okaloosa, FL, in November were banded (BS, MS), and three were present at the end of the period in the Reserve, LA, area (RJS). Stein reported 15–16 *Selasphorus* hummingbirds in the Reserve–LaPlace area, characterizing it as an "average" season. Most of the records were of Rufous or of probable Rufous Hummingbirds and they came from essentially the entire Region. Highlights were an ad. male Aug. 24–

28 in Clark, AR (DlH, DnH, CM et al), an imm male in Birmingham, AL, Sept. 8 (TAI), an ad. male in N. Little Rock, AR, from Sept. 16 on (WMS, CB), and two in n.w. Florida (AF, DF, JP) to the end of the period, banded (BS, MS). From Louisiana came at least 4 records of Broad-tailed Hummingbirds: Oct. 21–22 in Cameron (MT, m.ob.), and Nov. 12–30 (KVR, PMcK—tail feathers to L.S.U.M.N.S.), Nov. 20–30 (PMcK, SS, MS), and Nov. 25–30 (PMcK, FG, BG) in Baton Rouge. Another was probably seen Oct. 29 in New Orleans (NN, SNe). There was one **Allen's Hummingbird** found, Nov. 12–30 in Baton Rouge (PMcK, BW, BeW), from which rectrices were taken (to L.S.U.M.N.S.).

If the report of one **Red-naped Sapsucker** in Louisiana would raise some eyebrows, what about two in 16 days? So it was this fall, with Louisiana's first record coming Oct. 27–28, when an imm. male was seen at Grand Isle (CS, AS, GS, JS, m.ob.) and extensively photographed (RDP, GS). The 2nd record, in New Orleans Nov. 12 (NN, m.ob.), of an ad. male (ph. MM) raised some questions about the identifiability of this species. The L.B.R.C. will soon consider these records. A Pileated Woodpecker on Grand Isle during most of the fall was unusual, given that this barrier island is separated from woodlands to the north by at least 30 mi of coastal marsh.

FLYCATCHERS TO WAXWINGS—One of the high points of the western surge was a singing **Western Wood-Pewee** at New Orleans Oct. 14 (DM, PW, NN, RDP, m.ob.), for the first definite record for s.e. Louisiana. An E. Wood-Pewee in Baxter Oct. 20 (DRM) was late for n.c. Arkansas. There were reports of all of the eastern Empidonax flycatchers except Willow. The largest concentration was a late one, 35–40 on Oct. 6 in the Pascagoula River W.M.A. (JT, CC, JPe, MP), but Cardiff, Dittmann, and others counted 27 Least Flycatchers in Cameron Aug. 2–3, and 32 there Sept. 9, more typical dates. The only Alder Flycatchers, all recorded Aug. 26–27 in Cameron (SWC, DLD, CMa), were five calling birds (one taped); one was collected (L.S.U.M.N.S.). A **Say's Phoebe**



Say's Phoebe at Lake Millwood, Arkansas, September 16, 1989. Third state record. Photograph/Charles Mills.

at L. Millwood Sept. 16 (BL, PL, CM, HP, MP) provided the 3rd record for Arkansas and the first in fall.

There were 9 records of Vermilion Flycatchers, from Sept. 17 on, five from coastal or near-coastal Louisiana; two more were from coastal Mississippi. Considerably farther east was a female in Okaloosa, FL, Oct. 26 (DW), and one in Perry, AL, Sept. 17 (ALM, ADM) was the earliest in fall for the state. The only report of a vagrant *Myiarchus* was of an Ash-throated

Flycatcher at Ft Morgan, AL, Nov 10 (RAD) A Great Crested Flycatcher in Lafayette, MS, Oct. 10 (GK, VT) was the latest for that area by 16 days. There were 14 reports of W. Kingbirds, almost all of single birds, from coastal areas. A single E. Kingbird near Oxford, MS, Sept. 27–30 (GK, SK) was latest ever there by 2 weeks. A Gray Kingbird in Hancock, MS, Oct.



Gray Kingbird in Hancock County, Mississippi, October 29, 1989. Photograph/Mal Hodges.

28–29 (JT, MFH et al., ph.) was late and rather far west. While the scattered coastal records of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers west to Dauphin I. were expected, two at Baton Rouge Oct. 15–16 (JVR) were not. There were also reports from Baxter, AR, Aug. 14 and Oct. 14 (PH).

Late in St. Charles, LA, through the end of the period were 25 N. Rough-winged Swallows, probably wintering. Three Barn Swallows in Hancock, MS, Nov. 24 (MFH, JPI, JT) were quite late. Fish Crows attracted some attention: flocks of 25 in Washington, AR, Sept. 28 (JCN) and 75 in Lowndes, MS, Nov. 24 (TS) represented good numbers for those areas, as did five seen in Jefferson, AL, over 20 mi north of the Fall Line, to Nov. 18 (TAI). There was at least a minor invasion of Red-breasted Nuthatches, especially early on. Most of the reports were from coastal areas, where the first birds arrived as early as Sept. 24.

A **Rock Wren** in Crawford, AR, Oct. 28–29 (FH) was seen by many attendees of the fall meeting of the A.A.S. James and Neal list 5 previous state records. A Sedge Wren near Oxford, MS, Sept. 29–30 (GK, MD) was earliest for that area by 11 days. A late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen at Swan Creek W.M.A., AL, Nov. 27 (GDJ, HHK). Very few *Catharus* thrushes were noted during the peak period of migration, although Troups did add "in contrast to good numbers this spring." A Veery on Sept. 3 (JVR) was apparently earliest ever for Baton Rouge, LA, by about a week; one at Gulf Breeze, FL, Nov. 6 (RLB) was latest ever by 8 days. A Gray Catbird in Hancock, MS, Aug. 1 (LJ, CD, JT) was a month-and-a-half early, if a migrant; also early, tying earliest ever for s.e. Louisiana, was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Venice Sept. 17 (NN, RDP, GC). A total of 87 Am. Pipits in Washington Oct. 21 (MML) was considered the largest count ever for n.w. Arkansas. The observation of an adult and a juv. Cedar Waxwing at L. Fayetteville, AR, Sept. 2 (MML) suggested possible nesting. Early indications, from late October on, were that numbers farther south would be somewhat above last year's dismal results.

VIREOS, WARBLERS—A Bell's Vireo, rare in the Region outside n.w. Louisiana, was in Cameron, LA, Sept. 5 (SWC, *L.S.U.M.N.S.). A Warbling Vireo was early in Winston, MS, Sept. 10 (TS). Latest ever for n. Mississippi was a Philadelphia

Vireo in Lowndes Oct. 14 (TS). Also late were Red-eyed Vireos in Iberville, LA, Oct. 29 (JVR) and two in Cameron Nov. 5 (KVR, TSS, RB).

Among record-early warblers were the following: Tennessee Warbler Aug. 27 in Washington, AR (MMI), earliest for Arkansas; Yellow-rumped Warbler Sept. 23 in Washington, AR (MMI), and Sept. 24 in Tishomingo, MS (MD, MFH, TS, LW); Black-throated Green Warbler Aug. 27 in Cameron, LA (KVR); and Mourning Warbler Sept. 4 in Lauderdale, AL. Late records included Blue-winged Warbler Oct. 28 in Iberville, LA (JVR); Tennessee Warbler Nov. 9 in Iberville, LA (JVR) and Nov. 19 in Cameron (CMA, AK, TSS); N. Parula Oct. 14 in Lowndes, MS (TS), and Oct. 26 in Iberville, LA (JVR); Magnolia Warbler Nov. 15 in Hancock, MS (JT); Prairie Warbler Sept. 30 in Ashley, AR (MP); Am. Redstart Oct. 18 in Oktibbeha, MS (TS), and Nov. 10 in St. Tammany (CGB, JH); Worm-eating Warbler Sept. 28 in Oktibbeha, MS (TS); N. Waterthrush Nov. 12 in Lafourche, LA (RSB, EJB); and Yellow-breasted Chat Nov. 11 in Cameron (SWC, DLD).

The only concentration of grounded transients, Sept. 24 at Ft. Pickens, Escambia, FL, included 25 Magnolia Warblers and 45 Am. Redstarts. A "Brewster's" Warbler was seen in Jackson, MS, Oct. 2 (CC, JPe). What would be the 2nd record for Louisiana of **Virginia's Warbler**, pending ratification by the L.B.R.C., was a sighting on Garner Ridge, Cameron, Nov. 24 (DM, AS, GS). The same day, and in the same area, was a **Lucy's Warbler**, also for a 2nd Louisiana record (DM, AS, GS).



Lucy's Warbler in Cameron Parish, Louisiana, November 24, 1989. Second state record. Photograph/David P. Muth.

This bird was later seen by many and was present through the 3rd week in December. One Black-throated Blue Warbler was reported, Oct. 10 in Cameron, LA (RJB). There were 2 sightings of Black-throated Gray Warblers, Oct. 21 at Ft. Morgan, AL (MFF, MN, m.ob.), and Nov. 11 in Cameron (DLD, SWC). A Blackpoll Warbler was a tower casualty at WSM-TV in Nashville Sept. 25 (KAG).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES — Very late, possibly wintering, were two Summer Tanagers in Jackson, MS, Nov. 26 (MFH, PR); 30 at Ft. Pickens, FL, Sept. 24 (RLB, JB) were part of that storm-related fallout. Of W. Tanager there were 4 records, with one Oct. 4 in Hancock, MS (MPo, LSh), and 3 distinct Cameron, LA, records: Oct. 8 (SWC), 22 (SWC, DLD), & 24 (JS, CS, GS, AS). A surprising 18 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen on Dauphin I. as late as Nov. 2 (JH). Late Blue Grosbeaks were seen in Cameron and Plaquemines, LA, Nov. 19 (CMA, AK, SS, RDP, NN). Lingering Indigo Buntings were in Washington, AR, Oct. 24 (MMI) and at Venice, LA, Nov. 19 (RDP, NN). There were more than the usual number of fall records of Dickcissels in s.w. Louisiana, including a late record Nov. 19 (KVR); other late records were Oct. 14 in Benton, AR (JCN, MMI), Oct. 24 in Hancock, MS (JT, JPe, CC), and Oct. 29

in Shelby, TN (CHB, TI, NMS).

One Rufous-crowned Sparrow was seen Aug. 11 at the traditional location of Magazine Mt., Logan, AR, and W.M. Shepherd added that the local population seems to have dwindled; five others were seen that day in Mt. Nebo S.P., Yell (WMS, HP, MP). Very early coastally was a Chipping Sparrow in Cameron Oct. 1 (SWC, DLD). Although there were perhaps fewer Clay-colored Sparrows this fall in s.e. Louisiana, 6 reports were received from near-coastal parts of the Region from s.w. Louisiana to Alabama: Sept. 17 in Hancock, MS (TS), Sept. 24 in Cameron (SWC, DLD, AS, GS, DM), Sept. 30 in Cameron (DLD, SWC), Oct. 3 in Baldwin, AL (LG, FS), Oct. 26 in Jefferson, LA (DM), and Nov. 9 in New Orleans (DM). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow at E. Jetty, Cameron, Sept. 26 (DP, CAB, ph.) was very early, and White-crowned Sparrows were early in Washington, AR, Sept. 24 (MMI), and Oct. 8 in Jackson, MS (BR, ER, KC). Numbers of White-throated Sparrows in s.e. Louisiana were up notably over the previous fall. One Harris' Sparrow was reported, Nov. 19 in Cameron (CM, AK, TSS). A **Smith's Longspur** Nov. 25 in Monroe, MS (TS), furnished the 2nd record for the state since the 1950s. One Lapland Longspur was reported from Acadia, LA, Nov. 19 (KVR), and n. Mississippi had 3 sightings.

Bobolinks, rare in fall, were reported from Benton, AR, Sept. 10 (MMI), Colbert, AL, Sept. 16 (TMH), Dauphin I., AL, Sept. 24 (A.O.S.), Hancock, MS, Sept. 26 (MFH), and Vermilion, LA on the very late date of Nov. 10 (DLD, SWC). There were 7 sightings of Yellow-headed Blackbirds from Sept. 6 in Escambia, FL (CLK, m.ob.), and Sept. 11 near Oxford, MS (GK, SK, MD), to Oct. 21 in Jefferson Davis, LA (SWC). Eight Rusty Blackbirds at Gulf Breeze, FL, Oct. 5 (RAD) were earliest ever by 17 days. An indication of the status of Bronzed Cowbird in s.e. Louisiana was the record of 37 in Metairie Sept. 6 (GO). An Orchard Oriole in Cameron Oct. 28 (SWC, DLD) was extremely late.

It was gratifying, after several years of virtual absence in the southern part of the Region, that at least a few Purple Finches had reached coastal or near-coastal locations by the end of the period. House Finches continued to expand into the Region, with the evidence this fall including one at Baton Rouge Aug. 10 (DLD, SWC), singles in Washington and Pulaski, AR, Nov. 8 (MMI) & 10 (RC), plus seven in Chicot, AR, Nov. 11–30 (DS, CSi). Vogt said of their presence in the Nashville area that they "continue to be reported in high numbers and in more locations"; Jackson reported them at several Starkville feeders. Pine Siskins seemed poised for at least a minor invasion, as evidenced by three near Oxford, MS, as early as Oct. 6 (GK)—by 12 days the earliest ever there—and sightings from Nov. 16 into December in Gulfport, MS, and Baton Rouge, Cameron, and Evangeline, LA.

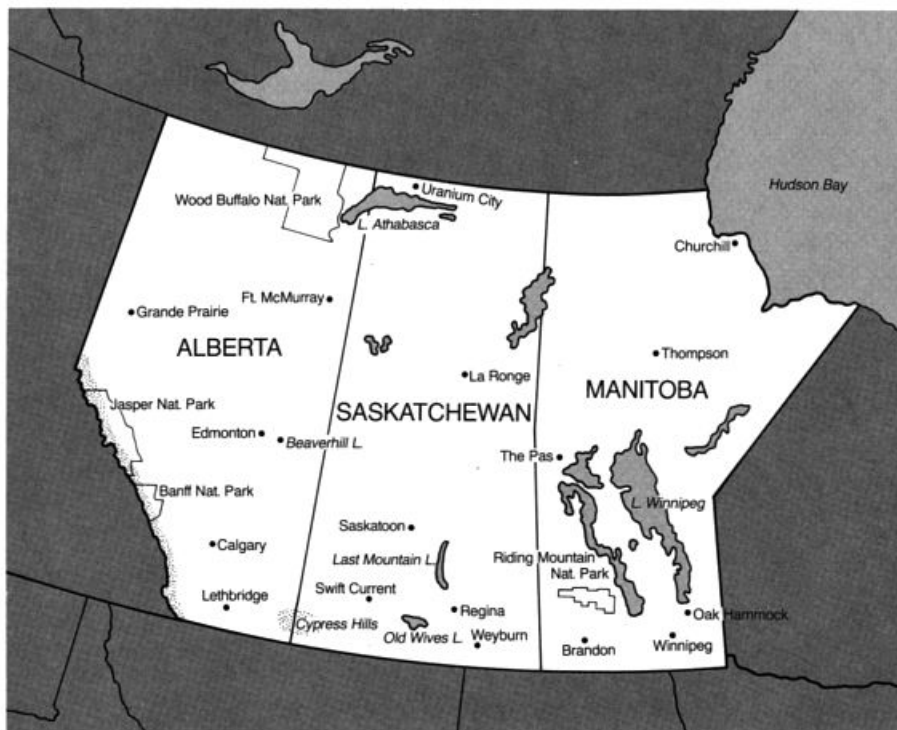
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PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

Rudolf F. Koes and Peter Taylor



With some trepidation, we assume responsibility for summarizing bird reports from this vast and varied Region. We hope the perspective from our perches in the southeastern corner of the Region will not be too limited.

A cool August was followed by two months of alternating heat-waves and snow-flurries and a cold November. Freeze-up came a week or two early in the east, and a little late in the west. Precipitation was well below normal in most of the Region. The bird migration was as erratic as the weather, making generalizations difficult. Northern ducks drifted south in good numbers, but northern gulls were sparse albeit in excellent variety. Record numbers of Varied Thrushes, but little else, wandered from the west. Warbler migration was strong in parts of the two western provinces. An assortment of rarities originated from all points of the compass, and heartening totals of some commoner species rounded out the season.

ABBREVIATIONS — I.B.S. = Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Calgary, AB; L.M.L. = Last Mountain Lake, SK; Oak Hammock = Oak Hammock Marsh Wildlife Management Area, MB.

LOONS TO WATERFOWL — Four observations of single Red-throated Loons Oct. 14–Nov. 3 (PC, TH, RKr, RM), and two of Pacific Loons Oct. 21 & 25 (PC, RKr, RL), were all at

L.M.L. Another Pacific Loon was near Regina, SK, Nov. 9–10 (KB, FB, FL). Two Clark's Grebe families were found at Crow Indian L., 50 mi s.e. of Lethbridge, AB; the young were almost fully grown, Aug. 24 (RD). The species was first found there in 1988. Three Am. White Pelicans stayed on the ice along the S. Saskatchewan R. at Medicine Hat, AB, for a week until Nov. 9 (RG). A small, slim imm. cormorant in Regina Sept. 8 suggested an Olivaceous Cormorant, which would be a first for Canada (FB).

Single Snowy Egrets were at Oak Lake, MB, about Aug. 9 (DH), Oak Hammock until Sept. 2 (PH, MS, PT), and Buffalo Pound L., SK, Sept. 6 (GZ). A Cattle Egret was seen near Brandon, MB, Sept. 30–Oct. 1 (TW, RW et al.). More remarkable was one at Churchill, MB, in the week of 22–28 October (JoV et al.). It must be tough stirring up grasshoppers among the Polar Bears! A **Green-backed Heron** at Calgary Sept. 5–9 was photographed for the first confirmed Alberta record (RS, WS), there being 2 previous sight records.

Two Greater Snow Geese, the first of this race to be recorded in the Region, paused at Van Scoy L., SK, Oct. 10–Nov. 1 (RKe). Yellow neck-bands with black characters clinched their identity. A Brant 8 mi n. of Outlook Oct. 14 provided about the 12th Saskatchewan record (SS).

Waterfowl surveys at Cypress L., SK, revealed peaks of 5395 Gadwall and 10,110 Am. Wigeon Sept. 21 (MG). Few other

notable concentrations of dabblers or Prairie-breeding diving ducks were reported, but "sea ducks" provided some excitement.

A female-plumaged Harlequin Duck at Churchill Oct. 17 (CJ, m.ob.) was late so far north. One at Victoria Beach, MB, Nov. 11–12 (RKO, m.ob.) fit the recent pattern in the southeast. Oldsquaws were more numerous than usual in s. Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Most Saskatchewan records were at L.M.L. Oct. 2–Nov. 14 (m.ob.) including five birds Nov. 11 (PC, RL). One near Saskatoon, SK, Aug. 26 (JW) was very early. Five records in s.e. Manitoba totalled nine birds (m.ob.), including four at Natalie L. Oct. 22 (PT).

Black Scoters appeared in southern parts of all 3 provinces, mainly in ones and twos, but eight were at L.M.L., Oct. 21 (RL). One was at Calgary Oct. 28–29 (MW). Exceptional Surf Scoter numbers occurred in s. Saskatchewan and s.e. Manitoba, with peaks of 128 at L.M.L. Oct. 7 (RL, RKr) and 28 at Natalie L. Oct. 17 (PT). Two Surf Scoters were early at Namaka L., AB, Sept. 2 (JS), and three were seen near Calgary Oct. 28–29 (MW). White-winged Scoter numbers in the south were poor, with no report of more than 10 migrants. Two of three female-plumaged goldeneyes at Victoria Beach Nov. 12 were identified as Barrow's (JS, SH). A pair of Barrow's Goldeneyes was observed near Radisson, SK, Oct. 9 (SS), and one was at Blackstrap Res., SK, Oct. 21 (S.N.H.S. party). The 140 Hooded Mergansers at Emma L. Nov. 5 (RL), and 600 Com. Mergansers at Kinookima Beach, L.M.L., Nov. 14 (PC) may have furnished the highest Saskatchewan counts ever.

VULTURES TO CRANES — Turkey Vultures are most numerous in s.e. Manitoba in late summer and early fall, but a count of 144 in the Allegra-Brightstone area Sept. 9 was exceptional (RKO, PT). Late-migrating raptors included three Ospreys at Prince Albert N.P., SK, Oct. 16 (RL) and one near Morden, MB, Oct. 13 (NC), a Cooper's Hawk between Sydney and Melbourne—Manitoba, not Australia!—Nov. 25 (GC, RP), and a Swainson's Hawk near Weyburn, SK, Oct. 24 (NP).

A banded Peregrine Falcon, released at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, in early August, was last seen there Sept. 13, then turned up Oct. 12 in Veracruz, Mexico, where it was seen by delegates at a conference on tropical raptor conservation (*fide* RN). "All 3 colour phases" of Gyrfalcon were seen near Churchill Oct. 18 (CJ).

A total of 11,100 Am. Coots was counted at Luck Lake, SK, Aug. 11 (BG, MG). Major concentrations of Sandhill Cranes included 8000 near Outlook, SK, Oct. 7 (SS), and 3130, including a heart-stopping albino, at Oak Lake, MB, Sept. 26 or 27 (DH). The Whooping Crane hotline received 171 reports, from which 34 groups totalling 97 birds were confirmed (BJ, C.W.S.). The only confirmed record outside Saskatchewan involved two subadults that stayed near Bonnyville, e.c. Alberta, in late September and early October (BR, *fide* GL & BJ).

STILTS TO MURRELETS — Four Black-necked Stilts 10 mi e. of Calgary Aug. 25 may have been the female and three chicks that spent May to July about 8 mi farther south (BM, BW). Three flying young at Blucher Aug. 10 were the first known to fledge in Saskatchewan (MG). High counts of Am. Avocets included 600 at Little Quill L. Aug. 19 (PC) and 125 at Dawson L. near Calgary Aug. 15 (JS). Eighteen, all young birds, lingered at Luck L. Oct. 25 (BG, MG). Shorebird counts at Little Quill L. included 1800 Hudsonian Godwits Aug. 10, 3000 Semipalmated Sandpipers Aug. 16, 44 Buff-breasted Sandpipers Aug. 14, 3500 dowitchers (sp.) Aug. 4, and 6000 Red-necked Phalaropes Aug. 10 (PC, C.W.S.). The Hudsonian Godwit count raised our eyebrows, but is apparently not unprecedented (*fide* BG).

Noteworthy shorebird concentrations at Dawson L., AB, were of 250 Baird's Sandpipers Aug. 13 and 200 Stilt Sandpipers Aug. 15 (JS), and 65 Buff-breasted Sandpipers paused briefly at Oak Hammock Aug. 11 (PH, RKO). A W. Sandpiper at Saskatoon Aug. 26 (HL), a Purple Sandpiper at Churchill Oct. 15 (CJ), and a Red Phalarope at Lac du Bonnet, MB, Oct.

13 (PT) were all Regional rarities

Possibly five different Parasitic Jaegers flew along the shore of L. Manitoba at St. Ambrose, MB, Sept. 9 (SH, JS), and singles were there Sept. 11 & 17 (MS, GG, RKO, RTk). Others were recorded at Namaka L., AB, Sept. 2 (JS, RS) and L.M.L. about Sept. 23 (WH, BD). Rare in the south were an imm Mew Gull at I.B.S., Calgary, Sept. 19 (RB) and a 2nd-winter bird at Regina Oct. 27 (RKr). A first-winter Thayer's Gull at L.M.L. Sept. 24 (TH) furnished about the 11th record for Saskatchewan. An ad. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** visited I.B.S. Aug. 29–Sept. 6; Alberta's first was at the same spot in April (*fide* RD). Another **Lesser Black-backed Gull** in Regina Oct. 14 provided about the 3rd Saskatchewan record (RKr). Single Glaucous Gulls were reported in each province.

A first-winter **Great Black-backed Gull**, about the third for Saskatchewan, was at L.M.L. Nov. 3 & 11 (RKr, RM, CB, MB). A **Ross' Gull** near Saskatoon Oct. 24 was "90% certain" based on JW's description to Henri Ouellet (Nat. Mus. Natural Sci., Ottawa), and would be the province's second. A possible Ivory Gull in Regina Sept. 4 (FB) allowed only a brief unconfirmed view. The Region's only Sabine's Gull of the season was 16 mi s.e. of Calgary Sept. 9 (OD). A Caspian Tern was at I.B.S. Sept. 20 (BM), and seven in Saskatoon Aug. 2 (BG) made a high total for s. Saskatchewan.

Closing out the prairie seabirds, an astonishing imm. **Marbled Murrelet** was observed for 2 hours as it swam, dove, flew, and evaded harassment by a Com. Loon at Cypress L., SK, Oct. 22 (WH); we await full details.

OWLS TO THRUSHES — The Burrowing Owl's ongoing decline now extends west to the Calgary area, where none was found in 1989 (*fide* RD, RS). Common Nighthawk flights were poor in Manitoba, but a strong migration in Saskatoon included 141 seen in an hour Aug. 20 (BG). A late Say's Phoebe was in Regina Nov. 3 (MB). A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** at Nokomis, SK, Aug. 3 was about the 8th for Saskatchewan (WH). A Purple Martin roost in n.e. Winnipeg held 10,000 birds, the largest number ever reported in the province, Aug. 27 (RKO). Major Am. Crow roosts in Saskatchewan held 51,200 birds at Lancer Ferry (MG) and 28,000 in Saskatoon (BG) Sept. 27.

Varied Thrushes staged an exceptional movement in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, with at least seven birds found in each province. Alberta records included birds at Edmonton Nov. 13 (SJ) and Fort Saskatchewan Nov. 14 (OL). Alberta's first **Northern Wheatear** was photographed in a patch of disturbed prairie in n.w. Calgary Nov. 22 (IH). At the periphery of its range was a ♂ Mountain Bluëbird near The Pas, MB, in late September (DCO).

VIREOS TO FINCHES — Kills of migrating birds, mainly warblers and vireos, in late August at 2 TV towers east of Saskatoon were the highest in 15 years (BG, MG). On Aug. 24, 171 birds were found, including 22 Red-eyed Vireos, 38 Ovenbirds, and 18 N. Waterthrushes. Lesser kills were found Aug. 25 (53 birds) and Aug. 28 (38 birds). These kills coincided with unusually large warbler numbers in Saskatoon area bird counts. The number and variety of migrating warblers in Calgary was also the highest in recent memory. In Manitoba, the warbler migration was unremarkable.

Black-throated Blue Warblers were seen in each province, including Regina sightings Sept. 2 & 17 (BE, SE, RT) and an extremely late male in Calgary Nov. 3 & 9 (AH). Rare at any season was the Townsend's Warbler in Edmonton Nov. 20 (KC). Also very late were a Yellow-rumped Warbler in Calgary Nov. 24 (DE) and a Scarlet Tanager in Winnipeg Oct. 28–29 (Richard Staniforth, RKO).

Alberta's 2nd **Northern Cardinal**, a female, frequented an Edmonton feeder Aug. 10–Oct. 20 (Caro & Mike Burrington, *fide* GL). At least five appeared at Manitoba feeders around the end of October (more information next season). Male Black-headed Grosbeaks were seen in Winnipeg Aug. 22 & 30 (GH), and one was found in the Saskatoon tower kill Aug. 24 (BG, MG). Four in Moose Jaw Aug. 26 were closer to the

breeding range (EK). A ♀ Lark Bunting was out of range at St. Ambrose Sept. 2 (RP, BB). A record-late Smith's Longspur was in Winnipeg Nov. 3 (GH). A N. Oriole lingered at a feeder near Lac du Bonnet until Nov. 17 (WM).

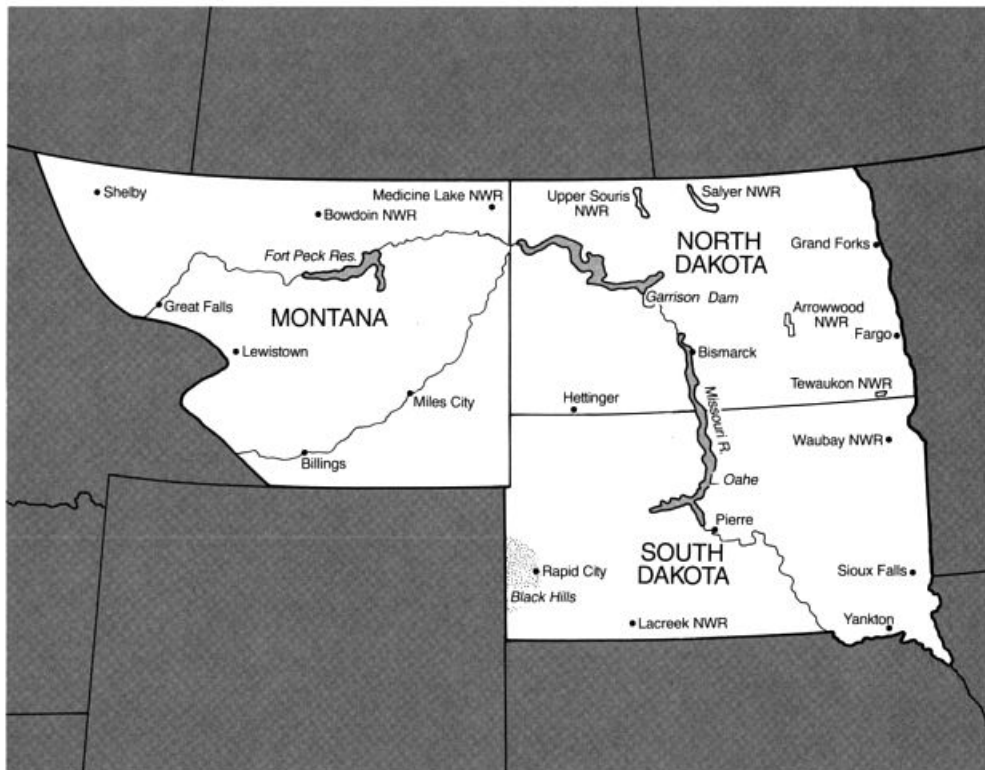
Another first for Alberta was a ♂ **Brambling** that remained at an Edson feeder (125 mi w. of Edmonton) from Nov. 14 into December (DK, RQ, m.ob., ph.). Pine Grosbeaks left the forests in good numbers across the Region in October, especially in s. Alberta (RD, RG). Red Crossbills were hard to find anywhere, while White-winged Crossbills and Evening Grosbeaks were common only in parts of southern Manitoba.

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NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

David O. Lambeth



Lakes and wetlands continued to lose water to the severe drought, now in its second year, and conditions were even worse than described on these pages a year ago. Precipitation was near or above average only in a few areas and mostly in August and early September. Overall the season was mild until November and there were numerous late dates, some remarkably so.

This fall differed from last in that a significant irruption of northern finches occurred. In addition, Red-breasted Nuthatches and Pine Siskins were back in good numbers after being all but absent for the past year.

LOONS TO WATERFOWL — The eight Com. Loons seen Nov. 5 on lakes Sakakawea and Audubon established a new high for North Dakota (REM). A well-described **Pacific Loon** found at Ft. Peck, MT, Oct. 21 remained for nearly a month (CC). The 34 Horned Grebes in the L. Sakakawea area Nov. 5 made the 2nd-highest total for the state, while three there Nov. 25 were the latest ever by 5 days (GBB). Eared Grebes numbered 255 on Hailstone and Halfbreed refuges, MT (LM). Late Am. White Pelicans were at Sand Lake N.W.R., SD, Nov. 18 (JK) and remained through the period at Great Falls, MT

(MA). Four Double-crested Cormorants in Yankton, SD, Nov. 21 were also late (WH).

An Am. Bittern at McLean N.W.R., ND, Nov. 30 was the state's latest by 13 days (TK). In South Dakota, 60 Great Egrets were observed in *Minnehaha* Sept. 11 (MSS), while high counts of Cattle Egrets included 52 in Day Sept. 2 (JS) and 42 in *Clark* Sept. 16 (MM). Young Cattle Egrets less than a week old were seen Aug. 12 (DOL, GN, SOL) at Minnewaukan Flats, ND, where another year of drought will cause water to recede to inside the cattail fringe and thus jeopardize North Dakota's most productive marsh—this is only one of many examples of the drought's effects that could be cited. A Cattle Egret at Fargo Oct. 14 was North Dakota's 2nd latest (RH). Two Green-backed Herons in Kingsbury, SD, Oct. 8 were late (DB). The only report of White-faced Ibis was of two in Day, SD, Sept. 3 (DGP).

Snow Geese at Sand Lake N.W.R., SD, peaked at 152,000 Nov. 6 (JK). A Ross' Goose in Marshall, SD, Nov. 7 was late (BKH), and 10 were found in n.c. North Dakota Sept. 29–Nov. 5 (REM, GBB). Wood Ducks peaked at 750 at Tewauckon N.W.R., ND, Nov. 7 (HH). An Oldsquaw at Grand Forks Aug. 29 was the earliest for North Dakota by 12 days (EF). A total



Pacific Loon at Fort Peck, Montana, in November 1989. In this close-up portrait there is no white above or before the eye and no zigzag pattern of dark and light on the neck, and the nape is much paler gray than the back, all good distinctions from Common Loon. Photograph/Charles Carlson.

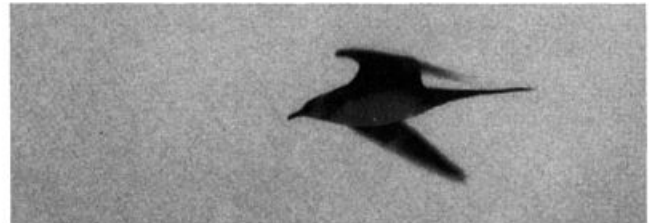
of 12 was found in n.c. North Dakota Oct. 29–Nov. 25 (GBB, REM), which can be compared with Berkey's personal total of 15 for the previous 8 years. An Oldsquaw was found below a tower in Marshall, SD, Nov. 11 (fide BKH), and two were seen in Yankton Nov. 19 (WH). Single Black Scoters were seen at Devils Lake Oct. 14 and Nov. 12 (GBB, REM). The highest counts for Surf Scoters were of six at Fargo (RHO) and five at Devils Lake (REM), both on Oct. 14. The nine White-winged Scoters were all in North Dakota. A Common Goldeneye at Halfbreed N.W.R., MT, Aug. 1 was the earliest by 14 days (LM), and there were 425 on Devils Lake Nov. 12 (GBB). The 1000 Bufflehead at Upper Souris N.W.R., ND, Oct. 29 tied the previous high (REM). The 18 Red-breasted Mergansers reported in North Dakota and Montana were found between Nov. 2 & 12.

RAPTORS TO SHOREBIRDS — The 18 Turkey Vultures seen Sept. 7 at Grassy Butte, ND, tied the previous high for the state (JH). Singles at Crystal, ND, Sept. 30 (LFM) and at Medicine Lake N.W.R., MT, Nov. 9 (TN) were unusual at those locations. Most of the 20 Ospreys reported for the Dakotas were seen in mid-September. Thirty Bald Eagles at Upper Souris Nov. 4, including 26 immatures, made the highest daily count ever at a single location in North Dakota (GBB, REM). Only four N. Goshawks were reported. The dates of Sept. 16 & 17 for Broad-winged Hawks at Malta, MT, coincided with typical dates in previous years (DP), and with the migration peak farther east. A marked Ferruginous Hawk in McHenry, ND, Aug. 20 had been banded in Canada (REM), and birds e. of the breeding range were seen in Steele, ND, Sept. 9 (DLK) and Roberts, SD, Sept. 3 (DGP). A count of 12 Rough-legged Hawks was made in Marshall, SD, Nov. 12 (AC). A Peregrine Falcon Sept. 2 and a Merlin Sept. 5, both in Marshall, were the earliest ever for South Dakota (BKH). A total of eight Peregrines was reported for Montana (LM, MA, TN). The post-breeding-season appearance of Prairie Falcons in the e. Dakotas is no longer considered unusual; however, the eight seen in the period Aug. 11–15, which was early and included four at Fargo (GEN), suggested a strong movement at that time.

A remarkably late brood of very small Wild Turkeys was seen near Sawyer, ND, Oct. 10 (REM). A hunting dog flushed a Yellow Rail in Burleigh Oct. 9, thus providing a new late date for North Dakota (RWH). A Sora at Fargo Oct. 31 was North Dakota's latest by 7 days (GEN). An estimated 50,000 Am. Coots were feeding with wigeon at Upper Souris Sept. 24 (GBB). A Whooping Crane in the area of Max, ND, Aug. 12–Sept. 30 was likely the same one that had summered nearby (fide Dave Potter). Other sightings of Whooping Crane were of four adults and an immature near Medicine Lake N.W.R. Oct. 17 (TFu) and three in Sully, SD, Nov. 6 (TFR).

Lesser Golden-Plovers peaked Sept. 25 at 2000 on the Fargo lagoons (MAB), where 30 Semipalmated Plovers seen Oct. 20 provided the 2nd-latest record (GEN). Eleven Piping Plovers fledged at L. Ilo, which was drawn down this past summer (DJB), and similar numbers were produced at Nelson Res., MT (DP). A Mountain Plover was seen at Hewitt Lake N.W.R., MT, Sept. 1 (DP). Black-necked Stilts produced four young at Big Lake, n.w. of Billings (RF). Two Am. Avocets remained at Medicine Lake N.W.R. through Nov. 9, which was after sub-zero temperatures had occurred (TN). A Solitary Sandpiper at Fargo Oct. 8 was the state's 2nd-latest, and Spotted Sandpipers peaked at 75 on Aug. 11 at the Minot lagoons. A Ruddy Turnstone near Westby, MT, Sept. 20–26 was unusual for that area (TN). The only reports of Buff-breasted Sandpiper were of 10 at Minot Aug. 11 (REM), 30 at Grand Forks Aug. 12 (EF), and eight at Fargo Aug. 19 (MAB). Long-billed Dowitchers numbered 3000 at Salyer N.W.R., ND, Oct. 7, and 1600 at Minnewaukan Flats Sept. 30.

JAEGERS TO NIGHTJARS — North Dakota's 5th recorded Parasitic Jaeger circled Minnewaukan Flats several



Adult or near-adult Parasitic Jaeger at Minnewaukan Flats, North Dakota, September 30, 1989. Fifth state record. Photograph/Peder Svingen.

times Sept. 30, giving observers several close looks (PS, SB, SOL, DOL).

Late records for gulls away from Garrison Dam included a Franklin's still in breeding plumage at Minot Oct. 27 (REM), and two Ring-billeds at Fargo (GEN) and 200 Bonaparte's at Devils Lake (GBB), both on Nov. 12. An estimated 20,000

S.A.

Charles Carlson noted that hundreds of Ring-billed and California gulls and Common Nighthawks were flycatching over Ft. Peck, Montana, Aug. 28, apparently feeding on ants in nuptial flight. Mixed flocks engaged in this activity are fairly often seen for a few days around Sept. 1 at many locations on the Great Plains. Depending on the location, these flocks may also contain Franklin's Gulls, Purple Martins, and Chimney Swifts. The spectacle of thousands of birds silently milling over a large area, usually in late afternoon on a still day, is one of the memorable events of the fall season.

Ring-billed Gulls were located along 5 miles of river below Garrison Dam Aug. 27 (GBB). An early Thayer's Gull was at Ft. Peck Oct. 6 and four were there by the end of the period (CC). North Dakota's 11th Black-legged Kittiwake was at Garrison Dam Nov. 25, and the 12th Sabine's Gull was at the Minot lagoons Sept. 30–Oct. 13 (REM, GBB). About 25 Caspian

Terns were found on the Missouri River below Ft Peck Aug 27 (CC).

A downy young E. Screech-Owl was seen in Minot Sept. 3 (GBB). This was the poorest fall in recent years for Snowy Owl, with only four being reported. A Burrowing Owl remained very late, until Oct. 17, in the Westby, MT, area (TN). There were 4 reports of Long-eared Owls. Nordhagen noted that Short-eared Owls were formerly quite common in the Westby area, but numbers have been very low over the past 5 years. Tallman banded the first of three N. Saw-whet Owls in Brown, SD, on Oct. 18. In Bismarck, 440 Com. Nighthawks were seen by one observer Aug. 25 (RWH), and checking with other birders led to an estimate of 5000 in the area. A Whip-poor-will was banded at Pickeral Lake State Recreation Area, SD, Sept. 22 (DRS).

HUMMINGBIRDS TO SHRIKES — A Ruby-throated Hummingbird in Brown, SD, Oct. 1 was late (DGP). Red-bellied Woodpeckers again frequented feeders at Fargo, where up to four were present after Oct. 8 (RMR *et al.*), and the earliest of 7 reports from e. South Dakota was Oct. 7 (AH). Five Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen in Grand Forks Aug. 15 (EF). The last W. Wood-Pewee was seen at Ft. Peck Sept. 5 (CC), and at Marmarth, ND, Sept. 9 (D & CG). A late nesting of E. Wood-Pewee in Minnehaha, SD, was indicated by adults feeding fledglings Sept. 17 (AH). Using call notes, Alder Flycatchers were detected at Minot Aug. 17–Sept. 9 with a peak of 12 on Aug. 30 (GBB, REM). A Say's Phoebe at Hettinger, ND, ended a month-long stay on Oct. 22, and was the state's latest by 26 days (D & CG). A flock of 20 Purple Martins migrating through Bismarck Oct. 13 set a record late date by 6 days (DMR). A count of 1200 Cliff Swallows was made at Fargo Sept. 9 (GEN).

Blue Jays were noted at Great Falls Oct. 15 (MA) and appeared at feeders in Malta, MT, throughout the period (DP). The only report of Com. Raven was of one Oct. 17 feeding on a roadkill west of Grenora, ND (TN). Red-breasted Nuthatch, a near no-show last year, was back in numbers this fall—arriving at Bowdoin N.W.R. Aug. 8 (KS), Grand Forks Aug. 15 (DOL), and in Brown, SD, Aug. 23, which was considered to be very early there (DGP). Although there was only one prior August record for Brown Creeper in North Dakota, this year they were first observed Aug. 15 in both Grand Forks (EF) and Minot (REM), and there were several more records later in the month. A House Wren in Minnehaha Oct. 11 was South Dakota's latest ever (AH). A Winter Wren in Minot Oct. 1 was early and also unusual that far west (REM, GBB).

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were present in South Dakota in Deuel Aug. 24 (BKH) and Minnehaha Sept. 13 (AH). High daily counts of E. Bluebirds in North Dakota included 109 in McHenry Sept. 30 and 72 at Salyer N.W.R. Oct. 7 (GBB, REM), and 70 in the Devils Lake area on Sept. 23 (EF) and Oct. 24. Ten years ago, most observers in the state considered themselves lucky to see this species in the fall. A total of 52 Mountain Bluebirds was seen in s.w. North Dakota Aug. 29 (BCH), while one in Kingsbury, SD, Oct. 10 was unusual there (DB). A Gray-cheeked Thrush at Grand Forks Aug. 20 set a new early date (EF). Townsend's Solitaires had reached Ft. Peck by Sept. 15 (CC) and Brown, SD, Sept. 13 (DGP). Very early Varied Thrushes were in Bismarck Sept. 27 (RWH, DMR), Marshall, SD, Sept. 28 (JY), and Turtle River S.P., ND, Oct. 1 (Doug Vought). Other sightings occurred in November in Fargo (LLF), Grand Forks (EF), and Bismarck (WB); the total of six was most unusual for the Dakotas. An American Pipit in Marshall Sept. 5 tied South Dakota's earliest record ever (BKH). Northern Shrikes arrived Oct. 6–15 at a number of locations in North Dakota and Montana.

VIREOS TO FINCHES — A dozen Solitary Vireos in Grand Forks Aug. 28 set a new fall high for the state (GSL). A Philadelphia Vireo at Fargo Aug. 3 provided the 3rd-earliest date (LLF), while a Red-eyed Vireo in Brown, SD, Oct. 25 was very late (DGP). A Tennessee Warbler banded Aug. 3 was

indicated to be South Dakota's earliest ever (DRS) while a Nashville Warbler in Sica Hollow Oct. 25 was very late (JY). Northern Parulas were found in Minnehaha, SD, Sept. 12 (MSS) and Fargo Sept. 13 (FC). A Chestnut-sided Warbler in Minnehaha, SD, on the incredibly late date of Nov. 12 was the latest ever by 42 days (DGP). Three Magnolia Warblers in Westby Sept. 14 provided the 13th state record for Montana (TN). Black-throated Blue Warblers were found at Pickeral Lake, SD, Sept. 16 (DRS), in Minot Sept. 18 & 21, and at Fargo Oct. 3–5 (MBB). Bay-breasted Warblers were unusually common in North Dakota Aug. 15–Sept. 3, including a record count of 10 in Fargo Aug. 25 (GEN). A **Kentucky Warbler** in a city park in Westby Sept. 14 provided the 2nd state record for Montana (TN).

A ♀ **Western Tanager** in Minot Sept. 17 was the 13th for North Dakota (GBB). Single N. Cardinals were found in Bismarck, Grand Forks, and Fargo. A Blue Grosbeak was found in Brown, SD, Aug. 3 (RKN). A number of dates for sparrows which were either close to or the latest on record for the state cited included: Clay-colored Sparrow in Grand Forks Oct. 19 (EF), Lark Sparrow in Fargo Oct. 1 (GEN), Savannah Sparrow in Stutsman, ND, Nov. 11 (RWH), Grasshopper Sparrow in Marshall, SD, Oct. 24 (BKH), Le Conte's Sparrow in Fargo Oct. 22 (D & DW), Sharp-tailed Sparrow near Washburn, ND, Oct. 22—the state's latest by 16 days (RWH), and Lincoln's Sparrow Oct. 27 in both Fargo (D & DW) and Sanborn, SD (BR). Four Sharp-tailed Sparrows in McPherson, SD, provided an unusual fall record (DAT). A Gray-headed (Dark-eyed) Junco came to a feeder at Bowdoin N.W.R., MT, Oct. 5 (KS).

Smith's Longspurs were found in the Minot area Sept. 24–Oct. 12 and in Marshall, SD, Oct. 11. Four Snow Buntings at Salyer N.W.R. Oct. 7 tied North Dakota's earliest record (REM), and counts in the 350–600 range were reported later. In Latilong 9 of Montana, 40 Rosy Finches were observed entering Cliff Swallow nests near dusk on Oct. 27, apparently with the intent of roosting there (Robert L. Krepps). Pine Grosbeaks irrupted into the Region and were first found at Denbigh, ND, Oct. 28, Pickeral Lake, SD, Nov. 26 (DRS), and Chester, MT, Oct. 24 (HMM). Reports of House Finch in the eastern Dakotas increased, with numbers in the range of two to eight being reported for Minnehaha, Union, and Yankton in South Dakota, and also at Fargo where begging young again appeared at a feeder, on Aug. 20 (MS). In Montana where the western population occurs, Malone noted that House Finches now appear to be year-round residents in Lewistown and one was at a feeder in Malta Oct. 15.

There were only a few reports of Red Crossbills, mostly in Montana. White-winged Crossbills strongly irrupted into the eastern halves of the Dakotas beginning around Aug. 10. Daily counts in the 30–100 range were reported between Oct. 15–Nov. 15 at Fargo (RHO) and Larimore (EF) in North Dakota, and Brown (DAT) and Brookings (JK) in South Dakota. Common Redpolls moved into North Dakota Oct. 27–30, but numbers were not exceptional. After being all but absent since the early summer of 1988, Pine Siskins reappeared in North Dakota in August and a count of 750 was made in Minot Oct. 1 (GBB). Evening Grosbeaks began to appear in North Dakota Oct. 7, but numbers were generally low except for a flock of 25 at Grand Forks Oct. 25 (DOL).

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SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Joseph A. Grzybowski

The Great Plains will always be an area with a continental climate and contrasts in weather. It may have been the greenest August and September on record in Oklahoma, but the fires blazed in the grasslands and ponderosa forests of northwestern Nebraska. And central Kansas was not much wetter. But it was not so bad in central and eastern Nebraska. And when the rain stopped in Oklahoma, it stopped. Almost nothing fell in October and November across much of the state. There were early killing frosts in western Nebraska and Kansas, but the temperatures were probably above average, particularly in November.

How can anyone claim an average is normal here? An average may be one of the most abnormal conditions that can occur. What does this do for predicting relationships between weather and bird populations? I guess you have to assume that the birds that live here are adapted, and the ones that just pass through play the risk-sensitive probabilities of locating suitable patches before too long.

The earlier extensive drought may have hurt the migrants and water-dependent birds more than the residents. It seemed that fewer records of insectivores like flycatchers, swallows, and warblers were received this season. Less water, less insect production, less real food, bigger population bottlenecks for these species. In addition, no one commented on late summer roosts of swallows and flycatchers. Cause and effect? Maybe!

With more ponds dried up in Nebraska and Kansas, the risk side of the probabilities for herons, egrets, waterfowl, rails, and shorebirds went up. Concentrations in the few oases, which initially make things look better, disappear as the birds' roulette wheel of finding two good areas along their paths play out the poor odds. If they made it to Oklahoma this September, they were in good shape. But it does not matter how green an oasis is if you can't get there. And how many birds were there to make it?

If things get bad at home, what do you do? Move!! Some species may have done just that. Birders in western Kansas seem to have found more than the normal dispersal of essentially resident birds such as Scrub Jays, Canyon Towhees, and Rufous-crowned Sparrows. Other more broadly distributed residents within the Region may have undergone similar dispersal.

Other species breeding farther outside the Region also pulsed. Among them were Steller's Jay, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and perhaps Lewis' Woodpecker. They could have been part of a good reproductive season, or birds fallen on hard times looking for better. Steller's Jays may have moved in from the Rockies. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers must have come from deciduous and boreal forests to the north, as it is the Red-naped



Sapsucker that breeds in the Rocky Mountains. It's hard to say where the nuthatches originated.

If the pulse was from a surplus, it did not produce any winter finch eruptions to speak of. Except for the Purple Finches in eastern Nebraska, feeders just weren't that interesting.

ABBREVIATIONS — Fontenelle Forest = Fontenelle Forest, Sarpay Co., NE; Lake Hefner = Lake Hefner, Oklahoma Co., OK; N.O.U.R.C. = Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO WATERFOWL — Three Com. Loons appeared Aug. 26 in Keith, NE (RCR, DJR). A Clark's Grebe was identified on L. Ogallala, Keith, NE, and two more were studied among a flock of 200 W. Grebes on Sutherland Res., Lincoln, NE, Aug. 26 (RCR, DJR). Two W. Grebes were documented from Washington, OK, Nov. 11 (RP, SR). Details were provided for an observation of an Anhinga flying over Sumner, KS, Sept. 16 (*fide* DK), perhaps the latest seasonal occurrence for Kansas.

Sightings of Am. Bittern are becoming less frequent. One was observed Aug. 6 in Lancaster, NE (GW). Another was noted Aug. 26 in Canadian, OK (JGN et al.). Three Snowy Egrets at Dawes, NE, Aug. 12 (RCR, DJR) were unusual in that part of the State. A Roseate Spoonbill was observed Aug. 13–14 at Keystone Res., Creek, OK (PS et al.). As in 1988, a few herons and egrets lingered. This year, they included single Great Egrets in Garden, NE, Oct. 22 (RCR, DJR) and Oklahoma Nov. 7 (MO), and two Snowy Egrets Oct. 14 in Tulsa (PS, JL).

Origins of Trumpeter Swans may be a point of discussion.

With their reintroduction to the north, more are likely to be observed. This season, one was seen Sept. 1 in Cherry, NE, where they have previously nested (RCR, DJR). Two adults and four immatures were observed Sept. 29 in Grant, NE, and 10 were seen in Arthur, NE, Nov. 12 (WM). Scott and Diane Seltman were surprised to look through a flock of Snow Geese, and realize that 38 of the 58 were actually Ross's. But then, about 50 Ross' Geese were counted among a flock of about 15,000 Snow Geese at Sequoyah N.W.R., OK (CH). A **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** was collected Oct. 29 in Clay, NE (JA), and donated to the University of Nebraska State Museum (fide TL). The bird showed no signs of having been captive, and its status is under review by the N.O.U.R.C.

Two Am. Black Ducks were noted in Washington, NE, Nov. 15-18 (AG, JT). In Lincoln, NE, 300 N. Shovelers were still present Nov. 25 (RCR, DJR). Regular, but infrequent during the summer, 20 Redheads were noted in Texas, OK, Aug. 7 (PSn). A flock of about 40 Greater Scaup was studied Nov. 26 in Keith, NE (RCR, DJR). A Ring-necked Duck Sept. 19 in Harper, OK, was early (DV, BV). A scaup, probably Lesser, noted Sept. 1 in Harper, OK (DV) was also early. The earliest Oldsquaw reported this season was Nov. 19 in Cedar, NE (MB). This species appears to be rare but regular south to n.e. Oklahoma, and variably common westward.

Scoters are being more regularly observed in the Region than in the past. This year a **Black Scoter** was discovered Nov. 2 in Tulsa (JCH, SD). Surf Scoters were noted Oct. 21 and Nov. 26 at 2 different localities in Keith, NE (RCR, DJR); Oct. 22 and Nov. 4 in Tulsa (TM et al.); and Nov. 4 in Cedar, NE (MB). A White-winged Scoter was also noted Nov. 26 in Keith, NE (RCR, DJR). All were in basic plumage, and some were identified as immature.

A count of 3000 Com. Goldeneyes Nov. 25 in Lincoln, NE (RCR, DJR), was respectable. Possibly summering, a ♀ Com. Merganser was observed Aug. 15 in Creek, OK (m.ob.). A very high count for Red-breasted Mergansers in the Region was of 87 documented Nov. 12 in Adair, OK (MML). A mere 14 were photographed in Oklahoma Nov. 14 (MO).

RAPTORS TO CRANES — Perhaps the find of the season was a pair of **Black-shouldered Kites** nesting near Oldsburg, Pottawatomie, KS. They were first discovered Aug. 6 by Gary

Radke. Eggs hatched about Aug. 20, but a windstorm Sept. 7 destroyed the nest. The adults were last seen Sept. 9. This was the first documented occurrence and first nesting of this species in Kansas.

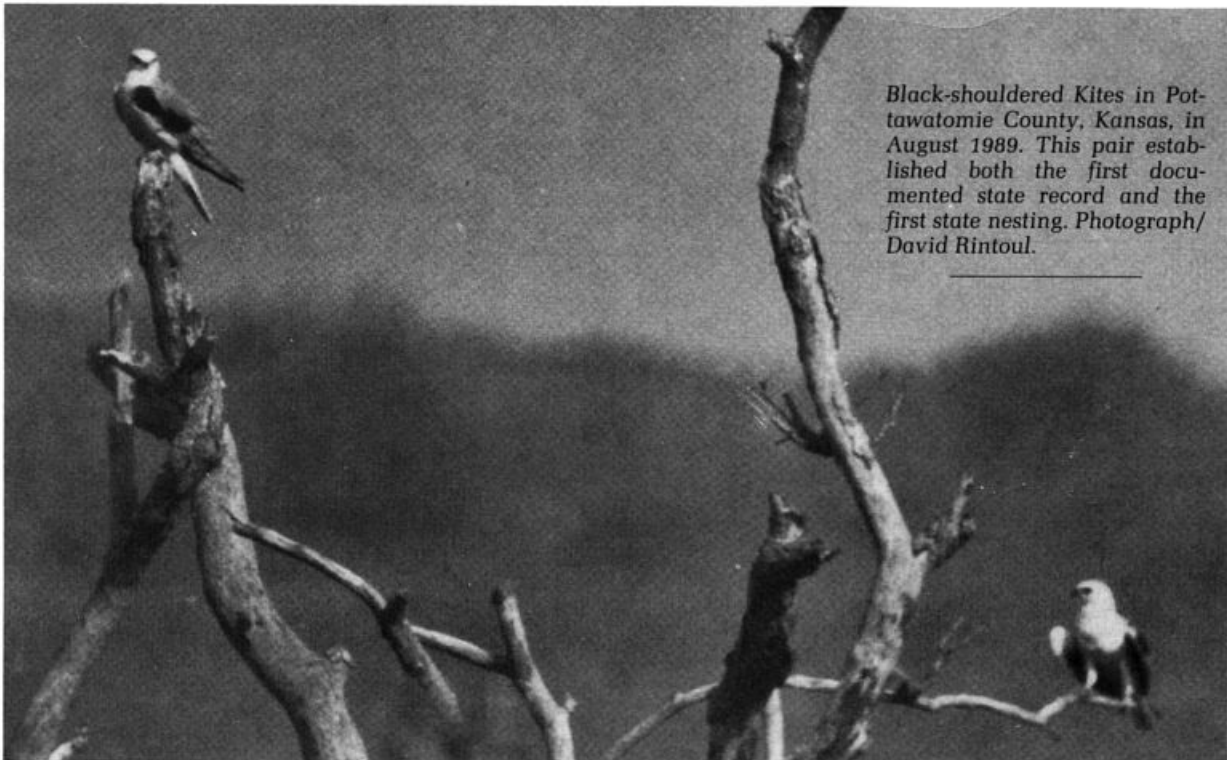
A roost in Creek, OK, contained 55 Bald Eagles Nov. 19 (CE). Golden Eagles were noted as far east in the Region as Douglas, NE, Oct. 5 (LS) and Oct. 17 (AG), and Johnston, OK (JW), Oct. 29. The first bird was injured and subsequently died.

Eight reports of Merlin were received, the earliest being Sept. 11 in Oklahoma (MO). Peregrine Falcons were reported from Keith, NE, Sept. 24 (immature; RCR, DJR), and Douglas, NE, Nov. 12 (JT).

A Virginia Rail was captured in downtown Omaha Sept. 13 (JT). Others were noted Oct. 4 in Tulsa (SD) and Nov. 4 in Sequoyah, OK (JM et al.). Four ad. Whooping Cranes were found east of their normal migration corridor at Oologah Res., Nowata, OK, Oct. 16 & 23 (BW). Others were noted along their normal route. One yearling succumbed from a collision with a power line Oct. 31 in Hitchcock, NE (CF).

SHOREBIRDS TO TERNS — The only Piping Plovers reported in Oklahoma were seen Aug. 1 in Tulsa (LD, JW), and Sept. 9-10 at Lake Hefner (MO, JGN). In Nebraska, where breeding populations occur, one was noted on the late date of Sept. 20 (BP). A Black-necked Stilt Oct. 22-28 in Washington (DV, JCH et al.) was both a local and a seasonal surprise. A count of 610 Am. Avocets Aug. 12 in Sheridan, NE, was impressive (RCR, DJR). Perhaps 100 Am. Avocets were still present Oct. 29 in Alfalfa, OK (BG et al.).

Although the species is common, 750 Lesser Yellowlegs Aug. 25 in Keith, NE, made a high count (RCR, DJR). Few observers commented on Upland Sandpipers, but I was disappointed in their numbers. Hudsonian Godwits are rare in the Region during the fall. One was well documented Aug. 30 in McClain, OK (PBe, MH). Three Red Knots were observed Aug. 25 & 27 in Keith, NE (RCR, DJR). Additional single knots were seen at Lake Hefner Sept. 1 (JGN) and Seward, KS, Sept. 3 (SS). Buff-breasted Sandpipers windowed their migration from Aug. 13 (Pierce, NE; MB et al.) to Sept. 24 (Keith, NE; RCR, DJR). Unfortunately, these were the only reports. Are



Black-shouldered Kites in Pottawatomie County, Kansas, in August 1989. This pair established both the first documented state record and the first state nesting. Photograph/ David Rintoul.

there parallels with Upland Sandpipers?

Short-billed Dowitchers were reported between Aug. 12 and Sept. 1. The one documented report received was of immatures in Tulsa (PS, E & KH). About 1600 Wilson's Phalaropes were estimated in Sheridan, NE, Aug. 12 (RCR, DJR). Flocks of Red-necked Phalaropes were observed Aug. 12 & 27 in w. Nebraska (RCR, DJR). Surprisingly, the only other report was of one bird Sept. 11 in Pierce, NE (MB).

Three imm. Laughing Gulls were present at Lake Hefner Aug. 7-21 (MO, JGN). A Bonaparte's Gull Sept. 23 at Lake Hefner was very early (MO, JGN et al.). Almost never detected (or reported), even though they occur regularly just to the west of us, 20 California Gulls (a record count for the Region) were observed in Keith and Lincoln, NE, Aug. 26. Ten were observed Sept. 23, and five were still present Oct. 21 at Keystone Lake, Keith, NE (RCR, DJR). But more noteworthy was a single California Gull in first-winter plumage discovered Oct. 23 at Lake Hefner (JGN), which later moved to Lake Overholser, Oklahoma, where it was last observed Nov. 30 (JGN). This was only the 3rd documented record for Oklahoma. Early Herring Gulls were noted Sept. 10 and Oct. 8 at Lake Hefner (JGN).

This year, Sabine's Gulls were found Sept. 16 & 18 at Kaw Dam, Osage-Kaw, OK (DV et al.), and Sept. 20 at Lake Hefner (MO). While juv. Sabine's are now almost expected in fall, an adult noted Oct. 6 in Sheridan, NE (RCR, DJR), may have been the first for the Region!

Common Terns windowed their passage through c. Oklahoma Sept. 9-11, when up to eight were noted (JGN, MO et al.). One was also observed on the late date of Oct. 14 in Trego, KS (SS, DS). Three straggler Forster's Terns were seen Oct. 22 in Lincoln, NE (RCR, DJR). Least Terns produced a few young from 2nd nesting attempts in c. Nebraska (BP, TB).

DOVES TO SWALLOWS — An Inca Dove was observed and photographed at the north end of the Region in Keya

Wichita Mountains N.W.R., Comanche, OK, Nov. 6 (JDT). Red-headed Woodpeckers withdraw in fall from the western reaches of the Region; one Oct. 21 in Garden, w. Nebraska, was considered late (RCR, DJR). Observers in all 3 states thought that Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were more common this fall. One Sept. 16 in Tulsa was exceptionally early.

Two E. Phoebes were still present in Fontenelle Forest Nov 9 (BP). Cassin's Kingbirds were noted as late as Sept. 22 in Cimarron, OK (DV, BV). Late were one W. Kingbird Sept. 19 and two E. Kingbirds Oct 2 in Tulsa. Thirty Bank Swallows lingered in Tulsa Oct. 7 (JL). No one reported large roosts of flycatchers or swallows this fall. Also, fewer unusual records of flycatchers and swallows were received this season. I saw few Least Flycatchers this fall. Was this a reporting bias, or an aftereffect of the drought?

JAYS TO VIREOS — It appeared to be an eruption year for Steller's Jay. The earliest were two Sept. 21 in Cimarron, OK (DV, BV). Five were observed in Morton, KS, Nov. 4 (SS, DS), and one was seen in Stevens, KS, that same day (SS, DS). In a state with fewer than 20 records, this was clearly an event. One was also observed in Sioux, NE, beginning Nov 24 (BH, JP). A similar burst of Scrub Jays was also observed in s.w. Kansas. More than 25 (well above the previous high of eight birds reported in 1963) were noted along the Cimarron River in Morton, KS, Sept. 16 (SS, DS). Another flock of 24 was seen Oct. 11 in Seward, KS (JC). Still others were reported in s.w. Kansas through the rest of the period.

Adding to the continuing interest of Morton, KS, both Black-capped and Mountain chickadees were found there. Black-capped breed about 50 mi to the north, although the one noted Sept. 2 and the two found Nov. 11 may have originated in the Rockies (SS et al.). Mountain Chickadees were first spotted there Oct. 21 (SS, DS), but two Sept. 21 in Cimarron, OK (DV, BV), had already signalled a potential eruption year for this species as well. Eruption was also the word for Red-breasted Nuthatches everywhere in the Region. The first were noted Sept. 21 in Cimarron, OK (DV, BV), but one or two that had summered in Pontotoc, OK, still visited a feeder during August (WAC, MD).

Sedge Wrens again nested in Hall, NE. Seven nests with eggs were found during the beginning of August, and one additional nest contained young (PB). This was the only repeat from the 4 localities with reported nesting in 1988. A Rock Wren in Blaine, NE (BP, LP), was east of its normal range.

A Wood Thrush Sept. 30 in Rush, KS (SS), was somewhat farther west than expected. Veeries, rare in spring or fall, were reported during September from Fontenelle Forest (JT), Douglas, NE (AG), and Tulsa (TM). Several Swainson's Thrushes, also rare during the fall, were reported from Tulsa.

Can three birds represent an eruption? If so, **Varied Thrushes** also erupted with one in Fontenelle Forest Oct. 20 (RB); one in Washington, NE, Nov. 18 (JT); and another in Douglas, NE, Nov. 27-30 (MBa et al.), all documented. Two Brown Thrashers planning to die in Douglas, NE, were observed there Nov. 11-25 (PE, DL).

On Sept. 12, two days after a killing frost, an immature and an adult N. Shrike were found in Sheridan, NE (RCR, DJR). Another was observed Sept. 23 in Keith, NE. Scott Seltman noted several N. Shrikes in w. Kansas beginning Oct. 21. A few others were also noted during November in e. Nebraska. A color-banded Black-capped Vireo was still singing on his territory in Blaine, OK, Sept. 10 (JAG, BH).

WARBLERS TO FINCHES — Warbler finds were few this season. About 10 species on the normal fringes of their migration routes were observed in e. Nebraska (fide BP). Only one of these was reported from Tulsa, Black-throated Green Warbler (fide JL). Unusual was a Pine Warbler singing Aug. 4 in Fontenelle Forest (JT). Eastern warblers west included a Chestnut-sided Warbler in Morton, KS, Sept. 16 (SS, DS, MC), and a Pine Warbler Nov. 10-11 in Morton, KS (MM, SS et al.)



Inca Dove north of Bassett, north-central Nebraska, November 23, 1989. Second state record. Photograph/John Brenneman.

Paha, NE, Nov. 14-30 (KB, JB). This was only the 2nd documented record for Nebraska. Another was noted Nov. 15 in Wichita, KS (DK et al.). Yellow-billed Cuckoos were last seen Oct. 26 in Wagoner, OK (JN).

The Seltmans found a N. Saw-whet Owl in their shelterbelt in Rush, KS, Nov. 17. Two were banded Nov. 2 & 17 in Madison, NE (JD). A Common Poorwill rested on a windowsill in Oklahoma City Oct. 6 (EK). A ♀ Rufous Hummingbird was present Aug. 15 in Dawes, NE (RCR, DJR). Another ♀ Selasphorus hummingbird, probably Rufous, was noted Sept. 4-5 in Haskell, KS (SP, SS, DS).

A Lewis' Woodpecker, scarce in Kansas, was noted in Morton Sept. 16 (DS). Another extralimital record came from the

The most unusual observation of a western warbler this season was of a Townsend's Warbler Sept. 21 in Cimarron, OK (DV, BV). A Mourning Warbler Oct. 29 in Tulsa was late.

Although we were weak on warblers, reports of other emberizids fared better. A ♀ *Pyrrhuloxia* was discovered Oct. 28 north of Elkhart, Morton, KS (SP, MT). The bird remained through the end of the period, but could not be found Dec. 9. This was the first record of this species documented in Kansas. A ♂ Rufous-sided Towhee of the e. race was noted in Morton, KS, Oct. 21 (SS, DS). This race is very rare in at least the western half of the Region. A Canyon Towhee and Rufous-crowned Sparrows were also discovered Oct. 15 in Morton, KS (SP, MR). Both species occur regularly a few counties away in Oklahoma.

Late nesting Dickcissels and Grasshopper Sparrows were present in Hall, NE, during early August. Dickcissel nests with eggs or young were found Aug. 8, and a Grasshopper Sparrow nest with 4 eggs was discovered Aug. 11 (PB). The N.O.U.R.C. will have to consider whether a documentation of a Sage Sparrow Aug. 6 in Sioux, NE (DS), a possible first for Nebraska, was possibly of an imm. Black-throated Sparrow, also quite unusual in Nebraska. An early migrant Clay-colored Sparrow was noted Aug. 15 in Hall, NE (PB). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was documented in Bryan, OK, Oct. 4 (JW). A flock of Chestnut-collared Longspurs Oct. 3 in Pawnee, KS, was also somewhat early (SS, DS).

A ♀ Rose-breasted Grosbeak Oct. 29 in Fontenelle Forest was late, but a ♂ Orchard Oriole that day (AG) was even more exceptionally late for that typically-early migrant. Also later than previous local records for the species, by a month, was a ♀ Yellow-headed Blackbird Nov. 24 in Garden, NE (RCR, DJR).

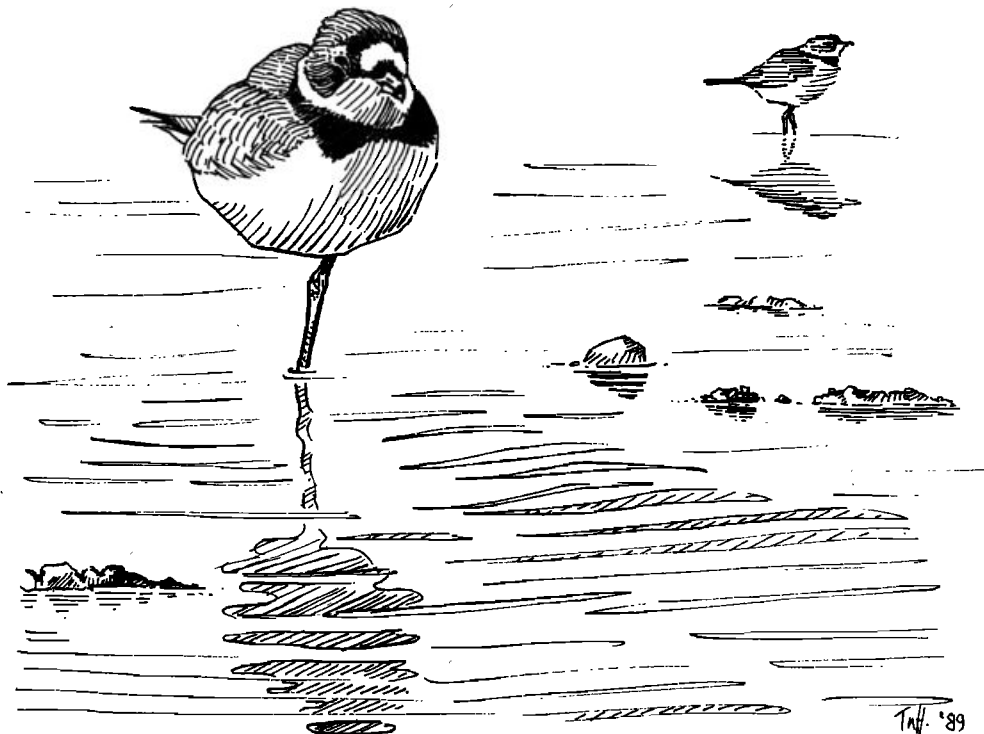
A Cassin's Finch Aug. 6 in Sioux, NE (DS), was several weeks earlier than previously published sightings. House Finches appear to be losing their reporting luster as records increase. They were noted in the eastern part of the Region in Douglas, NE (BP, CJ et al.), Sarpy, NE (DB), Tulsa (E & KH, FP, WY), Delaware, OK (F & MB) and Muskogee, OK (JM et al.). While Purple Finches have been uncommon to non-existent in eastern and central Oklahoma for several years now, the Padelfords thought they were present in fairly high

numbers in e. Nebraska.

Only one report of Red Crossbill was received for this season away from breeding areas in n.w. Nebraska, that of a single male from Morton, KS, Nov. 11 (SS). But a flock of 20 White-winged Crossbills, the really rare crossbill species any year, was observed in Douglas, NE, Nov. 20 (AG, BJR et al.). A Com. Redpoll was noted Nov. 6 in Dawes, NE (RCR, DJR). Pine Siskins made a modest showing in Oklahoma, but arrived Sept. 22 in Boone, NE (WM), and Oct. 1 in e. Nebraska, where they were present in good numbers by the end of the period. Eight were observed as early as Aug. 22 in Dawson, NE (TB, BP).

Scattered records for Lesser Goldfinch are known from s.w. Oklahoma, and Cimarron. One, possibly several, small groups were observed in Morton, KS, Sept. 16 (MC, DS, SS). A flock of about 20 was noted farther east in Barber, KS (BE, AF). Evening Grosbeaks arrived Sept. 30, very early, in Rush, KS (SS, DS). Others were observed Oct. 15 in s.w. Kansas (SP), but w. Kansas appears to have been the only place where they made any real showing before the end of the period (fide SS).

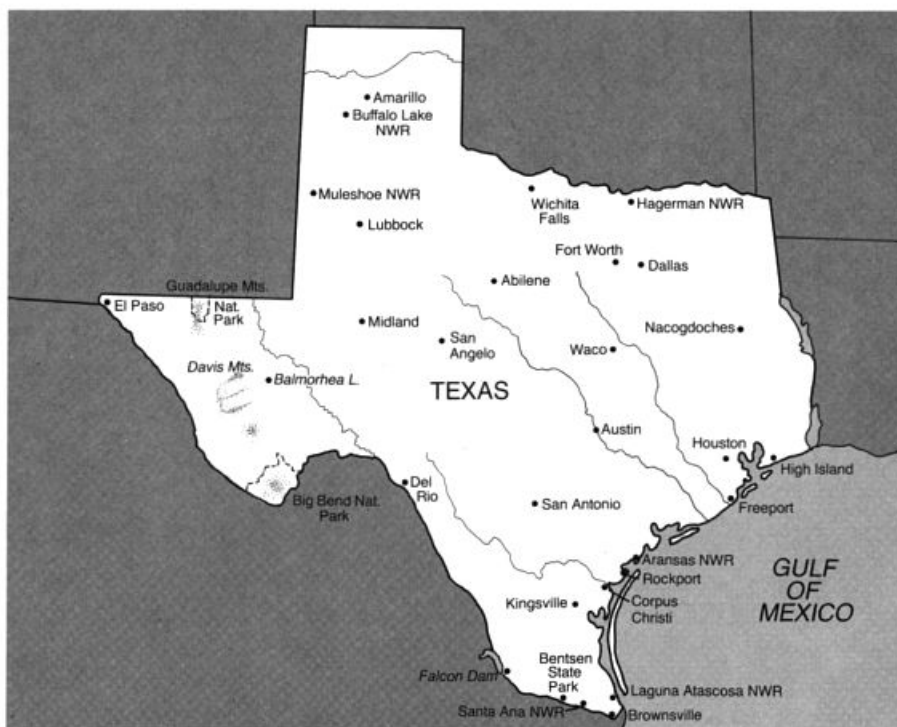
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Trevor Henicot

TEXAS REGION

Greg W. Lasley and
Chuck Sexton



It is always a challenge to present a coherent summary of a season across an area as vast as Texas. While no *American Birds* region is homogeneous, Texas' position as a transition area between so many climates and landforms seems to compound our analysis. A weather system entering north Texas may take a week to run its course across the state, by which time the next system is already on its way. Birds displaced in one area may show up in another section (exhibited by certain aspects of the hawk migration), or accounts of abundance patterns of a given species group seems at times like a complete jumble (such as sparrows this season). Perhaps the remarkable aspect of this season was that there actually were a few major statewide phenomena such as early arrivers and the montane invasion.

Periodic downpours and seasonal rainfall totals in areas such as Harris County, Aransas Pass, Brownsville, Kickapoo, and the Panhandle belied not only the general dryness of the season but also the continuing severity of the drought conditions. The long-term Palmer index of drought severity indicated "severe" to "extreme" conditions over the southwestern half of the state (U.S. Department of Agriculture). Stories of dried-up lakes and ponds continued to abound in south Texas. The parched conditions (coupled later on by an early winter freeze) produced a landscape in Starr and Hidalgo counties that was shocking to observers used to the normal sub-tropical verdure of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. At the opposite end of the scale, Amarillo had a cool wet August and September but the latter half of the season was rainless (KS).

Many migrants and winter residents arrived early. The taxonomic and geographic breadth of this phenomenon was remarkable. Unseasonably strong cool fronts in early August, early and mid-September, and especially a mid-October cold blast were clearly the primary proximate causes. These movements should not be misinterpreted as implying that large numbers of the regular migrants showed up. In fact, many accounts were tempered with

phrases like "slow to build up." The overall result was a rather dull migration in many areas. In north-central Texas it was deemed "the dog days of fall" (CH). By the end of the season, observers in the Concho Valley were still "waiting for the fall migration to start" (DT). The bulk of the shorebirds were thought to have departed early as a result of the strong early fronts, yet there were the usual handful of late lingerers among this and other groups.

Contrasting with the generally dull migration was the montane invasion, headlined by jays in west Texas and hummingbirds and nuthatches everywhere. Zimmer alluded to long droughts in New Mexico and Colorado which resulted in poor seed crops and resultant push of montane species into Texas' Trans-Pecos region. Many of the invaders not only arrived in large numbers but were very early as well.

Despite landfall of two hurricanes, we had little to show for it ornithologically. Minimal Hurricane Chantal came ashore in Chambers County with 80 mph winds August 1. Storm waifs for the next few days were markedly few, including several Gull-billed Terns in Brazos County, and a handful of Laughing Gulls and a Least Tern in Waco. Hurricane Jerry caused extensive structural damage on Galveston Island in mid-October. The most severe avian result was a massive kill of thousands of migrating Chimney Swifts on Galveston Island (TE). The passage of the latter storm also included a subsequent strong push of cold air into the state October 17-18.

Exciting news from South Texas was that a strong start was made toward opening some of the great ranches of the region to occasional birding tours and more intensive scientific surveys. Some research had been conducted on these lands in the past, but the discoveries of Palmer, Grantham and others this season showed that there is much yet to be learned on these vast tracts.

ABBREVIATIONS — Ft. Bliss = Fort Bliss Sewage Ponds (El Paso Co.); G.M.N.P. = Guadalupe Mts. Nat'l Park; L.R.G.V. = Lower Rio Grande Valley; Norias = Norias Division of King Ranch;

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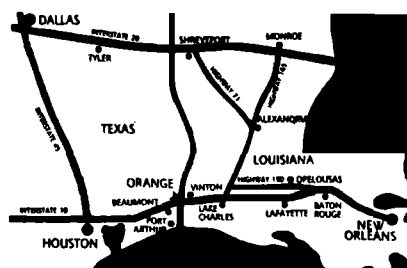
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T B R.C. = Texas Bird Records Committee; U.T.C. = Upper Texas Coast. Place names in *italics* are counties. The following are shortened names for the respective county, state, or national parks, national wildlife refuges, etc.: Anahuac, Anzalduas, Aransas, Attwater, Bentsen, Big Bend, Big Boggy, Brazos Bend, Buffalo Lake, Choke Canyon, Daingerfield, Hagerman, Hueco Tanks, Kickapoo, Laguna Atascosa, Muleshoe, Palmetto, and Santa Ana.

LOONS TO STORKS — A weakened Pacific Loon on n. Padre I. Oct. 28 (new Kleberg record) was rehabilitated and released Nov. 8 (ph. JG). Common Loons seemed to arrive earlier than normal, with multiple October sightings in e. Texas and on the U.T.C.; the species was later noted in above normal numbers at many coastal locations. Three Com. Loons were at Midland Nov. 4–30 (*fide FW*) for the first multiple-bird sighting ever there. The two Com. Loons that summered at L. Tanglewood, *Randall*, were last seen Aug. 26 (TJ). Rare for the area were two Horned Grebes near Lubbock Nov. 6–16 (L.E.A.S.) and another at El Paso Nov. 8 (BZ). At what is probably the only breeding colony in the Trans-Pecos area, 30 downy young Eared Grebes were counted Aug. 27 (BZ) at Ft Bliss. A W. Grebe at Lubbock Nov. 16 (LMK, JSm) was the first reported in that area for several years, while one in El Paso Aug. 1 (BZ) was very early. Clark's Grebes are now being found with some regularity in w. Texas: two were at Balmorhea L. Sept. 15–Oct. 14 (ph. ML), and one was there Nov. 3 into December. Another Clark's was at Ft. Bliss Sept. 23 (BZ).

Several organized pelagic trips off Port Aransas brought exciting birding for many observers. At least three **Cory's Shearwaters** were seen Oct. 7 off Port Aransas (tRD, ph., PG, LA, GL, m.ob.) with another in the same area Nov. 4 (tMA *et al.*) This species is rare but regular in summer and fall off the Texas coast. On the Nov. 4 pelagic a smaller shearwater, thought to be Audubon's, was seen briefly (MA *et al.*, tto

T.B.R.C.). Two unidentified *Oceanodroma* storm-petrels were seen 25 mi off Port Aransas Aug. 3 (GL). A subad. Masked Booby was found dead on the Mustang I. beach Aug. 2 (ph AB). Observers on the Oct. 7 pelagic were treated to spectacular views of a Masked Booby; another Masked Booby was seen Nov. 4 (MA *et al.*). Four imm. N. Gannets at Port Aransas Nov. 10 (A & MC) and 13 seen Nov. 15 between Surfside and San Luis Pass (TE, RU) were early. Sixty to 100 Am. White Pelicans at Midland during October and November made an unusually large number for that area (*fide FW*). An imm Brown Pelican photographed at Balmorhea L. Sept. 2–3 (ML, JSc) was exceedingly rare for the Trans-Pecos area. Notable among the Olivaceous Cormorant reports was a late individual Oct. 24 in Dallas, where the species is rare (RR).

At least two Least Bitterns frequented Feather L., El Paso, Aug. 20–Sept. 16 for the first El Paso area record of the decade (JSp, ph., BZ). We have often remarked on unusual records of Reddish Egrets away from salt water habitats. This fall saw more such records than ever, including one at Balmorhea L. Aug. 23–Sept. 15 (ML, JSc), one or two in Travis Aug. 29–Sept. 3 (BF, ChB *et al.*), one at San Antonio's Mitchell L. Sept. 10 (WS), one at Attwater Sept. 21, one at Midland Oct. 3 (new county record) (FW, JMer), and one in Live Oak Nov. 5 (J & SHo). All were apparently immatures. The largest coastal concentrations included 300 near Brownsville Nov. 11 (CS) and 475 at Laguna Atascosa Nov. 15 (LaD). Noteworthy was a dark-plumaged (melanistic?) Black-crowned Night-Heron with normal-plumaged birds near Lubbock Aug. 11 (MN) Black-crowned Night-Herons are rare migrants in the Pineywoods, and four at Sam Rayburn Res. Oct. 8 (LD *et al.*) were among few recent e. Texas reports (TE).

Post-nesting staging of White Ibises peaked on the U.T.C. Aug. 19 with a single flock of over 800 near Old River, Chambers (TE). Immature White Ibises wandered well inland (e.g., Austin, San Antonio) in greater than normal numbers

this season, most notable were five at Hagerman in n.c. Texas Aug. 22–Sept. 10 (KH, RR, m.ob.). A probable imm. Glossy Ibis was at Waco Sept. 9–15 (ph., JMu, BGa et al.). There are now 10 accepted records in the state, all but one during spring and summer. By the end of August at least 60 White-faced Ibises were at one Ft. Worth location, a very high number for that area (F.W.A.S., RR).

Roseate Spoonbills dispersed into a number of inland locations including one as far n. as Hagerman Aug. 10–Sept. 12 (KH, m.ob.). But the species was scarce in e. Texas, with three at Longview in early October (GLu) the only ones reported from that area. Notable spoonbills elsewhere included up to seven in Austin, one in Karnes Sept. 11 (WS), two in Falfurrias Sept. 12 (AO), one in Gillespie Sept. 21 (LSn), one at Choke Canyon in McMullen Sept. 27 (A & MC), two to five at Bentsen after Sept. 24 (GD, L & RG), and two in San Antonio Oct. 28 (m.ob.). A mustering of 250 Wood Storks surprised Carmona at Santa Ana Aug. 4, and 17 near Austin Sept. 4 (BF) made a high number for that area. Wood Storks also invaded n.c. Texas in August and early September with a dozen seen Aug. 16–20 at L. Tawakoni (RK), one at Fort Worth Aug. 8–20 (F.W.A.S., ph., MP, JWS), and 23 over s. Dallas Sept. 7 (fide WP). In contrast, Eubanks and Wolf described Wood Storks as surprisingly scarce in the Pineywoods of e. Texas this fall, probably owing to the high water levels in area reservoirs (DW).

WATERFOWL — Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continued to show up in unusual numbers at unusual locations. The species was noted with young Aug. 19 into October on Galveston I., for the first occurrence as well as the first breeding record for the isle (TE). A group of five Black-bellieds at Stephenville Sept. 6 (FM, fide BMo) provided a first *Erath* record and added to a growing number of records for n.c. Texas (CH). A Tundra Swan along the Rio Grande at Big Bend Nov. 24 (fide RGi) was out of place, as was a Greater White-fronted Goose at El Paso Sept. 5–Oct. 30 (BZ). By the end of the period a phenomenal one million Snow Geese were wintering in wetlands between the Sabine R. and the Coastal Bend (fide TE). On a more ominous note, by the end of the season observers were reporting the beginnings of another cholera outbreak among waterfowl in that area.

A remarkable total of 13 Muscovy Ducks was reported at Rancho Santa Margarita and the Falcon Dam area during the first week of October (B & MW, L & ST). Noteworthy Wood Duck reports included two at Ft. Bliss Oct. 15 (BZ) and up to 14 patrolling Polliwog Pond in Corpus Christi Nov. 16–28 (E & NA, GS). The Am. Black Duck has declined to the point of extirpation as a winter visitor in Texas, a fact that most field guides and checklists do not reflect. Owing to the variability of Mottled Duck plumages (also poorly treated in field guides) and a lack of proper documentation, we have had to ignore virtually all recent reports of Black Ducks. Observers should try hard to fully document any occurrence of this species by good photos or specimen. Somebody prove to us that Black Ducks are still in Texas! A pair of Mottled Ducks remained on a Longview pond through October, raising the possibility of a rare e. Texas nesting (GLu). High counts of Blue-winged Teal included 8000 in Chambers Sept. 16 (TE, JM). Three very early Am. Wigeons were near Rockport Sept. 25 (CC).

Refuge personnel counted 75,000 Redheads and 10,000 Canvasbacks on Laguna Atascosa in an aerial survey Nov. 14 (LaD et al.). "A peak of 122,000 ducks and 13,000 geese used the refuge during November. Numbers of waterfowl species are 2 to 4 times higher than last year possibly owing to continued drought farther north along the coast" (LaD). A count of 220 Canvasbacks on Rayburn Res. Nov. 17 (DW) made the highest e. Texas count in recent years. A single Greater Scaup on Rayburn Res. Oct. 21–Nov. 1 followed a pattern discerned in previous years (DW). Although a far less common winter species in e. Texas (as well as the rest of the state) than the Lesser Scaup, the Greater is nevertheless the first to arrive in

the fall. Another noteworthy Greater Scaup record was of five at Balmorhea L. Nov. 25 (RR, BG et al.).

Single Oldsquaws, always rare in Texas, were seen Nov. 19–30 at Hobson, Karnes (WS), and Nov. 28–30 on Mustang I, Nueces (ASp et al.). Two Surf Scoters in Midland Nov. 5 (RMS, m.ob.) were notable. White-winged Scoters of interest included one during November at L. Mexia (fide JMu), another at L. Waco Nov. 21 (FB) for a first McLennan record, and yet another at Hagerman Nov. 11 (BG, PB, GLo). Hooded Mergansers arrived early at Midland Nov. 10 (FW) and a count of 154 at Mitchell L. Nov. 28 was exceptional (WS). A ♀ Com. Merganser on a Randall sewage pond Sept. 9 (KS) was quite early. Noteworthy Red-breasted Merganser records included six at L. Benbrook, Tarrant, Nov. 4 (RR, PB, BG), two at Ft. Bliss Nov. 12, eight in Hudspeth Nov. 24 (BZ), and one at Midland Nov. 29 (FW). Ruddy Ducks summer in the Panhandle but are seldom found nesting. A female with a chick on a playa on the outskirts of Amarillo Aug. 15 was an exception (KS).

RAPTORS — The vulture roost at Anzalduas, Hidalgo, was reported to be much larger this year than in the past (L & RG). A high count of 52 Turkey Vultures was made Sept. 15 at Muleshoe (DC), where the species is not commonly found, while 150 at Buffalo L. Aug. 20 (PA, KS) were noteworthy.

Late September brought exciting hawk watching in several areas. The most exciting place in s. Texas this fall must have been Ingelside Pt. Sept. 23–24. Grantham writes, "This flight must have contained hundreds if not thousands of Accipiters and Broad-wingeds. Ingleside is a peninsula, and most of the raptors want to avoid crossing Corpus Christi Bay, much like the situation at Cape May, NJ." From e. Texas, Eubanks reported on another newly-discovered site. "In the past, most raptor flights on the U.T.C. were observed either along major rivers and bayous or immediately adjacent to the coast. The long overdue recognition of Smith Pt., Chambers, as a potential hawk-watch location attracted the notice of many observers this season. Reaching the tip of the peninsula the hawks are faced with the choice of either doubling back inland or flying out over bay waters (not likely for this hydrophobic group). This doubling back provides an excellent spot from which to watch raptor movements. Although covered for only a few days this fall, several major Accipiter flights were recorded in late September." In general, raptor migration in e. Texas fell short of that seen in previous years, while larger than normal flights were noted in n.c. and s. Texas (see Table 1). Incredible results, if not exact counts, were reported in radar studies based in Kingsville (fide JE). Anse Windham, an air traffic controller, repeatedly observed and photographed massive flights in late September on his radar scope. Many of the biggest flights passed through on clear days and were undetected by the human eye (thus not reflected in Table 1).

With the highly probable breeding of Am. Swallow-tailed Kites in s.e. Texas reported this past spring, we should not be surprised that Swallow-taileds lingered in e. Texas into mid-August (fide TE). There were reports of single birds at 3 locations farther south in September and October (m.ob.) More noteworthy Bald Eagle reports were of an adult over Bentsen Nov. 7 (AO, L & RG et al.) and an immature at Midland Nov. 14–18 (D & JMe). An imm. Northern Goshawk was photographed in El Paso Nov. 13 for one of the very few documented (and, to our knowledge, the first photographed) state records (tBZ). Another N. Goshawk was described from G.M.N.P. Oct. 27 (tJT). A Com. Black-Hawk was reported at Santa Ana Nov. 3, but documentation was lacking. Harris' Hawks ventured north out of s. Texas this fall with one seen in Victoria Sept. 18 (D & RM) and one in Ft. Bend Oct. 26 into December (TE et al.). A Harris' Hawk at Ingleside Pt. Sept. 25 (CC) was an unusual visitor to Corpus Christi Bay. Harris' Hawks seem to be on the increase around El Paso where traditionally only one or 2 pairs have resided (BZ). A 2nd record for the Texas South Plains was of a well-documented

Table 1. Major Raptor Flights in Texas, Autumn 1989.

Date	Location	Raptors	Observer/Reporter
<i>Mississippi Kite</i>			
Aug. 10	Bentsen	150	SWe
Aug. 27	Falfurrias	350	AO
Aug. 31	Colleyville	120	MP <i>et al.</i>
Sept. 2	Hazel Bazemore	540	JE
Sept. 11	Falfurrias	200	AO
<i>Broad-winged Hawk</i>			
<u>Inland/East Texas:</u>			
Sept. 24	L. Tawakoni	1319	RK
Sept. 25	Smith Point	2275	RU
Sept. 26	Victoria	1750	D & RM
Oct. 8	Sam Rayburn Res.	1000	LD <i>et al.</i>
<u>South Texas:</u>			
Sept. 20	Hazel Bazemore	29,694	JE
Sept. 21	Sinton	75,000	JG
Sept. 21	Bentsen	11,000	JE
Sept. 22	Hazel Bazemore	70,000	JE
Sept. 23	Hazel Bazemore	8493	JE
Sept. 23	Ingleside Pt.	3000	CC
Sept. 25	Hazel Bazemore	16,481	JE
Sept. 26	Hazel Bazemore	10,484	JE
Sept. 27	Hazel Bazemore	5664	JE
<i>Swainson's Hawk</i>			
Oct. 2	Austin	2000	BA
Oct. 6	Santa Margarita	17,600	BZ <i>et al.</i>

Most data are courtesy of Hawk Migration Association of North America.

Red-shouldered Hawk near Lubbock Aug. 11–13 (MN, DS). After the first well-documented and photographed state record for Short-tailed Hawk last summer we were excited to learn of another sighting near Bentsen during November. This bird, seen by “multiple observers” on at least 4 days, was reported to be a light-morph adult which some speculated could have been the same individual as the subadult found 4 months earlier only about 50 mi away. We were frustrated that this potential 2nd state record failed to generate so much as one written description or photograph, and cannot even be reviewed by the T.B.R.C.

No one reported a significant movement of Swainson's Hawks in the Panhandle this season (KS). Evidently they just passed undetected high overhead there in the clear skies; farther south, large numbers were noted during early October. The largest flight of Swainson's Hawks was of an estimated 17,600 seen from 8:00 until 9:45 a.m. Oct. 6 over Rancho Santa Margarita (BZ, m.ob.). Coincidentally, a group of New Jersey birders watched a large number of Swainson's, certainly part of the same flight, from another location in the same general area at 9:45 a.m. and counted 3000–5000 in the next 45 minutes (L & ST, B & MW). A Zone-tailed Hawk in San Patricio



American Swallow-tailed Kite at Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge, Texas, September 2, 1989. This species is a rare but regular migrant, and possibly increasing, in Texas. Photograph/John Baird.



A small part of a huge flight of Swainson's Hawks over Santa Margarita Ranch, Starr County, Texas, October 6, 1989. Photograph/Barry R. Zimmer.



Juvenile Red Knot at Austin, Texas, September 14, 1989. One of three birds present. The species is rare inland in Texas. Photograph/Greg Lasley.

Sept. 2 (WL) was a surprise, and another in Victoria Sept. 28 (D & RM) was perhaps a county first and exceptionally far east. Ferruginous Hawks also appeared to shift slightly to the east this season (TE) with two in Victoria Nov. 10 (RM), two in Waller Nov. 11 (JM, TE), and one in Calhoun Nov. 26 (RW).

Eubanks reports that Golden Eagles are seldom seen on the U.T.C., and their potential confusion with imm. Bald Eagles leaves that area with few solid records. We therefore welcomed the well-described Golden Eagle seen in Waller Nov. 12 (C & PJ). A concentration of 94 Crested Caracara was found in one 3-acre field near Ricardo, Kleberg, Aug. 4 (N & PP, SB, GL, ph.). An additional 12–15 birds were in an adjacent field, making this probably the densest concentration of the species ever reported. These fields were next to a large chicken farm, and it is presumed the birds were waiting for farm employees to toss out a supply of dead chickens, which probably occurs on a daily basis. The only Merlins reported in the Panhandle were single birds in Lubbock Nov. 5–6 (L.E.A.S.). The rest of the state had at least 15 Merlin reports Sept. 20–Nov. 19. Among the more interesting Peregrine Falcon reports were accounts of individuals setting up residence in downtown areas of El Paso and San Antonio. A non-birding resident of San Antonio who works in an area frequented by an “urban” Peregrine asserted that the bird had nested and fledged one young on a ledge of the AT&T building. He convincingly described the habits of the adult and the plumage of the fledgling (fide N & PP). Also noteworthy are the pelagic habits of this species that are not recognized by land-bound observers. On an Oct. 7 pelagic off Port Aransas, observers tallied 12 Peregrines that were using oil drilling platforms as hunting perches. The heaviest concentration was on platforms 30–35 mi offshore, but one bird was found 57 mi out. The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Science Park team banded 248 and observed 778 Peregrines on S. Padre I. during the season.

QUAIL TO SHOREBIRDS — Five Scaled Quail were reported from Choke Canyon Nov. 4 (E & NA), and others were found Nov. 8 in w. Live Oak after intense searching (E & NA, CC). This species, once a common resident of the coastal

band, has become very rare in the area (PP). Haynie received a good verbal report of three Whooping Cranes flying S about Nov. 12 in e. Ft. Worth (JDC). This area is probably within their regular migration corridor, even if they are rarely reported. By early December the Whooping Crane count at Aransas totalled 146 (124 adults, 20 young) for an all-time high number (fide BJ).

A Black-bellied Plover at Ft. Hancock Res. in Hudspeth Nov. 24 provided the latest fall record ever for that area (BZ). Lesser Golden-Plovers, quite rare in fall on the U.T.C., passed through that area in unprecedented numbers. A breeding-plumaged adult was at High Island Sept. 4–9 (BR et al.), one was in Matagorda Sept. 15 (JH), and a flurry of 15 were in High Island Oct. 7 (TE, JM). In n.c. Texas a rare record was furnished by two Lesser Golden-Plovers in Ft. Worth Oct. 30 (BN). The high count for the endangered Piping Plover this season was of 150 at Bolivar Flats Aug. 19 (TE). Other notable totals included 13 on Mustang I. Aug. 2 (N & PP), 45 at Boca Chica, Cameron, Sept. 16 (OC), 42 on Padre I. Oct. 11 (A & MC), 29 at Boca Chica Nov. 11 (CS), and 10 at Oso Bay Nov. 22 (JG). A pair of Mountain Plovers at Midland Sept. 2–3 (RMS, GG, m.ob., fide FW) provided only the 4th record in 20 years for that location. Seyffert reports that Black-necked Stilts continue to increase in the Panhandle. A total of 90 on 3 playas near Hereford, Deaf Smith, Sept. 5 (LGal) was by far the largest number ever reported in that area.

An imm. **Northern Jacana** was discovered at Austin Nov. 12 (BF, JSu, JiG, EM et al.). This is the first in Texas since 1986, and notably far north. The bird survived several nights of freezing temperatures late in November and remained through the period (†CS, PG, LA, ph., B & JRi, CJo, GL). A bird fitting the description of a Wood Sandpiper was discovered in Oso Bay, Nueces, Sept. 3 (AO, †T.B.R.C.) and was seen by a few other observers in the days to follow. Unfortunately, only one observer prepared any documentation and no photos were obtained. A count of 32 Upland Sandpipers near Fabens, El Paso, Aug. 30 (BZ) was noteworthy. There were several records of inland Red Knots this season including a breeding-plumaged adult at Ft. Worth Aug. 2 (ph., JWS, CH, EW) for a

first Tarrant record, another at Hagerman Aug. 31 (KH), and one to three juveniles at Austin Sept. 13–19 (JA, GL, ph.). Sanderlings, rare inland, were noted at 5 locations in c., n.c., and n.w. Texas, including a new Van Zandt record Aug. 20–Sept. 3 at L. Tawakoni (RK). As in previous years, Bolivar Flats hosted a large concentration of W. Sandpipers, peaking with 5000 Oct. 7 (TE, JM); another 5000 were counted at Oso Bay Nov. 22 (JG). Uzar counted 2300 W. Sandpipers at Big Boggy Sept. 21, an excellent tally for *Matagorda*.

Eubanks paid special attention to Baird's Sandpiper passage this season. Adults arrived on the U.T.C. Aug. 2 and good numbers were present through mid-August. Juveniles arrived Aug. 19 and lingered late. A single juv. Baird's at Mitchell L. Oct. 28 (TE, CS, MKS) was late, and another in Waller Nov. 11 (TE, JM et al.) was the latest ever for the U.T.C. One of the best birds this season had to be the juv. **Curlew Sandpiper** discovered Sept. 1 at Austin's Hornsby Bend ponds by Chris Benesh. This bird delighted scores of observers through Sept. 9 and represented the 3rd accepted state record (†ph., ChB, BWh, PG, GL). Stilt Sandpipers were numerous and widespread from Austin to the L.R.G.V. during September and October this year. Daily counts of 200+ were regularly tallied at Hornsby Bend ponds during mid-September (GL et al.) and 200+ were at McAllen Oct. 4 (BZ). Groups of Buff-breasted Sandpipers totalling 65–80 birds were in a pasture in s. Kleberg Aug. 6, and some remained into September (OC, VE, PP, m.ob.). Uzar observed an imm. Ruff at High I., Sept. 7 (†T.B.R.C.). A Com. Snipe in Waco Aug. 21 was very early for that area (JMu, WS, GL). An Am. Woodcock Oct. 9 at Bentsen (L & RG) preceded several later reports in that area. There were several sightings of Am. Woodcocks in "downtown Corpus Christi" Nov. 30 following a frontal passage; they were seen there on at least 2 successive days (JG). Two Red-necked Phalaropes at Hagerman Sept. 9 (RR, BG, PB) made news, as did five near Lubbock Aug. 24 (DS) and two there Sept. 9 (CSt). The species is much more common in far w. Texas as evidenced by the 120 at El Paso Sept. 25–28 (BZ).

JAEGERS TO SKIMMER — A dark jaeger was identified as a Pomarine from the Port Aransas jetty Sept. 5 (†A & MC), and three jaegers seen at a distance on the Oct. 7 pelagic off



Pomarine Jaeger at sea off Port Aransas, Texas, November 4, 1989. Photograph/Peter Gottschling.

Port Aransas were probably one Pomarine and two Parasitics based on relative size, speed of wing beats, etc. Eight Pomarine Jaegers were described and photographed Nov. 4 off Port Aransas (†PG, MA, LA). Uncharacteristically for Texas, these birds followed the boat for some time and allowed excellent studies. An imm. Parasitic Jaeger was found dead at Oso Bay Sept. 27 (†ph., JG).

Representing only the 6th record for n.c. Texas was an ad. Laughing Gull at L. Benbrook, Tarrant, Oct. 20–21 (†ph., CH, JK, F.W.A.S.). A first-winter **Thayer's Gull** discovered at Surfside Nov. 5 (†ph., TE, JM) remained into December. There are but 8 accepted state records for this species. Lesser Black-

backed Gull records continue to mount. Two or three were at San Luis Pass at various times, including a 3rd-winter bird on the very early date of Sept. 5 (†BR) and a possible *L. f. fuscus* adult Oct. 21 and Nov. 5 (†m.ob.). Other Lesser Black-backed included an adult Oct. 9 on S. Padre I., Cameron (†WC, SB), and a first or 2nd-winter bird at Boca Chica Nov. 11 (†CS). A "ratty" probable **Great Black-backed Gull** was photographed at Boca Chica Oct. 2 (†BZ) and was seen flying S across the mouth of the Rio Grande into Mexico. An ad. breeding-plumaged Sabine's Gull at Mitchell L. Sept. 2 (†WS) provided the first Bexar record as well as the first record of an adult in Texas. A juv. Sabine's Gull was at Ft. Bliss Sept. 17 (ph. BZ) for the 4th area record in the past 6 years.

The eye of Hurricane Chantal deposited 15 Gull-billed Terns over Brazos Aug. 1 (*fide* KA) for a first local record. Lake Waco had two Caspian Terns Sept. 14 & 27 (JMu, FB) for a rare area record. Wolf picked a Com. Tern out of a flock of Forster's Terns at Rayburn Res. Oct. 22; the species is rare in the Pineywoods. Common Terns are also rare in the Trans-Pecos area, so two at Balmorhea L. Sept. 2 (ML) and two at Ft. Bliss Sept. 25–28 (BZ, SWi) were noteworthy. Common Terns staging at San Luis Pass peaked with 1200 Oct. 7 (TE, JM). A Least Tern was near Lubbock Aug. 25–26 (CSt, DSt), the first in the Texas South Plains since 1977 (*fide* KS). An imm. Black Skimmer made an unexpected visit to San Antonio's Calaveras L. Aug. 6–10 (ph. WS).

PIGEONS TO WOODPECKERS — The largest count of Red-billed Pigeons this fall was of 26 at Rancho Santa Margarita Aug. 5 (RC, JL). White-winged Doves produced several reports in the Houston, area, and one in Huntsville in late October for a 2nd Walker record (*fide* DP). A Com. Ground-Dove photographed in Dallas Oct. 7 was the first reported there in 8 years (*fide* WP). On the same date, another Com. Ground-Dove on an oil drilling platform 30 mi out into the Gulf of Mexico off Port Aransas was a surprise. A general movement was noted on the U.T.C. during Mid-October when Com. Ground-Doves showed up in good numbers; six were tallied on the Jefferson coastline Oct. 18 (RU, TE). Green Parakeets were reported throughout the season in McAllen; numbers ranged from five to 35 (SWe). Up to 37 Green Parakeets were in Brownsville Nov. 25 (CE). A group of four Green Parakeets near the Guadalupe R. in Kendall Sept. 14 (E & KM, E & SW) were presumed escapees, but . . . ??? Red-crowned Parrots that had nested in Harlingen were feeding young there early in the fall (OC). This species was also seen at Bentsen and Laguna Atascosa. A flock of 50+ Red-crowned Parrots with one Red-lored and two White-fronteds was seen in Brownsville by late in the period. Three Yellow-headed Parrots were in Brownsville during November (CE, m.ob.).

Black-billed Cuckoos were more visible this season than typical. Sekula noted three in Wilson during September, and a very late bird was photographed in Lubbock Oct. 13 (LM), for apparently only the 2nd confirmed Panhandle record. Substantial numbers of Groove-billed Anis in the Kingsville area in August and September supported claims of an unusually successful nesting season (WB, CC, AO, N & PP). Anis also moved onto the U.T.C. in small numbers during September, but disappeared by the end of the period (TE). Totally unexpected was a **Flammulated Owl** discovered by the caretakers of a small park on the beach in Galveston Nov. 11 (E & SBi). The exhausted bird was eventually delivered to the Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Coalition (SS) and will be released (in its normal range) upon recovery. This represents only the 2nd record on the U.T.C., the first being of a Flammulated discovered on an oil rig 75 mi off Galveston Nov. 3, 1977. Several Ferruginous Pygmy-Owls were found on private ranchland at Norias, near the Kenedy area where the species was known to be resident in past years. Up to eight were heard calling in one area there during November (MFa, JG, N & PP et al.). A Com. Poorwill, always rare in the Coastal Bend, was calling during November in San Patricio (E & NA). A

chimney sweep in Lubbock found two nestling Chimney Swifts Aug. 9 for one of few confirmed nesting records in the Panhandle (JRe, *fide* KS).

An amazing array of hummingbirds reached the state this fall. One seen by a non-birder in Kingsville in November fit the description of a Blue-throated (*fide* N & PP), a well described ♂ Blue-throated Hummingbird was seen in Midland Oct. 13 for a first area record (ME, JW, RMS), and yet another was in Bay City Oct. 22 (JH). There are only a handful of records of this species outside its limited breeding areas in w. Texas. During the peak of hummingbird migration at Rockport and Bayside, Grantham noted, "It was not uncommon to find feeders with 70-80 individuals present, and out of these I estimated one Rufous for every 10-15 Ruby-throated." Numbers peaked at Falfurrias Sept. 20-21 when Ruby-throated and Black-chinned were both present (AO). Two Anna's Hummingbirds were in Hays Oct. 23 and Nov. 9 (JGe), and one was at Midland in late November for a 3rd county record (*fide* FW). An imm. Anna's Hummingbird was at Kingsville in early November; it was joined by an ad. male Nov. 30 (MT).

Calliope Hummingbirds in Texas are only expected in the Trans-Pecos, especially at El Paso. This season, 4 different Coastal Bend locations including Portland, Corpus Christi, and Kingsville (RL, JG, N & PP) hosted the species. A Calliope Hummingbird was seen at Marble Falls Aug. 14 (*fide* EK) and another was banded at Driftwood Sept. 4 (DCo) for the first Austin area record since 1975. Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were noted in Falfurrias Aug. 26 (AO), Ricardo in early September (MA, m.ob.), Del Rio Oct. 22 (VH), San Antonio Sept. 4 (S.A.A.S.), Wimberley Oct. 4 (BA), Wilson Oct. 22 (WS), and Victoria Oct. 31 (RM). Rufous Hummingbirds (including *Selasphorus* sp. presumed to be Rufous) were reported frequently across c. Texas and all along the coast with most observers commenting on their increased abundance this year; there was only one sighting in n.c. Texas, however (*fide* WP). An ad ♂ *Selasphorus* plumaged like Allen's was briefly described from Big Bend Sept. 13 (*fide* RGi).

There were 2 possible reports of a ♂ Elegant Trogon along the Burro Canyon Trail in Big Bend Nov. 24 & 28 (*fide* RGi). Observers are reminded that there is only one accepted Texas record of this species. Ringed Kingfishers continued to show up at areas outside their typical range with records this fall at Brackettville from August into December (*fide* KB), Corpus Christi in late October and Nov. 12 (JSw), and along the San Patricio/Jim Wells boundary near L. Corpus Christi Nov. 11 & 18 (BH). The most far-ranging Ringed, however, was a female at Brazos Bend on the U.T.C. from Oct. 21 (RO, RoR) into December (tph., m.ob.). Single Lewis' Woodpeckers appeared at Buffalo Lake, Randall, Sept. 17 (tKS) and at Lorenzo, Crosby, Nov. 24-30 (tph., ML, DS). In El Paso, single Acorn Woodpeckers were sighted Sept. 1 & 4, and Sept. 26 (FF) through the period (*fide* BZ). Only 3 previous records had existed for El Paso, the earliest of which had been Oct. 15 (BZ). It was a good fall for sapsuckers in the Trans-Pecos with Yellowbellieds recorded in El Paso Oct. 24 and Nov. 14 (BZ) and Red-naped generally more numerous than usual. Farther east, two Red-naped were noted near Christoval in the Concho Valley during early November (TM, *fide* DT), and a Red-naped was described from Santa Ana Nov. 3 (RW).

FLYCATCHERS TO CROWS — An Oct. 8 Olive-sided Flycatcher in Brazos represented the latest fall record for that area (*fide* KA). Declining numbers of migrant W. Woodpeckers in the Panhandle area in recent years have concerned area observers (KS), but this year there was a good movement through that area (T.P.A.S.). In n.c. Texas, Haynie noted that the *Empidonax* migration was generally unimpressive, and offered speculation that many may move through that area during July when few observers are afield. Three Alder Flycatchers were identified Aug. 18-19 in Van Zandt (RK), and two Willows were at Plano Aug. 12 (AV). A very impressive

count of 25 calling Alders, two calling Willows, and eight calling Leasts were all tape recorded Aug. 8 at Austin's McKinney Falls S.P. (JA). Numerous silent "Traill's" types were also noted there that day. A calling Alder at Nacogdoches Aug. 20 (DW) furnished the first confirmed fall record for the species in the Pineywoods. Two Least Flycatchers were photographed in El Paso Sept. 6 where the species is a casual migrant (BZ). Eubanks and Morgan sought *Empidonax* flycatchers Sept. 2-4 and reported six Yellow-bellieds, seven Acadians, three Alders, three possible Willows, 14 "Traill's", and 21 Leasts in Galveston, Jefferson, and Chambers.

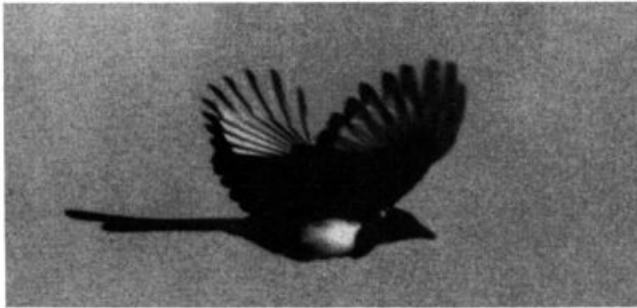
Single E. Phoebes, rare in the Trans-Pecos, were observed at Ft. Bliss Sept. 27 and Oct. 18 (BZ) and also at Balmorhea L. Nov. 22 (BG). A vagrant **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** Sept. 16 at Big Boggy, Matagorda was the 3rd for the U.T.C. and only the 4th (if accepted by the T.B.R.C.) for Texas (tJH). Couch's Kingbirds again dispersed up the coast with six records from Aransas to Galveston during October (m.o.b.). A W. Kingbird at Nacogdoches Oct. 31 was only the 2nd in fall for the Pineywoods (SL). There was a very impressive movement of E. Kingbirds at L. Tawakoni Sept. 3 following a cool front. Observers there counted 2200 birds passing by during the day (RK, JN, GH, MWh). At Falfurrias, O'Neil felt that the E. Kingbird migration was the poorest in many years. A ♀ Rose-throated Becard was seen at Bentsen almost daily Sept. 14 into December.

A Horned Lark in Waller Aug. 2 could possibly have bred; wintering larks do not normally arrive there until late November (TE). Flights of N. Rough-winged Swallows, estimated to number in the thousands, passed over Rockport Oct. 12 (CC). Heavy flights of N. Rough-wingeds, Banks, and Barns were still pouring through far s. Texas Oct. 29-30 (m.ob.). Austin got its long-overdue first Cave Swallow record when 13 were counted there Sept. 26 (ph. WS, B & JRI). Farther west, an impressive 250 Cave Swallows were at Balmorhea L. Sept. 22 (ML), and a single individual was far northwest at Ft. Bliss Sept. 27 (BZ). Six very late Barn Swallows were in Lubbock Nov. 6 (JMi, GMi, DS).

A group of 75-100 Green Jays has taken up residence on a 2500-acre ranch in Live Oak (J & SHo). A **Black-billed Magpie** that appeared in rural Colleyville, Tarrant, Aug. 3 into Decem-

S.A.

This season saw a massive invasion of Steller's Jays into lowlands of the Trans-Pecos and parts of the Panhandle (BZ, KS). Espy reported them as common around Ft. Davis; the last such invasion occurred there in 1973. Flippo likewise listed it as a common bird at feeders in G.M.N.P. by early September. The last time a Steller's Jay was reported in the Panhandle was 1980 (*fide* KS). This season at least four were found in Amarillo from late October into December (PBo, TEa, FWa, SWa). Also in late October, one or more Steller's were seen near Vega, Oldham (TG). In El Paso, an incredible 32 Steller's Jays were seen over a 2-hour period Oct. 24 (BZ); the last record there had been in 1981. Another Steller's was at Panther Junction in Big Bend Nov. 17 (*fide* RGi) for a very rare park record. Scrub Jays also staged an impressive invasion in many of the same areas. Counts of 30+ per day around El Paso were common (BZ), and the species was noted regularly beginning Sept. 10 across much of the Panhandle (KS, T.P.A.S.). The last Scrub Jay invasion in the Panhandle was in the winter of 1978-1979. Following suit, Pinyon Jays were recorded in the Davis Mts. in groups of 100+ (PE, BG, ML), while smaller flocks were in G.M.N.P. Aug. 21 (early) (MF), and El Paso Nov. 14 (BZ). Most notable was a Blue Jay at El Paso Nov. 3 (BZ) for only the 2nd area record. Another out of range Blue Jay was at Rachal, Brooks, Nov. 26 (CE).



Black-billed Magpie at Colleyville, Texas, September 18, 1989. Despite questions about origin, the bird was much enjoyed by local birders. Photograph/Thad H. Harden.

ber (MP, ph., TH, m.ob.) generated much controversy—was it an escapee or a naturally occurring vagrant? Haynie remarked that its cage bird popularity might seem to preclude thoughts of vagrancy, yet noted that its wariness and strong caching behavior were interesting. The T.B.R.C. is reviewing this bird. An Am. Crow near Alpine Nov. 26 (SW) represented a remarkable record.

CHICKADEES TO SHRIKES—Another montane invader in w. Texas was Mountain Chickadee, which was present in El Paso from late October on; a high count of nine was there Oct. 24 (BZ). In the Panhandle a very rare record was provided by a Mountain Chickadee at Texline, Dallam, Oct. 27 (†B)R et al.), and another at Midland Nov. 29 (DMer, m.ob.) represented the first record there in 45 years (*fide* FW). Verdins seemed more abundant than ever in Live Oak this season; the Holts questioned whether the drought could be moving them to the east.

In the Panhandle, White-breasted Nuthatches seemed as common as Red-breasted (KS). A White-breasted at Buffalo

S.A.

Eubanks wrote that "Fall 1989 will be remembered by many in e. Texas as the season of the Red-breasted Nuthatch." That comment could apply to much of the state. In the Panhandle the first of the fall were three birds at Buffalo L. Aug. 6 (KS). Thereafter, Seyffert reported, "they seemed to be everywhere I visit and everyone I talk to has them in their yard." Flippo reported a banner year for Red-breasted Nuthatches at G.M.N.P., and Zimmer reported them more common in El Paso than ever before with single-day counts of as many as 18. The first in Austin was discovered Sept. 29 (PK) and the species was widely reported there the rest of the season. Red-breasted invaded Midland by Sept. 25 (FW) and moved through the Kickapoo and Del Rio areas during late September and October (KB et al.). Maxwell recorded 18 in one day in early November at Christoval, and 20 were at Tyler Nov. 23 (JMu). To the east, Eubanks reported that Red-breasted Nuthatches arrived at Attwater Sept. 29 (CF), Jefferson Oct. 1 (WG), and Daingerfield Oct. 1 (TE). Even deep s. Texas was included in the movement with two Red-breasteds at Laguna Atascosa Oct. 20 for the first refuge record (LaD). Another was photographed at Padre I., Oct. 6 (JG). Haynie remarked that in n.c. Texas it was evident that a flight had taken place, but by the end of the season the birds did not appear overly plentiful in that area.

Lake Aug. 20 superseded the previous early date of Oct. 1 (KS, PA)! Seyffert remarked that the early fall date may have lost its meaning, since the species was found nesting in the Panhandle this past summer. A single Pygmy Nuthatch, a casual visitor to El Paso, was seen there Nov. 13 (BZ). A Rock Wren in Lee Oct. 22 (HB) provided a first record for that area.

A Sedge Wren was found Sept. 27 in Van Zandt (RK), for an uncommon record. Golden-crowned Kinglets returned to the Panhandle in greater than normal numbers (KS) and the species was seen in Corpus Christi Nov. 12 and later (JG). Three Golden-crowned at El Paso Oct. 1 (JSp) were unusual. Payne commented that Golden-crowned were among the most common birds in Huntsville Nov. 4–5. This movement evidently stopped short of the U.T.C., however, for this kinglet could be found only sporadically there this season (TE). Birders were astounded by swarms of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, an estimated 600 in one group, Sept. 23 at Ingleside Pt., Nueces (JG, KM); Charlie Clark estimated 1000+ and Grantham speculated that there may have been multiple thousands.

Eight W. Bluebirds at Kickapoo during November were farther east than the species typically moves (KB). Most unexpected was a ♀ Mountain Bluebird Nov. 14 on Padre I., Nueces (CBo, CC, E & NA, ph., JG, A & MC, m.ob.), for a very rare Coastal Bend record. A Townsend's Solitaire Sept. 25 at El Paso (BZ) was the earliest ever there; the species was plentiful in G.M.N.P. from early October on (*fide* MF). Solitaires were also described as fairly numerous in the Midland area after Oct. 9 (FW). A very rare fall record was provided by a Gray-cheeked Thrush Oct. 19 in Kendall (E & KM, m.ob.). A Wood Thrush was rare at Amarillo Oct. 5 (MM). One or two Clay-colored Robins were present at Santa Ana throughout the season (JI et al.). After last year's near absence of Am. Robins, they were widely reported across the entire state as more abundant than in recent years. An excellent juniper berry crop in the Hill Country was cited as at least one reason for their abundance. A ♂ Varied Thrush was carefully described from the Tejas Trail in G.M.N.P. Oct. 3 (†MF) for the 7th accepted state record. A probable imm. or ♀ Aztec Thrush was sketched and described Oct. 11 at Del Rio (H & PD, †T.B.R.C.). If accepted, this would be the 4th record for Texas.

A Gray Catbird at Big Bend Nov. 14 was at an odd location (*fide* RGi) as was a Brown Thrasher at El Paso Sept. 25 (BZ, SWi). Sage Thrashers moved through the Hill Country during November as evidenced by one in Hays Nov. 7 (JGe), two in Real (E & KM), and several sightings at Kickapoo (KB). Although quite rare on most of the U.T.C., Curve-billed Thrashers have been found to be fairly common near Indianola, Calhoun. Between Oct. 11–26, three to six Curve-billed were seen in that area (D & RM) with four to six others seen and photographed at nearby Olivia and across the county line in Matagorda Oct. 23 (GL). Cedar Waxwings were reported early in several n.c. Texas locations following records of a few summering birds in the Dallas area (*fide* WP). A single imm. N. Shrike was reported e. of Texline, Dallam, Oct. 27 (†BJO et al.).

VIREOS, WARBLERS—A Bell's Vireo in Jefferson Oct. 15 (JM, TE), rare on the U.T.C., frequented the same patch of woods as one found by the same observers Oct. 1, 1985. The Yellow-green Vireos that nested at Laguna Atascosa for the 2nd summer in a row were last seen Sept. 10 (LaD et al.). One of the season's best finds was a Black-whiskered Vireo discovered Aug. 20 at High Island (†MA, LA, PG, m.ob., ph., JBai). The bird (some observers reported two) remained through Oct. 2. Eubanks reported "the vireo sang incessantly and defended a territory, leading to speculation that the bird might have first arrived in the summer (when no one birds High Island) and remained to breed."

The warbler migration in general was termed "unspectacular" in the Panhandle, and "down" in the Trans-Pecos. There were, however, some exciting reports virtually statewide. Very late locally was an Orange-crowned Warbler at Amarillo Nov. 25 (RoS). Nashville Warblers were virtually absent from Kickapoo this season (KB), very unusual for a species that typically is a conspicuous migrant through the Hill Country. A Tropical Parula returned Oct. 15 to the Rose Hill Cemetery in Corpus Christi where one spent last winter (JG). Two other



Black-whiskered Vireo at High Island, Texas, September 9, 1989. Fifth state record. Photograph/John Baird.



Male White-collared Seedeater from one of the West Mexican populations, found at El Paso, Texas, August 27, 1989. Far out of range at El Paso, the bird might have arrived there in a cage. Photograph/Barry R. Zimmer.

Tropicals were found Nov. 7 & 9 at widely separated sites on Norias (JG, AO, PP). A Black-throated Blue Warbler in Jefferson Sept. 24 (TE, JYe, JM) was the only one reported. Black-throated Gray Warblers were reported more frequently than usual with one in Brownsville Oct. 2 (BZ), one in Georgetown Nov. 5 (fide EK), and one at Aransas Nov. 25 and later (FD, E & NA, CC, BJ et al.). A Black-throated Green Warbler at El Paso Oct 24 (BZ) was a local rarity, as was a Blackburnian in Lubbock Sept. 9 (RH) and two Hoodeds there Sept. 25 (CA). A Prairie Warbler Sept. 5-6 in Wilson (WS) was unusual, as were two Palm Warblers in Bastrop Oct. 22 (BF). A Prothonotary Warbler in Big Bend Sept. 3 (fide RGi) was a surprise, and a Kentucky Warbler in Brazos Oct. 6 (fide KA) furnished the first October record there. Other unusual warbler records included a Louisiana Waterthrush at Hueco Tanks Sept. 27 (MR) and a Painted Redstart at El Paso Aug. 27 (fide BZ).

Although it stalled out over the Red River, the Sept. 1-3 cool front was no doubt accountable for an excellent catch of 18 Mourning Warblers in mist nets at Plano (AV). A few Mournings continued to pass through that area Sept. 10-16 (RR), and one in Dallas Nov. 5 set a new late date (fide WP). A MacGillivray's Warbler, rare for the Coastal Bend, was reported in Corpus Christi Sept. 1 (GSw); another was reported Oct. 13 at Bentsen (H & PD). A Golden-crowned Warbler, the 7th for Texas (and U.S.), was discovered Oct. 23 at the Sabal Palm Grove at Brownsville (TP) where it remained through the period. Several later observers were able to thoroughly document this record with descriptions and photographs (M & RFa, BM, CS). A few observers were convinced that two Golden-crowns were present in the same area. Yellow-breasted Chats invaded the U.T.C. in unusually high numbers. The 25 recorded Sept. 24 in Galveston/Jefferson made a noteworthy single-day total (TE, JYe, JM).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES — A Hepatic Tanager was at Palmetto Sept. 30 (JSu, EBE); this species occasionally shows up in the Austin/San Antonio vicinity in non-breeding seasons. A Scarlet Tanager at High Island Sept. 23 (MA, LA, PG) furnished a rare fall record; most migrate well east of Texas. A Pyrrhuloxia in Randall Nov. 25 (EK) was notably far north (fide KS). Elsewhere, a Pyrrhuloxia banded at Houston Oct. 30 (KMo) established a new early date for this U.T.C. vagrant. A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak visited a feeder at G.M.N.P. Oct. 9 for a first park record (MF). Rare November appearances of

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were recorded in San Patricio Nov. 1 (E & NA) and at Norias Nov. 2 (MFa) & 4 (PP). A late lingering Painted Bunting was at Nacogdoches Oct. 27, unprecedented for the Pineywoods (DW). Eubanks reported an "impressive invasion" of Green-tailed Towhees onto the U.T.C., with reports from throughout that area by December. A brightly-colored ♂ White-collared Seedeater of the western torquelo group was studied at length and photographed at El Paso Aug. 27 (BZ). Since the species has occurred as a cage bird in Mexico, especially the brighter Pacific coast races, doubt remains as to the origin of the bird. This species has never occurred outside of the L.R.G.V. (where the expected race is *S. t. moreletii*).

The sparrow migration across the state brought mixed responses that defy simple summary. Observers noted a few Cassin's Sparrows e. of their typical range at Aransas Sept. 26 (E & NA), one in Victoria Oct. 26 (RM), and one at Indianola Oct. 11-26 (G.C.N.C.). A Brewer's Sparrow was identified near Dripping Springs, Hays, Sept. 15-16 (JGe) for a first Austin area record, and four Brewer's were netted at Kickapoo during September (KB). A Black-chinned Sparrow Oct. 29 at Midland (JW, fide FW) provided a 2nd record for the county. Bryan reported unusually high banding totals for Chipping, Field, Lark, and Black-throated sparrows at Kickapoo. A Black-throated Sparrow in Live Oak Nov. 11 & 23 (J & SHo) revived hope for a species that has almost disappeared from the Coastal Bend (PP).

A Lark Bunting at Anahuac Sept. 7 set a new early date for the U.T.C. (RU). Small numbers of Lark Buntings arrived in early November in c. Texas areas such as Coryell, Bosque, and Bell (JMu et al.), but only a poor movement was detected at Kickapoo. On the Coastal Bend, O'Neil reported a flock of 150 Lark Buntings in s. Kleberg Oct. 19 which caused some area observers to expect a repeat of last year's big invasion there, but by season's end it had not materialized (PP). Thirty Le Conte's Sparrows in one small field in Harris Nov. 11 (TE et al.) made an impressive total. Unusual Fox Sparrow records included one in Live Oak Nov. 23 (J & SHo), and three at Kickapoo during November for the first park records (KB). A Fox Sparrow was a good find at El Paso Oct. 19-20 (BZ, YZ), and three in Waller Nov. 11 set a new early arrival date for the U.T.C. (TE, JM, RU). A Swamp Sparrow at G.M.N.P. Oct. 1 (MF) provided a first park record. Swamp Sparrows are

considered irregular in the Panhandle so six at L. Meredith Nov. 12 were unusual (KS). Careful study of Horned Lark flocks at El Paso produced the first county record of Lapland Longspur Nov. 27 & 30 (ph. BZ).

Haynie remarked that more needs to be learned about meadowlark distribution, as evidenced by a flock of 75 W. Meadowlarks, identified by call, as far e. as Campbell. Hunt, Nov. 24 (MWh), where they are usually considered uncommon to rare. A singing W. Meadowlark in Victoria Oct. 22 (D & RM), and 10 in Nacogdoches (DFi) Nov. 9 added some more pieces to the puzzle. A Rusty Blackbird in Randall Nov. 19 (TJ, KS) was a Panhandle rarity, and two Rusties at Hagerman Nov. 19 (RR) were unexpected. We were cautiously optimistic about Palmer's statement, "It seems almost too good to be true, but I saw fewer Bronzed Cowbirds this fall." Other observers in the L.R.G.V. also reported fewer cowbirds of both species. We hope this is a true indication of a trend, and not just a factor of the birds moving their roosts to undetected locations. The **Black-vented Oriole** in Kleberg continued to delight at least 699 visitors from 33 states, Canada, England, and Ireland before departing Oct. 4. Hooded Orioles continued to be relatively common in parts of Kleberg and Kenedy. As Palmer noted, this fact is impressive to anyone who recalls that from the early 1950s until the mid-1980s the species was fairly rare in those areas. Their recovery since 1984 has been dramatic. The only site where Audubon's Orioles were regularly noted was far to the n. in Live Oak (J & SHo). A Scott's Oriole in Glasscock Sept. 23 (FW, m.ob.) was probably a first for that area.

A Purple Finch in Nacogdoches Oct. 31 (DW) set a new early date for the Pineywoods. Cassin's Finches descended on G.M.N.P. in large numbers beginning in late August. By mid-October they were reported to be common at several feeders in that area (MF, RRe). Lockwood reported Pine Siskins as unusually common in the Davis Mts. by late October, while in El Paso siskins arrived Sept. 1, the earliest ever by 30 days (BZ). An early Pine Siskin was at Bentsen Nov. 10 (CS). House Finches are still rare in far s. Texas; one at Norias Nov. 2 (RW) and three near Bentsen Nov. 10 (CS) were noteworthy. Red Crossbills, rare in El Paso, were there Oct. 24 and Nov. 14 (BZ). There was an amazing buildup of Lesser Goldfinches through August at Kickapoo where Bryan noted more than 2000 feeding in fields at the park. These birds had left by the end of the season. Evening Grosbeaks invaded Dog Canyon in G.M.N.P. in record numbers beginning in late September with flocks of 30+ at feeders there (RRe). Numerous Panhandle sightings were reported to Seyffert beginning on the early date of Oct. 14 (T.P.A.S.).

CORRIGENDA — Delete the Arctic/Pacific Loon record at Port Aransas Nov. 14, 1988 (AB 43:129). The specimen has been identified as a small Com. Loon. The following records previously published in this column have been turned down by the T.B.R.C.: Audubon's Shearwater at Port Aransas Mar. 12, 1988 (AB 42:458), and Sabine's Gull at Bolivar Oct. 30, 1987 (AB 42:102).

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IDAHO-WESTERN MONTANA REGION

Thomas H. Rogers

August in the Region was cool and surprisingly wet. September temperatures were about normal but precipitation varied from place to place, as it did in October. October temperatures were fickle but November was quite consistently mild and dry.

LOONS TO IBISES — A Red-throated Loon appeared on L. Delmoe, 11 mi e. of Butte, MT, Oct. 9 for the 7th state record (DS, KS, JH). Island Park Res., Fremont, ID, had one Oct. 17 & 20, and a Pacific Loon was at Henry's L., Fremont, Oct. 9 (MC, FK). At least 70 Com. Loons were on Coeur d'Alene L. in northern Idaho Oct. 20-21 (WH, J & DP, CV). Single Horned Grebes at Island Park Dam (MC, FK) and near American Falls Dam, ID (CHT), were noteworthy. Lone Red-necked Grebes were sighted on Mann's L., Lewiston, ID, Sept. 23 (J & DP) and on Coeur d'Alene L. the next day (S & CK, LP, LL, PS). Two pairs were on Henry's L. during August; one pair raised seven young (MC, FK). Up to 60 Clark's Grebes were noted in August and September at L. Lowell, Nampa, ID (ST).

At least 960 Am. White Pelicans, many feeding on dead fish below the dam, were on American Falls Res. Aug. 28. Up to 200 stopped at L. Lowell Aug. 4-Sept. 17. Unusual were single birds along the Snake R. just e. of Lewiston, ID (JW); at Harrison, ID (PS, LP); and at Mann's L. (BL, TS, WH, CV). Also notable were three Double-crested Cormorants at Sandpoint (RB) and one at McArthur L., Elmyra, ID (CV).

A Great Egret was at American Falls Dam Aug. 28 (LT) and Snowy Egrets were sighted along the Snake R. near Bliss, ID (AL). A Cattle Egret was in the Bitterroot Valley of w. Montana in late October-early November (fide PLW) and the species was noted in the Bliss-Thousand Springs area, s. Idaho, Nov. 6 (AL). Thompson L. near Harrison, ID, had one to three Black-crowned Night-Herons Aug. 17-Sept. 1 (JN, CV). The high count for White-faced Ibises in the American Falls Res. area was of 877 near Aberdeen Sept. 1 (CHT), and the species appeared in the Boise-Nampa, ID, area (ST).

WATERFOWL TO QUAIL — At least 220 Tundra Swans stopped at Sheep L., n.w. Whitman, WA. Birds of this species were moving through Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., MT, in late October-November. At Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, ID, they peaked at 130, well above the usual 30-40 (LDN). A pair of Trumpeter Swans released at Springfield Bottoms near American Falls Res. a year ago had returned and stayed until Sept. 22 (CHT). The first neck-collared Canadian Trumpeters were two from the Northwest Territories Nov. 3 (MC, FK). Canyon Ferry Reservoir W.M.A., Helena, was visited by 26-28 Trumpeters in October (JHe).

About 20 Greater White-fronted Geese flew over Lewiston Oct. 28 (PC) and 13 were at Mann's L. Oct. 31 (CV). A Snow Goose was sighted at Mann's L. Sept. 27 (BL, TS) and Nov. 18 (C.B.). A group of 300 Snow Geese at Island Park Dam contained two blue morph birds, very rare in that area, as well as 15-20 Ross' Geese (CHT). Some 1500 Canada Geese were present on American Falls Res. Aug. 28. Kootenai N.W.R. had moderate numbers, with a peak of 2200. McArthur Lake W.M.A., n. of Sandpoint, brought 400 Canadas to flight stage this year (RB).



Map illustration/Kenn Kaufman

A surprising 74 Wood Ducks appeared on a Lewiston pond Oct. 18 (CV). Mallard populations in October at Kootenai N.W.R. were 10,000 fewer than in October of last year, but the peak of 24,000 Nov. 20 was similar. Northern Pintail numbers there were down drastically, apparently owing to drought on breeding grounds; the peak of only 700 was about 1000 fewer than recent years' averages (LDN). This refuge obtained its first fall record of a Eurasian Wigeon with a male Oct. 6 (LDN), and one was at L. Helena near Helena, MT, Oct. 18 (DS). American Wigeon numbers reached 500 at McArthur N.W.R. in October (MB). A ♂ Greater Scaup was sighted on Twin Lakes near Preston, ID, Nov. 24 (CHT, CW) and six were on Pend Oreille L., ID, Nov. 21 (RB). A pair of Oldsquaws was on L. Helena, Helena, MT, Nov. 22 (BK). A female-plumaged Surf Scoter was seen well near Massacre Rocks S.P., Power, ID, Oct. 29 (CHT) and one was on Coeur d'Alene L. Sept. 24 (S & CK, LL, LP, PS). An ad. male was sighted at Loon L. n.e. of Bigfork, MT (BH).

A pair of Turkey Vultures nested s. of Fortine, MT, for supposedly the latilong's first breeding record (WW). An Osprey was seen on several occasions in August at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. for a very unusual sighting there (JB). A late one was on Pend Oreille L. Nov. 20 (RB). Following the collapse of the salmon run to Glacier N.P., MT, Bald Eagles were still passing through there but finding feeding and wintering areas elsewhere. Numbers at L. Kootenai in n.w. Montana were climbing and the population in the Helena area reached some 200 (MS, GHo). The Helena concentration apparently represented a different population from that which used Glacier N.P. in the past (RM). A few appeared in n. Idaho. Falcon sightings were: Merlin, 7; Peregrine, 3 (one hacked by the Peregrine Fund); and Prairie, 4. Two Ring-necked Pheasants at Kootenai N.W.R. were the first seen there in a number of years. Three Wild Turkeys were sighted in the Little Belt Mts. of c. Montana in late September (LKM). Two Mountain Quail were found on Joseph Plain w. of Whitebird, ID (BW).

CRANES TO TERNS — A few Sandhill Cranes flew over Fortine, MT, in early October; Weydemeyer had only 6 previous records for the area. A few were noted at American Falls Res. Aug. 28 (LT). A Virginia Rail near Harrison, ID, Sept. 1 was noteworthy (CV) as was one at a pond at McDonald Pass w. of Helena (G & NN). Mann's L., Lewiston, had two Lesser Golden-Plovers Sept. 10 & 23 (C.B., J & DP), and three were seen near Aberdeen, ID, in late September (CHT). One was found at Lone Pine Res. near Plains, MT (JR). A Snowy Plover was reported at Ninepipe N.W.R., Pablo, MT, Aug. 25 (DS). Two Semipalmated Plovers made a rare appearance at Harrison Sept. 23 (S & CK, LL, LP, PS). Up to 32 visited a slough near Somers, MT (EH).

Solitary Sandpipers in the Salmon, ID, vicinity in late August were the first seen there in many years (HR). Extraordinary was a Willet at Mann's L. Aug. 26 (J & DP, CV). Lake Lowell had a noteworthy nine Marbled Godwits Aug. 11 (ST). A Sanderling was sighted near Somers Aug. 22 (EH). Twenty-two Baird's Sandpipers were noted near Kellogg, ID (CV), and a flock of 375 was encountered at Frenchtown, MT (DH). Up to 50 were at Somers, MT, Aug. 22 (EH). Four Dunlin at Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville, about Aug. 22 furnished only the 3rd late summer record for w. Montana (CC). One to two Dunlin at Mann's L. made rare sightings there, as did up to four Stilt Sandpipers there (J & DP, CV, MK). Lake Lowell had 25 Stilt Sandpipers Aug. 30 (MC, FK); several were near Aberdeen in September (CHT), and two were in a flooded field near Idaho Falls Aug. 26 (CHT). Somers, MT, had 10 on Aug. 22 (EH). Up to five Short-billed Dowitchers were sighted at Mann's L. (CV) and one was seen in the Flathead Valley, MT (DH). Long-billed Dowitchers numbered one to two at Mann's L. (C.B., J & DP, CV).

A Parasitic Jaeger was sighted at Pablo, MT, Sept. 5 (JR). A Mew Gull at Wolf Lodge Bay, Coeur d' Alene L., was highly unusual (J & DP). A Thayer's Gull was identified at Silver Beach, Coeur d' Alene L., Oct. 22 (WH, J & DP, CV), and another at Sandpoint Nov. 12 (RB). An ad. Western Gull was well seen at Island Park Dam Oct. 21 for one of a very few Idaho records (MC, FK). An ad. Glaucous-winged Gull at Wolf Lodge Bay Nov. 4 was very unusual (J & DP). McArthur W.M.A. had three Forster's Terns Sept. 3 (CV). Up to 80 Com. Terns appeared at L. Walcott near Rupert, ID, in August (CHT).

DOVES TO THRASHERS — Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. had a visit from a lone Rock Dove, perhaps the first ever seen there (JB). Idaho yielded 2 sightings of Barred Owls in the Coeur d' Alene L. vicinity (DJ, CS) and one at Twin Lakes, Rathdrum, ID (KT). Another turned up between Harvard and Deary, ID (KC). A Great Gray Owl was found near Henry's L. (MC, FK) and another at Winchester L. s. of Lewiston (J & DP). A hummingbird believed to be an imm. ♂ Anna's stayed at Clinton, 10 mi e. of Missoula, MT, into December, when it was captured and taken to California, but it died enroute (DH, DHu, PLW). Kay Burk banded 194 Rufous, 179 Calliope, and nine Black-chinned hummingbirds at Troy, MT. An Anna's was noted at Boise Aug. 25 (AL).

A **White-headed Woodpecker** at Hungry Horse, MT, apparently made the state's 4th sighting (DC). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was reported in Missoula, MT, Aug. 25 (PH). A Blue Jay visited a Viola, ID, feeder Oct. 21-22 (J & MH), and one was found near Pocatello Nov. 5 (JJ). The Rattlesnake Valley n.e. of Missoula had two in late October (LB, WB).

A Bewick's Wren was sighted at Lewiston Nov. 21 (J & DP). A Winter Wren was near Hauser Dam on the Missouri R. n. of Helena Nov. 24, for only the 2nd record for that area (CJ). One was sighted along the S. Fork of the Snake R. e.s.e. of Driggs, ID (MC, FK). A very high count of 67 Ruby-crowned Kinglets was obtained in a 4-day trip Sept. 25-28 into the Little Belt Mts. of c. Montana (LKM). Western Bluebirds were increasing in Tobacco Valley, Lincoln, MT, especially n. of Eureka (WW). A Varied Thrush stayed in a Pocatello yard

most of November (JJ) and one was noted at McCall, ID, Nov 3 (EC). Red Rock Lakes hosted a N. Mockingbird for several days in late August (JB), and one was reported in the Rupert, ID, vicinity (WHS). A Brown Thrasher was positively identified at Lost Horse Ranger Station s.w. of Hamilton, MT, Oct 28 with snow on the ground! (JD, BO).

VIREOS TO FINCHES — A Red-eyed Vireo was seen and heard at Heise Hot Springs e. of Rigby, ID, Aug. 8 (CHT, CW). Single Orange-crowned and Nashville warblers were spotted at Daggett Creek Ranch, 20 mi n.e. of Boise, Aug. 1 (AL). A N. Parula was reported for Red Rock Lakes, for the area's first sighting (JTa). At least six Yellow-rumped Warblers frequented Mann's L. as late as Nov. 18 (C.B.). At Troy, 1232 Yellow-rumped and 26 Townsend's warblers were banded (KB). A Townsend's Warbler was sighted in the Red River Hot Springs area e. of Elk City, ID, Aug. 10 (CV). Cottonwoods near Chubbuck, ID, harbored a N. Waterthrush Nov. 5 (DF).

A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** described at Rose Lake Aug. 21 was apparently northern Idaho's first (CV). An Am. Tree Sparrow at Bull L. near Rose Lake, ID, Oct. 29 was very unusual (SHS, SS). Harrison, ID, had a White-throated Sparrow Nov. 24 (J & DP), and an Aberdeen feeder attracted another (DB). One was banded at Troy (KB). Three Harris' Sparrows were found along the Kootenai R. near Bonners Ferry Oct. 21 (CV) and one accompanied juncos near McCall, ID, Oct. 25 (EC). Several appeared in the Aberdeen-Pocatello vicinity (DB, JJ, JT). An imm. bird appeared Nov. 17 at Red Rock Lakes, where the species is rare (JB). A flock of 20+ Lapland Longspurs was seen at Henry's L. Nov. 6, for the only report (MC, FK).

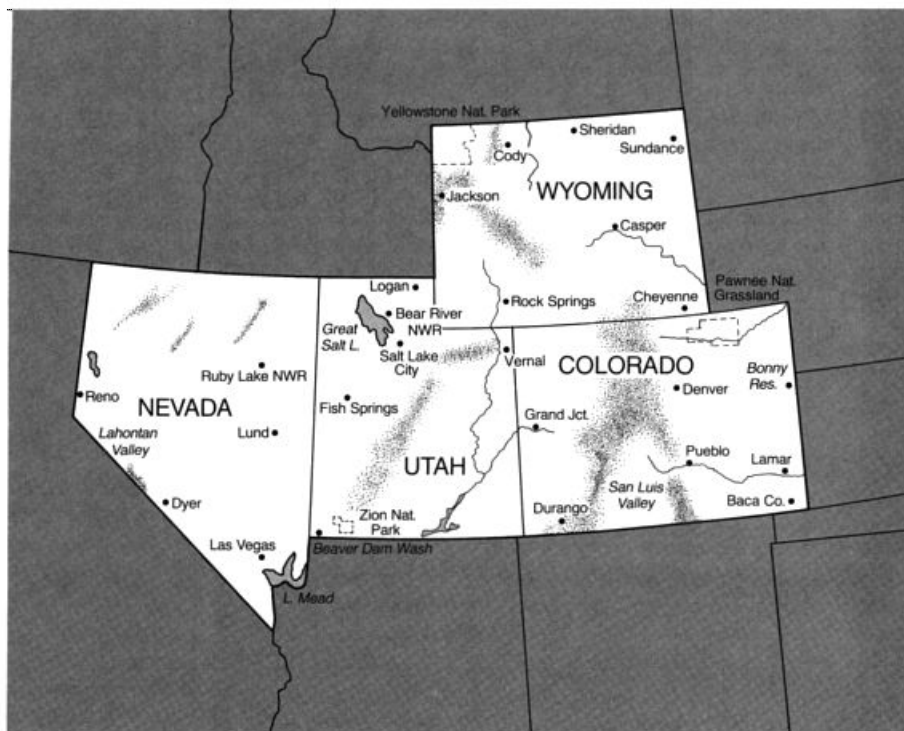
Snow Buntings arrived at Red Rock Lakes Oct. 14 (JB). Rarely observed in the Fortine area in recent years, a flock of eight showed up there Oct. 28 (WW). A flock of 300 Rosy Finches was sighted on the road to Sawtelle Peak near Henry's L. Nov. 6 (MC, FK), and a flock of about 40 was seen near Blackrock Canyon e. of Pocatello Nov. 19 (CHT). A few White-winged Crossbills appeared near Coeur d' Alene in mid-October (GH). Several males were found near the Centennial Mts. n. of Kilgore, ID, Aug. 11 (SP), and the species was noted at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., where it is rare (JTa). The earliest Com. Redpoll arrival date was Oct. 27 at Red Rock Lakes (JB). At Fortine, Weydemeyer noted Nov. 12 as his latest-ever arrival date for redpolls there.

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MOUNTAIN WEST REGION

Hugh E. Kingery



Four disparate species showed up this fall at four treeless desert sites, miles from anything approaching suitable habitat: see the accounts of one of lost jaeger, Sabine's Gull, Winter Wren, and American Redstart. The presence of these four birds in atypical places (for both birds and birdwatchers) illustrates an essential feature of Mountain West geography: islands of trees or water surrounded by huge seas of unfriendly habitat. If migrants with deviant compasses find themselves, exhausted, in the midst of these big open spaces, what do they do? Some find friendly islands; some, like our disparates above, make do with less. Most of them probably have questionable prospects of survival.

Every fall, "coastal" species that nest in Arctic Canada and winter on the Pacific (and Gulf) coasts straggle into the Interior West—jaegers, scoters, loons, *et al.* We find them on reservoirs created for irrigation and drinking water. They could have found little semblance of friendly habitat before "civilization" changed the landscape by adding reservoirs where only "mile-wide, inch-deep" prairie streams used to flow. Before the advent of modern irrigation, did these coastal birds with errant compasses survive? Do they survive now?

In contrast to the four misdirected birds were five species for which our observers reported the highest Regional counts ever—single flocks of Swainson's Hawks, Stilt Sandpipers, and Baird's Sandpipers, and Region-wide observations of Merlins and Wilson's Warblers. For the first four, the high numbers are probably not a 1989 phenomenon but rather the product of diligent, far-ranging exploratory field work; yet the sandpipers could not have found Empire Reservoir 100 years ago.

WEATHER AND MIGRATION— Warm and dry conditions characterized the fall weather, and the Region reported a high number of species. Benign weather may have helped birdwatchers find diversity, but it may not explain bird movements. Merchant found many latest-ever records,

but also found that this pattern differed little from other autumns. "The weather probably didn't have that much to do with it. Late sightings are partly a matter of chance, anyway. Not only does the bird have to linger, it has to linger where somebody sees it.

"In my opinion, the most profound effects of weather on the fall birding were caused . . . by early summer weather . . . warm and dry, with a fairly heavy frost on June 22. One or both of these phenomena affected the berry crops. Toward the end of August I went looking for chokecherries and found exactly one healthy ripe berry. Hard, dry, shriveled berries were scattered sparsely over the bushes . . . Probably other wild berries fared much the same."

Nonetheless, the Region reported more species than usual—375 (average 362), with Colorado as usual having the most, 348 (previous high, 336). Wyoming had 243, Utah 222, and Nevada 234. For the year, the Region reported 409 (Colorado 374, Wyoming 307, Nevada 284, and Utah 281).

ABBREVIATIONS— L/L/B/L = Longmont/Lyons/Berthoud/Loveland area, CO, using Foothills Audubon Club records; 1st Lat = First latilong record (a latilong is outlined by one degree each of latitude and longitude, and measures about 50 by 70 miles; † = Written description on file with Regional Editor; ‡ = Written description on file with, and subject to approval of, state or local records committee.

LOONS TO EGRETS— The Region recorded 25 Pacific Loons Oct. 12–Nov. 23, about the same as in 1987 and 1988. They included 1st Lat records in Yellowstone N.P., Walsenburg, CO, and Grand Jct., CO. A late report told of 1000–2000 Com. Loons on Flaming Gorge Res., WY, in April 1989 (W.G. & F.), a huge migrating ensemble for our Region. Then Wyoming researchers found 23 territorial pairs of Com. Loons, 17 of them in Yellowstone; the birds produced 20 young. Observers found two **Yellow-billed Loons**: Wyoming's 3rd or 4th at Keyhole Res. near Sundance, WY, Nov. 19–Dec. 2 and later (‡ V & JH, ‡ JA), and Colorado's 6th at Cherry Cr. Res. near Denver Nov. 20–21 (‡R).

High counts of W. Grebes were of 9065 in Fallon, NV, Oct. 19 (LN *et al.*), and 3200 in n.e. Colorado Aug. 22 (J.R.). At Las

Vegas, 1000 *Aechmophorus grebes* had arrived by Oct. 15, 10–15% of them Clark's. On the late date of Sept. 3 at Desert Lake W.M.A., UT, a half-grown Clark's Grebe rode on its parent's back (CR). American White Pelicans fledged 1500 young from 1800 Yellowstone nests, and Pathfinder N.W.R., WY, had 1100 nests. At Ordway, CO, 1600 Am. White Pelicans assembled Aug. 27. Las Vegas reported a Brown Pelican Oct. 28 and later (CT et al.). At Rocky Ford, CO, 1400 Double-crested Cormorants assembled Oct. 17. Two Least Bitterns paused in s. Nevada: one Sept. 3–4 at Las Vegas (KW) and another Sept. 25 at Pahrnagat N.W.R. (AMa).

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS—A Sept. 6 aerial survey of Lahontan Valley ducks counted 33,525 dabblers (including 9815 Green-winged Teal and 9020 N. Shovelers) and 1604 divers (including 1160 Redheads). Fish Springs had migration peaks of 2720 N. Pintails Sept. 8, 3777 Green-winged Teal Oct. 4, and 2812 Am. Wigeon Oct. 20. Rawhide power plant's warm pond attracts more waterfowl each year; this year it had peaks of 1400 Gadwalls, 1000 Lesser Scaup, and 250 Buffleheads. Casper's Soda L. also attracted high numbers of waterfowl—with 1000 or more of eight species, including 2500 Com. Goldeneyes, 2000 N. Shovelers, and 2000 Am. Wigeons.

The tri-state survey Sept. 11–15 counted 131 Trumpeter Swans in Wyoming; however, an aerial survey Nov. 10 in Yellowstone, which had 30 on the tri-state, counted 110 Trumpeter Swans, plus 78 unidentified swans—most of them probably Trumpeters. Jackson had 53 Trumpeters Oct. 22 (63 on the tri-state), all local except two visiting from the Northwest Territories, Canada. At Ruby L., 16 started to winter.

A Snow Goose recovered at Carson L., NV, had been banded on Wrangell I., U.S.S.R. (LN). At Ordway, CO, 5000 Snows had gathered by Nov. 18. Observers identified 31 Ross' Geese, in all 4 states, all Nov. 5 and later. A Eur. Wigeon stopped at Pahrnagat N.W.R., NV, Nov. 21–25 (VM, AMa). A surprising complement of sea ducks included 10 Oldsquaws, 34 Surf Scoters, and 15 White-winged Scoters; one or more of each species stopped in the Las Vegas area, at Logan, UT, and at 2–5 sites in Wyoming and Colorado.

The Region recorded an unprecedented 81 Ospreys: six in Nevada, eight in Utah, six in Wyoming, and 61 in Colorado. Pueblo, CO, counted 30 Mississippi Kites Aug. 18, the highest count yet reported there. Red-shouldered Hawks stopped at Stillwater Sept. 27 (LN) and Fish Springs Sept. 5–8 (tJE).

As Ferruginous Hawk numbers dropped, Rough-legged Hawk numbers went up—including 129 in e. Colorado in

S.A.

From Sept. 16 to 29, Wheeler counted 3030 migrating Swainson's Hawks—the largest total on record in Colorado; the peak count came Sept. 28 with 1367 in widely scattered, large groups near Anton. The best times to find them proved to be early morning, before their groups broke up to seek grasshopper prey, and again as they settled onto the prairie for the evening.

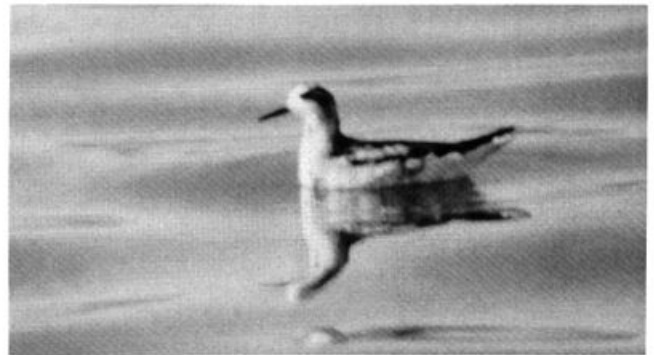
November (BW). The 55 Merlins doubled any previous AB Fall tally; they have become urban dwellers as well as prairie terrorists. Regional observers reported a healthy 43 Peregrine Falcons. Wyoming now has 11 nesting pairs (W.G. & F.).

CRANES, SHOREBIRDS—The San Luis Valley, CO, held 17,000 Sandhill Cranes in late October (RSc), like last year. Migrating flocks thrilled observers along the Front Range—2500 at Cheyenne, 162–305 at Dillon, CO, 225 at Barr L., and 700 at Prewitt Res. near Sterling, CO.

At Empire Res. near Masters, CO, at least 4700 sandpipers massed on Sept. 2, including 2000 Baird's Sandpipers and 1500 Stilt Sandpipers, both the highest counts ever reported from this Region. Janos saw many more around the rest of the lake; his count included only those on the s.e. shore. (It seems

extremely unlikely that these birds diverted from Cheyenne Bottoms, KS—which lies 500 miles ESE.) In contrast, Keyhole Res. near Sundance, WY, attracted only 500 shorebirds at its peak, compared with 3000 last year (JA).

An impressive 2500 Black-necked Stilts assembled at Farmington Bay, UT, Aug. 13, along with thousands of Am. Avocets (FL). A flock of 25 Willets at Walden, CO, Aug. 1 suggested good nesting success there, at Colorado's only known nesting site (WH). Reports of Marbled Godwits dropped for the 2nd year, with only 45 reported from the Region. A healthy contingent of Sanderlings stopped in the Region, with 12 seen in Utah, at least 120 in Colorado including 65 at Rocky Ford Sept. 17 (MJ), and over 100 in Wyoming, including 55 at Rock Springs Sept. 19 (FL). Even without the congregation at Empire Res., n.e. Colorado hosted lots of Baird's: the count of 2684 included several flocks of 225–500, and 613 on the Denver Fall Count Sept. 9–10. Dunlin reports dropped, with one at Las Vegas, four in Utah, and two in Colorado. Besides the Stilt Sandpipers at Empire Res., groups of 150, 250, and 185 went through e. Colorado Aug. 7–8 and Sept. 10 & 22. Stray Buff-breasted Sandpipers visited Casper, Chatfield State Park near Denver, and Barr L. Sept. 2–11 (tJH, tMJ, J & BK, VZ). The Wyoming Records Committee will review the detailed description of a possible Ruff seen at Casper Aug. 15–Sept. 10 (tJH, VH). The Region reported 650 Red-necked Phalaropes, topped by 400 at Casper in September. Documented Red Phalaropes stopped at Grand Jct., CO, Sept. 13–



Red Phalarope in transition from juvenal to first-winter plumage at Grand Junction, Colorado, September 14, 1989. Photograph/Coen Dexter.

14 (CD, ph.) and Chatfield S.P., CO, Oct. 14–17 (tRL et al.), while undocumented aliens were reported from n.e. Colorado and from Pahrnagat N.W.R. and Indian Springs, NV.

JAEGERS TO POORWILLS—Of seven jaegers reported Sept. 8–Oct. 10 in e. Colorado, observers identified two as Pomarines and four as Parasitics. Near Evanston, WY, on Sept. 2, a probable Parasitic flew 5–10 meters high above a sagebrush flat (more suited for antelope) (tCK). The Long-tailed Jaeger at Carson L., NV (AB Summer report) was last seen Sept. 28 (LN).

The Little Gull that had appeared at Cheraw, CO, in June stayed through Sept. 4. A juv. Little Gull spent Aug. 29–30 at Cherry Cr. Res. near Denver (tBRi, tJR). Bonaparte's Gull reports declined with none reported from Nevada, and about 80 from Colorado; Casper (33 peak) and Logan (eight Oct. 28–Nov. 5) had better counts. An imm. Mew Gull stayed Oct. 3–Nov. 12 at Cherry Cr. Res., the site of half of Colorado's 12 records (JR, D.F.O.). The Ryels found Utah's 3rd Glaucous-winged Gull Nov. 10 (t, ph.). Only one Glaucous Gull was reported, at Pueblo Nov. 24–26 (tDS, A.V.A.S.). An ad. Black-legged Kittiwake was found dead at Monte Vista N.W.R. Oct. 17 under a power line, where some raptor had fed on it (WB, 1st Lat) and birds were at Chatfield and Orchard in November (JR). Colorado had seven Sabine's Gulls, a normal complement; others stopped at Rock Springs, Casper, Pahrnagat,

and a cattle pond in a barren area in the middle of Nevada near Rachel (Oct. 6, observed for 30 minutes—JHia).

Common Tern reports increased, with two at Las Vegas, five in Wyoming, and 31 in e. Colorado. Black Tern reports were also up; at the September peak, Casper had 36, and 3 August trips to s.e. Colorado produced 212 (JR). On the fall count, D.F.O. tallied 92.

Six Monk Parakeets that built a nest in a Denver golf course cottonwood tree in September disappeared by the end of the season (JPi et al.). A Snowy Owl showed up in Casper Oct. 21 (†JH). Five Boreal Owls called Aug. 31 on Cameron Pass, CO (TC), and one was n. of Craig, CO, Sept. 5 (DN, TC, 1st Lat). Northern Saw-whet Owls flew into banding nets at Ogden Nov. 9 & 15 (MK) and into a car at Natural Bridges Nat'l Mon., UT, Nov. 11 (*NB); the coincident dates suggested a migratory movement. In Denver two Com. Poorwills met misfortune: one in mid-October was plucked out of a bucket of suds and another Dec. 1 fell to the bottom of a fireplace (CH). The latter sounds like a possible hibernator.

HUMMINGBIRDS TO KINGLETS—The Magnificent Hummingbird returned for a 3rd summer to Buena Vista, CO, and stayed through August (BW). Black-chinned Hummingbirds peaked at Springdale, UT, on Aug. 9 at 805; one stayed through the end of November (JG). Instead of the usual single Calliope Hummingbirds at scattered Colorado mountain locations, feeders in Rye, Wetmore, and Florence attracted two to four each. An imm. male was identified Aug. 25 on the Pawnee Nat'l Grassland (#BA, 1st Lat). In both L/L/B/L and Denver, N. Flicker observations increased over last year (106 cf 44, and 128 cf. 19). The Denver fall count Sept. 9–10 coincided with a migratory movement of flycatchers—D.F.O. counted 132 W. Wood-Pewees and 165 W. Kingbirds. A Vermilion Flycatcher hung around Chatfield Res., CO, Nov. 18 and later (RM et al.). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher fed from a barbed-wire fence by an Anton, CO, shelterbelt Sept. 20 (H & UK).

Jays led a descent of mountain species to the plains and valleys. At Corn Creek near Las Vegas, there appeared Sept. 2–5 an assemblage of one Steller's Jay, 15 Scrub Jays, eight Pinyon Jays, and one Clark's Nutcracker. Elsewhere Steller's Jays participated most prominently in this Regional dispersal, with reports from unusual places like Springdale, Salt Lake City, Ogden, Logan, Cody, Eagle, and Glenwood Springs—and from remarkable places like L/L/B/L, Denver, Pueblo, and Baca County. Alamosa, CO, reported its 2nd Blue Jay, Oct. 5–Nov. 5 (VS). Flocks of Pinyon Jays deserted the coneless pinyon woodlands for high mountain valleys in Colorado—40 in September at Jefferson (CHa) and McCoy, CO, 10–30 all fall at Eagle, CO (JM), plus birds at Castlewood S.P. (52 on the D.F.O. fall count), Casper Mt. (75–100 along with 50–75 Clark's Nutcrackers), and even 60 at Jackson, WY, Oct. 15 (†CG). Mountain Chickadees joined the mountain bird refugees, with some in most Front Range cities from Cheyenne to Denver and even east to Ft. Morgan, Baca County, and Rocky Ford (where the 16 seen Nov. 18 outnumbered Black-cappeds 2 1—A.V.A.S.). Despite the dispersal, Yellowstone recorded 620 and the Indian Peaks, CO, fall count tallied 456—5 per hour, up significantly from the average of 3.4/hr. (B.C.N.A.).

A Brown Creeper, lost on the short-grass prairie at the Rawhide power plant, sidled up and down a brick wall (RR)! Two Buttes, CO, had a Carolina Wren Oct. 9 (†DBr) and one (two?) returned to 2 Denver yards, 3 mi apart, which had hosted two (three?) last winter (MA, MP). Winter Wrens appeared Oct. 15 at Reno (†CM) and Oct. 13 at Glen Canyon Recr. Area, in a tiny creek surrounded by red rock desert (RS, ES, CK, 1st Lat). Observers reported at least twice as many Golden-crowned Kinglets as usual; the records extended e. to Cheyenne, Pawnee Grassland, and Ft. Morgan, as well as to Logan, UT, and Green R., WY. The Indian Peaks count had 83 on Sept. 16 (B.C.N.A.). That count also had 72 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, twice the usual.

THRUSHES TO PHAINOPEPLA—Eastern Bluebirds surged to the west: 37 were counted Oct. 28–29 along the S Platte R. from Prewitt Res. to Julesburg, CO (DL, WH), and one to two were as far west as Pawnee Grassland, Denver, Wetmore, Canon City, Colorado City, and Cheyenne. Only half the usual Townsend's Solitaires appeared at Eagle, Denver, and L/L/B/L, but Corn Creek near Las Vegas had a surprising count of nine on Oct. 6. A Gray-cheeked Thrush stopped at La Junta, CO, Sept. 16 (†MJ). Hermit Thrushes stayed into November at 5 locations in Colorado and Utah Nevada and Utah each reported three Varied Thrushes, and Colorado had one.

The N. Mockingbird at Baggs, WY, Sept. 7 provided a 1st Lat record (TC). Brown Thrashers went west to Eldora, Wetmore, Westcreek (where one took possession of a feeder, even driving away Steller's Jays—RWi), and Aspen, CO, and Fish Springs N.W.R., UT (JE). Bridges found a small group of **Sprague's Pipits**, establishing Colorado's 8th record; they fed on aphids (DL) in fields near Julesburg Sept. 30–Oct. 31 (m.ob) November saw Bohemian Waxwings arriving in Casper, Cheyenne, Lyons, CO (200 Nov. 18—MG), Ft. Collins, and Orchard, Sheridan, where Bohemians typically winter, had 1000 on Nov. 26 (AD). A Phainopepla showed off to 20 observers at Penrose, CO, Sept. 8–12 (J & RW et al.).

VIREOS, WARBLERS—The Herolds described a **White-eyed Vireo** at Casper on a cold Sept. 20, for a first Wyoming record if accepted by the W.R.C. Non-plumbeous forms of the Solitary Vireo (possibly *V. s. cassini*; Colorado has no confirmed *V. s. solitarius*) appeared at Glenwood Springs and the Pawnee Grasslands (DL, VZ). **Yellow-throated Vireos** stopped at Corn Creek Oct. 7–8 (J & MC, VM, KW) for Nevada's 4th record, and at Chatfield S.P., CO, Sept. 9 (J & BK, D.F.O.) At Barr L., C.B.O. banded two Philadelphia Vireos, on Oct. 7 & 22. Two Red-eyed Vireos wandered into Utah, seen at Promontory Oct. 22 and Black Rock Oct. 23 (ES, CK, RS).

High numbers of several warblers thronged the Region. Rock Springs enjoyed 60 Orange-crowneds Sept. 4 and 160 Sept. 9. Indian Peaks counted 295 Yellow-rumped Warblers on the fall count Sept. 9; in October they made a sparse showing on the plains. Observers reported a Regional record of 150–200 migrating Townsend's Warblers Aug. 16–Oct. 15, topped by 15 at Dillon, CO, Sept. 2–3, 20 at Green R., WY, Sept. 4, and 27 at Barr L. Sept. 13. Wilson's Warbler staged a massive migration in Wyoming and Colorado; the 1275 reported sets a remarkable total for any warbler in the Mt. West Major points included 303 from the Rock Springs/Green R area, 110 at Cheyenne, 140 on the Pawnee Grassland Aug 20–22, and 157 on the Denver fall count Sept. 9–10.

Utah's 2nd **Chestnut-sided Warbler** showed up in Grand Gulch, Glen Canyon Nat'l Recr. Area, Oct. 15 (†ES, CK); Las Vegas had one Oct. 29 (J & MC). Looking for **Hermit Warblers**, U.O.S. scheduled a trip to Navajo Mt. in s.w. Utah, the site of 2 of Utah's previous records—and reported one Hermit Sept 2 (CK, CLa, DG). Five Hermit Warblers were found on Mt Charleston (Las Vegas) Aug. 31 (MC, CL). A Black-throated Green Warbler huddled next to a bank in Evergreen, CO, during a Nov. 8 snowstorm (PP, WWB). A Blackburnian Warbler was reported from Cheyenne Sept. 16 (D & EH). The Denver zoo hosted a Yellow-throated Warbler, seen in the pines of an Arctic wolf compound Oct. 14 and Nov. 18 (†MPa). Observers reported a surprising six Palm Warblers: four in Colorado including a 1st Lat at Glenwood Springs (VZ), one at Casper, and one at Corn Creek. At Two Buttes Res. on Sept 4, Lentz found Colorado's first **Cerulean Warbler** in 50 years, most of the 15 observers on the D.F.O. field trip saw this greenish immature (†WH et al.).

Black-and-white Warblers stopped at Milford, UT, Oct 1 (ES, RS) and Green R., WY, Sept. 9 (†FL, 1st Lat). On Sept. 12, Green R. produced another 1st Lat with an Am. Redstart seen flycatching along the shore of a sediment pond at Black Butte coal mine, several miles from the nearest trees (FL). The

Prothonotary Warbler at Green R. Sept. 2 (†FL) gave Wyoming its 5th record; others appeared at Colorado City Aug. 27 (†DS) and Chatfield Oct. 29–Nov. 3 (‡RL). Colorado recorded its 4th **Louisiana Waterthrush** Sept. 6 with a bird at Walsh (‡MJ). Fall Hooded Warblers showed up at Denver Sept. 9 (†HEK) and Baca County Nov. 4 (M). Colorado had had 15 previous records of Canada Warblers—and it added 3 this fall: Bonny Res. Sept. 2 (†DS, DJ, 1st Lat), Ft. Collins Sept. 3 (‡MAR), and Chatfield Oct. 29–Nov. 1 (‡RL).

TANAGERS TO REDPOLLS—Single Scarlet Tanagers visited Rocky Ford, CO, Sept. 30 (M) and Casper Oct. 6 (m.ob.). A banded N. Cardinal arrived at a feeder in Georgetown, CO, in October (MG, WWB), probably the same bird ringed in July 2200 ft higher but only 10 mi away, at Echo L. (AB Summer report). Pueblo and Holly, CO, each reported three cardinals Nov. 12. At Ogden, UT, Killpack banded an apparent hybrid Rose-breasted x Black-headed Grosbeak Sept. 8. Sheridan reported two well-described Baird's Sparrows Sept. 7 (†HD), and Julesburg, CO, had three Oct. 14 (‡DBr). The 18 reported Swamp Sparrows, including ones at Fallon, Ogden, and Logan, tripled the usual fall reports. Colorado had Golden-crowned Sparrows at Colorado City Sept. 24 (†DS, 1st Lat) and Grand Jct. Nov. 21–28 (CD, 1st Lat). The only big flock of Lapland Longspurs was at Julesburg Oct. 28 (400—



Lapland Longspur at Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge, Utah, November 29, 1989. Photograph/Joseph Engler.

WH). The Ryels found Utah's only fall Snow Bunting at Logan Nov. 14.

Two ♂ Great-tailed Grackles stopped at Stillwater N.W.R. Sept. 28 (WHe). Four pairs returned Nov. 7 and later to Gunnison (one of their original Colorado sites) where they fed in the dumpster behind a Pizza Hut (DR). An Orchard Oriole spent 30 minutes under observation at McCoy, CO, Aug. 20 (ME).

High numbers of Pine Grosbeaks at Indian Peaks (57 on the fall count Sept. 16) coincided with low numbers of Red Crossbills, adding weight to a theory of an inverse relationship between the two species owing to food competition (B.C.N.A., MF). Cassin's Finches ranged out of the mountains to the Pawnee Grassland Sept. 9 (†WH, 1st Lat) and 2 yards in Cheyenne Nov. 8 and later. A great cone crop attracted White-winged Crossbills all over w. Wyoming, with good numbers



Male Great-tailed Grackle at Fort Collins, Colorado, November 24, 1989. Photograph/Matt Chew.

from Jackson and Grand Teton N.P. south to the Elkhead Mts. near Craig, CO. Apparently White-winged Crossbills nested in Wyoming; in late October, they were feeding young in Alaska Basin, WY, e. of Briggs, ID (SP). Common Redpolls drifted south, with 100 seen near Ft. Collins Nov. 12 and 25 at Eldora Nov. 13.

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SOUTHWEST REGION

ARIZONA

Gary H. Rosenberg and
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The event of the season throughout Arizona was the widespread invasion of several montane species of birds from the north. An early indication that we were in for an interesting fall was an August record of Red-breasted Nuthatch at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum, and an August movement of American Crows into non-breeding areas in northeastern Arizona. Beginning in early September, numbers of Steller's Jays, Scrub Jays, and Lewis' Woodpeckers arrived at several lowland sites in southern Arizona initiating a plethora of reports of these species, and of White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Mountain Bluebird, Cassin's Finch, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak, from various localities throughout the state. Also indicative of the invasion were scattered reports from southern Arizona of Hairy Woodpecker, Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, Bushtit, and Townsend's Solitaire. It is interesting that in addition to northern birds, there appeared to be a similar phenomenon involving Arizona highland species with movements of Acorn Woodpecker, Gray-breasted Jay, and possibly Bridled Titmouse into unusual areas, indicating this may have been a more widespread movement than previously thought.

Some mention should be made of the widely publicized Double-striped Thick-knee (*Burhinus bistriatus*) in Yuma that was seen by dozens of birders. This species has not been recorded in western Mexico north of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec (about 2000 miles distant), and its closest area of occurrence is in southern Tamaulipas, which is more than 1000 miles and two major mountain ranges away. This species is non-migratory, is generally quite sedentary, and is known to be kept by natives in a semi-domesticated state. Therefore, it is our opinion that the chances of this being a naturally occurring vagrant are less than, or equal to, zero.

ABBREVIATIONS — A.B.C. = Arizona Bird Committee; B.T.A. = Boyce Thompson Arboretum; L.C.R. = Lower Colorado River; S.P.R. = San Pedro River; S.T.P. = Sewage Treatment Plant. Place names in *italics* are counties.

GREBES TO QUAIL — A single Horned Grebe on Sullivan L., Chino Valley, Oct. 4 (A & HG) was noteworthy, while four at the n. end of L. Havasu Nov. 5 (SGa, DS, RF) were more expected. It was a good fall for Am. White Pelican with a total of 385 reported from various localities throughout the state; the most notable concentrations were of 100 at Many Farms L. Sept. 14 (TC) and 125+ at P.R.D. in late November (J. Burns, PB). Brown Pelicans exhibited a widespread movement throughout s. Arizona with a total of 13 reported from 6 localities; a high concentration of five was found at P.R.D. in late November (J. Burns, PB). Ten White-faced Ibises Nov. 22 in s.w. Phoenix (D. Rosie) were considered late. The only Wood Stork reported from s. Arizona this summer was along the Gila R. s.w. of Phoenix Aug. 27 (*fide* SGa); this species is nearly annual in the southwestern quarter of the state in late summer.

Two flocks of Tundra Swans, of seven birds each, were found in the Kayenta area Nov. 17 (R. Johnson, CL) & 28 (CL); this species is still reported only sporadically from n.e. Arizona during fall. At least 40 Greater White-fronted Geese were reported this fall, mostly from n. Arizona where this species is casual at best; one immature was at Many Farms L. Sept. 14–24 (TC *et al.*), and a relatively high concentration of 20 was at Upper L. Mary Sept. 23, with seven still present Sept. 25 (C. Van Cleve *et al.*). Impressive for n. Arizona were 4 reports of Ross' Goose: one at Cow Springs L. Nov. 4 (CL), one on Black Mesa Nov. 9 (CL), one at Peck's L. Nov. 12–Dec. 3 (AG *et al.*), and one at Many Farms L. Nov. 19 (CL). This species was virtually unknown from n.e. Arizona prior to the mid-1980s. Wood Ducks were again widespread and numerous with reports, up to as many as 19 individuals, coming from virtually all regions of the state. Two more ♂ Eurasian Wigeons were again reported this fall, one on Black Mesa Oct. 20 (CL), and another was in the Village of Oak Creek 4 (A. Thornburg *et al.*); the status of this species has recently evolved from being strictly accidental to nearly annual in occurrence. Three reports of Surf Scoters, involving five individuals, were received; two Oct. 11 at Kayenta (CL), two more Oct. 22 at Many Farms L. (CL), and one Nov. 12 at Tucson (J. Paton *et al.*). More unusual were a White-winged

Red-tailed Hawk of the "Harlan's" race at Parker, Arizona, November 23, 1989. Photograph/Shawneen Finnegan.



Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper at Tucson, Arizona, August 20, 1989. Photograph/Gary H. Rosenberg.

Scoter at Black Mesa Oct. 31 (CL), and another at Tucson Nov. 16-19 (m.ob.). Unprecedented was a ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye at Kayenta Nov. 9 (CL), the first of this species for n.e. Arizona.

Well east of its normal range in the state was a Black Vulture s. of Sierra Vista Aug. 9 (B. Logan), establishing a first record for the San Pedro R. Valley. Black-shouldered Kites continue to be reported throughout the southern portion of the state. The most noteworthy record this fall was of five together at Empire Cienega Nov. 12 (GW et al.). A pair of adult N. Goshawks with two recently fledged young Aug. 3 s.w. of Prescott represented the first confirmed local nesting of this species. A lone Harris' Hawk on the Verde R. n. of Clarkdale Aug. 28 (VG) was well north of its normal breeding range in central Arizona. Very late nesting of Gray Hawk was indicated by one young fledged Sept. 13 along the San Pedro R. near St. David. Two immatures were still present at the nesting site Oct. 16. Also very late was a single adult at Kino Springs near Nogales Oct. 6 (CDB, JK); most Gray Hawks have left the state by mid-September. In recent years there have been increasing numbers of **Red-shouldered Hawk** reports from the state; this year one was found s. of Parker, L.C.R., Nov. 24 and later (†PL et al.), while an adult was at Phoenix from at least Dec. 1 (ph. R. Jones et al.). There are now at least 15 records for the state. An ad. "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk was found at Mammoth Nov. 10 (GM), and another was found s. of Parker Nov. 24 (ph. PL, SF et al.); the status of this form in Arizona remains muddled owing to the difficulty in separating it from immature melanistic Red-taileds. A Crested Caracara Nov. 3 between Picacho and Marana (N. Isacson) was well north of its normal range in s.w. Arizona; this species has been known to wander as far north as Flagstaff in fall. A group of eight Montezuma Quail at Big L. in the White Mts. Sept. 15 (GR et al.) furnished one of the few recent records of this species from Apache.

SHOREBIRDS TO NIGHTHAWKS— Three Black-bellied Plovers, typically sparse fall migrants, were reported: an adult was at Sierra Vista Aug. 5-6 (GR et al.), one was at Gilbert, s.e. of Phoenix, Aug. 25 (RBr), and a juvenile was at Many Farms L. Oct. 1 (RBr, TC). Even rarer in the state were two Lesser Golden-Plovers, one at Many Farms L. Sept. 30-Oct. 7 (DS et al., ph. RW), and another at Ganado L. Oct. 1 (JS); this species may eventually prove to be a regular fall migrant in n.e. Arizona. A single Mountain Plover at Many Farms L. Oct. 1 (RBr, TC) provided only the 2nd record ever for Apache. Unprecedented numbers of Black-necked Stilts were reported from n. Arizona this fall with 30 n. of Clarkdale on the Verde R. Sept. 4 (S. Andrews), and an amazing 60+ seen at the north rim of the Grand Canyon near the park entrance Sept. 6 (GR et al.); most previous records for this part of the state involved single birds or small groups.

A Spotted Sandpiper at Kayenta Nov. 2-4 (CL) was very late for n. Arizona. Nine Sanderlings, more than usual, were found around the state this fall, the most noteworthy being a high count of five at Many Farms L. Sept. 14 (TC et al.), and

a very late juvenile Oct. 26 at Phoenix (DS). No fewer than eight, and possibly as many as 11, Semipalmated Sandpipers were found in the state this fall between Aug. 20 and Sept. 20 (m.ob.); this species is now considered a regular fall migrant in small numbers throughout the state. A very late Baird's Sandpiper was found at Nogales Oct. 31 (GM); there is only one November record of this species in the state. A Pectoral Sandpiper Aug. 5 at Kayenta (CL) provided one of the earliest fall records for the state. Elsewhere, some observers considered Pectorals scarce this season. Until recently, Stilt Sandpipers were considered rare but regular fall migrants in n.e. Arizona. This year unusually high numbers were present at Many Farms L. throughout September, with a high count of 30 there Sept. 14 (GR et al.). A late juvenile was at Avondale Oct. 26-30 (DS et al.); although this species is a regular winter resident at the Salton Sea, it is unknown in Arizona beyond late fall. At least 16 Short-billed Dowitchers were reported



Juvenile Short-billed Dowitcher at Tucson, Arizona, August 20, 1989. The pale internal markings on the tertials and scapulars are less obvious on this individual than on most, but still visible. Photograph/Gary H. Rosenberg.

between Aug. 16 and Sept. 28; this is another species whose status has evolved from merely casual to regular fall migrant. A Wilson's Phalarope at Kayenta Oct. 30-31 was extremely late for the state. A Red Phalarope at Ganado Oct. 1 provided only the 3rd record of this rare fall migrant from n.e. Arizona.

Surprising was a juv. **Long-tailed Jaeger** found dead on a

highway n. of Sierra Vista Sept. 3 (D. & M. Hastings; *to U. of A.). This represented only the 7th record for the state, all from early to mid-September. Bonaparte's Gull again showed up in small numbers statewide in mid-November. Two at Sunrise L., White Mts., Nov. 10 (GM) provided one of the few fall records for Apache. Four California Gulls were reported away from the Colorado R. (where more frequent): a 2nd-year bird at Sierra Vista Aug. 5–18 (GR *et al.*), an adult at Tucson Aug. 31 (GM), and another adult plus a first-winter bird at Kayenta Nov. 22 (CL). Unusual for n. Arizona was an ad. Herring Gull on the early date of Oct. 3 (CL). A Sabine's Gull was reported from near Portal on the early date of Sept. 8 (obs.?), and a juvenile at Many Farms L. Oct. 8 (CL) provided only a 3rd or 4th record for Apache. A Caspian Tern at Tucson Sept. 18–19 (B. Davis, SGo) established only about a 4th local record.

This year's widespread invasion of montane species to the lowlands of southern Arizona also brought Band-tailed Pigeons to some unusual localities; nine were at B.T.A. Aug. 12 (CT), one was at the Hassayampa Preserve near Wickenburg Sept. 27 (TC), six were at Ahwatukee, s. of Phoenix, Oct. 17 (PB), and another seven were at B.T.A. Nov. 13 (CT, D. Rosie). Two more **Ruddy Ground-Doves** were found in new localities, bringing the total number of Arizona records to at least 15, one male was on the Hassayampa R. s. of Wickenburg Oct. 4 (†TC), and another was found on the Salt R. upstream from Roosevelt L. Nov. 21 (†TG *et al.*). Both areas were well away from areas of human habitation. Three late Yellow-billed Cuckoos, possibly representing birds of "eastern" origin, were found: one was at Dead Horse Ranch S.P. in the Verde Valley Sept. 30 (VG), one was at Prescott Oct. 5 (J. Paris), and another was at Tubac Oct. 6 (JK, CDB).

A N. Pygmy-Owl was out of habitat at Keams Canyon, Navajo, Oct. 8 (CL). An imm. Spotted Owl in Tsegi Canyons Aug. 24 (ph. B. Mellberg) was the first reported for that area in 12 years. One found Nov. 11, and later found dead Nov. 12, at B.T.A. (CT; *to U. of A.) was at a low elevation. Also at a surprisingly low elevation was a N. Saw-whet Owl found hit by a car in northeast Phoenix (TC; *to U. of A.); this was the 2nd November record for this montane owl from the Phoenix area. Two Lesser Nighthawks at Kayenta Sept. 20 (CL) represented one of few records from n. Arizona.

SWIFTS TO WOODPECKERS — At least one of the **Black Swifts** found in late July above Herb Martyr, Chiricahua Mts., was seen again Aug. 10 flying very high with Violet-green Swallows (GR). Another individual was seen migrating south along the base of the Santa Catalina Mts. in Tucson Aug. 24 (GM). This species remains undocumented for Arizona despite nearly 20 sight records for the state. Observers should be aware that the migratory Chestnut-collared Swift (*Cypseloides rutilus*) has been recorded within 300 mi of the border in s. Sonora, and could be confused with Black Swift.

One of the White-eared Hummingbirds present at Ramsey Canyon all summer was last reported Sept. 17 (m.ob.). Another was found away from feeders in Carr Canyon Sept. 6 (JK). Several Magnificent Hummingbirds were found in odd localities during the period; one was at B.T.A. Aug. 21 (CT), one was in Globe Oct. 5 (C. McKusick), one was at the Village of Oak Creek Oct. 6 (E. Ingwersen), and two very late individuals were in Sabino Canyon Nov. 12 (WR). This summer's mini-invasion of Plain-capped Starthroat appeared to continue into September with 4 additional reports away from feeders: one was along Paradise Road, near Portal, feeding at a flowering agave Aug. 10 (DS, JC *et al.*), one was seen well at Sabino Canyon Sept. 2 (JK, †WR), another was also reported Sept. 2 from the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Sanctuary (R. Smith), and yet another was found in Florida Wash Sept. 6 (JK). Lucifer Hummingbirds were reported at the usual localities in normal numbers. Two late Allen's Hummingbirds were reported. One male was present from late July to mid-August in Sonoita (J. Church *et al.*), and one banded at Ramsey Canyon Sept. 2

possibly represented the latest record for the state.

One of the benefits of scores of people spending days searching for the pair of Aztec Thrushes in Carr Canyon was the short sighting of an **Eared Trogon** Aug. 9 (†DSi); the bird was seen well at close range, and then seen to fly up the canyon toward the rim and out of sight. As is typical of most of the Arizona sightings of this vagrant, the bird was never seen again. Belted Kingfisher nested successfully along Granite Creek, near Prescott, for the 2nd consecutive year. A pair was present throughout the summer, with two juveniles present in September (CT). One Green Kingfisher was present throughout the period on the upper San Pedro R. s. of the highway 90 bridge; no evidence of successful breeding was found this year.

With the invasion of montane species came a movement of Acorn Woodpeckers into lowland areas; two were at B.T.A. Sept. 24–26 (CT *et al.*), one turned up at the Phoenix Zoo Sept. 24 (*fide* SGA), one was seen at Topock Marsh on the L.C.R. in late October (RN, RF), and one strayed to the w. side of the Tucson Mts. near Tucson Nov. 4 (S. Prchal). The only reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker received were of one ad male in the San Rafael grasslands Oct. 11 (JK, CDB), and an immature at the Hassayampa Preserve Nov. 1 (TC); this species' status is still unclear. Red-naped Sapsuckers seemed to appear in s. Arizona earlier than usual with sightings Sept 8 & 9 from the Huachuca Mts. (KK). More unusual for the state was an ad. Red-breasted Sapsucker was at the B.T.A. Oct. 13–Nov. 5 (CT). A ♂ Williamson's Sapsucker was at a low elevation at the B.T.A. Sept. 22 and later (CT *et al.*), and another individual was found at Red Rock S.P. (S. Foster). A ♂ Downy Woodpecker at Prescott Oct. 18 (J. Paris) was well away from typical nesting areas. A ♂ Hairy Woodpecker s. of St. David Sept. 21 (DK) was at an unusually low elevation, and represented one of very few records of this species away from the nesting grounds in s. Arizona.

FLYCATCHERS TO VIREOS — Greater Pewee is rarely noted during migration in the lowlands of s. Arizona, so one s. of St. David Sept. 21 (DK) and one in Sabino Canyon, Tucson, Oct. 22 (WR), were noteworthy. The only E. Phoebe reported was one at the B.T.A. beginning Nov. 13 (CT). Northeast Arizona still appears to be the most reliable area in the state to find E. Kingbird in fall. This season one was at Kayenta Aug. 31–Sept. 1 (CL), one was at Many Farms L. Sept. 14 (TC), and a 3rd was at Chinle Oct. 1 (DS *et al.*, ph. RW). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was reported from n.w. Phoenix July 31–Aug. 1 (M. Carr).

It was interesting that in a year that Rocky Mountain species, particularly jays, invaded the lowlands of the Southwest, Gray-breasted Jays were also found away from known breeding areas; one was at an unusually low elevation and out of habitat s. of Charleston Sept. 16 (DK), one was found with a flock of Steller's Jays along the South Fork of the Little Colorado R., White Mts., Sept. 30 (TC *et al.*), establishing a first record for Apache, and several were reported at a low elevation in Sabino Canyon Oct. 16 (JBo). Despite widespread movements of Pinyon Jays in northern Arizona during September, the only report from s. Arizona was of a group of four at Florence Oct. 14 (SM). A single Clark's Nutcracker in Miller Canyon, Huachuca Mts., Oct. 15 and later (S. Pausick) was farther south than usual for the state. Mountain Chickadees were found at lower than normal elevations during the period with one at the B.T.A. Oct. 13, six there Oct. 15, scattered individuals remaining there throughout the period, and one at Tucson Nov. 4 (C. Green). A Pygmy Nuthatch in n.w. Phoenix Oct. 12 (D. Malliniant) provided one of few records of this species away from the mountains in Arizona.

A House Wren at the B.T.A. Aug. 10 (CT) was extremely early for s. Arizona lowlands, while one on Black Mesa Oct. 31 (CL) was quite late for the northern part of the state. While Mountain Bluebirds were found in moderate numbers throughout the state during the fall, a high concentration of

800 was noted at Big Ortega L., White Mts., Nov. 13 (GM). Extremely early for s.e. Arizona were two Townsend's Solitaires in upper Carr Canyon, Huachuca Mts., Sept. 9 (KK, C. Leck). Varied Thrush staged one of the most widespread invasions ever into Arizona with a total of six found virtually statewide: one at Prescott Oct. 6 (L. Friederick), one at Summerhaven, Santa Catalina Mts., Oct. 29 [fide JH], one at Yarnell, s.w. of Prescott, Nov. 4 (J. Forrest), one in the Pinal Mts. Nov. 8 (J. Finkbeiner), one at the B.T.A. Nov. 14 and later (JW, B. Ross et al.), and one at Madera Canyon Nov. 15-19 (B. Koenig et al., ph. E. Froelich). Extraordinary were three more **Aztec Thrushes** in s.e. Arizona after a 3-year hiatus; two elusive individuals were seen sporadically in Carr Canyon between Aug. 2 and Sept. 6 (S. Surner, JK, m.ob., ph. D. Treadway), and the other was found in Madera Canyon Aug. 27-30 (J. Sunder, ph. JH). There are now ten records for Arizona, 6 of which are from Madera Canyon. Rarely seen in Arizona away from their nesting localities in the White Mts., single Gray Catbirds were found at Page Springs Aug. 1 (DS et al.) and in Sabino Canyon Sept. 23 (WR). Two Brown Thrashers were reported this fall, one at the B.T.A. Oct. 13-14 (CT) and the other at Dome Valley Nov. 25 (RF, RN).

The bird of the season was undoubtedly the basic-plumaged **Red-throated Pipit** found, and, amazingly, photographed Oct. 12-17 at Kayenta, establishing the first confirmed record for Arizona (†ph. CL et al.). The fact that there were few reports of Red-throated Pipits from coastal California this fall makes



Red-throated Pipit at Kayenta, Arizona, in October 1989. First confirmed Arizona record. The streaked back and flanks and the pale legs can be discerned in this shot. Photograph/Chuck LaRue.

this record even more impressive. Recent inland California records, as well as a winter record from western Mexico, make this species' occurrence in Arizona not totally outlandish. At least five N. Shrikes on Black Mesa beginning Oct. 23 (CL) initially resembled last year's major invasion to n. Arizona, but numbers quickly diminished by the end of the period. For the 3rd year in a row, a migrant Gray Vireo was reported from the upper San Pedro R. s. of St. David, this year's record coming Aug. 23 (DK). Early September continues to be the best season to find Red-eyed Vireos in the state. This year one was at the B.T.A. Sept. 2 (CB, RBr), and another remained at Ganado L. Sept. 15-23 (GR et al.). A first for the fall season in Arizona was a possible Yellow-green Vireo s. of Charleston Sept. 6 (†DK); this record is currently under review by the A.B.C.

WOOD WARBLERS— This fall was one of the best in recent memory for "eastern" vagrant warblers in the state, with no fewer than 37 species of warblers being reported during the period. A ♂ **Golden-winged Warbler** was found at Madera Canyon Nov. 8 (B. Hunt et al.) and remained through the end of the period; this represented only a 12th record for the state. A very late Nashville Warbler was at Paloma, w. of Gila Bend, Nov. 25 (RN, RF). Five Tennessee Warblers were

reported in s. Arizona: one at the Hassayampa Preserve Sept. 27 (TC), two at the Empire Cienega ranch Oct. 3 (WR), one in Sabino Canyon Oct. 6 (JK, CDB), and one near Hereford Oct. 27 (T. Godfrey). A Northern Parula was along Ganado Wash Sept. 23 (RF, RN), and a first-winter bird was in e. Tucson Oct. 22 (KK, LK).

About average numbers of Chestnut-sided Warblers were reported this fall. An adult was along Ganado Wash Aug. 20-Sept. 3 (DS et al.), one was along Tanque Verde Wash, e. of Tucson, Oct. 8 (KK), one was s. of Charleston Oct. 15 (DK), and one was in downtown Phoenix Nov. 1 (fide SGA). One report of Magnolia Warbler was received from Canyon de Chelly Oct. 9 (†RN). A ♀-plumaged **Cape May Warbler** on the upper San Pedro R. s. of the Highway 90 bridge Oct. 11 (†DK) marked only the 11th record for the state. Three Black-throated Blue Warblers—one female at the Petrified Forest N.P. Visitor Center Sept. 29-Oct. 1 (SGA et al.), another at Keams Canyon Oct. 8 (CL, JS), and a male at Arivaca Nov. 4-5 (C. Camron et al.)—made an average number for fall. A Hermit Warbler on Black Mesa Sept. 29 (CL) was, surprisingly, one of the few ever for n. Navajo. For the 2nd fall in a row, only one Black-throated Green Warbler was reported, this time at Navajo Sept. 30 (CB, B. Johnson). As last year, a Yellow-throated Warbler spent a week at Kino Springs, near Nogales, during mid-September. It was present Sept. 16-23 (JS et al.), almost the exact same dates as last year, suggesting the possibility of it being the same individual. A surprising four Palm Warblers were reported. One was at the B.T.A. Sept. 24 (CT); one was along the Salt R. in Phoenix Sept. 26 (BB); and one at the Petrified Forest Sept. 30 (JS) and one at Kayenta Oct. 6-13 (CL) furnished only the 3rd and 4th records for the northeast. Arizona's 14th Bay-breasted Warbler was found along the Salt R. e. of Phoenix Sept. 24 (†ph. SGA et al.). The latest fall record ever of Blackpoll Warbler for Arizona, and possibly for the interior West, was of one at Paloma Nov. 21-25 (†DS, CDB et al.).

A ♂ Prothonotary Warbler in Sabino Canyon Sept. 17 (GR), and another s. of St. David Oct. 26 (†DK), added to the growing number of records in Arizona. Two Ovenbirds, about average for the fall, were reported; one hit a window in Tempe, and was later released, Oct. 11 [fide B. Demaree], and another was at Paloma Nov. 25 (RN, RF). More unusual were two Louisiana Waterthrushes found during the period: one was found on the expected date of Aug. 4 on Mt. Union, near Prescott (†CT), and one was found on the late date of Sept. 17 (†WR) at Sabino Canyon near Tucson. A ♂ Kentucky Warbler in Tucson Oct. 23 (JBo) was an exceptional find, considering there were only about 5 previous fall records for the state. For the 3rd fall out of the last 4, an imm. **Mourning Warbler** was reported from n.e. Arizona, this year at Ganado Wash Sept. 4 (†SGA); owing to the difficulty of separating imm. Mourning from the imm. MacGillivray's warblers in fall, all recent Arizona records of the former are still under review by the A.B.C. A MacGillivray's Warbler found at the B.T.A. Oct. 13 (CT et al.) remained through the period; this species is exceedingly rare anywhere in the United States after mid-November. Among the rare but regular migrants in Arizona, four Black-and-whites, 12 Am. Redstarts, and 13 N. Waterthrushes were all about average for fall.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES— A ♀ Hepatic Tanager s. of St. David Aug. 28 (DK) furnished one of few records of this species away from montane habitats in Arizona. Still an exceptional rarity in the state, Scarlet Tanager was again reported for the period: a male at the B.T.A. Oct. 13-14 (CT) provided only about the 16th record, nearly all of which are from October or November. Seven Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported around the state between Aug. 19 and Oct. 22. A very late Indigo Bunting was in e. Tucson Oct. 25 (KK et al.). Four Painted Buntings were reported, all from the southeast, where this species has proven to be a regular fall visitor: one s. of St. David Sept. 6 (DK), one at Nogales Sept. 22 (JS),

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one male at Kino Springs Sept 24 (D Flower), and another male at Arivaca Oct. 6 (JK, CDB). For probably the 2nd year in a row, Varied Buntings nested at the B.T.A.; this year 2 pairs were present July through September, with fledged young present Sept. 24 (CT). This represents the northernmost nesting locality in the state. No fewer than 10 Dickcissels were reported around the state between Aug. 25 and Oct. 6 (m.o.b.); this species is proving to be much more regular, now that more Arizona birders are familiar with Dickcissel vocalizations.

A Canyon Towhee at Chinle Oct. 1 (DS *et al.*) represented the northernmost record for the state. This species was known previously as far north as Sanders, and may prove to be a local resident in suitable habitat throughout Apache. For the 2nd year in a row, Cassin's Sparrow was found nesting in Chino Valley, near Prescott, for only the 2nd nesting record for Yavapai. Adults were seen carrying food Aug. 19-27 (CT). Out of habitat for the species were individuals in n.w. Tucson Sept. 15-23 and Oct. 19 (GM). A well-described Clay-colored Sparrow was at Kayenta Oct. 12 (+CT), and another was at Arivaca Oct. 28-Nov. 1 (WR *et al.*); the actual status of this species during fall and winter remains unclear, and observers should take care when attempting to identify this bird. Long overdue was the first Apache record of Black-chinned Sparrow, furnished by one at Becker L., Springerville, Sept. 15 (GR *et al.*).

Amazing was a well-described Baird's Sparrow flushed from a patch of bunchgrass at the B.T.A. Sept. 24 (+CT); this species has rarely been recorded during migration anywhere in Arizona. Seven Fox Sparrows, about normal numbers, were reported during the fall throughout the state (m.ob.). Somewhat unusual for s.e. Arizona was a Harris' Sparrow at Tucson Nov. 2 (JBo), but more expected were two at Tuba City Nov. 29 (S. Studabaker, W. Allen). At least eight Golden-crowned Sparrows were found around the state, more than the number normally reported away from the L.C.R. A calling adult-plumaged Lapland Longspur was seen flying over Arivaca Oct. 28 (+WR, DS, GR); there are still fewer than 20 Arizona records. One, possibly two, Bobolinks were present at Nogales Sept. 16-18 (C. Green *et al.*).

Unusual on the L.C.R., and very late, were three Bronzed Cowbirds at Parker Nov. 5 (DS, RF, SGa). Two N. "Baltimore" Orioles, sparse fall migrants in the state, were reported with one at Becker L. Sept. 3-4 (SGa, RF, RN), and another at Paloma Nov. 22-25 (TC, RBr *et al.*). This fall could certainly have been considered an invasion year for Purple Finch with small numbers reported beginning in mid-October at several lowland localities, including Parker, Tucson, and the B.T.A. (m.ob.). It was a strange year for Lawrence's Goldfinches with very small numbers appearing in late September, but never really increasing to anticipated numbers by the end of the period. The only ones that did remain throughout the period were small flocks in central, but not southeastern, Arizona. A very early Am. Goldfinch was detected at Watson L., Yavapai, Aug. 18 (A & HG).

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ABBREVIATIONS — Bandelier = Bandelier Nat'l Monument; Bitter Lake = Bitter Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge; Bosque Refuge = Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge; Carlsbad Caverns = Carlsbad Caverns Nat'l Park; E.B.L. = Elephant Butte Lake; L.V.N.W.R. = Las Vegas Nat'l Wildlife Refuge; T/C = Truth or Consequences; Zuni = Zuni Indian Reservation. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO CRANES — Early were two Com. Loons at Heron L. Aug. 1-3 (PS), with six elsewhere in the north Nov. 4-19. At least 35 active Eared Grebe nests were at Maxwell N.W.R. Aug. 5 (DC), while a few early migrants were near Alamogordo and at Brantley L., Eddy, Aug. 14-15 (PJ). Noteworthy were 43 Clark's Grebes (no Westerns) at Stubblefield Dam (DC) and birds of both species at Charette L. (SW) and L.V.N.W.R. (CR) in August, plus about 300 *Aechmophorus* grebes, mostly Clark's, at E.B.L. Oct. 21 (PS) and a Clark's at Holloman L. Sept. 22 (BZ). On Aug. 1, 50 Am. White Pelicans were at Bosque Refuge (PJ) and 15-18 at Zuni (DC) and Bitter Lake (SW). Noteworthy were three Am. Bitterns near Tularosa Aug. 3 (J & NH), while late were a Great Egret at San Simon Cienega Oct. 25 (BJH, *fide* RD), a Snowy Egret at Bosque Refuge Nov. 11 (SOW), and a Little Blue Heron there Nov. 19 (PS). The high for White-faced Ibises was 163 at Zuni Aug. 27 (DC); notable were one over Capilla Peak, Manzano Mts., Sept. 18 (BE, TM) and a late one at Bosque Refuge Nov. 12 (SOW).

Six Tundra Swans were near Clayton Nov. 17-18 (WC), an immature suspected of being a Trumpeter Swan at Bosque Refuge Nov. 18-25 (v.o.) proved otherwise when it died and was autopsied. About 100 Ross' Geese were with 300 Snows at L.V.N.W.R. Nov. 4, declining to two (among 500 Snows) by Nov. 19 (CR); an imm. Ross' was near Las Cruces Nov. 15 (ph BZ). Four Wood Ducks were at Springer L. Aug. 11 (CR) and 21 near Mesilla Sept. 21 (CS); other records included one to three at L.V.N.W.R. (CR) and Zuni (DC) in October and November. Unusual were single Surf Scoters at Evans L., Grant (RF), and Las Cruces (S. Schemnitz, G. Cooch) Nov. 8-16, while early was a Com. Merganser at Maxwell N.W.R. Aug. 5 (DC).

A **Black-shouldered Kite** was near Las Cruces Sept. 24 (CS) and another was s.e. of Pinyon Nov. 10 (R. Patterson). August counts of Mississippi Kite nests tallied 52 in Clovis, nine in Portales, 20 in Roswell, and 12 in Hobbs (A.L. Gennaro). An ad. Bald Eagle was at Willow Creek, Catron, Oct. 11 (SM), while 34 were at Maxwell N.W.R. by the end of November (W. Mobley). Very late were an ad. Com. Black-Hawk at Redrock through November (A. Ford) and an imm. Swainson's Hawk at Bluewater L. Nov. 11 (DC *et al.*). A notable straggler was an ad. probable **Gray Hawk** near Socorro Sept. 22 (D Kendall). Several Montezuma Quail were in the s. Guadalupe Mts. in November (R. Reisch) and a brood was at Mangas Springs, Grant, Aug. 30 (RF). Northern Bobwhite and Scaled Quail numbers were down in the Carlsbad area (SW). The earliest Sandhill Cranes were one or two at L.V.N.W.R. Sept. 24 (CR) and near Gila Oct. 4 (SM), while unusual were birds over Rattlesnake Springs, Eddy, Oct. 12 (PJ) and the Peloncillo Mts. Nov. 3 (PJ). Whooping Cranes were back at Bosque Refuge by Nov. 4, with six by Nov. 17 (RT).

PLOVERS TO HUMMINGBIRDS — A Lesser Golden-Plover at Zuni Sept. 17 was thought to be of the race *fulva* (ph. DC), unexpected this far east. Snowy Plover reports

included 30 in the Alamogordo area Aug. 14 (PJ) and at least five there Sept. 20–22 (CS, BZ), 10 at Brantley L. Aug. 15 (PJ), plus a stray at Zuni Oct. 1 (ph. DC). Counts of Mt. Plovers were down near Los Lunas and Moriarty, with respective highs of 36 on Aug. 18 (PJ) and 55 Sept. 3 (DC), with a few lingering into October (v.o.). Late were 24 Am. Avocets at Bosque Refuge Nov. 19 (PS). Nine Upland Sandpipers were near Sedan, Union, Aug. 3 (DC); other reports were of 25 near Dexter Sept. 16 (SW) and 30 in the Artesia-Loving area Aug. 15 (PJ). Notable were a Whimbrel at Bosque Refuge Sept. 8 (RT) and one to two Red Knots at Zuni Aug. 20 (DC) and Holloman L. Sept. 15 (PJ, JS). Sanderlings were remarkably widespread, including 13 at Bitter Lake Sept. 13 (PJ, JS); others were at Springer L., L.V.N.W.R., Cochiti L., Zuni, E.B.L., and Holloman L. (v.o.). Eight Pectoral Sandpipers were at Zuni Oct. 1 (DC), while the last Stilt Sandpiper was at Bitter Lake Oct. 21 (SW). Accidental in New Mexico, a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was at Holloman L. Sept. 20 (CS). Two Short-billed Dowitchers were reported at Zuni (DC) and two at Bitter Lake (PJ) Aug. 16–20. A possible Red Phalarope was at L.V.N.W.R. Sept. 24 (CR), while the high for the rather widespread Red-necked Phalarope was of 51 at Bitter Lake Sept. 13 (PJ, JS).

Unusual were two **Laughing Gulls** at Brantley L. Aug. 15 (ph. PJ), plus an imm. Sabine's Gull near Zuni Oct. 1 and an adult at Bosque Refuge Sept. 24 (DC); adult Sabine's are very rare in the interior. A probable **Common Tern** was at Chuska L., McKinley, Sept. 16 (DC). Three pairs of Least Terns nested at Bitter Lake, with apparently only one chick fledging (SOW). Northward strays were a White-winged Dove in the Sandia Mts. Aug. 29 (HS) and single Com. Ground-Doves at Sevilleta N.W.R. Oct. 26 (RT) and Socorro Nov. 8–18 (PJ, JS). Out-of-range were single Inca Doves at Zuni Oct. 22 (DC) and Mangas Springs Nov. 25–30 (RF); other reports included up to eight birds in Socorro through Nov. 29 (JS *et al.*), near Tularosa Aug. 29 (J & NH), and Owen's Farm, Dona Ana, Oct. 28 (CS). Unusual was a **Black-billed Cuckoo** at Rattlesnake Springs Sept. 15 (PJ, ph. JS). A pair of Yellow-billed Cuckoos fledged young at Mangas Springs in August (RF); a late bird was in Albuquerque Oct. 28 (L. Gorbet). Rare in New Mexico, single **Groove-billed Anis** were at Bosque Refuge Nov. 25 (J. Ten-Brink) and near Gila Nov. 23 (RF, SM; cat-injured specimen to Western N.M. Univ.).

Barn Owl reports included one to two birds at Maxwell (DC), L.V.N.W.R. (CR), and Bell Lake, Lea (PJ, JS), while a W. Screech-Owl was along the Canadian River near Mills Sept. 25–26 (RD). A N. Pygmy-Owl at Aguirre Springs Sept. 29 (CS) may have been a first for the Organ Mts. Late were a Lesser Nighthawk at Black River Village, Eddy, Oct. 14–15 (CR) and single Com. Nighthawks at Española Sept. 23 (PI, CR) and in the Sandia Mts. Oct. 8 (HS). A westerly Chimney Swift was at Albuquerque Aug. 21 (BO), a *Chaetura* sp. was at San Simon Cienega Sept. 16–17 (BJH), and five late White-throated Swifts were at Bandelier Oct. 8 (CR). Most unusual was an apparent ♂ Allen's Hummingbird at T/C Sept. 10 & 12 (DM); this difficult-to-identify species is still unverified in the state. Other notable hummingbird reports included a Magnificent Hummingbird at Mangas Springs Aug. 23 (RF) and single late Rufous Hummingbirds at Albuquerque (BW) and Socorro (PB, PJ) into early November.

WOODPECKERS TO CORVIDS — Lewis' Woodpeckers outside the normal range were up to 11 at Capilla Peak Aug. 30–Oct. 5 (BE, TM), plus one to two in Socorro Oct. 29 (PB *et al.*) and at Bosque Refuge Oct. 7 (PJ, JS) and Nov. 12 (SOW). Single Red-headed Woodpeckers were at Bitter Lake Sept. 23 and near Caprock Oct. 11 (PJ). An Acorn Woodpecker at Placitas Oct. 19 (JM) provided one of the few records for the Sandia Mts.; others included singles at Capilla Peak (BE *et al.*) and Mangas Springs (RF) Sept. 1–7, and at Dripping Springs, Organ Mts., Oct. 18 (KS *et al.*). Three Red-naped Sapsuckers were at Sevilleta N.W.R. Oct. 12 (RT), and single Williamson's Sapsuckers were unusual in the lowlands at Bosque Refuge

Nov. 17 (RT) and Rattlesnake Springs in late September (ML, SW). Southerly were a Downy Woodpecker in the Manzano Mts. Oct. 7 (CS) and three at Percha Dam Nov. 27 (DM). A pair of Three-toed Woodpeckers was in the Zuni Mts. Aug. 12 (DC). Single westerly Yellow-shafted (N.) Flickers were at Zuni Oct. 14 (DC) and at Bosque Refuge (RT) and Durling's Farm, Dona Ana (BZ), Nov. 4–17.

Empidonax flycatchers banded in Albuquerque included six Willows Aug. 26–Sept. 17, the first **Least Flycatcher** for the station Aug. 13, five Hammond's Sept. 9–17, 31 Dusksies Aug. 19–Sept. 19, and three Grays Aug. 19–Sept. 10 (CH *et al.*). Late was Dusky/Hammond's at Bandelier Oct. 8 (CR), while a possible Greater Pewee was reported at El Morro Nat'l Monument Sept. 7 (D. Sandee). Unusual at L.V.N.W.R. were a Black Phoebe and two E. Phoebes Sept. 12–16 (CR). A Vermilion Flycatcher at Albuquerque Sept. 18 (TH) was a straggler. Notable were a W. Kingbird over 9000 ft in the San Juan Mts. Aug. 17 (JH) and a late one at Zuni Oct. 8 (DC). High counts of E. Kingbirds were of 30+ Aug. 3 (DC) and 18 Aug. 11 (CR) at Maxwell N.W.R.; a vagrant was at Mangas Springs Sept. 4 (ph. RF). Lingering N. Rough-winged Swallows were one at Española Sept. 23 (PI *et al.*) and five at Bosque Refuge Oct. 5 (PS, RT). The season's high for Bank Swallows was of 100+ at L.V.N.W.R. Aug. 10 (CR). At Carlsbad Caverns, about 3000 Cave Swallows were present in early August, 1500 Oct. 25, and 15 Nov. 9 (SW).

Corvids staged a massive invasion statewide, with Blue and Steller's jays most conspicuous. Westerly Blue Jays were up to five at Los Alamos Oct. 3 and later (T. Marr *et al.*, ph.) and Santa Fe Oct. 18–Nov. 30 (L. Herrmann *et al.*), plus one to two at Cedar Crest, Albuquerque, Belen, Manzano Mts., Socorro, and Alamogordo Sept. 28–Oct. 23 (v.o.). To the east, the species was "more frequent" in Clayton (WC) and "obvious" in Carlsbad (SW), plus nine were at Bitter Lake Oct. 13 (PJ) Submontane Steller's Jays included generally small numbers in the plains east of Las Vegas, the Rio Grande Valley s. to Percha Dam, the Gila-Mangas Springs area, and the vicinity of Rattlesnake Springs (v.o.)—plus even one near Columbus Nov. 3 (PJ)! Birds were also reported in such piedmont localities as Española, Grants, Pleasanton, and Silver City. The earliest dispersers were in the Las Vegas area in mid-late September, followed by Santa Fe and Socorro in early October and elsewhere by early November. Out-of-range Scrub Jays were also conspicuous beginning in September, being numerous in the Albuquerque and Socorro areas and moderately so in T/C, Las Cruces, and elsewhere in the southern lowlands Southward-dispersing Black-billed Magpies were two near San Felipe (JH) and six near Bernalillo (JM) Sept. 21–30. Notable numbers of Am. Crows included 500 at Wagon Mound Sept. 27 (RD, JH), a roost of an estimated 10,000 in Albuquerque Oct. 22 (BW), and at least 5000 south of Bosque Refuge Nov. 10–12 (SOW).

VERDIN TO WARBLERS — Northerly was a Verdin near Socorro Aug. 11 (JH). Mountain Chickadees appeared in the lowlands at Zuni, Albuquerque, Bosque Refuge, and Rattlesnake Springs in small to moderate numbers (v.o.). A Red-breasted Nuthatch was in Albuquerque Aug. 20 (BO), with a few other submontane birds at Boone's Draw, Percha Dam, Durling's Farm, and the Rattlesnake Springs area beginning in mid-September (v.o.). A locally-first Sedge Wren was at Isleta Sept. 17 (GP, *fide* HS). Migrant Am. Dippers were one near Folsom Sept. 27 (JH) and two at Zuni Nov. 18 (DC). Golden-crowned Kinglets were conspicuous in the Sandia Mts. in late October and early November (PS), while unusual were two along the San Francisco R. near Pleasanton Nov. 22 (RD, JH).

Westerly were 16 E. Bluebirds at Percha Dam Nov. 27 (DM). Early were one to two Townsend's Solitaires at Zuni Aug. 16 (DC) and Pleasanton Aug. 29 (JH); also, one to two were at Bitter Lake (DC), Bell Lake, and near Caprock (PJ) Sept. 23–Oct. 13. Very rare in New Mexico, a **Wood Thrush** was in

the Black Range at Gallinas Campground Sept. 30 (ph. M. Resch); late was a Swainson's Thrush at Corrales Oct. 9 (BO). Two hundred Am. Robins were at Carlsbad Oct. 12 (SW), while a vagrant **Varied Thrush** was in Las Cruces Nov. 11–15 (L. Schulte). Westerly were at least three Gray Catbirds at Percha Dam Sept. 27 (JB, TH) and a Brown Thrasher at Bosque Refuge Oct. 2 (JB et al.). Early was a probable Sprague's Pipit at Bosque Refuge Sept. 21 (PB, RT). An early Cedar Waxwing was at Zuni Aug. 11 (DC), while northerly was a Phainopepla at Socorro Nov. 11–20 (JS). Two N. Shrikes were near Pilar Nov. 5 (CR).

Notable vireos at Rattlesnake Springs were a **White-eyed Vireo** Aug. 15 (PJ), a late plumbeous Solitary Vireo Oct. 28 (SW), and a Red-eyed Vireo Sept. 24 (ML). Single Lucy's Warblers were near Socorro Aug. 11 (JH) and at Bosque Refuge Aug. 25 (PJ). A bird thought to be a Swainson's Warbler at Oasis St. Park, Roosevelt, Sept. 14 (PJ, JS) furnished only the 2nd report for New Mexico, where the species is unverified. Other rarer warblers included a Tennessee Warbler near Las Cruces Sept. 24 (CS); Chestnut-sided Warbler at L.V.N.W.R. Aug. 31 (PS); three (!) **Black-throated Green Warblers** at Aguirre Springs Sept. 29 (CS); two Black-and-white Warblers in Albuquerque Sept. 24 (CH et al.); **Prothonotary Warbler** near Zuni Oct. 21 (DC); **Worm-eating Warbler** at L.V.N.W.R. Sept. 12 (CR); **Ovenbird** at Corrales Oct. 9 (BO, TR); a very late **Kentucky Warbler** at Zuni Nov. 24 (ph. S. Ingraham); and six Am. Redstarts (v.o.). Late warblers included two Olive Warblers in Sheridan Canyon in the Mogollon Mts. Nov. 23 (JH), six Orange-crowns at Durling's Farm Nov. 2 (BZ), and an Orange-crowned and two Black-throated Grays at Percha Dam Nov. 22 and a Yellow there Nov. 2 (DM). Easterly was a Hermit Warbler in the Manzano Mts. Aug. 1 (BE, TM), while northerly were single Painted Redstarts at Bandelier Oct. 8 (CR) and Water Canyon Sept. 7 (JB, B. Halstead).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES — Somewhat late was a Hepatic Tanager at Bandelier Oct. 8 (CR). At least two N. Cardinals were at Rattlesnake Springs in the period (SW). Northerly were single Pyrrhuloxias near Socorro (BO, TR) and at Bosque Refuge (RT, SOW), plus three at Redrock (PJ) Nov. 3–17. Single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were at Bosque Refuge Sept. 8 (RT) and at Silver City on the unusually late date of Nov. 29 (RF, HW). Westerly Painted Buntings were singles at Albuquerque Aug. 26–27 (CH et al., banded) and Mangas Springs Sept. 2 (RF). Also west of the usual range were a Dickcissel in Albuquerque Sept. 2 (CH, banded) and one at Bosque Refuge Sept. 24 (DC).

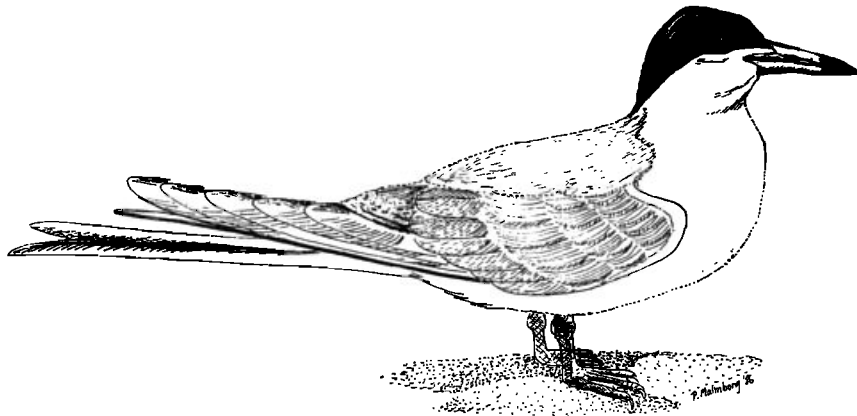
Late were one to two Cassin's Sparrows at Carlsbad Caverns Oct. 15 (CR et al.); one was also at Owen's Farm Sept. 22 (BZ). Clay-colored Sparrows were numerous in s. *Dona Ana*, with 30 at Owen's Farm Sept. 12 (BZ). Forty-two Brewer's Sparrows were banded in Albuquerque Aug. 6–Sept. 10 (CH et al.). Summering Grasshopper Sparrows were numerous in the Clayton area (WC); other reports were of three at Maxwell N.W.R. Aug. 11 and one at L.V.N.W.R. Sept. 16 (CR). Easterly

was a grayish Fox Sparrow (presumably *schistacea*) at Dripping Springs Oct. 7 (EW et al.). A Swamp Sparrow was at L.V.N.W.R. Nov. 4 (CR) and a Golden-crowned Sparrow was at Bosque Refuge Nov. 4 (RT). Early were White-crowned Sparrows at Bosque Refuge Aug. 26 (PJ, JS). Single Harris' Sparrows were at L.V.N.W.R. Nov. 18 (CR), Redrock Nov. 24 (TH), and Las Cruces Oct. 18 (T. Lawton) and in November (CS, banded). A **White-winged** (Dark-eyed) **Junco** was reported at Cedar Crest Nov. 3–5 (PS). Only three McCown's and seven Chestnut-collared longspurs were counted near Los Lunas Nov. 10 (BO), considerably fewer than in recent years.

Eastern Meadowlarks were again in Embudito Canyon in the Sandia Mts. with three singing there Oct. 15 (HS). Up to 10 Yellow-headed Blackbirds were near Zuni through Nov. 31 (DC), while as many as 25 Com. Grackles were in Socorro beginning in late October (PJ, JS). Single Great-tailed Grackles were at Taos Nov. 5 (CR) and Santa Fe Nov. 18 (JH), and 28 were at Mangas Springs Nov. 25 (RF); the last at Zuni were 20 on Nov. 4 (DC).

Up to 24 Rosy Finches (mostly Brown-capped) were on Sandia Crest Nov. 29 (PS), while unusual was a Red Crossbill in Albuquerque Sept. 17 (W. Howe). Cassin's Finches appeared in Albuquerque in late September (F. & R. Slown), and two were in Socorro Nov. 12 (JS). Pine Siskins were widespread at lower elevations, including over 200 at L.V.N.W.R. (CR), 42 at Rattlesnake Springs (CR et al.), several near Caprock and Bell Lake (PJ), 53 at Bosque Refuge (RT), and about 10 at San Simon Cienega (RD) Sept. 24–Nov. 4. Nestling Lesser Goldfinches were at L.V.N.W.R. Aug 20 (CR) and Mangas Springs Sept. 17 (RF); a bird near Pilar Nov. 5 was late (CR). Three **Lawrence's Goldfinches**, rare in the state, were at San Simon Cienega Oct. 25–31 (RD), while early were Am. Goldfinches at L.V.N.W.R. (CR) and at Bosque Refuge (DC) Aug. 19–20. Evening Grosbeaks were widespread in and near montane areas, including commonly at Zuni in November (DC) and in moderate numbers in Santa Fe (JH et al.); other records included a very early bird at Mangas Springs Sept. 6 (RF), plus up to eight at Sevilleta N.W.R. (PB, RT), Socorro (JS), Bosque Refuge (SOW), Organ Mts. (KS et al.), and Rattlesnake Springs (CR et al.) Oct. 14–Nov. 29.

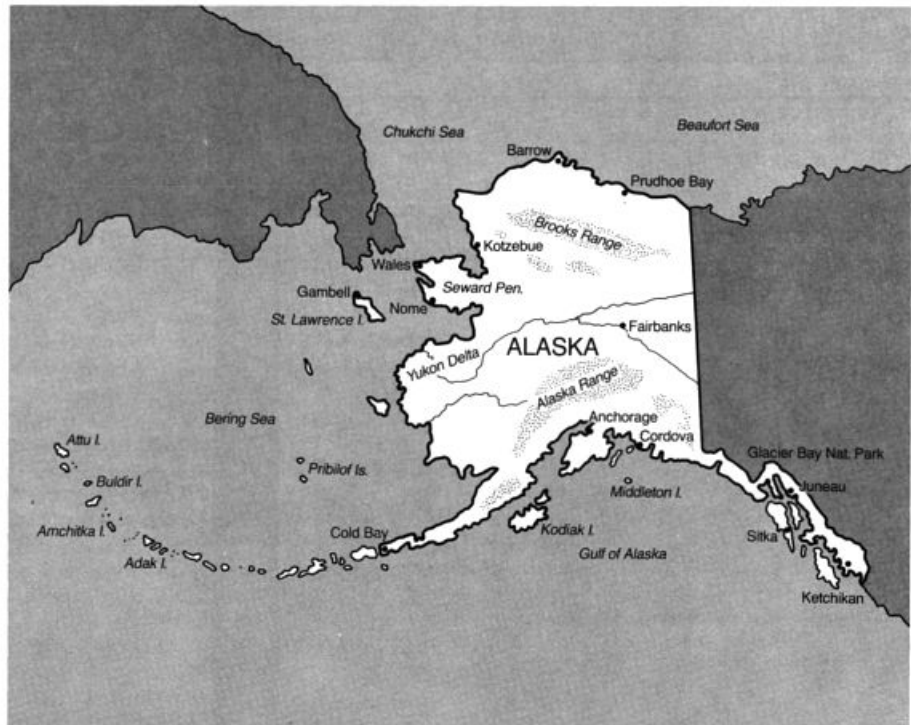
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Pat L. Meinberg

ALASKA REGION

T. G. Tobish, Jr. and
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Autumn 1989 in Alaska was dominated by widespread, unsettled, stormy and mild weather early in the period. This trend was experienced Regionwide and it protracted freeze-up. Mild weather was abruptly displaced by a Siberian high pressure system that ushered in freeze-up and subzero temperatures across the state in late October. Passerines departed perhaps only slightly earlier than average, but there were widespread examples of late lingering waterbirds, notably on the North Slope and in Southcoastal Alaska. An onslaught of low-pressure systems battered the Bering Sea, North Pacific, and Gulf of Alaska coasts periodically throughout the season. These storms were interrupted only at mid-season and again late in the season by strong Siberian highs. This weather pattern did little to produce significant migrant bird concentrations. But these storms may have contributed to the appearances of notable extralimital individuals both from the east and from the west. Birders detected a small push of a few interior "resident" species into the Southeast subregion this fall, a phenomenon that occurs very rarely. Two new species were added to the official Alaska list, which now totals 425 species according to Daniel Gibson's January 1990 checklist. A new book by S.R. Johnson and D.R. Herter, *The Birds of the Beaufort Sea*, published in summer 1989, provides a wealth of dates, locality and status reports, and distribution information on North Slope birds that will prove helpful in our reports.

ABBREVIATIONS — All photographs (ph.), specimens (*), and written descriptions (†) referenced here are on file at University of Alaska Museum. All capitalized names for sections of the state (Interior, S.E., Southcoastal, etc.) refer to official biogeographical subregions.

LOONS TO HERONS — Providing new late dates for the e. Alaska section of the Beaufort Sea were two Red-throated Loons Oct. 1 and a single Pacific Loon Oct. 2 at Prudhoe Bay (EB). Most loons depart Beaufort Sea areas east of Barrow by the 3rd week of September. For the first time in years, Pied-

billed Grebes went unrecorded from the Region. Western Grebes entering Alaska waters via the Stikine R. peaked at 335 birds Oct. 21, slightly above average fall numbers (PJV).

As last fall, there were 4 reports of Short-tailed Albatross, all from Aleutian waters. Single immatures were identified between Shemya and Buldir islands Aug. 3 (ADB, GS) and northwest of Amak I. Aug. 10 (MH, ph.), while an adult cruised through Kiska Pass Aug. 30 (KB, JW). Up to 12 Mottled Petrels, apparently storm-driven, were carefully identified off St. Paul I. Aug. 10 (†DB). This *Pterodroma* is distinctly rare north of the Aleutians. Buller's Shearwaters made a fine showing this fall in September in Gulf of Alaska waters where most of Alaska's records occur. Observers on Middleton I. picked out two Sept. 23 and three the next day amidst the swirls of Short-tailed Shearwaters off that island's north shore (RLS, MEI). Farther to the southwest, shipboard observers counted at least three birds at the Continental Shelf edge east of Kodiak's offshore Ugak I. Sept. 7 (RAM, JBA). Although Buller's is a rare annual visitant, most frequent in fall, there is still no photograph or specimen from Alaskan waters. Anchorage's first (and Upper Cook Inlet's 2nd) Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel appeared inland along the Seward Hwy. Oct. 3 (VS). Osborne (Condor 87:432-434) summarized other extralimital "inland" Alaska records for this storm-petrel; this was the latest such report by 11 days. The normal fall dispersal of Great Blue Herons placed two birds on the east side of Kodiak I. Oct. 18 (TW) & 31 (KP), and another wandered into open-water springs in Anchorage, where casual, Nov. 23 (fide RLS) and remained into December.

WATERFOWL TO COOTS — Annual fall waterfowl surveys for the Izembek Lagoon staging areas near Cold Bay produced average numbers of Emperor Goose (peak 5594 Sept. 29), Brant (peak 151,939 Oct. 4), and Canada Goose (peak 40,549 Oct. 25) (CPD). Good details were received on a Garganey from St. Paul Aug. 28-Sept. 1 (†DB, KT) where the species is casual. A near-alternate-plumaged drake Cinnamon Teal on the Stikine R. mouth flats Oct. 7 (RW) was the Region's first in fall. The season's only Tufted Duck reports were of an exceptionally early single male Sept. 9 at Naknek, where

casual (DAD, TM) and up to 10 at Amchitka I Oct 25–Nov 1 (RLS). A brood of seven Lesser Scaup was reared on Juneau's Mendenhall Wetlands in August and September; the very few nest records of this form from S.E. Alaska are all from the subregion's north end near Glacier Bay. The Izembek Lagoon area peak Steller's Eider count of 31,174 (Oct. 25) represented another in a steady local decline of autumn totals that began after the early 1980s counts of near 90,000 birds. An imm. ♂ Steller's Eider at Petersburg's Wrangell Narrows Aug. 7–21 (PJW) provided the earliest record ever in fall and a first August record for the S.E. region, where the species is very rare in winter.

Remarkable was the ad. **Steller's Sea-Eagle** discovered along remote Taku Inlet at the terminus of Taku Glacier south of Juneau Sept. 25 (RTW, RLS, ph., MEI *et al.*). This individual associated with resident Bald Eagles and was last observed Oct. 28 when freeze-up caused that valley's eagles to disperse to milder tidewater areas. Two fishery biologists reported an ad. Steller's Sea-Eagle from this general area on June 8, 1987, but they provided no specific details and a notice to local birders produced no additional sightings at that time. This e. Palearctic eagle is casual in Alaska and all previous records were from Kodiak I., St. Paul I., and the Aleutians; winter reports of an adult Steller's Sea-Eagle from the w. end of the Alaska Pen. are unsubstantiated. Single Am. Coots were reported at traditional locales in S.E. Alaska where 13 at Mitkof Island's Blind Slough Nov. 5 (PJW) made the peak. One at Homer's Beluga L. Oct. 15–21 (GCW) furnished the only report beyond the Southeast.

SHOREBIRDS — Palearctic shorebirds were well represented this fall, although we received far more reports than substantiating details. Observers must include field descriptions of these forms, especially with fall observations, since many Asiatic species are irregular and our knowledge of autumn status is incomplete. Four Mongolian Plovers were on the beach at Gambell Aug. 31 (DWS, MEI) for the season's only report and a first local fall record. Storm damage to Anchorage's Campbell L. dam provided optimum shorebird habitat and produced several notable and late local records. Five Greater Yellowlegs there Oct. 21 (RLS, TGT) tied the previous latest Anchorage record, while a single Lesser Yellowlegs on the mudflats Oct. 8 (RLS, TGT) was the Cook Inlet basin's latest and Anchorage's latest by 12 days. One Wood Sandpiper appeared at Buldir I. Aug. 17 (GVB, HD) and up to four were at St. Paul I. Aug. 21–30 (DB). A single Bar-tailed Godwit on Juneau's mudflats Aug. 12–13 (MWS, MEI) and at least two at Anchorage Aug. 20–24 (TGT) furnished the only reports away from traditional N. Gulf coast staging sites; this godwit is casual in S.E. Alaska. A juv. Marbled Godwit along Juneau's Mendenhall R. Aug. 16–17 (MWS, MEI) was a first in fall for S.E. Alaska, where the species is a rare spring migrant. Walsh's count of 883 Surfbirds at Scow Bay, Mitkof I., Sept. 17 (PJW) was noteworthy as the Southeast's highest single total for any season.

A single Red Knot Sept. 4 and two Sept. 17 (PJW) on Mitkof I were of interest, as there are very few fall reports and only one other from that locale. Single juv. Little Stints were described from St. Paul Aug. 25–27 (†DB, KT *et al.*) and at Buldir I. Aug. 28 (GVB, HD). This stint is probably annual in fall for the southerly Bering Sea islands. Details were provided for at least one Long-toed Stint at St. Paul Aug. 21 and Aug. 27–30 (†RAS, DB), the season's only report. Single Stilt Sandpipers at Kodiak Aug. 16 (JBA) & 31 (RAM) and a flock of 14 Aug. 24 on Juneau's Mendenhall Wetlands (RJG) appeared to be about average for Gulf of Alaska fall reports. The good showing of shorebirds at St. Paul in mid-August produced a **Spoonbill Sandpiper** Aug. 20 (†RAS, MR), for Alaska's 2nd record in fall (both from August) and 4th total. Buldir's first (and Alaska's 4th) **Broad-billed Sandpiper** was located Aug. 28 (GVB, HD, ph.). All of the Region's records have fallen within a 3-week window between the 2nd half of August and

early September

The Anchorage area finally got its first Ruff, one that remained on the drawdown Campbell L. Sept. 6–13 (AW, ph., †RLS *et al.*). Ruff is rare, perhaps annual, in fall in S C. Alaska; there is one other Cook Inlet record. Another Ruff was at Prudhoe Bay, where casual in fall, Aug. 13–15 (†KK, TS, RF). The 15+ Long-billed Dowitchers on Anchorage's Campbell L. Oct. 8 (TGT, RLS) provided the latest Upper Cook Inlet record by 13 days. The juv. Wilson's Phalarope found along Blind Slough, Mitkof I., Aug. 12–18 (PJW) was the Region's first in fall. Since the peak staging and southbound movement of North Slope Red-necked Phalaropes occurs between early August and early September, a single on fresh water at Prudhoe Bay Sept. 26 was noteworthy.

GULLS TO SWIFTS — The season's only Com. Black-headed Gull report came from Adak Nov. 11–19 (SC, JPF, GVB). Two adult Ring-billed Gulls on Mitkof I. Sept. 1 and Oct. 3–8 (PJW) furnished the only report; this gull is rare and annual in the Southeast and can be expected in any season, but especially in fall. California Gulls peaked at traditional S.E. sites at a very low eight on Oct. 8 at Petersburg (PJW). Two first-winter California Gulls at the Seward dump Oct. 1 (DWS, TGT, MEI) provided a first local report, and were surprising given that the lure of the Anchorage dump has stopped attracting and concentrating fall gulls. Up to three Glaucous Gulls lingered on remaining open water at the confluence of the Tanana and Delta rivers, south of Fairbanks, to the very late date of Nov. 12 (MB). Both Glaucous and occasionally Glaucous-winged gulls wander up the Tanana R. in fall but are very rarely present past freeze-up. The pioneering (and undoubtedly breeding) e. Prince William Sound Caspian Tern population peaked at 80, including 10 young, in the Cordova area's Orca Inlet in early September (MEI). The Region's previous high count reached 33 birds in August 1987. Elsewhere a single Caspian Tern was noted in Sitka Sound Aug. 6 (AS).

The season's only Band-tailed Pigeon report came from Mitkof I., where two were noted Sept. 9 (PJW). Mourning Doves were well represented with up to three birds on Mitkof I. Sept. 16 & 29 and Oct. 18 (PJW) and singles at Juneau Oct. 13 (RHA), Esther I. in n.w. Prince William Sound Aug. 6 (*fide* MEI), and Anchorage, where casual, Sept. 29 (MEI). Single Snowy Owls were reported in the Anchorage area Oct. 29 and Nov. 5 (*fide* TGT), but none were reported elsewhere to indicate that a coastal "flight" was on. With 15 reports of at least 12 individuals between Aug. 13 and Nov. 21 (PJW), N. Pygmy-Owl made a strong showing on Mitkof I., where the species bred in summer 1988 (see AB 42:475). Two N. Pygmy-Owls were also noted on Admiralty I. in November (DM, DB). Juneau area Barred Owl reports consisted of five individuals between Aug. 21 (*fide* RHA) and Sept. 26 (RJG, DM). Another Barred Owl was heard calling Aug. 14 (GC) at the s. end of the S.E. mainland's Holkham Bay (s.e. of Juneau), a new location for that species. Fascinating was the report of a "swarm" of at least 15 N. Saw-whet Owls at the brush/tideflat edge of w. Sergief I. Oct. 9–11 (RW). Dispersing immatures likely concentrate on this island when fall high tides strand microtine rodents. A **Fork-tailed Swift** over *Middleton I.* Sept. 24 (†RLS, MEI), after days of easterly flow, was a long way from the closest other sites (in Southwest Alaska) where this casual visitor has occurred. There are now 8 Alaska records, split between spring and fall.

HUMMINGBIRDS TO CHICKADEES — Anna's Hummingbird reports came from the Juneau area, where an immature was found Aug. 16–22 (GVV) and an ad. male was jettied to San Francisco Nov. 9 after showing up Oct. 20 (*fide* MEI). Another immature was seen Aug. 28 in the Anchorage area (REF), where this fall visitor may well be annual; this Upper Cook Inlet region is at the northern extreme of the species' fall dispersal area.

Alaska's first **Costa's Hummingbird**, which had appeared at an Anchorage feeder in late July (see summer report), was ceremoniously captured by U.S.F.W.S. personnel Oct. 17 and flown to Seattle, where it was released. It didn't matter that Seattle was only halfway to the species' normal fall/winter range in arid chaparral of Baja and the s.w. deserts. The scientific merit of such an endeavor is questionable, but this individual would have quickly succumbed (and the specimen not retrieved) with the late October subzero temperatures. The emotion that drives such "rescues" of extralimital birds must be tempered by the potential scientific gains from specimens or even from photos. In the past 10+ years at least three Anna's Hummingbirds, a Steller's Eider(!), and a Cattle Egret have been shipped south.

Northern Flickers were quite late at Homer, where two remained to Nov. 27 (GCW), and at Anchorage, where a single that was still present at the period's close was the latest for Upper Cook Inlet (TGT). An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Gambell Aug. 31 (DWS, MEI) was St. Lawrence Island's first and far from its taiga breeding range. The imm. Violet-green Swallow that took advantage of the mild fall near Petersburg Oct. 10-11 (PJW) provided the latest record for Alaska by 8 days. The only extralimital Barn Swallow observation came from Anchorage, where two immatures were seen Aug. 20 (TGT), for a first Upper Cook Inlet fall report.

Three Gray Jay reports from Southeast Alaska included singles at Skagway Oct. 16 (PWS et al.) and along Taku Inlet Oct. 22 (CK, PK), and up to three at Gustavus Nov. 3 (BBP) through the period. Although this form is resident in portions of the n. Coast Range, there are very few S.E. tidewater area reports. Eleven Am. Crows were still present at Alaska's only known site of occurrence, at Hyder, Oct. 21 (PWS et al.). It is unknown whether crows from this outpost in the extreme southeast part of the Panhandle retreat into British Columbia in winter. Interior and montane resident chickadees wandered out of British Columbia into S.E. Alaska this fall. **Mountain Chickadees** made their best showing ever, with singles at Mitkof I. Sept. 30 and Oct. 8 (PJW), three found at Taku Inlet Oct. 18 (PWS, GFW, MP, HP), and observations in the Juneau area, where at least three could be found from Nov. 3 through the period (RBW, RHA, DWS, ph.). There had previously been 6 Alaska reports, all from the Southeast. Boreal Chickadees made a similarly unprecedented showing in S.E. Alaska; one and two were seen on Mitkof I. Sept. 15 and Oct. 8 (PJW), two were reported from Haines Oct. 20 (PWS, GFW, HP, MP), and a single remained in Juneau Oct. 23 through the period (MEI). There was apparently one prior Southeast report from winter.

WRENS TO WOOD WARBLERS — The Kodiak Winter Wren population showed no sign of rebound after last winter's deep freeze and related estimated 90% mortality. RAM assessed the summer production and fall numbers as still "greatly reduced." Up to five Gray-cheeked Thrushes per day were counted at Gambell Aug. 30-Sept. 2 (DWS, MEI). These were likely Chukotsk Pen. breeders moving easterly, and crossing paths with Alaska-breeding Bluethroats and N. Wheatears that were moving west to N. Africa winter grounds. Quite surprising was the **Dusky Thrush** at Petersburg Nov. 12-17 (†PJW ph.). The Region's only previous fall report of this casual spring migrant was a sight record of nominate *T. n. naumanni* from Adak (see AB 37:214); there are only 2 reports away from the w. Aleutians. Family groups of local breeding White Wagtails were still present at Gambell Aug. 30-Sept. 2 when a daily high reached 35+ Aug. 31 (DWS, MEI). This total breaks the Region's previous one-day maximum of 18, also from Gambell village. The Region's only extralimital report of Eur. Starling was of two in an Anchorage

neighborhood Oct. 28 (TGT). Very little is known about the intra-state movements of this species.

A Warbling Vireo at isolated Middleton I. Sept. 27 (RLS, MEI) was that island's 2nd, S.C. Alaska's 3rd, and nearly 700 km west of its nearest breeding area on the n. mainland of S.E. Alaska. Quite out of place feeding on the tundra at Gambell Aug. 31 was a Yellow Warbler (DWS, MEI). Kessel's (1989, *Birds of the Seward Peninsula*) latest Seward Pen. record was one near Nome Aug. 27; one found dead Oct. 9 at Wainwright is W. Alaska's latest. The Kodiak Archipelago's first confirmed Townsend's Warbler, a species that breeds as close as the Kenai Pen., came from downtown Kodiak Aug. 17-18 (JBA, MM). Providing Alaska's 5th record, all of which are from October, was a **Palm Warbler** on the flats at Taku Inlet southeast of Juneau Oct. 18 (PWS, GFW, HP, MP). Southcoastal's first Am. Redstart, which appeared at Middleton Island Sept. 27 (RLS, MEI), was also the Region's latest in fall. A lingering Wilson's Warbler at Petersburg Nov. 4 (PJW) was one day shy of tying the Region's latest.

GROSBEAKS TO FINCHES — The bird of the season was certainly the ♂ **Blue Grosbeak** that associated with a warbler flock in beachfront shrubs at Petersburg Aug. 6-7 (PJW, MEI, *). In w. North America this species breeds north to c. North Dakota and has wandered north to e. Washington and s. Saskatchewan; we know of no records in w. Canada or north of Oregon along the Pacific Coast. A school teacher from the Chukchi Sea coast village of Wainwright sent the Univ. of Alaska Museum details and photos of an Indigo Bunting that had been found dead in "early" August there (EL, *fide* DDG ph.). It is not too surprising that Alaska's first **Indigo Bunting** comes from Wainwright village, since the n.w. mainland coast claims numerous reports of extralimital "eastern" species from both spring and fall. This species is a casual migrant in s. Alberta and s. British Columbia. There had been a previous unsubstantiated August report from the Anchorage area.

While a single *zaboria*-type Fox Sparrow at Prudhoe Bay Sept. 30 (EB) was in an area where this Interior Alaska breeder wanders at least irregularly in fall, sightings of this form in Southcoastal Alaska bear discussion. Examples of *zaboria* (usually singles) are being found annually in fall in the Upper Cook Inlet area, where this year one was at Anchorage Sept. 9 (TGT). Since *zaboria* types are also casual in fall in the Southeast and elsewhere in Southcoastal (Middleton and Kodiak islands), it is apparent that small numbers of this interior race wander southward along the Pacific coast in fall. Birds described as *zaboria* have also wintered casually at Kodiak. These are only presumptive identifications as *zaboria*, since there is yet no specimen from these areas. An imm. **Swamp Sparrow** was well-described at Blind Slough, Mitkof I., Sept. 23-Nov. 25 (†PJW). This represents Alaska's 4th record, and the 2nd (and latest in fall) from the Southeast. The Region's only White-throated Sparrow report came from a Juneau feeder Nov. 25 (RBW). Two Bramblings at Amchitka I. Oct. 31 (RLS) became the latest for the Aleutians by 15 days, while a single described from Anchorage Oct. 24 (WR) furnished the only report away from the Aleutians.

A moderate November incursion of Pine Grosbeaks into the Cook Inlet Basin (high numbers around Anchorage) and lowland e. Kenai Pen. (Seward area) was noted. Which race was involved, either the northerly *leucura* or coastal *flammula*, had not been documented by the period's end. There are specimens of intergrades of *flammula* with the boreal forest race *leucura* in the Upper Cook Inlet area. White-winged Crossbills were widespread but numbers declined essentially from all subregions after early August. Red Crossbills were present in very small numbers only locally in the Southeast (PJW) and at Kodiak (RAM). In the Interior and locally in Southcoastal Alaska, Com. Redpoll numbers grew steadily through the period to what most observers considered slightly above average fall totals (PDM, TGT, REF). Redpolls were largely absent from the Southeast. Pine Siskins were

also locally common in S.C. and S.E. Alaska, especially later in the period (RAM, MEI).

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BRITISH COLUMBIA AND YUKON REGION

Wayne C. Weber and
Richard J. Cannings

We welcome readers to the first Regional Report for British Columbia and the Yukon. British Columbia was previously part of three different regions; we hope the new boundaries will encourage more comprehensive coverage of this area. Chris Siddle will be editing most future reports, undoubtedly providing the same thorough coverage that he did as the editor of the former North-western Canada Region. We thank Gary Davidson for help in compiling and editing records for this report.

Readers should note that records from Point Roberts, Washington, are included in this report. Point Roberts has been included in the Vancouver bird checklist for decades, and about 90% of bird observations there are made by British Columbians. We have also included a few important records from May–July 1989 that were submitted late.

The western cordillera of Canada is a region of great contrasts, and autumn weather often carries these contrasts to the extreme. This autumn was no different, although in August it was the far north that basked under subtropical skies—the northern Yukon reported mean temperatures 9°F above normal, and all stations in that territory recorded daily highs above 85°F. British Columbians had a very wet August, especially in the “dry” Interior, and then recorded one of the warmest, driest Septembers ever. The balmy weather in northern British Columbia and the Yukon ended abruptly in late September, but the Arctic cold front that usually blankets that area most of the fall and winter oscillated back and forth, producing temperatures from –39° to +48° in the north. Overall, it was a rather mild November in the south, allowing a few half-hardy migrants to linger.

Pelagic birds were well covered this fall. Mike Force carried out a series of surveys August 15–24 from the vessel *C.S.S. Parizeau*, engaged in oceanographic work off the west coast of Vancouver Island. The area surveyed (all of it in Canadian waters) extended from about 34 miles southwest of Estevan Point to 57 miles west of Cape Alava, Washington, and included observations both on and beyond the continental shelf. Although surveys were hampered by dense fog August 20–22, some impressive numbers of seabirds were recorded. The only pelagic birding trip this fall, off Ucluelet October 7, was also led by Mike Force, and included Bruce Whittington, Bill Lamond, and Dancy Tyson.

ABBREVIATIONS—Q.C.I. = Queen Charlotte Islands; Reifel = George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Delta (s. of Vancouver); V.I. = Vancouver Island; Van. = Vancouver; Vic. = Victoria; YT = Yukon Territory. All records are from British Columbia unless otherwise noted.



Map illustration/Kenn Kaufman

LOONS TO IBISES—A Red-throated Loon Sept. 15 at Indianpoint L. (JB, ph.), near Barkerville, was noteworthy. Inland records of Pacific Loon in central and s. British Columbia are somewhat less unusual; they included two Oct. 15 at Eaglet L. near Prince George (JB, CA, HA) and one there Oct. 25 (JB, ph., CA), one on the Nechako R., Prince George, Oct. 17 (CA), one Oct. 22 at Revelstoke (DP), two in early October at Tranquille, near Kamloops (SR), and one Nov. 13 at Tugulnuit L. near Oliver (RJC). A Yellow-billed Loon was off Masset, Q.C.I., Sept. 23 (MH, CB); one at Eaglet L. Nov. 15–21 (JB et al., ph.) was apparently the only one inland this fall.



Yellow-billed Loon in first-winter plumage at Eaglet Lake, British Columbia, November 18, 1989. Photograph/Jack Bowling.

Three mass kills of waterbirds occurred this fall: a seabird kill near Ucluelet, V.I., resulting from paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP), and 2 separate duck kills on the south coast resulting from aspergillosis, a fungal disease.

The Ucluelet incident claimed at least 124 birds Aug. 30–Sept. 1 (*vide* Gary Kaiser, Canadian Wildlife Service), including 60 California Gulls, 21 Com. Murres, 12 Brandt's Cormorants, and 10 Rhinoceros Auklets. At least 15 species were affected, including Red-throated Loon, Sooty Shearwater, White-winged Scoter, and Tufted Puffin. Lethal levels of paralytic shellfish toxin were measured in Pacific sandlance, a major prey of many fish-eating seabirds, and the toxin was present in Brandt's Cormorants and Com. Murres. This is the first report of a PSP-related bird kill in British Columbia, but similar incidents may have gone unnoticed in the past.

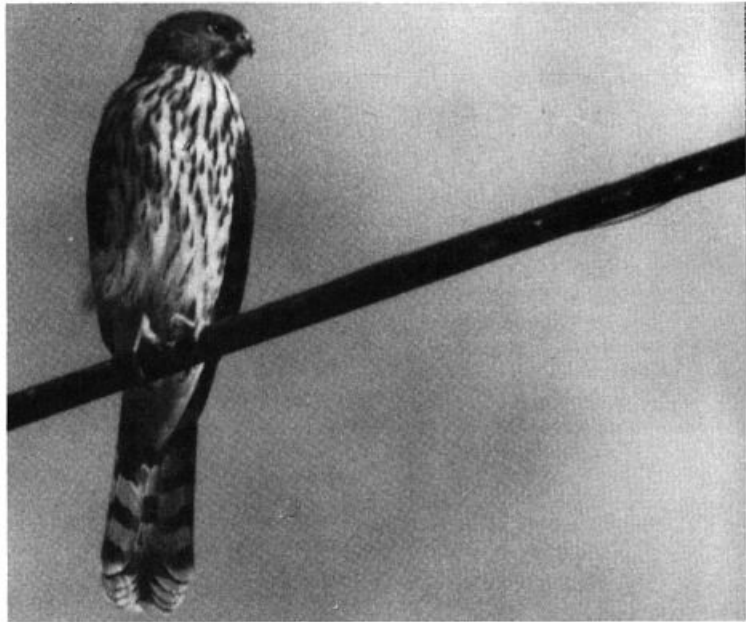
The two aspergillosis kills occurred Sept. 29–Oct. 2 at Hatzic Lake, near Mission, where at least 58 ducks (nearly all Mallards) died (*vide* Rick Hahn, B.C. Ministry of Environment), and Oct. 20 into November at Martindale Road near Vic., where about 170 ducks, all Mallards except for one N. Pintail, were picked up (WCW). Although pesticides were initially suspected in both kills, lab tests confirmed that the cause was aspergillosis, which can result from ducks eating moldy grain. These 2 kills were small, but aspergillosis can cause major losses, as in a December 1984 incident near Vernon that killed more than 1000 Mallards.

A total of 236 Black-footed Albatrosses was noted from the Parizeau Aug. 15–24, with a peak of 57 Aug. 23; the Oct. 7 pelagic trip from Ucluelet tallied 20. Laysan Albatrosses were reported off V.I. by Don Hansen, a commercial fisherman, with two Oct. 13, 10 mi s.e. of Cape Cook, and five Oct. 14, 20 mi s.w. of Estevan Pt. Together with sightings off Washington and Oregon this fall, these records suggest that the species was present closer inshore than usual. Northern Fulmars were abundant, totalling 12,835 on the Parizeau surveys, with over 2600 Aug. 21, 22, & 24; 350 were off Ucluelet Oct. 7. Pink-footed Shearwaters totalled 869 on the Parizeau surveys, with 209 Aug. 17, and 14 were off Ucluelet Oct. 7. Single Flesh-footed Shearwaters were seen from the Parizeau Aug. 19 & 23, and one was off Ucluelet Oct. 7. Thirteen Buller's Shearwaters were seen from the Parizeau Aug. 22–24, and three were off Ucluelet Oct. 7. Sooty Shearwaters totalled 18,683 on the Parizeau surveys (6544 Aug. 21); 205 were off Ucluelet Oct. 7. Short-tailed Shearwaters totalled 88 from the Parizeau (67 Aug. 18), and two were off Ucluelet Oct. 7. In addition, 270 Short-tailed were noted from the Prince Rupert–Skidegate ferry Sept. 13 (PH), and 89 were off Masset Sept. 23 (MH, CB). Inshore records of Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels included one off Cattle Point, Oak Bay, Aug. 2 (RWC, NKD) and three in Johnstone Strait Aug. 19 (C.S.N.H.S.). In more exposed waters, 2326 Fork-tailed were tallied from the Parizeau (1364 Aug. 24), four from the Prince Rupert–Skidegate ferry Sept. 13 (PH), and 130 off Ucluelet Oct. 7. Leach's Storm-Petrels were reported only from the Parizeau, with a total of 48 (28 Aug. 17).

American White Pelicans were noted only at Tranquille, a regular stop, with nine Aug. 14 and four Aug. 19 (SR). Double-crested Cormorants are very rare inland here, so one at Castlegar Oct. 29 (MHo) was noteworthy. The only Great Egret reported was at Mud Bay near Van. Sept. 4–Oct. 13 (DMP, MW, m.ob.). The usual scattering of Cattle Egrets showed up: one at Grand Forks Sept. 24 (DH); one at Horseshoe L., McBride, Oct. 12 (Murray Clark); one at Dome Cr., 70 mi e of Prince George, Oct. 19–26 (*vide* JB); five at Pachena Pt., V.I., Oct. 19 (Allison Pare); one at Kaslo Oct. 21–Nov. 9 (LVD); and one at Davis Bay near Sechelt Nov. 23 (Lorna Huggins). Green-backed Herons were widely reported in the Van., Vic., and Courtenay areas, with one at Brydon Lagoon, Langley,

lingering through December (Mike Darney). Up to three Black-crowned Night-Herons were at Tranquille Aug. 1–Sept. 6 (RRH et al.); at Reifel, the best locality in British Columbia for this species, one Aug. 5 had increased to five by Nov. 21 (JI). A *Plegadis* sp., presumably a White-faced Ibis, was reported at Vic. Oct. 14 (Gordon Houston, Shane Ford), and at nearby Island View Road Oct. 18–19 (KT et al.).

WATERFOWL TO CRANES—Two Greater White-fronted Geese near Kamloops Nov. 18–30 (RRH), were unusual, as was one at Eaglet L. Oct. 15 (JB, CA, HA). The Wrangel I. population of Snow Geese, part of which winters in the Fraser Delta, apparently had a disastrous breeding season, as evidenced by an almost total lack of immatures (*vide* Rick McKelvey). First arrivals were seven at Reifel Sept. 18 (JI), with 8000 nearby at Brunswick Pt. by Oct. 21 (BGS). Snow Goose stragglers appeared in the Kootenay region, e.g., eight at Revelstoke Oct. 13 (DP) and eight at New Denver in late October (*vide* GD). A Brant at the Roberts Bank jetty, near Van., Oct. 1 (MPF) had probably summered. An Am. Black Duck was at Beach Grove, near Van., Sept. 16–Nov. 11 (GA, GAP et al.); the status of this species is problematical (escapée or straggler from the introduced population near Everett, WA?). A N. Pintail on the Yukon R. at Whitehorse, YT, Nov. 11 (Dylan Shortt) was late, as was a Blue-winged Teal at Swan L., Vic., Oct. 9 (Anne Scharfe, Margaret Lidea) and two Cinnamons at Reifel Nov. 21 (JI). The earliest Eur. Wigeon were singles at Beach Grove (DMP) and Mud Bay (BL), both Oct. 1; a high count was of 22 at the Roberts Bank jetty Nov. 25 (MPF). A hybrid Eur. x Am. Wigeon was at Stanley Park, Van., Oct. 29 (†BMK). A Canvasback at Schwatka L., Whitehorse, YT, Nov. 4 (HG) was late, as was a Harlequin Duck on the Yukon R. at Whitehorse Nov. 4 (HG). A summering Oldsquaw was at Mud Bay Aug. 12 (TH), and a count of 750 at Pt. Roberts, WA, Nov. 11 (BL) was high. An Oldsquaw at Eaglet L. Nov. 10–18 (JB et al., ph.) was late and locally rare. A male Hooded Merganser x Common(?) Goldeneye at Blackie Spit, Surrey, Nov. 15 (WCW) may have been the same individual seen there on the White Rock CBC in 1984. Ruddy Ducks are rare in the Yukon, so six Sept. 10 at Swan L. near Whitehorse (HG) were noteworthy.



Juvenile Cooper's Hawk north of the species' main distribution, at Eaglet Lake, British Columbia, August 30, 1989. This bird has a relatively large squarish head, sharply-defined streaks on the chest, unmarked undertail coverts, and a strongly graduated tail, ruling out Northern Goshawk and Sharp-shinned Hawk. Photograph/Nancy Krueger.

Turkey Vultures peaked at Vic. with 110 at Rocky Pt. near Sooke Sept. 30 (BB). At Pt. Roberts, WA, a flock of 55 Sept. 30–Oct. 1 (BL, HM, JM et al.) was by far the highest count ever in the Van. area. Five Ospreys at Squanga L., YT, Sept. 5 (HG, Clive Osborne) were noteworthy. Three single Cooper's Hawks were reported near Prince George, n. of the species' normal range, Aug. 30 and Sept. 11 & 12 (CA, LL). The only s. coastal reports of N. Goshawks were of one Oct. 14 at Jocelyn Hill, Vic. (JS, NM), and one Nov. 5 in Stanley Park, Van. (Dan Freeland). Two **Broad-winged Hawks** at Eaglet L. July 1 (CS) were the first reported for the Prince George area. A Ferruginous Hawk found shot at Ten Mile Pt. near Vic. died Aug. 21 and is now in the Royal B.C. Museum (RWC); there are no previous coastal British Columbia records, but it was almost certainly an escapee. Single Gyrfalcons were reported from Ten Mile Pt. near Vic. Oct. 6 (Ian McTaggart Cowan) and from Saltspring I. Nov. 18 (DFF). At Van., one was seen on Westham I. Oct. 29 and Nov. 5 (DMP, WF) and at nearby Brunswick Pt. Nov. 23 (Cameron Eckert), and probably a different individual along 72nd St., Delta, Nov. 25–29 (PG et al.). Two Prairie Falcons at Revelstoke Aug. 11 (DP) were unusual, and one at Boundary Bay, Delta, Nov. 5 (BL) furnished only the 3rd Van. record.

A count of 14 Blue Grouse and four Spruce Grouse in Manning P.P. Sept. 17 (JL), made while driving roads early in the morning, was noteworthy. Two or more Rock Ptarmigan on Vancouver's Mount Seymour Oct. 29–Nov. 4 (Robin & Sue Owen, m.ob.; ph.) were the first recorded there since 1934, and furnished only the 6th Van. area record; however, the species probably breeds within 20 mi to the north. A **White-tailed Ptarmigan** on Mount Seymour Nov. 2 (†RT, †DTy) was, surprisingly, the first acceptably recorded for Van.; one at about 1600 ft near Revelstoke Oct. 19 (DP) was unusually low. A **Yellow Rail** heard calling at close range in a sedge meadow on the w. side of Boundary L., e. of Fort St. John, BC, June 10 (†WCW, CS) furnished a first provincial record. Although this record might not satisfy a Records Committee (there is none for British Columbia), as the bird was not seen, the "ticking" call of this species is unmistakable. The nearest localities of suspected breeding in Alberta are about 150 mi to the east. A Sora July 7 at Wakefield, near Sechelt (Joanne Dickeson), was a first for the Sunshine Coast. The bird was injured when hit by a lawnmower (!) and subsequently died. Five Sandhill Cranes near Duncan Sept. 7 (DM) were unusual; at Van. the high count was of 25 Oct. 4 near Burns Bog, Delta (GA), and four were still there Nov. 19 (WCW, RRW).

SHOREBIRDS—Lesser Golden-Plovers were well reported on the s. coast, with a peak count of 25 at Beach Grove Sept. 4 (DTy), and two late birds still present at Boundary Bay Nov. 5 (BL). The only Vic. reports were of singles at Jordan River and Esquimalt Lagoon Sept. 16 (KT, JG), both of the *fulva* form. A **Snowy Plover**, only about the 8th for British Columbia, was studied May 13 at the Little Qualicum R. mouth, V.I. (Ed Nygren, ph., NKD). Seven Semipalmated Plovers at Beach Grove Oct. 16 (GAP) were late. American Avocets, always rare in the Region, were reported at Iona I. (two Sept. 22, AS), with two the same date at the much more unusual locality of Storey Beach, near Port Hardy, V.I. (Debbie Howard, Tex Lyon).

Greater Yellowlegs peaked at 175 at Reifel Sept. 10 (JJ); Lesser Yellowlegs were scarcer than usual near Van., with the latest record of two at Blackie Spit Oct. 17 (WCW). There were 11 Van. reports of Solitary Sandpiper this fall, but only three from Vic.; one of the latter, a bird on Saltspring I. Aug. 27 (MPF, MB), was a local first. A Willet was at Blackie Spit Aug. 30 to December (HM, JM, m.ob.), and two were there Sept. 5 (Viveka Ohman). A Wandering Tattler on Keats I. July 30 (George Smith) was only the 2nd for the Sunshine Coast; at Van., where tattlers are rare, up to two were at the Tsawwassen jetty Sept. 3–15 (MT, TH, JL et al.). A Whimbrel remained at Blackie Spit through the end of the period (HM,

JM, m.ob.)—possibly the same individual that wintered there last year. A Whimbrel at Revelstoke May 24 (WD, BD, DP) provided one of very few records in the s. Interior. A **Bar-tailed Godwit** at Boundary Bay Oct. 15–18 (†Lynn Miller, †WCW, †MPF et al.) furnished only the 6th Van. record. A Marbled Godwit at Revelstoke May 24–29 (WD, BD, DP, AC, ph.) was one of only a handful for the s. Interior. One on the coast at Blackie Spit Oct. 1–23 (BL, RTy, DTy, m.ob.) was the only one reported for the fall.

There were 14 Red Knot sightings around Boundary Bay during the fall, the latest being one Oct. 17 (MPF). A **Red Knot** was at Revelstoke May 25 (WD, BD, DP), a very rare bird anywhere in the s. Interior. A Sanderling near Riske Creek Aug. 22 (RJC, AR) was very unusual for that inland locality, as were three at Tranquille Sept. 4 and one there Sept. 16 (RRH). High counts of Semipalmated Sandpipers were of 60 at Iona I. Aug. 1 (RT) and 65 there Aug. 5 (MT, MW, RT). "Stint fever" seems to have cooled down somewhat; for the first time in years there were no reports, questionable or otherwise, of Eurasian stints from the s. coast. Baird's Sandpiper numbers were normal at Van. and Vic., but two at Sandspit, Q.C.I., Sept. 14 (MH, ph.) were considered unusual, and 115 Aug. 26 at Wallender L. near Kamloops (RRH) were noteworthy. Pectoral Sandpiper numbers this fall were 25% of the norm, with a high count of only 30 at Iona I. Sept. 16 (MPF, BL). Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were also scarcer than normal, with extreme Van. dates of Sept. 22 and Oct. 14, and a high of only four at Reifel Oct. 8 (Noreen Fairweather, Genevieve Arnold). None was seen at Vic., but one at Sandspit, Q.C.I., Sept. 14 (MH, ph.) was noteworthy. Eight Dunlin at Tranquille Nov. 13 and one at Prince George Nov. 19 (CA) were rare at those interior localities.

Stilt Sandpipers were widely reported from the Interior, including 15 at Tranquille Aug. 20 (SR), six at Wallender L. near Kamloops Aug. 26 (RRH), and two at Rock L. near Riske Creek Aug. 22 (RJC, AR). One at Eaglet L. Sept. 1 (CA, ph.) was the first for the Prince George area. Peak numbers on the coast were four in the Duncan area and five near Van., with one on the late date of Sept. 17 at Reifel (JI, BL, WCW). The only Buff-breasted Sandpipers this fall were singles at Cowichan Bay Sept. 2 (KT) and just n. of Duncan Sept. 4–13 (KT, BW, J & GA, m.ob.). There were just three Ruff reports: a



Female Ruff (with Killdeer) at Delkatla Wildlife Sanctuary, Masset, British Columbia, September 5, 1989. Photograph/Margo Hearne.

female at Delkatla Slough, Masset, Sept 5–9 (MH, CB, MM, ph.), one at Reifel Sept. 16 (MT), and one at Cowichan Bay Aug. 27–Sept. 29 (DM, DFF, ph., m.ob.). A count of 45 Short-billed Dowitchers at Witty's Lagoon, Vic., Aug. 27 (JG) was high.

A major movement of Red-necked Phalaropes apparently occurred Aug. 16, when "thousands" were reported at Vic. (fide DFF) and a high count of 45 was made at Iona I. (RT) where the species is much scarcer. Also, a concentration of 1000 was reported off the s. end of Quadra I., Aug. 12–15 (Charles Brandt). A total of 1246 Red-necked was seen from the Parizeau Aug. 15–24, with a peak of 389 Aug. 21; an inland record of 200 at Rock L. near Riske Creek, Aug. 22 (RJC, AR) was also noteworthy. Nine Red Phalaropes were seen from the Parizeau, Aug. 19–24, and three were seen from the Prince Rupert–Skidegate ferry Sept. 13 (PH). Surprisingly, neither phalaropes nor jaegers were seen off Ucluelet Oct. 7.

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS — Pomarine Jaegers totalled 218 from the Parizeau, with a peak of 31 on Aug. 24. There were 8 reported Pomarine sightings for Van., ranging from one at the Tsawwassen jetty Sept. 16 (RT, HT) to one at Pt. Roberts, WA, Oct. 12 (GA). This was far above the usual one or two sightings per fall; all but one were from Pt. Roberts. The only Parasitic Jaegers seen from the Parizeau were two Aug. 18. The high count of Parasitics at Van. was of 10 at the Tsawwassen jetty Sept. 16 (RT, HT); one at Pt. Roberts Nov. 11 (BL) was within 6 days of being the latest ever for Van. A Long-tailed Jaeger at Pt. Roberts, WA, Sept. 16 (†Mel Elias) furnished only the 7th acceptable Van. record. The Parizeau surveys logged a total of 23 Long-taileds (12 Aug. 20), much below the high numbers seen offshore in August 1988. Only nine S. Polar Skuas were seen from the Parizeau, with a high of three Aug. 20.

Franklin's Gulls were scarce; the only notable sighting was of one Aug. 2 at Porpoise Bay, Sechelt (TG), where rare. There were 3 Little Gull sightings: one at Jericho Park, Van., Sept. 3 (†RT), one off Dallas Road, Vic., Sept. 6 (RS), and two at Iona I Sept. 17 (†BGS). A **Common Black-headed Gull**, for only the 3rd Van. record, was reported Oct. 6 at the Tsawwassen ferry terminal (†RWC). High counts of Heermann's Gulls were of 71 at Clover Pt., Vic., Oct. 7 (ALM) and 27 at Pt. Roberts, WA, Sept. 24 (BL); one at Courtenay Sept. 19 (Betty Lunam) was unusually far north. A Mew Gull at Tranquille Sept. 7 (SR) was locally rare. Ring-billed Gulls appeared in unprecedented numbers in the Courtenay area, with a high count of 245 Sept. 19 (C.S.N.H.S.). Six California Gulls at Eaglet L. Oct. 25–Nov. 18 (JB, CA *et al.*) were the first for the Prince George area. California Gulls are the most abundant fall birds off V.I. as confirmed by a tally of 53,638 on the Parizeau surveys, with 19,604 Aug. 24 alone. An estimate of 200 at the Delta Dump Sept. 30 (MPF) was a high number for Van. Herring Gulls are very rare on the s. coast in summer, so one seen from the Parizeau Aug. 15 and two Aug. 19 were noteworthy. An ad. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Revelstoke Oct. 26–Nov. 10 (DP, Ellen Tremblay, Orville Gordon, ph.), provided a first provincial record. Photos taken Nov. 10 clearly show the diagnostic features of this species.

A Thayer's Gull, rare in summer, was reported from Union Bay, V.I., Aug. 14 (Barbara Sedgewick). An estimated 7000 Thayer's Gulls at the Delta Dump Oct. 29 (MPF) made by far the highest number ever for Van., and apparently represented a migration peak. Rare inland records of Thayer's Gulls included two at Revelstoke Nov. 11 (MPF, MT) and up to three at Kamloops in October and November (RRH, SR, ph.). A well-described ad. "**Kumlien's**" **Iceland Gull** at Revelstoke Nov. 11–12 (†MPF, MT, DP) was the first for the Interior and one of rather few for the province. An ad. **Slaty-backed Gull** found near the Delta Dump Nov. 18 (†MPF, †DTy, †RJC) was later photographed (Carlo Giovanella, TZ) and studied by dozens of observers through the end of the period. It was the first for Van. and only the 3rd for British Columbia. The usual

few Western Gulls and Glaucous Gulls were seen around Van and Vic., and up to two Glaucous Gulls were at Revelstoke Oct. 26–Nov. 12 (DP, MPF *et al.*). A lone Glaucous-winged Gull at Kamloops Oct. 1 (SR) and two at Revelstoke Nov. 26 (DP) were unusual. There were 87 Black-legged Kittiwakes off Masset Sept. 23, and 39 there Oct. 4 (MH). Fourteen were at Jordan River, V.I., Nov. 19 (MPF, Mike Shepard), but only one was seen off Ucluelet Oct. 7 and none from the Parizeau. Sabine's Gulls were abundant offshore, as evidenced by a total of 4799 seen from the Parizeau, with a single flock of 2800 on Aug. 24, and 262 off Ucluelet Oct. 7. However, one Sept. 24 (†GA) at the Roberts Bank jetty was unusual.

Two Caspian Terns near Masset Sept. 4 (MH) were noteworthy. At Van. the high count was of 55 Sept. 3 at Iona I (MPF *et al.*), and the latest record was of four there Sept. 30 (BL). A Com. Tern seen from the Parizeau Aug. 17 was unusual off the coast of V.I. Arctic Terns, the usual offshore species, totalled 39 from the Parizeau (19 on Aug. 23); one at Jericho Park, Van., Sept. 3 (RT) provided the only convincing inshore record. A **Forster's Tern** at Ogden Pt., Vic., Oct. 31 (†Vic Goodwill, RS) was well described. Two Ancient Murrelets were seen from the Parizeau Aug. 15; the earliest inshore record was of three at Pt. Roberts, WA, Sept. 18 (HM, JM). Cassin's Auklets totalled 1371 on the Parizeau surveys (790 Aug. 24), and were unusually numerous closer to shore off Ucluelet Oct. 7, when 710 were tallied. Rhinoceros Auklets were numerous off Vic. as usual; up to 400 were seen daily near Sidney Aug. 10–31 (DFF, LRR). Only 45 were seen on the Parizeau surveys, and only 15 off Ucluelet Oct. 7, but 69 were off Masset Oct. 4 (MH). At Van., where "Rhinos" are rare, up to three were at Pt. Roberts, WA, Sept. 30–Nov. 11 (BL *et al.*).

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS — A count of 184 Rock Doves at Whitehorse, YT, Nov. 14 was unusually high (HG), and a flock of 400 Band-tailed Pigeons at Witty's Lagoon near Vic. Sept. 22 was extraordinary (DFF *et al.*). A Barn Owl at Comox Aug. 26 was near the northern limit for this species (Marian Innes); a W. Screech-Owl near Okanagan Falls Nov. 12 (RJC) was at one of very few regular sites for this species in the Interior. Great Horned Owls bred very successfully and in high density this summer in the s. Yukon, where they are being studied at Kluane L. by Christoph Rohner; snowshoe hare populations were near peak levels there as well. The only Snowy Owl report was of one or two at Boundary Bay Nov. 25–29 (MPF *et al.*). Two N. Hawk Owls were seen along the Dempster Hwy between Inuvik and Arctic Red River, NWT, Aug. 11–17 (DFo); the only report outside the breeding range was of one near Kamloops Nov. 12 (Eric McAlary). Fifteen reports of N. Pygmy-Owls were received from the Van., Sechelt, and V.I. areas. No reports of Spotted Owls were received; on the other hand, Barred Owls were widely reported on the s. coast. A Great Gray Owl was seen at Pinantan L. near Kamloops Nov. 5 (Geoff Bodman). A Short-eared Owl was seen Oct. 14 at Rose Spit, Q.C.I., where the species is a rare fall migrant (MH). A Boreal Owl gave a "skew" call in response to a recording near Okanagan Falls Oct. 29 (DB, WD). A single N. Saw-whet Owl was back at Reifel Nov. 1; by Nov. 16 three were there (JI).

Flocks of Com. Nighthawks were seen throughout August, including 70 at Rock L. near Riske Creek Aug. 23 (RJC) and 42 at Courtenay Aug. 19 (Diana Maloff). A very late nighthawk hit a window in Saanich, V.I., Oct. 18 (Ann Greenhalgh), recovered, and may have been the same bird seen a few hours later at Goldstream P.P. (DFF). The only concentration of Black Swifts noted was of "hundreds" over Vic. Aug. 14 (BB), while an incredible 40,000 Vaux's Swifts flew E over Jordan R., V.I., in a 3-hour period Sept. 9 (KT). Two Vaux's reports totalling 50 birds near Van. Oct. 1 (BL, WCW) were unusually late. Two White-throated Swifts were at their northern outpost on the Chilcotin R. s. of Riske Creek Aug. 22 (RJC, AR)

Anna's Hummingbirds were seen at 3 locations away from

the s coast. one female was at Penticton Nov 10 (Dennis St John), one was s.w. of Riske Creek Sept. 22 (LD), and two males were at Queen Charlotte City, Q.C.I., Aug. 30–Sept. 25 (MM), for a local first. A Calliope Hummingbird at Nelson Oct 13 (MHo) was remarkably late if correct. A Lewis' Woodpecker at Delta, s. of Van., Sept. 3–4 (MT et al.) was unusual. A Red-naped Sapsucker at Penticton Nov. 16 was more than a month later than the previous fall departure record for the Okanagan Valley (SRC).

FLYCATCHERS TO WRENS—The latest reports of some flycatcher species included: Olive-sided, Sept. 9 at The-tis L., V.I. (Harry Davidson); W. Wood-Pewee, Sept. 4 at Pitt Meadows, Van. (WCW); Willow, Sept. 4 (three reports from Van. area, WCW, JI); Hammond's, Sept. 24 at Pt. Roberts, WA (BL); Pacific-slope, Sept. 26 at Vic. (JG). A Say's Phoebe was at Tlell, Q.C.I., where the species is considered accidental, Sept. 8 (MH). Two E. Kingbirds appeared in the Van. area Aug. 28, one at Reifel (JI) and another at Jericho Park (DMP), while a **Tropical Kingbird** dropped into Tofino, V.I., Oct. 31–Nov. 1 (Adrian Dorst, Mark Hobson).

Eight reports of migrating Horned Larks were received from the coast, all but one between Sept. 7 & 10 including a single bird Sept. 8 at Sandspit, Q.C.I. (MH, ph.), where the species is accidental. There were 6 reports of the rare Purple Martin from southern V.I. including one at Saltspring I. Aug. 27 (MPF, MB), a first there, and a high count of seven in Saanich Sept. 5 (TZ). At Van., Bank Swallows posted a high of 27 at Reifel Sept. 8 (JI) and were last seen Oct. 1 at Roberts Bank (MPF). Single Barn Swallows were late at Osoyoos L. Oct. 23 (Leona Haggert), Sandspit, Q.C.I., Oct. 27 (MH), and Reifel Nov. 24 (JI)

Blue Jays were seen at 4 localities w. of the Rockies—Van. Nov. 11 (†DB), Invermere in early October and most of November (Bunny Cooper, Larry Halverson), Edgewood Oct. 8 (Adeline Jackson), and Vernon in November (John Quirk). A single Mountain Chickadee was on the coast at Reifel Oct. 3–29 (Richard Swenson, DMP), while a Chestnut-backed Chickadee ventured into the dry pine forests at Vaseux L. Nov. 5 to late December (Frank Metcalf, SRC). Up to three Siberian Tits were at Reindeer Station, NWT, Aug. 6–14 (DFo). A single White-breasted Nuthatch wandered north of its breeding range to the Chilcotin R. s.w. of Riske Creek Aug. 20 (LD). Rock Wrens were late at Osoyoos L. Nov. 13 (RJC) and Summerland Nov. 24 (I. Laurie Rockwell). A House Wren at Pt. Roberts, WA, Aug. 27 (AS) may have bred there.

DIPPERS TO MYNAS—Thirteen Am. Dippers congregated at Goldstream P.P., V.I., Oct. 6 during the annual salmon run (DFF), while the Yukon R. near Whitehorse, YT, had a high count of six dippers Nov. 26 (HG). Western Bluebirds are slowly recovering from near-extirpation on southern V.I.; eight were at Jocelyn Hill Oct. 14 (JS, NM) and five on Mt. Tzuhalem Oct. 26 (Syd Watts). Mountain Bluebirds were seen at 3 localities on the coast, where the species is a rare migrant: three at the Delta Dump Oct. 29 (MPF), one near Nanaimo, V.I., Nov. 26 (Peter Van Kerkoerle et al., ph.), and two in N. Saanich, V.I., Nov. 29 (BD). Single Townsend's Solitaires, also rare in fall on the coast, were at Reifel Sept. 1 (JI), Burke Mt., Port Coquitlam, Sept. 3 (Christine Hanrahan, TH), and Pt. Roberts, WA, Sept. 10 (BL). Gray-cheeked Thrushes are rarely reported from this Region in fall migration, so one at Swan L. near Whitehorse, YT, Sept. 10 was worth noting (HG); a Hermit Thrush at Goldstream P.P. Aug. 14 & 17 was exceptionally early (DFF, D. Manning).

A N. Mockingbird at Kamloops Nov. 5 (Winifred Bennie) was our only report; almost as out of place was a Bohemian Waxwing at Ucluelet Oct. 6 (MPF, BL, DTy). Large flocks of Bohemians arrived in Williams Lake in mid-November (AR). Four newly-arrived N. Shrikes were seen in one bush at Saanich Oct. 2 (DFF). Three Eur. Starlings at km 203 of the Klondike Hwy, YT, Sept. 24 (HG) were evidence that this

species is still expanding its range there. On the other hand, Crested Mynas are struggling to maintain their toehold in Van.; a flock of 20 there Aug. 29 represented a good count these days (JT, RT).

WARBLERS TO FINCHES—It was a fairly exciting summer for warblers in the Interior, and several sightings did not make it into the summer report: a ♀ **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was at Penticton June 13 (SRC) and a male was on territory at Mt. Revelstoke June 23–July 13 (JW, DP, WCW et al.); Mt. Revelstoke also hosted a singing ♂ **Black-throated Green Warbler**, in appropriate habitat but about 300 mi from its normal breeding range, July 1–2 (WCW, JW, DP), and a pair of **Bay-breasted Warblers** was feeding three young in a nest at Beaton P.P., Fort St. John, July 3–7, for the first breeding record for British Columbia (RT, DTy, RTy). Fall warbler migration, on the other hand, is usually rather unexciting in s. British Columbia and this year was no exception. Bright spots included a Tennessee Warbler south of its normal migration route at Kamloops Aug. 20 (RR); a Nashville Warbler at 7200 ft in the Valhalla Mts. Aug. 11 (GD) and another Sept 10 at Boundary Bay (JM, HM); 100 Yellow-rumped Warblers Oct. 1 at Boundary Bay (BL); a N. Waterthrush at Reifel Aug 17 (Mary Taitt); and a very late Wilson's Warbler at Kelowna Nov. 17 (Verna Pickering). A ♂ **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was at Okanagan Falls P.P. Aug. 20–27 (PG). There were 4 Palm Warbler reports, more than usual, from southern V.I.—Vic Sept. 25 (JG, KT), Saanich Oct. 19 (Mike & Barb McGrenere), Little Qualicum R. Nov. 15 (NKD), and Sooke Nov. 26 (†JBT).

A Black-headed Grosbeak was late and far north Sept 14 near Riske Creek (LD); more unusual was a pair of **Indigo Buntings**, suspected of breeding, at Scotch Creek, Shuswap L., in the last week of July (Sandy Rathbone). A pair of Rufous-sided Towhees at the northern edge of that species' range s w of Riske Creek was last seen Sept. 4 (LD). American Tree Sparrows and Chipping Sparrows, both rare in the Van. area, were reported from 3 localities each there, including three Am. Trees at Brunswick Pt. Nov. 29 (HM, JM) and two Chippings at Beach Grove Aug. 28 (GAP). A Clay-colored Sparrow at Silverton Sept. 2 was unusual (GD), but one at Ladner Harbour Park, Delta (†GT), furnished only the 3rd record for the Van. area. Two Vesper Sparrows were seen at Duncan, V.I., Aug. 16–Oct. 3 (DM) where the species is rare. Lark Sparrows reach their northern limits near Kamloops, so three juveniles at nearby Tranquille Aug. 1 were notable (RR).

Savannah Sparrow migration peaked at Van. Oct. 1 with 200 at Boundary Bay (BL). A Fox Sparrow at Pt. Roberts, WA, Aug. 27 (AS) was the earliest ever for Van. by a week. Lincoln's Sparrow high counts on the s. coast included 25 at Swan L., Vic., Aug. 30 (*fide* BB) and 30 at Sea I., Van., Sept 16 (MPF, BL). Swamp Sparrows, rare on the s. coast, were seen at 3 localities—one at Jericho Park, Van., Sept. 20 (RJC), up to two at Duncan Oct. 7–29 (KT et al.), and up to two at Brunswick Pt., Delta, Nov. 19 into December (WCW, RRW et al.). There were 11 White-throated Sparrow reports from s. British Columbia Sept. 15–Nov. 29, all but three from the coast. All but one of 7 Harris' Sparrow reports, however, came from the interior, the most notable being one at a feeder in Whitehorse, YT, Oct. 20–22 (HG). Two Dark-eyed Juncos still lingered at Whitehorse Nov. 29 (HG). A junco identified as a "Pink-sided" at N. Van. Oct. 9–12 (†DTy, RT, RTy) was carefully described; this race has not been proven to occur in the province. Six Lapland Longspurs, rare on the Q.C.I., were at Sandspit Sept. 14 (MH); there were 20 reports of this species from the Van. and Vic. areas Sept. 9–Nov. 1. Notable Snow Bunting sightings from the s. coast included a high count of 34 at Iona I. Nov. 19 (DMP, WF) and up to two at Martindale Flats, Vic., Oct. 28–Nov. 3 (JBT, ALM).

Forty Bobolinks were at Nakusp, one of the species' British Columbia strongholds, Aug. 11 (GD). An amazing 3000 Yellow-headed Blackbirds were with other blackbirds at Creston Sept. 9 (GD). A few Rusty Blackbirds were with the Brewer's

near Grand Forks in late September (DH). A **Common Grackle** at a feeder in Revelstoke Nov. 24 into December (AC, DP) furnished one of very few s. British Columbia records.

On Nov. 5 a **Brambling** arrived at the same feeder in Queen Charlotte City, Q.C.I., where two had been seen in 1983 (MM). There was a rash of Rosy Finch and Pine Grosbeak sightings on Mt. Seymour, N. Van., including 80 Rosy Finches Oct. 30 (RT, DTy, JL) and 15 Pine Grosbeaks Nov. 7 (DTy, JL). Three Pine Grosbeaks were on Salt Spring I. Oct. 29 (Glen Smith), for only the 2nd record for that island; a high count of 34 was at Masset, Q.C.I., Oct. 20 (MH). There were 5 reports of White-winged Crossbills from s. British Columbia, each involving only one to three birds, including 4 reports from North Shore Mtns., Van. Common Redpolls were reported in small numbers from the Van. area, reaching low elevations by Nov. 12 (DMP, WF).

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OREGON/WASHINGTON REGION

Bill Tweit and David Fix

This was not a fall to gladden the heart of just any birdwatcher, as in many areas negative data were easier to obtain than positive. Offshore, tubenose, jaeger, and alcid numbers were quite low; along the coast shore-bird numbers were generally poor and occasionally dismal; and inland passerine migration was generally left unremarked. On the west slope of the Cascades, August and September were drier and hotter than average, and October was an unremarkable transition to a wet November that brought serious flooding to northwestern Washington, but the end of the month saw no snow in the Oregon Cascades. In the interior the opposite pattern prevailed, with August being the wettest month and the following months being drier than average. Sea surface temperatures continued above average through August.

The new Oregon/Washington Region is smaller than either of its parent regions. We believe that the smaller size, and recognition of state borders, should spur observers to provide much more detailed information on migration in the Region as a whole, and the differences between patterns in the interior and along the coast. We encourage observers to submit notes on even the commonest migrants, as we wish to greatly increase our knowledge of timing, and age and sex differences of our migratory populations. We are excited about the new Region, and hope that some of our excitement is contagious.

ABBREVIATIONS—N.A.R. = National Antelope Refuge; S.J.C.R. = south jetty of the Columbia R., Clatsop, OR; W.M.A. = Wildlife Management Area; W.W.R.D. = Walla Walla R. delta, Walla Walla, WA. Place names in italics are counties.

LOONS TO HERONS—Of the six Pacific Loons reported from the Cascades and east, a somewhat below average total for fall, three were in October (DL, PMu, LW, RW) and the rest in November (JA, PS, DF). The 2 reports of Yellow-billed



Map illustration/Kenn Kaufman

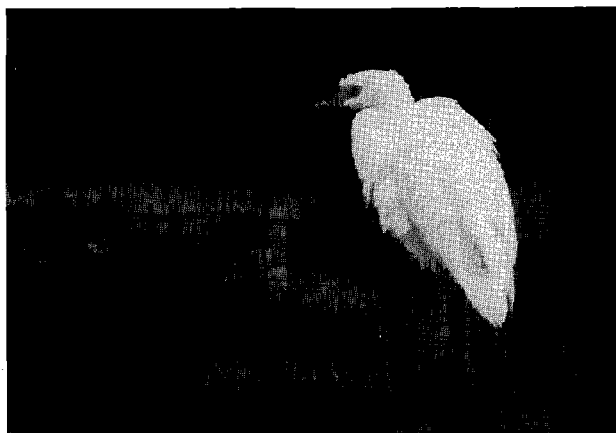
Loon, one at Port Ludlow, Jefferson, WA, Nov. 5 (†TSc) and one in the Coquille R. estuary, Coos, OR, Sept. 17 and Oct. 4 (MS, PS), made the lowest fall total in the decade. The latter loon was probably the bird seen there this summer. Three juv. Pied-billed Grebes were noted on a mountain lake in White Pass, WA, on the very late date of Oct. 22 (AS). There were more inland reports of Red-necked Grebes than usual; two each in e. Washington and Oregon, and another inland in w. Oregon at Fern Ridge Res. Three downy young W. Grebes on Banks L., WA, Oct. 28 (DP) fit into the same category as the late juv. Pied-billed. The Bellingham Bay flock of W. Grebes contained at least 18,000 on Nov. 21 (TW); this is the largest known wintering concentration in the Region. As closer attention is given to separating Clark's from Western grebes, it becomes difficult to compare reports with those of

previous seasons and so each year's observations define our expectations. This fall, two Clark's remained in e. Oregon as late as Nov. 13 (LR) at Suttle Lake, Jefferson. In w. Oregon, apparent migrant Clark's appeared in August at Fern Ridge Res. and Dorena Res., Lane (SH) and at Yaquina Head, Lincoln (Kathy Liska). There were three more coastal reports in October (DL, MP, Bill Stotz) and one at Diamond Lake, Douglas (DFi).

There were 8 pelagic trips out of Westport, WA (TW), from Aug. 12 to Oct. 8, and 3 off Oregon during September and October from Garibaldi, Lincoln and Charleston, Coos (TC, DFi, JJ). Three Laysan Albatross were reported, the first out of Charleston on the early date of Sept. 16 (LT) and October birds off Westport (TW) and Garibaldi (JJ). Small numbers of N. Fulmar, fewer than 50 per trip, were reported during August and September. In October, over 500 per trip were off Westport and many were off Garibaldi. There were only two reports of Flesh-footed Shearwater, both in August off Westport. Pink-footed Shearwater numbers also seemed low, with only 2 trips finding more than 100. Buller's Shearwater numbers were also lower than average; the peak counts were just over 100 Sept. 9 & 12 out of Westport. Usually Buller's numbers peak in October. The clouds of Sooty Shearwaters that often appear at river mouths and estuaries in fall were not very noticeable this fall. The high counts were of 200,000+ Aug. 21 at Grays Harbor (BL) and 50,000 Aug. 24-26 at S.J.C.R. (MP). Pelagic trip counts were similarly low. No Short-tailed Shearwaters were reported on pelagic trips and there were only 3 reports from shore, in November along the Oregon coast (MP, BBe, JJ). In the same vein, Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel numbers were very low off Westport all fall, with a peak of only 35 on Aug. 19. No pelagic trips reported Leach's Storm-Petrel, which is the typical fall pattern, but the warmer sea surface temperatures might have altered that.

It was an excellent fall for records of Am. White Pelican. At least 400 were in e. Washington on Potholes Res. (WR) and on the Columbia R. between the Yakima R. and the W.W.R.D. (RW, TG). The last report was of one Nov. 27 on the Columbia R. off Richland (RW). In central e. Oregon, where they are rare, pelicans were reported from Ochoco L., Crook (LR) and Wickiup Res., Deschutes (fide TC). On Hyatt Lake, Jackson, in the s. Oregon Cascades, pelican numbers peaked at 200 in early August (RS). This was the largest group of pelicans reported in w. Oregon since the early 1950s when numbers frequented Fern Ridge Res. in summer. Brown Pelicans came north in smaller numbers and left earlier than in any fall since 1984. They peaked in mid-September on the s. Washington coast at 200 on Grays Harbor and at 300 on Willapa Bay (DP, CC). Immatures and subadults predominated this fall. Southbound migration was noted off the Oregon coast from mid-October (fide DFa) into early November (DFi, SH). There was only one observation in November in Washington, on the 13th at Grays Harbor (Brad Holm). Two inland Double-crested Cormorant counts were noteworthy for their magnitude: 650 at Wickiup Res., Deschutes, Sept. 18 (CM) and 54 at the Yakima R. delta, Benton, Oct. 2 (RW), where they are increasing annually.

Great Egret numbers were average in most areas: 16 were reported in western and 41 in eastern Washington, and 160 in western Oregon. A Snowy Egret was on Sauvie I., OR, Aug. 11-30 (JJ, Bill & Tim Shelmerdine); they are rare north of Coos Bay. A late Snowy Egret was at Summer Lake in the Oregon interior Nov. 16 (Marty St. Louis). An imm. **Little Blue Heron** at Crockett Lake, Whidbey I., WA, Oct. 14-28 (Bob Merrick, m.ob.) provided the 2nd record for Washington. The first record was also of a fall immature, in 1974. The Cattle Egret flight was quite poor, for the 3rd fall in a row. Only five were found in w. Oregon (fide DFa and HN), one in w. Washington (Dory & Stan Smith), and two at Othello in e. Washington (WR).



Immature Little Blue Heron at Crockett Lake, Washington, October 23, 1989. Photograph/Scott Ray.

WATERFOWL TO GROUSE — Early Tundra Swan reports in Oregon were of one at Rock Creek Res., Wasco, Sept 9 (DL) and 50 in the mid-Willamette valley (RG) Oct. 5. After mid-October, small numbers were reported at several w. Oregon locales. The first Washington reports and the first large flocks came in November, as usual. Trumpeter Swan numbers continue to decline at Malheur N.W.R. Only two broods were successful this year, producing only three cygnets, and the peak fall count was of only 19 (TC). A Black Scoter, the rarest of the scoters in the interior, in Jefferson, OR, Oct. 15 to the end of the period furnished only the 2nd county record (TC). Eighteen Surf Scoters reported in e. Oregon, eight in e. Washington, and 11 in the s. Oregon Cascades made better than average numbers. However, the five White-winged Scoters reported from e. Oregon, eight from e. Washington, and one from the Willamette valley were fewer than average for fall. The fall count of 731 Barrow's Goldeneyes roosting on Capitol Lake, Olympia, Nov. 25 (G & WH) was lower than in the last several years, but the peak of 300 on Diamond Lake, Douglas, OR, at the end of November made about normal numbers (DFi). There were seven interior Red-breasted Mergansers reported, somewhat better than average, all but one from Oregon.

Migrant Turkey Vulture flocks were noted throughout the fall on the west side. The largest flocks were: 150 Aug 24 near Ashland, OR (RS), 180 Sept. 18 near Ashland (RS), 200 Sept. 26 near Port Angeles, WA (fide FS), 200 Oct 1 at Winlock, Lewis, WA (fide HN), and 100 in early October over Salem, OR (fide BBe). There was only one report of migrant vultures on the east side: 10 in one hour Sept. 3 over Red Top Mt., Kittitas, WA (RT). One near Liberty, Kittitas Nov. 21 (Bert Jahn) was very late for the interior. The west side numbers of Black-shouldered Kites were somewhat subdued, all reports coming from traditional locales. Five birds were reported from Washington and 16 from Oregon. An adult at Klamath Forest N.W.R., e. Oregon, from Nov. 4 on (JC, SS) was probably the same bird reported there last year. Accipiter numbers were underreported this fall. We request that all observers report all Accipiter sightings or a summary of sightings. Western Washington observers generally thought both species were widespread. The only migratory report was of 23 Sharp-shinned and six Cooper's hawks in 5 hours over Robinson Canyon in the e. Washington Cascades Oct. 3 (RT). There were 9 N. Goshawk reports, most from the west side. The only migratory flock of Swainson's Hawk reported was of 12+ near Walla Walla Sept. 2 (BT). Five "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawks were reported, all from the west side. An imm. Ferruginous Hawk Aug. 29 and an adult Sept. 28 in the Rogue valley, Jackson (†HS) furnished the first convincing sightings of Ferruginous in w. Oregon in over a decade. Rough-legged

Hawks were sparsely reported, with only 15 sightings, 11 of those from the interior.

Merlin numbers were normal on the west side, and there were 13 reports from the interior. Peregrine reports included 22 in w. Washington (including 3 reports of *tundrius*), normal numbers from w. Oregon, four from e. Washington, and three from e. Oregon. Gyrfalcons were at 3 w. Oregon estuaries (m. ob.); one of those was reportedly of the white morph (*vide* NL). This number is well above expected for Oregon, especially since there was only one report each from w. Washington (FS) and e. Oregon (SS). A report from Hart Mountain N.A.R. indicated that productivity for Sage Grouse in 1989 was below average throughout s.e. Oregon (TC). Despite this, the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife lifted a moratorium on hunting Sage Grouse and authorized taking 2000 grouse.

SHOREBIRDS — The shorebird season in w. Oregon was highlighted by a most impressive showing on Sauvie I., one that put interior-valley shorebirding into a new perspective for the many birders involved. The reason for the concentration was unknown. Heavy coverage throughout the fall resulted in the discovery of a number of Willamette valley rarities, as well as close tracking of the comings and goings of routine species. In e. Oregon, the water levels of Malheur, Mud, and Harney lakes continued to recede, providing extensive mudflat habitat for shorebirds. However, coastal migration was quite poor. Several Washington shorebird enthusiasts had the disconcerting experience of spending the day looking for shorebirds and finding none.

The peak Black-bellied Plover count on the coast was of 600 Sept. 15 at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor, WA (G & WH), and in the interior was 11 at the W.W.R.D. Sept. 19–20 (TG, MD). The peak count of Lesser Golden-Plover was a piddling 34 at Ocean Shores Aug. 28 (DB). None of the westside reports of goldens indicated age, and only half included race. The peak count of *fulva* was of five Sept. 21 at S.J.C.R. (*vide* HN) and of *dominica* four Sept. 17 at S.J.C.R. (MP). Inland, there was only one report of a single at W.W.R.D. Sept. 17 (AS). A few Black-necked Stilts were still at Malheur N.W.R. Sept. 15 (TC), late for this species. The last Am. Avocet was also late: Oct. 8 in Benton, WA (TG). There were 2 westside reports of avocets, both from Oregon in August, about normal. A single Aug. 5 at the mouth of the New River, Curry (*vide* LT), was rare for the coast, and seven Aug. 26 at Green Peter Res., Marion (Rich Hoyer, Jr.) made an unusual count.

Peak counts of Greater Yellowlegs were of 110 at Sauvie I. Sept. 12 (JJ, NL), 75 at Ocean Shores Sept. 17 (BT), and 11 Aug. 27 at the Yakima R. delta, Benton (RW). The peak count of Lesser Yellowlegs was also at Sauvie I., 123 Sept. 12 (JJ). The Lesser peak at the Yakima R. delta was of 50 Aug. 23 (RW). Solitary Sandpipers were scarce, except at Sauvie I. where the peak was nine (JJ). Elsewhere there were only 20 reports. There was only one report of Whimbrel away from Puget Sound and the coast, at Sauvie I. Aug. 22 (DI). Long-billed Curlews were seen in good numbers in coastal Washington, with 110 on the Long Beach Peninsula Aug. 30 (BS) and 51 at Tokeland Sept. 19 (G & WH). However, in Oregon, only singles were seen at 5 sites. There was one report each of the two rare godwits: a juv. Hudsonian at the Nehalem Sewage Ponds, Tillamook, OR, Aug. 10 (MP) and an adult Bar-tailed at Tokeland Aug. 26 (EH). The Bar-tailed was possibly the same individual reported since 1987 at Tokeland. Marbled Godwit numbers peaked in Washington at 150 at Tokeland Aug. 26 (EH) and in Oregon at 20 at Bandon Sept. 10 (DFi), average for fall in Washington but poor in Oregon. Inland, two at Reardan, Lincoln, WA, Aug. 26–28 (JA, JW) were the first in several years there, and two were at Summer Lake W.M.A., Lake, OR, Sept. 10 (MM).

A Ruddy Turnstone at Reardan Aug. 26–28 (JA, JW) provided the first local record and the only interior report. Red Knots were less common than usual this fall. None was reported from the interior, and peak coastal counts were of

five at Bandon Sept. 3–10 (DFi) and six at Ocean Shores Aug. 25–27 (K & JW). Aside from a healthy peak of 6000 at Ocean Shores Sept. 15 (G & WH), Sanderlings were scarcely reported from the coast. Sixteen were found on the east side, about average. Up to 11 Semipalmated Sandpipers were found on Sauvie I. through Aug. 22 (JJ). In less favored parts of the Region, Semipalmateds were scarce. There were only five found in all of w. Washington, and 13 elsewhere in w. Oregon. A combination of underreporting and scarcity must account for only 4 reports from the interior. Western Sandpiper peaks included 8000 at Nehalem Bay, Tillamook, OR, Aug. 19 (HN), 5000 at Sauvie I. (HN), 5000 at Bandon Aug. 25 (SH), and 5000 at Grays Harbor Sept. 16 (BS). Generally, the peak of juveniles at one or more of these locales is in the tens of thousands. Baird's Sandpipers were reported in numbers more nearly representing average. The peak count was of 50+ in the interior near Banks L., Douglas, WA, Aug. 27 (G & WH) and 30 on the coast at Ocean Shores Sept. 15 (G & WH). However, Pectoral Sandpipers numbers were best termed abysmal. The peak count was of only 18 birds at, where else, Sauvie I. Sept. 14 (JJ). Reports from both the interior and the coast indicated that Pectoral numbers were about 10% of numbers seen in a "good" year. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper reports were also below average, with two seen in Oregon and one in Washington. The only Dunlin report of note was of 150 at Willow Creek W.M.A., Gilliam, OR, Nov. 11 (PMu, LW), a very high count from an interior locale.

Stilt Sandpiper was the only shorebird appearing in above-average numbers this fall. It was their best showing ever in Oregon where the peak in the interior was of seven at Malheur N.W.R. Sept. 23–Oct. 13 (TC, m.ob.). This was the first record for the refuge! Two were reported elsewhere in e. Oregon. In w. Oregon there were up to 12 on Sauvie I. (NL) and 10 elsewhere. There were 26 reported from e. Washington, with 13 at Reardan Aug. 26 (JA) the highest count, and w. Washington had an additional fourteen. The last in the Region was Oct. 22 at Bandon (LT). Buff-breasted Sandpiper reports were typical of a low year: one each at Ocean Shores (G & WH), S.J.C.R. (MP), and Sauvie I. (JJ) during early September. There were eight Ruffs reported, with the peak count coming from, of course, Sauvie I., where three were present Aug. 24 to Sept. 14 (JJ, HN, m.ob.). The others were at Ocean Shores Aug. 27–28 (BS), Crockett L., Whidbey I., WA, Sept. 4–11 (K & JW), the south shore of Grays Harbor Sept. 16 (BS), S.J.C.R. Aug. 30–Sept. 6 (MP), and Bandon Aug. 26 (JJ, SH).

The peak count of Short-billed Dowitchers was of 400, primarily juveniles, at Grays Harbor Sept. 9 (BT), and the last report was of 40 juveniles there Oct. 8 (BT) when they were evenly mixed with Long-billeds. As usual, small numbers of Short-billeds were found in the interior, with 25 at Malheur N.W.R. Sept. 9 (SH, JJ) the high count. A minimum of 5000 Long-billed Dowitchers at Malheur (TC) in mid-September was probably one of the largest concentrations ever noted in the Region. Elsewhere, peaks were of 450 at, again, Sauvie I. Oct. 27 (HN) and 160 at the Yakima R. delta Oct. 17 (RW). The peak pelagic trip count of Red-necked Phalaropes was of 1774 Aug. 12 off Westport (TW). Counts tapered off rapidly after that; none was seen off Oregon in September. Onshore, there were up to 1000 per locality in n. Puget Sound from mid-August through Sept. 13 (DB, VN) and they seemed to be well reported from the interior. Red Phalaropes were seen on all pelagic trips. They peak was also in August: 131 on the 19th (TW). Two were found in e. Washington, where rare: an immature at W.W.R.D. Sept. 17 (AS) and one near Cle Elum, Kittitas, Oct. 7 (B & GR).

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS — Pomarine Jaegers were seen 8 times from shore and on all pelagic trips with a peak of 41 Sept. 9 off Westport (TW). Parasitic Jaeger numbers were definitely lower than average in n. Puget Sound and the coastal estuaries: the peak shore counts were of six at both S.J.C.R. (MP) and Ocean Shores (DP). Only one was reported

from the interior, an immature at the W.W.R.D. Sept. 2–17 (BT, AS). After outstanding counts of 100 Long-tailed Jaegers per day offshore in 1988, this fall was worse than average with only 11 sightings for the season. South Polar Skuas did not appear until Aug. 25 when one was off Cape Foulweather, OR (Terry Thompson); most of the September pelagic trips recorded two per trip and the Oct. 8 trip found three.

Nine Franklin's Gulls on the west side of the mountains made the lowest count since 1983, less than a quarter of average. One at the Hood R. mouth, OR, Oct. 1 (DL) furnished the only interior report. At least four Little Gulls (two adults, two 2nd-winter) in the Seattle–Everett area Aug. 12–Nov. 5 made the expected number in recent years. An imm. Little Gull at John Day Dam on the Columbia R. Nov. 21–26 (PMu, LW, m.ob.) was the first for e. Oregon. Eastern Washington observers thought that Bonaparte's Gulls occurred in larger than average numbers; 92 at W.W.R.D. Oct. 29 (PB) was the maximum count. A Mew Gull was at McNary Dam on the Columbia R. Oct. 21 (DL, PS); they are rare that far into the interior. A California Gull seen Sept. 2 at the Rogue R. mouth had been banded July 2, 1989 at Mono Lake, CA (RE). This was surprising, as the usual assumption is that all the California Gulls appearing in fall in our Region are from the colonies east of the Rockies. Apparently, some come from the Great Basin, on the south coast at least.

There were two W. Gull reports from eastern Oregon, neither with details. Inland records of Westerns, especially away from the Columbia R., should be documented. Glaucous Gull reports included five first-winter birds on the west side and an adult at Eugene Nov. 21 (SH). Adults are very uncommon in the Region. Inland, imm. Black-legged Kittiwakes were at Reardan, WA, Sept. 3 (†JA) and at Sheridan Sewage Ponds, Yamhill, OR, Nov. 26–27 (JJ, RG), both for first county records, and an adult was at Bellingham, WA, Sept. 3 (TW). Numbers of adult Sabine's Gulls were seen migrating south Sept. 7 off Tillamook (TT) and Sept. 9–12 off Westport (TW). One Sabine's was at the Yakima R. delta Sept. 16 (RW) for the 5th record there. Very few imm. Sabine's were noted on the pelagic trips. Two were seen in Puget Sound, where a few are found annually, Sept. 24 (Dick Snyder) and Oct. 7 (†VN).

An imm. Caspian Tern at S.J.C.R. Nov. 4 (MP) was very late: usually the last Caspians leave in early October. **Elegant Terns** were found again this fall on the s. Oregon coast. They were unrecorded in the Region prior to 1983, and since then they have appeared only in 1987. Two were at the mouth of the Chetco R., Curry, Aug. 31 (MD), two adults and a banded immature were at the mouth of the Rogue R. Sept. 8 (†RE), and 20 were there Sept. 14 (Rick & Jan Krabbe). The band could not be read. The Com. Tern showing was typical, with small numbers along the outer coast and much larger numbers in Puget Sound, up to 500 at Tacoma, WA, Sept. 10 (Thais Bock). The usual few interior reports included two at W.W.R.D. Sept. 20–Oct. 7 (MD), one at Mosier, Wasco, OR, Sept. 9 (DL), and eight at Wickiup Res., Deschutes, Sept. 29 (CM). Sparse numbers of Arctic Terns were reported offshore, generally fewer than 10 per trip with a maximum of 50 Sept. 18 off Depoe Bay, Lincoln (TT). Onshore, two at Agate L. Aug. 22 (Otis Swisher) furnished the 2nd Jackson record, and one at Yaquina Bay Sept. 24 (JJ) was the last report.

It was not a good season for Com. Murres. Above normal numbers died off this summer along the Oregon coast (Range Bayer, HN) and below normal numbers were seen on pelagic trips off Westport all fall (TW). Very low numbers of chicks were seen accompanying the adults north (TW, BT). Xantus' Murrelets were seen 10 mi off Lincoln City, OR, Sept. 9 (TT) and from shore at Boiler Bay, Lincoln, Oct. 24–25 (HN), while none was seen off Washington. Unusually early Ancient Murrelets were an immature at Yaquina Head, Lincoln, Sept. 13 (TC) and one unaged at Boiler Bay Sept. 30 (GL, TSt). Normal arrivals were in late October in Puget Sound, numbers building to 156 Nov. 21 off Point No Point (VN). There were 2 inland records of **Ancient Murrelet**: one on the Snake R. 2 mi



Ancient Murrelet well inland at John Day Dam, Oregon, November 23, 1989. Photograph/J. O'Brien.

above the Grand Ronde mouth, Asotin, WA, Nov. 2 (†Don Carrell) and another at John Day Dam on the Columbia R. Nov. 23–26 (DL, CM, m.ob.). Cassin's Auklets are not usually seen from shore, but this fall small numbers, up to 25, were seen at several Oregon locations during August and September (MP, MD, GL, TSt). Offshore, generally small numbers were noted off Westport until Oct. 7–8 (TW) when a substantial southward migration was noted. Rhinoceros Auklets were scarce off Westport until October (TW), but were seen in more than the usual small numbers along the Oregon coast this fall. Sixty at Yachats, Lincoln, Oct. 1 (Kathy Merrifield) made a very large number for Oregon. Tufted Puffins were virtually absent on pelagic trips off Westport (TW), and they were still feeding young in burrows on Haystack Rock, Clatsop, OR, Sept. 11 (TC), which may indicate that earlier breeding attempts failed. A Horned Puffin was found dead on the beach n. of Waldport, Lincoln, OR (Roy Lowe) and two were seen 15 mi off Cascade Head, OR, Nov. 3 (TT).

PIGEONS TO WOODPECKERS—A flock of 75 Band-tailed Pigeons at Bandon Sept. 9 was the largest flock reported in Oregon. The Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife has considered closing the season. Eight Band-taileds were in Bend during the first week of October (Jacques DeKalb); they are rare in central Oregon. A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at Hart Mountain N.A.R. in late August (Steve Herman). There are fewer than 10 recent records for Oregon. Two apparently migratory Flammulated Owls were found in Washington this fall: one roosting in a thicket near Plain, Chelan, Aug. 30 (BL) and one in Indian Canyon, Spokane, Sept. 24 (JA, Warren Hall). The lone Snowy Owl report, of one immature Nov. 21 on the Hanford Res., Benton, WA (PB), did not inspire hopes for a good flight year. A handful (10) of Short-eared Owls had appeared in w. Oregon by the end of the period. Up to three **Boreal Owls** were reported near Waldo L. in the central Oregon Cascades Sept. 28 through Nov. 4 (TC, Steve Gordon, m.ob.). Their response calls were tape recorded, and details have been submitted to the Oregon Bird Records Committee. The sightings were in the subalpine Cascades south of Three Sisters Wilderness. At least three Boreals were found Sept. 9–Oct. 14 in the Wallowa Mts. (PS), where their presence was only recently documented. Late Com. Nighthawks included one in North Richland, WA, Sept. 29 (RW), one at W.W.R.D. Oct. 7 (MD), and an incredibly late bird in the Spokane valley Nov. 9 (†Larry Thieman). A few Com. Poorwillows also malingered in Washington: one was in Selah, Yakima, Sept. 25 (Virginia & Harold Vredenburg), and a later one in Skagit Oct. 2 was also west of its usual range (K & JW, Univ. Wash.)

Nowadays, Lewis' Woodpeckers are scarce fall visitants to

the upper Willamette valley. This fall 38 individuals were reported, well above average numbers. The largest group was of 22 in w. Polk Oct. 20 (RG) and the range of dates was from Sept. 2 (MP) to Oct. 25 (RG). They were also in high numbers in the Rogue valley (MM) and along the Columbia R. in Klickitat, WA (m.ob.). They are regular in both areas. **Acorn Woodpeckers** made their 4th appearance in Washington, at the mouth of the Klickitat R. Up to nine were seen Oct. 12



Female Acorn Woodpecker at Lyle, Washington, October 29, 1989. Photograph/Scott Ray.

and later (Roger Contor, m.ob.), including at least five males and one female. A Red-breasted Sapsucker at Malheur N.W.R. Oct. 13-15 (SS) was rare in the interior. The last Williamson's Sapsucker was reported Sept. 16 at Field Spring S.P., Asotin, WA (J & DP).

FLYCATCHERS TO TROGLODYTES—The last of 4 Olive-sided Flycatcher reports was Sept. 13 in the Rogue valley (HS). Movements of W. Wood-Pewee were noted Aug. 25 at Hat Rock S.P., Umatilla, OR (TG), and Sept. 3 at Washtucna, Adams, WA (BT), both interior locations. Willow Flycatchers were almost unreported; the last were two Sept. 21 at Nisqually N.W.R., Thurston, WA (B & GR). Two Least Flycatchers were reported from the interior, where they appear to be rare annual migrants: one Aug. 25 at Hat Rock S.P. (TG) and one Aug. 28 at Vantage, Kittitas, WA (EH). Hammond's and Dusky flycatchers were underreported. Last sightings were Sept. 20 (Hammond's) in the s. fork of the Stillaguamish, Snohomish, WA (CC), and Sept. 3 (Dusky) at Washtucna (BT). Pacific-slope Flycatchers were reported through Sept. 24 on the west side (SH). On the east side, migrant groups of Western types of unknown species were noted Aug. 25 at Hat Rock S.P. (TG) and Sept. 3 at Washtucna (BT). The last report of a "Western" was of one at Vantage Sept. 14 (PMa). A late Say's Phoebe was at Rufus, Sherman, OR, Nov. 25 (PMu, LW). Migratory groups of Western and Eastern kingbirds were noted Sept. 3 in Grant, WA (BT). The last W. Kingbird was Oct. 1 near Yaquina Head on the Oregon coast (DFa), and the last Eastern was Sept. 11 in Yakima (Paul Roetsma, fide BBo).

A Purple Martin near Bend, OR, Sept. 15 (TC, Dave Stejskal) provided the first Deschutes record. Martins are not regular migrants east of the Cascades. The main exodus of Violet-green Swallows took place Aug. 22 to Sept. 15 (HN) and the last was a very tardy bird at Kent, WA, Nov. 4 (John Gatchet). Bank Swallows are sparse migrants on the west side; 13 sightings this fall were average. Both Blue Jay records were in Washington: at Albion, Whitman, Oct. 8 into December (J & DP) and at Chelan Falls, Chelan, Oct. 30 (VN). A Scrub Jay was at Astoria Sept. 10 (H. Brunner). They are very rare on the Oregon coast north of Coos, although their range is expanding. Clark's Nutcrackers are irregular on the west slope. Two were found in the Washington lowlands: one on the coast at Ocean Shores Sept. 9 (RW) and one along Puget Sound at Edmonds Oct. 30 (Steve Linjord). Nutcrackers staged a

minor incursion into the Douglas-fir forest of n.e. Douglas in the Oregon Cascades this fall (DFi). A Wren-tit near Black Rock in the Coast Range of w. Polk Oct. 29 (RG) was at the n edge of their Willamette Valley range, which is expanding north. Bewick's Wrens are also expanding their range, east into the interior. One was near the Snake R. in Asotin, WA, Oct. 15 (fide TR) and there were 2 sightings at Malheur N.W.R., Oct. 15 (MD) & 29 (Clarence & Marilyn O'Leary).

THRUSHES TO WARBLERS—The last W. Bluebird sightings away from their regular wintering areas were of 20 in Whitman, WA, Nov. 11 (J & DP) and one at Coos Bay (BG) Nov. 18. The Corvallis bluebird trail fledged 223 young in 1989, the 2nd-best year for the trail (ME). A vagrant Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was at Malheur Aug. 24 (ME). Swainson's Thrushes went virtually unreported aside from a few reports of late birds through mid-October. There were no records of migratory movements. The first Hermit Thrush migrants were found Sept. 3 in the interior at Washtucna (BT) and Sept. 10 on the coast at S.J.C.R. (MP). No migratory concentrations were reported. Oregon's 3rd Wood Thrush was at Fields, Harney, Oct. 14 (SS, JC, ph.). The previous 2 records were



Wood Thrush at Fields, Harney County, Oregon, October 14, 1989. Photograph/Steve Summers.

both sight reports in May 1980. Only one N. Mockingbird was reported, Sept. 17 at Nisqually N.W.R., Thurston, WA (B & GR). They seem to occur less often than formerly. The last Sage Thrasher report was at Saddle Mountain N.W.R., Grant, WA, Sept. 12 (WR).

American Pipits migrants seemed unusually abundant along the outer coast in mid-September (HN, BT, DP). The first N. Shrike was at Ocean Shores Oct. 6 (B & GR). Although it is difficult to quantify from the reports, shrike numbers seemed below average. Late Solitary Vireos were at Richland WA, Sept. 21 (RW) and near Walla Walla, WA, Oct. 3 (MD) Warbling Vireos are among the more common insectivorous migrants through the interior; concentrations were found Aug. 24 in Richland (RW) and Sept. 3 in Adams, WA (BT), and the last sighting was Sept. 19 in Richland (RW). The only Red-eyed Vireo migrants seen were in Tigard, Yamhill, OR, Sept. 7 (Tom Love) and in Washtucna, Adams, Sept. 3 (BT) Fall migrant Red-eyed Vireos are probably vagrants on the west slope, but are certainly annual in the interior.

Orange-crowned Warbler, another of the most common insectivorous migrants, was poorly reported. In e. Washington, movements were noted Sept. 3 (BT), 7 (AS), & 20 (RW) Nashville Warblers are very uncommon fall migrants on the west slope. There were 2 records: one Sept. 18 in Sedro Wooley, Skagit, WA (K & JW), was catching fruit flies inside a supermarket, and another Oct. 1 near Salem, OR (fide BBe), was late. Yellow Warbler flocks were found Aug. 23 and Sept 1 in Richland (RW), and the last were seen Oct. 1 in w. Oregon

(Gerald Smith, DFi). Two Black-throated Blue Warblers, regular Oregon vagrants, were at Malheur Sept. 26–30 (Bill Tice, m.ob.). The first waves of Yellow-rumped Warblers appeared Sept. 10–14 at Vantage, WA (PMA). A Black-throated Gray Warbler at Richland Aug. 23 (RW) was rare that far east. In the interior, migrant Townsend's Warblers were noted in the first week of September (PMA, BT, TG), while on the coast, migrants were noted in October (MP, DFa). A Hermit Warbler at Hyatt Res., Jackson, OR, Sept. 30 (RS) was late. An ad. ♂ **Prairie Warbler** Aug. 24–Sept. 3 near the south jetty of the Coquille R., Coos (DFi, m.ob., ph.) furnished the 2nd Oregon record. The first was also on the coast, in September 1980. Nine Palm Warblers were found along the coast and one in the interior, an average fall number; the first on Sept. 9 (fide DFa) was very early. Blackpoll Warblers, also regular Oregon vagrants, were at Malheur Sept. 9 (JJ, SH) & 24 (TC). The sole Black-and-white Warbler was near Portland on the early date of Sept. 2 (R. Howe, fide HN). Seven Am. Redstarts, all immatures or females, were found in the interior from Aug. 23 (TG) to Sept. 16 (TC). Three N. Waterthrushes were found Aug. 29 to Sept. 23 (m.ob.) in Harney, OR, where they are regular migrants, and a vagrant was at Seattle Aug. 17 (Kevin Aanerud). MacGillivray's Warblers, common migrants, were also underreported. The last was Oct. 1 at Toketee, Douglas, OR (DFi). Large migratory concentrations of Wilson's Warblers were found in the interior: 75 at Davenport, Lincoln, WA, Aug. 18 (JA) and 230 in Adams, WA, Sept. 3 (BT), and the last was on the coast at Tillamook Bay Oct. 22 (RG), a **Canada Warbler** at Seaside, Clatsop, Oct. 29–Nov. 1 (DI, m.ob.) provided the first western Oregon record and the 2nd or 3rd for the state.

GROSBEAKS TO WEAVER FINCHES—An imm. ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak seen along the John Day R. Aug. 29 (RG) apparently provided the earliest fall record in Oregon of this vagrant. A Chipping Sparrow was at Yaquina Head Oct. 28–29 (JJ); they occur rarely in fall migration on the Oregon coast and are almost never found farther north. Waves of Savannah Sparrows appeared in Yakima, WA, Sept. 8 (BBo) and at Grays Harbor Sept. 17–23 (BT, DP). The first Lincoln's Sparrows were at Fern Ridge Res., OR, Aug. 28 (SH) and the peak was of 20 at Washtucna, Adams, Sept. 3 (BT). Only five Swamp Sparrows were reported, all from w. Oregon. About 30 White-throated Sparrows were reported, an average number. Seven of the 11 Harris' Sparrow sightings were from e. Oregon, the usual pattern and a somewhat heavier sprinkling than usual. The first Lapland Longspurs appeared inland at Reardan, WA, Sept. 2 (JA) and coastally in both states Sept. 6 (BS, MP). Lower than average numbers were on the Washington coast, but 70 at Yaquina Bay Oct. 28 (DL) made a high count for Oregon. Two **Chestnut-collared Longspurs** at Diamond L., in the Douglas Cascades, one Sept. 13 and another Oct. 3 (†DFi), furnished the 5th and 6th records for Oregon.

A Bobolink at Ocean Shores, WA, Sept. 17 (BT, TSc) was a first for Grays Harbor. Tricolored Blackbird distribution in Oregon is puzzling. Thirty were found in Prineville, Crook, Oct. 21 (TC, CM); they are not known to breed within 150 mi of there. Rusty Blackbirds, rare but regular in the Region, were seen at the s. jetty of the Coquille R., Coos, Sept. 17 (PS) and at Agate Lake, Jackson, Sept. 18 (MM). A Great-tailed Grackle at Fields, Harney, Oct. 14 (SS, JC, ph.) was the first female and the first in fall for Oregon.

A minor invasion of Pine Grosbeaks was noted in October in the s. Washington Cascades (AS), with small flocks noted in most higher elevation areas. Red Crossbills were present throughout w. Washington during the fall, and were unreported elsewhere. A few White-winged Crossbills appeared to be breeding in August in the central Oregon Cascades, at Cultus and Waldo lakes (TH). Others were sighted as far south as Diamond L., Douglas (DFi, MS). Small numbers were also in the Wallowa Mts. all fall (BBe, DSu, LW). In Washington, small numbers were seen at higher elevations all along the n.

border (EH, AS, JA), and a few were even found with the Reds in the w. Washington lowlands (TH, CC). These were not invasion numbers, but White-wingeds were certainly distributed more extensively than usual. Common Redpoll flocks began appearing in e. Washington in November (AS, JA, J & DP) auguring a better flight than the previous 2 winters. The largest numbers of Lesser Goldfinches ever recorded in Washington were in the Lyle, Klickitat, area during October and November (m.ob.); up to 80 were recorded.

The Eur. Tree Sparrow reported all summer at BG's North Bend, Coos, feeder was present Sept. 1–10, and returned Nov. 11. An immature was present to Sept. 12.

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MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

Richard A. Erickson,
Stephen F. Bailey, and
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Early rains in September brought hope of alleviating our three-year drought condition, but they were short-lived and the fall season ended dry and balmy. Perhaps these weather conditions contributed to the death of many American White Pelicans in Mono County and many species of waterfowl lingering very late to the north of the state.

Among shorebirds, it was a very poor season for many of the "uncommon" species, excellent for some of the "rare" ones, and very good for the "ultra rarities." The landbird season was generally good, with several uncommon and rare species found in record numbers. Unfortunately, it is beyond our current capacity to accurately monitor most common species. The diverse group of "montane" birds did not generate many comments. As a whole, traditional eastern vagrants were found in very good numbers as the 1980s go (the 1970s were much better), but the Siberian and Mexican influence was definitely pale compared to last year.

We are grateful to Kurt F. Campbell for compiling the landbird reports for Erickson's analysis.

ABBREVIATIONS — C.B.R.C. = California Bird Records Committee; C.C.R.S. = Coyote Creek Riparian banding Station, Santa Clara; F.I. = Southeast Farallon Island; S.F. = San Francisco; ph. = photo on file with Regional Editors. All records from F.I.

and Palomarin banding stations should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory (P.R.B.O.). Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO PELICANS — An above-average three throated Loons and one Pacific Loon visited reservoirs straddling the Sierra. Another Pacific Loon was at L. Shastina, Siskiyou, Nov. 2–29 (ADB, RE), where they are annual.

Four Laysan Albatross sightings offshore Monterey included one as early as Aug. 27 (DLSh, DGY). Another Laysan was 30 mi w. of Klamath R. mouth, *Del Norte*, Oct. 12 (E. Logan). Northern Fulmars were widely scattered in small numbers. Buller's Shearwaters were scarce. Gray Whales off Point St. George, *Del Norte*, were attended by 500 Sooty Shearwaters Nov. 26 (ADB), rather late for such a concentration. Blackvented Shearwaters appeared from Monterey to F.I., beginning with two near Moss Landing Sept. 8 (RS) and peaking at 400–500 near Pt. Pinos Nov. 14 (RT, *fide* AB). Ten Wilson's Storm-Petrels at Cordell Bank Aug. 13 (†RS) showed that concentrations are probably regular there. One to two Wilson's in Monterey Bay Sept. 11–Oct. 7 (†RS *et al.*) were normal. Up to three Least Storm-Petrels were identified in Monterey Bay in October (DGY, DLSh).

The Region's 7th **Red-billed Tropicbird** circled past Pigeon Pt. Lighthouse, *San Mateo*, Aug. 10–12 (†GF1, †J.R. Blair, †GJS, m.ob.). A fishing boat reported a tropicbird in Monterey Bay Oct. 17 (*fide* DLSh). Among many reports of Am. White Pelicans were notable numbers in Monterey (up to 30) and

Lake [55], where they are scarce, and a casual visitant was at the Eel R. estuary, *Humboldt*, Aug. 8–9 (B. Slocum). Perhaps related to these sightings was the discovery in September–October of about 300 dead white pelicans at Crowley L., *Mono* (A. Janik, L. Neel, HG et al.). Necropsies by the California Dept. of Fish and Game implicated a combination of elevated mercury levels, lesions on various organs, parasites, and starvation. A Brown Pelican at Bridgeport Res., *Mono*, Aug. 21 (PJM) could have been the same bird seen there in July.

HERONS TO WATERFOWL — *Humboldt's* 2nd record of Least Bittern was of an ad. male found at the site of its first: Arcata Marsh, Aug. 25–Sept. 30 (RAE, ph. M. Morris et al.). An ad. Little Blue Heron at the Clear L. Oaks sewage ponds, Lake, Sept. 21–25 (†JRW) and an immature at Arcata Marsh Nov. 5 into December (†GHZ, T. Ryan, †RAE et al.) were respective county firsts. Additional immatures at Rodeo Beach, *Marin*, Aug. 9 (CLF et al.) and *Alviso*, *Santa Clara*, Aug. 20 (BHi, LES) were from expected locales.

Cattle Egret reports were again few, but numerous Green-backed Heron sightings in *Santa Clara* (25+) had WGB wondering if their numbers are increasing in the south S.F. Bay area. While overall Regional sightings of White-faced Ibis were down compared to the past 2 falls, up to 25 in *Mono* Aug. 21–Sept. 3 (PJM, G. Larimore et al.) and 60+ along the coast from *Monterey* to *Humboldt* Sept. 8–14 (m.ob.) were very strong movements in these regions.

Snow Geese made a most impressive showing along the length of our coast with 46 birds reported Oct. 11–Nov. 15, including one on F.I. Oct. 15–16 (2nd record there). In stark contrast, the more expected Ross' Goose had only one sighting along the coast, the resident of *Stafford L.*, *Marin* (RS).

A Eur. Green-winged Teal at *Bolinas Lagoon*, *Marin*, Nov. 4 (MDC) represented one of few fall reports on record. Over 10,000 Mallards on *Terminus Tract*, *San Joaquin*, Sept. 28 made an impressive early concentration, but they dropped off dramatically in October–December (DGY). With only one previous fall Blue-winged Teal sighting in the *Mono Basin*, seven in *Mono* Sept. 14–Oct. 4 (PJM, ES, HG) were of interest. Among wigeons there were roughly 30 Eurasians (25 coastal), a family of Americans with five young at *Crowley L.* Aug. 22 (PJM) for *Mono's* first breeding record, and a ♂ Eurasian x American at the *Palo Alto Flood Control Basin*, *Santa Clara*, Nov. 23 (†MJM).

The presumed Redhead chicks attended by the ♀ Redhead at the *Sunnyvale sewage ponds*, *Santa Clara*, in July, as mentioned in the Summer report, surprisingly feathered up as Lesser Scaup by Aug. 7 (PJM). Such adoptive behavior is very unusual among ducks. However, this event could have been prompted by the unprecedented breeding success of Lesser Scaup there, as an estimated 10 broods were present Aug. 17 (PJM, RSTh). Rare ducks included a ♀ Tufted Duck at *Warm Springs*, *Alameda*, Nov. 17 (†LRF) and a very obliging ♂ King Eider at *Pt. Reyes* Aug. 30 into December (†GFi, †MJL,



Immature male King Eider at *Drake's Bay*, *Point Reyes National Seashore*, *California*, September 11, 1989. Photograph/Ed Greaves.

†JM, ph. EDG et al.). Inland Oldsquaws were at *Delevan N.W.R.*, *Colusa*, Nov. 18 (fide BED) and *L. Shastina*, *Siskiyou*, Nov. 29 (RE). All inland scoters were in the n.e. corner of the Region: an adult ♂ Black Scoter at *Tule Lake N.W.R.*, *Siskiyou*, Nov. 4 (K. Gonzales, †M. Schreiner) for the Region's 4th in the interior, three Surf Scoters, and two White-winged Scoters. A ♀ Hooded Merganser at the *Sutro Baths* Nov. 15 (DPM) was said to be the first in S.F. since the 1940s (JM).

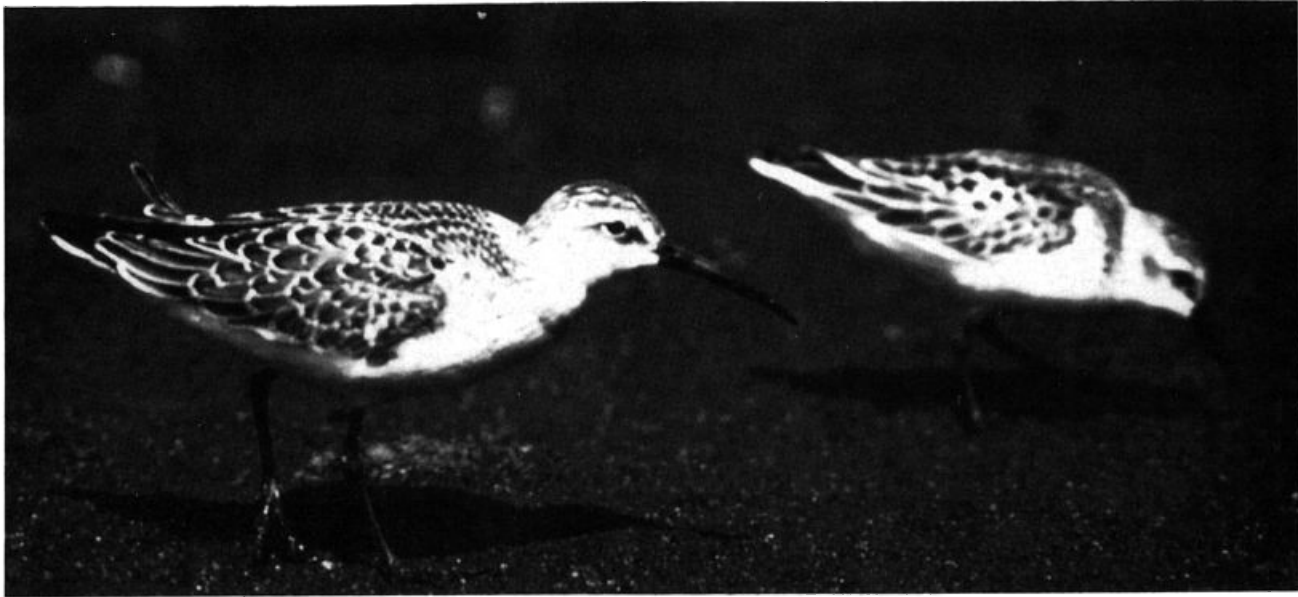
RAPTORS — The Golden Gate Raptor Observatory recorded 7 new season high counts: 1882 Turkey Vultures, 112 Ospreys, 4893 Red-tailed Hawks, 463 Am. Kestrels, 75 Merlins, 31 Peregrine Falcons, and 18 Prairie Falcons. All falcons continue to show increases in our Region. Three raptors were considered low: 1261 Cooper's Hawks, no Swainson's Hawks, and five Rough-legged Hawks. The earliest of their four N. Goshawks was Sept. 4. The 91 Broad-winged Hawks there likely included two others seen in *Marin* and *San Mateo*. Another was at *Hayward Shoreline*, *Alameda*, Nov. 5 (RJR).

Red-shouldered Hawks continue to increase east and north of the mountains, as seven appeared this season, including an adult soaring over 10,500 ft *Hall Natural Area*, *Mono*, Aug. 5 (DDeS). An imm. Golden Eagle between lakes *Earl* and *Talawa*, *Del Norte*, Nov. 1–10 (C. Hampy, PFS, ADB, B. Barton) was believed to be the first on the coastal lowlands n. of *Cape Mendocino*. Among numerous *Santa Clara* Merlins was an ad. ♂ *richardsoni* in *Mountain View* Nov. 5–26 (ph. MRo, MJM), and among many Peregrine Falcons was an ad. *tundrius* at *Pigeon Pt.* Nov. 19 (†RSTh). Topping these was *California's* 5th Gyrfalcon at *Tule Lake N.W.R.*, *Siskiyou* and *Modoc*, Nov. 9–25, an immature (†BED, †RE, ph. †MMI, ph. †J. Olive, m.ob.).

SHOREBIRDS — Both forms of Lesser Golden-Plover were very well reported this fall with 60+ *fulva* and 77+ *dominica*, including nine *fulva* and 37 *dominica* inland. However, of the latter, 24 at the *Hollister sewage ponds*, *San Benito*, Sept. 27 (KVV) apparently made our largest inland concentration of any form. The state's 3rd and 4th **Mongolian Plovers** were an adult male at *Moss Landing W.A.*, *Monterey* [site of the state's first], Aug. 14–16 (†DEG, †RFT, †BJW, †KVV) and one in basic plumage at *Pt. Reyes* Sept. 22–25 (RS, †JM, †MJL, ph. AG, m.ob.). Single Snowy Plovers at F.I. Aug. 27–29 and Sept. 15 provided the 2nd and 3rd records there. A Semipalmated Plover at the *Redding sewage ponds*, *Shasta*, Aug. 4 (D. Holmes) was a county first. There were three scattered Mountain Plovers along the coast, and 68 at *Turlock L.* Nov. 5 (HMR) provided *Stanislaus's* 2nd record, at the site of its first 10 years ago. *Point Reyes* and neighboring F.I. have the lock on **Eurasian Dotterels** with the state's 4th at F.I. Sept. 15 (ph. †T. Schantz), making the 3rd fall in the past 4 that a juvenile has enhanced their landscapes.

Always rare on the n. coast, a Black-necked Stilt near *Ft. Bragg* Sept. 13 (DT) was apparently the 2nd for *Mendocino*. Twenty-seven Solitary Sandpipers about evenly split between the coast and interior made one of their best showings ever, including *Shasta's* first at the *Redding sewage ponds* Aug. 7 (BY, BVdM) and the first for F.I. Sept. 7. The Region's 3rd **Upland Sandpiper** was tantalizingly glimpsed on F.I. Aug. 27 (†O. Williams) but was secured in the record books when found dead there Sept. 21 (†PP). A juv. **Bar-tailed Godwit** was at *Pescadero Marsh*, *San Mateo*, Aug. 20–Sept. 9 (ph. †RSTh, ph. M. Taylor, †m.ob.).

Forty-three Semipalmated Sandpipers (nine inland) represented average fall numbers, but only seven reported from the n. coast were considered poor numbers there (RAE). Overall Baird's Sandpiper numbers appeared modest, and Pectoral Sandpipers seemingly suffered a breeding crash as we witnessed one of their worst showings ever, with most sightings being of single birds. In contrast, six coastal Sharp-tailed Sandpipers Sept. 2–Oct. 19 were about average. Five basic-plumaged Dunlins at *Hayward Shoreline*, *Alameda*, Aug. 21 (C. Corben, SFB, L. Hug) probably had summered



Juvenile Curlew Sandpiper (with juvenile Western Sandpiper) at Lake Merced, San Francisco, California, September 17, 1989. Photograph/Peter LaTourrette.

locally. Rounding out the list of quality Siberian shorebirds was a juv. **Curlew Sandpiper** at L. Merced, S.F., Sept. 17–20 [ASH, †JM, †GF, m.ob.]. It was a 3rd straight banner fall for Stilt Sandpiper (13 seen Aug. 4–Sept. 30) including these county firsts: one near Stratford, Kings, Sept. 8 (ph. †JSR) and three at Crowley L., Mono, Sept. 23 [WDS et al.]. Our only Buff-breasted Sandpiper was at Natural Bridges State Beach, Santa Cruz, Aug. 28–30 (†DEG, †RMrr, CKf). Ruffs went for the record as an amazing 16 birds were observed Aug. 4–Nov. 24, including two inland.

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS — Single Pomarine Jaegers at Alameda South Shore Sept. 12 [JMR] and nearby Hayward Shoreline Oct. 1 [RJR] were both chasing terns. Rarer was the juv. Long-tailed Jaeger at Crowley L., Mono, Sept. 16 (†JLD, P.J. Grant). The maxima for Long-taileds were of only eight offshore Monterey Aug. 27 & Sept. 3 [DLSh].

At least one nest of Franklin's Gull at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Siskiyou, seemed to have been successful, as three apparent fledglings were seen with two adults July 18 (†RE). Four migrant Franklin's Gulls Aug. 13–Nov. 23 were fewer than in the previous 3 autumns. An ad. Little Gull frequented a new location, Horseshoe and Drakes Beach ponds, Marin, Aug. 20–Oct. 25 [DWm, †JM, †MJL, †S. Molodnoff, m.ob.], but the adult at Stockton sewage ponds Nov. 21 [JMR, FGB] was at California's main site for this species. The 2nd-winter Mew Gull at Sunnyvale Aug. 27 [PJM] was so early that it had likely summered locally. Up to seven Sabine's Gulls were found inland Aug. 5–Oct. 3: two adults each at Crowley L. and in the Delta, plus an adult and one or two juveniles in Santa Clara.

Elegant Tern counts of 400–450 on Humboldt Bay Aug. 19 [PFS, RAE] and 64 at Crescent City Sept. 10 [ADB] were second only to the hundreds of 1983. Single Arctic Terns were inland at Salinas sewage ponds Sept. 16 (adult—JLD) and at Stockton sewage ponds Oct. 24–26 (immature—†DGY, JMR, FGB). Four Arctic Terns appeared ashore, including Contra Costa's first at Pt. Isabel Sept. 17 [RJR]. Of six coastward Black Terns, one at Arcata Marsh, Humboldt, Nov. 14–30 [RAE, C. Ogan et al.] was very late. Two Black Skimmers at Elkhorn Slough Aug. 5 [D. Hoffman] continued this species' recent pattern.

For the first time since the early 1970s multiple **Thick-billed Murres** appeared, as in almost all previous records, at and near Monterey. First one was found Sept. 8 [RS], then the



Thick-billed Murre at Monterey, California, September 16, 1989. Photograph/Monte M. Taylor.

count peaked at five on Sept. 19 [JLD]. Counts of two or three spanned Sept. 9–Oct. 15, and at least one remained into December (†MJL, ph. M.M. Taylor, ph. EDG, †MAP, m.ob.). Water temperature trends and the Alaskan oil spill come to mind as possible causes. A Marbled Murrelet at F.I. Oct. 11 was the first for that offshore site. Hundreds of Rhinoceros Auklets came close inshore and to baited fishhooks at Monterey in November [BJW, RT], and lesser numbers of these and Cassin's Auklets were inshore in San Mateo [PJM], suggesting a lack of natural food offshore. Perhaps the Rhinoceros Auklet at the Berkeley Pier, Alameda, Sept. 17 [RJR], the two Tufted Puffins flying past the Cliff House, San Francisco, Sept. 18 [JMR, FGB], and the unusual frequency of Tufted Puffins in Monterey Bay this autumn [DLSh, m.ob.] were also related.

DOVES TO FLYCATCHERS — White-winged Doves at F.I. Sept. 3 & 13–14 were the only ones found this year. A Flammulated Owl calling on the coast at Sunny Brae, Humboldt, Sept. 19 [PFS] represented one of very few migrant records for the Region. A Barred Owl in a residential area n. of Crescent City Oct. 29 (†ADB et al.) was about the 15th to be found in California. It probably will not be long before Barred Owls outnumber Great Gray Owls in California. There

are very few records of the latter south of the Yosemite region, so 3 recent reports from Fresno June to December (*vide* DGY) were most welcome. Single Long-eared Owls were at Monkey Rock, s.e. Mendocino, Aug. 15 and Stoney Gorge Res., Glenn, Sept. 7; the species is a "scarce breeder" in the Coast Ranges (JW).

A nighthawk feeding over Candlestick Park, S.F., Oct. 7 during game four of the Giants/Cubs championship series was seen by millions on TV pursuing the final fly-out. It was unfortunately not identified by consensus (*vide* RLeV, JM). A definite Lesser was at F.I. Aug. 8–10. Calliope Hummingbirds are almost unknown in the Region during fall migration; one was at C.C.R.S. Aug. 10 and one was at Mono Lake Co. Park Sept. 12 (PJM). Late Rufous/Allen's Hummingbirds were in Arcata Nov. 21 (J. Hewston) and in Santa Clara Nov. 22 (DLSu).

The concrete canyons of S.F. provided 2 interesting woodpecker sightings this Season. An Acorn Woodpecker on the 36th floor of the Embarcadero Center Nov. 8 (S. Margolin) followed a Red-naped Sapsucker clinging to a ledge on the 46th floor of the Bank of America Building Oct. 5 (CSp). The only other cismontane Red-naped Sapsuckers seen were at Smith River Oct. 29 (*Del Norte's* 2nd—ADB), Reichmuth Park, Sacramento, Sept. 18 (K.B. Ostyn), and two in Santa Clara Sept. 12 and Nov. 29 (DLSu).

A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at F.I. Sept. 8–9 (ph. †PP) furnished the Region's 4th record; all have been identified there in September. *Empidonax* banding totals at C.C.R.S. were: 25 Willows Aug. 13–Sept. 20, three Least Sept. 23–26, one Hammond's Aug. 17, one Dusky Aug. 10–17, and 665 "Westerns" July 27–Oct. 11. Eight Least were identified at F.I./Pt. Reyes Aug. 27–Sept. 21, Dusky were at F.I. Sept. 9 and Pt. Reyes Sept. 17 (RJR), and Grays were at F.I. Sept. 15–23, Moss Beach, San Mateo, Oct. 15 (†DJK), and Olema, Marin, Oct. 26 (RS). "Westerns" at Uvas Cr., Santa Clara, Nov. 11 (DLSu) and Burris Park, Kings, Nov. 24 (KH) were very late.

Five E. Phoebes made a record total. Three were at F.I. Nov. 15–21, one was at the Big Sur R. mouth, Monterey, Nov. 3–17 (†DEG), and San Mateo's first was near Pescadero Nov. 11–12 (MLR, †RSTh). A Great Crested Flycatcher visited F.I. Sept. 27 (†PP). It was a poor year for Tropical Kingbirds with only nine along the coast Oct. 8–Nov. 20. One slightly inland on Coyote Cr. Oct. 18 (†DLSu) was Santa Clara's 2nd. One E. Kingbird was at the Big Sur R. mouth, Monterey, Sept. 22 (†DEG) and eight to 10 were at F.I./Pt. Reyes Aug. 21–Sept. 9. Three near Grenada, Siskiyou, Aug. 15 were no doubt from the local breeding population (RE).

SWALLOWS TO VIREOS — A Purple Martin near Stratford Sept. 5 was possibly a first for Kings (†JSR). Significant migratory concentrations of swallows included 50,000+ Trees and 20,000+ Barns at Venice I., San Joaquin, Sept. 27 (DGY) and 3000–4000 Violet-greens near Pt. Reyes Station Oct. 30 (RS). Late swallows included a Cliff Swallow at the Lodi sewage ponds Nov. 1 (DGY) and five Barn Swallows in November. Canyon Wrens exhibit very limited movement; one at Pt. Reyes Aug. 18 (RS) was Marin's first.

Three Townsend's Solitaires were found along the central coast Sept. 28–Oct. 29. A Swainson's Thrush at C.C.R.S. Oct. 30 was very late. Three Sage Thrashers visited F.I./Pt. Reyes Sept. 28–Oct. 17, one was at Patterson Pass, Alameda, Nov. 27–Dec. 2 (†GFi *et al.*), and up to 13 were in a likely wintering area along Panoche Access Rd. in w. Fresno Nov. 24–Dec. 2 (SA *et al.*). Acampo, San Joaquin, returned to the limelight with the reappearance of the Bendire's Thrasher there Sept. 30, for the 4th winter in the last 5 (DGY).

The identity of a White/Black-backed Wagtail at Rodeo Lagoon, Marin, Oct. 1 (†K. Metcalf, ph. Debbie Bedford *et al.*) was disputed, but the former seems to be favored (*vide* JM). The record will be reviewed in detail by the C.B.R.C. Red-throated Pipits were found only at F.I.: Sept. 27 (†PP) and Oct. 14 (†DBd). An Am Pipit at L. Talawa, *Del Norte*, Oct. 13 was said to resemble the race *japonicus* (†ADB). In addition to

Alaska records, there is a June specimen from n.e. Sonora (Monson & Phillips, 1981, *Annotated checklist of the birds of Arizona*. UA Press) on this side of the Pacific. Their calls may be distinctive (*vide* JLD).

Solitary Vireos of all colors were reported this season "Blue-headed's" were seen at F.I. Sept. 7–9 and Fairhaven, Humboldt, Oct. 3 (†GHZ); "Plumbeous" Solitaires were at Pt Lobos, Monterey, Sept. 23 (†BJW), Pt. Reyes Oct. 13 (DSg, †GFi), Hayward Shoreline Oct. 15 (RJR), and Reichmuth Park, Sacramento, Nov. 3 (†TDM); and a "Cassin's" at Burris Park, Kings, Nov. 24 (KH) was very late. Warbling Vireos at F.I. Nov. 16 and in Pacific Grove Nov. 18 (AB) were also late. Philadelphia and Red-eyed vireos were found in low numbers with only one of the former at F.I. Oct. 25 (†PP) and three of the latter shared between F.I. and Pt. Reyes Sept. 9–12.

WOOD WARBLERS — About 30 Tennessee Warblers on the coast Aug. 26–Nov. 2 were about average. Two slightly inland in Alameda (RJR) and a late bird at F.I. Nov. 29 were less expected. Both Virginia's Warblers were banded by P.R.B.O.: Palomarin Oct. 1 (†DDeS) and F.I. Oct. 11–17. The lone N. Parula was at Samoa Dunes, Humboldt, Sept. 7 (GHZ).

Inland Chestnut-sided Warblers at Mono L. Aug. 21 (PJM) and San Joaquin's first at Lodi L. Sept. 1 (†DGY) preceded a moderate showing of 14 along the coast Sept. 6–Oct. 12. Twenty coastal Magnolia Warblers Sept. 4–Oct. 24 made a respectable number. Three Cape May Warblers represented the highest fall total since 1982: Crescent City Sept. 26–27 (ADB *et al.*), Westhaven, Humboldt, Sept. 29–30 (GSL, LPL *et al.*), and F.I. Sept. 30–Oct. 11. Ten Black-throated Blue Warblers were at F.I./Pt. Reyes Sept. 28–Oct. 26, and one was in S.F. Oct. 22 (A. Smith). One at Honey Lake W.A., Lassen, Oct. 8 (†TDM, BWb) furnished only the 6th inland Regional record and the first for n.e. California, but the species has been surprisingly well reported in e. Oregon. Black-throated Green Warblers were found at F.I. only: Sept. 8 and Nov. 2. Nine Blackburnian Warblers along the coast Sept. 4–Oct. 7 were expected, but one slightly inland at Berkeley Sept. 26 (HG) and one very late at Tomales Bay S.P. Nov. 30 (RS) were not. The only Yellow-throated Warbler seen was most unusual in the Sierra Nevada near Grizzly Flats, *El Dorado*, Oct. 28–Nov. 25 (†HMR). A Prairie Warbler startled a boatload of observers 9 miles off Cypress Pt., Monterey, Sept. 3 (DLSu *et al.*), and three were seen at F.I./Pt. Reyes Sept. 12–Oct. 26. Of nearly 200 Palm Warblers on the coast after Sept. 15, about two-thirds were at F.I./Pt. Reyes. One at Briceland, Humboldt, Oct. 9 (Woods) and three in Santa Clara (PJM, DLSu) were slightly inland. Four Bay-breasted Warblers were at F.I./Pt. Reyes Sept. 11–Oct. 11. Nearly 50 Blackpoll Warblers hugged the immediate coast Sept. 5–Oct. 15.

At least four of the 17 Black-and-white Warblers found along the immediate coast Sept. 7 and later were believed to be wintering birds. An Am. Redstart was inland near Davis, Yolo, Aug. 26 (BMx, ECB) and 60+ were on the immediate coast Aug. 11–Oct. 28. A Prothonotary Warbler was in Half Moon Bay, San Mateo, Sept. 29–30 (†PJM, †SEF, †RSTh), and one at F.I. Oct. 23 (†PP) was, surprisingly, only the island's 2nd. A Worm-eating Warbler put in a brief appearance at Pt. Reyes Nov. 4 (†JM, GHg). An Ovenbird at F.I. Aug. 19–22 was record early for the Region. Five more were at F.I./Pt. Reyes in September, and Alameda's first was at Hayward Shoreline Sept. 29 (RJR). Eighteen coastal N. Waterthrushes Aug. 18–Sept. 24 (well above the recent average) included one found in Arcata Sept. 3 that was still present at the end of the year (GSL *et al.*). Three in Santa Clara and one in Contra Costa Aug. 31–Oct. 8 (*vide* WGB, JMR) were slightly inland.

Three Connecticut Warblers visited F.I. (Sept. 13—†T Schantz; Sept. 28—†DBd; Oct. 11—†PP) and two were found in Humboldt: Fairhaven Sept. 13 (†JCS, †RAE *et al.*) and Mad R. mouth Sept. 27–28 (†JCS, RLeV, †SWH *et al.*). Five Mourning Warblers at F.I. Sept. 6–20 included an ad. male Sept. 6–9



Northern California had more Northern Waterthrushes than expected in autumn 1989. This one was at Point Reyes on September 2nd. Photograph/Peter LaTourrette.

(all †PP). The island also hosted the only Hooded Warbler Oct. 11. Canada Warblers found Pt. Reyes Aug. 20 (ASH) and F.I. Sept. 8 (two). Alameda's first record was extraordinary with two in Fremont on the late date of Nov. 14 [M. Nordstrom, ALH, *fide* JM]. A Yellow-breasted Chat at San Bruno Mountain S.P., San Mateo, Nov. 3 [J. McCormick] was most unusual on that date.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES — An inland Summer Tanager near Groveland Sept. 7 (†S. Baldwin) was Tuolumne's first. One at F.I. Oct. 12–13 was of the less expected race *cooperi*. Twelve Rose-breasted Grosbeaks Aug. 21–Oct. 15 were all on the immediate coast, as was a lingering bird in Ferndale, Humboldt, mid-November to Dec. 6 (G. & D. Anderson, PFS *et al.*). Eight Blue Grosbeaks at F.I. Aug. 21–Sept. 16 (an exceptional number there) and a very late bird in Bayside, Humboldt, Nov. 28 (RAE *et al.*) furnished the only coastal reports. Seven coastal Indigo Buntings Aug. 8–Oct. 29 included none at F.I./Pt. Reyes. Monterey's 2nd Dickcissel at the Big Sur R. mouth Nov. 16–19 (†DEG) was the only report. Extralimital Green-tailed Towhees were at Lodi L. Sept. 4 [J. Rowth) and C.C.R.S. Oct. 1.

Six Am. Tree Sparrows were found on the coast s. to F.I./Pt. Reyes Oct. 11–Nov. 2. It was an exceptional year for Clay-colored Sparrows. Half of the 62 found along the coast Sept. 6–Nov. 17 were at F.I., including a Regional high of 10 on Sept. 28. Slightly inland were one at Hayward Shoreline Sept. 24 (RJR), San Benito's first at the Hollister sewage ponds Sept. 27 (†KVV), and one in upper Carmel Valley, Monterey, Oct. 2 (RS). In contrast, Brewer's and Vesper sparrow numbers were depressed on the coast, with only four of the former seen on the central coast Aug. 31–Nov. 15. The single coastal Black-throated Sparrow was at Pt. Reyes Sept. 14 (GFi). Three Lark Buntings were in Humboldt Aug. 29–Oct. 12 (GSL, RAE *et al.*) and three were at F.I./Pt. Reyes Aug. 31–Sept. 8.

Southeast Farallon I. provided the only migrant Grasshopper Sparrow noted (Nov. 1) and was the site of yet another juv. **Le Conte's Sparrow** record (Oct. 7—†DBd). Sharp-tailed Sparrows made quite an appearance. Up to four at Bolinas Lagoon Nov. 4 and later [M. Larkin, †BDP *et al.*] and one at Palo Alto Baylands Nov. 14 and later (BHi, †AME *et al.*) were at traditional sites, but five others were not: Carmel R. mouth Oct. 5–7 (Monterey's 3rd—†GPS, †BJW), the first ever for F.I. Oct. 27, Alameda South Shore Nov. 12–13 [LRF, D. Wolff], and San Mateo's 2nd and 3rd at Princeton Harbor Oct. 15 (†DJK, †FrT) and Redwood Shores Nov. 15 (BS). Sixty-five Swamp Sparrows along the coast and four in Santa Clara Sept. 28+ made a good showing, but seven in San Joaquin, including

Southeast Farallon I. scored another major coup with the appearance of a **Red-flanked Bluetail** (*Tarsiger cyanurus*) there Nov. 1 (†DBd). The few previous New World records were all from the w. Alaskan islands in the last 8 years. Those observers given to despair at birding on the mainland should recall their reactions to earlier reports of Dusky Warbler and Brown Shrike on "The Rock." Many active birders in the Region have now seen both species on the mainland and should rejoice in what must lie ahead.

six at Venice I. Nov. 30, were totally unexpected (*fide* DGY). The vast majority of a record 100+ White-throated Sparrows were along the coast; 23 were in Humboldt alone. A Golden-crowned Sparrow on the Pajaro R. in s. Santa Clara Aug. 23 (DLSu) was very early, if not oversummering.

It appeared to have been the worst fall in recent times for Lapland Longspurs, with 40+ in Del Norte outnumbering all other reports combined. Singles at F.I. Sept. 6 and Fairhaven, Humboldt, Sept. 11 (RAE) were early, and up to three near Mare I., Solano, Oct. 24–Nov. 15 (DDeS) were in an unusual location. Chestnut-collared Longspurs were found in normal numbers with four to five at F.I./Marin Sept. 20–Oct. 20. And then there were Snow Buntings. Not since 1977 had so many been seen: Arcata Marsh Oct. 29–Nov. 1 (†GHZ, ph. JMH *et al.*), Lower Klamath N.W.R. Oct. 30–Nov. 8 (†BED, †RE *et al.*), San Mateo's first at the mouth of Tunitas Cr. Nov. 3–4 (†RSTh *et al.*), and F.I. Nov. 15 (†S. Anderson).

On the down side, 13 Bobolinks on the central coast Sept. 7–Oct. 16 were all the Region's observers could produce. Rusty Blackbirds were detected at Bolinas, Marin, Oct. 20–21 (RS *et al.*), Bolinas Lagoon Oct. 28 [J. Silvas, KH *et al.*], F.I. Nov. 7, and the Ukiah sewage ponds, Mendocino, Nov. 24 (GSL, †LPL). The male of the pair of Great-tailed Grackles in S.F. was seen at the Aquatic Park Nov. 17–18 [S. Morical]. Incredibly, only one Orchard Oriole was found (F.I., Sept. 2–5), for the lowest fall total since 1973. Seven "Baltimore" Orioles on the central coast Sept. 6–Oct. 11 were more than expected. A Cassin's Finch at F.I. Nov. 2 represented only the 6th record there. A Lawrence's Goldfinch at Tom's Place Oct. 20 (†CDHa) was only the 3rd to be found in the Mono Basin, all in October/November.

CORRIGENDA — The Golden Gate Raptor Observatory assures us that 10 of their 11 N. Goshawks during Autumn 1988 were seen and documented by veteran hawk counters, and that the five goshawks Oct. 19, 1988 were seen together (*fide* AMF). Last issue's comments on Black Skimmers should have concluded with "When will nesting be proven around San Francisco Bay?"; skimmers nested in the Region (Kings Co.) in 1986 (AB 40:1251).

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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Guy McCaskie



The fall of 1989 was the driest on record and southern California entered December with the lowest annual rainfall ever recorded, leaving the entire Region badly in need of water. Reports from a research vessel operating off southern California in November gave us more information on pelagic birds occurring far offshore. Waterbirds appeared to be in lower numbers than normal, but this was probably owing in part to the exceptionally dry condition of the Region. Woodpeckers were clearly on the move, with numbers of Lewis' Woodpeckers and Acorn Woodpeckers widely scattered. Most other migrant landbirds appeared to be in about average numbers, although Hermit Thrushes were more numerous than usual, and there appeared to be above-average numbers of American Robins, Varied Thrushes, and Purple Finches. However, there was little evidence of any movements of species from the local mountains.

ABBREVIATIONS — C.L.N.W.C. = China Lake Naval Weapons Center in extreme n.e. Kern; E.A.F.B. = Edwards Air Force Base in s.e. Kern; F.C.R. = Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley, Inyo; L.A.C.N.H.M. = Los Angeles County Natural History Museum; N.E.S.S. = north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside; S.B.C.M. = San Bernardino County Museum; S.C.R.E. = Santa Clara River Estuary near Ventura; S.D.N.H.M. = San Diego Natural History Museum; S.E.S.S. = south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial; U.C.S.B. = University of California in Santa Barbara. Place names in *italics* are counties. As virtually all rarities found in s. 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 TO FRIGATEBIRDS — A juv. Pacific Loon at F.C.R. Oct. 17–18 (JLD) was one of very few to be found in this area of California, and the first ever from this well-worked desert oasis.

Single Laysan Albatrosses were seen at 57 and 82 nautical mi w.s.w. of San Nicolas I. Nov. 13 (PPy) and a third was seen 116 nautical mi s.w. of San Nicolas I. Nov. 15 (PPy), all over waters where this species undoubtedly occurs regularly in small numbers; another was found recently dead on the beach in Goleta, Santa Barbara, Oct. 21 (DT, *U.C.S.B.). A **Mottled Petrel** at 30°25'N–124°00'W Nov. 9 (PPy) was more than 200 mi off the coast, but one at 32°44'N–122°33'W Nov. 15 (PPy) was 123 nautical mi s.w. of San Miguel I., and another at 33°57'N–121°39'W Nov. 17 (PPy) was only 61 nautical mi w. of San Miguel I. Also of extreme interest, although beyond the 200-mi limit, was a **Stejneger's Petrel** at 30°15'N–123°52'W Nov. 9 (PPy) and four more at 31°33'N–123°55'W Nov. 14 (PPy), these being the only *Cookilaria* identified during the 2-week cruise, and at the same time of year that one was reported over the Davidson Seamount in 1979 (AB 34:200).

A Flesh-footed Shearwater, rare in s. California waters, was off Morro Bay Sept. 23 (BS) and three more were in that same area Oct. 15 (JSR). A large dark shearwater 15 nautical mi s. of Pt. Dume, Los Angeles, Nov. 12 (PPy) and an identical-looking bird 33 nautical mi w. of Pt. Sal, Santa Barbara, Nov. 19 (PPy) were both felt to be Wedge-tailed Shearwaters. Buller's Shearwaters were relatively scarce over s. California waters this fall, but included one about 30 nautical mi off San

Diego Sept. 9 (JO'B) and another 60 nautical mi s.w. of San Clemente I. Nov. 7 (PPy). The presence of 10 Short-tailed Shearwaters off Santa Barbara Nov. 12 (BA), along with smaller numbers elsewhere, indicated some were present in s. California waters this fall. As happens periodically, large numbers of Black-vented Shearwaters moved north along the coast in November, as indicated by 1000 off Newport, Orange, Nov. 11 (RRV), 3000 off Vandenberg Air Force Base, Santa Barbara, Nov. 10 (KH), and 15,000 off Avila Beach, San Luis Obispo, Nov. 13 (JSR).

The only Red-billed Tropicbirds reported were one 64 nautical mi w.s.w. of San Nicolas I. Nov. 13 (PPy) and two more 82 nautical mi w.s.w. of San Miguel I. Nov. 17 (PPy). A Red-tailed Tropicbird at 29° 51'N–123° 35'W Nov. 9 (PPy) was more than 200 mi from land, and over waters where small numbers probably occur regularly. A Magnificent Frigatebird over Pacific Palisades, Los Angeles, Aug. 4 (JBr), another at Seal Beach, Orange, Aug. 16 (JBo), and a 3rd at S.E.S.S. Aug. 9 (TP) were the latest of the few reaching California this past summer.

HERONS TO RAPTORS — The only Little Blue Herons found outside the San Diego area were the aberrant bird found in Playa del Rey, Los Angeles, July 22 that remained through Sept. 23 (KLG), an adult in Goleta Aug. 3 (SEF), and an immature at Ramer L. in the Imperial Valley Sept. 15 (RMcK). The Reddish Egret that spent the summer in San Diego was last seen Sept. 9 (JO'B), an immature was near Imperial Beach Aug. 6–8 (EC), and the adult that has spent the past 7 winters on s. San Diego Bay had returned for another winter Sept. 13 (B & IM).

The only Tundra Swans to reach this Region were seven on Tinnemaha Res., Inyo, Nov. 5 (CMcG) and two more at C.L.N.W.C. Nov. 17 (DVB). A flock of 11 Greater White-fronted Geese flying south over Oasis, Mono, Sept. 15 (JLD) established one of the earliest dates for fall migrants in s. California. The presence of a flock of 200 Brant 103 nautical mi w.s.w. of San Nicolas I. Nov. 13 (PPy) and 35 more 225 nautical mi s.w. of San Miguel I. Nov. 14 (PPy) added support to our suspicions that this species migrates far offshore in fall. A "Cackling" Canada Goose at F.C.R. Nov. 19–23 (REW) was at an unusual locality for a race considered rare in s. California, as were six in California City, Kern, Oct. 28 (MTH) and three more at C.L.N.W.C. Nov. 10 (DVB). A ♂ Garganey in "eclipse" plumage

found along the coast. Inland Surf Scoters included one at F.C.R. Oct. 18 (JLD), up to three at C.L.N.W.C. Oct. 26–29 (BC), seven at N.E.S.S. Oct. 7 (CMcG), and five more scattered about the Salton Sea Nov. 25 (DRW). An ad. ♂ White-winged Scoter at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley Oct. 17 (NBB) was at a most unusual locality, and two at S.E.S.S. Nov. 25 (DRW) were the only others to be reported from the interior. A ♂ Hooded Merganser at S.E.S.S. Nov. 22 (EAC) was in an area where very few have been found.

A Black-shouldered Kite at S.E.S.S. Sept. 3 (AME) was outside the species' normal range in California. An imm. Bald Eagle flying south over Malibu Creek S.P., Los Angeles, Nov. 20 (BE) was at an unusual locality, and another immature was on Santa Rosa I. Nov. 24 (TMul). A Swainson's Hawk over Goleta Aug. 20 (JLD) was along the coast where now considered casual. A "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk, rare in California, was seen along the Colorado R. south of Blythe Nov. 24 (GMcC). A Ferruginous Hawk at Oasis, Mono, Sept. 3 (BED) was a little early, but 10 were found in that same area Sept. 15 (JLD). Rough-legged Hawks appeared to be scarcer than normal with only five reported, all in the n. portion of the Region. Merlins appeared earlier than normal with five reported before mid-September, including one at Morro Bay Sept. 5 (TME).

CRANES, SHOREBIRDS — A flock of 18 Sandhill Cranes in flight 30 mi w. of Palo Verde, Imperial, Sept. 26 (RMcK) was a little early and at an unusual locality. Reports of Lesser Golden-Plovers included 16 *dominica* along the coast between Aug. 30 and Nov. 1, along with two inland at E.A.F.B. Oct. 21 (MTH) and another in San Jacinto, Riverside, Oct. 4 (CMcG); 56 *fulva* along the coast and on the offshore islands after July 31; and two unidentified to race along the coast during September. A Mountain Plover on the beach north of Morro Bay Oct. 22 (PPE) was frequenting unusual habitat for this species. A count of 37 Black Oystercatchers on the Los Angeles/Long Beach breakwaters Oct. 20 (SWar) was an amazing concentration. Solitary Sandpipers appeared more numerous than normal with 76 found between Aug. 6 and Oct. 10, along with relatively late individuals in Anaheim Oct. 17 (JP) and near Oxnard Oct. 21 (RJM). A Wandering Tattler, most unusual inland in fall, was at Salton City Aug. 20 (CMcG). A juv. Upland Sandpiper photographed in Ventura Aug. 28 (FH) was only the 4th ever to be found in fall in s. California, the previous three having occurred in early September.

Reports of Ruddy Turnstones inland included two adults at C.L.N.W.C. Aug. 2 (DVB) and a juvenile near Lancaster, Los Angeles, Aug. 29–Sept. 4 (MGU). A Red Knot at E.A.F.B. Aug. 19 (JLD) and two more there Sept. 9–16 (MTH), and an additional two on L. Isabella, Kern, Sept. 1 (MTH), were inland. As appears to be normal, small numbers of Sanderlings passed through the interior during August and September as indicated by at least 20 found in Kern and inland Los Angeles between Aug. 19 and Sept. 27 (MTH, JLD). Semipalmated Sandpipers were less numerous than in recent years, but included 24 juveniles scattered around the Region between Aug. 5 and Sept. 4, and a winter-plumaged bird at S.E.S.S. on the unusually late date of Oct. 13 (CDB).

About 225 Baird's Sandpipers between Aug. 4 and Oct. 22, and 70 Pectoral Sandpipers between Aug. 28 and Oct. 19, were fewer than expected, but a Baird's Sandpiper at the Santa Maria R. mouth Nov. 8 (GPS) was unusually late. A juv. Curlew Sandpiper near Pt. Mugu, Ventura, Sept. 26–Oct. 9 (BD) provided our 6th record in fall. Stilt Sandpipers appeared along the coast in larger than expected numbers with a juvenile near Santa Maria Aug. 31–Sept. 3 (PEL), two juveniles in Long Beach Sept. 13 (BED), single juveniles in Irvine, Orange, Sept. 5 (KR) & 20 (DRW), three juveniles on Batiquitos Lagoon, San Diego, Oct. 14 (RRV), and up to five more juveniles at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego, Aug. 26–Sept. 10 (GMcC). The only Buff-breasted Sandpiper found this year was a juvenile on E.A.F.B. Sept. 16 (BED). More than the expected



Garganey in eclipse plumage near Santa Maria, California, October 15, 1989. One of very few ever recorded in fall in North America. Photograph/Paul Lehman.

was skillfully picked out of a flock of Blue-winged and Cinnamon teal near the mouth of the Santa Maria R., Santa Barbara/San Luis Obispo, Oct. 15 (SEF) and remained to be seen and photographed by numerous observers through Nov. 4. There are 6 previous reports of this species in California, including 2 from s. California. One at the north end of Humboldt Bay Jan. 30 to Feb. 10, 1987 (AB 41:323) was the only other one reported in the state that was not an alternate-plumaged male. Fourteen Eur. Wigeon were reported by the end of the period with one at Pt. Mugu, Ventura, Oct. 10 (SEF) being the earliest this fall. A ♀ Oldsquaw at S.E.S.S. Nov. 25 (GMcC) was inland, and single birds at Cayucos, San Luis Obispo, after Nov. 6 (TME), at Avila Beach Nov. 26 (JSR), and on San Diego Bay after Nov. 11 (EMcG) were the only ones

number of Ruffs were found this fall with single juveniles along the coast in Goleta Aug. 22–Sept. 1 (PEL) and Sept. 23–Oct. 7 (HPR), at S.C.R.E. Oct. 19–28 (RJM), in Irvine Sept. 21–30 (CE), and on Batiquitos Lagoon Sept. 17–Oct. 1 (RRV), and an adult on s. San Diego Bay after July 19 returning for its 8th winter. Inland were an adult near Wasco, Kern, July 28–Sept. 3 (JCW), a juvenile near Lancaster Aug. 29–Sept. 4 (MGU), and another juvenile at S.E.S.S. Nov. 6 (RMCK).

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS— A juv. jaeger at C.L.N.W.C. Sept. 2 (MTH) was identified as a Pomarine Jaeger. However, a review of documented records south of this species' breeding range indicates juveniles do not move south until late in the fall, with all specimens of Pomarine Jaegers taken south of the Canadian border in August and September apparently being one year or older, and the earliest juveniles being found in late October, clearly indicating great care must be taken when identifying juv. Pomarine Jaegers before November. The only Parasitic Jaegers reported from the interior were a juvenile at C.L.N.W.C. Sept. 19–22 (DVB) and single birds at N.E.S.S. Sept. 9 (RMCK) & 23 (GMCC). An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger 105 nautical mi w.s.w. of San Nicolas I. Nov. 13 (PPy), an immature 74 nautical mi s.w. of San Miguel I. Nov. 15 (PPy), and another adult 161 nautical mi w.s.w. of San Miguel I. Nov. 18 (PPy) were all very late. In addition, a dead juv. Long-tailed Jaeger was found inland near Lancaster Sept. 13 (JLD, *L.A.C.M.N.H.). Four S. Polar Skuas were reported with one off San Diego Sept. 10 (JLD), another off Morro Bay Oct. 15 (JMcD) and two more 35 nautical mi w. of San Nicolas I. Nov. 11 (PPy).

The Laughing Gull found on Upper Newport Bay, Orange, July 29 was present through Aug. 21 (SG). Juvenile Franklin's Gulls on Tinnemaha Res. Aug. 5 (MAP), at E.A.F.B. Sept. 4 (JLD), and at Harper Dry Lake Aug. 13 (GH, *S.B.C.M.) were inland, and an immature in San Luis Obispo Nov. 7–15 (GPS) and another at Malibu Oct. 21 (HS) were along the coast. An adult or 2nd-winter Little Gull, a casual straggler to California, was at S.C.R.E. Nov. 23–26 (RJM). An ad. **Common Black-headed Gull** at S.C.R.E. Nov. 9 (RJM) was only the 6th to be found in this Region. An ad. Western Gull photographed at S.E.S.S. Aug. 12–17 (GMCC) was one of very few to be found this far inland. A Glaucous Gull photographed on Vandenberg Air Force Base Nov. 26 (AA) was early for s. California, and one of very few adults ever found in this Region. More than the expected numbers of Sabine's Gulls were found inland with juveniles at C.L.N.W.C. Sept. 14–21 (BC) & 30 (DVB), E.A.F.B. Sept. 23 & 30 (JCW), California City Sept. 30–Oct. 2

(MOC), Baker, San Bernardino, Sept. 30 (EAC *S.B.C.M.), Harper Dry Lake Oct. 9 (EAC), L. Silverwood, San Bernardino, Sept. 23 (MAP), and up to two together near Lancaster Sept. 30–Oct. 4 (NH); 300+ off Morro Bay Sept. 23 (TME) were significantly more than are normally encountered offshore.

An ad. Arctic Tern, casual to accidental inland, was near Lancaster Sept. 13 (JLD). Two Black Skimmers on Morro Bay Sept. 22–23 (RAA) were unusually far north. A Xantus' Murrelet of the nominate race *hypoleucus*, along with two of the more northern race *scrippsi*, were identified off San Diego Sept. 10 (JO'B). A Tufted Puffin, rare in s. California waters, was seen off Morro Bay Sept. 23 (DR) and another was seen there Nov. 19 (JSR).

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS— A flock of 100 to 200 Band-tailed Pigeons near Malibu after Oct. 28 (KLG) and 150 in Orange Nov. 25 (JBo), along with a scattering of individuals elsewhere along the s. coast where none is normally found, indicated an influx of these birds into the coastal lowlands. As expected a few White-winged Doves strayed west to the coast with 23 reported between Aug. 17 and Nov. 18, including one as far north as Pt. Buchon, San Luis Obispo, Aug. 24 (MEC). A Com. Ground-Dove at F.C.R. Oct. 17–18 (LB) was north of its normal range in California. Again **Ruddy Ground-Doves** moved north into the Region with up to two males and a female at F.C.R. Oct. 14 through November (DG, MAP, REW), two males together in Bard, Imperial, Nov. 25–Dec. 2 (BED), and a male and female together in the Tijuana R. Valley near Imperial Beach Oct. 15–31 (KR, MS). An imm. **Black-billed Cuckoo** in Huntington Beach Oct. 4–6 (JP) was only the 2nd to be found in s. California. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo, casual to accidental along the coast of California today, hit a window in Santa Barbara Aug. 1 (HM); another that hit a window in Morro Bay Nov. 7 (NB, *Cal Poly) was remarkably late. A ♀ Calliope Hummingbird in Hollywood Aug. 27–30 (REW) was one of very few ever identified along the coast in fall.

Lewis' Woodpeckers were more numerous and widespread than normal, with large numbers clearly moving into the Region in September, as indicated by counts such as 20 at Deep Springs, Inyo, Sept. 30 and 30 at F.C.R. the same day (REW), and reaching such unusual localities as Bard Nov. 24 (PEL) and the open ocean 7 mi off Pt. Fermin, Los Angeles, Oct. 7 (KLG). Acorn Woodpeckers were also widely scattered at unusual localities throughout the Region, with at least 20 reported from the desert and an equal number from along the s. coast, being found at such out of range localities as Westgard Pass in the White Mts., Inyo, Sept. 3–9 (BED), Ridgecrest, Kern, Sept. 30 (DVB), and San Nicolas I. Sept. 15–Oct. 8 (TMur). Reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers included single immatures in Oceano Oct. 27 (TME), Lompoc, Santa Barbara, Nov. 4 (BHi), and near Ventura Nov. 5–Dec. 3 (DD). A Williamson's Sapsucker in Yucca Valley, San Bernardino, Sept. 16 (CMcG) was at an unusual locality, and another in La Jolla Nov. 22 (JM) was on the immediate coast. A Ladder-backed Woodpecker at Oasis Nov. 4 (REW) was a little outside the species' normal range. Possibly the most unexpected bird of the season was the **Pileated Woodpecker** in Malibu Aug. 12–13 (PB, KLG), the first ever found in this Region away from the extreme s. end of the Sierra Nevada Mts. in Kern; it had to cross a large area of unsuitable habitat from wherever it came.

FLYCATCHERS TO SWALLOWS— A W. Wood-Pewee at Emigrant Ranger Station in Death Valley Oct. 22 (GMCC) was somewhat late. A calling **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** present at Galileo Hill, Kern, Sept. 27–Oct. 1 (JLD) was well studied and photographed by numerous observers, and gave us the best-documented record of this species in the Region; another was seen by a single observer in Montaña de Oro S.P. Sept. 27 (KJZ). One on Southeast Farallon Island Sept. 16, 1976 (W. Birds 16:153–160) and another collected there Sept. 27, 1983 (AB 38:243) are the only accepted occurrences for the state



Juvenile Sabine's Gull at Edwards Air Force Base, California, September 30, 1989. Photograph/Matt T. Heindel.

although at least three others have been reported. Three Least Flycatchers were found this fall with one at Oasis Oct. 21 (REW), the 2nd at Panamint Springs in the Panamint Valley, Inyo, Oct. 3 (JLD), and the 3rd on Pt. Loma in San Diego Oct. 8 (MAP). Five E. Phoebes were found, with one inland at Oasis Oct. 21 (REW) and the rest along the coast with one in Goleta Oct. 18 (PEL), another in Santa Barbara Nov. 1 (RWH), one near Imperial Beach Oct. 21-26 (JO), and the 4th on Pt. Loma Oct. 23 (AME). A Vermilion Flycatcher at Oasis Sept. 30 (REW) was unusually far north, and another in Malibu Nov. 4 (A & JC) was at an unexpected locality. A Great Crested Flycatcher at Galileo Hill Sept. 23-27 (JCW, MTH) was only the 2nd ever found away from the coast in California.

Tropical Kingbirds appeared to be scarcer than normal with only eight reported between Sept. 15 and the end of the period. The **Thick-billed Kingbird** that spent the past 7 winters near Tustin, Orange, was again present from Nov. 24 into December (LRH). Reports of E. Kingbirds included two at F.C.R. Aug. 5 (GMcC) with one still present Aug. 12 (MAP), one at Deep Springs, Inyo, Sept. 3 (GMcC), an exceptionally late individual in Baker Oct. 14 (EAC, *S.B.C.M.), and another in Whitewater Canyon, Riverside, Sept. 14 (DAH) in the e. portion of the Region; along the coast were four individuals around Santa Barbara between Sept. 2 & 16 (PEL, SEF), and single birds at Pt. Mugu Sept. 28 (RJM) and on San Nicolas I. Sept. 2 (TMur). The only Scissor-tailed Flycatcher this fall was one seen in Laguna Beach Aug. 7 (LAS). An ad. ♂ Purple Martin over Riverside Nov. 11 (C-TL) was the latest ever to be seen in s. California, the previous latest reported sighting being that of three over F.C.R. Oct. 29, 1977.

JAYS TO VIREOS — A Steller's Jay in the New York Mts. of e. San Bernardino Oct. 1 (EAC, *S.B.C.M.) proved to be of the race *maculophya*, normally occurring to the east of California, for which there is only one previous specimen; one in the Granite Mts. of e. San Bernardino Nov. 4-5 (BSO) and another near Blythe for 2 weeks in early November (Sue Clark, fide PEL) were probably also of this race. At least 10 Scrub Jays were reported from various desert localities along

the e. border of the Region during October and November, indicating a minor movement of these birds. Twelve Clark's Nutcrackers on Figueroa Mt., Santa Barbara, Oct. 29 (TEW) were the only ones reported away from areas of normal occurrence.

The presence of at least 10 White-breasted Nuthatches on Pt. Loma during September, along with three or four in coastal Orange at the same time, documented a movement of these birds into coastal areas where not normally found. A Canyon Wren in Niland, Imperial, Nov. 25 (DRW) was far from the closest known area of normal occurrence.

A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at Galileo Hill Sept. 14-18 (Jim Brown, fide JLD) was only the 3rd ever found in this Region, and the first for the interior of California. A **Rufous-backed**



Rufous-backed Robin at Desert Center, California, November 25, 1989. Fifth state record. Photograph/Shawneen Finnegan.



Gray-cheeked Thrush at Galileo Hill, California, September 16, 1989. One of very few ever for California, and the first for the interior of the state. Photograph/Matt T. Heindel.

Robin at Desert Center, Riverside, Nov 24–26 (GMcC) gave us the 5th record for this species in California, 2 of the previous records involving birds present for single days in November, and the other 2 involving birds remaining through the winter. Small numbers of Varied Thrushes were found scattered throughout the n.e. portion of the Region in October and November, getting as far south as Whitewater Canyon Oct 3 (DVH), the San Jacinto Mts., Riverside, Nov. 18 (CMcG), and Borrego Springs, San Diego, Nov. 28 (AM), and additional birds were along the coast, with three individuals as far south as Pt. Loma between Oct. 23 & 30 (CGE).

Four Brown Thrashers were reported with one remaining at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley Sept. 30–Nov. 4 (REW), one at Stovepipe Wells Oct. 3 (JLD), another at Panamint Springs Oct 22 (JLD), and the 4th along the coast in Goleta Oct. 18–23 (BHen). The only N. Shrike reported was one at C.L.N.W.C. Nov. 9 into December (RAH).

A Solitary Vireo in Oceano Oct. 1 (GMcC), another near Oxnard Oct. 7–9 (AB), a 3rd in Huntington Beach Sept. 20–Oct 4 (LRH), one more in Irvine Sept. 18 (DRW), and a 5th at Panamint Springs Oct. 3 (JLD) were all brightly colored birds apparently from eastern North America. A Philadelphia Vireo, a casual fall straggler to California, was photographed near Oxnard Oct. 3–10 (MH), another was in Huntington Beach Oct. 15–16 (DRW), and a 3rd was on Pt. Loma Oct. 14 (CGE). Nine Red-eyed Vireos were reported. Single birds at F C R. Sept. 30–Oct. 1 (MAP), Panamint Springs Oct. 1 (REW), and California City Sept. 29 (BED) were inland, and one at Gaviota, Santa Barbara, Sept. 2 (MH), another near Oxnard Oct 3–4 (MH), and single birds on Pt. Loma Sept. 19 (SS) and Oct. 1 (JO'B), 9 (DP), & 21 (TLW) were along the coast. A Yellow-green Vireo banded and photographed in Morro Bay Oct. 14 (GPS) was the first to be found in San Luis Obispo.

WOOD WARBLERS — A ♂ **Blue-winged Warbler**, one of the rarest of the e. species of wood warblers to reach California, was seen briefly in Morongo Valley, San Bernardino, Oct. 1 (MAP). Tennessee Warblers appeared to be in about average numbers with 42 reported between Sept. 19 and Nov. 23. Seven Virginia's Warblers along the coast between Aug. 28 and Sept. 24 were fewer than expected, but six scattered around Inyo and e. Kern between Aug. 4 and Sept. 17, along with one more at Corn Springs, Riverside, Oct. 1 (VH), were about average, and one seen in San Diego Nov. 12 (REW) may have been attempting to winter locally. Ten Lucy's Warblers, rare stragglers to the coast, were found between Montaña de Oro S.P. and the Mexican border between Aug. 27 and Nov. 4. The only N. Parulas reported were one in Montaña de Oro S P Sept. 30 (TME) and another on Pt. Loma Oct. 21–24 (CGE). Seven Chestnut-sided Warblers along the coast between Sept. 9 and Nov. 21 were fewer than average. Eleven Magnolia Warblers scattered throughout the Region between Sept. 13 and Oct. 15 was about average. Black-throated Blue Warblers were remarkably scarce with only eight reported between Sept. 30 and Oct. 24, but including a male at Thousand Palms Oasis, Riverside, Oct. 9 (RMcK). The only Black-throated Green Warblers found this fall were a male in Kelso Oct. 1 (EAC, *S.B.C.M.), one near Borrego Springs Nov. 15 (D & MH), and another near Imperial Beach Oct. 6–8 (GMcC).

A Blackburnian Warbler at Deep Springs Oct. 21 (REW) was one of very few ever found inland in California, and an additional eight along the coast between Sept. 27 and Nov. 12 were about average. A Grace's Warbler, a casual straggler to the coast of s. California, was on Pt. Loma Sept. 23–24 (CGE), and another was there Sept. 27–29 (DP). Seven Prairie Warblers along the coast between Sept. 30 and Oct. 26 made an average number. A Palm Warbler of the e. race *hypochrysea* was found on Santa Catalina I. Nov. 21 (PU, *S.D.N.H.M.), and another 157 nautical mi w.s.w. of San Miguel I. Nov. 18 (PPY) that remained on the boat until it was about 30 mi off the Santa Maria R. mouth was certainly lost; 40 individuals of the expected nominate race along the coast between Sept. 29 and

the end of the period was a little low, but five in Inyo and Kern during October, along with one more near Borrego Springs Nov. 12 (MGr), were more than expected for the interior.

A Bay-breasted Warbler was found inland at Galileo Hill Sept. 28 (GMcC) and three more were in coastal San Luis Obispo Sept. 30–Oct. 1 (BS, JMcD). Blackpoll Warblers were a little scarcer than normal along the coast with only 40 reported between Sept. 11 and Oct. 22, but single birds were found inland in California City, Kern, Sept. 29 (BED) and Oct 15 (JCW), and two more were at Deep Springs Oct. 2 (JLD) A ♀ **Cerulean Warbler** in Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo, Oct 1 (BS) was the 10th to be found in s. California. Thirty Black-and-white Warblers and 70 Am. Redstarts during the period were near expected numbers. Five Prothonotary Warblers were more than expected, with single birds in Mojave, Kern, Sept. 12–16 (BHu), Oceano Sept. 30–Oct. 4 (BS), Carpinteria Sept. 15–27 (KB), and Westminster, Orange, Sept. 27–29 (DRW), and the 5th hitting a window in La Jolla Sept. 1 (PU, *S.D.N.H.M.).

The only Ovenbirds were individuals at Galileo Hill Oct 1 (MOC), in Westminster Oct. 8 (SM), and on Pt. Loma on Sept 30 (BP) and Oct. 13 (CGE). Thirty-five N. Waterthrushes between Aug. 26 and Nov. 23, with most in early September, were a little fewer than expected. Three Mourning Warblers were about average with single birds at Montaña de Oro S P Sept. 20 (JMcD) & 23–27 (MH), and another at Gaviota, Santa Barbara, Sept. 13 (SEF). The only Hooded Warblers were a female at Corn Springs Oct. 1 (VH) and another on Pt. Loma Oct. 15 (RRV). Only two Canada Warblers were found this fall with one in Santa Barbara Sept. 27 (FS) and the other at Hurkey Creek Campground in the San Jacinto Mts. Oct 4 (CMcG). The only Painted Redstarts found this fall were an elusive individual in Huntington Beach Oct. 6 (MTH) and a most cooperative bird on Pt. Loma Oct. 6–8 (CGE). A Yellow-breasted Chat in Goleta Nov. 17 (KB) was exceptionally late

TANAGERS TO FINCHES — A ♂ **Hepatic Tanager** was present for a short time on Pt. Loma Oct. 22 (D & MH), and another in Santa Barbara Nov. 10 (DH) was apparently returning for its 8th winter. Summer Tanagers were scarcer than normal along the coast with only 11 reported between Sept 10 and the end of the period. A Scarlet Tanager, a casual straggler to California, was at Deep Springs Sept. 30 (REW) and another was in Huntington Beach Nov. 10 (DRW). We had an expected number of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks scattered throughout the Region, with 36 reported between Aug 30 and the end of the period. A Blue Grosbeak in Goleta Nov 19 (GSL) was very late. Fifteen Indigo Buntings reported between Aug. 5 and Oct. 7 were far fewer than expected. Three Painted Buntings were found with an imm. male at a feeder in Los Osos Nov. 18–25 (M & PC), another in Goleta Sept. 18 (AB), and the 3rd in Carpinteria Sept. 15–17 (SEF). Four Dickcissels were reported: one at Galileo Hill Sept. 28–30 (GMcC), one at F.C.R. Oct. 3 (JLD), another in Goleta Sept 16 (HPR), and the 4th on Pt. Loma Oct. 8 (KR).

American Tree Sparrows were more numerous and widespread than normal with one at Deep Springs Nov. 4 (REW) another at Stovepipe Wells Nov. 5 (REW), single birds at F.C R Nov. 4–5 (MAP), Nov. 12 (H & PB), and Nov. 19 (REW), one at Galileo Hill Oct. 21–Nov. 4 with two there Oct. 28 (MTH), one at C.L.N.W.C. Nov. 2 (DVB), another in Baker Nov. 23–25 (GMcC), and a 10th in Desert Center Nov. 23 (SEF). Clay-colored Sparrows were far more numerous than normal with 65 reported between Sept. 1 and the end of the period, including 22 inland in Inyo and e. Kern. A **Field Sparrow** having all the characters of the pale western race in Orange Nov. 25 through the end of the period (BB, JBo) was seen and photographed by many observers. The only accepted record for the state is of one on Southeast Farallon Island between June 17 and July 9, 1969 (Calif. Birds 2:72). Since Black-chinned Sparrows are rarely found away from breeding lo-

calities, reports of one on the coast in Goleta Sept. 17 (HPR) and another near Imperial Beach Aug. 26 (GMcC) were of interest. Single Black-throated Sparrows, rare along the coast, were in Goleta Sept. 1-2 (HPR), near Pt. Mugu Oct. 8-10 (RJM), in Altadena, Los Angeles, Sept. 1-2 (JF), in Long Beach Aug. 28 (BED), and at San Elijo Lagoon Sept. 15 (RP). The only Lark Bunting reported was one in Goleta Sept. 22 (FS).

Large-billed Savannah Sparrows (*A. s. rostratus*) again appeared in numbers along the coast with more than 50 around San Diego after Sept. 4 (CGE), eight at Seal Beach Sept. 12 (LRH), two at Pt. Mugu Sept. 2-16 (RJM), three at S.C.R.E. after Aug. 6 (RJM), and up to four on Morro Bay after Nov. 4 (GPS); in addition, more than 100 were found around S.E.S.S. Nov. 22 (RMcK), indicating far more than the expected numbers had also moved into this area of s. California. Single Grasshopper Sparrows at Deep Springs Oct. 21 (REW), F.C.R. Oct. 17-18 (JLD) & 21-22 (MAP), C.L.N.W.C. Oct. 7 (DVB), Galileo Hill Oct. 28-29 (MTH), Upper Newport Bay Nov. 25-26 (LRH), and Pt. Loma Oct. 22 (MAP) were all away from areas of normal occurrence. A **Le Conte's Sparrow** at F.C.R. Oct. 17 (LB) was joined by a juvenal-plumaged bird the following day (JLD) to give us the 7th and 8th records for the Region, and another was at C.L.N.W.C. Nov. 5 (DVB). Five Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found: one in San Simeon Oct. 20 (GPS), another in Goleta Oct. 3-4 (RWH), one at S.C.R.E. Oct. 22-28 (BHef), a 4th on Upper Newport Bay Nov. 11-12 (EB), and a wintering bird on San Diego Bay after Oct. 16 (SWal).

A Swamp Sparrow 145 nautical mi s.s.w. of San Nicolas I. Nov. 8 (PPy) was far from land, and an additional 54 were found scattered throughout the Region after an early individual was seen at Deep Springs Sept. 30 (REW). Thirty-five White-throated Sparrows scattered throughout the Region after Oct. 3 were about average numbers, as were 12 Harris' Sparrows in the n.e. portion of the Region after Oct. 28; one Harris' Sparrow in Goleta Oct. 30-Nov. 3 (TMul) was the only one found along the coast. A few Lapland Longspurs were scattered throughout the Region as indicated by about 10 in Inyo and e. Kern, along with single individuals at Baker Nov. 23-25 (GMcC) and Harper Dry Lake Nov. 22 (SC) in the interior, and one at the Santa Maria R. mouth Oct. 19 (PEL), another at S.C.R.E. Nov. 27 (RJM), up to seven near Pt. Mugu after Nov. 27 (RJM), and up to three on the Plano Trabuco, Orange, after Nov. 8 (RRV). A Chestnut-collared Longspur at F.C.R. Aug. 5 (MAP) was exceptionally early, but two at

Galileo Hill Oct. 22 (SEF) and two more at Santa Maria R. mouth Oct. 31 (DSS) were at the expected time of year, and up to 35 on the Plano Trabuco after Nov. 5 (RRV) made a large flock.

Reports of Bobolinks from along the coast included one at Oso Flaco L., San Luis Obispo, Sept. 17 (BS), at least 37 in Goleta between Sept. 11 and Oct. 15 (PEL), up to 25 at Pt. Mugu Sept. 16-Oct. 1 (RJM), and one in La Jolla Sept. 18 (JO'B); up to four at Deep Springs between Sept. 30 and Nov. 1 (REW), one at F.C.R. Oct. 3 (JLD), another there Oct. 14-22 (DG), up to three at C.L.N.W.C. Sept. 22-Oct. 7 (MTH), single birds at Galileo Hill Sept. 28 (JLD) and Oct. 8 (MTH), and one in Baker Sept. 30 (EAC) were inland. The only Rusty Blackbird found this fall was at S.C.R.E. Nov. 25 into December (BHef). A Com. Grackle at Indian Ranch in the Panamint Valley, Inyo, Nov. 12 (H & PB) was one of very few to be found in s. California, and only the 2nd during the fall migration period, although there are 2 records of birds wintering. The only Orchard Oriole reported were one in Goleta Oct. 14 (PEL), one in La Jolla Sept. 13 (JO'B), another on Pt. Loma Oct. 5 (REW), and two wintering males in Irvine after Nov. 19 (MTH). A Scott's Oriole near Santa Barbara after Oct. 1 (SB) was the only one reported from along the coast.

A flock of over 100 Rosy Finches in the Inyo Mts. east of Big Pine Nov. 26 (H & PB) was in an area where such numbers regularly occur in late fall and winter. A few Purple Finches were found at unexpected localities in desert portions of the Region including a male at Indian Ranch in the Panamint Valley Nov. 12 (H & PB) and two at Desert Center Nov. 5-25 (MAP), and average numbers were in the coastal lowlands by the end of the period. A Cassin's Finch on the immediate coast on Pt. Loma Sept. 16-24 (DP) and another there Oct. 6 (REW) were unexpected. A Lawrence's Goldfinch at Deep Springs Oct. 21 (REW) was in an area where very few have been found. The only Evening Grosbeaks reported were a few in the extreme n.e. portion of the Region after Oct. 17, with one in Ridgecrest Oct. 26 (DM) being the southernmost.

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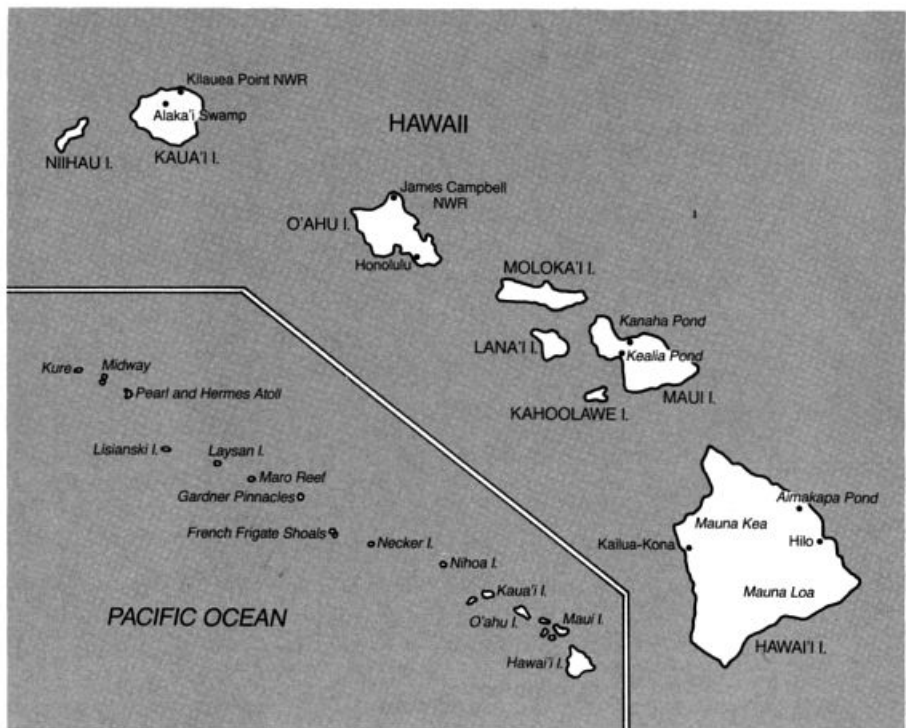
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Chestnut-collared Longspur at Galileo Hill, California, October 22, 1989. Photograph/Shawneen Finnegan.

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

Robert L. Pyle



The copious rainfall received throughout the main islands since the first of the year continued through most of the fall. Then in November a change in weather pattern kept rainfall for the month well below normal everywhere except on Kaua'i. Seasonal bird highlights included the first record of Streaked Shearwater in Hawaii, and a verification that more of the critically Endangered Hawaiian Crow ('Alala) are extant in the wild than had previously been feared.

ABBREVIATIONS — F.F.S. = French Frigate Shoals; H. = Hawai'i I.; K. = Kaua'i I.; L. = Lana'i I.; M. = Maui I.; O. = O'ahu I.; HRBP = catalog prefix for Hawaii Rare Bird Documentary Photographs; J.C.N.W.R. = James Campbell Nat'l Wildlife Ref. on O'ahu; P.H.N.W.R. = Pearl Harbor Nat'l Wildlife Ref. on O'ahu.

PETRELS, SHEARWATERS — Fifteen *Pterodroma* petrels seen from a fishing boat 3–5 mi off Koko Head, O., Nov. 4 included three **Mottled Petrels**, seven judged to be **Black-winged Petrels**, two possible Bonin Petrels, and three not judged to species (DP, PD, et al.). All were recorded in a limited area during 1½ hours of a 6-hour trip. Later in the month, skilled observers (LS, SH) on a large research vessel 100–200 mi s. of Hawai'i I. Nov. 13 recorded one White-necked Petrel, one Mottled Petrel, and seven Black-winged Petrels, along with one Flesh-footed Shearwater and five Buller's Shearwaters.

Increasing opportunities in recent years to observe birds from ships at sea have begun to provide some information on the seasonal occurrence and abundance of these transient petrels and shearwaters in Hawaiian waters, both close to shore and farther offshore. Until recently there had been very few records in Hawaiian waters of the species mentioned above. In contrast, Sooty Shearwaters are known to pass near Hawaii in good numbers in fall. An estimated count of 50 was reported off Koko Head Nov. 4, and an even 100 were counted s. of Hawai'i I. Nov. 13. In both cases, Sooties equaled or outnumbered the more expected Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, which breed abundantly in the main Hawaiian Islands. Three Sooties (and 35+ Wedge-taileds) were found off Keahole Pt., H., Oct. 28 (RD).

At least three Hawaiian (Dark-rumped) Petrels ('U'au, Endangered), one Bulwer's Petrel, and two Band-rumped Storm-Petrels were turned in during the fall shearwater aid program on Kaua'i, along with 1500+ Newell's Shearwaters (Threatened). Virtually all were banded and released. Newell's numbers were preliminary, but it appeared that this year's final total would be a bit below last year's (TT). A Newell's Shearwater found floundering in freshwater Waiakea Pond in Hilo, H., Nov. 10 died in captivity the next day (RD). It was apparently a juvenile female. A Christmas Shearwater with a broken leg was picked up at Malaekahana Beach, O., and delivered Aug. 27 to Sea Life Park, where it was treated, rehabilitated, and eventually released Sept. 29 (MB). A few pairs nest on nearby Moku Manu islet, but the species is rarely observed and reported in the main islands.

A badly oiled juv. **Sooty Storm-Petrel** was picked alive from the Waialua R. near its mouth in Hilo, H., Nov. 9, but soon died (RD). This species breeds regularly in the Northwest Hawaiian Is., but had not been reported previously in the main Hawaiians.

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Outstanding bird of the season, however, was a **Streaked Shearwater** found on Laysan I. Aug. 1–2 (JM). An unfamiliar call after dark among the other petrels and shearwaters alerted biologists, who captured and held the bird overnight. Next morning it was photographed (HRBP 848–853) in the hand and sitting on the beach, after which it got up and flew out to sea, not to be seen again. Further details will be published in 'Elepaio. This first record of Streaked Shearwater for Hawaii is preceded in the eastern Pacific only by a handful of records from the Monterey area of California.

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS — A survey of Nene (Hawaiian Goose, Endangered) taken Aug. 16 at 13 locations in Haleakala Crater, M., yielded a count of 93 individuals and a population estimate for the crater area of 117 (including other marked individuals not seen on the count but known to be



Streaked Shearwater at Laysan Island, Hawaii, August 2, 1989. First record for Hawaii, and one of very few ever for the United States. Photograph/Jeff Marks.

present) (CH). Nene had been extinct on Maui until restocking began there in 1962.

Wintering ducks, primarily N. Pintails and N. Shovelers, arrived during October generally on schedule or a bit late. Good numbers were at Honouliuli Unit, P.H.N.W.R., and Ki'i Unit, J.C.N.W.R.; but virtually none were on the settling basins at Waipi'o Peninsula, O., where habitat formerly was excellent for ducks but now is quite poor. Two ♀ N. Pintails at Tern I., F.F.S., Nov. 1-17 (KN) were definitely stragglers, while three seen to land on Kealakekua Bay, H., Nov. 4 (MK) were interesting, as these are rarely seen on the ocean. A drab-plumaged Garganey first appeared at Honouliuli, P.H.N.W.R., Sept. 14, and two were seen there until at least Nov. 13 (PD). One to three were found regularly at Ki'i Unit, J.C.N.W.R., through October and November (PD). Other scarce species reported this fall included a Gadwall at Waiakea Pond, H., and single ♀ Greater Scaups at both Waiakea and nearby Lokoaka Ponds in mid-November (AB, PD, RD). On O'ahu, a ♂ Eur. Wigeon, two Canvasbacks, and a Ring-necked Duck were at Honouliuli (PD), and a ♀-plumaged Bufflehead was at Waialua Ponds (PD).

An Osprey reported regularly during the fall at Waiawa

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Another enigmatic raptor was the harrier reported this fall near Haleakala Crater Rd., Maui, in September (Charles Probst, *vide* FD) and November (GL), and on Moloka'i in October (RLP, JA) and November (JA). The observers are familiar with N. Harrier, but not with other Asiatic harriers that might have wandered to Hawaii. Single harriers also were reported on O'ahu several times from October 1987 to January 1988, and on Kaua'i and Moloka'i in October through December 1988. Could these all refer to the same individual arriving annually in fall? Prior to these, only 2 records were known of harriers in Hawaii, both reported as North-erns.

This case exemplifies the frustration of trying for valid documentation of scarce species in Hawaii, when experienced observers are few and traveling from one county to another is fearfully expensive.

Unit, P.H.N.W.R., by several observers may well have been the same one sighted repeatedly on O'ahu over the past 2 years. Individual Ospreys were also reported this season at Tern I., F.F.S., Oct. 3-Nov. 17 (CR *et al.*), at Kanaha Pond, M., Oct. 24 & 26 (DP), and at Lokoaka Pond, H., Nov. 3 (AB) & 11 (RD). One wonders when this species, heretofore categorized as an occasional visitor to Hawaii, might someday become a regular visitor or even a resident here.

SHOREBIRDS TO TERNS — Numbers of the commoner migrant shorebirds were low this fall, and reports of scarcer species were fewer than in recent years. Sharp-tailed and Pectoral sandpipers and Long-billed Dowitchers were reported mostly as singles, or occasionally up to three birds, and at few localities, compared to some years when flocks of one-half dozen to two dozen are observed. Bristle-thighed Curlews were an exception this year as one to two individuals were reported in early fall at 3 different localities on O'ahu and at Lihue Airport on Kaua'i. These are more reports than have been received in the past few years for the main islands. On Laysan I., however, research biologists reported at least 100 Bristle-thigheds over-summered. Migrant adults began arriving in July and the first juveniles arrived Aug. 29. The population peaked at 350-400 individuals in September. Single birds banded in September 1987 at Laysan and nearby Lisianski I. were recaptured in August (all Laysan reports by JM).

Unusual shorebird stragglers reported this fall included a Gray-tailed Tattler at Aimakapa Pond, H., Aug. 9 (JL) to Oct. 21 (RD), two Greater Yellowlegs at Honouliuli, O., Nov. 3, a Spotted Sandpiper at Lokoaka Pond, H., Oct. 29 (AB), a Whimbrel at Laysan banded and released Aug. 31 (JM), a Semipalmated Sandpiper at Ki'i Unit, J.C.N.W.R., Sept. 21 (PD) and Oct. 22 (DP), a Ruff at Tern I., F.F.S. (KN), and a Wilson's Phalarope at Honouliuli Aug. 23 and at Ki'i Sept. 7 (PD).

A **South Polar Skua** observed at sea off Hawai'i I. Nov. 13 (LS, SH) represented only the 2nd or 3rd report for the state. Only a few gulls were reported this fall in the main islands (PD, RD, BM, BP), and one Glaucous-winged was reported at Tern I., F.F.S., Nov. 17 (CR). A Common Tern and a Least Tern, both unusual visitors here, were at Honouliuli, O., throughout the fall (PD *et al.*), and the Great Crested Tern

was noted once again at Pa'akai Pond, O., Aug. 7 (RLP).

PARAKEETS TO PASSERINES — A flock of 30+ Rose-ringed Parakeets flying to evening roost in the heights above Kainaliu near Kealakekua, H., Nov. 23 (RD) made by far the largest number of these birds yet reported on this island.

Reports of Japanese Bush-Warblers came this fall from 3 islands—Moloka'i, Lana'i, and Maui—where incipient populations are apparently continuing to grow. Three Saffron Finches seen regularly on several visits to Blaisdell Park near Pearl Harbor Aug. 1–8 (MM) indicated this species is still holding on at this one locality on O'ahu.

An apparent family group of two ad. Maui Parrotbills (*Endangered*) with two immatures was watched for 10 minutes at Hanawi, M., Sept. 28 (FD). A Crested Honeycreeper ('Akohekohe, *Endangered*) was observed July 29 feeding in ohia with 'Apapane and 'Iwi at Paliku Campground in Haleakala Crater, M. (BG), a very interesting locality for this rare species.

Red Avadavats were found daily in early August at Blaisdell Park, O., where they had not been found last year (MM), and a nest of this species with 6 eggs was found at nearby Ford Island in Pearl Harbor Nov. 18 (PB). Five Orange-cheeked Waxbills reported on Mokulele Rd. just n. of Kihei, M., Aug. 15 (MM) provided the first reports of this species on Maui. Java Sparrows, which have expanded rapidly on O'ahu in the past decade, were found in abundance in early August in Campbell Industrial Park at the far s.w. corner of the island

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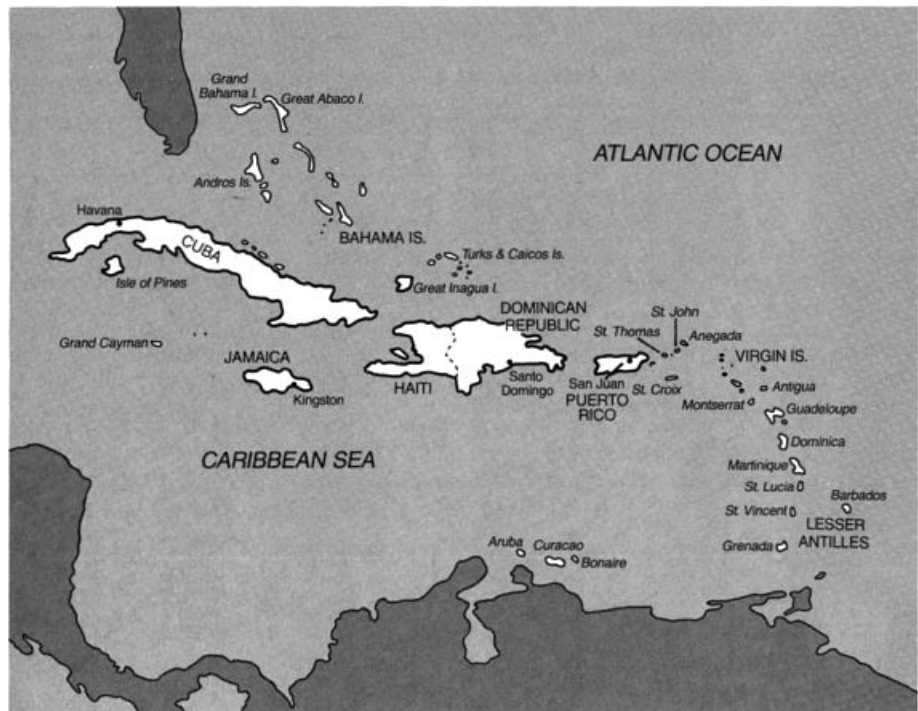
Very good news for the Hawaiian Crow ('Alala, critically *Endangered*) came from a two-day survey Nov. 20–21 in private ranch land on the Kona slope of Mauna Kea, an area not covered in recent 'Alala surveys. A close flock of nine or 10 wild 'Alala was found on both days, perhaps the same flock, and altogether 25 visual or audio contacts were recorded in the 2 days (TP et al.). This was an encouraging indication of the number of 'Alala still remaining in the wild. Discussions are underway on the desirability of attempting to capture a few wild birds to broaden the genetic stock of the captive flock. This captive flock now has 10 birds, but all productive breeders and the two immatures are very closely related.

where just a few had been seen last year (MM).

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WEST INDIES REGION

Robert L. Norton



Autumn 1989 will be remembered in the northeastern Caribbean with terror and disbelief as the season when Hurricane Hugo, the worst storm in ten years, sliced through the elbow of the West Indies archipelago with winds gusting to 170 knots. Several island-nations including Guadeloupe, Montserrat, and St. Kitts–Nevis, as well as the St. Croix Bank and most of the eastern Puerto Rican Bank, took on full force winds. To visualize the extent of the blow, draw a line on the Regional map above from Guadeloupe to San Juan, Puerto Rico, and slide a dime westward centered on the line. Notice how vast an area, on the scale of this map, is obscured by the dime. The

coin approximates the circumference of the area hit by hurricane-force winds.

Aside from the personal property loss and social chaos that ensued, which was incredibly devastating in some areas, wildlife diversity and conservation efforts in many of these islands may have been set back by decades. The direct hit on Guadeloupe had to have affected the endemic Guadeloupe Woodpecker. With 90% of the homes on Montserrat destroyed, it seems doubtful that the endemic Montserrat Oriole has much of its original habitat intact. If the endemic St. Kitts race of the Puerto Rican Bullfinch had been recovering, it may have received the final knock-

out punch

Autumn-nesting seabirds such as Magnificent Frigatebird, Brown Pelican, and Masked, Red-footed, and Brown boobies sustained much damage to fragile nesting habitats in the Region. National Parks in the Virgin Islands suffered terrible damage. The slow recovery of the wild population of Puerto Rican Parrot may have been dealt a severe blow by Hugo. Following the storm, the lack of hummingbirds became a source of concern for feeder watchers in the Virgin Islands. In less than a week, avian diversity in the northeastern Caribbean had been shaken, if not irretrievably reduced. Much survey work will be needed soon to determine the fate of already-threatened species in the Region.

ABBREVIATIONS — B.V.I. = British Virgin Islands; D.R. = Dominican Republic; P.R. = Puerto Rico; U.S.V.I. = United States Virgin Islands.

PELICANS TO TERNS — A boat survey of the Brown Pelican colony at Mary Pt., St. John, U.S.V.I., Aug. 7 (RLN) indicated at least 26 nests. The Magnificent Frigatebird colony at Tobago I., B.V.I., counted at 500 pairs in 1987, apparently suffered a decline as a result of the hurricane (RLN). Frigatebirds nest on flimsy stick platforms in low trees and shrubs, many of which were found twisted or uprooted at all heights above the ground, indicating severe winds in the colony. Nesting conditions for other Pelecaniformes appeared to be progressively worse toward the east. The Red-footed Booby colony at Dutchcap Cay, St. Thomas, was abandoned as a result of damage to nesting platforms (JP). Brown Booby nests at the essentially treeless Frenchcap Cay, St. Thomas, were stripped of their eggs in the 100+ mph winds, but some chicks found shelter in rock crevices and survived (JP). Culebra's seabird colonies must have fared worse, as that island took a direct hit from Hurricane Hugo.

An American Bittern was heard from the reeds of Catagena Lagoon Aug. 29 (SE) for one of the few reports on the P.R. Bank. A Merlin was seen at Road Town, Tortola, Nov. 1 (RLN), another or the same was seen Dec. 3 at Estate Hope, Tortola, harassing Barn Swallows (RLN), and yet another Merlin was at Savannes Bay, St. Lucia, Nov. 9 (RLN, DA). A Peregrine Falcon at Maya Cove, Tortola, Oct. 7 was slightly early for the B.V.I. (RLN). The freshwater marsh at the west end of Hewanora Airport, Vieux Fort, hosted a Sora and an imm Purple Gallinule Nov. 9 (RLN, RD, DA), for one of the few reports of either from St. Lucia.

A single Piping Plover at Elbow Cay, Abaco, Aug. 7 (JC) furnished the earliest fall record for the Bahamas. Thirteen Lesser Golden-Plovers at the Vieux Fort mudflats Nov. 8 (RLN) represented one of the few records for St. Lucia. Immature Laughing Gulls remained in the B.V.I. until Oct. 30, and one was seen at Vieux Fort, St. Lucia, Nov. 9. Three imm. Sandwich Terns were noted at Marina Cay, n. of Beef I., Tortola, Oct. 28 (RLN). Twenty migrating Com. Terns were feeding off Vigie Beach, Castries, St. Lucia, Nov. 9 (RLN, RD).

PIGEONS TO FINCHES — On Tortola, B V I, the Scaly-naped Pigeons—usually arboreal—had to resort to feeding on the ground following the habitat destruction of Hurricane Hugo, and became easy prey for poachers. A Plain Pigeon near El Valle, D.R., Aug. 21 (PWS, SAS) represented one of the few recent reports for Hispaniola. A ♀ Key West Quail-Dove was flushed from a nest with two eggs in Parque del Este, D.R., Aug. 20 (PWS, SAS).

Prior to Hurricane Hugo, the wild population of Puerto Rican Parrot numbered about 46 birds. A survey after the storm indicated that at least 24 of these had survived. Endangered Species officials in Puerto Rico were optimistic that more of the parrots would be turned up at other feeding areas in subsequent surveys. The parrots of the captive-breeding group were moved inside during the storm and suffered no losses. Outside the area most affected by Hugo, the St. Lucia Parrot seems to be making a strong comeback since its losses to Hurricane Allen in 1979. Particularly valuable has been the Forestry Division's education campaign after naming the parrot ("Jaco") the national bird of St. Lucia. Hispaniolan Parrots were noted at Parque del Este near Bayahibe, D.R., Aug. 20; two Yellow-billed Cuckoos were heard in this area on the same date (PWS).

White-necked Crows, formerly found in Puerto Rico, may now be considered endemic to Hispaniola, where several were heard and at least one seen Aug. 21 (PWS, SAS) near Trepada Alta, D.R. A careful look at a flock of 50 Barn Swallows at Wickham's Cay, Tortola, Sept. 20 (a few days after the hurricane) revealed the first Bank Swallow recorded for the B.V.I. (RLN).

Sage Mountain N.P., Tortola, produced the first Yellow-throated Vireo for the B.V.I., accompanying a large flock of warblers Oct. 25 (RLN). A party of migrant warblers at this locality Oct. 14 included three Black-throated Blue Warblers, the first Blackpoll Warbler for the B.V.I. (RLN), and two Ovenbirds, a species normally seen in numbers in December (FW). A Prairie Warbler at Elbow Cay, Abaco, Aug. 9 (JC) represented the beginning of wood warbler migration in the West Indies. Other early warblers included an Am. Redstart at El Valle, D.R., Aug. 20 (PWS, SAS), a Louisiana Waterthrush at El Yunque, P.R., Aug. 18 (SE), and another at Trepada Alta, D.R., Aug. 21 (PWS, SAS). A Prothonotary Warbler seen Nov. 8 at Ravine St. Aubain mangroves, St. Lucia (RLN), apparently provided only the 2nd record for that island (*vide* ARK). A female or imm. Lesser Antillean Bullfinch was seen at the O'Neal Botanical Garden, Tortola, Oct. 14 (RLN), while another, a male, was reported to be visiting a feeder (RE). It appears that Hurricane Hugo may have been responsible for adding this species, at least temporarily, to the avifauna of the B.V.I., providing yet another example of the dynamic avian biogeography in this Region.

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